

## SCHOOLS FORUM

### Update on Behaviour Partnerships, Oakfield PRU, and Behaviour Support for Primary Schools

*February 6<sup>th</sup> 2014*

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 a further update on work around Behaviour Partnerships and the PRU, following previous reports in June 2013 and November 2013.

#### Recommendation

2. That School Forum note the updated position of the Behaviour Partnerships and Oakfield..

#### Introduction

3. Supporting children and young people with Behaviour Difficulties is a significant area of expenditure within the High Needs block. This includes spending on special school places, statements in mainstream school, alternative provision, and provision for permanently excluded children at Oakfield Pupil Referral Unit.

### **Background**

4. A report to Forum in June 2013 set out the local authority decision to close central support services and build on the successful track record of secondary behaviour partnerships since 2005. A partnership agreement was being developed to transfer resources and responsibility around commissioning alternative programmes for young people at key stage 4 from the local authority to the five behaviour partnerships around the county. A consultation on the future of Oakfield PRU was launched in July 2013.
5. In November 2013, an update reported on the results of that consultation. Cabinet were recommended to maintain a Primary PRU, and devolve the resources and responsibility for key stage 3 provision for permanently excluded pupils to behaviour partnerships. This devolvement complimented an extended the responsibilities partnerships were already carrying at key stage 3.
6. The Director of Children's Services was authorised to seek an agreement with partnerships for this transfer. Broad terms for agreement were reported back to Cabinet on 13th December 2013, and the devolvement was approved conditionally on the completion of the lead school agreements with each behaviour partnership. Signed agreements were in place with all five partnerships by the start of the Spring Term 2014. Key stage 3 provision at Oakfield will formally close at Easter 2014.
7. Oakfield will continue as a primary only Pupil Referral Unit. It will educate children who have been permanently excluded, or are very close to such an exclusion.
8. The provision was judged by OfSTED to require special measures in May 2012. Subsequent monitoring visits have shown reasonable progress, except during the summer term 2013. This progress has always been judged to be clearer at primary than at secondary. The loss of secondary provision is therefore likely to help Oakfield to no longer require special measures.

### **Resource Implications**

9. The primary/secondary split of Oakfield provision required the budget to be split. This was based on 30/21 pupil numbers (primary/secondary) and the 1:1.42 funding differential between mainstream primary and secondary pupils in the mainstream formula. This results in a budget of £777,653 to be devolved to the Behaviour Partnerships and a maximum funding allocation of £782,347 for Oakfield.
10. School funding reform introduced a new funding structure for PRU's in which the local authority is deemed to be the commissioner of places for permanently excluded pupils and school for fixed term exclusions and dual registrations. These new arrangements have yet to be implemented and will need to be established in the medium term.
11. There is little good quality national benchmarking information about PRUs. What there is does not distinguish medical, young mother, and behavioural provision.

Improved benchmarking information is unlikely to be available until 2015-16, as new improved LA reporting begins in 2014-15.

12. An additional funding pressure derives from the High Needs block funding methodology which allocates funding uniquely by student rather than place. Traditionally, PRUs carry spare places at the start of each academic year, and then fill up as exclusions occur during the year. Transitional arrangements are in place to deal with this, but longer term solutions will need to be developed with the PRU Management Committee.

### **Equal Opportunity Issues**

13. The consultation on the future of Oakfield included a meeting with parents. They were at pains to emphasize how important this provision was to them and their children. Many families had experienced a previous history of repeated exclusions from a mainstream school, often at short notice, making it very difficult to maintain employment. The robustness of Oakfield provision, and the low levels of exclusion, build parental confidence, as does the relationship with both teaching and non-teaching staff.

### **Background Papers**

14. In December 2011 the Cabinet authorised the Director of Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) to consult on changes to services, including a 10% reduction in behaviour support services provided by the Local Authority for schools.
15. On 8 May 2012 the Cabinet agreed the future direction of CYPS including a service restructure and the future role of behaviour partnerships.
16. On 12 June 2012 the Cabinet agreed the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Special Educational Needs.
17. The Cabinet on 6 October 2012 agreed the 2013/14 School Funding Formula and this reflected the wish expressed by schools through the Schools Forum, that funding for behaviour support be delegated to schools.
18. In June 2013 Schools Forum received an update on the developing role of secondary behaviour partnerships.
19. The Schools Forum on 20 February 2013 agreed transitional funding to Oakfield School as a result of School Funding Reform when considering the 2013/14 Schools Budget.
20. On 9 July 2013 the Cabinet agreed to consult on the future of Oakfield School.
21. On 20 November 2013, the Cabinet approved in principle the devolvement of Oakfield Key Stage 3 provision to Behaviour Partnerships and authorised the

Director to make further recommendations to the Cabinet on terms for the transfer, on 13 December 2013.

22. Also in November, schools forum received an update concerning cabinet decisions around Oakfield and the behaviour partnerships, and also on the Fair Access Protocol, governing the within year admission of vulnerable children.

#### Officers to Contact

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