



Item 6
Surrey Schools Forum 9
July 2020
For discussion

July 2020

Surrey Special School Banding Project Proposal V6

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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to propose an implementation strategy to create a revised Surrey Special School Banding Framework, commencing September 2021.

This paper acts as an initial proposal for consultation and aims to:

- Support key-decision-makers to agree what improvements/frameworks should be made going forward;
- Summarise the collective financial context and provide transparent analysis of breakdowns of spend from all parties;
- Highlight any lack of funding parity that exists within the special school sector;
- Provide a consultative approach to any potential outcome/agreement;
- Establish a sustainable basic funding entitlement and top up funding banding framework;
- Create a core working group that covers the full representation of the special school market;
- Timeline that fosters an ambitious completion target and a commitment by all parties to complete all milestones in a timely manner;
- Creation of a framework which boasts longevity greater than a single year and accommodates future cost implications;
- Alignment to relevant funding and guidance legislation;
- Aspire to new arrangements to be agreed for September 2020.

Placement funding premise:

Band A	Special Schools	£ range tbc
Band B	Maintained with LSC	£ range tbc
Band C	Maintained	£ range tbc

In principal a placement at band **A** should generate a higher level of funding than **B** and **B** should be higher than **C**. The established working group will have to explore current funding arrangements in **B** and **C**; a key part of the role of the group will be to explore this logic based on current spend metrics.

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Executive Summary

Surrey County Council (SCC) works closely with schools, special schools and colleges, offering educational pathways to ensure that sufficient provision exists to enable all young people of statutory age and above to engage in education and training.

It is widely acknowledged that educational achievement is a helpful indicator of a young person's wider health, wellbeing and social mobility. SCC is committed to supporting young people to participate in education, training and employment by ensuring education and skills provision within Surrey enables young people to overcome barriers and equips them with the necessary knowledge, qualifications and skills to progress from education into adulthood.

3 Proposed Principles

Overarching Principles:

- Any potential banding framework is derived on the level of need of pupils and not on the designation of the school;
- The Surrey Special School Banding project outcome in phase 1, will be a single coherent banding framework which applies to all Surrey Special Schools, however pupils within each school may be on differentiating bandings due to their level of need;
- Establishment of an underpinning cost of support formula that considers staff ratio + expertise + guided learning hours + required qualifications + curriculum costs = Base Cost = Funding level;
- To explore the potential of adopting a funding formula that creates an agreed level of 'margin' funding in addition to base cost funding of delivery;
- One harmonised banding framework for all Surrey Special Schools, incorporating an agreed core funding element to each banding;
- Return ISPSB to its intended purpose as an emergency & short-term arrangement only. Factor in any agreed banding framework and invest current spend in new bandings;
- Institutions would be transparent about their actual costs and prepared to explain how the overall finances are working to ensure their continuing financial viability;
- The Deep Dive and Cost of Care exercises will require all institutions in scope of the Surrey Special School Banding project, to be transparent with the local authority and with each other about actual costs under the current banding arrangements. This should include ISPSB and 1:1 support arrangements;
- To generate a sustainable banding framework that promotes growth and market stimulation;
- Creation of a lasting multiyear agreement, that accommodates an inflation model, possibly linked to Department of Education regulatory funding;
- The Banding Framework Working Group (BFWG) to agree a consensus on governance re: the implementation and approval for the outcomes of the banding review for all Surrey Special Schools; (majority/full agreement etc)
- BFWG to agree what constitutes core costs across all institutions in scope of the banding review;
- A banding framework that is fully compliant with the Children's and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015;
- Consideration of implementation timeline: April 2021 and/or September 2021;
- Future banding arrangements should aspire to agree confirmation of annual budgets by a deadline to be agreed;
- In many, if not most cases support for pupils will reduce over time, resulting in changes to their individual banding arrangements;
- Acknowledgement that there may be 'winners' and 'losers' within the proposal;
- The new arrangements will not cover capital arrangements.

