**NASS Update (24.06.20)**

Hello everyone,

I have received lots of emails from members concerned about longer-term funding of schools placements and wanted to send you today’s guidance on funding from DfE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/school-funding-exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19-for-the-period-march-to-july-2020> Whilst this guidance is mainly about the limited and unsatisfactory additional funding some schools can claim (still not independent schools sadly) the opening paragraphs are relevant for all and confirm that funding is still going to local authorities and schools until August 2021 and should continue to be paid in full to maintain schools and places. I hope this gives some reassurance that there is no reason to think LAs have any right to withhold or reduce funding for schools either now or into the new academic year. A couple of people have sent me letters from North Yorkshire which grudgingly hint at future recoupment where services are not being provided. There’s nothing that suggests they would have any right to do this and it smacks of mean spiritedness. It also clearly draws from general guidance on commissioned services and is not school-specific so there are plenty of reasons for not taking it too seriously!

Today I have been asked to comment on DfE’s first steps towards thinking about schools in September. I am not able to share this with you at this point but I am hopeful that this means DfE is not thinking about widespread summer opening. There’s little flesh on the bones at this point but I was relieved to see that the distinct possibility of all children not being back in September is on the table - despite government announcing that all children will go back. I hope to be able to update you further in the days and weeks to come.

With all good wishes to you and your teams,

Claire, Karen, Kate and Jenny.