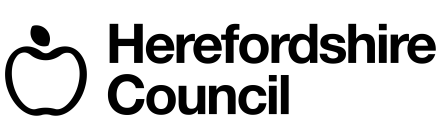
****

**HIGH NEEDS MATRIX IMPROVEMENTS 2021/22**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

****

The budget response form must be returned by:   
**12 noon on 17 March 2021 to:** [**HNMConsultation@herefordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:HNMConsultation@herefordshire.gov.uk)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HIGH NEEDS MATRIX IMPROVEMENTS** | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| **Q1. Do you agree that the fundamental principles will continue to be applied to the new matrix? The principles are:**   * All pupils should be funded at the same level irrespective of the setting they attend (e.g., mainstream or specialist). * We seek to minimise the impact of funding changes for individual settings; transitional arrangements will be applied. * Funding levels should be split as evenly as is possible across the tariffs to avoid substantial jumps between levels where there is only a small change in need. * Tariff levels should be sustainable within the High Needs Grant provided by Central Government. |  |  |
| **Additional comments** | | |
| **Q2. Do you support the improvements to the high needs matrix as follows**   * Behaviours and difficulties associated with autism are recognised in the social, emotional and mental health and language and communication columns of the matrix * Clearer distinction of learning difficulties as either specific or general. * Fewer decisions will need to be made as exceptions about levels of funding needed as there is improved recognition of medical and physical needs at the severe end of need. * Improved descriptions of need will allow the user to be clear as to how the needs of a child should be scored. * It provides more consistent increments/steps between tariff boundaries | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| **Additional comments** | | |
| **Q3. Do you agree with the timescale to introduce these proposals from 1st April 2021:**   * All new Education Health Care (EHC) Plans will have funding allocated using the updated tariff levels, including those for children and young people attending specialist settings. * All children and young people reaching ‘phase transfer’ points of Reception, Year 6 and Year 11 will be moved to the revised HNM with the appropriate tariff levels applied. * All EHC Plans will be moved to the new funding matrix within five years. * All non EHC Plan Top Up Funding applications will be allocated funding using revised HNM. | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| **Additional comments** | | |
| **Q4. Do you agree with the inflation increases applied to Tariffs A-F i.e. 1% for tariffs A-C and 2.5% for tariffs D - F** | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| **Additional comments** | | |
| **Q5. Do you agree that special schools should be supported by the Minimum Funding Guarantee to ensure that they do not lose any money in their budgets?** | **Agree** | **Disagree** |
| **Additional comments** | | |

**Name ……………………………… School/Group ………………………………………**

**Date…………………………………………..**

**Please return to** [**HNMConsultation@herefordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:HNMConsultation@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**by 12 noon on 17 March 2021.**