

Nottinghamshire's High Needs Block 2022/23

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](#)

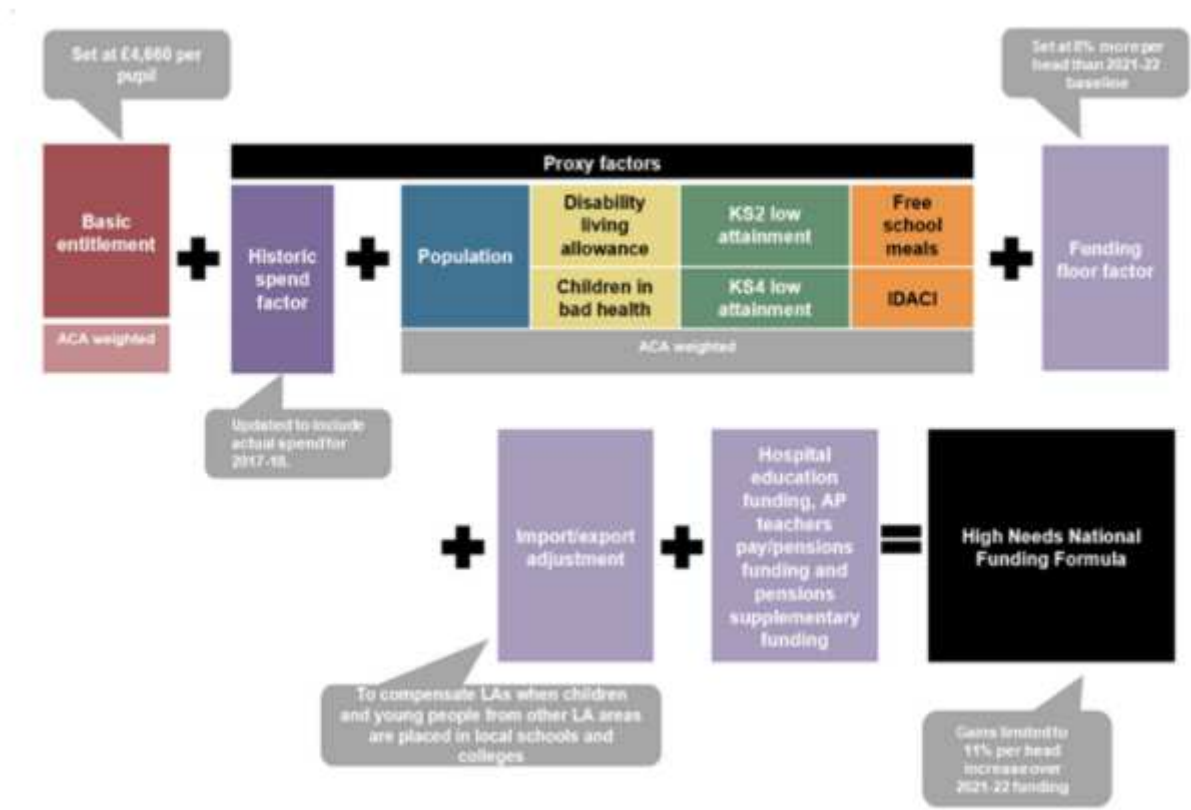
The high needs funding system supports provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#).

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-2022 age 2-18 ONS Population Estimate	2022/23 Published High Needs Block before import/export adjustment (£ millions)	Published High Needs Block per 2-18 population
Kent	338,243	274.637	£811.95
Cheshire West And Chester	67,962	50.060	£736.59
Warwickshire	115,258	81.797	£709.69
Lancashire	244,899	168.366	£687.49
Cumbria	88,670	59.217	£667.83
Staffordshire	165,065	110.036	£666.62
Worcestershire	116,496	77.475	£665.04
Derbyshire	149,240	99.189	£664.63
Essex	306,064	197.237	£644.43
Nottinghamshire	164,605	101.324	£615.56



Nottinghamshire
County Council

High Needs Block 2022/23

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

Local Authority	Notts Mid-2022 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	164,605	£811.95	133.651	32.327
Cheshire West And Chester	164,605	£736.59	121.247	19.923
Warwickshire	164,605	£709.69	116.818	15.494
Lancashire	164,605	£687.49	113.164	11.840
Cumbria	164,605	£667.83	109.929	8.605
Staffordshire	164,605	£666.62	109.730	8.406
Worcestershire	164,605	£665.04	109.469	8.145
Derbyshire	164,605	£664.63	109.401	8.077
Essex	164,605	£644.43	106.076	4.752
Nottinghamshire	164,605	£615.56	101.324	0.000



Nottinghamshire
County Council

High Needs Block 2022/23

ESFA Funding of Nottinghamshire's High Needs Block

Nottinghamshire's published High Needs Block for 2022/23 is £98.990 million. This represents an increase of £9.920 million against the 2021/22 allocation of £89.070 million.

Factor	Pupils	Funding £ millions
Basic Entitlement	1,367	6.396
Historic Spend Factor		31.045
Population Factor	165,315	33.638
FSM Factor	24,140	6.146
IDACI Factor	59,350	5.623
Bad Health Factor	820	4.497
Disability Factor	7,334	5.546
KS2 Low Attainment Factor	1,128	4.394
KS4 Low Attainment Factor	1,450	3.996
Funding Floor Factor		0.000
Funding Allocation Before Gains Cap		101.281
Gains Cap Adjustment (11% Gains)		0.000
Funding Allocation after Gains Cap		101.281
Import/ Export Adjustment	-389	-2.334
Pay/Pensions supplementary funding		0.043
Published High Needs Allocation 2022/23		98.990



Supplementary Grant

- The autumn 2021 spending review confirmed additional funding for Schools and High Needs. This is to meet the cost demands of the Health and Social Care Levy (NI increase) and wider cost pressures such as energy prices.
- Even though it is a separate grant it is subject to the same conditions of grant as the DSG.
- For the High Needs Block it has been given to the Local Authority for the purpose of spreading the funding across Special Schools, Top-up funding, Post-16, Independent and alternative providers.
- The provisional allocation for Nottinghamshire is £3.914m
- This extra funding has therefore been built into the high needs budget within this presentation.

Nottinghamshire's projected high needs overspend for 2021-22

Due to increasing pressures within the High Needs Block, the high needs budget is projected to overspend by approximately £2.4M. 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.



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

High Needs Block 2022/23

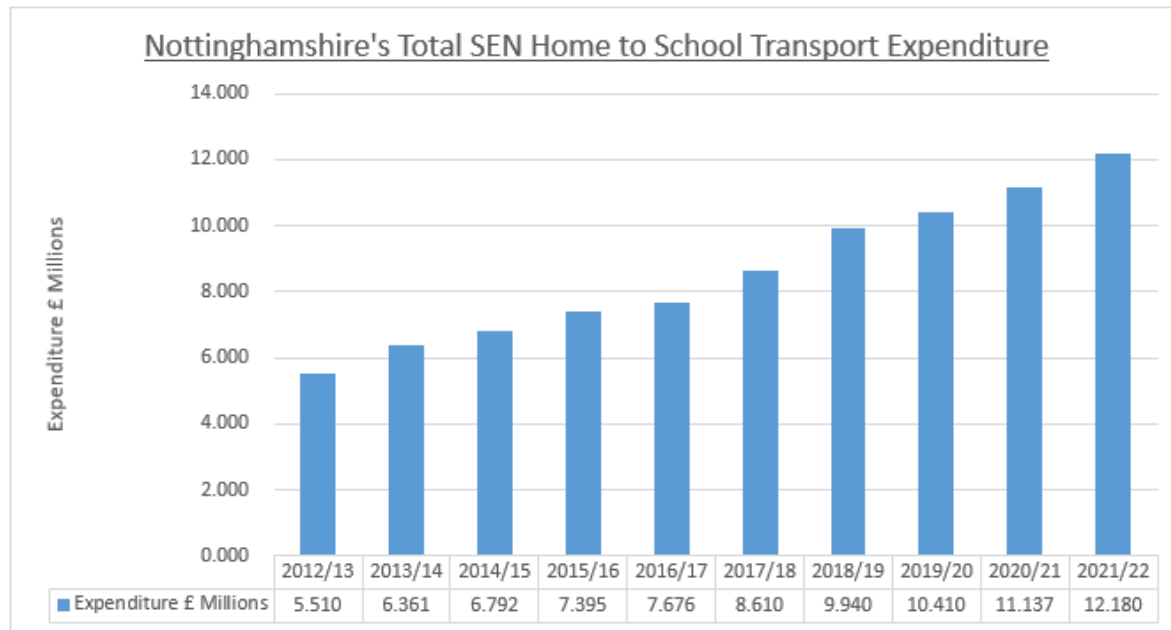
Place Funding for AP, CCP and FE providers **£1.150 million**

- 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:
 - £0.070 million for AP Free School Places (7)
 - £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 ESFA 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 2021/22 is forecast to be £12.1 million, with the shortfall funded by the Council.



Nottinghamshire
County Council

High Needs Block 2022/23

Nottinghamshire's Indicative Use of The High Needs Block 2022/23

Service	Budget Allocation 2021/22	Provisional Budget Allocation 2022/23
	£000	£000
Special School Budgets (Including Academy place funding paid directly by ESFA)	28,313	30,407
Special School Therapies and Equipment	823	850
Place Funding for AP, CCP and FE providers	1,180	1,150
Mainstream Enhanced Provision & Special School Hub	748	766
Inclusion Services	3,725	3,866
Devolved Partnership Funding	5,265	5,507
Partnership Team	812	915
SEN Home to School Transport	1,764	1,764
Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies)	6,100	7,100
Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan)	19,913	26,288
Independent Specialist Provision (Non EHC Plan)	1,433	1,433
High Level Needs (HLN)	6,104	6,385
Additional family needs (AFN)	9,078	9,494
Family Network Funding (FNF)	1,306	1,367
Health Related Education Team	961	1,059
Physical Disability Specialist Service	335	377
SEND Divisional Costs	960	976
Import/Export adjustment	250	250
Repayment of HNB Overspend and Contribution to Reserve	-	2,950
Total Allocation	89,070	102,904

Special Schools (maintained & academies) Budgets £30.407 million

- As per the January 2022 moderation process Nottinghamshire County Council will be funding 1,170 pupils in our Special Schools and Academies in 2022/23 using budget of £27.858 million. This represents an additional 39 places from those funded for 2021/22.
- 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.
- We are increasing the standard top up funding at eight special schools and academies by 2.2%. The three schools who receive higher than the standard rates in 2021/22 will continue to receive the same rates per child. However, the 2.2% increase brings the standard rate up to the lowest of these higher paid special schools. This is part of our equality strategy to align the rates across our portfolio of special schools.
- Standard 2022/23 rates:

HN1 (£)	HN2 (£)	HN3 (£)	HN4 (£)	HN5 (£)
7,322.09	9,518.72	12,447.55	18,305.23	25,627.32

Special Schools (maintained & academies)

Budgets £30.407 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 £1.08 million).
- Nottinghamshire County Council plans to create 95 additional places across our special schools and academies within year at a cost of £1.469 million. This includes the set-up of a new satellite school and some new classrooms being built at two other schools.
- The extra places created in NCC Special Schools and Academies will try to reduce the need to place children in higher cost Independent Specialist settings.
- The Teachers Pay and Pensions Grants will be paid separately and is calculated on a per place basis (£0.743m).

Special School Therapies and Equipment £0.850 million

This budget will be used for three purposes:

- (1) To provide funding 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 Specialist 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 £0.766 million

- In order to maintain LA maintained places for children with SEND who require small group provision with high levels of support in Nottinghamshire, NCC has commissioned five Enhanced Provision Units for pupils in mainstream schools.
- The bidding round for the first Primary Enhanced Provision Unit has now closed and shortlisting will be completed by next week.
- The Special School Hub negotiations have been delayed by a number of external factors but will be resumed in the 2022-2023 financial year.
- The budget allocated for each unit is equal to the cost of employing one teacher and two teaching assistants.

Devolved Partnership Funding

£ 5.507 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 2022/23, the overall quantum of partnership funding to the Primary and Secondary devolved funding is increased by 4.6%
 - Multi School Partnerships - £0.316 million
 - Primary devolved funding - £0.801 million
 - Secondary devolved funding - £4.390 million



Partnership Team £0.915 million

- This team works 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 works 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. Two new posts are going to be 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

£3.866 million

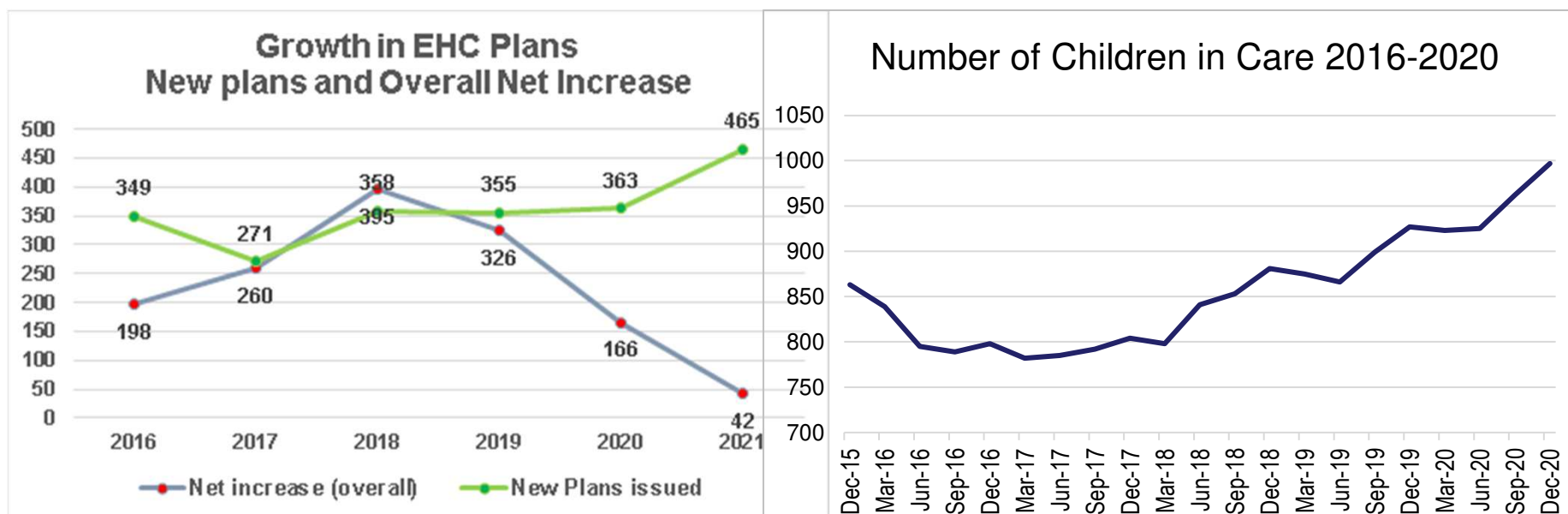
- The Schools and Families Specialist Services (SFSS) is a team of specialist teachers and teaching assistants who are qualified to work with children and young people with severe and complex special education needs. These include hearing and visual impairments as well as autism and learning difficulties. 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 £4.479 million of which **£3.503 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) £7.100 million

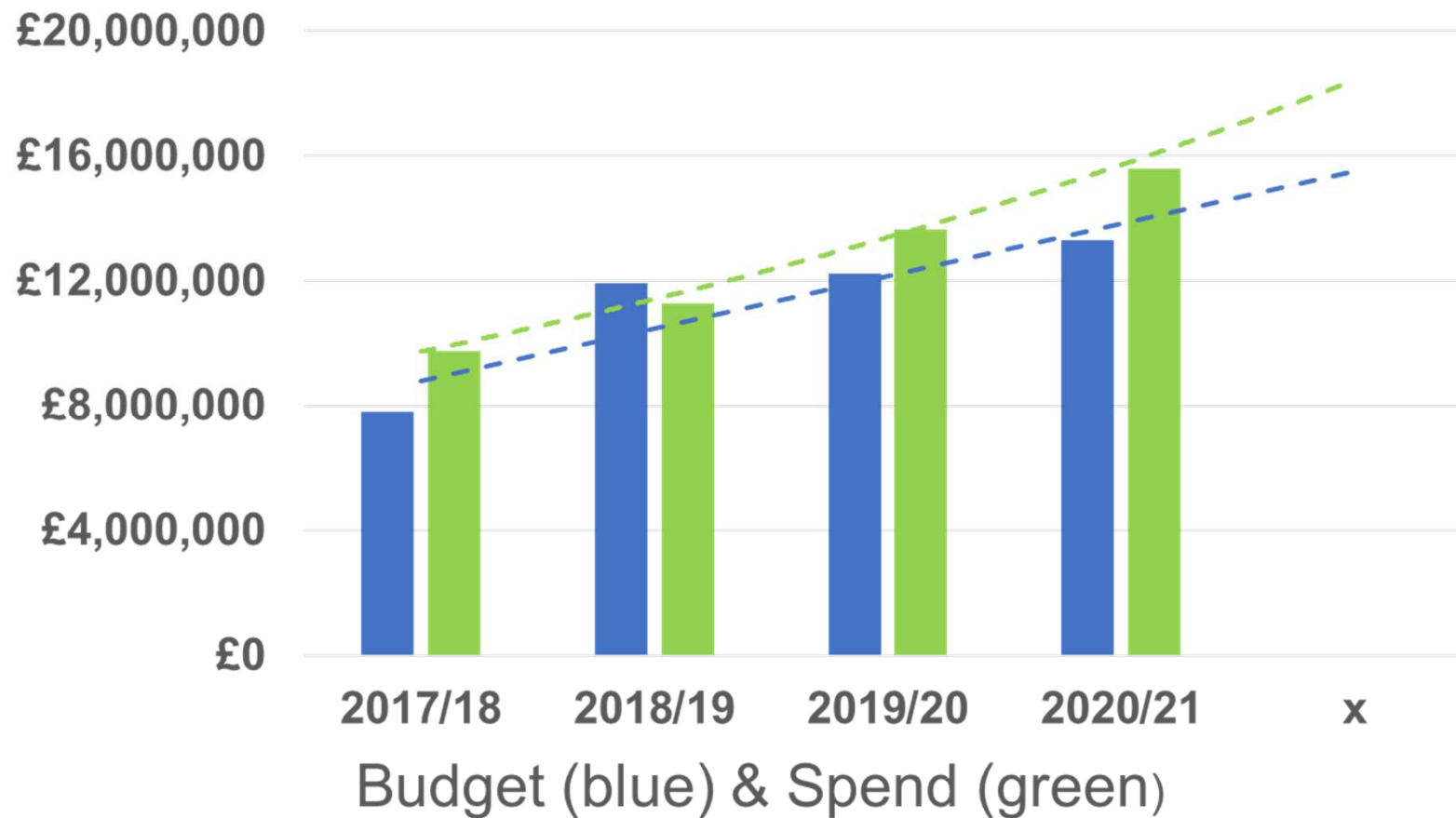
- This budget is used to pay for the education of pupils between the ages of 16 and 25 in Colleges and other FE providers.
- NCC works collaboratively with the provider to agree suitable study programmes for the young people receiving further education.
- The cost of further education to NCC has risen 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) £26.288 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 mainstream setting.
- Funding can follow a child out of county if this is the most suitable provision, 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 scrutiny and oversight.



Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan and LAC) £26.288 million



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 £0.976 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

£ 1.059 million

The Health Related Education Team provides short term education for pupils aged 5 – 16 who live in Nottinghamshire and who are temporarily unable to access their education for physical or mental health related reasons where they are hospitalised, or their school has not yet put in place appropriate provision to meet an unexpected need.

If the health condition is long term the Health Related Education Team provide support and guidance to schools about how to set up an appropriate personalised education pathway that will meet the pupil's needs and enable them to return to school led education provision.

Over the last year the number of mental health referrals has significantly increased and the existing team of staff do not have capacity to meet the current demand. The proposal is to appoint two further specialist HRET Teachers initially on a two year contract to meet this rise and demand and to clarify if this is a temporary post Covid rise or a longer term increase.

Physical Disability Specialist Service (PDSS) £ 0.377 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 Harlow Special School campus.

The £ 0.377m PDSS budget is made up as follows:

- £0.232m staffing and running costs
- £0.130m 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)

£ 9.494 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 2022/23, the overall quantum of AFN funding is increased by 4.6%.

Family Network Funding (FNF)

£ 1.367 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 2022/23, the overall quantum of AFN funding is increased by 4.6%.

High Level Needs (HLN)

£ 6.385 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 2022/23, the overall quantum of AFN funding is increased by 4.6%.
- For 2022/23, the overall quantum of HLN funding is maintained at the 2021/22 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

