



Schools Forum (republished 24 February 2021)

Thursday 25 February 2021 at 6.00 pm

This will be undertaken as an online virtual meeting.

The press and public are welcome to attend this online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting will be made available [here](#).

Membership

Representing

SCHOOL MEMBERS

Nursery

Lesley Benson
Vacancy

Head
Governor

Primary

Vacancy
Michelle Ginty
Melissa Loosemore
Raphael Moss
Michael Odumosu
Geraldine Chadwick
Michael Maurice
Narinder Nathan
Tim Jones

Head
Head
Head
Head
Governor
Governor
Governor
Governor
Governor

Secondary

Danny Coyle

Head (Maintained)

Special Education Needs

Vacancy

Head

Pupil Referral Unit

Ranjna Shiyani

Head

ACADEMY MEMBERS

Primary

Vacancy	Head
Jo Jhally	Governor

Secondary

Andy Prindiville	Head
Jude Enright	Head
Gerard McKenna	Head
Martin Beard	Governor
Mike Heiser (Chair)	Governor
Vacancy	Governor

Special Education Needs

Jayne Jardine	Head
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NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS

Early Years PVI

Paul Russell
Wioletta Bura

Trade Union

John Roche/Jennifer Cooper

16-19 Provider Representative

Vacancy

<p>For further information contact: Craig Player, Governance Officer Email: craig.player@brent.gov.uk; Tel: 020 8937 2082</p>

<p>For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: www.brent.gov.uk/committees</p>
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Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
 - To which you are appointed by the council;
 - which exercises functions of a public nature;
 - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
 - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

Or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for Absence and Membership	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Deputations (if Any)	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2021 as a correct record.	
5 Actions arising	
To consider any actions arising from previous meetings.	
6 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Report 2020/21	7 - 14
To receive a report on the forecast financial position for 2020/21. The position is reported against the budget set in consultation with the Schools Forum and submitted to the Department for Education on the Section 251 budget return.	
7 High Needs Block Budget 2021/22	15 - 22
To receive a report on the detailed High Needs Block budget for adoption in 2021/22.	
8 Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Deficit Management Plan	23 - 30
To receive a report on the High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Management Plan including the timelines of the key strategies to mitigate the deficit.	
9 Banding Review	31 - 46
To receive a report on the proposed Banding options following a Banding	

review process and the Graduated Approach Framework to be implemented.

10 Dates of Future Meetings

To note the provisional schedule of dates for future meetings during 2021/22, as follows:

- Thursday 17 June 2021 at 6pm
- Thursday 4 November 2021 at 6pm
- Thursday 9 December 2021 at 6pm (additional date if required)
- Thursday 20 January 2022 at 6pm
- Thursday 24 February 2022 at 6pm

At this stage, all meetings are scheduled to be held as online virtual meetings.

11 Any Other Urgent Business

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 17 June 2021

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MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 6.00 pm

Membership

Representing

PRESENT (all in remote attendance):

Governors	Mike Heiser (Chair) Martin Beard Geraldine Chadwick (Vice-Chair) Michael Odumuso Tim Jones Narinder Nathan Michael Maurice
Headteachers	Melissa Loosemore Danny Coyle Michelle Ginty Gerard McKenna Raphael Moss Jude Enright Andy Prindville Nisha Lingam
Trade Union	John Roche
Officers	Dena Aly Olufunke Adediran Brian Grady James Kinsella Craig Player Sharon Buckby Kamaljit Kuar Sasi Srinivasan
Councillors	Stephens (Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills) Mili Patel (Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care)

1. Election of Vice-Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Geraldine Chadwick as the Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum.

2. **Apologies for Absence and Membership**

Apologies were received from Lesley Benson (Nursery Head), Ranjna Shiyani (Pupil Referral Unit) and Jo Jhally (Academy Primary Governor). Lesley Benson was substituted by Nisha Lingam.

Jude Enright (Academy Secondary Head) was introduced as a newly appointed member of the Forum.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

4. **Deputations (if Any)**

None.

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 05 November 2020 as a correct record.

6. **Actions arising**

Action 68: SEN provision planning – An update would be given under Item 7: Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22 to be considered later on the agenda.

Action 69: Additional costs incurred due the pandemic - An update would be given under Item 7: Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22 to be considered later on the agenda.

Action 70: EHCPs growth modelling - An update would be given under 9: Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan to be considered later on the agenda.

Action 71: DSG budget work plan - An update would be given under Item 7: Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22 to be considered later on the agenda.

7. **Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22**

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council introduced a report on the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by Full Council.

The Forum was then invited to raise questions on the report, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- It was noted that in the proposed funding formula, 50 of the 87 schools required a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% which ensured that per pupil funding increased by this proportion.

- The budget proposed that there be a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to mitigate the growing number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs). While in agreement, the Forum did note that an extra 10% of funding had already been allocated for the High Needs Block for 2021/22.
- In response to a question from the Forum, it was suggested that a more detailed breakdown of the DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions and an update on the CAFAI projects funding be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.
- It was confirmed that the de-delegated expenditure on staff supply cover costs was in relation to parental leave. There had been a consistent increase in the number of schools applying for this funding over the past three years and so it was proposed that the budget increased to £0.28 million to meet current spending levels.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the proposed de-delegation arrangements set out within the report.**
- 2. To approve the transfer of £1.2m (0.5%) from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block.**
- 3. To recommend the budget for the DSG blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to the Council.**
- 4. That a breakdown of the DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions and an update on the CAFAI projects funding be provided at the next meeting of the Forum. (Action 72: Dena Aly and Olufunke Adediran)**

8. Early Years National Funding Formula 2021/22

Dena Aly, Senior Finance Analyst at Brent Council introduced a report on the local Early Years Funding Formula 2021/22, which needed to be set following the confirmation of the Early Years Block DSG funding for the borough.

The Forum was then invited to raise questions on the report, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- In response to a question regarding the allocation of funds from the Specialist Nursery Panel to children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) or children in need (CIN), it was suggested that information on its spend over the 2020/21 financial year be provided at a later meeting of the Forum.
- It was also suggested that the eligibility criteria for children with SEND and CIN to access funding from the Specialist Nursery Panel be included in the next headteacher's bulletin and that information on how it was reviewed and monitored be provided at a later meeting of the Forum.
- The Forum sought clarification over the provisional decrease in allocation of maintained nursery school supplementary funding from £0.75 million in

2020/21 to £0.717 million in 2021/22. Concern was raised over this change, and the Forum was reassured that the Council was lobbying the Department for Education (DfE) to ensure this concern was taken into consideration.

- It was suggested that the funding formula ensured as much funding allocation was transferred through to private, voluntary and independent childcare providers (PVI) as possible, with the central spend being as minimal as it could be for effective administration. It was confirmed that central spend had indeed been set at a minimum, and that the allocation of funding to PVI was regularly reviewed by the Early Years Funding Sub-Group.

Resolved

- 1. To endorse Brent's Early Years Funding Formula for 2021/22.**
- 2. That information on the Specialist Nursery Panel's spend over the 2020/21 financial year be provided at a later meeting of the Forum. (Action 73: Dena Aly and Olufunke Adediran)**
- 3. That the eligibility criteria for children with SEND and CIN to access funding from the Specialist Nursery Panel be included in the next headteacher's bulletin. (Action 74: Brian Grady)**
- 4. That information on how the eligibility criteria for children with SEND and CIN to access funding from the Specialist Nursery Panel is reviewed and monitored be provided at a later meeting of the Forum. (Action 75: Dena Aly and Olufunke Adediran)**

9. Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council and Sharon Buckby, Head of Inclusion and Brent Virtual School at Brent Council introduced a report on the preparation of the DSG Deficit High Needs Block Management Plan.

The Forum was then invited to raise questions on the report, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- In response to a question from the Forum, it was suggested that a proposed timetable of the actions to be taken to mitigate the High Needs Block deficit and the potential affect these actions be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.
- It was noted that a number of actions were being taken to expand the range of local placement options for children with SEND and reduce the need for high cost independent sector placements. The Forum agreed that local provision should remain a key consideration in any actions taken to mitigate the deficit.
- One action highlighted was the establishment of a new banding criteria to allocate funding and additional support into SEND support. It was suggested that any proposals be informed by a comparison with other local authorities.
- In regard to the consultation process for the establishment of a banding criteria for the allocation of funds and additional support into SEN support, it

was noted that the consultation process would be undertaken through a variety of communication routes. The Forum was encouraged to engage widely with their colleagues regarding the proposals and share their views through the appropriate channels.

