

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 JULY 2021**

**Question to Cllr Price  
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)**

**By Cllr Pardesi**

**Question**

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In light of the pitiful Covid Education catch-up plan for England students, how can this government claim to be concerned about failing thousands of students and be serious about breaking the link between deprivation and poor outcomes in schools?

**Reply**

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The Department for Education announced a number of different funding streams and packages to support education recovery and children and young people's wellbeing. In June 2020 mainstream schools were allocated £80 for each pupil from reception to year 11 inclusive and special schools were allocated £240 per pupils. Schools were required to use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils' education recovery.

Secondary schools have been provided the opportunity to hold a summer school with a blend of academic education and enrichment activities. The funding to run a summer school equates to £597 per 2-week place (or £1791 per place for pupils in special schools and alternative provision).

To support some of our youngest children attending school, access to the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme, is being made available for free, during the academic year 2021/2022.

In 2021/2022 schools will also receive additional recovery funding, building on the Pupil Premium, to further support pupils who need it most. The average primary school will receive around £6,000 extra, and the average secondary school around £22,000 extra. As this funding is based on the number of disadvantaged pupils, schools with more disadvantaged pupils will receive larger allocations but will have flexibility to direct funding based on their assessment of needs.

Schools have been provided with a range of tutoring approaches: both continuing the work with the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) and offering a new complementary school-led approach, allowing schools to take on local tutors or use existing staff to supplement those employed through the existing NTP.

The DfE has provide access to a range of support to improve mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges. This includes guidance on whole school and college approaches to mental health and wellbeing, funding for senior mental health leads training and funded support through the wellbeing for education recovery programme. This has been received very positively in Staffordshire.

The 16-19 Tuition Fund has been extended for a further two years for 16-19 year olds, into the 2023/24 academic year. The fund will continue to provide targeted small group tuition in English, mathematics and other subjects where learning has been disrupted because of the pandemic and is available to all 16-19 providers.

Nationally Defra initially worked with local authorities on allocating funding for Food and Emergency supplies (allocating over £600,000) and latterly the Department for Work and Pensions have worked to deliver the COVID Winter and Locality Fund (allocating over £4 million) this has enabled the county council to provide vouchers for food and emergency items throughout the pandemic.

These schemes are due to finish in October and will be replaced by the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. This programme delivers food and activities to children who are living in low income families (Free School Meals eligible.) We are working hard to prepare for the summer schemes and will also deliver this in Easter and Christmas to ensure that this much needed support is available for families.