

Council Offices
Dalton House
Dalton Way
Middlewich
Cheshire CW10 0HU

Date: 23 April 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Changes to Funding Arrangements for Special Educational Needs

This letter is being sent to you as the Government, through the Department for Education (DfE), have introduced new funding arrangements for pupils with Special Educational Needs that will begin on 1st April this year.

Under these new funding arrangements, Cheshire East will not be able to continue to finance Individual Pupil Funding (IPF) and from 1st April 2013 all existing IPF funding will cease. Schools will, however, directly receive funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs following the new Government scheme outlined in the information below.

From 1st April 2013 Special Educational Needs Funding will be delivered to schools in 3 Elements: -

Element 1 - Linked to Mainstream Funding - This will be delivered as part of the 'Schools Funding Block' and allocated to ALL pupils, mainly through the **Basic per Pupil Entitlement, (BPPE)**. This is estimated by the DfE to be around **£4,000** per pupil.

For Cheshire East this per pupil funding will be: -

School	Key stage	Element 1 funding
Primary	KS1 and KS2	£3,312
Secondary	KS3	£3,928
Secondary	KS4	£4,674

Element 2 - Low Cost, High Incidence Funding – This will now also form part of the 'Schools Funding Block', estimated by the DfE to be around **£6,000** and will be called '**Additional Pupil Support**'. This funding will be allocated, by the DfE, according to a pupil's previous attainment. The two triggers for this funding are:-

- Pupils who have scored below 73 points on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) when they move from Reception to Year 1 in primary school and,
- Pupils whose attainment is below level 4 in both English and Maths in their KS2 SATS when they move from primary school to high school

The number of pupils in Cheshire East who will trigger this allocation is 4,130. This is far more than the current number of pupils with statements for SEN, or those receiving IPF, which is currently 1,322 pupils.

As a consequence of these higher numbers of pupils the proposed funding for Element 2 is as follows:

School	Number of pupils	Element 2 funding
Primary	2,745 pupils	£2,128
Secondary	1,685,pupils	£4,005

This means that there is no direct link between this funding and pupils who currently receive IPF or have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. This funding is available for the schools to spend in supporting all pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Element 3 – ‘Top-up Funding’ - For pupils with more complex needs the school will be able to apply to Cheshire East to be considered for ‘**Top-up Funding**’.

Pupils with Statements - Cheshire East Schools Forum has agreed that for all pupils with Statements the Local Authority will continue to ‘**Top-up**’ their funding above Elements 1 and 2 already assumed to be in the schools budget, to the agreed level on their Statement, until the pupil’s next annual review.

These new changes affect every pupil in the country with Special Educational Needs. Cheshire East Council has worked very hard with schools to prepare for these changes and I can assure you that the spending going into schools to support pupils with Special Educational Needs in 2013-14 is in excess of £19 million pounds as it was in the year 2012-13.

In conclusion, all schools will have to make changes to the way they organise their support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and I hope that you, as parents and carers with a keen interest in your children’s education, will work with your school to ensure the smoothest possible transition to these new arrangements.

If you require further information on these changes please contact your child’s school in the first instance who will have up to date information on their current situation.

Yours faithfully,

Pamela A. Davies

Principal Manager for SEND & Inclusion
Services for Children, Families & Adults
Cheshire East Council