- In response to a question regarding Roundwood Alternative Provision School, it was noted that it was opening to its first cohort this month. This first cohort would be on a six-week respite basis and the provision would offer combined curriculum and therapeutic interventions.
- Regarding the financial impact of forecast trends of EHCP numbers, it was noted that officers were continuing to look closely at the possible financial impacts. The Forum was assured that any modelling would take into consideration the variation in the cost of EHCPs and the point at which EHCPs were ceased.

Resolved

- 1. To note the DSG High Needs Block deficit management plan proposals.**
- 2. That a proposed timetable of the actions to mitigate the High Needs Block deficit and the potential affect these actions would have be provided at the next meeting of the Forum. (Action 76: Olufunke Adediran and Sharon Buckby)**


10. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm

M HESIER
Chair

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	<p align="center">Schools Forum 25 February 2021</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p align="center">DSG Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21</p>	
<p>Wards Affected:</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Key or Non-Key Decision:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>No. of Appendices:</p>	<p>One Appendix 1 – DSG Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21 Period 9</p>
<p>Background Papers:</p>	<p>Prior financial reports to Schools Forum</p>
<p>Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small></p>	<p>Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Kamaljit Kaur Interim Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 5417 Email: Kamaljit.kaur@brent.gov.uk</p>

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the forecast financial position for 2020/21. The reported position is against the budget set in consultation with Schools Forum and submitted to the Department for Education on the Section 251 budget return. For information, the budget is analysed by funding block in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. Summary

- 3.1. The demand for High Needs provision has continued to increase which has led to the overall DSG expenditure forecast to exceed income by £7.5m in 2020/21.

This will increase the deficit position at the end of the financial year from £4.9m carried forward from 2019/20 to £12.4m.

- 3.2. The detailed financial monitor of the 'DSG Schools Budget' is presented in Appendix 1. The 'Actual to P9' column represents spend to date as of the 31st December 2020, and the forecasts provided are those prepared during January 2021.

4. DSG Income

- 4.1. There are some variances on Block income compared to the budget set, though the largest, the mainstream Schools Block income forecasted to budget at £235m.
- 4.2. The most significant variance is on the High Needs Block, where the recoupment import-export adjustment been made. This accounts for place funding for Brent pupils in other local authority areas. The cost of this to the DSG in 2020/21 is £1.1m.
- 4.3. There are some variances on Early Years Block income, where income has been increased by £0.25m relating to a £0.1m prior year adjustment, and the 2020/21 allocation has been increased by £0.15 million following confirmation of the January 2019 Early Years census.
- 4.4. In total, the forecast shows that income will be £0.7m less than budgeted for.

5. Schools Block Expenditure

- 5.1. There is an overall forecast underspend against the Block of £0.3m mainly due to a £0.7m underspend against the growth fund for Academies not recouped. This is because of the timing difference between Academies and Local Authority financial years, where funding for Academies are adjusted to take into account the additional 5 months of growth funding required by Academies but not maintained schools. This will therefore net off the pressure against the growth fund of £0.4m, due to pressures arising from rising rolls payments for growth in pupil numbers.
- 5.2. The growth budget also funds the Choice and Fair Access panel (CAFAL) arrangements (£69k) for new arrivals to Brent schools where the Council commissions targeted support for the needs of new arrivals. The CAFAL process assesses the needs of Year 10 and Year 11 new arrivals who do not speak English or have significant special needs.
- 5.3. There has been an increase over recent years in the number of claims for maternity and paternity scheme payments. The forecast for 2020-21 based on the current number of claims is £0.34m, resulting in a £0.1m overspend which is currently being mitigated by underspends within the Block.
- 5.4. Within the de-delegated items central provision is the sum of £0.25m for central education services and covers services such as:

- Statutory and Regulatory Duties
- Education Welfare - e.g. functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils.
- Asset Management - e.g. general landlord duties, management of the LA's capital programme etc.

A paper was presented at Schools Forum on 12th December 2018 titled "Dedicated Schools Grant Support for Central Education Services 2019/20" which provides details including a detailed breakdown of the services within the Local Authority that this funding supports.

6. High Needs Block Expenditure

- 6.1. In 2020/21, the High Needs Block budget totals £62.2m. Currently this budget is showing an over spend of £6.4m mainly due to increases in the number of EHCPs. This is an increase of £2.8m compared to the pressure reported at the November 2020 Forum.
- 6.2. As of January 2020, there were 2,426 EHCPs for Brent pupils in all settings, compared to 2,819 in January 2021, representing a 16.2% increase in EHCPs over the 12-month period. The total forecast expenditure on top-up funding forecast for 2020/21 is £48.9m compared to £44.7m spend in 2019/20, a 9.4% increase. There are also notable increases in Post 16 EHCPs, where young people with SEND can remain in education provision until they are 25 years of age.
- 6.3. The increased demand has had knock on effects on expenditure on SEN support services, including the Speech and Language Therapy service and the Education Psychology service budgets, which are both forecasting overspends. In total, the High Needs SEN support service budgets forecast to overspend by £1.3m.
- 6.4. This brings the total forecast overspend for the High Needs Block expenditure to £6.4m more than the budget set.
- 6.5. To recover the deficit, key strategies presented to Schools Forum include;
 - 6.5.1. Looking to establish more SEND provision in the borough as part of the School Place Planning Strategy Refresh including developing new Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs);
 - 6.5.2. Reviewing Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), and Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) EHCPs to ensure that resources are targeted appropriately and considering time limited resources where possible.
 - 6.5.3. Introduce a strengthened graduated response and SEN Support mainstream plus offer, with the aim to reduce the number of requests for EHCPs.
 - 6.5.4. Continued central government lobbying.

7. Central Block Expenditure

- 7.1 The Central Block of the DSG (£2.2m) funds central services for schools. This includes a set contribution towards pension strain costs for former school employees of £0.6 million, and it is a long-term annual commitment.
- 7.2 There is a forecast underspend of £82k on the central block, due to small underspends on the Admissions Service and the School Effectiveness Service.

8. Early Years Block Expenditure

- 8.1. 95% of this Block income is passed on to providers, and the remaining 5% funds the EY central services budgets. The Nursery Education Grant budget allocations for 2-year-old provision (NEG 2) and for 3 and 4-year-old provision (NEG 3 & 4) are set at the start of the year according to estimated take up. Payments are then made according to actual pupil numbers each term.
- 8.2. In March 2020, the Government confirmed that local authorities should continue to fund the NEG entitlements despite some settings having to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore in Brent, all Early Years providers have continued to receive Nursery Education Grant (NEG) funding over the Summer Term 2020, based on their Spring term 2020 headcount and for the Autumn 2020 term based on Autumn 2019 headcount data. This has led to the block reporting a deficit of £0.862m as amounts paid to providers has exceeded the income allocation mainly against the 2-year-old provision.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

11. Equality Implications

- 11.1. Not applicable.

12. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 12.1. Not applicable.

13. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 13.1. Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley


Strategic Director of Children and Young People

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	2020-21				Commentary
	Schools Forum Full Year Agreed Budget and 26.02.20	Actual Year To P9	Full Year Forecast Revised	Full Year Forecast Variance	
Income: School Funding					
Dedicated Schools Grant [LA receipts]					
Schools Block	(115,121,509)	(87,824,038)	(115,328,855)	(207,346)	Variance is due to recoupment adjustment based on revised allocations
High Needs Block	(53,964,141)	(40,130,995)	(52,965,473)	998,668	HNB allocation reduced due to Import/Export adjustment
Early Years Block	(22,900,351)	(17,604,339)	(23,112,463)	(212,112)	Forecast includes 19.20 adjustment announced by DfE on 16.07.20
Central School Services Block	(2,203,564)	(1,669,601)	(2,203,564)	0	
Sub Total Dedicated Schools Grant [LA receipts]	(194,189,565)	(147,228,974)	(193,610,355)	579,210	
Dedicated Schools Grant [DfE deductions]					
Schools Block Recoupment	(119,578,035)	(119,370,688)	(119,370,689)	207,346	Growth fund for academies not recouped -
High Needs Block Deductions	(7,340,000)	(7,214,667)	(7,420,668)	(80,668)	
Sub Total Dedicated Schools Grant [DfE deductions]	(126,918,035)	(126,585,355)	(126,791,357)	126,678	
16-19 Funding Grant					
6th Form Funding	(3,767,845)	(2,831,521)	(3,786,731)	(18,886)	Variance due to revised ESFA allocation increased due to Tuition Funding
Sub Total 16-19 Funding Grant	(3,767,845)	(2,831,521)	(3,786,731)	(18,886)	
Total Income: School Funding Total [A + B + C]					
	(324,875,445)	(276,645,849)	(324,188,443)	687,002	
Expenditure: Schools Block					
Individual Schools Budget					
Primary Schools	126,323,036	101,724,035	126,229,927	(93,109)	Growth Fund adjustment for 2020-2021 based on funding that has been provided to academies from
Secondary Schools	80,601,299	76,902,198	79,958,842	(642,456)	Sep.19-Sep.20. To fund these payments DfE made a recoupment adjustment in 2020-21.
Special Schools	0	0	0	0	
All-through Schools	23,540,582	23,540,582	23,540,582	0	
Sub Total Individual Schools Budget	230,464,917	202,166,815	229,729,352	(735,566)	
De-delegated Items - Schools					
Assessment of FSM eligibility	24,205	24,205	24,205	0	
Contingencies	186,705	25,845	70,000	(116,705)	estimated for disbursements to support schools although full cost/impact can only be determined after schools return in Sep-20.
Maternity, Paternity and Trade Union Facilities	226,056	37,566	347,139	121,083	due increasing costs and claims for Parental Leave - Schools Forum agreed to increased budget in 21/22.
Licences/Subscriptions [SB]	5,262	11,783	11,783	6,521	
Sub Total De-delegated Items - Schools	442,228	99,398	453,127	10,900	
De-delegated Items - Central Provision					
Contribution to combined budgets [SB]	610,000	610,000	610,000	0	
Pupil Growth/Out of School places	2,250,000	1,303,364	2,638,566	388,566	
Sub Total De-delegated Items - Central Provision	2,860,000	1,913,364	3,248,566	388,566	
Total Expenditure: Schools Block					
	233,767,145	204,179,577	233,431,045	(336,100)	
Expenditure: High Needs Block					
Place funding					
IB Place Funding [DfE recouped]	7,214,667	7,214,667	7,214,667	0	Paid by DfE to academies
IB Place Funding [Finance]	1,766,000	1,338,333	1,766,000	0	Paid by LA to maintained schools as part of budget share
Sub Total Place funding	8,980,667	8,553,000	8,980,667	0	
Top-up and Targeted Funding					
IB Mainstream Top-ups [Finance]	7,971,005	5,993,193	7,971,006	1	Paid by LA to maintained schools as part of budget share
IB Mainstream Top-ups [Inclusion]	19,267,651	15,174,421	20,855,678	1,588,027	Paid by LA to non-maintained schools half termly
IB Special Schools: Equipment, Therapy & Banding Review	300,000	29,400	300,000	0	This budget is agreed for one year only
Independent Day Special	6,410,000	5,229,258	7,367,002	957,002	
Independent Residential Care Children's Homes	1,010,227	1,010,227	1,010,227	0	
Independent Residential Special	1,140,000	548,946	984,259	(155,741)	
OB ARPs	140,000	24,246	131,628	(8,372)	
OB Mainstream	2,348,057	691,414	2,647,404	299,347	Due to increase in EHCPs despite budget increase to match prior year spend
OB Recoupment Income	(1,157,879)	371,242	(1,248,432)	(90,553)	

Appendix 1 - DSG Budget Monitoring report 2020-21 Period 9

OB Special	3,000,000	2,765,163	4,059,315	1,059,315	Due to increase in EHCPs despite budget increase to match prior year spend
Post 16	3,200,000	2,050,745	4,464,671	1,264,671	Due to increased age range for post-16 leading to exponential growth in demand
Targeted Funding [Finance]	120,000	210,184	342,953	222,953	Due to ARPs not in Agreed Spending Plan i.e. Roundwood and Sunshine at Willow
Sub Total Top-up and Targeted Funding	43,749,061	34,098,440	48,885,710	5,136,649	
SEN Support Services					
Early Years Inclusion Fund	1,128,085	894,177	1,148,215	20,130	
Education Otherwise / Awaiting Placement	520,237	337,988	716,515	196,278	
Hospital Education [Kingswood Centre]	112,000	111,500	111,500	(500)	
SEN Services	5,670,285	5,631,524	6,721,216	1,050,931	Overspends in Educational Psychology and Speech & Language Services
SEN Transport	1,075,726	932,112	1,147,188	71,462	
Support for Inclusion	1,000,480	801,738	926,472	(74,008)	
Sub Total SEN Support Services	9,506,812	8,709,038	10,771,106	1,264,294	
Total Expenditure: High Needs Block	62,236,540	51,360,478	68,637,482	6,400,942	
Expenditure: Early Years Block					
Early Years Entitlement					
2 Year old Nursery Education	3,008,103	2,819,798	4,055,892	1,047,789	Payments are made based on last year's census due to COVID-19
3 and 4 Year old Nursery Education	17,476,000	13,247,163	17,476,000	0	
Early Years Central Expenditure	1,102,000	725,889	943,725	(158,275)	
Early Years Panel Funding	522,685	522,685	522,685	0	
Early Years Pupil Premium	67,000	16,232	40,000	(27,000)	
Sub Total Early Years Entitlement	22,175,788	17,331,766	23,038,302	862,514	
Supplementary Funding					
Maintained Nursery Schools	724,563	603,803	724,563	0	
Sub Total Supplementary Funding	724,563	603,803	724,563	0	
Total Expenditure: Early Years Block	22,900,351	17,935,569	23,762,865	862,514	
Expenditure: Central School Services Block					
Central Provision					
Contribution to combined budgets [CSSB]	792,000	503,583	744,891	(47,109)	for Appropriate Body Service, Gordon Brown, School Effectiveness and Wembley Learning Zone
Termination of employment costs	604,000	0	603,580	(420)	
Servicing of Schools Forum	10,000	0	500	(9,500)	
Licences/Subscriptions [CSSB]	214,425	214,002	214,002	(423)	for DfE brokered National Copyright Licence
School Admissions	583,139	432,838	557,710	(25,429)	
Sub Total Central Provision	2,203,564	1,150,423	2,120,683	(82,881)	
Total Expenditure: Central School Services Block	2,203,564	1,150,423	2,120,683	(82,881)	
Other Expenditure:					
6th Form Funding					
6th Form Schools	3,767,845	2,840,861	3,782,823	14,978	Variance as per ESFA increased allocation
Sub Total 6th Form Funding	3,767,845	2,840,861	3,782,823	14,978	
Total Other Expenditure	3,767,845	2,840,861	3,782,823	14,978	
Total Expenditure	324,875,445	277,466,909	331,734,899	6,859,454	
Balance	0	821,059	7,546,456	7,546,456	
				2019/20 Carried Forward deficit:	4,916,000
				Overall DSG deficit 2020/21:	12,462,456

	Schools Forum 25 February 2021
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
High Needs Block 2021/22	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix 1 – High Needs Block Budget 2021-22 Appendix 2 – Proposed Bandings 2021-22
Background Papers:	Prior Financial reports to Schools Forum
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk Kamaljit Kaur Interim Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 5417 Email: kamaljit.kaur@brent.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report informs Schools Forum of the detailed High Needs Block budget for adoption in 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Schools Forum notes the report.

3. Summary

- 3.1. The High Needs Block budget for 2021/22 is set to balance to available resources including the £1.2m Schools Block transfer. The total budget is £67.6m.

4. High Needs Block funding

- 4.1. The High Needs block funding has been confirmed at £66.4m for 2021/22. This is £6m more than that received in 2020/21, and represents a 10% increase.
- 4.2. In addition, the Schools Forum has approved a Schools block transfer of 0.5% totalling £1.2m. Total funding for the High Needs Block in 2021/22 is £67.6m.

5. Changes to the 2021/22 High Needs Block budget

- 5.1. The Schools Forum sub group for High Needs met on 11 February 2021 to discuss the High Needs block budget, and the final detailed budget is provided in Appendix 1.
- 5.2. Where the number of places within special provisions has increased, the place funding and top up funding budgets have been changed accordingly. This can be seen on Appendix 1.
- 5.3. Three options were presented to the HNB Sub-Group and those options are detailed in the “Banding Review” paper which is another item on this Forum’s agenda. The budget assumes that the top up funding rates will remain the same for the mainstream schools and ARPs but the special school top up funding rates will increase by 7.5% for bands 1 – 5 and by 8.1% for band 6 to be in line with neighbouring London Boroughs. The budget also includes £0.5m set aside for a SEN support pilot in mainstream schools. The pilot is a mechanism proposed to support a reduction in the demand for EHCPs. The proposed 2021/22 banded funding rates are provided in Appendix 2.
- 5.4. There is no change to the recoupment budget of £1.2m which remains at the same as 2020/21. This is an income budget which offsets expenditure on pupils from other boroughs. This budget is in line with the amounts actually recovered.
- 5.5. The budget for post 16 provision has increased by £0.7m to a total of £3.9m. The council will continue to robustly challenge the ‘Element 2’ charges, of £6k each, from further education providers following ESFA clarification that these costs should not be passed onto the student’s home local authority. This should result in a lower average cost for post-16 provision.

