

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education and Skills
Date:	24 February 2021
Title:	Proposal to move to a SEN Banding Framework for Education, Health and Care Plans' (EHCP) top-up funding
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. The decision:

1.1. That the Executive Member for Education and Skills notes that:

- the proposed Banding Framework, in combination with the separately published guidance about SEN support in mainstream schools, is intended to enhance outcomes for children and young people by enabling access to a broader range of support and promote a young person's independence.
- this proposal aims to bring the funding in line with best practice that schools have adopted.
- this system moves away from hours of learning support assistance and assigns funding against a broad range of best practice provisions that matches specific types and levels of need.
- based on the financial modelling completed, the impact of this change on a school's budget would not be significant. Individual mainstream schools would retain the flexibility to pool and draw on their overall budgets and would continue to be legally required to use their best endeavours to provide for all children and young people's SEN including those who are subject to an Education, Health and Care plan. Similarly, the County Council would maintain its ultimate duty to secure the provision in EHC plans. The proposal is not intended, or expected, to lead to a reduction in the High Needs budget used to fund top-funding for EHC plans in mainstream schools.
- from public consultation, overall, respondents prefer the proposed banding mechanism to the existing funding mechanism and the majority also agree with the proposed bands that could be applied. Perceived strengths of the approach included potential improvements to the range of provision to support children with SEN, the potential to help them become more independent and the greater simplicity for service users' families.

1.2. That the Executive Member for Education and Skills approves the proposal to move to a SEN Banding Framework.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. That the proposed Banding Framework, in combination with the separately published guidance about SEN support in mainstream schools, will enhance outcomes for children and young people by enabling access to a broader range of support and promote a young person's independence.
- 2.2. That this proposal brings the funding in line with best practice that schools have adopted.
- 2.3. That this system moves away from hours of learning support assistance and assigns funding against a broad range of best practice provisions that matches specific types and levels of need.
- 2.4. That based on the financial modelling completed, the impact of this change on a school's budget would not be significant. Individual mainstream schools would retain the flexibility to pool and draw on their overall budgets and would continue to be legally required to use their best endeavours to provide for all children and young people's SEN including those who are subject to an EHC plan. Similarly, the County Council would maintain its ultimate duty to secure the provision in EHC plans.
- 2.5. That from public consultation, overall, respondents prefer the proposed banding mechanism to the existing funding mechanism and the majority also agree with the proposed bands that could be applied. Perceived strengths of the approach included potential improvements to the range of provision to support children with SEN, the potential to help them become more independent and the greater simplicity for service users' families.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Do nothing – retain current funding mechanism.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

In reaching this decision I have taking into consideration written comments received from Hampshire Parent Carer Network.

Approved by:

Date:

**Councillor Roz Chadd
Executive Member for Education and Skills**

24 February 2021