

## Schools Block Transfer Consultation 2021

This report was generated on 09/11/21. Overall 13 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

### Please provide your details. (Position:)

Head Teacher  
Headteacher  
business manager  
Headteacher  
Teacher  
Trustee  
Member  
Headteacher  
Trustee  
Headteacher  
Headteacher

### Is your school...?



### Do you agree with the proposed transfer?



### Why do you say this?

Reduction in budgets for maintained schools will result in redundancies and a reduction in staff support for children on wave 2.

This will cost our school in excess of £20,000 per year. We already have a number of EHCP children and the high needs funding we receive is insufficient. We are supposed to fund the first £6,000 but in reality (as the funding is based on out of date pay rates) we pay the first £8,500. With 6 EHCPs, we are already being underfunded by £15,000. To then have this on top would be unsustainable. Additionally, this is a national issue. The whole SEND system is at breaking point and the promises made by central government and the amount of choice open to individuals is not comparable with the amount of funding available. National government need to properly look at and solve this issue, rather than expecting individual schools to fund a sticking plaster approach. This will not solve the issues, and I am certain that if this is agreed, the deficit will still grow and we will be approached for yet more money.

the school has insufficient funding for SEN pupils as it is and our expenditure is over and above the amount of income we get to pay for our staff to support these children

## Why do you say this?

I can see that this needs to be done to reduce the debt, however I think it is a huge concern as schools in Leicestershire have traditionally not been funded as well as other counties. Additionally, at a time when schools are trying to support 'catch up' after covid - reducing budgets will not help with this; both in providing additional academic support and social and emotional support for children.

This is a national problem which needs to be resolved by the DfE/govt, schools should not be taking a funding cut to prop up an unsustainable system.

I don't think it is right, fair nor sustainable for schools to prop up system financial government issues in an already underfunded situation.

The challenge of special needs is not just the High Needs Block. All the schools with which I am familiar have budget pressures because of special needs. The high needs top up (the level of which hasn't changed for years) is insufficient to meet in school costs of providing the required hours for each child. Whilst the £2.3m proposed transfer will impact on delivery in schools it will have minimal impact on the accumulated deficit of over £40m. The whole system is in need of national review with the necessary funding provided to support the defined needs.

We are already under considerable financial pressure. Unlike most schools, we are also contending with old, over-crowded and substandard accommodation which is extremely costly to maintain. A further cut in our budget is just not feasible.

high needs funding needs to be sorted more fairly so that those children with greater needs are fully supported - Government should be recognising this and funding schools properly.

## Which is your preferred model?

Model 1 – Paragraph 55 of the consultation document refers (1)  50%

Model 2 – Paragraph 56 of the consultation document refers (1)  50%

## Why do you say this?

slightly less of an impact for the children in my school

## Are there any further actions that could be delivered that will help manage the increasing demand for EHCP's and rising costs?

Apart from fairer funding no.

Reduce the choices that some parents are able to have in sending their children to high cost out of LA provision. Look to develop more DSPs to add on to mainstream schools so that a halfway house is provided that in turn can reduce demand on special schools. Ultimately this is a major national issue that needs addressing properly.

## Are there any further actions that could be delivered that will help manage the increasing demand for EHCP's and rising costs?

There has been a noticeable increase in the complexity of needs in mainstream primary schools. We find we are supporting children with more and more complex needs and due to existing budget cuts there are fewer staff available to support these children. The increasing demand for EHCPs is a reflection of the increasing complexities that schools are facing. The pathway to get specific training and support for staff and to get advice, is often complicated and involves filling in a lot of forms (often repeating information many times over) and then waiting for any response or any advice and support. In many cases, it is experienced staff working with children with complex needs and experienced SENCOs but the needs are becoming more complex hence the request for advice. This delay in access to services can often make a situation worse. There are issues particularly gaining quick access to services for children with SEMH or displaying physical behaviours, again the delay in accessing services and advice can often make a situation deteriorate. This is not helped by the difficulty in getting any form of support for children from CAMHs or by medical professionals directing parents back to schools (who are very often doing everything they can already). There aren't any easy solutions but it appears all services, including schools, are already on their knees and at risk of failing some children; these actions will not improve the situation but the worry is they could make an already difficult situation worse.

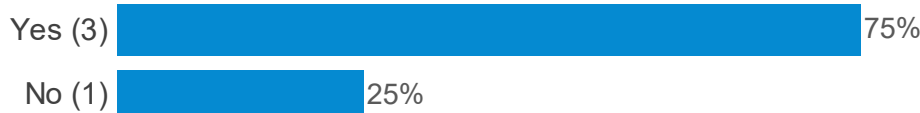
as per the previous answer, the issue needs to be addressed nationally

With regard to rising costs, better LA specialist provision offers. From our very small school 3 children with EHCP's have left us and all been placed in independent provision which is of a significant high cost, including a fee paying independent school when the LA was taken to tribunal.

EHCP's are needed and children should have a recognised document that fully outlines their needs. There should however be a more efficient and cost effective way of deciding who should get one. Stop putting hours support in and make sure parents know that the majority of support should come from first quality teaching and the school should make the decision about what additional support may be needed and this will often be as part of a small group rather than individual basis. The EHCP should be based on children's needs not on how well the paperwork is completed.

More funding from the government for these pupils

## Do you agree or disagree with the principle of de-delegation of funding for the purposes of establishing a scheme to fund Union Facilities Time?



## Why do you say this?

it seems to be cost effective and better managed. Hopefully it will enable schools to have a quicker route to dealing with staff absence and other issues of competence in a fairer way that does not drag out for months and months costing schools huge amounts of time and money to deal with the situation.

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