

## SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information



### **Brief Description of Item** (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

**This report asks Forum members to consider the feedback received to the consultation on the 2022/23 High Needs Funding models.**

### **Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum**

The consultation document was presented to the Schools Forum meeting 13 October 2021.

### **Background / Context**

The consultation document outlined the formula approach that the Authority proposes to use to delegate Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block funding to high needs providers, mainstream schools and academies and other settings in the 2022/23 financial year. We have not proposed to make technical changes to our high needs formula funding arrangements. In quick summary, we have proposed to:

- Uplift the rates of top up funding allocated via the existing EHCP Banded Model, as follows:

	(1) % Increase in Top Up Only	(2) % Increase in Top Up plus £6,000	(3) % Increase in Top Up plus £10,000
Band 3L	+ 12.5%	+ 3.0%	+ 2.0%
Band 3M	+ 8.0%	+ 3.0%	+ 2.1%
Band 3H	+6.4%	+ 3.0%	+ 2.2%
Band 4L	+6.6%	+ 3.8%	+ 3.0%
Band 4M	+6.0%	+ 4.0%	+ 3.3%
Band 4H	+5.4%	+ 3.9%	+ 3.3%
Protected 7	+5.4%	+ 4.4%	+ 3.9%

- Uplift the rates of funding allocated via the PRU / Alternative Provision Day Rate Model. Together, with the fixed £10,000 per place, a proposed 5.37% increase in the day rate will result in an overall 3.14% increase in funding per pupil for each occupied place.
- Continue the setting-led need factors that are currently applied in the funding of specialist provisions, uplifted in value where appropriate.
- Continue to allocate the former Teacher Pay Grant and the former Teacher Pension Grant, separately from top up funding, using the method we used in 2021/22, uplifting the values allocated per place.
- Continue for an additional year the amended SEND Funding Floor mechanism that we introduced for 2021/22 in support of Element 2 funding for SEND and EHCPs in mainstream primary and secondary settings. Further review, incorporating the implications of the DfE's national reviews, will determine the position of the SEND Funding Floor after 2022/23.
- Continue to define Notional SEND for mainstream schools and academies in 2022/23 in the same way as it is currently in 2021/22.

The Authority presents separately to this Forum meeting, under agenda item NW, the annual SEND places sufficiency report. This report was last presented to the Forum in December 2020. Other information to be presented, as per the schedule of information that was agreed with the Forum on 14 October 2020, on the High Needs Block planned budget and current spending position and balances is presented under agenda items 10 and 11. The Authority expects to present an update to the fuller DSG Management Plan, focusing on the High Needs Block, to the 12 January meeting.

### **Details of the Item for Consideration**

#### **Consultation & Responses**

The consultation ran between 13 October and 30 November. In support of the publication of the consultation document on Bradford Schools Online, School Funding Team attended the autumn term Governor Forum, the District Achievement Partnership, BPIP, and the Primary & Secondary Business Manager Forums. SENCOs were also notified of the consultation via email across the SENCO network.

**Details of the Item for Consideration**

Forum members are encouraged to present their feedback from their discussions with colleagues.

The Authority has not received any formal responses, submitted using the questionnaire.

In presenting to various groups, the Authority did not receive any negative comments expressed in real time specifically about the proposals themselves. Some feedback, as in previous consultations, expressed concerns about the general adequacy of SEND funding and the impact of SEND provision on mainstream schools.

**Forum members are asked to consider whether any of the proposals should be amended and / or whether further information is required in order for the Schools Forum to make its recommendations, on 12 January 2022, on the Authority's High Needs Funding Model for 2022/23.**

**Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)**

As set out briefly in Document NU (DSG update). More detailed information will be presented on 12 January.

**Appendices**

None

**Recommendations**

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2022/23 high needs funding formulae, should be changed in the light of these responses.
- (2) Members are asked to note that they will be asked to make final recommendations on High Needs Block formula funding on 12 January. As such, Members are asked to consider whether sufficient information has now been provided to enable these recommendations to be made.

**Contact Officer** (name, telephone number and email address)

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