

Report- Key Stage 2 Alternative Provision Places –  
Charging



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b>
<b>Date of Meeting(s):</b>	<b>15 October 2020</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Key Stage 2 Alternative Provision Places - Charging</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Colette Dutton – Interim Director Children and Families</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>John McDonald Strategic Finance Manager Cath Peeling Interim Assistant Director (Education)</b>
<b>Summary:</b>	To provide proposals on the value of potential charges for KS2 Alternative Provision Places at Three Towers. A charge was agreed in principal at a previous forum meeting.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	To select an appropriate option and approve the value of the charges in relation to Key Stage 2 places in Alternative Provision.
<b>Implications:</b>	
<i>What are the <b>financial</b> implications?</i>	Contained within the report
<i>What are the <b>staffing</b> implications?</i>	None
<b>Risks:</b>	n/a

Please list any appendices:-

N/A

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Authority currently commissions 24 Key Stage 2 intervention and support places with our alternative education provider, Three Towers Alternative Provision Academy. 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.
- 1.2 A report was presented to Schools Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 on proposals to introduce charges in respect of these places. At this meeting Schools Forum agreed in principle to the introduction of a charge for these places.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to present options on the potential basis for the agreed charge and seek agreement from Schools Forum on the value.

## 2. Background and Proposals

- 2.1 A copy of the report presented to Schools Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 is included at Appendix 1. Following consideration of this report, the minutes of the meeting note that:

*'It was agreed that in principal the proposals would be approved by Schools Forum and a further review of these proposed charges would be carried out.'*

- 2.2 The value proposed at this time was £6,025 per annum which would be pro-rated to reflect the length of the placement. This was the value of the per place top up funding provided to Three Towers and aligned with the charges levied for Key Stage 1 places which were commissioned directly by schools.
- 2.3 The primary concern was in relation to how this value compared with the cost of permanent exclusions. For information, the full year charge to a maintained primary school for a permanent exclusion is currently £6,916 (AWPU and Locally agreed charge).
- 2.4 In view of the above, options have been considered and these are detailed below for review by Schools Forum:

### Option 1

**£2916 per annum** – This is the current AWPU recovery value used in the event of a permanent exclusion. The cost to a school of a 12 week placement would be £921 (£2,916/38 weeks x 12 weeks). It is proposed that if this option is agreed this would be adjusted each year to account for increases in the AWPU value in the funding formula.

## **Option 2**

**£3,750 per annum** – This is the current minimum per pupil funding level which is included in the funding formula for primary schools. This is the minimum which any primary school would receive per pupil. The cost to a school of a 12 week placement would be £1,184 ( $\text{£}3,750/38 \text{ weeks} \times 12 \text{ weeks}$ ). It is proposed that if this option is agreed this would be adjusted each year to account for increases in the minimum per pupil funding value in the funding formula.

## **Option 3**

**£6,025 per annum** – As per the original proposal this aligns with the top up value currently levied by three towers (notwithstanding the lump sum funding agreed at the last forum meeting). The cost to a school of a 12 week placement would be £1,903 ( $\text{£}6,025/38 \text{ weeks} \times 12 \text{ weeks}$ ). This would not be amended year on year but would remain constant until such time as it was felt that further review was appropriate which would be completed in consultation with Schools Forum.

- 2.5 Once a value for the charge has been agreed, it is proposed that this is introduced for any new Key Stage 2 placements from the beginning of the Spring Term 2021.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 To agree one of the options above or suggest an alternative in respect of the charges to be levied to schools in respect of Key Stage 2 places at Three Towers Alternative Provision Academies.