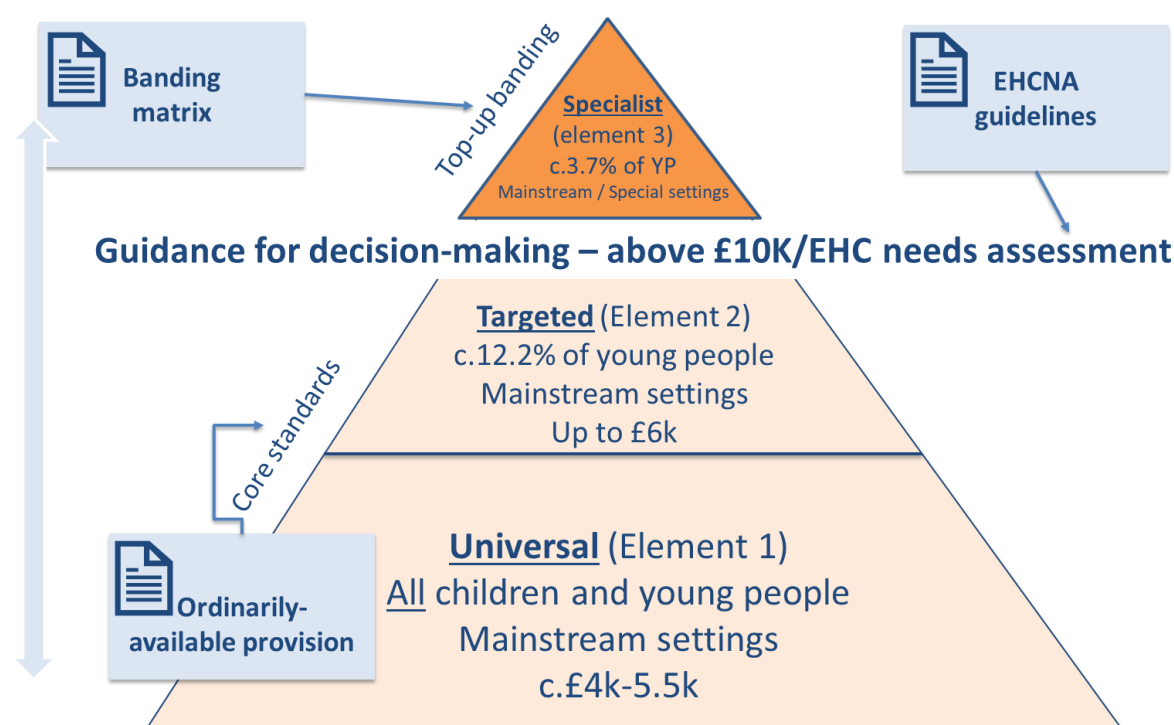


Appendix Five: DRAFT Proposed consultation questions

SEND Bandings and Top-Ups changes advice before consultation

Haringey Council is proposing to up-date and revise the top-up funding which is allocated to any pupil with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) or who has identified needs for SEND support in the Early Years. The amount of money which is allocated to 'top up' existing school funding is determined by a series of descriptions of the needs of children (sometimes called 'Banding Descriptors'. These determine how much money is allocated to support a child or young person and is paid to 'top up' or 'add to' existing monies for the child which would include 'place funding' (which is normally £10,340 in Haringey Special schools and £4,000 AWPU+ £6,000 notional SEND funding in mainstream schools.) A diagram explaining this is below. The government decides on the amount to be given to each Local Authority and this is calculated using a national funding formula.:



Haringey Council have worked with parents, carers schools, health professionals and psychologists over a number of months to develop these descriptions. We now need your help to check that they are correct, useful and fair.

What is the current system?

At present, Haringey has two bands of support in the Early Years (see appendix 1) and four bands for children in mainstream school with all children at special school, receiving the same rate of support regardless of the different needs of children.

What are we proposing?

