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Ref: JM/LE
Date: 11th March 2016

Dear Colleague,

Re Alternative Provision and Funding reform for pupils on placement out of their Mainstream school.

Following a detailed review of the statutory guidance entitled **School Funding Reform: Next Steps Towards a Fairer System, 2012, Dfe** and **High Needs Funding: Alternative Provision Additional Guidance 2016-17, September 2015, Dfe**, consultation took place with Schools Forum, High Needs Block Sub Group and the membership of the Behaviour and Attendance Board.

I am writing to notify you of two key changes relating to how we fund alternative provision for children who need a placement out of their mainstream school that has been approved by those representative groups. The changes and timelines are as follows:

1. Changes to the way in which our PRUs are funded

We are changing the way in which our PRUs are funded to bring us in line with Dfe guidance. Currently the whole cost of a PRU placement (£15000) is met from High Needs Block. In future, the Local Authority will delegate £10,000 per pupil place directly to the PRU. Schools/academies that seek the support of the PRU for a pupil placement will fund the 'plus' or top up element direct to the PRU. The top up amount has been agreed at £5000 per pupil placement for any pupils placed in the PRU from September 2016. The top up figure reflects national averages, mid value bandings for SEN and is currently within the notional SEN budget of a school /academy. The top-up amount will be charged pro-rata based on length of placement.

2. Avoiding perverse incentives for the use of permanent exclusion

As above: whether or not a permanent exclusion notified to the LA is prevented, the top up value of £5000 pro rata will be passed directly to the receiving school or alternative provider where a change of placement occurs. In order to continue to drive inclusive behaviour across the borough and to avoid creating a perverse incentive to Headteachers to exclude Pupils the levy similar to that which is already agreed with Secondary Principals for permanent exclusions at Key Stage 3 (£10000) will be extended from September 2016 across all Key Stages. The levy

will only apply in situations where the school/academy insist on completing a permanent exclusion rather than seeking alternatives to meet individual children's needs. The levy will be used to fund the alternative placements for those children and young people subject to a permanent exclusion. We expect to only raise the levy in exceptional circumstances and to continue to work collaboratively with schools and academies to offer appropriate alternative placements for children and young people who require them.

We intend to meet with Headteacher forums during the summer term to explain the rationale and statutory guidance that has formed the basis of the changes and to answer any questions you may have. The statutory guidance referred to can be accessed via the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462503/HighNeeds AP Guide 0.4.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462503/HighNeeds_AP_Guide_0.4.pdf)

The detailed proposals presented and discussed with various forums are also attached.

If you have any immediate questions please contact me on 01302 737201.

Yours sincerely



Jo Moxon
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Education Learning and Achievement
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