

Call for Evidence – Funding for SEND

We are aware of concerns about the funding allocated for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England, and are looking carefully at how much overall funding will be needed in future years. This call for evidence is an invitation to consider other aspects of the funding arrangements that:

- could be changed to help local authorities, schools, colleges and other providers in their support for young people with SEND, those requiring alternative provision (AP) and those at risk of exclusion from school, and
- may not be helping us get the most value from the resources available.

We have also asked the Council for Disabled Children to organise a small number of workshops across the country, so that we can discuss the themes in this call for evidence in greater detail. If you would like to attend one of these events, please register your interest at senfinancialevents@ncb.org.uk, giving your name, role, organisation and email address. They will send you information about the events as soon as it is available.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/funding-for-send-and-those-who-need-ap-call-for-ev/>

LGA research to understand drivers for rising demand and associated costs for home-to-school transport

Councils have highlighted to the LGA that increased demand for home-to-school transport in their localities is creating additional pressure on already stretched budgets. In the three-year period since the Children and Families Act came into force the number of children and young people with statements or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has risen dramatically, as has the percentage of children with EHCPs educated in the special sector. Similarly, an increased pupil population, more children on free school meals and a shift towards a school system enabling more school choice all point to growing scope for the number of children potentially eligible for home-to-school transport.

F40 Schools Funding Note

Sent with Agenda items

Meeting with SoS – 09/05/2019

12 heads met with the S of S and about 5 civil servants. Meeting scheduled for an hour but ran to 90 minutes, during the course of which the following points were raised -

- Desperate need for increase in overall funding for schools and for 5 / 10 year plan rather than pocket money approach to bits and pieces
- Ridiculous system of requesting 3 year forecasts without any firm information on costs / income
- Problems of small schools

- Problems of post 16 funding and extreme problems regarding mental health and other issues faced by post 16 students
- Mental health issues for students / lack of services outside school
- Problem of mental health issues for headteachers occasioned by stress caused by funding and related issues
- Rise of extremely challenging behaviour from students of all ages / link to dysfunctional families and lack of funded support for them
- Suggestion that more teachers leave because of such challenges than because of administrative tasks
- Irony that DfE are focusing on workload reduction whilst cost cutting reduces workforce and increases workload
- Disparity of funding across areas
- Disparity of practice across areas (high needs spending, etc)
- Recruitment issues leading to reduction in choice / quality of applicants
- Caution over international education funding comparisons given the breadth of our schools' remit
- Need to employ a different set of metrics by which to compare schools internationally which recognises what our schools actually achieve for our students
- Need to find £6000 for EHCPs and the additional money required to prepare for these
- Narrowing of curriculum
- Suggestion to save money by removing SATs / Ofsted
- Request for separate meeting for Special Schools given their unique challenges
- Problems of parental use of email / social media
- Parental perceptions of schools informed by market place image and emphasis on competition
- Proposal to nationalise private providers of special schools
- Pressure to replace experienced teachers because of cost
- Pressure to keep teachers below the threshold
- Insulting nature of DfE suggestions re cost saving strategies
- Pressure of unfunded support staff pay increases (living wage)
- Problems of lack of capital investment
- Frustration of constant pronouncements as to the record levels of funding for schools
- Impossibility of continuing to do more for less
- Variability of quality and access to alternative provision
- Confirmation of how much heads loved their jobs in the teeth of all that is going on

Governance leadership development programme

The Department for Education (DfE) has contracted 5 organisations to provide a professional development programme until March 2020.

Each provider's offer, including the duration, may be different, and you should consider which programme suits both you and your board's needs best.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-governors-professional-development>