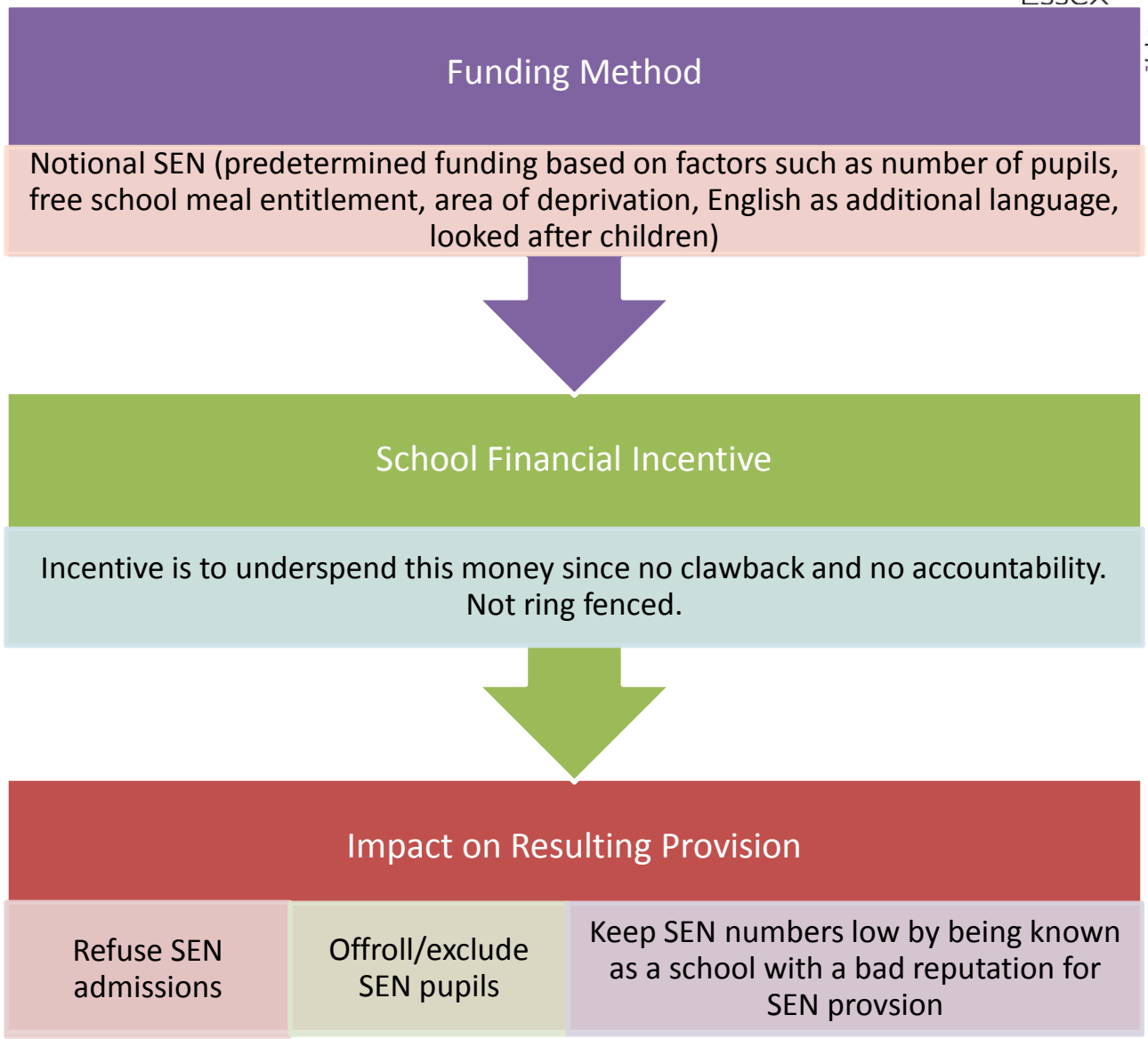


September 2019

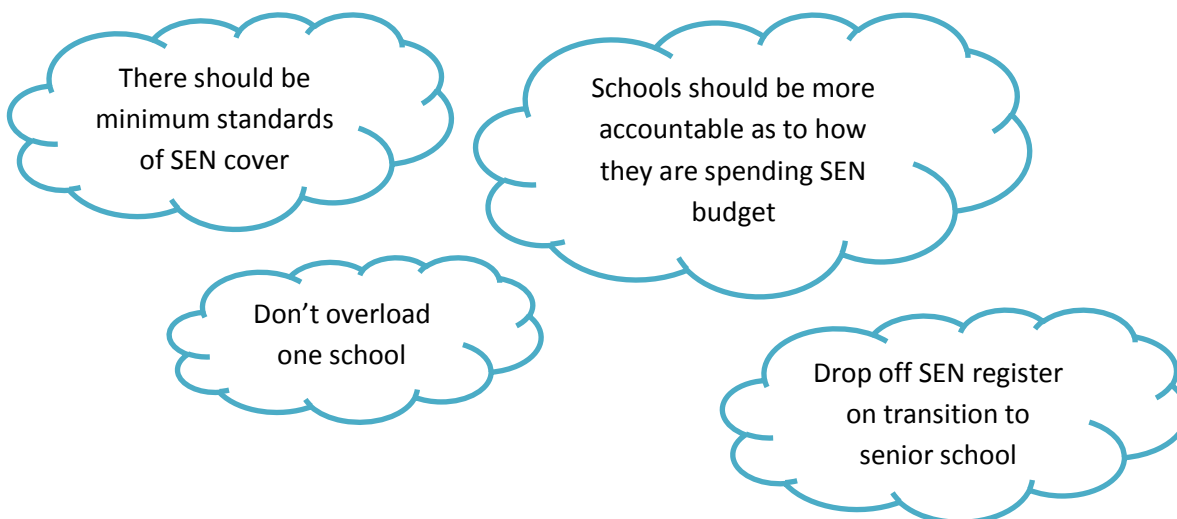
SEN Funding “Call for Evidence” Observations

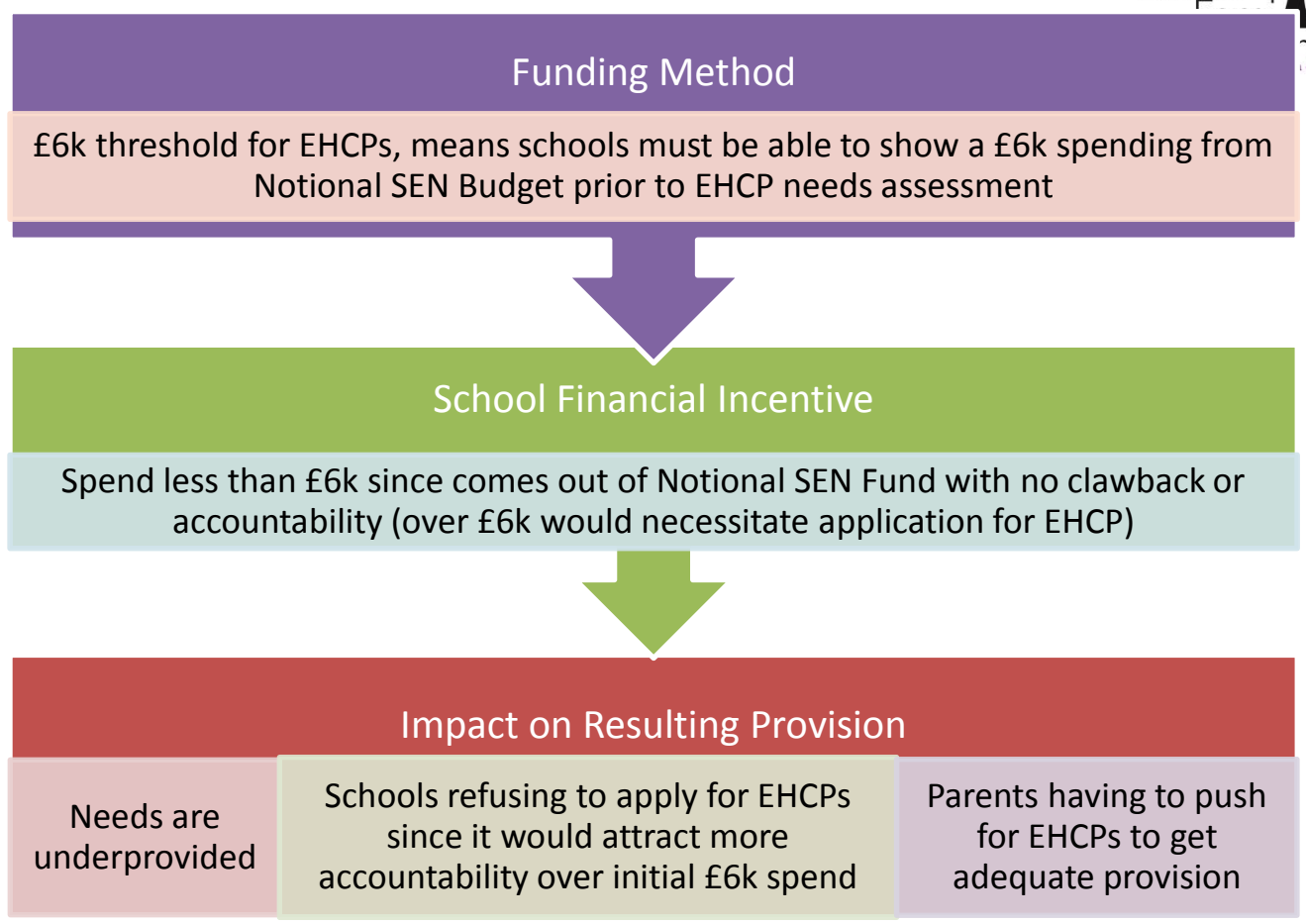
There is a notable inconsistency in schools’ SEN provision due to the wrong Financial Incentives. There is a current reliance on goodwill for adequate SEN provision. While increased funding is helpful, more priority needs to be given to how funding is currently allocated. This becomes more important with the stated Government objective to have more Academy schools, with increased control over their own funding.



