

# **Nottinghamshire's High Needs Block 2021/22**

Presentation to Early Years  
and Schools Forum



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

# Overview and ESFA Guidance

High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Local authorities must spend that funding in line with the associated conditions of grant, and [School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations](#)

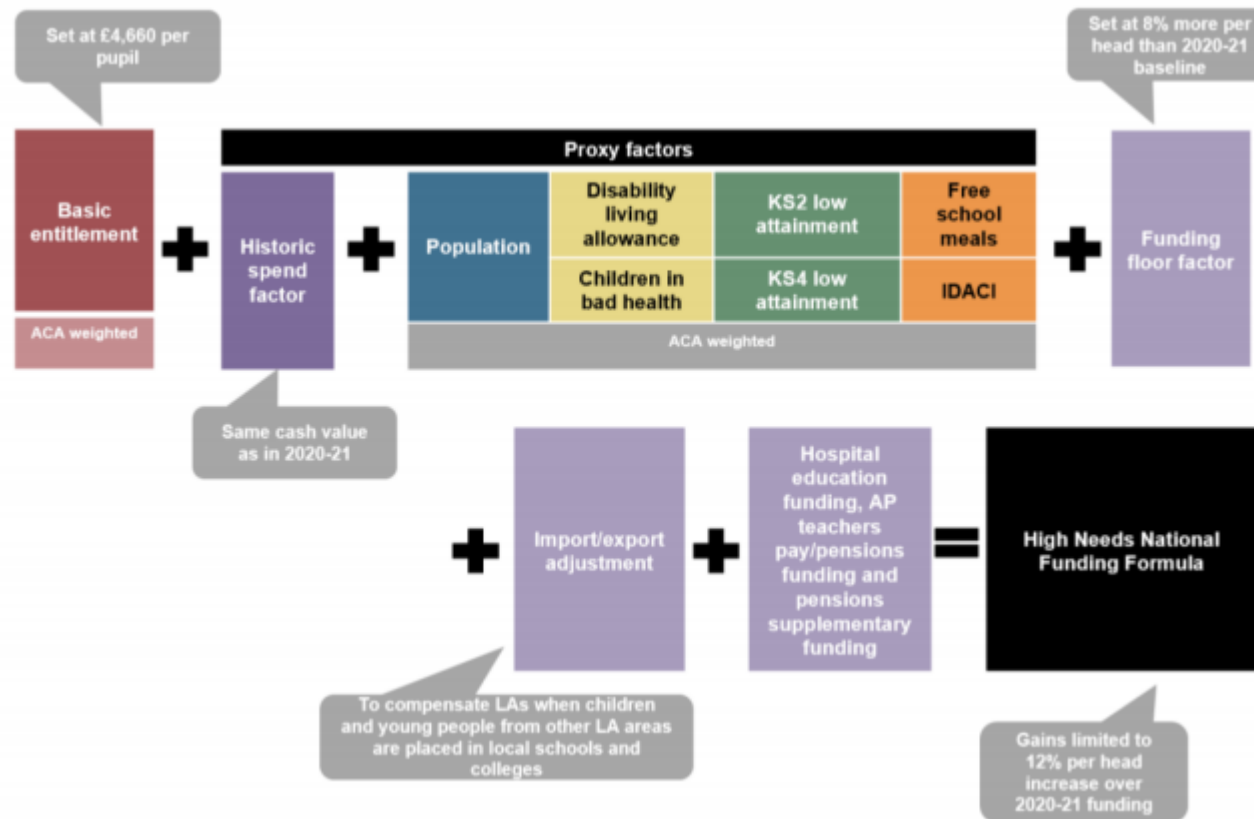
The high needs funding system supports provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#).

High needs funding is also intended to support good quality AP for pre-16 pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream or special schools.

The High Needs Block can also fund high needs services delivered directly by the authority or under a separate funding agreement with institutions (including funding devolved to institutions), as permitted by regulations.