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Alignment with Strategic Priorities

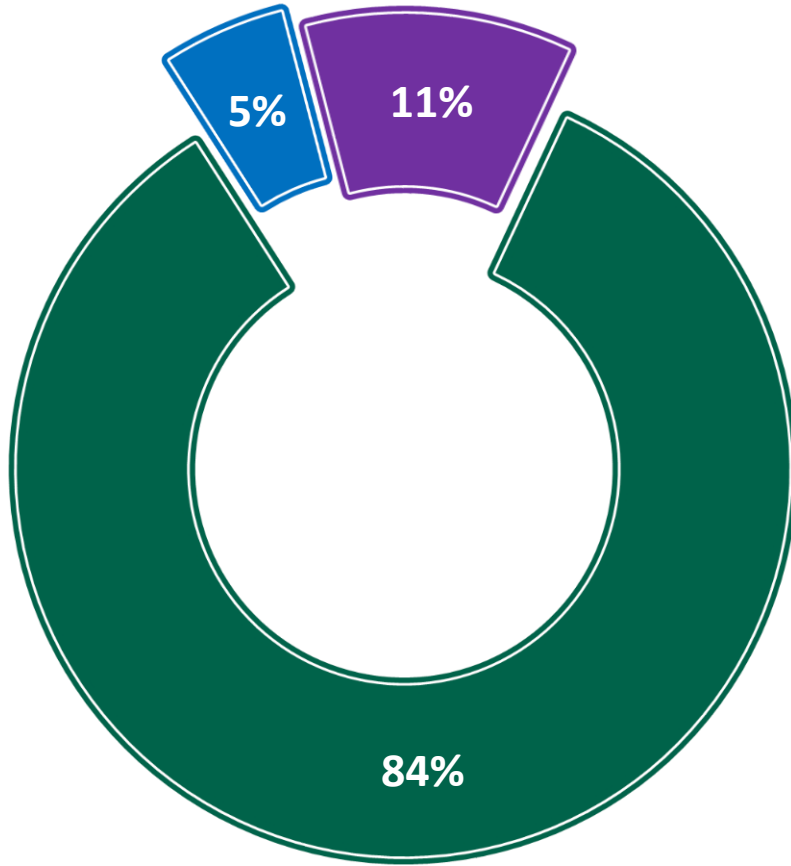
The proposals contained within this document support the aims of SCC which is focused on creating a high quality and sustainable Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) market, specifically:

- The need/demand for out of county residential placements is reduced;
- To develop and enhance in county provision wherever possible;
- Out of County provision should only be used where there is a specialist need which is not available within Surrey and cannot be developed overtime;
- Future commissioning and financial planning are aligned to robust modelling of future demand;
- Alignment to the SEND sustainability and transformation programme, specifically transition focus on preparing for adulthood and reducing the reliance on support e.g. 1-2-1 overtime where appropriate;
- Young people remain local to Surrey;
- Creating clear post education, employment, social care and health pathways with outcomes for young people at its centre.

