

## Agenda Item

7



## Report Status

For information/note   
For consultation & views  
For decision

### Report to Haringey Schools Forum: 14 March 2024

#### Report Title: Haringey SEND Bandings and Top-Ups Review

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##### Purpose:

To present Schools' Forum with a range of options for revised funding aligned to the new bandings descriptors to support children and young people with SEND educated in Haringey mainstream and Special Schools. Whilst there is not a formal decision for Schools' Forum required, the options for endorsement have been outlined, as good practice for views on which option to progress with.

##### Options for endorsement:

Schools Forum to consider the options for new funding arrangements and endorse option 1 or option 2 to support the new SEND Bandings in Haringey from September 2024 to March 2026. To consider the longer-term option to support a further increase to bandings.

**Short term: Option One:** Provides increased funding for early years settings and mainstream schools, funding for special schools remains the same, within the financial envelope of the High Needs Block.

**Short term: Option Two:** Provides further increased funding for early years settings and mainstream schools, reduced funding for special schools, within the financial envelope of the High Needs Block.

**Longer Term Funding 2025/26:** Provides increased funding for early years settings and mainstream schools and maintains current funding levels for Special Schools through increasing the block transfer from the Schools Block

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report recommends the adoption of a new financial allocation and modelling for bandings and top ups to support the schools in Haringey to continue to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND educated within the Borough.
- 1.2 The option agreed will be short-term and apply from September 2024 to March 2026. The rate could be implemented earlier; however, this is dependent on the recommendation 1.3 below.
- 1.3 Schools' Forum agrees to explore the option of an increased disapplication via the School Block of the DSG for 2025/26 with a further report presented to Schools' Forum in the Autumn that outlines the wider factors and financial implications of the disapplication to schools and Safety Valve Programme.
- 1.4 Following the Headteacher briefings on the 1, 5 and 6 March, the bandings have been revised in response to feedback to enable sufficient funding at Band G for children within a mainstream setting. This has resulted in a small decrease to other bandings to accommodate this as outlined in option two, refer to Table 10 and section 4.25.

# 2 Background

- 2.1 In July 2021, following a review undertaken by ISOS Partnership regarding financial issues in Haringey impacted by falling school rolls, the local authority became aware of the pressures reported by schools in Haringey in relation to SEND funding. Schools in Haringey reported that the current bandings model and funding attached to these failed to sufficiently meet the needs of children in mainstream education and disadvantaged Haringey primary schools.
- 2.2 The local authority SEND Service commissioned the ISOS Partnership to undertake a review of funding arrangements for children in Haringey Schools. This resulted in meetings with Heads in primary and secondary Schools across Haringey (undertaken between January 2022 and July 2022.) The review had three elements. During January - March 2022 ISOS met with Headteachers, SENDCos, parents and carers and professionals from health in Haringey, and created a stakeholder steering group which has continued to meet since January 2022. Following these meetings ISOS pulled together a series of recommendations for consideration, and in July 2022 the local authority integrated the recommendations from ISOS regarding SEND Bandings and Top-Ups into one of the projects within the wider Safety Valve Programme. Overall, the feedback received from schools during the review was that:
  - a) funding and access to support and intervention were overly skewed towards higher levels of need, leaving very little capacity in the system for early intervention and prevention.
  - b) decisions about individual funding allocations were not always well understood and were sometimes seen to be inconsistent or insufficiently based on evidence of need and that it was this feedback that supported the idea that a re-design of the system of top-ups and banding was necessary.
- 2.3 In August 2022, Haringey council began its modelling and profiling of the five-year Safety Valve programme, which is a transformation programme, designed to incrementally reduce the overspend position within the HNB and achieve a balanced budget by April 2028. The decision to review SEND Bandings and Top-Ups was included within the Safety Valve Programme as a core element of creating new controls and measures to support children and young people with SEND in Haringey schools alongside an early intervention approach and graduated response to improve overall outcomes.
- 2.4 Accordingly, the review of mainstream and early years bandings and top-ups; supported by ISOS Partnership and overseen by a multi-agency steering group worked throughout academic year 2022/23 to pull together an agreed set of new bandings which could better support the needs of children and young people. Each review has had its own stakeholder partnership supporting the implementation and iteration of the Bandings Process with an Early Years Steering Group led by the

Principal Advisor for Early Years and supported by ISOS to increase consultation and participation across the early years sector.

