

Warrington Schools Forum – Extraordinary Meeting

Agenda

Date: Tuesday 23 April 2019

Time: 5.15 pm – 7.00 pm

Venue: Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School

	Item	Enc / Verbal	Decision; Discussion; Information	Entitled to vote	Lead
1.	Apologies and Welcome				Chair
2.	Funding Bands	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
3.	Change from Top Up Funding to Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools (WEFTS)	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
4.	High Needs Medical Funding	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
5.	New Horizons Primary Provision	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
6.	Cognition & Learning Designated Provision	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
7.	Ending of Education Funded Tracheostomy Contract	Enc	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
8.	SALT Contract	To follow	Discussion		Paula Worthington / Melissa Young
9.	AOB				Chair
10.	<p>Meeting schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 8 October 2019 at 5.15 pm • Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 5.15 pm <p><i>(Venue for all meetings – Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School)</i></p>				

Report



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 2

Date: 23 April 2019

For: Discussion

Title: Funding Bands

Author: Melissa Young

Presenter: Paula Worthington /
Melissa Young

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SAVING SUMMARY

Service / spend area:	High Needs Budget
Title:	Funding Bands
Brief Description:	Proposals to consider the : 1. Removal of banding and allocate actual amounts as identified on provision maps, or; 2. Removal of Bands F&G 3. Bringing Bands F&G in line with the other banding increments

Financial Information:

Savings to be shown as permanent change to the High Needs Block (please indicate where a part year saving is being made).

	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Total £000
Savings area:		174,500 to remove bands F&G			
Total		174,500			

Delivery Risks:

What are the constraints to implementation? Is there any lead in to delivery e.g. consultation timescales.

Last updated:

Political	<p>There could be increased parental dissatisfaction with the LA if pupil progress is impacted upon and needs not met which could be damaging to our reputation.</p> <p>The relationship between the LA and schools could be damaged.</p>
Economic	<p>Schools may feel they can no longer meet the needs of the more complex children who have the highest levels of support to maintain mainstream placements which could result in greater demand for our specialist provisions.</p> <p>Greater demand on transport costs if local schools cannot meet need and pupils are moved to our specialist provisions which could be further from home.</p> <p>School budgets could be affected by a reduction in monies in.</p>
Social	<p>Pupils could be moved from their locality and friends if schools could no longer meet need.</p> <p>Increased social media traffic from parents/carers about the lack of support in mainstream schools.</p>
Legal (Please identify Statutory / Non-Statutory nature of service)	<p>There is an expectation on the LA that additional funding is provided from Element 3. This top up is discretionary there are no set amounts.</p> <p>Removal of the highest levels of support and a reduction in some levels of support could place school staff at risk of redundancy.</p> <p>There could be increased pressure on the EHC team if parents challenge decisions and ultimately go to Tribunal.</p>
Lead in	<p>The removal of Bands F&G could be done immediately with no funding given at that level for any new cases, whilst maintain funding for current plans until they are requested to be amended or plans are ceased.</p> <p>The move to actual amount funding would be a slower process done through annual review meetings.</p>

Impact:

Removal of Bands F&G

Schools may not be able to fund more high cost intervention to children if Bands F& G are removed. This could result in children not receiving the appropriate level of support. In some cases arrangements would need to be made with Health colleagues to secure additional support complex health needs in school.

Schools may feel they are not able to continue to meet the needs of children previously receiving a high level of F or G funding. This may result in children moving schools. This could present a financial risk to the authority as there may be an increased

Last updated:

pressure on our specialist provisions and higher costs if children attend specialist independent schools out of area.

Band G funding historically funded more hours than a child attended school. Although we no longer plan in terms of hours, this indicates the additional spend to schools that was beyond the scope of support being provided.

Removal of Banded Funding

All schools in Warrington that have children with EHCPs would be affected over time and would need to resubmit accurate provision maps which would be funded at the level requested where appropriate. This could be done through the Annual review process.

