



The new remand framework for children: Allocation of new burdens funding to local authorities

This consultation begins on 21 September 2012 This consultation ends on 16 November 2012

About this consultation

То:	Local authorities
	Youth Offending Teams
	Other stakeholders with an interest in youth justice issues
Duration:	From 21 September 2012 to 16 November 2012
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Executive summary

Provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 pave the way for the devolution of under-18 secure remand budgets to local authorities.

Most of these budgets are currently held at the centre – by the Youth Justice Board, a non-departmental public body of Ministry of Justice. The current position, therefore, is that central government funds the vast majority of the cost when children are remanded securely. If a child is remanded into the community (for example, into remand foster care), the local authority has to fund the cost. We believe there is currently little financial incentive for the local authority to make community alternatives available as an option to the court.

Financial responsibility for secure youth remands will be devolved from April 2013. The Youth Justice Board will continue to commission custodial places, and will decide where to place those whom the court remands securely, but it will invoice local authorities for the cost.

In line with the new burdens doctrine, we will transfer funding to enable local authorities to help meet their new responsibility for the costs of secure remands. This consultation paper sets out the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board's preferred option for distributing this funding and how we propose to recover costs. Proposals in relation to spike events and the costs of remand journeys to and from secure accommodation are also set out.

In addition, as a result of the LASPO Act, where children are remanded securely they will all become looked after. This also represents a new burden for local authorities and the paper sets out the proposals for the distribution of this funding.

Introduction

Setting the context

- 1. Children¹ who have been charged with the most serious offences may often need to be securely remanded while they await trial and sentence. However, too many children whose alleged offences are not serious and whose behaviour does not pose a risk to the public are remanded securely. A better approach to remand is needed for these children: one that maintains community-led supervision, support, education and training.
- 2. While the overall number of children in custody fell 33 per cent between 2007/8 and 2011/12, the number of remands into secure accommodation has fallen by only 24 per cent. 61 per cent of children securely remanded are acquitted or do not go on to receive a custodial sentence. Secure remands are often for relatively short periods of time, providing little opportunity to make a positive change to the lives of the children remanded. In many cases the risk that a child poses, whether to themselves or others, can and should be managed in the community, where action can be taken to address the child's behaviour, and at the same time work with the family.
- 3. Through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012, the UK Government has made significant reforms to the youth remand framework. Once the Act is implemented, 17 year olds will be treated as children rather than adults. This will meet the government's commitment set out in the Green Paper, *Breaking the* Cycle, and end criticism that the current remand process for 17 year olds is not in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. See Annex A for details of how the remand framework currently works.
- 4. The LASPO Act also seeks to reduce the unnecessary secure remand of children in two ways.
 - Firstly, a 12 to 17 year old must have a real prospect of receiving a custodial sentence upon conviction before they may be remanded to youth detention accommodation², unless they are charged with a violent or sexual offence or one where an adult would receive a custodial sentence of 14 years or more in which case it is not necessary to meet the "real prospect" test (see Annex B for full details of the new remand framework); and

¹ The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 defines all children and young people aged 12 to 17 as "children" for the purposes of remand. We have therefore used this definition throughout the consultation paper.

² A remand to youth detention accommodation is a secure remand and may be to an under-18 young offender institution, secure children's home or secure training centre.

- Secondly, local authorities are being given greater financial responsibility for secure remands.
- 5. Under the proposals in this consultation paper we set out how local authorities will be given greater financial responsibility in order to incentivise them to help reduce unnecessary remands to youth detention accommodation and improve outcomes for children. The Ministry of Justice will transfer to local authorities funding that would usually be used to provide remands to youth detention accommodation. This will enable local authorities to invest in alternatives to remands to youth detention accommodation. This will enable local authorities to invest in alternatives to remands to youth detention accommodation. This funding will not be ringfenced. It will be open to local authorities to determine how best to use this money. This could, for example, include the establishment of consortium arrangements or pooling of budgets.
- 6. The Youth Justice Board has helped lead work with some youth offending teams using best practice guidance. This has identified that alternatives to remand, such as intensive bail support packages, (aimed at addressing the risks and needs of the child in the community) can cost significantly less than a remand to youth detention accommodation. These youth offending teams have recorded, on average, an 18 per cent reduction in the use of secure remands between 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- 7. If local authorities can bring about a reduction in the number of remands to youth detention accommodation, they will be able to invest the funding provided on reducing offending and aiding rehabilitation. Reducing the number of remands to youth detention accommodation will also benefit the child by maintaining their community links and enabling school or college attendance to continue.

The consultation exercise

- 8. This paper sets out for consultation:
 - Plans for allocating new burdens funding to local authorities in England and Wales in relation to remands to youth detention accommodation;
 - Plans for recovery of the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation from local authorities in England and Wales;
 - Proposals in relation to the possible impact of "spike events" on budgets for remands to youth detention accommodation;
 - Proposals in relation to meeting the costs of escorting remanded children to and from youth detention accommodation; and
 - Plans for allocating new burdens funding to local authorities in England and Wales in relation to the extension of "looked after child" to all children remanded to youth detention accommodation.
- The consultation paper and funding transfers cover the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15. We currently expect to distribute funding on the same basis for both financial years. However, this is subject to review. Funding

levels and distribution arrangements may also be reviewed as necessary for future Spending Review periods.

- 10. The consultation is aimed at local authorities (chief executives, finance officers and directors of children's services), youth offending teams and other stakeholders with an interest in youth justice issues in England and Wales.
- 11. A Welsh language consultation paper is available please email the remand Project team for a copy at remandsproject@yjb.gsi.gov.uk.
- 12. Comments on the Equality Impact Assessment attached at Annex C are very welcome.

Wider issues

- 13. As with the previous remand framework, the placement of children in youth detention accommodation will be coordinated centrally by the Youth Justice Board who will make the placement decision in consultation with the designated local authority. An updated placement policy will be developed to take account of the new remand framework.
- 14. The Youth Justice Board will also be responsible for commissioning youth detention accommodation, although local authorities will play an increasingly important role in this process.

What is youth detention accommodation?

15. Under the new remand framework in the LASPO Act 2012 there will be three types of youth detention accommodation which will hold both remanded and sentenced children between the ages of 12 and 17 years. See the table below for further information.

