



Report to: Schools Forum

Date of Meeting(s): 5 March 2020

Subject: Key Stage 2 Alternative Provision Places - Charging

Report of: Eleni Ioannides – Interim Director Children and Families

Contact Officer: John McDonald Strategic Finance Manager
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Summary: To outline the current position in relation to Key Stage 2 places currently commissioned in Alternative Provision and to seek approval to introduce a charge for schools accessing these places.

Recommendation(s): To approve the proposed charges in relation to Key Stage 2 places in Alternative Provision.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?* None

*What are the **staffing** implications?* None

Risks: n/a

Please list any appendices:-

N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Authority currently commissions 18 Key Stage 2 places with our alternative education provider, Three Towers Alternative Provision Academy. The objective of these placements is to provide a programme of intervention and support for pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusion or who have been permanently excluded and to subsequently support the reintegration of pupils into mainstream education or specialist provision as appropriate.
- 1.2 The LA's engagement centres also offer support to Key Stage 2 pupils however this is aimed at earlier intervention. Currently a charge is levied to schools for pupils accessing the places at the engagement centres.
- 1.3 Primary schools are charged for permanent exclusions as previously agreed by Schools Forum. However, there is currently no charge made to schools for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion who access an intervention and support place at Three Towers APA.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to set out the proposal to introduce charges for Key Stage 2 places at Three Towers.

2. Current Position and Rationale

- 2.1 Pupils are admitted to the Key Stage 2 places at Three Towers Alternative Provision Academy (TTAPA) following referral by their primary school via the Council's Targeted Education Support Service (TESS). Pupils attend for a 12-week period initially for 4 days per week, however, where appropriate the number of days is gradually reduced over time as the pupil reintegrates into mainstream education. Placements may be extended beyond the initial 12 weeks.
- 2.2 The places currently commissioned by the Local Authority cost £16,025 and are funded from our High Needs block. Therefore, the current cost of the KS2 places amounts to £288,450 per annum. No cost is recovered from the schools who have pupils admitted to these places.
- 2.3 As reported at the last Schools Forum meeting, we are currently projecting an overspend of £3.5 million on our High Needs block.
- 2.4 The LA's engagement centres provide places for Key Stage 2 pupils attending on a 2 day per week basis. The charge currently levied to schools for pupils admitted to these places is £1,000 for a 12-week period.
- 2.5 In addition, we currently have 4 Key Stage 1 places at Three Towers Academy which are commissioned directly by primary schools. Schools accessing these places are charged directly by Three Towers Academy and

the charges are a pro-rated equivalent to the top up funding provided for the places at the Academy of £6,025.

- 2.5 The intention is that the intervention places at Three Towers are utilised for those students requiring higher levels of support. However, there is a risk that schools may seek places at Three Towers for KS2 pupils, where the engagement centres may be more appropriate, as these places are currently provided free of charge.
- 2.6 Furthermore, some students have been referred into the Three Towers provision whilst in Year 6 and have not subsequently returned to primary mainstream education. In other phases, this would normally result in a charge being levied to the school.

3. Basis of Proposed Charge

3.1 In light of the above it is proposed that a charge is introduced to schools in relation to pupils admitted to the Key Stage 2 places at Three Towers Alternative Provision Academy. It is proposed that the basis of the charge is commensurate with the current values levied for the engagement centres (adjusted to reflect the additional 2 days support) and also the charges to schools for the key stage 1 places which are commissioned.

3.2 The charges will be based on the value of the top up funding provided for each place of £6,025. This equates to a charge of **£1903** for an initial 12-week placement calculated as follows:

$$£6,025 / 38 \text{ weeks (term time)} \times 12 \text{ weeks} = £1,903$$

3.3 The introduction of the charge could potentially generate income for the Local Authority to offset the pressures on the High Needs block of £108,450 per annum if all places are filled for the full year. (£6,025 x 18 places).

3.4 If agreed, it is recommended that the charges are implemented for all new placements from the beginning of the 2020/21 financial year.

4. Recommendations

4.1 To agree to the proposed charges to schools and associated values in respect of pupils accessing Key Stage 2 places at Three Towers Alternative Provision Academy.