

Schools Forum

17th November 2020

Schools Funding Consultation 2021/22

Introduction

1. Dedicated School Grant (DSG) to Local Authorities is allocated in blocks. There are blocks of funding for Early Years, Schools, High Needs and Central School Services. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) uses the national funding formula to calculate the blocks within the DSG that are allocated to local authorities. Local authorities currently have some flexibility in how this funding is allocated to schools, within the framework and constraints set out by the ESFA.
2. Following reports to Schools Forum on 6th October 2020 a consultation exercise was undertaken on proposals for next year funding arrangements.
3. This paper sets out the results of the recent local consultation with maintained schools and academies which covered preferences for the schools funding formula and a 0.5% transfer from the Schools to High Needs block for 2021/22. The schools forum should take into account the views of the schools responding before making their decision.

Background

4. In light of the need to focus efforts on meeting the challenges of COVID-19, DfE are not changing local authorities' flexibility over the distribution of school funding in 2021/22. The government will shortly put forward proposals to move to a 'hard' NFF in future, which will determine schools' budgets directly, rather than through local formulae set independently by each local authority. This will level up the school funding system so that all schools across the country are funded on a comparable basis. DfE will consult wider with local authorities, schools and others to make this transition carefully.
5. The council recently held a consultation on school funding arrangements for 2021/22, between 1st and 9th November (extended to 10th). A copy of the consultation document issued to schools is attached at **Appendix A** to this report.
6. It should be noted that the options regarding the schools funding formula within the consultation have been calculated based on October 2019 pupil data, which was the basis for the indicative funding published by the ESFA for consultation purposes. The final local authority allocations are due to be confirmed in December 2020 taking into account October 2020 pupil data.
7. The proposals in this report regarding the Schools Funding formula may therefore be subject to change. A Schools Forum meeting has been

arranged for 19th January 2021, where the full final proposals will be confirmed prior to submission to ESFA.

Summary of Consultation Responses

8. Of the 78 schools consulted with, 20 responses were received (compared to 36 in the previous year). Comments and key themes from the responses have been summarised in the relevant sections below.
9. The breakdown of the 20 responses (which is a 26% response rate) is as shown in the table below:-

LA Primary	6
LA Secondary	1
Primary Academy	6
Secondary Academy	3
Special Academy	4
TOTAL	20

10. Further detail on each of the proposals and consultation responses are provided below. A log of consultation response comments are set out in **Appendix B**.
11. The first three questions related to the Schools Funding formula and are considered together.

Question 1 - Do you agree, funding permitting, to increase the formula factors in line with the NFF? This is an increase of 3% to the formula's core factors (plus lump sum), except for the Free School Meals which will be increased by 2% and the PFI factor increasing in line with inflation.

Question 2 - Do you agree to set the MFG at the maximum of plus 2.0%, assuming the level of funding permits this?

Question 3 Do you agree to adjust the Basic Entitlement AWPU if funding allocated to the LA is greater than that needed to fulfil the National Funding Formula?

12. The council is required to apply a funding formula in order to allocate schools block funding to schools. The ESFA sets a range of factors we are able to use in the formula. Within each of these factors there are also certain restrictions that can apply; for example the application of minimum per pupil funding levels.

Consultation Responses

13. With the exception of one response to question 3, (the school did not provide a view) All other responses fully supported the proposals in Questions 1 to 3.

- Q1 20 Responded Yes
- Q2 20 Responded Yes
- Q3 19 Responded Yes

14. Schools Forum is asked to support the proposals for the schools funding formula for 2021/22 noting that:-

- a. All Schools Forum members may vote on this proposal.
- b. The local authority is required to consult with Schools Forum on the funding formula, however the local authority retains the final decision on the formula to be used.

Question 4 - Do you support the transfer of 0.5% (£0.687m) from the Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2021/22?

15. The council consulted on a 0.5% (£0.687m) transfer from the schools block to the High Needs block. Information was provided to schools on the background to the proposal as part of the consultation document and a High Needs report presented to the Forum as part of today's agenda provides further information including the current position and plans to manage High Needs Budget and DSG deficit.

