

Report to School Forum regarding High Cost SEN placements

3rd October 2016

Joint Funded Placements

For this current financial year 2016-17 the education component of the joint funded budget is £763,000 (£940,000 in 2015-16), with a forecast outturn of £613,000 (£715,000 in 2015-16)

This currently consists of 11 children and young people, who are placed in various provisions across the country. This is a reduction on the number of children, as in October 2015 this was 19. Of these placements 2 are children who have profound and multiple learning disabilities, and have been in their current provisions for a number of years. The remaining 9 placements are children and young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and all of these placements have been led by Social Care.

The SEN Team has also actively brought several young people back into Torbay from residential placements, and has created bespoke packages for the students within our mainstream schools. This has resulted in significant savings to this budget, with better outcomes for the students involved.

All of these placements are monitored by Social Care colleagues, with input from SEN.

Independent School Placements

For this current financial year 2016-17 the budget is £2,141,600 (£1,985,300 in 2015-16), with a forecast outturn of £2,141,600 for this current financial year (£2,183,500 in 15/16).

The children and young people are placed with a variety of providers under various categories such as Social, Emotional & Mental Health, Severe Learning Difficulties, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment and ASC (Autism / Aspergers).

The providers are primarily within Torbay or the neighbouring areas, and we have made a concerted effort to reduce the placements further afield by utilising these placements. As a result of this we are less reliant on residential placements, and use day placements instead. We are using a range of providers and have established a rigorous, and more frequent, monitoring mechanism due to the proximity of the placements.

The following chart provides an overview of the number of students we have placed with these providers:

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pre 16 years of age	18	23	20
Post 16 years of age	21	38	40

In addition to these placements the increasing cost of South Devon College provision has also placed a budget pressure on this budget. Overall the significant increase in Post 16 placements has resulted in an increasing amount of this budget being committed to Post 16 provisions. - £1,300,000 of the overall budget in this current financial year is committed to Post 16 students, of which £500,000 are for post 19 students.

All these placements are closely monitored by the SEN Team, who regularly review the progress which is being made, and whether outcomes are being achieved.

Impact of SEND Reforms

As the legislation now covers the 0-25yr age range we have noticed an increase in the number of requests for further funding beyond the previous age of 16 yrs and 19 yrs (see figures above). No additional funding was identified in order to take into account this legislative change. Therefore all efforts to reduce the budget pressures are impacted upon due to this issue.

We ensure that there are clear educational reasons in all the cases we are obliged to consider / agree. The major undertaking of converting all Statements of SEN to Education, Health and Care Plans is on-going with a deadline date of March 2018 for completion.

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