- 2.6 By March 2023, a series of stakeholder workshops had produced a draft set of banding descriptors which were drawn up by experts within the Haringey system including nurseries, special schools, mainstream primaries and secondaries, health colleagues, parents and carers and local authority leads from specialist teaching teams and education psychology services. The Bandings were informed by best practice examples nationally and designed to 'fit' Haringey Schools.
- 2.7 During the latter part of academic year 2022/ 2023 the newly devised bandings were tested in a range of Haringey schools and early years settings including primary, secondary, and special schools. This led to revision of bandings, and a more detailed understanding of the issues raised by other parts of the SEND improvement work (for example the impact of delays in undertaking and formalising the annual review processes).
- 2.8 During September 2023, the new bandings were used to inform an audit of all children with access to SEND funding in Haringey schools (primary, secondary and mainstream.) This created a profile of needs across each school in Haringey. The audits were returned in December 2023 and in January 2024, the audits were moderated. Each school participated in the moderation which took place within the NLC clusters and were facilitated by the SENDCo support partners, local authority leads and headteachers. The moderation panels have ensured a consistency of approach across Haringey with schools who were demonstrable outliers in terms of needs or complexity being supported to re-band their children in accordance with the agreed moderation standards.
- 2.9 The new early years bandings have been extensively tested by early years settings and the steering group have been supported to revise wording and consider all implications of the funding. This includes a key recommendation, that where appropriate, to continue to support children in the reception year using the higher rate early years bandings to provide a less bureaucratic access to funding whilst allowing children to benefit from evidence-based interventions in reception allowing time for interventions to take effect before making a decision to issue an EHCP which will be necessary for the duration of a child's academic career.
- 2.10 This should prevent a 'cliff edge' between early years and mainstream school funding, allow for continuous funding during any agreed statutory assessment process and ensure that only children with long term and enduring SEND needs are issued an EHCP in reception. (as opposed to issuing EHC plans to secure funding for necessary support in reception classes which may not be necessary in the longer-term)
- 2.11 The bandings audits undertaken in Autumn 2023, similar to neighbouring authorities, demonstrate unequivocally, the complexity of needs of children who are being successfully educated in Haringey mainstream schools. The local authority recognises that Haringey have a high number of children with complex needs educated in mainstream schools both through a dearth of special school places and due to parental preference. This is currently being addressed by the capital projects within the Safety Valve programme.
- 2.12 In October and November 2023, the new Early Years and School-age Bandings were the subject of an 8-week public consultation with the outcome of the consultation, draft bandings descriptors and equality impact assessment submitted for a Cabinet decision. Following this consultation, Cabinet approved the banding descriptors on the 6 February 2024. [Refer to Haringey SEND Top Up and High Needs Funding Banding page 353 – 438.](#)
- 2.13 The Top Ups and Bandings Project is designed to adhere to the following principals which were agreed by the Steering Group at the outset of the Project:
  - a) **Universality:** There should be a consistent set of principles and methodology for allocating SEN top-up funding across all phases and settings. There may be flexibility to reflect differences in age / stage.
  - b) **Fairness:** There should be recognition that the high needs block allocation for Haringey is finite, and that decisions about funding in one area affect resources available to another. strategic and operational decisions about SEN funding should be made transparently, consistently, and fairly, to ensure that

resources are targeted at where there are the greatest needs, ensuring that the LA meets its statutory duty to secure provision within section F of a child and young person's EHCP.

- c) **Ease of use:** The approach to SEN funding in Haringey, and the tools used to inform and reach decisions, should be straightforward to explain, concise and easy to use.
- d) **Mutually-reinforcing:** The SEN funding system should align with guidance for when to carry out EHC needs assessments and the agreed definition of "ordinarily available provision" in Haringey. It should also align with the threshold for being allocated a place in a special school.
- e) **Needs led:** The approach to banding should be based on clear descriptors of need that are easy to understand. These could be complemented with examples of how these needs might be met in a Haringey school.

