

Schools Forum Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 8th October 2020 at 10.00 am
to be held via Zoom Virtual Conference

Membership

Stewart Biddles (<i>Chair & Primary Academy Head</i>)	Lisa Finn (<i>Vice-Chair & Secondary Academy Rep</i>)
Ken Kies (<i>Primary Academy Head</i>)	Tim Stephens (<i>Primary Academy Governor</i>)
Maurice Codd (<i>Primary Maintained Governor</i>)	Jim Piper (<i>Primary Academy Deputy Head</i>)
Adam Morris (<i>Primary Maintained Head</i>)	Daneian Rees (<i>Secondary Academy Rep</i>)
Lindsey Kings (<i>Secondary Academy Deputy Head</i>)	Clive Star (<i>Secondary Academy Governor</i>)
Sally Timmins (<i>Secondary Academy Governor</i>)	Mike Lock (<i>Special Schools Head</i>)
Jayne Jones (<i>Early Years</i>)	Steven Hulme (<i>PRU Head</i>)
Dan Hallam (<i>Post 16</i>)	

- 1. Apologies/Changes to Membership**
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** (Pages 3 - 7)
- 3. Financial Report** (Pages 8 - 12)
- 4. Future budget indications** (Pages 13 - 14)
- 5. Deficit position statement** (Page 15)
- 6. COVID Update**
Verbal update
- 7. Post 16 Report** (Pages 16 - 18)
Dorothy Hadleigh
- 8. EHE recharge decision** (Pages 19 - 20)
Dan Hamer

*For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language
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9. Outreach service decision

(Pages 21 - 22)

10. Items for next meeting

- Audit Action Plan
- COVID Update

11. Future meeting dates

- Thursday 19th November 2020
- Thursday 14th January 2021



Minutes of the Schools Forum

18 June 2020

-: Present :-

Stewart Biddles (Chairman), Primary Academy Head; **Lisa Finn (Vice-Chair)** Secondary Academy Rep; **Adam Morris**, Primary Maintained Head; **Ken Kies**, Primary Academy Head; **Maurice Codd**, Primary Maintained Governor; **Tim Stephens**, Primary Academy Governor; **Lindsey Kings**, Secondary Academy Deputy Head; **Daneian Rees**, Secondary Academy Rep; **Clive Star**; Secondary Academy Rep; **Jim Piper**, Primary Academy Deputy Head; **Dan Hallam**, Post 16; **Mike Lock**, Special Schools Head; and **Jayne Jones**, Early Years Rep

-: Also in attendance :-

Rachael Williams, Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Skills; **Martin Phillips**, Head of Finance; **Dorothy Hadleigh**, Head of SEN; **Rob Parr**, Principal Accountant; **Dan Hamer**, Head of Vulnerable Pupils; **Michael Freeman**, Clerk

1. Apologies/Changes to Membership

The Forum welcomed Keith Hawkins, Head of Funding Policy Implementation Unit of the Educations and Skills Funding Agency to the meeting. Andrea Latheron-Cassule, also of the ESFA, attended as an observer.

There were no apologies received for this meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

From the minutes of the May meeting, Rachael informed the Forum that the 6 day provision work is ongoing, conversations are currently taking place on exclusions. This work has been discussed at the Higher Needs Funding Group and has their support.

Dan Hamer also clarified changes to the recoupment process. Draft invoices are now being sent out two weeks before final invoices as discussed.

Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Financial Report

Rachael presented to members a financial report detailing the current position of the LA. The DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) is forecast to be overspent by

£2.2m 2020/21. Significant pressure remain on Exclusions, Medical Tuition Service and Elective Home Education.

The Early Years block remains an area of volatility, largely due to COVID-19. The LA acknowledges that the funding offered to settings is not enough to cover the income currently being lost due to lockdown. Further details on the Early Years block will be available in early July, once allocation adjustment figures have been totalled. Members expressed concerns that settings have around children returning in September. It is recognised that with social bubbles in place some settings are already at capacity, and they do not see how social distancing can be practised safely in an Early Years setting. It was also felt that some parents are not sure about children returning, and feel in the dark given the current situation. Rachael explained that the LA is aware of concerns and are raising the issues with the DfE.

The request for element 3 top up funding remains under pressure. Due to Covid 19 there is a reported underspend on this part of the higher needs block of £104k, however Forum Members should be cautious that there is likely to be a demand on this block as children return to school and new plans are issued.

Special Schools remain over commissioned by an additional £223k. Using current trajectory rates, it is forecast that the contingency budget of £600k is will be used throughout the year. Officers are monitoring this forecast month by month.

The total cumulative overspend of the DSG now stands at £3.778m. Members noted the findings of this report, acknowledging that the recovery plan in place is saving thousands not millions, and whilst the overspend is in line with anticipated figures, further work needs to be done through the mechanism of the Higher Needs Recovery Group to mitigate further spend.

4. Impact of Covid-19

The Forum discussed the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having, and the issues the LA is experiencing. Financial impact only. Highest rates of referrals into MASH (well above thresholds) RSA route as well. Backlog due to lockdown. There has been a reduction in the number of RSAs (Requests for Statutory Assessment) being submitted in to the SEN team, which led to concerns that children are potentially missing out on this support. Members also expressed concerns that if these children are not being identified it could lead to more expensive bespoke packages further down the line.

Rachael has received feedback from SENDIASS, who say that a large number of parents of children with SEN say that the current situation is working well for them, meaning some parents don't wish to reintegrate children after lockdown. Members noted that this could lead to a large number of EHE (Electively Home Educated) children later on, particularly as schools will not be continuing online learning when they reopen.

There has been a rise of approximately 17% Torbay children that are NEET, it is anticipated that numbers will continue to rise. Members were warned to expect additional demand on forum budgets as a result. The forum recognised that this is an emerging issue, and whilst conversations are ongoing it was felt that some investment was needed early to mitigate for those children and young people with EHCPs who will be leaving education shortly.

There has been a significant rise in the number of children awaiting an Autism assessment. There was a two year waiting list for assessments prior to COVID-19, and no further assessments have taken place during lockdown, adding to pressures on the service.

Members were told that further modelling on the impact of COVID-19 will be completed, once schools have returned the reasonable endeavours forms. There will be an update on this at the next Forum in October.

5. Discussion with ESFA on recovery plan and moving forward

The Forum heard from Mr Keith Hawkins of the ESFA, on the current recovery plan and the next steps to be taken. The LA had contacted the ESFA on behalf of Schools Forum, due to uncertainty that we could eradicate debt and achieve a balanced budget within the three year timescale.

Keith thanked the LA for the data he received on funding rates and the number of EHCPs in Torbay, as well as the actions taken at a local level to address these. He explained that the ESFA are conscious of the pressures on Higher Needs, and the difficulties in achieving a balanced budget.

Keith informed the Forum that current accounting guidance states that deficits can be carried forward, and that no reserves should be used to cover any deficit. He explained that a SEN review is underway, which may possibly lead to some policy changes. A consistent template for LAs to use is now being produced.

Dorothy Hadleigh, Head of SEN, told Keith that all options explored have not yet led to a formula that can cover the costs of our EHCPs. The LA would welcome examples of good practice, particularly learning from authorities that have successfully reduced their number of EHCPs, as options already looked at have not led to viable solutions that can be used in Torbay.

Members explained to Keith that they felt it unfair to judge Torbay against statistical neighbours as other authorities allocate funding in different ways, and a fair comparison cannot be made. Any money in the budget is being used for in-year pressures, and not to offset the original deficit. Keith acknowledged that the ESFA does not have funding mechanisms in place for each individual LA, but that this is something they are looking at.

The Forum shared concerns that even if the number of EHCPs is reduced, there will remain a legacy of the current EHCPs which will require funding until those children are 25, impacting on future budgets even if we managed to get to a cost

neutral position for Higher Needs in schools. Members express a wish for the ESFA to work with them on the historic issues.

Keith agreed that further conversations on historic issues are needed, but reiterated the point that getting to an in-year balanced budget should be the main priority.

