



**DARLINGTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Special Educational Needs and Disability
Consultation
Funding Proposals**

Background

- The SEND Code of Practice says that schools and other settings (early years/nurseries) should have a staged approach to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND. This means that there are steps that schools need to put in place how they identify SEND needs, the support that they give, what they need to put in place and how to measure the impact of all of this. The Code of Practice calls this a ‘graduated response’.



The SEND Ranges

- Darlington has put in place the ‘SEND Ranges’ which cover the 4 areas of the Code of Practice.
- Ranges 1-3 are needs that can be met in the mainstream school/setting
- Ranges 4-7 being those needs which require significant additional support and for many access to specialist support or placement in a Resource Base or a special, or independent setting.



What is the current system?

The system for funding 'high needs' provision, for example those children and young people with complex Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) needs up to the end of the 17/18 academic year was unclear and difficult to understand.

There was a lack of transparency for schools and parents about how the funding worked, who accessed it and the funding schools received was not allocated to an individual pupil's needs.

For example, Primary schools receiving a lump sum plus top up funding and secondary schools receiving a lump sum with no top up funding. This led to potential variations in the funding and money not following the child or young person.



What is the current system?

- For those children and young people who fall within Ranges 1-3 the school receives a notional SEN fund of up to £6,000. If the child or young person requires more support then they receive this from the 'high needs' block through 'top up' funding and/or specialist support as identified through the Education Health and Care plan (EHCP).



What is the proposed system?

- It is proposed to allocate funding alongside the SEND Ranges. This means that funding is directly related to the needs of the child/young person.
- Schools will be asked to demonstrate also how they are spending the notional £6,000 spend on those children and young people who are on Ranges 1-3 before they receive any additional financial support. This will lead to a greater level of accountability.



Research into Funding levels

- In order to determine an appropriate funding level for each band we looked at the banded funding levels across a number of local authorities.
- For mainstream top-ups above the £6,000 notional SEN limit we identified a wide range of maximums from £3,700 right up to £16,651 with an average maximum of £9,216.
- The exercise showed that the majority of the top funding levels were in inner London authorities.



Top up funding proposals

- We investigated a number of examples of funding models. We settled on a range model which details the expected interventions across seven levels of need.
- Ranges 1-3 are funded from the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) and the notional SEN (up to £6,000) budget that each school receives. Ranges 4 (EHCP) and above are funded through the High Needs block.



Top up funding proposals

- We recognised that three ranges (ie range 4-6) would be too crude when determining funding therefore it was decided that each of those three bands would be subdivided into two. We are therefore proposing seven ranges with ten funding bands.



Top up funding proposals

- It is proposed to use funding level for the bandings as follows:

Bands 1-3	No top-up
Band 4a	£3,000
Band 4b	£6,500
Band 5a	£8,500
Band 5b	£10,000
Band 6a	£12,500
Band 6b	£15,000



In Summary

- Darlington Borough Council are proposing to provide funding to schools that is directly related to the assessed and identified needs of the child/young person.
- The funding is used for the provision of resources for that individual child [a needs based approach of money following the child/young person].
- This will allow for a clear, transparent and consistent approach by primary and secondary educational settings across the Borough.



How can I give my views?

- All comments and views expressed today will be noted.
- We have provided hard copies of the electronic survey which you can complete today or return in the pre-paid envelope.
- We also have a survey on our website:
www.Darlington.gov.uk/SEND
- Thank you for attending today.

