

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE – 21 January 2025**

**QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

**Question asked by David Warwick:**

“In Relation to Education Health Care Plans, at the Schools Forum, it was confirmed that the County Council pays approximately half that of the City Council as its element 3 contribution, £8,000 compared to £16,000 for full time (32 hours) classroom support assistance. And further that the County Council's element 3 contribution has not risen in ten years. Could the Council please provide a detailed explanation for this disparity and how it intends to help schools pay for the required additional classroom support staff and facilities in mainstream schools for children with additional needs going forward?”

**Response by the Chairman:**

No information on rates paid in respect of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has been presented to the Schools Forum. Local authorities are structured and funded very differently. Funding rates differ significantly across different local authorities, for example the 2025/26 High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant settlement for Leicestershire per pupil in specialist provision is 16% less than that received by a neighbouring authority. Leicestershire can only pass on money to schools that is available within the High Needs grant given.

In addition to this provision and the payment rate attached to it also differs as a result of SEN strategy decisions within individual authorities. For example, an authority may have chosen to invest in maintaining pupils with EHCPs in mainstream schools or alternatively as in Leicestershire invested in specialist provision through the establishment of resource bases where funding is higher.

Leicestershire is one of only a few authorities that continues to fund mainstream EHCPs based on hours of provision and is in the process of developing a new approach to funding EHCPs based on a banded model. This model has been co-produced with schools and has at its heart a consistent funding allocation which gives schools more flexibility to meet children's needs.

In the short term, the proposals in the Council's 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Strategy include a 3.3% increase in the rate payable to mainstream schools for pupils with EHCPs.

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