

SCHOOLS FORUM

Meeting date: 9 June 2021

**From: Daniel Barton
Assistant Director – Education & Skills**

NOTIONAL SEN

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1** *This report updates the Schools Forum on the outcome of modelling the impact of reinstating the first £6,000 of support for high needs pupils following consideration by the Budget and SEN working groups.*
- 1.2** *The Budget and SEN working groups recommend to Schools Forum that schools and academies are consulted on the removal of Targeted SEN.*
- 1.3** *Schools Forum are asked to consider the draft consultation document with a view to it being launched on 10 June 2021 for a period of 3 weeks.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1** Ensuring that Cumbrian schools are funded appropriately is supportive of the Council Plan outcome that 'People in Cumbria are healthy and safe'.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** The Schools Forum are asked to:

- support the recommendation to consult all schools and academies on reinstating the first £6,000 of support for pupils with high needs, removing targeted SEN, and applying transitional protection so no school is worse off than expected during 2021/22 with effect from 1 September 2021;
- consider the draft consultation document and feedback ahead of the consultation launch date of 10 June 2021.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1** On the 11 February a joint meeting of the Budget and SEN working groups considered the issue of notional SEN and agreed to model the impact of reinstating the first £6,000 of support in schools for high needs pupils. As it

was estimated this would cost c£2.000m, it was also agreed to model the impact of removing targeted SEN funding.

- 4.2** This modelling was presented to Schools Forum at its meeting on 11 March 2021. It was agreed that the change to notional and targeted SEN funding should be introduced from 1 September 2021 but, as this would be a change in the middle of the financial year for maintained schools, consideration should be given to applying transitional protection.
- 4.3** Further work has been undertaken on the modelling and the impact on individual schools and academies was presented to the Budget and SEN workings groups on 5 May 2021.

MODELLING

- 4.4** The modelling is summarised below and the impact on individual schools is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.5** The part year impact of reinstating the first £6,000 of support for high needs pupils and removing targeted SEN from 1 September 2021 is a saving of £946. However, 99 schools would be worse off under this arrangement, 166 would benefit, and 42 would be unaffected. Of the 99 schools that would be worse off transitional protection totalling £378,349 would bring those schools back to their original position for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022. The net impact of the cost of reinstating the first £6,000 of support, removing targeted SEN and providing transitional protection to 99 schools to make them no worse off than they would have been, is a part impact of £377,404.

Part year impact from 1 September 2021

	(a)	(b)	(c) (a+b)	(d)		(e)		(f)	(g) (d + e + f)
	Total EHCP Top-Up Funding 2021/22	Total Targeted SEN Funding 2021/22	Total EHCP Top-up and Targeted SEN Funding 2021/22	Impact of reinstating Notional SEN Threshold to £6,000 wef September 2021		Removal of Targeted SEN wef September 2021		Transitional Protection	Net impact
	£	£	£	£	No of schools	£	No of schools	£	£
Primary	7,363,701	1,083,000	8,446,701	615,464	113	(631,750)	82	247,543	231,257
Secondary	4,814,077	840,000	5,654,077	505,341	25	(490,000)	17	130,806	146,147
TOTAL	12,177,778	1,923,000	14,100,778	1,120,805	138	(1,121,750)	99	378,349	377,404

- 4.6** Using 2021/22 data the full year impact of reinstating the first £6,000 of support and removing targeted SEN would be a net cost of £75,390. In this scenario 93 schools would be worse off and transitional funding of £602,794 would be required resulting in a net full year cost of £678,184 as shown below.

Full year impact based on 2021/22 data

	(a)	(b)	(c) (a+b)	(d)		(e)		(f)	(g) (d + e + f)
	Indicative Total EHCP Top-Up Funding 2022/23	Indicative Total Targeted SEN Funding 2022/23	Indicative Total EHCP Top-up and Targeted SEN Funding 2022/23	Indicative Impact of reinstating Notional SEN Threshold to £6,000 2022/23		Indicative Removal of Targeted SEN 2022/23		Indicative Transitional Protection	Net impact
	£	£	£	£	No of schools	£	No of schools	£	£
Primary	7,363,701	1,083,000	8,446,701	1,140,388	113	(1,083,000)	76	375,820	433,208
Secondary	4,814,077	840,000	5,654,077	858,002	25	(840,000)	17	226,974	244,976
TOTAL	12,177,778	1,923,000	14,100,778	1,998,390	138	(1,923,000)	93	602,794	678,184

4.7 Whilst the actual full year impact in 2022/23 is not certain as numbers of pupils with EHCPs will vary, using 2021/22 data shows an indicative in year cost of £0.678m.

4.8 The Budget and SEN Working Groups considered the modelling and have made a recommendation to Schools Forum that the schools are consulted on the removal of Targeted SEN, that full transitional protection is applied and that schools should be consulted on implementation with effect from 1 September 2021.

4.9 To this end, a draft consultation document is attached at Appendix 2. Some discussion took place at the working groups meeting around whether transitional protection should apply beyond 31 March 2022 and if so at what level and it was agreed to seek the views from schools and academies through the consultation document.

4.10 Once Schools Forum have had an opportunity to feedback on the draft consultation it is planned that the consultation will be launched on 10 June 2021 and run for a period of 3 weeks. After which the outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Schools Forum at an extra meeting to be held on 8 July 2021.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The Schools Forum are asked to:

- consider the recommendation made by the Budget and SEN working groups to removal the Targeted SEN funding, apply transitional protection for these schools that would be worse off and implement the changes with effect from 1 September 2021. to Schools Forum that schools should be consulted on implementation with effect from 1 September 2021.
- consider the draft consultation document and feedback ahead of the planned consultation launch date of 10 June 2021.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Resource and value for money implications are considered throughout this paper.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 This paper presents to the Schools Forum the outcome of the modelling to reinstate the notional SEN threshold of £6,000, the removal of Targeted SEN funding and transitional protection with planned implementation date of 1 September 2021 and asks the Schools Forum to feedback on the draft consultation document ahead of the planned launch date of 10 June 2021.

Daniel Barton
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1 June 2021

Accompanying Documents

Appendix 1 – Individual school level modelling of Notional SEN
Appendix 2 – Draft Notional SEN Consultation Document

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