

West Berkshire Schools' Forum

Title of Report:	High Needs Funding Arrangements for Special Schools 2015-16
Date of Meeting:	14th July 2014
Contact Officer(s)	Jane Seymour

For Decision

1. Background

- 1.1 High Needs Funding arrangements for special schools were devised for 2013-14 and are still in place.
- 1.2 It was agreed with the special schools that the funding arrangements would be reviewed for 2015-16 because of some specific issues which had arisen.

2. Proposed changes to special school high needs funding arrangements for 2015-16

- 2.1 The proposed changes relate specifically to banding for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- 2.2 The current special school banding system for students whose primary need is ASD starts with ASD1, which allows for a 1 to 6 teaching ratio and a 1 to 6 teaching assistant ratio. The next band, ASD 2, provides the same staffing ratios plus funding equivalent to an additional teaching assistant for 50% of the young person's time in school. This is inconsistent with the bandings for other primary needs such as moderate or severe learning difficulties, as these all start with a basic teaching and teaching assistant ratio and then increase incrementally as 25% additional TA, 50% additional TA, 75% additional TA and 100% additional TA. The current ASD bandings do not give the option of the basic staffing ratio plus 25% TA, which means that students who need more than the basic staffing ratios, but not as much as 50% TA time, are potentially being overfunded. It is therefore proposed that a new banding is added to the scheme which allows for 1 to 6 teaching ratio and 1 to 6 teaching assistance ratio plus funding equivalent to an additional teaching assistant for 25% of the young person's time in school.
- 2.3 The current special school bands for ASD allow for students to have full time one to one support. Current band ASD4 allows for 1 to 6 teaching ratio, 1 to 6 teaching assistant ratio, plus a full time teaching assistant for the individual student. In addition, current band ASD 5 allows for a 1 to 3

teaching ratio, plus a full time teaching assistant for each individual student.

- 2.4 There are currently no bandings which provide two to one staffing for students in special schools with ASD, but this can be required in some circumstances, for example, when young people have exceptionally challenging behaviours.
- 2.5 It is therefore proposed that two additional ASD bands are added which would be the same as current ASD bands 4 and 5 except that they would allow for 2 to 1 rather than 1 to 1 individual support.
- 2.6 These additional bands would only be used in very exceptional circumstances, and sometimes may only be needed for a temporary period, but including them would provide more flexibility to meet the needs of children with ASD and exceptionally high support needs and will also help to retain children in our special schools who may otherwise require placements in independent or non maintained special schools.
- 2.7 To summarise, the proposed banding for ASD is as follows:

Banding	Total	Top Up
ASD 1 – 1:6 teaching, 1:6 TA (band D)	£16,332	£6,332
ASD 1a (NEW) – as ASD 1 plus 25% additional TA time (band C)	£19,983	£9,983
ASD 2 – as ASD 1 plus 50% additional TA time (band C)	£23,635	£13,635
ASD 3 – as ASD 1 plus 75% additional TA time (band C)	£27,286	£17,286
ASD 4 – as ASD 1 plus 100% additional TA time (band D)	£32,677	£22,677
ASD 5 – 1:3 teaching, 100% TA (band D)	£37,561	£27,561
ASD 6 (NEW) – as ASD 1 plus 200% additional TA time (band D)	£49,022	£39,022
ASD 7 (NEW) - 1:3 teaching, 200% TA (band D)	£53,906	£43,906

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Schools' Forum is asked to agree these additional bands in the special school high needs funding scheme for implementation from April 2015.