

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
Date: Thursday 28 March 2019
Time: 1.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

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Membership:	Representing:
Neil Baker	PHF - Primary Headteacher Representative
Aileen Bates	WGA - SEN School Governor Representative
Andy Bridewell	PHF - Primary Headteacher Representative
Mark Cawley	Early Years Representative
Michelle Chilcott	Secondary Academy Representative
Sam Churchill	PHF - Observer
Phil Cook	WASSH - SEN Headteacher Representative
Tracy Cornelius	PHF - Primary Headteacher Representative
Jon Hamp	Special School Academy Representative
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Mel Jacob	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Jen Jones	Wiltshire College (Head of Learning & Skills Development Service)
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education
Nigel Roper	WASSH - Secondary School Headteacher Representative
Neil Spurdell	Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Lindsay West	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
David Whewell	WGA - Secondary School Governor representative
Catrina Williamson	PHF - Primary Headteacher Representative

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PART I

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies and Changes of Membership**

To note any apologies and changes to the membership of the Forum.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 26*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 (copy attached).

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Presentation/Consultation from ISOS**

ISOS have been commissioned to lead on the review of the High Needs Block/SEND provision and will present to the Forum and lead a question and answer session.

6 **Reports from Working Groups**

To note updates from the following working groups:

- Joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN Working Group meeting held on 18 March 2019 (to follow).

7 **Schools Budget Update 2019-20** (*Pages 27 - 34*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) outlines the key changes resulting from implementing the schools funding formula for 2019-20.

8 **f40 Questionnaire for Schools** *(Pages 35 - 40)*

The report of Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) shares with Schools Forum the example letter and questionnaire sent by a neighbouring authority which has been shared by the f40 group.

9 **Permanent Exclusions** *(Pages 41 - 48)*

The report of Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) seeks to update Schools' Forum on permanent exclusions during 2018/19 financial year.

10 **New Deficit Procedures**

The Forum will receive a verbal update on the new deficit procedures.

11 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2018-19** *(Pages 49 - 52)*

The report of Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) seeks to present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2018-19 as at 28 February 2019. Appendix 1 to the report is confidential and will be shared as a Part II item at the meeting.

12 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings, as follows, all to start at 1.30pm:

13 June 2019
10 October 2019
5 December 2019.

13 **Urgent Items**

To consider any other items of business, which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Item(s) during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

14 **Consideration of Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the business specified in Agenda item 15 in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

15 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2018-19** *(Pages 53 - 54)*

The confidential Appendix 1 to the Dedicated Schools Budget – Budget Monitoring Report 2018-19 is attached.

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SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Neil Baker (Chairman), Aileen Bates, Rebecca Carson, Mark Cawley, Michelle Chilcott, Sam Churchill, Phil Cook, Tracy Cornelius, Jon Hamp, John Hawkins, Mel Jacob, Jen Jones, Lisa Percy (Vice-Chair), John Proctor, Giles Pugh, Neil Spurdell, Trudy Srawley, Lindsay West and David Whewell

Also Present:

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance), Judith Westcott (Acting Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning), Cllr Phil Whalley (Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills) and Debbie Williams (Schools Strategic Financial Support Advisor)

1 Apologies and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from the following Forum members: Andy Bridewell (Primary Headteacher representative), Sue Jiggins (Primary School Governor representative), Nigel Roper (Secondary School Headteacher representative) and Catriona Williamson (Primary Headteacher representative).

Apologies were also received from the following Wiltshire Council Officers – Nicholas Breakwell (Head of SEND), Becky Hellard (Interim Director – Finance and Procurement), Helean Hughes (Director of Education & Skills) and Helen Jones (Director – Commissioning)

The following changes to the membership of the Forum were noted:

Sam Churchill was substituting for Catriona Williamson for this meeting only.

Rebecca Carson was substituting for Andy Bridewell for this meeting only.

Sue Jiggins has recently stepped down as chair of Wiltshire Governors' Association and Chair of Wyllye Valley Primary School and has asked the WGA to find a replacement Primary School Governor Rep on Schools Forum. The WGA will advise Schools Forum as to the replacement soon.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 December 2018 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment –

Agenda item 59 on page 9 of the minutes. The sixth paragraph down to include the word “not” and to now read as follows “Forum members strongly felt that the monies should not just be taken from the vulnerable groups, but the burden should be shared across all schools”.

A Forum member asked if the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills had written to Wiltshire MP’s to request support for high needs funding at both local and national level. Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) reported that this had been requested and that she would check with the Cabinet Member’s PA to see if this had been actioned.

Resolved:

That the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools forum held on 6 December 2018 subject to the agreed change above being made.

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed all to the Forum and asked all others present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Press attendance at meetings

The meeting is not being webcast today, however we are aware that this is a public meeting that anyone can attend. The Chairman asked if any members of the press were present. Julia Hystek confirmed that she was the Local Democracy reporter for The Gazette and Herald and the Wiltshire Times.

Changes to Agenda papers and Agenda supplements

There were changes to Agenda items 7 and 10d (Early Years papers) and those reports are available as a hard copy and two supplements were also published. All members of the Forum were provided with copies.

Confidential Item for Agenda Item 10F – High Needs Block Funding Update 2019/20

There is confidential information to share with the Forum at agenda item 10F at which point a request will be made for Forum members to agree to move to a Part II closed session part of the meeting to allow information to be shared and discussions to take place.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

John Proctor declared a pecuniary interest in the hourly rate to be agreed for 3 and 4 year old funding. In his role as a nursery provider, any changes in the funding rates would impact upon his organisation.

5 **Update from School Admissions Service**

Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) referred to the report from Debbie Clare (School Admissions Co-ordinator) which had been circulated with the Agenda which provided details of changes that are taking place in the Schools Admissions Service. Marie highlighted the following:

- Current funding for School Admissions is from central schools' services block and in the 2018/19 budget report there was a request for an increase for the team funding which was not approved;
- In line with the Schools Admission code there is no longer the statutory requirement for in year applications to be co-ordinated within county, however in the interest of safeguarding the Local Authority still co-ordinates all applications (including in year) for all children to Wiltshire schools. This was in response to the positive response from 95% of schools that were surveyed about this;
- A successful bid was made for additional funding to support the Army Basing Programme and this has enabled the team to maintain their current staffing structure for the next financial year and employ an additional short term member of staff to support the families returning from Germany as part of the Army Basing Programme;
- It is possible that additional funding may be sought in the future to fund the in year (non statutory) service; and
- The Schools Admissions Team have also begun a project to switch over to a new IT system (Liquid Logic) which it is hoped will provide a more streamlined way of working and provide information to schools in a more efficient way.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the current pressures that the School Admissions Team face around the DSG funding allocation.

6 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2018-19**

Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) referred to the budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2018 that was circulated with the Agenda. Marie highlighted the following:

- That there was an improved position from what was reported at the December meeting of Schools Forum, with an overspend of £2.307 million projected against the overall schools' budget;
- An underspend on the Early Years Block was forecast of £0.818 million and this variance on projections and take up was largely due to parental choice of take up of the childcare entitlement;
- The forecast overspend on the High Needs Block is £3.331 million (down from £4.1 million reported in December). The Secretary of State announced in mid-December an additional £250 million would be made available to support high needs with Wiltshire's revenue allocations for 2018/19 and 2019/20 being £1.128 million each year;
- £100 million of capital funding has also been allocated by the Secretary of State, but the announcements about an allocation for Wiltshire has not been made yet. The Local Authority have been told that there will be a "green light" to free school bids and we are anticipating the outcome of our bid for a Special School provision in the south of the county later this month;
- A major pressure on the High Needs Block is the high number of EHCP's. The overspend is 9% of the total budget and this is a 16% increase on the numbers of EHCP's;
- There was a small forecast underspend on central schools' budgets which might be available to fund other identified funding pressures such as union duties which was previously discussed at Schools Forum; and
- The report proposes that in view of the forecast overspend on the High Needs block, and the forecast underspend on the Early Years block, the Early Years Inclusion Fund is no longer supported by high need funding and is fully funded by the Early Years block. This would not impact the bottom line but support the premise that the Early Year funding block should match the Early Years activity. We would not wish for this to be a precedent for future years, but for this year we could move money to where the need is.

