

A photograph of a person's arm holding an open book on a dark, weathered wooden surface. The book is open to a page with dense text. The background is a dark, textured wood with visible grain and knots.

Imosphere Forums

A fairer approach to educational top-up funding

Oliver Brown

Peopletoo
It works better with you

 **imosphere**

open objects
an idox company 

Why is there a need for an Education Banding Tool?

- Children & Families Act 2014 → some of our LA customers wanted a tool for estimating Personal Budgets across EHC, important that in the future these budgets could work together.
- Education banding tool was required to fairly and consistently allocate top-up funding in a way which was clear to the LA, schools and families.
- Top-up funding is where our LAs identified personal budgets in education would come from and therefore the starting point is fairly distributing this money.
- It was important that this tool worked for both mainstream and special schools.
- Northamptonshire, Ealing and Hillingdon – initial test sites
- Local comparison exercise (Imosphere tool VS local option):
 - 7 of 8 heads/deputy heads/teachers preferred Imosphere tool and bandings

What does the Education Banding Tool do?

- Identifies the key barriers to achieving outcomes
- Examines risk and the impact this has on funding
- Configurable bands based on local decisions
- Supports the roll out of personal budgets
- Tracks changing needs over time
- Enables understanding your funding patterns
- Allows benchmarking against other LAs
- Provides justifiable decision-making
- Can be built into existing IT systems

Fair

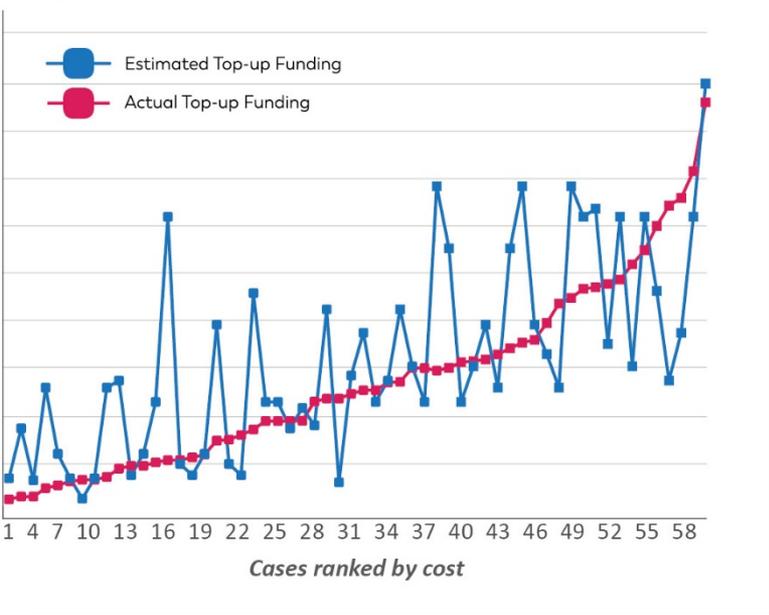
Accurate

Consistent

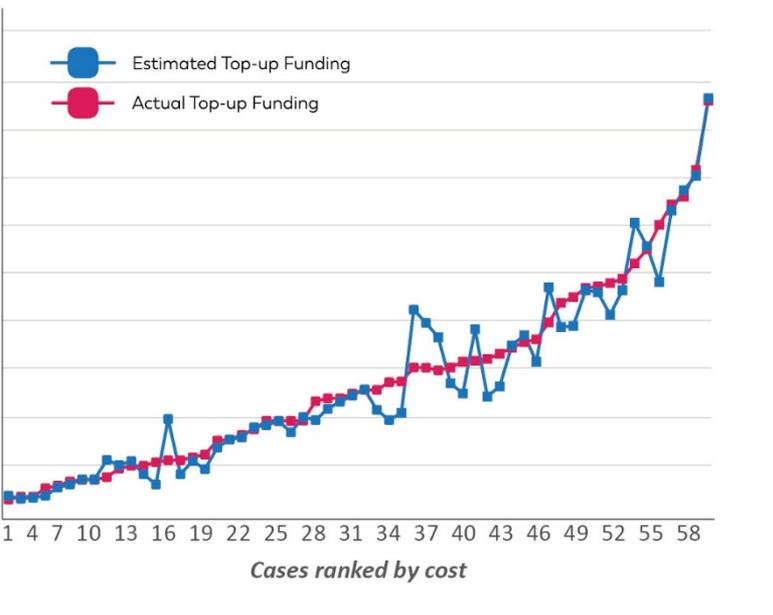
Equitable &
sustainable

Accuracy of the Banding Tool

'Home grown' Tool - Estimated vs Actual



Imosphere Tool - Estimated vs Actual



Working with schools and families

Bringing everyone on the journey

- Parents/Carers, Headteachers and SENCos have provided feedback and influenced the Needs Profile questions.
- We provide resources for LAs to adapt for parents and carers, e.g. how your budget is calculated documentation.
- Joint workshops with LA for Parent/Carer Groups to encourage questions and provide demonstrations.
- We've worked closely with school forums providing documentation and supporting the data analysis on the changes anticipated for schools.

Captures barriers to achieving outcomes

- Communicating well
- Achieving potential for learning
- Developing and enjoying recreation activities
- Forming positive relationships
- Maintaining emotional well-being
- Dealing successfully with change
- Being independent with self care
- Being independent with mobility and motor skills
- Managing behaviour
- Risk Management



Expanding the use of the Education Banding Tool

Further Education

- Working with Peopletoo to refine the education banding tool to support young people in further education at a London LA.
- Ensuring that resources are fairly distributed to facilitate outcomes being met for young people transitioning to further education.
 - Refinements and additions to questions in the needs profile.
 - Review of the banding systems.
- Initial testing of the updated Needs Profile has been undertaken.
- Currently in the process of analysing the data.
- Pilot is aiming to launch in November 2019.