6. Risks and Challenges

- 6.1. The main risk against this budget remains the rising number of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and as at the end of January 2021 number there were 2,819 CYP with an EHCP compared to January 2020 where the number was 2,426 representing a 16% increase. It is yet to be understood if this increase may partly be due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. With in-borough special provision becoming full, greater use will be made of out of borough and independent settings which are more expensive than placing children in Brent schools.

- 6.2. There remains the risk of price inflation for SEND provision in out of borough and independent settings where provisions are also seeking over inflation prices to deal with pressures including pressures arising from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be partly mitigated by effective commissioning arrangements, such as using the WLA.
- 6.3. The available resources have been allocated within the constraints of the funding for the provision of SEND. The budget aims to achieve an in-year balance between expenditure and income, and does not reduce the forecast deficit that will be brought forward from 2020/21. However another item on this Schools Forum agenda i.e. the “Updated DSG High Needs Block Management Plan” identifies the key strategies to recover part of the deficit over a number of years.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

9. Equality Implications

- 9.1. The key groups affected by the proposals are children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) aged 0-25 in Brent. The Council is committed to inclusive education for all children and young people with SEND in our mainstream schools, enhanced resource schools and special schools.
- 9.2. The budget supports the needs of children and young people with SEND to be met through evidence based interventions and aims to reduce reliance on high cost placements in the non-maintained and independent sector, by ensuring that children with SEND can get a good education at a school close to their home.
- 9.3. The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and there are no equality implications.

10. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 10.1. Not applicable.

11. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 11.1. Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

High Needs Block Budget Planning 2021-22


			2021-22 Budget				Comments
Description	2020-21 Places	2020-21 budget	2021-22 Places	Option 1 - 1.4% increase	Option 2 - SEN Support	Option 3 - STAT Neighbours	
Place funding							
ASHLEY COLLEGE (HEALTH NEEDS EDUCATION SERVICE)	20	200,000	25	250,000	250,000	250,000	PRU Place funding Budget
BRENT RIVER COLLEGE - KEY STAGE 3 & 4 PRU	56	560,000	56	560,000	560,000	560,000	
BRENT RIVER COLLEGE - PRIMARY	6	60,000	6	60,000	60,000	60,000	
FAWOOD	10	100,000	10	100,000	100,000	100,000	MNS ARPs place funding based on £10k per place
GRANVILLE PLUS NURSERY	6.6	66,000	7	70,000	70,000	70,000	
KINGSBURY GREEN	18	112,000	18	120,000	120,000	120,000	
FRYENT	28	168,000	36	220,000	220,000	220,000	
SUDBURY	7	42,000	0	0	0	0	
OAKINGTON MANOR	39	234,000	35	234,000	234,000	234,000	
KINGSBURY HIGH	7	54,000	7	50,000	50,000	50,000	
PRESTON MANOR	24	148,000	25	164,000	164,000	164,000	
WOODFIELD	177	1,749,167	183	1,828,333	1,828,333	1,828,333	
PHOENIX ARCH	50	500,000	55	529,167	529,167	529,167	
MANOR HOUSE	174	1,727,500	186	1,862,500	1,862,500	1,862,500	
THE VILLAGE	298	2,770,000	295	2,945,000	2,945,000	2,945,000	
AVENUE [was B73604 in 18.19]	28	210,000	25	245,000	245,000	245,000	
Top-ups							
ASHLEY COLLEGE (HEALTH NEEDS EDUCATION SERVICE)		794,300		856,290	856,290	856,290	PRU Top-up Budget no change except for increase in places.
BRENT RIVER COLLEGE - KEY STAGE 3 & 4 PRU		1,208,730		1,208,730	1,208,730	1,208,730	
BRENT RIVER COLLEGE - PRIMARY		174,456		174,455	174,455	174,455	
FAWOOD		105,158		106,630	105,158	105,158	ARPS budget same as 2020/21 without any inflation - Option 3
GRANVILLE PLUS NURSERY		74,396		80,010	78,905	78,905	
KINGSBURY GREEN		116,888		157,530	155,361	155,361	
FRYENT		347,575		440,545	434,469	434,469	Top-up rates increased between 7.5%-8.1% for Option 3
SUDBURY		502,588		0			
OAKINGTON MANOR		0		99,224	97,859	97,859	
KINGSBURY HIGH		0		52,510	51,787	51,787	
PRESTON MANOR		0		204,936	202,102	202,102	
PHOENIX ARCH		1,013,288		1,066,446	1,051,722	1,132,902	
WOODFIELD		13,731,733		3,397,489	3,350,581	3,606,468	
MANOR HOUSE		0		4,534,304	4,471,700	4,823,665	
THE VILLAGE		0		6,763,385	6,670,005	7,190,522	
AVENUE [was B73604 in 18.19]		0		760,134	749,639	810,011	
Additional funding for special top-ups		250,000		250,000	0	0	
IB Mainstream Top- Ups		8,069,545		8,148,480	8,148,480	8,113,740	
Targeted Funding		120,000		120,000	120,000	120,000	
Recoupment income		-877,879		-1,157,879	-1,157,879	-1,157,879	Budget based on Projected actuals in 20/21
IB ARP - in year adjustments		100,000		100,000	100,000	0	
IB Special - in year adjustments		1,000,000		1,000,000	750,000	500,000	
OB Mainstream		2,348,057		2,559,204	2,559,204	2,559,204	Budget increased to fund the demand in 2021-22
OB Special		3,000,000		3,916,197	3,916,197	3,916,197	Budget increased to fund the demand in 2021-22
OB ARP		140,000		140,000	140,000	140,000	
Independent Day		6,410,000		6,827,247	6,827,247	6,827,247	Budget increased to fund the demand in 2021-22
Independent Residential		1,140,000		1,140,000	1,140,000	1,140,000	Budget as 2020/21
Residential and independent settings		1,010,227		1,010,227	1,010,227	1,010,227	
Post 16		3,200,000		3,898,408	4,142,264	3,898,408	Budget increased to fund the demand in 2021-22
Education Otherwise/ Awaiting Placement		520,237		520,237	520,237	520,237	
Early Years Inclusion Fund		1,128,085		1,128,085	1,128,085	1,128,085	Budget as 2020/21
SEN Services		5,670,285		6,763,993	6,763,994	6,622,668	Budget increased to fund the demand in 2021-22
Funding for banding review		50,000		0	0	0	
Support for Inclusion		1,000,480		925,350	925,350	925,350	Budget adjusted as per 2020/21 projected outturn
SEN Transport		1,075,726		1,075,726	1,075,726	1,075,726	
Hospital Education Provision (Ashley College)		112,000		112,000	112,000	112,000	
SEN SUPPORT		0			500,000		To fund the SEN Support budget - option 2
TOTAL		62,236,540		67,617,894	67,617,894	67,617,894	
Allocation 61,304,141			Allocation 66,432,473				
Block Transfer 932,399			Block Transfer 1,185,421				
Budget 62,236,540			Budget 67,617,894				

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Brent - Proposed Bandings 2021/22

Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)							
ARPs	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
Core Funding	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-Up funding	£2,485	£6,492	£8,931	£10,516	£11,272	£12,413	£13,108
Total	£8,485	£12,492	£14,931	£16,516	£17,272	£18,413	£19,108
* Unfilled spaces are funded at £10,000							
Special Schools							
Special Schools	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	
Top-Up Funding	£4,025	£6,561	£10,283	£14,015	£17,748	£27,764	
Increase 7.5% & 8.1%	£302	£492	£771	£1,051	£1,331	£2,236	
Total	£14,327	£17,053	£21,054	£25,066	£29,079	£40,000	
Mainstream Schools							
Mainstream Schools	Provision (Hours)	Notional (Element 2)	Top-up (Element 3)	Total			
Band A		£6,000	£0	£6,000			
Band B	19.50	£6,000	£12,378	£18,378			
Band C	22.75	£6,000	£14,441	£20,441			
Band D	26.00	£6,000	£16,504	£22,504			
Band E	29.25	£6,000	£18,567	£24,567			
Band F	32.50	£6,000	£20,630	£26,630			

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 Brent	Schools Forum 25 February 2021
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Updated DSG High Needs Block Management Plan	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	Schools Forum, 21 st January 2021: DSG Management Plan
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	<p>Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Sharon Buckby Head of Inclusion & Headteacher Virtual School 0208 937 1447 Email: Sharon.buckby@brent.gov.uk</p>

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To update the Schools Forum on the High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Management Plan including the timelines of the key strategies to mitigate the deficit.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the timelines of the key strategies.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. Pupils' development is not linear. As pupils age, the complexity of their needs will change. Some pupils might not have SEND to begin with but will develop SEND as they mature. Others who are considered to have SEND at the beginning of their lives may no longer have these needs later in life As such SEND is not a fixed or permanent characteristic; it is a recognition that at a specific time a child

has additional learning needs. At times, many pupils will require tailored or additional support to fully participate in everything the school has to offer.