An Early Years representative member reported that Early Years were sympathetic to the current predicament and in theory thought that it was reasonable that the Early Years underspend be used to reduce the High Need block deficit and that there could be a transfer to where the spending is currently needed but limited to current forecast expenditure levels, not budgeted levels. Marie confirmed that this was acceptable and the Local Authority could move forward on this basis for 2018/19 only.

It was noted that any 2019/20 budget decisions would be taken at the end of the meeting.

Resolved:

- 1. That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position at the end of December 2018, the continued pressure on high needs budgets and supports and contributes to the on-going work of the High Needs Working Group.**
- 2. That the Early Years Inclusion Fund be wholly funded from Early Years block at the forecast level of expenditure for 2018/19.**
- 3. That the forecast outturn should be used to inform the 2019/20 budget setting report later in the Agenda.**

7 Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Budget Monitoring 2018/19

The revised report of Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) on the Early Years budget monitoring for 2018/19 which replaced the version that was circulated with the original Agenda was not considered at this point of the meeting. It was confirmed that the contents of the extract report had been included under the previous report covering all the funding blocks.

Resolved:

Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position for the Early Years block for December 2018.

8 Reports from Working Groups

The Forum noted the updates received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 8 January 2019 (within the Agenda pack) and Early Years Reference Group meetings held on 16 November 2018 (within the Agenda pack) and 11 January 2019 (within Agenda supplement 1).

There were no questions raised.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 8 January 2019 and the meetings of the Early Years Reference group held on 16 November 2018 and 11 January 2019.

9 Update from the High Needs Block Working Group

Marie Taylor referred to the report of Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), circulated as Agenda Supplement (2) which gave an update on the work of the High Needs block working group. Marie highlighted the following:

- As previously reported the additional funding from the Secretary of State had slightly reduced the High Needs block cost pressures;

- The actions that had been taken to address the on-going demands on the budget (listed in the report);
- That ISOS (a research and advisory company) were being commissioned to lead a strategic review of the SEND provision to identify cost saving projects. The two consultants appointed to work on the project are highly experienced in leading projects of this type. Due to the pressure on the High Needs block the Local Authority are funding the consultancy work. Action plans would be drawn up with potential savings attached and actions were to be put in place to prevent the Authority from being in this position again next year; and
- The High Needs block working group would reconvene as part of the ongoing work.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the update from the High Needs block working group and the proposed actions detailed in the report.

10 **Budget Setting 2019/20**

10a Schools Block Update - Delegated Funding 2019/20

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2019/20 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Grant highlighted the following:

- The DfE had allocated £275.215 million to Wiltshire which included funding of £2.217 million for the growth fund (which was detailed in a separate report);
- In 2018/19 Wiltshire had been able to replicate the National Funding Formula (NFF) as closely as possible. Formula factors were all fully funded apart from FSM6 Derivation factor which was funded at a lower value for affordability reasons;
- Modelling work had been carried out to calculate individual school budgets and although the DfE fund the Local Authority based on the NFF, it may not be possible to fund all schools in line with the National Formula;
- It was proposed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) be set at 0.5% to ensure that all schools gain through their 'per pupil' funding. This option would be modelled against others and presented to the Forum later in the meeting alongside other funding options;

- Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can then be de-delegated for maintained primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval. The services to be considered for de-delegation in 2019/20 are:

- i) HCSS Software Licence
- ii) Trade Union Facilities Costs
- iii) Maternity Costs
- iv) Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
- v) Traveller Education Service
- vi) Behaviour Support Service
- vii) FSM eligibility (*this was missed from the list circulated within the report*)

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions to the schools delegated budget for 2019/20 later in the meeting when all information had been received.

10b Schools Revenue Funding 2019-20 - Funding Settlement & Budget Setting Process

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on the schools' revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2019/20. Grant highlighted the following:

- The DfE had issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on 17 December 2018. The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council was £351.646 million which was an increase of £9.148 million from 2018/19;
- The table at paragraph 6 on page 52 of the Agenda showed the split of funding across the four blocks and the increases received. The increase to the High Needs block funding included the £1.128 million of additional funding received from the Secretary of State;
- Pupil numbers had increased with figures from the October 2018 census showing an increase of 15 primary aged children and 412 secondary aged children, making a total of 63,116;
- The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools block to the High Needs block with the agreement of Schools Forum of up to 0.5%. Above this amount requires specific approval from the Secretary of State and as requested at the December meeting of the Forum a disapplication request was made to transfer 1%. The DfE have asked the Local Authority to confirm that their request still stands in light of the additional revenue of £1.128 million to be received in 2019/20. Officers had responded that Schools Forum had yet to meet, but confirmed that the request should continue; (*NOTE - Since the meeting,*

approval to transfer funds at 0.8% from Schools block to High Needs block was received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency in a letter dated 25 January 2019 – copy attached as Appendix 1).

- The Authority was required to submit their proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 21 January 2019. The ESFA would then need to confirm the formula is compliant with the funding regulations. Once confirmed, the LA will then be able to distribute the budget information for all maintained schools by the end of February 2019 at the latest. The ESFA would notify all academies of their budget information also by the end of February 2019;
- The table at paragraph 15 on page 53 of the Agenda showed how the amount of funding available for distribution to schools would be calculated; and
- As previously reported, de-delegation of services would need to be agreed for 2019/20 with the inclusion of FSM eligibility service which was missed from the list at paragraph 22 on page 54 of the Agenda.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

10c Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2019-20

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the School's block in setting a growth fund in 2019/20. Grant highlighted the following:

- There had been a change in the methodology for funding local authorities for growth and it was now based on the actual growth in pupil numbers they experienced the previous year. This would ensure that over time local authorities are funded on the basis of the actual growth they experience (on a lagged basis), rather than being based upon historical spending decisions;
- £2.2 million had been allocated to Wiltshire for growth in 2019/20. The DfE measure growth within local authorities at "middle layer support output area (MSOA) 1 level. In Wiltshire, there are 62 MSOA's with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area. The table at paragraph 13 on page 56 of the Agenda shows how the Wiltshire allocation has been calculated;
- The DfE expect Local Authorities to use their own funding formula for growth and have previously confirmed that Wiltshire's current growth fund criteria is fully compliant with the funding regulations;

- The list of requirements for allocating funding from the growth fund must include the agreement from Schools Forum on both the criteria and size of the fund to be allocated;
- Historically Schools Forum have agreed an annual budget of £1 million to be retrained for funding pupil growth and in the report, it was suggested that this be increase to £1.2 million for 2019/20. Since the preparation of the report it is now recommended by Officers that the budget remain at £1 million (from the allocation of £2.2 million), based upon need for 2019/20 and enabling funds to be used elsewhere to fund known cost pressures;
- During 2019/20 there would be two new primary schools opening, one in Amesbury to meet an increase in the basis need of the area and the other in Ludgershall to deal with the increase in demand following the Army Basing Programme. The increase of pupil numbers for both schools was unknown as yet and parental choice will impact upon the popularity of both schools;
- The Authority successfully secured £0.75 million of funding from the MOD's Education Support Fund to support the preparations and recruitment in schools directly affected by the Army Basing Programme. This funding will help to ensure that Wiltshire Schools are not disadvantaged as result of the programme; and
- Additional funding has also been promised by the DfE towards the significant growth in pupil numbers through the Army Basing Programme.

The Chair wished to record his thanks for the hard work that was undertaken by Officers to secure funding through the MOD's ESF and also to the Councillors and MP's that had supported Officers to gain agreement from the DfE that the additional growth funding would be made available.

