**A7**

**WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

**SCHOOLS’ FORUM – 1 JUNE 2020**

**REPORT BY LEAD STRATEGIC FINANCE MANAGER – BI-BOROUGH CHILDREN’S AND HEAD OF ADMISSIONS AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

**YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS ABOVE PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS**

This report requests Schools’ Forum to consider funding secondary schools which agreed additional year 7 places in September 2020 at 30% above their planned admission number for bi-borough pupils.

**FOR DECISION**

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   1. Schools’ Forum in October 2019 agreed funding to secondary schools who have offered places above their PAN to meet basic need, where the offer was 30% or above of places to bi-borough year 7 pupils in September. The funding allocated was £1,000 per eligible pupil and totalled £40,000.
   2. All Westminster secondary schools were fully subscribed on National Offer Day (1st March 2020). No school had vacancies remaining within its Planned Admissions Number to enable the Council to allocate to residents without an offer.
   3. Four secondary schools offered additional year 7 places in September 2019 above their planned admission numbers. All Westminster secondary schools are their own admission authority and have the flexibility to offer above their PAN without consultation but are required to notify the LA.
   4. The Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding regulations only permit a growth fund to be used to support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need (in the area), support additional classes needed to meet infant class size regulation and to the meet the costs of new schools. The growth fund may not be used to support general growth in popularity, which is manged through lagged funding.

1. **Schools admitting pupils above year 7 Planned Admission Numbers (PAN)**

2.1 Based on funding regulations as set out above in 1.4, growth funding applies to Westminster Academy and St. Augustine’s School where the additional offers support the basic need in the area. Additional offers above PAN for Grey Coat Hospital are predominately in response to popularity and not local need as the numbers below demonstrate.

2.2 As the coordinators of the Pan London Admissions Process for bi-borough, the Admissions service will hold the data of the origin of all applications and offers for its maintained schools.

The total number of offers above PAN (those made to bi-borough residents is indicated in brackets) is shown below:-

* Westminster Academy 30 (22)
* St. Augustine’s 28 (8)
* Grey Coat Hospital 16 (4)

2.3 As per the criteria agreed in 2019, the Head of Admissions and Access to Education proposes that in order for a school to be eligible for funding to meet local need, the offer should be significantly above the PAN (30%) for that year group. This could also be considered as a type of bulge class funding (above 15 home residents).

2.4 The schools, in particular Westminster Academy, have supported the Council in meeting its statutory duty to secure places for bi-borough residents. It should therefore be possible to provide an allocation to reflect some of the additional costs they will incur in 2020/210 before they receive full pupil funding from April 2020. It is proposed to provide £1,000 funding for each bi-borough pupil offer above PAN where the offer is 30% or above. The allocation would therefore be as below.

* Westminster Academy £22,000

**Total £22,000**

2.5 Any funding agreed would come from 2019/20 DSG balances. It is also proposed to review the growth funding criteria for future years and this included within the separate funding formula review paper elsewhere on the agenda

**3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Schools Forum are asked to consider the proposal to provide funding (totalling £22,000) to the secondary school which have offered places above their PAN to meet basic need, where the offer is 30% or above of places to bi-borough year 7 pupils in September 2020. The growth funding criteria is included as part of the separate funding formula review paper.

**Wendy Anthony**

**Head of Admissions and Access to Education**

**Anita Stokes**

**Lead Strategic Finance Manager – Bi-Borough Children’s Services**

**Sarah Newman**

**Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children’s Services**

**Background papers:**

School revenue funding 2019 to 2020 operational guidance <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767607/Operational_guide_2019_to_2020.pdf>

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