

Appendix 5

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE
CONSULTATION PROFORMA FOR SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA

Deadline for replies: 22nd February 2019 (noon)

Caldicot School Response:

Do you agree with the proposals? Yes

County Councillor's response:

I have read the consultation and I agree with the proposals.

Monmouth Comprehensive response:

We agree with the proposed funding reduction to reflect the actual number of students accessing the Mounon House provision.

Consideration should be given to the longer term future of the Mounon House provision. It will still cost £1.2m each year for 21 students (1 residential) and only 3 are resident in Monmouthshire. The current designation for Mounon House is restrictive both in terms of facilities (male only) and conditions which calls into question its viability for in County placements. The Governors of Mounon House want to extend the admission conditions but it is not clear that this will bring it back into long term viability and large-scale remodelling of the building for a new start and wide-ranging admissions would be cost prohibitive.

CYP Select Committee response:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek the view of the CYP Select members regarding the consultation on the proposed changes to the funding formula for Mounon House Special School.

Key issues:

Background

1. The funding formula for schools is regularly reviewed for schools to ensure that the funds are distributed fairly.
2. The consultation document attached in appendix 1 identifies the issues with the current formula and the reasons to make the changes.
3. The consultation document details the list of consultees this includes all elected members.
4. The consultation period is for 4 weeks and closes on 22nd February 2019 (noon).
5. The Headteacher has met with the CYP finance manager to discuss the proposal.

3.6 At the time of writing this paper no responses have been received, however all responses up to the closing date will be included in the cabinet paper for the meeting on 6th March 2019.

Member Scrutiny:

The Children and Young People Finance Manager presented the report seeking the views of the Select Committee on proposals to alter the funding formula for Mounton House Special School. Following presentation of the report, questions and comments were invited. Members were informed that these would be added as consultation feedback.

- A Select Committee Member supported making the funding formula appropriate to the needs and requirements of schools but expressed concern that changing the formula would effectively remove £275,000 from the Education budget. It was accepted that there is a gap between the funding received by the authority and the costs of services; Children and Young People Directorate have to contribute towards this and various options have been considered. Formula funding of school budgets is based on pupil numbers; these have reduced at the school.
- In response to a query, it was confirmed that a formal response from the Governing Body has not yet been received.
- A Select Committee Member, in response to a question, was informed that income from out of county pupils is held centrally and this is has been reported as a budget pressure as numbers have reduced.
- Seeking clarification of the total funding, a Select Committee Member was informed that the school received funding of £1,559,000, centrally, £756,000 is recouped from other authorities leaving the net running costs of the school as £803,000. £275,000 for SEBD (Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties) has been removed from the funding as explained in the consultation report. It is anticipated that the out of county pupil income will be reducing to £350,000 because of reduced admissions.
- A Member expressed surprise that the number of pupils in the school are reducing and questioned if some pupils were being retained in mainstream schools with support. The Chief Officer explained that there had been a steady decline, adding that the restrictive profile of the school plus the impact of neighbouring authorities making their own provision is affecting admission numbers. He confirmed that proactivity on inclusion in mainstream is encouraged.
- A Select Committee Member asked about the numbers of out of county pupils and was advised that, next year there will be half as many as this year.

Committee Conclusion:

The Select Committee considered the recommendation to scrutinise and provide feedback. Upon being put to the vote, the following votes were recorded:

For : 6
Against: 3
Abstain: 0

The Chair announced the outcome that the Select Committee accepted the