

Report on SEN Arrangements 2013/14 Academic Year

Rationale for Change

From September 2013 all students with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or S139a assessment who progress into post 16 education and training will be supported by schools and local authority staff to select an appropriate pathway of learning. This will be part of the EHCP and will replace the S139a transition assessment. This supports the implementation of the study programme and provides the rationale behind the change in high needs funding placements announced by the DfE.

For the 2013/14 academic year, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) a Post 16 funding body for the Department for Education (DfE) announced changes to the existing high needs funding system, which would mean LA's would commission places via the EFA directly with providers.

Funding

The funding was split into 3 Elements to qualify as high needs learners must receive support which is up to or exceeds £10k;

- **Place funding of approximately £10,000 combining:**
 - Element 1: 'Core Education Funding'** – for post 16 pupils this is per student funding, as calculated by the national EFA methodology which is unique to each provider, with a base value for LA calculations of £4000k – used towards teaching costs and the running of the programme of study.
 - Element 2: 'Additional Support Funding'** – a clearly identified budget to provide additional support for high needs pupils to the value of £6000.

The 3 element is top of funding and is unique to each learner

- **Element 3 : 'Top Up Funding'** – covers funding required over and above Elements 1 and 2 to meet the total cost of the education provision required by an individual pupil, as based on their assessed need via completed application forms which are assessed by the 11-19 Team.

Process for Commissioning Places

In October 2012 the EFA wrote to DCS's confirming their high needs allocation for the 2013/14 academic year. Data was based on 2010/11 and 2011/12 previous years data.

In December 2012 the 11-19 Team were asked by EFA to confirm which providers would receive Element 1 & 2 funding for the 93 student places allocated, this was significantly less than was required to meet the needs of learners in Hartlepool. This involved extensive work with post 16 providers to map learners.

The 11-19 Team, then carried out a further and extensive mapping exercise which involved reviewing all young people with statements in the town and those receiving support from SA+, reviewing their levels of funding required in school or from post 16 providers in the 2012/13 academic year. This assisted us in forecasting with some level of accuracy the amount of high needs places we may need alongside the associated funding to support the learners.

After completing an extensive business case in January 2013, we received notification on 28th March 2013 which informed us we had been successful in increasing our level of funding for Element 2 non commissioned places and Element 3 top up funding to £729,815 for the August 2013 – March 2014 period. Element 1 funding for providers who we did not commission places with in our original allocation of 93 learners, will receive Element 1 funding through the LAG learner system in the next academic year.

N.B £729,815 awarded in the DSG included a payment of £146,605 which was owed to Catcote School for Post 16 high needs top up for the 2012/13 academic year.

Current Position

As at October 2013, we have or are in the process of commissioning 117 – 120 places for high needs learners aged 16-24 years old with Special Schools, Further Education Providers, Training Providers, ISP's with residential placements or via Home Education. Students are to be able to access provision outside of the town if their education and training needs cannot be met by the Hartlepool offer.

We anticipate that for the August 2013 – March 2014 period we will have spent approximately £553,334 of our £583,210 allocation for Element 2 non commissioned places and Element 3 top up funding, this amount may decrease due to 2 very high cost learners who may no longer be able to or wish to continue in education due to health reasons.

In total the high needs budget the 11-19 Team are managing for 16-24 year olds for commissioned, non commissioned places and top ups for the 2013/14 academic year will exceed £1,750,000.

The number of young people who require high needs funding for the 2014/15 academic year is expected to rise, based on those continuing in education and those with statements or who are SA+ plus and currently in Year 11.

Issues

We have and are still facing numerous issues throughout the commissioning of high needs places for learners aged 16-24, summarised as follows:

- Providers have in previous years received funding from EFA and retrospectively spent against it with no claw back.

- Post 16 providers are struggling to understand S139a and LDA assessments and what it means in terms of person centred planning and funding generation on an individual student basis.
- Application forms for all post 16 learners must be completed by the provider and based on person centred planning, i.e. each learner is unique and therefore each form is different, a blanket approach cannot be taken.
- Training providers have never received high needs funding previously and do not have enough learning support staff in place for the learners who wish to access them.
- 11-19 Team are responsible for overseeing the quality and value for money of provision with any providers it has commissioned places with.
- Learners with BESD move frequently between providers, making it hard to get their support in place with the correct provider.
- Serious issues with BESD transitioning from school to post 16 providers, this has involved issues with safeguarding.
- Information held by YOS and Social Care is not shared which compromises the LA, learner and the provider.
- Allocations to providers are being approved for the academic year September 2013 – August 2014, however funding received from the EFA is for August 2013 – March 2014, funding beyond the financial year is still to be agreed.
- All learners must be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure they remain in learning, and changes result in adjusted payments to providers.
- Contracts must be issued with all providers the LA commissions any placements with.
- 2014/15 planning for high needs places must be complete by December 2013, it is anticipated there will be less funding for more learners.

Appendices

Attached - Appendix A is a copy of the letter in response to the business case, which increased the Hartlepool LA allocation for Post 16 High Needs Learners, it also shows the initial baseline figure.