

The long term costs of literacy difficulties



Appendix 2

Costs of SEN provision for pupils with literacy difficulties

The four schools chosen for this study are from two different local authorities and represent extreme ends of the scale of social deprivation.

Summary: Secondary

Year group	Total costs School A £	No. of pupils involved	Total costs School B £	No. of pupils involved	Total costs Schools A and B	Total numbers Schools A and B	Average cost per pupil
7	27708	20	32226	51	59934	71	844
8	5720	9	5446	15	11166	24	465
9	4040	7	4163	12	8203	19	432
10	5260	18	6960	16	12220	34	359
11	13630	11	27743	18	41373	29	1426
Average total cost per pupil over their secondary career							3526

Range: £305 (group literacy intervention with a teaching assistant (TA), two hours per week, in Year 7 and 8) to £16,328 (3 hours per week 1-1 literacy support from a TA in year 7-9, one hour per week of behaviour support for one year, an alternative curriculum in Year 10 and a Year 11 full time college placement following exclusion from school)

A typical pathway for a pupil entering the school with very low literacy skills, based on the current pattern of provision in each year group in the schools visited, would be :

In Year 7, either a nurture group, or 1-1 or small group reading intervention plus a small amount of in-class support in other subjects, or a spelling group.

In Year 8, either continued reading intervention in a small group or 1-1, or a spelling group, and possibly support for behavioural needs.

In Year 9, either continued reading intervention or spelling support, and possibly support for behavioural needs.

In Year 10, spelling and coursework support whilst following traditional GCSE courses, or small-class teaching on an alternative curriculum.

In Year 11, coursework support, or small class teaching on an alternative curriculum, or possibly an early college placement or other alternative provision for disaffected pupils.

Summary: Primary (Key Stage 2)

Year group	Total costs School A £	No. of pupils involved	Total costs School B £	No. of pupils involved	Total costs Schools A and B	Total numbers Schools A and B	Average cost per pupil
3	5458	11	2718	10	8176	21	389
4	8962	13	2711	8	11673	21	556
5	6508	7	2182	4	8690	11	790
6	3704	8	1264	3	4968	11	452
Average total cost per pupil over Key Stage 2							2187

Range: £171 (one year of Additional Literacy Support in a group with a TA), to £3,362 (one year ALS in a group, plus group behaviour support with Learning Mentor in Year 3, 1-1 literacy teaching in Years 4 and 5, 1-1 behaviour support and continued literacy work with a TA in Year 6)

A typical pathway for a pupil entering Y3 with very low literacy skills, based on the current pattern of provision in each year group in the schools visited, would be some form of additional literacy support (variously in a group or 1-1) throughout Key Stage 2, in-class support from a TA in the literacy hour, plus behavioural interventions for some children.

The provision: Secondary school B continued

	Group size	Costs per hour £	Hours per week	Weeks per year		
Year 10						
Alternative curriculum taught part-time in school	16	30	5	40	2160**	
Alternative curriculum taught part-time at FE college	16		10		4800 fee to college	
					6960	16
Year 11						
Alternative curriculum taught part-time in school	9	30	5	40	3843**	
Alternative curriculum taught part-time at FE college	9		10	40	4800 fee to college	
Early college placements	7		Full-time provision		12600	
Part-time placements in Pupil Referral Unit	2		Variable		6000	
					27743	18

** Represents added costs related to group size reduced below the standard 25

Case 2: including costs of maintaining a Statement: upper-bound assumptions on costs of crime

Description of revenue flow	Note	Number	Differential
Costs of intervention		38,700	
Cost saving as result of intervention			
Special needs support - literacy and behaviour	KS2	30,573	100.0%
Special needs support - literacy and behaviour	KS3 & 4	30,573	100.0%
Costs of maintaining SEN statement- secondary education		9,478	31.0%
Permanent exclusions		122	0.4%
Educational psychologist time		13,758	45.0%
Truancy		2,140	7.0%
Employment - tax and NI revenue	Male	20,856	2.5 years
	Female	9,717	2.7 years
Employment- unemployment benefits	Male only	20,856	2.5 years
NEET social costs	Male	5,005	24.0%
	Female	2,332	24.0%
Depression	Male	2,086	10.0%
	Female	2,526	26.0%
Obesity	Male	834	4.0%
	Female	486	5.0%
Prison costs	Male	Variable	25%

Cost notes:

- 1 No indexation - 2006 prices
- 2 Earnings indexed using average earnings index from month 4, 2003
- 3 Costs indexed from June 1993 to June 2006 using RPI (RP02)
- 4 Obesity costs indexed from April 1998 to June 2006 using RPI
- 5 Costs indexed from 2002 (assumed June) to June 2006 using RPI (RP02)