# ESFA Funding of the High Needs Block

Since 2018/19 the ESFA has calculated Local Authorities High Needs Block using a national funding formula:



# Nottinghamshire's Statistical Neighbours' High Needs Blocks

Local Authority	Mid-2021 age 2-18 ONS Population Estimate	2021/22 Published High Needs Block before import/export adjustment (£ millions)	Published High Needs Block per 2-18 population
Kent	334,809	247.472	£739.14
Cheshire West And Chester	67,197	45.503	£677.16
Warwickshire	113,911	74.830	£656.91
Lancashire	243,158	151.233	£621.95
Derbyshire	148,497	91.459	£615.90
Staffordshire	164,338	99.352	£604.56
Essex	303,323	182.337	£601.13
Cumbria	88,683	53.305	£601.08
Worcestershire	115,463	69.102	£598.48
Nottinghamshire	163,061	91.152	£559.01



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

High Needs Block 2021/22

# What would this mean for Nottinghamshire's High Needs Budget ?

Local Authority	Notts Mid-2021 age 2-18 ONS Population Estimate	Published High Needs Block per 2-18 population	If Notts were Funded at the same rate (£ Millions)	Diff to Notts Actual Funding (£ millions)
Kent	163,061	£739.14	120.525	29.373
Cheshire West And Chester	163,061	£677.16	110.418	19.266
Warwickshire	163,061	£656.91	107.117	15.965
Lancashire	163,061	£621.95	101.416	10.264
Derbyshire	163,061	£615.90	100.429	9.277
Staffordshire	163,061	£604.56	98.580	7.428
Essex	163,061	£601.13	98.021	6.869
Cumbria	163,061	£601.08	98.012	6.860
Worcestershire	163,061	£598.48	97.588	6.436
Nottinghamshire	163,061	£559.01	91.152	0.000



# ESFA Funding of Nottinghamshire's High Needs Block

Nottinghamshire's published High Needs Block for 2021/22 is £89.070 million. This represents an increase of £10.875 million against the 2020/21 allocation of £78.195 million.

Factor	Pupils	Funding £ millions
Basic Entitlement	1,295	6.061
Historic Spend Factor		28.902
Population Factor	163,751	29.761
FSM Factor	19,653	5.272
IDACI Factor	58,669	4.976
Bad Health Factor	819	3.993
Disability Factor	7,081	5.050
KS2 Low Attainment Factor	1,267	4.108
KS4 Low Attainment Factor	1,530	3.644
Funding Floor Factor		0.000
<b>Funding Allocation Before Gains Cap</b>		<b>91.766</b>
Gains Cap Adjustment (12% Gains)		-0.670
<b>Funding Allocation after Gains Cap</b>		<b>91.097</b>
Import/ Export Adjustment	-345	-2.070
Pay/Pensions supplementary funding		0.043
<b>Published High Needs Allocation 2020/21</b>		<b>89.070</b>



# Nottinghamshire's projected high needs overspend for 2020-21

Due to increasing pressures within the High Needs Block, the high needs budget is projected to overspend by approximately £2.7M. This has primarily been caused as a result of an overspend in the Independent Specialist Provision which includes Independent Non Maintained Schools, Post 16, AP, Specialist Provision for LAC and in addition, a significant overspend in the EOTAS budget. It should be noted that COVID-19 has accelerated the overspend in the Independent Specialist Provision budget as a whole and actually caused the overspend in the EOTAS budget.

Due to the increase in High Needs funding to be received by Nottinghamshire in 2021/22, Nottinghamshire will not be transferring any funding from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block. Despite the projected overspend, this is the second year in succession where we have not requested a transfer of funding from the DSG to the high needs block. This is also the second successive year where Nottinghamshire's High Needs Budget has been significantly uplifted by the national formula (2020-21 £11.833M - ; 2021-22 - £10.875M)

Despite the significant uplift, when compared with SN, Nottinghamshire's funding per head of population, 2-18 years, continues to be significantly lower than SN.

# **Import / Export Adjustment**

## **£0.250 million**

The ESFA treat pupils attending non-maintained special schools (NMSS's) and SPI's as exports. This funding is allocated directly by the ESFA to the to these institutions.



