



SEND Mainstream Funding Cluster Model

Schools' Implementation Update: September 2022

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Invitation to join the discussion

It is imperative schools are part of the discussion. Whilst an Implementation Steering Group has been formed and facilitates this to some extent; it is essential schools feel they have a voice and an opportunity to be heard.

We need schools to share with us any questions they may have about the Cluster Model. We will collate these and use them to produce a Schools' FAQs document. This will be published every month as part of the Schools' Implementation Update in the LBH Headteachers' bulletin.

Should you have any questions regarding the Mainstream SEND Funding Cluster Model or its implementation, please forward these to: SendTransformation@hounslow.gov.uk

Background, Rationale, Work to Date & Aims

'Consideration should be given to the development of formal school clusters (involving both primary and secondary schools to support more effective transitions, and with the potential to extend to include representatives from local early years settings). These could be a strong source of peer support and challenge, as well as playing a role in the better targeting of High Needs resources. ... Following consideration by key officers, a Task & Finish Group should be established involving mainstream Heads and SENDCos and relevant LA personnel (SEN and Schools Finance). Parents will be a group to consider in moving forward and it is recommended that they are represented through the involvement of SENDIASS/PCF.'

LBH Commissioned Independent Review of SEND (Peter Gray 2001)

A Task and Finish Group was established in July 2021 to explore how a Mainstream SEND Funding Cluster Model might be introduced in Hounslow. With support from Peter Gray, the group looked at models operating in other authorities, including established models and others at various planning and implementation stages. This work led to the conclusion that in Hounslow, a model involving all mainstream schools with a phased implementation would be the most appropriate. The group also agreed a set of principles for consideration when grouping schools into clusters. This included clusters containing primary and secondary schools, being formed on a geographical basis, being made up of a diverse range of schools (size, demography etc) and that each cluster should be led by a SENDCo who represents schools and is mandated to do so. This final principle has informed the decision to second mainstream SENDCos (0.2fte) to the role of SEND Cluster Lead. These roles will be presented at the

SENDCo Forum in October 2022, with expressions of interest being invited from the group. The roles will be funded by the LA via a backfill arrangement agreed with schools.

The Task and Finish Group concluded its work in July 2022 and handed over the planning and development stage of the implementation to a Steering Group predominantly made up of school leaders. During the group's September meeting, it was agreed that communications with the wider school community should now commence. This will be achieved in two ways. The first will be regular (at least monthly) Schools' Implementation Updates in the LBH HT's bulletin. However, it is important that the dialogue is two-way. The invitation to be part of the discussion above is sincere. We want to hear your questions. It is your input that will enable us to ensure the transition to the cluster model is focussed, as it should be, on children, young people and schools.

A key aim of the cluster model is to ensure the effective and sustainable use of the High Needs Budget. The implementation of the cluster model will be phased but in time, it will become a school-led system providing peer support and challenge to drive forward inclusive practice in mainstream schools. This will facilitate a high quality ordinarily available provision offer across Hounslow.

Timeline & Key Activities

	Autumn 22	Spring 23
Wider school communications initiated	September	
Draft terms of reference for clusters agreed	September	
Roles and Responsibilities agreed	September	
Recruitment of SEND Cluster Leads (6 x 0.2 fte)	October	
SEND Cluster Lead Training & Development Plan Agreed	October	
LA presentation to HEP AGM (tbc)	October	
Cluster Chairs and Vice Chairs recruitment	October	
Training and development plan agreed	November	
Cluster Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed	November	
Cluster meetings arranged	November	
Funding arrangements signed off	November	
All documentation signed off	November	
Implementation Steering Group Meeting	December	
Implementation: Phase 1 ¹		January

¹At the request of schools, implementation has been pushed back to January 23 with the LA holding the funding and 'hand-holding' the model.

Throughout this timeline there will be various meetings including:

- Mainstream Funding Implementation Group (Local Authority)
- Implementation Steering Group (Local Authority & School Leaders)

Communication from these groups will be supported by:

- Implementation Steering Group
- LBH Headteachers' Bulletin
- SENDCo Bulletin

- SENDCo Forum
- HEP Communications
- Additional Communications as required

Mainstream SEND Funding Implementation Steering Group

Colleague	School(s)	Phase/Size
Leo Duggan	St Lawrence RC Primary School	Primary (MRC)
Victoria Eadie	Tudor Park Education Trust	Secondary (M&S)
Laura Ellener	Chiswick School	Secondary (L)
Lyn Gray	Grove Road Primary School	Primary (S)
John Norton	Alexandra Primary School	Primary (L)
Kevin Prunty	Cranford Community College	Secondary (L)
Eileen Sheedy	Isleworth Town Primary School	Primary (L)
Ed Vainker	Reach Foundation	All through (S)
Sally Yarrow	The Green School Trust	Secondary (M&S)

Meetings are also attended by:

- Annita Cornish: Chair & Assistant Director SEND
- David Clark: Cluster Implementation Lead

Autumn Term Meetings:

- 15th July
- 16th September
- 14th October
- 11th November
- 2nd December
- 16th December

Experts from outside Hounslow may be invited to meetings to provide context, advice and guidance when it is agreed this may benefit the group.

I hope this Mainstream SEND Funding Cluster Model update is of use to you, your senior leadership team and your SENDCo.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

**David Clark | Cluster Implementation Lead
Special Educational Needs & Disability**