- 3.2. As we move through 2020/21 and into the 2021/22 academic year, it is clear that the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns have raised concerns about increased exposure to ‘hidden harms’ as well as lost learning and the impact of social distancing on children and young people’s development and on their mental and emotional health and wellbeing. Even those who have continued to attend school in person have had a far from normal experience. Consequently, Brent Council’s Children and Young People’s Department expect that there will be an increase in the level of additional needs identified in schools and settings that might result in referrals to alternative provision or for an EHC assessment. As we move into a recovery phase, it is even more important that the children’s system work together as soon as needs arise to ensure that children and young people can access the support they need when they need it. Whilst every effort is being taken to address the HNB deficit, progress needs to be considered in the context of the impact of the pandemic.
- 3.3. Brent’s SEND strategy is to enable each young person to realise their potential in an appropriate, inclusive setting whether in a mainstream school, a SEND Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP), a SEND Unit or a special school. ARPs and SEND units on mainstream school sites are designed to allow young people to participate within the mainstream school where appropriate.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The High Needs Block [HNB], element of the Dedicated Schools Grant [DSG] was in £4.9m deficit at the end of 2019/20 and the current forecast as at period 9 December 2020, the in-year deficit is forecast to be £7.5m. This brings the overall forecast cumulative DSG deficit to £12.4m by the end of the financial year.
- 4.2 The main cost driver of the HNB deficit remains the growth in EHCPs. Table 1 below models three scenarios of EHCP growth. The scenarios are “Low” which assumes that EHCP numbers will reduce compared to 2020/21 and level off; “Medium” which assumes a stable increase over the next few years; and “High”, which assumes exponential growth in EHCP numbers.

Table 1

Number of EHCPs	Projected 2020	Projected 2021	Projected 2022	Projected 2023	Projected 2024	Projected 2025
Low	2,807	3,060	3,213	3,373	3,542	3,719
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	7%	5%	5%	5%
Medium	2,807	3,116	3,427	3,770	4,147	4,562
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%
High	2,807	3,121	3,484	3,952	4,557	5,348
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	12%	13%	15%	17%

5. Key Strategies to mitigate the High Needs Block deficit and timelines

- 5.1 As set out in the School Place Planning strategy 2019 – 2023 November 2020 refresh, a number of actions are being taken to expand the range of local placement options for children with SEND and reduce the need for high cost independent sector placements. The ambition is to develop the capacity of schools to support pupils with SEND thereby reducing in out of borough mainstream, special and INMSS spend by at least £1m by 2023/24. Where appropriate the Council will seek to bring pupils out of INMSS into local mainstream provision and reduce the use of INMSS for home tuition where children and young people are awaiting a school place. The expansion in local provision will also meet the need for new places as new EHCPs are established and children and young people move to Brent with an EHCP.

	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescales (Financial year)
1	<p><u>Expansion of alternative provision</u></p> <p>a) Roundwood Alternative Provision School. A 50 place provision opened January 2021. Provision will offer combined curriculum and therapeutic interventions. Cohort will include CYP with additional needs.</p> <p>b) Broadening the cohort of CYP with additional needs accessing Ashley College on site or through home tuition as respite or transition provision.</p>	<p>Fully operational;</p> <p>Review quarterly</p>	<p>Beckmead Trust</p> <p>Ashley College</p> <p>HOS Inclusion</p>	2021/22
2	<p>Brent Council is working with Brent special schools to expand their Published Admission Number (PAN) over the next 3 years.</p> <p>Scoping underway for primary special expansion. Number of projected places for primary - 12.</p>	<p>June 2021: Cabinet approval for Primary expansion.</p>	<p>HOS Inclusion</p>	2022/23

	Avenue School to increase PAN with new build underway.			
3	Brent Council is working to establish an additional secondary special school in Brent. Proposed places – 150.	2021/22 Cabinet Approval	Operational Director	2024/25
4	<p>Work with current school clusters to explore how needs can be best met locally, focusing on increasing SEND capacity in mainstream through Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs).</p> <p>AY 2021/22- 2022/23 places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary – up to 36; • Secondary - 28 up to 56 over 2-3 year period. 	<p>January – April 21 school meetings held;</p> <p>May - September 2021 Submission to capital programme board.</p>	HOS Inclusion	2021-2023
5	<p>Options are also being considered by Brent Council with Brent CCG, FE Colleges and school partners to develop a new post 16 skills hub to help meet the demand for education places for young people 16-25 with SEND.</p> <p>Governance arrangements to be developed. Potential for a collaboration/joint venture and income generation.</p> <p>Current post 16 spend – has moved from £3.5m (2019/20) to £4.5m in 2020/21.</p>	<p>Virtual PFA Hub live September 2021;</p> <p>Business case for PFA physical HUB approval in September 2021.</p>	HOS Inclusion	2024/25

5.2 Further developments are underway to manage the rate of EHCP growth and securing provision locally to meet the needs of Brent children. Brent is adopting an approach that builds on jointly meeting the needs of Brent children and recognises that for most children SEND is a dynamic characteristic.

- 5.3 The expectation is, that with the introduction of the Graduated Approach, improved quality EHC assessments and person centred planning with SMART annual reviews could reduce the numbers of EHCPs to 10% in year growth by 2022/23 (table 1). However, this ambitious target needs to be considered in the context of Covid-19 and the potential impact of increasing need over 2021/22 as opposed to reducing needs. Additionally, improved joint commissioning with Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) should begin to see a reduction in costs to the HNB for therapeutic intervention, including the speech and language contract; and emotional wellbeing provision and interventions.

	Action	Milestones	Lead	Timescales (Financial year)
1.	Reviewing SLCN, MLD, and Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) EHCPs to ensure that resources are targeted appropriately, considering time limited resources where possible.	Review completed April 2021 Joint commissioning September 2021	- HOS Inclusion	2022/23
2.	A new Banding criteria at SEN Support to be established and agreed with Schools Forum.	Feb 2021 - Banding review options paper to HNB sub group; September 2021: new SEN support banding piloted; February 2022 review report published any changes made and implemented from April 2022.	- HOS Inclusion - HOS CYP Finance	2022/23
3.	Introduce a strengthened graduated response and mainstream plus offer, with a Brent moderation programme with SENCOs and Headteachers to address needs earlier, to support children to stay	Pilot to be launched in April 2021; Review over summer term 2021;	- HOS Inclusion	2022/23

	and progress in mainstream without an EHCP. It is proposed that this is called a Graduated Response Programme (GRP) with the aim to reduce the number of requests for EHCPs as modelled in the "Low" scenario in table 1 above. Whole school SEND review to be used to measure outcomes	Full roll out September 2021; Impact review January 2022, April 2022, July 2022. Refresh if required.		
4.	Plans ceasing: Time limited plans introduced as part of the Graduated Approach work, new EHCP process and person centred planning and annual review process. Plans ceasing if no longer needed,	Launch April 2021	- HOS Inclusion	2022/23

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. At the end of the financial year 2020/21 the overall DSG deficit due to pressures in the High Needs Block is projected to be £12.4m. The cost avoidance implications of the key strategies identified to mitigate the deficit will need to be costed, with the aim to recover the deficit over a number of financial years. However the risk remains if the numbers of EHCPs continue to rise above the funding allocation increases to the HNB, the deficit will continue to increase.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications for this report.

