



SCHOOLS FORUM

Foundry College Primary Behaviour Support Report

1. Purpose of the report

To demonstrate to Forum one aspect of the high quality service provided by Foundry College, the impact that this service has on schools and the broader community; whilst at the same time demonstrating value for money.

2. Suggested Actions

Forum members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Introduction

Foundry College was set up in September 2013 when five WBC services were drawn together to provide a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and families in Wokingham. Since then, the number of children and families has increased, as too have the complexities of the issues that they are facing. Over this period of time, other support services have been developed, delivered and subsequently dismantled largely due to budgetary constraints, e.g. Family Support Workers.

Over the last 5 years, Foundry College has provided a reliable specialist support service to assist schools in managing the challenges they face dealing with children and families in crisis, developing early intervention strategies and empowering staff. Our Primary Behaviour Support team intervene in the lives of children between the ages of 5 and 11 to support them through difficult issues, to hopefully minimise disruption and enable them to go on to be successful in school, becoming responsible and productive members of our community. Resolving issues before these pupils reach secondary school will reduce disruptive impact in the wider community in the years to come. Every child matters at Foundry College and it is through the patience and perseverance of our professional staff that young children are supported and safeguarded whilst they struggle to overcome their difficulties.

4. Primary Behaviour Support Provision

The Primary Behaviour Support team consists of six behavioural specialists who have extensive knowledge and experience. The team have at some point in time supported every primary school in the borough. They are supervised by an experienced Deputy Head and supported by an Inclusion Manager who specialises in Safeguarding and Child Protection. He is an active member of the Wokingham Children's Safeguarding Board, and Exploited, Missing and Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC), supporting pupils across the borough. The last (but not least) member of the team is Honey, our therapy dog; her speciality is in de-escalation tactics and techniques. She does this for no salary, but does demand a supply of dog food and regular treats.

Our specialist team is available to support pupils and staff in schools and also to support their parents. They themselves utilise, as well as upskilling staff, in such practices as Theraplay, TeamTeach and behaviour management techniques.

Our team attend meetings across the borough to ensure that the interests of pupils and their schools are appropriately represented and that the necessary paperwork is submitted to the relevant services. Not only does this share the burden and save leadership time, but it also provides for a continuity link for pupils across the borough.



The table below demonstrates the demand for the services we provide

| | Total Pupils Supported | Total schools | Maintained Pupils | Maintained Schools |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sept 2015 to July 2016 | 141 | 46 | 138 | 43 |
| Sept 2016 to July 2017 | 151 | 49 | 140 | 43 |
| Sept 2017 to date | 147 | 45 | 135 | 40 |

To ensure that we can continue to provide this quality service, it is crucial that we retain the calibre of staff and the established networks. To maintain such a team requires the dedication of the staff and also the appropriate allocation of funding and the strict managing of such funds.

The primary behaviour support payroll costs alone in 2017-18 amount to £210,000. There are also costs incurred to include, but not limited to the following:-

- Bespoke Alternative Provision costs (on site at Foundry and other provider settings)
- Direct employee expenses (e.g. Travel)
- Training (both CPD and mandatory qualification updates)
- Subscriptions
- Supervision by Professional bodies
- IT equipment and administrative support
- Resources for interventions (e.g. Sand Tray therapy)
- Transportation costs

5. Conclusion

Our collective objective is to avoid permanent exclusion, to enable Wokingham's challenging and vulnerable children to remain in mainstream school, to thrive and reach their potential. It is our responsibility to respond to the bespoke needs of the child. Through the primary behaviour support service, Foundry College enables schools to source creative solutions to support the challenges presented.

In order to continue to provide an outreach service to meet the ever more complex needs of a significant number of children, we need confidence that sufficient funding is in place and secure. To achieve this, we need a mechanism of replacing the de-delegated process from the point that the national funding formula begins and when the centralised management of de-delegation through Schools Forum discontinues. Taking into account the plans for academisation across the borough, the number of maintained primary schools looks to drop to 29 within 2 years which would be insufficient to maintain this service at its current standard. This would bring into question the sustainability of the provision. As has happened with secondary outreach, there would then only be a very limited resource available for ad hoc commissioning.

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