

## **Appendix 3 - The EHCP Banded Model for Funding Pupil-Led Need Top-up 2024/25**

### **Introduction**

1.1 Top-up funding (also known as Element 3 or 'Plus' funding) is the funding required by an institution, over and above place funding, to enable a child or young person with high needs to participate in education and learning. Top-up funding is expected to reflect the cost of additional support an institution incurs related to the individual needs of the child or young person.

1.2 As with many authorities, Bradford allocates top-up funding using a band model. This model is used to assign Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) into bands of need for funding purposes. Each band has an applicable level of funding and every EHCP assigned to a band is allocated a set value of funding.

1.3 At April 2020, for the 2020/21 financial year, we introduced a new Banded Model. This model replaced our previous 'Ranges Model'. This model includes protections, which have ensured, and will continue to ensure, that no EHCP in place on 1 April 2020 reduces in value as a result of funding model change.

1.4 A band system is more responsive to the needs of an individual child or young person than a blanket lump sum style approach but is not quite as sensitive as an approach where the cost of the needs of a child or young person is calculated on an exact basis. Blanket, band, and individually costed systems all have pros and cons. The main positive features of band models, and of our Banded Model, are that these help promote consistency and transparency, reduce complication, support the quick assessment and release of funds, whilst also enabling the SEND Panel to find a 'close fit' for funding the needs of an individual child or young person with an EHCP.

1.5 In continuing to use our Banded Model in 2024/25, the Council's intention is still to retain a uniform framework for calculating top-up funding for EHCPs. The Council's expectation continues to be that this framework will enable a close fit to be found for the funding of the vast majority of EHCPs and will ensure consistency of approach in the funding of high needs across mainstream and specialist settings both pre and post 16. It is accepted that there will be a small number of children or young people that will sit outside this banded framework, most of whom will be placed in specialist independent provisions.

1.6 There are no technical changes to our Banded Model in 2024/25. However, the rates of top-up funding that this model allocates have been uplifted.

### **The Banded Model 2024/25**

2.1 The Banded Model uses at its base the [Bradford Matrix of Need](#), which outlines waves of intervention:

- Band 1 (Quality First Teaching)
- Band 2 (SEND Support)
- Band 3 (EHCP) – typically mainstream - this is the band at which Element 3 EHCP funding begins
- Band 4 (EHCP Plus) – typically specialist provision

This Matrix identifies the responsibilities of schools and providers in their use of already delegated funds in meeting the cost of support up to Band 3. It then identifies the point at which top-up funding will begin in our model, which is EHCP Band 3.

2.2 The Banded Model has 6 bands and 6 funding steps, with values for 1 April 2024 as set out in the table below. This table shows the value of top-up by band and the value of Element 2 contributions, which schools

and providers will add to the top-up from their budgets to produce the total value of funding available for supporting the costs of an EHCP.

In all steps within the model the school / provider, with the exception of EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (in pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, is expected to contribute Element 2 funding, currently at a value of £6,000 per 1 FTE, to the cost of the additional needs set out in the EHCP. For EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (in pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, that are only funded through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF), because the EYSFF does not allocate Element 2 funding, Element 2 is allocated on an FTE basis in addition to the top-up value for these EHCPs until these children enter reception year. This addition does not apply to early years children that are placed in special schools or in resourced provisions as these provisions are funded on a place-led basis, which includes Element 2.

	<b>Top-up Value at April 2024</b>	<b>Element 2 Value FTE the school / provider adds</b>	<b>Total Value of Funding to support the EHCP</b>
<b>Band 3 Low (3L)</b>	<b>£2,401</b>	£6,000	<b>£8,401</b>
<b>Band 3 Medium (3M)</b>	<b>£4,237</b>	£6,000	<b>£10,237</b>
<b>Band 3 High (3H)</b>	<b>£6,019</b>	£6,000	<b>£12,019</b>
<b>Band 4 Low (4L)</b>	<b>£9,605</b>	£6,000	<b>£15,605</b>
<b>Band 4 Medium (4M)</b>	<b>£13,780</b>	£6,000	<b>£19,780</b>
<b>Band 4 High (4H)</b>	<b>£17,983</b>	£6,000	<b>£23,983</b>
<b>Protected 7</b>	<b>£29,548</b>	£6,000	<b>£35,548</b>

The model is calculated on a provision-mapping approach. The additional educational needs of a child with an EHCP typically will be met through additional adult contact time. Typically, this will be delivered in a combination of individual time and time in smaller groups. The overall volume of time will increase as needs increase and the proportion of this time that is delivered on a more bespoke basis will also increase as needs increase. The values of the bands have been built up on assumptions about the proportion of additional support given to an EHCP, with this support split between bespoke time and time in smaller groups. This is a model for the SEND Panel to use to determine the volume and type of support required to then closely meet the needs of an individual EHCP.

