



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 11th October 2022

Proposals for 2023/24 high needs block place funding

Open

Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment

Key Decision: No

Agenda Item 5

Wards Affected: (All Wards); All

Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of the report

The report summarises the commissioning approach for place funding for special educational needs provision in receipt of high needs funding for children and young people with special educational needs.

The report highlights the process for agreeing the commissioned places for the financial and academic years 2023 to 24 and details the proposals by each provision type.

Schools Forum are asked to note the contents of the report.

1. Introduction.

1.1. Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F) is responsible for ensuring sufficient local provision for children and young people with special educational needs. This includes ensuring there is suitable provision and sufficient numbers and types of specialist placements to meet local and regional needs in H&F.

1.2. Place funding is allocated to :

- All types of special schools, apart from independent special schools
- All types of mainstream school with an SEN unit or Resource Provision and/or for a sixth form that has pupils with high needs
- All types of colleges that educate students who have high needs.

1.3. Place funding is allocated as an annual amount of core high needs funding. Once place funding is allocated, it is not associated with or reserved for a special local authority or individual pupil or student and cannot be withdrawn if a place is not occupied. It provides all eligible schools and colleges with a guaranteed budget for the year and provides them a degree of financial stability.

2. The place change notification process.

- 2.1. The process for notifying the Educations and Standards Funding Agency (ESFA) for Academic year 2023/24 is due to be completed by the local authority (LA) in November 2022 with the outcomes published in January 2023. This is for high needs place number changes for alternative provision, academies, free schools, FE colleges and sixth form colleges.
- 2.2. The LA has local flexibility to change funded place numbers at maintained schools. The numbers are required to be included in each LA's section 251 (s251) budget return for 2023 to 2024, due to be completed in April 2023.

3. Maintained schools proposed place commissioning numbers for financial year 2023/24 (FY 2023/24).

- 3.1. The proposals and FY 2023/24 cost impact are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – maintained schools place commissioning proposal

Setting	2022/23 Commissioned Numbers	2023/24 Proposed Commissioned Number	FY 2023/24 cost £	Additional cost impact £
Cambridge	117	129	1,290,000	120,000
Jack Tizard	70	70	700,000	0
Woodlane	100	100	1,000,000	0
Miles Coverdale (see detail below)	20	20	176,000	56,000
Total			3,166,000	176,000

Miles Coverdale Resource Unit

- 3.2. The proposal is to continue to commission 20 places at the resource unit within Miles Coverdale Primary School.
- 3.3. In the latest Summer 2022 School census, the school have recorded twenty pupils as being in the unit. Six of these pupils have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and fourteen pupils have an SEN support requirement.
- 3.4. The academic year (AY) 2021/22 KS1 pilot at the school has ended. This means that there are six EHCP places being filled at the unit with fourteen void places as the LA can no longer pay top-up for the fourteen SEN support pupils. This has an adverse impact on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block (HNB). Each void place costs £10,000 to the HNB rather than the £6,000 HNB contribution if the place is filled.
- 3.5. A proposal to continue the previous pilot is in train and a governance report is being written. If this proposal is agreed, the place funding costs to the HNB will remain as they are for the FY 2022/23 with no additional financial impact.

Cambridge School

- 3.6. The proposal is to increase the number of commissioned places by twelve at an additional FY 2022/23 cost of £120,000. This reflects the additional pupils on roll at the summer term of the AY 2021/22.

Jack Tizard School

- 3.7. There is no financial impact as the proposal is to maintain the number of places at Jack Tizard School at the existing commissioned level of 70.

Wood Lane High School

- 3.8. There is no financial impact as the proposal is to maintain the number of places at Wood Lane High School at the existing commissioned level of 100.

4. Academies, F.E. College and Sixth Form college proposed place commissioning numbers for academic year 2023/24 (AY 23/24).

- 4.1. The proposals and FY 2024/24 financial impact are shown in Table 2.

4.2. Table 2 - Academies, F.E. College and Sixth Form college place commissioning proposal.

Setting	2022/23 Commissioned Numbers	2023/24 Proposed Commissioned Number	FY 2023/24 cost £	Cost impact £
Queens Manor Primary School (see detail below)	20	20	132,000	-31,334
Queensmill Academy	246	246	2,460,000	0
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	300	300	1,800,000	0
William Morris Sixth Form	50	50	300,000	0
Total			4,692,000	-31,334

- 4.3. Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
The proposed commissioned places of 300 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

- 4.4. William Morris Sixth Form
The proposed commissioned places of 50 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

- 4.5. Queensmill Academy

The proposed commissioned places of 246 for the academic year 2023/24 represent no change to the current commissioned places.

4.6. Queens Manor Resource unit

The proposal is to commission 20 places for the academic year 2023/24 which represents no change to the current commissioned places at the Resource unit.

4.7. There are currently 17 pupils registered at the unit which has increased from 8 previously registered. This affects the cost of funding the unit as each filled place generates a cost of £6000 per place to the High Needs Block (HNB) rather than £10000 per void place. If these numbers remain at this level in the October 2022 census, there will be a reduction in HNB costs of £31,334 in the financial year 2023/24.

5. Alternative Provision proposed place commissioning numbers for academic year 2023/24 (AY 23/24).

5.1. The proposals and FY 2023/24 impact are shown in Table 3.

5.2. **Table 3 – Alternative Provision place commissioning proposal.**

Setting	AY 2022/23 Commissioned Numbers	Total cost for FY 2022/23 £	Total cost for FY 2023/24 £	Cost Impact £
Ormiston Bridge Academy – AP	50 (includes 5 EHCP places)	591,667	500,000	-91,667
Ormiston Courtyard Academy – AP	14 (includes 6 EHCP places)	148,333	140,000	-8,333
Total	64	740,000	640,000	-100,000

5.3. The proposed commissioned numbers for the Academic Year (AY) 2023/24 represent a reduction of 24 places from the AY 2021/22 where a total of 88 places were commissioned. For the AY 2022/23 there are 64 places commissioned so there is no change proposed for the AY 2023/24.

Report ends