

Schools Forum Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 29 June 2017 at 9.00 am
to be held in Mezzanine Room 3, Tor Hill House, Union Street, Torquay, TQ2 5QW

Membership

Roger Hughes
Maurice Codd
Dan Hallam
Morris Adam
Lynsey Kings
Mike Lock
Daneian Rees

Debbie Main
Clive Star
Jan Chopping
Jim Piper
Julie Shears
Tim Stephens
Simon Niles

1. **Apologies/Changes to Membership**
2. **Minutes of the meeting of the School Forum held on 9th March 2017** (Pages 3 - 6)
3. **Matters arising**
4. **Financial Issues**
 - (a) Report on 16/17 DSG out turn position (Pages 7 - 10)
 - (b) Report on 17/18 DSG and forecast out turn (Pages 11 - 12)
 - (c) Statements/EHCP 17/18 (Page 13)
 - (d) Unallocated DSG Reserves (Pages 14 - 15)
5. **Update on National Fair Funding** (Verbal Report)
6. **Update on recruitment of Head of Service for Vulnerable Pupils** (Verbal Report)

For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:

Mike Freeman,

7. **Report on ALFEY spending 14/15, 15/16 & 16/17** (Pages 16 - 18)
8. **Report from Post 16 working party** (Pages 19 - 20)
9. **Report on checks into the accuracy of 17/18 allocations** (Verbal Report)
10. **Report on Sexual Identity and Orientation Project (Deferred until October 2017)**
11. **Annual Review of school representation**
12. **Items for next meeting**
13. **Future meeting dates**



Minutes of the Schools Forum

9 March 2017

-: Present :-

Roger Hughes (Chairman), **Mike Lock** (Vice Chair), **Dan Hallam** (Post 16), **Adam Morris** (Primary Maintained Head), **Lindsey Kings** (Secondary Academy Head), **Daneian Rees** (Secondary Maintained Head), **Clive Star** (Secondary Academy Governor), **Jan Chopping** (Secondary Academy Governor), **Julie Shears** (PRU) and **Claire Shiers** (replacement for Stewart Biddles, Primary Academy Head)

Andy Dempsey (Director of Children's Services), **Martin Phillips** (Head of Finance) and **Michael Freeman** (Clerk)

1. Apologies/Changes to Membership

Apologies received from Jim Piper, Maurice Codd, Simon Niles, Tim Stephens, Rob Parr, Rachael Williams and Stewart Biddles. The Forum welcomed Claire Shiers as replacement for Stewart.

The Forum noted that this was the last meeting for Julie Shears and Debbie Main and the Chair thanked them for their contributions. Julie will ask Torbay School to nominate a new rep for the Assessment Unit.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th January 2017 were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

None from last meeting.

Andy Dempsey shared with the Forum news of Devon Studio Schools proposed merger with South Devon College. Whilst there was discussion around the future of the building, it was stressed that present focus is on the pupils moving, and the managing of this process.

4. Financial Issues

4.1 Report on DSG 16/17 and forecast out turn

Martin Phillips, Head of Finance, shared a paper written by Rachael Williams, detailing under/overspends in the 2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant. Main areas of overspend remain statementing/EHCP, Special Schools contingency and Early

Years SEN inclusion. Conversations with other Local Authorities indicate that this is a similar problem nationwide, and whilst a long term solution is sought it is agreed by the forum to continue to manage the overspend using the DSG reserve.

4.2 Statements/EHCP 16/17

A breakdown of funding for statementing/EHCPs for years 2015/16 & 2016/17 was shared with the Forum, detailing in-year adjustments month by month. An anticipated overspend of £143,000 is predicted for the year 2016/17.

4.3 17/18 School Allocations

Allocations for each school was presented in a spreadsheet, showing the percentage increase or decrease in funding for next year. It was recognised that overall funding from government was in line with the percentage increase of additional pupils. However, some concern was raised by some schools as to the accuracy of the figures.

Action – Finance colleagues to validate accuracy of spreadsheet, and report findings at next Forum meeting.

