



Subject Heading:

High Needs Funding 2016-17

Report Author:

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Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

The DFE has published a number of documents about High Needs funding arrangements for 2016-17 that limit the opportunities for LAs to apply for growth in the number of places to be funded.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the DFE High Needs funding arrangements for 2016-17.

REPORT DETAIL

1. The results of the Government Spending Review will not be known until later in the year so the DFE is not in a position to commit to funding growth in high needs places. LAs have therefore been advised to assume: that there will be no additional high needs funding in 2016-2017; that the 2016-17 high needs block will be based on 2015-16 academic year place numbers and that there will be no change to the remainder of the high needs block.
2. A number of documents were issued by the DFE on 24 September including operational guidance for both high needs and alternative provision, technical notes and arrangements for allocating place funding to non-maintained special schools and special post 16 institutions. Two options have been proposed on the most appropriate method of calculating place funding for non-maintained special schools and special post 16 institutions and the LA

has responded opting for the method that is most advantageous to its own high needs block.

3. Changes to place numbers must be managed within existing budgets. LAs have flexibility to increase place numbers and to make changes to individual schools, academies and colleges but no additional funding will be allocated by the DfE.
4. This process will be managed by the LA. All documents can be found on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-funding-arrangements-2016-to-2017>