Schools currently fund the first £1,500 of additional Top Up funding (old Band A). If we had not changed this agreement this would have added a budget pressure of a further £2m. Therefore, we would need the agreement to remain going forward to ensure there isn't further negative impact on the High Needs budget for new requests.

Changing to specific amounts of funding requested would mean that impact of intervention could be more appropriately tracked and that we do not over fund requests that sit within band boundaries.

Proposals

1. Consider the removal of Bands F&G with effect from September 2019.
2. Move to actual amounts for new EHCPs rather than bands, but with consideration for schools to continue funding the first £1500 on top of schools core offer (old Band A).
3. Consider changing the band structure regarding F&G to move in line with other band increments

Authorised by:

Portfolio Holder: Date.....

Head of Service: Date.....

Assistant Director: Date.....

Finance Manager: Date.....

Last updated:

Report



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Report to:	Schools Forum	Item:	3
Date:	23 April 2019	For:	Discussion
Title:	Change from Top Up Funding to Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools (WEFTS)		
Author:	Andrea Barnes	Presenter:	Paula Worthington / Melissa Young

Change from Top up Funding to Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools (WEFTS)

Context

Historically, Warrington Local Authority has provided additional funding to schools for those pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs, for learning that fell below the levels required for a statement. This funding, known as CLASP (Care and Learning Access Support Plan), was given on an individual basis for a limited time to enable schools to establish if the pupil had learning needs that could be addressed through some short term intervention. There was also a CLASP medical strand to support pupils who needed high levels of supervision due to their medical needs that the school hadn't got the resources to provide.

This funding stream ended with the SEND reforms in 2014 when elements 1, 2, and 3 were introduced and schools were expected to provide a level of funding before requiring any support from the Local Authority.

Reason for Re-introducing Funding

Over the 4 years since the funding reforms came in to effect the Local Authority has experienced a growth in demand for EHCPs. This appears to be being driven by an increasing level of complexity of need within the school population, as well as the increase in age group being supported. Some schools have struggled to meet the needs of some children but have also found supporting lower levels of need a challenge and have looked to the Local Authority to provide financial help through an EHCP. The growth in the numbers of EHCPs in Warrington has been a concern, given the financial pressures on the High Needs budget. Changes needed to be considered to ensure that the right level of support was getting to the right children. There was a recognition that there were some pupils who, if

given a small amount of additional funding, might be able to make progress and demonstrate not a SEN but a low level learner.

A second issue has been the increasing number of movers in to the local authority from areas that have a system for funding without a plan, or no system. Some of these pupils come with significant levels of funding which were indicative of needing an EHCP and complex SEND. This placed an unexpected burden on schools with nothing the Local Authority could do to support. In other cases of movers in, pupils with extremely complex needs from other countries have arrived, again leading to a schools having an unexpected level of spend to support the child appropriately on entry.

Current Position

It is against this background that the Local Authority decided to introduce a system of funding to help support some pupils where it wasn't clear if there was a genuine SEN or a low level learner. The system called Top Up Funding was introduced in 2018. The evidence required to access the funding is similar to that needed for an EHC needs assessment. The uptake of this funding has not been as great as envisaged. However, the Local Authority has continued to receive requests to support pupils where the school is at the start of the process for referral for an EHCP and they would like financial support through the process. This is not the intended use of the funding.

As the reasons for requests for additional funding have been different to what was expected, the Local Authority have considered moving away from the TUF model and looking at interim funding in a more individual case by case way. This can be demonstrated with the following scenarios.

Case 1

A Year 1 pupil from a neighbouring authority moved in to Warrington. The pupil was already approaching the end of their needs assessment but not at the point of having an EHCP. The previous Local Authority had provided 20 hours of funding without a plan. The level of funding was indicative of a high level of need, beyond that that would be available in a mainstream school.

Funding was provided to the school until the plan was issued which resulted in a school move to a more specialist provision in Warrington. Without the funding the pupil may have been placed out of authority in more specialist provision as the school were finding his behaviours very difficult to manage and were excluding regularly. Due to the age of the child there was no provision in Warrington. The funding gave us time to complete the assessment to determine appropriate provision.