### 3 Analysis of Current Issues:

- 3.1 Haringey has a total budget for SEND top-ups of £1.03m in Early Years and £19.13m for school-age children. In addition, there is a SEN contingency fund of £1.3m distributed to schools, of which £900k of this SEN contingency fund is currently allocated to secondary schools to reflect the reduction in the funding formula lump sum allocated to secondary schools.
- 3.2 In 2024/25 funding formula, the lump sum funding to primary schools and secondary schools will be an equalised sum of £151,944 per school. This is an increase to each of the secondary schools of £130,291. This increase in funding formula, will release the £1.3m contingency fund which in whole or part will be redistributed to support the revised banding model. The lump sum within the formula is excluded from the baseline in 2024/2025 funding calculations per pupil amount, therefore schools receive lump sum in total, and this is not within the MFG calculation.
- 3.3 Haringey Council is part of the Safety Valve Programme which is a transformation programme designed to assist local authorities in reducing overspend in their High Needs Block (HNB) expenditure and achieve an in year balanced budget. Haringey has agreed a Safety Valve deal until 2027-2028, with 18 projects designed to firstly, improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and secondly, deliver services within a balanced budget. If successful, this will reduce the projected deficit of £80m to £30m and draw down additional funding of £30m to clear the projected deficit.
- 3.4 As of 1 April 2023, the deficit was £23.8m. Based on the strength of, and confidence in the proposals within our plan, Haringey has received £11.96m to date which has reduced the cumulative deficit to £11.8m. As of December 2023, Haringey is reporting an in year overspend of £2.22m which is within the financial target set for 2023-2024 and is forecasting cumulative surplus of £0.1m by 2027/28. Haringey has successfully drawn down a further £2m for 2023-2024 which is 66% of the funding available to date within this year. It is anticipated that we will draw down 100% of the funding to offset against the accumulative deficit as per our agreed Safety Valve plan for this financial year. Refer to [Haringey Safety Valve Programme report to Schools Forum 13 Oct 2022](#)
- 3.5 Data shows a wide distribution in both EHCPs and SEND support between mainstream schools. The average percentage of pupils with EHCPs in Haringey's mainstream schools is 2.96%, but that ranges from less than 0.5% to over 7% for individual schools. Similarly, for SEND support the average across Haringey is 11.39%, but the overall range is from 2.3% to 23.7%.
- 3.6 The Bandings Project benchmarked Haringey mainstream school bandings against nearest neighbours and identified that on average, Haringey bands do fall below those of neighbouring authorities with mainstream bandings ranging up to £20,000 in some neighbouring authorities.
- 3.7 Analysis of spend within the HNB indicates that Haringey special schools have high top-ups compared to local and national benchmarking. Further benchmarking indicates that mainstream schools have lower than local or national levels of top-ups available to support children and young people with SEND. Therefore, whilst overall spend on top-ups is high, and the number of children receiving top-ups is proportionately higher, the amount allocated to different bands is lower than comparators.

- 3.8 Haringey has three ‘Nursery Schools’ which have a pivotal role in supporting our youngest children with emerging needs and providing expertise, guidance, and support to our wider early year’s workforce. However, analysis of early years spend, indicates that the spread of funding is uneven across the borough with children who attend nursery schools and local authority nurseries benefitting from Early Support places which are not available across the borough, and less funding or support available for children who attend small community-based settings or childminders.
- 3.9 Due to historic agreements, Haringey special schools receive maximum top-ups for all children in schools (rather than banded funding using a graduated approach). Therefore, all children attending a Haringey special school receive a minimum top-up of £24,000 in addition to £10,000 place funding. This is in contrast with neighbouring authorities who have a range of top-ups from £9,000 to £25,000 in their special schools depending on complexity of needs of children placed.
- 3.10 In relation to The Grove Special School, they receive a higher top up rate which is £27,930. This was part of the interim start-up arrangements in setting up this provision as an academy free school. reflecting start-up costs. These arrangements are now due for review as the school has achieved a full cohort. In addition, they have had to make their own commissioning arrangements for therapies, a position which is also due for review as NCL Integrated Care Board do not otherwise differentiate between academies and maintained schools in relation to health provisions.
- 3.11 Evidence from comparisons with local authorities who do not have significant budget pressures within their high needs block suggests that supporting schools to provide earlier support for children and young people with SEND, but who do not have EHCPs can reduce an escalation of demand (for example, Camden and Derbyshire adopt this model). The new bandings framework in Haringey creates a Band ‘C’ which will be awarded to children whose needs do not meet the threshold for an EHCP but who would benefit from short-term additional funding. Governance arrangements for this funding to be explored via a further series of governance stakeholder workshops, led by Isos from March-July 2024.