Officer queried whether the ESFA would expect the LA to put in a request for disapplication. Keith explained that it is up to each authority to do so if they wish, but ministers are now less inclined to approve this. A Full SEN spending review is underway, including a review of the National Funding Formula, but has been delayed by the COVID pandemic. The ESFA is welcoming suggestions from Forums to inform this review.

Keith was pleased to see the commitment of the Forum in tackling the issues raised, and thought that the actions taken by Forum and the Higher Needs Recovery Group are working well, and that EHCPs should continue to be the main focus. He agreed to meet with the Forum again once the SEN review has been published later this summer.

Members thanked Keith for his time, and were pleased to see that he recognised their commitment on the issues raised.

Action – Forum to invite Keith to re-attend once SEN review has been published.

6. Post 16 report

As requested at November 2019 Schools Forum, Dorothy Hadleigh, Head of SEN, provided an update on the work of the Post 16 team. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dorothy was pleased to announce that the number of NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people in Torbay had been reducing. Since lockdown caseworkers are now working more creatively with providers and working on innovative arrangements to meet need. Members noted the impact that the Post 16 panel is having, along with the additional enhanced provision within South Devon College there are more children now being supported within Torbay, avoiding the need high cost placements Identifying best practice moving forwards.

It was also noted that more young people on out of area placements are being moved back into the bay, saving costs and also giving the LA better control of the outcomes for each child. However, members were warned that a reduction in the more expensive out of area placements could lead to more tribunals further down the line.

Due to the current pandemic a full value for money report could not be produced, but full facts and figures will be presented at a future meeting when possible.

Members gave their thanks to Dorothy for this report, and were pleased to note the positive impact that the Post 16 team is having.

7. Any Other Business

- Following on from the issues raised in the financial report, Rachael asked members to vote on whether the Forum would be happy for the LA to engage with the Early years sector to work directly with providers. Votes were as follows:

Please note that at this point Lindsey Kings, Jim Piper and Sally Timmins had left the meeting

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

- Rachael informed members that they will be contacted shortly by Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services, for a general discussion on the work of Schools Forum.

8. Items for next meeting

- Audit Action Plan
- COVID Update

9. Future meeting dates

- Thursday 8th October 2020
- Thursday 19th November 2020
- Thursday 14th January 2021

Financial Report 8th October 2020

Introduction

The following report contains a detailed breakdown of the financial position of the Local Area for 2020/2021. The report enables members to note the outturn position and the significant factors contributing toward the spend. The report covers the following items

- Forecast outturn position 2020/2021
- Contextual information regarding Early Years Block
- Contextual information regarding Higher Needs Block
- Position and Recommendations

Forecast Outturn Position 2020/21

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded activities are currently forecast to **overspend by £2.109m.**

The following table details the main areas of both over and under spend. Many of these budgets are demand led and will be monitored during 20/21 and revisions reported accordingly.

Budget Heading	Budget	Actuals to date	Projected Outturn	Over / (Under) Spend
Early Years 2, 3 & 4 yr old payments – PVI's & Academies	£5.604m	£2.610m	£5.604m	£0
Early Years – ALFEY	£265k	£178k	£265k	£0
Early Years – Pupil Premium & Disability Access Fund	£130k	£36k	£110k	(£20k)
Early Years – 5% retained element	£364k	£138k	£357k	(£7k)
Reclaim from ESFA of Early Years pupil no. adjustments between Jan 19 and Jan 20 higher than anticipated.				£45k
Joint Funded Placements	£600k	£383k	£575k	(£25k)
Recovery of funding from schools for Excluded Pupils, Medical Tuition Service and Elective Home Education	(£386k)	(£29k)	(£120k)	£266k
Independent Special School Fees	£2.685m	£904k	£2.585m	(£100k)
Other packages for EHCP pupils and SEND personal budgets	£1.077m	£378k	£1.120m	£43k
Payments to / recoupment from other authorities for Special School places	(£230k)	(£4k)	(£177k)	£53k
Medical Tuition Service / Virtual School / Hospital Tuition / Vulnerable Students Team	£1.404m	£665k	£1.354m	(£50k)
School contingencies (Rates, planned pupil growth, NQT induction etc)	£261k	£84k	£216k	(£45k)
EHCP in-year adjustments (see separate paper for details)	£350k	£52k	£244k	(£106k)
Special Schools / High Needs in-year adjustments (see separate paper for details)	£600k	£528k	£675k	£75k

