

Walsall Children's Services



Walsall Council

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: February 2013

Subject: Notional SEN funding – Final Definition for 2013-2014

Contact: Dawn Morris

Purpose of the report: To make the Schools Forum aware of the definition of Notional SEN budget as it will apply to mainstream and academy schools from April 2013. Also the note the exceptional circumstances under which additional funding will be allocated from the high needs block

Recommendation: School Forum to note and endorse the contents of the attached report, to be circulated to all schools

Definition of Notional SEN funding

1. Definition of Notional SEN Budget for a mainstream school or academy

Background

Current school funding regulations require local authorities to define the amount of funding a school has received to provide for SEN support. This defined funding is identified as a Notional SEN Budget and must be accounted for in school budget plans under consistent financial reporting regulations.

Under the new funding arrangements schools will continue to receive and identify a Notional SEN Budget as defined by the local authority. Using this funding mainstream schools and academies will be expected to:

- a. meet the needs of pupils with low-cost, high-incidence SEN, and
- b. contribute, up-to a certain level set by the local authority, towards the costs of provision for pupils with high needs – including those with high-cost, low-incidence SEN

Notional SEN Budget 2013-2014

As in 2012-2013 the Notional SEN Budget will not be a separate budget, it will be identified within a school's delegated budget, and will consist of parts or the whole of various formula factors.

From April 2013, Notional SEN for Walsall schools will be a proportion of funding taken from the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU), the deprivation factor, the lump sum and the whole of the low-cost, high incidence SEN factor:

Lump Sum	£25,000		
Low-cost, high incidence SEN	100%		
AWPU	Primary	3.72%	
	Secondary	3.50%	
Deprivation – FSM element	26.914%		

Examples using current, modelled figures which may be subject to change:

Primary School with 321 pupils

Factors which make up Notional SEN Funding	Pupil Nos.	Unit Value (rounded)	Of which Notional SEN	Total Notional SEN
Core Education - AWPU	321	£2,780.44	£103.58	£33,249
Deprivation via FSM	21	£1,288.61	£346.82	£7,283
Low-cost, High Incidence	71	£214.99	£214.99	£15,265
Lump Sum		£200,000	£25,000	£25,000
Total Notional SEN Funding				£80,797

Secondary School with 908 pupils

Factors which make up Notional SEN Funding	Pupil Nos.	Unit Value	Of which Notional SEN	Total Notional SEN
Core Education - AWPU	908	£4,329.04	£151.50	£137,562
Deprivation via FSM	51	£1,546.33	£416.18	£21,225
Low-cost, High Incidence	60	£214.99	£214.99	£12,900
Lump Sum		£200,000	£25,000	£25,000
Total Notional SEN Funding				£196,687

2. Exceptional Circumstances – High Needs

Element 1: Core education funding	Mainstream per pupil funding, Basic Need - AWPU
Element 2: Additional Support funding	Schools will contribute the first £6,000 of additional support required by a pupil with high needs
Element 3: Top Up funding	“Top Up” funding from commissioning local authority to meet the needs of identified high needs pupils

The table above illustrates the three funding elements which will support pupils with high needs.

It is recognised that on occasion a school may have a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs and may be financially disadvantaged. As such the DfE are allowing local authorities to define the circumstances in which additional funding may be provided from the LA’s High Needs block where it is felt the school’s formula funding does not adequately reflect the number of high cost pupils.

It is proposed that for 2013 – 2014 these circumstances will be defined as:

“Where a school’s contribution towards the costs of provision for their high needs pupils from additional support funding - Element 2 - exceeds 60% of their Notional SEN funding the local authority will provide additional funding from the High Needs block.”

The allocation will be made using one of two defined criteria;

Either:

To a school whose total additional support funding (Element 2) contribution to high needs pupils is between 60% and 99% of their Notional SEN funding, a sum equal to 40% of their Element 2 contribution will be made.

Or,

To a school whose total additional support funding (Element 2) contribution to high needs pupils is 100% or more of their Notional SEN funding, a sum equal to 60% of their Element 2 contribution will be made.

It should be noted that the allocation will be made on the basis of provision being made as at 1st April 2013 and will not be varied once the allocation is made i.e. any variation in hours, either upwards or downwards, during the year will not be taken into account.

In addition it is proposed the circumstances and allocation method detailed above should be subject to review after the first year.

Examples:

1. A another secondary school :-

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|----------|
| a. | 100% of defined Notional SEN funding | = | £ 82,003 |
| b. | Contribution of additional support funding i.e. Element 2 | = | £ 94,680 |

As this school's contribution of additional support funding (b) is more than 100% of their Notional SEN funding (a), an additional allocation will be made by the local authority, calculated as 60% of £94,680 i.e. £56,808

2. A another primary school :-

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|----------|
| a. | 100% of defined Notional SEN funding | = | £ 50,129 |
| b. | Contribution of additional support funding i.e. Element 2 | = | £ 32,000 |

As this school's contribution of additional support funding represents 63% of their Notional SEN funding, an additional allocation will be made by the local authority, calculated as 40% of £32,000 i.e. £12,800