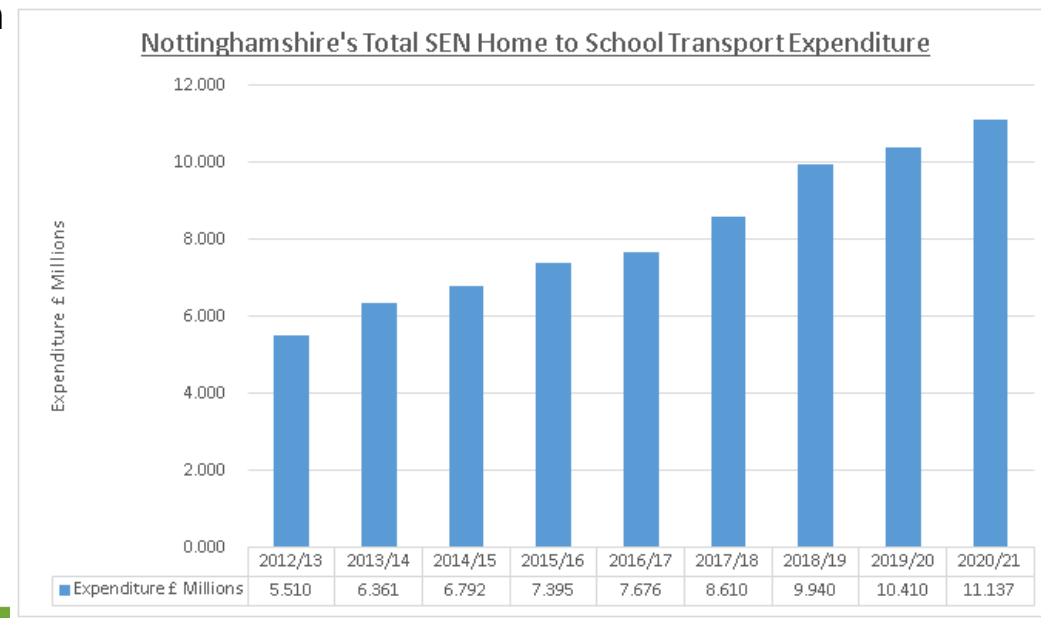
# Place Funding for AP, CCP and FE providers **£1.180 million**

- The ESFA recoup place funding from Nottinghamshire's High Needs Block to directly fund places in AP Academies , Commercial and Charitable Providers and Further Education Colleges that are based within Nottinghamshire.
- The number of places that the ESFA to recoup is subject to the annual High Needs Place return that is completed by Nottinghamshire County Council following discussions with providers.
- A breakdown of Nottinghamshire's recouped places is below:
  - £0.100 million for AP Free School Places (10)
  - £1.080 million for Further Education Places – West Notts College (160) and Skills For Employment (20).

# SEN Home to School Transport

## £1.764 million

- The High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant annually contributes £1.764 million to Nottinghamshire's SEND home to school transport expenditure.
- This figure was agreed by the early years & schools forum in January 2011 and due to constraints imposed by the EFA via the section 251 budget return, it has not been increased since despite transport cost increasing.
- The total expenditure on SEND Home to School transport in 2020/21 is forecast to be £11.137 million



# Nottinghamshire's Indicative Use of The High Needs Block 2020/21

Service	Provisional Budget Allocation 2021/22	Budget Allocation 2020/21
	£000	£000
Special School Budgets (Including Academy place funding paid directly by ESFA)	28,313	26,629
Special School Therapies and Equipment	823	823
Place Funding for AP, CCP and FE providers	1,180	1,190
Mainstream Enhanced Provision & Special School Hub	748	676
Inclusion Services	3,725	3,546
Devolved Partnership Funding	5,265	4,979
Partnership Team	812	731
SEN Home to School Transport	1,764	1,764
Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies)	6,100	5,100
Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan)	19,913	13,301
Independent Specialist Provision (Non EHC Plan)	1,433	1,183
High Level Needs (HLN)	6,104	6,104
Additional family needs (AFN)	9,078	8,554
Family Network Funding (FNF)	1,306	1,306
Health Related Education Team	961	1,036
Physical Disability Specialist Service	335	385
SEND Divisional Costs	960	887
Import/Export adjustment	250	-
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>89,070</b>	<b>78,195</b>

