

Locality SEND Support – Information for early adopter school websites.



Our school has become an early adopter in an exciting new initiative by Croydon Council to improve support for children with special needs or disabilities who live in Croydon.

Along with several other schools in our area, we've been given funding to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters. This will enable our special needs staff to work closely with our partner schools to quickly get the necessary support and help for students who are beginning to demonstrate that they have additional needs which can't be met through our own school SEND resources.

This early help which may be in the form of advice, school to school support, referral to specialist services, or additional resource can be put in place rapidly without unnecessary delay. This is because our group of schools hold the funding between us so we can direct this to the most suitable children in an efficient targeted way.

The initiative is called "Locality SEND Support" and will run throughout this academic year. We will monitor the outcomes closely, and if it proves successful it is anticipated that it will then be rolled out across all schools in Croydon. Presently the scheme is only for Croydon residents and will not impact on students who already have an Education & Health care Plan or those in Enhanced Learning Provisions.

If you want to learn more about this scheme please contact our SENDCO and we will be happy to send you further details.

Locality SEND Support in Mainstream Schools A brief Guide for parents and carers.

In order to improve the quality and timing of support to Croydon resident children with special needs and disabilities the Local Authority has begun an exciting new project with around 33 early adopter mainstream primary and secondary schools. The project is called “Locality SEND Support”.



The aim of the project is to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters in the early adopter schools by working with four groups of schools who are all local to each other and better placed to understand the needs of their children. Each group has been given a sum of money to directly support pupils in their local area and have been given the flexibility to spend this in the way that best helps children with emerging challenges to their learning and progress.

Two Area SEND Leads have been appointed who are SEND specialists and will directly support schools, both to use their existing SEND resources in the best interest of the young people and to help distribute additional funding where schools may have insufficient resource to meet an emergent need. The Area SEND Leads will work very closely with school SENDCos, parents, SEND professionals, such as Educational Psychologists to provide and signpost support to SEND pupils. This local approach will enable us to better understand the needs of the children in our care and get help to them quickly in order for them to catch up with their learning and overcome their challenges.

SEND Locality Support is not aimed at children who already have an EHCP nor at youngsters in special schools or enhanced learning provisions. The project is focused on working with local schools to identify young people who are demonstrating a special need and who require early help to support this need.

Whilst we expect many students to benefit from this locally provided and targeted help, we understand that this may not work for some students who present or develop complex and exceptional needs. In order to meet these needs Croydon has allocated a significant sum of money to be shared between all four local areas. This resource will be distributed by a multi-disciplinary panel at Local Authority level.

There is nothing in this project that will take away the right for a parent to request an Education Health Care Needs assessment, however the funding for any EHCPs issued will come from the budget of the Locality SEND Support funds. The sincere hope however, is that early intervention will ensure that the correct strategies, support and therapies are offered in a timely manner. Hence, by the time statutory assessment is considered, funding will already be in place as will a dialogue between schools, students and parents which will help to build trust and a common agreement of what is required in the best interests of each child.

Locality SEND Support in Mainstream

A detailed Guide for parents and carers

Details of the Early Adopter Project

In Croydon, we are introducing a rapid response, two-tiered Locality SEND Support process to ensure that SEND support provision in schools for Croydon resident children is robust and consistent. This is being done to increase leadership capacity in early adopter locality schools to better support pupils with SEND and their families. Early adopter schools will have the chance to be supported with additional resources to increase early intervention provision for pupils with SEND. This programme will also develop partnerships and networks that support school-led improvement that promotes school collaboration and enhanced inclusive practice. Existing EHCPs in early adopter school will be honoured and ELPS and Special Schools are outside of this initiative.

All schools and colleges have a delegated level of funding which can be used to meet a child's learning needs per annum once the child is identified on the school special educational needs register.

Additional support, or 'Locality SEND Support Resources Funding', can now be requested by early adopter schools, with parental involvement, after schools have demonstrated that they have used all the resources available to them and demonstrated that additional resources are necessary to fully support the child's needs effectively in Mainstream Schools.

Locality SEND Support will be overseen by a Locality SEND Lead who will be working closely with school SENDCOs. The SEND Lead will also chair a monthly Locality SEND Support Forum, attended by all SENDCOs, a Headteacher from the Locality and professionals including EPs. This forum is to share best practice and discuss individual cases for 'Locality SEND Support Resources Funding'. Funding or resources awarded at this level may be up to an additional £8,000.