16. The full consultation document is attached as an appendix to this report, but in summary the key points are:

- a. The ESFA expects most movements from schools block will be due to pressures on high needs budgets.
- b. The High Needs block in Stockton, in common with many around the country, is under considerable pressure due to increasing demands.
- c. The latest High Needs block projections for 2020/21 show the position has worsened with in-year net pressures of £1.144m.
- d. The DfE have announced that the High Needs NFF for 2021/22 will also have the same factors as at present, with £730 million of additional funding nationally. For Stockton this means an estimated additional £3.484m including £465k for the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant. However, the Governments High Needs budget announcement only refers to one year's funding for 2021/22 and looks no further ahead.
- e. Without the transfer the cumulative DSG overspend at the end of 2020-21 is projected to be £5.737m.
- f. Deficits on High Needs can only be recovered from DSG grant without Secretary of State approval to fund from other sources.
- g. Local authorities will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools Block to the high needs block of the DSG, with schools forum approval. A disapplication will be required to the Secretary of State for transfers above 0.5%, or any amount without schools forum approval.
- h. The requested transfer is the same level as that requested and approved for the current year 0.5% (2020/21= £0.66m).

- i. **Indicative calculations** on a school by school basis are shown at **Appendix C** which show that a transfer of 0.5% (£0.687m) to High Needs from Schools Block would facilitate an overall 3.13% increase in school budgets through the schools funding formula. **Please note that these figures are for illustration purposes only and are not the actual budget shares that schools will receive for 2021/22.**
- j. Currently this funding is not in schools budget formula baselines going into 2021/22 and so it can be used for High Needs without any unexpected detriment to the schools block budget.

Consultation Responses

17. Of the 20 responses received **17 (85%) supported the proposal**, 2 (10%) did not and 1 (5%) did not provide a view. Some respondents provided comments, in general these recognised the pressure on the High Needs Block and the need for further work to review costs.
18. The movement of up to 0.5% (approximately £0.687m) from the Schools block to High Needs is a Schools Forum decision. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree with the proposal, the DfE are able to decide, if the local authority requests this via the disapplication request process.
19. Schools Forum is asked to consider and vote on a proposal to transfer 0.5% (c£0.687m) from the schools block to the high needs block in 2021/22 noting that:-
 - a. All Schools Forum members may vote on this proposal.
 - b. It is a Schools Forum decision on whether to accept this proposal. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree with the proposal, the DfE are able to decide, if the local authority requests this.

Recommendation

20. Schools Forum is asked to support the proposals for the schools funding formula for 2021/22 noting that:-
 - a. All Schools Forum members may vote on this proposal.
 - b. The local authority is required to consult with Schools Forum on the funding formula, however the local authority retains the final decision on the formula to be used.
2. Schools Forum is asked to consider and vote on a proposal to transfer 0.5% (c£0.687m) from the schools block to the high needs block in 2021/22 noting that:-
 - a. All Schools Forum members may vote on this proposal.
 - b. It is a Schools Forum decision on whether to accept this proposal. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree, the DfE are able to decide if the local authority requests this.

School Funding 2021/22 - Consultation Document

PURPOSE

To seek views from maintained schools, academies and free schools on proposals in respect of Schools and High Needs Budgets for 2021/22. This consultation which ends on **Monday 9th November 2020**.

BACKGROUND

The Government have announced that core school funding increased by £2.6bn in 2020-21, and will increase by £4.8bn and £7.1bn in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively, compared to 2019-20, including significant additional funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities as detailed below.

High needs funding is increasing by a further £730m, or 10%, in 2021-22 – that follows the £780m increase this year and brings the total high needs budget to over £8bn.

Funding from the teachers pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, including the supplementary fund, will be added to schools' NFF allocations from 2021-22. The funding has been added to basic per pupil entitlement, to the minimum per pupil funding levels, and to schools baselines so that it is protected through the funding floor. This will simplify the allocation of this funding and is worth almost £2bn a year.

In light of the need to focus efforts on meeting the challenges of COVID-19, the Government are not changing local authorities flexibility over the distribution of school funding in 2021-22. The government will shortly put forward proposals to move to a 'hard' NFF in future, which will determine schools budgets directly, rather than through local formulae set independently by each local authority.

