

# AGENDA

**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Place:** [Online meeting](#)  
**Date:** Thursday 21 January 2021  
**Time:** 1.30 pm

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

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<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Neil Baker	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Aileen Bates	WGA - Special School Governor Representative
Andy Bridewell	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Rebecca Carson	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Mark Cawley	Early Years Representative
Michelle Chilcott	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Sam Churchill	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Jon Hamp	Special School Academy Representative
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Cllr Ross Henning	Observer - Local Youth Network
Mel Jacob	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Georgina Keily-Theobald	WASSH - Maintained Special School
Nikki Barnett/Denise Lloyd	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education
Nigel Roper	WASSH - Maintained Secondary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Ian Tucker	Co-Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
David Whewell	WGA - Secondary School Governor representative
Catriona Williamson	PHF - Maintained Primary 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 - 32*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020 (copy attached).

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Public Participation**

*Schools Forum welcomes contributions from members of the public. During the ongoing Covid-19 situation the Forum is operating revised procedures and the public are able participate in meetings online after registering with the officer named on this agenda, and in accordance with the deadlines below. A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to public participation at the start of each meeting.*

Guidance on how to participate in this meeting online.

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the officer named on this agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 19 January 2021 (1 clear working day before the meeting)**. Statements should take no longer than 3 minutes to be read aloud.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions electronically to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than **5pm on Thursday 15 January 2021** to allow a response to be formulated. Questions are limited to a maximum of 2 per person or organisation.

Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice.

6 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 33 - 36*)

The Forum will be asked to note the minutes/updates from the following meetings:

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 11 January 2021
- Early Years Reference Group – 12 January 2021 – *to follow*

7 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2020-21** (Pages 37 - 42)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to present the budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2020-21 as at 31 December 2020.

8 **School Budget Setting 2021-22**

To consider the budget for 2021-22.

The following update reports provide details on the overall funding settlement on each of the funding blocks, the decisions will be made after consideration of all the update papers via the decision matrix.

8a **School Revenue Funding 2021-22 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process** (Pages 43 - 48)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update the Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2021-22.

8b **Central School Services Block Update 2021-22** (Pages 49 - 60)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

8c **High Needs Block Update 2021-22** (Pages 61 - 66)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to update the Forum on issues related to the High Needs Block for the 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22. Appendix 2 which is the DSG Management Plan is *to follow*.

8d **Early Years Update 2021-22 (Indicative Allocations)** (Pages 67 - 78)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update the forum on issues related to the Early Years Block for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22.

8e **Schools Block Update 2021-22 (Delegated Budget)** (Pages 79 - 86)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

9 **School Budget Decisions 2021-22** *(Pages 87 - 88)*

The Forum will be asked to consider the Schools Budgets for 2021-22 and make relevant decisions using the attached decisions matrix.

10 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

11 March 2021

10 June 2021

7 October 2021

9 December 2021.

11 **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

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### Schools Forum

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#### **MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

##### **Present:**

Neil Baker (Chairman), Nikki Barnett, Aileen Bates, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Mark Cawley, John Hawkins, Cllr Ross Henning, Lisa Percy (Vice-Chair), John Proctor, Giles Pugh, John Read (substitute for Sam Churchill), Nigel Roper, Graham Shore, Trudy Srawley, Fergus Stewart, David Whewell, Catriona Williamson and Lynn Yendle (substitute for Jon Hamp)

##### **Also Present:**

Cllr Jane Davies (Portfolio Holder, Education and SEND), Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Lisa Fryer (Education Officer – Independent Specialist Placements), Helean Hughes (Director – Education and Skills), Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead), Lucy Townsend (Director of Childrens Services)

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#### **43 Apologies and Changes of Membership**

Apologies were received from the following Forum members: Sam Churchill – John Read from Lyneham Primary School attended in Sam's place, from Georgina Keily-Theobald, Mel Jacob, Denise Lloyd and Jon Hamp – Lynn Yendle attended in Jon's place.

Apologies were also received from the following Wiltshire Council Officers – Helen Jones (Director – Commissioning)

Membership changes

The Forum had been notified that Fergus Stewart would no longer be Chair of WASSH from the end of December 2020. This role will be Co-Chaired by Georgina Keily-Theobald from Downland School and Ian Tucker from St John's in Marlborough from January 2021.

The Chair thanked Fergus Stewart for his support on Schools Forum and congratulated him on completion of his term as Chair of WASSH.

#### **44 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 were presented and it was

**Resolved:**

**That the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020.**

45 **Chair's Announcements**

As the Agenda was quite lengthy the Chair reported that he would include a 5-minute comfort break in at an appropriate point during the meeting.

46 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

47 **Public Participation**

No statements or questions had been received in advance of the meeting and there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

48 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 30 November 2020. There were no questions arising.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meetings of the Early Years Reference Group meetings held on 4 November and 4 December.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the minutes of the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 30 November 2020 and the Early Years Reference group meetings held on 4 November and 4 December 2020.**

49 **Update on the Multi-Agency Families and Children's Transformation (FACT) Programme**

Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead) referred to the update on the multi-agency FACT programme that was circulated with the Agenda. Simon highlighted the following:

- The feedback from the FACT Executive Board earlier in 2020 was that the programme should be more focused with defined projects. The 28 projects were then reviewed, and now clear milestones had been set to simplify and target the work of the multi-agency FACT programme;
- There were now 7 current priority projects
  - i) Earliest Support in Communities



- ii) Young People's Service
  - iii) Transitional Safeguarding
  - iv) Integrated Working
  - v) Alternative Provision
  - vi) Early Support Assessment
  - vii) Speech, Language and Communication
- FACT would continue to monitor the following Agendas which are continuing – Troubled Families, Education RESET plan, Stronger Families, PAUSE, SEND Inclusion, Contextual Safeguarding, Dads Matter Too, Council redesign of MH/LD services, Five to Thrive/Trauma informed approaches;
  - There were also some projects currently in the scoping phase – Transport, Easy Support front doors and Multi-agency use of the Case Management System; and
  - Particularly relevant to Schools Forum was the implementation of the Early Support Assessment which was a shift to replace the CAF. The feedback from schools proposed a simplified form which was easier to complete and pull information together from a school and family perspective. Webinars were being presented to promote the programme and training materials were available on the [Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership website](#) There was a multi-agency group overseeing this project and feedback was sought for the interim report which would be completed by 1 February 2021.

Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills) gave an update on the Inclusion Project and highlighted the following:

- The aims of the project were to maximise the number of learners who are successfully included in mainstream education and to ensure there is quality, suitable alternative provision in place for learners for whom full-time mainstream education is not currently suitable;
- It was hoped that the successes would be a reduction in exclusions, improved attendance for vulnerable learners, reduced children missing from education and that alternative providers are assessed as being highly effective in terms of Health and Safety and Safeguarding; and
- Staffing capacity was being increased, including a Strategic Lead and two temporary officers being appointed for which funding had been accessed from the FACT programme for 18 months.