# Special School and Academy Budgets £28.313 million

- As per the January 2021 moderation process Nottinghamshire County Council will be funding 1,131 pupil in our Special Schools and Academies in 2021/22 using budget of £25.997 million. This represents an additional 49 places from those funded for 2020/21.
- Special School budgets are made up of Core (place) funding and Top up Funding.
- Core funding is £10,000 per pupil.
- Top up funding is agreed per pupil based on their HN banding (1-5). Pupil's HN bandings are agreed with schools during the annual moderation process.
- Schools may also be allocated a 'setting factor' if they meet NCC's split site criteria.
- As part of 2019/20 budget setting process NCC increased the top up funding at eight special schools and academies to the mean average rates paid in 2019/20. There will be no uplift to these amounts for 2021/22. The three schools and academies who receive higher than average rates in 2019/20 will continue to receive the same rates per child.
- Mean average 2021/22 rates:

HN1	HN2	HN3	HN4	HN5
£	£	£	£	£
7,163.32	9,312.32	12,177.65	17,908.30	25,071.62

# **Special School and Academy Budgets £28.313 million**

- Nottinghamshire County Council pay top up funding for all pupils in our Special Schools and Academies. Where the child resides in another Authority NCC will recoup the funding from that Authority. Similarly OLAs will charge NCC for our Children placed in their Special Schools. Nottinghamshire are currently a net 'exporter' of children (Budgeted £0.95 million).
- Nottinghamshire County Council plans to create 50 additional places across our special schools and academies within year at a cost of £0.676 million. This includes the set-up of a new satellite school which will incur some additional costs which have been built into the budget.
- The extra places created in NCC Special Schools and Academies will try to reduce the need to place children in higher cost Independent Non Maintained settings.
- The Teachers Pay and Pensions Grants will be paid separately to the special schools at the same rate as 2020-21 (£0.690m).

# Special School Equipment and Therapies

## £0.823 million

This budget will be used for three purposes:

- (1) To provide a funding pot for special schools to access additional funding for specialist equipment.
- (2) To develop an improved therapy offer by and for NCC Special Schools (maintained or academy) to reduce dependency on independent specialist provision include speech and language therapy and sensory occupational therapy.
- (3) To provide a consistent streamlined and coordinated approach alongside the NHS

The therapy offer will:

- Improve the timescales for children and young people with SEND to access therapies.
- Reduce the number of requests for Independent Non-maintained educational settings due to improved access to therapies.
- Increase parental confidence in local specialist provision, as a result of accessing high quality therapies in a timely manner.
- Improve health and well-being and educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND as a result of improved access to therapies.
- Include training packages for all schools to support effective screening and early intervention.
- Improve the Local Authority's success in defending decisions at First Tier SEND Tribunals.

# Mainstream Enhanced Provision & Special School Hub £0.748 million

- In order to support inclusion in mainstream education the LA, working in partnership with Beech Academy and local secondary schools has commissioned a Special School Hub to educate and support pupils with Education Health and Care Plans on role at local mainstream or special schools.
- In order to maintain LA maintained places for children with SEND who require small group provision with high levels of support in Nottinghamshire, NCC have commissioned four Enhanced Provision Units for pupils in mainstream schools.
- In 2021-2022 NCC plan to commission a further two units from September 2021
  - a) an additional secondary unit, from an approved bid, to be sited in the South Broxtowe area, to develop greater opportunities in the South of the County.
  - b) a primary enhanced provision unit for which a bidding round will be opened in March 2021.
- Each location can educate up to 8 pupils at any time.
- The budget allocated for each unit is equal to the cost of employing one teacher and two teaching assistants.

# **Devolved Partnership Funding**

## **£ 5.265 million**

- Nottinghamshire County Council devolves funding to develop effective partnerships of schools with the aim of them working together to ensure that children with SEMH continue to be educated in Nottinghamshire's schools and not in Alternative Provision.
- For 2021/22, it is proposed that the overall quantum of partnership funding to the Primary and Secondary devolved funding is increased by 6%
  - Multi School Partnerships - £0.302 million
  - Primary devolved funding - £0.766 million
  - Secondary devolved funding - £4.197 million





# Partnership Team £0.812 million

- This team currently employs 12.7 employees to work collaboratively with school partnerships and school and academy leaders to try to ensure that pupils with social emotional or mental health needs are kept in their educational placement and to limit the number of children fixed term and permanently excluded from education and placed in highly expensive alternative provision. Where pupils are permanently excluded this team co-ordinate the reintegration of pupils of pupils into new mainstream provision or commission alternative education provision. This team work jointly with the LA Commissioning Team to quality assure the educational offer provided by the alternative education approved providers to ensure that pupils who are 'educated other than at school' receive an appropriate education.
- There are a significant number of pupils with SEND needs accessing education in alternative provision settings. It is proposed that two new posts are created within the Partnership Team to monitor the attendance, academic progress and safeguarding of these pupils following the models already in place for excluded, Fair Access and LAC pupils.