## 4 Options

- 4.1 The methodology for creating the new Top-ups is based on child level data and has been achieved by calculating the number of children in receipt of HNB top-ups, calculating the range of need based on the data drawn from the audit moderations and then calculating the top-ups based on both numbers of children and their identified needs within the budget envelope available. As part of the moderation process, it was agreed that Year 7 students would not be submitted for moderation as it was too early in the process to provide a real understanding of the child’s needs and Post 16. For the purposes of the financial modelling, Finance colleagues used the returns provided from the Year groups submitted as a proxy to the indicate the financial impact i.e. shift into higher bands, less in Band C etc.
- 4.2 This methodology will be applied annually in January following publication of the annual DSG allocations in December of each year. It is envisaged that the application of this methodology will prevent any future overspend of the HNB in relation to Bandings and Top-ups and will prevent any ‘drift’ or inflationary pressures from distorting the relationship between needs of children and allocations of top-up funding. Further, it is proposed that the previous method of applying ‘SEN Contingency’ monies to schools is ceased, as schools will now be more fairly banded, with this funding allocated, used to mitigate the impact of reductions in funding to Haringey special schools (should this be approved) and to fund Band C which is the new, preventative banding in the new structure.
- 4.3 Below is the mapping of the old bandings to the new bandings:

### **Table 1: Current Haringey Bands mapped to New Bandings**

Nb. The audit moderation identified that 14% of children in a mainstream setting are Band G.

Table 2: The structure of the banding descriptors

<b>Band A</b>	Universal provision
<b>Band B</b>	SEND support
<b>Band C</b>	Children and young people whose needs may require support beyond high quality teaching and school-based targeted interventions, as set out in the SEND Support Guidance for Haringey. However, if these needs are addressed early and quickly it could result in a child being able to access the curriculum within the ordinary offer of education.
<b>Band D</b>	Children and young people requiring an EHCP.
<b>Band E</b>	Children and young people requiring an EHCP, but with progressively more support in a mainstream setting.
<b>Band F</b>	Children and young people requiring an EHCP, but with the highest level of support in a mainstream setting.
<b>Band G</b>	The level of need at which the majority of children and young people are likely to require a place in a special school/resource provision but may, in limited cases be supported in a mainstream school with very high levels of support.
<b>Band H</b>	The highest level of need, exceptional and rare needs.

Options Proposed

4.4 Due to budget constraints and timescales for implementing mechanisms for increased funding, the two options proposed supports changes to the banding model within the current financial envelope. A summary of the options is set out below:

Table 3: Summary of options proposed

	Option 1	Option 2
<b>Summary of Options</b>	<p><b>Remain within current budget:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years settings and mainstream schools receive an increase above existing rates.</li> <li>• Special schools retain their rates</li> <li>• Contingency fund of £400k remains</li> <li>• Gradual reduction and ceasing of nursery school places.</li> <li>• SMSA funding absorbed within overall banding structure.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Remain within the current budget:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years and mainstream schools receive a further increased rate from option 1.</li> <li>• Special schools have a 3% maximum reduction to their current funding</li> <li>• Redistribution of £1.3m SEN Contingency Funding</li> <li>• Gradual reduction and ceasing of early support places.</li> <li>• SMSA funding absorbed within overall banding structure.</li> </ul>
<b>Revised Banding Assumptions</b>	<p><b>Early Years Settings</b> Gradual reduction of Early Support places and Funding from Jan 25 and removal from Sept 25. The funding redistributed to increase Early Years inclusion funding to settings across Haringey.</p> <p><b>Early Years Inclusion Fund- Reception</b> Introduction of two EYIF bands to support reception children in mainstream settings. No EHCP required to obtain funding.</p> <p><b>Contingency Fund</b> £900k of the Contingency fund redistributed within the new banding model.</p> <p><b>Revision of Mainstream Bandings</b> Minimal Increase to mainstream school bandings.</p> <p><b>Special School Rates</b> No change to special school rates</p>	<p><b>Early Years Settings</b> Gradual reduction of Early Support places and Funding from Jan 25 and removal from Sept 25. The funding redistributed to increase Early Years inclusion funding to settings across Haringey.</p> <p><b>Early Years Inclusion Fund- Reception</b> Introduction of two EYIF bands to support reception children in mainstream settings. No EHCP required to obtain funding.</p> <p><b>Contingency Fund</b> £1.3m Contingency fund redistributed within the new banding model</p> <p><b>Revision of Mainstream Bandings</b> Marginal increase to mainstream school bandings.</p> <p><b>Reduction in Special School</b> The total budget to special schools does not fall below 3% of the Minimum Funding Guarantee of the previous year's budget.</p>
<b>Key Financial implications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change to current budget envelope</li> <li>• Of the 19 primary and 1 secondary school with deficits, only 1 primary school will have an overall reduction in top up funding, the rest will increase</li> <li>• 6 schools not in deficit will have a reduction in overall top up funding.</li> <li>• 1 x LA childcare setting may increase its deficit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change to current budget envelope</li> <li>• Of the 19 primary and 1 secondary school with deficits, only 1 primary school will have an overall reduction in top up funding, albeit reduced, the rest will increase</li> <li>• 4 schools not in deficit will have a reduction in overall top up funding.</li> <li>• 1 x LA childcare setting may increase its deficit</li> <li>• 2 Special Schools deficit may increase</li> </ul>
<b>Risk and Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally budget is not growing as expected. For 2024/25 Haringey awarded 2.3% inflation increase, lower than the expected 3%.</li> <li>• Schools and Learning and Finance will support settings through the licenced deficit process an SRMA review work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally budget is not growing as expected. For 2024/25 Haringey awarded 2.3% inflation increase, lower than the expected 3%.</li> <li>• Schools and Learning and Finance will support settings through the licenced deficit process an SRMA review work.</li> </ul>

