



SCHOOLS FORUM

Update on Behaviour Partnerships

Thursday 20th June 2013

Content Applicable to;		School Phase;	
Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools	✓	Pre School	
Academies	✓	Foundation Stage	
PVI Settings		Primary	✓
Special Schools / Academies	✓	Secondary	✓
Local Authority	✓	Post 16	
		High Needs	✓

Purpose of Report

Content Requires;		By;	
Noting	✓	Maintained Primary School Members	✓
Decision		Maintained Secondary School Members	✓
		Maintained Special School Members	✓
		Academy Members	✓
		All Schools Forum	✓

1. This report presents an update on the development of behaviour partnerships in Leicestershire.

Recommendation

Schools Forum is recommended to note the report.

Introduction

2. This report deals with provision for children who have behaviour difficulties and for a variety of reasons, struggle with the disciplinary regimes in mainstream schools. The

Local Authority has a duty to educate all children, including those who cannot attend mainstream schools because they have been excluded because of continuing behavioural issues. Such provision has traditionally been made in small units called Pupil Referral Units. Leicestershire makes such provision for Primary and Secondary Pupils at Oakfield school in Blaby.

Background

3. Behaviour partnerships were first set up in 2005 in Leicestershire in response to the need to ensure fair and equitable access to education for vulnerable and challenging children, and to manage access to the Pupil Referral Unit (with responsibility for educating children unable to attend mainstream schools because of behavioural issues) and Behaviour Support Services. Five partnership areas linked to school development groups and district council areas were established, and partnership meetings attended by headteachers. Meetings were chaired and led by a peer headteacher. The co-operative working between schools in supporting vulnerable and challenging children has been highly effective, reducing secondary permanent exclusions from 120 a year to 26 a year over three years, and maintaining this low level ever since.
4. In February 2011, Schools Forum endorsed proposals to further develop the five partnerships across the County, to devolve funding for key stage 4 alternative programmes to those partnerships, to underpin this new working arrangement with a memorandum of understanding, and a charging policy.
5. In Summer 2012, the Cabinet took the further decision to close the centrally managed Behaviour Support Services. This decision was the subject of consultation with schools, with two separate consultation exercises demonstrating a clear preference amongst schools for the delegation/devolvement of this funding and responsibility to schools. The services will close at the end of August 2013. Two services are affected. The Locality Support Service which provides behaviour support advice and training to primary and secondary schools, and the Commissioning and Personalised Programmes Service which manages key Stage 4 Alternative Provision. Schools Funding Reform required the funding for behaviour support services (unless schools chose to allow it to be centrally retained) to be delegated. Schools Forum have approved the delegation of the funding for the former service to all schools funding has been partially devolved to partnerships for the latter service since February 2011.
6. There has been discussion with the partnerships about the extent of the devolvement of both funding and responsibility. Funds would need to be held centrally should any commissioning responsibility for provision fall back on the local authority. A partnership agreement is currently being developed assumes that no such responsibility return from partnerships to the LA, allowing full devolvement to partnerships. Greater efficiencies accrue from having one commissioning mechanism in each area rather than a dual system.

Resource Implications

7. The cessation of the Locality Support Service has lead to the following amounts per pupil being delegated to schools from April 13:
 - Primary £6.43

- Key Stage 3 £30.53
- Key Stage 4 £11.27

Schools can choose to contribute to the work of behaviour partnerships using some, all, or more than these sums.

Devolved Funding to Partnerships

8. The funding devolved to partnerships is based on the costs of commissioning alternative provision at key stage 4, and the additional funding derived from the cessation of the Commissioning and Personalised Programmes Service in August 13.

- Partnership Funding 2012-13 £851,754
- Funding 2013-2014 £1,276,754

It should be noted that the level of funding devolved in excess of the 2013/14 approved budget, commitment has been given that funding will be devolved at the current level of expenditure. This is supported by the DSG reserve for 2013/14 but will need a sustainable solution to be found in setting the 2014/15 High Needs Budget

Funding Allocations among Partnerships

The funding formula used to allocate resources among partnerships is based on pupil numbers in each school and disadvantage:

$$(NOR)/100 + 2.5*(IMD)^1$$

The formula distributed funding among partnerships as follows:

- Charnwood North 16.92%
- Charnwood South 10.75%
- Hinckley and Bosworth 20.27%
- Melton 7.73%
- NW Leics 13.45%
- South Leics 30.87%

This formula will need to be revised to provide the 2014/15 devolved funding. IMD data is not routinely collected at individual school level, it is appropriate that the devolved allocation is supported through the information provided to the local authority in the dataset issued by the EFA for school delegated budgets

¹ This formula was agreed with Partnership Chairs on 7/6/07. NOR= Number on Roll, IMD= Index of Multiple Deprivation. Data was taken from the School Census 2008.

Equal Opportunity Issues

9. The Statutory School Admissions Policy contains a requirement on all schools to abide by a locally agreed Fair Access Protocol. This document sets out procedures to ensure that vulnerable young people obtain a school place quickly when they move between schools, and that the distribution of challenging children between schools is fair and equitable. Behaviour Partnerships work closely with the School Admissions and Pupil Services to operate these arrangements.
10. Not surprisingly, young people with challenging behaviour are at risk of underachievement. The Commissioning and Personalised Programmes team has shown that such young people can achieve if they gain the right support. Average GCSE point scores for students supported by the team have risen from 22.9 in 2007-08 to 110.8 in 2011-12. This five fold rise was achieved on the back of highly personalised programmes, delivered flexibly, with intensive supported, by experienced and talented staff.

Background Papers

Schools Forum Feb 2011: Proposal to Establish Behaviour Partnerships based on existing Area Placement and Support Panels

Cabinet 20th Dec 2011: Authorisation for the Director of Children's Services to consult on changes to services, including a 10% reduction in behaviour support services.

Cabinet 26th March 2012: Cabinet considers report of five member scrutiny panel on SEN

Cabinet 8th May 2012: Cabinet approves future direction of the CYPS including service restructure and future role of behaviour partnerships.

Schools Forum 20th Feb 2013: Decision taken to provide transitional funding to Oakfield as a result of School Funding Reform when considering the 2013/14 Schools Budget

Officers to Contact

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