



June 2021

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.

SEND Needs Funding Matrix update

The SEND Needs Funding Matrix is a monumental development in allocating resources to Dudley schools in a consistent and transparent way. It recognises that the needs of these children are complex and that adequate resources are required to meet needs and reinforce efficient planning for sustainable staffing across the school estate.

The approach was agreed formally at School Forum on the 30th March 2021

This new approach in allocating Top up funding is based on two distinct elements. This can be described as:

- Needs Led funding for maintained schools and academies
- Provision led funding based on unique characteristics of the special school

Given the timing to approve the SEND Matrix rollout, it was agreed through School Forum to implement this significant change in two phases:

- Special Schools from 1st April 2021
- Maintained Schools and Academies from 1st September 2021

Following the consultation responses, the Matrix documents have been updated to address the queries in relation to descriptors and the points ascribed to the different categories of need. When using the documents over the Summer term, issues will be considered and revisions will be made to the Matrix documents so that the finalised version will be in place for the 1st September 2021 implementation.

An extensive and evolving training and communication programme has been developed, but it is being amended to reflect any new scenarios' as they emerge. Training has been aimed at SEND Case Officers and Schools initially through the Summer 2021.

There will be weekly drop-in sessions every Friday from 11a.m. – 12 noon, open to SEND Staff and School leads to support their understanding of the nuances of the Matrix.

A Summer Internal Moderation Panel (IMP) has been set up initially for the 79 Exceptional Funding cases to ensure they all moved over to the new Matrix system and for any Summer Annual Reviews. This IMP will operate from the 9th June 2021.

The members of the IMP include 2 Primary Heads, the Head of SEND, the SEND Manager, The Principal Educational Psychologist, and the Senior Psychologist. The learning from the IMP will support the main SEND panel manage the completed SEND Matrices from the Autumn term. The Autumn planning for Spring and Summer Matrix requests are being considered so that an updated communication can be sent to schools in early July 2021 about that rollout.

We have recognised that the complex nature of some pupils may require a Person-Centered Targeted framework and a set of criteria are being developed with Heads to have in place a Level 8 to sit within the Matrix.

Work with the Parent Carer Forum about the Matrix will be started during the Summer term and through into the Autumn.

Dudley Parent Carer Forum are hosting 'An Introduction to the SEND funding Matrix within Dudley' on Monday 12 July, 12:30pm – 2pm. Register [here](#)

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