4.4 Report on unallocated reserves

A summary of DSG underspends for the last 10 years was shared, alongside detailed analysis of expenditure and funding for future projects from the DSG. There is currently an unallocated balance of £173,000 in the DSG reserve. Whilst this reserve may appear on the low side (due partially to an increase in numbers at special schools), it is recognised that some local authorities are struggling to balance their DSG. A precautionary approach to managing the reserve was agreed, and funding still to be allocated will be reviewed and presented in an updated spreadsheet at each future meeting of the Forum.

5. Report from the working party on a response to the National Fair Funding Formula Consultation

A response to the National Fair Funding Consultation, written by Rachael Williams, Head of Education, Learning and Skills, was shared with the Forum. Although concerns about the fairness of the proposed formula was discussed, the importance of the Local Authority being seen to respond was agreed by members.

Action – Andy Dempsey, (Director of Childrens Services), and Roger Hughes, (Chair), to make amendments to report, before circulating to schools and inviting them to formulate their own responses.

6. Post 16 Working Party report

Details of the first two meetings of the Post 16 working party were shared with the Forum. A vision statement, outlining the aims of the party has been written and is currently out to consultation. How best to incorporate these aims into a commissioning framework is currently under discussion. The working party has now

committed to meeting every three weeks, with the focus of the next meeting on creating consistency in data collection and procedure used by members.

7. Standing Items

7.1 TESS

A progress report from Sarah James, Education Senior Practitioner, on TESS was shared amongst members. After initial difficulties in recruiting, two new Community Care Workers have now been employed, and will be in post from the Summer term. TESS has now made contact with every school in the Local Authority, and it is recognised how appreciative schools are of the work being done.

Action – Andy Dempsey and Rachael Williams to continue to monitor effectiveness of TESS, and to discuss findings of report ready for next Schools Forum.

7.2 CAMHS

An updated report on the CAMHS service was discussed by the group. Schools Forum funding for CAMHS is due to cease in Aug 2017, and at present the Forum will not be planning to invest after this date.

7.3 Autism

A report from Dorothy Hadleigh, Head of SEND, on the impact of the Autism project was presented to the Forum. A progress report from the Autism-friendly schools co-ordinator, Mary Bruton, along with some case studies from schools involved was also shared. The first cohort of Autism Champions are now in their second year of training, and are liaising with schools that do not have champions. The second cohort of champions have also just started their training. The forum recognises the success of this project, and hopes to use the model for future projects. It was requested that future reports should focus on the sustainability of the project, with champions funding scheduled to end in Dec 2017.

7.4 Challenging Behaviour Project

Adam Morris (Chair of Challenging Behaviour Implementation Group) shared an update on the project. An action plan had now been agreed, and the group will be meeting shortly to discuss this.

7.5 Chestnut - Intensive Outreach Support Service (IOSS)

Progress of the IOSS was presented to the Forum, along with an impact report on the effectiveness of the project in each school. Feedback from both schools and families involved has been overwhelmingly positive, with a significant reduction on behaviour threshold reported.

8. Items for next meeting

Financial Issues

- I. Report on 16/17 out turn
- II. Report on 17/18 DSG and forecast out turn
- III. Statements/EHCP 17/18
- IV. Report on unallocated reserves
- V. Analysis report on TESS

Report on Sexual Identity and Orientation Project

Report on ALFEY spending 14/15, 15/16, 16/17 and projections for 17/18

Update on the DfE Fair Funding consultation (if available)

9. Future meeting dates

29th June 2017, 09:00, Mezzanine 3, Tor Hill House
12th October 2017, 09:00, Mezzanine 3, Tor Hill House
30th November 2017, Mezzanine 3, Tor Hill House
18th January 2018, Venue TBA
8th March 2018, Venue TBA

Schools Forum – 29th June 2017

2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Outturn Report

Introduction

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2016/2017 was £90m of which £53m was deducted to fund Academy Schools leaving £37m for our maintained schools and education services.

This report explores the final position statement of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is the first time since the inception of DSG that the budget has been overspent.

