

# City of Wolverhampton Council

## SCHOOLS' FORUM

<b>Date</b>	05 December 2019
<b>Report title</b>	Support for City Residential Independent Living Provision
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### Summary

Penn Hall School currently provides residential independent living and respite provision for its pupils. The provision is located in the Manor House located on the Penn Hall site and is currently graded "Outstanding", a grade it has retained for 12 years.

Due to ongoing funding pressures faced by the school the residential provision it provides for its pupils is no longer viable for the school to fully subsidise/maintain.

Residential provision is not required as part of the education, health and care plans of any of the pupils at Penn Hall.

However, it is recognised that residential, independent living and respite provision is a valuable addition to the city's offer for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The ability to maintain or develop independent living provision aligns with the aspirations of our young people to lead an 'ordinary life' and the Council's priority to create an inclusive city.

As a result, the Headteacher of Penn Hall School (at the request of the City of Wolverhampton Council) presented a paper to the Schools' Forum High Needs Sub Group on 7 November 2019. The paper highlighted the risks to the residential provision and suggested options on how it could be maintained/developed further including extending access to students from settings across the City.

The costs of the residential provision to the school were set out in detail in the presentation and amount to a total cost to deliver per year of £173,358.

Following discussion on the proposals submitted, the Schools' Forum High Needs Sub Group resolved to support the City of Wolverhampton Council's recommendation to retain an independent living skills residential provision subject to the following conditions and parameters:

1. Funding should be found from the projected headroom in the high needs block for 2020-2021 to fund the continuing residential provision at Penn Hall for one year to allow for the development of a citywide offer based at Penn Hall. This should be to the value of £136,948.

2. The gap between the £136,948 and ongoing running costs of £173,358 should be met by Penn Hall School for the financial year 2020-2021.
3. Over the one-year window a specification will be drawn up by the City of Wolverhampton Council for the proposed new city residential provision, the specification to include agreement on:
  - a. Legal Status of the provision
  - b. Gatekeeping and access
  - c. Eligibility criteria
  - d. A sustainable funding model
  - e. Outcomes to be delivered/worked towards
  - f. Safeguarding
  - g. Other issues that may arise.
4. A working group, including representatives from Penn Hall, Schools' Forum High Needs Sub Group, Special Heads and the City of Wolverhampton Council will be established to progress the specification as outlined above.
5. The new city independent living residential provision model will be co-produced with parents/carers and children and young people.
6. Schools' Forum to be updated and consulted periodically, as requested.

**Decision:**

Members of Schools' Forum are recommended to:

1. Support the use of the High Needs Block to fund Penn Hall Residential for an interim period until April 2021 or earlier if new arrangements are in place.
2. Note the work required to establish an independent living skills residential provision for eligible children and young people from settings across Wolverhampton.