

APPENDIX 1



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

FUTURE FUNDING OF PLACEMENTS AT SELF MANAGED LEARNING COLLEGE, BRIGHTON

- Inviting you to have your say-

Why are we consulting you?

In the light of certain changes in national funding arrangements for home educated pupils, the Council is considering the future funding of placements at the Self Managed Learning College (SMLC) in Brighton. This document explains the arrangements for consultation and at the end you will find a reply slip for you to let the Council know what you think. There is also information about what will happen once the consultation closes.

Background facts

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (now the Department for Education) issued guidance to councils in 2007 entitled "Elective Home Education: Guidelines for Local Authorities". This guidance sets out the general principle that parents have a right to educate their children at home. Such parents must however be prepared to assume full financial responsibility for their child's education if they choose to exercise this right. This key principle remains in force today.

Local authorities do not receive funding to support home educating families so any financial support provided is discretionary.

In 2012 Brighton and Hove agreed to fund a number of children at the SMLC on the basis of funding arrangements which allowed the Authority to reclaim the full cost from the DfE via an Alternative Provision Census for home educated pupils for whom the local authority was providing significant funding for alternative provision. There was therefore no cost implication for the Authority.



Various changes to the school and local authority funding system have come into effect for the financial year 2013/14, which mean the current funding arrangements for young people at SMLC will change.

From 2013/14 the Alternative Provision Census is no longer available to LA's for these funding purposes. Alternative provisions must make direct requests to the DfE for funding pupils on their programmes.

Local Authorities will instead need to consider whether to fund home educated children from the high needs block within the Dedicated Schools Grant, and to ensure that this funding is consistently applied.

As a result of these national funding changes it is therefore necessary for the Authority to look at whether it can continue to fund placements at the SMLC.

Brighton and Hove currently fund 16 young people at the SMLC, at a cost of £3,900 pa each. This makes a total of £62,400 pa. Four of these pupils will reach statutory school leaving age at the end of June 2013.

Options for future funding

The Authority is considering a number of options:

- 1) To continue funding all the current pupils currently financially supported by the Authority until they complete Key Stage 4 (ie until the end of Year 11);
- 2) To continue funding the students who will begin Key Stage 4 (Year 10) in September 2013 for two years as it is accepted that these pupils would not have had an opportunity to select their GCSE options elsewhere;
- 3) To cease funding all pupils currently financially supported by the Authority at the SMLC with effect from December 2013;
- 4) In the interests of equity, to offer a commensurate level of funding to all pupils known to be home educated in Brighton and Hove. This would represent a current total cost of £659,000 pa.

Pending a decision being made on future funding the Authority will continue to fund currently supported pupils at SMLC until December 2013, in order to allow any pupils who wish to transfer back into mainstream provision to receive transition support for reintegration as required, and for any assessments that might be required to be undertaken.

The Authority is willing to assist the SMLC with any application that it might wish to make to become a Free School which would allow it to access funding direct from the DfE.

The Authority is also willing to explore registering the SMLC as an alternative provider which would enable mainstream schools to commission places directly from the college.

Consultation arrangements

There will be a meeting for all parents affected by the proposals at which you will be able to discuss the proposals or raise any queries you have with officers and the Chair of the Children and Young Persons Committee.

The meeting will take place on 24 June 2013, 12 noon-2pm at **Hove Town Hall Council Chamber, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 4AH**

You may also comment on the proposals as follows:

- You can complete and return the reply slip included in this document to King's House in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.
- You can send a letter to Maggie Baker, Partnership Adviser (Access to Education), Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS or e-mail maggie.baker@brighton-hove.gov.uk .
- In the interests of economy, letters will not be acknowledged or responded to.
- **Replies must be received by Monday 9th September at 5pm**

The next stage

All of the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to Committee on 14th October 2013 and a decision then taken on future funding.



RESPONSE FORM

Please return no later than Monday 9th September 2013 at 5pm

To: Maggie Baker
Partnership Adviser (Access to Education)
Room 310A
Kings House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

FUTURE FUNDING OF PUPILS AT SELF MANAGED LEARNING COLLEGE

Name and Address:

I support option number

I am a parent carer pupil member of staff other

Signature:

Please add any comments below:

