

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	19 January 2023
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Funding 2023/2024
LEAD/AUTHOR:	Julie Frost Julie.frost@northlincs.gov.uk Wendy Holmes wndy.holmes@northlincs.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information about DSG 2023/2024 High Needs funding.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The total number of statements and EHC plans has increased

- There were **1,149** children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by North Lincolnshire in January 2022. In January 2023 there are **1,320** EHCPs. This represents a **15%** increase.

The total number of requests and assessments has increased

Requests for assessment have continued to rise steadily, in line with the national picture.

In the year 2021 there were **267** requests for assessment received. In 2022 there were **317**. This represents a **19%** increase. **241** of these requests continued to an assessment of EHC needs in 2023 compared to **178** in 2022.

EHCPs issued within 20 weeks

- Of the new EHCPs made during the 2021 calendar year, **81%** were issued within 20 weeks in 2022, **78%** of EHCP were issued within 20 weeks.

Mediation cases

- There were 5 mediation cases held during 2021. Of these mediation cases, 1 (20%) were followed by appeals to the tribunal during the 2021 calendar year.
- In 2022 there were 10 mediation cases and 1 appeal was heard at tribunal (10%)

Timeliness of Annual Review processes

Timeliness of the annual review process, amendment of an existing EHCP following review and finalising a draft EHCP is measured using statutory indicators and locally agreed indicators. EHCP Coordinators have now eradicated the backlog of EHCP requiring amendments and are working within the locally agreed 16 week turnaround in the overwhelming majority of cases.

DSG High Needs Block 2023/2024

HIGH NEEDS BUDGET 2023/24

		Total DSG Allocation 2023/24
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET (ISB)		
Special Schools Place Led Funding		4,009,853
<u>HIGH NEEDS BUDGET</u>		
	Top Up Funding for Maintained Schools	5,088,000
	Top Up Funding for Academies	1,214,000
	Top Up Funding for Independant Schools	8,454,000
	Top Up Funding Colleges	<u>688,000</u>
Top Up Funding		15,444,000
	Tuition and Medical Needs	247,000
	Alternative Provision	<u>1,217,000</u>
Other AP provision		1,464,000
	Special Needs General	550,000
	Autism	477,000
	Portage	226,000
	SEND Education Inclusion	211,000
	EISS	109,000
	SEN Careers & Progression	25,000
	Hearing Support Service	448,000
	Visually Impaired Service	511,000
	Physically Impaired Service	148,000
	Speech & Language Therapy	206,000
	Educational Wellbeing	398,000
	Education Inclusion Team	836,000
	KS2 Provision	495,000
	Preschool SEND (SENIF)	<u>275,000</u>
SEN support services		4,915,000
TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BUDGET		<u>25,832,853</u>
DSG HIGH NEEDS FUNDING BLOCK (after recoupmnt for AP places, FE and ILP provider and estimated import/export adjustments)		<u>26,735,369</u>
		-902,516

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

Element 3 top up

In 2022/2023 there was an uplift of 3% for element 3/High Needs Top Up.

In 2023/2024 it is proposed there will be an additional 3.4% uplift, along with a 3.4% uplift in place funding for the special schools (St Luke's/St Hugh's)

School Hubs

Through discussions with secondary head teachers, a revenue funding model has been agreed to support the school hubs that are currently open through SEND Capital Funding. Signed Memorandum of Understanding per school sets out clear criteria for access to the funding. Funding will be applied to schools by the end of January with an agreed timeline for the annual funding to continue. Hubs are providing support to children from the home school alongside supporting children from other schools and agreed LA placements.

The local authority LA will be offering the opportunity for primary schools to place a bid via SEND capital funding to open hubs within the primary phase with potential for additional funding revenue funding from DSG High Needs.

Increasing capacity of early intervention and support

A DDR request is in process for temporary additional Outreach Support for Behaviour Support and the Autism Spectrum Education Teams.

Additional funding has been requested for equipment for HI/VI teams.

There has been a discussion with head teachers about increasing capacity for Educational Psychology to further support early identification.

4. NEXT STEPS

To explore further opportunity for school based inclusion hubs using a mixed Capital / High Needs DSG funding model.

To review capacity of specialist teams.

To agree a 3.4% uplift of element 3 funding across all current bandings.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCHOOLS FORUM

Partners to support the developments outlined in this report and the recommendations for next steps.