School Intervention / Commissioning (includes School Improvement Grant)	£142k	£32k	£142k	£0
Business Support	£190k	£84k	£170k	(£20k)
Other – including Admissions, EAL / Travellers, Advisory Teachers				(£31k)
Delay in opening of St Michael's Primary, no ESFA recoupment of funds in 20/21.				(£217k)
High Needs in-year pupil number adjustment– Net import of pupils from other authorities reduced from 103 to 95 pupils				£48k
Deficit DSG budget set for 20/21	(£2.2m)	£0	£0	£2.2m

The two areas of significant volatility are within the Early Years Block and Higher Needs Block.

Early Years Block

The Early Years sector continue to be under significant pressure. Although they have been guaranteed Early Years Entitlement Funding (EY-DSG) they have been impacted significantly on the private income that can be achieved. For many parents there has not been the need or desire to return their children to full time early years provision due to their own change in circumstances.

The announcements from the Department for Education put mitigations in place for the Autumn Term but there are no further decisions that have been taken for the spring and summer terms. The impact of this will not be fully understood until the early years census and headcount information takes place.

The Local Authority are in receipt of the adjustment figure from the previous year. The adjustment figure by the DFE clawed back an additional £45k than had been calculated.

Higher Needs Block

Torbay continues to have a greater number of children requiring additional support up to and including a special school place than the funds available in the higher needs block can meet.

The work to consider the allocation of funds above £6k is starting to have an impact. We are also noting the impact on Covid 19 within the budget as work has been delayed to review and issue plans. The following table provides the most up to date information, but Forum will need to monitor this closely as systems and processes begin to emerge post Covid 19.

Education, Health & Care Plan Funding for 19/20 & 20/21			
	19/20	20/21	Increase / (Decrease)
Number of pupils with EHCP	444	470	26.00
Number of FTE's with EHCP	401	429	28.00
	£	£	£
Funding below £6k allocated through school formula elements	2,383,233	2,554,879	171,646
Funding above £6k allocated as a top-up per eligible pupil	1,929,955	2,122,040	192,085
EHCP Contingency	500,000	350,000	(150,000)
In-Year adjustments			
April	89,037	16,946	(72,091)
May	(2,510)	(104)	2,406
June	21,302	(11,737)	(33,039)
July	12,688	4,062	(8,626)
August	4,248	42,398	38,150
September	84,471	84,471	0
October	32,871	32,871	0
November	24,573	24,573	0
December	35,172	35,172	0
January	9,789	9,789	0
February	5,291	5,291	0
March	591	591	0
Total - In-Year adjustments	317,523	244,323	
Projected (underspend) / overspend	(182,477)	(105,677)	
Notes			
Based on Apr 20 to Aug 20 in-yr adjustments, and the same allocation for the remainder of the financial year as 19/20, it is anticipated the EHCP contingency will underspend by			(105,677)

The following table demonstrates the numbers of Special School Commissioned Placements and Adjustments.

