

Movements Between Blocks – taken from Schools revenue funding 2019 to 2020 Operational guide

Expected evidence provided in the schools consultation and presented to the SFF :

1. Details of any previous movements between blocks, what pressures those movements covered, and why those transfers have not been adequate to counter the new cost pressures; for example, if mainstream school exclusions have increased leading to more expenditure on alternative provision
2. A full breakdown of the specific budget pressures that have led to the requirement for a transfer
 - this should include the changes in demand for special provision over the last three years, and how the local authority has met that demand by commissioning places in all sectors (mainstream and special schools, further education and sixth form colleges, independent specialist provision and alternative provision)
 - it's particularly important that any changes in the provision for mainstream school pupils with high needs are highlighted so that those schools can understand both why a transfer of funds from the schools block might be needed, and how future transfers might be avoided
3. A strategic financial plan setting out how the local authority intends to bring high needs expenditure to levels that can be sustained within anticipated future high needs funding levels
 - the local authority should demonstrate an assessment and understanding of why the high needs costs are at a level that exceeds the expected final high needs funding allocation, and that plans are in place to change the pattern of provision where this is necessary, as well as to achieve greater efficiency in other ways
 - the schools forum can only give approval for a one-off transfer of funding out of the 2019 to 2020 schools block
 - the local authority should give details of whether the cost pressure is such that they would anticipate the need to seek schools forum approval for a transfer in subsequent years, if

this is permitted, and how they are planning ahead to avoid such transfers in the longer term

4. As part of the review and planning process, the extent to which collaborative working is being developed as a means of securing suitable high needs placements at a cost that can be afforded
 - we expect effective partnership between the local authority, those institutions offering special and alternative provision (including mainstream schools), and parents; and between the local authority and neighbouring authorities
5. Any contributions from health and social care budgets towards the cost of specialist places
6. how any additional high needs funding would be targeted to good and outstanding primary and secondary schools that provide an excellent education for a larger than average number of pupils with high needs, or to support the inclusion of children with special educational needs in mainstream schools
 - examples of schools that illustrate how the local authority would support such inclusive practice are also useful
7. Details of the impact of the proposed transfer on individual schools' budgets as a result of the reduction in the available funding to be distributed through the local schools funding formula
8. the extent to which schools more generally support the proposal, including details of the outcome of local school consultations, the options or proposals that were subject to consultation, how many schools agreed, disagreed or did not respond