In 2016/17 the DSG funded activities **overspent by £834,597**

The report sets out the areas of overspend and the determining factors that have altered the forecasted budget position.

Final Budget Position

SUMMARY OF 16/17 DSG OVERSPEND		
COST CENTRE	BUDGET HEADING	OVER / (UNDER)
PCJ09	SPECIAL SCHOOLS CONTINGENCY	274,060
PAF01	STATEMENTED PUPILS (MAINSTREAM)	177,599
PCJ04	STATEMENTING CONTINGENCY	163,459
PAE02	INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL FEES	86,836
PBG01	SEN INCLUSION (ALFEY) - NURSERY	85,624
PBG29	2 YEAR OLD FUNDING FOR NURSERIES	185,062
PBG02	NURSERY EDUCATION 3 & 4 YR OLDS	174,881
PCJ01	IN-YEAR ADJUSTMENTS (RATES, PLANNED PUPIL GROWTH)	21,660
PAA05	VIRTUAL SCHOOL	19,793
PAA02	MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES	15,683
PAD02	SEN EXTERNAL CONTRACTS	(29)
PXA02	SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT	(301)
PCN02	DSG RECHARGES & SCHOOLS INSURANCE	(400)
PCD11	LICENCES FOR SCHOOLS	(442)
PAD01	SEN SERVICES	(1,871)
PDE01	ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT SERVICES	(2,063)
PAB01	HOSPITAL TUITION	(7,139)
PDF01	ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE	(10,960)
PBG31	EARLY YEARS ADVISORY SERVICE	(14,677)
Q1701	BUSINESS SUPPORT - CHILDREN'S SERVICES	(15,096)
PXA16	PORTAGE TEAM	(25,645)
PAA01	INTERIM TUITION	(55,702)
PAH01	RECOUPMENT FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES	(78,154)
PAE01	JOINT FUNDED PLACEMENTS	(157,582)
	TOTAL	834,597

There are two significant factors impacting on the outturn position. Demands on higher needs funding for children with special educational needs and demand on early years placements.

On 9th March 2017 forum received a forecast outturn report predicting a £404k overspend. This prediction was made up of budget lines predominately dealing with SEND factors. The demands on both placements and Education Health and Care Plan costs continued resulting in a small increase in the position at the end of the financial year,

A second area of pressure that could not be foreseen at the March 2017 forum was the increased demand on early years placements, both for eligible two year olds and the uptake of the universal 3 and 4 year old offer.

Universal 3 and 4 year old entitlement

Early years funding is based on the January census return. The Local Area was funded to provide 1848.3 part time equivalent places (15 hours). Trends over previous years demonstrate that there is always a high number of children attending in the summer term, returning to low numbers in autumn term leading to some growth in the spring term. This pattern results in a balanced budget at the end of the financial year.

For the first time this pattern did not take the usual course.

Term	3&4YO numbers (PTE)
Summer 2016	2280
Autumn 2016	1500
Spring 2017	1975

In this financial year there was not a cause for concern in the pattern of demand for the universal offer based on the summer and autumn term returns. The spring forecast for Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers was received in November 2016, this indicated that there would be funding required for 1134 children. When this was added to the autumn term returns of school based provision it was anticipated that a balanced budget would be achieved.

However it was not until final numbers were received after the return of the PVI, School and Academy census on the 28th February 2017 that the data could be cleansed and the final budget implication understood.

The final return demonstrated that there was demand above the anticipated forecast across all areas of the sector. There was an increase of 149 children attending school based nursery provision and 90 children attending PVI settings.

When balancing the budget over the three terms the local area was required to fund an **additional 211 children**. Although it is recognised that forum could have been provided with an extraordinary budget statement after the March 2017 meeting, there was no mitigating action that could have been put in place to reduce the spend as the money provided is for a statutory entitlement of 15 hours of education.

Since the Local Area position has become known officers have expressed their concerns to the Education Funding Agency and Department for Education. Whilst we anticipate a small funding adjustment may be received, it is likely that this will be substantially less than the funding required to provide the statutory places. At a cross regional DFE event many Local Authorities reported that this situation had been experienced for the first time, including Devon as our neighbouring authority. The officers called upon the Department for Education to deal with this as part of the introduction of new early years funding formula.

