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Learning & Systems Leadership

**Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF**

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| Ask for: | David Kilgallon |
| Email: | David.Kilgallon@walthamforest.gov.uk |
| Date: | 04th June 2019 |

Further to my letter of 21st May explaining the consultation regarding High Needs Block funding, I am writing to let you know that there are more consultation events planned.

These are:

**Wednesday 12th June, 6pm-7.30pm**

‘Hazel Room’, The Paradox Centre, 3 Ching Way, Chingford E4 8YD

(Disabled access, toilets and free parking in surrounding area)

**Tuesday 18th June, 6pm-7.30pm**

‘The Hall’, Leytonstone Library, Church Lane, Leytonstone E11 1HG

(Disabled access and toilets)

I would encourage you to come along to one of these events to find out more about the proposed changes.

A copy of my original letter is contained on the following page. This explains the reason for the consultation and how you can participate in the on-line survey.

Yours sincerely,

David Kilgallon

Director of Learning & System Leadership

For general enquiries please contact the SEND team on the usual number 0208 496 6503 or e-mail SENteam@walthamforest.gov.uk.

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Learning & Systems Leadership

**Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF**

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| Ask for: | David Kilgallon |
| Email: | David.Kilgallon@walthamforest.gov.uk |
| Direct: | 020 8496 3221 |
| Date: | 21st May 2019 |

I am writing to inform you that the Local Authority (LA) is consulting on a proposal relating to the High Needs Block (HNB) funding for April 2020 onwards. The HNB is the funding provided by the government for the LA to support pupils with SEND, Alternative Provision and a range of SEND services.

The consultation contains a range of proposals relating to SEND provision, largely concerning:

* Funding for special schools
* The level of support allocated to SEND advisory services
* A new model for supporting Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
* Plans to support pupils who are in need of Alternative Provision (AP)
* Plans to support pupils who are in need of Schools Resourced Provision (SRP)

**Reason for the proposed changes**

The Local Authority is required to consult annually with the Schools Forum (made up of heads, school representatives and governors from across the Borough) on financial issues relating to arrangements for pupils with SEND, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and the arrangements for top-up funding.

**Background:**

For the year 2020/21 the high needs budget given by the government to Waltham Forest will be approx. £29.5M. From this budget all special schools receive their total funding. The additional funding for EHCPs is also allocated from it, as is the funding for SEND support services, etc.

The current funding levels are based on historical decisions, and have not been reviewed for over 8 years. Given that the number of pupils requiring support has risen significantly in Waltham Forest, the system is now unsustainable based on the current levels.

Over the last few weeks, an ‘Inclusion group’, established by the Schools Forum, has been meeting to discuss and propose a way forward. The group has agreed the proposal as detailed in the Schools Forum report.

The proposal is that there will be 4 new funding levels - Level 1, 2, 3, and 4, (instead of the current ‘letters’ banding system):

Level 1 would be £5,000

Level 2 would be £15,000

Level 3 would be £21,000

Level 4 would be £43,000

These figures are on top of the funding schools already receive per child with SEND.

In consultation with their schools forum, local authorities make decisions about the delegation of funds to schools, which for primary and secondary schools is on the basis of a local formula, and on the spending of funds held centrally, most of which is used for making high needs provision. These spending decisions are most effective when there is a strong partnership between the local authority and the institutions providing education.

The schools forum is one way in which partnership working can be strengthened, particularly with schools. However, local authorities should engage with all of those providing education in their area, including early years settings and post-16 institutions, as well as parents and young people, in fulfilling their statutory duties to keep the services and provision for children and young people with SEND under review, as required by the Children and Families Act 2014.

The consultation will begin on Tuesday 21st May and will be open until June 26th at 5.00pm.

The consultation will be in the form of an on-line Survey Monkey. The link for the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ConsultationApril2020-21>



You may also complete the survey by scanning the following QR Code:

We will also accept written comments on the form attached.

Please return written forms to the following address:

Schools Forum consultation

c/o Disability Enablement Service

Wood Street Health Centre

6 Linford Road

Walthamstow

London

E17 3LA

Schools and governors are also being consulted on the proposals.

In addition, I will meet with parents on [Wednesday 22nd May, 10am-11.30am](x-apple-data-detectors://40) and also on Tuesday 4th June, 5.30pm-7pm, both at William Morris School, Folly Lane, Walthamstow, London E17 5NT to explain the reasons for the changes and to listen to parents' views.

Yours sincerely,

David Kilgallon

Director of Learning & System Leadership