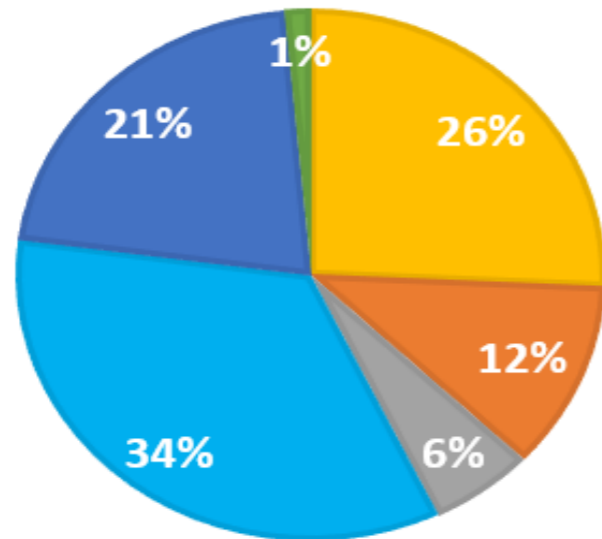


## Appendix 1 - Consultation Responses

**Q1. Do you agree with the authority's recommendation to transfer £1.7m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support the financial pressures being experienced in supporting pupils with high needs?**

Strongly disagree Tend to disagree Neither agree nor disagree Tend to agree Strongly agree other



**Q2. If you disagree with the recommendation to transfer £1.7m from the Schools Block please tell us why.**

I feel that there are no winners in such a decision however I'm fully aware of the financial pressures being placed on school being a head of a small, largely successful school and know the impact that the reduction in overall budgets is having on our ability to deliver a good quality of education and the wellbeing of staff due to additional pressures being placed on them.

We cannot manage on our budget as it is.

Reducing the money in the Schools Block will place huge pressure on individual schools, especially when they are having to meet the partially funded teachers pay settlement. It also risks further pressure on the support provided to SEN pupils in schools as funded by TAs or other locally funded forms of SEN support. Basic need to provide high quality teaching, for all pupils including those with SEN is severely at risk if this decision is implemented

This will affect schools on already tight budgets but there is a deficit and money has to be found somewhere

Because my school will struggle to maintain a balanced budget with less in our funding from the schools block.

That money should be removed from the Schools Block but would want more money from central government for the High Needs Block. There is not enough money in school budgets to fund basic provision.

We do not have enough money for our school to be financially viable without losing funds.

When schools need to access funding for complex SEND issues, it is virtually impossible to get an EHCP accepted, even where there is vast evidence, and therefore it does not seem that funding is being used fairly for the pupils that really need it.

We consider this to be a case of inadequate funding being 'displaced'. We have sympathy with local authorities trying to achieve the impossible. But we consider only increased, adequate and morally sufficient funding for education to be the answer.

My concern is that if you take more money from schools -then they will not be able to support children within school and thus there will be more need for support from the high needs block !

Schools have had to plan for overall reductions in funding for several years and feel the LA should have been doing the same - we are not in a position to simply take money from another 'pot' and feel we are being penalised again.

This would have a huge impact on our school budget which is already spending more than allocated on children with high level needs.

Our school context: 203 children on role. We only receive £43,000 SEN notional funding but have 9 children with full EHCPs costing the school £54,000 to cover the first £6,000 of each EHCP before any money is spent on the remaining 12.3% of children with identified SEN needs. This is money which is allocated to all children in the school but we are spending on the 9 children with EHCPs a greater proportion than the National Average and yet there is no money to support our school compared to other schools with similar contexts only financing 2 or 3 children with EHCPs.

Inadequate funding in the education system resulting in robbing Peter to pay Paul - when they are both so very badly funded already!

Whilst I tend to agree, I would like it noted that I am currently handling a body of staff which, due to funding pressures, have experienced a significant lack of pay progression. This is having a massive impact on motivation, may result in me losing good staff and is likely to negatively impact the education of young people. This matter will only be worsened by any further reduction in my funding, going ahead.

School budgets are already at breaking point, without further reductions. As a school we rarely benefit from the High Needs block funding, despite managing some pupils with very high needs. On average it takes us between 2 and 4 years to access high needs block support for our pupils and then they move on.

