

## Schools Forum - 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### Analysis of High Cost Placements October 2018

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 1330 Education, Health and Care Plans.

Since September 2014 the LA have seen a 49.7% rise in requests for new assessments. This includes a significant increase in the number of requests received directly from parents/carers and young people themselves (During 2014-15 :13 requests and 2017-18 : 66 requests). 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 and 18% in 2016-17. The School Forum have agreed to some further actions to be implemented to look at the application of threshold.

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	Set 17 – Aug 18
Requests for Statutory Assessment	133	164	175	216	238 (45 still in progress)
RSAs agreed	115 (86%)	142 (87%)	135 (77%)	170 ( 79 %)	206 ( 155 to date)
RSAs refused	18 (14%)	22 (13%)	40 (23%)	40 ( 18 %)	27

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 report provides you with an overview of the numbers of children within each type of provision and where possible a trend across two years. It should be noted that although costs have been provided for each provision over two years, the pupils attending the provision may not be the same and could have a different level of assessed need.

#### Locally commissioned provisions

	January 15	January 16	January 17	Sept 17	Sept 18
Combe Pafford (includes Post 16)	224	228	235	250	251
Mayfield (includes Post 16)	152	179	190	197	204
Chestnut	22	28	31	35	32
Brunel and Burton Academy	94	94	74	104	92

Preston ERP (Autism)	16	15	16	17	16
Brixham ERP (Autism)	16	18	18	16	17
St Margaret's & The Spires ERPs (Hearing Impaired)	8	7	7	9	9
Barton Language Unit	10	10	10	10	10
Spires ERP (Autism)	-	-	-		7
STEPS,PCSA ( Severely Anxious/Phobic)	-	-	-	-	3

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.

### 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 Officers, and in some cases these are in conjunction with the student remaining on roll at a school and part attendance.

	<b>Total No</b> <i>(Sept 17) Sept 18</i>		<b>Pre 16</b> <i>(Sept 17) Sept 18</i>		<b>Post 16</b> <i>(Sept 17) Sept 18</i>		<b>Total Cost (£)</b> <i>(Sept 17) Sept 18</i>	
Emma Walton Riviera Tuition	(11)	16	(1)	9	(10)	7	(85,608)	145,000
Eat That Frog	(1)	1	(1)	1		-	(6,281)	£23,000
YMCA	(10)	5	(7)	5	(3)	0	(57,540)	60,000
Sirona Horse Therapy	(4)	4	(4)	3	(0)	1	(4,797)	13,000
Evolve psychotherapy	(8)	9	(7)	9	(1)	0	(41,765)	83,000
Adelong Outdoor Education	(7)	5	(7)	4	(0)	1	(37,675)	57,000
South West Intervention Services	(1)	2	(1)	2		-	(12,600)	63,000
Simply Great Media		2		2		-		8,000

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 in the last 2 years. The complexity of the children, and the subsequent rise in costs is an increasing concern.

### 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 in the Post 16 sector.

<b>PRE 16</b>	January 15	January 16	January 17	Sept 17	Sept 18
Independent /Non Maintained Specials	34	36	31	46	43

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

<b>Pre 16</b>	Total No	Total Cost (£)
On Track	14	677,000
School for Inspiring Talents	5	258,000
Highgate Hill School	2	120,000

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 (£)
Bicton	1	7,000
Devon School (Cambian)	(1) 0	( 17,100) 0
Dawlish Garden Trust	(1) 2	(6,240) 17,000
Eat That Frog	(22) 22	(183,168) 264,000
Liverpool Progressive School	(1) 0	(19,986) 0
Foxes Academy	(2) 1	(46,987) 28,000
Dame Hannah/ Seale Hayne	(3) 0	(28,551) 0
Oakwood Court College (Phoenix)	(6) 4	(220,114) 142,000
Petroc	1	11,650
Lifeworks	(1) 0	(34,229) 0
On Track	(7) 4	(114,277) 168,000
Red Balloon	1	11,650
Robert Owen Communities	(6) 5	(52,000) 60,000
ERADE	(1) 1	(42,670) 11,000
St Piers, Lingfield	(1) 1	(29,071) 32,000
WESC	(2) 2	(42,710) 56,000
South Devon College	(100) 104 + 2 bespoke	(1.200,500) £1.2M

#### Joint funded placements

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

	Total No (Sept 17) Sept 18	Total Education Cost (Sept 17) Sept 18	Total Joint funded costs Sept 18
Libra	(6) 4	(291,666) 228,000	908,000
Woodlands, Wrexham	(1) 1	(28,018) 28,018	221,000

Branas, North Wales	(1)	0	(16,600)	0	-
Aspirations	(1)	0	(24,750)	0	-
Willows, Somerset	(1)	0	(28,678)	0	-
New Horizons, Runcorn	(1)	0	(40,268)	0	-
Torrige Academy	(1)	0	(58,000)	0	-
Aurora Brambles (Beech Keys Ltd)	(1)	0	(56,159)	0	-
Ty Groes Wren		1	28,000		190,000
Young Foundations		1	57,000		292,000
Cherry Trees School		1	40,000		
National Star College		1	50,000		408,000

### 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 continue to create 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.

Dorothy Hadleigh

October 2018