Briefing note

North Tyneside Council

To:	Schools Forum	**Author:**	Michael Johnston		
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Purpose of the Paper:	
Information	X
Consultation	X
Decision	

Title of Briefing: Additionally Resourced Provision

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to: brief School's Forum about the occupancy and funding of Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs); highlight issues relating to data recording in the School Census and the action being taken to address the problem of data accuracy; describe the proposed scope of a review to be undertaken as part of the work of the High Needs Commissioning Group; and seek Forum's comments and endorsement.

2. Background

At the May 2018 meeting Forum endorsed the High Needs Strategic Plan 2018-21 and the work plan of the High Needs Commissioning Group for 2018-19. The High Needs Strategic Plan provides a framework for planning the use of the High Needs Block. The strategy is implemented through an annual work plan, linked to the planning cycle for schools funding. The work plan for 2018-19 includes a review of ARPs. This paper outlines the scope and timeline for the review.

A question was also raised at the May Schools Forum meeting as to whether an earlier request for clarification, arising from discrepancies in data about the number of pupils in ARPs, had been addressed. It was agreed at the May meeting that this question would be followed up and additional information brought to the July meeting. This paper also responds to that request by including information about occupancy and issues of data recording.

3. Current Position

ARPs in North Tyneside and referral arrangements

There are 12 ARPs in North Tyneside. ARPs are part of the mainstream school on whose premises they are based.

Eight of the ARPs are for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). The MLD ARPs in Primary schools are at Grasmere, Whitehouse and Whitley Lodge First School. A total of 21 places are available. The Secondary ARPs for MLD are based at Burnside, George Stephenson, John Spence, Valley Gardens Middle and Whitley Bay High School. There are 53 places in the Secondary ARPs.

There are four ARPs for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication needs, including ASD. The Primary ARPs are located at Benton Dene Primary and Waterville and provide a total of 22 places. The Secondary ARPs are at Norham and Longbenton (Melrose Centre), and offer a total of 50 places.

The ARP for pupils with Physical Disabilities, located at Monkseaton High School, was decommissioned, in light of changing needs, with effect from 2017/18.

Referrals to ARPs are made by the Additional Education Needs Panel. It is not a requirement that children referred to ARPs should have an EHC Plan.

Appendix 1 shows a summary of place related funding in ARPs: allocated places, occupancy identified at October 2017 and the consequent allocation of funding based on that occupancy.

Funding methodology

Until 2017/18, funding for ARPs was allocated on a place basis from the High Needs Block. Each place was funded at £10,000, regardless of occupancy. DfE consultations on the National Funding Formula flagged the intention to change the way ARPs were funded.

From 2018/19 ARP places are no longer deducted from the school's pupil numbers in the mainstream funding formula. Schools now receive funding for all pupils on the school roll through the school allocation, including those pupils in an ARP place. All ARP places occupied and recorded on the October school census also receive £6,000 from the High Needs Block. The unoccupied places continue to receive £10,000 per place, allocated from the High Needs Block.

This change has been reflected in the baseline calculations of the Designated Schools Grant Blocks, with a movement into the Schools Block and a corresponding reduction in the High Needs Block. In January 2018 Forum agreed that no Primary school should be disadvantaged for 'filled' places, which are now funded via the Age Weighted Pupil Unit value (AWPU), and a £6,000 place funding element from the High Needs Block.

To address this commitment an exercise was undertaken to identify schools which were not receiving £10,000 per place, whether occupied or unoccupied, through the combination of AWPU from the Schools Block and place funding from the High Needs Block. Adjustments were then made to ensure that £10,000 per place was allocated across the Blocks.

Importance of Schools Census data and action to improve recording

Funding for ARPs is based on the annual October census. A school with an ARP should record the information for those children in the ARP. However, analysis of the October 2017 census has identified a number of errors in data recording which can have a significant impact on the source of

the funding. Errors include schools not recording any pupils in their ARP; schools over-recording the number of pupils in the ARP; and schools without an ARP recording a couple of pupils as being in an ARP. This issue is being addressed through briefings at the SENCO network and by the SIMs team reinforcing the importance of accurate recording through census training sessions.

