

Date	January 2021
Sign-off for EIA	Director, Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture
Title of Project	Changes to SEN Funding in mainstream schools
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Business activity aims and intentions	<p>DfE expects that mainstream schools will normally be expected to fund the first £6,000 of additional support per pupil with an EHCP from their main budgets. DfE guidance states that “local authorities can provide additional funding outside the main funding formula for mainstream schools and academies on a consistent and fair basis where the number of their pupils with SEND and/or high needs cannot be reflected adequately in the funding they receive through the local funding formula. Additional funding may be provided where there are a disproportionate number of pupils with a particular type of SEND.</p> <p>In 2020/21 67 primary and 2 secondary schools received “additional SEN” funding at a total estimated cost of £1.002m. The distribution mechanism was modified in 2020/21 following significant overspends in previous years. The current mechanism supports a mixture of schools with very high incidence of EHCPs and schools where the incidence of EHCPs may not be so high but where the core funding is relatively low.</p> <p>The council propose that additional SEN funding ceases from 1 April 2021. All mainstream schools would then be required to fully fund the first £6,000 per EHCP from that date.</p> <p>Transitional arrangements could be considered between April – September 2021 for schools which could demonstrate that the withdrawal of additional SEN funding from this school has an unavoidable detrimental impact on pupils in protected groups under the Equalities Act</p>
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2.0 Analysis of the equalities evidence

2.1 Evidence

The proposal affects funding which is allocated to schools specifically for SEND but which is not attached to specific individual pupils. While developing the proposal, a view was taken of financial position of the schools who received additional SEND funding. There were 45 maintained primary schools which received additional SEN funding in 2020/21 which also received such funding in 2019/20 of which;

- 26 had in year revenue surpluses
- 14 had in year revenue surpluses exceeding the amount of additional SEN funding allocated
- 19 had year-end revenue surpluses exceeding the median for Surrey maintained primary schools (9.52% of budget)
- Ten had year-end surpluses exceeding 15% of revenue funding (22%, compared to 25% of all schools).

The following table provides an overview of Additional SEN funding relative to core funding (primary schools)

Additional SEN funding as a proportion of budget share (excluding SEN place funding) and growing schools funding (primary schools only)	Number of schools
Under 1%	32
1-2%	20
2-3%	8
3-4%	3
4-5%	1
5% plus	3
Total primary schools receiving funding in 2020/21	67

Protected characteristics and local equality characteristics	Impact analysis
Race	Proposals to withdraw funding do not disproportionately affect schools with high incidence of ethnic minorities or high levels of deprivation or high overall levels of SEND
Gender	No current evidence available to comment on the impact.
Gender re-assignment	No direct impact.
Disability	There is will be an impact of the proposal on disability as additional funding directly relates to SEND funding .However, there will be more clarity on which form of disability is likely to be affected once we received the data from schools about reduced services (if any
Age	More likely to impact primary school children as they largely received additional funding in 2020/21.
Sexual orientation	No direct impact.
Religion and belief	No direct impact.
Pregnancy and maternity	Not applicable.
Marriage and civil partnership	Not applicable.
Socio-economic factors	
Language	There is no evidence that children who have a first language other than English are more affected by the proposal.
Health	No direct impact.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 Consultation with key stakeholders	The proposals were set out in a consultation paper which has been circulated to all schools and which is also available on the Surrey CC
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	<p>website. The consultation closed on 17th Dec 2020. The results of the consultation will be considered by Schools Forum on 12 January 2021.</p>
<p>4.0 Conclusions</p>	
<p>4.1 Conclusions</p>	<p>The council is expected to manage its high needs costs within the funding provided by the DfE and this means reviewing the way in which that provision is made in Surrey. There is a need to better target support for mainstream schools and to support Surrey schools to become even more inclusive. Therefore, it is recommended to implement the cessation of additional SEN funding ceases from 1 April 2021. All mainstream schools would then be required to fully fund the first £6,000 per EHCP from that date.</p> <p>The proposal affects funding which is allocated to schools specifically for SEND but which is not attached to specific individual pupils. Ultimately it will be up to schools to decide how to manage any reductions.</p> <p>Proposals to withdraw funding do not disproportionately affect schools with high incidence of ethnic minorities or high levels of deprivation or high overall levels of SEND. However, transitional funding will be considered from April 2021 in order to enable schools to plan for the changes and mitigate impacts. Where the ceasing of any transitional funding would have an overly onerous effect, the council can work with Schools Forum leaders to design a mechanism to mitigate this.</p>