

Appendix B: Reasons for 'Yes' or 'No' response to consultation

In response to question 4: **Do you agree that the Local Authority should propose to the Schools Forum a transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support the High Needs budget in 2023-24?**

	Responses	%
Yes	7	33%
No	12	67%
Total	21	100%
NB. In addition 2 special schools responded with 'Yes'		

Reason for 'Yes' responses:

SEND funding needs raising, particularly given the level of need we have seen in school recently.

The difference between funding options is negligible for Water Orton

SEND needs the funding, and eventually, well-funded SEND provision in schools, benefits school.

Schools need to be able to fund children with high level needs more frequently in mainstream now and current budgets are not able to do this.

Whilst funding reductions have been made there is still a shortfall in the high needs block and 0.5% will be required

The transfer of funds is necessary to boost the funds for pupils with SEND.

Through my school forum involvement, I understand the challenge presented to supporting the high needs block, acknowledge and welcome the continued work that the SEND change group are doing and appreciate this is a collective effort to ensure that long-term change is required, as well as additional ongoing funding.

N/A

The pressure on schools from the growing number of SEND pupils needs to be recognised by increasing the size of the High Needs block. Without an adequate response from central government with regard to this block of funding the only way forward is through the proposed transfer of funding, and it should be the maximum permissible. We have agreed with the Head that we should support this proposal notwithstanding the impact on our budget which is already in deficit. It is not an entirely disinterested response as we have a growing number of applications for EHC Plans in the pipeline, including preschool and reception children who have already been identified as high needs..

Reasons for 'No' responses:

Schools Block Funding should be maximised

Moving money from schools to the high needs block masks the problem and makes it more difficult for schools to support children with SEND within school.

The cost pressures on schools in 2023/24 are predicted to be immense with significant cost pressures due to support staff pay, teacher pay, energy, inflation, funding reductions and potential pension increases. The proposed transfer is not affordable.

Our SEND has increased significantly, as it has regionally and nationally. We use our high needs funding effectively to support our SEND students and need it for staffing and resource. Warwickshire currently lacks provision for SEND and students at risk of exclusion, though I know plans and projects are in place to support this. We are signed up for the free school from 2023/24 which will cost the

school in the region of £20k in places. Schools should not be paying into LA High Needs budget as this should be ring fenced for students in their own school.

Doing so continues to mask the high needs funding problem and perpetuates an unsustainable system.

Next year is going to be a considerable financial challenge due to rising costs and the transfer is unaffordable for schools.

Whilst I appreciate the need for the high needs block to be topped up, unfortunately school budgets themselves are at breaking point. If there was more money coming from central government for schools, this would have been a different answer.

School budgets are already extremely tight and I need my budget to support the needs of non EHCP children with SEND

I am currently trying to support three EHCP children with a total top-up of just £17,000. These are children who have been in our nursery so we already know their needs well and know that 2 of them need high level 1:1 support for every minute of the day. We submitted costed IEPs but have only reduced top up to Band C for all three. I can't afford to lose any of my budget!

Our school has an extremely tight budget and 20% have SEN needs (above national percentages). We have EHCP children with complex SEMH needs but there are no provisions for children of our aged children locally. Therefore we are having to meet needs in school, hence not wanting to lose further money from the school which our community will not benefit from.

Please note that we would not be directly affected by this with the figures given in the table as we trigger the minimum funding guarantee; however, in principle I would be in favour of this depending on other factors. For example, I have heard that you are considering the approach that high ability students (paraphrasing) would not be considered for an EHCP. This seems unfair on students; we have students who are of high ability who most definitely need an EHCP and only thrive because of the EHCP. I would not be prepared to support this increase in transfer if a blanket approach to students at my school were adversely affected by the ridiculous suggestion that able students don't need support.

No comments.

School's budget is very stretched and costs are continuing to rise so do not feel I can agree to increased level of funding proposed.

We think the money would be better spent in schools rather than supporting the High Needs deficit budget.

My view is that we should not support moving either 0.5% or 0.25% from the school block to the High Needs Block 2023/24. This has been done for a number of years now and with the likely pressures on school budgets next year we simply cannot afford to lose any further funding.

Having discussed with the SLT and Governing Body, our view is that we should not sacrifice funding from the school block to cover the deficit in WCC's High Needs Block funding.

As a proactive school we invest above and beyond our SEND budget with the purpose of providing the best start to school life for children with SEND in our mainstream setting. We invest in training for our staff as required and have bought in SEND Supported support due to inadequacies with county SEND provision.

Of the 4 children who left our Year 2 last year with EHCPs, only 1 was funded. Mainstream settings are under considerable pressure to find additional SEND funding in such situations, whilst simultaneously being asked to give back more money to cover WCC deficits and facing increasing significant financial pressures due to material cost of living increases.

In response to question 6: **Do you agree that the Local Authority should propose to the Schools Forum a transfer of up to 0.25% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support the High Needs budget in 2023-24?**

	Responses	%
Yes	7	33%
No	14	67%
Total	21	100%
NB. In addition 2 special schools responded with 'No'		

Reason for 'Yes' responses:

Change needs to be sustained, hence the move into the second year.

Schools need to be able to fund children with high level needs more frequently in mainstream now and current budgets are not able to do this.

I would agree to 0.5%

as above

N/A

No comments

This was the level that was set last year.

Reasons for 'No' responses:

No?A

Schools Block Funding should be maximised

The difference between funding options is negligible for Water Orton

Moving money from schools to the high needs block masks the problem and makes it more difficult for schools to support children with SEND within school.

The cost pressures on schools in 2023/24 are predicted to be immense with significant cost pressures due to support staff pay, teacher pay, energy, inflation, funding reductions and potential pension increases. The proposed transfer is not affordable.

See above

Doing so continues to mask the high needs funding problem and perpetuates an unsustainable system.

Next year is going to be a considerable financial challenge due to rising costs and the transfer is unaffordable for schools.

Whilst I appreciate the need for the high needs block to be topped up, unfortunately school budgets themselves are at breaking point. If there was more money coming from central government for schools, this would have been a different answer.

as above

See above.

The transfer of a greater % of funds is necessary to boost the funds for pupils with SEND.

Please see above response

Because it should be 5%

We think the money would be better spent in schools rather than supporting the High Needs deficit budget.

We think the money would be better spent in schools rather than supporting the High Needs deficit budget.

My view is that we should not support moving either 0.5% or 0.25% from the school block to the High Needs Block 2023/24. This has been done for a number of years now and with the likely pressures on school budgets next year we simply cannot afford to lose any further funding.

See above

In response to question 8: **Do you think that a transfer of a different % should be proposed to the Schools Forum?**

	Responses	%
Yes	5	24%
No	16	76%
Total	21	100%
NB. In addition 2 special schools responded with 'No'		

Reasons for 'Yes' responses:

Change requires money, the funding streams from the Government are limited, I feel that schools' budgets are the only avenues open to supporting this.

I feel that some schools will resist, but we are all here to support the children in Warwickshire, some children just need a little more.

I think a maximum of 0.1% could be proposed and schools should be able to support the high needs block this way.

0% as above

0.1%

Depends on factors raised in previous comment. If it was recognised that able students might also have needs that should be met by an EHCP I would be open to the suggestion of a 0.25% transfer.

No reasons for 'No' responses were provided.