

HIGH NEEDS

BMG update – December 2020



Budget Modelling Group met on 26th November 2020, and discussed the following with regard to the additional High Needs Block allocation in 2021/22

- Consideration was made to a risk assessment around use of funding and requirement to ensure that decisions made are an efficient and effective use of funding and are sustainable for the future. We need to be mindful that future funding levels beyond 2021/22 are uncertain.
- BMG has set up a sub group to look at funding Trauma Informed training for Plymouth Schools – this group will have met twice by the date of Forum.
- BMG has looked at initial proposals for funding Transition Support for Home Education pupils. These proposals are being worked on and presented again at a future BMG meeting.
- Exceptional Cohort Funding for Mainstream Schools – discussed and approved a 10% increase in the exceptional cohort funding rate (currently £3000), as this was not increased when all the other top-up banding rates were increased in 2020/21. The approximate cost of this is £45,300, however this could be slightly different as the formula is reworked annually.
- Band 8 and 8+ review – subject raised as an area requiring consideration, to be reviewed at a future BMG meeting.

Recommendation - BMG recommends that Forum approve a 10% increase to the Exceptional Cohort banding rate in 2021/22 to £3,300 per pupil over the expected number, per the existing calculation.

- **Primary and Secondary AEP proposals:**
(refer to additional papers 6.2 and 6.3)

Recommendations for forum approval – actions per paper 6.2

- An Inclusion Project Board will be established in partnership with schools (primary, secondary, special and AP) and the local authority.
- This Project Board will oversee the development of this work, including the vision, outcomes to be achieved, KPI, impact evaluation and final costings of the projects.
- The Project Board will monitor the evaluation of the pilots and coordinate the proposals of sustainable provision.
- Future High Needs Funding requirement proposals will be reported back to Schools Forum in order to be considered within the HNB Budget Modelling Group plan for 2021/22.