

Report to: Schools Forum

Date of Meeting(s): 26th June 2025

Subject: Permanent Exclusion contribution

Report of: Colette Dutton – Director Children and Families

Contact Officer: Mark Rotheram – Strategic Finance Manager
Kirsten Reid – Group Finance Manager

Summary: To seek approval to continue to apply a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of pupils. This proposal continues to be brought back to forum annually.

Recommendation(s): For Schools Forum to agree the continuation of existing arrangement in the event of a permanent exclusion.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?* Contained within the report

*What are the **staffing** implications?* n/a

Risks: n/a

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2018 Schools Forum agreed to the introduction of a school's contribution to the cost of alternative provision following the permanent exclusion of a pupil. This is in addition to the recovery of the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) funding for the pupil. It was agreed following earlier consultation with the secondary sector. The report was again taken to Schools Forum on 12th May 2022, 19th October 2023 and on the 27th June 2024 and again agreed to by members.
- 1.3 It was felt appropriate that this agreement would be brought back every year for approval so that members could discuss with their colleagues in consideration of any new headteachers.

2. Summary of contributions/funding recovery

- 2.1 The value of the contribution currently amounts to a one off £4,000 for each pupil permanently removed off roll and referred to alternative provision. This is the equivalent amount proposed by DFE to be allocated should a permanent exclusion review be held. The amount is a contribution towards the cost of alternative provision if the child should not return to the school.
- 2.2 In addition to this contribution, the basic entitlement (AWPU) funding is recovered from the school or academy on a pro-rata basis. The current amount in each financial year is to be applied based on the key stage.
- 2.3 This funding offsets a proportion of the costs associated with the alternative provision commissioned for the pupil. It is also used to cover the cost of tutoring the LA is required to put in place whilst a child's placement is being considered i.e. a delay in starting at AP or a delay in a school admitting a pupil. In 2025/26 the cost of an alternative provision place at the LA's main provider is £19,100 (place and top up funding). Although 193 places are commissioned the school is not always able to take pupils due to capacity on certain year groups, identified risks, or the provision's ability to meet specific SEND needs. On these occasions places are sought elsewhere at additional cost.
- 2.4 Since 2018 the number of permanent exclusions has risen. The estimated number per year is shown in the table below.

Academic year	No of exclusions
AY18/19	29
AY19/20	70
AY20/21	46
AY21/22	91
AY22/23	109
AY23/24	125
AY24/25	93

At the time of writing this report there were 93 pupils permanently excluded during the 24/25 academic year.

- 2.5 If this income was not received it would further increase the deficit on our High Needs block which would result in a need to generate further

efficiencies and/or increase contributions from elsewhere (such as the schools block). In other areas the full permitted 0.5% top slice is taken from the Schools block and transferred to the High Needs Block. For the Wigan locality this would have equated to a transfer of over £1.4m compared with the £0.750m actually approved.

- 2.6 When initially approved, schools agreed that the contribution would be made to reduce the impact of all schools facing a higher contribution when they do not or rarely use the alternative provision.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are asked to approve the continuation of the current arrangements whereby a school contribution of £4,000 is made to the cost of alternative provision where a pupil is permanently removed from roll. This is in addition to the AWPU recovery.
- 3.2 That this agreement and the value of the recovery/contributions are communicated to all schools/academies in the primary and secondary sector.