

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	25 February 2021
Report title	Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block Funding 2021-2022
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Summary

This report provides an update on the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2021-2022 and seeks approval to allocate the funding in accordance with the guidance issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Decisions

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to:

1. Note the anticipated settlement for 2021-2022.
2. Approve the allocation of High Needs expenditure for 2021-2022 (Appendix 1).
3. Note the matrix bands for 2021-2022 (Appendix 2).
4. Approve a total per place contribution for maintained PRUs and Special Schools to support the delivery of local authority retained education functions previously funded by Education Services Grant.

Schedule of Background Papers

- Dedicated Schools Grant allocation tables: 2021 to 2022 (www.gov.uk)
<https://skillsfunding.service.gov.uk/view-latest-funding/DSG/download-funding/organisation/336/FY/2021-to-2022/17-12-2020/ods>
- High Needs Funding 2021 to 2022: Operational guide – February 2021
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961708/High_needs_funding_operational_guide_2021_to_2022.pdf
- Schools' Forum High Needs Funding Sub-Group Report 4 February 2021 (Attached at Appendix 3)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The high needs funding system supports provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, in line with statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 1.2 In December 2020, the Department for Education announced the provisional High Needs Block Grant Funding for 2021-2022.

2.0 High Needs Block Funding

- 2.1 The High Needs Block settlement of £46.921 million has been calculated for the City of Wolverhampton as follows:

	Pupil Count	Unit Rate £	Total £million
Actual Allocations			41.256
Area Cost Adjustment	1,023	4,684.11	4.792
Import Adjustment			0.006
Additional High Needs Funding			0.867
Total			46.921

- 2.2 The following sections detail the allocation of High Needs Block expenditure for 2021-2022. Schools' Forum approval is sought to allocate the High Needs Block as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 Place Funding

- 3.1 The place funding for Pupil Referral Units and Special Schools remains unchanged at £10,000 per agreed pupil place funding, plus top-ups based on pupils assessed needs.
- 3.2 High Needs Units within mainstream schools continue to be funded at £10,000 per unoccupied place and £6,000 plus the Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) calculated in the local funding formula per agreed place that is occupied, plus top-up funding where occupied.
- 3.3 Pupils in mainstream education do not attract specific place funding through the High Block but will continue to receive top-up payments from the Local Authority for each occupied place, based on each pupil's assessed needs.
- 3.4 Place funding budgets for 2021-2022 are based on the known levels of commissioned places along with planned new capacity to meet demand.

4.0 Matrix (Top-Up) Funding

- 4.1 The High Needs Review Group are undertaking a review of the banding matrix as an assessment of individual pupil needs. This is a complex process involving consultation and the aim is to have the new top-up funding arrangements in place for financial year 2022-2023. The current matrix band unit rates are shown as Appendix 2.

5.0 Additional Changes to 2021-2022 High Needs Block Budget

5.1 In addition to increasing the place and top-up funding the following changes have been made to the High Needs Block budget for 2021-2022:

- Increases to cover pay awards and increments
- Additional staffing in Management and Commissioning to cover SEND systems review and increase in demand for SEND placements
- Projected in-year additional placements
- 12% predicted increase in education, health and care plans (and therefore SEN top-ups) across the City
- Contribution towards the costs of appointing the ONE System Manager
- Costs of employing a SEND dedicated Finance and Funding Officer
- Increase to Tri-partied funding to cover reduction in Central Schools Services Block
- For 2021 to 2022, the DSG also incorporates the teachers' pay grant (TPG) and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) within the high needs national funding formula, as described in items 12 to 14 of the High Needs Operational Guide, to be allocated to Special Schools and PRUs.

6.0 Settings with High incidence of SEN

6.1 As in previous years, the Local Authority will retain funding to support schools that have a higher than average number of pupils with SEND. It is proposed that the criteria for support used previously be maintained for the 2021-2022 allocation.

6.2 In order for a school to be eligible for support from this fund they will need to satisfy two out of the three criteria below:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Low Prior Attainment (LPA) | : | The percentage of pupils attracting LPA within the school is more than 10% below the average for that sector. |
| Deprivation | : | The percentage of pupils attracting deprivation within the school is more than 10% below the average for that sector. |
| Statements more than £6,000 | : | Where the numbers of Low Incidence High Cost (LIHC) pupils is more than 5.0% above the average for the sector. |

7.0 Education Functions

7.1 At its January 2021 meeting Schools' Forum agreed that the 2021-2022 rate for Education Functions would be £30.83 per pupil. The Local Authority proposes no change to the previously approved multipliers of 3.75 for PRUs and 4.25 for Special Schools resulting in per place contributions of £115.61 and £131.03 respectively.

City of Wolverhampton Council 2021-2022 High Needs Block Budget

Budget Description	LA Funding £ million	ESFA Funding £ million	Total £ million
Place funding	£9.89	£5.50	£15.38
Top-Up Funding - Maintained	£11.12		£11.12
Top-Up Funding - Academies	£5.28		£5.28
Hospital/ Home Funding	£0.86		£0.86
Outreach	£0.90		£0.90
Additionality	£1.13		£1.13
Out of City Provision	£3.99		£3.99
Alternative Provision	£0.85		£0.85
High Incidence SEN Funding	£0.14		£0.14
SEN Assessment and Development	£1.69		£1.69
SEN Sensory	£0.64		£0.64
SEN Early Years	£1.13		£1.13
PFI – Penn fields	£0.25		£0.25
Penn Hall School Contribution	£0.17		£0.17
Additional Nursery and Reception SEND Provision	£0.31		£0.31
Post 16 SEN Provision	£1.50		£1.50
SEND Management and Commissioning	£0.83		£0.83
Contribution to EPP	£0.50		£0.50
Former CSSB Tri Partied Funding	£0.25		£0.25
TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BLOCK	£41.42	£5.50	£46.92

2021-2022 Matrix Band Unit Rates

Special School Matrix Places Top Up

Band	A	A	B	C	D	E
	Speech, Language & Communication Broadmeadow	Speech, Language & Communication Other	Cognition and Learning	SEMH	Sensory	Physical (Including Residential)
2	£12,327	£8,074	£404	£7,004	£8,702	£11,216
3	£15,815	£11,561	£3,078	£12,211	£12,211	£14,604
4	£22,572	£18,320	£9,286	£18,968	£18,968	£18,138

Resource Base Matrix Places Top Up (Pro-rated for Part time places in Early Years)

Band	A	B	C	D	E
	Speech, Language & Communication	Cognition and Learning	SEMH	Sensory	Physical
2	£2,634	£0	£1,529	£2,834	£1,750
3	£6,104	£0	£3,742	£6,324	£5,120
4	£12,828	£5,834	£5,676	£13,048	£8,637

PRU Places Top Up

Statemented	Orchard	Northern House	Braybrook	Midpoint
Per Place	£13,778	£13,778	£15,323	£13,778