



Special provision fund capital allocations: Explanatory note

Overview of methodology

The special provision fund allocations first announced on 4 March 2017 support local authorities (LAs) to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision.

The funding is not ringfenced or timebound, so local authorities can make the best decisions for their areas. Local authorities are required to verify this funding has been spent on capital projects through the section 151 officer's return.

Allocations for 2018-19 to 2020-21

These allocations (at that point totalling £215 million) were originally announced in March 2017, based on the formula outlined in figure 1 below with a funding floor of £500,000. On 29 May 2018, we announced £50 million additional grant funding and on 16 December 2018, a further £100 million. This takes total investment to £365 million for the financial years 2018-19 to 2020-21. The additional funding has been split between local authorities. The £50 million has been split by increasing every original allocation by 50/215ths and the £100 million has been split by increasing every original allocation by 100/215ths.

The formula for the allocation announced in 2017 was based principally on projected population growth for children and young people aged 2-18 between the years 2018-19 and 2020-21. Location factors were also applied to take into account the varied costs of building in different regions. The subsequent additions of £50 million and £100 million now take all allocations to at least £848,000, an increase from £500,000. As in the original allocations, the City of London and the Isles of Scilly will not receive an allocation. These allocations are provided in addition to the basic need capital funding that local authorities receive to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places.

Figure 1: Outline of the methodology for special provision allocations:

