

INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION ON FUNDING HIGH NEEDS PROVISION

2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. Introduction and Summary

1.1 The primary purpose of this information and consultation document is to collect views so that agreement can be reached on the structure of our High Needs Block funding approach (our Place-Plus system) for the 2017/18 financial year i.e. how Bradford Council calculates and allocates funding that is delegated to providers.

1.2 Information is also presented on the issue of cost pressures and a warning is given about possible reductions in Top Up funding rates (the Plus element). The main priority for the 2017/18 financial year is for us to identify sufficient funding to significantly increase the quantity of specialist places available and to meet additional areas of immediate pressure. The Schools Forum will be considering again the rates of funding applied through our Ranges Model. Providers will be aware that values of the Plus elements (the top up above the £10,000) in our Ranges Model were reduced in this current year by 0.42% as part of a blanket reduction across all 3 Blocks to achieve a balanced DSG. This 0.42% reduction was also applied to the non-delegated / centrally managed High Needs Block budgets. In addition, the budget for supporting the cost of specialist equipment in special schools was reduced by 50% (to £37,500).

1.3 Providers can use their responses to this consultation to set out their views on rates of funding for the 2017/18 financial year. Providers are also encouraged to keep track of the School Forum's discussions on DSG cost pressures as these progress over the autumn term. It is expected that the Schools Forum will make its final recommendations on rates of funding at its meeting on 11 January 2017.

1.4 The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Monday 28 November 2016**. Please address all questions and responses to Andrew Redding 01274 432678 andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk. A response form is included at Appendix 2.

1.5 By way of a re-cap of where we are, significant changes to the way 'High Needs' provision is funded were required to be implemented by the Department for Education (DfE) for the 2013/14 financial year. These changes affected activities funded by the High Needs Block, which is a specific block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (the DSG) that amounts to about 10% of the overall DSG resources available to the Local Authority funding:

- Children with Statements in all mainstream settings
- Special Schools, Academies and Free Schools
- Resourced Units attached to mainstream schools, academies and Free Schools
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)
- Behaviour Centres
- Behaviour & Attendance Collaboratives (the BACS)
- Provision for students aged post 16 in Further Education (FE) settings
- Services for high needs children that are managed centrally by the Local Authority
- Education in Hospital provision
- Children placed in out of authority and non-maintained settings

1.6 This funding approach is based on the financial definition of a 'High Needs' student being one whose education (incorporating all additional support) costs more than £10,000 per annum. This threshold lays the foundation of the national 'Place Plus' framework and the basis of the definition of the financial responsibility that maintained schools, academies and other settings have for meeting the needs of children from their delegated budgets.

1.7 Bradford Local Authority's response to these changes has been as follows:

- Our consultation document, published in autumn term 2012, outlined the major changes brought about by the new system and explained the proposals for our approach to High Needs funding for the 2013/14 financial year. Our approach was agreed by the Schools Forum in January 2013. At the

centre of our approach is the application of a uniform banding model containing 7 'ranges' of need, with 7 bands of funding (referred to in this document as our 'Ranges Model').

- In March 2013, the Schools Forum agreed a series of reviews, 8 of which related to items from the High Needs Block. Our consultation document, published in autumn 2013, proposed mostly incremental changes and resolved some outstanding issues, including:
 - The funding of high needs provisions via our full Ranges Model / Place-Plus Framework, including ARCs, Early Years Children's Centre Plus, Primary Behaviour Centres and the PRUs
 - The continuation of the cash budget protection factor, which helps guard settings against unexpected monthly budget fluctuations.
 - Improvements in the processes for the identification and moderation of pupil-need, so that information about Ranges is more accessible and so that the system is more responsive to in year changes.
 - Additional setting-based factors for the PRUs (split sites, rates and churn factors).
 - An increase in the value of the SEN Funding Floor for students with statements / EH&CPs in mainstream schools.

The Schools Forum agreed our 2014/15 funding model in January 2014.

- In March 2014, the Schools Forum again agreed a number of reviews relating to the High Needs Block, which were completed to inform decisions for the 2015/16 financial year. The Schools Forum agreed our 2015/16 model in January 2015, which included only incremental changes on 2014/15, some of which were changes directed by the DfE:
 - Following the DfE's direction - the value of an alternative provision place was increased from £8,000 to £10,000, with a corresponding decrease of £2,000 per place made to each setting's Plus element, so that this change was impact neutral.
 - Following the DfE's direction - Post 16 places were changed to be funded on the basis of the location of the setting rather than who commissions the place, bringing this in line with pre-16.
 - Early Years Children's Centre Plus - the total planned DSG budget allocated to this provision was adjusted to remove the previous double funding within the £6,000 place-led element per FTE place.
 - Alternative Provision – a change to calculate the Plus element for all students without a statement on a formula of 50% Range 4D and 50% Range 5.
 - SEN Funding Floor Primary schools and academies – the value of the SEN Funding Floor for primary schools and academies was increased. The SEN Funding Floor is a protection mechanism that ensures that all schools / academies receive a minimum amount of SEN funding.
 - Cash Budget Protection Factor – the cash budget protection factor for special schools and DSPs was continued, but with the eligibility for this factor based on criteria, so that protection is not continued in settings that are more permanently reducing their pupil numbers.
 - Exceptional circumstances / financial difficulties – a more formal Exceptional Circumstances / Financial Difficulty mechanism within the High Needs Funding Model was adopted, in line with that of mainstream provision.
 - The Schools Forum agreed an initial step towards the funding of post 16 high needs students in Further Education (FE) settings on a formula-basis for the 2014/15 academic year.
 - The Authority's Control of Excess Surplus Balances mechanism was adjusted to provide a greater amount of flexibility for stand-alone maintained high needs providers in managing the possible negative impact of in year changes in pupil population.
- The Schools Forum agreed our 2016/17 financial year funding model in January 2016, which again included only incremental structural changes largely driven by affordability pressures within the High Needs Block, but also clarifying the arrangement for the funding of additional in year places and further developing the funding approach for high needs students in Further Education settings:
 - The Bradford-Specific Minimum Funding Guarantee factor for Special Schools and Academies and DSPs was removed.
 - It was agreed that the funding of in year additional places be allocated in real time during the year and for an end of year reconciliation to be actioned, which will mean that a setting's place funding will be reduced (negative adjustment) if the setting has been allocated too much additional places funding for its annual composite occupancy.
 - For the funding of post 16 high needs students in the Further Education sector, it was agreed 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 Ranges Model value for the primary need of the student. The exceptions are students with the primary need of sensory impairment (Hearing / Visual), where funding will continue 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 brings the basis of funding of the Further Education and Maintained sectors closer together and provides greater transparency. It also allows for more accurate budget planning, both for colleges and for the Authority.

1.8 The DfE is currently consulting on the move to National Funding Formula (NFF) arrangements across the Dedicated Schools Grant. A NFF is likely to have significant consequences for all aspects of local education and school funding and this is currently clearly on the radar of the Schools Forum and its working groups. The Schools Forum has a specific SEN Reference Group, which is made up of representatives across the high needs sector in Bradford. We expect NFF changes to begin, for the Schools and High Needs Blocks, from April 2018. At point of writing this consultation paper the DfE's 2nd stage of consultation, which the DfE indicated would be available in autumn 2016, has not yet been published. The key proposals relating to the High Needs Block that have been put forward by the DfE so far are:

- The NFF proposals do not introduce a provider-level national formula for HNB funded providers. Local authorities will continue to have responsibility for the management / formula funding of High Needs Block (HNB) provisions. The distribution of HNB local authority level funding is to be formularised using proxy measures, with an expected extended timescale of transition to new funding levels. In the first 5 years at least, it is proposed that current spending will more dictate levels of HNB funding for each local authority than the new formula. There are some more technical proposals for HNB funding arrangements (which are still being worked through and much detail still to be announced). The DfE understands that local authorities may need to re-shape their HNB provisions (including developing more places) and proposes to make monies available during the transition period, including capital monies, to enable authorities to do this.
- The DfE expects much closer collaboration between local authorities in funding arrangements and in commissioning provision. The DfE also expects that local authorities will consider the organisation of their alternative provisions and how these are funded.
- The DfE sees the importance of local authorities (and high needs providers) finding significant efficiencies in their HNB provisions, including collaborative arrangements, but also using reserves within the DSG to support initial pressures and transition and accessing the capital support, which will be made available to reshape and increase places.
- The Schools Block is to be ring-fenced, so that this must be spent on primary and secondary formulae funding and cannot be diverted to support pressures in other Blocks i.e. the High Needs Block.
- The DfE is considering options for the review of alternative provision, to "make AP more rigorous" and will publish plans on this. This may affect how the different kinds of AP are funded.
- No formula solution has been put forward yet for the funding of Education in Hospital provision (still based on current levels of spending).
- Continuation of the Place-Plus system; "not much change is planned" in this apart from some technical adjustments. Therefore, we assume the continuation of the basics; place funding set on an annual basis via a formal process, top up monthly re-calculation etc. A minor technical simplification of the place funding of resourced provisions attached to mainstream settings is proposed (how the first £4,000 element is calculated). It is also proposed to give independent schools the opportunity to move onto the Place-Plus framework and to adopt more common arrangements between pre and post 16 mechanisms.
- Local authorities will continue to be able to spend HNB resource outside the Place-Plus framework (e.g. devolving monies for specialist services) and to support inclusion.

1.9 We now do not expect the 2nd stage consultation on NFF to affect directly the position for the 2017/18 financial year. The DfE has announced that 2017/18 is a 'stand-still' year and no major technical changes are being made to the funding framework in so far as these affects delegated high needs funding at provider level. No change means that we continue to have complete flexibility locally in how we define and fund levels of need. The Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2017/18, for special school funding, is set again at minus 1.5%.

1.10 In the face of future uncertainty, the Forum, previously, has sought to provide stability by generally maintaining the status quo in formula funding arrangements, based on our assessment that the structures of our formulae continue to be fit for purpose. These structures however, must work within the overall DSG funding envelope and must respond to changes in Regulations where directed.

1.11 We propose therefore, as set out in this consultation document, to make only targeted adjustments to Bradford's Place-Plus system for the 2017/18 financial year, with the purposes of:

- Supporting value for money within our High Needs Block by setting a correct balance between providing stability through budget protections for individual settings whilst avoiding 'locking in' an incorrect distribution of funding for an extended period of time.
- Ensuring that our Place-Plus system responds to appropriately fund the changing nature of provision, including that offered by our resourced units attached to mainstream schools and academies.

1.12 Providers will be aware that the Government has set out its plans for significant reform of Alternative Provision. This reform is likely to affect commissioning responsibilities and, from this, financial responsibilities and the processes by which allocations for placements are calculated and how money flows between schools, providers and the Local Authority. For example, where the host school takes more responsibility for commissioning places in alternative provision, including for permanently excluded pupils, it will be the host school's delegated budget that will meet the cost of the Plus element and the host school will have the direct financial relationship with the provider. Therefore, the funding to enable this commissioning should rest in schools (in the Schools Block) rather than in the High Needs Block / with the Local Authority. This may mean that a District-wide 'Funding Ranges' model, controlled by the Local Authority, becomes less prominent for the calculation of the cost of placements. There may also develop a much clearer delineation of funding responsibilities, with the High Needs Block solely funding provision for young people with SEND Statements or EHCPs. These policy reforms are likely to take shape at the same time as the National Funding Formula is implemented. The financial framework for Alternative Provision, and the relative responsibilities of school delegated budgets and the High Needs Block will be affected by both these changes.

2. High Needs Block Rates Comparisons, Cost Pressures (and Sustainability)

2.1 The values of formula factors quoted in this document e.g. the values of 'Plus' funding by Range shown in Appendix 1, are indicative only for 2017/18. In particular, these values will be subject to the School Forum's management of costs pressures within the DSG.

2.2 The Authority's benchmarking of Top up (Plus element) rates against other authorities shows that our 2016/17 rates can be said, at the very least, to be comparable for both SEN and Alternative Provisions. Accepting the limitations of the data taken from Section 251 Planned Budget returns, and that this makes no reference to differences in levels of need between authorities or in how provision is delivered or the nature of PRU provision, this data indicates that our top up rates per place (this is the total of funding allocated in addition to the nationally set place-element) compare as follows:

	Bradford	National Median	Statistical Neighbour Median
SEN Places	£10,531	£10,485	£10,564
Alternative Provision Places – All our PRUs *	£9,970	£7,713	£6,021
Alternative Provisions Places – our turn-around PRUs only	x3 settings: £7,316, £8,029 and £9,704	£7,713	£6,021

* we have PRUs that act more like special schools, so we would expect their funding rates to be higher, assuming that the PRUs in other authorities are only for turn-around provision. This is not as robust a comparison as that for special schools.

