

## Schools Forum - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### Analysis of High Cost Placements February 2018

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the report submitted in October 2017 relating to the 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 1275 Statements/ Education, Health and Care Plans. (Oct 2017-1265). This is 4.5% of the Torbay pupil population. (2.8% nationally and 3.2% statistical neighbours).

There has been a 64% increase in requests for new assessments since 2013/14. The SEND panel consisting of multi agency representation continues to be diligent in threshold application, this resulted in 18% of applications not meeting threshold. The trajectory for new requests continues to rise, in this academic year there has been 107 requests received between September 2017 to the end of January 2018.

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	Sept 16 – Aug 17
Requests for Statutory Assessment	133	161	175	216
RSAs refused	18 (14%)	21 (13%)	42 (24%)	40 (18%)
RSAs agreed	115 (86%)	142 (87%)	135 (77%)	176 (82%)

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. The special schools in Torbay are now full and all places have also been allocated for September 2018.

	January 2018	September 2018
<b>Combe Pafford</b>		
Pre 16	202	202
Post 16	50	50
<b>Mayfield</b>		
Pre 16	198	198
Post 16	32	32
<b>Brunel</b>	56	56

## 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. These packages are ceased in cases where we do not feel there is engagement or noticeable impact.

The range of provisions we use has remained consistent since the last report submitted to Schools Forum. The projected total cost for these bespoke packages during this financial year is £344,000.

## 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	October 2017	January 17
Independent /Non Maintained Specials	34	36	31	46	57

## Post 16

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 (£)- <i>Education</i>
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	104	1,260,000
Combe Pafford Post 16	50	601,458
Mayfield Post 16	32	576,810

Close scrutiny of these placements is continuous, and funding contributions from Adult Services have been sought where appropriate. We have also ceased some placements where the student has not engaged, and evidence of outcomes and progress are not clearly apparent.

#### Joint funded placements

The educational contribution to joint funded places currently stands at £500k for this current financial year. A full report was brought to School Forum in January 2018.

Since October 2017 Education and Social Care have placed 2 students out of area, where places were negotiated in neighbouring maintained special schools. This partnership working meant that costly out of area placements in independent schools were avoided for these students.

#### Conclusion

Continuing pressures on the high needs budget remain, for all of the reasons stated in the previous report. The recent development of the Higher Needs Funding Group will look in detail how this can be addressed in the medium to long term.

Dorothy Hadleigh

February 2018