Eligible Two Year Old Funding

In 2016-2017 the Local Area was funded to provide 431.6 part time equivalent places (15 hours) for eligible children using a defined statutory criteria. The Local Authority applies the criteria rigorously and allows no discretionary criteria to be used in the funding of a placement. Like the universal 3 and 4 year old funding there is normally a trend that emerges across the year resulting in a balanced budget.

In this year the pattern of attendance in the Summer and Autumn Term was aligned to previous uptake figures.

Term	2YO numbers (PTE)
Summer 2016	492
Autumn 2016	545
Spring 2017	440

Analysis of take up demonstrates that parents entitled to 2 year old funding wait until a space becomes available in the provider of their choice. This leads to a larger number of 2 year old children accessing provision for the first time in the autumn term when four year olds have transitioned to school. For this reason the figures did not demonstrate that the autumn increase was anything unusual.

In Spring 2017 the Local Authority received a Department for Working Pensions List (DWP) containing eligible families. This list demonstrated a higher number of eligible families than in previous terms. The active marketing of the offer and work of the providers resulted in the numbers being maintained into the spring term.

Over the last year the local authority has worked to ensure that there has been increased access to childcare placements to meet the sufficiency duty placed upon us. There are now increased numbers of two year placements available across Torbay, resulting in more families being able to take up their offer without a delay.

The success of the programme and the confidence of parents in the high quality provision has resulted in an **additional 182 eligible children** accessing a statutory offer above that anticipated by the Department for Education. The families receiving the offer have been closely checked by national data sources, there were no mitigating actions the local authority could have taken to reduce the number of children due to a statutory duty to provide this offer.

The demand for both elements of the early years funding is aligned to the growth in pupil numbers that is becoming apparent in the primary school phase. Anticipated pupil numbers have grown at a rapid pace due to the development of new housing. In 2017 the pupil yield per household was adjusted and accepted by the DFE for primary pupil placement trajectories. The increased demand on early years placements is testament to the growth that will be seen in the primary phase in 2018 onwards. Intelligence shared between Children's Services and Planning demonstrates that developments are being finished and occupied at a faster rate than planned. New phases of housing developments are also being brought forward.

Implications

In March 2017 the School Forum took a decision to manage the overspend through the use of the reserve fund. At this point the projected outturn was £404k. This decision ensured there was no reduction in the per pupil rate provided to all schools.

Since forum took the decision the final position has changed. The outturn position of £834,597 requires forum to revisit the decision.

The forum could take a similar approach to manage the overspend by using the reserve fund. This decision would result in the main funding to take action to remove funding

previously allocated to projects. By using this approach there would be no recall on the per pupil funding provided to schools and no legacy problems will be transferred to 17/18 budget.

Recommendation

Forum to decide how the reserve fund will be managed to accommodate the additional demand on resources in 2016/2017.

Forum to ask for a detailed report of numbers of children accessing early years entitlements after both the submission of forecasts numbers and the receipt of actual numbers.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills

Schools Forum - 29th June 2017

2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Forecast Outturn

Introduction

The DfE confirmed that the 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is £95.3m of which an estimated £58.5m is deducted to fund Academy Schools leaving £36.8m for our maintained schools and education services.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded activities are currently forecast to **overspend by £412k**.

The main areas of under/overspends

Joint funded placements and Independent special school costs are a volatile area; at this stage these services are forecast to:

Joint funded placements **underspend** by £50k.

Independent special school / out of county costs **overspend** by £100k

Statementing / EHCP contingency (in-year adjustments to statementing / EHCP) is forecast to **overspend** by £139k – see separate paper on detailed analysis.

Special Schools / High Needs Contingency is forecast to **overspend** by £250k due to increasing places and top up costs.

Recoupment from other Local Authorities for pupil top-up funding is forecast to **underspend** by £27k

Early Years – It is too early in the financial year to predict whether there will be pressure in this area as there was in 16/17. We are still in the process of collating the nursery numbers from the Summer Term headcount. This will be monitored during 17/18 and any issues reported to future meetings.