# Inclusion Services

## £3.725 million

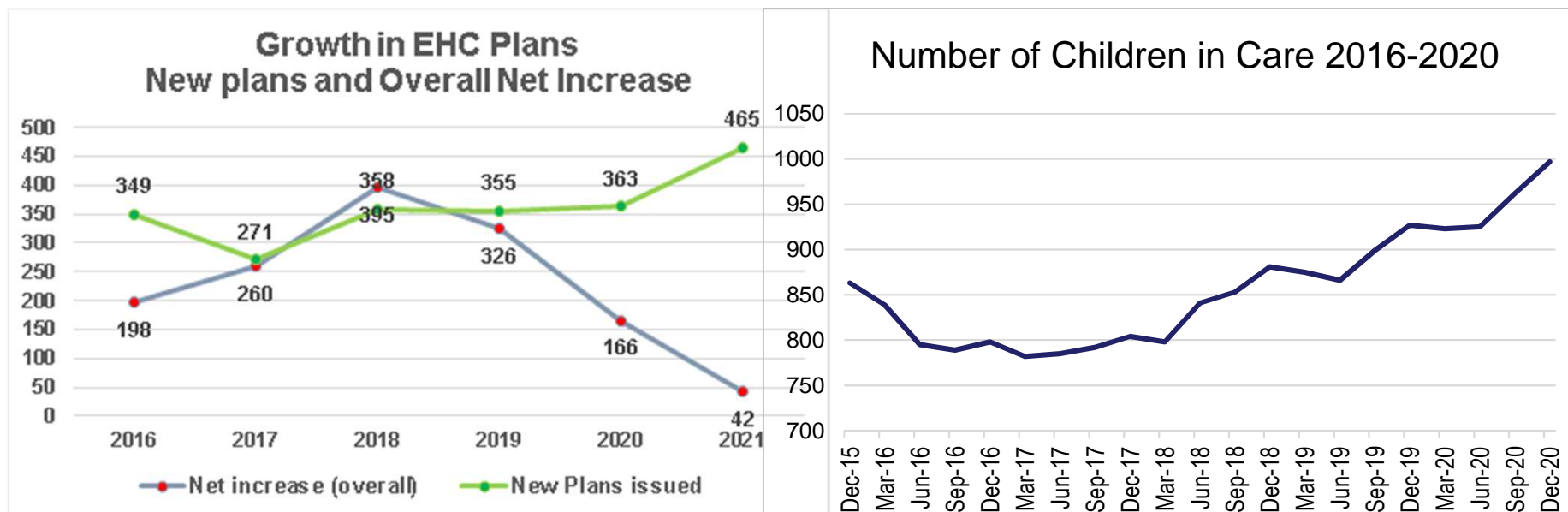
- The Schools and Families Specialist Services (SFSS) is a team of specialist teachers and teaching assistants who are qualified to work with children and young people with severe and complex special education needs. These include hearing and visual impairments as well as autism and learning difficulties. SFSS also provides training and resources to schools, which is intended to build and enhance their capacity to support children and young people in mainstream settings. Since 2019/20 the structure has also included 7 District SENCO posts. These posts were created as part of the response to the High Needs consultation in 2018/19. (The total DSG allocation for this team is £4.034 million of which **£3.362 million** is from the High Needs Block) .
- SFSS also holds a budget for funding specialist equipment for children and young people with sensory (VI and HI) needs and additional ICT equipment to support access to the mainstream curriculum. (£0.06 million).
- A proportion of the overall Inclusion Services budget (£0.303 million) contributes to the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) budget, and funds the post of Education Improvement Adviser (SEND) which sits within the Psychology Services group of services.

