

Schools Funding Forum 25 September 2019

ITEM 10

Subject Heading:

**Elective Home Education (EHE)
Transfer of Funding Between
Schools**

Report Author:

**Janet James – Admissions and
Inclusions Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This item proposes a change in the current funding arrangements to support the re-engagement of vulnerable EHE pupils back into school.

Currently, Havering has 185 EHE pupils from across all year groups many of whom could be encouraged and supported to re-engage back into mainstream education.

EHE pupils are not included in any census that determines the DSG funding received by local authorities, a loss of approximately £750,000. Schools are funded on the pupils on roll at the October census for the following financial year and currently retain this funding until the end of the year for pupils who leave mid-year.

Arrangements are already in place for the transfer between schools of AWPU and Pupil Premium funding for pupils who have been permanently excluded and for those subject to managed moves.

This document proposes to implement the same funding arrangements for pupils who are EHE to support them in engaging back into education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To agree the proposals for pupils removed from a school roll for EHE as follows:

- (i) AWPU and Pupil Premium to be recovered (pro rata) from schools by the LA when a pupil becomes EHE
- (ii) AWPU and Pupil Premium funding paid (pro rata) to the receiving school
- (iii) To commence these arrangements from 1st September 2019

REPORT DETAIL

1. Current Provision

Havering has a range of Alternative Provision strategies in place to support vulnerable pupils. Alternative Provisions are available for pupils who have become disengaged from mainstream education including those pupils identified by schools who are at risk of, or who have been Fixed Term or Permanently Excluded.

Support for primary school aged pupils is available through the 'Waves of Intervention' with primary schools accessing Alternative Provision for those pupils who are most at risk of exclusion.

The profiles of pupils who access alternative provisions are those:

- who have medical needs
- at risk of fixed term exclusions
- at risk of permanent exclusion
- who have been permanently excluded
- at risk of criminal exploitation
- returning to education from EHE

Summary of Havering Alternative Provisions	Primary	Secondary
Transition Program Pupils requiring a Statutory Assessment for an EHCP and who are unable to sustain their mainstream school place	✓	✓
The Bridge (24 places w.e.f. 1/9/19) Pupils with medically supported conditions who are unable to attend mainstream school		✓
Hospital Education Pupils in hospital and are unable to attend mainstream school	✓	✓
LBH Approved Alternative Provisions (AP) Pupils at risk of exclusion and require an intervention. Pupils with medically supported conditions who may require tutoring, mentoring and are unable to attend mainstream school	✓	✓
Olive AP Academy (40 places w.e.f. 1/4/20 reduced from 64) Pupils who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school		✓

2. Elective Home Education

Elective Home Education is the term used by the Department for Education (DfE) to describe parents' decisions to provide education for their children at home instead of sending them to school and may also be used to meet the requirements to participate in education or training up to the age of 18 or 25 if an SEN pupil.

Local Authorities are currently unable to be involved in the education of Elective Home Educated (EHE) pupils.

The London Borough of Havering recognises the right of parents to educate their children at home at any stage up to the end of compulsory school age. This right applies equally for the parents of children with special educational needs (SEN).

Home education is an option that parents can consider for their children. There are many reasons that a parent may decide to electively home educate. Some parents may base their decision on their philosophical, spiritual or religious outlook. For others it may be to meet the specific needs of their child. Sometimes it may be because of dissatisfaction with the education 'system' or to be used as a short term intervention for a particular reason. Regardless of the reason for EHE, the London Borough of Havering aims to ensure parents are fully informed when making their decision and aim to support parents with making their choice.

Currently there are 185 pupils who are home educated and the Admissions & Inclusions team is working towards reducing this figure significantly over this academic year 2019/20.

Schools currently challenge the Admissions & Inclusions Team where EHE pupils are being referred back into mainstream education. The main concern schools have voiced is because there is no funding following the pupil to assist with supporting their education.

When pupils become EHE, their funding remains with their last school. This means that schools admitting EHE pupils mid-year do not receive any funding for these pupils.

Some of these pupils may be particularly vulnerable and could potentially be an additional expense for the receiving school or require an Alternative Provision. This proposal aims to change the current arrangements so that receiving schools are given AWPU (pro rata) funding to support these pupils.

3. Proposals

When a pupil is removed from their school roll for the purpose of EHE, AWPU funding currently remains with the school. The proposed changes to the current funding arrangements for EHE pupils will support the Local Authority (LA) to re-engage pupils back into mainstream education and ensure that, where schools enroll EHE pupils 'In Year', they receive appropriate funding.

This proposal is:

- (i) for any remaining AWPU and Pupil Premium funding within the financial year to be recovered from the school by the Local Authority from the date the pupil is taken off roll; and
- (ii) for AWPU and Pupil Premium funding to be allocated to the admitting school pro rata from the date of admission to the end of the financial year

This new approach is based on the same arrangements already in place for permanently excluded pupils in that money follows the pupil.