



SEN Banding Framework

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Department: Children's Services

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assessment: 29/09/2020

Description of current service/policy

Hampshire County Council, with Schools' Forum agreement, retains a proportion of the 'high needs block' education budget to pay schools 'top-up funding' to make additional and different education provision for learners in mainstream schools with Education, Health and Care plans.

The County Council's methodology to calculate and describe this arrangement, known as 'hours of learning support assistance', is out of step with other local authorities.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The County Council proposes replacing this approach with a one known as a 'SEN banding framework' that aims to:

* give schools greater flexibility to make a wider range of best practice provision to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are subject to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans; and

* help children and young people with SEND who are subject to an EHC plan to become more independent and achieve good outcomes.

Banding is where local authorities allocate 'top-up funding' to schools based on agreed criteria (relating to the level of SEND), using a set of bands that vary in financial value.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

Pre-consultation work was conducted in spring 2019 with headteachers, teachers, special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs), local authority officers, specialist teacher advisors, educational psychologists, NHS commissioners, NHS therapy managers and parent / carer forum representatives. There was general support for the emerging proposal.

Further pre-consultation work was conducted in summer 2020 with a representative sample of Hampshire mainstream schools and parent / carer forum representatives. There was continuing general support for the emerging proposal.

A full 8 week public consultation on the proposal is planned to be delivered in autumn 2020.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Positive	The proposal is intended to enable mainstream schools to make a wider range of best-practice provision for learners with special educational needs and disabilities, supporting them to become more independent and achieve better outcomes.	
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		

Religion and belief: Neutral		
Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information

A full 8 week public consultation on the proposal is planned to be delivered in autumn 2020. The responses to the consultation will be fully considered and help determine if, when and how the proposal goes forward.