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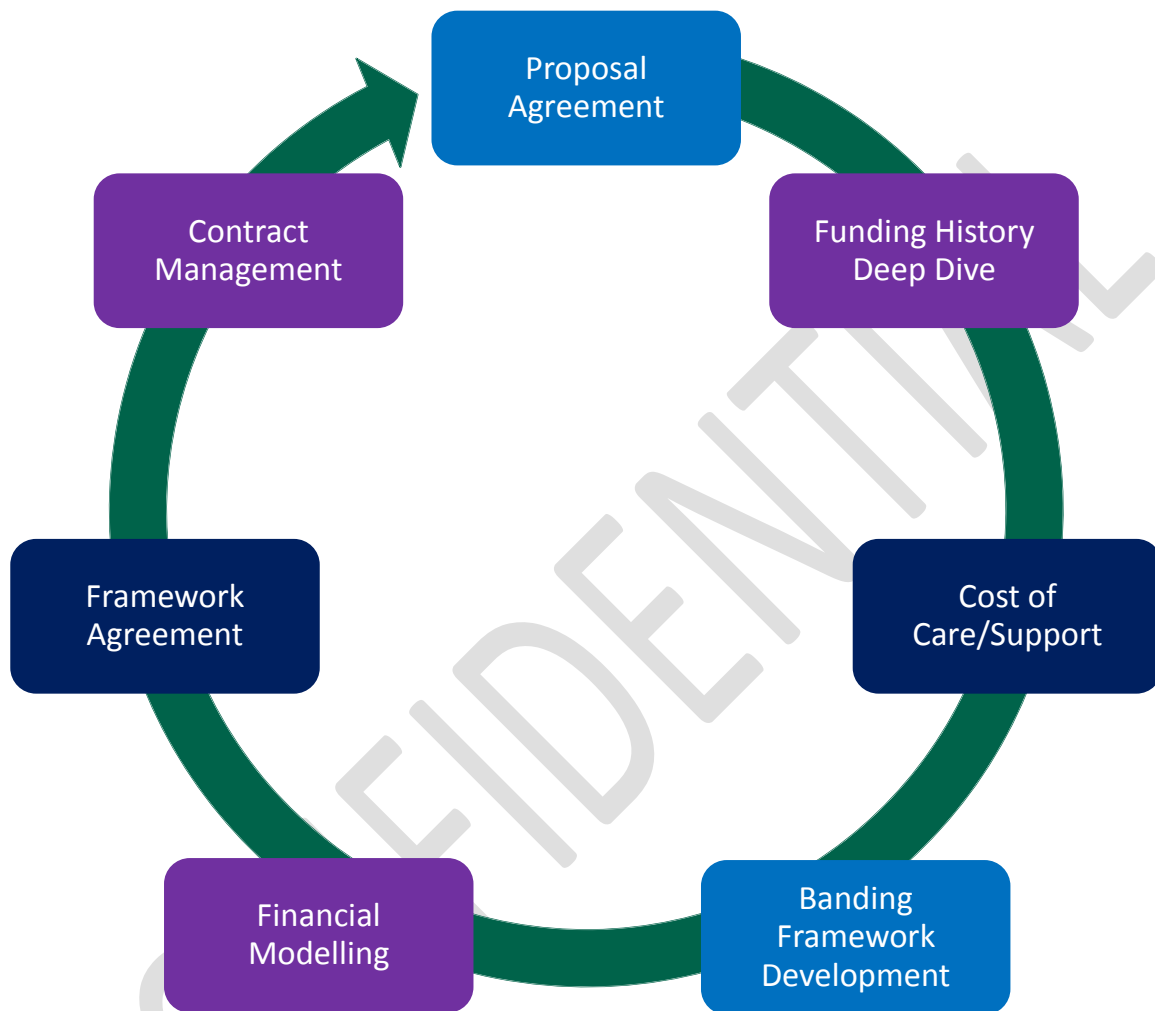
Preparation for Adulthood Pathway Analysis

■ SEND ■ Health/CHC ■ ASC



COA

6 Proposed Milestones at a Glance



7 Glossary of Terms

- SCC: Surrey County Council
- SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disability
- BFWG: Banding Framework Working Group

8 SCC Personnel

- Eamonn Gilbert – Project Lead
- Andrew Stowell – Project Facilitator
- David Green - Finance lead
- Georgina Mistry – Finance Support
- Julia Laird – Project Manager
- Merlin Dcosta - Business support

9 Banding Framework Working Group

- Eamonn Gilbert – SCC
- Andrew Stowell - SCC
- Georgina Mistry – SCC
- Cindy O'Sullivan – Gosdon House
- Teresa Prior - Brooklands
- Sarah Wild - Limpsfield Grange
- Tim Stokes - Carwarden
- Neil Miller - Wey House
- Mary Rome - Philip Southcote
- Justin Price - Freemantles

Surrey Special School Banding Timeline February 2020 – February 2021