Implications

The volatile position of the DSG budget and in particular the pressure on the High Needs Block is of national concern and debate. Sharing of information across LA's demonstrates a similar trend, actions being taken by other LA's includes the top slicing of the DSG budget resulting in a reduced rate per pupil for schools.

Torbay no longer has a DSG reserve to manage this overspend, and this level of spend is not sustainable into future years and will require decisive action to bring the budget under control.

Torbay has a high prevalence of requests and award of EHC plans/statements. This equates to 4.4% of the pupil population compared to 2.9% nationally. Although national figures are not known for this year, local intelligence shows that there continues to be growth in the numbers of requests received. This trend information demonstrates that costs will continue to rise and add pressure to the higher needs block.

Actions required

- Primary and Secondary phase associations to cascade the forecast information.
- Head of Education, Learning and Skills to talk to all headteachers in phase meetings to ensure all schools recognise the significance of individual decision making/actions on the overall budget.
- Continue to use the SEND panel process to scrutinise the costs associated with EHC plans.
- Continue to apply the increased scrutiny of thresholds to all new requests.
- Director of Children's Services to raise the demand issues with partners through the Children's Improvement Board.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills

Statementing/ Education, Health and Care Plan Funding for 16/17 & 17/18

	16/17	17/18	Increase / (Decrease)
Number of pupils with a statement	362	373	11.00
Number of FTE's with a statement	334	353	19.00
	£	£	£
Funding below £6k allocated through school formula elements	1,914,223	2,047,279	133,056
Funding above £6k allocated as a top-up per eligible pupil	926,146	1,234,164	308,018
Statementing / EHCP Contingency	238,400	200,000	(38,400)
In-Year adjustments			
April	110,476	25,735	(84,741)
May	23,628	45,249	21,621
June	19,756	19,756	0
July	8,445	8,445	0
August	114,700	114,700	0
September	63,804	63,804	0
October	34,132	34,132	0
November	(4,951)	(4,951)	0
December	19,419	19,419	0
January	(11,636)	(11,636)	0
February	22,423	22,423	0
March	1,663	1,663	0
Total - In-Year adjustments	401,859	338,739	
Projected (underspend) / overspend	163,459	138,739	

DSG Reserve and Unallocated Funding

	Over / (Under)
	£
DSG balances from 07/08 to 16/17	
DSG underspend 07/08	(396,039)
DSG underspend 08/09	(312,980)
DSG underspend 09/10	(267,702)
DSG underspend 10/11	(489,485)
DSG underspend 11/12	(164,525)
DSG underspend 12/13	(443,199)
DSG underspend 13/14	(800,309)
DSG underspend 14/15	(180,349)
DSG underspend 15/16	(130,004)
DSG overspend 16/17	834,603
Total DSG underspend between 07/08 and 16/17	(2,349,989)
In-year allocations back to schools / other project expenditure 10/11 to 16/17	
Total expenditure 10/11	176,000
Total expenditure 11/12	489,485
Total expenditure 12/13	471,206
Total expenditure 13/14	223,257
Total expenditure 14/15	130,192
Total expenditure 15/16	405,241
Total expenditure 16/17	291,318
Total in-year allocations back to schools / other project expenditure between 10/11 and 16/17	2,186,699

Reserve - Balance remaining as at end of financial year 16/17	(163,290)
Unspent balance for Challenging Behaviour held by Watcombe Primary at end of 16/17 Financial Year	(93,601)
Unspent balance for TESS held by Mayfield School at end of 16/17 Financial Year	(122,415)
Estimated Unspent balance for Autism held by Brixham Academy at end of 16/17 Financial Year	(54,489)
Total - Balance remaining as at end of financial year 16/17	(433,795)

