



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: (date)

Agenda Item 17

Notional SEND

1 Background

- 1.1 The Notional SEN Allocation is an indicative amount that should be sufficient for the reasonable costs that may be incurred by schools in supporting pupils with SEND. As per the attached guidance, schools should understand how the amount has been calculated and when it might be appropriate to seek additional resources.

[The notional SEN budget for mainstream schools: operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-notional-sen-budget-for-mainstream-schools-operational-guidance)

2 Main report section or sections

- 2.1 DfE have identified that in some cases schools the call on a school's Notional SEND budget is significantly greater than the funding available. This can be because the school is particularly inclusive, has low pupils numbers or is growing. In response to this, LAs in consultation with the School's Forum can opt to implement an additional allocation to make up this shortfall.
- 2.2 In order to calculate this additional funding, it would be reasonable to expect that up to 80% of the Notional SEN Budget be utilised to meet the first £6,000pa of provision for students with an EHCP (with the remaining 20% for general SEN). If this approach were taken in NNC for 2023/24, four schools have been identified four schools additional resources would be allocated as set out in 6.1 below.
- 2.3 Given the pressure on schools as a result of the increasing number of EHCPs, NNC would support the implementation of a Notional SEND Sufficiency factor on the basis set out above.

3 Future options

- 3.1 There are no plans to revise the Notional SEN calculation used locally, however, national changes may have to be reflected in the operation of this factor in future years.

4 Consultation Response

- 4.1 Eighteen schools submitted a response to the consultation. These were made up as follows; one maintained secondary, four maintained primary, three secondary academy, nine primary academy and one special academy.
- 4.2 Of the eighteen responses received, seventeen were in favour of the proposal, with one maintained secondary school not agreeing. The school not in agreement raised concerns about the appropriateness of the formula in relation to larger schools given the size of the notional SEND budget and the pressures on this to meet non EHCP pupils needs.

5 Recommendations for Schools Forum

- 5.1 Based on the consultation responses received above, the Forum is asked to consider the proposal as set out below.
- 5.2 On the placement of an EHCP pupil in a school, a calculation will be made to assess whether 80% of Notional SEND is sufficient to meet the £6,000 initial funding. Where this is not the case, a payment will be made to cover this shortfall.

5.2 Example: No of EHCP's = 5 x £6,000 = £30,000

Notional SEN = £25,000

80% for EHCP = £20,000

Shortfall against expected £6k spend = £10,000

6 Next steps

6.1 If Schools Forum agree to fund the shortfall as identified for the four schools identified in 23/24 and any schools in future years, this additional top up will be paid from the High Needs Block.

7 Financial implications

7.1 The schools / costs relating to 2023/24:

NAME	Current No of EHCP's	Notional SEN	80% Notional SEN	£6k Spend Expectation	Notional SEN Shortfall
Windmill Primary School	22	£128,553	£102,843	£132,000	-£29,157
Great Doddington Primary School	7	£47,355	£37,884	£42,000	-£4,116
Mears Ashby Church of England Primary school	5	£24,514	£19,611	£30,000	-£10,389
Stanton Cross Primary School	5	£20,209	£16,167	£30,000	-£13,833
TOTAL					-£57,495

8 Legal implications

8.1 This proposal is in line with DfE regulations relating to Notional SEND funding.

9 Risks

9.1 Without additional financial support, the pressure on provision of SEN resources significantly increases.

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