In 2021-22, local authorities will remain responsible for determining final allocations to schools, in consultation with the Schools Forum. It is the Councils intention that the additional funding for pay and pension grants will be passed on to schools in 2021-22.

The DfE will publish final dedicated schools grant allocations for LA's in December 2020.

SCHOOL BUDGET

The DfE have confirmed the following key elements of the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2021/22:

a. The additional money being invested in schools for 2021-22 means that the key factors in the NFF will increase by 3.0%. On top of this 3% uplift the Government have added a further £180 for

primary pupils and £265 for secondary pupils through the age-weighted pupil unit, to reflect the rolling in of the teachers pay and pension grants into the NFF.

b. The minimum per pupil levels in 2021-22 will be set at £4,180 for primary schools. The minimum per pupil levels will be £5,215 for KS3 and £5,715 for KS4 – ensuring that standard secondary schools with 5 year groups receive at least £5,415 per pupil. This includes £265 per secondary pupil for the rolling in of grants.

c. The 2021-22 NFF funding floor is set at 2.0%, broadly in line with current inflation forecasts. This means that every school will attract an increase in their pupil-led funding of at least 2.0% per pupil, compared to their funding floor baseline. The free school meals factor will also increase by 2.0%, as the factor value is based on an estimate of the actual cost of providing school meals.

d. Local authorities will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee in local formulae, which in 2021-22 must be between +0.5% and +2.0%.

e. Local authorities will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with schools forum approval. In 2021-22, the total schools block available for such transfers must exclude the additional funding local authorities have been allocated for the teachers' pay and pension grant, thereby guaranteeing that all of this funding remains with schools. A disapplication request to the Secretary of State will be required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without schools forum approval.

Formula Factors Increase

As mentioned above, as part of the 2021-22 operational guidance for local authorities there is a proposed increase to the NFF core factors. It is proposed to increase the formula's core factors by 3%, except for the Free School Meals will be increased by 2% and the PFI factor increasing in line with the RPIX measure of inflation (1.56%) to reflect PFI contracts. As presented, the lump sum remains at the same level as in the current year but could be increased if funding allowed. The proposed factors for 2021/22 both with and without a high needs transfer of 0.5% compared to 2020/21 are shown in **Appendix 1**.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

For the current year the Council in consultation with Schools Forum set formula factors to at least the National Funding Formula (NFF) factor values with a Minimum funding guarantee (MFG) at the maximum level of +1.84%.

The MFG is set by the Council following consultation with schools and the Schools Forum. In 2021/22 this can be set between +0.5% and +2.0%. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a way to protect schools funding on a per pupil rate. It is proposed to implement a +2.0% MFG so all mainstream schools see an increase at this level for pupil led factors.

Basic Per Pupil Entitlement

Otherwise referred to as AWPU (age weighted pupil unit) this is a compulsory formula factor that assigns funding on the basis of individual pupils, with the number of pupils for each school

or academy based on the previous October pupil census. These are not the minimum per-pupil funding levels referred to earlier. Stockton proposes that if there is any funding remaining after ensuring that all the formula factors and protections have been fulfilled that the balance will be allocated to all pupils through the basic entitlement (AWPU) factor.

Question 1 - Do you agree, funding permitting, to increase the formula factors in line with the NFF? This is an increase of 3% to the formula's core factors (plus lump sum), except for the Free School Meals which will be increased by 2% and the PFI factor increasing in line with inflation.

Question 2 - Do you agree to set the MFG at the maximum of plus 2.0%, assuming the level of funding permits this?

Question 3 - Do you agree to adjust the Basic Entitlement AWPU if funding allocated to the LA is greater than that needed to fulfil the National Funding Formula?

HIGH NEEDS BUDGET

The High Needs block supports provision for pupils and students with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities (SEND), from age 0 to 25, and alternative provision (AP) for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream schools.

As schools will be aware since the introduction of the new SEND code of practice in 2014, there has been a year on year increase in the demand placed on the High Needs Block due to increased numbers of children requiring SEN support and Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP). This can be seen from the table below:-

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Education, Health and Care Plans	929	1049	1193	1328	1452	1548
Permanent Exclusions	17	18	35	43	56	NA
Non Statutory SEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	380	384	493

At the end of the 2019/20 financial year the deficit against the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) was £4.424m. More recently it is estimated that there will be an in year increase in the net pressure of £1.313m by the end of 2020/21.

