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**HIGH NEEDS MATRIX IMPROVEMENTS 2021/22**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

 **![C:\Users\holly.thomas\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\I3K3F90A\attention[1].gif]()**

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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…………………………………………..**

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