Resolved:

- 1. That Schools Forum note the report.**
- 2. Approve the criteria for allocating pupil Growth Fund in 2019/20.**
- 3. That Schools Forum will consider later in the meeting that the budget for the Growth Fund be set at a maximum of £1 million for 2019/20, with the remaining £1.2 million being returned to the schools' block for allocation as part of the budget decision making process.**

10d Early Years Block Funding 2019/20

Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) referred to revised report which sought to update the Forum on issues related to the Early Years block for 2019/20 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- The operational guidance for the Early Years block confirms that Schools Forum must be consulted on changes to local early year funding formulae, including agreeing central spend, although the final decision rests with the local authority. Officers wished to seek the views of Forum members and for them to be happy with the decisions that would need to be made. The key points of the guidance were explained to the Forum;
- The hourly rate for 2 year olds in Wiltshire has been confirmed for £5.32 for 2019/20;
- The DSG initial allocation for Early Years remains at £4.30ph for the 3 and 4 year old entitlements and the current rates for providers in Wiltshire (agreed by Schools Forum – January 2018) is £4.16ph. An increase to £4.18ph was indicated last year and this increase was supported by the Local Authority and is based upon spend on supplements and historical take up rates;
- Considering the High Needs block funding pressures, it is unlikely that Schools Forum will be able to allocate any High Needs block funding to support Early Years expenditure and with this in mind, Officers are recommending that the High Needs block contribution is withdrawn and the total budget is funded from the Early Years block;
- The Early Years Reference Group met on 11 January 2019 and requested that detailed modelling of the additional funding level scenarios be drawn up and these are attached as Appendix 1 to the revised report. Appendix 2 shows the calculations of compliance with the % pass through – all scenarios are compliant; and
- After consideration of the scenarios, the Local Authority confirm that they could support an hourly rate of £4.20ph but would not be able to support an increase beyond that as the financial risks cannot be mitigated.

An Early Years representative member made the following points:

- Early Years providers are really struggling – there has been an increase in business rates, providers haven't received any "extras" like schools have, e.g. funding to help with salary and pension increases and Little Extras funding;
- Last year when we wanted rate to be £4.18ph we were told "no, you will get a deficit". What has actually happened is that we have an

underspend – we would like our underspends to be ringfenced for Early Years;

- At a rate of £4.18/£4.20ph many providers cannot afford to pay their way and this is affecting sufficiency of providers.

Marie Taylor responded that the Local Authority felt that £4.20 was a fair offer and was double the rise that was received in the last financial year.

Two proposals were being put forward for consideration, which were either setting the rate at £4.18ph (Local Authority preferred proposal) or £4.20ph and in both options, it was proposed that the Early Years block fully fund the Early Years Inclusion Fund. These decisions would be taken later in the meeting once all reports had been considered.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions to the schools delegated budget for 2019/20 later in the meeting when all information had been received.

10e Schools Central Block Funding Update 2019/20

Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block budget for 2019/20 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- What approvals would need to be agreed by Schools Forum on a line by line basis as part of the CSSB funding block as detailed in Section B and the historic commitments; and
- If the allocations were agreed by Schools Forum as proposed by the Local Authority then an amount of £0.334 million is estimated to be available to transfer to fund high needs pressures.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions to the schools delegated budget for 2019/20 later in the meeting when all information had been received.

10f High Need Block Funding Update 2019/20

Prior to the consideration of this report Schools Forum members were informed that confidential information was to be shared with them and that it was advised that the budget discussions should from this point of the meeting be considered under Part II.

The Forum were in agreement that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda items 10f and 10g and duly

Resolved:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute Numbers 10f and 10g because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Marie Taylor (Interim Head of Finance) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the High Needs block budget for 2019/20 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- A recommendation that had been agreed by the Director of Finance – to be put forward for approval by Cabinet which would seek to put in place part of the recovery plan for the High Needs block pressures;
- The projected demand on the High Needs block as shown in paragraph 4 on page 83 of the Agenda. As raised earlier in the meeting it was now proposed that the Growth Fund be set at £1 million which meant that £1.2 million would be available through the Schools block and if agreed, could be available to transfer to the High Needs block;
- The estimates of the shortfall were based on a number of assumptions which were explained to the Forum. At the December meeting of the Forum, the use of the “Little Extras” funding had been discussed as an option for funding the shortfall, but as the capital contributions had now been released it was more than anticipated and so this option would not be pursued;
- A movement of funding from Schools block was to be proposed and as agreed at the December meeting of Schools Forum a disapplication request to agree a transfer of 1% has been made to the Secretary of State. The Local Authority is now proposing that a transfer of 0.8% be made which would allow high needs funding to be made available in 2019/20 whilst the SEN consultant works with schools and the Local Authority to model options;
- At the Forum’s December meeting it was felt that it was all doom and gloom, but Officers have now been able to model up scenarios and feel there is a way forward by utilising the transfers from Central and Schools blocks and electing not to fund the Early Years Inclusion Funding, together with the additional monies from the Secretary of State. It was suggested that these are shared with Forum members to allow them to see the impact of the proposals.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions to the schools High Needs budget for 2019/20 later in the meeting when all information had been received.

The Chairman agreed a brief adjournment at 4.00pm to allow Forum members to take a comfort break and to discuss budget proposals with colleagues prior to the meeting reconvening.

The meeting reconvened at 4.10pm.

10g School Budget Decisions 2019/20

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) displayed different options on the Smartboard which could be considered for funding a transfer to the High Needs block.

These options included keeping the FSM Ever6 rate at 75.2% (which would mean a Schools block surplus of £35,000 or, in line with the National Funding Formula (NFF) this could be raised to 76% which would balance the funding in the Schools block. This would mean certainty for schools that they can rely on this funding and could benefit from the increase if agreed.

Another option was to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at 0% but this option was not favoured as it was moving away from the NFF, it would be proposed that the MFG continue to be set at 0.5%.

Another option was to not raise the minimum per pupil funding levels (currently at £3,300 and £4,600) to £3,500 and £4,800, but again this was not in line with NFF and not deemed appropriate.

A Forum member asked if we manage to move things around within our blocks to “balance” our budgets – Does this convey the message to the DfE that we are doing OK?

Grant responded that our disapplication request to the Secretary of State will be clear that we are not “doing ok”. Other Local Authorities are also in this position and are asking for a higher % to be allowed to transfer from the Schools block to the High Needs block. It sends the message that we have to “rob” our Schools block fund to be able to support our High Needs budget which is under extreme cost pressures.

Grant then circulated an A3 decision matrix at the meeting to Forum members to make it clear which funding block was being discussed and what decision was required by the Forum and each decision was discussed line by line.

Schools Forum members wished for their concerns to be noted that each year we are in the same position with the Early Years budgets and Schools budgets

having to be used to support the High Needs budgets and what could be done to make sure that we are not in the same boat again next year. If agreements were made to transfer between blocks it should be clear that it was not Schools Forum member's wish that this is what is planned to happen each year (as it had previously).

Officers explained the reasons why they were not able to support a larger hourly increase to the Early Years providers and that anything over £4.20 would be too much of a risk to the Council and there would be a chance that if the rate was raised more than this, that it would have to be lowered in a subsequent year which would cause even more difficulties to the providers. The rate of up to £4.20 per hour was allowing for post year adjustments following the census data.

It was agreed that an update from the High Needs block working group would be requested for each meeting in order for Schools Forum to monitor progress and the consultants who would be working on the strategic review would be invited to attend the March meeting of the Forum.

The completed decision matrix is attached as **Appendix 2 to these minutes**.

For the minutes, the decisions are also recorded below.

Resolved:

Central Schools Services block

1. The Section B expenditure for the Central Schools Services block is agreed as follows:

Education Welfare Service	£189,850
Asset Management	£177,066
Statutory/Regulatory duties	£638,084
Admissions	£411,000
Servicing of Schools Forum	£3,000

2. Central spend on historic commitments (Section C) agreed as follows:
 - i) Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans whilst funded at £0.233 million for 2019/20, would be allocated at £0.103 million as 2018/19;
 - ii) Funding for Child Protection Officer in Schools Advisory Team at £0.041 million; and
 - iii) Prudential Borrowing at £0.300 million.
3. Schools Forum note the LA decision (Section A) to set budget at £0.373 million for central copyright licences for 2019/20.
4. Schools Forum agree that there be no top slice for services formerly funded from the general duties element of ESG.

Schools Block - Delegated Budget

Resolved:

1. Schools Forum agreed that Free School Meal Ever 6 formula factor be set at 76%.
2. Schools Forum agree to the Minimum Funding Guarantee being set at +0.5%.
3. Schools Forum note the Growth Funding awarded of £2.2 million from the DfE and agreed that the Wiltshire Growth fund be set at £1 million, with the split being £0.1m for infant class size and £0.9m basic need.
4. Schools Forum agreed that the criteria for the growth fund remains unchanged.
5. Schools Forum agreed that Wiltshire will not implement a falling rolls fund in 2019/20.
6. Schools Forum agreed to transfer £2.2 million (0.8%) from Schools block to High Need block. If the Secretary of State does not approve the disapplication request, then a maximum of 0.5% to be transferred - £1.375 million. *(NOTE - Since the meeting, approval to transfer funds at 0.8% from Schools block to High Needs block was received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency in a letter dated 25 January 2019 – copy attached as Appendix 1).*
7. That the budgets for De-delegation of central services be agreed as follows:

i)	HCSS	£58,109
ii)	FSM Eligibility	£20,370
iii)	Trade Union	£70,000
iv)	EMAS & Travellers	£517,910 (Primary only)
v)	Behaviour support	£600,000 (Primary only)
vi)	Maternity supply	£523,980

High Needs Block

1. Schools Forum agreed that top up values for NPA's, ELP, Resource Bases and Special Schools are to remain unchanged from the 2018/19 values.
2. Schools Forum agreed that funding levels for alternative provision to remain unchanged from the 2018/19 levels.