Simon Thomas reported that they were doing some reflection on FACT to ensure that they have the right education representatives and would be considering a way forward as to how they might usefully communicate and understand the views from the Education sector. FACT was interested to hear the views and the problems faced by those in education and were always

looking at ways to improve the ways in which they work to improve outcomes for families.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the FACT programme update.**

50 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2020/21**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the budget monitoring report as at 31 October 2020 that was circulated with the Agenda. Marie highlighted the following:

- An overspend of £9.105 million was currently projected against the overall school's budget. The main driver of this was the ongoing pressures on the high needs block;
- There was a small underspend of £0.166 million on the early years budget. For the spring term, the Government's current guidance is that settings would only be paid for children attending settings. The local authority has a duty of sufficiency and has been working closely to support providers with grants as much as they are able to. However, private income losses could not be supported in line with the terms of the grant funding. Due to the uncertainty, no variance was being declared in year as the local authority want to support settings as much as they can. The 19-20 adjustment based on the January 2020 census data was an increase of £0.539 million. In addition, the 20-21 allocation increased by £0.943 million. This reflected a higher count of children than the previous year;
- The forecast underspend on the school's budget related largely to the school's growth fund which currently showed an underspend and would be helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG;
- The high needs budget was under significant pressures with the major driver of the increased costs being volume. Whilst the number of EHCP's being requested had slowed slightly (possibly due to the Covid restrictions in the summer term) the forecast demand would mean that there could be 4289 pupils with an EHCP by the end of March 2021 which would of course increase the high needs spend;
- The DSG reserve brought forward of £11.35 million is increased by the positive early year's adjustments. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £19.916 million. The deficit is cash flowed by the local authority and is a major financial risk for the council. By comparison at the end of the 2019/20 financial year the Council's general reserves stood at £15.456 million;

- The impact of Covid on the LA's finances is significant, and this was raised at a meeting with representatives from the DfE today. The additional Covid funding available for Councils and Schools for 2021/22 is not clear and the representative said that she would look into that for the LA; and
- From 2018/19 the majority of LA's had a deficit budget and there were updated rules governing deficits, with LA's being required to produce a 'DSG Management Plan'. This was not published with the Agenda as stated and would be shared with the Forum at the January 2021 meeting.

An Early Years representative highlighted that in paragraph 15 of the report the reserve brought forward of £11.350 million was a deficit and Marie Taylor agreed to amend that in the report.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position as at 31 October 2020 alongside the reports later on the agenda focussing on the high needs block recovery working group, the changes in DfE recovery planning requirements around the DSG deficit and the School Revenue Funding 2021/22.**

**51 Update on behalf of the High Needs Block Recovery Group**

Helean Hughes (Director of Education and Skills) gave a verbal update on the progress of the High Needs Block Recovery Group. Helean highlighted the following:

- The High Needs Block Working Group had last met on 12 November 2020 and the minutes of that meeting had been circulated with the Agenda papers;
- As part of the high needs financial recovery plan the working group were overseeing the implementation and impact of 8 projects;
- Dyslexia Friendly Schools – The British Dyslexia Association were evaluating the scheme that had been set up and schools were carrying out an audit of their provision. This would be reviewed at the end of the school year. The virtual training and this project had not been paused during Covid. 13 primary schools and 5 secondary schools had received 48 hours of training and a parent survey had been created. Once the audits had been completed, action plans would be put in place and the schools would then work towards the quality mark;
- The Inclusion and School Effectiveness project continues to be paused;
- Work on the ELP and Resource Base project had now started, and Officers were looking at the provision across Wiltshire;

- SEND Assessment and EHCP – Officers were currently collating data to get a clear view of priorities and from January 2021 they would reconfigure panels and needs assessments. The FACT programme had provided resource for that;
- Post-16 Transition – Someone from the LA would be leading on this project and again the FACT programme had provided resource for this. This would start from January so further progress would be reported at the next meeting;
- SEND Alternative Provision – A specialist provision was being looked at. There would be a quality assurance process to hold AP providers to account, review provision and consider costs to ensure that there was effective AP with clear entry and exit criteria to get children back into mainstream sooner than previously; and
- Early years – 2<sup>nd</sup> round of HELM, 84 children were discussed, identified that we have improved as we have gone along and are now settling in with the right support at the right time.

Lisa Fryer (Education Officer – Independent Specialist Placements) provided a verbal update on the Independent Special School (ISS) deep dive that had been carried out since September. Lisa highlighted the following:

- That Lisa had moved over from being a Locality Officer as from 1 September 2020 into a 2-year secondment post looking at Independent Special School Placements as part of the high need's recovery work. Lisa was currently carrying out a deep dive of those children and young people with an EHCP who were currently in ISS's to try to understand why the LA have a high usage of ISS's and to look at ways to reduce the placements and become more creative to develop our local offer;
- From reviewing the ISS cohort, it was highlighted that the greatest number of children was those with a primary need of SEMH. Consideration would be given to look when they may be able to change placements, which may be when they move to different phases of education, to best meet their needs;
- The SEND service had renewed its operational focus on 'value for money' from all ISS/ISP settings and would go through clear procurement processes and ensure what the costs would be transparent and where , placements would be time limited that there was an appropriate exit strategy;
- They had optimised attendance at Annual Reviews as this had been easier with virtual meetings – having been trickier for ensuring attendance when held out of the county;

- Work had been undertaken to understand the potential 'Bring back' cohort and what they might need so that this could inform the local offer, commissioning of places and what could be put in place to support local schools with this;
- Placement sufficiency was a big issue and changes had been made to the Phase Transfer Specialist Panel format to prevent further escalation to ISS placements moving forward;
- Officers were working with the Virtual School around placement moves and to minimise unnecessary escalation to ISS;
- Since the start of the financial year c£300k savings had been identified, but there would continue to always be a demand for ISS placements, but these vary in costs; and
- There was a HNB ISS savings target of £0.5 million savings for 2020-21 and 2021-22 and £1 million in 2022-23. This would be hard to achieve and would need a sophisticated approach, however, the work was already seeing some benefits of understanding this cohort more deeply.

The Chair expressed how please he was that the secondment had happened, and this previously identified work was now carried out.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills asked about parent involvement in the discussions about the placements for children and young people and highlighted the importance of involving parents in the discussion. Parents know what they want for their and they will want to fight for what is best for their children.

Lisa Fryer responded that all the work was person centred and acknowledged that it was important to engage parents earlier as there is often a lot of anxiety of what is coming next when children move through the education phases. Cllr Mayes asked what discussions were taking place with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council around the strategy for this work. Lisa Fryer confirmed that she had not yet had a deep discussion with the WPCC but that this would be a priority as they moved forward in January.

Helean Hughes confirmed that the WPCC was not currently represented on the High Needs Working Group and would take that as an action to seek representation for the meetings.

A Forum Member questioned asked if access had been denied to the authority for some out of county based annual reviews. Lisa Fryer confirmed that previously whilst invites had been received to the meetings there had been issues with Officer attendance because of the distances involved, but now with remote working this made participation much easier.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the updates on the High Needs Block Recovery Group and the Independent Special Schools deep dive.**

52 **Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2021-22**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update on the results of the most recent Autumn consultations relating to De-delegation of funding for central services and a possible transfer of funds from Schools Block to High Needs Block. Grant highlighted the following:

- Under the 'soft formula' all funding should be fully delegated to schools, however certain central services can be 'de-delegated' for maintained schools, with approval of the maintained Schools Forum representatives;
- All maintained schools were consulted, and 36 responses were received – 33 responses from primary schools and 3 from secondary schools;
- The responses received were significantly in favour of retaining the de-delegated services in both primary and secondary schools;
- In relation to a possible transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the Local Authority have the flexibility to move up to 0.5% and anything higher would require approval from the Secretary of State through a disapplication request. It had been agreed at the October 2020 meeting of Schools Forum that this would not be applied for as only two applications were approved for the 2020-21 year;
- The consultation was carried out via Right choice and was open to all schools. A total of 22 responses were received - 3 secondary, 1 special and 18 primary schools. 15 out of the 22 did support a transfer from Schools Block to High Needs and all 22 respondents did not want a reduction in Top-Up values;
- Only 4 out of 22 supported a 'hybrid' option of a block transfer and a reduction in Top-Up values;
- Of the 15 that supported a transfer, 53.33% (8) voted for a £1.4m 0.5% transfer;
- At the October 2020 meeting of Schools Forum it was highlighted that approximately £800k of funding could be made available (through preliminary modelling) if the Mobility factor was not introduced (£571k) and if the maximum Sparsity allowance for primary schools was not increased from £26k to £45k, this would release a further £220k of funding which could be transferred to the High Needs block.

The Diocesan representative expressed concern about not increasing the Sparsity allowance to fund the transfer to High Needs and felt that the sparsity

increase would be needed to support small schools as Wiltshire had a number of small village schools. He felt that it this would be the wrong to help with the High Needs pressures to take away the identified national support for small rural schools.

