

Name of proposal/policy	Schools Funding Arrangements 2019-20	Budget number (if applicable)	
Service area responsible	Children Families and Education	Cabinet meeting date	
Name of completing officer	Beth Baines	Date EqIA created	4/10/18
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Jon Lee	Date of approval	4/10/18

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'Due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

Schools formula and growth fund funding consultation for 2019-20 school budgets.

For 2019-20 the schools formula funding will continue to mirror the Schools National Funding Formula (NFF) as far as is affordable. The NFF as set by the Government has a separate EqIA written by the Department for Education. Please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs-equalities-impact-assessment>

As part of the wider budget setting for the Dedicated Schools Grant the high needs budgets are under pressure and either funding must be brought in from the schools block to balance the budgets or service/budget reductions must take place within the high needs service and/or high needs funding to schools.

The main stakeholders regarding this consultation and impact assessment are the schools and academies whose funding will be impacted. The DfE operational specifically states that schools must be consulted on changes to the schools funding formula and transfers between the funding blocks.

Description of proposal under consideration/development

The proposal for consultation for Northamptonshire schools budgets for 2019-20 is to transfer up to 0.5% (£2.3m) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019-20 to contribute towards balancing the high needs block budgets.

1. The authority will only transfer the actual amount required to meet the high needs pressures. If this is less than 0.5% (£2.3m) the difference will remain within the Schools Block for distribution through the Schools funding formula.
2. Any transfer between the Schools Block and High Needs Block would only be for 2019-20. The authority does have to consult with schools for transfers between blocks in future years where the DfE maintain this flexibility. It is expected that this will continue into 2020-21 with the 'soft' national funding formula continuing into that year.
3. A transfer of £1.1m from the Schools Block was made in 2018-19 following approval by the Schools Forum. Any further transfer from the Schools Block (up to the maximum additional £1.2m) will reduce funding available in the Schools Block. This will mean that the unit rates of the Schools funding formula will have to be reduced in order not to exceed the allocated grant funding. The Authority is proposing that any transfer of funding from the Schools Block will be funded by a reduction to the basic entitlement (AWPU) across both the Primary and Secondary sectors. This means that all schools would be equally impacted by the transfer rather than reducing specific additional needs factors that would impact more significantly on those schools with pupils that have such characteristics.

4. If a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs block is required but not approved by the Schools Forum then the Authority is likely to have to look at finding savings and efficiencies within the High Needs Block itself in order to manage within the DSG grant allocation. Such a scenario could potentially lead to reduced top up funding rates for schools with high needs pupils as well as the possibility of reductions to high needs support services from the Authority. Such proposals would have to be consulted on separately.

Representatives from schools and academies are asked to comment on whether they agree with the proposed move of funding from the schools block to the high needs block. If schools and academies do not agree, they are asked where they believe the reduction in high needs funding should be made to balance the high needs budget. Schools are then asked if the move does take place, whether they agree that it should come from a reduction in the AWPU and if not, which part of the formula should be reduced to meet the schools block reduction.

Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqIA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqIA)

Data Source (include link where published)	Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”
<p>https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/schools-finance-and-budgeting/Pages/budget-information.aspx</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/Pages/current-consultations.aspx</p>	<p>Details of formula factors rates and comparison to the proposed National Funding Formula.</p> <p>Total budget overspend in each in the high needs block for the last 5 years.</p> <p>Includes the impact on the per pupil funding formula factor (AWPU – age weighted pupil unit) if the full £2.3m were to be transfers from the schools block to the high needs block.</p>
<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2019-to-2020</p>	<p>Impact of the DfE National Funding Formula indicative allocations by individual school for 2019-20. It should be noted that these figures are indicative and will be updated once the October 2018 census data is refreshed by the DfE. Also they demonstrate the impact of implementing the national funding formula as calculated by the DfE rather than the local authority.</p>

Tick the relevant box for each line by using a capital 'P' to make a <input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age		✓ If the proposal to transfer funding from the schools block there will be less funding available for school budgets for those in reception year through to year 11.		
Disability		✓ If the proposal is not agreed, then potentially negative impact on pupils with disabilities if their school's high needs funding has to be reduced through other proposals linked to the high needs block of the DSG.	✓ If the proposal to move funding between blocks is agreed.	
Race & Ethnicity			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity			✓	
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)			✓	
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)			✓	

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
<p>Impact is expected to be limited if the proposal is agreed with.</p> <p>The budgets for all mainstream schools will be reduced by a small percentage if the proposal is agreed (refer to the per pupil reductions in the consultation document proposal).</p> <p>If the proposal is not agreed then the impact on high needs budgets will be more significant and services may need to be reduced through a reduction in the high needs budgets for high needs provision in mainstream schools and units and special schools.</p>	<p>The specific actions taken depend on the outcome of the consultation.</p> <p>If the response is to move the funding from the schools block into the high needs block, then the impact will be determined by modelling on the mainstream school and academy budgets. This will be done when the final Authority Proforma Tool containing the October 2018 census data is received, in conjunction with detailed high needs budget forecasting, to see the impact, school by school, of the funding reduction. The modelling will include the uplift in the funding from the DfE as part of the extra £1.3 billion that has been available to schools budgets. The increase for Northamptonshire in the schools block is an extra £5.4 million in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19. Therefore the modelling will need to be undertaken but the expectation is that schools that gain under the national funding formula will continue to do so although not to the full extent that the DfE has calculated due to the potential high needs transfer.</p> <p>If the response leads the Schools Forum to not make the movement of funding, then the specific actions to fund the high needs costs will need to be developed more fully at that time.</p>

Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2
Not until the outcome of the consultation is known.

PART 2 – if required

Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above	
	What does this information tell us?
To be completed	To be completed

Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required

To be completed