We continue to see an upward trajectory of spend and progress against actions to help mitigate some of the pressures have been significantly impacted by Covid 19 during the current financial year resulting in the estimated increase in the deficit.

The DfE have announced that the High Needs NFF for 2021/22 will also have the same factors as at present, with £730 million of additional funding nationally. For Stockton this means an additional £3.484m including the rolling in of the pay and pension grants. However, the Government's High Needs budget announcements only refer to one year's funding for 2021/22 and look no further ahead.

For 2021/22 local authorities will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to the high needs block of the DSG, with schools forum approval. However, such block transfers

cannot include the additional funding local authorities have been allocated for the teachers' pay and pension grants, thereby guaranteeing that all of this funding remains with schools. A disapplication will be required to the Secretary of State for transfers above 0.5%, or any amount without schools forum approval.

Last year both schools and the Forum supported a transfer of 0.5% (£0.669m) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. It is proposed that this remains at 0.5% for 2021/22 (£0.687m).

The table below and appendix 2 provide the latest projected position on High Needs. Spend is predicted to continue to rise as numbers increase. The government have only announced one year funding, so grant levels are maintained across the medium term. Without the transfer and any mitigating actions on savings then the deficit at the end of 2021/22 is projected to be £5.134m, rising to £6.461 by the end of 2023/24.

Please note that these figures are only estimates and there is a significant amount of work ongoing on mitigating actions to reduce down the deficit. If these savings do materialise then the estimated deficit may potentially reduce to £1.770m by the end of 2023/24. A report on High Needs is planned to be taken to the Schools Forum meeting in November.

High Needs Position	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
Estimated B/Fwd Spend Pressure from Previous Year	5.737	4.264	2.844
In- Year Projected Spend Pressure	2.881	0.205	1.122
Potential savings from actions	(0.870)	(1.625)	(2.196)
Additional Grant	(3.484)	TBC	TBC
Cumulative Overspend Assuming no Schools Budget Transfer	4.264	2.844	1.770
Cumulative Overspend Assuming no Schools Budget Transfer and potential savings do not materialise	5.134	5.339	6.461

Initial calculations based on indicative DfE DSG 2021/21 allocations show that if we transferred £0.687m to High Needs from the schools block, schools would still receive a 3.13% increase in overall budget through the school funding formula, excluding the increase related to teacher's pay and pension grants.

The Council consider this proposal a fair balance where the transfer will be minimised to ensure schools receive the maximum possible increase in their budgets to reflect the on-going pressures that they have identified in recent years, whilst the shortfall in the HN budget is partially addressed.

Question 4 - Do you support the transfer of 0.5% (£0.687m) from the Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2021/22?

TIMETABLE

The outputs from the consultation will be reported to the School Forum meeting on 17th November 2020. The table below summarises the next steps;

<u>Date</u>	<u>Process</u>
6 November 2020	Consultation closes
17 November 2020	Consultation outcomes to Schools Forum
20 November 2020	Deadline for Secretary of State Disapplication request to be submitted (if needed).
21 January 2021	Deadline for submission of final 2020 to 2021 APT to ESFA
28 February 2021	Deadline for confirmation of school's budget shares to mainstream maintained schools.

Consultation Questions

Question 1 - Do you agree, funding permitting, to increase the formula factors in line with the NFF? This is an increase of 3% to the formula's core factors (plus lump sum), except for the Free School Meals which will be increased by 2% and the PFI factor increasing in line with inflation.

	Response	Comments
Yes		
No		
No views		

Question 2 - Do you agree to set the MFG at the maximum of plus 2.0%, assuming the level of funding permits this?