Funding still to be allocated against the balance

Transitional funding to enable Early Years funding rate to remain at £4 per hr for 17/18	153,900
Estimated CAMHS funding still to allocate in 17/18 (Apr - Aug 17 only)	73,000
Stitch Project	20,000
Improving Outcomes - D Pritchard	14,000
Estimated Funding for TESS in 17/18 Financial Year	41,753
Estimated Funding for TESS in 18/19 (Apr - Aug only)	72,483
Estimated funding required for Autism in 17/18 Financial Year	148,120
Estimated funding required for Autism in 18/19 (Summer & Autumn Terms)	39,338
Estimated funding required for Challenging Behaviour in 17/18 Financial Year	142,097
Estimated funding required for Challenging Behaviour in 18/19 Financial Year	154,960
Estimated funding required for Challenging Behaviour in 19/20 Financial Year (Summer Term only)	63,780
Total Funding still to be allocated against current remaining balance	923,431

Total Over / (Under) spend	489,637
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Schools Forum 29th June 2017

Early Years Activity Led Funding In the Early Years (ALFEY)

Contextual Information

It is the duty of all providers delivering funded early education places to meet the needs of children with SEN and disabilities. In order to do this the Local Authority follow recommended guidelines to ensure the funding arrangements for early education reflect the need to provide suitable support for these children.

It is at the discretion of each private, voluntary and independent (PVI) provider to decide how to spend their allocation for special educational needs. Some providers choose to fund extra teaching or non-teaching staff to support pupils with special educational needs and/or use this funding to provide interventions and resources. Others may pay for additional time for the provider's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) to work with pupils. This funding also covers the providers duties around the provision of specialist equipment and aids.

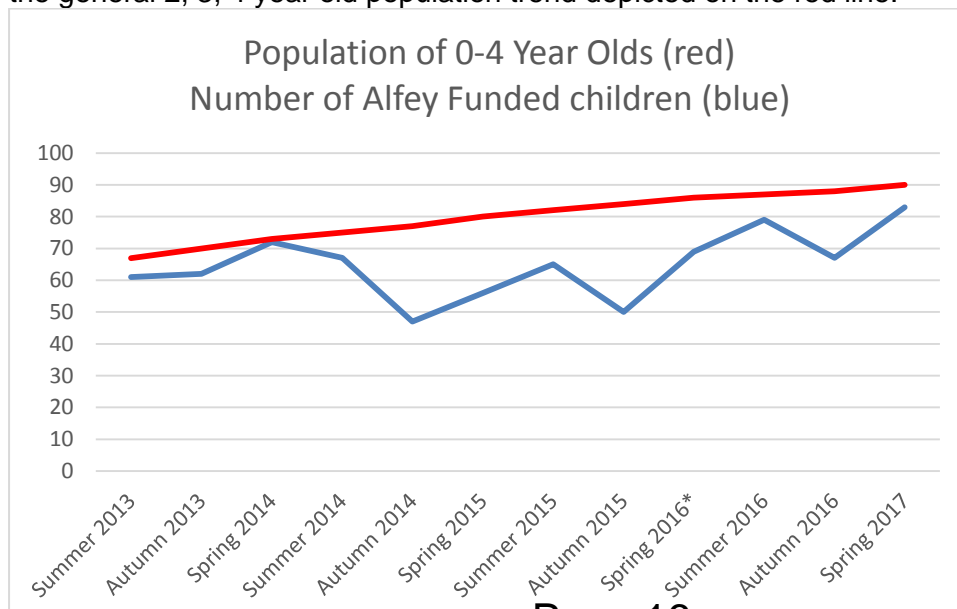
Local Practice

The funding is awarded by the Advisory Teacher for Early Years Inclusion. Upon receipt of an application for support, each individual child is visited by the Advisory Teacher, assessed and scored based upon the level of support required. This score then dictates how much additional funding the setting will receive for the child. The scores are set out below:

ALFEY Score	% of hourly rate received	£ hourly rate received
1	20%	£1.80
2	40%	£3.60
3	60%	£5.40
4	80%	£7.20
5	100%	£9.00

Demand

The chart below clearly demonstrates an increase in the number of children requiring additional support to access mainstream provision. The increased numbers are in line with the general 2, 3, 4 year old population trend depicted on the red line.