2.3 The High Needs Block continues to be under significant financial pressure; overspending in 2016/17 in total by £5.6m (10%) against the notional DSG budget allocated by the DfE. This is largely the result of demographic stresses, which will continue for a number of years. This overspending is met currently through contributions from the Schools and Early Years Blocks within the DSG.

2.4 The Schools Forum received a presentation on 18 May 2016, which explained that a further 360 specialist places are needed by September 2018 (at roughly 120 per year in each of the next 3 years) simply to meet forecasted demographic growth. The annual cost of 120 places (at an average of £21,000 per place) is roughly £2.52m. At its meeting on 21 September, the Forum agreed to the funding of the first 120 places from January 2017. The Schools Forum has also been made aware of a significant growth in cost of out of authority, independent and non maintained school placements and in other aspects of high needs provision, including medical-need home tuition. Planning on this basis, indicatively, increases the cost of high needs provision by £5.43m in 2017/18 i.e. the overspending in 2017/18 increases from £5.6m to £11.03m.

2.5 Currently, these pressures will only be met by taking sizeable contributions from the Schools and Early Years Blocks, effectively by reducing the rates of formulae funding for primary and secondary schools and academies and early years providers. What a 1.5% reduction on formula funding looks like indicatively for primary and secondary schools and academies in 2017/18 is shown in the separately published Schools Block consultation paper. What a 1.5% reduction in the values allocated by our Ranges Model looks like indicatively is shown in the table in paragraph 4.8.

2.6 The Local Authority, with the SEN Reference Group and the Schools Forum, is reviewing this position, from the perspectives of both financial pressures and the sufficiency of places. The longer-term pressure must be viewed in the context of the impact of the National Funding Formula in the future. Our view of this will be shaped as further details of the National Funding Formula are announced.

2.7 As outlined in paragraph 5, the Authority's indicative 2017/18 DSG planned budget currently assumes / estimates the need for the following places:

- For individual settings, the greater of either actual occupancy at October 2016 or the 2016/17 planned places total, with some adjustments to individual settings for known specific changes and planned increases.
- Further provision, not yet allocated to individual settings, of 120 places for the full financial year (continuing those introduced at January 2017) plus a further 120 places at September 2017 (with 7/12ths of the cost in 2017/18). These places will be available to allocate across different provisions, including out of authority settings and placements in independent and non maintained schools.

2.8 The Authority will continue to firm up places forecasts over the autumn term and will talk to providers, prior to agreeing the DSG's provision with the Schools Forum for 2017/18 on 11 January 2017. There is some work that still needs to be done here, including confirming the forecasted need for places in the Further Education Sector. Further discussions are also taken place about the sufficiency of places for SEMH.

3. Reminder of the Key Characteristics of the 'Place-Plus' Framework

3.1 Under 'Place-Plus', delegated budgets in 2017/18 will be constructed in 2 parts:

The Place Element - the value of the 'Place' element is set at

- £10,000 per place for specialist SEN settings (pre and post 16) and for specialist Alternative Provision settings (including Pupil Referral Units)
- £10,000 per pre 16 place and £11,165 per post 16 place for resourced provisions attached to mainstream settings

These values are set nationally by the DfE. The number of places per setting will be set with the Local Authority before the start of the 2017/18 financial year.

The £10,000 / £11,165 values are made up of:

- Element 1: a basic £4,000 (for £10,000 places), £5,165 (for £11,165 places), which is the funding that all pupils attract within formula funding,

- Element 2: an additional £6,000 for additional needs, which in the mainstream primary and secondary funding formula is allocated within already delegated budgets, calculated on measures of additional need such as Free School Meals, IDACI and low attainment.

The Plus Element – Element 3 - the Top Up, above the value of the Place element, which is allocated on an individual pupil basis. This will be calculated on an assessment of the additional needs of individual pupils (we use our 7 Ranges Model – see Appendix 1) and allocations will be re-calculated, on a monthly basis, to take account of the movement of children. The Plus element is the only vehicle through which differences in costs associated with settings (rather than pupils) can also be recognised e.g. split sites, smaller settings. It is for local authorities, in consultation with their providers, to set the values of their Plus elements. Plus elements will be paid to settings by the commissioning authority, which in most instances is the Local Authority.

3.2 Other key characteristics of 'Place-Plus' are:

- For academies and other non-maintained providers, including Further Education settings, the Place element will be allocated directly by the Education Funding Agency, rather than by the Local Authority.
- Specific stand-alone maintained high needs providers i.e. Special schools and PRUs, are not able to access de-delegated or centrally managed funds within the DSG in the way that they did prior to 1 April 2013. This means that, in areas such as maternity cover for employees and trade union facilities time, settings must either purchase services, where possible, from the Local Authority, or make their own arrangements, with the cost falling to their delegated budgets.
- A basic Minimum Funding Guarantee is still required in 2017/18 for special schools, to protect an individual school's Plus allocation against reductions of more than 1.5% per pupil. This MFG is not a requirement in other phases e.g. alternative provision or resourced units.
- Local authorities are permitted to continue to separately fund additional outreach and support services that may be managed centrally or may be devolved to providers under service level agreements. It has been specifically recognised by the DfE that this sort of separate approach may be required to provide effective support services for children aged 0-19 with low incidence sensory impaired requiring high levels of specialist support in mainstream settings.
- Place-Plus contains sufficient flexibility for local authorities to continue current strategies and to ensure that individual settings do not face unmanageable budget pressures.

4. Reminder of our funding approach in this current financial year

4.1 A helpful way to outline the basics of our approach is to explain the funding model for Special schools in this current financial year, as this has laid the foundations of the funding of all high needs provision.

Identification and Moderation of Pupil Need

4.2 As the majority of placements are commissioned by the Local Authority, the process for placing children into the 7 Ranges framework is led by the Local Authority, using the primary need data that is held by the Authority and the descriptors of need that have been agreed by school colleagues and applied for the funding of Special schools for a number of years.

4.3 The Local Authority reviews existing pupil populations and discusses the outcomes of this with each setting. Assessment places are funded at Range 4D.

