Waltham Forest

Appendix A – Technical Guidance: Place-led funding and commissioning fees for 2014-15

This Appendix covers:

- Place-led funding and commissioning fees for pre-16 HNLI pupils in specialist SEN settings and Alternative Provision.
- Place-led funding and commissioning fees for post-16 HNLI students.
- Commissioning fees for pre-16 HNLI pupils in mainstream Schools in Waltham Forest

A Place-led funding and commissioning fees for pre-16 pupils in specialist SEN settings and Alternative Provision

Special Schools

The LA has been in discussions with specialist SEN settings regarding funding arrangements for 2014-15. This has involved:

- Reviewing the actual take up of places in 2013-14 against places funded and identifying the reasons for the differences.

- Projecting forward the pupils remaining at these settings in 2014-15, identifying new admissions during 2014-15; setting aside places for likely additional pupils and confirming the relevant resource ladder level for each pupil.

- Determining the resultant number of places required for 2014-15.

The outcome has been to change the balance of places between:

- The individual settings in recognition of changes in categories of need;
- Pre-16 and post-16 pupils; and
- In-borough and out-borough pupils.

Appendix B summarises the outcome of those discussions for the **Special Schools and Academies** both in terms of number of places and total cost to the LA. Overall, the result is that the total sum of place-led funding and commissioning fees in 2014-15 is proposed to be **£15.073m (£15,056m** in 2013-14). Both these amounts include place-led funding for post-16 Waltham Forest students. Place led funding for post-16 students is paid directly by the EFA, based on the LA's baseline submissions to the EFA. This amounts to **£1.256m** in 2014-15 leaving **£13.817m** in the HNB.

Special Resource Provisions

Appendix C summarises the outcome of those discussions for **Specialist Resource Provision** in Mainstream Schools and recoupment Academies. The number of places continues to grow with the planned additional provision for primary ASD pupils at Hillyfield Primary Academy from September 2014, an expansion in secondary ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) pupils at Frederick Bremer and primary BESD (Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties) pupils in the PRUs. This will take the total number of places commissioned by the LA from **160** in September 2013 to **180** in September 2014. Total cost rises by **£0.292m** from **£3.235m** to £**3.527**. For 2014-15 the in-year allocation reserved in the HNB for SRP places is **£0.291m** bring the total to **£3.819m** as shown in Appendix C.

Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision

For Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision, place-led funding has been set at £8,000 per pupil by the EFA. In 2013-14 the LA made the provision through the HNB of place-led funding of **£1.088m (136 places)** and commissioning fees of **£0.630m** for the PRUs. Commissioning fees for schools is through a pooled funding arrangement for 2013-14. The funding for Alternative Provision is **£1.200m** for **150** places.

The LA is not proposing a change in the total number of places in the PRU's. However, the split between Pupils on Roll in the (PRU) and Pupils in Forest Pathways College (FPC) needs to be adjusted to reflect the actual trend in demand. This will have an impact on the High Needs Block because the HNB is responsible for the full cost of pupils/places in Forest Pathways. The LA would like to consult Schools Forum for its view of the following four options set out in Appendix F.

The HNB meets the cost of all the places provided but only pays the commissioning fees for pupils admitted through Forest Pathways. It should be noted that the 136 total places is for funding purposes only from the HNB. It does not reflect actual patterns of referral which will regularly go above the 136 notional total. The maximum capacity of the PRUs is 164. In the event that placements in the PRUs exceed the capacity of 164, other arrangements will be made with schools to secure appropriate educational placements.

B Place-led funding and commissioning fees for post-16 students

LAs took over responsibility from the EFA for the funding for post-16 LDD students (these are High Needs Low Incidence students but a different name has been used in FE), other than those already in specialist schools and academies from August 2013. This includes provision for students aged 19-25 where numbers are expected to rise in future years. This was a complex transition as it took place within the 2013-14 financial year. As post-16 funding is based on academic years, the EFA continued to be responsible for meeting costs until the end of July 2013.

Funding transferred to LAs was based on best information available to the EFA and LAs at the time. Up to that point individual colleges and other post-16 providers were not required to keep detailed records of where an LDD student resided and therefore data available was not that secure. The additional funding in 2013-14 from the EFA to Waltham Forest was £1.345m for the commissioning fees as the EFA pays the place-led funding direct to the providers.

