

## Locality SEND Support – Information for Locality SEND Support school websites.



Our school has become part of an exciting new initiative by Croydon Council to improve support for children with special needs or disabilities who live in Croydon.

Along with several other schools in our area, we've been given funding to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters. This will enable our special needs staff to work closely with our partner schools to quickly get the necessary support and help for students who are beginning to demonstrate that they have additional needs which can't be met through our own school SEND resources.

This early help which may be in the form of advice, school to school support, referral to specialist services, or additional resource can be put in place rapidly without unnecessary delay. This is because our group of schools hold the funding between us so we can direct this to the most suitable children in an efficient targeted way.

The initiative is called "Locality SEND Support" and will run throughout this academic year. We will of course monitor the outcomes closely. Not all Croydon schools are yet in the project, but it will be rolled out across all mainstream schools in Croydon by next September 2022. Presently the scheme is only for Croydon residents and will not impact on students who already have an Education & Health Care Plan or those in Enhanced Learning Provisions.

If you want to learn more about this scheme please contact our SENDCO and we will be happy to send you further details.

## Locality SEND Support in Mainstream Schools A Brief Guide for Parents and Carers.

In order to improve the quality and timing of support to Croydon resident children with special needs and disabilities the Local Authority has embarked on an exciting new project with around 75 mainstream primary and secondary schools. The project is called “Locality SEND Support, (LSS).



The aim of the project is to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters by working with six groups of schools who are all local to each other and better placed to understand the needs of their children. Each group has been given a sum of money to directly support pupils in their local area and have been given the flexibility to spend this in the way that best helps children with emerging challenges to their learning and progress.

Two Area SEND Leads have been appointed who are SEND specialists and will directly support LSS schools, both to use their existing SEND resources in the best interest of the young people and to help distribute additional funding where schools may have insufficient resource to meet an emergent need. The Area SEND Leads will work very closely with school SENDCos, parents, SEND professionals, such as Educational Psychologists to provide and signpost support to SEND pupils. This local approach will enable us to better understand the needs of the children in our care and get help to them quickly in order for them to catch up with their learning and overcome their challenges.

SEND Locality Support is not aimed at children who already have an EHCP nor at youngsters in special schools or enhanced learning provisions. The project is focused on working with local schools to identify young people who are demonstrating a special need and who require early help to support this need.

Whilst we expect many students to benefit from this locally provided and targeted help, we understand that this may not work for some students who present or develop complex and exceptional needs. In order to meet these needs Croydon has allocated a significant sum of money to be shared between all six local areas. This resource will be distributed by a multi-disciplinary panel at Headteacher level.

There is nothing in this project that will take away the right for a parent to request an Education Health Care needs assessment, however the funding for any ECHPs issued will come from the budget of the Locality SEND Support funds. The sincere hope however, is that early intervention will ensure that the correct strategies, support and therapies are offered in a timely manner. Hence, by the time statutory assessment is considered, funding will already be in place as will a dialogue between schools, youngsters and parents which will help to build trust and a common agreement of what is required in the best interests of each child.

# Locality SEND Support in Mainstream

## A Detailed Guide for Parents and Carers

### Details of the Locality SEND Support (LSS) Project

In Croydon, we have introduced a rapid response, two-tiered Locality SEND Support process to ensure that SEND support provision in schools for Croydon resident children is robust and consistent. This is being done to increase leadership capacity in LSS schools to better support pupils with SEND and their families. LSS schools will have the chance to be supported with additional resources to increase early intervention provision for pupils with SEND. This programme will also develop partnerships and networks that support school-led improvement that promotes school collaboration and enhanced inclusive practice. Existing EHCPs in LSS schools will be honoured and ELPS and Special Schools are outside of this initiative.

All schools and colleges have a delegated level of funding which can be used to meet a child's learning needs per annum once the child is identified on the school special educational needs register.

Additional support, or 'Locality SEND Support Resources Funding', can now be requested by LSS schools, with parental involvement, after schools have demonstrated that they have used all the resources available to them and demonstrated that additional resources are necessary to fully support the child's needs effectively in Mainstream Schools.

Locality SEND Support will be overseen by an Area SEND Lead who will be working closely with school SENDCOs. The Area SEND Lead will also chair a monthly Locality SEND Support Forum, attended by all SENDCOs, a Headteacher from the Locality and professionals including EPs. This forum is to share best practice and discuss individual cases for 'Locality SEND Support Resources Funding'. Funding or resources awarded at this level may be up to an additional £8,000.

If a child's needs are deemed as 'exceptional'(complex and severe) at a Locality SEND Support Forum, then the Area SEND Lead will refer and present this child's case, with the school SENDCO, to a locality High Needs Block Funding multi-disciplinary panel. This is where Higher Needs Block Funding may be awarded to the Mainstream School. This may, if accepted by the panel lead to a higher resource being allocated. Please see Appendix 1. *Flowchart of Locality SEND Support process.*

The LSS Localities for this new approach to SEND Support are: Coulsdon, New Addington, Thornton Heath, Selsdon, Shirley and Central Croydon. Please see Appendix 2. *LSS Schools List*

## **What is a Locality SEND Support Agreement (LSSA)?**

This is an agreement between the locality, school and parents. Where the level of support in school for the child requires additional funding which can be allocated by the locality.

