



**Schools Forum  
10 December 2014**

**Report from the Strategic Director of  
Children and Young People**

For decision

**Proposed change to Special Schools Band 6 Funding**

**1. Summary**

- 1.2 This report requests the School Forum to agree an increase in funding for Band 6 pupils in special schools due to the increasingly complex needs of pupils admitted to Brent Special Schools.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Special Schools in Brent are funded per pupil based on a banding system which is aligned to the level of need. The EFA provides the base funding of £10,000 per place, and the 'top up', is funded from the DSG.
- 2.2 There are six funding bands for special schools reflecting levels and complexity of need of which Band 6 is the highest, reflecting the highest level of pupil needs. The banding matrix of how the children's needs are identified and the special schools funding, are attached, for ease of reference the place funding for special schools is set out in the table below.

<b>Top-Up funding by band (Total allocation per place less Base funding)</b>	<b>£</b>
Band 1	3,946
Band 2	6,432
Band 3	10,081
Band 4	13,740
Band 5	17,400
Band 6	24,720

- 2.3 The Schools Forum SEN subgroup on 8 July 2014 discussed the concerns of the Village school, that for Band 6 children the funding allocation was not sufficient to meet the increasingly complex needs of children the school was being asked to admit.
- 2.4 As would be expected given that the Village School is designated for SLD and PMLD, it has the highest number of Band 6 children, at 67 out of a total of 77. There are five Band 6 children at Manor, two at Phoenix Arch, and three at Woodfield.
- 2.5 While having a high number of Band 6 children does provide some economies of scale, the volume of very complex cases, where some children need one to one or two to one support means that resources are very stretched.
- 2.6 The July SEN sub group did consider if an additional band, i.e. a Band 7 funding should be created for the most complex children, but this was discounted as it could lead to Band inflation.
- 2.7 The SEN sub group supported a proposal to increase the Band 6 funding, to create a temporary allocation for the remaining two terms of the academic year in 2014-15 to be paid from the In Year contingency budget held by SENAS.
- 2.8 It was suggested that an additional £2,500 per Band 6 would be a reasonable and workable amount. For the 2014/15 academic year 7/12<sup>ths</sup> would be £1,458 for two terms. The total amount required to fund the revised Band 6 places in 2014/15 would be £1,458 = £112,266.
- 2.9 The SEN sub group suggested that for 2015-16, Band 6 should be increased to reflect the level of complex needs, which based on the same number of Band 6 places in 2015/16 (77) would increase costs by £192,500 for a full year, to be paid from the high needs block.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Schools Forum is requested to consider the SEN sub group recommendation
- (a) To increase the value of Band 6 for 2015/16 to ensure that the needs of these most complex pupils can be met at a cost of £192,500
  - (b) To agree an increase to Band 6 for two terms from 1 September 2014 to 31 March 2015 which would cost £112,266.

**Background papers attached**

1. Banding Matrix of '*Descriptive Needs*' and Curriculum, Resources, and Environmental Requirements with Associated Staffing Allocations.
2. Special schools funding 2014/15.

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