

<b>Date:</b> 16 October 2014	<b>Item</b> 11	<b>Type of report:</b> Comment
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>SEN Mainstream Funding Review – Report Back</b>	
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## Executive Summary

This report provides the Schools Forum with an update on the progress to date by the Working Group in reviewing the funding arrangements for Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream provision.

## Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to comment on –

- the terms of reference of the group
- the progress to date;
- the timetable for the review.

### 1 Background

- 1.1 A report to the Schools Forum in July 2014 described the current mainstream SEN funding arrangements for Southwark schools.
- 1.2 The School's Forum supported a recommendation by the Local Authority (LA) that a working group be set up in order to review the funding system, in response to the following specific issues:
- the impact on funding of the change from Statements of Special Educational Needs to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP and ensure that the current formulaic approach is fit for purpose;
  - the belief that the current banding system does not allow sufficient sensitivity and flexibility of funding, particularly with the step increase from Bands 5 to 4.

### 2 Progress to date

- 2.1 The SEN Mainstream Working Group was set up and members were sought from all categories of Southwark schools as well as from the Local Authority (see Appendix B for list of members)
- 2.2 An initial meeting was held on 21 July 2014 where the Schools Forum report was outlined to the group and the Terms of Reference agreed. In addition:
- 2.2.1 There was further discussion on the LA's "ready reckoner" and agreement was reached that, following further refinement, it would be used by SENCOs.
- 2.2.2 That the review relates to total SEN funding in mainstream provision only, including both notional SEN and top-up funding.

- 2.2.3 It was agreed to carry out a review of the current SEN bands and associated funding levels with a view to developing a system of funding which is more appropriate to SEN provision.
- 2.2.4 It was agreed to develop a “ready reckoner” to (i) enable schools to identify costs of provision against notional SEN funding (ii) inform levels of funding for a proposed new system.

2.3 A second meeting was held on 11 September 2014 at which:

- 2.3.1 There was a discussion of current national and local SEN funding arrangements with clarification on the various elements of base and top-up funding.
- 2.3.2 There was a presentation and discussion of an initial model that illustrative of a revised funding band system. It was highlighted that if additional top-up bands were to be implemented then there is a risk of additional cost.
- 2.3.3 It was agreed that the “ready reckoner” would be further developed by Schools Finance in conjunction with the SEN team and SENCO’s which would then be used by SENCOs in order to:
  - demonstrate how schools are funding the provision of SEN support;
  - inform the development of a revised funding band system.

**3 Next Steps**

- 16 Oct 2014 **Schools Forum** - Report on progress.
- Oct – Dec 2014
  - Testing of Ready Reckoner
  - Further modelling of the financial implications of the review
- 5 Nov 2014 Working Group Meeting
- 26 Nov 2014 Working Group Meeting
- 11 Dec 2014 **Schools Forum** – Report on proposals and consultation with schools.
- Jan 2015 Briefing and consultation with schools.
- 29 Jan 2015 **Schools Forum** – Report on finalised proposals.
- 1 Apr 2015 Implementation

**4 Schools Forum**

The Schools Forum is asked to note –

- the terms of reference of the group (see Appendix A);
- progress to date;
- timetable for the review.

**Appendix A  
Terms of reference**

The terms of reference for the working group are to:

- ensure a transparent and consistent approach to the funding of mainstream SEN provision in Southwark;
- ensure base rates reflect the current cost drivers/unavoidable costs for different schools;
- ensure Southwark schools are best placed in relation to SEN to manage the implications of a potential move towards an early years national funding formula;
- ensure that mainstream SEN funding is affordable;
- ensure that the arrangements for mainstream SEN funding in Southwark meet current regulatory requirements;
- advise the LA on the processes for consultation and communication to schools.

**Appendix B**  
**Members of working group**

**Schools members**

Type of School	School	Member	Position
Nursery - maintained	Kintore Way Nursery School	Sarah Lee	SENCO
Primary - maintained	Alfred Salter Primary School Ilderton & Phoenix Primary Schools	Elaine Garlick Tricia Hunter	Chair of Governors School Business Manager
Primary with Resource Base	St James & St Clements Primary School	Sarah Alexander	Head Teacher
Secondary - academy	Charter School Kingsdale Foundation School	Tony MacDowall Steven Syron	Director of Learning – Access & Inclusion Head of Learning Support
Secondary - maintained	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Special school - maintained	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant

**Local Authority members**

Department	Team	Member	Position
Childrens and Adults Services	SEN and Inclusion	Yvonne Ely Ian Morris Selva Selvaratnam	Head of SEN and Inclusion Senior Advisor SEN Accountant
Finance and Corporate Services	Childrens & Adults Services Finance Team	Fay Hammond Melissa Williamson Paul Deeney	Divisional Finance Manager Senior Finance Manager Schools Accountant