

**SCHOOLS FORUM – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016****High Needs Place Return****1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to advise School Forum Members of the total commissioned places for specialist provision for the 2017-18 academic year.

**2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

With the introduction of the Fairer Funding Reforms in 2013-14 the methodology for the commissioning and funding of places in education for children and young people with High Needs at specialist provision was fundamentally changed. As part of the changes the Local Authority adopted the role of Commissioner and working with providers determined the number of places it wished to commission at the specialist provisions (including Post-16 Further Education) within the geographical area. The Education Funding Agency required Local Authority's to submit its commissioned place numbers via what is called a High Needs Place return. This has been refined over the years since Fairer Funding Reforms were introduced both in terms of information and the timetable for submission. The submission for 2017-18 was submitted at the end of November 2016.

The other major change introduced as part of the Fairer Funding Reforms was around the funding mechanism. Regardless of the previous funding allocation methodology all such establishments in future were to be funded using a combination of per place funding of £10,000 per place and "top up" funding of an amount dependent on the complexity of need.

The EFA use the information contained on the High Needs Place Return to extract the per place funding from the Local authority's Dedicated Schools Grant allocation to pay to the establishment direct where these are academies.

In respect of the High Needs Block for 2017-18 planning assumptions issued by the DfE were that the funding envelope would remain the same as in 2016-17. Although it has been indicated that the High Needs Block might increase nationally the DfE advised against assumptions of a blanket increase as this would be targeted in accordance with their priorities.

### 3. **PLACES COMMISSIONED**

The places to be commissioned by NELC in 2017-18 is detailed in the table below:

<b>Type of Setting</b>	<b>Number of places</b>	<b>Change</b>
Special Academies	317	6
PRU's	108	0
Alternative Provision	66	2
Post 16	108	2

In addition to the above the Council also has a number of centrally DSG block funded provisions details of which are provided below:

<b>Type of Setting</b>	<b>Number of places</b>	<b>Change</b>
Primary resource based provision	18	0
ASD	9	0

In respect of the payments made to the settings the Council norm is to pay these monthly.

### 4. **RECOMMENDATION**

There are no specific recommendations arising from the report and Schools Forum are asked to note the report.

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2016