3. Schools Forum agreed that proposals be developed to meet on-going shortfall in budget and that any transfer from the Schools block cannot be deemed as recurrent.

Early Years Block

1. Schools Forum agreed that the Wiltshire Early Years Single Funding Formula be set at £4.20 per hour. Rurality to be set at £0.52 per hour and deprivation set at £0.40 per hour.
2. Schools Forum agreed that the Inclusion Support Fund be fully funded from Early years block but set at a lower level reflecting local spending trends of 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years.
3. Schools Forum agreed that 98% of 3 & 4-year-old funding would be passed through to providers.
4. Schools Forum agreed that the funding rate for two year olds would be set at £5.32 per hour.

Appendix 1 to Minutes - Ltr from Education and Skills Funding Agency - 25.1.19 - attached

Appendix 2 to Minutes - Decision Matrix 2019/20 – attached

11 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

The Forum noted that the future meetings would be held on:

28 March 2019
13 June 2019
10 October 2019
5 December 2019
16 January 2020
26 March 2020.

12 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.40 - 5.10 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Earlsdon Park
53-55 Butts Road
Coventry
CV1 3BH

Tel: 0370 000 2288

www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

25 January 2019

By email: grant.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk; marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dear Colleagues

Request to disapply the DSG conditions of grant for transfers of funding from the schools block

Thank you for your disapplication request to move 0.8% from your schools block to your high needs block.

The schools block movement request has been considered by the Secretary of State and based on the information provided this request has been approved.

You have provided a good level of evidence to show where the funding pressures have come from and we can see that you are developing a strategy to manage your high needs budget.

If you, or other interested parties in your area, require further information or clarification on the decision made, please contact LA.disapplications@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Keith Howkins

Head of the Funding Policy Implementation Unit

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DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
				Local Authority	Schools Forum	DfE	
Overall Budget	Overall Schools Budget	Individual decisions for blocks to feed in	Schools Budget to be set at level of DSG Settlement £351.646m	Decides	Proposes		No decision required. Council to set budget at overall level of DSG
	Central Licences negotiated by Secretary of State		Propose Budget for central copyright licences set at £0.373m	Decides	None	None	Confirmed budget set at £0.373 million
Central Schools Services Block	Ongoing commitments eg Admissions, Schools Forum support, Services formally funded from retained duties element of ESG	Unallocated element to transfer to HNB	Line by Line summary, appendix to Central DSG Report. Summarised in Proposed Budget summary Propose as presented in Appendix	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Budget agreed as follows: Section A (SF approval not required) Central Licences £373,000, Section B - (approval required line by line basis) Education Welfare Service - £189,850, Asset Management - £177,066, Statutory/Regulatory duties - £638,084, Admissions - £411,000 and Servicing of Schools Forum - £3,000 & Section C Historic Commitments funded at £574,000. Total allocation £2.570m - total requirement £2.236m the balance transferred to fund HNB at £0.334 million
	Central spend on historic commitments	Will inform any further funding to be delegated if spend is not agreed, is not evidenced or does not meet criteria	Propose agree eligible expenditure as per table in Central Schools Services Block Report	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Funding awarded as follows: LAC Personal Education Plans - £0.233 million, Child Protection in Schools Adviser - £0.041 million and Prudential borrowing - £0.300 million. LAC Education approved expenditure at the 2018/19 level of £0.103million
	Central spend on general duties for maintained schools - services previously funded by ESG general duties rate	Would be a top slice for maintained school budgets - impacts on delegated budget decision	No top slice proposed		Proposes	Decided by maintained school members	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal
Schools block - Delegated Budget	Affordability of local formula		Converge as closely as possible to the NFF. Propose that any reduction required for affordability is applied to FSM Ever6 formula factor as per 18/19	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agreed that FSM Ever6 be set at 76%
	Minimum Funding Guarantee		Propose set MFG at 0.5%	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agreed that Minimum Funding Guarantee is set at 0.5%
	Growth fund		Growth fund to be set at £1m - split £0.1m Infant class Size and £0.9m basic need Propose criteria remain unchanged Total Growth Fund from DfE of £2.2M awarded to Wiltshire, Local Fund set at £1m	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agree Growth Fund to be set at £1 million, split £0.1m Infant class size and £0.9m basic need. Criteria to remain unchanged.
	Falling Rolls Fund	Impacts on available quantum for delegated budget	Propose Wiltshire does not have a falling rolls fund	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Confirmed that Wiltshire will not implement a falling rolls fund in 2019/20
	Transfer to High Needs from Schools Block		To Transfer £2.2m (0.8%) from Schools Block to High Needs Block. If Sec of State does not approve, then a max of 0.5% can be transferred - £1.375M	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Subject to SofS Agreement beyond 0.5%	Agreed to transfer £2.2 million (0.8%) from Schools block to High Need block. If Secretary of State does not approve, then a maximum of 0.5% can be transferred - £1.375 million
	De-Delegation of Central Services		HCSS - £58,109	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund HCSS at £58,109
	De-Delegation of Central Services		FSM Eligibility - £20,370	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund FSM Eligibility at £20,370
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Trade Union - £70,000	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund Trade Union up to a maximum of £70,000. Any amount beyond this to be funded by the Trades Unions
	De-Delegation of Central Services		EMAS & Travellers - £517,910	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund EMAS & Traveller at £517,910
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Behaviour Support - £600,000	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund Behaviour Support at £600,210

DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
				Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
			Other Costs incl Licences	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund Other Costs at £82,000
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Maternity Supply - £523,980	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed to fund Maternity Supply at £523,980
High Needs Block	Top Up values for NPAs, ELP, Resource Bases and Special Schools		Initial proposal no change from 2018-19 values	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed top up values to remain unchanged from 2018/19 values
	Funding levels for Alternative Provision		No Proposed change 2018-19	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed funding for devolved formula to remain at 2018/19 levels
	Savings proposals to meet shortfall in high needs block - High Needs Working Group to determine plans	To not fund Early Years Inclusion Fund from high needs block wef 19/20 - to transfer funding from Central block (balance of unused) and to transfer 0.8% Schools Funding for 19/20	Proposals to be developed to meet on-going shortfall in budget. Any transfer from the Schools Block cannot be deemed as recurrent. If money to be moved between blocks this must be determined at the January meeting	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed that proposals be developed to meet on-going shortfall in budget and that any transfer from the Schools block cannot be deemed as recurrent.
Early Years Block	Agree Wiltshire formula - including supplements to be applied		Proposed formula as per EY Block report with supplements for Rurality and Deprivation. Proposed Basic Hourly rate £4.18 Rurality: £0.52 per hour Deprivation £0.40 per hour	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed rates as follows: An increase of 4p per hour on the Basic hourly rate: £4.20 per hour, Rurality: £0.52 per hour and Deprivation: £0.40 per hour
	Level of Inclusion Support Fund and how funded	Links to High Needs Block decisions	Proposed ISF budget for low level need of £367,300, to be funded wholly from Early Years Block	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Approved budget of £367,300 to be funded wholly from Early Years Block
	% Pass Through to settings		Proposal in Early Years report for maintaining at least 98% pass through against a required minimum of 95%	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Approved 98% pass through of 3 & 4 year olds funding to settings
	Hourly rate for free entitlement for 2 year olds		Proposed hourly rate of £5.32	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed hourly rate for two year olds as £5.32 per hour

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

28 March 2019

Schools Budget Update 2019-20

Purpose of report

1. To outline the key changes resulting from implementing the schools funding formula for 2019-20. The report is for information only.

