

Enclosure 6

Proposals to change the way that additional High Needs Funding for Schools with high proportions of EHC Plans is allocated

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Background

1. Since 2014, under the local formula, schools have received an additional £1500 per pupil for schools that have above average numbers of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans (average taken here to mean average in Sutton rather than a national average). This is both for primary and secondary schools where for secondary the average relates only to non-selective schools.
2. The funding was £92k in 2018/19, £93k in 2019/20 and £106k in 2020/21 (approximate splits being roughly even each year between primary and secondary sector. A breakdown of the funding for 2020/21 by school is set out in the table below:

SEN Statements / EHCs	Funding at
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM HIGH NEEDS- to Schools with high levels of Statemented Pupils	£1,500
<small>N:\BAS\CYPLS\Formula\Schools\2021\SEN addit funding for High Needs 2020-21.xlsx\SEN Oct 2019 for 2020-21</small>	per Statement above average
<small>Funding per pupil can be adjusted to retain overall funding at £95k"ish"</small>	
PRIMARY	£
Abbey Primary	1,500
All Saints' Benhilton	1,500
Wallington Primary	9,000
Avenue Primary	7,500
Bandon Hill Primary	4,500
Barrow Hedges Primary	7,500
Beddington Infants'	1,500
Dorchester Primary	9,000
Foresters Primary	6,000
Holy Trinity C of E Junior	7,500
Rushy Meadow Primary	6,000
St Cecilia's Primary	3,000
St Elphege's Infants'	1,500
Tweeddale Primary	6,000
Total Primary	£72,000
SECONDARY	
Cheam High School	24,000
Oaks Park High School	10,500
Total Secondary	£34,500
<i>Non Grammar Schools</i>	£106,500

3. The High Needs National Funding Formula and National Funding Formula doesn't anticipate this type of funding mechanism and in line with the Local Area's approach to move towards the National Funding Formula officers proposed to Schools Forum that this funding should be ceased. At the time, the additional rationale provided by officers for this proposal was set out below.
- Whilst there is some logic to there being an additional cost for schools supporting, on average, a higher number of young people with additional needs, schools receive funding for these pupils through the agreement of the Education Health and Care Plan. The more EHC plans there are, the more funding that is attracted. We are of the view that the case for this funding is weaker than it perhaps was when this funding was originally agreed.
 - The High Needs Block review has recommended redesigning the funding model in Sutton such that there is greater investment at the SEN support level - based on the feedback from the HNBR review sessions throughout April / May this principle is something that schools have generally been in favour of: this funding could therefore be redirected for this purpose. It would also help to reduce the reliance on the Schools Block to cover overspends in the High Needs Block given that 0.5% has been transferred in successive years
4. As a decision for the Local Authority, officers considered options to cease the funding immediately and move the money back into the high needs block for 2019/20, to cease part way through the year, to cease the funding for 2020/21 or to take no action. Members of the Schools Forum indicated that they would prefer such a change to be considered once firm proposals on the distribution of additional predictable needs funding had been finalised as part of the high needs block review. This was accepted by officers so no actions were taken.

Recommendation

5. Now that firm proposals are in place for the distribution of predictable needs funding, and given the Local Area's strategic desire to invest in mainstream schools funding to support 'predictable needs', officers are proposing to invest the funding of 100k from the high needs block in 2021/22 as part of the predictable needs allocation and thereafter. This would increase the funding from the 400k previously agreed to 500k next year. Schools Forum are asked to consider this recommendation and provide officers with views at the meeting on 6 October.