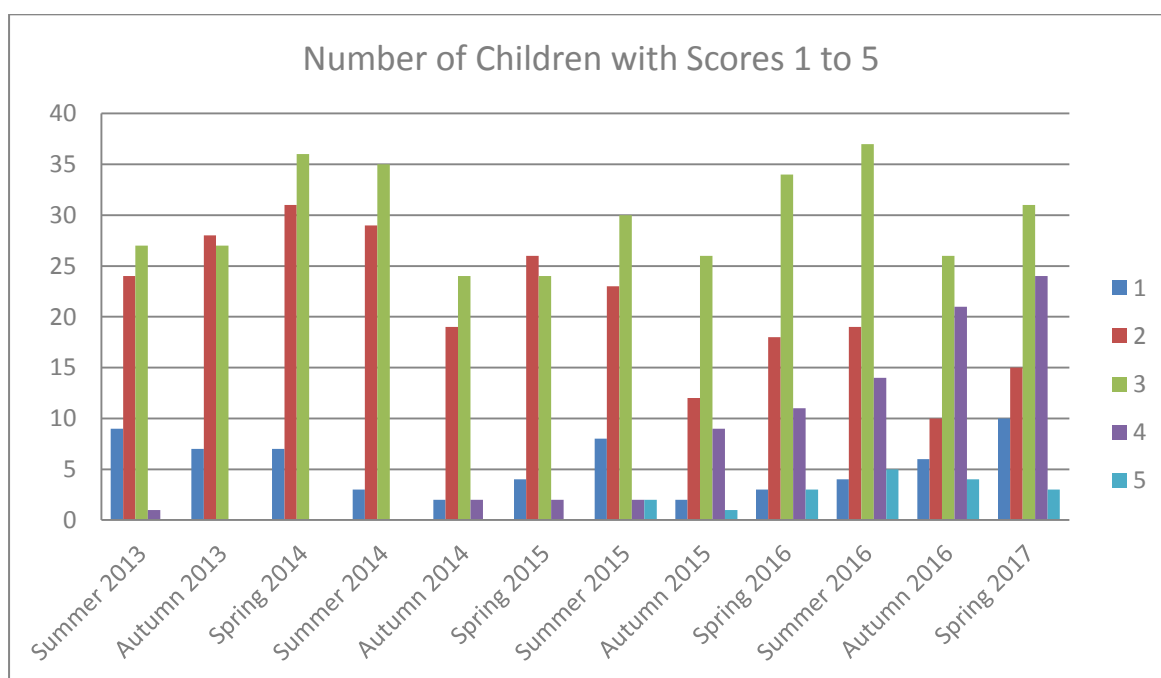


In 2014 the full implementation of a 15 hour offer to vulnerable two years olds was introduced. Although the local area received additional funds to fund the places for the eligible group there were no additional funds provided to ensure children were supported appropriately if their needs could not be met through a universal offer.

The implications of this new duty for funding two years has resulted in additional demand through the following factors

- The need to provide ALFEY funding to an unfunded cohort of two year olds
- The ability of the setting to assess children for additional needs at an early stage has been created. The work of SENCO's start with two years olds, this has moved the average age of the application forward. Although subject to review it has resulted in an increase in the length of time the funding is required.

In addition to demand there has also been an increase in the complexity of the needs of children. The Advisory Teacher for Early Years Inclusion has increased the level of scrutiny of each of the applications and aligns the information available from other sources (e.g. health evidence, portage) prior to decision making. The chart below shows the complexity of need at level 3 and above has increased significantly.



Spend

The impact of increased demand and complexity of need has resulted in additional demands on the ALFEY budget. The following table demonstrates the number of children, average score and spend from 2013 to 2017.

It is important to note that the hourly rate was increased from £7.50 per hour to £9.00 per hour to align the funding with minimum wage expectations. This was applied in spring 2016.