Grant Davis responded that the report was highlighting the options available to Schools Forum. The decision would need to wait until the DfE inform of the funding levels on 18 December to see if the NFF was affordable for Wiltshire. Grant did not see a reason why it would not be affordable but would need confirmation of the funding levels.

The Chair suggested that a report be prepared for the next meeting to identify which Schools in Wiltshire would be eligible for Sparsity funding and show options of how implementing Sparsity allowances or not would affect those schools to aid the decisions that would need to be taken by Schools Forum.

Grant Davis reported that the whole issue of sparsity has caused inequity of funding. Where there are two schools of a similar size and composition but geographically one school is considered sparse and the other is not, then one school will be eligible for sparsity funding and the other will not be eligible. The current funding is felt by Schools Forum members not to currently provide an equitable solution. Schools Forum supports the presumption against the closure of small and rural schools but does not feel the current DfE Sparsity funding factor provides the most appropriate solution. The DfE will be issuing some consultation on supporting small and rural schools and the Local Authority would look forward to responding to it, although it was not anticipated that this would be ready to report on by the January 2021 meeting.

It was agreed that a report would be prepared for the January 2021 meeting, to identify the numbers and locations of schools that benefit from the Sparsity allowance within Wiltshire.

Grant Davis reported that for this financial year there were 31 schools that received the Sparsity Allowance (2 secondary and 29 primary schools) with a total allocation of £0.345 million.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That Schools Forum note the report which details the local consultation responses in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2021-22 financial year.**
- 2. That Schools Forum agree “in principle” that the following services be de-delegated for Maintained Schools:**
  - i) FSM – primary and secondary**
  - ii) Licences – primary and secondary**
  - iii) Trade Union – primary and secondary**
  - iv) Maternity – primary and secondary**
  - v) Ethnic Minority Support – primary only**

- vi) Traveller Education – primary only
- vii) Behaviour Support – primary only

3. That Schools Forum agree to a Block transfer between Schools Block and the High Needs Block, of 0.5% (the maximum allowable without Secretary of State approval) which equates to approximately £1.4m, subject to affordability of the National Funding Formula, when school funding for 2021-22 has been confirmed.
4. That Schools Forum receive details of the number and location of the Schools in Wiltshire that would be eligible to receive the Sparsity Allowance and show the impact of not agreeing to move to the higher level of funding.

### 53 Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2021-22

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 Schools Block Growth Fund in 2021-22. Grant highlighted the following:

- There was a change in the methodology for funding for Local Authorities for growth two years ago, however this had not changed the way in which growth funding was allocated locally to schools;
- Growth allocations for 2021-22 would be based on the pupil data from the October 2020 census and the October 2019 census. The DfE measure growth within Local Authorities at middle layer super output area (MSOA) 1 level and in Wiltshire there are 62 MSOA's with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area;
- Whilst there would not be any new schools opening there had been pupil growth in Wiltshire. The allocation for 2021-22 would be announced later in December as part of the schools funding announcement;
- The Growth Fund comprises of 3 elements – New schools, basic need expansion and infant class size regulations;
- Local Authorities may set aside Schools Block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls and this fund would represent a top slice of the Schools Block for which criteria would need to be established to support the fund, including clear trigger points for qualification;
- Schools Forum has always resisted the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund, but were being asked to give consideration to doing so in light of previous discussions and the additional pressures being placed upon the Schools Block; and



- There had been no pressure from Schools or other groups for the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund.

**Resolved that Schools Forum:**

- i) Approve the criteria for allocating Pupil Growth Fund in 2021-22.**
- ii) Note that the budget for the Growth Fund be set at its meeting in January 2021, when the full DSG has been confirmed for the 2021-22 year.**
- iii) Following discussion, it was agreed not to establish a Falling Rolls Fund.**

*A brief comfort break was held between 3.10pm and 3.15pm.*

54 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Provisional Central Schools Block Update 2021-22**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to update the Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2021-22 financial year and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- That the Forum were being asked to make some in principle decisions at the meeting to make the modelling and decision making for the January 2021 meeting slightly easier;
- The provisional allocation for the Central Schools Services Block was £2.449m. The DfE had been reducing payments for historic commitments and £0.367m had been allocated for this based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2020-21 reduced by 20% of £0.092m;
- The Central Schools Services Block is the funding for the LA to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in all schools – the central functions;
- Section A – Central copyright licences. Although notification of this amount had not yet been received the same level of inflation had been assumed so this amount could change;
- Section B - The 2.75% pay award for salary inflation had also been assumed, but following the Government Spending Review these amounts would change so at the January 2021 meeting these amounts would not be at the same level;
- Historic commitments – The same level of funding for the LAC Personal Education Plans and the Child Protection in Schools Adviser had been requested. The prudential borrowing proposed allocation had been

reduced so that would mean there would be an unallocated CSSB balance that could be available to transfer to the High Needs block;

- ESG funding was previously removed as a ringfenced grant. In Wiltshire the ESG was not directly removed from education budgets but taken as a reduction in funding for the whole council. This is because education is a priority for the Council.;
- The DfE had provided an alternative transitional grant but had not yet confirmed that the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant would continue into year 2021-22 – should this grant be removed or significantly reduced, the situation would need to be reviewed; and
- Assuming the proposed budget is accepted by Schools Forum, an amount of £0.195m unallocated CSSB is estimated to be available to transfer to fund high needs pressures.

**Resolved:**

1. That Schools Forum note the report and decisions in relation to the Central Schools Block budget 2021-22 and agree the following amounts in principle in advance of setting the Schools budget in January 2021

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2020-21 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2021-22 £M
<p><b>Section A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools forum approval is <b>not</b> required (although they should be consulted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Copyright Licences for 2021-22 for Wiltshire as set by the DfE.</li> </ul>	£0.382m	£0.392m*
<p><b>Section B</b></p> <p>Schools forum approval is required on a <b>line-by-line</b> basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• back pay for equal pay claims</li> <li>• remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies</li> <li>• places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils</li> <li>• admissions</li> </ul>	<p>The limitation on increases to centrally held spend has been removed from the budgets for admissions and servicing of school’s forums. It is therefore proposed to apply salary inflation to the budget for the central teams and address the safeguarding and admission pressures. This is affordable within the overall CSSB allocation.</p> <p><b>Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG**:</b></p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>servicing of school's forum</li> <li>contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools</li> <li>contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (voted on by relevant maintained school members of the forum only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Welfare Service</li> </ul>	£0.194	£0.199
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset Management</li> </ul>	£0.181	£0.186
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory / Regulatory Duties</li> </ul>	£0.651	£0.669
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admissions</li> </ul>	£0.426	£0.438
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Servicing of Schools Forum</li> </ul>	£0.003	£0.003

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2020-21 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2021-22 £M
<p><b>Section C</b></p> <p><b>Historic Commitments:</b> Schools forum approval is required on a <b>line-by-line</b> basis. The budget cannot exceed the value agreed in the previous funding period and no new commitments can be entered into</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged</li> <li>contribution to combined budgets – this is where the school's forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the school's budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</li> <li>existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans</b> - Schools Forum decision December 2007 to support PEPs for Looked After Children from 2008/09 financial year as required under "Care Matters". Allocation based on original estimate of £500 per LAC and managed by Virtual Head Teacher.</p>	0.103	0.103 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p><b>Child Protection in Schools Adviser</b> - Schools Forum decision January 2006 to support staff within Children's Services to provide support and advice to schools enabling them to meet their statutory responsibilities.</p>	0.056	0.056 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>

• Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013	<b>Prudential Borrowing</b> Schools forum decision to support approx. £3m capital financing for 13-year period	0.300	0.208 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.367</b>
Balance unallocated and available to transfer to the HNB		0.184	0.195

2. That Schools Forum note that notification of the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant has not yet been shared by the DfE. If the grant ceases or is significantly reduced, the expenditure plan will need to be reviewed, decisions made will be reconsidered at the next available Schools Forum meeting.