Background

2. The Department for Education (DfE) published the 2019-20 financial settlement for schools on 20th December 2018. The settlement included details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and its individual component blocks of funding.
3. The funding allocated through the Schools Block of the DSG is then modelled through the Funding Formula to ensure that the schools budget is affordable. This incorporates decisions taken by Schools Forum regarding any additional funding and any pupil and premises, funding-factor rates.
4. The 2018-19 year saw the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF). The NFF was initially proposed as a 'soft' formula for the 2018-19 year before becoming a 'hard' formula in 2019-20. Subsequently the DfE confirmed that 2019-20 would also remain as a 'soft' year, enabling Schools Forum to make school funding decisions at a local level.
5. The schools block of funding was set at £275.215 million which is an increase of £7.3m on the 2018-19 funding level. The increase is accounted for by the growth in pupil numbers, the remainder of the additional £1.3billion promised for school funding as part of the introduction of the NFF and a change in methodology for calculating growth funding, introduced for the 2019-20 year.
6. The High Needs Block of funding has seen an increase for 2019-20 to £47.1m, which is a growth of £2m and includes £1.128m which was announced as additional funding in December 2018.
7. The Early Years Block has been provisionally set at £26.7m, which will be subject to change during the year, based upon take-up rates. This represents a small reduction of £0.278m compared to 2018-19.

Main Changes for Information

Pupil Numbers

8. There has been an overall increase in the pupil numbers funded within Wiltshire in 2019-20. The increase has been across all Key Stages and is detailed in the table below;

Key Stage	2015-16	Increase	2016-17	Increase	2017-18	Increase	2018-19	Increase	2019-20
KS1 & KS2	36,013	958	36,971	944	37,915	456	38,371	160	38,531
KS3	13,928	139	14,067	485	14,522	509	15,031	129	15,160
KS4	9,833	-262	9,571	-299	9,272	186	9,458	288	9,746
TOTALS	59,774	835	60,609	1,130	61,739	1,151	62,860	577	63,437

Per Pupil Funding and Other Funding Rates

9. Following the introduction of the NFF, Wiltshire's Schools Forum agreed to align its funding rates as closely as possible to the national rates. In 2018-19 this was achieved in all instances except for the Deprivation FSM6 rate which was funded at 75% of the national rate. It was confirmed at the January Schools Forum meeting that funding rates would continue at the national rates. Any adjustment for funding would be applied to the Deprivation FSM6 rate.
10. The funding rates for the 2019-20 year are detailed in the table below.

Funding Factor	Value 2019-20	Value 2018-19
AWPU – Primary	£2,747	£2,747
AWPU – Key Stage 3	£3,863	£3,863
AWPU - Key Stage 4	£4,386	£4,386
Deprivation – FSM Primary & Secondary	£440	£440
Deprivation – FSM6 - Primary	£435	£406
Deprivation – FSM6 - Secondary	£632	£590
IDACI – Band F - P/S	£200 / £290	£200 / £290
IDACI – Band E - P/S	£240 / £390	£240 / £390
IDACI – Band D - P/S	£360 / £515	£360 / £515
IDACI – Band C - P/S	£390 / £560	£390 / £560
IDACI – Band B - P/S	£420 / £600	£420 / £600
IDACI – Band A - P/S	£575 / £810	£575 / £810
Low Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,050
Low Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,550
EAL – Primary	£515	£515
EAL – Secondary	£1,385	£1,385
Lump Sum	£110,000	£110,000
Sparsity – Primary - Maximum	£25,000	£25,000
Sparsity – Secondary - Maximum	£65,000	£65,000

11. The only two values to have changed between 2018-19 and 2019-20 are for;
- Low Attainment – Primary
 - Deprivation FSM6 – Primary
 - Deprivation FSM6 – Secondary

Low Attainment – Primary

The primary low prior attainment (LPA) value has been reduced from £1,050 to £1,022. The LPA cohort in primary schools that is measured for school funding purposes has been increasing over the past 6 years, due to changes made in the EYFSP in 2013.

The increase comes from changes to the assessment, rather than changes in the underlying level of need. Therefore, the DfE are maintaining the overall quantum of funding on LPA through the formula by balancing the increase in the eligible cohort with a reduction in the funding factor value.

Deprivation FSM6 – Primary and Secondary

Funding for schools using the Deprivation FSM6 indicator is twofold, through both the funding formula factor and the Pupil Premium Grant. In calculating the school budgets for both 2018-19 and 2019-20, to fund schools at 100% of this factor would have made the overall funding formula unaffordable. Schools Forum agreed that any balancing required would be achieved through varying the funding available through this factor.

The NFF values for FSM6 would be £540 and £785 respectively for primary and secondary schools. In 2018-19, Wiltshire funded the factor at 75% of the NFF value. For 2019-20, the factor will be funded at 80% of the NFF value.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

12. The Minimum Funding Guarantee ensures that schools are either protected from a drop in their overall per pupil funding or are guaranteed an increase in their per pupil funding. When the NFF was introduced, the DfE committed an additional £1.3 billion of funding which should ensure a 0.5% increase in funding per pupil for both 2018-19 and 2019-20.
13. Schools Forum agreed that Wiltshire would mirror the national increases and set a positive MFG figure which would ensure that all schools are guaranteed a 0.5% increase in their MFG per pupil funding.
14. For 2019-20 all schools will have received an increase in their MFG per pupil funding of 0.5%. In order to fund the MFG, schools seeing a gain in their level of per pupil funding are capped. For 2019-20, this cap is set at 0.0%, which means that all schools benefitted from a gain of 0.5%.

	No. of Schools	Highest	Lowest	Average
MFG Adjustment	100	£90,752	£27	£11,658
No MFG / Cap	19	n/a	n/a	n/a
Capped Adjustment	114	-£116,604	-£192	-£10,688

Growth Funding

15. The DfE introduced a new methodology for calculating Growth funding. Until the 2019-20 year, there had been no national formulaic approach for calculating growth funding using Middle Layer Super Output Area data. The new approach for the growth factor allocates:
- £1,370 for each Primary 'growth' pupil
 - £2,050 for each Secondary 'growth' pupil
 - £65,000 for each brand new school that opened in the previous year.
16. The total allocated to Wiltshire for growth in the 2019-20 was £2.217m.

Transfer to High Needs

17. Schools Forum agreed to transfer funding from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block as a one-off non-recurrent transfer. The funding regulations allow for a transfer of 0.5% between the blocks, as long as it has been agreed by members of Schools Forum. A transfer for an amount of greater than 0.5% required the express approval from the Secretary of State. Following an application from Wiltshire to dis-apply the funding regulations, a transfer of 0.8% was agreed and notified to the local authority on the 25th January 2019.
18. Schools Forum agreed to a transfer of £2.2m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, which equates to the 0.8% of the total Schools Block for 2019-20. The pressures within the High Needs Block will continue to be monitored and reported to Schools Forum during the 2019-20 year.

High Needs Funding – Top Up Rates

19. At the Schools Forum meeting in January 2019 it was agreed that the funding rates for top ups in Resource Bases, Enhanced Learning Provisions and Named Pupil Allowances would be retained at the prevailing 2018-19 rates and that there would be no reduction in the rates.