Special School and other High Needs funding adjustments for 20/21

	Combe Pafford	Combe Pafford	Mayfield School	Mayfield Chestnut	Mayfield Total	Brunel SEMH	Burton AP	B & B Total	Totals	Totals £
Number of places - January 20	252		217	33	250	56	50	106.00	608.00	
Number of pupils - January 20	248		216	33	249	47	60	107.00	604.00	
Number of places - September 20	262		231	32	263	56	55	111.00	636.00	
Initial Place led funding		2,578,333			2,575,833	560,000	529,167	1,089,167		6,243,333
Initial Pupil led funding		981,746			2,315,603	680,090	634,380	1,314,470		4,611,819
Initial pupil specific additional funding		25,362			54,176	51,967	0	51,967		131,505
Other funding - Outreach / exclusions / rent					235,921			0		235,921
Pupil Premium		153,025			152,205	62,553		62,553		367,783
Total initial funding		3,738,466			5,333,738	1,354,610	1,163,547	2,518,157		11,590,361
In-Year adjustments	Pupils	Funding £	Mayfield Pupils	Chestnut Pupils	Funding £	SEMH Pupils	AP Pupils	Funding £	Pupils	Funding £
April	248	22,645	216	34	15,691	49	64	182,065	611	220,401
May	248	0	216	34	0	50	63	3,572	611	3,572
June	248	4,607	216	34	0	51	65	38,013	614	42,620
July	248	0	215	34	(10,285)	53	50	(97,241)	600	(107,526)
August	248	0	215	34	0	53	50	0	600	0
September	258	38,944	227	31	37,741	49	43	(76,936)	608	(251)
October									0	0
November									0	0
December									0	0
January									0	0
February									0	0
March									0	0
Total In -year pupil / place led adjustments		66,196			43,147			49,473		158,816
Enhanced Provision (in-year changes in pupil numbers)										20,537
Excluded Pupils / 6th Day Provision Mayfield (Sept - Dec)										38,000
Excluded Pupils / 6th Day Provision Mayfield or other provision (Jan - Mar)										28,500
In-year pupil specific additional funding		48,112			132,327			102,001		282,440
Total - In-Year adjustments		114,308			175,474			151,474		528,293
Special School / High Needs contingency budget										600,000
Current (underspend) / overspend										(71,707)

Position

The final outturn position of the Local Area continues to be of significant concern. The position remains volatile and continued actions need to be taken to try and mitigate spend.

The cumulative overspend of the DSG is now £3.778m

Recommendation and Decisions

It is requested that Schools Forum:

1. Note the financial position and continue to work with the Local Authority through the mechanism of the Higher Needs Recovery Group to enact the financial recovery plan.

Rachael Williams
Assistant Director Education, Learning and Skills

Future Budget Indication

Introduction

The report is brought to School Forum to give an early overview of the provisional DSG position for 2021/2022. To keep School Forum Members fully briefed on the information we have received to date we have included a provisional allocation table and information on changes to the proposed formula for allocation.

The provisional DSG funding allocation:

The report details for members the anticipated increase against each budget line and it is important that the contextual information included in the notes below the chart is considered.

Comparison of DSG funding between 20/21 and provisional 21/22 before academy recoupment				
	20/21	21/22	Increase /	
	DSG	Provisional DSG	(Decrease)	
	as at 19/12/19	as at 20/7/20		
	from ESFA	from ESFA		
Funding type	£	£	£	Note
Schools Block	83,029,274	89,884,070	6,854,796	1
Central Schools Block	1,214,090	1,125,637	(88,453)	2
Early Years - 3 & 4 Yr Olds	4,414,588	4,414,588	0	3
Early Years - 3 & 4 Yr Olds (Increase to 30 hrs)	1,706,302	1,706,302	0	3
Early Years - 2 Yr Olds	1,158,275	1,158,275	0	3
Early Years Pupil Premium	85,921	85,921	0	3
Early Years - Disability Access Fund	43,665	43,665	0	3
High Needs Block	19,183,226	21,221,336	2,038,110	4
Total Initial DSG	110,835,341	119,639,794	8,804,453	
Notes				
1. Of the increase of £6.855m, £3.861m relates to the Teachers Pay & Pensions Grants being put into the Schools Block baseline in 21/22, instead of being paid as separate grants which was the case in 20/21. The real growth is therefore £2.994m (3.61% increase). The pupil growth element has not yet been announced for 21/22 so for comparison the same figure as 20/21 has been assumed £643k.				
2. Reduction in ESFA funding historic commitments relating to PFI costs.				
3. The Early Years allocations for 21/22 have not been released and therefore the same value as 20/21 has been assumed for comparison.				
4. Of the increase of £2.038m, £428k relates to the Teachers Pay & Pensions Grants being put into the baseline in 21/22, instead of being paid as separate grants which was the case in 20/21. The real growth is therefore £1.610m (8.4% increase).				