Case 2

A child with complex unidentified special educational needs entered reception posing a significant safeguarding risk. They had had no pre-school placement due to a lack of engagement from parent and the school had concerns regarding the child's home life. At school the child was continually trying to put her head in water and needed a high level of supervision to stay safe. The school didn't know the child prior to attending and hadn't got the resources necessary to keep the child safe. The Local Authority considered the needs at Panel and provided the school short term funding whilst the EHC needs assessment was undertaken. This funding will remain until the assessment is complete and the correct specialist provision identified. Again this funding prevented a placement breaking down and a child being at home unseen.

Future Arrangements

The proposal for the future is that the Local Authority ceases Top Up Funding and moves to a system where schools can apply for short term funding for a specific reason and usually whilst an EHC needs assessment is in process. (Warrington Emergency Funding to Schools-WEFTS). Each case will be considered and a decision ratified by the SEND Panel at the earliest opportunity, as there is an awareness of the urgency in some of these situations. The level of funding would be based on the costing given by the school in a provision map that identifies what is needed over the £6000 and is different from and additional to that which is available for all pupils. These cases should be exceptional and not to be used due to a lack of expertise or inclusion within the setting. It is highly likely that the complex needs of these pupils will lead to them requiring a more specialised placement than the mainstream they arrive in.

The move to this system demonstrates that the Local Authority is aware of and responsive to the increasing complexities that many pupils are now demonstrating on arrival into schools. It is hoped that this use of funding will help support our schools to work inclusively with some of the challenges these pupils bring, within the timescales needed to complete a thorough assessment and appropriately identify needs.

Report



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Report to: Schools Forum **Item:** 4
Date: 23 April 2019 **For:** Discussion
Title: High Needs Medical Funding
Author: Melissa Young **Presenter:** Paula Worthington /
 Melissa Young

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SAVING SUMMARY

Service / spend area:	High Needs Budget
Reference:	
Title:	High Needs Medical Funding
Brief Description:	Proposal to remove High Needs Medical Funding from Warrington Schools

Financial Information:

Savings to be shown as permanent change to the High Needs Block (please indicate where a part year saving is being made).

	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Total £000
Savings area:		130,000			
Total		130,000			

Delivery Risks:

What are the constraints to implementation? Is there any lead in to delivery e.g. consultation timescales.

Political	Damage to our reputation if we are viewed as not supporting children with medical needs. Pupil progress could be affected.
Economic	Schools may feel unable to meet the needs of pupils with complex medical needs. Resulting in moves to specialist out of authority places being requested. Where previously schools could offer support and additional resources. Schools budgets will be affected if this funding is removed.

Last updated:

Social	Children/ young people are removed from their locality and peers if Warrington schools cannot meet need.
Legal (Please identify Statutory / Non-Statutory nature of service)	It is not at statutory duty to provide funding for medical needs. Staff could be at risk of redundancy, particularly those where children have a high level of funding for staffing purposes.
Lead in	An academic year minimum. Rolling programme of transference over time.

Impacts (Including Equality Assessment):

What will be the impact on service users?

Not all schools will be affected by this proposal.

Additional support in school could potentially be withdrawn for children with complex medical needs, if schools believe the support is an extension of their core offer and an additional resource/spend.

There could be an increase in referrals for EHC Needs Assessments, as an alternative route to secure support and funding for children. This would increase the already high number of children in receipt of an EHCP and put additional pressure on the high needs budget via an alternative route. This route would also add to the workload of the LA SEND team via assessment activity and review arrangements.

Mainstream schools would need to request themselves and signpost parents to additional support and funding via health services. Current long waiting times in some areas could leave children without support.

Any support that is withdrawn and not replaced could lead to reduced attendance and a lack of progress for pupils.

Arrangements would need to be brokered with Health senior leaders to ensure children are not left unsupported and arrangements are made in a timely way. Assurances would need giving to schools and parents.