## 55 Dedicated Schools Budget - High Needs Block Update 2021-22

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on the issues related to the High Needs Block for 2020-21 and a pre-briefing for the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22 at the January meeting. Marie highlighted the following:

- The High Need block provision allocation for 2021-22 is £57.529 million which represents an increase of £5.541m (10.66%). 36% of Wiltshire's funding was based on historical funding compared to the national average of 33%. Whilst the uplift was most welcome it does not fully address the magnitude of cumulative pressures from previous financial years or fully address the anticipated pressure for the 2021-22 financial year for Wiltshire. It was hoped that the long-awaited SEN review would address and imbalance;
- The additional pressure of £10.1m to meet current spend levels continues which was not the same as high need spend as there are vacant posts in year which we would wish to recruit to;
- The total estimated cost pressure for 2020-21 was £14.063m. It was not possible to fully fund the pressures from within the high needs block and an assumption model could be that there is a transfer from the Central Block, a transfer from the Schools Block and a transfer of any excess

from the Growth Fund would still mean an estimated funding shortfall of £8.091 for the High Needs block; and

- The current forecast overspend on the School Funding reserve was £19.916m. The level of deficit had triggered the requirement to submit a DSG Management Plan to the DfE and this would be shared with the Forum in January for approval.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the pressures on the High Needs Block for 2021-22 and the potential options to reduce the shortfall against high needs budgets including agreeing a transfer from Schools Block to balance the high needs pressures and noted that this would be considered in full at the January 2021 meeting.**

56 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Early Years Block Update 2021-22**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues related to the Early Years Block for 2021-22 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process for the 2021-22 financial year. Marie highlighted the following:

- Details of the 2021/22 early years funding will be received later in December, together with the rest of the DSG information for 2021/22;
- The Chancellor announced in his spending review that £44m was being put into early years education to increase the hourly rate for providers and whilst this would probably not even cover the cost of living it was better to have than not to have. The modelling options would look to pass on the maximum possible increase to providers.

An Early Years representative asked whether the national funding increase of 8p for 3&4 year old funding which was not possible to fund in 20-21 plus 5p potential to change 21-22 funding could be taken onto account when modelling the 21-22 hourly rates. Marie Taylor confirmed that they would model likely childcare hours and the total allocation for 21-22 and reminded the Forum there was a minimum % to pass to providers from the funding. When the allocations are received, January's report and detailed working paper will look at modelling options within % of pass through.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the update on the Early Years Block.**

57 **Covid Costs - Case Studies from Schools and Early Years Settings**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which shared with Schools Forum the results of a recent survey with

schools relating to the additional Covid costs being incurred by Schools and Early Years settings. Grant highlighted the following:

- The Director for Education and Skills (Helean Hughes) has regular contact with the DfE to discuss a number of issues including Covid related costs. A key topic raised by schools and Early years settings is the continuing additional costs pressures faced since the start of the 2020-21 academic year;
- A survey was sent to schools and early years settings to give them the opportunity to demonstrate the additional costs that they are incurring which cannot be met from existing resources. The results of the survey will be used to help lobby local MP's, support the work of the f40 group and ask the DfE for additional funding to support schools through the current pandemic;
- Over 30 responses had been received and common themes related to cleaning – deep cleans, materials and the increased frequency required, staffing to cover those who were shielding, absent and isolating, PPE costs, catering costs (making arrangements to ensure bubbles can be retained), additional IT costs to enable remote working etc;
- There were also lost income sources from breakfast and after school clubs, holiday clubs, income from lettings and catering, contributions from 'Friends' of the school or PTA organisations and less children on roll due to some parents choosing to home educate;
- Some organisations had been able to mitigate some additional costs through making savings in some budget areas;
- The impacts on the schools that had responded were shown in the appendices and there were huge differentials between schools - this information would be shared with the f40 group;
- Not surprisingly the number of pupils eligible for a Free School Meal had grown significantly during the Covid period. Given the projected growth in FSM eligible pupil numbers, there was the potential that due to the lag in school funding, schools will be educating significantly greater numbers of pupils eligible for FSM, FSM6 and PPG funding than they are actually funded for. If there was recognition of this by the DfE this would alleviate a significant additional cost pressure; and
- The findings from the survey would form part of the Authority's lobbying with Members, the f40 group, MP's and other stakeholders to highlight the funding shortfall.

An Early Years representative reported that many early years settings had been unable to continue with their breakfast and/after school club provisions due to mixing of 'bubbles' and those were significant losses that were not covered by

the Government funding and a risk that the settings could not continue to remain open.

A secondary academy representative asked how any shortfall might be distributed. Grant Davis responded that funding would be based on October Census data and the Pupil Premium funding based on the January census data and from the DfE's point of view they might consider that they are short funding against the FSM but with the announcement public sector pay freezes they would recognise the school budgets have some savings and expect schools to get manage within their allocation.

The Chair agreed that the anticipated shortfall was worrying shortfall and that in the January decision matrix if there was a shortfall, it would be a cost pressure that would need consideration.

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the report and support the use of the survey and Free School Meal projections in lobbying for additional funding.**

## 58 **F40 Update**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update the Forum on the work of the f40 group and share their recent communication with the DfE in relation to the impact of Covid upon schools. Grant highlighted the following:

- That the f40 group are continuing to campaign on behalf of its members on the continuing impact of Covid on school and education funding and a letter was sent to Tony Foot (director of the Education Funding Group, DfE) and Tom Goldman (Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit, DfE) on 20 October 2020; and
- Subsequent to the letter being sent a meeting was held between the f40 group and Tom Goldman and they were advised that the DfE were relying on the information they could provide and asked for information around the costs that schools are facing. Wiltshire would continue to support f40 with their lobbying and it was good to note that discussions with the DfE were taking place and that we are partner to that. A copy of the notes from that meeting held on 3 November would be circulated with the minutes of this meeting (**attached as Appendix 1**).

**Resolved:**

**That Schools Forum note the content of the f40 letter in support of additional Covid related funding for Schools.**

**Appendix 1 to Minutes - Minutes of f40 meeting**

## 59 Update on School Admission Appeals

Libby Johnstone (Democracy Manager) referred to the update on the introduction of charges for Admission Appeals. Libby highlighted the following:

- The Forum would recall that the DfE had updated guidance around admission appeals and that this poses a number of challenges including confirmation that funding for admissions appeals lies with schools; the subsequent introduction of charges and schools electing to accept pupils above PAN to avoid appeal costs;
- Schools Forum had previously not favoured options to increase the Central Schools Services Block or take an allocation from the budget of maintained schools to fund admission appeals as this would not affect all schools, including those that do not have appeals. The preferable option would be to introduce charges to schools that do have admission appeals;
- Schools were consulted over the summer and a survey was issued to ascertain if schools would be likely to buy into an appeals service at a similar rate; and
- Since the survey, the local authority has become aware of situations where schools would prefer to admit pupils over the Planned Admission Number (PAN) in order to avoid paying for appeals. This would lead to popular schools being over capacity whilst other local schools continued to have surplus places. It was felt that it would be useful to have feedback from Schools Forum members on this issue and for them to consider drafting a position statement to send out to schools.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) reported that the Authority's powers were limited in this matter, but the Admissions Team had advised that it would be useful if there was a joint statement issued. Unfortunately, there was not a statutory duty for a School to stick to their PAN and if the PAN's were simply going to be ignored by schools this would be difficult for the LA to manage the planned admission numbers. It was suggested that there should be a LA and Schools Forum expectation and hope that schools would conform to their PAN.

The Chair asked what the point of a PAN was if schools can ignore it. Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills) confirmed that schools do have control as an Admission Authority, but for voluntary aided schools and academies, Wiltshire was not the Admission Authority. It was suggested that Schools Forum could provide a statement to ask schools to consider and be mindful of the situation the LA is in and highlight the need for place planning and to be away of growth planning income.



After discussion it was agreed that a group be set up to discuss this further outside of this meeting. Neil Baker, Nigel Roper, Giles Pugh, David Whewell and Lisa Percy volunteered to join this group and work with Clara Davies and Libby Johnstone and an update could be provided at the January meeting.

