

REPORT TO: School Forum
DATE: 21st January 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director-Children Organisation and Provision
SUBJECT: Pupil Referral Unit
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform School Forum
- of the Budget Arrangements for The Bridge Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) 2014/2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That School Forum:

2.1 agree to a continuation of the high needs top up arrangement in place for early intervention.

2.2 approve the carry forward of any unspent PRU balances within the DSG from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 To comply with new funding regulations Schools Forum agreed in March 2013 to delegate budgets to the PRU Management Committee to give them the powers necessary to run the PRUs.
- 3.2 In 2014/2015 The Bridge School (PRU) will receive the same base funding of £8,000 per pupil for 60 places(480,000) as 2013/2014
- 3.2 In 2013/14 a temporary arrangement was in place with the EFA for early intervention provided at a PRU whilst the pupil remained on the roll of a school. This provision was provided at no cost to the school and was funded by the local authority through a top up from the high needs budget. A review of Alternative Provision (AP) is underway that will inform the future funding arrangements for The Bridge School and the top up element from the high needs budget that will be delegated to the schools for early intervention.
- 3.3 Confirmation has been received that the LA can continue with the arrangement to retain the top up element for early intervention. Schools Forum are therefore requested to agree to an extension to this arrangement for a further financial year.
- 3.4 Schools Forum are requested to agree that any underspend on The

Bridge school budget be carried forward and used to support the uncertainty over the intervention place requirements in 2014/2015.

- 3.5 For pupils excluded from mainstream school the current arrangements will continue with schools paying back the relevant AWPU along with £9,000.