	Secure Children's Home	Secure Training Centre	Under-18 Young Offender Institution
Provided by	Local authorities	Commercial providers.	National Offender Management Service / Commercial providers.
Policy on eligibility	Under 15 year olds. 15 year olds and older assessed as vulnerable.	14 and 15 year olds and vulnerable older children.	15 to 17 year olds.
Total number of bed nights used in 2011/2012 ¹	of bed nights 11,748		149,200
Proportion of bed nights used in 2011/2012	6.4%	12.3%	81.3%

¹ Data on bed nights are taken from the Youth Justice Board's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS). As with any large scale recording system, these data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Bed nights are calculated by looking at the amount of time a young person spends in custody during a custodial episode. The calculation looks at the difference between the date the episode started, and when it ended. An additional night is added to the end of each episode to reflect the fact that young people continue to use services within the secure estate on the day they are discharged. This is done to generate a more accurate reflection of the costs in the system. For example; if a child enters custody on the 1st March and leaves on the 15th April then the bed nights used are 46. This is made up of 31 days in March, 14 in April and the one added for the day they leave.

Youth detention accommodation – allocation of new burdens funding

Summary

- 16. The Ministry of Justice currently expects to provide £21.9million to local authorities in England and Wales in each of the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15 towards the costs of remands to under-18 young offender institutions. We currently expect to use the same data to inform distribution across both years. However, this will be subject to review and dependent on the levels of reductions in secure remand and any resulting decommissioning in the secure estate which takes place over this period. These two factors could change the size of the overall pot for distribution in the second year.
- 17. We are proposing to distribute funding to individual local authorities on the basis of historic remand bed night usage for children remanded in under-18 young offender institutions.
- 18. Local authorities should note that the provisional date³ for implementation of the key provisions of the 2012 Act is 3 December 2012. However, transfer of funding and the associated arrangements for the recovery of costs (details of which are set out in the next section) relating to youth detention accommodation will be implemented from the next financial year (i.e. from 1 April 2013). For the period from 3 December 2012 to the end of March 2013 the costs of youth detention accommodation will be calculated and charged to local authorities on the same basis as they are currently.

Background

- 19. 61 per cent of children securely remanded are currently acquitted or do not go on to receive a custodial sentence. Figures also show that children securely remanded made up 23 per cent of children in the secure estate in 2011/12. This compares with less than 15 per cent of the adult prison population who are on remand.
- 20. The new remand framework will help reduce the unnecessary use of secure remands. We estimate that it will reduce secure remands by about 15 per cent (see Annex D for further details). But local authorities can also take action to cut unnecessary remands, and will be better incentivised to do so. For example, local authorities (working with key stakeholders such as the police, courts and children's services) can utilise the remand best practice guidance to evaluate and improve operational and strategic practice. Any financial gains can be used to support the growth of robust community alternatives to custody.
- 21. As set out in the introduction to this paper, this is about giving local agencies more flexibility and responsibility in providing services. In the long-term we

³ Subject to the parliamentary timetable.

are aiming to encourage local authorities to shift resources towards early intervention and prevention work.

- 22. A range of more cost effective alternatives to remands to youth detention accommodation are available. For example:
 - Where a court orders a remand to local authority accommodation, placement by the local authority in specialist remand foster care. This means that children can maintain contact with their families and communities and continue with their education.
 - Intensive bail support packages aimed at addressing the needs of the child, for example, in relation to drug or alcohol abuse.
- 23. Local authorities will receive their funding allocation at the beginning of the financial year. It will be in their interests to ensure that alternative arrangements are available and that courts are aware of these alternatives at the time remand decisions are made. When a potential remand to youth detention accommodation is avoided, local authorities will be able to use the difference to develop their services. Although this funding is not ring-fenced, it is envisaged that it should be spent on activities which improve outcomes for young people e.g. by reducing offending.
- 24. Local authorities and youth offending teams could undertake a range of activities to address remand levels. They could, for example: collect and analyse data on the reasons why bail is refused; dedicate resources to begin work on assessments and the preparation of bail packages sooner; develop communications with the CPS and defence solicitors who regularly represent children in the youth court to explain alternatives to remands to youth detention accommodation; present a remand to local authority accommodation to the court at the earliest opportunity; and focus on Saturday morning courts.
- 25. There is the scope for many of these activities to be pooled within consortium arrangements.

Under-18 young offender institutions

26. It is currently the responsibility of the Youth Justice Board to meet the costs of children remanded to under-18 young offender institutions. Under the new remand framework, local authorities will be responsible for meeting the costs of all remand to youth detention accommodation. This is a new burden and the Ministry of Justice/Youth Justice Board expects to provide £21.9million to local authorities in England and Wales in each of the financial years 2013/4 and 2014/15.

27. These figures have been calculated as follows:

	Young offender institutions
Average bed night cost in 2012/13	£173
Total number of bed nights in 2011/12	149,200
Total to be transferred to local authorities taking account of the anticipated 15% reduction in number of remands due to the introduction of the new, stricter, framework.	£21.9m

Secure children's homes and secure training centres

- 28. Under current remand legislation, local authorities have a statutory duty to meet the costs of placing children remanded to local authority secure accommodation where this has been ordered by the court (i.e. remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres). Following an agreement with the Home Office in 1999, the Youth Justice Board has given financial assistance to local authorities in this regard, although there is no statutory requirement for it to do so.
- 29. This agreement will cease to have effect on 31 March 2013. From 1 April 2013 local authorities will assume full responsibility for the costs of remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres. This is in line with the policy intention set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle":

"Pending the introduction of a single youth remand order, we propose to use the existing legal framework to make local authorities gradually responsible for the full cost of court ordered secure remand, while retaining the central function to place children in secure custodial remand. This complements our wider move towards paying by results and giving local agencies more flexibility and responsibility in providing services." 30. We estimate the costs of remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres to be:

	Secure children's homes	Secure training centres
Total number of bed nights in 2011/12	11,748	22,628
Total cost of remands in 2011/12 (inc VAT on secure training centres)	£6.8m	£17.2m
Amount paid by local authorities in 2011/12 (1/3 of the total)	£2.3m	£5.7m

Average bed night cost in 2012/13 (which does not include VAT on secure training centres)	£577	£607
Total cost in future years taking account of anticipated 15% reduction in number of remands due to the introduction of the new, stricter framework and removal of VAT from secure training centre costs	£5.8m	£11.7m

31. There will be no transfer for the costs of remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres as this is not a new burden.

Distribution of funding

- 32. Our preferred option is for funding for remands to under-18 young offender institutions to be distributed on historic usage by individual local authorities averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available (i.e. averaged over the period 2009/10 to 2011/12). We currently expect to use the same data to inform distribution for both 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- 33. We believe that this option:
 - offers a simple and easy to understand mechanism for the distribution of funding; and
 - is transparent and defensible when comparing budget allocations to likely costs for individual local authorities.
- 34. We also believe that there is little negative impact on the incentive to reduce unnecessary remands. The main incentive is created by the transfer of financial responsibility. In addition:

- averaging over three years helps to address concerns about volatility in the use of remand bed nights; although no method for distributing funding would be able to fully account for volatility.
- although this could be seen as rewarding previous poor performance, averaging over the last three years also helps to soften the impact on those areas which have already reduced unnecessary remands in the last couple of years.
- the option takes account of factors such as local variations in sentencers' behaviour that might not be picked up by other approaches.
- 35. We are aware that there are concerns about discrepancies in the data. However, the Youth Justice Board is taking urgent steps with youth offending teams to reconcile identified data discrepancies. This work will be completed by November 2012. It is possible that this work to reconcile discrepancies will have some impact on the proportion of the funding individual local authorities will receive.
- Question 1: Do you agree that funding for remands to under-18 young offender institutions should be distributed on the basis of historic usage of this type of accommodation for 15-17 year olds averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available?
- Question 2: Do you think a different formula should be used? If so what should that formula look like?
- Question 3: Do you have any comments on the proposal relating to the costs of remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres?

Youth detention accommodation - recovery of costs

Summary

36. Where it is necessary to remand a child to youth detention accommodation, the Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board are proposing that the costs of the remand bed nights should be recovered from the relevant local authority on the basis of the appropriate "sector prices".

"Sector prices"

- 37. Through using "sector prices" the Youth Justice Board would recover an average cost based on the type of establishment in which the child is held on remand e.g. an average across all under-18 young offender institutions.
- 38. The Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board also considered whether to recover costs based upon "actual prices". This would involve the Youth Justice Board recovering the costs of the specific establishment in which the child is held on remand (costs vary between different establishments in the same sector because contracts were let at different times and with different overall requirements. Costs in some establishments also vary depending on occupancy rates).
- 39. In reaching the view to recover the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation on the basis of "sector prices", the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board took account of the following issues:
 - There are more uncertainties for local authorities associated with "actual prices" (because costs vary with occupancy rates etc) than with "sector prices" which might make financial planning more difficult for local authorities.
 - "Sector prices" ensure that the same charge should apply to all users of a defined category of service (i.e. to all users of, for example, secure training centres).
 - The administrative burdens of calculating "actual prices" may be significant for the Youth Justice Board. For example, the cost of each place varies based on the occupancy rate in secure training centres. If a child is on remand for ten nights, then the cost to the Youth Justice Board of that placement each night may be different. To run a cost recovery system based on "actual prices" is possible, but would prove highly complex i.e. calculations would require a daily cost per bed per establishment combined with some form of individualised calendar-based charging system. In addition, as mentioned above, this approach will negatively affect local authorities' ability to plan ahead financially, as costs could not be quantified in advance, or even during a period of remand.

- There are issues with the disclosure of confidential or commercially sensitive information set out in contracts between the Ministry of Justice and/or the Youth Justice Board and providers of youth detention accommodation. This may limit the financial information that can be presented to local authorities.
- 40. Each contract has an uplift mechanism that operates annually. Contracts across the estate are also re-negotiated at differing periods. The proposed initial estimate of the sector prices and the elements they cover are set out below.
- 41. The table below illustrates the key areas of service that **all** children remanded to youth detention accommodation receive. The "x" denotes where the costs are met elsewhere e.g. healthcare provision within secure children's homes and public under-18 young offender institutions are met by the Department of Health and Welsh Government and those costs will not be recovered from local authorities. Therefore, whilst there is a degree of difference in the make-up of the cost of various under-18 young offender institutions, sector prices reflect the service costs which the Youth Justice Board incurs, the funding to be provided to local authorities and therefore what will be recovered from local authorities.

	Secure children's homes	Secure training centres	Public sector under-18 young offender institution	Private sector under- 18 young offender institution
Sector bed night price	£577	£607	£173	
Custodial services	✓	~	✓ ✓	
Remand bed night premium	×	~	×	×
Education	✓	✓	×	✓
Healthcare	×	✓	×	✓
Children's substance misuse service	×	×	× ✓	
Advocacy	✓	✓	1	✓
Independent adjudications	×	×	~	✓
Ministry of Justice controllers ¹	×	×	× ✓	
YOT worker	×	×	×	✓
Business rates ²	✓	×	✓	✓

¹ Ministry of Justice controllers have a statutory duty to oversee compliance with contracts and compliance with release procedures.

² Business rates are a tax on the occupation of non-domestic property. The YJB as commissioner of these services also bears the cost of business rates which are levied by local authorities.

Question 4: What are your views on the Youth Justice Board recovering the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation from local authorities using "sector prices"?

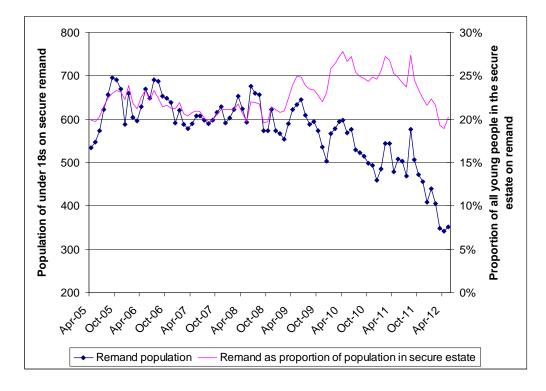
Spike events

Summary

42. The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board are not proposing to establish a central budget to be accessed by local authorities should a "spike event" occur.

Rationale

43. There has been a downward trend⁴ in the use of secure remands over the past few years. Between 2007/08 and 2011/12 there was a reduction of 24 per cent in the population of under-18s held securely on remand. See the graph below for overall trends. See also Annex E for total remand bed night usage by local authority over the last three financial years. However, the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board recognise that there is, and always will be, some fluctuation in the use of such remands at a local level.



⁴ Although remands to youth detention accommodation have not fallen at the same rate as custodial sentences.

- 44. We expect local authorities to meet the costs of variations in demand within their own budgets. However, some stakeholders have suggested that there should be a centrally held budget to meet the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation associated with spike events.
- 45. There is no definition of a spike event in general use, although disturbances of summer 2011 would clearly be viewed by many as a spike event. The Youth Justice Board's "Youth Justice Reinvestment Pathfinder" initiative⁵ has used a definition of spike events with a small number of pilots. Experience to date highlights difficulties agreeing a definition which all youth offending teams and stakeholders feel to be appropriate. It is difficult to maintain a small central reserve of funding and at the same time use it to respond to a wide variety of potential demands.
- 46. The chart above shows only a very short-lived increase in the remand population and still demonstrates a significant overall reduction in remand population during that year. Setting aside the issue of whether it would be possible to agree a definition, the Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board are of the view that there should not be a centrally held budget.
- 47. The Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board believe that the existence of such a budget could reduce the incentive to local authorities to take steps to bring down the number of unnecessary remands to youth detention accommodation. In addition, with continued pressure on government finance, there is no new money available with which to set up such a budget. Therefore, a budget could only be established by top slicing from the funding to be transferred to local authorities. There would be less funding to distribute to local authorities, which could limit local authorities' potential to invest in alternatives to remand to youth detention accommodation.
- 48. An option available to local authorities to reduce risks associated with responding to variable levels of remand to youth detention accommodation could be via the adoption of a consortium model. Pooled arrangements or budgets across regions or within existing partnership arrangements for providing and purchasing alternatives to custody may help local authorities manage fluctuating demand.

Question 5: Do you agree that there should <u>not</u> be a centrally held budget to meet the cost of spike events?

⁵ The Youth Justice Reinvestment Pathfinder pilots have been running since October 2011 and will last for two years. They aim to share with local areas both the financial risk of young people entering custody and the financial rewards if fewer young people require a custodial sentence. A reinvestment grant, on top of the standard grant to Young Offending Teams, is provided. Local areas have flexibility in how they use the funding. If the agreed target is not met, based on the area's use of custody, some, or all, of the reinvestment grant is recouped.

Question 6: If you think there should be a centrally held budget; how much funding should be retained by the Ministry of Justice for this budget? And, what definition of spike event should be used?

Remand journeys to and from youth detention accommodation

Summary

- 49. The costs of remand journeys to and from secure children's homes and secure training centres are currently met by local authorities. A new contract dealing with these remand journeys will come into force, with a provisional date set for 3 December 2012, and the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board therefore expect to recover £1.3million in each of the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15 for these journeys. These figures will be kept under review.
- 50. Although the new arrangements have provisionally been set to come into force on 3 December 2012, the Ministry of Justice will not recover any escort costs during the current financial year (i.e. 2012/13).

Remand journeys to and from under-18 young offender institutions

51. Children on remand being taken to and from under-18 young offender institutions are transported under Prisoner Escort and Custody Service contracts held by the National Offender Management Service. These escort costs are currently and will continue to be met by the Youth Justice Board.

Remand journeys to and from secure children's homes and secure training centres

52. At present escort of children remanded to secure children's homes and secure training centres is dealt with through arrangements put in place and paid for by individual local authorities. From the 3 December 2012 (provisional date), all children on remand being taken to and from secure children's homes and secure training centres will be escorted under a new contract held by the Youth Justice Board.

Future arrangements for meeting the costs of remand journeys to and from all types of youth detention accommodation

- 53. We have considered whether financial responsibility for remand journeys should be transferred to local authorities in the same way that responsibility for the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation is being devolved.
- 54. A key aim of the policy to devolve financial responsibility for remands to youth detention accommodation to local authorities is to drive down the use of unnecessary remands. We do not believe that devolving transport budgets adds significantly to this incentive. Conversely, retaining central responsibility does not present a perverse incentive. We believe that the benefits of such an approach are unlikely to outweigh the administrative burdens of implementing and operating a system to invoice local authorities for these costs.

- 55. However, as local authorities currently meet the costs of journeys to and from secure children's homes and secure training centres, the costs of journeys under the Youth Justice Board's contract will be deducted from the amount to be transferred to local authorities under the new burdens agreement. The amount to be deducted from each local authority's funding will be calculated on the basis of historic bed night usage for secure children's homes and secure training centres.
- 56. This will be kept under review. It is possible that at some stage responsibility for meeting all remand transport costs will be transferred to local authorities.
- Question 7: Do you agree that the proposals set out above offer a pragmatic approach to dealing with the costs of remand journeys to and from all types of youth detention accommodation?
- Question 8: If not, what arrangements should be put in place?

Looked after children

Summary

57. The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board currently expect to transfer a total of £2.7m in 2013/14 and £3.4m in 2014/15 to local authorities in England and Wales to meet the costs of the extension of "looked after child" to all children remanded to youth detention accommodation. We are proposing to distribute this funding on the same basis as the distribution of the funding for remands to under-18 young offender institutions.

Background

- 58. The Children Act 1989 provides for children to be looked after by a local authority. The aim is to ensure that looked after children have their welfare safeguarded and promoted by the authority designated as responsible for them. Under current remand legislation only those children who are remanded to local authority accommodation with or without a security requirement become looked after. This excludes the majority of 15 and 16 year old boys and all 17 year old offenders who, when they are remand to custody, are detained in under-18 young offender institutions.
- 59. Provisions in the 2012 Act will require that all under-18s who have been remanded to youth detention accommodation are supported by local authorities as looked after children.
- 60. The measure will lead to an additional burden on local authorities. We are working with colleagues in the Department for Education and the Welsh Government to review the framework of regulations and guidance so that, in fulfilling their duties, local authorities have scope to be able to apply these in a proportionate way to take into account of the needs of this new group of looked after children.
- 61. There are also likely to be a number of opportunities to apply a coordinated and complementary approach to existing supervision requirements provided to children on remand. Operational advice is being produced by the Youth Justice Board and a local authority reference group to support this alignment of existing resources.

Funding for looked after child

62. Based upon statistical modelling, we estimate that this change will result in an additional 2,300 children becoming looked after child in a financial year⁶. Of these just over 300 are estimated to become eligible for leaving care services in a steady state year, as they will be aged 16 or over and will have spent

⁶ A total of 27,310 children in England started to be looked after and 1,885 children in Wales started to be looked after in the year ending 31 March 2011.

more than 13 weeks on remand. This calculation is based on the following assumptions:

- the new, stricter, remand framework will lead to a minimum 15 per cent reduction in the number of secure remands
- an estimated 25 per cent of children⁷ will already be looked after by local authorities at the point they are remanded to youth detention accommodation.
- 63. In calculating the total budget for the extension of these provisions we have assumed that the need for leaving care services will build over time. We expect the requirement for leaving care services to reach a steady state in 2017/18.
- 64. The approach favoured by the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board is to distribute looked after child funding to local authorities on the same basis as this funding for remands to under-18 young offender institutions. Funding should be on basis of bed night usage of under-18 young offender institutions averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available.
- Question 9: Do you agree that funding for local authorities to meet their new duties to treat all remanded child as looked after should be distributed on basis of bed night usage of under-18 young offender institutions averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available?
- Question 10: Do you think a different formula should be used? If so what should that formula look like?

⁷ HM Inspectorate of Prisons thematic report "The care of looked after children in custody", May 2011, estimated that 27% of children in custody had spent time in care.

Allocation of funding

Proposed overall allocations

65. The table below sets out the proposed overall budget allocation for England and Wales for the years 2013/14 and 2014/15. See Annex F for proposed allocations for individual local authorities. See also the attached excel spreadsheet which shows how these individual funding allocations have been calculated. As stated earlier in the document, an exercise is under way to reconcile any data discrepancies. This may have an impact on the final allocation of funding.

	2013/14	2014/15	
Youth detention accommodation	£21.9million	£21.9million	
Looked after child	£2.7million	£3.4million	
Transport	-£1.3million	-£1.3million	
Total to be transferred	£23.3million	£24.0million	

Questionnaire

We would welcome responses to the following twelve questions set out in this consultation paper.

- Question 1: Do you agree that funding for remands to under-18 young offender institutions should be distributed on the basis of historic usage of this type of accommodation for 15-17 year olds averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available?
- Question 2: Do you think a different formula should be used? If so what should that formula look like?
- Question 3: Do you have any comments on the proposal relating to the costs of remands to secure children's homes and secure training centres?
- Question 4: What are your views on the Youth Justice Board recovering the costs of remands to youth detention accommodation from local authorities using "sector prices"?
- Question 5: Do you agree that there should <u>not</u> be a centrally held budget to meet the cost of spike events?
- Question 6: If you think there should be a centrally held budget; how much funding should be retained by the Ministry of Justice for this budget? And, what definition of spike event should be used?
- Question 7: Do you agree that the proposals set out above offer a pragmatic approach to dealing with the costs of remand journeys to and from all types of youth detention accommodation?
- Question 8: If not, what arrangements should be put in place?
- Question 9: Do you agree that funding for local authorities to meet their new duties to treat all remanded child as looked after should be distributed on basis of bed night usage of under-18 young offender institutions averaged over the three most recent years for which data are currently available?
- Question 10: Do you think a different formula should be used? If so what should that formula look like?

- Question 11: Are there any equalities impacts of these proposals on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
- Question 12: If so, what are they? Please supply evidence of impact and how it affects the proposals.

Thank you for participating in this consultation exercise.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Full name	
Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (e.g. member of the public etc.)	
Date	
Company name/organisation (if applicable):	
Address	
Postcode	
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	(please tick box)
Address to which the acknowledgement should be	
sent, if different from above	

If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

Contact details/How to respond

Please send your response by 16 November 2012 to:

The YJB Remand Project Team Ministry of Justice Post point 13.54 102 Petty France London SW1H 9AJ

Email: remandsproject@vjb.gsi.gov.uk

Publication of response

We expect to notify local authorities of indicative budgets in December 2012.

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent when they respond.

Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

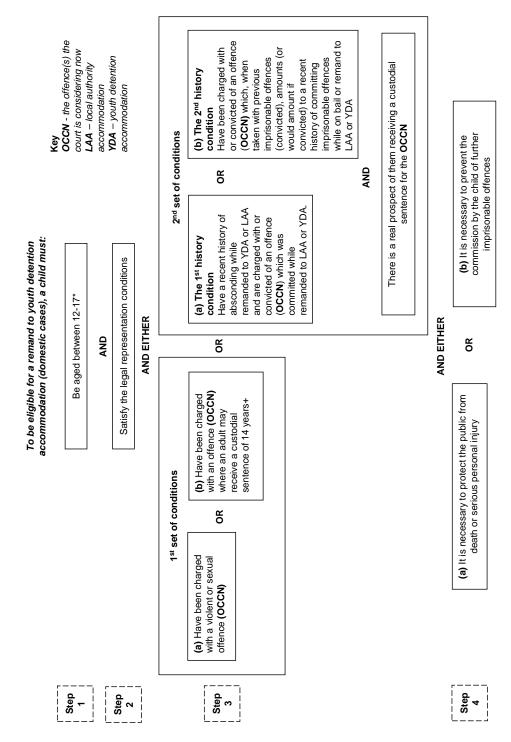
If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Ministry.

