

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 21st March 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: High Needs Top-Up Funding Levels for 2018-19

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum on the Top-Up Funding Rates for 2018-19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As previously reported, there is a funding gap between the grant allocated by the DfE and High Need budget required for 2018-19. The transfer from the Schools Budget and a range of savings were identified, discussed and agreed at the meeting on 21st February 2018 reducing the shortfall from £2,112,101 to £220,652. Further reductions will be needed in 2018/2019 to meet the estimated budget shortfall.

3.1 Special Schools

These are funded at £10,000 per place plus a top-up dependent upon each pupil's provision.

At the time of writing the report, discussions are continuing with the Head Teachers of the special schools regarding top-up funding levels for 2018-19 and these will be tabled at the meeting.

3.2 Resource Bases

Unfilled resource base places are still funded at £10,000 per place while filled places are funded at £6,000 per place and the pupil is counted and funded within the mainstream funding formula.

Top-up funding can only be reduced to the same level as the Minimum Funding Guarantee as applied to the mainstream funding formula. Therefore, we are reducing the top-up values by 1.5%.

Appendix A shows the 2018-19 top-up values.

3.3 Pupil Referral Unit

PRU's are funded at £10,000 per place plus a top-up per pupil. A review is underway with a proposal to introduce a single top-up value for 2018-19. This will be determined at a meeting on 28th March.

3.4 Enhanced Provision funding

The Enhanced provision budget for primary and secondary schools has been reduced by over £720,000. In previous years, schools have had the opportunity to apply to the Panel to fund the costs of support for a pupil in excess of the notional SEN £6,000. The level of savings required in 2018/2019 mean that new criteria is now being developed. As part of this new criteria applications will now only be considered for Enhanced Provision where a school is unable to meet the cost of this support from within their own resources.

3.5 Work is urgently being undertaken to identify the level of enhanced provision top up funding needed to meet the current obligations and then to identify the funding available for any applications approved under the new criteria. This information will be provided at the meeting.

3.6 As in previous years, the Financial Management Team will circulate details to Head Teachers of pupils in their schools where current records show eligibility for enhanced provision top-up funding each term. Schools will be asked to check this information carefully to prevent any errors in funding.

Centrally retained budgets

Below are the centrally retained budgets from the High Needs Block with comparison to 2017-18.

	2018-19	2017-18
Staffing and Supplies	£1,377,920	£1,390,158
Independent Special Schools	£2,412,450	£2,463,230
Inter Authority Recoupment	£175,000	£175,000
Post 16 provision	£769,000	£1,069,000
Specialist Equipment	£20,000	£40,000
Top up funding / enhanced (EY)	Nil	£80,000
Top-up funding / enhanced	£1,000,000	£1,739,327
SEND Commissioner	£50,780	Nil
SEMH Team	£255,870	Nil
Total	£6,061,020	£6,956,715

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

Appendix A

Special Unit Calculations 2018-19							
		<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>adj for per place change</i>		<i>Jan-18</i>		
	Unit	<i>Actual nos</i>	<i>1st pupil</i>	<i>cash value</i>	<i>Actual nos</i>	<i>1st pupil</i>	<i>cash value</i>
Primary							
Weston Point	EBD	7	£5,066.67	£77,466.70	7	£4,990.67	£76,934.69
The Brow	Assessment	6.50	£3,002.75	£63,517.87	3.50	£2,957.71	£66,351.98
The Brow	SPL	5	£0.00	£80,000.00	6.00	£0.00	£76,000.00
Woodside	EBD	7	£4,097.92	£70,685.42	6	£4,036.45	£70,218.71
Palacefields Acad	SPL	7	£0.00	£72,000.00	7	£0.00	£72,000.00
Simms Cross	ASD KS1/2	13	£4,534.70	£146,951.16	14	£4,466.68	£146,533.51
Oakfield	Assessment	5.50	£4,109.09	£70,600.02	4.50	£4,047.45	£70,213.54
Oakfield	SPL	8	£0.00	£68,000.00	6.00	£0.00	£76,000.00
The Grange	ASD KS1/2	13	£5,832.69	£163,825.02	11	£5,745.20	£159,197.20
	Total budget			£813,046.19			£813,449.63
Secondary							
The Grange	ASD KS3/4	7	£6,664.76	£78,653.31	5	£6,564.79	£72,823.94
The Grange	SLCN	5	£1,408.60	£87,043.01	4	£1,387.47	£89,549.88
OCA	SLCN	5	£1,019.57	£85,097.86	3	£1,004.28	£91,012.83
Sts Peter & Paul	ASD KS3/4	4	£5,437.82	£65,751.29	4	£5,356.25	£65,669.72
	Total budget	93		£316,545.47	81		£319,056.38