

2021-22 High Needs Block

To: Peterborough Schools' Forum
Date: 23rd February 2021
From: Jonathan Lewis – Director of Education

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper provides Schools Forum with a summary of the high needs block budgets for 2021-22. The high needs budget is set and overseen by the Local Authority although the vast proportion of the funding goes directly into education provision. This is across early years, schools, FE colleges and independent schools.
- 1.2 The funding for high needs increased by 9.58% for 2021/22 to £37.58m (around a £4.5m). The national floor for increases was set at 8% and this reflects national pressures on high needs funding. These pressures on complexity of need has had to be reflected on the setting of the high needs budget. Included within this increase is the mainstreaming of teacher pay and pension grant for staff funded from the high needs block (including special schools).
- 1.3 Nationally the majority of Local Authorities are reporting a deficit on their high needs block. It is expected we will have a significant overspend on our budget this year although, it is likely the overall DSG will remain in surplus at the end of this financial year. The LA has not made a request to transfer funding from the school block to the high needs block.

2.0 2021-22 High Needs Block Expenditure

- 2.1 This section of the report provides further detail on the planned expenditure within the high needs block.

Mainstream Schools Top-up Funding

- 2.2 Element 3 top-up funding is allocated to each mainstream academy and maintained school with children on roll with an EHCP. The funding is allocated using three bandings:
 - Band B = £2,672
 - Band C = £6,532
 - Band D = £9,562
- 2.3 In addition to element 3 top-up funding a new factor was introduced in 2017/18 to provide additional support where the schools contribution for the 1st £6k of additional need, for pupil with EHCP, exceeds 25% of the schools notional SEN funding. The funding will be allocated on a termly basis.
- 2.4 The budget has been uplifted by 41% from last year to represent the increase in EHCP numbers in Peterborough where we have seen a predicted increase in the number of EHCPs by 36.5%. Some of this increase reflects the pressures arising from Covid-19 where the numbers of application has risen significantly.

HUBs and Centres of Expertise

- 2.5 To keep improving the expertise available to our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in all education settings in the Peterborough area, we have established a growing network of specialist HUBs.
- 2.6 The purpose of the HUBs is to help raise the quality of support for all children with SEND in all schools in the Peterborough area. Each HUB is a commissioned service arising from a partnership between the City Council and the host school / academy, with senior staff from each organisation working together.
- 2.7 The table below details the proposed hub allocations in Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools for 2021-22.

			21-22 FY Budget															
			As per SLA						As per HNPCN Nov 2021									
Budget HUB	Sector	Type	Sep 20 Places	Sep 20 Empty Places	Sep 20 Filled Places	Sep 21 Places	Sep 21 Empty Places	Sep 21 Filled Places	Average top-up	Place Funding	Top-up Funding	Centre of Expertise	Total Funding	Start up	Total Funding			
AMVC (VI)	Secondary	Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	-	-	45,000	45,000		45,000			
Caverstede	Nursery	Maintained	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	70,000	70,000		70,000			
Jack Hunt (HI)	Secondary	Academy	3	3	0	0	0	0	11,000	12,500	13,750	45,000	26,250		26,250			
Jack Hunt (PD)	Secondary	Academy	6	2	4	6	2	4	12,000	44,000	72,000	45,000	161,000		161,000			
Middleton	Primary	Academy	4	0	4	4	0	4	11,000	24,000	44,000	60,000	128,000		128,000			
Nene Park Academy	Secondary	Academy	8	0	8	8	0	8	9,000	48,000	72,000	45,000	165,000		165,000			
Ormiston Bushfield	Secondary	Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	-	-	45,000	45,000		45,000			
Ormiston Meadows	Primary	Academy	6	4	2	6	4	2	12,000	52,000	72,000	60,000	184,000		184,000			
Southfields Primary	Primary	Maintained	6	0	6	6	0	6	4,000	36,000	24,000	60,000	120,000		120,000			
St John Fisher	Secondary	Maintained	4	4	0	4	4	0	11,000	40,000	44,000	60,000	144,000		144,000			
TDA	Secondary	Academy	4	4	0	2	2	0	2,000	28,333	5,667	-	34,000		34,000			
Welbourne Primary	Primary	Academy	8	0	8	8	0	8	9,000	48,000	72,000	45,000	165,000		165,000			
Ken Stimpson	Secondary	Maintained	6	6	0	6	6	0	9,000	60,000	54,000	45,000	159,000		159,000			
St Michael's - SEMH	Primary	Maintained	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	45,000	45,000	5,000	50,000			
SEMH hub - satellite - mainstream secondary school	Secondary	Maintained	0	0	0	4	4	0	9,000	10,000	9,000	45,000	64,000		64,000			
SEMH hub - satellite - mainstream primary school	Primary	Maintained	0	0	0	4	4	0	9,000	10,000	9,000	45,000	64,000		64,000			
Academy Totals funded from GAG			55	23	32	58	26	32		412,833	491,417	715,000	1,619,250	5,000	1,624,250			
										256,833								

