

Meeting	Schools Finance Forum
Date	June 2021
Officer	Ffion E Ellis
Title	ALN Finance Working Group Update

ALN Finance Working Group Update

In September 2019 The Integration Funding Expenditure Inquiry Report was presented to the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Management Board. It was proposed that work continued through the establishing of a working group.

In January and February 2020 An External review of the ALN and I Service was carried out during this period. The findings of the review confirmed that what had been proposed in terms of the Management Board's further actions was appropriate.

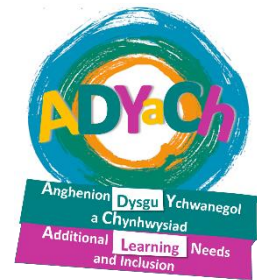
In March 2020 Membership for the group was identified by seeking representation through the strategic groups:

- 1 Head of Gwynedd Primary Strategic Group
- 1 from Gwynedd Secondary Strategic Group
- 1 Anglesey Secondary Headteachers Strategic Group
- 1 of Anglesey Primary Headteachers Strategic Group
- Senior Manager of ALN and Inclusion
- Representation of Gwynedd and Anglesey Finance Departments
- ALN and I Project Manager

The groups most recent meeting was **during February 2021** where 7 possible models for allocation of funding were discussed. All models made use of PLASC data (please see Appendix 1).

The working group's preferred model was Model 7. The following was considered and discussed:

- Model 7 is the fairest in meeting the needs of our pupils
- Model 7 which reflects the actual needs of the pupils; a number of other models assume a position, rather than what reflects the actual needs of the pupils
- Could a longer model be looked at; rolling 2 or three years for schools to embed provisions and invest in upskilling staff
- The need for a suitable contingency fund
- The importance of PLASC / PLASC data accuracy
- Consider weighting of factors within the formula
- Consideration of transition periods e.g. nursery-primary; post-compulsory primary-secondary and secondary-educational.



June – December 2022

- Consultation work has been carried out with stakeholders through consultation with strategic groups, and all Primary and Secondary headteachers. This focused on the Models considered and the focus on Model 7.
- Opinions have then been gathered through a Survey, with the result showing that the majority agree to carry out further work with Model 7, and agree in terms of principles.

Next Steps:

- Carry out further modeling work on Model 7 before the end of January 2023, which includes studying the impact at a school level, accuracy of PLASC data, category weightings within the model.
- To draft a document which outlines the principles for allocating the funding, takes into account important factors that have arisen from the working group, and through the Survey e.g.:
 - Impact on individual Schools - will a transition period be required in order to reduce the impact on existing provisions.
 - The size of the reserve amount maintained by the Authority, and Criteria for Access to this amount.
 - The statutory principles around the use of the delegated funding.
- Continue to work towards a timescale of April 2023 in terms of transitioning to the new Model, but this would depend upon on the modelling phase.