

Joint Report of Strategic Director, People Group and the Strategic Director, Resources Group

SEN and Out of County Position

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- Note the Special Educational Needs and Out of County expenditure trends

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the last Schools Forum meeting in December, members will recall that following a report detailing the DSG outturn for 2010/11 a discussion was had regarding Out of County Provision.

1.2 This report provides further details for the Forum regarding Out of County costs as well as general Special Educational Needs (SEN) trends.

2.0 Background

2.1 SEN funding is devolved to schools within the local schools funding formula as Statement Funding to mainstream schools and the Special Needs Resources Units in Special Schools. There are also costs for out of county places and in year statement adjustments that are retained within the centrally managed DSG. Table 1 shows the level of this provision.

Table 1

	2008/09 £m	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m
Statements (included in Individual School Budgets)	6.260	6.828	7.209
Special School Pupil Based Funding (included in Individual School Budgets)	11.259	11.543	11.624
Centrally Managed Statements (in year adjustments)	1.699	1.837	1.859
Centrally Managed Out of County	7.120	7.487	8.799
TOTAL	26.338	27.695	29.491

3.0 Out of County

- 3.1 As mentioned in the DSG report contained elsewhere on this agenda, costs of providing out of county SEN provision are increasing. With an anticipated over spend in 2011/12, there is a recommendation to increase the budget for 2012/13 by £1m.
- 3.2 However, this position is factored in to the current SEN review and has essentially instigated the project to assess the costs and opportunities of providing BESD provision within the county. This project is currently underway, having initially completed a review of potential locations.

4.0 Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- 4.1 Table 2 shows the overall pupils with statements over the last four years.

Table 2

Pupils with Statements	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Pre-School	5	3	3	1
Key Stage 1	302	323	309	324
Key Stage 2	720	721	733	706
Key Stage 3	735	739	727	759
Key Stage 4	608	581	520	508
Post-16	174	199	230	205
TOTAL	2,544	2,566	2,522	2,503

- 4.2 Whilst Table 1 shows an increase in costs for SEN provision, overall the number of statements has remained relatively constant.
- 4.3 In terms of geographical split, Table 3 shows the position in 2010/11.

Table 3

	TOTAL number of pupils with statements	%
North	972	38.8%
East	519	20.7%
South	426	17.0%
Central	586	23.5%
TOTAL	2,503	

5.0 Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD)

- 5.1 In terms of the types of SEN pupils in Warwickshire, the 2 areas where there are increases are Autism Spectrum Disorder and BESD. However, the financial impact of these changes is by far the greater in BESD.
- 5.2 Table 4 shows that this is a category affecting both an increase in pupils and also an increase in the percentage of overall statement pupils.

Table 4

Pupils with BESD	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Pre-School	0	0	0	0
Key Stage 1	18	20	30	22
Key Stage 2	105	118	128	128
Key Stage 3	140	135	135	147
Key Stage 4	90	114	109	114
Post-16	4	5	8	7
TOTAL	357	392	410	418
% of total statements	14.03%	15.28%	16.26%	16.7%

- 5.2 Table 5 shows the financial impact of this increase.

Table 5

Pupils with BESD	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Key Stage 1	£143,124	£237,478	£276,101	£228,120
Key Stage 2	£1,138,947	£1,591,777	£1,825,786	£1,951,969
Key Stage 3	£1,356,001	£1,696,217	£2,072,876	£2,526,164
Key Stage 4	£1,512,439	£1,847,382	£2,169,292	£2,737,227
Post-16	£217,643	£45,606	£62,915	£52,137
TOTAL	£4,368,154	£5,418,459	£6,406,970	£7,495,617
% of total statements	32.76%	36.53%	40.04%	42.31%
Average cost per BESD statement	£12,236	£13,823	£15,624	£17,932

- 5.3 The increase in key stages 1 and 2 are be explained by a combination of an increased number of pupils, a greater complexity of needs and the costs of earlier intervention.
- 5.4 Whilst the pupil numbers in key stage 3 and 4 have remained relatively stable, the increase in costs may be as a result of Warwickshire's policy of not delegating budgets to schools or school partnerships but retaining it centrally. It could be that this approach does not encourage cost efficient and collaborative working within schools that then leads to increased costs.
- 5.5 As such, work may need to be undertaken to consider the options of increased delegation alongside the project to asses the feasibility and options available to provide a greater level of BESD provision within the county. Further reports will be brought to the Schools Forum regarding this issue as the project develops.

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