High needs funding - For children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools

High needs funding supports children and young people with SEND to make progress in school. It funds the provision listed in a pupil's plan. It is for pupils with Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans and some pupils at SEN Support.

There is more high needs funding for schools to support pupil's with SEND in the school year 2024/25.

In September 2024 we are starting to change how mainstream schools in Sheffield receive high-needs funding to support pupils with EHC Plans. This change is part of a review of how we fund SEND provision in mainstream schools. We want to make sure that method is the same in all schools in Sheffield.

The information below is a short explanation of how we distribute this funding.

All mainstream schools get some money called 'notional SEND funding' or 'element 2 funding'.

They use this money to fund educational provision for all pupils in the school with SEND, up to £6000 per pupil.

Local authorities have extra funding for high-needs SEND provision.

We are starting to issue funding in a new way for pupils with new EHC plans from September 2024.

Both funding models are explained below.

For pupils with existing support plans or EHC plans

Mainstream schools will get some money called 'SEND high-needs initial block funding'.

Schools use this money to fund provision for children with high needs that costs over £6000.

Localities allocate extra funding to schools

Localities are groups of schools that are close to each other and work together.

If a school needs more money to deliver the provision in a plan, the school SENCO will ask for this money from their locality. The locality will need to know how the school has used the funding that it has received so far.

The local authority also has a small amount of extra funding for emergencies and exceptional circumstances.

For pupils with new EHC plans issued from September 2024

When a new EHC plan is issued, we will use a funding tool to allocate an amount of funding for the school to deliver the provision listed in the EHC plan.

This funding will be allocated to schools directly by the local authority.