

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
4 July 2012

SEN Funding Review Consultation
(Director of Education & Children's Services)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Schools Forum the results of the consultation on the SEN Funding Review issued to schools in April 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the results of the consultation on the SEN Funding Review and agrees that the Banded Funding Model and proposed changes are implemented from 1 September 2012 onwards.
- 2.2 That Schools Forum endorses the funding of alternative provision at Haybrook College at £12,000 per place in 2012-13.
- 2.3 That Schools Forum endorses the proposal to ensure, through the use of available headroom, that no setting loses funding in 2012-13 as a result of the changes.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is appropriate for Schools Forum to agree to any changes to the Fair Funding Formula.
- 3.2 The responses to the consultation suggest that schools support the proposed changes to simplify the funding of Statemented Pupils and extension of delegated funding.
- 3.3 The proposed application of the Banded Funding Model to the PRU from 1 September would be inconsistent with the changes required from 1 April 2013 arising from the DfE Funding Reform proposals in respect of Alternative Provision. As a result, an interim funding mechanism is proposed for 2012-13.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 In April 2012, Schools Forum endorsed consulting with schools over changes to the SEN Funding Formula from September 2012.
- 5.2 The consultation focussed on changes from the current complex banding system for Statemented Pupils to a funding model based on bands that can be applied across all settings. Proposal 2 concerned the extension of delegation of funding for SEN pupils in mainstream schools to include pupils up to and including Band 1b, effective from 1 September 2012. The final proposal to further extend SEN delegation in mainstream schools from 1 April 2013 will now be superseded by the DfE Funding Reform proposals.
- 5.3 The consultation papers were distributed on Friday 20th April 2012 with the consultation closing on Wednesday 30th May 2012.
- 5.4 There were positive responses at each of the question and answer sessions held and a further written response was received in support of the proposals.
- 5.5 In view of the responses, the Funding Model based on bands 1a to 8 will be applied to all pupils with SEN in mainstream schools, Academies, Resource Units and Special Schools with effect from 1 September 2012.
- 5.6 In addition, delegated funding for SEN pupils in mainstream schools and Academies will be extended to include pupils assessed as up to and including Band 1b, also effective from 1 September 2012.
- 5.7 The Banded Funding Model is largely consistent with DfE Funding Reform proposals for High Needs and Alternative Provision pupils. Currently, special schools and resource units are funded through delegated budgets which are largely place-led. The PRU at Haybrook, however, is currently funded from various sources, including a devolved budget (£873,300), AWPU from schools and a number of other centrally managed budgets. From 1 April 2013, the PRU will move to a place led, delegated basis of funding. It is not considered sensible to change the current funding mechanism for 7 months only to have to implement further, significant change from 1 April 2013. Given the known funding issue in respect of the PRU at Haybrook College, an interim funding mechanism is proposed for 2012-13. Each of the 92 places at the PRU will be funded at £12,000. This would result in a funding increase (£230,700) for the financial year 2012-13.
- 5.8 Appendix A sets out the financial implications of the proposals in respect of Special Schools and Resource Units. Provision has been made within the headroom distribution report within this agenda to support the financial implications and ensure that Foxborough and Langley Academy are protected in 2012-13.

5.9 Mainstream schools have already been fully funded for all current 1b pupils. No further funding will be provided during 2012-13 for 1b pupils.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 All schools.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Written document and Q&A sessions.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers Consultation Document.

Contact for further information

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