Schools that would currently be affected:	
Bradshaw Primary	Cardinal Newman High School
Broomfields	Great Sankey High School
Cherry Tree	Kings Leadership Academy
Cobbs	Lymm High School
Gorse Covert	Padgate Academy
Locking Stumps	
Oughtrington	
Our Lady's	

Last updated:

St Joseph's
St Margaret's
St Monica's
St Wilfrid's
Statham
Stockton Heath
Woolston CE
Woolston CP

Number of children currently being supported through HNMF = 32

Recommendations:

We propose that the following proposals are explored more fully. With one or a combination of options being taken forward in Sept 2019.

1. The removal of HNMF with effect from September 2019. With Health services funding support where appropriate.
2. A review of all funding in place and a change to actual amounts rather than bands/historic hourly funding.
3. Greater financial contribution from health services to support complex medical needs in schools. Still under amended HNMF arrangements. Jointly commissioned where appropriate.

Authorised by:

Portfolio Holder: Date.....

Head of Service: Date.....

Assistant Director: Date.....

Finance Manager: Date.....

Last updated:

Report



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 5

Date: 23 April 2019

For: Discussion

Title: New Horizons Primary Provision

Author: Melissa Young

Presenter: Paula Worthington /
Melissa Young

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK SAVING SUMMARY

Service / spend area:	High Needs Budget
Title:	New Horizons Primary provision
Brief Description:	<p>Proposals to:</p> <p>To remove New Horizons Primary provision and use the funding at a reduced rate to make a cost saving and better meet the needs of Warrington children.</p> <p>Explore a new alternative provision offer being scoped between a mainstream setting with a designated provision and a special school, with the possibility of New Horizons involvement.</p>

Financial Information:

Savings to be shown as permanent change to the High Needs Block (please indicate where a part year saving is being made).

	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Total £000
Savings area:		100,000 currently base funding New Horizons Primary provision			
Total		100,000			

Last updated:

Delivery Risks:

What are the constraints to implementation? Is there any lead in to delivery e.g. consultation timescales.

Political	The relationship between the LA and New Horizons could be damaged.
Economic	New Horizons have indicated they will not may not agree to the change in arrangements and removal of funding and the LA may be forced to continue current arrangements.
Social	Without a primary AP offer pupils could end up being permanently excluded and then require a school move from their locality and friends. However the primary offer is currently under utilised
Legal (Please identify Statutory / Non-Statutory nature of service)	The Local Authority has requested place reduction at New Horizons recently. This has not been supported by the setting and the ESFA based on current census data and perceived local need. Removal of funding could place New Horizons staff at risk of redundancy.
Lead in	From November 2019, with alternative arrangements being scoped from May 2019.

Impact:

More Warrington children would benefit from a local offer where Warrington base funded places aren't given to children from other Local Authorities.

Future proposals would enable a fluidity of movement for children within AP/Special and mainstream settings. Limiting movement of children if they were identified and assessed as needing an EHCP and specialist provision whilst in alternative provision. Also, better meeting the requests from schools for an offer placed within a primary school.

New Horizons could challenge the decision to remove the funding they currently receive through the High Needs Place Planning process as they have done historically. Warrington could still be forced to give New Horizons the funding by the ESFA.

A small number of primary aged children currently attending New Horizons would need an alternative placement sourcing. If the provision was closed

New Horizons staff would be at risk of redundancy if the primary provision was closed. New Horizons could still offer a fully funded offer to other Local Authorities and Warrington Schools to protect the provision and staffing levels.

Last updated:

Schools would be required to support children with challenging behaviour if no other alternative Primary Alternative Provision was provided. With no other offer it could result in children being permanently excluded.

By retaining current arrangements with New Horizons children are on site with secondary aged children. This is a concern that has been raised by service users and precludes use by some schools as a result.

