
High Needs Place Funding 2018/19

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 10th December 2018

Report Author: Jane Seymour

Item for: Discussion **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Heads' Funding Group and Schools Forum members of planned places allocated currently to special schools, resourced schools, FE providers and mainstream sixth forms and likely numbers of pupils in those institutions requiring planned place funding in 2019-20.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report is noted and any implications for the HNB budget are incorporated in to the report which will be brought to the next meeting on the draft HNB budget for 2019-20.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: x <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction/Background

3.1 Place funding is allocated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency for children and young people with high level needs who are under 16 and attend a special or resourced school. Place funding is also allocated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency for young people with high level needs who are over 16 and attend a mainstream school, special school, resourced school or FE College.

3.2 Place funding for children under 16 in resourced schools, special schools and PRUs is held within the HNB and allocated to schools by the Local Authority.

3.3 Place funding for children in academies and FE Colleges is top sliced from the HNB and allocated to institutions by the ESFA. Similarly, place funding for children of post 16 age in maintained mainstream and special schools is currently top sliced from the HNB and allocated to schools by the ESFA.

3.4 From September 2019 there will be a change to these arrangements. From that date place funding for post 16 pupils in maintained mainstream, special schools and PRUs will be held within the HNB and allocated to schools by the Local Authority.

3.5 Any place funding which is held in the HNB for allocation by the Local Authority can potentially be transferred to other institutions which receive their planned place funding from the Local Authority, if it is deemed that planned place funding needs to be reallocated to meet needs in the local area.

3.6 The number and location of planned places currently agreed by the ESFA are shown below, together with proposed planned places for 2019-20 (although this requires further discussion) and also the actual places currently filled.

SCHOOL / INSTITUTION	Planned Places 2018/19	Planned Places 2019/20	Difference 18/19 & 19/20 Planned Places	ACTUAL Numbers Sept 18
Primary schools with special resources				
Fir Tree (ASD Resource)	5	5	0	4
Speenhamland (PD Resource)	10	10	0	7
The Winchcombe (Speech Lang Resource)	15	15	0	11
Theale Primary (ASD Resource)	10	10	0	9
Westwood Farm Infant (HI Resource)	5	5	0	5
Westwood Farm Junior (HI Resource)	5	5	0	4
Secondary (special resources / post 16 only)				
Denefield	0	0		0
John O'Gaunt	0	0		0
Kennet (inc. PD & HI Resource)	32	32	0	32
Little Heath	5	2	-3	3
Park House	2	2	0	2
St. Bartholomew's	2	2	0	2
The Downs	1	1	0	1
The Willink	2	2	0	2
Theale Green (inc. ASD Resource)	15	15	0	11
Trinity (inc. SpLD Resource and ASD Resource)	42	43	+1	42
Special schools				
Brookfields	218	218	0	220
The Castle	147	147	0	168
PRU Service	66	66	0	TBC
FE Colleges				
Newbury College	91	134	+43	144
West Berkshire Training Consortium	4	5	+1	5
Available for allocation		8		
TOTAL	677	722		

Schools / institutions which receive their planned place funding through the Local Authority

3.7 The ESFA will base 2019/20 planned place funding on the place funding allocated for 2018/19 for schools which receive their planned place funding through the Local Authority. There will be no opportunity for Local Authorities to request additional planned places for these schools, although it is possible to move places between schools.

3.8 Little Heath School has received 5 planned places for young people with EHCPs in the Sixth Form, based on historic data, but is only likely to have 2 young people in this category in September 2019, so these surplus places could be reallocated from September 2019 when this funding comes under the control of the Local Authority. This would give 3 planned places to allocate.

3.9 A decision will need to be taken on how these places are reallocated. There is a shortfall in planned place funding for Brookfields and The Castle special schools. This is most significant at The Castle School, although there are also children waiting for places at Brookfields who cannot be admitted because of the shortage of planned places. Where children are admitted to the special schools over and above planned places, these places are funded at £7,500 per place (not £10,000) and the funding is taken from the special school top up budget. This has been allowed for in the 2019-20 special school planned place budget.

3.10 The speech and language resource at The Winchcombe School currently has 11 pupils and has 15 planned places. Consideration will need to be given to the possibility of reducing planned places in 2019-20, which would free up additional planned places for allocation to the special schools.

Schools / institutions which receive their planned place funding from the ESFA (top sliced from HNB)

3.11 The Fir Tree ASD Resource is growing in size and will have more pupils in September 2018. It is currently unclear what the numbers will be in September 2018, so a request has not been made to the ESFA for additional planned places. The school will be paid planned place funding for any pupils above the planned place number of 5. Some allowance has been made for this in the resourced schools (academies) top up budget.

3.12 Trinity will have an additional pupil in 2019-20, so one additional place has been requested from the ESFA. If agreed, this will be top sliced from the HNB.

3.13 West Berkshire Training Consortium has 5 students with EHCPs and will continue to have 5 students in September 2019, so one additional place has been requested from the ESFA. If agreed, this will be top sliced from the HNB.

3.14 New regulations require Local Authorities to fund all places for high needs students at FE Colleges within their area, regardless of where the students are resident and which Local Authority has financial responsibility for them. An annual import/ export adjustment will be made to the 2019-20 HNB to reflect planned places which West Berkshire has funded for students from other Local Authorities (as well as planned places for West Berkshire students which has been paid by other Local Authorities).

3.15 It has therefore been necessary to request from the ESFA an additional 43 places for Newbury College. If agreed, this will be top sliced from the HNB. This top slice will be offset by the import / export adjustment, but there may be (as in 2018-19) a shortfall. It is not possible to predict this at present.

3.16 Newbury College currently has 144 high needs students. It is difficult to predict how many high needs students they will have in September 2019. 134 places have been requested in case 2019 numbers are lower than current numbers.

4. Proposals

4.1 See above.

5. Consultation and Engagement

5.1 Schools were asked to confirm their numbers as being correct.