

Schools Forum

1 October 2020

SEND Funding Overview

This report is for information

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides a brief summary of funding for SEND in Warwickshire.

2. Funding for mainstream settings

2.1 Currently 42% of school age learners with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) attend mainstream schools. The funding is based on three elements:

Element 1: Schools receive Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding for every pupil in their school

Element 2: Schools are expected to spend up to £6,000 on each child at SEN School Support. This is funded through a formula, which is shown on each school budget as 'SEN Notional Funding'. The funding is not-ringfenced and it is a point of debate whether it is sufficient. In Warwickshire, there are 10,878 children at SEN School Support level (11.9% of the school population; 12.1% is national comparator).

Element 3: Top-up funding via an EHCP (High Needs Block, held by local authority). There are two bands of funding for mainstream learners with EHCP's.

- Band C: £3,613
- Band D: £8,415

Other than these two bands, a costed individual education plan (IEP) can be submitted. This is reviewed each year. It is considered by the High Needs Panel if it is above £20,000 in total.

2.2 In Warwickshire, there are 3,100 school age children with EHCP's (3.4% of the school population; 3.3% is national comparator).

- 2.3 Baselineing the DSG Recovery Plan found that due to additional payments, the average top-up received by mainstream school was approximately £9,000 (£15,000 in total).
- 2.4 The SEND & Inclusion Change Programme is to trial arrangements with schools to 'change the conversation' and developed child-centred pathways. In particular these focus on trialling arrangements to mitigate the barrier of traded services to early intervention. The programme also includes projects on workforce development and peer to peer support (for example, special schools and mainstream schools working together).

3. Funding for special schools

- 3.1 Currently 44% of school age learners with EHCP's attend state-funded special schools.
- 3.2 Learners in resourced provision and special schools receiving place funding of £10,000 (effectively replacing elements 1 and 2).
- 3.3 Places in a resourced provision are currently funded at Band D.
- 3.4 For learners in generic special schools there is a 4x4 funding matrix for EHCP top-ups with values from £0 to £17,600. Again a costed IEP can be submitted above this. The average top up is £9,000 (£19,000 in total).
- 3.5 The new Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) special schools are funded at a flat rate top-up of £23k per place.
- 3.6 A review of the special school funding matrix is included as project within the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.
- 3.7 Establishing additional resourced provision and a new special school on the Pears Centre for Specialist Learning site in Ash Green are also key projects within the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

4. Independent specialist provision and alternative provision

- 4.1 Currently 8% of school age learners with EHCP's attend independent specialist provision. This has reduced from 10% in 2016.
- 4.2 Places in independent specialist provision do not receive place funding. They are fully funded from the High Needs Block based on a market rate. Each plan and placement is costed and approved by the High Needs Panel. The average cost is £53,000.

- 4.3 Warwickshire has established a contractual framework to limit inflation to 1%.
- 4.4 Numbers in alternative provision are more difficult to quantify as many learners remain on the school roll. Approximately 6% of learners with an EHCP currently attend alternative arrangements. The cost of alternative provision is increasing. For a child to be placed full time in alternative provision, the setting must be registered with Ofsted.
- 4.5 Reducing the use of both independent specialist provision and alternative provision are key objectives of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

5. Post 16 provision

- 5.1 Warwickshire support a further 883 EHCP's for learners aged 16-19 and 701 EHCP's for learners aged 19-25.

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