	Response	Comments
Yes		
No		
No views		

Illustrative Factor Values	APPENDIX 1					
	(A)	(B)			(C)	
	2020/21 Factor values	Proposed 2021/22 Factor Values with 0.5% transfer to HN	% Incr	Proposed 2021/22 Factor Values with no transfer to HN	% Incr	
<u>Pupil-led factors</u>						
Primary (Years R-6)	£2,869	£3,123	8.9%	£3,143	9.6%	
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,032	£4,404	9.2%	£4,433	9.9%	
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,577	£4,963	8.4%	£4,995	9.1%	
FMS - PRIM	£450	£460	2.2%	£460	2.2%	
FMS - SEC	£450	£460	2.2%	£460	2.2%	
FSM6 - PRIM	£560	£575	2.7%	£575	2.7%	
FSM6 - SEC	£815	£840	3.1%	£840	3.1%	
IDACI (P F)	£210	£215	2.4%	£215	2.4%	
IDACI (P E)	£250	£260	4.0%	£260	4.0%	
IDACI (P D)	£375	£410	9.3%	£410	9.3%	
IDACI (P C)	£405	£445	9.9%	£445	9.9%	
IDACI (P B)	£435	£475	9.2%	£475	9.2%	
IDACI (P A)	£600	£620	3.3%	£620	3.3%	
IDACI (S F)	£300	£310	3.3%	£310	3.3%	
IDACI (S E)	£405	£415	2.5%	£415	2.5%	
IDACI (S D)	£535	£580	8.4%	£580	8.4%	
IDACI (S C)	£580	£630	8.6%	£630	8.6%	
IDACI (S B)	£625	£680	8.8%	£680	8.8%	
IDACI (S A)	£840	£865	3.0%	£865	3.0%	
EAL 3 Primary	£535	£550	2.8%	£550	2.8%	
EAL 3 Secondary	£1,440	£1,485	3.1%	£1,485	3.1%	
Mobility - Prim	£875	£900	2.9%	£900	2.9%	
Mobility - Sec	£1,250	£1,290	3.2%	£1,290	3.2%	
Low Attainment - Prim	£1,065	£1,095	2.8%	£1,095	2.8%	
Low Attainment - Sec	£1,610	£1,660	3.1%	£1,660	3.1%	
Lump Sum (per school)	£114,400	£114,400	0.0%	£114,400	0.0%	
Sparsity - Prim	£0 - £26,000	£0 - £45,000		£0 - £45,000		
Sparsity - Sec	£0 - £67,600	£0 - £70,000		£0 - £70,000		
Rates	Actual	Actual		Actual		
PFI	Actual	Actual		Actual		
Min per pupil funding - Primary	£3,750	£4,180		£4,180		
Min per pupil funding - Secondary	£5,000	£5,415		£5,415		
MFG	1.84%	2.00%		2.00%		
Capping	7.02%	2.78%		N/A		

				APPENDIX 2
Budget Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24				
(No Block Transfer 2021/22)				
		Projection		
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
		£	£	£
<u>Top-ups etc. (Excluding Base Funding)</u>				
Maintained Schools (Mainstream)		1,175,150	1,254,191	1,320,358
PRU		596,050	596,050	596,050
Academies	Mainstream	2,384,885	2,584,885	2,784,885
Academies	Special	4,270,157	4,402,157	4,534,157
SBC - Academies (Post-16)		725,180	732,432	739,756
Post-16 Other Colleges and Misc		1,245,195	1,251,421	1,257,678
Agency Placements		4,685,461	4,911,008	5,119,433
Nursery - PVI sector		290,336	304,853	320,095
Out of Area Specialist placements in Academies & Maintained Schools		1,231,000	1,419,245	1,654,732
		16,603,414	17,456,242	18,327,145
<u>Base Funding (Incl. recoupment)</u>				
EMS Maintained Schools and ARP Protection		981,905	920,015	868,408
PRU		650,000	650,000	650,000
Academies - EMS - Mainstream and Endeavour		1,047,667	1,047,667	1,047,667
Academies Special		5,126,667	5,126,667	5,206,667
Post-16 Places		2,118,000	2,118,000	2,118,000
SEN Support and Inclusion		3,282,615	3,299,702	3,316,959
Pathway Development Centres (Excluded / at risk of being excluded pupils)		749,500	749,500	749,500
		13,956,354	13,911,550	13,957,200
Total High Needs expenditure		30,559,767	31,367,791	32,284,345
		-	-	-
<u>DSG High Needs Block Funding</u>				
Initial HN DSG allocation		(27,558,907)	(31,042,666)	(31,042,666)
Early Years Block - SEN Inclusion fund		(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)
Total Funding		(27,678,907)	(31,162,666)	(31,162,666)
In Year High Needs Funding gap		2,880,860	205,125	1,121,679
<u>Potential Savings</u>				
EMS Provisions - Mapping exercise		(80,000)	(40,000)	0
Post-16 - Mapping exercise		(70,000)	(110,000)	(110,000)
Reduction in OOA Special school placements		(32,000)	(32,000)	(32,000)
Tees Valley Special Free school		0	(127,000)	(218,000)
Partnership places at KS1/2 PDC's		(33,000)	(33,000)	(33,000)
Reduction in number of Independent Special School placements.		(455,000)	(1,083,000)	(1,603,000)
Sub-total potential savings		(670,000)	(1,425,000)	(1,996,000)
<u>Additional Funding</u>				
Additional High Needs DSG		(3,483,759)		
Joint Commissioning / continuing care		(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)
Sub-total potential additional funding		(3,683,759)	(200,000)	(200,000)
Total Potential Savings / Additional Funding		(4,353,759)	(1,625,000)	(2,196,000)
Revised Estimated in Year Budget gap / (saving)		(1,472,899)	(1,419,875)	(1,074,321)
Brought Forward DSG Deficit		5,736,846	4,263,947	2,844,072
Carry Forward DSG Budget Deficit		4,263,947	2,844,072	1,769,751