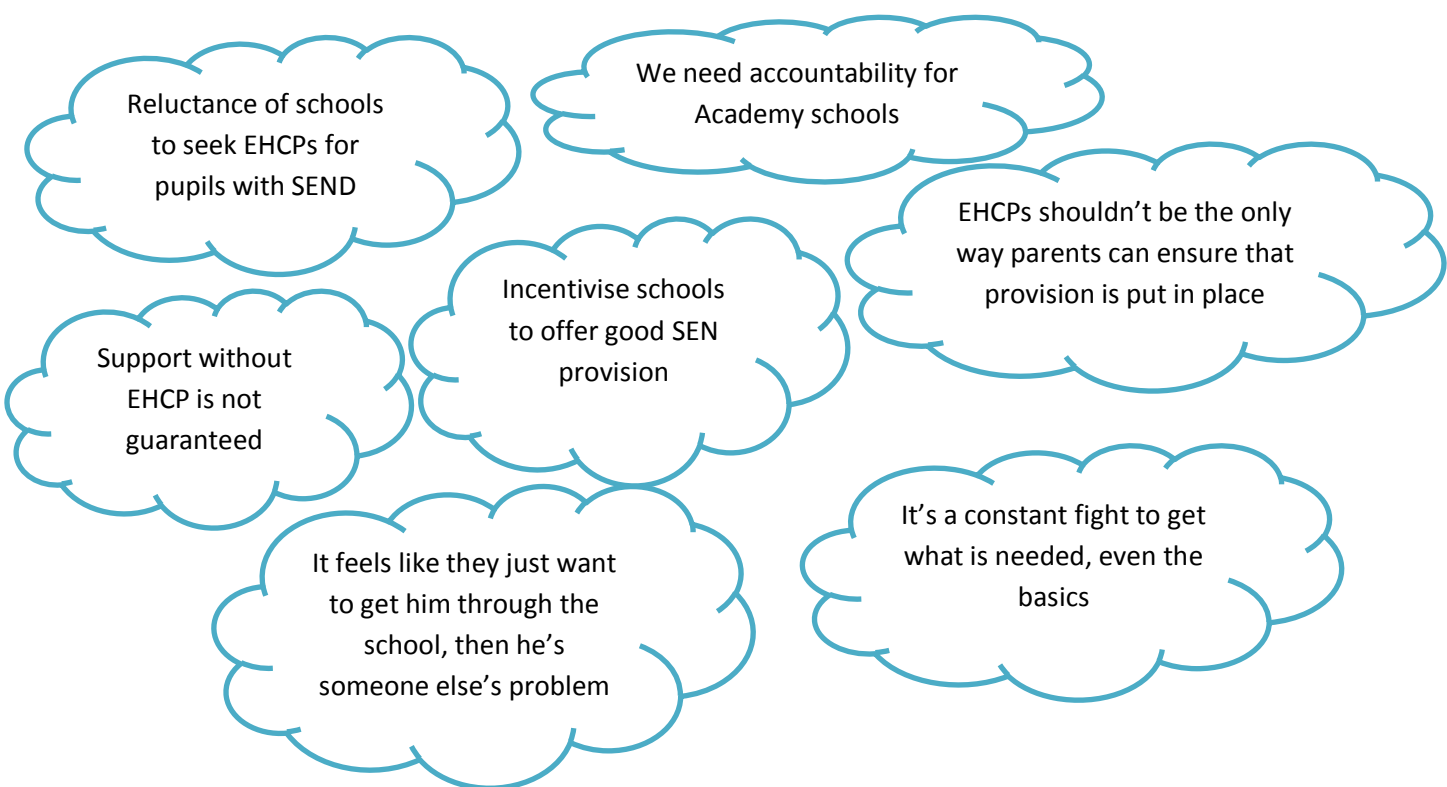


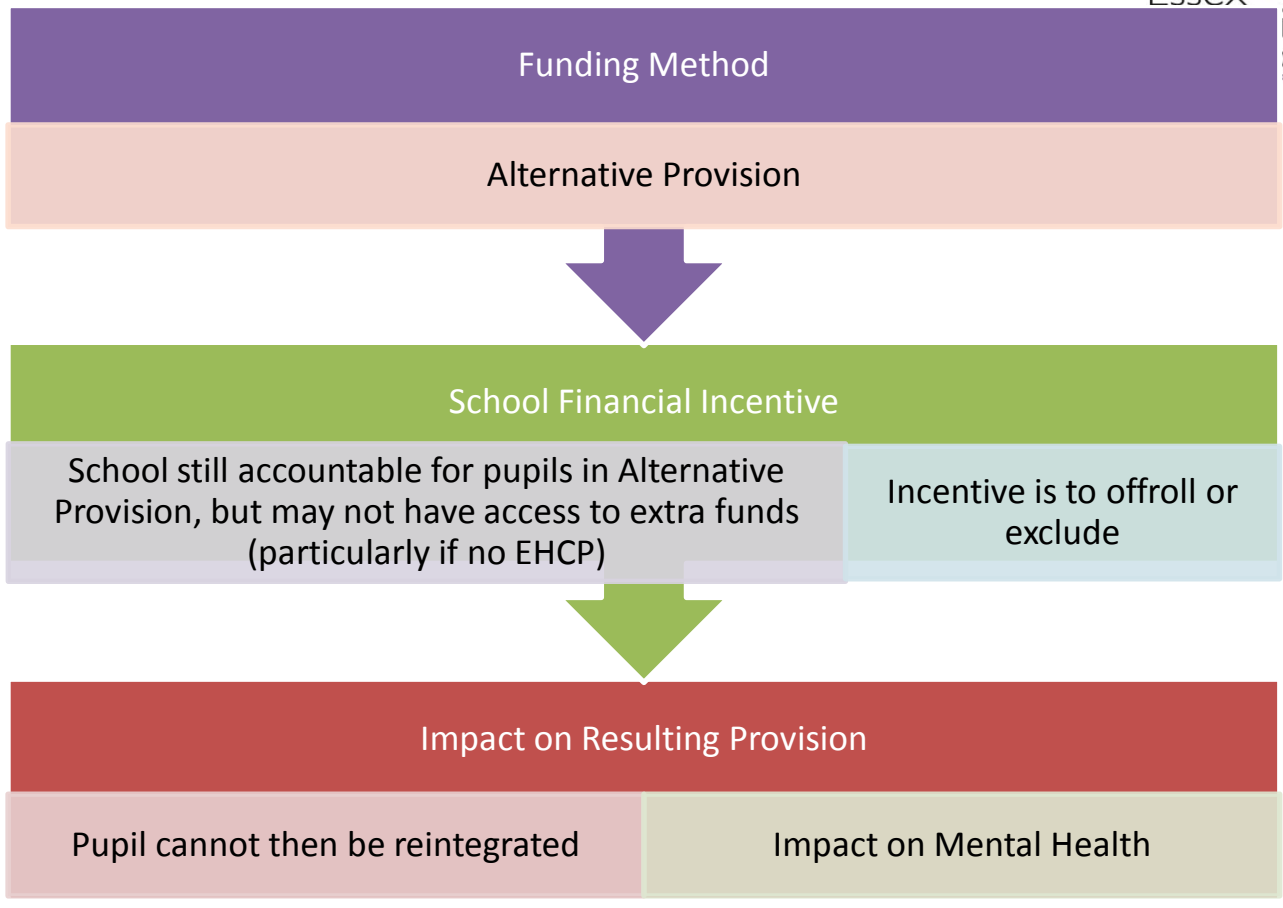
Actual comments from our families (common themes)