**Resolved that Schools Forum:**

- 1. Note the update on the introduction of charges for School Admission Appeals and that the Local Authority is currently considering representations received following the consultation.**
- 2. Set up meeting to between those detailed above to consider and prepare a draft position statement on behalf of Schools Forum to be agreed at the January 2021 meeting and then circulated to all schools.**

60 **Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools 2021-22**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on the Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools. Grant highlighted the following:

- That the Local Authority is required to publish a scheme for financing schools and that when making any changes to a Scheme that all maintained schools are consulted before approval is sought from Schools Forum. Wiltshire's current scheme document was considerably dated, and a rewrite had been undertaken which would be subject to consultation before being brought to Schools Forum for approval.

**Resolved that Schools Forum:**

- 1. Note the proposed consultation which will be sent to maintained schools.**
- 2. Consider the introduction of the new Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools at a future meeting, based upon the consultation responses.**

61 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

The Forum noted that the future meetings would be held at 1.30pm via Microsoft Teams:

21 January 2021  
11 March 2021.

62 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 4.35 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or  
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## Notes of meeting with DfE held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020

DfE:

- Tom Goldman, Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit, Department for Education
- Kwamina Korsah, Policy Advisor, Department for Education

f40:

- Cllr James McInnes, f40 chair / Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, Devon CC
- Margaret Judd, Funding Manager, Dorset Council
- Andrew Minall, Head of Education Financial Services, Hampshire CC
- Karen Westcott, Secretary of f40

### 1. Introductions

TG explained that Tony Foot had now returned from sabbatical and had been appointed the Department for Education's Director of Finance. He said unfortunately TF had been unable to join the meeting that day.

### 2. Discussion

JMcl thanked the DfE team for the opportunity to meet to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on school and education budgets.

He said budgets were already tight for schools, and the ongoing pandemic had exacerbated the issue for many.

TG said the meetings with the f40 group were useful. He said the government remained strongly interested in additional Covid costs for schools, and the more information DfE had, the better.

He said the DfE needed evidence and examples, which could most usefully come through representative organisations, such as f40.

JMcl said schools had done a tremendous job – opening to all pupils from September and working within the new parameters of the pandemic.

He said, as he understood it, schools were able to claim back additional costs brought about by the pandemic from earlier in the summer term, but that they were so far unable to claim back any more recent expenses.

KK explained that he was managing school budgets and policy around Covid funding. He said schools would be able to take advantage of a second 'mop up' round of claiming back expenses that were still outstanding from the summer term.

### 3. Extra costs

JMcl said most children were back in class from September, but schools were incurring a lot of extra costs, particularly with regards supply teaching, as so many teachers were having to isolate due to Covid.

JMcl said demand had already outstripped the supply teacher budgets of many schools, and f40 believed the issue needed to be recognised and addressed.

- Subsequent to the meeting, the DfE announced additional financial support relating to staff absence costs between the beginning of November and the end of December 2020.

JMcl said many schools would also be facing additional winter bills this year. He said as Covid required schools to keep windows and doors open, to aid ventilation, many would be utilising the heating more to compensate.

MJ said there were many additional costs, such as:

- Buying extra resources – as children could no longer share due to social distancing
- Winter costs
- Additional water usage caused by extra cleaning and washing of hands

MJ said she believed a long-term view needed to be taken on the impact of Covid, as while some schools may have made savings initially – from cancelled trips, heating, closing part of their buildings – many will have incurred greater costs over the autumn term.

She said cash flow may be a problem for some schools, so ensuring a sustainable plan was in place would be vital.

AM said one size did not fit all and he understood why the Treasury would push back on some aspects of the Covid costs.

However, he said it was important to recognise that while some schools could be flexible in the way they operated their budgets and staffing levels, others had very little wriggle room. For some, Covid was having a real impact on their ability to continue.

AM said, for example, a small school with four teachers that relied on the headteacher to step in when a teacher was off ill, would struggle if any of its teachers had to isolate for two weeks. Whereas a large school with many teachers may be able to operate more smoothly when members of staff had to isolate.

AM said he believed, due to size, small schools were less able to cope with staff absences than larger schools during Covid because recent funding changes had typically directed greater gains to the bigger schools.

AM said schools were also having to buy extra resources, and were having to pay more for water, heating, and sometimes additional things, such as sewerage services.

For example, he said there were cases of schools having to empty cesspits twice as often as usual because of the extra cleaning and hand washing.

#### **4. Special Schools**

TG asked what the situation was in special schools, and said it was vital they were considered in all of the discussions.

JMcl said special schools were spending more on PPE, which should be recognised by the DfE. f40 provided information to TG and KK about how much had been spent on PPE by an academy trust during the first six months of the pandemic – more than £43,000 over five schools.

It was explained that some pupils at special schools were prone to licking and biting staff, so wearing full PPE was paramount for teachers and support staff.

## 5. DfE requesting more information

TG said the DfE would like more information about the additional cost of PPE for special schools, along with other additional costs for SEND schools during the pandemic.

He also said the DfE would like more information about the number of staff that were absent from schools due to Covid, and schools' ability to cope with gaps in staffing.

He agreed that one size did not fit all. He said the DfE would want to ensure that any system supported schools, whilst also allowing them to respond to their individual circumstances.

He said the more understanding the DfE had about the degree of variability between schools, the better it would be able to do that. He said they were keen to know what proportion of schools – even with the best will in the world – f40 felt could not cope with the added pressures of Covid and teacher absence.

JMcl said it appeared that secondary schools were coping better than primaries. He said when a member of a primary class contracted Covid, the whole class went off for two weeks, including the teacher and teaching assistant. In a small school, the impact was great.

KK said it appeared that economies of scale were at play – the bigger the school, the better they were able to cope.

KK said the DfE was interested to know how close schools were coming to closing and not being able to continue their activities. He said the department was trying to get the best possible sense of how widespread the problem was.

JMcl said in Devon, they had had 235 teachers isolating (at that time). He said there were a lot of very small primary schools in Devon, which were struggling with the Covid situation. However, he said they hadn't, at that point, reached a position where they had to close.

TG said he appreciated that some schools didn't have a lot of fat in the system, so were unable to deal easily with teacher absences.

He said it could be that schools in deprived areas had a greater number of Covid cases but were relatively more highly funded, so were better able to deal with teacher absences due to isolating.

Conversely, he said in less deprived areas, while the cases of Covid may be fewer, schools may be less able to deal with teacher absences when they arose, purely because they had fewer resources.

MJ said even schools with a greater number of staff may have to resort to support staff teaching children when qualified teachers went absent, so children were still losing out – even if the schools appeared to be coping better.

MJ also reminded the DfE that not all supply costs were measured against a specific supply budget. She said a headteacher or other senior leader may undertake supply, for example, but that would be at the expense of the time they had to undertake their headship/school duties.

MJ said some schools employed supply via zero-hour contracts of known staff (retired staff for example), but the costs may appear in the general staffing budget, not in the supply budget.

TG agreed and asked if f40 could help in providing more information.

## **6. Covid testing in schools**

JMcl asked if teachers and pupils could be given higher priority when it came to Covid testing. He said entire cities were now being tested, and so questioned whether whole schools could be tested in the same way – with results returned immediately.

TG said he would pass that suggestion on. He agreed that the faster the testing, and more widespread it was, the better, although there was, of course, a much wider context in deciding how to prioritise the availability of testing.

## **7. Cash flow**

TG asked if many schools were struggling with their cash flow. He said, as it stood, he believed there were only a few schools with serious cash flow issues and there were mechanisms in place to deal with them. He said he would be interested to know if that situation was changing.

Members of f40 agreed.

## **8. Loss of income**

MJ said loss of income was also a big issue for many schools and Early Years providers.

MJ said she appreciated that schools could not be recompensed for everything they had lost but said f40 believed they should be compensated for part of their lost income – as was the case for local authorities.

TG asked how much of a problem loss of income was to schools.

AM said some breakfast and after-school clubs had closed, while others had started running again, but were scaled back. He said schools were often still incurring full costs from these clubs, while not receiving the same income.