Additional information that was shared as part of the school funding information

- The minimum per pupil funding levels have increased for Primary from £3,750 in 20/21 to £4,180 in 21/22
- The minimum per pupil funding levels have increased for Secondary from £5,000 in 20/21 to £5,415 in 21/22
- Of the MPPF above, £180 for Primary and £265 for Secondary relate to Teachers Pay & Pensions Grants now being included in the DSG.
- Those schools on Minimum Funding Guarantee will see a 2% increase in 21/22 per pupil instead of 1.84% in 20/21
- High needs funding will increase by at least 8% in 21/22, as was the case in 20/21.
- School funding through the NFF nationally is increasing by 4% overall in 21/22. The NFF will distribute this funding based on schools and pupils needs and characteristics.
- The key factors in the NFF will increase by 3% in 21/22 before any scaling is required.

- No date has been set for when ESFA will move towards a 'hard' formula
- Local Authorities must inform schools of their 21/22 allocations by 28th February 2021.
- We are able to transfer 0.5% of Schools Block to High Needs with School Forum approval this would be £430k.
- We are able to submit a disapplication to Secretary of State for movements above 0.5% deadline is the 20th November 2020.

Recommendation and Decisions

It is requested that Schools Forum:

1. Note the latest announcements on future funding allocations.
2. Receive a future report on the mechanism of distributing funding in line with our agreed school forum principles of meeting minimum pupil guarantees and pupils' needs and characteristics.
3. Receive a report on special school funding and allocation of additional funds from higher needs growth.

Rachael Williams
Assistant Director Education, Learning and Skills

Deficit Budget Position

Introduction

The Deficit budget position continues to be a significant cause for concern. The Higher Needs Recovery Group and School Forum have taken action at a local level to try and mitigate and re-direct spend to reduce some of the demands on the system. The impact of some of this work has been difficult to measure due to the Covid situation.

The overall cumulative budget position is £3.778m deficit with an anticipated £2.109m outturn position in 2021.

This could potentially bring the overall position to £5.887m.

Considerations for School Forum

The school forum regulations for 2021/22 enable the school forum to take two actions.

- 1) Transfer 0.5% of Schools Block to Higher Needs with School Forum Approval
- 2) Submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for movements above 0.5%

Given the current pressures on school budgets to deliver the additional covid mitigations required, the Local Authority does not propose that we work to deal with the historic deficit within this financial year. Analysis across a range of providers show that an average secondary school is paying an additional £65k per year and an average two form entry primary school is paying an additional £18k per year. This does not fully include all of the cover arrangements needed for staff to adhere to isolation periods when required.

With this knowledge we feel it is imperative that we collectively take action to try and balance the budget for 2021/2022 rather than deal with the historic deficit.

The most appropriate mechanism for dealing with this is to use the upshift in Higher Needs Block funding (minus any agreed allocation to special schools) alongside a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block.

Based on provisional DSG allocation information the proposed shift of funds would be in the region of £430k.

As stated in previous meetings the historic deficit and debt sits with the School Forum. The School Forum will need to be able to demonstrate that they are taking appropriate action and be able to give a clear rationale. The ESFA have produced a management plan template and additional guidance on how deficit have to be recorded.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-deficit-management>

Recommendation and Decision

That School Forum Members seek representation from their colleagues ready to take a recorded decision in the November 2020 meeting.

School Forum Members review the new guidance available and share the expectations with colleagues regarding dealing with the deficit and budget pressures.

Post 16 students with EHCP's - Analysis for 2019-2020 academic year

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the key expenditure relating to Post 16 students with EHCP's during the academic year 2019 – 2020.

The range of provision commissioned by the Local Area is reviewed constantly in order to ensure value for money, and good outcomes for the students.

Context

The total number of Post 16 students with EHCP's during the academic year 2019-20 was **378** (Jan 2020). The number of Plans ceased during this year was 67.

Total number of Post 16 students with EHCP's as of September 2020 stands at **476**.

24 of these are currently in the process of being ceased, and it is anticipated that there will be more during the course of the academic year.

