

Schools Forum - 7th March 2019

Analysis of High Cost Placements February 2019

The purpose of this report is to provide an update since the last report dated October 2018, of the high cost placements being commissioned by the local area.

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	237
RSAs agreed	115 (86%)	142 (87%)	135 (77%)	170 (79 %)	202 (85%)
RSAs refused	18 (14%)	22 (13%)	40 (23%)	40 (18 %)	35 (15%)

Since the 1st September 2018 (to Feb Half term) we have received a further 135 new requests for consideration- this does not show any reduction in the number of requests we are receiving.

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.

Since the last report there has not been a significant change in the figures previously submitted, however I would like to bring to the attention of the School Forum of some emerging issues.

- Bespoke packages have risen significantly due to schools seeking alternative support to retain some students in their schools by part time attendance at alternative provisions.
- The need to put in place bespoke packages whilst awaiting / seeking alternative specialist provisions.
- The SEN Team are now having to spend much more time monitoring the bespoke packages in order to ensure the students needs are met, and that desired outcomes are achieved.

Locally commissioned provision

The specialist locally commissioned provisions within Torbay have worked closely with the SEN Team to ensure the children with the level of need which require a specialist placement for September 2019 have been allocated places. This has been a significant pressure this year due to the number of parents requesting these provisions. This close partnership has allowed us to minimise the number of placements where we are having to seek an out of area provision. Thereby keeping costs to a minimum. There are also 2 students who are in costly out of area placements where we will be naming local specialist commissioned provisions for September 2019 (this will equate to a cost saving in the region of £60,000).

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.

	January 15	January 16	January 17	Sept 17	Sept 18	Jan 19
Combe Pafford (includes Post 16)	224	228	235	250	251	248
Mayfield (includes Post 16)	152	179	190	197	204	207
Chestnut	22	28	31	35	32	30
Brunel and Burton Academy	94	94	74	104	92	51 Brunel 56 Burton
Preston ERP (Autism)	16	15	16	17	16	16
Brixham ERP (Autism)	16	18	18	16	17	17
St Margaret's & The Spires ERPs (Hearing Impaired)	8	7	7	9	9	9
Barton Language Unit	10	10	10	10	10	10
Spires ERP (Autism)	-	-	-		7	7
STEPS,PCSA (Severely Anxious/Phobic)	-	-	-	-	3	3

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.

PRE 16	January 15	January 16	January 17	Sept 17	Sept 18	Feb 19
Independent /Non Maintained Specials	34	36	31	46	43	43

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

Pre 16	Total No		Total Cost (£)
	Sept 18	Feb 19	
On Track	14	17	838,194
School for Inspiring Talents	5	5	261,893
Highgate Hill School	2	2	120,000

There is also a great deal of work being undertaken by the SEN Casework Team where students are currently in costly out of area placements who will become Post 16 students in September 2019. The aim is to ensure local provision is being thoroughly explored and considered. This would thereby ensure that there is not an automatic assumption that the student will remain in the out of area placement.

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. These are all students who have an EHCP.

