

Delivering Better Value Workstream 2

Review of Banded Descriptors - Phase 2

Contact email: DeliveringBetterValue@birmingham.gov.uk

Background

Birmingham City Council is currently engaged in a DFE granted funded Delivering Better Value Programme. Workstream 2 is reviewing funding arrangements, including SEND Support Provision Plans, to ensure that there is clarity for schools and settings about how much money they will receive for each pupil and how the decision about funding has been made.

In December 2025 we extended an invitation to senior leaders and SENCOs in the city to support the workstream by joining the Phase 1 workshops that were looking at review of the current of descriptors in the Ranges and Banded Descriptors documents.

Participants involved schools and SEND agencies. Currently the Local Authority uses primarily these two documents to help to identify the right level of funding that a child or young person will receive. The banding descriptors are provision led and are set out in accordance with the four types of need specified in the SEND Code of Practice

In response to the commitment that the new chosen framework remains needs led and a child centred approach, we need to ensure confidence that the current descriptors continue to demonstrate a graduated response of provision to need, including congruence between to the two documents.

Phase 1 workshops took place in January and February 2026. We are now progressing to Phase 2 that entails a deeper dive and to review and refresh the descriptors considering the feedback provide in the Phase 1 workshops.

There will be series of 5 working groups each focused on a category of need from the SEND Code of Practice. Each group will entail 3 meetings between April and September 2026. There will opportunities for identified reps from each working group to join a general working group whose role will be support the interdependency and alignment provision across the categories of need.

Meeting Arrangements

Below are the current proposed meetings dates for the Phase 2 and the category of need focus. The meetings will mainly be in person, and the venues will be confirmed before the first meeting dates.

Area of Need	Date/s	Time	Venues
SEMH	Tue 28 th April	9.30am-12pm	Council House
	Tue 19 th May	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Mon 13 th July	1.00pm – 3.30pm	Online
Sensory	Tue 5 th May	9.30am-12pm	Council House
	Wed 3 rd June	1.00pm – 3.30pm	TBC
	Wed 23 rd Sept	9.30am-12pm	Online
Physical	Wed 13 th May	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Tue 30 th June	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Wed 23 rd Sept	1.00pm – 3.30pm	Online
SCLN/Autism	Wed 10 th June 1	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Wed 10 th July	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Mon 28 th Sept	9.30am-12pm	Online
Cognition and Learning	Tue 2 nd June	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Mon 13 th July	9.30am-12pm	TBC
	Thurs 17 th Sept	9.30am-12pm	Online
General	Thurs 8 th Oct	9.30am-3.30pm	TBC

The importance of the engagement of schools representing nursery primary and secondary mainstream and resource base sectors in Phase 2 is integral to securing the outcomes as there was low representation from mainstream schools in Phase 1.

For expressions of interest or seeking responses to any queries please email DeliveringBetterValue@birmingham.gov.uk. The deadline for EOI expressions is below. This is to ensure we can send information in advance for the first meeting.

SEMH	Friday 17th April 2026
Sensory	Monday 27th April 2026
Physical	Fri 1st May 2026
SCLN/Autism	Wed 13th May 2026
Cognition and Learning	Monday 18th May 2026

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