**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TOP UP FUNDING FOR PUPILS**

**WITH EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS (EHCPS)**

**Special educational needs top up funding for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans**

Staffordshire County Council Local Authority is aiming to introduce a new Education Banding Tool. This will support the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team to calculate the education costs of the “top up” funding for Children and Young People (CYP) with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**How is top up funding allocated by the local authority?**

Government guidance says schools should provide up to the first £6,000 of additional or different support for those children who need it. This includes pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan.

For Children and Young People, who have an EHCP, top up funding is allocated by the Local Authority. It is based on where the child or young person lives, even if they attend a school or college in a different area outside of Staffordshire.

**What is the amount of top up funding based on?**

The amount of top up funding is based on:

* A child or young person’s special educational needs, and
* the level of support required to achieve the outcomes detailed in their Education Health and Care Plan.

**Why is the Education Banding Tool being introduced?**

We are introducing an Education Banding Tool to help us to calculate top up funding in a fair and consistent way. The tool allows us to:

* make calculations based on the support a child or young person needs to meet their educational outcomes and
* to secure the special educational provision to meet their special education needs as detailed in their Education Health and Care Plan.

**How does it work?**

The Education Banding Tool uses a needs profile. This captures a child or young person’s special educational needs using the information in their Education Health and Care Plan. The scored answers in the needs profile are used to calculate an individualised funding band for each child or young person. This is based on a complete picture of their needs linked to the four areas of need as detailed in the SEND Code of Practice.

**What are the benefits of the Education Banding Tool?**

Staffordshire carried out research on ways of funding before moving ahead with the Education Banding Tool. We wanted a tool which can accurately capture each child or young person’s needs. A key benefit of the Education Banding Tool is that it:

* looks at the holistic needs of the child and young person and
* provides a fair and consistent way of calculating funding which can be revisited when a child or young person’s needs change.

The Education Banding Tool will be used across all sectors of education. We want to reassure parents, carers, children and young people that this is a needs led tool. It is not about reducing funding but making it fair across the whole system.

**How are views represented and updates provided?**

We recognise that there is much work to be completed before the Education Banding Tool can become live. To ensure that all views are represented, we are drawing on the skills and knowledge of many partners. Representatives from parents, carers, schools and further education sit on the Project Steering Group and the Implementation Reference Group who will track progress of the project.

Part of the Group’s remit will be:

* to develop the Education Banding Tool and
* support the Local Authority to agree the processes to achieve fair funding arrangements for all children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan

Regular updates will also be provided at Schools Forum, Schools E-bag, Local Offer, Parent/Carer Forum and via the SEND and Inclusion Hubs.

We understand that the introduction of the Education Banding Tool may raise lots of questions. There will be opportunities for parents, carers, children, and young people to share their views so please recheck these pages on the Local Offer for updates.

**Launch event**

Partners from Education Providers were recently invited to a [live launch](https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/advice.page?id=Zl4zG1wL0dU) of the Education Banding Tool. A video of the launch event can be viewed. Presentation slides and questions and answers raised at the live launch are also available below or as a downloadable PDF.