

Report To: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Date: 18 December 2018

Reporting Officer: Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director Finance
Tim Bowman – Assistant Director Education

Subject: **COMMISSIONED PLACES 2019/20**

Report Summary: A report on the Local Authorities Commissioning intentions for High Needs Places for 2019/200. This report sets out the places to be commissioned in 2019/20 in Special Schools and Resourced Units

Recommendations: Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report.

Links to Community Strategy: Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.

Policy Implications: In line with financial and policy framework.

Financial Implications: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure.
(Authorised by the section 151 officer)
This report sets out the places to be commissioned in 2019/20 in Special Schools and Resourced Units in maintained schools effective deployment of this grant is essential to manage the pressures within the system.

Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

Risk Management: Inappropriate commissioning of places can lead to budget pressures in the High Needs Block intended to address Education provision and enable children to access appropriate provision.
The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Christine Mullins – Finance Business Partner, Financial Management, Governance, Resources and Pensions by :

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As reported to October Schools Forum the High Needs Review has now started, and the first part will concentrate on the following areas.
- Funded but unfilled places
 - Protocols for funding in-year growth
 - Maximizing element three funding in mainstream schools
 - Funding of places and provision for excluded pupils and those at risk of exclusion.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the place commissioning for 2019/20 and funding in-year growth.
- 1.3 Initial meetings have taken part with special schools leaders and a number of proposals around funding in year growth and addressing under and overcapacity in year. Feedback on the proposals and any subsequent changes to funding will be implemented September 2019.
- 1.4 There are no changes since October forum on budget position current projects an estimated in-year overs spend of £1.072m by the end of 2018/19. A further update will be made following real time movement exercise which is due to be completed by end of December 2018.
- 1.5 The school funding consultation proposes that no block transfer movements to the High Needs block are made in 2019/20.
- 1.6 Commissioning discussions regarding the number of places to be commissioned in special schools, resourced units and Further Education (FE) Institutions from September 2019 with the relevant providers.
- 1.7 For academies and colleges the places commissioned was submitted to the DfE on the 16 November and final places with other providers will be confirmed by the end of December in preparation for release of 2019/20 budgets in February 2019.

The tables below provide further detail on the commissioned places:

1.8 Table 1 - Special Schools

Special Schools	PAN	2018/19		2019/20	
		Commissioned 2018/19		Proposed Commissioned 2019/20	
		Apr-18	Sep-18	Apr-19	Sep-19
Hawthorns	66	85	85	85	86
Thomas Ashton	56	56	56	56	56
Oakdale	110	115	115	115	115
Cromwell High	70	75	70	70	70
Samuel Laycock	130	130	130	130	130
Total	432	461	456	456	457

Please note, Tameside Pupil Referral Service is not included in the tables above as their funding is currently not allocated on a full formula basis. A formula model is currently under development that would be based on a 130 place unit.

- 1.9 A review of the places commissioned at Schools Based Resource Units has also been carried out table 2 outlines the commissioned places for 2018/19 alongside the proposed commissioned places.

1.10 Table 2 - Resourced Units

Resourced Units	PAN	2018/19		2019/20	
		Commissioned 2018/19		Proposed Commissioning 2019/20	
		Apr-18	Sep-18	Apr-19	Sep-19
Oakfield	8	10	10	10	8
The Heys	8	1	0	0	0
Russell Scott	8	8	8	8	3
Linden Road *	8	8	8	8	8
St John Fisher *	12	12	12	12	12
Hyde *	17	17	17	17	5
St Thomas More*	15	15	15	15	15
Total	76	71	70	70	51

* Council managed services:

- Linden Road Primary Academy (HI Unit) staff employed by the council and costs recharged to High Needs Block, currently funding is allocated to the academy and an invoice raised to recoup the income.
- St John Fisher Primary School (CLASS Autistic Unit) staff employed by the council and costs are recharged to High Needs Block.
- Hyde Community College - staff employed by the council and costs are recharged to High Needs Block.
- St Thomas Moore RC College - staff employed by the council and costs are recharged to High Needs Block.

1.11 Overall the commissioning of Resourced Units at September 19 would see a reduction in place funding allocated of £60,000 on a full financial year. The reductions in Hyde would have nil impact on place funding as the 17 places indicated is a historical figure that doesn't represent the current provision or funding.

1.12 Table 3 – FE Institutions

FE Institutions	PAN	2018/19		2019/20	
		Commissioned 2018/19		Commissioned 2019/20	
		Apr-18	Sep-18	Apr-19	Sep-19
Tameside 6th Form College		3	3	3	3
Tameside College		94	94	94	94
Total		97	97	97	97

There is no suggested change to the place numbers at the FE Institutions in Tameside.

1.13 The next area under review in the High Needs block is the funding for in-year growth of places in the Special School Sector.

- 1.14 It is acknowledged that commissioning places in October/November for the following September is often a difficult task and good planning and early commissioning discussions are essential. There will be situations where not all growth has been commissioned, and conversely, there may be occasions where places are unfilled.
- 1.15 Whilst there should be processes in place to support schools seeing growth beyond commissioned numbers there should also be acknowledgement that not all growth will warrant additional funding but resources should target need.
- 1.16 Discussions have started to discuss a number of potential growth models with the Special School Heads and Business Managers. This is to consider which is the most appropriate model to be adopted going forward , to achieve a balanced approach of funding as described in 3.3.
- 1.17 The outcome of any of these decisions will be fed back to Schools Forum at a later date.
- 1.18 Schools Forum notes the places to be commissioned for September 2019/20 in the Special School Sector, Resourced Units and Further Education establishments.
- 1.19 Schools forum note that a review of the funding of overcapacity of places in the Special School Sector is underway and the outcome will be fed back to a future Schools Forum Meeting.