

## **SEND Provision/Funding Group Progress Report**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the progress made by the Working Group to date around clarification and consideration of the funding model, and streamlining of processes, as detailed below.

### **1. Introduction/background**

- 1.1. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Funding Working Group was recently commissioned by the Sheffield Schools Forum to review and make recommendations around the funding methodology used to calculate specialist school placements; and any other relevant agenda items with associated financial and policy implications.
- 1.2. Members of the group also have a particular interest in working together to understand the processes and clarify how the funding is agreed and allocated.
- 1.3. Membership of the group includes Headteachers from maintained special schools, special academies, and integrated resources, along with Council Officers from Education and Skills.

### **2. Progress to date**

- 2.1. The group has now met three times and a further meeting is planned for January.
- 2.2. Progress to date includes:
  - 2.2.1. Providing clarification on the High Needs Funding Formula and the allocation process, including detailed explanation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee.
  - 2.2.2. Clarification of the exceptional needs funding process.
  - 2.2.3. Consideration being given to the funding model: every child is presently allocated a guaranteed funding level. In the past we have attempted to move away from this model, but we have not been able to agree a suitable alternative with colleagues. For the immediate future, the

group has agreed to continue with the guaranteed funding model and find a solution for complex cases and split sites with the intention of having a review of the wider model in the longer-term.

2.2.4. Discussion around the possibility of implementing a split site model using a sliding scale – models are now being developed.

2.2.5. Clarification and streamlining/review of the process for allocating funding for those with complex needs – a standardised email template has been developed for notifying schools of EHCP funding decisions, and further work around reviewing the processes and internal ratification is ongoing.

### **3. Next Steps**

3.1. The group is due to meet again in January and will update the February Schools Forum on progress and make recommendations as appropriate.

### **4. Recommendations**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the update and that a further update will be brought back to the February Schools Forum.