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High Needs Benchmarking Tool

Comparison of section 251 budget and outturn data

This sheet uses data from local authorities' section 251 budget and outturn returns, which have been submitted in line with the guidance for the relevant year, for example 2019-20 : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2019-to-2020>

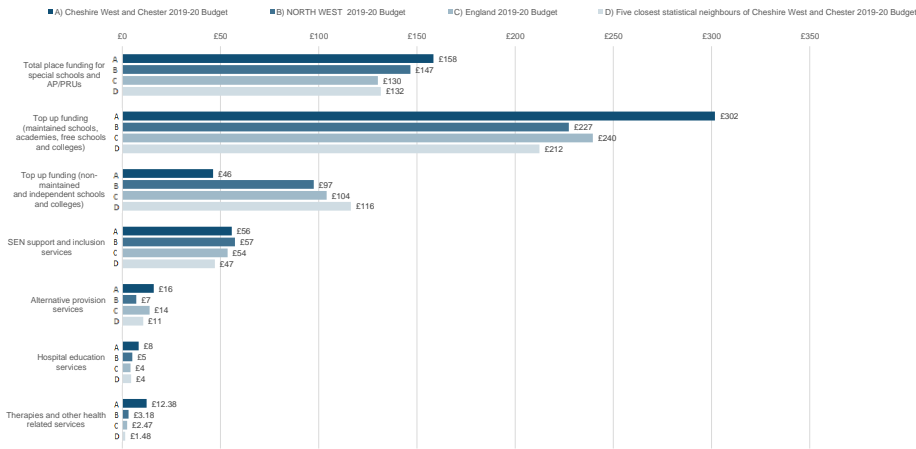
The categories have been combined and calculated per head of the 2-18 population to provide useful comparisons of spend. It is important to understand the context of local authorities' expenditure patterns, and not to consider these figures in isolation.

Chart 3: High needs amount per head of 2-18 population

This chart compares budgeted and/or outturn spend per head, using aggregated section 251 categories as explained in the "Glossary and sources" worksheet. The data can be found in data table 3.

Note that place funding includes academies for the budget but excludes academies for outturn.

Note that the place funding category includes special schools and academies and PRUs and AP academies to enable comparison across years (refer to the "Glossary and sources" worksheet for category changes in 2018-19).



The following charts disaggregate local authority funding; top up funding (maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges); and top up funding (non-maintained and independent schools and independent schools and colleges) into phase and institution type and income, for the selected comparators. This does not include expenditure on very young children with SEN or a disability which some local authorities make from their early years budgets. Differences can reflect both variations in spend and variations in the make-up of the local authority – for example, a greater proportion of secondary schools than the comparator.

Chart 4: High needs amount per head of 2-18 population: place funding split by phase (for mainstream) and type of institution (for specialist provision)

Note that place funding for Primary and Secondary schools was included for the first time in 2018-19. If a year prior to this is selected this category will be blank.

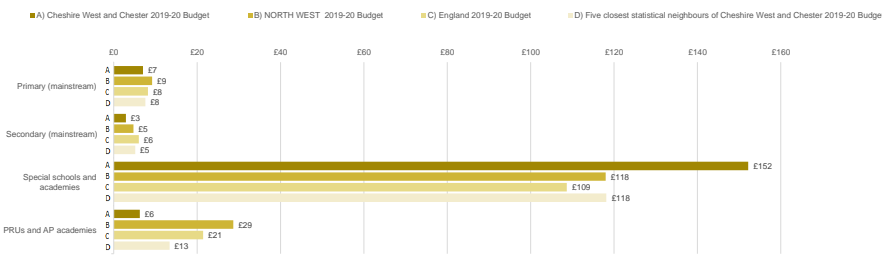


Chart 5: High needs amount per head of 2-18 population: top up funding (maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges) split by phase (for mainstream) and type of institution (for specialist provision)

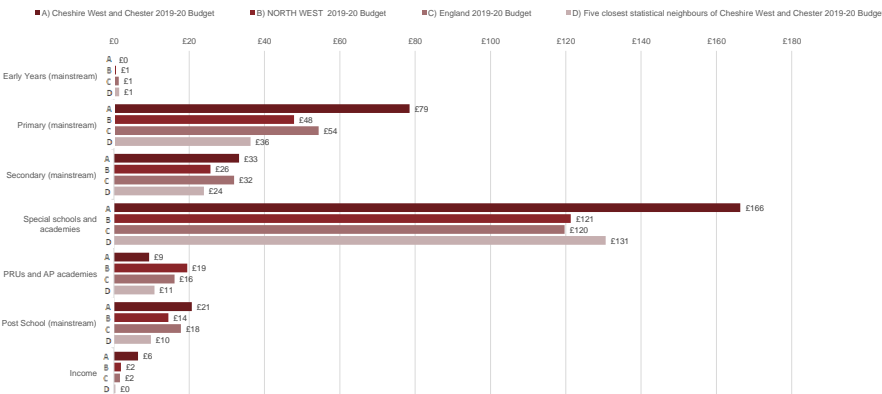


Chart 6: High needs amount per head of 2-18 population: top up funding (non-maintained and independent schools and colleges) split by phase (for mainstream) and type of institution (for specialist provision)

