

Agenda Item 8

Report Status

For information/note ☒
For consultation & views
For decision



Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 16th January 2025

Report Title: Haringey EHCP Bandings 2025-2026

Authors:

Mary Jarrett
Head of SEND
Email: Mary.Jarrett@haringey.gov.uk

Rachel Boston
Safety Valve consultant
Email: Rachel.Boston@haringey.gov.uk

Report authorised by:

Jackie Difolco
Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND
Email: jackie.difolco@haringey.gov.uk

Neil Sinclair
Interim Head of Finance (People)
Email: Neil.Sinclair@haringey.gov.uk

1. Purpose:

1.1 To provide an update to Schools' Forum regarding increased funding to mainstream and special schools as a result of an uplift of funding to Haringey's High Need Block (HNB) for the financial year 2025-2026.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Schools' Forum notes the recommendations as outlined below to increase SEND funding to mainstream and special schools to equitably distribute the additional funding within the HNB for the financial year 2025- 2026 as follows:

- a. Increase mainstream school funding by uplifting the allocated funding for pupils with Band G, creating an uplift for all pupils at Band G from £16,000 to £20,000 per pupil, which will

ensure that pupils receive an equitable level of funding regardless of whether they attend mainstream or special schools.

- b. Maintain the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to Haringey Special Schools at 0% for a further financial year, and not reducing by 3% as per Safety Valve projections.
- c. Passport the 3.4% inflationary uplift to Haringey Special Schools as mitigation against increased costs of support staff (as per 22-23 places value)

2.2 That Schools' Forum recognise the progress made towards creating a sustainable high needs funding system and supports and endorses the recommendations to distribute the additional monies in the HNB to support the needs of the most complex children and young people in Haringey.

3. Introduction

3.1 The Education Funding Skills Agency (EFSA) released the financial settlement for schools on 18th December. The allocation for financial year 2025-2026 outlined an uplift of 7.18% to the Haringey High Needs Block (HNB) within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), increasing the total budget to £59.635 million.

3.2 The current bandings are in place until Mar 2026; however, in light of this uplift, the LA has considered how this can be best used to support both the successful delivery of our local Safety Valve Programme and provide additional financial support to schools and settings.

3.3 The Department for Education is clear that the additional monies should be used wherever possible to support pupils with SEND. In recognition of the budgetary pressures and financial impact on schools and as a result of making good progress within our local Safety Valve Programme (both in terms of outcomes for children and reducing our accumulative deficit), we are proposing that the uplift within the HNB grant is used to release funding into schools rather than absorb the additional funding into meeting the requirements of the programme.

3.4 This report provides a rationale regarding the proposals to spend the monies to support children with the most complex needs across mainstream and special schools from April 2025 – March 2026 in the following ways:

- a) Uplift Band G funding from £16,000 to £20,000 regardless of where a child attends school. (at present children in mainstream schools only receive £16,000 top-up for children at Band G whereas in Special and Resource provisions they receive £20,000).
- b) Maintain the 0% MFG for Special Schools allocated as of 1 Sept 24.
- c) Allocate an inflationary uplift of 3.4% to Special Schools as per 2022/23 places value.

4. Analysis of Current Issues

4.1 In March 2022, Haringey Council began implementation of the five-year Safety Valve programme which is designed to incrementally reduce the overspend position within the HNB to create a balanced budget by April 2028.

4.2 The Haringey Safety Valve Programme has had a specific and targeted focus on creating systems and processes which provide early intervention and support for children and young people with SEND. A significant part of the programme has been the investment in providing early intervention and support for children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Autism and Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

This work has been underpinned by the whole-scale redesign of Haringey's SEND bandings and top-ups to support children earlier (including before an EHCP is necessary), ensuring that early intervention is funded and prioritised.

