

## Analysis of Individual Joint Funded Placements

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### Context

School Forum requested an analysis of the individual joint funded placements that are being funded through the higher needs block. The purpose of this initial report is to provide forum with an analysis of the numbers of pupils in individual placements and the contribution of funds between social care and education.

### Background

For the vast majority of children and young people their special educational needs are met within the mainstream and special school provision available within the local area. For some young people the complexity of their special educational need or their social care situation leads to a more specialist provision required. These provisions due to their bespoke nature are brokered on an individual basis and can often be in out of area provision.

### Breakdown of placements

There are currently 11 placements where education are making a contribution to a joint funded placement. The following table explains the overall cost of the provision and the education contribution

Name of Provision	Total Cost of Provision	Education Contribution Per Year
Acorns	£181,268	£40,268
Willows School	£179,678	£28,678
Aspiration Care	£232,750	£24,750
Oaklands Park	£81,690	£14,690
Libra (5 pupils)	£918,846	£291,846
Woodlands Development Centre	£273,018	£28,018
Young Foundations Ltd	£95,000	£54,000
	£1,962,250	£482,250

In the last term, two children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans that were jointly funded, have had a different permanency plan and their out of area provision has ceased.

### Managing Spend

The Education Officers are now actively engaged in the permanency panel and tracker meeting where decisions are taken regarding out of area placements and joint funding arrangements.

The officers have made representations to demonstrate how children and young people's needs can be met under best value principles. Where an out of area placement is required for a social need factor but the education provision could be provided locally at a lower cost there have been detailed discussions to ensure that only an appropriate proportion is attributed to the higher needs budget.

The Head of Education, Learning and Skills and Assistant Director for Social Care are working collectively to ensure that any decision making regarding individual placements

are considered against both budget areas. There are some circumstances where social care manage children locally but an education provision is not available to meet needs within the local area.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Forum note this initial analysis and consider this alongside more detailed information at the Higher Needs Recovery Group

**Rachael Williams**  
**Head of Education, Learning and Skills**