
Meeting: Schools Forum

Date: 7 March 2011

Subject: Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children Services

Summary: This paper proposes alternative use of DSG previously used to support a Behaviour and Attendance Partnership in Dunstable/Houghton Regis in the light of the additional resources received through the Pupil Premium.

Contact Officer: Helen Redding, Head of SEN and Inclusion, Dunstable

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the Schools Forum consider that the DSG currently allocated to the Chiltern Behaviour and Attendance Partnership be reallocated to the Out of County Budget in the light of the changes that relate to Pupil Premium (see attached).**

Background

1. During the time of the legacy authority, Bedfordshire County Council, it was agreed that instead of setting up a second Middle School Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development, BESD provision for a small number of pupils, it would be better to use the resource (£209,743k) to support the schools in working in partnership to support a greater number of pupils with these types of needs. The partnership has split the resource into 3 areas and it has been focussed on Middle and Upper Schools. It has supported the significant reduction in days lost to Fixed Term Exclusions.

2. In September 2008 it was agreed to use Area Based Grant (ABG) to support further Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships in Leighton/Linslade and Sandy/Biggleswade. The share of these two budgets was calculated using levels of deprivation. This led to a further sum of £108,293 being allocated to the Dunstable/Houghton Regis Partnership. In 2010/11, £96,700 of this funding was allocated to the Cedars/Vandyke Pyramid Partnership, £106,900 to the Sandy Stratton Partnership, and £51,550 to the Chiltern Partnership, which supplemented the Behaviour budget of £209,743k for behaviour provision in the South of the county. In 2010/11, the ABG was reduced from £255,150 to £191,363 due to the 24% in year reduction in ABG, and so each area's proportion was reduced accordingly.
3. The money for these partnerships has been agreed on a year by year basis. Last year it was made clear that it was unlikely that the Area Based Grant would be available and that schools should consider how they would be able to continue to run the successful aspects of the partnership using their own pooled resources. The Area Based Grant is no longer allocated to the Council. Previously School Forum suggested that the pupil premium should be considered as a possible source of funding as well as any review of the DSG.

Update

4. The Pupil Premium allocated in 11/12 to the schools in the Chiltern Partnership is £531,480. In the light of this Schools Forum needs to consider alternative use of the budget previously used to support the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership.

Recommendation

5. In view of this increase in financial resource to the area, it is recommended that in the area of Central Bedfordshire, the £209,743k of centrally retained DSG previously allocated to the Chiltern Behaviour and Attendance Partnership be reallocated to fund the increased costs in Out of County Placements where pupils needs are such that at present they are unable to have their needs met. The existing need for BEDS will be met out of pupil premium.

Appendix A: Individual Schools Pupil Premium Allocation against FSM numbers