If a child's needs are deemed as 'exceptional'(complex and severe) at a Locality SEND Support Forum, then the Locality SEND Lead will refer and present this child's case, with the school SENDCO, to a Croydon multi-disciplinary panel. This is where Higher Needs Block Funding may be awarded to the Mainstream School. This may, if accepted by the panel lead to a higher resource being allocated. Please see Appendix 1. *Flowchart of Locality SEND Support process.*

The early adopter Localities for this new approach to SEND Support are: Coulsdon, New Addington, Thornton Heath and Selsdon. Please see Appendix 2. *Early Adopter Schools List*

What is a Locality SEND Support Agreement (LSSA)?

This is an agreement between the locality, school and parents where the level of support in school for the child requires additional funding up to the level that can be allocated by the locality.

This enables individual pupils' learning needs to be met quickly, in a targeted way at SEND support level in school.

A LSSA is a non-statutory agreement. Although parents do not have the same statutory rights that a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan bring, the advantage is, that this allows the support to be given in a faster and more flexible way.

However, if after a period of locality funded school-based intervention, the resources provided are found to be insufficient or have been exhausted, then a review can be undertaken by the School SENDCo, parent and teacher along with child/young person's views. As a result of the review a request for additional resources may be made at a Locality SEND Support Forum and this may progress to Higher Need Block Funding panel if needed.

What is a Higher Needs Block Funding Agreement (HNBFA)?

This is an agreement between the local authority, school and parents where the level of support in school for the child requires additional funding over and above the resource that can be allocated by the Locality.

This enables individual pupils' learning needs to be met quickly, in a targeted way at SEND support level in school without the need to go through a 20 week EHCP process.

A HNBFA is a non-statutory agreement, and parents do not have the same statutory rights that a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan bring.

However, if after a period of Higher Needs Block Funding intervention, the resources provided are found to be insufficient or have been exhausted then a review can be undertaken by the School SENDCo, parent and teacher along with child/young person's views. As a result of the review a request for additional resources may be made at Higher Needs Block Funding panel.

Involving you and your child

The council will support all families, children and young people to participate as fully as possible in decisions relating to their lives and to be at the centre of the new system, irrespective of the level of need.

As parents and carers you will be fully involved in making decisions about the nature of the help and support your child receives.

Locality SEND Support reflects Croydon's aim to promote early intervention in Mainstream early adopter schools through working together with families, children and young people with SEND needs.

Moving to an EHC assessment

LSSA and HNBFA's are regularly reviewed and an EHC Assessment and Plan may be recommended should your child's needs change.

The HNBFA is reviewed as needed and at least annually - just like an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan - and the funding mechanism is the same for both in mainstream schools. This means that a child with an EHC Plan with the same level of SEND need as a child with a HNBFA would get the same level of resource and support

A LSSA and HNBFA are both non-statutory agreements, and parents do not have the same statutory rights that a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan brings. For example, parents or carers would not be able to express a preference for a school for their child, appeal decisions through the first-tier tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), or to request a personal budget.

