

CABINET RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE**Increasing the Employability of Young People in Surrey
(considered by Select Committee on 31 July 2013)****SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Cabinet consider how students who are unlikely to be eligible for a combined plan will be supported following the introduction of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) and the cessation of School Action and School Action Plus, so as not to jeopardise their chances of post-16 participation in Education, Training and Employment.

RESPONSE

Cabinet recognises the concerns of the Children and Education Select Committee in relation to the introduction of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) and the cessation of School Action and School Action plus. New legislation in the Children and Families Bill will replace the School Action and School Action plus categories with a new single category: Additional Special Education Need Support (ASENS). In Surrey, the ASENS category of children will be supported through their school's local offer.

We are expecting schools to be able to demonstrate that their local offer will meet the requirements of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who do not meet the threshold for an EHCP. Surrey is supporting schools through this process by providing training in provision management tools which will enable the school to evaluate and describe the effectiveness of a range of SEND interventions. This will lead to provision which is more effective and better targeted at needs. Training will also be provided to SEN Coordinators to ensure they are able to support pupils' SEND needs appropriately.

The changes brought about by the Children and Families Bill will not result in an overall funding reduction for the Surrey pupils who are currently covered by School Action and School Action plus, although funding will be allocated differently in the future. This new model of distribution will place a greater emphasis on the relationship between funding and attainment, with those schools where pupil attainment is lowest receiving a higher proportion of funding than they do currently.

This will mean that there will be some changes in the funding allocated to individual schools. Officers and the DfE recognise that some schools with large numbers of high cost SEND pupils, but few low attaining pupils, may find it difficult to secure funding from the delegated sources. In response to these concerns, and where this is a particular issue for schools, we are proposing to allocate a proportion of the additional high needs funding outside the delegated formula.

While these changes are taking place, Services for Young People will continue to commission work to support participation after age 16 and ensure that young people with SEND can make successful transitions from Year 11 onwards. The Pathways Team's work with SEND young people, to support their transition to college or employment, will continue for students from Year 9 to Year 11 and beyond, up to the age of 25. Additionally, Year 11/12 provision will continue to identify and support 'at risk' young people who will fall into the ASENS category following the changes.

The service also commissions a range of local interventions, such as Centre Based Youth Work and the Local Prevention Framework. These commissions are focused on young people aged 14 to 19 and will continue to support participation in Education, Training and Employment post 16. As with Year 11/12 provision, a significant proportion of this work

supports those young people who will fall into the ASENS category.

5

In order to ensure that this provision continues to meet the needs of young people following these changes, Officers are carrying out research to establish why SEND young people have a higher propensity to become NEET. The findings from this research will feed directly into the Services for Young People commissioning process, to ensure that these groups receive support into education, training or employment which is closely matched to their needs.

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
24 September 2013