The following table provides a breakdown of Post 16 EHCP's by year group:

	As at January 2020	As at Sept 2020
Year 12	138	117
Year 13	88	138
Year 14	60	89
Year 15	55	58
Year 16	24	50
Year 17	5	16
Year 18	5	2
Year 19	2	4
Year 20	1	2
TOTAL	378	476

Post 16 numbers continue to rise. An unforeseen additional pressure this year is due to students remaining in education longer than initially intended due to Covid-19.

Current position

The number of Post 16 placements once again continues to be a significant pressure on the High Needs budget.

The pandemic has also had an impact on the students, with some being unable to complete their course before July 2020, therefore there are a number of students who have returned for a further term in order to complete their vocational courses. This has incurred additional expenditure for the Autumn term 2020.

From the 2019-20 cohort of Year 11 students, who were due to transfer to Post 16 provision, all but 1 have transitioned to suitable provisions. This is an excellent start to the academic year, and a credit to all the staff within the SEN Team, schools and receiving providers, who have worked hard to achieve this.

All new placements are considered by the Post 16 Panel, and challenge provided where it is not felt that the proposed provision is suitable or value for money. This has resulted in costs being renegotiated from the outset of the placement, or an alternative provision proposed which will provide better outcomes for the

student concerned.

The Post 16 SEND Casework Team and SEND Monitoring Team closely monitor outcomes for students and seek regular reports from the providers regarding attendance and engagement. Where the student is not making the most of the opportunities available, conversations take place, and placements are ceased where appropriate.

During 2019 -2020 careful consideration has been given to providers used for Post 16 students, and quality of outcomes. The number of providers we are using has decreased, with an emphasis to strengthen the relationship between providers where outcomes for the students are good.

Some of the students who attended the newly established bespoke provisions during 2019-2020 have now moved onto 'mainstream courses'. This is an excellent outcome for these young people, who would previously have been part of our NEET cohort.

Pathway Plans for all 2019-2020 students with EHCP's are currently being received with outcomes included. An analysis will take place once all of these have been received. The Pathway Plan request is also being sent out to all providers for the new cohort of students for 2020-21.

The table below provides an overview for those providers where we have 5 or more students placed:

POST 16				
	Academic Year 2019-20		Academic Year 2020-21	
	No. of students	Total Cost (£) 2019-20	No. of students	Anticipated cost (£) 2020-21
Riviera Tuition	11	55,336	11	81,975
Eat That Frog	22	230,759	25	288,000
Eat that Frog (Bespoke)	10 (5 per term)	49,368	tbc	
ROC	13	141,904	21	256,265
South Devon College	112	263,000 (+ESFA funding of £10k per student)	tbc	tbc
South Devon College (Bespoke)	6	180,000 (+ESFA funding as above)	tbc	tbc
Mayfield Post 16	40-41	731,142	43	784,730
Combe Pafford	49-51	685,000	54	tbc

Recommendations

- Ensure students who have remained for an additional term, due to Covid-19, receive the input they require in order to achieve anticipated outcomes.
- The Post 16 SEND Casework Team will have a further SEND Casework Officer appointed shortly, and some dedicated Business Support time. This will allow the Post 16 Lead (Laureen Wardle) to focus more on strategic developments for Post 16 SEND.
- Following a detailed analysis of Pathway Plans a further report to be submitted to Schools Forum – date to be decided by Schools Forum.

- Post 16 Panel to receive analysis of provisions currently being used, and consider aspects which need further consideration to improve the impact this broad range of providers brings to Torbay students. This may require robust challenge and define clearer targets and expectations of the providers.

Dorothy Hadleigh
Head of SEND Services

Date: 2nd October 2020

Reviewing Recharging for Elective Home Education (EHE)

Introduction

The DfE guidance for attendance from 1st September calls for;

'all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.'

Torbay schools seek to meet this expectation and the vast majority have returned. At the time of writing, local schools had achieved approximately 98% attendance.

Some parents have chosen to not send their children to school. This has been for a variety of reasons including, previously shielding family members, anxiety over virus transmission and revising their lifestyles after an extended period of being together at home.

The guidance calls for schools to:

- *.... **develop plans for re-engaging them.** (children who are anxious about returning to school)..... especially those who were persistently absent prior to the pandemic...*
- ***Use the additional catch-up funding** schools will receive, as well as existing pastoral and support services, attendance staff and resources and schools' pupil premium funding to put measures in place for those families who will need additional support **to secure pupils' regular attendance.***
- ***Work closely with other professionals** as appropriate to support the return to school, including continuing to notify the child's social worker, if they have one, of non-attendance.*

The Local Authority has engaged in a social media campaign to promote school attendance and the local area has agreed a process for a return to the use of legal measures to promote good attendance. At the same time, the Mediation Service has focussed on families identified as nervous across August to encourage a return.

Early signs are that there is a significant increase in both, enquiries and Elective Home Education registration. One school reported 5 cases within the first three days – the total for the autumn term in 2019. Across the local area, at the 3 week point of the term 58 children had moved to EHE vice 35 in the previous full month of September.

Torbay has a policy of recharging for EHE places at the rate of the MFG plus all personalised funding at a weekly rate for the first year of EHE or until the child returns to a school. (whichever is the shorter)

Schools have asked that this policy is reviewed in the light of the pandemic.

Proposed Charges

It is proposed that the following policy be adopted for 2020/21 before a return to the current position in 2021/22.

1. EHE to be recharged at 50% for all children **except:**

2. Children who were persistently absent in the autumn term 2019 or who had greater than 4 sessions of fixed term exclusion. These places to be charged at the existing rate.

It is hoped that these charges will:

1. reflect the anxiety in the community whilst:
2. retaining charging for those children who were at risk of not maintaining a school place before lockdown.

The autumn term has been chosen as the measure as this is before widespread media coverage of the developing pandemic. It is also sufficiently long for attendance to average out.

Recommendations

That the Schools Forum accept this change to recharging for the academic year 2020/21 and return to full charging thereafter.

Proposal for Primary Phase Outreach Services

Introduction

After the recent paper reviewing Outreach Services, officers have worked with Mayfield - Chestnut staff to agree a service level agreement (SLA) for supporting Primary Schools with SEMH, ASC and those Learning Difficulties covered by the Mayfield Outreach provision.

This provision was budgeted at £183,742 after the recent Schools Forum decisions.

The current Outreach Provisions are stretched by demand and a service only exists on paper for ASC. Staffing has been affected by recruitment into local schools and a lack of certainty about the future of the Intensive Outreach Service.

The Previous Model

Role	Current
Head of Outreach	£51,991
SEMH HLTA x 3	£87,453
ASC Outreach HLTA 0.8 FTE	£18,300
MLD, SpLD, SLD 0.4 FTE	£21,000
Admin Support	£1,700
Management Support	£0
Total	£180,444

Staffing is in place for the whole model except ASC Outreach.

The number of children accessing support is below:

Behaviour Outreach

The geographical split of open cases is:

Torquay – 24, Paignton – 20, Brixham - 3

The service supported:

90 children in 2018/2019 – the last whole year

59 children in 2019/2020 to date with a further 15 on the waiting list. (74 total)

Given that there have been no referrals since April 1st, 2020 this would suggest that the demand for this service is growing.

The service is successful. Only one of this year's caseload has been permanently excluded. Only 2 others have shown no improvement in their behaviour.

Mayfield Learning Difficulties Outreach

18 children are currently supported within Paignton and Brixham

32 are currently supported in Torquay

The work to identify how long each case is worked for before closure and the current provision for this group showed quite variable support. This is now defined in the SLA.

Implementation

- An SLA has been agreed and signed by Mayfield and the Local Authority that details the service and the reporting and review processes.
- The DCO has agreed to host an interventions panel to monitor referrals.
- During the SLA conversations an uncosted management, resources and administration pressure was identified at £38,000 per annum
- Mayfield School has proposed that they share this cost pressure.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum authorise a total annual budget of £200,000 for this service. This is an increase of £16,258 from £183,742 that was originally allocated. Mayfield School with cover the remaining £21,742 of funding.