

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

14 January 2019

### Special School Banding (Single Value Top Up known as SVT) Further Information

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#### **Purpose of this report**

To update forum members on the assessment of the Single Value Top-Up as requested at the Schools Forum meeting in November 2018.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. To continue to carry out the resolutions carried at the meeting of the Schools Forum held on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

**Minute No: CBSF/18/5RESOLVED**

- 2. That an SVT approach for the financial year 2019/20 be implemented at the values shown in table 1 of the report.**
- 3. That the SVT for each special school would not be reviewed for at least two years unless changes were made to the funding levels of mainstream schools.**
- 4. That the implementation of the SVT funding of special provision be carried out in two phases with Phase 1 being specifically for Special Schools. Phase 2 would be structured around a full revision of SEN provision and the application of the SVT model to include special facilities.**

#### **Background**

1. At the meeting of the The Schools Forum held on 1<sup>st</sup> October a report was considered on the proposed changes to the top- up element of the funding formula for Central Bedfordshire to Special Schools.
2. Prior to the meeting discussions had been held with the special school headteachers where the principle of a Single Value Top-Up was unanimously supported.
3. The Schools Forum at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting agreed with the proposed implementation of the SVT from April 2019.
4. However at the Schools Forum meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November, there was a query against the minutes and the forum agreed the following:

- That an SVT approach for the financial year 2019/20 be implemented at the values shown in table 1 of the report (dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018) was agreed in principle subsequent to further modelling work being undertaken on value levels and an update given to members of the Forum.

## Modelling Work

- The historic and current year modelling was carried out by taking the total sum of top-ups that were received for pupils and dividing it by the number of pupils. This gave an average for the year.
- The proposed amount for the SVT in 19/20 was based on the sum in 18/19 with the known additional children who would be in the school in 19/20.
- The figures for 17/18 and 16/17 are provided for interest only as the top-ups were calculated on the places rather than the specific children, even if the places were not filled, and therefore cannot be considered.

	Proposed 19/20	Actual 18/19	Actual 17/18	Actual 16/17
Chiltern	10,545.18	10,364.07	10,295.96	10,709.62
Oak Bank	14,060.06	14,111.17	18,077.36	17,126.67
Ivel Valley	9,841.54	8,500.74	8,799.85	8,759.84
Weatherfield	2,119.98	2,003.91	2,110.84	2,105.87

## Council Priorities

- Great resident services
- Improving education and skills
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

## Corporate Implications

## Legal Implications

- The change of method of calculating the top up funding in the way described has a number of positive practical benefits for the special schools in Central Bedfordshire and should serve to enhance the relationship with the Council, which has statutory obligations to place children and young people within the County into appropriate school settings with the appropriate level of funding. Accordingly, there are no adverse legal implications for the changes proposed. In the event a child or young person is adversely impacted by the changes, then legal challenges are possible, but the intended impact of the changes is a positive one and the risk is low.

## **Financial and Risk Implications**

10. This modelling in this paper was completed by Schools Finance. The Risk implications are low.

## **Equalities Implications**

11. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Single Value Top-up model aims to support real choice and opportunity for the individual within their own communities.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

12. As agreed in October 2018 it is proposed to roll out this system from April 2019.