- 4.3 Within the programme, there is little provision made for Special Schools as it was identified that Haringey's Special Schools were using a flat banding rate for all children with EHCPs. In addition, analysis and benchmarking identified that Haringey Special Schools were relatively well-renumerated compared to London peers (acknowledging that this is disputed by Haringey Special School Headteachers).
- 4.4 As part of the Safety Valve agreement, Haringey Council agreed with the Department for Education that they would freeze Special School top-ups for the duration of the programme and undertake a systematic review of all HNB top-up funding. Some of the financial targets within the Safety Valve programme were predicated on reductions over time to the higher top-ups paid for the most complex children, to mitigate the investment in increased top-ups to children with more complex needs in mainstream schools.
- 4.5 The success of the Haringey Safety Valve Programme in delivering targets in relation to early intervention and support to children with complex needs via investment in the Autism Outreach Team and the impact of the opening of Additional Resource Provision places has meant that the Local Authority has met the financial requirements of the programme thus far and on track to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the programme.
- 4.6 Haringey had agreed not to alter Bandings for at least one financial year to allow for the full impact of the new system to be fully evaluated. Whilst a review of the current bandings is not due until March 2026, it is appropriate that the Local Authority considers the redistribution of additional resources within the revised 2025-2026 HNB to schools, maintaining the same principles of early intervention and support for children with SEND but also recognising the demands of children with more complex SEND needs and the need to maintain standards within Haringey's Special Schools.
- 4.7 Therefore, an analysis of areas where additional funding would have most impact (in addition to those areas already invested in as part of the SV programme) was undertaken resulting in the recommendations outlined above. The option to create a blanket increase to all bandings was considered, however due to the number of children in scope, this would have little real financial impact, as the resources would be spread very thinly across all schools.
- 4.8 The first proposal is to significantly increase Band G funding for children in mainstream schools (Of whom there are 145) from £16,000 (current) to £20,000 which is in line with the monies paid to the Additional Resource Provisions (ARP) and for children who have been allocated Band G in Special Schools. This maintains the principle of equity of provision for pupils according to their needs and will go some way towards a reconciliation of the actual costs of support with the monies paid within the banding's distribution. This will have a total cost of £0.580m.
- 4.9 The second proposal is to maintain the MFG at 0% for Haringey Special schools for a further financial year. This will mitigate some of the additional costs incurred by Special Schools for additional support staff, specialist equipment and training costs. This will be a

total cost of £0.956m from September 2024- March 2025. The full year effect for 2025-2026 financial year is £1.687m.

- 4.10 The final proposal is to allocate an inflationary uplift of 3.4% to Special Schools which Haringey has previously sought to withhold in order to manage the requirements of the Safety Valve programme. This will cost £0.346m.

5. Current Banding Model: Early Years, Mainstream, Resource Provision and Special Schools September 2024 to March 2025

Early Years and Reception Funding: Early Year Support Places (EYSP)

- 5.1 From September 2024, the Early Years Support places for 2-year-olds were removed reducing the Early Support places from 44 to 25. The remaining places are allocated for 3 and 4 year-olds who will remain in situ, potentially until they are aged 5 but monies will be allocated as per the EY Inclusion funding (EYIF).

Table One: Early Years Support Places Sept 2024 – March 2025

Setting	2YO	3&4 YO	Total Places	Total Cost
Nursery School Early Support Places	0	18	18	£163,923
Local Authority Childcare Setting	0	17	7	£68,815
Total			25	£232,538

- 5.2 This reduced the budget envelope to Early Support places from 0.338m to 0.233m. The saving of 0.106M has been redirected to support the increase in the unit rate in Early years Inclusion funding (EYIF).

Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF)- Mainstream and Private and Voluntary

- 5.3 The Early Years Inclusion fund unit rate was increased from September 2024 for children in mainstream nurseries and private and voluntary nursery settings:

Table Two: EYIF banding rates Sept 2024 – Mar 2025

Funding	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Unit Rate	0	0	£7.50	£10.53
Annualised Funding	0	£500	£4,275	£6,000

- 5.4 At the beginning of 2022- 2023, the Early Years Support funding and Early Years inclusion funding was a combined spend of £0.734m against the HNB. This cost increased to £0.935m in 2023/24.

- 5.5 It was anticipated that the increase to the new rate based on 2023/24 demand, would be additional cost pressures of 0.125M, of which 0.106M of the saving generated through the reduction in the EYSP would be directed to the EYIF to mitigate the emerging cost pressures.

Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) Special Schools

5.6 Children in Special Schools require an EHCP. The Early Years Inclusion funding rate to special schools differs to mainstream and PVI nursery settings:

Table Three: EYIF Banding Rates Special Schools Sept 2024 – Mar 2025

Funding	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Unit Rate	0	0	N/A	0
Annualised Funding	0	0	N/A	£14,500 top up (in addition to place funding)

Mainstream and Special School Reception Funding

5.7 There is no requirement of an EHCP for reception children in a mainstream school.

Table Four: Mainstream and Special School Reception Banding Rates Sept 2024 – Mar 2025

Funding	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Banding	Universal	SEN Support	£4,500	£14,500

Mainstream, Resource Provision and Special School Funding

5.8 The table below indicates the new banding rates for Haringey Schools from September 2024:

Table Five: Mainstream, Resource Provision and Special School Funding Banding Rates Sept 2024 – Mar 2025

Setting	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Mainstream	£3,000	£4,000	£7,500	£11,500	£16,000	£23,280
Resource Provision					£20,000	£23,280
Special Schools				£11,500	£20,000	£23,280

5.9 It is expected that there will be minimal agreements for funding outside of the banding model. In all circumstances, additional funding agreed outside the banding model is on a child-by-child basis, this may include:

- children with additional medical needs, this is child specific, and the amount is dependent on the child's medical needs and contributions from Health.
- additional support and therapeutic services not covered by the banding (this may be ongoing or one-off in nature)
- cost over and above the bandings as instructed by Tribunal.

