

Locality Working Update

As set out in the Inclusion Programme Vision a key priority for the next year is the continued support in the implementation of locality working for SEND. Since January all 7 localities have been working extremely hard to put in place systems and structures in order to understand the needs of their most vulnerable students, examine the provision already in place and also identify what additional resources are needed. These new ways of working are seen by many localities as a real opportunity to challenge inconsistencies in provision and ensure we move towards ensuring a much more inclusive system for all.

The use of the Sheffield Support Grid is underway in all localities. All localities have a structure in place to undertake moderation of the grid either at a family of schools or locality level. The city wide moderation has taken place and demonstrated over 70% consistency in use of the grid. This level of consistency is strong enough to proceed with allocating the September 2016 to March 2017 share of the high needs funding to localities based on the numbers of pupils identified as level 3, 4 or 5 on the grid. Localities will provide the Council with these numbers by the end of the summer term. If this approach creates a significant negative impact on locality allocations, options will be discussed urgently with localities and the school forum before any final funding decisions are made.

Through the new ways of working localities have been given the freedom to make decisions regarding how they use their funding pot. Two key models of how this could be used are emerging, one is to look at how the money is used to support individual learners, the second looks at how this funding can be used to build capacity and skills across the locality workforce, including the continued professional development of the SENCO role. In most localities they are opting for a 'hybrid' of the two.