Currently the level of resource for high needs pupils across the county, both in Schools and in the High Needs Block is inadequate, especially in schools in areas of high deprivation. We already spend part of our basic funding specifically on the needs of High Needs Pupils along with our high needs block. Therefore a reduction in our budget would significantly reduce our capacity to meet the needs of our high needs pupils. Because this 1.7m is only being used to address a deficit, rather than improving central services, the reduction in our capacity will not be mitigated by an increase in county-provided services."

Because school budgets are already highly stretched

The Authority has committed huge funds to Special Needs £66.7M but has to date demonstrated little financial or budgetary control as to how these funds are used and what is the outcome of such spending. Until this can be demonstrated the loss of £12k per annum per school will have an immediate impact on the Educational Resources made available to all students and an immediate impact on the Alternate Provision facilities that are offered at school level and are far more cost effective. Support provided at school level remains fundamental rather than paying for services and facilities that in our experience are just not taken up.

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Schools are already poorly funded especially in Cambridgeshire, this funding should come from a new source not moved from an existing one.

Whilst I recognise the enormous financial pressure on the LA, passing this on to the schools makes no sense as an alternative when we too have faced a real terms cut of 8%. Reducing the money in the Schools Block will place huge pressure on individual schools, especially when they are having to meet the partially funded teachers' pay settlement. Basic need to provide high quality teaching, for all pupils including those with SEND, is severely at risk if this decision is implemented.

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This will put increasing pressure on schools who are already stretched to provide effective and appropriate levels of support for all the pupils in school including vulnerable and SEND. There isn't enough support or capacity to support young people who need specialist support and the onus is on schools to provide their own support.

Reducing the money in the Schools Block will place huge pressure on individual schools, especially where they are having to meet the partially funded teachers pay settlement. It also risks further pressure on the support provided to SEN pupils in schools as funded by TAs or other locally funded forms of SEN support.

The movement of funds will leave the schools block short hat will lead to future increase in the high needs block

Transfer from one block to another does not appear to increase funding into schools

It is not solving the long term problem; I feel it is just firefighting again.

CCC need to push back to government and gain extra high needs funding. If £1.7m comes from the school block it is a case of robbing from the poor to give to the poor!

This is another example of the reduction in funding for schools that we simply can't absorb. The suggestions made simply shift the problem to mainstream schools. I would be more favourably disposed if BAIP funding was to increase but this year it has remained frozen (cut by 20K in our case). Even with the transfer last year, we are having EHCP applications turned down which clearly meet the thresholds so it feels like we are losing out all ways.

**Q3. If you do NOT agree with the recommended transfer between blocks in (1) above which high needs budget areas do you suggest should be reduced to find an equivalent £1.7m saving in 2019-20?**

We need more money from the government.

Continued focus on reducing the cost of out of county provision; working closely with MATs to consider local provision for EHCPs; increased pressure from LA and political leadership on securing additional funding from central government. However, any attempt to reduce money in the EOTAS devolved funding pot will undermine and possibly fatally compromise the ability of schools to deliver effective alternative provision.

I am afraid I don't have the answer to this! Maybe divert/reduce funds from building new schools?

Again, central government cannot expect local authorities to provide more services on reduced funding. They must increase LA budgets.

That's not my decision to make.

It is not the transfer that I do not agree with, it is the huge amount of funding. Where is it possible to see how this money is being distributed?

We do not have sufficient detail of the budget to make a helpful suggestion. We presume there is no straightforward answer otherwise you would have used it, but this doesn't address the reason for our disagreement with the proposal

I do not think that headteachers have enough information to make this decision =. The consultations meetings I have been to have not suggested an alternative - nor shown headteachers the % of budget spent on other services and therefore how can we make an informed decision

Reductions should be coming from the large payments being made to independent schools, often outside of Cambridgeshire - additional places need to be found within the LA. The investment in new schools across the LA should be including special needs provision.

Look at individual cases and don't take from the schools who are already financing a lot of their school budget for children with high level needs. Our school is well above the National Average for children with EHCPs 4.43% and to take from our school when others have lower than the National Average is unfair.

If the funding to support the children with high level needs is not allocated fairly then why should the money being taken from schools to cover the costs of the high needs block be done fairly. Only seems to be done fairly when it suits the majority.

I cannot see an answer to that problem, as needs are needs and should be met. The only answer is that the government revise their approach to funding schools and local authorities to support pupils with high needs.

There are clearly particularly costly areas of expenditure within the High Needs Block that could be targeted. For example, it is three times as expensive to provide home tuition as it is to provide a place at a P.R.U. A detailed review of the impact of all out of school services to assess their value for money would be sensible before threatening individual schools' budgets.

