

Re: Mainstream School Funding Review for SEND

Dear All,

In agreement with the City Mayor and myself, the council are undertaking a consultation to review the funding model within mainstream schools

As you will be aware, pressure on the High Needs Budget (HNB) is a national issue, and the overspend in Leicester for 2020/2021 was £4.9m and is forecast to be £5.6m in 2021/2022.

Additionally, it has been recognised that the current method of funding is inequitable and not child centred or based on need.

Between March and July 2021, a 12-week engagement process commenced to discuss the issues and to consider alternative funding options.

Based on the engagement feedback, the challenges to the existing High Needs Block (HNB) budget and the need to ensure that funding is distributed equitably across all schools, it was proposed to remove the additional notional SEND top up payment and provide schools with enhanced per pupil top up payments based on pupil need. The new model will utilise the existing High Needs Block funding more effectively to meet needs and improve outcomes for SEND pupils.

We appreciate that these changes will present a challenge to some schools, but it must be emphasised that this is not a funding cut but seeks to achieve a fairer and transparent funding system which allows for more accountability.

To support the schools, we have created a new team called the SEND Quality Inclusion Team who will work closely with schools, look at existing arrangements, share best practice and suggest more efficient ways of working.

To support the transition and to allow schools time to plan we will introduce the new funding system from the new academic year starting September 2022 rather than at the start of the new financial year April 2022.

A formal consultation process has been launched via the Citizens Portal on the 8 September 2022 and is scheduled to close on the 8 December 2022.

[consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/send-funding-review](https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/send-funding-review)

We would urge you all to look at the information and make your suggestions and comments.

If you have any queries, please do come back to me, alternatively please contact Sophie or Jabeen below.

Cllr Elly Cutkelvin

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