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## Briefing note

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**Title of Briefing:** Moorbridge Pupil Numbers

### Background

Over the last three years the numbers at Moorbridge have consistently been higher than the number of funded places. The ESD Working Group has considered the position and is recommending the re-alignment of funding to Moorbridge for WBSSC and Seaton Burn FDR to ensure the staffing capacity is at a safe level to work with the students to integrate them back into school.

Moorbridge Capacity - *The numbers at Moorbridge have been:*

- 2012 – 2013 – **funded for 65** – Average number 85 (Peaked at 112, Lowest 73) (September to September)
- 2013 – 2014 **funded for 80** – Average number 95 (Peaked at 120, Lowest 79) (September to September)
- 2014– 2015 – **funded for 80** ( and an additional £80,000 from Schools Forum)- Average number 104 (Peaked at 127, Lowest 77) (September to September)

In addition - many students are referred to Moorbridge because schools have run out of options and their internal FDR has been frequented by the pupil on numerous occasions – at this stage the school has run out of options and often have to put the student at risk of PX or PX thus often resulting in the placement of the pupil at Moorbridge – external FDR could help alleviate this. Many schools have asked over the last year for this service from Moorbridge but currently with high numbers in Moorbridge this is difficult to allocate these places. This provision is currently operating in the Whitely Bay area very successfully.

*Currently the following funding :*

- £92,000 Whitley Bay First Day Response |Centre
  - £25,000 Seaton Burn First Day Response
- Total - £117,000**

This funding does not have a borough wide impact and is used for the above areas only.

Moorbridge has in the past provided some reintegration to school for students. This has been successful and ensured that pupils have reintegrated into school with support. This can only be provided when Moorbridge is not over capacity as staffing is required within Moorbridge due to the large number of students.

### **Summary of Outcomes**

#### **[1] Increase in Moorbridge Capacity by 7 places**

Over the last three years the numbers have consistently been higher than we have been funded for. We need extra funding to ensure we have the staffing capacity at a safe level to work with the students to integrate them back into school.

#### **[2] 8 Place FDR**

- 8 places whereby it would offer FDR whereby schools own internal first day response has been used on numerous occasions and the school may be starting to consider PX. This may avoid this
- Breathing space for school and pupils whereby students whereby they are on a **'5 day exclusion with the view to permanent'** - this will allow meetings to take place to plan the correct pathway to best meet the needs of the pupil.

#### **[3] Crisis Response and Reintegration Team**

- This team would be able to facilitate re-integration back into mainstream school after a short or long term placement at Moorbridge. This ensures that the transition and reintegration back into school is successful and both the pupil and the staff are supported. The team may also be able to help with interventions that the school wish to put in place in school to prevent the pupil coming out of the mainstream school. In addition this team could also help pupils who have been PX and moved to another school – support for the pupil in their new school to ensure success.
- We have found that those students with the best transition plans back into mainstream school and support to ensure that this happens have been the most successful.

This proposal has been discussed with Whitley Bay Head teachers, EIP, ESBD Working Party and the Secondary Head teachers all of whom support this proposal.

### **Recommendations for the Forum**

Based on the information above, Schools Forum are asked to consider and approve the re-alignment of the existing £117,000 for both the Whitley Bay and Seaton Burn FDR provisions to Moorbridge School as part of the budget setting process for 2016/17. No additional funding would be required to deliver the new arrangements but this would allow Moorbridge School to provide a borough wide FDR provision which is supported across the secondary school estate..As part of transferring the budget / provision to Moorbridge School this would also allow the provision of a Crisis Response and Reintegration Team.

The re-alignment of this money/ provision will also mean that existing staff will be transferred to Moorbridge School.