

Actions from previous meetings

Ref No.	Date of meeting(s) raised	Item	Action	Responsible Officer	Update
Jun25-Ac3	16th June 2025	DSG Outturn 2024/25	Keith Harvey had written to his MP about the deficit, particularly within the high needs budget, asking for a response from the Secretary of State for Education and would share the reply once received.	Keith Harvey	Response set out below.

From: Olivia Bailey MP |
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 9:21:24 PM
Subject: Re: Special Educational Needs Funding (Case Ref: OB06991)

Dear Keith,

Olivia has now received a reply from the department, which I have copied below.

“

Dear Olivia,

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 June, on behalf of a headteacher in your constituency, regarding high needs funding in West Berkshire.

Local authorities (LAs) are statutorily responsible for securing the special educational provision specified in the education, health and care plans they maintain. All LAs must take responsibility for the effective and sustainable management of their high needs systems and associated spending.

However, the government recognises not only that some families and children are not receiving the quality of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services and provision they should expect, but also that the rising costs of SEND provision are putting a strain on local government and school finances.

We are committed to fixing the foundations and the additional funding we will be providing by 2028 to 2029 will help to reform the SEND system. As part of the local government funding reform consultations, the government will set out further details on supporting LAs as we transition to a reformed system. Further information on those reforms will be provided in a white paper in the autumn.

West Berkshire was last inspected under the previous Ofsted and Care Quality Commission framework in May 2018. As with all local areas, the department has continued to provide support to West Berkshire through a regional case lead, who seeks regular assurances on the adequacy of SEND provision.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

*Yours,
 Catherine McKinnell*

I hope this reply is useful for you. If you would like Olivia and the team to support you with any further matters then please do get in touch.

Kind regards,
 Max

Office of Olivia Bailey
 MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire