
SUBJECT: SEN Funding in Mainstream Schools
DATE: 14th November 2007
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS' FORUM

THIS IS A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. A report was presented to the September meeting of the Schools Forum detailing the outcomes of the SEN Review and the Group's proposals to change particular elements of the formula. Schools Forum requested that further modelling be carried out on the proposals for Learning Need but agreed to the following changes which will be subject to consultation with the governing bodies of all mainstream schools in Southampton:
 1. the funding allocation between Learning and Social Need be retained as 80:20 split
 2. the Social Need factor be based on the IDACI formula
 3. the turbulence factor be removed from the formula
 4. there are no changes to Special Unit Funding
 5. comments to be sought on the inclusion of a factor for Looked After Children

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

2. LEARNING NEED FUNDING

The table below shows the funding allocated to Learning Need in the 2007/08 budget shares at each key stage level :

	£
Foundation/Key Stage 1	1,492,404
Key Stage 2	1,240,451
Key Stage 3	1,287,689
Key Stage 4	605,971
	£4,626,515

3. LEARNING NEED – KEY STAGE 1

The SEN Sub Group had recommended that Foundation Stage profile data should be used to determine KS1 funding. Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSE) data was used to identify all those pupils who did not score at least 4 Scale Points in any one of the three PSE assessments. Similarly Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) data was used to identify all those pupils who did not score at least 4 Scale Points in any one of the four CLL assessments.

In the previous report, the funding for Key Stage 1 had been split equally between those with low attainment in PSE and CLL. This has now been remodelled with the funding split according to the number of pupils attaining less than 4 scale points in both disciplines, a ratio of 12:88.

However, there are some concerns about the robustness of PSE/CLL data for use as a proxy indicator for funding, a purpose for which it was not designed. It would also appear that small changes in the number of pupils attaining less than 4 scale points in both disciplines could have a potentially disproportionate effect on funding.

The sub group has therefore modelled the effect of using IDACI data as a proxy indicator for SEN funding at KS1. Under this system, the overall pot of KS1 delegated SEN funding is allocated between schools based on the number of pupils in the bottom 20% in Years R, 1 and 2. This appears to provide a more robust and objective method for allocating funding. The change in funding would be tapered over 3 years.

Appendix 1 summarises the financial effect on individual schools of using foundation data results compared to IDACI.

4. LEARNING NEED – KEY STAGES 2 and SECONDARY LEVEL

The current formula allocates funds directly on a pupil's National Curriculum Standard Score (NCSS) as calculated by the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) and its deviation from 90. For example, a NCSS of 69 attracts 21 times the funding of an NCSS of 89. Funding for pupils in Years 3-6 is currently based on pupils' previous KS1 results and Secondary level funding is based on KS2 data for Years 7, 8 and 9 and KS3 data for Years 10 and 11.

At the last meeting, a model was presented showing the effect on overall SEN funding if all pupils achieving a score of 80 or below were funded at the same level. This levelled out some of the inconsistencies that result from pupils scoring at very low levels or not having previous KS scores and the issue of double funding pupils also included in Special Units. As requested by Schools Forum, further modelling has now been carried out with funding allocated in 10 steps reflecting the increasing needs of those with lower attainment. So those with a NCSS of 69 attract 10 times the funding of an NCSS of 89.

Appendix 2 summarises the effect on schools at Primary level and Appendix 3 at Secondary level.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. It is recommended that the Schools Forum agrees that Learning Need funding:
 - For KS1 be allocated using IDACI with the change in funding tapered over 3 years
 - For pupils at Key Stage 2 and Secondary levels be allocated directly on a pupil's NCSS and its derivation from 90 in 10 increasing funding steps to a minimum score of 69

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 Proposed Learning Need Funding – Foundation Level

Appendix 2 Proposed Learning Need Funding – Key Stage 2

BRIEFING PAPER

7.2

Appendix 3 Proposed Learning Need Funding – Secondary Schools

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