High Needs – Place Change Request Outcomes

20. The results of the High Needs Place Change Request have been announced by the EFA. All of the requests submitted by Wiltshire were approved, which included the following;
- Additional 47 places at Springfields Academy (including 32 places at Springfields South at the Sarum Academy site), increasing the place numbers to 152
 - An additional 13 places at Exeter House, increasing the places to 134
 - Increase of 50 additional post-16 places at Wiltshire College, bringing the total places to 350

Summary of Main Points

21. The main points to note from the Wiltshire funding formula for 2019-20 are summarised below;
- The formula was only affordable for the 2019-20 year by making concessions to the NFF rates
 - A non-recurrent transfer of £2.2m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was agreed
 - Secretary of State approval was confirmed for a transfer of 0.8%
 - All schools received an increase in their MFG per pupil funding rate of 0.5%
 - NFF factors were implemented in full apart from for FSM6
 - FSM6 was funded at 80% of the NFF values (75% in 2018-19)
 - The Growth Fund was set at a value of £0.827m
 - 2 new primary schools will be funded in the County from September 2019
 - 1 primary school will be closing at the end of August 2019
 - High needs funding rates unchanged for 2019-20
 - School budgets were issued by the 14th February 2019

Proposal

22. Schools Forum is asked to note the content of this report.

Report Author:
Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager
Tel: 01225 718587
e-mail: grant.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2019/20 - Original DfE Allocation**Financial Monitoring**

Service Areas	Original Budget 2019/20 £ M
1 Funding Schools	
DSG Funded Expenditure - Schools Funding Delegated to Schools including academies	272.188
DSG Funded Expenditure - High Needs Block Delegated to Schools	5.063
De-delegated DSG removed from School Budgets	-1.803
Contingency & Growth Fund	0.827
Total Funding Schools	276.276
2 0-25 SEND Service	
Pre-16	
Independent Special Schools incl 6th Form	9.273
Named Pupil Allowances	4.346
Top Up Budgets - Wiltshire Maintained Schools & Academies	11.029
Top Up Budgets - Non-Wiltshire Maintained Schools & Academies	1.953
Secondary Devolved Funding - Alternative Provision	2.791
Post-16	0.000
Top Up Budgets - Post- 16 Placements	3.695
Support Services	0.000
Specialist Provision & Central	0.889
0-25 SEND	0.520
Sensory Service	0.637
0-25 Inclusion	0.832
Ethnic Minority Achievement Service & Traveller Education	0.518
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.452
Behaviour Support	0.839
Total 0-25 SEND Service	37.773
3 Education & Skills	
School Effectiveness	0.363
Child Protection in Schools	0.041
School Buildings & Places	0.132
Admissions Service	0.245
Total Education & Skills	0.782
4 Commissioning and School Effectiveness	
Schools Maternity Costs	0.527
Trades Union Facilities Costs	0.070
SIMS & HCSS Licences	0.052
Speech & Language	0.519
Other Costs incl. Copyright Licences	0.393
Total Commissioning & School Effectiveness	1.561
5 Early Years Services	
Early Years Single Funding Formula - 3 & 4 year olds	23.279
Early Years Single Funding Formula - 2 year olds	2.445
Other Early Years Support	0.191
Early Year Childcare & Early Development Team	0.231
Early Years Pupil Premium Grant & DAF funding	0.623
Total Early Years	26.769
6 Children's Social Care	
Looked After Children Education Service	0.103
Education Welfare Service	0.190
Total Childrens Social Care	0.293
7 DSG Within Corporate Services	
Gross Expenditure	1.552
Total Central	1.552
	345.005

SCHOOLS BUDGET 2019/20 - Original DfE Allocation**Brief Notes to the report:****1. Schools Block - the total allocation for Schools Block is £275.215 million.**

*Note: Academy Funding
£155.910 M*

£2.2 million has been transferred to High Needs block
£1.8m relates to de-delegated DSG funding

2. Early Years - the total allocation for Early Years is £26.769m

Rates for 2 year old funding remain at the funded level of £5.32 per hour.
Rates for 3 & 4 year olds have increased to £4.20 per hour

3. High Needs Block - the total allocation for High Needs Block (after deductions) is £40.451 million

£2.2 million has been transferred in from Schools Block
£0.3 million has been transferred in from Central Schools Services Block
Additional funding of £1.128m has been received as part of a £125 million 2018/19 funding increase from the Secretary of State for Education as announced in December 2018.

4. Central School Services Block - the total allocation for CSSB is £2.570 million

£0.3 million has been transferred to the high needs block

Marie Taylor
Interim Head of Finance, Childrens Services
Tel: 01225 712539
email: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Date of report: 8th March 2019

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

28 March 2019

f40 Questionnaire

Purpose of the Report

1. To share with Schools Forum the example letter and questionnaire sent by a neighbouring authority which has been shared by the f40 group.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 and 2 to this report provide examples of the letter and a draft questionnaire which could be shared with schools. The letter seeks ongoing support for the campaign to secure a fairer funding deal for its schools. Through a questionnaire link, headteachers are asked to provide specific case study examples to help the council and f40 gather evidence to better inform its campaign to government and local MPs for a fairer school settlement.
3. There is a great deal of activity underway currently to support fair and better funding for schools and involving headteachers in the campaign can only be beneficial. The outcomes from this letter and research is likely to provide invaluable information and evidence that we will be able to share. It is understood the collection of specific case studies in the neighbouring authority who began this campaign in January is going extremely well and a great deal of useful and practical information is being gathered.
4. To consider sending out a letter and online questionnaire jointly sent from the Chair of Schools Forum and Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services to all Wiltshire Schools.
5. Results will be collated by the local authority and shared with schools through the Right Choice, shared with Senior managers at the Council and Members and if requested, with the f40 for comparison with other local authorities.

Proposals

6. Schools Forum are asked to approve the draft letter and questionnaire.
7. Schools Forum are asked to complete the questionnaire and promote completion of the questionnaire through peer groups.

Report Author: Marie Taylor, Interim Head of Finance

Tel: 01225 712539

e-mail: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

28th March 2019

Headteacher
All Wiltshire Schools

Finance Team
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref: n/a
Our ref : f40 1

Dear Colleague

Re: f40 School Funding Questionnaire

We are writing to you collectively on behalf of Wiltshire Council and Schools Forum.

We are all fully committed to fighting for a fair deal for education in the county. Wiltshire has an impeccable record of working closely and successfully with Schools Forum.

We are determined to articulate a united and consistent message from Wiltshire to central government, as well as the county's MPs, to support the case for an overall fairer funding settlement. This reinforces the argument that there is simply not enough money in the system. Primary Heads Forum and Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special Heads, along with individual schools and parents, have been proactive in lobbying local and national MPs and Ministers and it is our wish to continue to work alongside you in our campaign, at the highest levels, to secure increased education funding for schools.

A new approach to the campaign which includes a format for collecting real-life case studies to provide evidence on the crucial need for increased funding to the DfE and the Treasury. We need your help as we need actual examples of how your school is being affected by the loss of funding and the impact that is having on our children. This will help us illustrate very starkly the overall position for Wiltshire.

In the link below is a survey that we very much hope you will complete and return to us. The information collected will help us to advance the case with our MPs, with Ministers and Whitehall as well as the media.

[Link to survey here:](#)

We hope it will also help galvanise parents, as the people whose votes will make a difference to our politicians, to become more vocal in their support for our schools.

To remind you of the countywide picture, Wiltshire is the seventh lowest funded Council in the Country and the number of schools in deficit at the end of the last financial year 2017/18 financial year rose by 12% from those in deficit in 2016/17. Our high needs budget is projected to overspend by £4.6 million – largely driven by rising numbers of

EHCPS – a funding gap similar to that of many other local authorities. Whilst local action plans are very much in place to reduce spend, with rising demand and an elongated age group 0-25 years in scope, the long-term solution remains a national increase in Schools Funding. Only increasing base budget will allow strategic plans to be rolled out.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Baker, Chair Schools Forum

Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services

Please address any queries regarding this letter or questionnaire to:

Marie Taylor, Interim Head of Finance for Childrens Services

Direct line: (01225) 712539

Fax number: n/a

Email: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Proposed Questionnaire – to be agreed by Schools Forum

1.School Name

2.School Contact email (will not be shared)

3.School Size (Pupils)

4.Phase

- Primary
- Secondary
- Special

5.Type

- Maintained
- Academy

6. Do you have pupils with SEN support or EHCPs on roll at your school?

Yes No

7. 84% of schools in a national survey* stated they had a reduced capacity to meet the needs of young people with SEN. Does this reflect the position in your school? Please provide an anonymised case study evidencing the impact including; staffing, group / class sizes *Percentage data from November 2018 Fair Funding Survey with 1976 headteacher responses.

8. 19 schools had a deficit budget at the end of the 2017/18 financial year. Does this reflect the position in your school? Please provide an anonymised case study evidencing the savings you will have to make and your view of the impact on young people.

9.Many schools report an increasing number of pupils with SEN at EHCP and at SEN Support? Is this the situation in your school? Please provide a percentage increase.

EHCP
SEN Support

10. Your opportunity to make a final statement with regard to supporting the additional needs of young people.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

28 March 2019

PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools' Forum on permanent exclusions during 2018/19 financial year. The following arrangements apply to primary schools in Wiltshire and to any secondary schools who have not signed up to the Alternative Provision service level agreement. Wiltshire does not have any registered pupil referral units.

