

Quick summary of Fair Funding Review Technical Working Group meeting (full minutes to follow)

28 March 2018

The 28 March meeting of the technical working group of the review of relative needs & resources focussed on three main areas:

- MHCLG provided an overview of the Children's Services research project commissioned in partnership with DfE, which will be completed in mid-2019. Good progress has been made to date and a decision will shortly be made regarding which research methodology to adopt, at which point further engagement with councils will be possible to identify any requirements for supplementary data collection.
- DHSC presented a paper on a new Adult Social Care formula (RNF) that was developed in response to the Care Act 2014. Members expressed interest in the use of the new RNF and it was agreed that the background research would be shared with members following the meeting.
- The group discussed a paper which set out the factors which affect the council tax base and council tax levels, as part of the exercise to determine how to take account of relative resources. The group agreed the correct factors were identified and that decisions on the final approach in both areas should take account of any potential perverse incentives. The group also felt that a notional measure of council tax remained the best available approach and that this should only be adjusted for individual authorities where a strong rationale for doing so exists.