

Warwickshire County Council SEND and Inclusion

Frequently Asked Questions Top Up Funding Implementation



No'	Question	Answer
1	How was the new funding developed?	The new funding matrix was developed in partnership with Warwickshire education settings, both mainstream and special. A trial of the funding matrix was run, and which education settings were offered to take part in which helped us ensure that the new funding matrix works.
2	Is the new funding matrix being introduced just to cut costs?	No, it is expected that this new funding matrix will increase the amount of funding being given to schools and is not a cost cutting exercise; it has been designed to ensure that schools receive the right funding at the right time. Schools have raised previously that the funding that they were in receipt of was not allowing them to support their children fully; the council has listened to this feedback, and this is why the new funding matrix has been developed to better support you and enable you to increase inclusiveness.
3	When will the new funding matrix be used from? Is it optional?	This will be used for all new draft Plans issued on or after 1 st September 2023. There will be a phased rollout for all existing Plans starting from September 2023 and projected to end by August 2025. You will be kept up to date about which year groups this is affecting by various comms, such as Heads Up and email. It has been rolled out this way to help schools manage their finances through a planned and systematic approach. It is not optional; this is the new funding matrix being implemented by SENDAR (SEND Assessment and Review) to ensure a transparent and consistent approach to funding.
4	What settings does the new funding apply to?	The funding will be used across all mainstream and specialist settings except for post-16 institutions such as colleges. The funding allocations for each band are the same for both mainstream and specialist settings.
5	Is notional funding still being taken into account?	Yes, the notional funding is still being included. The amount each funding band is specified at is without the notional £6,000 included.
6	Is the matrix submitted with a request for EHCNA (Education Health and Care Needs Assessment) changing and do we still need to complete it?	The matrix form for the EHCNA application is not changing; this is based on the provision being implemented by school before a ECHNA is completed and is therefore not based on the additional information gathered in the ECHNA. Although provision may be similar on some occasions and may be used in the writing of Section F, they are still separate and need to be treated as such. This still needs to be completed and submitted with the EHCNA request to help demonstrate the graduated response and the school using the notional £6,000.
7	If we are submitting a matrix with the referral for EHCNA, do we need to wait until Section F to receive funding?	Yes. Funding is allocated by the LA (Local Authority) and is only released on the issue of a Final EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan). It is based on Section F of the EHCP. Prior to this, schools have a notional £6,000 that is to be used to provide any additional provision needed.
8	Can schools apply for top up funding for CYP who do not have an EHCP?	No, schools are expected to use their notional £6,000 in line with the Code of Practice.
9	What are the funding bands?	The funding bands are A-Q and have the following amounts assigned to them: Band A = £860 Band B = £2,340 Band C = £3,820 Band D = £5,300

		<p>Band E = £6,780 Band F = £8,260 Band G = £9,740 Band H = £11,220 Band I = £12,700 Band J = £14,180 Band K = £15,660 Band L = £17,140 Band M = £18,620 Band N = £20,100 Band O = £21,580 Band P = £23,060 Band Q = N/A (this level is considered above the matrix and the school will be submitting a costed IEP)</p>
10	Are you using the most up to date costs for a TA?	Yes, this has been designed in conjunction with schools and takes into account the most recent TA costings.
11	What if we are using a higher-level TA than specified on the matrix?	This is an operational decision school make; the LA can only fund the level of TA specified. This is to ensure fairness and consistency across the county as funding is allocated based on Section F alone and not school staffing.
12	Will a costed provision map need to be submitted with each review?	No, the funding now being allocated is substantive funding and does not operate on the old 'top-up' system. The only time funding will be reviewed is if there are any changes to Section F. However, if school wish to submit a provision map to detail how support is being implemented, this would be welcomed.
13	Will a costed IEP need to be submitted with draft EHCP's?	No; the new funding matrix allows for funding to be allocated without a costed IEP. However, if Band Q is allocated, a costed IEP will be requested as this is above the funding values allocated on the matrix.
14	Will this consider oncosts of TA's?	Yes, the values within the different funding bands value is based on the full cost of hiring a TA.
15	Does the matrix cover the cost of agency TA's?	No, this will not be included in the matrix. If agency TA is needed, this will be agreed on an 'exceptional circumstance basis' for a limited time and will require evidence of school attempting to recruit. This will be discussed on an individual basis with your Plan Coordinator.
16	Does the matrix take into account the use mid-day supervisors?	Yes, this is included in the matrix and funded as appropriate.
17	If a CYP needs full time 1:1 provision, will this be automatically Band Q?	No, the funding bands take this into account and the amount of provision needed. Please see the level descriptors for more information on how much is allocated for each band.
18	What if a CYP requires 2:1 funding?	This is likely to be agreed through Band Q and must be explicitly written into a child/young person's EHCP. It is very rare that this provision is provided, and you should speak to your Plan Coordinator in the first instance if you think this provision is needed.
19	The matrix descriptors show a maximum of 4 hours of support each day, what does this mean for children who need support throughout the day?	The descriptors show maximum amount in each of the areas which is then incorporated into the funding. It is calculated as an overall total for all four areas of need, and it is unlikely that a child would only have needs relating to a single category.
20	Does the matrix allow extra funding for SENCo time?	SENCo time is part of the universal provision that is in place for all children and young people. This is a salaried position and therefore cannot be additionally funded by SENDAR. Some SENCo's may also

		have class teacher responsibilities which is a school's operational decision. If a SENCo requires more time for SENCo duties, this should be discussed with the schools SLT.
21	Does the funding cover Flex learning provision?	No, this is taken from the schools AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit) funding and not from additional SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) funding.
22	The EHCP specifies support from external agencies, is this covered in the matrix funding?	Where appropriate, yes, the use of external agencies is taken into account.
23	Does the matrix cover the cost of training?	No. Most training is already covered by the relevant agencies involved in supporting the CYP. Any additional training should be funded through the schools training budget.
24	Would annual reviews prompt a change to Section F?	Yes, if a change is needed to Section F, this should always be done the Annual Review and with the support of appropriate external professionals. Any change to a child/young person's needs should be discussed through the annual review.
25	Can funding be appealed?	Section J cannot be appealed by school, however, following feedback from schools, it was shared that schools would value having the opportunity to discuss the funding allocated in more detail. In the first instance, this should always be discussed with your Plan Coordinator. If you would still like further conversation following this, you will be able to book on to a Super User Surgery to review the funding and discuss further how this can be used to implement provision. In exceptional circumstances, an MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) may be arranged by SENDAR to look at how school can implement the provision with the funding allocated.
26	How is the funding reviewed and is this going to be linked with the quality of EHCP's?	The funding is being reviewed in the Quality Assurance framework to ensure that the advice being written is accurate and consistent and allows for schools to get the correct funding in line with the needs of the young person, as well as ensuring that it is being allocated fairly and consistently.