



## **Schools Forum**

Date: 18 March 2021  
Time: 8.30 am to 10.30 am

Venue: Virtual via Microsoft  
MS Teams

Paper

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Public

## **High Needs National Funding Formula Consultation**

**Responsible Officer** Phil Wilson

e-mail: phil.wilson@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 254344

### **Summary**

On 10 February 2021 the Government launched a consultation inviting responses to specific proposals for a small number of changes to the national funding formula (NFF) used to allocate high needs funding to local authorities in the 2022-23 financial year, as well as possible longer term to the formula that could be considered in the future.

The consultation is for local authorities, schools and colleges and any other interested organisations and individuals. Responses have to be submitted by 24 March 2021.

### **Recommendation**

That Schools Forum consider and respond to the Government's High Needs National Funding Formula consultation.

## **REPORT**

### **Background**

1. The Government has launched a consultation on 10 February that is the first stage of a planned review of the high needs NFF, which was first introduced in 2018-19. There are wider reviews currently underway on the SEND systems and alternative provision (AP) arrangements that will impact on the way high needs funding is allocated, with a separate consultation proposed shortly linked to these reviews. On the back of this later consultation, there will be a further consultation on the distribution of high needs funding, which will impact beyond 2022-23.
2. The consultation survey can be accessed at: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-nff-proposed-changes/> , while the full consultation document is available at: [https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-nff-proposed-changes/supporting\\_documents/High%20needs%20NFF%20review%20consultation%20document.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-nff-proposed-changes/supporting_documents/High%20needs%20NFF%20review%20consultation%20document.pdf) .

3. The short consultation is seeking views on two specific factors – historic spend and low attainment – as well as a general question on SEND and AP proxies. The consultation document is clear that the Government is seeking views specifically on the way that high needs funding is allocated through the NFF, and not about the overall level of funding.
4. The specific questions and initial draft responses are appended to this report. Schools Forum are invited to consider the draft response, with a view to informing the final version that will be submitted by the closing date of 24 March 2021.