2.3 Band 3 (EHCP) typically will support the cost of EHCPs placed in mainstream provisions. Band 4 (EHCP plus) typically will support the cost of EHCPs placed in specialist provisions. However, this is not an absolute position and the SEND Panel will use the model flexibly to closely meet need.

The Band 3 values are calculated on assumptions on additional 'support assistant' time (where bespoke means 1:1 and group time is in groups of 1:3). The cost per hour assumption within the 2024/25 financial year model, on a term time only basis and incorporating assumptions about on-costs, is £17.12. This represents a 1.00% increase on the £16.95 that was used in the 2023/24 model.

The Band 4 values are calculated on assumptions on both support assistant time (where bespoke means 1:1 and group time is in groups of 1:2) and teacher time in group sizes of 1:12, 1:8 and 1:6. The cost per hour assumption for support assistant time within the 2024/25 financial year model is £17.12 as in Band 3. The cost per hour assumption for teacher time in the model is £50.30. This represents a 1.8% increase on the £49.42 that was used in the 2023/24 model.

2.4 Each EHCP will be funded at the band value that provides the closest fit for meeting the cost of the needs of the child or young person. In the model, the closest fit may also be found by combining ('stacking') more than one band value. The facility to combine values means that the SEND Panel can use the model in a flexible way to find a very close fit for the funding especially of children and young people with significant secondary needs as well as those that require additional functional support both within and outside of the standard taught school day where this is not already funded within a single band value.

2.5 It is helpful to continue to highlight the main differences between our current Banded Model and our previous Ranges Model that was used up to 31 March 2020:

- The Banded Model does not have a 7<sup>th</sup> step (the equivalent of the previous Range 7). It is expected that stacking will deliver a level of support higher than the single band 4H, where this is necessary. Specific transition arrangements are in place for Range 7 EHCPs that existed at 1 April 2020.
- The Panel can 'stack' values (meaning an EHCP can be allocated more than one value) in order to find a close fit.
- The Banded Model does not use primary need as a marker for the placement of an EHCP into a band. Placement is based on assessed level of need.
- Whereas the previous Ranges Model defined need in terms of 1:1 hours of support, the Banded Model uses a provision mapping approach and a combination of bespoke time and time in smaller groups.
- The values allocated by the Banded Model are significantly increased on those allocated by the Ranges Model.
- The Banded Model works alongside a clarified / amended approach to the sharing of the cost of specialist equipment.

2.6 To highlight how the Banded Model continues to be the same or similar to the previous Ranges Model:

- Decisions on the application of the Banded Model – which of the 6 bands an EHCP is placed in and whether an EHCP is given more than one band value - continue to be taken by Bradford Council's SEND Panel with reference to the evidence submitted through the EHCP assessment process. Appeals and disputes also continue to be resolved through the Panel process.
- In all steps within the model, the school / provider, with the exception of EHCPs for 2, 3 and 4 years olds (pre-reception) in mainstream not specialist provision, is expected to contribute Element 2 funding currently at a value of £6,000 to the cost of additional needs.
- The bottom 'threshold' for the 1<sup>st</sup> step of Band 3 (3 Low) is the same as the Ranges Model. The Banded Model itself has not changed the threshold at which EHCP funding can initiate nor has it changed the points of access to an EHCP. It simply has changed the options that are available to the SEND Panel to use to ensure that an EHCP is appropriately and accurately funded.
- For the top-up funding of post 16 high needs students with EHCPs in the Further Education sector, it has been agreed previously with the relevant providers that, as, on average, colleges deliver around 60% of the hours delivered by schools, colleges are funded for the vast majority of students at 60% of the Banded Model value for the primary need of the student. The exceptions are students with the primary need of sensory impairment (Hearing / Visual), where funding continues to be allocated on an actual cost basis. Due to the specific support needs of these students in Further Education, and the diverse nature of their curriculum choices, it is not possible to formularise this funding element. This approach is continued in the application Banded Model in 2024/25, adjusted for funding, as appropriate, for the delivery of the

additional 40 post-16 study hours, which is part of the 2023/24 post-16 financial settlement and part of the Government's COVID-19 pandemic support response.