**Short term: Option One:** Provides minimal increased funding for early years settings and mainstream schools, funding for special schools remains the same, within the financial envelope of the High Needs Block.

4.5 This option requires no change to the overall funding allocation available to support early years Inclusion or the budget supporting the top-up funding to meet the needs of children in Haringey mainstream and special school settings. However, the block funding for the early years support places will reduce and cease.

Early Years Settings

4.6 To support early years funding via the New Bandings, there will be a reduction in the early support places, but increased funding across the range of needs to support children from aged 2 until they reach the end of their reception year. The reduction in the early years support places will take place over a two-year period to allow for financial adjustments with minimum disruption to services and ensure continuity for children and their families.

4.7 Table 4 below details the block funding for the Early Support Places:

<b>Table 4: Childcare Setting</b>	<b>2YO Places</b>	<b>3&amp;4 YO Places</b>	<b>Total Places</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Nursery School Early Support Places	9	21	30	£229,008
Local Authority Childcare Setting	6	8	14	£109,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>£338,554</b>

4.8 The Providers of the early year support places will continue to be funded for 44 places until December 2024 and reduce to 25 early support places from January 2025. This reduces the block funding to those providers from £338,670 to £232,538 a reduction of £106,016 in 2024/25. The Block funding for the early support places will cease from September 2025. A mechanism will be developed to plan for this gradual reduction in Jan 25.

<b>Table 5 : Childcare Setting</b>	<b>2YO Places</b>	<b>3&amp;4 YO Places</b>	<b>Total Places</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Nursery School Early Support Places	0	18	18	£163,923
Local Authority Childcare Setting	0	7	7	£68,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>£232,538</b>

4.9 The reduction in block funding for these places to be mitigated by increased support to a range of children with SEND who access the Nursery Schools and childcare provision within the LA Children’s Centres where these provisions are in place. The reduction of funding for early years support places will be redistributed across all early years’ settings depending on where children attend, providing increased choice for families and reduction in costs of meeting the needs of the children in their settings. Detailed below are the current and revised banding models for EYIF:

**Haringey’s Current Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF)**

<b>Tabel 6: Current EYIF</b>	<b>Annual Funding</b>	<b>Hourly Unit Rate Equivalent</b>
High Rate (2,3,4)	£3,939	£6.91
Medium Rate (2years)	£1,488	£2.61
Medium Rate	£1,112	£1.95



### Proposed New Banding Model from September 2024 for 2,3,4 Year Olds in Childcare Settings

<b>Table 7: New Banding</b>	<b>Annual Funding</b>	<b>Hourly Unit Rate Equivalent</b>
Band 4	£6,000.00	£10.53
Band 3	£4,275.00	£7.50
Band 2	£500	£0.00
Band 1	£0	£0.00

- 4.10 There will be a level of financial uncertainty for the settings affected that they did not have before due to block funding as the funding will follow the child. Early support providers will be eligible to claim band 3 or 4 funding for children based on need. If the providers have more highly complex children (band 4) than the existing number of early support places, their income will rise. If families do not choose to send their children with complex needs to exist early support providers, then their income and costs will reduce.
- 4.11 We do not know where the parents will choose to send their children as resource is redistributed across the Early Years settings, with nurseries impacted differently. It is anticipated that through the Special Educational Needs Targeted Support and Coaching Programme, that no post should be placed at risk, however there is the risk that the removal of the Early Support places may increase the deficit of at least one of the local authority-maintained nurseries. The value of this will not be known until we know where children will access provision. This nursery will continue to be supported by Schools and Learning and Finance. The local authority will work with the nurseries facing financial difficulty, with cashflow assistance, licensed deficit process and SRMA review work.
- 4.12 Further, it has been agreed by Schools Forum to use £209k from the underspend within the Early Years Block to fund a new Special Educational Needs Targeted Support and Coaching Programme in early years. This project creates a Lead Practitioner and three SEND Support Assistants who will go into Early Year settings to do targeted work with children with SEN and provide a coaching model. This project will be possibly led by our nursery schools and will help to mitigate the need for redundancies.