Appendix B

LOG OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Question 1 - Do you agree, funding permitting, to increase the formula factors in line with the NFF? This is an increase of 3% to the formula's core factors (plus lump sum), except for the Free School Meals which will be increased by 2% and the PFI factor increasing in line with inflation.

<u>RESPONSE NO.</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
1	No comments

Question 2 - Do you agree to set the MFG at the maximum of plus 2.0%, assuming the level of funding permits this?

<u>RESPONSE NO.</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
1	No comments

Question 3 - Do you agree to adjust the Basic Entitlement AWPU if funding allocated to the LA is greater than that needed to fulfil the National Funding Formula?

<u>RESPONSE NO.</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
1	No comments

Question 4 - Do you support the transfer of 0.5% (£0.687m) from the Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2021/22?

<u>RESPONSE NO.</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
1	<p>Whilst we support retaining the transfer at a reduced level of 0.5% from the Schools Block to High Needs block in 2021/22, as in previous consultations, there is no mention of affording pupils in special schools the same increase as those afforded to pupils in mainstream education. The increase is welcomed to the base funding of £10k to cover the pay and pension grants (HNF Operational Guide 21/22 - £660 increase to basic entitlement factor), however the consultation mentions the transfer of £0.687m to the High Needs from the school block "schools would still receive a 3.13% increase in overall budget through the school formula excluding the increase in teachers' pay and pension grants". Are you proposing to increase the top-ups values for special schools to allow the same level of increase?</p> <p>There does not appear to be any consideration for children in special schools to receive the 2% FSM increase and 3% in "other core factors". Given the methodology for special school funding, unless significant changes were made, this could only be allocated by an increase in top-up values, i.e. high needs</p>

	<p>funding. As previously suggested, the easiest way to ensure per pupil increases are not double funded would be to apply the same increase to a separate range of top-up values for pupils in special schools and academies. This distinction of bandings for children in mainstream compared to special schools is widely used across other Local Authorities.</p>
2	<p>While I know High Needs requires additional funding £0.687m is a huge amount of funding which could be used in schools</p>
3	<p>Unfortunately I cannot support this transfer this year as I did last year. It seems that we have the same difficulties with High Needs Funding year on year and it is not just down to an increase in EHCP's. When parents were reassured that their children had the right educational provision such as the old ARP's then statements/EHCP's were not required.</p> <p>I think that a more detailed and clear break down of where the High Needs Funding is being spent should be given to schools so that we are fully informed of where the money is actually going in order to give an informed view.</p> <p>I do want to support the SEND children of Stockton but feel there is not enough scrutiny of the spending of High Needs to agree for a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block.</p> <p>The proposed EMS mapping exercise looks to only save 8 EMS places in 21/22 and 4 places in 22/23 which is very poor! We can get more savings by not paying for private therapist services which Stockton brought in as part of the move to EMS. We can save money by reviewing the number of empty places in EMS. We would definitely save money by good SEND provision and therefore not need as many EHCP's.</p>