

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM (SFF)

SUBJECT:	School funding forum question on the impact of out of county exclusions on Kent provisions
-----------------	--

AUTHORS:	Chris Scott – Manager, Schools High Needs and Early Years Budgets
DATE:	04 December 2020

SUMMARY OF REPORT:	
This report summarises the impact in different scenarios, of a pupil being excluded from an out of county school, upon Kent schools and AP settings.	
FOR:	Information

In a scenario where a pupil is excluded from an out of county school and then enters a Kent school and accesses a Kent PRU, they will not be funded at the Kent school or within the delegated or devolved alternative provision budgets until the start of the first financial year after the next October census.

In a scenario where a Kent resident pupil attends an out of county school but accesses a Kent PRU as well, then again, the pupil will not have been included in the census count used to calculate Kent alternative provision budgets.

PRU budgets for the whole county are based on a fraction (0.42%) of the total Kent pupil headcount multiplied by a flat rate (£18k). The introduction of a single new pupil into the county would have an incredibly small effect on this overall calculation and in any event the place number for each PRU is rounded to the nearest integer so there wouldn't be any effect on the particular PRU budget on account of a single pupil.

School budgets have worked in this way for many years and at a given point in time some schools will have slightly more pupils than they are funded for or indeed slightly less than they are funded for. It depends on how many leavers and joiners they have had since the census day driving the current budget. There is no local ability to change this principle of school funding however some funding can be transferred from school to school in cases of exclusions. The ESFA highlight that this includes cases where the excluding and admitting schools are in different local authority areas and the cost of adjusting the admitting school budget can be recovered by recourse to the inter authority recoupment regulations. We are

however unable to identify locally any recent instance of Kent County Council invoicing or being invoiced by another authority in this circumstance.