- The 'technical framework' is the same for the operation of the Banded Model during the year e.g. the monthly re-calculation of EHCP funding from the census of EHCPs on roll on 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- An assessment place (which was Range 4D) has become Band 4L. This funds EHCPs placed in specialist provisions until a final determination of band from the Panel is received. Funding is changed at this point if this is different from 4L. Band 4L also continues to be used to more permanently fund placements in the Early Years ESPs that are attached to maintained nursery schools.

**A reminder of the transition from the previous Ranges Model**

3.1 It is helpful to remind providers of how we moved from the Ranges Model to the now established Banded Model and what protections continue to be in place. All EHCPs in place at 1 April 2020 were automatically transferred on to the new Banded Model system at 1 April 2020 as follows:

Range		Band
Range 4A	became	Band 3L
Range 4B	became	Band 3M
Range 4C	became	Band 3H
Range 4D	became	Band 4L
Range 5	became	Band 4M
Range 6	became	Band 4H
Range 7	became	Protected 7

3.2 Most existing EHCPs on an on-going basis will remain within the band they were transferred to. The SEND Panel will continue to review, through the annual review process, individual EHCPs where the banding may be disputed, where there are obvious existing inaccuracies or where the needs of the child or young person have changed.

3.3 The Banded Model operates under the guarantee that, for EHCPs in place at 1 April 2020, the EHCP will not ever drop to a lower valued band unless the SEND Panel agrees that the needs of the child or young person are reduced when compared against the needs presented to the Panel in the original EHCP determination. This guarantee remains until the pupil reaches the end of year 11. This guarantee does not extend to assessment places that were funded at 1 April 2020 (as these pupils did not yet have EHCPs).

3.4 The Banded Model retains a transitional 'Protected 7' band, which will continue to fund EHCPs that we graded at Range 7 under the old model. These Range 7 pupils will stay funded by the Protected 7 band unless an annual review gives them a higher level of funding using the new model (via stacking), when the pupil would be transferred onto the new model at this point, or where the pupil's needs are agreed to have reduced when compared against the needs presented to the Panel in the original EHCP Range 7 determination. This guarantee remains in place until the pupil reaches the end of year 11. The value of Protected 7 will be uplifted each year by the same % that is applied to Band 4H.

## High level Summary of Place-Plus and how this works for different providers in Bradford

Type of Provision	Pre-16 Place (Core) Funding	Pre-16 Top-Up Funding (Pupil-Led Need)	Post-16 Place Funding	Post-16 Top-Up Funding (Pupil-Led Need)	Setting-Led Need Factors	Additional Support Measures
<b>Mainstream primary &amp; secondary</b> (maintained schools, academies and free schools)	<p>Element 1 is included within the per-pupil funding allocated through the local school funding formula (NFF-based).</p> <p>Element 2 - the first £6,000 of additional support cost – is also already delegated with the school’s formula funding allocation.</p> <p>Notional SEND defines the value of funding already allocated</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	None.	SEND Funding Floor supports Element 2 cost in pre-16 provisions.
<b>Mainstream early years</b> (nursery schools, classes and PVI providers)	<p>Element 1 is included within the per-pupil funding allocated through the local EYSFF.</p> <p>Early Years SEND Inclusion Grant allocates Element 2 (£6,000) for eligible low level emerging</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in ‘real time’ during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p>	n/a	n/a	None.	<p>Early Years SEND Inclusion Grant (EYIF).</p> <p>DAF Grant.</p>

	<p>SEND (non-EHCP) as agreed by Panel.</p> <p>Element 2 is allocated to early years EHCPs in addition to top-up.</p>	<p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school or provider.</p>				
<p><b>School-led Resourced Provisions</b> (mainstream primary &amp; secondary)</p>	<p>Elements 1 &amp; 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £6,000 per place for places occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year and £10,000 per place for the remainder of places agreed to be commissioned.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>3% Cash Budget Protection.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>