He said many schools were dealing with redundancies, and their associated costs, linked to clubs and activities, such as these.

MJ said school clubs and Early Years were not being used as much as they were. She said parents were often not using them because they wanted to restrict contact and the chances of their children contracting the illness. She also said many parents were working from home, so the need for after-school clubs and nurseries had declined.

JMcl said a lot of activities, such as cubs and scouts, had not resumed since the first lockdown.

## **9. Balancing savings with extra costs**

TG said he appreciated that schools had faced additional costs.

However, he said schools may have also made some degree of off-setting savings during the first lockdown period. TG said the DfE would welcome more information about both savings and additional costs.

MJ said the maintained schools in Dorset had been asked to provide the local authority with a predicted return on budgets for 2020/21. She said the council wanted to be able to compare year on year expenditure. However, she said that information was only just being collected now.

AM said there would be savings, whether it be from catering, school trips, or heating and water usage, though, of course, outweighed by the additional costs incurred.

JMcl said it was important to remember that most schools remained open throughout the lockdown, so while there may have been savings, schools were not closed, but were supporting vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers. They will have continued to have operating costs, he said.

TG asked if f40 could help to identify the scale of savings that may have been made by schools during the first half of 2020.

## **10. Additional issues**

JMcl said when schools returned in September, everyone thought there would be increased instances of vulnerable children having come to harm during the first lockdown period. However, he said evidence had so far not shown this to be the case.

JMcl said the fact that children were in small bubbles, and less able to have confidential conversations with teachers, may mean that some children feel unable to voice their concerns or fears. He said issues may come to light at a later date.

JMcl asked that the DfE consider this issue in their long-term planning around Covid support.

And he also asked if a long-term plan could be adopted with regards school transport and extra funding.

TG said he understood both points and said they would be taken into consideration.

## **11. Elective Home Education**

MJ raised the issue of Elective Home Education (EHE) and said more children were being taken out of schools due to the pandemic. She said, as a result, these children will not have been included in the October school census, and therefore not included in funding projections for next year. MJ said this posed a problem for schools if they were then brought back into the system next year, as there would be insufficient funding to cater for them.

MJ suggested the DfE use UPN / ULN data through the census to understand whether this was happening and adjust funding to individual schools accordingly.

Both AM and JMcl said they had seen a spike in the number of children being taken out of school for EHE.

TG said the department would keep a close eye on EHE to monitor the trends and would take action accordingly. He said they had also been looking at the number of children enrolled into Reception at primary schools, but Covid had not appeared to have had an impact on the numbers.

## **12. SEND**

JMcl said he appreciated the discussion was about Covid costs for schools but felt he could not ignore the issue of SEND. He asked if the DfE was looking at SEND funding.

TG said, without doubt, SEND costs was a very significant issue in school funding. He assured f40 that the department was looking at the issue of SEND and said colleagues were working hard on progressing the SEND review.

### **13. In summary**

The f40 group has agreed to assist in providing more information to the DfE on:

- PPE and other costs to SEND schools
- Impact of teacher absences on schools' ability to cope with Covid
- Supply teacher costs to schools
- Savings to schools

**Ends**



**Schools Forum**  
**School Funding and SEN Working Group**  
**MS TEAMS MEETING**

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority (LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Neil Baker (Christchurch), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), Helean Hughes (Director LA) Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA), Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Gary Binstead (Children’s’ Commissioning LA)

**Apologies:** Sam Churchill (Hilmarton)

1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b>                  Apologies were received from SC above.                  Outstanding action – to seek Special School representation on the group from a current SF member.</p>	MT
2.	<p><b>Minutes from previous meeting</b>                  The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>                  There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Budget Monitoring for the period to 31st December 2020 (MT)</b></p> <p>MT shared her report with the group. The forecast overspend for 20/21 is £9.123m which is a small movement from the last report.</p> <p>Highlights:                  Early Years - No variance is forecast on 2, 3 &amp; 4-year-old grant at this time due to uncertainty around January payments and census data. The local authority intends to distribute maximum funding without pushing an overspend position when the prior year adjustment is done by the DfE in July.</p> <p>School Budgets – the underspend is largely driven by the growth fund and this offsets the DSG overspend position.</p> <p>The HNB forecast overspend is £11.556m – again, based on higher numbers of EHCPS and levels of support requested. This forecast includes an estimate of future growth based on historical trend. The pressures on the HNB continue and the HNB working group will be prioritising demand management, savings projects, commissioning and spend controls.</p> <p>Of major concern remains the impact of this on the DSG deficit reserve balance which is held in the local authority’s balance sheet. The reserve balance is now forecast to be £19.933m.</p>	

	This overspend will continue to be cash flowed by the local authority as per the DfE guidance.	
5	<p><b>CSSB Update Report 21-22 (MT)</b></p> <p>The CSSB was agreed in principle at the December SF meeting subject to any changes. There is one change, the DfE have notified the copyright licences are £0.395M which means the amount available to transfer to the HNB is reduced slightly to £0.192M.</p> <p>NB asked if comms could go to all schools around Copyright licenses (what was and wasn't included) – this will be added to the RC and newsletter</p> <p>Section A – SF consult only</p> <p>Sections B&amp;C – SF sign off required on a line by line basis</p>	MT
6	<p><b>HNB Update Report 21-22 (MT)</b></p> <p>The HNB report was agreed in principle at the December SF meeting subject to any changes. There is one change, the revised estimate of planned places for specialist provision and confirmation that the special school places will include an amount for the teachers' pay and pension grant £660 per place.</p> <p>MT shared the draft DSG management plan on screen, pointing out the pertinent points. It was unfortunate that the late changes communicated last week around home schooling meant the HNB recovery group needed to be cancelled however, the DfE return is simply a combination of data, finances, our SEN &amp; Inclusion Strategy and existing recovery plans. MT welcomed feedback received from the group and this will be added;</p> <p>NB – include Ofsted positive commentary around Parent / Carer feedback &amp; note actions raised from Ofsted may not be affordable</p> <p>NB – note, notional SEN; funding mechanism does not necessarily align with CYP with SEND.</p> <p>MT - Add that SEN is not aligned to School Effectiveness (row 18) Training (row 22)</p> <p>RC – note that Wiltshire is a rural county which means many C&amp;YP in remote communities cannot access services</p> <p>NB – business model changed around provision of EPS – subsidised membership scheme and income target removed with FACT pilot scheme.</p>	MT
	The agenda was re-ordered to facilitate LP who had to teach live at 10.30.	
7	<p><b>School Funding Settlement 21-22</b></p> <p>GD took the group through the report, highlighting areas of major change / interest. Time of investment as per the national 3 year "Boris Billions"; 21-22 remains a "soft year" for SF to make decisions around formula; national increase of 3% being Year 2 of the Government's additional funding pledge.</p> <p>Possible hard formula 24-25 FY and transition towards this.</p> <p>NB asked a question around the PPG census data change from the January census to the October census, with particular respect to LAC and post-LAC pupils. The change in the date for the census could result in the</p>	

