

## **Changes to the Delivery Model for Children with Medical Needs Provided by Leicestershire County Councils Children and Young People Services**

A new approach to meeting the Educational requirements of Children with Medical Needs has been developed and has the support of the Schools Forum. The report and record of the meeting can be access at:

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1018&MId=5492&Ver=4>

The tiered approach adopted creates an infrastructure to support children with medical needs, enabling the right level of support whilst enabling reintegration back in to mainstream school at the right time. This is part of the wider thinking around the approach to Inclusion. To support this, the existing structures within the LA's Education Inclusion Service are undergoing changes to enable children with medical needs to maintain their education through school insofar as possible and increase the potential for early integration. This will help ensure the minimum disruption to pupil's education, learning and limit the financial impact to schools. The concept around the model includes a tiered approach of support that can be accessed by schools focusing on children maintaining education linked to their school. This will include:

- Free Advice to schools to enable them to support children with medical needs, including short term absences and advice on appropriate provision in school to help children maintain their education for short periods of illness (under 15 days) or longer should the child be able to attend school on part-time time table or where medical needs are able to be met by the school but additional advice/support needs to be accessed to enable attendance. This support can be accessed through the Children with Medical Needs Co-ordinator and practitioners or through Secondary Education Inclusion Partnership (SEIP) surgeries.
- Working alongside the current SEIP provision that meets the needs of, YP with SEMH needs (with, or without and EHCP) who are no longer able to remain in mainstream provision and are therefore at risk of requiring independent provision, and YP with medical needs, predominantly children with low level anxiety based needs. The existing Loughborough Inclusion Partnership pilot has begun to trial this work.
- High Needs Placement Support where children are required to attend specialist medical educational placement as a result of their medical needs.

### Recouping Funding for High Needs Placements

Currently schools receive funding for pupils on roll but where services are commissioned directly by the Local Authority and are LA funded this results in double funding. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 a process will be put in place to recover the average per pupil funding, where children with medical needs require alternative provision and are unable to access education in a mainstream educational environments. This will be based on that followed for pupils permanently excluded and for those subject to dual registration at Oakfield and through the SEIP's. This is also in line with many of our neighbouring authorities.

The method of recoupment applies to a standard amount per day banded to primary and secondary schools, applicable from the first day of provision. The charge is set at the beginning of each financial year based on the Leicestershire School Funding Formula and complies with the 2017 No.1185 Education England, The school and early years finance (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2018 – Specifically Chapter 2.

Applying a standard amount to primary and secondary ensures that no particular school is disadvantaged particularly where there might be a high cost placement, for example when commissioned by the NHS, or where a child may be out of school for an extended period.

Further details of the recoupment are stated within the document attached.

### **Key Benefits and Risks**

The key benefits from the proposal are considered to be;

- Encourages schools and LA to better work together to ensure good quality provision can be provided to children with medical needs.
- Improved advice to schools will increase the capacity in school to help support children with medical needs and maintain their education in the school environment.
- There will be better access to support for schools including services such as IAPT, SEIPs, Health, etc.; understanding statutory requirements, duties and responsibilities
- Less children are likely to experience long periods (years) out of the school environment
- Makes more effective use of available resources, the risk of 'double funding' will be reduced or eliminated
- Enables a more affordable and sustainable model of delivery able to meet any future increase in demand for provision.

The application of a standard amount and improved early re-integration actions are expected to help mitigate the financial burden on schools. Schools will not be asked to fund any placements for a particular child at full cost. It is not intended to recoup the cost of support offered directly by the Local Authorities Children with Medical Needs team, either in an advisory capacity or practitioner support.