
Resourced Schools

Report being considered by: Schools Forum

On: 9th December 2019

Report Author: Jane Seymour

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform the HFG / Schools' Forum of proposed action in response to concerns expressed by some mainstream schools with resourced units that they have a shortfall in funding, and to seek agreement from the HFG / Schools' Forum.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Schools' Forum agree to the proposed action.

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

- 3.1 Some mainstream schools with resourced units have raised concerns about the formula for funding resourced units, in that they say funding does not meet their budget requirements and they have, in some cases, been relying on carried forward underspends which are now running out.
- 3.2 It is important that resourced units are funded in a fair way which allows schools to meet the needs of the pupils.
- 3.3 Given the significant pressure on the HNB, it is also important that any review of resourced unit funding is robust and does not result in a system which over funds.
- 3.4 At the present time we have relatively little detailed information from schools with resourced units to determine what the specific pressures are, and whether all schools with resourced units are experiencing these types of pressures. It could be, for example, that pressures relate mainly to the way particular types of need are funded, rather than necessarily being general to all resourced schools.
- 3.5 We have limited information about resourced unit budget spend in academies as academies are not required to submit this information to the Local Authority.
- 3.6 In order to be able to target any review of resourced unit funding, it is proposed that a survey will be sent to all resourced units asking for information about their expenditure against different budget headings, budget surpluses and carry forwards, staffing (compared to assumed staffing ratios in the bandings), salary costs etc.

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- 3.7 This information will enable a more targeted review of resourced school funding to take place.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the survey is sent out in December 2019.
- 3.9 The results of the survey may enable any necessary changes to be made to the resourced unit banding system in April 2020, but any increase in cost would need to be considered in the context of the HNB shortfall for 2020-21.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The proposed survey is attached.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 That a survey is sent to all schools with resourced units in December 2019 to identify specific pressure areas and enable a targeted review of resourced school funding to take place.
- 5.2 That any potential changes required to the resourced unit banding system are identified and considered by the HFG / Schools Forum in March 2020, in the context of the HNB shortfall in 2020-21.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 Consultation has taken place with West Berkshire Council's Accountancy Service and with a mainstream school with a resourced unit.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Proposed survey.