

Alternative Provision

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The Analysis and Consultation Process

The case for change; High Needs Funding and the National Funding Formula

DfE consultation (March 7th-April 7th 2016)

- The DfE will provide support for schools to manage pressures on their budgets.
- There is no reason for the LA to act as a staging post which skews the budget allocation.
- In terms of Alternative Provision we need to develop with schools an improved offer that engages young people and raises standards.
- Current distribution of the high needs block funding is not sufficiently transparent-it needs to be objective, easier to understand and better match need.
- One of the key principles for a reformed funding system is to get funding straight to schools...transparent, simple, predictable.
- Enable better decision making by front line professionals.
- A system that extends as seamlessly as possible throughout the education system and throughout the age range up to 25.
- Currently, high needs funding to LAs is primarily based on historic patterns of spend.
- Government is consulting on moving to a formulaic distribution of high needs funding from central to local government from 2017/18. Within which the DfE propose to use population and deprivation factors in the allocation of funding for alternative provision.

N.B. The White Paper states that 'all mainstream schools will take responsibility for the education of students in alternative provision'

Our Intentions

1. To ensure the use of High Need (HN) funding is clear and transparent.
2. Get available HN funding direct to schools and academies by;
 - **piloting the devolution of funds to 1/2 clusters of primary schools as of September 2016.**
 - **devolving funds to individual secondary schools for the 2016/17 financial year in accordance with an agreed formula**
3. Encourage schools and academies to combine funding to ensure efficiencies are made.
4. Enable school and academy leads to **restructure provision** according to need.
5. Ensure options for provision are broad ranging and not restricted
6. Establish and ensure high quality, VFM provision.
7. Connect primary and secondary provision by developing and investing in more effective early intervention and considering the curriculum continuum EYFS-KS4.
8. Ensure all supporting agencies are aligned, responsive and fully engaged-this is where the LA could offer insight and support over the next 2 years.
9. Establish the system over a 2 year period supported by the LA where appropriate (this becomes a more urgent matter in light of the funding consultation papers).



How will funding be devolved?

- **Funding model:** schools and academies are to receive at least 43% of their full share from Year 1. (In years 2,3, and 4 any increase in devolved funds relates to the reducing number of perm excluded pupils).
- Formula calculated on 75% Ever 6 FSM: 25% pupil number which aligns closely with the proposals included in the DfE funding consultation.

Draft Service Level Agreement

- The LA aims to continue to challenge and reduce PRU placement costs.
- The LA will establish a cross LA framework agreement for September 2016.
- The LA with partners will construct an appropriate Service Level Agreement to accompany the devolution of funding.

Questions