This enables individual pupils' learning needs to be met quickly, in a targeted way at SEND Support level in school.

A LSSA is a non-statutory agreement. Although parents do not have the same statutory rights that an EHC Plan brings, the advantage is, that this allows the support to be given in a faster and more flexible way.

However, if after a period of locality funded school-based intervention, the resources provided are found to be insufficient or have been exhausted, then a review can be undertaken by the School SENDCo, parent and teacher along with the young person's views. As a result of the review a request for additional resources may be made at a Locality SENDCo Forum and this may progress to the locality High Needs Block Funding panel, if needed.

## **What is a Higher Needs Block Funding Agreement (HNBFA)?**

This is an agreement between the local authority, school and parents where the level of support in school for the child requires additional funding over and above the resource that can be allocated by the Locality.

This enables individual pupils' learning needs to be met quickly, in a targeted way at SEND Support level in school without the need to go through a 20 week EHCP process.

A HNBFA is a non-statutory agreement, and parents do not have the same statutory rights that a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan bring.

However, if after a period of Higher Needs Block Funding intervention, the resources provided are found to be insufficient or have been exhausted then a review can be undertaken by the School SENDCo, parent and teacher along with the young person's views. As a result of the review a request for additional resources may be made at Higher Needs Block Funding panel or a recommendation for an EHC needs assessment

## **Involving you and your child**

The council will support all families, children and young people to participate as fully as possible in decisions relating to their lives and to be at the centre of the new system, irrespective of the level of need.

As parents and carers, you will be fully involved in making decisions about the nature of the help and support your child receives.

Locality SEND Support reflects Croydon's aim to promote early intervention in Mainstream LSS schools through working together with families, children and young people with SEND needs.

## Moving to an EHC assessment

LSSA and HNBFA's are regularly reviewed and an EHC needs assessment may be recommended should your child's needs change. The request will then be submitted to Croydon's Statutory

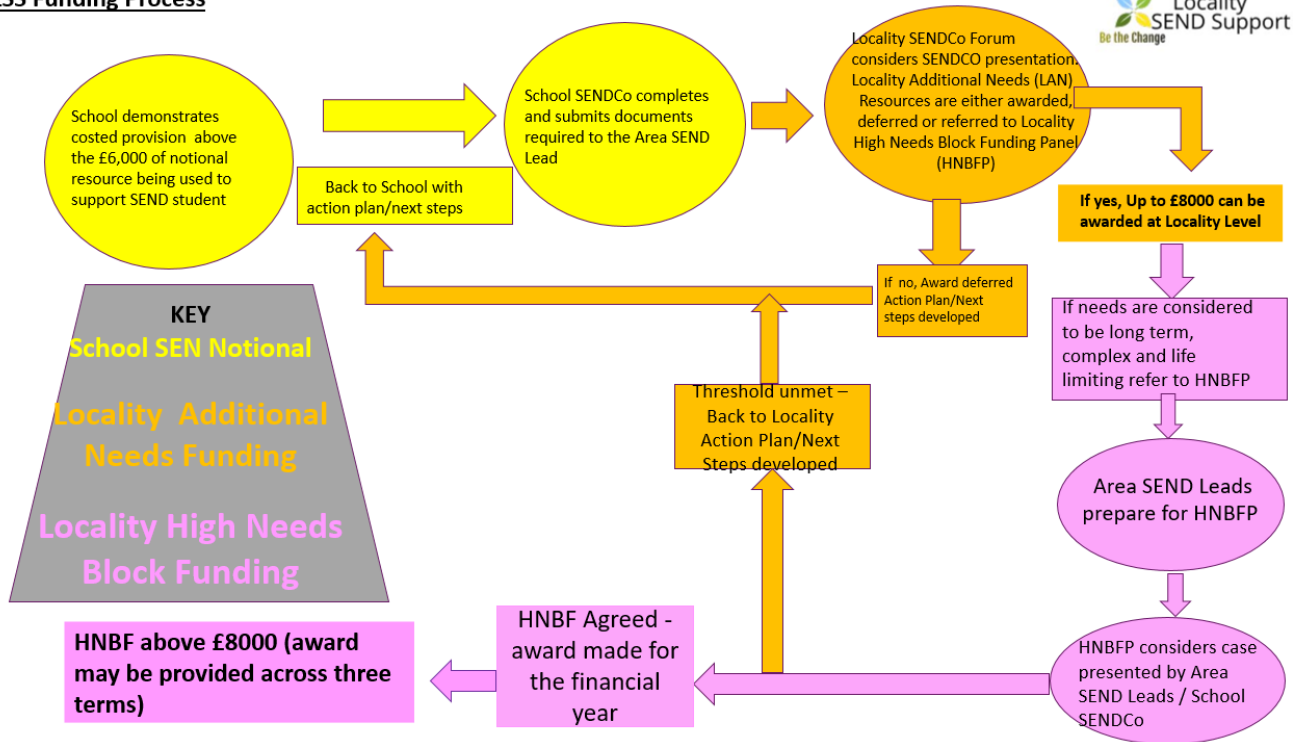
The HNBFA is reviewed as needed and at least annually - just like an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan - and the funding mechanism is the same for both in mainstream schools. This means that a child with an EHC Plan with the same level of SEND need as a child with a HNBFA would get the same level of resource and support.