8. Equality Implications

- 8.1 The key groups affected by the proposals are children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) aged 0-25 in Brent. The Council is committed to inclusive education for all children and young people with SEND in our mainstream schools, enhanced resource schools and special schools.
- 8.2 The DSG HNB Deficit Management Plan has been developed in order to improve outcomes for children and young people and achieve financial

sustainability. The proposals support the needs of children and young people with SEND to be met earlier through evidence based interventions and aim to reduce our reliance on high cost placements in the non-maintained and independent sector, by ensuring that children with SEND can get a good education at a school close to their home.

- 8.3 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no equality implications.

9 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 9.1 Consultation has been undertaken with parents and carers, schools and settings and health providers. This consultation will continue through the piloting of the Graduated Approach Framework and SEN Support Fund during the 2021/22 academic year. An equality analysis will be undertaken as part of the review process of both the Graduated Approach Framework and SEN Support Fund.

10 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)


- 10.1 Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

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	Schools Forum 25 February 2021
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Banding Review	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix A – Benchmarked Neighbours Appendix B - Option 2 SEN Support Criteria
Background Papers:	Prior Schools Forum papers
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Sharon Buckby Head of Inclusion & Headteacher Virtual School 0208 937 1447 Email: Sharon.buckby@brent.gov.uk Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To update the Schools Forum on the proposed Banding options following a Banding review process and informs Forum about the Graduated Approach Framework to be implemented.
- 1.2. To inform Forum of the implications of the three options which have been considered in the Banding review, which include:
 - Option 1 - Retain current Bandings but include an inflationary uplift of 1.4%.
 - Option 2 - Adopt an additional Band for SEN support criteria for mainstream schools.
 - Option 3 - Adopt a Banding allocation for special schools increased in line with benchmarked neighbours.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Forum notes the contents of the report and endorses Options 2 and 3.
- 2.2 That Forum notes the implementation of the Brent Graduated Approach Framework.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. All communities have been affected by Covid-19, however, experiences have varied greatly, and for some, this period will have been exceedingly difficult and traumatic. It is clear that the pandemic and ensuing lockdown has raised concerns about increased exposure to 'hidden harms' as well as lost learning, the impact of social distancing on children and young people's development and on their mental and emotional health and wellbeing.
- 3.2. Even those who have continued to attend school in person have had a far from normal experience. Consequently, Brent Council's Children and Young People's Department expects that this academic year and the next academic year will be one that is characterised by increased additional needs that might result in referrals to alternative provision or for an EHC assessment. As we move into a recovery phase, it is even more important that the system works together as soon as needs arise to ensure that children and young people can access the support they need when they need it. Whilst every effort is being taken to address the HNB deficit, progress needs to be considered in the context of the impact of the pandemic.
- 3.3. A review of the current Banding system has been completed by schools and the Local Authority. The review was initiated for a number of reasons which included:
 - The perception among some head teachers that inclusive schools are penalised financially.
 - ARP head teachers report that pupils placed there are becoming increasingly complex and with the potential for increased funding requirements.
 - Special school head teachers report challenges in managing school budgets with the current funding bands.

3.4. Principles:

Schools Focus Groups were organized and it was agreed that there is a need to create a new system which is underpinned by the following principles. The system should be:

- created in collaboration between mainstream, special school head teachers and LA Officers;
- fair and transparent;
- one which does not de-stabilize school budgets;
- peer moderated;
- a pupil needs-led system;

- allow for a common understanding and common language between schools and between schools and the LA;
- be based on graduated levels of funding – the greater the level of pupil need, the higher the level of funding.

3.5. The Review Consultation Process

3.4 The need for the review of the system was identified by the Schools Forum and High Needs Subgroup. The High Needs Subgroup formed the reference group for the consultation process and guided and monitored the progress of the review. Consultation about the high needs funding system has taken place in two ways:

- 1) A survey which was distributed to all schools and settings.
- 2) The establishment of three separate Focus groups, involving mainstream schools, Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs) and special schools.

3.5 The process for the review and outcomes of the consultation are recorded in a detailed report considered by the High Needs Subgroup on 11th November 2020. The main themes identified from survey responses and the Focus Groups indicated:

- the need to develop a clearer, transparent funding pathway with speedy responses to requests for funding
- the need to develop descriptors of need linked to bands of funding
- the level of allocation in each band should be sufficient to meet the increasingly complex needs of pupils in Brent's educational settings.

4. Benchmarking

4.1 A review of Bandings applied by neighbouring authorities (i.e. Ealing, Camden, and Barnet) has been undertaken and can be seen in Appendix A of this report. The review has demonstrated that in 2020/21, there are comparable amounts of funding for mainstream schools with Brent's allocation being slightly higher. Brent's allocations for ARPs are mid-range but higher funding allocated in the other local authorities for special schools than Brent.

5. SEN funding

5.1. Funding for SEN provision is from three elements:

- Element 1 [Universal Funding]

All schools get money for each pupil at the school. This is called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) and it is part of schools' delegated funding. Some of this money is to make general SEN provision. This might, for example, include the cost of providing the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and some other resources.

- Element 2 [Targeted Funding]

This is to provide SEN support that is additional to or different from the support that most other children get. Government guidance says schools should provide up to the first £6,000 of additional or different support for those children who need it, including those with an Education, Health and Care plan.

- Element 3 ['Top – Up' Funding]

The local authority is responsible for managing Element 3 funding. Some children have such complex needs that the school may request some additional funding to 'top-up' Elements 1 and 2. This can be used for specific provision for an individual child or a group of children only if there is detailed evidence of the use of the Graduated Approach and there is clear evidence of exceptional level of needs.

- 5.2. The Top-Up funding (Element 3) is currently administered via the teaching assistant hours identified by individual schools as part of the EHC assessment process. This is currently not moderated.

5.3. The Graduated Approach

- 5.4. From April 2021 Top- Up funding (Element 3) to be identified through the Brent Graduated Approach Framework replacing the current approach (5.2)
- 5.5. The Graduated Approach supports teaching and learning in all provisions. Where a pupil is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support should take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach. It draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise in successive cycles in order to match interventions to the SEN of children and young people. Code of Practice, Chap. 6 Para 44 to 56, pg., 101 to 102.
- 5.6. The Brent Graduated Approach Framework (The Framework) is currently being coproduced with Brent Council officers, Brent schools and settings, the BPCF and health providers. The Framework will be used to identify additional needs as part of the EHC assessment and review process. The Framework will provide clear expectations of how SEN is supported through multiagency services at universal and universal plus levels and through Quality First Teaching (Elements 1 and 2); targeted SEN Support and specialist support. Moderation of the application of the Graduated Approach in schools and settings will be via SENCO moderation groups and the application of the Whole School SEND Review process.
- 5.7. The EHC assessment process will now include a panel to approve. This panel will be attended by the school/setting presenting the application for an EHCP as

well as other relevant partners including Health and Social Care. Thereby providing greater transparency in decision making. Funding will be identified by need detailed in The Framework and specialists interventions or teaching assistant hours specified in the EHC assessment.

- 5.8. As the Framework is implemented there is the potential that funding allocations will change depending on categories of need and levels of need identified and agreed in the EHCP approval process. This process will be applied to all new EHC assessments therefore funding for existing pupils with an EHCP will not be affected. However, as the new Framework is applied in annual reviews, there is the potential for any amendments to result in funding changes. Where significant changes are identified, EHC reviews will be submitted to the panel to approve to ensure transparent decision making. A review mid-year will measure the impact of changes and be reported to the HNB sub group and Schools Forum.
- 5.9. This development does not propose a new Banding methodology this financial year. The level of funding can be as detailed in Option 1 or as detailed in Option 3 in the options appraisal section below. It also supports the DSG deficit management plan key strategies agreed at the January 2021 Schools Forum.

6. Options Appraisal

6.1 Option 1- Retain current Banding.

- 6.2 The current Banding has three separate bands for the mainstream schools, the ARPs and the special schools. The first option is to retain the current separate banding matrixes as is but increase the bands by RPI of 1.4%. The implications will be an overall financial increase of £0.358m to be partly mitigated by £0.250m set aside as an interim measure to support special schools. The shortfall of £0.108m will need to be found from the overall increase in the 2021/22 HNB funding increase.

- 6.3 **Benefits:** Provisions will continue as is which will give stability to funding expected.

Risks: Significant pressure is in securing special school placements. Brent schools are widely approached for child placements by other local authorities particularly due to the lower top up rates. A suggestion could be to increase the charges for other authorities in line with their top up rates. This funding can then be partly passed onto the special schools and partly contribute towards the deficit recovery plan.

