

Agenda Item**Report to Schools Forum****For Recommendation****Date 2nd December 2024****Author Phil Herd****Contact****email P.Herd@Bury.gov.uk****Revised Funding Arrangements for The Pupil Referral Unit****Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval from Forum for the recommended revised funding arrangements for the PRU.

Background

The current funding arrangements for the PRU are that 136 places are paid at £10,000 plus historic TPPG (Teacher Pay & Pension Grant) at £660. The additional top up funding of £8,590 is funded based upon occupancy. Totalling £19,250 per occupied Permanently Excluded (PEX) place per annum.

The PRU also take EHCP students for which there are not sufficient special school places in Bury. EHCP pupils are funded via the Bury Special School Banding Model.

The split of places is 90 permanent exclusion places (PEX) and 46 EHCP places.

Spring Lane is experiencing increasing challenges in behaviour and the level of PEX top up funding and lack of guaranteed level of funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of the cohort.

There are also issues with buildings meaning increasing demand for expensive AP packages which are putting some pressure on the PSV .

Proposal

The proposal is that the top up funding is increased to £10,250 and that 90% (81 number) of the PEX places are guaranteed. In practice this 90% should always be achieved but it reduces bureaucracy in that currently funding is allocated every time a pupil is admitted.

The £10,250 is comparable to other GM LA's

Funding for PEX pupils above the 90% will be based on termly Census data and the £10,250 pro-rata accordingly.

EHCP funding will remain per the Bury Special School Banding Model.

Financial Implications

The proposals can be met within the current Management Plan for the High Needs Block.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Forum approve this proposal.