

West Northants Schools Forum: 14 December 2021

Agenda Item 7

High Needs Places for 2022-23 Academic Year

1 Background

- 1.1 LAs have a duty to set high needs places for schools and post-16 further education by the end of February preceding the academic year.
- 1.2 The places should be consulted upon with the education providers and consulted with Schools Forum. For academies (not including -free AP academies) the LA must submit a High Needs Change Place return to the ESFA with the places agreed with them, in early November.
- 1.3 The appendix A to this paper provides Schools Forum with the full picture of high needs places being set for WNC for academic year 2022-23.

2 Empty Places

- 2.1 The LA also publish the "empty places" in the appendix A for mainstream schools and academies. This is because those places are to be funded at £10k and not the regular £6k that other mainstream pre-16 high needs places have funded because those pupils that are in the census will generate at least £4k for the schools budget through the NFF (AWPU, IDACI, FSM, etc).

3 Free AP academies

- 3.1 Free AP academy places are subject to a different procedure and timeline. Any changes are submitted by the AP free school directly to the ESFA, but they must engage with the LA before doing so.

4 Additional high needs places can be funded from local funding

- 4.1 The setting of these places does not prevent the LA from funding additional places and does mean that there will not be a lower number of places funded and provides funding certainty to support education providers.

5 Recommendations for schools forum

- 5.1 Schools forum members are asked to note and agree the places presented.

6 Next steps

- 6.1 These places will be funded from 1st September 2022.
- 6.2 If schools and academies review appendix A and have queries or believe there are errors, they can contact the LA and discuss any changes needed ahead of January

Schools Forum – where we can bring the appendix back for discussion and possible amendment.

7 Financial implications

7.1 As above – drives place funding.