

Briefing Note
SEND funding from 1 April 2013

Background and context

With effect from 1 April 2013, there will be changes in the funding methodology for SEND to schools. The LA will only retain £300k (see Exceptional Circumstances Funding for details of this) of the total of £44M available for SEND funding in all its' forms, but it will be delegated to schools and clusters on a formula basis.

None of the funding will be child-specific, in the way it formerly was. Schools and clusters are expected to work together to identify where there is need in schools for additional funding required to support the specific needs of a particular pupil, that cannot be wholly met from within a school's revenue budget.

Schools and clusters are delegated SEND funding in two ways; via the school's revenue budget, and via the cluster.

Details of how the funding is calculated can be found below:

School SEN Memorandum

School based SEN funding has changed from 1 April 2013 due to government directives. It no longer all appears in budget line I03, but appears in the main budget line I01, along with the majority of the revenue funding a school receives.

The SEN memorandum provided to all schools shows in greater detail the figures and where they appear in the main school budget share.

School-based SEN funding consists of 3 elements; the former Basic School Allocation, the former School Specific Allocation, and a proportion of the former Pupil Specific Funding, totalling approximately £35M.

An example SEN memorandum is attached as an appendix to this guidance.

For each school, the funding is calculated as:

Former BSA = a lump sum of £1,180 (shown as 1.3 on the SEN memo and budget share; budget line I01) + £18.13 per pupil (shown at 1.2 on the SEN memo and budget share; budget line I01)

Former SSA = a sum based on deprivation and prior attainment, plus the Personalised Learning element previously allocated on deprivation and prior attainment (shown at 1.8 and 1.9 on the SEN memo and budget share; budget line I01).

Former PSF = a lump sum of £6,000 per school (shown at 1.3 on the SEN memo and budget share; budget line I01) + £42.76 per pupil (shown at 1.2 on the SEN memo and budget share; budget line I01)

This method of allocating funding means that any child with additional needs should have those needs met using a combination of support to a value of £6,000 from the school budget. If a school is providing additional support costing over the notional

£6,000 per child, they should bid to the cluster for additional funds to meet the additional cost of the provision.

NB. SRB funding

Schools that host special units such as Specialist Resource Bases etc receive funding based on places, and this funding shows on the SEN memo at 3.1. This funding will appear on budget line I03.

SEND cluster memorandum

The cluster memorandum details the way in which the remaining £9M of former PSF funding has been calculated for distribution via clusters. The calculations are for indicative reasons only, and are not designed to show sums that should be distributed to each school. It is for each cluster to decide, based on its cluster agreement, how to identify additional needs across the cluster, and therefore how the funding should be distributed.

An example of the cluster memorandum is attached as an appendix to this guidance. The memorandum has 15 columns, as follows:

1. The name of each school in the cluster
2. Also labelled column **A**. This shows the amount of former PSF funding allocated to the cluster and each of the constituent schools in 2012/13. This is totalled at A.
3. The amount each school in the cluster generates for that cluster, based on prior attainment data.
4. The amount each school in the cluster generates for the cluster, based on the social deprivation index IDACI.
5. The amount each school in the cluster generates for the cluster, based on pupil numbers.
6. A lump sum of £6,000 for each child that has a statement of Physical Difficulty, based on July 2012 data.
7. A lump sum of £5,000 for the cluster for administration purposes, shown against the cluster chair school.
8. A column used where there are one or more academies in the cluster. This shows an adjustment for the amount recouped from the LA to give directly to academies for the summer term 2013. This represents 5/12 of their 2012/13 PSF allocation, net of 5/12 of the newly delegated SEN, and is intended to allow academies to keep their current support arrangements until the end of August 2013. However, if academies have any new YR or Y7 pupils with high needs, they will not have been included in the 12/13 PSF data and may therefore approach clusters for any additional support required, even for the summer term 2013.
9. Also labelled column **B**. This is the total of funding for the cluster for columns 2-7; i.e. the total calculated using the new formula methodology.

The second part of the statement relates to funding within the schools budget share, which is in line I01.

10. The lump sum of £6,000 for each school that has been included in their respective budget shares. Also shown in the SEN memorandum.
11. The per-pupil funding for each school that has already been included in their respective budget shares. Also shown in the SEN memorandum.
12. Also labelled column **C**. This is the total funding that was former PSF that has already been included in school budget shares, i.e. the total of columns 9 and 10.
13. Also labelled column **D**. This is the total former PSF funding allocated to the cluster using the new formula methodology, using both the sums allocated to each school and the amount delegated to the cluster, i.e. it is the total of **B + C**.
14. Also labelled column **E**. Following discussions with school leaders, governors and LA officers, the Schools' Forum agreed that a transitional arrangement was appropriate in year 1 of the new methodology, to give schools time to undertake any staffing adjustments that are required following the changes. There has therefore been a cap on gaining clusters of +15% when compared with the funding received in 2012/13, and a cap on losing clusters of -10% when compared with the funding received in 2012/13. This column shows either the capped figure; i.e. for gaining clusters = $A+15\%$; for losing clusters = $A-10\%$, or, where the gain/loss is within the capped figure, $E = D$.
15. Also labelled column **F**. This is the figure at E minus the figure at C, and is the actual sum allocated to the cluster.

Exceptional Circumstances Funding

The authority is holding a very small pot of money (£300,000) in 2013/14 for exceptional circumstances relating to SEND support. This funding will be allocated via SEND panels, using the criteria circulated on MI sheet 177/12.

Applications for funding from this pot must be made by clusters, and not individual schools.

Any queries regarding funding for SEND should be directed to your Finance Support Officer in the first instance.

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