



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group
Education and Skills Service

Agenda Item 6

SCHOOLS FORUM

04 July 2018

Fair Funding For Schools and the Impact of the Minimum per Pupil Funding Guarantee

1. Purpose of the Report

Schools Forum are asked to consider the report, which seeks to highlight potential issues in the way the Minimum Per Pupil guarantee figure is used within the National Funding Formula. The report is based on the email originally circulated by Graeme Atkins, Executive Headteacher Hadrian Learning Trust on 6 June 2018.

2. Fair funding for high schools

3. As you will be aware from discussions at Schools Forum earlier this year, the National Funding Formula in its current guise contains an anomaly that penalises high schools. As a consequence, Hadrian Learning Trust is working with various parties to lobby for this to be addressed by the DfE in a revision to the current formula. It would be helpful if you as Chair of Schools Forum could add your voice to the calls for change, assuming other Forum members are in agreement.
4. The specific concern is that the current NFF averages out the distinction between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 minimum per pupil funding to arrive at a figure of £4,800 for all five secondary year groups. It then applies this figure to the three year groups in a high school.
5. This is unfair as it fails to reflect the fact that typically two thirds of a high school's students (excluding sixth form) are in Key Stage 4, which is significantly more expensive to run than Key Stage 3. In a secondary school, only two fifths of students are in Key Stage 4.
6. The DfE recognises that Key Stage 3 is less expensive to run by establishing in the NFF that the minimum per pupil funding in Years 7 & 8 in middle schools is £4,200. Applying this to the three Key Stage 3 year groups in secondary schools, means that Key Stage 4 in such schools will in effect receive a minimum funding guarantee of £5,700 per pupil – the £4,800 figure is determined by averaging the three years of £4,200 and two of £5,700.
7. For high schools to be treated fairly and on a par with secondary schools, the average minimum funding guarantee must be £5,200. All of this is explained in more detail in the document accompanying this letter (attached).

8. A pressing concern is that the DfE funding unit has recently communicated the following to us:

“The NFF doesn't distinguish between schools based on year group structure. It only distinguishes between schools that teach different key stages. We have minimums for schools that have key stage 3 only, key stage 3 and 4 and key stage 4 only. Current policy is as published and there are no planned changes to that for schools which teach KS3 and KS4. The NFF for 2019-20 will be published in July.”

9. This is a wholly perverse response as the current Technical Guidance does distinguish for year groups, with a weighted MFG for middle schools.

10. Recommendation

The Schools Forum is recommended to consider the report and agree any subsequent action.

The £4,800 per pupil di minimis for secondary schools being used for high schools is inherently unfair

Year	Current guarantee per pupil		Guarantee for each year group should be	Guarantee translated for Middle/High Schools
	Secondary	Middle/High		
7	£ 4,800	£ 4,200	£ 4,200	£ 4,200
8	£ 4,800	£ 4,200	£ 4,200	£ 4,200
9	£ 4,800	£ 4,800	£ 4,200	£ 5,200
10	£ 4,800	£ 4,800	£ 5,700	£ 5,200
11	£ 4,800	£ 4,800	£ 5,700	£ 5,200
Average	£ 4,800	£ 4,560	£ 4,800	£ 4,800

Total funding for 306 PAN	£ 7,344,000	£ 6,976,800	£ 7,344,000	£ 7,344,000
Difference		£ 367,200		

This means that a three tier system with a PAN of 306 is potentially missing out on funding of up to £367k annually compared to the lowest funded secondary schools. For parity, high schools should have a per pupil di minimis of £5,200.

For an exemplar school we calculate that this would increase funding by £361,200, as we are below the £4,800 di minimis - see EXEMPLAR tab.

Middle schools would be unaffected by this change, as their di minimis would remain at £4,200.

EXEMPLAR SCHOOL BUDGET SHARE 2018-19

Census	Funding rates		Total funding			
	18/19 NCC	NFF	18/19 NCC	When NFF starts	When NFF starts	
Number of Pupils on roll						
Census October 2017						
KS3	298					
KS4	605					
Total	903					
1. Age Weighted Funding						
(a) AWPU (ii) Primary	0	£ 2,807	£ 2,747	£ -	£ -	£ -
(iii) Key Stage 3	298	£ 3,863	£ 3,863	£ 1,151,174	£ 1,151,070	£ 1,151,070
(iv) Key Stage 4	605	£ 4,580	£ 4,386	£ 2,770,900	£ 2,653,234	£ 2,653,234
2. Deprivation Funding						
(a) FSM (i) Primary	0	£ 757	£ 440	£ -	£ -	£ -
(ii) Secondary	45	£ 777	£ 440	£ 34,965	£ 19,800	£ 19,800
(b) FSM (i) Primary	0	£ 540	£ 540	£ -	£ -	£ -
Ever 6 (ii) Secondary	107	£ 785	£ 785	£ 84,220	£ 84,220	£ 84,220
(b) IDACI Primary						
Band G 0-0.2	0	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band F 0.2-0.25	0	£ 200	£ 200	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band E 0.25-0.3	0	£ 240	£ 240	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band D 0.3-0.35	0	£ 360	£ 360	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band C 0.35-0.4	0	£ 390	£ 390	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band B 0.4-0.5	0	£ 532	£ 420	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band A 0.5-1.0	0	£ 575	£ 575	£ -	£ -	£ -
Secondary						
Band G 0-0.2	833	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band F 0.2-0.25	16	£ 290	£ 290	£ 4,650	£ 4,650	£ 4,650
Band E 0.25-0.3	6	£ 390	£ 390	£ 2,345	£ 2,345	£ 2,345
Band D 0.3-0.35	2	£ 515	£ 515	£ 1,032	£ 1,032	£ 1,032
Band C 0.35-0.4	45	£ 560	£ 560	£ 25,256	£ 25,256	£ 25,256
Band B 0.4-0.5	0	£ 725	£ 600	£ -	£ -	£ -
Band A 0.5-1.0	1	£ 810	£ 810	£ 812	£ 812	£ 812
3. Prior Attainment						
(i) Primary Low Attainment	0	£ 1,050	£ 1,050	£ -	£ -	£ -
(ii) Secondary Pupils not achieving (KS2 level 4 English or Maths)	126	£ 1,550	£ 1,550	£ 196,047	£ 196,047	£ 196,047
4. English as an Additional Language (EAL)						
(i) Primary	0	£ 515	£ 515	£ -	£ -	£ -
(ii) Secondary	7	£ 1,385	£ 1,385	£ 9,695	£ 9,695	£ 9,695
5. Lump Sum						
		£ 110,000	£ 110,000	£ 110,000	£ 110,000	£ 110,000
TOTAL FUNDING (excluding sixth form)				£ 4,391,097	£ 4,258,162	£ 4,258,162

Per pupil guarantee

Pupil-led funding	£	4,741	£	4,594	£	4,594
Total funding per pupil (£)	£	4,863	£	4,716	£	4,716
Minimum pupil-led (£)	£	-	£	4,800	£	5,200
Minimum additional pupil-led from per pupil di minimis (£)	£	-	£	84	£	484
New pupil-led (£)	£	-	£	4,678	£	5,078
Funding with guarantee	£	-	£	4,334,400	£	4,695,600
Funding excluding lump sums	£	-	£	4,224,400	£	4,585,600
Additional funding from £5,200 minimum pupil-led figure					£	361,200

Per pupil guarantees	
Primary	£ 3,500
KS3 in middle	£ 4,200
Middle	£ 3,850
High/secondary	£ 4,800
High should be	£ 5,200