We are currently using 6 out of 10 primary places at New Horizons. The remaining places being offered to other LAs where they pay the Top Up funding on top of our base £10,000. This is not to the benefit of Warrington children although this does meet the legal use of the funding. All of the 6 children are undergoing assessment for an EHCP. We believe children's needs would be better met and assessed with a provision based within a school with an SEMH Designated provision or a SEMH special school.

Feedback from Head Teachers and Local Authority officers has been that the provision was more successful when it was linked with a primary school, with an offer that has part of the time spent back in the home school. This has been supported through recent discussions with Head Teachers at the SEND Review Board. The current offer does not match all requirements requested by schools and is impacting on use and reputation of New Horizons Primary provision.

Proposals

1. To cease the base funding of primary places at New Horizons
2. To explore further future proposals for Warrington Primary Alternative Provision to the benefit of Warrington children.
3. To request New Horizons report to Schools Forum regarding their justification for Top Up costs and their current offer.

Authorised by:

Portfolio Holder: Date.....

Head of Service: Date.....

Assistant Director: Date.....

Finance Manager: Date.....

Last updated:

Report



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 6

Date: 23 April 2019

For: Discussion

Title: Cognition & Learning Designated Provision

Author: Melissa Young

Presenter: Paula Worthington /
Melissa Young

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BENEFITS REALISATION PLAN PROPOSAL

Service / spend area:	High Needs budget
Title:	Cognition & Learning Designated Provision
Brief Description:	Proposal to remove the Cognition and Learning Designated Provisions from Warrington schools

Financial Information:

Savings to be shown as permanent change to the High Needs Block (please indicate where a part year saving is being made).

	2019/20	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Total £000
Savings area:	XXX	£751,750			
Total	XXX	£751,750			

Delivery Risks:

Political	Damage to our reputation if children's needs are not met and any resulting lack of pupil progress.
Economic	<p>Increase spend if needs were judged as not being able to be met in mainstream schools or special schools in Warrington, or there were insufficient places. Independent specialist provision would then be required with additional cost.</p> <p>Additional transport costs would be incurred due to new provision for children being required at a further distance or out of area.</p> <p>Schools budgets would be adversely affected where the provision is removed.</p>

Last updated:

Social	Children would potentially be required to move to alternative provision in other schools. Leaving peers and positive relationships. Parental dissatisfaction with removal of specialist support.
Legal (Please identify Statutory / Non-Statutory nature of service)	Staff in schools affected would be at risk of redundancy. It is not a statutory duty to have Designated Provisions.
Staffing	Staff in schools affected would be at risk of redundancy
Lead in	Two terms minimum

Impacts (Including Equality Assessment):

What will be the impact on service users?

Schools that would be affected:

School	DP Places	Place Funding	Top-up per pupil	Total Top-up	Funding Total
Bewsey Lodge	10	£60,000.00	£4,161.00	£41,610.00	£101,610.00
Meadowside Primary	10	£60,000.00	£4,161.00	£41,610.00	£101,610.00
Oakwood Avenue Primary	10	£60,000.00	£4,161.00	£41,610.00	£101,610.00
Penketh High	16	£0.00	£5,173.00	£82,768.00	£178,768.00
Sir Thomas Boteler High	12	£0.00	£5,173.00	£62,076.00	£134,076.00
Padgate Academy	12	£0.00	£5,173.00	£62,076.00	£134,076.00
Total	70	£180,000.00	£28,002.00	£331,750.00	£751,750

Children within existing Designated Provisions would be required to move to mainstream settings or specialist settings in Warrington, or in to specialist provision outside of Warrington. All appropriate specialist provision in Warrington is currently at capacity (March 2019). Therefore any specialist provision moves needed would be out of area.

Children wouldn't receive specialist teaching and there would be a loss of expertise from within the system. This expertise is currently benefiting the children in the mainstream part of schools with designated provisions, as well as the children in the designated provisions themselves.

Last updated:

Children would be taught within larger mainstream groups. Complex needs within lower sets currently within mainstream settings would be diluted.

There would be a financial risk due to increased spend on independent placements due to limited placement choice in Warrington. There would also be increased transport costs if children are placed outside of Warrington. Children would have to travel further to school. They would be educated outside of their community.