The Ministry will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. In the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Annex A

Current remand framework

Age and gender	Legislation	Key elements		Remand to
12-16 year old girls and 12-14 year old boys	Section 23 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969	Charged with a violent or sexual offence or one where an adult would get a custodial sentence of 14 years or more <u>OR</u> Recent history of committing imprisonable offences whilst on remand on bail or to local authority accommodation. <u>AND</u> It is necessary to protect the public from harm or prevent the commission of further imprisonable offences.		Secure children's home or secure training centre
15-16 year old boys	15-16 year old boys Section 23 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 as modified by section 98 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Charged with a violent or sexual offence or one where an adult would get a custodial sentence of 14 years or more <u>OR</u> Recent history of absconding while remanded to local		Court believes that a remand to secure local authority accommodation is required because of the boy's physical or emotional immaturity or propensity to harm himself.	Secure children's home or secure training centre
		authority accommodation and charged with/convicted of imprisonable offence while on remand. <u>AND</u> It is necessary to protect the public from harm or prevent the commission of further imprisonable offences.	Court <u>does not</u> believe that a remand to secure local authority accommodation is required because of the boy's physical or emotional immaturity or propensity to harm himself.	Under-18 young offender institution
17 year old boys and girls	Criminal Justice Act 1948	Where refused bail, 17 year olds are required to be remanded in prison (as in the case of adults). The practice is to detain in a cell in a YOI that is designated as a prison.		Under-18 young offender institution



Annex B

The new remand framework⁸

⁸ The court must first have considered whether to remand the child on bail before considering this test. This diagram does not provide details of the legal representation conditions which must be met.

Equality impact assessment - initial screening

Equality impact assessments were completed and published alongside the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle" and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill when it was first introduced in parliament. These address the possibility of impacts related to the proposal to devolve financial responsibility to local authorities.

The screening document issued alongside this consultation paper considers whether there are any impacts associates with the way that funding is to be distributed and the way costs are to be recovered.

We are keen to understand more about the impact of the proposals in this consultation paper, particularly the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (race, gender, disability, gender identity, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age) and would welcome your comments.

- Question 11: Are there any equalities impacts of these proposals on those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
- Question 12: If so, what are they? Please supply evidence of impact and how it affects the proposals.

Modelling the new remand framework

Data on all remand episodes from April 2008 to March 2012 are available and can be broken down by a number of characteristics including offence type, age, type of remand, accommodation type and Youth Offending Team.

Different offence types for which children were securely remanded were segmented into 3 categories:

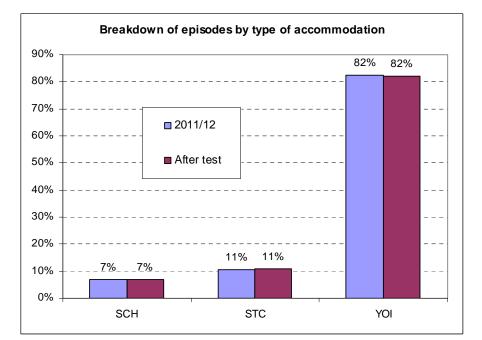
- i. **satisfies severity condition** for those offences *which meet* the **1**st **set of conditions** of the new remand framework⁹ i.e. are violent or sexual offences or ones where an adult would receive a custodial sentence of 14 years or more (e.g. murder, possession of firearm with intent to endanger life etc)
- ii. depends on severity for those offences that may satisfy the 1st set of conditions. Some sentences are limited depending on the severity of the offence. However, the data do not disaggregate to a level that allows this to be ascertained with confidence.
- iii. doesn't satisfy severity condition for those offences that do not satisfy the 1st set of conditions i.e. are not violent or sexual offences or ones where an adult would receive a custodial sentence of 14 years or more (e.g. common assault, theft from a shop etc)

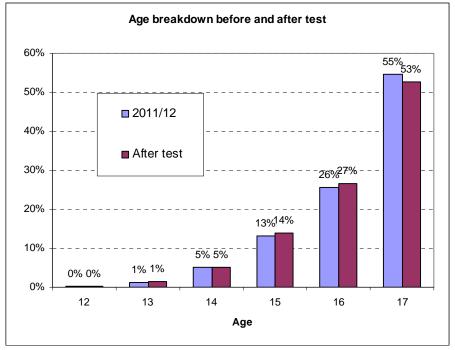
Assumptions:

- all those who are securely remanded for an offence classified as "satisfies severity condition" will continue to be remanded securely in the future. This will lead to some reductions in secure remands because under the new framework this condition is only relevant to the offence the court is currently considering. We understand that under the existing framework sentencers interpret this condition to include previous offences of this severity to justify remanding a child to youth detention accommodation.
- the custody rates for children who were securely remanded for offences in the "depends on severity" and "doesn't satisfy severity condition" categories can be used as a proxy for those who will be remanded securely under the 2nd set of conditions i.e. those who have a "real prospect of a custodial sentence". For these offences an adjustment was also made to take account of those who are acquitted.
- It is not possible to model for the **1st history condition** and the **2nd history condition** as the data do not give details of the individual level criminal history, or offending while on bail. The model therefore under estimates the impact of the new framework.

The analysis shows a maximum potential reduction of 27 per cent in the number of secure remands once the new framework is implemented. Modelling shows that this reduction is consistent across the types of accommodation and age ranges.

⁹ As set out in Annex B





However, in planning for these changes the Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board are taking a conservative approach and assuming a 15 per cent reduction in secure remands. This allows for the uncertainties inherent in any modelling and the difficulties in predicting how sentencers' behaviour will change.

Annex E

Total remand bed night usage (for secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions) by local authority between 2009/10 and 2011/12

Local Authority	09/10	10/11	11/12
Barking and Dagenham	1,726	3,494	2,440
Barnet	1,182	1,404	760
Barnsley	269	785	537
Bath and North East Somerset	294	78	57
Bedfordshire	812	1,145	1,234
Bexley	220	578	514
Birmingham	9,247	6,311	7,140
Blackburn with Darwen	973	759	502
Blackpool	1,424	856	1,084
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	463	728	702
Bolton	985	962	591
Bournemouth and Poole	1,376	503	345
Bracknell Forest	255	123	184
Bradford	1,980	2,651	1,943
Brent	3,258	3,526	5,431
Bridgend	729	299	257
Brighton and Hove	972	453	342
Bristol	2,836	2,622	1,099
Bromley	899	1,266	598
Buckinghamshire	808	867	967
Bury	957	82	636
Calderdale	784	918	313
Cambridgeshire	1,246	667	788
Camden	1,237	1,398	1,868
Cardiff	2,097	1,635	1,205
Carmarthenshire	679	765	401
Ceredigion	73	86	39
Cheshire	1,341	957	511
Conwy and Denbighshire	445	479	396
Cornwall	790	489	536
Coventry	1,547	1,718	1,556
Croydon	4,622	3,161	3,268
Cumbria	976	789	714
Darlington	247	676	169
Derby	2,403	1,958	1,716