4.4 The processes for managing in year changes, and for the placement of pupils newly statemented, are also led by the Local Authority. The Authority tracks the movement of children between settings and re-calculates funding on a monthly basis. SEN Services provides to each setting a list of pupils on roll and their funding range by the 5th day of each month. Any discrepancies in that month's data are resolved at this point, before the 10th of the month deadline. Newly statemented children are placed into one of the 7 Ranges by the Authority using primary need data. Children initially placed at Range 4D are re-categorised following assessment and settings are notified of this. Settings are also notified of the proposed funding range of a

child at the point of consultation on placement. Schools are able to refer to the monthly funding statements to check changes and the funding position of newly admitted pupils

4.5 Adjustments to reflect changes in the needs of individual children, where an issue has been raised by a setting, are referred to the SEN Strategy Manager / Assessment Manager. If agreement is not reached, the SEN Panel is asked to make a final decision. Where changes are agreed with the Authority, funding is updated from the next applicable month.

Funding Pupil-Based Need – the 7 Ranges Model

4.6 The agreed 7 Ranges Model, shown at Appendix 1, is used to assign pupils into categories of need for funding purposes. Each range has an applicable level of funding, and every pupil assigned to a range is allocated the set value of funding, regardless of setting. This model has been applied in the same way to both pre and post 16 students.

4.7 The Local Authority’s intention has been to establish a single uniform framework for calculating ‘Plus’ funding. The Authority’s expectation is that this framework will categorise the vast majority of pupils and will thus ensure consistency in the approach to the funding of high needs in mainstream and specialist settings. It is accepted that there will be a small number of children or young people that will sit outside the Ranges framework; most of whom will be placed in specialist independent provisions.

4.8 The values of funding per pupil set for each range in 2016/17 are set out below, along with an indication of what a 1.5% reduction in these rates would look like.

Range	Plus Funding (annual value) 2016/17	Indicative Value of a 1.5% Reduction
Range 1	£0	n/a
Range 2	£0	n/a
Range 3	£0	n/a
Range 4A	£981	- £15
Range 4B	£3,092	- £46
Range 4C	£4,738	- £71
Range 4D	£7,380	- £111
Range 5	£10,761	- £161
Range 6	£14,337	- £215
Range 7	£23,558	- £353

4.9 For example then, for a child assessed at Range 7 in a Special school or academy receives £10,000 Place funding and an additional £23,558 Plus funding; a total of £33,558 for a full year. Where a child is placed at a setting during the year, the setting receives the Plus value for the proportion of the year the pupil is on roll.

Funding Setting-Based Need

4.10 The following setting based needs factors are included in the calculation of Plus funding in 2016/17. These are allocated in addition to the values of pupil-based need funding shown in the table above.

- New Delegation Costs – an additional amount per pupil to reflect that stand alone specialist settings under Place Plus cannot access de-delegated and centrally managed services and this may create additional budget pressure - set at a flat £364 per pupil. So a setting with 100 pupils receives 100 x £364 = £36,400 additional funding.
- Small Setting Protection – an additional sum, for stand-alone settings with fewer than 75 places, to ensure a minimum level of funding for fixed costs. The formula in 2016/17 is:
 A (75 x £10,000 x 20%)
 B (setting’s place funding x 20%)
 = top up to the value of A where B is less than A

- Split Sites – an additional agreed sum to replicate 2014/15 values for schools that continue to operate across split sites (£162,850 for a full year allocation).
- Post 16 Places – an additional sum per Post 16 place, to continue the additional £1,165 per Post 16 place following the directed reduction from £11,165 to £10,000 place value within the national funding model from August 2014. This ensures that special schools with post 16 places do not lose out from the technical simplification. This is a factor specific only to special schools.
- 2015/16 Budget Protection – an additional total cash budget protection, for eligible settings only, which ensures that at no point during 2016/17 will the total 'Place Plus' calculated budget for an individual setting be more than 1.5% lower than the 2015/16 total level of funding (taking account of the income received for placements by other local authorities).

In Year Re-Calculation

4.11 The value of Plus funding is re-determined on a monthly basis for the movement of children. This re-calculation is based on the position recorded at the 10th of each month. Where a child is admitted after the 10th, funding begins from the next month.

4.12 For any errors in the data for a single month, or where the position has been estimated due to the most up to date data not being available (at September, picking up all changes for the new academic year), retrospective adjustments are made in the subsequent month's calculation.

4.13 Funding for August repeats the position recorded for July.

4.14 A ready reckoner is available, which helps settings predict the impact on funding of movements in pupil numbers / ranges on a monthly basis.

4.15 The funding of additional place-element, where a setting's number on roll exceeds the number of places set before the start of the financial year, is allocated in real time during the year. An end of year reconciliation is actioned, which means that a setting's place funding will be reduced (a negative adjustment) if the setting has been allocated too much additional places funding for its annual composite occupancy.

The Application of this Approach for the funding of other High Needs Providers

4.16 The approach outlined in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.15 is used to calculate allocations for SEN Resourced Provisions attached to mainstream primary and secondary settings, with the following differences:

- Designated Specialist Provision (DSPs):
 - Of the setting based need factors listed in paragraph 4.10, only 2015/16 budget protection factors are applied. The other factors are not applied, because DSPs are not stand alone units and because Post 16 places continue to be funded at the original value of £11,165 within the national model.
- Additional Resourced Centres (ARCs – support for hearing and visually impaired pupils):
 - The funding model is applied to ARCs in the same way as for the DSPs above, with four differences. Firstly, all children placed in the ARCs are funded at Range 5. Secondly, as ARC provision is managed by the Local Authority, the monthly calculated 'Plus' element is retained by the Authority, plus the settings pay back to the Authority £6,000 of the £10,000 for each funded place on a full year basis. Thirdly, the New Delegated Costs factor is applied, as the Authority cannot access the de-delegated arrangements that resources provisions attached to maintained schools can. Fourthly, the 2015/16 Budget Protection Factor is not applied, to enable the repayment of place-led funding.

4.17 The approach outlined in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.15 is used to calculate allocations for placements in Pupil Referral Units, with the following differences:

- The value of the Place element has now been set, by the DfE, at £10,000, but previously was set at £8,000. As a consequence, the Small Setting Protection factor is calculated on the £8,000 per place value and an additional setting factor is included, which removes the £2,000 additional funding per

place, so that the impact of the DfE's directed change to £10,000 is neutral. However, this adjustment is not applied to Primary PRU, to recognise that, although a PRU in name, this setting acts as a special school and has a similar cost structure.