	<p>the year.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p> <p>Element 1 is set at a minimum of £4,000 per agreed place.</p>					
<p><b>Local Authority-led Sensory Need Resourced Provisions</b> (mainstream primary &amp; secondary).</p>	<p>Elements 1 &amp; 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £6,000 per place for those occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year and £10,000 per place for the remainder of places agreed to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1, set at a minimum of £4,000 per agreed place.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council. This currently requires host schools to repay Element 2</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council. This currently requires host schools to repay Element 2 back to the Council.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>

	back to the Council. Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.					
<b>Local Authority-led Resourced Provisions</b> (mainstream primary & secondary).	<p>Element 1 is allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local school's funding formula plus £4,000 (or the higher MFL value) for places agreed to be commissioned but not occupied by pupils on roll in October in the previous year.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1, set at a minimum of £4,000 (or the higher MFL value) per agreed place.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be commissioned.</p> <p>The host school retains Element 1.</p> <p>Element 2 funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is retained by Bradford Council.</p>	<p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants</p>



	Element 2 funding is calculated at £6,000 per commissioned place and is retained by Bradford Council.					
<b>Early Years Enhanced Specialist Provisions</b> (maintained nursery schools)	<p>Elements 1 &amp; 2 are allocated through a combination of per-pupil funding allocated through the local EYSFF plus £6,000 per FTE commissioned place.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the school.</p> <p>Additional Element 1 funding is paid using EYSFF rates for any FTE places not occupied in the EYSFF termly censuses.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model. All EYESP places funded at a minimum Band 4L (assessment places).</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	n/a	n/a	Small Setting Protection.	Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants

	funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.					
<b>Maintained Special Schools &amp; Special School Academies</b>	<p>Elements 1 and 2 are combined in a fixed £10,000 per place, based on an agreed number of places to be commissioned. Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.</p> <p>Retained by the school.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the school.</p>	<p>£10,000 per place based on an agreed number of places.</p> <p>Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for actual total composite occupancy across the year.</p> <p>Retained by the school.</p>	Uses the Banded Model.	<p>Split Sites.</p> <p>Post 16 Element 1 enhancement.</p> <p>New Services Delegation.</p> <p>Small Setting Protection.</p> <p>3% Cash Budget Protection.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants.</p> <p>Additional "3.4% Place-Element" Funding required by DfE (DSG Conditions of Grant).</p>
<b>PRUs &amp; AP Academies</b> (funding provision for pupils permanently excluded).	<p>Elements 1 and 2 are combined in a fixed £10,000 per place, based on an agreed number of places to be commissioned.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters</p>	n/a	n/a	<p>No specific additional factors – setting-led need costs are to be covered within the calculation of the Day Rate.</p>	<p>Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants.</p> <p>Additional "3.4% Place-Element" Funding required by DfE (DSG</p>

	Retained by the PRU / AP Academy.  Additional place-funding is allocated in real time where occupancy is exceeded, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment of additional place-led funding for the actual total composite occupancy across the year.	and leavers.  Uses the Day Rate Model.  The top-up funding is allocated to and retained by the PRU / AP Academy.				Conditions of Grant).
<b>Hospital Education, Tracks and Medical Home Tuition.</b>	The funding of the centrally managed services operates outside the Place-Plus mechanism, working within the discrete allocation provided for this service within our HNB. This will be subject to annual review to incorporate any changes in the DfE's funding methodology and requirements.	n/a	n/a	n/a	None.	Teacher Pay and Teacher Pensions Grants
<b>Further Education Institutions, special institutions and</b>	n/a	n/a	Element 1 (based on the 16-19 national funding formula) plus	Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning	None.	None.

<p><b>ILPs (post 16)</b></p>			<p>Element 2 (£6,000) based on the number of places to be funded.</p> <p>Additional place-funding (element 2 only) can be allocated in year where occupancy exceeds agreed places, with an end of year reconciliation to ensure no overall overpayment.</p> <p>Both Elements 1 and 2 are retained by the institution.</p>	<p>local authority.</p> <p>Allocated in 'real time' during the year. Changes for starters and leavers.</p> <p>Uses the Banded Model.</p> <p>Typically, values are funded at 60% for most placements (adjusted for the additional 40 hours). Higher cost placements (low incidence high need) are typically funded on an actual cost basis.</p>		
<p><b>Independent Schools</b></p>	<p>The place funding system doesn't operate in independent schools.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p>	<p>The place funding system doesn't operate in independent schools.</p>	<p>Agreed per-pupil top-up paid by the commissioning local authority.</p>	<p>None.</p>	