

Agenda Item 9

Schools Forum

27 September 2021

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL REPORT DRAFT

This report is for Information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of this report in relation to the data requested at the Schools Forum Meeting on 14 June 2021

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To provide schools forum with an overview of the Independent School spend and pupil numbers for 2020/21 and the budget and projected spend for 2021/22.

3. Background

- 3.1 Questions have been raised by School Forum Members during 2020/21 on the numbers of pupils occupying these provisions and the associated costs.
- 3.2 The data on pupil numbers have been supplied previously following the presentation of the monitoring reports and this has been distributed outside the meetings.
- 3.3 The data in this report does not show any major fluctuations to previously circulated data but includes additional information that provides background and substance to the decisions. All data is as at 1 April 2021.

3.4 Appendix 1 shows the following

1. The geographical area the educational establishment sits in
2. The school name,
3. The average cost of the placement
4. The number of pupils supported in the Summer 2020, Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021.
5. The Spend for 2020/21 for the period 1/4/20-31/3/21
6. The analysis of Category of Need for each establishment
7. The Budget for 2021/22 for the period 1/4/21-31/3/22
8. Male / Female split

4. Placement Analysis

- 4.1 There were 105 pupils on roll in Independent special schools as at 1 April 2021 and Table 1 shows the analysis by need, whether Sandwell schools were sent consultations prior to placement and the subsequent responses and how many pupils had already attended a specialist provision prior to being placed in an independent setting.

Table 1

	SEMH	SLD	ASD	SLCN	MLD	SpLD	Total
Consultations							
Sandwell Provision Consulted	44	2	12	8	8	1	75
Sandwell Provision Not Consulted	23	1	5		1		30
TOTAL	67	3	17	8	9	1	105
Consultation Responses							
Positive responses			1	2	1		4

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Negative responses	44	2	11	6	7	1	71
TOTAL	44	2	11	7	8	1	73
Those not consulted on							
Lives Out of the Borough	13	1					14
Moved to Sandwell already settled in provision			3				3
Already in provision when assessment started	5						5
Other Reason	5		2		1		8
TOTAL	23	1	5		1		30
Previous Placements within Sandwell							
SCS	24				5		29
Albright	3			1	1		5
Primrose	4		3	1			8
Shenstone	5		2				7
Westminster		1					1
Focus Provision				1			1
TOTAL	36	1	5	3	6		51

4.2 There were 4 positive responses from Sandwell schools and the reason for placing out of borough are:

- 1 Tribunal direction
- 1 Following Mediation
- 1 Parental Preference
- 1 In borough offer withdrawn

4.3 There 8 cases where Sandwell schools were not consulted and the reasons are:

- 1 was placement in 2018 where Shenstone was at capacity, so consultations were not sent out. When it was noted that this was happening an instruction was issued that consultations would be sent regardless of occupancy.
- 1 required a therapeutic provision as part of the placement that was not available in Borough
- 1 was a Tribunal directive
- 3 were already attending the provision in borough where a change was being requested as needs could not be met.
- 1 was a placement in 2019 where SEN deemed the need too complex for placement at an in-borough provision. Consultations are now sent to Sandwell provisions as a matter of course.
- 1 where mainstream was not suitable at Annual Review. Consultations should have been sent to other appropriate Sandwell schools.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

Date: 9/9/21

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