- 2.8 The hub approach was reviewed at the end of the first 3 years and a report produced in 2019. This report was placed on the Local Offer and can be found in appendix 1. In addition to the report we reviewed all SLA with hubs and a number of adjustments were made to funding, numbers, age range etc in a number of hubs to reflect the experience of the first 3 years.
- 2.9 The number of hubs is growing. The latest hub to come on line is at St Michael's. It will be SEMH and will work closely with the Nene gate hub. The hub will be promoting a nurturing approach in terms of centre of expertise work and outreach advice will be included. There will be no places in the first few terms but it is anticipated that the hub will offer places by the end of the first year.
- 2.10 The COVID period has been challenging for hubs but activities have continued including the recently published 'top tips for supporting virtual learning for those with SEND', contributions to the multi-agency SEND network and numerous training and support activities. The outcomes that we have set for hubs during this period are being reviewed with each hub and have been adjusted where necessary to reflect COVID pressures.
- 2.11 The impact of individual hubs is captured in annual reports but the overall picture for SEN in Peterborough is going in a positive direction. Fewer requests for statutory assessment were made this year (276 v 301 in 2019) although this number has risen since Covid started. This is very different from the picture in other LAs and should be seen as a reflection of the

growing SEN confidence and expertise in all of our schools. Our special school numbers are growing but at a rate that is more in line with population. Part of this change should be attributed to the work of the hubs who have worked in partnership with SENI services to increase SEN knowledge and skills in the Peterborough community of schools.

2.12 Whilst we are established new hubs, it is also likely in the coming year that a few hubs may not continue. Where this occurs it should be by mutual agreement and in line with the SLA. The LA expects that this will be a feature of the hub approach – it is a dynamic approach and will change in line with the needs of both schools and the Authority.

Special Schools

2.13 Special schools and Alternative Provision are funded in two ways:

- place funding of £10k for each commissioned place,
- plus top-up funding for each child taking-up a place.

2.14 The top-up funding is estimated at the beginning of the financial year. The top-up funding is then adjusted on a termly basis for actual numbers on roll (where Peterborough is the home authority). using, information submitted by the establishment, through their termly census return. This may result in some movement in year and at final year end.

2.15 We continue to use the banding matrix with the agreement and support of special schools. The matrix provides predictability and stability for both special schools and the LA. The percentages have been slightly adjusted for Lime Academy Orton, Marshfields and Heltwater to reflect the continuing shift in cohort in these schools. Appendix 2 outlines the allocations agreed with schools for 2021/22. Special Schools agreed not to carry out the planned moderation exercise in the last academic year and it would be difficult to arrange this whilst COVID persists. However, it is anticipated that a moderation exercise will be initiated in the spring 2022.

Alternative Provision

2.16 The allocation for Richard Barnes Academy (£3.2m) includes place funding for 255 until September (with top up at existing rates) when the number on roll will be reduced to 170 in line with agreed capacity. However, we have committed to maintaining the overall funding amount and therefore we have allocated a higher level of top up from the autumn term to maintain the resources in place and the identified Top up will increase from the existing £3332.31 (plus £10k per place). The LA has committed to retain this level of funding and a draft service level agreement has been developed. It is hoped this will be finalised with TDET in the coming weeks. The LA inclusion team will have a budget of £375K for the 2021/22 financial year.

