

Walsall Children's Services



Walsall Council

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 4 December 2012

Subject: High Needs Funding Formula Update

Contact: Dawn Morris

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

Recommendation: School Forum to note the contents of the attached report in regard to the definition of Notional SEN Budget, exceptional circumstances and progress of High Needs Funding

HIGH NEEDS 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.

In Walsall the Notional SEN Budget for a school is currently defined as the sum of:

“2% AWPU funding + funding allocated under the SEN factors :- “Core” & “Additional Level 1”; “Statementing” and where applicable funding for “Additionally Resourced Provision”.

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	2%
Deprivation – FSM element	28.50%

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

Primary School with 321 pupils

Factor	Pupil Nos.	Unit Value	Of which Notional SEN	Total Notional SEN
AWPU	321	£2,714	£54.29	£17,428
FSM	21	£1,219	£347.50	£7,297
Low-cost, High Incidence SEN	71	£210.69	£210.69	£15,029
Lump Sum		£200,000	£25,000	£25,000
Total Notional SEN Funding				£64,754

Secondary School with 908 pupils

Factor	Pupil Nos.	Unit Value	Of which Notional SEN	Total Notional SEN
AWPU	908	£4,286	£85.72	£77,832
FSM	51	£1,463	£417.00	£21,267
Low-cost, High Incidence SEN	60	£210.69	£210.69	£12,614
Lump Sum		£200,000	£25,000	£25,000
Total Notional SEN Funding				£136,713

2. Exceptional Circumstances

Element 1: Core education funding	Mainstream per pupil funding - AWPU
Element 2: Additional Support funding	Notional SEN funding – schools will contribute of 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 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 criteria;

1. To a school whose additional support funding (Element 2) contribution to high needs is between 60% and 99% of their Notional SEN funding, a sum equal to 40% of the contribution will be made.
2. To a school whose additional support funding (Element 2) contribution to high needs is 100% or more of their Notional SEN funding, a sum equal to 60% of the 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:

An illustration of the allocation method described above:

A nother secondary school :-

- a. Contribution of additional support funding i.e. Element 2 = £ 94,680
- b. 60% of defined Notional SEN funding = £ 82,003

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

A nother primary school :-

- a. Contribution of additional support funding i.e. Element 2 = £ 32,000
- b. 60% of defined Notional SEN funding = £ 50,129

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

3. Progress in other areas of High Needs Funding

A consultation paper on the development of the Local Offer was distributed to all schools on Friday 23rd November, with the consultation period running until 7th December.

Included was a draft copy of the Local offer which describes a range of teaching, assessment, curriculum, resource and pastoral approaches that a school should consider and implement in supporting a pupil with SEND to make progress.

The Local Offer also describes steps that should be taken without the need for a Statement ~ under the current system ~ or an Education, Health and Care Plan when new legislation is enacted.

The response to the consultation will be shared at the next meeting of the School Forum.

Work on the funding formula for special schools is ongoing and a more detailed report will be also be presented at the next meeting of School Forum.