

High Needs Funding in North Yorkshire

January 2024

- North Yorkshire's headline funding is £82m in 2023-24¹
 - Over 95% of High Needs funding is paid to education providers (primary, secondary and special schools, PRS and AP, independent schools, individualised learning providers).
 - The number of EHCPs stood at 4,713 as at October 2023 compared with just c.1,750 in January 2015
 - Demand has risen consistently year-on-year since 2015 with changes to the SEN Code of Practice in 2014 and the new legislative changes set out in the Children and Families Act 2014
 - North Yorkshire receives the lowest £ per head in terms of high needs capital allocations
 - The high needs capital funding we receive is used for:
 - Expanding the number of Targeted Mainstream Provisions
 - Contributing to the costs of establishing new free special schools in Selby, Northallerton and Scarborough
 - We continue to lobby for a fairer funding deal for children and young people in North Yorkshire.
 - North Yorkshire had a cumulative deficit of £10m in March 2023 – this is expected to rise to c.£13m by March 2024
 - We are part of the f40 group of lowest-funded local authorities. f40 estimates that the cumulative local authority high needs budget deficit is estimated to be around £2.3bn and that this is expected to rise to around £3.6bn by March 2025.
- North Yorkshire is working with the DfE's 'Delivering Better Value in SEND' programme. So far, the programme has shown that although North Yorkshire manages costs well, meeting the costs of future growth and inflation is likely to negate any savings arising from mitigating actions.
 - The way that DfE determine how much each local authority receives depends on a number of factors, including:
 - Historic spend factor – this bears no resemblance to the needs of today and means local authorities within similar SEND responsibilities can receive different funding levels
 - Deprivation factors – which do not mirror demand in North Yorkshire
 - North Yorkshire's High Needs funding is ranked 142 out of 151 local authorities (per head of population aged 2-18)
 - At average levels of funding, North Yorkshire would receive an additional c.£18m per annum. Although we do not expect to be funded at average, there is a significant difference between the average funding per head of population and the amount received by North Yorkshire
 - To put this into context, North Yorkshire gets £644 per pupil; the top-funded local authority gets £1,154 per pupil
 - Special school base funding has been at £10,000 a place for around 11 years.

This briefing note is intended to provide Headteachers, Governors and SENCOs with headline information regarding High Needs funding in North Yorkshire and information on the national context.

If you require further information, please email: schoolfinancialgovernance@northyorks.gov.uk

¹ before academy recoupment and import/export adjustments