Teachers Pensions and Pay Grants

2.17 In 2021-22 the allocations for Teachers Pensions and Pay Grants are including in the Basic Entitlement for Mainstream schools. The allocations for Special Schools and AP Provision are now paid as part of the High Needs Block DSG – at a flat rate of £660.00 per place per year.

Place numbers are adjusted in September in some cases and therefore we will be paying the sums in 2 blocks –

April – Aug based on Sept 2020 places and

Sept – Mar based on Sept 2021 places.

The 2 allocations will be :-
£275 per place Apr – Aug
£385 per place Sep - Mar

2.6 **High Needs Block - Summary budgets**

The table below includes all planned expenditure within the high needs block.

Description	2021-22
Recoupment Hnb	8,120,000
Mainstream Schools Top-up Funding	4,786,867
Hubs / Centres of Expertise	1,367,417
Special Schools & PRU Provision	12,801,550
Post 16 Top-up FE/Independent Providers	1,824,202
SEN Support Services	2,341,106
Speech and Language Service	250,000
Medical Provision	50,000
Recoupment	474,107
Out Of City Placements	2,819,324
Joint Funded Place	2,748,259
Dsg High Needs Block	37,582,832

Appendix 2 – Special School Funding

2021/22 Financial Year Funding									
School	Places Sep-20	Places Sep-21	Pupils from other LAs	Sep-20 Average Top-up Values	Sep-21 Average Top-up Values	Place Funding	Top-up Funding	Centre of Expertise Funding	Total Funding
Lime Academy Orton	148	155	4	13,681.26	14,370.48	1,520,833	2,086,676	0	3,607,509
Medehamstede	127	127	26	11,952.37	11,952.37	1,270,000	1,207,190	0	2,477,190
Total	679	282	30			2,790,833	3,293,865	0	6,084,698

School	Places Sep-20	Places Sep-21	Pupils from other LAs	Sep-20 Average Top-up Values	Sep-21 Average Top-up Values	Place Funding	Top-up Funding	Centre of Expertise Funding	Total Funding
Heltwate	206	206	4	7,566.72	7,980.25	2,060,000	1,577,205	0	3,637,205
Nenegate	48	48	2	12,813.30	12,813.30	480,000	589,412	0	1,069,412
Nenegate Hub	10	10		12,813.30	12,813.30	100,000	128,133	60,000	288,133
Marshfields	175	175	18	3,675.85	4,246.87	1,750,000	629,404	0	2,379,404
Marshfields Hub	6	0		3,675.85	4,246.87	25,000	9,190	45,000	79,190
Total	679	439	24			4,415,000	2,933,344	105,000	7,453,344

Total Special School Funding									13,538,042
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Sep-21 to Aug-22 Banding Matrix										
Band	Heltwate		Medeshamstede		Marshfield		Lime Academy Orton		NeneGate	
	% Split	Top-up Funding	% Split	Top-up Funding	% Split	Top-up Funding	% Split	Top-up Funding	% Split	Top-up Funding
Band 1	0%	1,998	0%	1,998	30%	1,998	0%	1,998	0%	1,998
Band 2	25%	3,911	10%	3,911	50%	3,911	0%	3,911	10%	3,911
Band 3	55%	6,668	52%	6,668	15%	6,668	17%	6,668	50%	6,668
Band 4	15%	12,181	30%	12,181	4%	12,181	53%	12,181	35%	12,181
Band 5	5%	20,452	8%	20,452	1%	20,452	30%	20,452	5%	20,452
Average Top-up		7,495		9,149		4,247		13,725		9,011
Small School Weighting		1		1		1		1		1.2
Weighted Top-up		7,495		9,149		4,247		13,725		12,813
MFG Top-up				2,803						
Split Site Top-up		485						645		
Total Top-up	100%	7,980	100%	11,952	100%	4,247	100%	14,370	100%	12,813