6.4 Mainstream banding

Mainstream Schools	Notional Element 2	Top-up Element 3	Inflation @1.4%	Total
Band A	£6,000	£0		£6,000
Band B	£6,000	£12,378	£173	£18,551
Band C	£6,000	£14,441	£202	£20,643
Band D	£6,000	£16,504	£231	£22,735
Band E	£6,000	£18,567	£260	£24,827
Band F	£6,000	£20,630	£289	£26,919

6.5 The table above reflects the top-up funding in mainstream schools aimed at meeting the needs of children with SEN and the banding is based on number of teaching assistant hours. The current 2020/21 forecast top-up funding for mainstream schools is £12.56m and an inflationary increase will cost £0.114m.

6.6 Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)

ARPs	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
Core Funding	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-Up funding	£2,485	£6,492	£8,931	£10,516	£11,272	£12,413	£13,108
Inflation @1.4%	£35	£91	£125	£147	£158	£174	£184
Total	£8,520	£12,583	£15,056	£16,663	£17,430	£18,587	£19,292

6.7 The unfilled places in ARPs receive £10,000 of place funding made up of £4,000 for the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) and £6,000 core funding. The current forecast spend for top-up funding for ARPs is £1.473m and an inflationary increase will cost £16k.

6.8 Special Schools banding.

Special Schools	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Top-Up Funding	£4,025	£6,561	£10,283	£14,015	£17,748	£27,764
Inflation @1.4%	£56.35	£92	£144	£196	£248	£389
Total	£14,081	£16,653	£20,427	£24,211	£27,996	£38,153

6.9 Against the special school bands, most of the pupils are placed in bands 4, 5 and 6 and in exceptional circumstances, schools have requested additional elements to top-up funding to take into account the exceptionally high needs of some pupils

outside of the current banding system. The current forecast spend for special schools is £27.9m and an inflationary increase will be £0.228m

6.10 In 2020/21 it was agreed at Schools Forum that provision be made within the budget for additional support where required by in-borough special schools for individual equipment and other needs such as educational therapy for the most complex pupils. This was in response to an issue identified through the High Needs block sub group of the band 6 funding rate not being sufficient to meet the needs of some of the children placed in Brent special schools. The total funding allocated is £0.250m as an interim measure before the banding review is completed. If this option is accepted, this funding will not continue and would be used to offset the inflationary increase.

6.11 **Option 2 – Proposal for a new SEN Support band for mainstream schools. (Cost Implication = £0.5m)**

6.12 To adopt a new Band criteria known as the Brent SEN support funding band that is pre-EHCP. This supports the key strategies in the DSG deficit management plan agreed at the January 2021 Schools Forum.

6.13 **Benefits:** Supports the application of the Graduated Approach Framework, developing the skills and capacity of schools to deliver enhanced targeted interventions across a wider cohort of children, supporting children with SEN earlier and enable them to remain in mainstream. The intention is for the Band to provide a mechanism to support a reduction in the demand for EHCPs. Additionally, it is envisaged that this approach will support the implementation of time limited EHCPs where it is identified that specialist intervention is required.

Risks: There is a risk of increased tribunals as the new system embeds. The key mitigating factor for this is focused communication with parents/carers and staff supporting the SEN process.

6.14 The proposal is to begin with a £0.5m financial envelope from growth funds allocated to the HNB for 2021/22, with a ceiling per school of £20k (25 schools). If the pilot reduces the number of EHCPs the proposal is to utilise savings to both contribute to the reduction in the HNB deficit and expand the SEN support financial envelope. The HNB sub group would provide oversight, decision making and monitoring of the SEN support programme. The process would be:

- Schools would submit proposals detailing how the graduated approach has been applied at school and pupil level, with an associated description of how elements 1 and 2 have been used.
- Funding will be awarded for an agreed length of time which would be in accordance with the intervention proposed and the time needed to assess impact.
- Should further funding be requested a full review of progress and how the funding has been used will need to be submitted.

- There are two proposed options for this banding – option A per student or option B at place level as shown in **Appendix B**. It is also proposed that the preferred approach will be agreed by the Schools Forum.

6.15 Option 3 - To adopt a Banding allocation for Special Schools in line with statistical neighbours. (Cost implications = £0.354m increase)

6.16 The benchmarking exercise undertaken shows that the special schools bands are lower than our neighbours and this option assumes that the Banding allocations for Mainstream Schools and ARPs remain at 2020/21 levels but the special school bands are increased i.e. Band 1 – 5 a 7.5% increase and Band 6 an 8.1% increase. The increase of £0.354m will be partly mitigated by £0.25m set aside in the budget for special schools in 2020/21 leaving a shortfall of £0.104m to be mitigated.

Special Schools	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Top-Up Funding	£4,025	£6,561	£10,283	£14,015	£17,748	£27,764
Increase 7.5% & 8.1%	£302	£492	£771	£1,051	£1,331	£2,236
Total	£14,327	£17,053	£21,054	£25,066	£29,079	£40,000

6.17 **Benefits:** This aligns the Element 3 top up allocations to neighbouring boroughs and addresses points raised by provisions regarding funding pressures.

Risk: If agreed this will increase the recurrent overspend on the HNB. However, what is clear is that it is less expensive for other authorities to place a pupil in Brent special schools, consequently other authorities benefit from placing in Brent schools. A potential mitigation would be to consider, with the special schools, what and how we charge other authorities who name a Brent school as part of the EHCP process, and how this is used to both benefit schools and the reduction in the deficit.

7. Next Steps

7.1 The agreed options will be implemented with effect from April 2021 however the pilot for option 2 will be introduced in September 2021.

7.2 **New requests:** Information and guidance about the new system will need to be circulated to all schools. Relevant documentation will need to be created.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 Due to the proposed financial commitments and impacts on more than two wards regarding Option 2; the adoption of an additional Band for SEN support criteria for mainstream schools, this proposal will be subject to a recordable decision by the Strategic Director, Children and Young People.

10. Equality Implications

- 10.1 The key groups affected by the proposals are children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) aged 0-25 in Brent. The Council is committed to inclusive education for all children and young people with SEND in our mainstream schools, enhanced resource schools and special schools.
- 10.2 The Banding Review has been developed in order to improve outcomes for children and young people and achieve financial sustainability. The proposals support the needs of children and young people with SEND to be met earlier through evidence based interventions and aim to reduce our reliance on high cost placements in the non-maintained and independent sector, by ensuring that children with SEND can get a good education at a school close to their home.
- 10.3 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no equality implications.

11 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 11.1 Consultation has been undertaken with parents and carers, schools and settings and health providers. This consultation will continue through the piloting of the Graduated Approach Framework and SEN Support Fund during the 2021/22 academic year. An equality analysis will be undertaken as part of the review process of both the Graduated Approach Framework and SEN Support Fund.

12 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 12.1 Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

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Bandings 2020/21
Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)

Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)

ARPs	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
Core Funding	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-Up funding	£2,485	£6,492	£8,931	£10,516	£11,272	£12,413	£13,108
Total	£8,485	£12,492	£14,931	£16,516	£17,272	£18,413	£19,108

Bandings	Arp 1	Arp 2	Arp 3	Arp 4	Arp 5	Arp 6	Arp 8	Arp 9	Arp 10	Arp 11	Arp 12	Arp 13
Core Funding	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-Up funding	£5,000	£5,250	£5,391	£5,639	£5,769	£5,921	£6,512	£9,026	£10,024	£11,064	£11,142	£11,909
Total	£11,000	£11,250	£11,391	£11,639	£11,769	£11,921	£12,512	£15,026	£16,024	£17,064	£17,142	£17,909

Bandings	Arp 1	Arp 2	Arp 3	Arp 4	Arp 5	Arp 6	Arp 8	Arp 9	Arp 10	Arp 11	Arp 12	Arp 13	Arp 14	Arp 15	Arp 16	Arp 17
Core Funding	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Top-Up funding	£7,649	£7,898	£11,425	£12,363	£12,749	£15,987	£17,204	£17,306	£17,508	£18,022	£18,123	£18,423	£18,425	£19,856	£20,000	£22,339
Total	£13,649	£13,898	£17,425	£18,363	£18,749	£21,987	£23,204	£23,306	£23,508	£24,022	£24,123	£24,423	£24,425	£25,856	£26,000	£28,339

Brent						
Special Schools	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Top-Up Funding	£4,025	£6,561	£10,283	£14,015	£17,748	£27,764
Total	£14,025	£16,561	£20,283	£24,015	£27,748	£37,764