- The Place element for the District PRU has been added to the Plus element and allocated flexibly on a monthly basis following the actual placement of pupils.
- For Central PRU, recognising the short term intensive nature of placements, rather than following the moderation processes, which are more suited to determining needs over the longer term, we have used a 'formulaic' basis to placing pupils into the Ranges model; placing 50% of pupils on roll in Range 4D and 50% in Range 5 on a monthly basis.
- This method is extended to calculate the Plus element for all non-statemented students in other PRUs settings. These students are funded on a formula of 50% Range 4D and 50% Range 5.
- Of the setting based need factors listed in paragraph 4.10, only the New Delegation Costs and Small Setting Protection are employed. A separate (different) split site factor has been used. Please see below.
- The following additional setting based need factors are included in the funding model for the PRUs:
 - A split sites factor, which recognises where provision is delivered across sites that are geographically separated. For qualifying settings, we have doubled the value of the small setting protection, to recognise the duplication in running costs of a separate site (s).
 - A 'Churn' factor, for settings that delivery short term provision, to recognise additional pressures that relate to the continuous movement of children. For qualifying settings, we calculate funding on a monthly basis as follows: the mobility variable (taken from the secondary mainstream formula) x5 (this is a standard weighting for high needs provision) x number of pupils on roll.
 - A 'Rates' factor, for all settings. As special schools do not pay rates, our basic funding model does not include any provision for the cost of rates. However, PRUs are liable for rates charges.

4.18 The approach outlined in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.15 has been used to calculate allocations for placements in the Primary Behaviour Centres, with the following differences:

- The value of the Place element has now been set, by the DfE, at £10,000, but previously was set at £8,000. As a consequence, an additional setting factor is included, which removes the £2,000 additional funding per place, so that the impact of the DfE's directed change to £10,000 is neutral. This adjustment is not applied to the 5 SEN places at the Phoenix Centre.
- For SEN placements (at Phoenix Centre), pupil need is identified and moderated as outlined in paragraph 4.2. For all other behaviour placements, recognising the short term intensive nature of provision for children that do not necessarily have Statements, the same formulaic approach as used for the Central PRU is employed; 50% of pupils funded at Range 4D and 50% of pupils funded at Range 5 on a monthly basis.
- Like other resourced provisions, the Behaviour Centres are not stand alone units. As such, it is not applicable to apply all the setting-need based factors that are included within the special school and the PRU funding models. The only setting need based factors that have been included within the calculation of Plus funding for the Centres in 2016/17 are the Churn factor (as per Central PRU above and calculated on the same basis), and the 2015/16 Budget Protection factor.

4.19 An interim funding model is being used in 2016/17 for the funding of Early Years Children's Centre Plus provision, as a review of this provision takes shape. This interim model applies the established principles of Place-Plus, setting the number of places on expected occupancy, funding all places at Range 4D, and

including an additional allocation in response to estimated setting-based costs. The model will continue to be developed as the review of this provision takes shape.

4.20 For the funding of post 16 high needs students in the Further Education sector, it has been agreed 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 Ranges Model value for the primary need of the student. The exceptions are students with the primary need of sensory impairment (Hearing / Visual), where funding will continue 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.

4.21 The funding for Education in Hospital in 2016/17 is allocated to local authorities outside of the DSG, based on a national formula, with the requirement that local authorities continue the same amount per place funding as in 2015/16 (which for Bradford is £18,000 per place). As such, the Place-Plus framework is not fully applicable. This is a pragmatic, short term funding approach, in place until a longer term solution can be developed (by the DfE).

4.22 The new Place-Plus framework for the funding of children with SEN in mainstream Primary and Secondary schools / academies mainstream has been applied in 2016/17 as follows. This approach has not been significantly different from our approach prior to 1 April 2013.

- The vast majority of funding, which supports the costs of children at School Action, School Action Plus and with Statements, is allocated to schools / academies through the SEN funding formulae – calculated on low prior attainment, FSM and IDACI. This funding is allocated to schools / academies within their overall funding allocations at the start of the financial year. This is a separately identified amount on budget statements. The expectation then is that schools / academies will meet the vast majority of the costs of support for children with additional needs from these resources.
- For children with Statements, a threshold has been established, at a value of £6,000. For all children with Statements, the first £6,000 is allocated within the SEN formulae and the school / academy meets this proportion from their identified funding allocation.
- For Statements with a value greater than £6,000, the balance between the full cost of the Statement (calculated using the established 7 Ranges Model) and the £6,000 threshold is allocated by the Local Authority as a separate individual amount, re-calculated on a monthly basis for the movement of pupils.
- A separate SEN Floor ensures that all mainstream settings receive a minimum amount of SEN formula funding, compared against the value of Statements of children at the school / academy. In effect, the Floor provides a top up for schools / academies with higher numbers of individual Statements at a value of greater than £6,000 that have lower levels of FSM and IDACI. The SEN Floor is re-calculated on a monthly basis as the position of Plus funding changes for the movement of children.
- On top of SEN formula funding, the Local Authority publishes a 'notional SEN' figure for each school, which identifies the proportion of delegated resources that should be made available to contribute to supporting children with SEN.

4.23 Within the 2016/17 DSG, a number of centrally managed services and strategies have been continued at existing levels. These have not operated according to the Place-Plus framework described above. As stated in paragraph 3.2, local authorities are permitted to continue to fund separately additional outreach and support services that may be managed centrally or may be devolved to other providers under service level agreements. In Bradford in 2016/17, these include: the Junction Project, SEN Teaching Support Services (formerly known as 'Learning Support Services or LSS'), the Youth Offending Team and support for Traveller Children. The DSG has also continued to meet the cost of out of authority of non-maintained placements for high needs children.

4.24 The DSG continues to fund mainstream and special school settings for the cost of non-transferrable education-focused specialist equipment for individual children. In 2015/16 this arrangement was extended to Early Years provision and the total DSG budget is now £137,500.

5. Places Setting for 2017/18

5.1 As summarised in paragraph 2.7, the 2017/18 planned (estimated) DSG allocation currently has provision for:

- For individual settings, the greater of either actual occupancy at October 2016 or the 2016/17 planned places total, with some adjustments to individual settings for known specific changes and planned increases.
- Further provision, not yet allocated to individual settings, of 120 places for the full financial year (continuing those introduced at January 2017) plus a further 120 places at September 2017 (with 7/12ths of the cost in 2017/18). These places will be available to allocate across different provisions, including out of authority settings and placements in independent and non maintained schools.

