

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Home and Continuing Education Service is Wirral's response to its statutory duty to provide a suitable education for children who cannot attend school because of their medical needs. 1 in 10 school children will suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder¹ which is reflected in the referrals to the service (approximately 90% are through CAMHS).

This report makes proposals for a renewed service that will cater for the needs of the young people, families and schools of Wirral by providing the appropriate level of resources, facilities and accommodation that allow the effective running of the service in accordance with our statutory duties

2. BACKGROUND

The Home and Continuing Education Service aims to respond to the changing needs of Wirral's children who cannot attend school for physical or mental health reasons by:

- Providing a suitable education for the children of Wirral who have medical needs that prevents them from attending school by ensuring that: that they make the best educational progress that their health needs allows and that they achieve outcomes that allow them to access the most suitable pathway to prepare them for their future success.
- Providing sufficient hours of continuing education in line with statutory guidance; the equivalent of full-time or for the number of hours the child's health condition allows. "Full-time education" is not defined in law but it should equate to what the pupil would normally have in school – for example, for pupils in Key Stage 4 full-time education in a school would usually be 25 hours a week. When education is delivered via one to one tuition it is not, necessarily, expected to be 25 hours a week.² One to one teaching is, by its nature, more intense than class teaching
- Developing a multiagency approach to a graduated pathway for sick children that enables access to a full or fuller time education in the most appropriate education setting for that child, e.g. 1:1 teaching, small group teaching, part or full time within a mainstream or special school. The overarching aim is that the child should be as fully included in the education process as their health condition allows.

¹ Future in Mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing NHS England DoH 2015 Chapter 3 page 25

² Ensuring a Good Education for Children who cannot attend school because of health needs. May 2013 DFE-00307-2013 page 4

For many years the service was managed by the Head teacher of the Hospitals' School. The service moved by agreement to the Hilbre High School site in November 2016 and is now established in the front third of the CLC building. This change has prompted a review of the service's role and the need to respond to the changing demands being put onto schools and the LA. E.g. the increase in pupils whose mental ill health prevent them from attending school, the inclusion of social, emotional and mental health as a category in the new SEN Code of Practice, an increase in complex pupils needing 1:1 support whilst waiting for a new school placement.

The Current Structure

Head of Service (Full time permanent contract)

2 x 0.4 permanent contract general teachers

1 x 0.3 permanent contract general teacher

∴ = 1.1 equivalent full time contracted teachers

1 casually employed Learning Mentor

1 x 0.4 administration assistant

16 casually employed teachers

To June 2017 113 pupils have been or are being supported by the service during 2016/2017 academic year

Impact of Current Structure

The service is not adequately resourced to cater for the number of students who have been referred. The trend is for increased numbers of pupils to be referred for medical reasons.

September 2016 – July 2017

Supported 113 pupils

Medical 14

CAMHS 81

LA/funded 20

Average hours per week received by pupils to July 17 = 4.75

Range is 3.3h - 6.26h

	F2	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y 5	Y 6	Y 7	Y 8	Y 9	Y 10	Y 11	Y 12	Y 13	Y 14	
No	2	3	3	0	0	4	3	8	7	19	20	31	8	4	1	113
Av teaching hours		5				5	5	6.25 ⁱ	5	3.14	5	4	5.4	3.3	5	

This is unlikely to be sustainable or meet needs.

Recruitment of additional suitable teachers began in January first of whom was processed to start working in May. Having most of the teachers employed on a casual basis means that their availability is variable. We, therefore, have to work around staff availability rather than pupil need. It also does not allow for efficient delivery of the service, division of responsibility and succession planning. In addition, there is no directed time. Casual staff are invited to INSET only when it is essential, e.g. safeguarding due to cost of paying teachers on an hourly rate.

Proposed Structure

Head of Service

1 Deputy Head of Service

= 2 days admin (2.5 days student services/2.5 days finance)/ inc exam invigilation

= 2 full time teachers assume U1

1 Learning Mentor (27 hours per week)

Supply (based on 30 pupils@ 10h/week @ £30/h inc on costs for 20 weeks over a year)

With this revised structure in place and existing AWPU charges budget shortfall of £130,000 would result

To achieve these improvement measures offered to Wirral pupils, it is proposed that after 1 term (12 weeks) on home education a contribution of approximately £80 per week per pupil would be charged from the pupil's main school to the home education budget. This is in line with charges made by other alternative provisions.

82 pupils needed 1 terms or more Home Education in 2016/2017 and on this basis would generate £80,000 income, leaving a net shortfall of **£50,000**.

Impact of Proposed Structure

This would enable the service to effectively:

- provide a core offer of the hours of up to 10 hours tuition per week per student in at least English, Maths and Science
- ensure continued progress, achievement and attainment, within the capability of the pupil, while they are out of full time education
- make an important contribution to the safeguarding of pupils
- provide accurate and regular data regarding attendance and progress to the pupil's main school
- reduce the time between referral and start of teaching and enable the efficient reintegration of pupils into full/fuller time school.
- work with schools and the LA to facilitate pupils' timely re-integration into a full/fuller time place within an appropriate educational setting e.g. their home school, resourced base, special school
- provide outstanding specialist teachers appropriate for the pupils' age, stage and learning needs, by ensuring that staff skills are developed
- work collaboratively with other agencies e.g. CAMHS, Social Care, Community Paediatricians, regional and national centres of excellence, Troubled Families and , to holistically support the pupil

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the Forum note the report and the additional demands on the current budget in 2017-18 of £50,000.**
- 2. The Forum note the additional commitment within the High Needs Contingency and that these additional costs are considered as part of the budget for 2018-19.**
- 3. That a further update is brought to the Forum in 6 months' time.**

Deborah Gornik
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