

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MARCH 2020

**Question to Mark Sutton
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

By Charlotte Atkins

Question

What plans does the County Council have to increase per - pupil funding to special schools in line with the increase in mainstream school funding?

Reply

In 2020/21 special school budgets have been set in line with rises recently approved for all maintained schools next year, i.e. an increase in the underlying lump sum factor to £114,000 (up from £90,000 in 2019/20), a minimum funding guarantee of 1.84% (significantly higher than the MFG set by Government of 0%) and no capping of gains.

As Government set the amount for planned places, any increase providers receive will be through the top up rates and, in particular, the specific School Adjustment Rate to ensure that, on a like for like basis, all schools receive an overall funding increase next year of at least 1.84% (note: the average increase in school funding is estimated to be around 2.3%). Individual school budgets for 2020/21 were confirmed at the end of February and will be regularly updated going forward to reflect changes in the school roll arising throughout the year.