

## Schools Forum - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### Analysis of High Cost Placements October 2017

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed analysis of the high cost placements being commissioned by the local area.

Torbay has a historically high rate of Statements/Education, Health and Care plans, and the request for assessments continues to grow. We currently have 1265 Statements/ Education, Health and Care Plans.

Since September 2014 the LA have seen a 30% rise in requests for new assessments. The percentage of requests for statutory assessment that have been refused has risen from 14% in academic year 2013-14, to 23% in 2015-16. This indicates that thresholds are being robustly applied and more work is needed to strengthen early identification and school support for learners with special educational needs.

The following table shows the new requests for statutory assessment by Academic year and the conversion rates for agreement/refusal.

	Sept 13 – Aug 14	Sept 14 – Aug 15	Sept 15 – Aug 16
Requests for Statutory Assessment	133	164	175
RSAs agreed	115 (86%)	142 (87%)	135 (77%)
RSAs refused	18 (14%)	22 (13%)	40 (23%)

The complexity of the needs of the children and young people sometimes requires specialist provision which requires access to in house placements in enhanced resource provisions and special schools within Torbay, and also accessing specialist provisions within the vicinity of Torbay/ surrounding authorities, or further afield.

#### Locally commissioned provisions

The provisions within the vicinity of Torbay/ surrounding authorities have grown in order to accommodate some of these pressures, however they are now operating at maximum capacity.

	January 15	January 16	January 17	Current
Combe Pafford (includes Post 16)	224	228	235	250
Mayfield (includes Post 16)	152	179	190	197
Chestnut	22	28	31	35
Brunel and Burton Academy	94	94	74	104
Preston ERP (Autism)	16	15	16	17
Brixham ERP (Autism)	16	18	18	16
St Margaret's & The Spires ERPs (Hearing Impaired)	8	7	7	9
Barton Language Unit	10	10	10	10

### Bespoke Packages

In cases where there has been a need to develop bespoke packages to meet the complex needs of students, there has been a growth in the use of alternative providers. These packages range from the short term interim arrangements to long term provision as part of a bespoke package to maintain the student within an educational placement. All of these are closely monitored and reviewed on a 6 weekly basis by the SEN Casework Officer, and in some cases these are in conjunction with the student remaining on roll at a school and part attendance.

	Total No	Pre 16	Post 16	Total Cost (£)
Emma Walton Riviera Tuition	11	1	10	85,608
Eat That Frog	1	1	-	6,281
YMCA	10	7	3	57,540
Sirona Horse Therapy	4	4	-	4,797
Evolve psychotherapy	8	7	1	41,765
Adelong Outdoor Education	7	7	-	37,675
South West Intervention Services	1	1	-	12,600

Mainstream Schools have not been able to meet the needs of these students, and the L.A has been obliged to put the provision in place. This has been a growth area this last year.

### Independent Placements

These placements are used in cases where no other provision within Torbay is appropriate. All options are explored prior to agreeing to this option being authorised. There has also been an increase in these during the last year.

	January 15	January 16	January 17	Current
Independent /Non Maintained Specials	34	36	31	46

Of these placements there are some provisions we are using to place a number of students within the provision.

	Total No	Total Cost (£)
Devon School (Cambian Group)	3	93,400
On Track	16	584,755
School for Inspiring Talents	6	217,165

The number of Post 16 placements once again continues to be a significant pressure – this is also a growing area of need due to changes in the legislation, and will continue to be so. In the last year a Post 16 Working Group has been formed to start to consider these issues and how outcomes and value for money judgements can be made.

<b>POST 16</b>		
	Total No	Total Cost (£)
Devon School (Cambian)	1	17,100
Dawlish Garden Trust	1	6,240
Eat That Frog	22	183,168
Liverpool Progressive School	1	19,986
Foxes Academy	2	46,987
Dame Hannah/ Seale Hayne	2	28,551
Oakwood Court College (Phoenix)	6	220,114
Lifeworks	1	34,229
On Track	7	114,277
Robert Owen Communities	6	52,000
ERADE	1	42,670
St Piers, Lingfield	1	29,071
WESC	2	42,710
South Devon College	100	1200,500

#### Joint funded placements

There are also cases where joint funding between Social Care and Education occurs. The table below shows the Educational costs for these placements.

	Total No	Total Cost (£)
Libra	6	291,666
Woodlands, Wrexham	1	28,018
Branas, North Wales	1	16,600
Aspirations	1	24,750
Willows, Somerset	1	28,678
New Horizons, Runcorn	1	40,268
Torridge Academy	1	58,000
Aurora Brambles (Beech Keys Ltd)	1	56,159

## Conclusion

The complexity of need, the growing number of cases where there are mental health issues and an increase in the number of students where schools feel they can no longer meet their need are creating demand pressures. This is compounded by the local specialist provisions being at maximum capacity and a higher number of bespoke packages and out of area placements being required. In the last year the demand from all local areas has determined the costs within the market and the local authority is required to work within the sufficiency available. These factors when considered as a whole have resulted in a growth in the demand and spend of the higher needs block.

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