

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS INCLUDING NOTIONAL SEN BUDGET

General

From April 2013 schools will receive three elements of funding. Element 1 is the basic per pupil entitlement, Element 2 is for Additional Educational Needs (AEN) and Element 3 is top up funding for pupils with statements. Elements 1 and 2 will be allocated to schools from the Schools Block of funding whilst Element 3 will be allocated for individual pupils from the centrally retained High Needs Block.

Element 1

This is the basic per pupil allocation which replaces the AWPU.

Element 2

This is the funding for AEN which will be used by schools to provide support for any individual pupils or groups of pupils with additional needs including:

- those with high incidence low level special educational needs; and
- up to £6k for pupils with Statements of SEN.

Based on the cost of a TA/LSA this £6k could buy 16 hours of support per week. Clearly schools can also use funding from Element 1 to support additional needs.

Element 2 will be calculated using data related to:

- deprivation, which is calculated on IDACI data;
- free school meals, which is calculated on the Ever 6 data;
- pupil mobility; and
- prior attainment, which is based on 73 points at EYFS for primary and those not achieving Level 4 in Maths and English for secondary.

This funding for AEN includes the Notional SEN Budget. There is an expectation that schools will provide the first £6k of support for statemented pupils from the Notional SEN Budget. In order to ensure that there is sufficient funding within the Schools Block for this purpose, with Schools Forum agreement, it is proposed to transfer £1m from the High Needs Block to the Schools Block.

Pupils with SEN do not all require provision costing £6k but anything under this level will be within the Notional SEN Budget which is part of the AEN Budget in schools.

The document setting out what schools are expected to provide from within their Notional SEN Budget will be amended in consultation with schools.

Element 3

This is top up funding for pupils with statements where the cost of their provision is over £6k. In future statements will only be required for any funding needed over £6k.

For pupils with statements in selective schools, the requirement to provide the first £6k of funding will not apply as they do not attract funding for prior attainment.

A schedule showing the proposed AEN Budget for each mainstream school, the amount of funding that each school must allocate to statemented pupils (based on January 2012 data) and the top up funding for each school is attached.

The balance of funding remaining in a school's AEN Budget (once the statemented pupils have received £6k each) could be less than £30k. In such cases, the Authority will discuss the implications with that school to consider whether or not additional top up funding from the High Needs Block is required.

Inter-Authority Recoupment for Statemented Pupils

It should be noted that inter-authority recoupment for statemented pupils will end on 31 March 2013. From 1 April 2013 schools will be required to negotiate directly with the individual placing Authority about the cost of top up funding required for individual pupils with statements and also to invoice the Authorities for payment. Slough will not provide the top up funding for pupils from other Authorities.

We will arrange a workshop for affected schools in the spring term to assist with this change in responsibility.