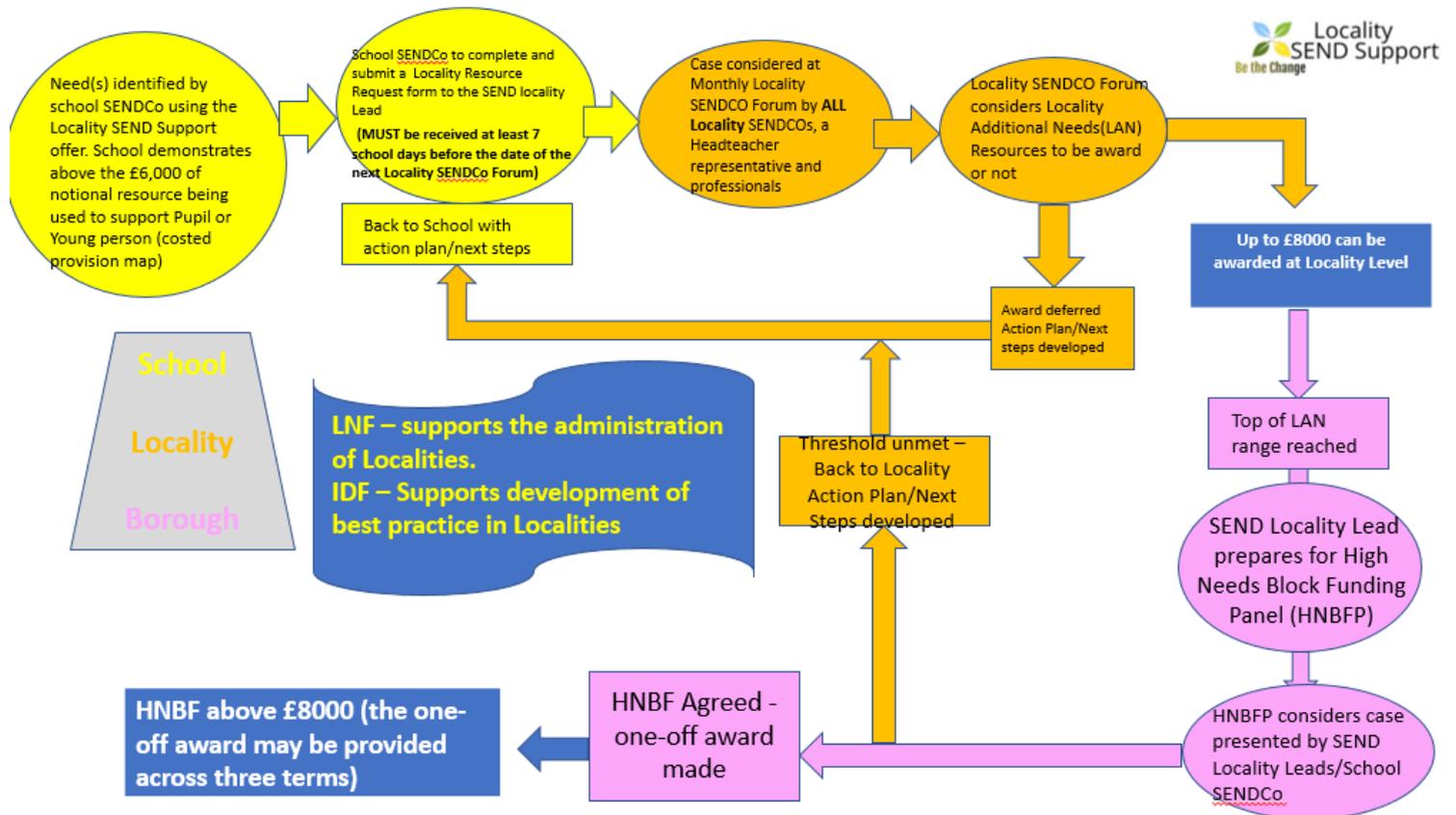
Note

*EHCP's will only need to be requested for pupils with the highest exceptional and complex needs. Higher Needs Block Funding Panel would award the funding for this EHCP, which may be allocated to the school before the EHCP is finalised.

*All schools within the Locality SEND Support system can **only** receive additional SEND resources or funding through the Locality SEND Support panel or Higher Needs Block Funding Panel.

APPENDIX 1.

Flowchart of Locality SEND Support Process



APPENDIX 2.

Early Adopter Schools List

Early Adopter Localities and Schools

Coulsdon

Oasis Academy Coulsdon
Coulsdon Church of
England Primary
Chipstead Valley Primary
Oasis Academy Byron
Woodcote Primary
Woodcote High School
Smitham Primary
&Nursery
St Aidan's Catholic Primary
School
New Valley Primary
School
Keston Primary

Selsdon

Gilbert Scott Primary School
The Quest Academy
Courtwood Primary School
Forestdale Primary School
Greenvale Primary School
Selsdon Primary School &
Nursery
Gresham Primary
Atwood Primary Academy

Thornton Heath

NMBEC
KAPS
Gonville Primary
Winterbourne Infants
& Nursery School
Winterbourne Girls
Winterbourne Boys
St. Joseph's College
Norbury Manor
Primary

New Addington

Applegarth Academy
Tudor Academy
Rowdown Academy
Meridian High School
Castle Hill Academy
Good Shepherd Catholic
School
Fairchildes Primary