Occupancy

Table 1: Pupil Numbers by Year Group – October 2017, School Census.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Places
Grasmere - MLD				1		2								3	6
Whitehouse-MLD			2		4	3								9	10
Whitley Lodge - MLD		1	1											2	5
Valley Gardens- MLD						2								2	10
Burnside- MLD														0	13
George Stephenson - MLD							1	1	1	1	2			6	10
John Spence - MLD								3		2	2			7	10
Whitley Bay -MLD									15	7	14	1		37	10
Benton Dene - SLCN		3	3	1	1	3								11	12
Waterville - SLCN	1		2	2	1	2								8	10
Norham- SLCN							6	4	2	3	4			19	25
Longbenton / Melrose - ASD							3	1	3	4	3	5	2	21	25

Table 1 above shows the number of pupils at each ARP by Year Group as recorded by schools in the School Census in October 2017. 123 pupils in total are recorded. Comparing the data above with that held in EMS, shown at Table 2 below, there appear to be errors in recording data in the School Census relating to three schools. Valley Gardens shows fewer pupils than would be expected; Burnside shows no ARP pupils; and Whitley Bay shows more ARP pupils than would be expected.

Table 2: Number of Pupils Recorded as Being in an ARP, EMS, October 2017.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Places
Grasmere - MLD				1		2								3	6
Whitehouse-MLD		1	1		4	3								9	10
Whitley Lodge - MLD		1	1											2	5
Valley Gardens- MLD					2	3		2						7	10
Burnside- MLD							2	1	1	4				8	13
George Stephenson - MLD							1	1	1	1	2			6	10
John Spence - MLD								3	1	2	2			8	10
Whitley Bay -MLD									2	4	2			8	10
Benton Dene - SLCN		3	3	1	1	3								11	12
Waterville - SLCN	1	2	2	2	1	1								9	10
Norham- SLCN							6	4	2	3	4			19	25
Longbenton / Melrose - ASD							3	2	3	3	3	5	2	21	25

Table 2 above shows data related to the number of pupils placed in each ARP. This data is taken from the Education Management System (EMS). The information about children in ARPs on EMS is maintained by the Statutory Assessment and Review Service. This information is monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to the SEND Performance Board.

Table 3: Number of pupils in each Key Stage, EMS, October 2017.

	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	KS5
MLD	2	17	15	17	
SLCN	6	14	12	7	
ASD			8	6	7

Table 3 above shows the number of pupils in each Key Stage recorded in EMS as being in an ARP. The total numbers of pupils by Key Stage are: KS1: 8; KS2: 31; KS3: 35; KS4: 30; and KS5: 7.

Funding decisions had to be made in January 2018 in order for allocations to be identified before the reporting deadline back to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 19th January 2018. A data cleansing exercise was therefore undertaken by contacting all schools with ARPs for confirmation of occupancy numbers.

Table 4: Occupancy on which 2018-19 Funding Allocations were based.

Provision	Places	Occupied - Primary	Occupied KS3	Occupied KS4	Unoccupied
Grasmere - MLD	6	3			3
Whitehouse - MLD	10	9			1
Whitley Lodge - MLD	5	2			3
Valley Gardens - MLD	10	5	2		3
Burnside - MLD	13		5	4	4
George Stephenson - MLD	10		5	2	3
John Spence - MLD	10		4	4	2
Whitley Bay - MLD	10		2	6	2
Benton Dene - SLCN	12	11			1
Waterville - SLCN	10	9			1
Norham - SLCN	25		12	7	6
Longbenton / Melrose - ASD	25		8	14	3
Total	**146**	**39**	**38**	**37**	**32**

Table 4 above shows the occupancy on which funding was allocated. This data, received on 03/11/2017, was requested from schools and then cross-checked with the SEN team. This data indicates that there were 114 occupied places and 32 unoccupied places at that point. This suggests that at that point in time there was a degree of flexible capacity (approx. 22% of total places) available to respond to need. The occupancy figures used for the funding allocations differ from the census and the EMS information. If incorrect occupancy data is used, this will have an impact on the amount of funding each school receives, so it is vital that schools accurately maintain and submit this information.

Table 5: Trend in the Number of Pupils in ARPs, EMS.