A LSSA and HNBFA are both non-statutory agreements, and parents do not have the same statutory rights that a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan brings. For example, parents or carers would not be able to express a preference for a school for their child, appeal decisions through the first-tier tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), or to request a personal budget. All schools within the Locality SEND Support system can only receive additional SEND resources or funding through the Locality SEND Support panel or Higher Needs Block Funding Panel.

APPENDIX 1.

**Flowchart of Locality SEND Support Process**

LSS Funding Process





APPENDIX 2.

Phase 1.

Expansion of existing early adopter localities From September 2021.

<u>Coulsdon: 14 Schools</u> Area SEND lead SD	<u>Selkirk: 10 Schools</u> Area SEND Lead SD	<u>New Addington: 7 Schools</u> Area SEND Lead KC	<u>Thornton Heath: 16 Schools</u> Area SEND Lead KC
*Oasis Academy Coulsdon Coulsdon Church of England Primary <del>Christ</del> Valley Primary Oasis Academy Byron Woodcote Primary *Woodcote High School <del>Smitham</del> Primary & Nursery St Aidan's Catholic Primary School New Valley Primary School <del>Keston</del> Primary Beaumont Primary School Harris Primary Academy Kenley The Hayes Primary Kenley Primary School	Gilbert Scott Primary School The Quest Academy <del>Cout</del> wood Primary School Forestdale Primary School Greenvale Primary School <del>Selkirk</del> Primary School & Nursery Gresham Primary Atwood Primary Academy Ridgeway Primary School * <del>Buddlesdown</del> Collegiate	<del>Apple</del> arth Academy Tudor Academy <del>Rosedown</del> Academy *Meridian High School Castle Hill Academy Good Shepherd Catholic School <del>Fairchild</del> Primary	*NMBC KAPS <del>Gomville</del> Primary Winterbourne Infants & Nursery School Winterbourne Girls Winterbourne Boys *St. Joseph's College <del>Norbury</del> Manor Primary West Thornton Primary Academy Paxton Academy <del>Ecclobourne</del> Primary Academy Chestnut Park Primary St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary School Downs view Primary School *The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy

March 2021

Phase 1 & 2.

Roll-out of 2 new localities from September 2021.

Followed by 2 further localities from September 2022.

Roll-out Phase 1 September 2021	Roll-out Phase 2 September 2022	Roll-out Phase 2 September 2022	Roll-out Phase 1 September 2021
<u>Central Croydon: 15 schools</u> Area SEND Lead SD The Crescent Primary School <del>Bowditch</del> Primary Academy Elmwood Infant School Elmwood Junior School <del>Woodfield</del> Academy The Woodside Academy Davidson Academy The Robert Fitzroy Academy ARE Dual Primary Academy St Mary's RC Infant School St Mary's RC Junior School *St Mary's RC High School *Harris <del>Wood</del> Academy Kingley Primary Academy *NRK Blake Academy Gritt School	<u>Harwood: 18 schools</u> Area SEND Lead TSA *Virgo Fidelis Covent RC Senior School St Joseph's RC Infant School St Joseph's RC Junior School <del>Rockingham</del> Primary School *Harris Academy South Norwood All Saints C of E Primary School *Harris City Academy Crystal Palace Cypress Primary School David Livingstone Academy St James the Great RC Primary School Beulah Junior School Beulah Nursery and Infant Academy Whitehorse Manor Infant Academy Whitehorse Manor Junior Academy St Chad's RC Primary School Heavers Farm Primary and Nursery School St Mark's C of E Primary School	<u>Darley: 15 Schools</u> Area SEND Lead TSA The Minster Junior School The Minster Nursery and Infant School Krishna Asanti Primary Howard Primary School Harris Primary Academy <del>Darley</del> Way Harris Primary Academy Haling Park Aerodrome Primary Academy Regina <del>Cope</del> RC Primary School St Peter's Primary School <del>Darley</del> Oaks Primary School Margaret Roper RC Primary School Christ Church C of E Primary School *Thomas More RC School *Harris Academy <del>Darley</del> * <del>Copple</del> Wood School	<u>Shirley: 17 Schools</u> Area SEND Lead KC The South Norwood Primary Academy Oasis Academy <del>Dunelm</del> St Thomas Becket RC Primary School Park Hill Infant School Park Hill Junior School Orchard Way Primary School Harris Academy Beeson St John's C of E Primary School Forest Primary Academy *Archbishop <del>Tebbit</del> C of E High School Monks Orchard Primary and Nursery School *Oasis Academy Arena Oasis Academy Shirley Park *Shirley High School Performance Arts College *Orchard Park High School *Coloma Covent RC Girls' School

March 2021

