Walsall Council

Walsall Children's Services

To Be Opened By Addressee Only

Our Ref: ET/ (RLG)
Date: 24th November 20
Phone No: 01922 653788
Email: EDCAdminTeam@walsall.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Consultation on the new guidance document for SEND and high needs funding arrangements for children with special educational needs and EHCPs

As a parent / carer of a child who has special educational needs and / or an EHCP, I am writing to you to seek your views on proposed changes to High Needs Funding arrangements for children with additional needs.

The High Needs Funding formula is the local process that is used to allocate funding that the council receives from the government, to the schools and settings that support children with additional needs in the borough of Walsall.

Walsall SEND services have been working with Walsall schools and partner services to review our approach to High Needs Funding arrangements, with the overall aim of developing a new approach for allocating the funding so that it is child centred, needs based, transparent, equitable and affordable.

A new draft guidance document (Walsall Right 4 SEND Guidance and banding document) has been developed which has two main aims. Firstly, it is intended that the guidance document will help Walsall schools and settings to effectively identify and meet the needs of children with special educational needs. Secondly, it provides a banding model which identifies children by their primary area of need and level of need. The banding will identify the level and type of support a child needs in school and this will inform the level of funding that will be provided to the child's school for children with more complex needs who have an EHCP.

The funding schools receive for children with an EHCP will transfer to the new model from 1st April 2021 if the model is agreed and implemented. Children's progress and provision will still continue to be reviewed and changed as required through the statutory Annual Review process.

As the model is needs based, it should mean that all children with special educational needs in Walsall schools will get the right support for their type and level of need. It should also help to make sure that all children with special educational needs experience a 'graduated approach' which is a requirement of the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

Have your say

Before the Walsall Right 4 SEND Guidance and banding document is finalised we want to hear your views and invite you to have your say by completing the online questionnaire on our Local offer website: Click here

Here you will also find more information on High Needs Funding and the draft Walsall Right 4 SEND Guidance and banding document itself which I recommend you review before responding. There is also a link to an easy access video explaining the document.

The closing date for responses is midnight on 20 December 2020.
As well as seeking feedback from parents and carers, we are also consulting Head Teachers, school Governors, partner services and our internal SEN services. All feedback and other information will be used to inform, and if needed, further develop the proposals prior to the Walsall Right 4 SEND Guidance and banding document being adopted on 1 April 2021.

All schools are holding their own Walsall Right 4 SEND virtual information sessions where you can find out more and have your say. Please contact your child's school for more information.

On behalf of the High Needs Funding working group, we look forward to hearing your views.

Kind regards,



Dr Emma Thornbery
Lead Educational Psychologist & Strategic Support Manager
Sent on behalf of the Schools Forum High Needs Funding Working Group

If you have any questions about this survey, or if you would like this information or the questionnaire in large print or an alternative format, please email EDCAdminTeam@walsall.gov.uk or call 01922 653788 and leave a message.