Provision	Summer term 2018	Autumn term 2018	Spring term 2019	Cost Financial year 2018-19	Total cost Financial year 2018-19
Emma Walton Riviera Tuition	Pre 16 : 6 Post 16: 11	Pre 16 : 8 Post 16: 8	Pre 16 : 10 Post 16: 12	Pre 16: £69,783 Post 16: £62,747	£132,530
Eat that Frog	Pre 16 : 0 Post 16: 2	Pre 16 : 1 Post 16: 0	Pre 16 : 1 Post 16: 0	Pre 16: £15,826 Post 16: £7,396	£23,222
YMCA	Pre 16: 6 Post 16: 1	Pre 16: 9 Post 16: 1	Pre 16: 9 Post 16: 0	Pre 16: £118,324 Post 16: £3,540	£121,864
Sirona Horse Therapy	Pre 16 : 3 Post 16: 1	Pre 16 : 3 Post 16: 1	Pre 16 : 1 Post 16: 1	Pre 16: £9,245 Post 16: £2,280	£11,525
Evolve psychotherapy	Pre 16 : 7 Post 16: 1	Pre 16 : 12 Post 16: 0	Pre 16 : 12 Post 16: 1	Pre 16: £129,233 Post 16: £11,090	£140,323
Adelong Outdoor Education	Pre 16 : 7 Post 16:1	Pre 16 : 5 Post 16: 1	Pre 16 : 7 Post 16: 1	Pre 16: £ 52,738 Post 16: £17,000	£69,738
Running Deer Intervention	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16: £11,340	£11,340
Simply Great Media	Pre 16 : 3	Pre 16 : 4	Pre 16 : 4	Pre 16: £16,140	£16,140
South West Intervention Services	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 4	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16: £27,784	£27,784
Horwood Coombe Forest School	Pre 16: 1 Post 16:0	Pre 16: 0 Post 16:1	Pre 16: 0 Post 16:1	Pre 16: £22,000 Post 16:£28,000	£50,000
Play Torbay	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 2	Pre 16: 1	Pre 16: £18,720	£18,720
Hedge-U-Cation	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 1	Pre 16: £2,138	£2,138
Teaching Personel	Pre 16: 0 Post 16:0	Pre 16: 1 Post 16:1	Pre 16: 1 Post 16:	Pre 16: £2,280 Post 16: £1,920	£4,200
Breakthrough Trust	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 1	Pre 16: £4,406	£4,406
Apricot Centre	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 0	Pre 16: 1	Pre 16: 16,000	£16,000

In addition to these the following packages have been agreed by the Vulnerable Pupils Team, these are children who do not have EHCP's.

	Summer term 2018	Autumn term 2018	Spring term 2018	Cost Financial Year	Total cost Financial year 2018-19
Apricot Centre	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : £12,708	£12,708
Emma Walton Riviera Tuition	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : £2,412	£2,412
Evolve / Adelong	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 :	£14,400
On Track (intervention)	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : £21,000	£21,000
South West Intervention Services	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 :	£11,004
Play Torbay	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 3	Pre 16 : £5,400	£5,400
YMCA	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 3	Pre 16 : £45,555	£45,555

Mainstream Schools state that they are not able to meet the needs of these students, and the LA has been obliged to put provision in place. This has been a growth area in the last 2 years, and continues. The complexity of the children, and the subsequent rise in costs is an increasing concern. The majority of these students who require bespoke packages of support, sometimes in conjunction with the named school, have social, emotional and mental health issues. We regard these as interim arrangements and review these on a 6 weekly basis.

There have also been a growing number of Post 16 students with EHCP's where we have had to provide packages of support due to the complexity of their social, emotional and mental health needs, where they were unable to access local Post 16 options. The Post 16 Casework Officers are monitoring these very closely and ensuring good outcomes and value for money

Post 16 placements

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.

POST 16		
	Total No	Total Cost (£) 2018-19 financial year
Bicton	1	4,618
Devon School (Cambian)	1	18,600
Dawlish Garden Trust	2	10,101
Eat That Frog	31	230,759
Foxes Academy	2	37,779
Oakwood Court College (Phoenix)	6	160,000
Petroc	1	8,000

Lifeworks	1	17,114
On Track	5	118,074
Red Balloon	1	11,650
Robert Owen Communities	5	60,000
ERADE	1	22,279
St Piers, Lingfield	1	32,000
WESC	2	56,000
South Devon College	104 + 2 bespoke	£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.

The Joint Funding Panel is now in operation and considers the funding contribution for Out of Area High Cost Placements. This will start to ensure there is a fairer distribution of the costs incurred for these very costly placements.

	Total No Sept 18	Total Education Cost Sept 18	Total Joint funded costs Sept 18
Libra	4	228,078	548,078
Woodlands, Wrexham	1	28,018	221,000
Ty Groes Wren	1	28,000	190,000
Young Foundations	1	57,000	292,000
Spectrum - Cornwall	1 started Jan 2019	62,320	275,418
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 being required. These factors when considered as a whole have resulted in a continued growth in the demand and spend of the higher needs block. However the work of the SEN Team in constantly challenging costs and value for money is relentless and will continue. The expectation is that the detailed analysis submitted to the Schools Forum in October 2019 will start to show the financial impact of these measures.

Dorothy Hadleigh

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