

APPENDIX I

Dear Colleague,

Re: Changes in SEN Funding for Schools and Academies

The National Funding Formula comes into effect for maintained schools on 1 April 2013 and for Academies on 1 September 2013.

This formula precludes us from using any measure except prior attainment for delegating the SEN component of the School's Block of funding. For primary phase schools the measure of prior attainment will be the number of youngsters scoring less than 78 on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile while for schools in the secondary phase it is those obtaining Level 3 or below in both English and Maths in the SAT's at the end of Key Stage 2. This is a general indicator of need not specific to the individual. This is an important distinction as from April 2013 schools will be responsible for funding the first £6000 (which equates to 12 hours a week of TA time) of additional support for young people with SEN. Havering's procedural criteria for initiating a statutory assessment will be changed to reflect this. This means submissions to the Moderating Panel will need to provide evidence that schools are providing this level of support.

We will ensure schools have the resources to provide the first £6000 of funding for all their young people with Statements or validated hours by topping up any deficit between the sum the prior attainment element allocates and the multiples of £6000 required. For example if a school has 10 students with statements or validated hours they would require £60,000. If the prior attainment element only delivers £40,000 we will top it up by £20,000 from the High Needs Block. Please note that this will only take place at the point the core element of SEN funding is finalised and that element will remain unchanged for the remainder of the financial year. It is also important to recognise that this is only the core element of SEN funding and that the total notional SEN Budget consists of a number of elements: 1.2% of AWPU, 16.5% deprivation as well as this core element.

Though the core element of SEN funding is fixed at the beginning of the financial year the Top-up element isn't. The Top-up element is the additional cost over and above the £6,000 which it has been determined a youngster needs to deliver the support specified for him or her, through having a statement or validated hours. This comes from the High Needs Block and unlike core funding is very firmly attached to the child; when he leaves the funding leaves with him. Conversely, if a child with a Statement arrives at your school he or she brings her Top-up funding with them.

The value of the Top-up funding is also the sum of money that would need to be recouped if the statemented child came from another Local Authority. It is important you know how much this is because from April it will be the responsibility of each school to recover this money from the Local Authority

responsible for the child. We understand that this could be done monthly in arrears. Please note this doesn't apply to LAC to other boroughs who have simply been placed in Havering; we will fund their Top-up and then recoup centrally.

Finally we can no longer use the system of validated hours. This means that not only will we not be validating any more hours but we will be systematically assessing those youngsters with validated hours to convert them to statements. There are about 180 such youngsters. You will not have to do anything directly; it is all being managed by the SEN Section but this is going to take up a lot of their time and that of the Educational Psychologists until the backlog is cleared.

In summary therefore:

- The new National School Funding Formula which relies on prior attainment to determine the SEN component will come into effect in April 2013.
- The total notional SEN Budget consists of a number of elements: 1.2% AWPU, 16.5% deprivation and the prior attainment factor.
- There will be no SEN audit in January 2013 or thereafter.
- Schools will expect to fund the first £6,000 of any child's special needs.
- There will be no further validation of hours.
- Students with validated hours will be assessed under statutory procedures (statemented) in prioritised phases
- The role of the Moderating Panel in advising schools as to whether the procedural criteria have been met for any given child remains unchanged.
- The procedural criteria remain unchanged except for the requirement that schools fund the £6,000 of any additional provision from April 2013.
- Top-up money over the £6,000 will be individually assigned to the child and will move in real time with him or her.
- Schools will be responsible for recouping the top-up money for out of borough youngsters with statements (except LAC).

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