
Resourced Schools

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 8th March 2021

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

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek agreement from the Schools Forum to amend the funding bands for resourced units for children with physical disabilities

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the funding bands for PD resourced units are amended as set out below for 2021-22.

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 It was agreed at the Schools Forum meeting in January 2021 that further work needed to be done on the funding bands for resourced provision for children with physical disabilities which are no longer deemed fit for purpose given the changing nature of this cohort.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 There are currently three funding bands for children with physical disabilities in PD resourced schools, PD1, PD2 and PD3.

4.2 As the cohort of children with physical disabilities has changed over the years, with significantly increased complexity of need, band PD1 is becoming obsolete as it does not generate enough funding for children in this type of provision. PD2 is still used in some cases, mainly for older children who were placed in PD resourced provision some time ago. PD3 is now having to be used for the vast majority of new children placed in PD provision to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet needs.

4.3 Similarly, it is becoming increasingly necessary to provide “exceptional” funding to PD resourced provision, as PD3 is not sufficient to meet the staffing needs of the most complex children. We now have some children placed in this type of provision who would previously have attended specialist out of area schools for children with disabilities and who require a very high level of support.

4.4 The current PD funding top up bands (ie. funding over and above £10K place funding) are as follows:

	Primary	Secondary
PD1	£4,220	£4,822
PD2	£7,503	£8,105
PD3	£10,786	£11,387

4.5 It is proposed that the current Band PD1 is abolished and the value of current Band PD2 is adopted as base funding for PD Resources, ie. this would become the value of Band PD1, with funding increasing from there in the same increments as currently.

4.6 It is also proposed that a new band PD4 is introduced, in order to reduce the number of cases where exceptional funding has to be applied.

4.7 The top up band values would then be as follows:

	Primary	Secondary
PD1	£7,503	£8,105
PD2	£10,786	£11,387
PD3	£14,069	£14,670
PD4	£17,352	£17,953

4.8 This model would formalise what is currently in place and would reduce the need for exceptional funding arrangements.

4.9 There may still be some children with extremely high needs who will need exceptional funding over and above the new Band PD4, but these can be negotiated on a case by case basis.

5. Options for Consideration

5.1 N/A

6. Proposals

6.1 That the proposed new funding bands are adopted for 2021-22 and that children in the resourced provision are re banded in consultation with the schools concerned.

7. Conclusion

7.1 There is evidence to support the introduction of new funding bands for PD Resources, as set out above.

8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council's Accountancy Service and with head teachers of schools which have PD resourced provision.

9. Appendices

10. Heads Funding Group Recommendation

10.1 The HFG recommended amendment of PD funding bands to bring them more in line with the resourcing needs of children now being placed in the Local Authority's PD resourced provision.