# **Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies) £6.100 million**

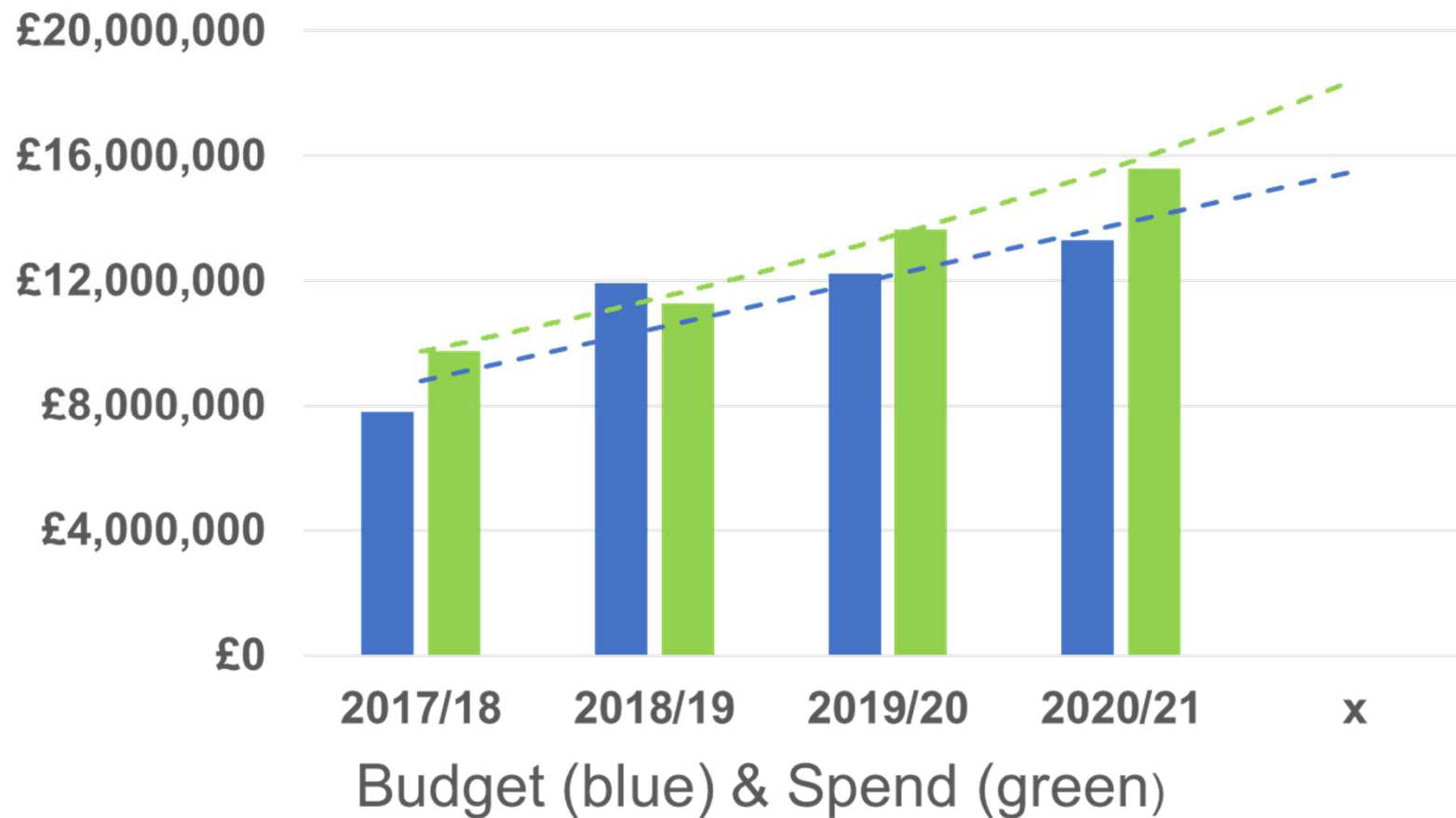
- This budget is used to pay for the education of pupils between the ages of 16 and 25 in Colleges and other FE providers.
- NCC works collaboratively with the provider to agree suitable study programmes for the young people receiving further education.
- The cost of further education to NCC has risen in recent years due to a combination of the trend for increasing numbers of young people accessing post 16 provision and the cost of education packages rising.
- Work is underway to attempt to reduce the average length of stay in post-16 education and to challenge individual programme costs, particularly in specialist settings
- SEND Employability £0.100m This was a new commitment for 2020/21 aimed at supporting young adults (16+, 18+) into employment. Covid-19 has restricted the impact of this work, but a comprehensive roll out programme is planned including further work to develop integrated employability pathways between schools and colleges.

# Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan and LAC) £19.913 million

- This budget pays for education provision for children with EHCPs and / or who are Looked After by the Local Authority and whose educational needs cannot be met in a maintained setting.
- Funding can follow a child out of county if the most suitable provision dictates or if a child in care is placed out of county.
- Approval to spend the High Needs Budget on independent specialist provision placements is subject to service director level scrutiny and oversight.



# Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan and LAC) £19.913 million

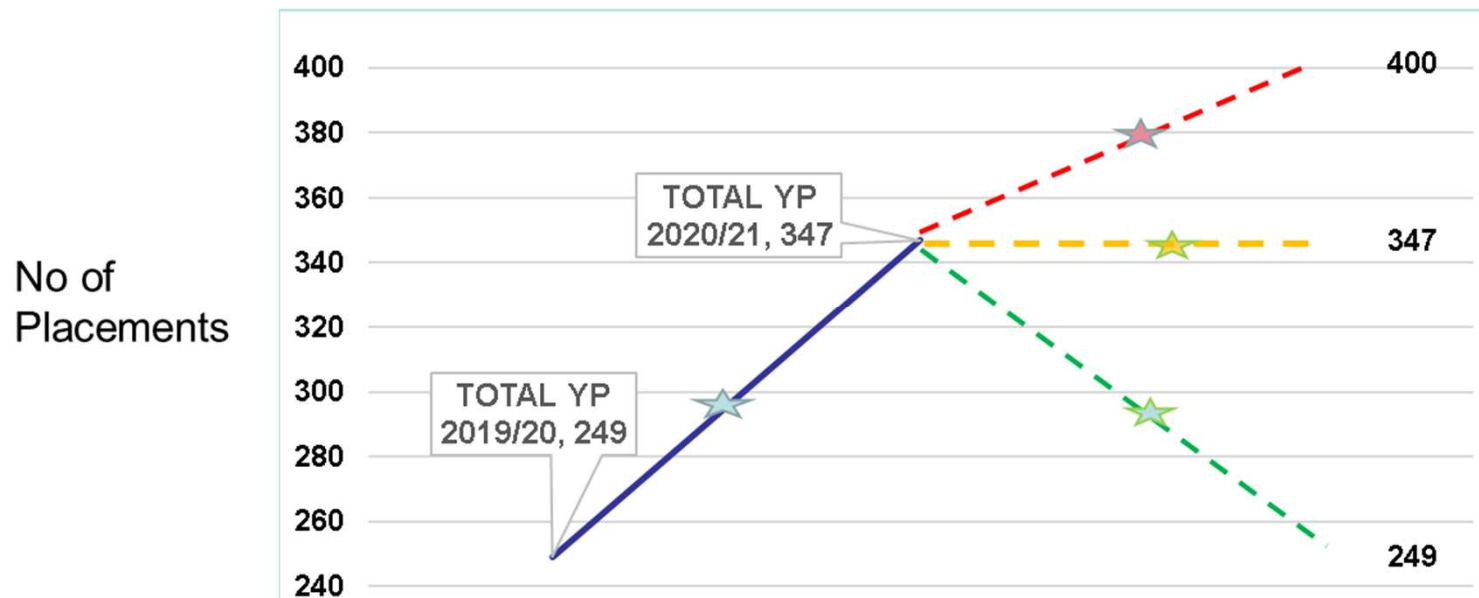


Nottinghamshire  
County Council

High Needs Block 2021/22

# Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan and Looked After Children (our children)) £19.913 million

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
£7,807,000	£11,918,000	£12,244,000	£13,301,000
£9,768,000	£11,263,000	£13,658,000	£15,594,000



# **Independent Specialist Provision (Non EHC Plan) £ 1.433 million**

- This budget pays for provision for any child without an EHCP for whom the LA commissions alternative provision. This includes children and young people who have no school place and are not currently able to be placed as they have significant social emotional and mental health needs or pose a risk to others; those for whom Fair Access Panels have been unable to identify a place within a reasonable time; those with no school place and SEND needs that have not been clarified; those who have been permanently excluded, LAC pupils who need urgent education provision.
- Funding can follow a child out of county if the most suitable provision dictates.
- It should be noted that NCC consulted with schools during the Autumn term 2015 on a full cost recovery mechanism for exclusions from secondary schools. This was implemented in September 2016.
- Coronavirus has increased the need for the local authority to make interim provision for vulnerable pupils as there have been additional pressures in terms of Year 11 pupils with no school place and for securing new school places for highly challenging young people whilst Covid restrictions are in place.