5.2 The Authority will continue to firm up places forecasts over the autumn term and will talk to providers, prior to agreeing the DSG's provision for high needs places with the Schools Forum for 2017/18 on 11 January 2017. There is some work that still needs to be done here for specific settings, including in confirming the forecasted need for places in the Further Education Sector as further data on numbers becomes available. Further discussions are also taken place about the sufficiency of places for SEMH.

5.3 The Authority will comply with the Education Funding Agency's notification of place changes process for 2017/18 for high needs places in academies and Further Education Institutions. The deadline for the EFA's process is 25 November 2016. The Local Authority continues to have flexibility to adjust places numbers for individual settings in 2017/18 and this will include adjustments to both pre and post 16 places in academies and maintained schools (in 2016/17 only pre 16 numbers could be adjusted in these settings).

5.4 The table below lists the currently planned / estimated 2017/18 places by existing Bradford-located individual high needs setting. These numbers include all places (early years, pre and post 16), including placements from other local authorities. Please note that these numbers are shown prior to the further work that is taking place to firm up numbers e.g. in FE settings and for SEMH.

Setting	Type (AP or SEND)*	October 2016 Occupancy (FTE)	16/17 Initial Planned Budget AY Funded Places (FTE)	17/18 FY April – Aug Updated Planned Places (FTE)	17/18 AY Sept - Mar Initial Planned Places (FTE)
Primary PRU	AP	43	42	50	50
Central PRU	AP	49	50	50	50
Ellar Carr PRU	AP	49	45	54	54
District PRU	AP	107	160	160	160
Acorn Centre	AP	5	10	10	10
Horizons Centre	AP	3	10	10	10
Long View Centre	AP	5	10	10	10
Phoenix Centre	AP & SEND	13	20	20	20
Early Years Children's Centre Plus **	SEND	38	68	68	68
ARC - Girlington Primary School	SEND	12	17	17	17
ARC - Swain House Primary School	SEND	14	20	20	20
ARC - Grove House Primary School	SEND	9	12	12	12
ARC – Hanson School	SEND	40	55	55	55
Special – Beechcliffe School	SEND	114	103	120	120
Special – Chellow Heights School	SEND	191	180	195	195
Special – Delius School	SEND	117.4	110	118	118
Special – Hazelbeck Academy	SEND	131	125	133	133
Special – High Park School	SEND	99	95	100	100
Special – Phoenix School	SEND	73.8	78	80	80
Special – Southfield Academy	SEND	243	222	245	245
Special – Oastler School	SEND	86	90	90	90

DSP – Carrwood Primary School	SEND	3	4	0	0
DSP – Denholme Primary School	SEND	6	8	8	8
DSP – Green Lane Primary School	SEND	11	10	13	13
DSP – High Craggs Primary Academy	SEND	3	6	6	6
DSP – Crossflatts Primary School	SEND	11	12	12	12
DSP – Beckfoot Academy	SEND	7	10	10	10
DSP – Oasis Academy (Lister Park)	SEND	4	4	4	4
DSP – Southfield Grange Campus	SEND	23	22	23	23
DSP – Parkside School	SEND	13	12	13	13
DSP – The Holy Family Catholic School	SEND	12	12	13	13
DSP – Beckfoot Thornton Academy	SEND	15	14	15	15
DSP – Titus Salt School	SEND	16	15	16	16
DSP – Bradford Academy	SEND	21	22	22	22
DSP – Haworth Primary Academy	SEND	5	6	6	6
DSP – Bradford Forster Academy	SEND	4	6	6	6
DSP – High Park Learn and Play	SEND	16	16	16	16
Education in Hospital – Airedale	SEND	7	22	22	22
Education in Hospital – BRI	SEND	25	11	11	11
Tracks	SEND	8	16	16	16
Post 16 in mainstream Bradford settings (schools and academies)	SEND	38	38	38	38
Further Education – Bradford College** *	SEND	109	105	105	109
Further Education – Shipley College***	SEND	51	93	93	93
Further Education – Aspire-Igen***	SEND	5	14	14	14
Additional Unallocated Places	SEND	n/a	20	120	240
Total Initial Planned Places		1,855.20	2,020	2,219	2,343

* There is cross over between AP and SEND in some provisions in Bradford. This distinction is based on the main designation of the setting.

** Early Years SEND / Children’s Centre Plus provision is currently under review. The places numbers by setting are as 2015/16, to provide for an equivalent DSG planned budget for Early Years SEN in 2017/18, understanding that the actual distribution of these places, between settings and between delegated and centrally managed services, is still to be determined.

*** Please note that Post 16 places in Further Education Colleges are set on an annual lagged basis.

5.5 Further provision has indicatively been made, not yet allocated to individual settings, for a further 120 places for the full 2017/18 financial year and a further 120 more places at September 2017. These places would be available to allocate across different provisions and also for out of authority settings and placements in independent and non maintained schools.

5.6 Noting that further work is taking place on planned place numbers at this stage, the Authority estimates that a minimum of 2,343 places will be funded through the High Needs Block in the 2017/18 academic year in Bradford-located settings; 1,979 places in SEND provisions and 364 places in Alternative Provision settings, including 120 + (240 x 7/12) additional currently unallocated places across provisions.

5.7 This represents a total minimum increase of 323 places on the 2016/17 academic year planned budget position.

5.8 Regarding the identification of places and students in the Further Education Sector, where necessary, LDAs are being converted into EHCPs and the process should be complete by the DfE’s December 2016 deadline. From September 2016, young people aged 19 to 25 are only eligible for high needs funding (place funding and top up funding) where the young person has an EHCP in place. Once converted, EHCPs in the FE sector will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the SEND Code of Practice. Pupils with an EHCP that transition into the FE sector will continue to have their plans reviewed on an annual basis. The FE sector

is now included in the Council's SEND assessment and referral procedures. Any new referrals for an EHCP assessment for young people aged 16+ are made through the Council's established 'front door' procedures that include an initial review by education, social care and health professionals. Where these result in the issue of an EHCP, an FE provider can be named in the plan and the plan is then maintained as per the guidance set out in the SEND Code of Practice.