Main Considerations

2. The local authority has a statutory duty in overseeing the financial readjustment / payment wherever a pupil is permanently excluded.
3. The local authority cannot require a maintained school or academy to make any additional payments following a permanent exclusion, other than the budget share deductions set out in regulations, or the payments which an academy has to make under its funding agreement.
4. The local authority will be responsible for adjusting the budget share for maintained schools and PRUs with delegated budgets if a pupil is permanently excluded, so funding follows the pupil. The process and requirements are set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, issued on an annual basis.
5. A local authority may ask an academy trust to enter into an arrangement for the transfer of funding for a pupil who has been permanently excluded, on the same basis as if the academy were a maintained school. The academy trust may be obliged under its funding agreement to comply with such a request.
6. It is proposed that all schools are invoiced for the financial readjustment where a pupil is not transferring directly to another school i.e.: receiving alternative tuition through the local authority. Any school receiving a pupil following an exclusion can invoice the excluding school directly. Where a school accepts a child who has had a period of alternative tuition, the school will invoice the local authority.
7. If during the course of the financial year a pupil is excluded from a maintained school covered by the scheme, the school's budget share for that year will be reduced in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017.
8. If during the course of the financial year a school admits a pupil who has been permanently excluded in that year from a school maintained by a Local Education Authority, the authority will allocate an amount for the rest of that financial year in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017.

9. During 2018/19 to date, there have been eight permanent exclusions which the local authority proposes to make financial adjustment for.

Pupils	Arrangements
1	Swindon Pupil accessing Alternative Provision through Swindon
1	Virtual School
1	Specialist Placement
4	EOTAS Packages
1	New Primary School
8	

Proposal

10. It is proposed that Schools Forum note guidance outlined in this report and the mechanism outlined in the report and appendix together with the local authority actions planned in this financial year and in future financial years to follow the DfE guidance.

11. Schools Forum are asked to adopt the updated local authority protocol. A copy of the protocol is attached at Appendix 2.

Report Author: Marie Taylor, Interim Head of Finance, Childrens Services

Tel: 01225 712539

e-mail: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

The exclusion calculation as advised by the Department for Education

The exclusion calculation is as follows:-

Where a pupil is permanently excluded from a maintained school (other than a special school, a pupil referral unit, or a place which the authority has reserved for children with special educational needs), the excluding schools funding is reduced as follows:-

$$A \times (B/52 \text{ weeks}) + C =$$

Where:

a) A is the amount that would be attributable to a pupil of the same age and personal circumstances as the pupil in question at primary or secondary schools maintained by the authority for the full funding period. Where pupil premium is payable this is also included; and

b) B is either-

(i) the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date; or

(ii) where the permanent exclusion takes effect on or after 1st April in a school year at the end of which pupils of the same age or age group, as the pupil in question normally leave that school before being admitted to another school with a different age range, the number of complete weeks remaining in that school years calculated from the relevant date; and

c) C is the amount of the adjustment made to the school's budget share pursuant to a financial adjustment order.

Where a permanently excluded pupil is admitted at another maintained school (other than a special school, a pupil referral unit, or a place which the authority has reserved for children with special educational needs) the admitting schools funding is increased by an amount calculated as follows:-

$$D \times (E/F) = \text{£}$$

Where:

(i) D is the amount by which the authority reduced the budget share of the excluding school, or would have reduced the budget share had that school been maintained by the authority. Where pupil is payable this is also included;

(ii) E is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is a registered pupil at the admitting school; and

(iii) F is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

Where a permanently excluded pupil is subsequently reinstated by the governing body, the school budget must increase by an amount which is no less than:

$$G \times (H/I) = \text{£}$$

Where:

(a) G is the amount by which the authority reduced the budget share of the excluding school;

(b) H is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is reinstated at the school; and

(c) I is the number of complete weeks remaining in the funding period calculated from the relevant date.

Money Following Excluded Pupils (MFEP) Protocol

1. Interpretation

In this Protocol:

'the LA' means Wiltshire Council acting in its capacity as local authority;

'maintained school' means a community, foundation, voluntary-controlled ('VC'), voluntary-aided ('VA'), or trust school which is maintained by the LA, but not a special school.

'academy school' means an academy or free school but not a special school or alternative provision academy.

'MFEP' means 'Money Following Excluded Pupils' and relates to the charges or payments made under the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 in relation to pupils permanently excluded from a school.

A 'child in care' is also referred to as a 'looked after child' and is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

'AWPU' is the Average Weighted Pupil Unit – the amount of funding per pupil per financial year, as agreed by Schools Forum.

'Schools Forum' is the body which is made up of representatives from schools and academies, with some representation from other non-school organisations that acts, among other things, in a consultative role for changes to the local funding formula.

The 'relevant date' of a permanent exclusion is six days after the pupil is excluded from the school, when the LA becomes responsible for the pupil's education.

2. Background and principles

2.1. This Protocol sets out the MFEP arrangements which will apply to all maintained and academy schools in Wiltshire.

2.2. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 made under section 47 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 state that where a child is permanently excluded from a maintained school the LA must make an adjustment (deduction) to an excluding school's budget share. Equally, where a permanently excluded pupil is admitted to a new school, the LA must make an adjustment (addition) to the receiving school's budget share.

2.3. Academy schools' funding agreements set out that if asked to by an LA, the academy trust must enter into an agreement with the LA that has the effect that the arrangements for payments will be the same as if the academy were a maintained school, under the regulations made under section 47 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

2.4. The purpose of the funding adjustments is to ensure that there is funding available to support with the cost of the child's ongoing education.

3. Charging arrangements

3.1. Wiltshire maintained schools and academies will be charged for the relevant AWPU when permanently excluding a pupil. The charge will be a reclaim of funding that has been or is due to be allocated for the pupil and will be used to contribute to the cost of the pupil's ongoing education.

3.2. The MFEP charge will differ according to the point in the year that the pupil is excluded. The funding formula is calculated according to lagged pupil numbers and data (from the preceding October school census). Therefore, if a pupil is excluded before the October census date, the school will receive no further formula funding for the pupil beyond the end of the current financial year. However, for a pupil excluded after the October census date the school will receive funding for the whole of the following financial year. The exclusion charges, therefore, include funding for the relevant period of both years (the 'funding period'). All references within the Regulations regarding the amount to reduce by refer to the 'funding period' and not the financial year.

3.3. In the case of permanent exclusions from academies between the October census and 31 March, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is reduced by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for the following financial year. This is because the calculated budget for academy recoupment includes all pupils at the preceding October census, regardless of whether any were subsequently excluded by the academy.

3.4. The regulations stipulate that academies are to be treated as for maintained schools regardless of their different financial year or that actual pupil numbers can be used instead of lagged pupil numbers in school budget calculations in certain circumstances. The basis on which the EFA funds an individual academy will not, therefore, be taken into account in the calculation of exclusion charges. If the academy did not restore funding through the exclusion charge, all DSG funding to support the education of the excluded pupil in the following financial year would be lost.

3.5. Funding reclaims:

For a pupil excluded in the autumn term (before the October census date)

Funding will be reclaimed pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the relevant date of the exclusion.

For a pupil excluded in the autumn or spring term (after the October census date but before 31 March)

Funding will be reclaimed pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the relevant date of the exclusion.

In addition, a full year amount will be charged for the following financial year to reflect funding that the pupil attracts as a result of having been included on the October census. However, if the pupil is in year 11, funding relating to the next financial year will be taken to the end of the academic year (31 August).

For a pupil excluded in the summer term (after 31 March)

Funding will be reclaimed pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the relevant date of the exclusion.

However, if the pupil is in year 11, funding will be taken to the end of the academic year (31 August).

3.6. The funding rates reclaimed will be the AWPU values agreed with Schools Forum for the relevant financial year.

3.7. The LA financial year is used as the basis for calculating the amount of funding to be reclaimed because this is the period on which school budgets are calculated and is also the basis on which the Education Funding Agency (EFA) recoup Dedicated Schools Grant from the LA to pass on to academies. The LA does not take into account how an academy's individual funding agreement works. If an academy has concerns on how permanent exclusion reclaims impact on their budgets, this should be discussed with the EFA and/or the Secretary of State.

3.8. Permanent exclusions of **children in care** will be rare and alternatives will be sought where possible. Where a permanent exclusion of a child in care is subsequently rescinded by a school or

academy following an alternative placement being found or the LA commissions alternative provision in order to avoid permanent exclusion of a child in care, the school or academy will be charged the funding in the same way as if the permanent exclusion had been upheld.

