

Partnership Charging

Paper for Discussion

Context

In the past financial year, all services accessed through the partnership have been provided to schools with no charge. This means that the full cost for placements set up as a result of Permanent exclusion or full-time placements short of permanent exclusion have been funded by the Partnership. Milltown, Spring Lane and Hub placements have also been free of charge and therefore either a cost to Spring Lane, or to the local authority/partnership. All the aforementioned provision is currently funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is facing significant deficit and demand pressures.

The current situation is unlikely to be sustainable in the long term and creates an inequity between schools who are keeping students and incurring costs themselves whether through making alternative provision or their own enhanced provision, and those that permanently exclude. At present it is difficult for Partnerships to spend proactively in order to avoid exclusion, because there is no guarantee of monies being recouped if a student is excluded.

For the current financial year, the local authority has delegated the following funds to the Partnership:

Budget		
Partnership	£440,000	Includes Partnership manager salary, part cost of assessment centre and funds for AP
Hubs	£330,000	Staffing for hubs
Hub management	£30,000	Provision for maintenance, bills etc.
6 th Day provision (Assessment Centre)	£35,000	£35k also contributed from Partnership funds.

Proposed Charges

Principal

School would be asked to sign up to the Partnership agreement and in doing so they would receive the full range of partnership support and would accept the charges proposed. Schools who did not sign up would not pay the charges and would not access the Partnerships provision.

Charges to be made when a student moves from a school roll to another provision.

Permanent Exclusion - £6000

- It is proposed to charge a flat rate of £6000 at the point of PEX inclusive of pupil led charges.
- It is important that this is the highest charge in order to recognise the fact that schools who do not Permanently exclude will have incurred costs even if the Partnership is meeting the cost of Alternative Provision.
- All authorities recover money on a pupil led basis. With regard to a fixed sum, other North West authorities range from no charge to 6k. One charges £10k if over 3 PEX and another charges 4k in addition to the AWPU which could amount to more than 6k depending on the time in the year.
- A flat rate is simpler than calculating the AWPU etc. in addition to the charge.
- Over the last financial year this would have recovered £192,000

Key Stage Four provisions £5000

- At Key Stage Four some students move to provisions that enable them to follow a pathway suited to their needs. This is agreement with parents and may include placement at Milltown, EPRU or a registered alternative provider
- Historically there has been a charge of £5k for students who come off their school roll and move to Milltown
- In the last financial year there was no charge to schools for this at a cost of approximately £300k
- It was agreed with Headteachers at the last BASH that this charge would be reinstated.

Hub placements £250

- The money that has been allocated to the hubs pays for staffing and supplies such as stationary etc.
- It was felt at the start that it would be necessary to make a small charge per placement to cover lunches etc. This is simpler than attempting to recoup free school meals money etc.

Partnership funding

- Since its inception, the partnership has supported packages and programmes to enable students to be supported to remain in mainstream schools.
- It is intended to continue this with each case being referred to the Partnership for consideration.
- It is intended that the Partnership groups themselves would have ownership of their budget and would decide priorities for spending within the agreed limits.