	Number of children	Spend	Average Spend per child	Average Score
Summer 2013	61	£32,769.38	£537.20	2.3
Autumn 2013	62	£30,437.25	£490.92	2.3
Spring 2014	72	£36,265.50	£503.69	2.4
Summer 2014	67	£38,268.00	£571.16	2.5
Autumn 2014	47	£30,910.50	£657.67	2.6
Spring 2015	56	£30,892.50	£551.65	2.4
Summer 2015	65	£43,960.50	£676.32	2.5
Autumn 2015	50	£39,073.50	£781.47	2.9
Spring 2016*	69	£50,738.22	£735.34	2.9
Summer 2016	79	£68,493.96	£867.01	2.9
Autumn 2016	67	£67,906.08	£1,013.52	3.1
Spring 2017	83	£71,767.44	£864.67	2.9

**Important note – the hourly rate increased from £7.50 ph to £9.00 ph in Spring 2016.*

Next steps

In order to further scrutinise applications, the local authority are taking additional actions. This includes the introduction of a funding allocation panel to moderate and review all claims. This will bring practice in line with the SEND panel and mirrors the development of the post 16 panel, with the aim of creating equality in decision making across all phases of education.

School Forum took a decision to increase the budget by £100k to mitigate the increased demand and impact of children receiving a 30 hour entitlement from September 2017.

Recommendation

- The Forum note the content of the report and request an update report in Spring 2018.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills

Schools Forum 29th June 2017

Post 16 Working Party Progress Report

Context

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced significant changes in policy for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). The new system extends the rights and protections to children and young people by introducing streamlined, integrated education, health and care plans, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age. The reforms that came into force in September 2014 have been systematically introduced at a local level through close work with the NHS, Schools and Post 16 settings.

Torbay has a high proportion of children and young people with Statements of Special Educational Needs/ Educational Health and Care Plans. This equates to 4.4% of the pupil population compared to 2.9% nationally. In addition the new duty has resulted in a rise of requests for an EHCP.

School Forum have discussed the challenges faced by Torbay in meeting the demands placed on the Higher Needs Block. These arise in the main from the increased number of requests for assessment of children and young people and the increasing complexity of needs of some children. A key area of increased demand has been for assessment and on-going support for post 16 youngsters.

To address some of the key challenges School Forum requested that a working part was established to measure the effectiveness of post 16 packages for pupils with Special Educational Needs.

This is the second report of the group.

Progress Report

The group met on the 29th March and 19th May 2017

Group Membership

- Mike Lock Headteacher Combe Pafford
- Dan Hallam Assistant Principal – South Devon College
- John Demeger South Devon College
- Debbie Main Ex Headteacher Roselands
- Dorothy Hadleigh Head of Service SEND (LA)
- Matthew Gifford SEND Reforms Project Manager (LA)
- Rachael Williams Head of Education, Learning and Skills (LA)

The work group have continued to focus on the process needed to collect and analyse provider information to ensure that the commissioned places are providing value for money. This has resulted in the development of a data collection form and a template for all providers to capture the starting point and destination plan for each learner.

The group are focused on the bespoke nature of each package and are mindful that progress towards the destination needs to be measured against unique starting points.

The work of Combe Pafford in creating an annual plan on entry was used as the starting point for discussion. The form was reviewed by the group and with some additions it was agreed this would be a robust template as an agreed plan between the provider, young person and the case work officer. At the meeting on the 19th May 2017, the College agreed to trial the form with a number of students.

In addition to an individual template, the group also designed a data collection form to measure each provider in relation to performance and value for money. This form is being tested by Combe Pafford.

If both of the trials are successful the designed system will provide a mechanism for effective commissioning that can be overseen by both the local authority SEN team and a wider post 16 group.

With this in mind the Local Authority has established a post 16 panel including representatives from Providers, Case Work Officers, Career South West, YOT. The work group has contributed to the terms of reference of the panel.

Next Steps

- The work group to meet on 29th June 2017 to receive feedback from the trials
- The Local Authority to arrange a launch event with all post 16 providers of the commissioning mechanisms and expectations to be used.
- The post 16 panel to continue to meet and receive the commissioning information.

Recommendation

- The Forum note the content of the report and request an update report in October 2017.

Rachael Williams
Head of Education, Learning and Skills