

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action

For Information

Brief Description of Item

This report is presented as per the High Needs Block schedule of information agreed with the Schools Forum on 14 October 2020. This is the 2020/21 Exclusions Report.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

The 2019/20 report was presented to the Schools Forum on 10 March 2021.

Background / Context

The Authority presented to the Schools Forum meeting on 14 October 2020 a schedule of high needs financial information, which will be provided within the annual meetings cycle for the Forum's review. An annual exclusions report is now presented as part of this schedule.

The Local Authority holds statutory responsibility to provide suitable full time education for pupils that have been permanently excluded, from the 6th day of their exclusion.

This provision is funded from the High Needs Block. Bradford's 2022/23 planned budget includes financial provision for 165 permanent exclusion places in total on a full year basis (90 Park Aspire; 65 Bradford Alternative Provision Academy; 10 other alternative providers). Places are funded at £10,000 (as per the national model) plus 'top up' funding, which is allocated using the agreed Day Rate funding model. The total High Needs Block budget for 2022/23 is £3.27m, which is 3.1% of our High Needs Block allocation.

There is a national legal framework in place, which governs the exclusion of pupils.

The Financial Regulations require an adjustment to be made to core-formula funding and to Pupil Premium Grant (where relevant), meaning that a school's or academy's formula funding and PPG is reduced following the permanent exclusion of a pupil. This funding is then transferred to the including school or academy from the date of the pupil's inclusion. The 'balance' (the funding associated with the period between exclusion and inclusion where the pupil is not on the roll of a mainstream school) is retained by the Authority to support the cost of alternative provision.

The Schools Forum is reminded that the Authority has re-structured the District's alternative provision settings over the last two years. Within this, the High Needs Block has ceased to fund alternative provision that is commissioned by schools rather than by the Local Authority.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Please see Appendix 1.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

The Local Authority's provision for permanent exclusions is funded from the High Needs Block. Any 'structural' growth or reduction in the number of permanent exclusions has implications for this Block.

Recommendations

Recommended – The Schools Forum is asked to consider and to note the information provided in the report.

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers

Appendix 1 – Exclusions Report 2020/21

Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)

Niall Devlin, Strategic Manager, Integrated Assessment

01274 431356

niall.devlin@bradford.gov.uk