- We are proposing to move from **2 bands to 4 new bands for children aged between 0 and 5 years old** which will support children until the end of their Early Years Foundation stage and these bands will be paid regardless of where the child attends. These Bands are described here (insert link)
- We are proposing to move from **4 bands to 8 new Bands for children aged between 5 and 19 years old who attend mainstream or special schools in Haringey**. These schools might be maintained

(Local Authority) Schools or Academies but these will not apply to independent schools who have a different funding model and who are out of scope for this review.

What is different about the new Bands?

The new Bands are designed to accurately describe the different needs of children with SEND in Haringey and therefore, ensure they access the level of support required to meet these needs.

Children with less complex needs will receive support at Band A or B or the lowest scale of Early Years support and children with the most complex needs will receive funding at Band H or the highest rate of Early Years support depending on their age.

The Bandings were designed to adhere to the following principles:

- Establishing a transparent, equitable, funding allocation based on needs.
- Ensuring within the system there is sufficient financial contingency to respond to short-term needs.
- Considering whether there is a need for some short-term funding to address emerging needs without the need for an EHCP.

The Bandings therefore contain an additional 'pre-EHCP' Band which is designed to fund interventions to prevent children and young people's SEND needs from escalating, for example by providing counselling or other therapeutic interventions (this is Band C in the proposed new Framework)

How much funding for support will be allocated to children and young people?

The level of special educational provision not specified in EHC plans can be dependent on available funding. However, the level of special educational provision that is specified in EHC plans must be provided, irrespective of the level of resources available. In determining the bandings, Haringey will take steps to satisfy itself that the amount of money allocated is sufficient to provide all of the special educational provision set out in section F of each child's EHC plan.

The system is designed to create a fair, open and transparent allocation of the funding allocated to the Local authority to support children and young people with SEND. The amount of funding the local authority receives each year is different as it is linked to the school census which tells central government how many children are in each Haringey school, what their needs and ages are and any additional information for example number of children who receive free school meals or who are looked after by the Local Authority and this alters the money given to each Local authority.

The Annual funding allocation will be published before April of the following school year to allow schools to set their budgets for the start of their academic year in September. Children with higher needs will always receive a higher allocation than children with needs identified in the lower bands and the lower bandings should indicate needs which can be met within the setting or school's existing resources.

Who makes the decision about which banding is allocated?

The Banding allocated to each child will be based on their existing SEN support plan or EHCP (depending on the child's age and setting). The Local Authority will oversee allocation of resources to children with EHCPs when they make a decision to issue an EHCP. These Bandings will then be reviewed by parents and schools at a child's SEND or Annual review and recommendations for increases above two bands will go to the Haringey SEND Panel for review of evidence and ratification. This panel meets weekly and is made up of representation from education, health and social care.

How do I challenge a decision I don't agree with?

All SEND disputes can be escalated using the council's ordinary complaints process or in the case of any matters relating to EHCP's can be addressed via mediation or appeal to the first tier tribunal. All parents and carers of children with SEND can seek independent advice from Haringey SENDIASS Services which are run by the Markfield Charity. (insert link)

These changes will particularly affect service users who have or support a child or young person with special education needs or disabilities.

We would like to hear your views about these changes, please complete the consultation form below before **1st December 2023**.

Proposed Questions:

1. Are you a parent or carer or person who works with children and young people with SEND?
(Yes/NO) (delete Parent/ Carer/ other family member/ teacher/ support staff/ health professional/ social care professional/ other (please describe))
2. Do these Bandings Descriptors seem fair?
Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree
Any comments
3. Do you agree that there is progression within the bandings from supporting children with less complex to more complex needs and how these will be assessed?
Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree
Any comments
4. Could you apply these descriptions to your child or a child that you work who has SEND?
Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree
Any comments
5. Is the preventative Banding (C) a helpful addition?
Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree
Any comments
6. Is there anything missing from the banding descriptors?
Free text box
7. Are there any other comments you want to make about the proposed changings to the banding descriptors?