

## 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 2023/24 High Needs Funding models.

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

The consultation document was presented to the Schools Forum meeting 12 October 2022.

### **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 2023/24 financial year. 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	+ 3.7%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 3M	+ 2.5%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 3H	+ 2.0%	+ 1.0%	+ 0.7%
Band 4L	+ 2.1%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.0%
Band 4M	+ 1.9%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.1%
Band 4H	+ 1.7%	+ 1.3%	+ 1.1%
Protected 7	+ 1.7%	+ 1.4%	+ 1.3%

- Uplift the rates of funding allocated via the PRU / Alternative Provision Day Rate Model. Together, with the fixed £10,000 per place, a proposed 1.73% increase in the day rate will result in an overall 1.04% increase in funding per pupil for each occupied place.
- Continue unchanged the setting-led need factors that are applied in the funding of specialist provisions.
- Continue to allocate the former Teacher Pay Grant and the former Teacher Pension Grant, separately from top up funding, using the method and values we used in 2022/23.
- Continue for an additional year the SEND Funding Floor mechanism that we introduced in 2021/22, in support of Element 2 funding for SEND and EHCPs in mainstream primary and secondary settings. However, we propose to adjust (to increase) the thresholds that are used to calculate this Floor, in seeking to control the cost of this mechanism and to retain the Floor's original purpose, which is to support a minority of schools and academies that have significantly greater numbers of pupils on roll with EHCPs.
- Amend our definition of Notional SEND budgets for mainstream schools and academies, to bring this definition more in line with the national picture and to improve fairness.

The Authority presents separately to this Forum meeting, in Document PH, the annual SEND places sufficiency statement. This report was last presented to the Forum in December 2021. 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 annual update of the fuller DSG Management Plan, focusing on the High Needs Block, to the 11 January meeting.

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

#### **Consultation & Responses**

The consultation ran between 13 October and 29 November. For the first time this year, responses could be submitted electronically via a web-based survey. It was anticipated that this would help improve the number of responses that are received.

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

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

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 (DAP), BSIP, and the Primary & Secondary Business Manager Forums.

The Authority received one formal response, submitted using the web-based survey. Of the questions answered, the respondent 'strongly agreed' with the proposals that were set out in the consultation.

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 on mainstreams schools of the growth in the numbers of pupils with SEND. The District Achievement Partnership expressed their concern that it will continue to be a challenge to manage budgets following a 1% increase in funding, given the on-going rises in costs.

**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 11 January 2023, on the Authority's High Needs Funding Model for 2023/24.**

Within the 12 October Schools Forum meeting, members requested some further modelling on the impact of the proposal for the SEND Funding Floor in 2023/24. This modelling is presented in Appendix 1.

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

As set out briefly in Document PF (DSG update). More detailed information will be presented on 11 January.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Additional Modelling of the SEND Funding Floor (requested by the Schools Forum)

### **Recommendations**

- (1) The Forum is asked to consider the responses received to the consultation and whether any of the proposals on the 2023/24 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 11 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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