Special Schools	Special 1	Special 2	Special 3	Special 4	Special 5	Special 6	Special 7	Special 8	Special 9	Special 10	Special 11
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Top-Up Funding	£11,540	£13,395	£13,500	£15,752	£15,914	£18,234	£20,463	£20,597	£20,687	£24,014	£34,371
Total	£21,540	£23,395	£23,500	£25,752	£25,914	£28,234	£30,463	£30,597	£30,687	£34,014	£44,371

Special Schools	Single Band	Lower Needs 1	PRU Lower Needs 2	Lower Needs 3	High Needs 1	PRU High Needs 2
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£8,000	£10,000	£10,000	£8,000
Top-Up Funding	£22,860	£16,120	£19,496	£22,078	£23,395	£35,496
Total	£32,860	£26,120	£27,496	£32,078	£33,395	£43,496

Special Schools	Band E1	Band E2	Band E3	Band E4	Band E5		Special Schools	Band E2	Band E3	Band E4
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000		Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Primary Top-Up Funding	£5,889	£8,245	£14,134	£23,557	£35,335		Acorn Place Rate	£18,245	£24,134	£33,557
Total	£15,889	£18,245	£24,134	£33,557	£45,335		Total	£28,245	£34,134	£43,557

Special Schools	Band E1	Band E2	Band E3	Band E4	Band E5
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Secondary Top-Up Funding	£6,478	£9,069	£15,548	£25,913	£38,869
Total	£16,478	£19,069	£25,548	£35,913	£48,869

Special Schools	Band E2	Band E3	Band E4
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Acorn Place Rate	£18,245	£24,134	£33,557
Total	£28,245	£34,134	£43,557

PRUs	PRU 1	PRU 2	PRU 3	PRU 4	PRU 5
Core Funding	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Hospital Place Rate				£11,742	£17,017
PRU Top-up	£7,076	£7,076	£8,805	£2,900	£201
Total	£17,076	£17,076	£18,805	£24,642	£27,218

Appendix A - Benchmarked Neighbours

Brent					Ealing				
Mainstream Schools	Provision (Hours)	Notional (Element 2)	Top-up (Element 3)	Total	Mainstream Schools	Provision (Hours)	Notional (Element 2)	Top-up (Element 3)	Total
Band A		£6,000	£0	£6,000	Band A1 - A4		£6,000	0.00	£6,000
Band B	19.50	£6,000	£12,378	£18,378	Band B1	8	£6,000	364.00	£6,364
Band C	22.75	£6,000	£14,441	£20,441	Band B2	9	£6,000	1,112.00	£7,112
Band D	26.00	£6,000	£16,504	£22,504	Band B3	10	£6,000	1,861.00	£7,861
Band E	29.25	£6,000	£18,567	£24,567	Band B4	11	£6,000	2,610.00	£8,610
Band F	32.50	£6,000	£20,630	£26,630	Band B5	12	£6,000	3,358.00	£9,358
					Band C1	13	£6,000	4,107.00	£10,107
					Band C2	14	£6,000	4,856.00	£10,856
Barnet					Band C3	15	£6,000	5,604.00	£11,604
Mainstream Schools	Provision (Hours)	Notional (Element 2)	Top-up (Element 3)	Total	Band C4	16	£6,000	6,353.00	£12,353
Band A	10.1-15 hours	£6,000	£2,432	£8,432	Band C5	16	£6,000	7,101.00	£13,101
Band B	15.1-20 hours	£6,000	£5,285	£11,285	Band D1	17	£6,000	7,850.00	£13,850
Band C	20.1-25 hours	£6,000	£8,137	£14,137	Band D2	18	£6,000	8,599.00	£14,599
Band D	25.1- 30 hours	£6,000	£10,990	£16,990	Band D3	19	£6,000	9,347.00	£15,347
Band E	30.1 - 35 hours	£6,000	£13,843	£19,843	Band D4	20	£6,000	10,096.00	£16,096
					Band E	22	£6,000	10,898.00	£16,898
Camden					Band E1	23	£6,000	11,666.00	£17,666
Mainstream Schools	Provision (Hours)	Notional (Element 2)	Top-up (Element 3)	Total	Band E2	24	£6,000	12,434.00	£18,434
Band 0	10.0 to 20	£6,000	£5,000	£11,000	Band E3	25	£6,000	13,202.00	£19,202
Band 1	20.5 to 25	£6,000	£10,750	£16,750	Band E4	26	£6,000	13,970.00	£19,970
Band 2	25 and above	£6,000	£15,040	£21,040	Band E5	27	£6,000	14,738.00	£20,738
					Band E6	28	£6,000	15,507.00	£21,507
					Band E7	29	£6,000	16,275.00	£22,275
					Band E8	30	£6,000	17,043.00	£23,043
					Band E9	31	£6,000	17,811.00	£23,811
					Band E10	32	£6,000	18,579.00	£24,579
					Band E11	33	£6,000	18,963.00	£24,963

Appendix B

Band 2: Additional band pre EHCP – Draft Criteria to Access SEN Support

This Band will be piloted over 2021/22 to explore if the Band supports a reduction in EHCPs. The ambition is to use this funding to support the Graduated Approach, developing the skills and capacity of schools to support children with SEN and enable them to remain in mainstream. The proposal is to begin with a £500K¹ financial envelope, with a ceiling per school of £20k (25 schools).

If the pilot proves impactful the proposal will be to use the reduction in top up funding for EHCPs to both reduce the deficit and expand the SEN support financial envelope. There are two options for this banding – option A per student or option B at place level. The preferred approach will be decided by the Schools Forum.

Option A - Per student criteria

		PROFILE OF THE CHILD/YP'S SEND		
Main presenting need/s (see list)				
Please describe the child/YP's needs (in bullet point format) using the professional advice available				
		DESCRIPTION OF THE LEARNING CONTEXT		
This should detail why the child is eligible for funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new to the education system • life changing event • new to Brent • needs short term funding to access school Please indicate whether there has been an application for an EHCNA. If so please indicate the date of the application.				
		CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE CHILD		
This should include details of current attainment, progress and targets. It should include any specific strategies and interventions used to support the child which are over and above quality first teaching.				
(complete all relevant areas)	WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR THE CYP	SUPPORT IN PLACE	NEXT STEPS	BANDING LEVEL
PHYSICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT (PNI)				
HEARING IMPAIRMENT (HI)				
MULTI-SENSORY IMPAIRMENT (MSI)				
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (VI)				

¹ Amount to be decided by Schools Forum

COGNITION AND LEARNING				
COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM				
SEMH				
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE				
		BANDING		
Please state the level of funding required and for how long.				
		DESIRED OUTCOMES OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT		
What will be the impact of the support you are requesting? (please use a bullet point format)				
		DETAILS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED		
This should include details of all planned support and interventions that would not normally be available from the school's own resources (please use a bullet point format) How schools have used elements 1 & 2 needs to be included				

Option 2 - Place level criteria

		PROFILE OF THE CHILD/YP'S SEN		
Main presenting need/s (see list)				
Please describe the schools/ provision needs (in bullet point format)				
		DESCRIPTION OF THE LEARNING CONTEXT		
This should detail number of pupils who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new to the education system life changing event new to Brent needs which are at SEN support needs short term funding to access school 				
		CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PUPILS		
This should include details of current attainment, progress and targets. It should include any specific strategies and interventions used to support pupils which are over and above quality first teaching.				
(complete all relevant areas)	WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FOR THE PUPILS	SUPPORT IN PLACE	NEXT STEPS	BANDING LEVEL
PHYSICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT (PNI)				

HEARING IMPAIRMENT (HI)				
MULTI-SENSORY IMPAIRMENT (MSI)				
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (VI)				
COGNITION AND LEARNING				
COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM				
SEMH				
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE				
BANDING				
Please state the level of funding required and for how long.				
DESIRED OUTCOMES OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT				
What will be the impact of the support you are requesting? (please use a bullet point format)				
DETAILS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED				
This should include details of all planned support and interventions that would not normally be available from the school's own resources (please use a bullet point format) How schools have used elements 1 & 2 needs to be included				

Common criteria

- Schools submit proposal –this will include details of how the graduated approach has been applied at school and pupil level, with an associated description of how elements 1 and 2 have been used.
- Submission needs to include proposal for sustainable delivery and potential scaling through school to school support.
- HNB sub group are the decision making and monitoring panel.
- Funding will be awarded for an agreed length of time which would be in accordance with the intervention proposed and the time needed to assess impact.
- Monitoring visit will be made by the panel member to the school during this period asking for a review of the progress of the child in line with the proposed intervention.
- Should further funding be requested a full review of progress and how the funding has been used will need to be submitted.

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