#### Mainstream Reception

- 4.13 From September 2024 mainstream reception children will be allocated funding in line with the EYIF Banding model. This is the introduction of Band 1 to Band 4 funding for children moving into reception. Bands 3 and 4 will support those children with more complex needs in a mainstream school setting.

#### Table 8: Mainstream Reception

<b>Current Band</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band A</b>
Current Top Up Rates	£2,479	£5,305	£9,545	£11,083
Mapping to new Band	Band D and Band C children with less complex needs will fall into Band 3 in the new model		Band A and Band B, our more complex children will fall into Band 4 under the new model	
<b>New Band- Sept 24</b>	Band 3		Band 4	
Proposed Funding	£6,750		£14,500	
Average % Increase for reception year	29%		56%	

4.14 The mainstream setting would not apply for an EHCP, this provides the school and family time to work together to better understand the child's longer-term needs. There will remain the requirement for an EHCP for a reception child's placement within a special school.

Mainstream and Special Schools (5 Years old+) inc Post 16

4.15 The mainstream funding model will see an increase to their rates. This model assumes the £900k of the Contingency Fund will be redistributed to the banding model, and the remaining £400k will continue to be allocated to primary settings as per the existing arrangements. The current bands to special schools remain the same.

4.16 The equalisation of the of the lump-sum funding will apply to academy schools from September 2024. As such, from the budget £157,000 will be set aside to pay to secondary academy schools SEN contingency funding covering the period April 24 to August 24.

Table 9: Option 1: Current vs Proposed Bands – Mainstream and Special Schools: From September 2024

<b>Current Band</b>	<b>Sen Contingency</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band A</b>	<b>Mulberry</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>The Grove</b>
Current Top Up Rates	School Specific	£2,479	£5,305	£8,132	£9,545	£18,000	£24,000	£27,930
<b>Option 1 Bands</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>Band H</b>		<b>The Grove</b>
Mainstream & Post 16 Rates	£3,000	£3,799	£7,065	£10,331	£20,000 Special School £11,964 mainstream	24,000		27,930
% Increase to Mainstream Settings	New	53%	33%	27%	25%	0%	0%	0%

4.17 This option removes the requirement for mainstream settings to apply for additional hours over and above the banding, the revised bandings assume that the needs of the child are met within the revised bands.

4.18 This model limits the redistribution of funding to those schools with higher levels of EHCP's and the modelling has identified that on the current cohort, of the 19 primary and 1 secondary School with deficits, apart from one primary school, these schools' overall top-up funding will increase. Based on the banding for the cohort of children, 6 schools not in deficit will have a reduction in their overall top-up funding.

4.19 For the schools where there is the risk that the change in banding may increase their deficit, the local authority will collaborate with any school facing financial difficulty, cashflow assistance, licensed deficit process and SRMA review work.

4.20 For the financial year 2024/25, all schools will be paid the existing banding rate from April 2024 to August 2024 (5 months) and the new banding rates will apply from September 2024 to March 2025 (7 months). The revised rates will continue from April 2025 to March 2026.

**Short term: Option Two: Provides further increased funding for early years settings and mainstream schools, reduced funding for special schools, within the financial envelope of the High Needs Block.**

4.21 For Haringey special schools this model is one in which schools' finances for SEND bandings and top-ups reduced by 3% per annum to bring them into line with current budget envelope, leading to a balanced budget within the Haringey HNB. This would lead therefore to a reduction in funding in Haringey special schools and marginal increases in funding to mainstream schools. The reduction in funding to special schools is mitigated to 3% by a funding 'cushion' which would be calculated by utilising the £1.3m contingency funding to ensure that funding levels for special schools do not fall below the 3% threshold. This is in addition to the gradual removal of Early Years Support places as outlined in short term Option one.

4.22 From the existing budget £274,000 will be set aside to pay to primary and secondary academy schools SEN contingency funding covering the period April 24 to August 24.

**Table 10: Option 2: Current vs Proposed Bands: Mainstream and Special Schools– From September 2024**

Current Band	Sen Contingency	Band D	Band C	Band B	Band A	Mulberry / RP	Special	The Grove
Current Top Up Rates	School Specific	£2,479	£5,305	£8,132	£9,545	£18,000	£24,000	£27,930
Option 2 Bands	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	The Grove	
Mainstream and Post 16	£3,000	£4,000	£7,500	£11,500	£16,000 (mainstream/RP) £20,000 (Special School)	23,280	27,092	
% Increase to mainstream settings	New	61%	41%	41%	68%	11%	See 4.25 below	

4.23 This option also removes the requirement for mainstream settings to apply for additional hours over and above the banding, as the revised bandings assume that all the needs are met within these the bands.

