

APPENDIX 2

Self Managed Learning College (SMLC)

13.6.13

Dear Councillors

You may be aware that a number of councillors have been contacted by parents regarding the placement of their child at the Self Managed Learning College.

In order to clarify the current situation I want to brief you on the situation as it stands. For the period of time that these children have attended the Self Managed Learning Centre, the Local Authority was able to retrospectively claim back the funding from the DfE to cover any costs incurred. A change of regulation has meant that Local Authorities are no longer able to claim that funding, which must instead be claimed directly by the provisions attended. As the SMLC is not DfE registered, it has been reliant on the LA claiming that funding and is now not able to do so itself.

This does not mean that the LA has withdrawn the funding but it does mean that there is now the decision as to whether the LA can assume the cost for the provision from its own high needs back. The DfE have indicated that this does need to be given consideration and that this needs to be consistent within the Local Authority. This is a much wider issue in terms of deciding on the sustainable and equitably resourcing and funding of all pupils whose parents have elected home education rather than just the handful who attend SMLC.

Given the potential scale of the funding implications, and to allow full consideration of all the issues, it has been decided that a full consultation of those affected will be undertaken. As part of this process parents will be invited to express their views at a meeting with officers and Sue Shanks and the issue will be brought to Children's Committee. For the period of this consultation the places will be funded by the Local authority.

In the meantime if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Ellen Mulvihill

Head of Behaviour and Attendance
Children's Services (Education and Inclusion)