3.9. Permanent exclusions of children with a **Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan** will be dealt with in the same way as all other pupils. However, where the LA commissions alternative provision in order to avoid permanent exclusion of a child with a Statement or Plan, the school or academy will be charged the funding in the same way as if the permanent exclusion had been recorded.

3.10. Maintained schools will be charged via a budget adjustment at the end of the relevant financial year. Notification and details of the adjustments to be made will be notified in a letter to the school following the confirmation that the permanent exclusion has been upheld. Schools may arrange to update their Local Accounting System immediately.

3.11. Academies will receive notification and details of the amount due following the confirmation that the permanent exclusion has been upheld and this will be followed by an invoice.

4. Payment arrangements – Fair Access placements 4.1. The regulations allow for a similar system of payments to be made to schools receiving permanently excluded pupils. Such placements will be made through the Fair Access Protocol and will apply to pupils that have been permanently excluded from a Wiltshire school.

4.2. The payments outlined in 4.3 will only be arranged when the pupil has been on roll for more than 12 school weeks.

4.3. Funding additions:

For a permanently excluded pupil placed at a new school through the Fair Access Protocol in the autumn term (before the October census date)

Funding will be allocated pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the date that the pupil goes on roll at the new school.

For a permanently excluded pupil placed at a new school through the Fair Access Protocol in the autumn or spring term (after the October census date)

Funding will be allocated pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the date that the pupil goes on roll at the new school.

In addition, a full year amount will be allocated for the following financial year to reflect that the pupil was not included on the October census, except if the pupil will then be in year 11 in which case the amount will be calculated up to 31 August.

For a permanently excluded pupil placed at a new school through the Fair Access Protocol in the summer term (after 31 March)

Funding will be allocated pro-rata based on the number of full weeks of the financial year (1 April – 31 March) remaining after the date that the pupil goes on roll at the new school.

However, if the pupil is in year 11, funding will be allocated to the end of the academic year (31 August).

4.4. Maintained schools will be allocated the relevant funds via a budget adjustment at the end of the relevant financial year. Notification and details of the adjustments to be made will be notified in a letter to the school following the confirmation that the pupil has been on roll for more than 12 school weeks from the date that the pupil went on roll. Schools may arrange to update their Local Accounting System immediately.

4.5. Academies will receive notification and details of the amount to be allocated following the confirmation that the pupil has been on roll for more than 12 school weeks from the date that the pupil went on roll and this will be followed by the payment.

5. References

The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 (para. 23)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/2033/regulation/23/made>

Section 2.20 of the Academy and Free School: Master Funding Agreement

www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-multi-model-master-funding-agreement

Protocol Drafted 20/03/19
for
Schools Forum 28/03/19

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

28 March 2019

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2018-19

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2018-19 as at 28 February 2019.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 28 February 2019 but will be shared in Part II of this meeting.
3. An overspend of £4.170 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. The forecast overspend on the High Needs Block is £4.574 million and this is offset by underspends in the growth fund, early years and central blocks.
4. The High Needs Working Group was set up in September to identify contributing factors and to make proposals to reduce the cost pressure on the high needs block. A presentation on from the external consultants is on today's agenda.

Schools Funding

5. A budget of £1.0 million was set aside in 2018/19 as a growth fund. The latest forecast of expenditure on this is £0.920 million which creates a small underspend.

Early Years Budgets

6. Budgets for the free entitlement for 30 hours childcare for 2, 3- & 4-year olds are currently forecast to be underspent by £0.320 million. This estimate is now wholly based on a full year of 30 hours entitlement. It is important to note that the underspend reported above for 2, 3 and 4-year-old grant will have a post financial year adjustment from the DfE - previously this has borne little relation to the final variance due to the formula and floors and ceilings used by the DfE in their calculation. The table below show this forecast underspend relates to volume of take up.

	Planned Volume (in FTE)	Forecast Volume (in FTE)	Forecast Volume (in FTE)
2-year-old Funding	417	436	19 (or 4%)
3 & 4-year-old Funding	4,888	4,802	(86) (or 1.7%)
Overall	5,306	5,238	(67) (or, 1%)

High Needs Budgets

7. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £4.574m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School Fees, Named Pupil Allowances and top ups in schools and alternative provision and elective home education support for pupils with SEND. The post-16 budget shows an underspend which is partially offsetting the overspend in other areas.
8. This significant overspend must be viewed alongside national factors. Nationally, Wiltshire is seventh from the very lowers funded local authority in the Country.

9. The demand for high needs funding is out-stripping the budgets available to local authorities across the country, resulting in serious deficits in the high needs block in over half of all local authorities. Many are finding it extremely difficult to recover these deficits and cuts to existing high needs services and pupil top-up funding makes what provision that is available simply unsustainable.
10. There is an emerging crisis in high needs funding, created in part by the continued use of historic funding levels, that Fair Funding Groups, local authorities and Schools continue to urge government to address before permanent damage is done to very many vulnerable pupils. The f40 group has organised a briefing in Parliament for MPs around fairer funding for 14 May 2019.
11. Whilst local action plans are very much in place to reduce spend, with rising demand and an elongated age group in scope, the long-term solution remains a national increase in Schools Funding. Only increasing base budget will allow strategic plans to be rolled out.
12. The complexity of the high needs services demanded by more and more children (and their parents) is far greater than was the case just a few years ago, more accurate medical assessment and improved methods of treatment increase demand still further. Such increasing needs requires recognition through the national high needs formula.
13. One of the major drivers of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in full time equivalent placements. (FTE) the table below show that volume has increased at a higher level (16%) than expenditure (9%) which could be an indicator that we have more children and young people with lower levels of need.

	Budgeted	Forecast	Forecast Variance
HNB Spend	£39.255M	£43.829M	£4.574M (12% increase)
Number of EHCPs	2,767	3,400 <i>as at 28/02/19</i>	633 (23% increase)

14. Wiltshire submitted a Free School Bid for 150 place Special School provision in the South of the County. This was successful, and plans are in place to take this forward. This will create additional places and enable more children to be placed in Wiltshire Special Schools.
15. The DfE SEND capital allocation is on schedule to be fully allocated to schemes and will be published by the deadline of 31st May 2019.

Central Schools Budgets

16. There is a small forecast underspend on central school budgets held and managed by the local authority on the schools behalf – including maternity and copyright licences. Some of this surplus might be available to fund other identified funding pressures such as union duties – as previously discussed at Schools Forum.

DSG Reserve

17. The reserve brought forward of £0.846 million is reduced by the early years block adjustment of £0.035 million. The forecast overspend and adjustments to the DSG to be discussed further in Part II of this meeting would take the reserve into a deficit position of £2.060 million. This overspend equates to 0.6% of total DSG. The local authority will cashflow this deficit.
18. The DfE updated their guidance around deficit DSG reserves following a national increase in deficit reserve levels. The guidance distributed following the consultation states that where a local authority has an overall deficit on DSG of 1% or more at the end of the 2018 to 2019 financial year, it must by 30 June 2019 submit a recovery plan to the Department for Education, setting out how it plans to bring the overall DSG account into balance within a maximum of three years. In exceptional cases the authority may propose to leave some of the accumulated deficit outstanding, where it is not practicable to do otherwise. The recovery plan should be discussed and, if possible, agreed with the schools forum, and will require Chief Finance Officer sign off prior to submission to the Department for Education. In previous years the DfE have asked authorities with a cumulative deficit of 2% or more to provide plans outlining how they will bring their deficits back into balance. The decision to move the threshold to 1% is in recognition of the increase in local authorities recording a DSG deficit over the last two years.
19. The DSG reserve deficit does pose a concern and Schools Forum need to ensure all relevant steps are made to work alongside local authority officers to form a plan around high needs block activity to ensure best value across services provided by schools, centrally retained teams and external providers.

Proposals

20. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of February 2019 and the continued pressure on high needs budgets.
21. Schools Forum are asked to contribute to the on-going work of the High Needs Working Group, a multi-agency response to the high needs pressures.
22. Schools Forum are asked to contribute through continued membership of the working group specifically to the ISOS consultancy work on the high needs block.

Report Author: Marie Taylor, Interim Head of Finance

Tel: 01225 712539

e-mail: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

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