4.24 There is the introduction of Band C funding. It is proposed Band C funding is for one year only to allow mainstream settings to provide support for children who require short-term targeted interventions without the requirement for an EHCP. An example of this would be a child who has moved into the borough from abroad and their needs are not fully understood or assessed. Whilst an EHCP will not be required, a robust process will be developed to ensure that requests and allocation for this band are valid.

4.25 For this transition year, whilst smaller reductions are implemented in Special schools funding; Band G will be subdivided into 2 separate top-ups. For children in mainstream (including Resource provision) the top-up will be £16,000. For children at Special school at Band G the top-up will be

£20,000. The intention will be to move to one flat rate of Band G funding by 25/26 which will be funded as a result of aligning The Grove to the Haringey banding rates for G and H. Accordingly, the special schools will be capped to a 3% reduction in their overall funding. Based on current numbers, there will be an overall loss to the special schools of £438k, after the application of the Minimum Funding Guarantee. A financial cushion' will be applied to ensure that the reduction in funding to the special schools does not exceed 3%. New admissions and transfers from mainstream to the special schools and new Resource Provision after September 2024 will be paid at the new rates. The financial cushion will also be applied to the Mulberry Resource provision for any children who are in Band G.

- 4.26 For the financial year 2024/25, all schools will be paid the existing banding rate from April 2024 to August 2024 (5 months) and the new banding rates will apply from September 2024 to March 2025 (7 months). The revised rates will continue from April 2025 to March 2026. The funding cushion to the special schools in 2025/26 will ensure that special school's reduction in funding does not exceed 3% of their overall funding received in 2024/25.
- 4.27 This option, of the 19 primary and 1 secondary school in deficit, 1 primary school will to continue to have a reduction in their overall top-funding, albeit reduced. Based on the banding for the cohort of children, 4 schools not in deficit will have a reduction in their overall top-up funding. There 2 special schools in deficit, this option may result in a further increase in their deficit. For the two special schools in deficit, Haringey will continue to collaborate with the schools to support the management of their deficit and impact of changes in funding.

## 5. Longer Term Funding- 2025/26 Onwards

- 5.1 The proposal above are short-term changes to the current financial banding models. The consultation with mainstream and special schools has highlighted that whilst amongst the country, we have comparatively higher top ups per capita, there are increasing needs within the cohort of children in Haringey, with a need for greater parity of funding to support these needs in a mainstream setting that cannot be met within the existing financial envelope. The recent moderation of the cohort of the current children identified that over 40% of children with EHCP's in Haringey require Band G or Band H funding.
- 5.2 From the work completed as part of this project, even with redistributed funding to mainstream settings as outlined within the short-term options above, this may still be insufficient to meet the needs of children. In addition, for 2024/25, Haringey's High Needs Block was increased by 2.3%, this is lower than the 3% Haringey had anticipated as part of the Safety Valve Programme. This will create a gap within the savings target for 24- 25 which will need to be addressed.
- 5.3 Further, as part of the Safety Valve Programme, Haringey will receive additional funding over 5 years amounting to £29.9m to mitigate the increase in demand and support the change in the education system, this funding from the DfE assumes that Haringey will reduce its deficit to zero by 2027/28.
- 5.4 To increase the budget for bandings, there would be a requirement for a disapplication from the School Block of the DSG. Below is an example of revised bandings via a disapplication, this would require an additional disapplication of £2.6m, increasing the current block transfer from 0.05% (£1.19m) to 1.7% (£3.79m).

**Table 11: Example of Mainstream and Special Schools Bandings**

Current Band	Sen Contingency	Band D	Band C	Band B	Band A	Mainstream /RP	Special	The Grove
Current Top Up Rates	School Specific	£2,479	£5,305	£8,132	£9,545	£18,000	£24,000	£27,930

Proposed Bands	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	The Grove	
Indicative Rates	£3,000	£4,250	£8,500	£16,500	£20,000	24,000	24,000	
% Increase to Mainstream Settings	New	71%	60%	103%	110%	11%	0%	-14.07% on the banding rate only

5.5. If Schools' Forum grants approval to consider a disapplication from the School Block via the DSG, further work will be undertaken, and a report presented to School Forum with options that consider and outline the wider factors and financial implications of the disapplication which will include the impact of:

- Falling Schools Rolls
- Overall budgetary impact on Schools and the minimum funding guarantee for mainstream schools. A funding 'cushion' will be applied to special schools to ensure their overall funding is not reduced by more than 3% year-on-year.
- Schools in deficit and the impact of the Education Strategy supporting schools in deficit.
- Resource sufficiency and the introduction of resource provisions from 2024/25.
- Impact of the wider system changes to support SEN
- Impact on reduction to The Grove
- HNB Deficit position and progress of the Safety Valve Programme.
- Interim findings/feedback from the short-term top-up banding model to be introduced on September 24.

## 6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The work undertaken to create new bandings to support children and young people with SEND within Haringey early years, mainstream and special schools has been extensive, and has incorporated key stakeholders from across the Haringey system to inform best practice in relation to SEND support for children and young people and to ensure that provision becomes increasingly equitable across the borough and sustainable for Haringey's HNB; eventually enabling the education system in Haringey to deliver a balanced budget.
- 6.2 The work has recognised the inequities in the current provision model for example in relation to the discrepancy between allocated funding and actual costs of SEND provision in schools, particularly in relationship to staffing and has also addressed the gaps between provision in early years settings and nursery schools for children with emerging needs.
- 6.3 Proposals have been shared via five briefings in February and March with the SENCO Forum, Early Years Inclusion Steering Group and Headteachers from Special Schools, Primary, Secondary and Post 16 provision. A summary of feedback is outlined below:

<p>Summary of feedback provided from EY Inclusion Steering Group, Meeting re Early Support Places, SENDCo Forum (19-21 Feb 2024) and Headteacher Briefings on the 1<sup>st</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schools like the idea of not always needing an EHCP to access funding in Reception but need clear guidance about when an EHCP would be needed.</li> <li>○ The nursery schools were particularly concerned about the increased workload for schools SENDCos of EHCPs not being needed until Reception. The schools also expressed some concerns on this but also felt that the new system may mean not so many EHCPs are needed as children have more time to respond to early intervention.</li> <li>○ Concerns about the annual review of the rates will bring instability for schools.</li> </ul>
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- Schools liked the option of the higher amount for Band C as will be helpful to draw down money fast for interim or emergency cases, but it does not need to be equal to Band D as the descriptors are different – perhaps £3000.
- The special schools were concerned about the impact on their budgets if the rates are reduced for special school and may impact their sustainability. They felt it would mean they would be less likely to take children with less complex needs. Mainstream schools felt that the increased parity would mean they would be better able to meet the needs of children with complex needs.
- There was widespread concern about the differential payment for the Grove and other special schools which needs to be explained more clearly.
- Early years settings were broadly happy with the top up amounts.
- There was some discussion about whether removing the early support places would lead to children with more complex needs being placed in settings who were less skilled to meet their needs and whether it would be harder to place children with complex needs. However, the schools did not think the benefit of the early support places outweighed the benefit of having higher top up rates.
- Nursery schools were concerned that the removal of the Early support places with 6 months' notice would not give them time to plan the restructure needed to review their business model. They also thought it would lead to them losing experienced staff.
- Children's centre staff felt that some of the most vulnerable children are not in Early support places and that the new system would enable them to access more support.
- All settings broadly welcomed the review of the application process for EY Inclusion funding to involve health.
- There were conflicting views on the longer-term idea of taking money out of the general schools' budget – some felt that this was not right, but others felt it would reduce the financial disincentive of being an inclusive school. The amounts still would mean schools subsidising provision for children with EHCPs out of their general budgets.

- 6.4 Haringey SEND local Partnership remains committed to enabling children wherever possible to attend their local nursery or school and to developing more special school provision in borough. The new bandings have been tested extensively over the last academic year and the bandings audit and moderation processes have identified that, as reported by schools, Haringey has a higher number of children with complex needs in mainstream school and that these children should be fairly funded. Correlation of this evidence with the education outcomes data suggests that this system benefits children and should be supported and developed with increased capacity and resources.
- 6.5 The local authority would recommend that schools endorse short term option 2 as an interim model to implement the new bandings and approval to consider a disapplication as a measured approach to achieving a balanced budget over the next 3 years of the Safety Valve Programme.
- 6.6 Finally, the local authority acknowledges and thanks early years settings, schools and colleges for the extensive work undertaken by the education system in Haringey over the last 2 years which has created the new bandings and enabled the system to confidently accept the bandings as appropriate and identify the resources needed to implement them.