5.9 DSP providers will be aware that an adjustment is made each year to their October Census numbers that are used to calculate their primary or secondary mainstream formula allocations. This adjustment removes the number of funded places from the October Census number, so that these pupils are not double funded for the £10,000 element e.g. a school that has 500 pupils and is funded for 20 DSP places receives mainstream formula funding for 480 pupils and 20 lots of £10,000 from the High Needs Block. This adjustment has not been previously applied to the funding of the primary behaviour centres. However, this will be applied for the October 2016 census, which will be used to calculate 2017/18 financial year mainstream allocations for the host primary schools.

5.10 It has been agreed that an end of academic year reconciliation be carried out of the number of placements (annual composite) made by each of the 3 Behaviour and Attendance Collaboratives (BACs) against their planned available number. Where a BAC has exceeded its allocation, it is agreed that the BAC will repay the difference to the High Needs Block using an average place-value cost. This reconciliation and repayment will continue and will be applied for the reconciliation of 2016/17 academic year placements at September 2017.

5.11 A Joint SEND and Behaviour Partnership is now taking forward discussions on the future shape our SEND and AP provisions, including sufficiency of places. These discussions and review will develop in the context of the Government's AP reform and the introduction of the National Funding Formula.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the places (or the distribution of places) that are planned to be funded from the High Needs Block in 2017/18?

6. Proposed Place-Plus Funding Model for the 2017/18 Financial Year

6.1 It is the Authority's view that Bradford's current Place-Plus funding system is still robust and fit for purpose. As a result, we propose to make only targeted adjustments for the 2017/18 financial year, with the purposes of:

- Supporting value for money within our High Needs Block by setting a correct balance between providing stability through budget protections for individual settings whilst avoiding 'locking in' an incorrect distribution of funding for an extended period of time.
- Ensuring that our Place-Plus system responds to appropriately fund the changing nature of provision, including that offered by our resourced units attached to mainstream schools and academies.

6.2 As stated earlier in this document, regarding the identification of places and students in the Further Education Sector, where necessary, LDAs are being converted into EHCPs and the process should be complete by the DfE's December 2016 deadline. From September 2016, young people aged 19 to 25 are only eligible for high needs funding (place funding and top up funding) where the young person has an EHCP in place. Once converted, EHCPs in the FE sector will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the SEND Code of Practice. Pupils with an EHCP that transition into the FE sector will continue to have their plans reviewed on an annual basis. The FE sector is now included in the Council's SEND assessment and referral procedures. Any new referrals for an EHCP assessment for young people aged 16+ are made through the Council's established 'front door' procedures that include an initial review by education, social care and health professionals. Where these result in the issue of an EHCP, an FE provider can be named in the plan and the plan is then maintained as per the guidance set out in the SEND Code of Practice.

6.3 An interim funding model is being used for the funding of Early Years Children's Centre Plus provision, as a review of this provision takes shape. This interim model applies the established principles of Place-Plus, setting the number of places on expected occupancy, funding all places at Range 4D, and including an

additional allocation in response to estimated setting-based costs. The model will continue to be developed as the review of this provision takes shape.

6.4 We propose to continue to use the existing Ranges Model to categorise children for funding purposes. This Ranges Model is shown in Appendix 1.

6.5 Unless specifically discussed below, in paragraphs 6.6 to 6.7, we propose to apply our Place-Plus model in the same way in 2017/18 as we did in this current financial year as is set out in paragraph 4. For clarity this includes continuing to:

- Fund the Further Education Sector as set out in paragraph 4.20.
- Use the formulaic approach for the funding of non-statemented placements in specialist settings as set out in paragraphs 4.17 and 4.18.
- Calculate the SEN Funding Floor for mainstream settings at the same cash values as 2016/17 as set out in paragraph 4.22.
- Fund all assessment places at Range 4D, with the value of funding paid (where necessary) changing from the point the Assessment Panel has made its determination, as set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4.
- Fund places at PRUs and Primary Behaviour Centres at £8,000, unless specifically agreed to fund at £10,000 (due to the nature of their provision), as set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 4.17.
- Fund additional place-element in real time during the year with an end of year reconciliation, which could mean a negative adjustment if the setting has been allocated too much additional places funding for its annual composite occupancy, as set out in paragraph 4.15.
- Fund Education in Hospital places at the same amount per place as set out in paragraph 4.21.

6.6 We propose to adjust the cash budget protection factor applied to special schools, DSPs and the primary behaviour centres, so that this factor limits a setting's reduction in Place-Plus funding to 3.0% of last year's allocation. Currently, this factor limits the reduction to a maximum of 1.5% of last year's allocation. In adjusting this, we are looking to establish a balance for the future between providing stability for individual settings whilst avoiding 'locking in' an incorrect distribution of funding for an extended period of time, based on the principle that funding should follow the pupil. Bradford's formula for special schools, prior to the adoption of place-plus, included a 3% budget protection factor. This was also the level of cash budget protection applied for mainstream primary and secondary allocations. We increased the level of protection to 1.5% during the place-plus introduction phase, recognising the possible instability that 'untested' funding change may produce. As place-plus is now established, we propose to bring the value of budget protection back to 3.0% for all applicable settings. Indicatively, this would have adjusted the protection factor this year as follows (based on the September 2016 current year spend position):

	Numbers @ 1.5%	Cost at 1.5%	Numbers @ 3.0%	Cost at 3.0%
Special Schools	3 out of 8	£232,600	2 out of 8	£140,100
DSPs	10 out of 16	£260,900	9 out of 16	£229,500
Primary Centres	3 out of 4	£48,500	3 out of 4	£41,700
Total	16 out of 28	£542,000	14 out of 28	£411,300

This proposed reduction in protection should be assessed alongside the proposal in paragraph 6.8 below to introduce a small setting protection factor for DSPs and primary behaviour centres. The need for protection should also be seen in the light of the growth in places (most settings in the future will see an increase in cash budget rather than a decrease; budget decreases are likely to be the result of a change in distribution of provision where funding does need to follow the child).

6.7 We propose to establish at April 2017 a small setting funding factor for resourced provisions attached to mainstream settings, which would be applied for the funding of DSPs * and the primary behaviour centres, as the role of resourced provisions within Bradford's SEND and AP offer, along with funding implications, will

continue to be reviewed and discussed with providers. We propose this as a temporary measure, with future proposals to be considered as part of the wider review of the District's provision and funding model (in the context of National Funding Formula).