Minimum Funding Guarantee and Inflation Special Schools: September 2024 to March 2025

5.10 The change in the Banding models assumed that the Council would generate saving of £0.993m in 2024/25, to redirect to meet the increase in bandings to the Mainstream settings. The indicative financial impact to maintain 0% MFG for each special school is detailed below:

Table Six: MFG for Special Schools Sept 2024 -Mar 2025

Setting	Funding (Place and Top-Up)	Sept 24- March 25
	2023/24	Indicative MFG Loss
	£m	£m
Blanche Neville	1.260	0.015
Riverside	5.302	0.446
The Brook	4.109	0.040
The Grove	4.194	0.317
The Vale	3.504	0.135
Total		0.953

Note: The MFG of £0.953m in 2024/25 is being mitigated by one-off items.

Inflation- September 2024- March 2025

5.11 The disapplication agreed by the DfE to retain the inflation increase on the top- up funding based on 2022/23 place numbers equating to will continue until March 2025.

6. Changes to banding rates for 2025-2026 and financial impact

6.1 Proposed banding Rate for Early Years, Mainstream and Special Schools April 2025 – March 2026 are set out below:

Early Years Support Places- April 2025 to August 2025

No Change until August 2025: There will continue to be 25 EYSP. All Early Years Support places will cease from **September 2025**. Money will be reinvested into the Early Years Inclusion Funding to support all children as per their banding outlined in Table eight.

Table Seven: EYSP (Three- and Four-Year-olds)

Setting	2YO	3&4 YO	Total Places	Total Cost
Nursery School Early Support Places	0	18	18	£163,923
Local Authority Childcare Setting	0	17	7	£68,815
Total			25	£232,538

Early Years inclusion Fund to mainstream, PVI and Special Schools

No Change

Table Eight: Early Years inclusion Fund to mainstream, PVI and Special Schools- April 2025 to March 2026

Setting	Funding	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Mainstream and PVI	Unit Rate	0	0	£7.50	£10.53
Mainstream and PVI	Annualised Funding	0	£500	£4,275	£6,000
Special Schools	Annualised Funding	N/A	N/A	N/A	£14,500

Reception funding to mainstream schools and special schools

No Change

Table Nine: Reception funding to mainstream schools and special schools: April 2025 to March 2026

Funding	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4
Banding	Universal		£6,750	£14,500

Mainstream, Resource Provision and Special Schools (Yr 1 to Year 13)

Change to Band G Mainstream Schools only.

6.2 From April 2025, the Band G Funding for those in mainstream will increase from £16,000 to **£20,000**, as per the table below, all other bands remain unchanged.

Table Ten: Mainstream, Resource Provision and Special Schools (Yr 1 to Year 13): From April 2025 to March 2026

Setting	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H Special Schools
Mainstream	£3,000	£4,000	£7,500	£11,500	£20,000	£23,280
Resource Provision					£20,000	N/A
Special Schools				£11,500	£20,000	£23,280

Maintain the Minimum Funding Guarantee and Inflation

6.3 The table below indicates the financial impact of maintaining the 0% MFG and allocation of the 3.4% inflation based on 2022/23 number of places.

Table Eleven: Maintain the Minimum Funding Guarantee and Inflation

Setting	April 25 to March 26	April 25 to March 26	April 25 to March 26
	Maintain MFG	Inflation @2022/23 Places	Total Investment
	£m	£m	£m
Blanche Neville	0.010	0.018	0.028
Riverside	0.646	0.110	0.756
The Brook	0.200	0.095	0.295
The Grove	0.584	0.101	0.685
The Vale	0.247	0.076	0.323
Total	1.687	0.400	£2.087

7. Financial Implications into 2025/26

7.1 The High Need Block contribution after recoupment increases to £59.64m, an uplift of £4.0m in 2025/26. The table below indicates that £2.824m will be allocated to mainstream special schools and mainstream schools:

Table Twelve: Summary of changes April 2025 – Mar 2026

Setting	Funding Reason	2025/26 (FYE)
		£m
Special Schools	Minimum Funding Guarantee	1.687
Special Schools	Inflation	0.400
Mainstream Schools	Band G Funding	0.580
Total		2.667

7.2 The projected forecast indicates that to meet the projected 4% demand growth and inflation pressures the High Needs Block will require, a further £3.83m to meet these costs.

7.3 It is anticipated that through the residual £1.33m of the HNB increase in funding, 0.5% School Block transfer and delivery of the savings as per the Safety Valve Programme, the additional cost pressures will be met.