
Benchmarking data on funding of PD Resourced Provision

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 18th October 2021

Report Author: Jane Seymour

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide benchmarking data on funding of resourced provision for children with physical disabilities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Forum notes the information.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?

Yes:

No:

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 It was agreed by the Schools Forum that top up bandings for resourced provision for children with physical disabilities would be increased in 2021-22. This was in recognition of the fact that the cohort of children accessing this provision had become more complex, resulting in the lowest funding band becoming redundant, the highest funding band being used most frequently and exceptional funding arrangements, over and above the highest funding band, having to be made in a high number of cases.

- 3.2 The previous funding bands were as follows:

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

These were changed for 2021-22 to the funding bands shown below:

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

- 3.3 As explained at the time the previous report was produced, the need for higher funding bands related to the cohort of children in PD resourced provision becoming

generally more complex, whilst at the same time a small number of children with very profound disabilities were starting to be accommodated in PD resourced provision. These are children who might previously have attended a specialist out of area PD school.

- 3.4 The Schools Forum agreed these changes to bandings and also requested benchmarking data on how other Local Authorities fund their PD resourced provision. In addition, the Forum asked for more information on the numbers of highly complex children attending PD resourced provision who might otherwise have needed more specialist placements and whether PD resourced provision could be expanded further to avoid more out of area placements.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Benchmarking data has been difficult to obtain. There is no published data on funding rates for different types of specialist provision in Local Authorities and therefore information can only be obtained by making requests to other Local Authorities, who may not view this as a priority.

- 4.2 Some limited information has been obtained which is set out below:

Local Authority A		
Funding Band	Top up value	Average value
PD1	£4,838	£7709
PD2	£7,503	
PD3	£10,786	
Local Authority B		
Funding Band	Top up value	Average value
PD (only one funding band)	£12,866	£12,866
Local Authority C		
Funding Band	Top up value	Average value
PD1	£8,500	£11,000
PD2	£11,000	
PD3	£13,500	

- 4.3 This is a very small sample so it is difficult to draw conclusions. What can be gleaned is that the highest funding band in each of these Local Authorities is lower than the highest West Berkshire funding band, and that the average value of the funding bands in these LAs is generally lower than the average value of the West Berkshire bandings, (which average at £12,427 and £13,028 for primary and

secondary respectively). However, what is not known is how many children with PD in those Local Authorities attend out of area specialist PD placements and whether they have a higher spend than West Berkshire on out of area placements. In West Berkshire, only one young person with PD who is broadly in the mainstream school ability range attends an out of area specialist school. All other children with physical disabilities who are in the mainstream school ability range are accommodated in their local schools or, in the case of the more complex children, in our PD resourced provision at Speenhamland and Kennet schools. It could therefore be argued that West Berkshire is already making very effective use of its PD resourced provision to avoid out of area placements. This would both explain and justify our higher funding bands in PD resources, given that our top banding is significantly lower than a specialist PD school where a day placement would cost approximately £85,000 per annum plus travelling costs.

- 4.4 It is estimated that there are currently three children / young people attending our PD provision whose needs might warrant a specialist out of area placement. It has been possible for these children to be educated locally due to the expertise in our PD resources and their inclusive approach, together with the high level of funding which has been allocated for these pupils, ensuring that the schools have the necessary resources to meet their needs. In addition there is one further student who was attending a PD resource and is now in FE who also might otherwise have been placed in a specialist out of area placement. Four day placements would cost £340,000 per annum, not including travel, which represents a significant saving on the HNB when compared to the cost of educating these children and young people in a PD resource.
- 4.5 The number of children who have the level of highly complex physical needs which might require a specialist out of area placement is very low. It is not therefore currently anticipated that we would need to physically expand our PD resourced provision to continue catering for these needs, but this is something which will be kept under review.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 West Berkshire's funding bands for PD resourced provision are higher than PD funding bands in the small number of LAs whose data could be obtained. However, this reflects the very high level of inclusion of children with very complex PD in West Berkshire resourced provision and the correspondingly low spend on out of area placements for children with PD.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 South East Regional SEND Network