By exercising budgetary control in the same way that all schools are being expected to assert as they are managing to provide a good service with no increase in Budget and reduction over the past years of over 8% in real terms. With a budget of £66.7M a saving of £1.7M represents some 2.5% of budget – far less than each and every school is being forced to find annually. Individual schools budgets are already at breaking point and the Teachers Grant is nowhere near the real sum needed to finance the latest National Pay Award. The High Needs service currently provided by the County could be argued as chaotic and not fit for purpose with students being allocated to schools on an “emergency” or fire fighting basis with no realistic funding reflecting need. We ourselves run a service that has just 2 students yet costs the authority some £80k per annum in fixed grant. Despite raising these concerns there appears to be limited capacity within the authority to view such facilities as Value for Money. Schools would prefer to manage this shortfall in funding themselves rather than pay more into a service that is unable to fulfil its objectives.

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It is not for me to make suggestions. Lobbying the DfE for the right amount of money would be my only comment.

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Continued focus on reducing the cost of out of county provision; working closely with MATs to consider local provision for EHCPs; increased pressure from LA and political leadership on securing additional funding from central government.

I am unsure as to what block could or even should be reduced

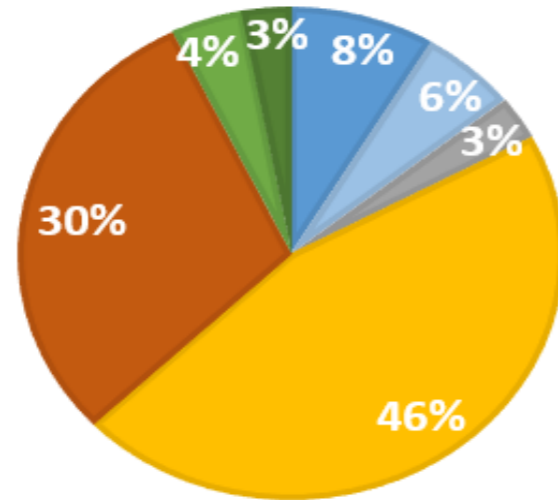
I don't think there are other options because school budgets are so tight. It is a no win situation for anyone including the LA.

Again - this is a governmental question. The DfE needs to understand that the system is not working. My budget is already stretched and to take another £8k off will put my school in jeopardy.

Control the high needs overspend. Ultimately, this is the role of the Schools Forum to determine and I feel it is unhelpful asking us to come up with alternatives. I would challenge others to tell me which part of my budget I should cut to absorb the suggested transfer.

**Q4. If a transfer is ultimately to be made between these blocks do you agree that the basic entitlement AWPU rates should be reduced in order to fund this transfer so that all schools are affected in the same way? (note if other additional needs factors in the formula are reduced this would have a targeted and more disproportionate impact on those schools, which is why the authority is recommending a reduction to the AWPU values)**

■ Strongly disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Tend to agree ■ Strongly agree ■ no response ■ other



**Q5. If you do not agree with reducing the AWPU rates as part of a transfer from the Schools Block which factor within the Schools Block NFF do you think should be reduced and why?**

This is a very emotive subject! Whilst I agree that we need funding, morally the high needs budget needs it too. The government has put us in this position and by saying no to the CC I am punishing the messenger and not the cause. However we are finding funding the worse I have ever seen in my 12 years of being a HT!

More LA funding is essential.

Not sure but infant schools do not get their fair share of the high needs block as it is so difficult to get EHCPs funded.

As a small school we rely heavily on the AWPU funding to keep staffing at appropriate levels. With a reduction in AWPU we may have to reduce staffing which could incur redundancy payments

Insufficient information to make a meaningful comment. We presume there is no straightforward answer otherwise you would have used it, but this doesn't address the reason for our disagreement with the proposal. Our disagreement is as a matter of principle not because we have identified a more effective alternative course of action.

I am unclear what is the proposal to the Broadband Contracts at Para 16 -18. It appears that this could be a further topslice from the GAG and we can but assumed that no proposal is inferred or approved within this consultation document.

AWPU should not be amended. To do so would infer a permanency that will prove difficult to reverse in future years. If it is appreciated that applying it on a per student basis is fair but would suggest that the sum is identified as a negative adjustment to IDACI or similar code

No reductions should be made. We should continue to fight for better funding.

Central services

Again, the basic funding per student is already insufficient

Again - this is a governmental question.

I don't believe a transfer should be made as this is passing all of the costs to schools.