

Schools' Funding Forum (SFF)

8.30am – 12.30pm on the 4th July 2025

Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Ashford

Item No	Item	
1	Welcome and Introductions The group introduced themselves.	
2	SRPs commissioned places Siobhan Price (Assistant Director, School Inclusion) presented the paper. It was asked if there was any work undertaken on calculating the cost of running an SRP provision. A minimum amount of funding is needed in order to make an SRP viable. This work was started in 2023 but the initial analysis was inconclusive due to the variety of SRP models across the county. This is being reviewed again to inform the new SEN funding model being implemented in September 2026. Excess provision was raised as a concern and the significant amounts of funding being provided to those schools. Suggested option to adjust funding model and future SLA so that funding for additional places is not automatically given unless over a certain threshold, e.g. additional funding would only be given if went more than 2 pupils over commissioned numbers. Admissions criteria was raised as a concern and needs to be reviewed as part of this work. It was highlighted that as an SRP it should be considered how to integrate children in the school, but this leads to concerns around impacts on PAN in the school. Recognised there was a lack of consistency across the County with SRPs.	
3	Communities update Siobhan Price (Assistant Director, School Inclusion) presented the paper. It was fed back there is some inconsistency on how communities were operating and it would be helpful to have an agreed set of rates and this was creating some additional issues for Trusts who sit across a number of different communities. However, it was noted that there should be some differences between communities as it should be focused on the needs of the local community. The Chair's guidance is expected to be strengthened. Schools also want to know what years 2 and 3 look like in terms of funding for individual schools. It was noted there was already some good collaboration between schools, particularly SENCOs. Main frustration is lack of information around how the funding will work, particularly so close to Summer holidays. Mapping exercise being undertaken for children coming into Year R and funding will be provided where relevant. Key message from schools is for the LA to provide more information and provide greater certainty as soon as possible to aid planning. Mapping of children against funding descriptors is being piloted during the Summer Term with Special Schools and SRPs. Will be rolled out to all school to complete at the beginning of Term 1.	

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