

Funding principles for the expansion and development of additional specialist placements within Isle of Wight mainstream schools and special schools 2024/2025

Context

The Isle of Wight, like many Local Authorities finds itself with pressure to its High Needs Block and is part of the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme. It is vital, as a council, that we address these pressures to deliver a balanced budget. However, Special Educational Needs (SEN) infrastructure across the Island has been historically under invested in and as such the demand for places has outstripped supply.

The funding principles for resourced provision places have not been reviewed in many years and are in some cases not fit for purpose as the amount the Local Authority allocates does not necessarily cover the basic costs of delivering the provision.

The following sets out the principles for funding for the expansion of additional places, through the development of satellite provision from our special schools and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), and for the expansion of Resourced Provisions.

To support the shortfall in specialist provision on the island the local authority has provided access to schools to apply for additional resource through 'discretionary funding'. In recent years there has been an increase in the demand for discretionary funding which has significantly contributed towards the Local Authority's High Needs deficit. The panel that reviews applications from schools for discretionary funding is managed better with a level of consistency and scrutiny to provision outlined in a young person's Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Evidence suggests the current discretionary funding model is not effective in delivering targeted, time bound interventions that supports reintegration or improve attainments for young people and has been under review with changes proposed as part of the plans around expansion of specialist provision and the efficient use of local authority resources.

Rationale

The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure children and young people with SEN are appropriately placed in provision which can meet their individual needs. Currently we have several children and young people with EHCP who would benefit from specialist provision, but their needs are being met in mainstream schools due to a lack of capacity of specialist provision on the island. This has resulted in allocation of Exceptional Funding Band alongside discretionary funding to support a tailored package of provision to meet needs.

Due to the shortfall of specialist provision, we also have several children placed off Island in Independent Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) which prove to be significantly higher cost for placement and adds additional pressure to the transport budget. Many families want their child to be educated on the Island in their local community and do not want them to reside elsewhere.

The expansion of specialist provision will also ensure our children and young people have the right support at the right time leading to an overall better entitlement, discharged through a formal school-based provision. This will deliver an improved educational offer for young people who are currently Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS) and reduce demand for discretionary spend on packages made up of multiple alternative provisions, weaved together to create bespoke packages for children and young people. This will also provide the Local Authority with reassurances on the safeguarding of our children and young people.

Schools Forum

The Local Authority is required to consult with Schools Forum on “arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding”. However, it is the Local Authority that is the final decision maker. [Stat guidance template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/2015-09-01)

Proposal - Funding for resourced provisions

Resourced provisions are designed for children and young people who can access mainstream schooling but require additional bespoke arrangements at certain times of the day to support them with their special educational needs. We expect children and young people in Resourced Provisions to spend at least more than 50% of their time in mainstream with their peers in line

with the DFE guidance. It is acknowledged that for some children and young people this will be a gradual process over time, the expectation is that the right support will be implemented and engagement in mainstream will increase in line with needs and presentation.

Current funding: Mainstream schools top up

Targeted A	Targeted B	Enhanced A	Enhanced B	Exceptional
£904	£1,698	£3,409	£5,222	£8,159

The above table demonstrates the SEND Banding Framework which has been developed by the Special Educational Needs & Disability Service in partnership with maintained and other state-funded mainstream schools; Hampshire & Isle of Wight Educational Psychology; Isle of Wight Finance and Legal Services; representative from Solent NHS, and local parents and carers.

