

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date of Meeting(s):** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Subject:** Permanent Exclusion contribution

**Report of:** Colette Dutton – Director Children and Families

**Contact Officer:** Mark Rotheram – Strategic Finance Manager  
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**Summary:** To seek approval to continue to apply a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of pupils. This proposal was first brought to Forum in May 2022

**Recommendation(s):** For Schools Forum to agree the continuation of existing arrangement in the event of a permanent exclusion.

**Implications:**

*What are the **financial** implications?* Contained within the report

*What are the **staffing** implications?* n/a

**Risks:** n/a

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In January 2018 Schools Forum agreed to the introduction of a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of a pupil. This is in addition to the recovery of the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) funding for the pupil. It was agreed following earlier consultation with the secondary sector. The report was again taken to Schools Forum again on 12th May 2022 and agreed to by members.
- 1.3 In view of the time elapsed since this was initially approved, it was felt appropriate that a further report should be brought through Schools Forum to seek agreement for the continuation of this arrangement.

## **2. Summary of contributions/funding recovery**

- 2.1 The value of the contribution currently amounts to a one off £4,000 for each pupil permanently removed off roll and referred to alternative provision. This is the equivalent amount proposed by DFE to be allocated should a permanent exclusion review be held. The amount is a contribution towards the cost of alternative provision if the child should not return to the school.
- 2.2 In addition to this contribution, the basic entitlement (AWPU) funding is recovered from the school or academy on a pro-rata basis. The current amount in each financial year is to be applied based on the key stage.
- 2.3 This funding offsets a proportion of the costs associated with the alternative provision commissioned for the pupil. It is also used to cover the cost of tutoring the LA is required to put in place whilst a child's placement is being considered ie a delay in starting at the PRU or a delay in a school admitting a pupil. In 2022/23 the cost of an alternative provision place at the LA's main provider is £17,441 (place and top up funding). The cost per place is £18,400 in 2023/24.
- 2.4 If this income was not received it would further increase the deficit on our High Needs block which would result in a need to generate further efficiencies and/or increase contributions from elsewhere (such as the schools block).
- 2.5 When initially approved, schools agreed that the contribution would be made to reduce the impact of all schools facing a higher contribution when they do not or rarely use the alternative provision.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are asked to approve the continuation of the current arrangements whereby a school contribution of £4,000 is made to the cost of alternative provision where a pupil is permanently removed from roll. This is in addition to the AWPU recovery.
- 3.2 That this agreement and the value of the recovery/contributions are communicated to all schools/academies in the primary and secondary sector.