

REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Schools' Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	12 October 2011
SUBJECT:	Update on the Special schools funding formula
REPORT BY:	Paul Snook (Principal School Improvement Adviser - Strategic Projects) & Tony Warnock (Head of Finance – Children's and Specialist Services)
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IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No
IS REPORT EXEMPT?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Schools' Forum on developments since the introduction of the new special schools funding formula in April 2011.

DISCUSSION

A report was presented to the Schools Forum on 26 January 2011 outlining the Local Authority's (LA) proposals to introduce a new funding formula for special schools in April 2011. This followed extensive work and consultation with a wide range of interested parties. The Schools' Forum supported the proposals and this report provides an update on developments since the new funding formula was introduced.

The new formula was introduced with full protection in year one and tapered protection in years 2 and 3. The full year protection in year one has enabled schools to be proactive in preparing for changes to their budget share in the second year; this has proved to be of particular benefit to the small number of special schools facing a reduction in their budget from year two.

A full review of each school's population will take place in the autumn term to ensure that the application of the band descriptors by schools, to identify the level of need at an individual pupil level, reflects their current population. This review will be fully moderated by officers and headteachers prior to agreeing a profile for each of the special schools, to inform their budget for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The original review and subsequent formula did not take into account the needs of the two hospital special schools. It was agreed that these schools would have their budgets set using the original formula in 2011/12 with a revised formula being agreed to inform their budget shares from April 2012. The necessary revision to the formula has been undertaken to accommodate the specific requirements of hospital special schools. This has been achieved without varying the principles on which the special funding formula has been established.

Funding for residential provision in special schools has been agreed. The level of funding for each of the three schools affected has been determined through activity led modeling, based on actual costs rather than a "per bed" allocation, with the schools playing an active role in contributing to this approach.

Officers will continue to work with the special schools to resolve any issues that may emerge from the introduction of the new funding formula.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools' Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

APPENDICES (If applicable) - these are listed below and attached at the back of the report.
None

BACKGROUND PAPERS			
PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY
Report to Schools' Forum	Review and Reconfiguration of special schools and mainstream unit provision	26 January 2011	County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YQ