

## Overview

- The new EHCP funding model will apply to all pupils in mainstream schools whose first EHC Plan is issued from 2 September 2024.
- The current funding model continues to apply throughout 2024/2025, for pupils whose EHC plans were issued before September,
- Throughout 2024/2025 we will gradually transition all pupils with existing EHC plans in mainstream schools to the new model and they will be centrally funded from September 2025. More information about this can be found at the end of this document.

## How funding will be allocated

- The Local Authority will allocate a funding band for each pupil with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). To do this we will complete a ‘pupil needs profile’ in our funding system which is called ‘Formulate for SEND’.
- The needs profile will be completed by an Inclusion Officer, using either information in the EHC plan for pupils with existing EHC plans; or gathered during the needs assessment for newly issued EHC plans.
- The needs profile will be completed for pupils in mainstream schools who are in mainstream provision, this includes hubs but does not include integrated resource provision.
- The needs profile focusses on pupils’ additional support needs, rather than needs due to their age.
- The needs profile reflects pupils’ underlying needs, rather than with support in place, however, the needs profile does take into consideration any equipment or technology in place e.g. a wheelchair or glasses.

## Funding bands

- There are 11 bands from 0 to 10.
- Band 0 means that there is no identified SEND.
- We are currently working with and in consultation with partners across the sector to allocate funding values to each band. This will be completed by the end of term 1.
- When a first EHC plan is issued for a mainstream school from September 2nd 2024, the school will receive a letter advising of the funding band. We will update you with the funding values when they are ratified.
- Funding will be transferred on a termly basis starting with the autumn term’s funding, which will be transferred in January 2025.

## Frequently asked questions

How many bands are there?	There are 11 bands in total ranging from 0-10, band 0 means that no SEND needs have been identified.
When will we know the funding bands?	We are currently working with and in consultation with a group of stakeholders across the sector to test different funding bands. We will share information about these as soon as we are able, this is likely to be after the October half-term 2024.
When will funding be issued to schools	Funding will be transferred to schools on a termly basis in January (for term 1), April (for term 2) and July (for term 3) A list of pupils and the funding allocated will be distributed by anycomms to all schools in receipt of funding. Processes will be shared for schools to discuss any issues with funding.

EHCP funding in mainstream schools – frequently asked questions

When will the funding start from	When a new plan is issued for a mainstream school, the funding will start from the week the EHC Plan is issued (or the date the plan was due to be finalised, if there is a delay). If a pupil transfers into a school, the funding will start from the week the pupil starts. If a funding band changes following an amendment to an EHC plan, the new band will apply from the week the plan is finalised.
What if the band is different to what was expected?	We will work with schools to review the needs profile form where the band is different to what was expected. This may result in the band being changed or more clarification on how the band was arrived at.
How do I request a review of a pupil's band?	We are developing processes to ensure that schools can discuss the allocated band with the LA, and where a resolution cannot be reached, a formal request for a review can be made.
When will a pupil's band be reviewed?	The needs profile will be reviewed when there is a significant change of needs identified following an annual review.  Depending on the change in needs, this may or may not result in a different band allocation.
Will this be used for pupils in other types of settings?	At present, we are implementing the banding approach in mainstream schools. Future planning will consider special schools, IRs, Post-16 settings and Early Years settings, however the next year will focus on mainstream funding only.
Can we complete this information for pupils who are not from Sheffield?	No, this is only for pupils with EHC Plans maintained by Sheffield City Council.
Can we complete this information for pupils who live in Sheffield and attend schools in another authority?	Yes, we can complete needs profiles for children with EHC plans issued by Sheffield City Council who attend mainstream schools in other local authorities.
How will schools know what the funding band is?	When a new EHC plan is issued, a letter to the school will state the band that has been allocated. If a band changes following an annual review, a letter sent to the setting will state the band that has been allocated. Schools can request a list of the bands for their school once the system is fully live. The funding allocation won't be written into the EHC plan.
Will information about the funding band be included in a consultation for a placement?	No, the consultation process will remain as it is.
What if a pupil is supported via a part-time timetable?	Schools will receive the full annual amount of funding to support pupils' transition back into full-time education.
What if a pupil attends LA commissioned	If a pupil attends full time AP that is funded by the local authority, their school will not receive any additional funding whilst the pupil attends AP. If a pupil attends part-time AP that is funded by the local authority, the funding will be issued pro-rata for the time the pupil attends AP.

EHCP funding in mainstream schools – frequently asked questions

Alternative Provision (AP)?	
What if a Y12-Y14 pupil attends part time?	Funding will be issued pro-rata according to the pupil's timetable.
What happens to the funding if a pupil transfers out of the school?	The funding will end at the end of the week that the pupil leaves the school.
What happens if exceptional circumstances apply to a pupil's situation?	The Formulate needs profile allows for this, and we will work with a school where exceptional circumstances apply.
How does this link to the Sheffield Support Grid (SSG)?	There isn't a link between funding bands and the SSG. The SSG describes levels of need and associated provision across the broad areas of needs.
How does this link to VSEND?	There isn't a link between funding bands and VSEND. VSEND is a useful tool for considering a young person's needs and supports both the setting and home confidence in meeting those needs.
Can we participate in moderation events?	We will arrange termly moderation events and invite a range of practitioners from schools, advisory services, parent carer representatives and other stakeholders.
Why did you choose Formulate to allocate funding?	With our steering group, we researched a number of options available including developing our own funding model. We liked that Formulate applies consistent criteria across a broad range of pupils' needs and provides a system to administer the funding process. Revisiting and reviewing a pupil's record is very straightforward with this tool and it can be rolled out to a range of settings if that is the approach we choose.
What happens if there is a national funding model?	We are aware of the proposal to develop a national banded model as described in the national SEND improvement plan. As yet, there is no clarity on what this might look like, or how bands may be allocated. We felt that we should make progress locally and that a lot of the work that we are completing should support us to pivot to a national model if needed.

**Transition of pupils from the current funding model to the new funding model**

- We are working with schools throughout 24/25 to complete a pupil needs profile for all pupils in mainstream schools in advance of September 2025. This amounts to around 2000 pupils across 180 schools.
- We started this with a small number of schools at the end of 23/24 to complete some initial modelling.
- Due to the number of pupils and schools, we will take slightly different approaches depending on the number of pupils with EHC plans in the school.
- More information about the funding transition work will be shared soon in a future newsletter.

**FAQ Funding transition processes**

<p>How does this work for pupils with existing EHC plans?</p>	<p>We are working with schools throughout the school year 24/25 to complete needs profiles for all pupils with EHC Plans in mainstream school provision. These pupils will be funded centrally from September 2025. The current locality processes remain in place for these pupils for the school year 24/25.</p>
<p>How will you complete a needs profile for a young person whose EHC plan is older?</p>	<p>If we feel that we don't have enough up to date information in the EHC plan, supporting reports, or in the most recent annual reviews, we will contact the school for a discussion with the SENCO or other school staff who know the young person well.</p>
<p>What happens if an EHC Plan is amended this year, after the needs profile has been completed as part of the transition group?</p>	<p>We will go back through any completed needs profiles and update them if there are significant changes to a pupil's needs as described in their EHC Plan.</p>
<p>When will we know the funding bands for all of our pupils?</p>	<p>Our aim is to share illustrative information for September 2025 with all mainstream schools after Easter 2025. There will then be some amendments in the summer term as usual e.g. following annual reviews, pupils transferring schools or moving into/out of city etc.</p>