
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 5 March 2012
Subject: Support for Vulnerable Pupils at Key Stage 2
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: To ask the Schools Forum to provide funding for allocation to maintained middle schools and primary schools with Year 5 pupils to support vulnerable pupils in Key Stage 2.

Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Head of Learning (Interim)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency
(if appropriate)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that the Schools Forum agrees to allocate £90,000 to maintained middle schools and primary schools with Year 5 pupils identified as not making sufficient progress towards their Key Stage 2 targets.

Background

1. Standards at Key Stage 2 in 2011 dropped significantly. 66% of Central Bedfordshire pupils achieved Level 4 or above compared with 74% nationally and 76% for our statistical neighbours. This places Central Bedfordshire with the second lowest attainment in the country in 2011. The Council is committed to supporting schools in raising the standards of those pupils at risk of not achieving their targets at Key Stage 2, and has developed and is implementing a programme to raise standards for identified Year 6 pupils. The programme involves 19 maintained middle schools and primary schools with Year 6 pupils.
2. The Year 6 programme is as follows:
 - Schools reviewed performance data at the end of Year 5 and identified Year 6 pupils at risk of not achieving end of year targets and/or two levels of progress. This information was submitted to the Council.
 - £150 of targeted funding per pupil was then allocated to schools pro rata, together with a lump sum payment of £1,000 to cover administrative and other costs. Funding was allocated to maintained schools for the Autumn Term 2011 and the Spring Term 2012. Schools were encouraged to work with other local schools to maximise the funding available.

- Headteachers were asked to exercise their professional judgement in determining the most appropriate use of the funding, but schools were advised that funding could be used for 1-1 support, for small group work or to pay for additional teaching support.
- Schools are expected to account to the Council for the use and impact of this additional funding. Half termly progress data for identified pupils is sent to the Council and this data is analysed to show whether pupils are on track to achieve their targets using the following RAG rating:
 - Green - on track
 - Amber - at risk of under achievement
 - Red - significant risk of targets not being met
- Council staff meet with headteachers and senior curriculum managers at the start of each half term to discuss the use and impact of the funding and to review overall data for Years 5 and 6.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that the approach described above for Year 6 pupils is extended to Year 5 pupils to give schools sufficient time to implement targeted programmes to improve the progress of identified pupils.
4. With some maintained schools currently seeking academy status it is expected that 15 schools would be eligible for funding. Assuming similar percentages of pupils requiring additional support in Year 5, this would generate an estimated overall cost of **£90,000**.
5. A report would be provided to the School's Forum on the use and impact of this funding.

Appendices:

None