**Briefing Note to Schools Forum**

**Future arrangements for District PRU and**

**Primary Behaviour Centres**

**Context**

District PRU and the Primary Behaviour Centres have been set up to provide education provision for children who may be at risk of permanent exclusion. In a small number of cases, children who have been permanently excluded attend the Behaviour Centres. This system was developed as a means to reduce the number of permanent exclusions in the District.

The District PRU is a registered school for secondary aged children and therefore has a facility to place pupils on a school roll. The Behaviour Centres are units hosted by Primary Schools but do not provide a school roll facility.

The District PRU and the Behaviour Centres are funded from the High Needs Block, which is under considerable growing financial pressure as a result of an increase in children with SEND. The purpose of the High Needs Block is to ensure that the Local Authority is able to discharge its statutory duties in respect of children for whom it has responsibility for making educational provision. In effect, these are identified as:

* Children with Education, Health & Care Plans
* Specialist advice for children with SEND (not including behaviour)
* Children who have been permanently excluded from school
* Children who are medically unfit to attend their usual school

Therefore the provision at both District PRU and the Behaviour Centres falls outside of the remit of the High Needs Block and hence alternative considerations need to be made regarding the future of these provisions.

Children who have been permanently excluded are the responsibility of the LA to source suitable education by the 6th day following the permanent exclusion. This is done via the placement of children onto the roll of Park Primary PRU and Bradford AP Academy Central. Both of these provisions are specifically commissioned to provide places for permanently excluded children and hence are funded from the High Needs Block for this purpose.

PTO

**Future arrangements**

Primary Behaviour Centres

The current funding arrangements for the Behaviour Centres will remain in place up to the end of the 2019/20 academic year, to support a transition from the current arrangements to the future arrangements. From September 2020, the funding from the High Needs Block for Behaviour Centres, under their current delivery model, will cease.

Discussions have begun with the Primary Schools that have Behaviour Centres to look at the potential options going forwards. In effect the following options are being explored for each of the Primary Schools to consider individually depending on their circumstances:

* Replacement of the Behaviour Centre and the creation of a LA centrally delivered Resourced Provision for Children with EHCPs for SEMH with the host school providing a rolling facility
* Replacement of the Behaviour Centre and the expansion of an existing DSP (where one already exists in the school) for Children with EHCPs for SEMH
* Behaviour Centre remains open but operates a “buy back” model for step out turn-around provision that Primary Schools choose to invest in on a collaborative purchasing model
* Behaviour Centre closes

District PRU

The current funding for District PRU of 80 places - where the HNB meets the cost of the £10,000 place element - will remain in place up to the end of the 2019-20 academic year to support a transition from the current arrangements to the future arrangements. From September 2019 however, the BACs or individual schools using the places will be responsible for the top-up element associated with these 80 places; the HNB will cease to fund this.

Discussions have begun with the BACS Heads and the District PRU to look at potential options going forwards.

The main focus for District PRU is to develop a financially viable “buy back” model for step out provision that Secondary Schools choose to invest in on a collaborative purchasing model. Work is underway to develop this model and will include the need to present a financial and well as curriculum model of delivery.

If a financially viable position is not developed then the LA will need to consider the future viability of District PRU which will involve discussions with the RSC, as District PRU currently has an Academy Order.