

**REPORT TO:** School Forum

**DATE:** 19 March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

**SUBJECT:** Pupil Referral Unit Funding

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report provides a summary of the changes to the funding of pupil referral provision and seeks approval to carry forward any underspend from 2012/2013 into 2013/2014.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

**2.1 School Forum note the delegation arrangements from April 2013;**

**2.2 Request an update on the top up rates at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March; and**

**2.3 Approve the carryforward of any unspent PRU balances within the DSG from 2012/2013 to 2013/2014.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 As part of the funding reforms the Local Authority is required to put in place arrangements for PRUs to have delegated budgets by April 2013. This is to allow Management Committees to have the delegated powers necessary to run PRUs.

3.2 Currently both PRUs are funded from the centrally retained element of the Dedicated Schools Budget. In 2012/2013 the Key Stage 4 PRU budget was £649,000 and the Key Stage 3 PRU budget was £470,000.

3.3 Under the new funding arrangements PRUs will be funded from the high needs element of the Dedicated Schools Budget. They will receive base funding of £8,000 for the number of places agreed with the Authority in August 2012. The place numbers agreed for the Key Stage 4 PRU is 40 – this gives a base budget of £320,000 and the numbers agreed for Key Stage 3 provision is 20 giving a base budget of £160,000.

3.4 Work is currently being finalised on the top up rates for both PRUs from April 2013. Top up funding will follow the real time movements of the pupils and will differ dependent on the students needs. The final top up rates will be circulated to the School Forum prior to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

3.5 As the PRUs do not currently have a delegated budget in 2012/2013 there will be no minimum funding guarantee. However, as the new funding

arrangements are likely to impact on the current funding levels and could cause some uncertainty for 2013/2014 School Forum are requested to agree that any underspend on the two PRU budgets for 2012/2013 is carried forward and used to support the provision in 2013/2014.

- 3.6 For pupils excluded from mainstream schools the current arrangements will continue with schools paying back the relevant AWPU along with the £9,000 charge.
- 3.7 Under the funding reforms where early intervention is provided at either of the PRUs but the pupil remains on the mainstream on the school roll in 2013/2014 this provision will continue to be offered at no costs to the mainstream school. This is a temporary arrangement agreed with the EFA for one year only. From 2014/2015 the relevant proportion of the high needs budget will be delegated the schools who will then be responsible for paying the top up element direct to the PRU.

**4.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
School Funding Reform Arrangements 2013/2014	DFE website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision