

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Proposed High Needs Funding formula 2021/22		
Directorate	Childrens services		
Service	SEND		
Responsible Officer	Andy Crabtree		
Proposal planning start	1 April 2019	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	1 April 2021

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Show which category the proposal is and whether it is new or a revision.		
	Policy		
	Procedure	Yes	
	Guidance		
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	Yes	
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	Yes	
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	The proposed revised High Needs Local funding Formula is being consulted upon with the aim of allocating High Needs Funding Block resources on the basis of defined need for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The resources are targeted equitably on the basis of recognised need for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans and complies with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.		
3	Who is the proposal likely to affect?		
	People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
	All		Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The resources are targeted equitably on the basis of recognised need for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans and complies with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.
	Specific group/s	Y	
	Council employees		
	Other (identify)		
4	Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.		

	<p>All Children and Young People must go through the SEND assessment process to determine need and obtain an Education Health and Care Plan in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2015. The revised High Needs Local Funding Formula proposed for 2021/22 allocates funding to individual schools and providers on the basis of need as set out in the formula.</p>
5	Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).
	<p>The School Forum on 23 September 2020, which consists of nominated representatives across the school sector, and Cabinet on 21 October 2020 agreed to consult all schools and SEND Children parents and carers on the proposed High Needs Local Funding Formula proposals for 2021/2022.</p> <p>The School Forum on 12 January 2021 considered the feedback from the consultation process undertaken and agreed the proposed amendments to the formula and banding model recommended as a result of the consultation feedback; referring to Cabinet for final approval on 10 February 2021.</p>

Consultation Activity			
Type of engagement/consultation		Date	
Who attended/participated?			
Protected characteristics of participants			
Feedback			
<p>Consultation has been actively undertaken through the engagement of schools, SENCOs and parents and has involved communications to parents from schools, an online survey, email and telephone responses and the Walsall Local Offer website Video conferencing and drop in sessions were also held for parents, carers, head teachers and school staff, governors and internal and external support services to enable participants to ask questions and receive responses to any queries they have about the proposal.</p> <p>The consultation process commenced on 23 November 2020 and closed on the 20 December 2020 to inform the high needs funding formula model and proposal and enable outcomes to be summarised and shared at the School Forum meeting on 12 January 2021.</p>			
6	Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation		
<p>A summary analysis of the consultation responses is included in Appendix C of the 10 February 2021 Cabinet report.</p> <p>There were no specific concerns raised in relation to discrimination / /disadvantage of the proposals for children with any protected characteristics raised in response to the equalities question on the survey responses.</p>			
7	How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.		
	Characteristic	Affect	Reason
	Action needed Yes / No		
	Age	The proposal targets resources equitably on the basis of recognised need for children and young people with	
	Disability		

	Gender reassignment	Education Health and Care Plans and complies with the SEND Code of Practice 2015.
	Marriage and civil partnership	
	Pregnancy and maternity	
	Race	
	Religion or belief	
	Sex	
	Sexual orientation	
	Other (give detail)	
	Further information	
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) No
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
A	No major change required Consultation completed and amendments made but the formula continues to be needs based.	
B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality	
C	Continue despite possible adverse impact	
D	Stop and rethink your proposal	

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
23 November	Wider Consultation Process	Andy Crabtree / Emma Thornberry	January 2021	Further reports, post consultation required to Schools Forum and

2020	begins			Cabinet
20 December 2020	Formal consultation process ends	Andy Crabtree / Emma Thornberry	January 2021	Feedback from consultation process considered and proposed amendments to funding and banding model made. Approved at School Forum on 12 January 2021 and referred to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 for final approval.

Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail
Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.	

Contact us

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Inside Walsall: http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity