

High Needs Place Funding 2020/21

Report being considered by:	Schools' Forum		
On:	9 th December 2019		
Report Author:	Jane Seymour		
Item for:	Discussion	By:	All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Heads' Funding Group and Schools Forum members of planned places allocated currently to special schools, resourced schools, FE providers and mainstream sixth forms and likely numbers of pupils in those institutions requiring planned place funding in 2020-21.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report is noted and any implications for the HNB budget are incorporated in to the HNB estimates for 2020-21.

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

3.1 Place funding is allocated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency for children and young people with high level needs who are under 16 and attend a special or resourced school. Place funding is also allocated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency for young people with high level needs who are over 16 and attend a mainstream school, special school, resourced school or FE College.

3.2 Place funding for children under 16 in resourced schools, special schools and PRUs is held within the HNB and allocated to schools by the Local Authority.

3.3 Place funding for children in academies and FE Colleges is top sliced from the HNB and allocated to institutions by the ESFA. Place funding for children of post 16 age in maintained mainstream and special schools was previously top sliced from the HNB and allocated to schools by the ESFA. Since September 2019 funding for post 16 pupils in maintained mainstream, special schools and PRUs has been held within the HNB and allocated to schools by the Local Authority.

3.4 Any place funding which is held in the HNB for allocation by the Local Authority can potentially be transferred to other institutions which receive their planned place funding from the Local Authority, if it is deemed that planned place funding needs to be reallocated to meet needs in the local area.

3.5 The number and location of planned places currently agreed by the ESFA are shown below, together with proposed planned places for 2020-21 and also the actual places currently filled.

SCHOOL / INSTITUTION	Planned Places 2019/20	Planned Places 2020/21	Difference 19/20 & 20/21 Planned Places	ACTUAL Numbers Sept 19
Primary schools with special resources				
Fir Tree (ASD Resource)	5	7	+2	6
Speenhamland (PD Resource)	10	10	0	6
The Winchcombe (Speech Lang Resource)	15	15	0	12
Theale Primary (ASD Resource)	10	10	0	9
Westwood Farm Infant & Junior HI Resource	10	10	0	9
Secondary (special resources / post 16 only)				
Denefield	0	1	+1	2
John O'Gaunt	0	0		0
Kennet (inc. PD & HI Resource)	32	32	0	30
Little Heath	2	1	-1	1
Park House	2	2	0	2
St. Bartholomew's	2	3	+1	2
The Downs	1	2	+1	2
The Willink	2	2	0	4
Theale Green (inc. ASD Resource)	14	14	0	11
Trinity (inc. SpLD Resource and ASD Resource)	43	49	+6	43
Special schools				
Brookfields	218	218	0	238
The Castle	147	147	0	167
PRU Service	66	66*	0	71
FE Colleges				
Newbury College	134	121	-13	121
West Berkshire Training Consortium	5	12	+7	10
TOTAL	718	722	+4	746

*See 3.9 below.

Schools / institutions which receive their planned place funding through the Local Authority

3.6 The ESFA will base 2020-21 planned place funding on the place funding allocated for 2019-20 for schools which receive their planned place funding through the Local

Authority. There will be no opportunity for Local Authorities to request additional planned places for these schools, although it is possible to move places between schools.

3.7 It is proposed to remove one planned place from Little Heath and add one to The Downs for post 16 students with EHCPs in the sixth form, based on likely numbers in September 2020.

3.8 There continues to be a significant shortfall in planned place funding for Brookfields and The Castle special schools. However, it is not possible to increase planned places for maintained schools unless there are surplus places for reallocation which is not the case. Where children are admitted to the special schools over and above planned places, these places are funded at £7,500 per place (not £10,000) and the funding is taken from the special school top up budget. This has been allowed for in the 2020-21 special school planned place budget.

3.9 The I- College has created a new provision for children with EHCPs, the Pod. Six planned places are required, but cannot be allocated as there are no surplus planned places in maintained provision. As for the special schools, it is proposed that planned place funding is allocated from the top up budgets for pupils with EHCPs in PRUs.

Schools / institutions which receive their planned place funding from the ESFA (top sliced from HNB)

3.10 The Fir Tree ASD Resource is growing in size and will have more pupils in September 2019. A request has been made to the ESFA to increase planned places from 5 to 7.

3.11 Denefield has no planned places for post 16 students in the sixth form with EHCPs. A request has been made to increase this to 1 planned place based on likely numbers in September 2020.

3.12 St. Bart's has 2 planned places for post 16 students in the sixth form with EHCPs. A request has been made to the ESFA to increase this to 3 planned places based on likely numbers in September 2020.

3.13 Trinity School has a total of 43 planned places for the SpLD and ASD resources and mainstream sixth form. A request has been made to the ESFA to increase this to 49 places as the ASD resource will have more pupils in September 2020.

3.14 West Berkshire Training Consortium has 5 planned places. A request has been made to the ESFA to increase this to 12 planned places based on likely numbers in September 2020, including students on the new WOW Plus supported internship course.

3.15 Newbury College has 134 planned places. A request has been made to the ESFA to reduce this to 121 based on likely numbers in September 2020.

3.16 If agreed, funding for additional planned places will be top sliced from the HNB. 17 new planned places have been requested. However, a request has also been made to remove 13 planned places at Newbury College so the net increase is 4 planned places.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 See above.

5. Options for Consideration

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Proposals

6.1 See above.

7. Conclusion

7.1 See above.

8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 Schools were consulted about proposed changes to planned places in 2020-21.

9. Appendices

9.1 None.

10. Heads Funding Group Recommendation

10.1 That the report is noted.