



## Schools Funding Forum 13th June 2024

## ITEM 8

**Subject Heading:**

**High Needs funding rates 2024-25 and  
Delivering Better Value update**

**Report Author:**

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Officer**

**Eligibility to vote:**

**All forum members**

### SUMMARY

This report details the High Needs funding rates for schools for 2024-25, update on the Delivering Better Value in High Needs programme, engagement with the DfE and High Needs Task and Finish group.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the report and agrees for the resumption of the High Needs Task and Finish Group, and specialist sub-groups, to review current year and future year arrangements for High Needs funding levels and support.

### REPORT DETAIL

#### **High Needs funding rates 2024-25**

The High Needs Task and Finish Group completed the process of reviewing and agreeing the funding arrangements for the High Needs Block at meeting held on 30th November 2023. School Forum members were advised of the outcome of the working group's proposals for 2024-25 at the meeting held on 11th January 2024.

The High Needs funding rates agreed for 2024-25 are as follows:

## Education Health Care Plans

Funding in support of Education Health Care Plans was increased from £16.50 per hour after 9.3 hours to £17.00 per hour after 9 hours.

The overall funding for a child with complex needs/EHCP in Early Years settings was increased from £16.50 to £17.00 per hour. This means that the total funding received for a pupil with an EHCP will be £17.00 matching the rate for pupils in schools.

## Special school funding

Matrix funding top-up rates

Level	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
A+	Bespoke	Bespoke
A	37,860	38,194
B	23,960	24,194
C (i)	11,860	12,194
C (ii)	8,527	8,861

## Additional Resources Provision

	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Pupil led top up	11,860	12,194
Total funding per filled place		
Primary	21,860	22,194
KS3	23,054	23,635
KS4	23,714	24,328

## AP – Pupil Referral Unit

	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Pupil led top up	14,182	14,283

## Local Authority engagement with DfE

Officers have had discussions with DfE colleagues in various forums about the low level of funding to Havering and suitable alternative methods of distributing funding to LAs for High Needs, which is fair and proportionate to the deficits reported.

With the DfE currently reviewing the arrangements for financial year 2025-26, and their arrangements are still to be confirmed due to the upcoming general election the LA has continued to engage with the DfE, and has had recently correspondence with the DfE.

Officers have provided them with an alternative methodology of distributing any additional funding that may be assigned to the DSG High Needs block, with the model providing a national minimum per head level funding rate and also a minimum % uplift to guarantee an increase for all LAs.

The DfE have noted the model and will consider this as part of their impending release of the arrangements and funding levels for 2025-26. We will continue to have discussions with the DfE to ensure that a fairer distribution model is in place that is based on current cost pressures for SEND and AP.

### **High Needs Funding Task and Finish group**

A Task and Finish group was established in autumn 2021 to examine high needs funding rates for schools for the 2022-23 financial year, and since then the group was re-established annually to determine the arrangements for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

With the on-going cost pressures that educational establishments are facing and the on-going deficiency in funding, the LA is proposing for the re-establishment of the Task and Finish group, and specialist sub-groups to report to the group.

### **Delivering Best Value (DBV) in High Needs Update**

Havering's DBV programme is in place, and key personnel are in place supporting the LA in delivering the outcomes of the workstream plan.

The workstream plan is focussed around ensuring the right and appropriate setting for the child is utilised through building the parental confidence around the mainstream provision. We are building our capacity to ensure the child has the right resources to meet their needs as well as improving the capability of the existing provision through ensuring a better quality of service is delivered.

The two year programme is for a total of £1m and will support to establish the programme resources to deliver the changes and managing the delivery. We will utilise this through a multi-agency support team to drive up the capability and quality of the provision across the schools, engagement of an Engagement and Communications Officer to facilitate and develop parental engagement sessions. We will also utilise the funding to create co-produced training sessions with parents that can be delivered into the schools to increase capability across the sector.

- \* Building Parental Confidence
- \* Establishing a multi-agency Inclusion Peer Review Team
- \* Increase capacity of professionals on the ground
- \* Co-produced Training