	<p>funding for some pupils being treated as LAC rather than post-LAC with funding sitting with the Virtual head rather than the school.</p> <p>Total quantum of DSG of £406M, an increase of £31m but includes Teachers Pay and Pension ex-grant funding of £15M so a real increase of £16M</p> <p>De-delegation of centrally provided services for maintained schools was confirmed at the December 2020 meeting</p> <p>GD to submit school budgets to the DfE by 21-01-2021 following Schools Forum.</p>	
8	<p><b>Schools Block Delegated Report 21-22</b></p> <p>GD took the group through his report. The funding increase is a really positive one for Wiltshire. To allocate the new funding, the funding floor has been lifted and we were on the bottom of the funding floor which is why we have benefitted. This means that the NFF can be fully funded across all DfE factors at DfE proposed rates should SF wish to implement them.</p> <p>Decisions will need to be made around;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing Sparsity to the new DfE rates £26k to £45k for primary schools and £67.5k to £70k for secondary schools. Sparsity is an optional factor. SF had previously agreed the lower rate but felt the significant increase simply increases the inequity of the formula factor where two 'like' schools are funded differently. DfE Small &amp; rural schools consultation / review pending – date unclear but expected Spring 2021 NB - nothing changed so existing decisions still stand LP - careful to reduce / remove – minded to retain current values MT - suggested passing on the 3% funding increase in line with other formula factors to £26,780 and £69,525.</li> <li>2. Transferring 0.5% of SB (net of TP&amp;P funding) to support HNB pupils – this had been agreed in principle at the December meeting, assuming the NFF was fully affordable</li> <li>3. Applying Mobility Factors – previously, SF had felt mobility had been double funding for service schools. GD has updated the model, based upon the latest census data and with the Army rebasing being complete. Now, the majority of schools who benefit are not service schools, the levels of 'real' mobility have stabilised, and the additional MOD funding is no longer available so it may be appropriate to take a different view as the circumstances have changed. NB – in principle decision now supported and funding 'real' mobility to support schools where the 'lagged' pupil funding from pupils joining schools after the October census is appropriate. GD – far better fit now army funding removed and stable levels of mobility LP – agree, could really make a difference to these schools GD – update wording on report to reflect</li> </ol>	

9	<p><b>Early Years Update Report 21-22 (MT)</b></p> <p>The EY provisional 21-22 allocations are now available and the proposed model is to fully passport the 8p to 2-year olds and 5p of the 6p to 3&amp;4-year olds. To be discussed at the EYRG meeting tomorrow.</p>	
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>MT raised a press report following the last SF meeting where the reporter had slightly misunderstood the reports on the different financial years. Although this was not a negative report, to facilitate more accurate reporting, MT would send press release to Sue Ellison in the Comms team to share with the democratic reporter.</p>	
11	<p><b><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></b></p> <p>Next meeting – date provisionally set at: Monday 1st March 2021 @ 8.30am This is planned as a virtual teams meeting.</p> <p>Next Schools Forum meeting Thursday 21 January 2021 @ 1.30pm. This is planned as a virtual teams meeting.</p>	

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group  
11 January 2021

Schools Forum  
21 January 2021

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## **DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2020-21**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2020-21 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### **Main Considerations**

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
3. An overspend of £9.123 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. The main driver for this forecast variance is the on-going pressures on the high needs block, the reasons for these are known and understood. The detailed budget monitoring report is shown in Appendix 1.

### ***Early Years Budgets (Budget £27.827M, forecast variance (0.204M))***

4. The pandemic has created much uncertainty around early years and grant guidance around settings has changed following government expectations around opening.
5. Summer Term until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – the government's expectation was that settings would open to facilitate children of key workers, vulnerable children with a social worker and those children with an education health and care plan. Open settings were paid at 100% with additional incentive payments of £100 per child per week to fund the additional costs of PPE and deep cleaning. Closed settings were paid at 80%. A hardship fund was set up for those closed settings who evidenced financial hardship as a result of COVID19. From 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Government's expectation was that all settings would be open and therefore payments continued to be made at 100% to open settings and 80% to closed settings with lower payments made to open settings to help fund the additional costs of cleaning and PPE.
6. For the Autumn Term, there have been broadly the same number of children in settings as in the previous Autumn however, dual placements are not currently recommended and therefore some settings have above average reduced hours and some increased hours. Clearly the children in settings require funding at the usual rate in order for them to be able to staff appropriately. No additional payments for PPE and cleaning have been made. For providers who may be seeing a temporary dip, support payments are being made at the current hourly rates, representing above average reductions across the sector over the last three years. Modelling and consultation is currently underway to allocate any surplus funding to settings for the Autumn term.
7. For the Spring Term, the government's expectation is that settings will only be paid for children attending settings. Due to the late announcement around Schools not early years settings closures as of the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, we await further guidance from the DfE.
8. Due to the uncertainty, no variance is forecast on the budgets for the free entitlement for 15 and 30 hours childcare for 2, 3 & 4 year olds however, this will depend on the outcome of the October census, consultation with the sector representatives, increased numbers of children returning to childcare, and children becoming eligible

and the DfE's post financial year adjustment which, could be negative if the January 2021 census numbers fall.

	<b>Budgeted PTE</b>	<b>Forecast PTE</b>	<b>Forecast PTE Variance</b>	<b>Budgeted Spend £M</b>	<b>Forecast Spend £M</b>	<b>Forecast spend Variance £M</b>
2-year olds	774	774	Nil	2.382	2.382	Nil
3- & 4-year olds	9,938	9,938	Nil	24.358	24.358	Nil
ISF	447	303	(144)	0.357	0.242	(0.116)

9. The 19-20 adjustment based on the January 2020 census data was an increase of £0.539 million. In addition, the 20-21 allocation increased by £0.943 million. This reflects a higher count of children than the previous year.
10. The local authority has a duty of sufficiency in this sector and is working closely with providers to support through these turbulent times, providing additional financial support whilst following the COVID guidance and remaining within the terms and conditions of the grant funding. This means that private income losses cannot be supported from this grant.
11. A separate COVID grant has been received by the local authority (COMF grant) to support, facilitate and aid containment of the virus. An amount of £1.0 million has been earmarked to allocate to providers under certain criteria, namely
  - a. Payment to open or partially open settings - funded and non funded provision; a one-off grant to support purchase of PPE and increased cleaning costs
  - b. To provide additional support in the event of continued staff absence due to pregnancy, extremely clinically vulnerable or COVID sickness in cases where staff cannot be furloughed to aid containment of the virus
  - c. To fund private losses at the EYE rates where bubbles burst, and closures take place. This includes wraparound childcare.
  - d. To fund a deep clean prior to the re-opening of a bubble or, whole setting

**Schools Budgets (Budget £291.677M, forecast variance (£2.295M))**

12. The forecast underspend on schools largely relates to the schools growth fund which currently shows an underspend and is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG.

**High Needs Budgets (Budget £53.632M, forecast variance £11.556M)**

13. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £11.556m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School packages, alternative provision, named pupil allowances and top ups. When the level of funding available does not match the local needs, the budget cannot be set at an achievable level and so the location of the overspend is not an indication of individual budget issues but that the whole block under significant pressure.
14. The major driver of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in FTE – full time equivalent pupils. Variance analysis is provided at Appendix 2. It is important to note that the number of EHCPs being requested has slowed slightly

however this could be due to reduced face to face contact with pupils due to the COVID pandemic.

	<b>Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire</b>
Number as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	3,860
As at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	4,044
Forecast demand ( <i>based on historical trend</i> )	4,274
Forecast Year to Date Movement	<b>414 (10.73% increase)</b>

15. As Schools Forum are aware, much work has been done, over recent years to investigate and address the issues. More detail is reported regularly through the high needs working group update from the Director, Education and Skills.

### **DSG Reserve**

16. The reserve brought forward of £11.350 million is increased by the positive early years block adjustment of £0.539 million. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £19.933 million.

17. With effect from 2018-19, the department tightened the rules governing deficits in local authorities' overall DSG accounts, under which local authorities must explain plans for bringing DSG account back into balance. The DfE required a report from any local authority that had a DSG deficit of more than 1% as at the end of any financial year.

18. With effect from 2020-21, the department further updated the rules governing deficits and expanded the requirements around deficits to include a DSG management plan workbook. A draft of this is included later in the agenda.

	<b>DSG Reserve £ M</b>
2019-20 Brought Forward	(11.350)
2019-20 Early Years Adjustment	0.539
2020-21 Forecast Overspend	(9.123)
2020-21 Forecast DSG Reserve Deficit	(19.933)

### **Proposals**

19. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of December 2020.