Number of pupils in ARPs
Source: Provisions report-ONE (as at end of each quarter, pupils with a provision ARP, ARP1, ARP2, ARP3, ARP4, ARP5 or commissioned service)

Provision	Places	Mar-14	Jun-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Spaces (as at latest data)	Spaces across phase and need
Grasmere MLD	6	5	5	4	6	6	6	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	
Whitehouse MLD	10	10	11	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	9	9	8	8	9	9	9	1	6
Whitley Lodge MLD	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	
Valley Gardens MLD	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	3	
Burnside MLD	13	8	8	11	11	12	12	9	9	9	10	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	5	
George Stephenson MLD	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	4	17
John Spence MLD	10	9	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	10	11	10	10	10	8	7	7	3	
Whitley Bay High MLD	10	5	5	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	11	11	11	11	8	8	8	2	
Benton Dene SLCN	12	10	10	11	11	12	12	11	12	10	9	8	8	8	8	10	11	11	1	2
Waterville SLCN	10	9	9	8	8	9	8	7	8	8	8	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	1	
Norham SLCN	25	26	26	23	21	21	22	23	22	21	19	19	20	21	20	19	20	21	4	4
Monkseaton High PD	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Longbenton ASD (Melrose	25	24	24	26	25	25	25	23	23	23	24	19	20	20	20	22	23	22	3	3

Table 5 above shows the fluctuations in the number of pupils recorded on EMS at March, June, September and December each year, from March 2014 to March 2018. At March 2018, as a proportion of places within the ARPs, there was 29% capacity (6 unfilled places) in Primary MLD ARPs, and 32% capacity (17 unfilled places), in Secondary MLD ARPs.

Review of ARPs – Initial Outline of Scope and Timescale

The review to be carried out under the guidance of the High Needs Commissioning Group will consider the following:

- What, in any, further action is needed to improve data accuracy and recording and to ensure consistency in allocating funding?

- What are the general needs and characteristics of children and young people being educated in ARPs, how have they changed over the past 4 years and what are the projected trends?

- What are the implications of the pattern of needs emerging from the above?

- What are the specific criteria that must be met for children to be allocated to an ARP and what is the gateway and review process?

- What are the implications of the inclusion agenda for ARPs and is there still a place for MLD ARPs given the inclusion agenda?

- What policy should be applied to unfilled places? E.g. should funding be reallocated to the High Needs budget if places are unfilled?

- How do ARPs fit within the broader context the Keeping Children in School initiative?

- How do ARPs perform and what outcomes are being achieved? (this will include considering attainment and progress data; Ofsted reports; and attendance and exclusions data).

- How does occupancy vary throughout the year and what are the reasons for this?

- Do the Service Level Agreements in place with each ARP require updating? If so what should the updated specification be?

- Are there opportunities for changing aspects of provision or delivery and addressing cost pressures? What might the impact be on other services?

- Is there anything we can learn by looking at the nature and volume of ARP provision in other Local Authorities?

- Are there examples of good practice and innovation, either within North Tyneside or from other areas, that could be adopted?

The review may be undertaken by:

- Desk-top analysis of data and reports.

- Discussions with a range of key staff e.g. SENCOs and ARP staff.

- Gathering information, views and suggestions.

- Examination of practice in other local authorities.

It is proposed that the review will:

- Report in October 2018 on implications for the 2019-20 High Needs Budget.

- Be completed in full by Spring 2019

4. Recommendations

Schools Forum is invited to:

1. Comment on the information and data about current ARP provision and occupancy.

2. Note the issue of data recording and the action being taken to address it and offer comments.

3. Comment on the proposed scope and timescale of the review of ARPs.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Place Related Funding in ARPs 2018-19

Provision	Places	Occupied - Primary	Occupied KS3	Occupied KS4	Schools Block Total Funding Allocated via AWPU	High Needs Block Total Funding Allocated from High Needs for occupied places	High Needs place funding for unoccupied places	Total Funding For ARPs (Schools Block and High Needs Block combined)
Grasmere - MLD	6	3			8,310	21,690	30,000	60,000
Whitehouse - MLD	10	9			24,931	65,069	10,000	100,000
Whitley Lodge - MLD	5	2			5,540	14,460	30,000	50,000
Valley Gardens - MLD	10	5	2		22,098	47,902	30,000	100,000
Burnside - MLD	13		5	4	41,490	48,510	40,000	130,000
George Stephenson - MLD	10		5	2	31,054	38,946	30,000	100,000
John Spence - MLD	10		4	4	37,367	42,633	20,000	100,000
Whitley Bay - MLD	10		2	6	39,556	40,444	20,000	100,000
Benton Dene - SLCN	12	11			30,472	79,528	10,000	120,000
Waterville - SLCN	10	9			24,931	65,069	10,000	100,000
Norham - SLCN	25		12	7	86,010	103,990	60,000	250,000
Longbenton / Melrose - ASD	25		8	14	106,043	113,957	30,000	250,000
Totals	**146**	**39**	**38**	**37**	**457,802**	**682,198**	**320,000**	**1,460,000**
		(Total of 114 Occupied Places)						