

Rotherham Schools' Forum

Finance Sub Committee

Friday February 13 2015

High Needs Update

Membership of the High Needs Sub Group.

Anne Lindley from Wales High School has agreed to represent the voice of secondary schools. It has been suggested that PRUs should be involved and Lorraine Lichfield from RMBC has agreed to join the group and Paul Bloor has also been invited to join.

SEND Place Planning

At the Forum meeting on January 19th, the forum discussed a paper that has been produced by John Coleman (with some help from Dean Fenton). This draft paper seeks to identify the number of specialist places needed in Rotherham - that is, places in special schools (of all types) and what we are describing as specialist units which are attached to mainstream schools. This shows a total of 707 places. The paper also includes data that the DfE has produced which allows us to compare Rotherham's provision with other local authorities. This paper is being updated to include post 16 provision in FE colleges.

A similar paper has also been produced to describe the number of planned places in PRUs and alternative provision.

High Needs Budget 2015/16

Meetings have been held with finance colleagues about how best to develop the high needs budget for 2015/16 and how this is presented to the Schools' Forum. It is suggested that the information needs to be more transparent and show how individual institution and service budgets come together to create the high needs block. Work is underway to develop this, using the attached spreadsheet as the base. This has two pages.

The first page - the standard finance monitoring sheet - should list high needs budgets and spending as follows :

- High Needs summary as part of the DSG (as is, but would it be helpful to show what percentage the High Needs Block is of the DSG?).
- Specialist Places in special schools, specialist units in mainstream schools, (listed by institution).
- Specialist places in non maintained special schools and independent specialist colleges (each aggregated). These all need to be shown as funding for places and then expected actual numbers, shown by bands.

- Top up funding shown by primary, secondary and FE colleges. We need to take care not to be able to identify individual learners in how we present the information, and will aggregate these institutions.
- Funding for PRUs : this should follow the same model as for specialist places, i.e. place funding and top up funding by institution.
- Other alternative provision including home tuition, showing the expected numbers of learners and funding.
- Other complex needs services : list each service with expected numbers.
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The second page aims to provide the detailed calculations on how the information on the front page is created. This shows the number of specialist places in each institution and calculates both the place top up funding. Place funding is easy - £10,000 per head for 2015/16, but showing the top up funding is more complex. Top up funding is allocated in line with the specific bands which apply to special schools and mainstream schools. The information about each school is already available through John Coleman's team and he has been asked to populate the spreadsheet from his database. The attached spreadsheet is a draft and a model to help the discussion. The cells for Hilltop have been completed just to show how the data works : these are **not** real figures. It may be that second page is too complicated (for example, showing pre and post 16 learners in schools) and it may need some simplification.

The development of a separate sheet with the detail of PRUs is underway.

Updated versions of this information will be provided at the meeting on Friday 13th.

Donald Rae