

Chapel House Outreach Centre Charges – Q & A Information

When was the decision made to charge mainstream schools for pupils accessing Becton’s Specialist Outreach Provision?

The Schools’ Forum made a decision that Becton’s Outreach Service which was previously centrally funded, should be topped up from funding directed to the mainstream school (AWPU) where the pupil is permanently on roll. This decision was agreed by members at a Schools’ Forum Meeting on 17 September 2019. By members we refer to Headteachers representing the Primary, Secondary, and Special School Sectors, School Governors, and Chief Executive Officers from Learn Sheffield and Multi Academy Trusts.

The formula for recouping AWPU from schools and directing it to the Home Hospital Education Service was decided as a best fit formula for contributions to the costs of pupils’ specialist educational care.

This proposal was agreed due to the rising demand for Home Hospital Education Service placements from mainstream schools, and also to bring funding in line with funding regulations and the practice of other LAs, where the school contributes to £ per pupil funding for the period of time pupils are supported. It was anticipated that this strategy would help sustain the current level of service offered.

How and when was the Schools’ Forum decision communicated to schools?

All schools were informed by letter of these new charges at the beginning of March 2020, notifying Headteachers that pupils’ mainstream settings would be charged a proportion of the AWPU to cover the costs of support provided by Becton’s Outreach Centre. The amount charged per term in arrears is the number of consecutive school days (minus school holidays not Bank Holidays) a pupil is dual registered at Chapel House Outreach Centre, multiplied by a calculated daily amount of the Average Weighted Pupil Unit funding.

What is meant by AWPU funding?

The AWPU (Average Weighted Pupil Unit) is money which should follow a pupil to support costs of providing a pupil with education; therefore, alternative settings should receive part of the AWPU, for the duration of their educational support. In this instance the alternative setting is the Home School Hospital Service. This is in line with DfES guidance. To note the AWPU re-directed in this way is not supposed to be a bill for exact services received, see DfES statement below.

Since 1988 the formula is based on funding per child however the **funding includes elements for teaching, non-teaching, supplies and services, exam fees, repairs and maintenance and a number of non-weighted pupil elements such as water, energy, ground maintenance etc.*

When do AWPU charges start to apply for a pupil accessing Becton School?

The Local Authority raise invoices on a termly basis against schools for pupils supported in the previous term at Chapel House Outreach Centre. Charges for a pupil accessing the Outreach Centre will begin to apply when their referral is processed and staff allocation is in place, at which point, the school will be notified of the pupil’s start date [add more detail about this if needed] In the early stages of the provision, Becton’s Outreach staff will ensure they possess all relevant data relating to pupil cases. As part of this evidence gathering process, schools will be contacted with requests for information both prior to and post the

commencement of Outreach provision. With more complex cases information may need to be obtained from a number of agencies.

Who is involved in the referral process and what does Becton's delivery of provision comprise of for pupils?

Pupils are referred to the Outreach Centre because they are considered unfit by a clinician to attend a mainstream setting. The specialist provision they receive is directed by their condition i.e. physical and emotional needs (which often include acute anxieties). Therefore Becton will offer each pupil a transitional plan of support to enable them to re-engage with an educational setting. This is done through planned activities, learning mentor support and appropriate therapies, which help prevent triggers for a pupil's anxiety; this is often delivered through a part time timetable whilst they reside in the family home or hospital.

Does the Local Authority monitor provision at the Outreach Centre?

The Local Authority is the commissioner of the Chapel House Outreach Centre and therefore has a framework in place to undertake its own quality assurance of the provision. The Specialist Outreach Service is monitored by the Local Authority on a termly basis, and pupil progress is assessed against key performance indicators set out in the LA's Service Level Agreement with Becton Hospital and Home Educational Service. The SLA is reviewed on a yearly basis with the Governing Body of Becton School (the School) of Beighton Community Hospital.