Current Resourced Provision Funding:

The current allocation to Resourced provisions is funded as described,

- Element 1 funding is the basic entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit – AWPU) and other pupil led funding for these places included within mainstream school budget allocations.
- Element 2 funding (£6, 000) is provided from the High Needs Block – unless there is under occupancy in the Resource provision at the point of the October census in which case it will be funded at £10,000
- Element 3 Top up funding is provided in line with identified needs/diagnosis. (see table below)

Top up funding – element 3 is currently paid at the following rates:

	SEMH	Autism	SLCN
Primary	£3,894	£8,579	£4,275
Secondary	£3,894	£9,614	£4,275

Proposed Resourced Provision Funding:

	All Resourced provision
Primary	£8,579
Secondary	£9,614

The current proposal to Resourced provisions is as described,

- Element 1 funding is the basic entitlement (Age Weighted Pupil Unit – AWPU) and other pupil led funding for these places included within mainstream school budget allocations.
- Element 2 funding (£6,000) is provided from the High Needs Block – unless there is under occupancy in the Resource provision at the point of the October census in which case it will be funded at £10,000
- Element 3 Top up funding is provided in line with identified provision and is not specific to needs. It is expected that new Service Level Agreements will be developed in line with the Resource provision guide.

Existing Resourced Provisions

The proposal is to fund all existing resourced provisions at the rates set out above. Any expansions will result in an increase in their capacity, and they will be funded for each child or young person placed within the Resourced Provision at the new rate. This will happen for 01/04/24.

New Resourced Provision

Should there be expansion of new Resource provisions on the Island, commissioned numbers will be negotiated as part of the consultation process. Provision will be funded at full occupancy for the first twelve months to ensure the successful opening and transition of children and young people.

Funding for special schools

The current funding model for special schools has been amended to reflect a more inclusive language.

A1	£4,525
A2	£6,702
A3	£8,041
B1	£8,544
B2	£12,059
B3	£17,079

	1	2	3
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate Learning Difficulty Specific Learning Difficulty Physical Impairment (ambulant or non-ambulant but independent) ASD/ASC (see descriptors) Significant SLCN Anxiety & mental health Severe Sensory (1 aspect) 	<p>One item from A1 with one / two additional needs from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant sensory (1 aspect) SLCN additional physical impairment additional learning difficulty AS SEMH requiring planned positive intervention care/life skill needs requiring additional time from school staff debilitating medical condition (regular supervision by school staff) 	<p>One item from A1 with at least three additional needs from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant sensory (1 aspect) SLCN additional physical impairment additional learning difficulty AS SEMH requiring planned positive intervention care/life skill needs requiring additional time from school staff debilitating medical condition (regular supervision by school staff)
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe / Profound Learning Difficulty SEMH, including ADHD AS Profound Sensory / MSI Severe sensory integration Severe SLCN Physical Impairment (dependent) 	<p>Two items from B1 or one item from B1 with one / two additional needs from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant sensory SLCN additional physical impairment additional learning difficulty AS SEMH requiring planned positive intervention ADHD care/life skill needs requiring additional time from school staff debilitating medical condition (regular supervision by school staff) 	<p>Three items from B1 or Two items from B1 with at least three additional needs from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant sensory SLCN additional physical impairment AS SEMH requiring planned positive intervention additional learning difficulty care / life skill needs requiring additional time from school staff debilitating medical condition or life threatening condition (regular supervision by school staff)

Due to both of our special schools and our pupil referral unit sites being at maximum capacity we are proposing to set up several **satellite provisions** from these provisions. Funding will be based upon the standard rates. However, due to the complexities of setting up and running a satellite,

for their first year of operation, satellites will be funded for the agreed full occupancy at their base funding of £10,000, along with top up based on the table below. This will allow us to open satellites under occupancy, but with the staffing levels to offer the current provision to meet children and young people's needs successfully. This is due to complex needs of pupils attending, and to ensure we get the transition into the new provision right and to ensure the success of any new provisions set up.

Funding for Pupil Referral Units

There are different funding mechanisms in place at the Island Learning Centre due to the complexity of placements and different packages of educational support.

Medical placements are currently funded at £19, 028.

Capital Costs

The Local Authority will provide the accommodation specification in conjunction with school leaders, utilising the evidence of best practice from specialist across the country.

Capital funding will be provided through the LAs High Needs Capital Allocation.

We believe children and young people, deserve a world class education, in suitable accommodation, which can enable children and young people to thrive.