

West Berkshire Schools' Forum	
Title of Report:	Update on PRU Funding Arrangements
Date of Meeting:	9th December 2013
Contact Officer(s)	Cathy Burnham
For Discussion	

1. Background

- 1.1 The way our two PRUs (Reintegration Service and Alternative Curriculum) receive their funding changed in April 2013 in line with the Government's school funding reforms for High Needs pupils. Schools were briefed about the financial changes for 2013/14 only.
- 1.2 PRUs receive base finding of £8,000 per place, with the number of places agreed by the DfE. The remainder of the costs are subject to 'Top-Up' funding from the commissioning LA and/or school, on a per pupil basis. Each pupil is assigned a banding according to their needs in order to calculate the top up funding.
- 1.3 Currently, schools do not pay £3500 lump sum to The Reintegration Service for managing fixed term exclusions, but pay the daily top up rate for each actual admission. For the Reintegration Service this top up ranges from £74 - £160 per day. The LA supports primary schools by paying 50% of these top ups.
- 1.4 Currently, schools wishing to place a young person in the KS4 Alternative Curriculum pay £1000 per term for a maximum of 6 terms, plus AWPU.

2. Proposals for 2014/15

- 2.1 Both PRUs are working hard at cutting budget costs in order to ensure greater value for money and effective provision. This will require a staff restructuring, and an amalgamation and reduction of bases, both of which are already in progress. It is hoped that this rationalisation of premises and the staffing restructure will be complete before 2015.
- 2.2 It is proposed to raise the cost of an Alternative Curriculum place to £1500 per term from Sept 2014 (plus AWPU).
- 2.3 It is proposed to continue the current top up funding rates for the Reintegration Service, but from April 2014 to reduce the LA support to primary schools to 25% of the cost for each pupil, with the school paying the remaining 75%.

2.4 The funding for post 16 students attending The Porch will be met by the EFA.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The funding arrangements in 2013/14 for fixed term exclusions and planned placements were temporary to allow for a phased transfer of financial responsibility from the LA to schools. The cost of permanent exclusions will continue to be met by the LA.

3.2 Other pressures on the High Needs Block (such as high needs students in FE colleges) necessitates these funding changes for 2014/15.

Appendices

Appendix A – PRU Funding Arrangements 2013/14 and Changes for 2014/15