# **SEND Divisional Costs £0.960 million**

The cost of the commissioning and associated functions within the wider SEND team, together with the support staff associated with the services funded by the High Needs Block and those who are required for allocation of HLN, AFN, FNF and partnership funding to schools and Academies.



# **Health Related Education Team**

## **£ 0.961 million**

The Health Related Education Team (**£0.961 million**) provides short term education for pupils aged 5 – 16 who live in Nottinghamshire and who are temporarily unable to attend school for health related reasons.



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

**High Needs Block 2021/22**

# **Physical Disability Specialist Service (PDSS) £ 0.335 million**

PDSS provides specialist advisory support and guidance to schools, pre-schools and post 16 educational settings to support the inclusion of pupils with significant physical disabilities and complex medical/health needs to access their educational setting, through:

- planning adaptations to buildings
- advising on and providing specialist equipment
- training and support to school staff, including training in safe manual handling

PDSS is managed by the Integrated Children's Disability Service. Its office and training facility is based on the Fountaindale Special School campus.

The £ 0.335m PDSS budget is made up as follows:

- £0.220m staffing and running costs
- £0.100m specialist seating and equipment
- £0.015m communication aids

In addition to the above, PDSS is required to generate £0.064m per annum from the marketing of its training.

# **Additional family needs (AFN)**

## **£ 9.078 million**

- AFN funding is allocated to Families of Schools on a formula basis which takes account of the number of pupils and the number of schools in the Family, as well as a measure of levels of economic deprivation.
- AFN funding is used to pay for *additional* targeted provision for named individual pupils over and above the targeted individual provision which the school has put in place.
- Before a school can apply for AFN funding, they would need to be able to account for at least £6,000 of individual targeted provision for each pupil for whom they are requesting AFN funding.
- For 2021/22, it is proposed that the overall quantum of AFN funding is increased by 6%.

# Family Network Funding (FNF)

## £ 1.306 million

- FNF funding is allocated to Families of Schools on a formula basis which takes into account the number of schools in the Family.
- It is expected that a proportion of the FNF allocation is used to pay for tasks carried out by a Family SENCo (equivalent to at least 23 days over the year).
- In addition, FNF funding may be used to pay for:
  - SEND training and development
  - Providing support for pupils with complex needs in mainstream settings during transition.
  - Support with unexpected admissions, changes in need and to give extra flexibility in resourcing pupils with more complex needs.
- For 2021/22, it is proposed that the overall FNF quantum will remain the same as for 2020/21, but that allocations to each Family of Schools will take account of current numbers of schools in each Family.

# High Level Needs (HLN)

## £ 6.104 million

- As with AFN funding, HLN funding is used to pay for *additional* targeted provision for named individual pupils over and above the targeted individual provision which the school has already put in place.
- Again, as with AFN funding, before a school can apply for HLN funding, they would need to be able to account for at least £6,000 of individual targeted provision for each pupil for whom they are requesting HLN funding.
- In almost all cases, a school would not apply for HLN funding until it was able to demonstrate that provision costing **more than** £6,000 **plus** the highest level of AFN funding was needed in order for a named pupil to be able to access their educational entitlement. HLN funding typically replaces any AFN funding previously allocated to the school.
- HLN funding decisions are made by an HLN panel.
- For 2021/22, it is proposed that the overall quantum of HLN funding is maintained at the 2020/21 level, and is the HLN payments for each HLN level, that is:
  - HLN 1 - £11,000
  - HLN 2 - £16,500
  - HLN 3 - £20,900

# **Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy (0-25 years) 2020-2023**

- Locality Working
- Partnerships
- Inclusion
- Strength based practice



# High Needs Funding Formula DfE Consultation

6 week consultation 10 February – 24 March  
2021

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-nff-proposed-changes/>



Nottinghamshire  
County Council

High Needs Block 2021/22