A small setting funding factor is proposed especially in response to feedback from providers about the changing nature of their provisions, growth in their costs and the extent of subsidy from the mainstream school's budget. The small setting funding factor will provide an additional sliding-scale 'lump sum' in support of minimum costs. Its purpose is to help provide additional financial support for the delivery and management of provision (with a view that resourced units are increasingly mini-special schools). Its purpose is not to increase the value of funding based on pupil-led need; this would be done within the framework of our existing Ranges Model and following further discussion e.g. by assessing that children placed in resourced provisions have levels of need that correspond with higher bands of funding in our Ranges Model .

It is proposed to apply the same methodology as the small setting funding factor for special schools, but using a cut of off 24 places, rather than 75, as follows:

an additional sum, for resourced provisions with fewer than 24 places, to ensure a minimum level of funding for fixed costs. The formula for DSPs in 2017/18 would be:

- A $(24 \times \text{£}10,000 \times 20\%)$ *this is £48,000*
 - B $(\text{setting's place funding} \times 20\%)$
- = top up to the value of A where B is less than A

For example, a DSP with 12 places would receive an additional sum of £24,000. A DSP with 6 places would receive £36,000.

The formula for the primary behaviour centres in 2017/18 would be:

- A $(24 \times \text{£}8,000 \times 20\%)$ *this is £38,400*
 - B $(\text{setting's place funding} \times 20\%)$
- = top up to the value of A where B is less than A

For example, a primary behaviour centre with 10 places would receive an additional sum of £22,400.

The gross indicative cost of this small setting funding factor is £394,600, which would be partially offset by the reduced cost of protection under the proposal set out in paragraph 6.7.

* Please note that this factor would not be applied to the ARC provisions.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to use the existing Ranges Model (as shown in Appendix 1) to calculate the 'Plus' funding element for the 2017/18 financial year? If not, please explain why not.

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the values of top ups allocated by the Ranges Model and the extent to which these should change / should not change in the 2017/18 financial year?

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to apply unchanged the vast majority of our current Place-Plus model i.e. if a change is not set out in paragraphs 6.6 to 6.8 then the current methodology will be applied in 2017/18? If not, please explain why not and please specify the elements of the funding model you believe should be changed.

Question 5: Do you agree with the changes to the existing funding model for 2017/18, as outlined in paragraphs 6.6 (budget protection) and 6.7 (small setting funding factor)? If not, please outline which changes you do not agree with and the reasons why you do not agree.

Question 6: Are there any further changes that you would wish to see made to the funding model in 2017/18? Please give details.

Question 7 – Do you have any other comments on the funding model that you have not recorded elsewhere.

7. Consultation Responses

7.1 Please use the responses form at Appendix 2 to submit your views on the proposals outlined in the consultation. There is space in this form for you to comment on any aspect of the proposals. If you wish to discuss these proposals in more detail, or have any specific questions, please contact Andrew Redding using the contact details shown in paragraph 1. Please ensure that your response is submitted by the deadline of **Monday 28 November 2016**.

8. Next Steps

8.1 The Schools Forum will make final recommendations on the approach to the funding of high needs provision for the 2017/18 financial year on 11 January 2017. These recommendations will be made following consideration of the responses received to this consultation and once the value of DSG funding allocated to the Authority for 2017/18 has been confirmed.

8.2 Subject to the agreement of the Council's Executive Committee, the recommended approach will be used to allocate DSG funding from 1 April 2017.

8.3 We currently await further information from the DfE on the development and timetable for implementation of the National Funding Formula. These changes are very likely to directly affect the funding of high needs provision and the quantum of the High Needs Block within the DSG in future years. A clear next step therefore, is to work through the implications and to develop our responses as announcements are made.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 The 7 Ranges Model
Appendix 2 Consultation Responses Form

HIGH NEEDS PROVISION: FUNDING CATEGORIES, BANDS & AMOUNTS 2016/17

	Range 1	Range 2	Range 3	Range 4				Range 5	Range 6	Range 7
				Band A (16.5-21.5 hours)	Band B (22-27 hours)	Band C (27.5-34.5 hours)	Band D (35+ hours)			
PRIMARY NEED Additional "Plus" Funding			£0	£981	£3,092	£4,738	£7,380	£10,761	£14,337	£23,558
Mainstream Autism & SLCN						SLCN	ASD		ASD+	ASD++
Mainstream MLD/SLD/PMLD			MLD		MLD+	SLD	PMLD	SLD+	PMLD+	PMLD++
Mainstream PD							PD		PD+	PD++
Mainstream HI/VI						HI/VI		HI+/VI+		
Mainstream BESD							BESD		BESD+	BESD++

Mainstream funding is within colour coded Bands (mainly range 4)
Funding is determined by actual Primary Need and is shown as text

RESPONSES FORM**Consultation on Funding High Needs Provision 2017/18**

Name _____ Setting Name _____

THE DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES TO THIS CONSULTATION IS MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2016

Please send completed questionnaire responses to:

School Funding Team
 City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
 1st Floor, Britannia House,
 Hall Ings
 Bradford
 BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432678

Fax: 01274 435054

Email: andrew.redding@bradford.gov.uk

Please complete the questionnaire by marking the appropriate boxes. There is a space below each question for you to record comments.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the places (or the distribution of places) that are planned to be funded from the High Needs Block in 2017/18?

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to use the existing Ranges Model (as shown in Appendix 1) to calculate the 'Plus' funding element for the 2017/18 financial year? If not, please explain why not.

Strongly Agree On Balance Agree (some reservations) Strongly Disagree

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the values of top ups allocated by the Ranges Model and the extent to which these should change / should not change in the 2017/18 financial year?

Question 4: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to apply unchanged the vast majority of our current Place-Plus model i.e. if a change is not set out in paragraphs 6.6 to 6.8 then the current methodology will be applied in 2017/18? If not, please explain why not and please specify the elements of the funding model you believe should be changed.

Strongly Agree On Balance Agree (some reservations) Strongly Disagree

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 5: Do you agree with the changes to the existing funding model for 2017/18, as outlined in paragraphs 6.6 (budget protection) and 6.7 (small setting funding factor)? If not, please outline which changes you do not agree with and the reasons why you do not agree.

	Strongly Agree	On Balance Agree	Strongly Disagree
Cash Budget Protection at 3.0%	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Setting Funding for Resourced Units	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If not, please provide further explanation here:

Question 6: Are there any further changes that you would wish to see made to the funding model in 2017/18? Please give details.

Question 7 – Do you have any other comments on the funding model that you have not recorded elsewhere?