

**Reference Number:** FOI-101004549756

**Response provided under:** Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Request and response:**

### ECHPs

- 1. The number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year. The council may refer me to the government's SEN 2 data if it is satisfied with the accuracy of the published figure.**

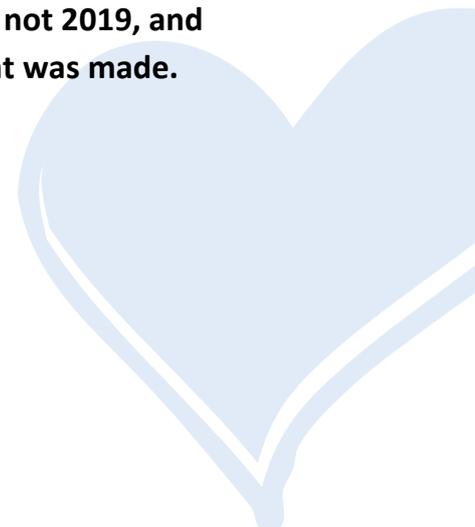
477

- 2. Of the number of initial requests for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many requests for assessment were refused? This question excludes requests made during the 2017 calendar year that were refused during the 2018 calendar year, but includes requests made during the 2018 calendar year that have been refused during the 2019 calendar year. I leave it to the council's discretion as to whether the SEN 2 figures satisfy these parameters.**

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- 3. Of the number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many have resulted in EHC plans being made (including plans made during the 2019 calendar year)? Please note the SEN 2 figures do not provide this data - SEN 2 shows the number of ECH plans that were made during the 2018 calendar year, not 2019, and regardless of the year in which the request for an assessment was made.**

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**4. Of the number of initial requests that were made for assessment for an EHC plan during the 2018 calendar year (i.e. the question 1 figure), how many requests have yet to be decided upon (or are yet to have an ECH plan made, where the need for a plan has been agreed)? Please note the SEN 2 figures do not provide this data - the SEN 2 figures measure the outcomes of those assessments that took place during the 2018 calendar year**

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**If responding to question 4 would take this request over the section 12 cost limit, please exclude question 4 and process the remainder of this request. If responding to questions 1-3 would still take this request over the section 12 cost limit, please exclude questions 1-4 in their entirety and process the remainder of this request.**

### **Finances**

**Please state:**

**5. The monetary value of the council's High Needs Block allocation from the government each year in 2018/19 and 2019/20.**

**Question 5 excludes any transfer of funds by the council from other parts of the DSG into the High Needs Block (or vice versa).**

**The forecast 2019/20 figures for the following questions 6-8 should be those forecast at the start of the financial year (e.g. as part of annual budget-setting), not forecasts produced by in-year revenue monitoring.**

2018/19: £41.712m

2019/20: £43.131m

**6. The monetary value of the council's actual High Needs Block expenditure each financial year for 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.**

2018/19: £44.811m

2019/20: £44.672m

**7. The monetary value of the council's overspend or underspend (please specify) on its High Needs Block in 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.**

2018/19: £2.099m

2019/20: £0.000m (balanced budget was set during budget setting process)

**8. The monetary value of transfers (a) to the council's High Needs expenditure from other parts of the council's DSG allocation, and (b) from the council's High Needs Block allocation to other parts of the council's DSG expenditure, in 2018/19 and forecast for 2019/20.**

2018/19: a) £1.000m transferred to the High Needs Block from the Schools Block. b) No transfers from the High Needs Block to any other blocks of the DSG.

2019/20: a) £1.541m transferred to the High Needs Block from the Schools Block. b) No transfers from the High Needs Block to any other blocks of the DSG.

**9. Any proposals the council has adopted or is considering adopting to reduce (or limit increases in) its High Needs expenditure in 2019/20, including (but not limited to) mitigating action to tackle forecast High Needs Block overspends, or changes to eligibility for or provision or staffing of special needs education, or restrictions to eligibility for or provision of special needs education transport services.**

- Meetings with providers about cost reductions, for example around economies of scale;
- Development of a new framework contract for individual specialist placements (ISPs) further provider engagement, firming up of contractual intentions and more detailed financial accounting; Review of the funding policy for jointly funded ISPs is underway
- ARB benchmarking supports financial decision making and manages expectations

**Bandings**

**10. Does the council use a banding system to allocate resources for special needs 'top up' funding?**

There is no banding system for mainstream school top-ups however there is a banding system for placements in ARBS and Special Schools. The requestor does not specify if their query relates to one specific area or all.

**If the answer to question 10 is 'no', please ignore questions 11-14.**

**11. Has the council changed the value or criteria of its banding system since April 2017? If so, please provide a copy of the impact assessment for the change.**

Not applicable

**If the answer to question 11 is 'no', please ignore questions 12-14.**

**12. What were the funding values and criteria for each band under the system prior to the change referred to in question 11? How many children were in each band immediately prior to the change?**

Not applicable

**13. What were the funding values and criteria for each band under the new system following the change referred to in question 11? How many children were in each band immediately after the change? The council may refer to its impact assessment for this latter aspect.**

Not applicable

**If data protection reasons mean specific figures cannot be given for the number of children in each band, please state (if known) how many children's top-up funding rose and how many children's top-up funding fell under the change.**

**14. How many children are currently in each band under the existing banding system?**

Not applicable

**Information provided by:** Together for Families

**Date of response:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019