More accurate information is now available to the LA regarding the number of places for post-16 students required for 2014/15 academic year (AY). This follows some detailed discussions with most providers – the main ones being our special schools & academies and local colleges.

Table E below shows the main post-16 providers, the number of places allocated for 2013/14 AY (up to July 2014), the number of places actually taken up in September 2013 and our revised proposals for 2014/15 AY . These figures do not include out-borough pupils attending schools and recoupment Academies within Waltham Forest. These settings have the responsibility for ensuring that the commissioning LA agrees

to the place-led funding and the appropriate commissioning fee. The LA has recently written to the special schools and Academies informing them about which LA is responsible for the funding of out-borough pupils at their school. The HNB does not contribute towards the funding (either place-led or commissioning fee) of out-borough post 16 LDD students.

Table E: Post-16 provision 2013/14 and 2014/15

Provider	Planned Places funded 13/14	Planned Places funded 14/15	Change between 13/14 and 14/15
Belmont Park	0	18	18
Joseph Clarke	6	6	-0
Whitefield	31	41	10
William Morris	65	57	-8
Special Resource Provision	2	3	1
Walthamstow Academy	1	0	-1
WF College	26	30	4
Sir G Monoux	3	6	3
Leyton College	8	2	-6
Epping Forest College	26	20	-6
Newham FE College	4	6	2
North London College	7	7	0
Havering FE College	1	5	4
Other colleges	9	11	2
Non-maintained special schools	6	10	4
Independent specialist provider	9	7	-2
Other post-16 settings	11	3	-6
Total	**212**	**232**	**20**

On the basis of the above, we are forecasting that commissioning fees for 2014-15 in further education institutions will be **£1.453m** as shown in **Appendix D**. The commissioning fees in special schools for post 16 students is **£1.388m** as shown in **Appendix B.**

Schools Forum should note that **£0.350m** of the SEN underspend for 2010-11 and 2012-13 was set aside at the September 2013 meeting to develop resource provision in local colleges and sixth forms for young people transferring from special schools and secondary school SRPs.

C Commissioning fees for pre-16 HNLI pupils in Mainstream Schools in Waltham Forest

An exercise has been completed to confirm current eligible pupils in mainstream schools in 2014-15, excluding pupils in SRP. The total cost for this is **£3.036m (Table E)** which is **£0.227m** higher than for 2013-14 because of an increase in the total number of eligible High Needs pupils in mainstream schools from **297 to 320.**

For maintained settings, the LA only meets the commissioning fee for HNLI pupils as the school contributes their AWPU plus £6,000 from their notional SEN budget towards the cost of provision. This is the equivalent of the place-led funding of

£10,000 payable to specialist SEN settings. The figure for primary schools includes additional funding of **£0.082M** paid to **4** primary schools where the total cost of the £6,000 contribution for all HNLI pupils at their school amounted to over **50%** of their SEN notional budget allocation.

The planned expenditure for 2014-15 compared with 2013-14 is set out in **Table E** below following consultation with every school to confirm eligible pupils. These figures do not include Special Resourced Provision which is shown separately in **Appendix C.**

Table E: Planned expenditure on commissioning fees in mainstream schools in Waltham Forest 2013-14

Sector	**2013-14**	**2014-15**	**Change**
	£m	**£m**	**£m**
WF Maintained Nursery schools	0.073	0.023	-0.05
WF Maintained Primary schools	1.873	1.768	-0.105
WF All Through schools	0.062	0.029	-0.033
WF Maintained Secondary schools	0.448	0.495	0.047
WF Academies	0.353	0.721	0.368
Total	**2.809**	**3.036**	**0.227**

This funding has been adjusted for High Needs pupils forecasted to leave during the financial year (e.g. year 6 and year 11 pupils) and for new admissions. There will be the need to make adjustments in-year for agreed changes in the Resource Ladder Level for a pupil following case review, new statements and new HNLI pupils entering Waltham Forest. For 2013-14 Waltham Forest made provision for **£0.374m** for early years and **£0.579m** for pupils aged 5-16. Expenditure to date and in view of the introduction of Education Health and Care plans in 2014-15, this funding will not be sufficient to meet the LA's commissioning fees. Therefore the LA proposes to increase budget provision to **£0.467m** from **£0.374m** and £**0.729m** from **£0.579m** for 2014-15.

Appendix C to this report gives a breakdown in the funding the LA proposes to allocate to each mainstream setting in 2014-15. The layout is similar to that used for 2013-14.