

Changes to 'top up' funding for children with an EHCP from April 2017

Fact sheet, November 2016

We are proposing to change the way we pay top ups to support children with a newly created EHCP who join a school from April 2017.

This fact sheet explains the changes and we want to get your feedback on the proposals.

What is the current process?

The additional educational support identified in the EHCP is costed to arrive at a total annual cost. Schools must fund the first £6,000 from their delegated budget and informed by the EHCP and its estimated costs the SEN panel awards additional top up funding.

Two top up bands are currently used

Band 3: £15,125; and

Band 4: £12,715.

What's wrong with this process?

There is a large gap between the first £6,000 funded by the school and the lowest top up band of £12,715 creating the potential for an inequitable distribution of funding.

Last year the Schools Forum asked the council to develop a more equitable banding structure.

Over the summer the SEN Funding Working group made up of head teachers and officers developed a four band structure. This was approved by the October schools forum subject to consulting all mainstream schools.

The example below demonstrates the inflexibility of the current system.

Let's say a child's EHCP will cost £15,000.

The school pays for the first £6,000. That leaves £9,000 outstanding.

The council pays the school the lower top-up band of £12,715.

That is nearly £4,000 more than the estimated EHCP costs.

What are we proposing to change?

We are moving from two to four top up bands as follows:

Band	Amount
Band 1	£4,000
Band 2	£8,000
Band 3	£12,000
Band 4	£16,000

The range of EHCP costs that would attract one of the new bands after deducting the first £6,000 are shown below:

Band	Range
Band 1	£1,000 - £6,000
Band 2	£6,001 - £10,000
Band 3	£10,001 - £14,000
Band 4	£14,001 and above

What are the benefits from this change?

The new structure offers a more equitable, effective and flexible solution to additional funding paid to schools in support of a child's EHCP.

Any funding resources released would be recycled back into supporting children who need a higher level of educational support.

When will this change happen?

Subject to the consultation outcomes we plan to introduce this new system from 1 April 2017 for new EHCP pupils.

Schools will be consulted later in 2017 on transition to the new bands for existing EHCP pupils from April 2018.

How can I have my say?

We are running a consultation from Monday 21 November to the end of December 2016.

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/send to fill in our online consultation.

Who do I contact with any questions?

You can email the Schools Finance Team. Their email address is schoolsfinance@southwark.gov.uk.