

Resourced School Funding

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 19th June 2023
Report Author: Jane Seymour, Lisa Potts
Item for: Decision **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a possible new funding model for PD resourced provisions in Kennet and Speenhamland and for HI Resourced provision at Westwood Farm

2. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the revised funding model set out below is considered.
- 1.2 That agreement is reached on assistance to the three resourced schools above with deficits in 2022-23.

Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?

Yes:

No:

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact:	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Commentary
	A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x	

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B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	Finance, Headteachers of affected schools			

4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 The model for funding resourced provision in mainstream schools for children with EHCPs has had only minimal adjustments in the last 10 years and the band values for resourced provision have not increased.
- 4.2 Schools with resourced provision have been raising with the Local Authority a range of concerns about resourced budgets on the basis that they have become over time inadequate to meet the needs of children placed there. Three schools in particular were raising serious concerns in 2022-23 about being in a deficit position. These were Kennet (PD Resource), Speenhamland (PD Resource) and Westwood Farm (HI Resource).
- 4.3 Whilst the budget models for other schools with resourced provision will also need to be considered, work has so far focused on the three schools raising the most significant concerns.
- 4.4 A new model for funding resourced schools in these provisions is proposed for consideration.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 When the funding models were reviewed it was felt that the staffing ratios on which the funding bands are based continue to be appropriate. For PD resourced provision the staffing ratios are 1:10 teacher, 1:10 HLTA and 1:2.5 TA. For HI resourced provision the staffing ratios are 1:5 teacher and 1:2.5 HLTA. These are the basic staffing ratios on which the lowest band values are calculated (PD1 and HI1). Higher funding bands are available for children who require a higher level of one to one support than the basic staffing ratios provide. The higher funding bands (PD2, PD3 and PD4 and HI2, HI3 and HI4) are based on additional one to one support for 25%, 50% or 75% of the pupil's time in school.
- 5.2 There are two key differences between the current funding model and the proposed funding model.

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- The current model is based on historic costs for staff. Band values have not been updated for some time. The proposed model has been recalculated based on current salary costs for teachers, HLTAs and TAs.
- The current model assumes that the AWPU or pupil led funding for children in the resourced provision goes in to the resourced budget in order to contribute to the staffing ratios set out in 5.1 above. The funding model relies on pupil led funding being transferred in its entirety to the resourced provision budget in order that these staffing ratios can be delivered. However, the principle on which these provisions are based is that children will be included in mainstream lessons for the majority if not all of their time. Headteachers of resourced schools have therefore argued that they require the pupil led funding to be retained in the main school budget in order to meet the costs associated with pupils from the resourced provision having a place in the mainstream school. The proposed model assumes that pupil led funding remains in the mainstream school budget and the top up values for the funding bands have been adjusted accordingly.

5.3 Taking the above in to account, the band values would change as follows:

Band	Current value	New value	Difference
PD1	£8,105	£12,780	£4,675
PD2	£11,387	£18,437	£7,050
PD3	£14,670	£24,095	£9,425
PD4	£17,953	£29,752	£11,799
Band	Current value	New value	Difference
HI1	£10,605	£18,533	£7928
HI2	£15,625	£25,256	£9631
HI3	£20,645	£31,978	£11,333

5.4 The increase in cost which would result from implementation of this model is estimated as follows:

School	2022-23 cost to WBC	2023-24 est. cost to WBC	Difference
Speenhamland PD Resource	£109,583	£187,100	£77,517
Kennet PD Resource	£226,460	£366,546	£140,086
Westwood Farm HI	£93,290	£147,806	£54,516

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Resource			
Total	£429,333	£701,452	£272,119

5.5 It should be noted that where children are placed by other Local Authorities, they are responsible for top up costs. These calculations only include the costs to West Berkshire.

5.6 The 2023-24 financial year cost is an estimate based on current students and is therefore subject to some change related to the band values of leavers and joiners, but gives an indication of additional cost.

5.7 Deficits incurred in relation to these resourced provisions in 2022-23 are reported by the schools as follows:

School	Deficit for resourced provision in 22-23
Speenhamland PD Resource	£52,313
Kennet PD Resource	£56,830
Westwood Farm HI Resource	£68,580

5.8 The schools have requested assistance with deficits for 2022-23.

5.9 It is proposed that the full amount of deficit should be paid where it is lower than the estimated additional annual costs which would result from the proposed funding model, but where the deficit exceeds this amount, the payment towards the deficit should be capped. This would result in the following payments for deficits in 2022-23:

School	Deficit for resourced provision in 22-23
Speenhamland PD Resource	£52,313
Kennet PD Resource	£56,830
Westwood Farm HI Resource	£54,516
Total	£163,659

6. Options for Consideration

- 6.1 Make no change to funding models for resourced provision. This would leave schools in deficit and risk pupils' needs being inadequately met and parents seeking more expensive out of area placements
- 6.2 Accept the proposed funding model
- 6.3 Request an alternative funding model

7. Proposals

- 7.1 The Schools' Forum agrees to the payment of deficits for 22-23 as set out in 5.9 above
- 7.2 The Schools' Forum agrees to the proposed funding model for 2023-24 or proposes an alternative funding model.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The adoption of the proposed funding model will secure appropriate support for children in these resourced provisions, which would remain cost effective compared to alternatives in the non- maintained and independent sector.