

## Schools Forum - October 2019

### Analysis of High Cost Placements October 2019

The purpose of this report is to provide an update since the last report dated February 2019, 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 14 – Aug 15	Sept 15 – Aug 16	Sept 16 – Aug 17	Sept 17 – Aug 18	Sept 18 – Aug 19
Requests for Statutory Assessment	164	175	216	237	286
RSAs agreed	142 (87%)	135 (77%)	170 (79 %)	202 (85%)	202 (71%)
RSAs refused	22 (13%)	40 (23%)	40 (18 %)	35 (15%)	84 (29%)

Although there has been an increase in the number of requests we have received, the number which have been agreed has been maintained, and is in line with 2017 - 2018. There has been an increase in the number of requests which have been refused, and in close liaison with professionals, parents/carers and students the reasoning behind these decisions has been accepted in the majority of cases.

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. This report provides you with an overview of the numbers of children within each type of provision and where possible a trend across several 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 been a change in the figures previously submitted. I would like to bring to the attention of the School Forum some emerging issues.

- There continues to be a pressure on bespoke packages, schools continue to seek alternative support to retain some students in their schools by part time attendance at alternative provisions. The SEN Casework Officers are scrutinising these requests, and reviewing the impact of such provisions on a 6 weekly basis, this has resulted in a number of these packages ceasing, and a more robust approach being applied to any new packages which are requested. This has resulted in a reduction of the funding which is having to be put aside for these packages.
- In some cases there continues to be a need to put in place bespoke packages whilst awaiting / seeking alternative specialist provisions.
- We are starting to see a financial impact since the new provision (STEPS) and a concerted effort from our schools to meet needs locally has been applied. There is a noticeable reduction in the use of some of the external provisions.

#### 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.

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.

	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Sept 17	Sept 18	Jan 19	Sept 19
Combe Pafford	224	228	235	250	251	248	255 Pre 16: 205 Post 16: 50
Mayfield	152	179	190	197	204	207	211 Pre 16: 173 Post 16: 38
Chestnut	22	28	31	35	32	30	30
Brunel and Burton Academy	94	94	74	104	92	51 Brunel 56 Burton	56 Brunel 55 Burton
Preston ERP (Autism)	16	15	16	17	16	16	16
Brixham ERP (Autism)	16	18	18	16	17	17	1
St Margaret's & The Spires ERPs (Hearing Impaired)	8	7	7	9	9	9	3 St Marg 6 Spires
Barton Language Unit	10	10	10	10	10	10	11
Spires ERP (Autism)	-	-	-		7	7	10
STEPS,PCSA ( Severely Anxious/Phobic)	-	-	-	-	3	3	8

### 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 a decrease in these during the last year.

	January 15	January 16	January 17	Sept 17	Sept 18	Feb 19	Sept 19
Independent /Non Maintained Specials	34	36	31	46	43	43	37 (Pre 16: 26 Post 16: 11)

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 (£)	Predicted total cost for 2019/20 financial year (As of Sept 2019)
	Sept 18	Feb 19	Sept 19		
On Track	14	17	12	838,194	£602,368
School for Inspiring Talents	5	5	4	261,893	£181,681
Highgate Hill School	2	2	0	120,000	£15,094

There has also been a great deal of work being undertaken by the SEN Casework Team where students were in costly out of area placements who became Post 16 students in September 2019. Local provision was

thoroughly explored and considered, and pursued wherever possible. There is therefore not an automatic assumption that the student will remain in the out of area placement. There is now a fortnightly High Cost Placements Panel where all CLA children placed in High cost placements are reviewed, and I attend all these Panels to ensure Education placements are closely considered, alongside the care needs.

### 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.

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

There has been a concerted effort to reduce the number of bespoke packages for Pre and Post 16 pupils. The result is shown in the table below:

	Summer term 2019		Autumn term 2019	
Pre 16	56 packages	£217,281	39 packages	£167,108
Post 16	38 packages	£113,762	16 packages	£68,750
		<b>£331,043</b>		<b>£235,858</b>

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	Autumn term 2019
<b>Apricot Centre</b>	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : £12,708	<b>£12,708</b>	0
<b>Emma Walton Riviera Tuition</b>	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : £2,412	<b>£2,412</b>	0
<b>Evolve / Adelong</b>	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 :	<b>£14,400</b>	0
<b>On Track (intervention)</b>	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : £21,000	<b>£21,000</b>	0
<b>South West Intervention Services</b>	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 :	<b>£11,004</b>	0
<b>Play Torbay</b>	Pre 16 : 0	Pre 16 : 1	Pre 16 : 3	Pre 16 : £5,400	<b>£5,400</b>	2 £5,670
<b>YMCA</b>	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 2	Pre 16 : 3	Pre 16 : £45,555	<b>£45,555</b>	2 £20,640

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, although we are starting to see a shift. 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. The developments in Post 16 provision will start to address some of these issues within the next year.

#### 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. The Post 16 Working Group is starting to consider these issues and how outcomes and value for money judgements can be made. It has also enabled some new developments to be put in place for September 2019 to support young people who would otherwise have become NEET.

POST 16				
	Total No	Total Cost (£) 2018-19 financial year	Total No in Sept 2019	Anticipated cost (£) 2019-20 Financial year
Bicton	1	4,618	3	5,848
Devon School (Cambian)	1	18,600	0	NA
Dawlish Garden Trust	2	10,101	0	NA
Eat That Frog	31	230,759	29	288,000
Foxes Academy	2	37,779	1	28,475
Oakwood Court College (Phoenix)	6	160,000	3	113,184
Petroc	1	8,000	0	NA
Lifeworks	1	17,114	0	NA
On Track	5	118,074	2	87,823
Red Balloon	1	11,650	Unconfirmed	
Robert Owen Communities	5	60,000	12	118,296
ERADE	1	22,279	1	21,705
St Piers, Lingfield	1	32,000	1	33,112
WESC	2	56,000	1	29,496
South Devon College	104 + 2 bespoke	£1.2M	100+ TBC +1 bespoke + 6 special places	315,000 element 3 cost only
National Star College	1	£51,000	1	41,724
Raise the Youth	NA previously pre 16		1	76,251

#### Joint funded placements

There are also cases where joint funding between Social Care and Education and Health occurs. A High Cost Panel (chaired by Social Care) and the Joint Funding Panel are now operational and meet regularly and consideration to the funding contribution for Out of Area High Cost Placements is being addressed. There is currently an extensive piece of work being undertaken around this area, and there are weekly changes to placements and costs. The following table shows the provisions currently used.

	Total No Sept 2019	Total Education cost Sept 2019 (19-20 financial year)	Total Joint costs
Libra	3	£190,172	£328,354
Ty Groes Wen (Bridgend)	1	£52,925	£195,925
Woodlands, Wrexham	1	£33,641	£221,641
Five Rivers, Spires School	1	£70,200	£420,200
Spectrum, Cornwall	1	£62,320	£352,320
Cambian, Hartlepool	1	£24,000	£381,000
Underley Garden School	1	£54,333	£213,333

## 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 pressure on 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, and I am pleased to say that this is the case.

**Dorothy Hadleigh**

**October 2019**