Local Authority	09/10	10/11	11/12
Derbyshire	892	639	935
Devon	961	779	174
Doncaster	1,231	1,653	1,078
Dorset	181	99	219
Dudley	392	391	1,305
Durham	733	591	1,062
Ealing	2,516	2,415	1,860
East Riding of Yorkshire	139	642	235
East Sussex	1,373	962	696
Enfield	2,200	2,208	3,072
Essex	1,322	1,636	1,433
Flintshire	202	166	140
Gateshead	680	169	263
Gloucestershire	1,019	621	212
Greenwich	1,858	1,660	2,324
Gwynedd Mon	285	210	501
Hackney	4,108	4,703	4,193
Halton and Warrington	902	216	317
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,445	955	3,307
Hampshire	3,580	3,209	2,946
Haringey	2,469	2,591	2,985
Harrow	1,054	1,097	1,230
Hartlepool	634	335	93
Havering	1,067	679	1,036
Hertfordshire	2,053	1,726	1,274
Hillingdon	1,465	1,559	854
Hounslow	1,297	488	864
Isle of Wight	784	281	153
Islington	2,754	2,128	2,081
Kensington and Chelsea	1,904	1,528	1,009
Kent	3,777	2,945	2,340
Kingston-Upon-Hull	2,933	1,075	1,530
Kingston-Upon-Thames	620	1,286	467
Kirklees	1,613	1,652	1,292
Knowsley	716	630	939
Lambeth	4,955	9,352	7,991
Lancashire	3,026	2,631	1,568
Leeds	4,360	3,718	2,918
Leicester City	1,614	2,204	1,762
Leicestershire	651	509	407

Local Authority	09/10	10/11	11/12
Lewisham	3,458	5,570	5,026
Lincolnshire	883	2,173	1,724
Liverpool	3,337	2,039	2,205
Luton	500	497	739
Manchester	6,768	5,804	3,542
Medway	536	1,041	639
Merthyr Tydfil	610	775	634
Merton	823	1,266	1,288
Milton Keynes	831	450	1,039
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	278	559	156
Neath Port Talbot	217	431	107
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1,585	1,276	511
Newham	4,164	5,261	4,977
Newport	617	882	523
Norfolk	1,152	975	1,365
North East Lincolnshire	1,392	897	583
North Lincolnshire	1,746	594	627
North Somerset	588	185	83
North Tyneside	580	198	83
North Yorkshire	1,088	1,498	1,458
Northamptonshire	2,390	2,240	2,041
Northumberland	489	201	367
Nottingham	3,559	3,086	2,872
Nottinghamshire	1,948	1,220	951
Oldham	492	552	1,093
Oxfordshire	1,621	1,104	1,017
Pembrokeshire	27	57	38
Peterborough	1,755	951	1,324
Plymouth	599	838	907
Portsmouth	620	556	511
Powys	50	0	108
Reading	266	588	396
Redbridge	2,193	1,577	1,520
Rhondda Cynon Taff	581	519	568
Richmond-upon-Thames	310	135	198
Rochdale	1,053	1,265	1,108
Rotherham	1,068	619	818
Salford	2,112	1,961	756
Sandwell	1,944	1,223	1,314
Sefton	565	560	867

Local Authority	09/10	10/11	11/12
	1		
Sheffield	3,735	3,201	2,162
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	1,550	487	537
Slough	625	942	1,541
Solihull	517	518	460
Somerset	594	315	209
South Gloucestershire	143	76	117
South Tees	712	1,390	945
South Tyneside	597	397	287
Southampton	573	513	471
Southend-on-Sea	493	347	580
Southwark	5,056	5,953	5,958
St. Helens	666	97	300
Staffordshire	1,593	700	495
Stockport	499	188	451
Stockton-on-Tees	924	132	462
Stoke-on-Trent	1,415	563	320
Suffolk	1,630	1,130	591
Sunderland	771	232	211
Surrey	1,828	788	876
Sutton	188	869	408
Swansea	161	682	435
Swindon	288	1,171	462
Tameside	994	741	1,140
Thurrock	662	157	811
Torbay	350	8	63
Tower Hamlets and City of London	2,865	2,321	2,661
Trafford	1,372	965	440
Vale of Glamorgan	311	205	191
Wakefield	1,021	852	468
Walsall	920	444	730
Waltham Forest	2,563	1,996	2,480
Wandsworth	4,137	3,321	2,061
Warwickshire	561	857	451
West Berkshire	224	105	25
West Sussex	1,581	965	1,172
Westminster	1,142	1,352	2,898
Wigan	395	274	523
Wiltshire	468	240	87
Windsor and Maidenhead	452	32	169
Wirral	583	830	595

Wokingham	117	51	0
Wolverhampton	1,347	1,277	917
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	1,506	1,152	846
Wrexham	504	580	230
York	590	246	320

Unallocated (Miscellaneous)	7	110	36
Total	219,943	198,922	183,576

Data on bed nights are taken from the Youth Justice Board's Secure Accommodation Clearing House System (SACHS). As with any large scale recording system, these data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

This data system reports figures for Wessex as a whole. As with the Youth Justice Grant, we have split the figures for Wessex into the following proportions: Hampshire 75%; Southampton 13%; Portsmouth 12%.

Unallocated means those bed nights for which there is no assigned local authority in our recording system.