Mainstream schools will be required to meet the needs of children with cognition and learning special needs and not rely on specialist delivery. There is potential for staff skills to improve to meet needs, or alternatively children could not have their needs met appropriately by non-specialist staff.

There is some feeling amongst schools that Cognition and Learning is an inherent part of Quality First Teaching and staff in mainstream would/should be able to meet the needs of all children.

There is a feeling some children would benefit from a more mainstream offer in terms of breadth of curriculum offer, preparation for adulthood and building independence.

Schools budgets will be adversely affected where the provision is removed.

Staff working in the DPs affected may be at risk of redundancy.

The recent DP reviews have explored the risks/benefits of removing the Cognition and Learning designated provisions. It was very clear to see the benefits for the children in these settings and throughout the host school, including:

- smaller group teaching
- bespoke curriculum
- strong peer and adult relationships
- accelerated progress resulting in time spent in mainstream classes

Benefits for the mainstream children within the school were also clear, including:

- wider sharing of expertise amongst staff
- access to more targeted CPD/training
- reduced EHCP numbers in mainstream.

The Head Teachers of the designated provisions were very proud of their provision and all felt it enhanced their school. There was no appetite from the schools to remove the provision.

Recommendation

1. Designated Provisions remain in place, but we look carefully at grouping needs to match expertise within system e.g. those children with additional SEMH or ASD needs within the cognition and learning cohort.

Last updated:

2. Review the children currently in the designated provisions to ensure they are appropriately placed and that needs are appropriately scaled against mainstream pupils.

Authorised by:

Portfolio Holder: Date.....

Head of Service: Date.....

Assistant Director: Date.....

Finance Manager: Date.....

Last updated:

Proposal:	Ending of Education Funded Tracheostomy Contract	Lead officer:	Melissa Young		
Work-stream Summary		Key Milestones			
Review of the current contract and arrangements for one to one support for children and young people with tracheotomies in schools, between Warrington Borough Council and Warrington Division, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust.	Deliverables		Target	RAG Status	
	Notice given for [redacted] as her medical needs are no longer covered by the contract's remit		Feb 2019	Complete	
	Discuss giving notice at next contract meeting		March 2019	Complete	
	Activity this period		To give notice on the contract, to finish at the end of the academic year in July 2019	July 2019	On Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three children are currently supported via the contract ([redacted]) Give notice to Bridgewater on one of the pupils on the contact [redacted] as her health needs are no longer covered by the contract due to her using on a breathing vent 24 hours a day. The tracheostomy is no longer needed. To consider giving notice on the whole contact to cease at the end of summer term 2019 as the CCG and Bridgewater should be funding and providing this support – To support each child costs £29,963 each per academic year. 	To meet with Bridgewater to discuss developing packages of individual support and funding streams.		April 2019	Possible delay	
	Support to be in place ready to start the new academic year from September 2019.		Sept 2019	Possible delay	
				Possible delay	
	Key Issues				
	Date	Description		Mitigation	
Sept 2019	Support not being in place in a timely manner ready for September 2019.		[redacted]		
Sept 2019	Pupils being at risk as their tracheostomy needs are not being supported.		[redacted]		
Upcoming activity					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and arrange how children's tracheostomy needs will be met without the contract in place for pupils with an EHC plan, where support is highlighted in health sections C & G. Discuss and arrange how children's tracheostomy needs will be met without the contract in place for pupils without an EHC plan. 			[redacted]		
	Key Risks				
Type	Description			Score	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give formal notice through the contracts process. Ensure support packages are in place for [REDACTED] 				
Benefit Summary		Financial		
At risk	Progress against cashable benefits	Reputational	Children are left unsupported and unable to access education	
On Target	Progress against non-cashable benefits			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bespoke support for children and young people with tracheotomies in place when they are attending their educational setting, funded by Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust. To the Local Authority, saving costs of £29,963 per pupil, per academic year. 				