



**Kent**  
County  
Council



# **Review of HN Funding in FECs**

**Presentation to Schools Funding Forum**

**29 June 2018**

# Background to our project

---

- Pressure on High Needs budget
  - ▶ Need to examine FE spend
- Late allocation of High Needs resources
  - ▶ Colleges find it difficult to plan in advance of knowing resources available
- Potential DfE interest in innovative solution
  - ▶ Block funding model as possible alternative?

# Our project

---

- Interviews with KCC colleagues
- Visits to all four college groups
- Discussion with KFEC Group (26-06-18)
  - *This meeting -*
- Review and analysis
- Further meetings with KCC/colleges as required
- Reporting

# Present arrangements

---

- “Already doing it right”
  - ▶ In terms of the Code of Practice and the Operational Guide
- Though some weaknesses
- The new arrangements need to be “better than right”

# A better system?

---

- More emphasis on outcomes not (just) inputs
- Move away from individual assessment (spreadsheet!) to planning that mirrors the provision colleges intend to make
- Stimulate innovative solutions
  - ▶ Collaborative initiatives, partnerships, sharing good practice
  - ▶ Repatriation of out-county (capital may be needed)
  - ▶ Data sharing for planning purposes

# A new approach: a “submission”

---

- Submission based on a college’s overall approach, not the current (largely notional) student-by-student calculation
- Student numbers and needs do not change materially from year to year
  - ▶ Or there should be a good explanation of why they do
  - ▶ Carry forward much of what was done last year

- Proposed overall plan for the coming year
  - ▶ Based on intelligence available
    - » Returning learners
    - » Transition planning with schools
    - » Data sharing (needs to improve)
- New initiatives, developments, projects, collaborations etc.
  - ▶ Spend to save
  - ▶ Capital to save revenue
  - ▶ Benefits from increases in/redirection of spending

- Outcomes to be achieved for students
  - ▶ Evidenced
    - » (At least) by outcomes achieved for similar students in the last completed year
    - » By similar practice elsewhere
- Resources required to deliver plan (staff and non-staff) (also capital?)

# Scheduling our proposed changes

---

- A good time to be planning arrangements for 2019-20
- Consultations on detail of new arrangements in the Autumn Term 2018
  - ▶ Reports to Schools Funding Forum as appropriate
- No possibility of significant change for September 2018
  - ▶ Nor desire on the part of Colleges for such change
  - ▶ KCC and colleges working on interim 'fix'