Annex F

	Funding allocation		
Local Authority	2013/14	2014/15	
Barking and Dagenham	£293,107	£302,066	
Barnet	£159,975	£164,625	
Barnsley	£35,337	£36,609	
Bath and North East Somerset	£16,621	£17,127	
Bedfordshire	£131,644	£135,596	
Bexley	£58,097	£59,814	
Birmingham	£953,947	£982,463	
Blackburn with Darwen	£89,685	£92,394	
Blackpool	£111,647	£115,187	
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	£55,309	£57,128	
Bolton	£111,281	£114,577	
Bournemouth and Poole	£76,452	£78,853	
Bracknell Forest	£27,777	£28,579	
Bradford	£256,800	£264,609	
Brent	£506,039	£521,216	
Bridgend	£28,874	£29,909	
Brighton and Hove	£68,648	£70,739	
Bristol	£233,644	£240,914	
Bromley	£102,855	£106,020	
Buckinghamshire	£110,897	£114,213	
Bury	£72,634	£74,790	
Calderdale	£64,987	£67,064	
Cambridgeshire	£114,944	£118,370	
Camden	£176,331	£181,690	
Cardiff	£216,591	£223,004	
Carmarthenshire	£66,870	£68,942	
Ceredigion	£9,760	£10,042	
Cheshire	£128,308	£132,074	
Conwy and Denbighshire	£44,595	£46,003	
Cornwall	£59,972	£61,876	
Coventry	£187,714	£193,427	
Croydon	£369,793	£381,492	
Cumbria	£84,610	£87,272	
Darlington	£23,603	£24,461	
Derby	£235,826	£243,009	
Derbyshire	£100,433	£103,457	
Devon	£49,013	£50,693	
Doncaster	£130,475	£134,620	
Dorset	£24,264	£24,967	

Funding allocation for individual local authorities

	Funding all	ocation
Local Authority	2013/14	2014/15
Dudley	£62,212	£64,246
Durham	£87,588	£90,293
Ealing	£306,275	£315,288
East Riding of Yorkshire	£44,149	£45,459
East Sussex	£117,893	£121,481
Enfield	£308,729	£317,996
Essex	£166,051	£171,140
Flintshire	£12,985	£13,430
Gateshead	£48,969	£50,418
Gloucestershire	£69,842	£71,985
Greenwich	£215,466	£222,111
Gwynedd Mon	£19,705	£20,445
Hackney	£532,161	£548,167
Halton and Warrington	£55,271	£56,958
Hammersmith and Fulham	£240,676	£247,865
Hampshire	£332,724	£343,190
Haringey	£346,057	£356,348
Harrow	£110,133	£113,643
Hartlepool	£51,506	£52,998
Havering	£91,625	£94,536
Hertfordshire	£208,890	£215,158
Hillingdon	£155,969	£160,679
Hounslow	£82,429	£85,090
Isle of Wight	£48,999	£50,479
Islington	£276,453	£284,827
Kensington and Chelsea	£194,680	£200,445
Kent	£328,936	£339,122
Kingston-Upon-Hull	£226,324	£233,134
Kingston-Upon-Thames	£75,283	£77,700
Kirklees	£205,822	£211,876
Knowsley	£92,701	£95,494
Lambeth	£865,900	£892,270
Lancashire	£260,085	£268,157
Leeds	£442,303	£455,660
Leicester City	£218,361	£224,999
Leicestershire	£68,362	£70,388
Lewisham	£538,381	£554,830
Lincolnshire	£151,200	£156,058
Liverpool	£311,005	£320,354
Luton	£78,196	£80,498
Manchester	£703,473	£724,323
Medway	£89,797	£92,504
Merthyr Tydfil	£83,188	£85,686

Fundir		llocation
Local Authority	2013/14	2014/15
Merton	£97,178	£100,388
Milton Keynes	£81,441	£83,985
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	£47,341	£48,718
Neath Port Talbot	£35,147	£36,174
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£132,383	£136,404
Newham	£538,698	£555,254
Newport	£91,273	£93,958
Norfolk	£153,457	£157,998
North East Lincolnshire	£123,088	£126,751
North Lincolnshire	£121,380	£125,031
North Somerset	£41,141	£42,336
North Tyneside	£27,498	£28,379
North Yorkshire	£154,729	£159,458
Northamptonshire	£175,180	£181,133
Northumberland	£40,301	£41,534
Nottingham	£349,526	£360,318
Nottinghamshire	£104,458	£108,049
Oldham	£85,324	£87,905
Oxfordshire	£171,259	£176,282
Pembrokeshire	£6,029	£6,203
Peterborough	£145,878	£150,398
Plymouth	£102,295	£105,327
Portsmouth	£57,672	£59,486
Powys	£7,808	£8,034
Reading	£54,860	£56,484
Redbridge	£215,118	£221,598
Rhondda Cynon Taff	£78,883	£81,181
Richmond-upon-Thames	£28,684	£29,530
Rochdale	£141,905	£146,161
Rotherham	£99,551	£102,566
Salford	£209,560	£215,779
Sandwell	£179,557	£184,984
Sefton	£87,040	£89,619
Sheffield	£270,294	£279,138
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	£98,630	£101,644
Slough	£130,714	£134,620
Solihull	£64,803	£66,727
Somerset	£38,255	£39,458
South Gloucestershire	£11,101	£11,454
South Tees	£135,372	£139,368
South Tyneside	£51,843	£53,407
Southampton	£53,236	£54,910
Southend-on-Sea	£60,157	£61,952

Local Authority	Funding allocation		
	2013/14	2014/15	
Southwark	£625,721	£645,021	
St. Helens	£48,574	£50,000	
Staffordshire	£110,517	£113,866	
Stockport	£52,034	£53,560	
Stockton-on-Tees	£65,408	£67,352	
Stoke-on-Trent	£94,024	£96,852	
Suffolk	£116,170	£119,811	
Sunderland	£48,987	£50,465	
Surrey	£119,558	£123,317	
Sutton	£64,978	£66,897	
Swansea	£55,922	£57,579	
Swindon	£58,645	£60,549	
Tameside	£122,703	£126,358	
Thurrock	£53,161	£54,855	
Torbay	£20,308	£20,897	
Tower Hamlets and City of London	£321,071	£330,728	
Trafford	£123,121	£126,757	
Vale of Glamorgan	£21,111	£21,801	
Wakefield	£95,418	£98,291	
Walsall	£89,996	£92,672	
Waltham Forest	£260,613	£268,644	
Wandsworth	£375,298	£386,685	
Warwickshire	£39,135	£40,573	
West Berkshire	£16,505	£16,987	
West Sussex	£125,621	£129,585	
Westminster	£197,857	£203,967	
Wigan	£43,709	£45,059	
Wiltshire	£26,747	£27,592	
Windsor and Maidenhead	£11,802	£12,262	
Wirral	£85,254	£87,796	
Wokingham	£8,055	£8,289	
Wolverhampton	£128,570	£132,552	
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	£144,542	£148,881	
Wrexham	£50,281	£51,817	
York	£53,418	£54,982	
Total	£23,291,000	£24,001,000	