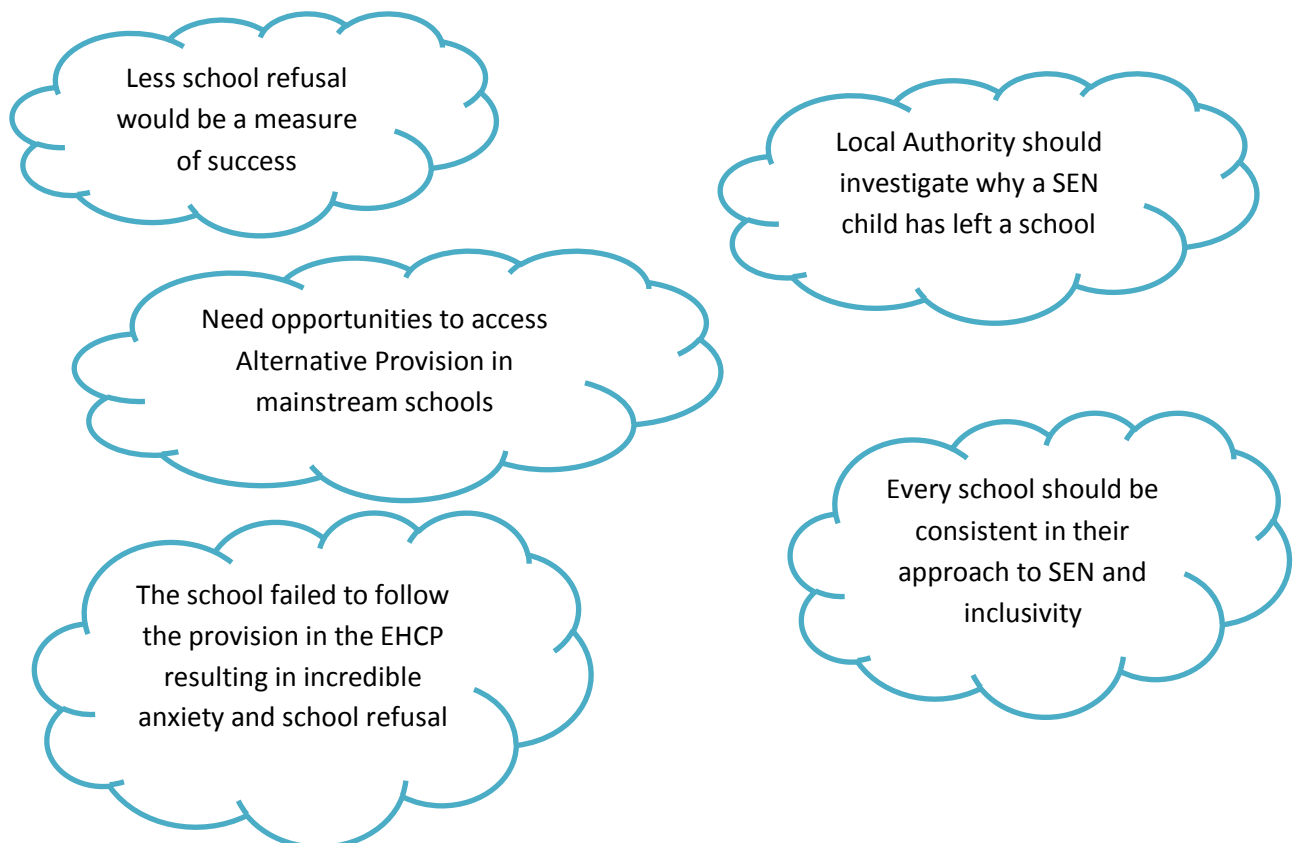


Actual comments from our families (common themes)





Actual Comments from our families (common themes)



Long term Financial impact

The current inconsistencies in SEN provision has many long term implications for our SEN families and Local Authorities/Government including:

- The number of home schooled and excluded/offrolled children is going up significantly. This means many parents having to give up employment and could affect the child's future employment opportunities.
- Parents are being left with no choice but to go to tribunal to get the necessary SEN provision for their child. These are almost all won by parents and is a completely unnecessary expense for the Local Authority.
- The delayed and often negligible or inappropriate help given to children with high anxiety is resulting in much more severe and prolonged Mental Health issues, leading to more and more Health costs.

How does Funding need to be allocated to improve provision for SEN

- There must be Accountability in schools for all SEN funding
- Notional SEN funding should be ring fenced
- There needs to be a review on how appropriate the factors used to calculate Notional SEN Funding are. Whatever method is used the Local Authority should be able to claw back unused funds.
- Funding should be matched to the cost of the required provision wherever possible.
- There should be a minimum level of provision including Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy and Mental Health across all schools.
- Ofsted should be assessing these provisions and monitoring the number of SEN children in each school as well as the number of children being off rolled or excluded.