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Service Area	Current Annual Budget	Period 9 Forecast	Period 9 Forecast Variance		19/20 Outturn Variance	October forecast variance £m	Budget Move-ment from Previous Report
	£m	£m	£m	%			
Three to Four Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	24.358	24.358	0.000	0.00%	0.986	0.000	0.000
Two Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	2.382	2.382	0.000	0.00%	0.204	0.000	0.000
Early Years Inclusion Support Fund	0.357	0.242	(0.116)	-32.40%	0.023	(0.116)	0.000
Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF	0.309	0.309	0.000	0.00%	(0.041)	0.000	0.000
Early Years Central Expenditure	0.422	0.334	(0.088)	-20.83%	0.000	(0.050)	-0.038
<b>Early Years Block</b>	<b>27.827</b>	<b>27.624</b>	<b>-0.204</b>	<b>-0.73%</b>	<b>1.172</b>	<b>-0.166</b>	<b>-0.038</b>
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools	109.365	109.365	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools	177.438					0.000	0.000
Licences and Subscriptions	0.051	0.037	(0.014)	-27.39%	0.000	(0.004)	-0.010
Free School Meals	0.021	0.021	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness)	0.604	0.452	(0.152)	-25.13%	0.013	(0.170)	0.019
Behaviour Support Team	0.622	0.622	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement	0.528	0.446	(0.082)	-15.49%	(0.056)	(0.093)	0.011
<b>De Delegated Total</b>	<b>1.826</b>	<b>1.578</b>	<b>-0.248</b>	<b>-13.56%</b>	<b>-0.043</b>	<b>-0.268</b>	<b>0.020</b>
Growth Fund	3.047	1.000	(2.047)	-67.18%	(0.245)	(2.047)	0.000
<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>291.677</b>	<b>111.944</b>	<b>-2.295</b>	<b>-0.79%</b>	<b>-0.288</b>	<b>-2.315</b>	<b>0.020</b>
Special School Place Funding	7.560	7.560	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Resource Base (RB) Funding	1.932	1.932	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	1.908	1.908	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>High Needs Block (all schools)</b>	<b>11.400</b>	<b>11.400</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	5.015	7.919	2.905	57.92%	2.295	3.330	-0.426
Special School Top-Up	6.869	9.602	2.733	39.79%	0.893	2.322	0.411
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	1.674	2.249	0.575	34.37%	0.246	0.591	-0.015
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	0.933	1.670	0.737	79.03%	(0.402)	0.749	-0.012
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.791	2.791	0.000	0.00%	0.124	0.000	0.000
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Devolved to Maintained &amp; Top Up Total</b>	<b>17.281</b>	<b>24.231</b>	<b>6.950</b>	<b>40.22%</b>	<b>3.157</b>	<b>6.992</b>	<b>-0.042</b>
Wiltshire College Places	2.100	2.100	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.644	0.000
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	1.761	2.412	0.651	36.99%	0.199	1.128	-0.477
Post-16 Top-Up	3.620	5.024	1.404	38.80%	0.681	2.856	-1.452
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	10.696	12.983	2.287	21.38%	1.533	0.414	1.872
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	1.718	2.438	0.720	41.90%	1.834	0.091	0.629
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.484	0.507	0.023	4.83%	(0.028)	5.133	-5.110
<b>Funding for Places outside Schools</b>	<b>20.379</b>	<b>25.464</b>	<b>5.085</b>	<b>24.95%</b>	<b>4.219</b>	<b>-0.024</b>	<b>-4.537</b>
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.454	0.430	(0.024)	-5.36%	0.000	0.000	-0.024
Speech & Language	0.566	0.566	0.000	0.00%	0.006	(0.245)	0.245
0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams	1.976	1.760	(0.216)	-10.94%	0.000	(0.257)	0.041
Specialist Teacher Advisory Service	1.305	1.079	(0.226)	-17.32%	0.093	(0.012)	-0.214
Other Special Education	0.271	0.258	(0.012)	-4.57%	0.033	(0.538)	0.525
<b>Commissioned &amp; SEN Support Services</b>	<b>4.572</b>	<b>4.093</b>	<b>-0.479</b>	<b>-10.48%</b>	<b>0.132</b>	<b>11.588</b>	<b>0.572</b>
<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>53.632</b>	<b>65.188</b>	<b>11.556</b>	<b>21.55%</b>	<b>7.508</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-4.008</b>
Central Licences	0.382	0.382	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Central Provision (Former ESG)	1.026	1.026	0.000	0.00%	0.000	(0.003)	0.003
Admissions	0.426	0.491	0.065	15.23%	(0.008)	0.000	0.065
Servicing of Schools Forums	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.00%	0.000	(0.003)	0.003
<b>Central Provision within Schools Budget</b>	<b>1.837</b>	<b>1.901</b>	<b>0.065</b>	<b>3.53%</b>	<b>-0.008</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.070</b>
Education Services to CLA	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.00%	(0.033)	0.000	0.000
Child Protection in Schools & Early Years	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Prudential Borrowing	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Historic Commitments</b>	<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-0.033</b>	<b>-0.003</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Central School Services</b>	<b>2.296</b>	<b>2.361</b>	<b>0.065</b>	<b>2.82%</b>	<b>-0.041</b>	<b>9.105</b>	<b>0.070</b>
<b>Total Schools Budget</b>	<b>375.431</b>	<b>207.116</b>	<b>9.123</b>	<b>2.43%</b>	<b>8.351</b>	<b>9.474</b>	<b>-3.955</b>
Pupil Premium (academy & maintained)	15.314	15.314	0.000	0			
6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant)	1.182	1.182	0.000	0			
UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained)	3.345	3.345	0.000	0			
PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained)	3.605	3.605	0.000	0			
Teachers' Pension Grant	0.401	0.401	0.000	0			
Teachers' Pay Grant		0.000	0.000	0			
Army Rebasing Funding	1.476	1.476	0.000	0			
Other Schools Grants							
<b>DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools</b>	<b>25.324</b>	<b>25.324</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING</b>	<b>400.755</b>	<b>232.439</b>	<b>9.123</b>	<b>2.28%</b>			

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 31st December 2020 - this is an estimate of net expenditure on the schools budget  
Appendix 2 - the service forecasts of planned activity in FTE (full time equivalent pupils) as at 31st December 2020 - this is a measure of volumes of pupil placements / support arrangements

Volume analysis	Budgeted Activity	Period 9 Forecast Activity	Period 9 Forecast Variance		19/20 Outturn Volume	Volume movement from Previous Report	Period 1 Forecast Price	19/20 Outturn Price	Unit
	FTE	FTE	FTE	%					
Three/Four Year Olds FE	9,938	9,938	0	0%	4,997	0	£4.20	£4.20	p/hr
Two Year Olds FE	774	774	0	0%	419	0	£5.40	£5.32	p/hr
ISF	0	0	0	0%	591	-	£615	£615	pa
							£0.53	£0.53	p/hr
<b>Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>0</b>			
Sp Sch Place Funding	756	756	0	0%	716	12	£10,000	£10,000	pa
RB Funding	322	322	0	0%	273	21	£6,000	£6,000	pa
ELP Funding	318	318	0	0%	326	3	£6,001	£6,000	pa
	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>6</b>			
NPA	1,042	1,377	335	32%	1,162	36	£5,752	£5,715	pa
Special School Top-Up	778	929	151	19%	875	16	£10,340	£9,850	pa
RB Top-Up	351	393	42	12%	391	0	£5,728	£5,202	pa
ELP Top-Up	317	381	64	20%	353	17	£4,388	£3,132	pa
	<b>2,487</b>	<b>3,079</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>£7,871</b>	<b>£6,615</b>	pa
Wiltshire College Places	350	350	0	0%	350	-	£6,000	£6,000	pa
Non Wiltshire Schools	177	202	25	14%	201	1	£11,927	£10,716	pa
Post-16 Top-Up	394	451	57	14%	443	34	£11,131	£9,873	pa
Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch	214	252	37	17%	237	3	£51,569	£49,673	pa
SEN AP, DP & EHE	164	159	-5	-3%	199	11	£15,333	n/a	pa
	<b>950</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>£23,925</b>	<b>£18,863</b>	pa
<b>High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET</b>	<b>4,834</b>	<b>5,539</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>5,175</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>£11,769</b>		

The total activity FTE is higher than total no of EHCPs as children in SS, ELP & RB may also have top ups  
SS, ELP & RB places above those agreed with the DfE are costed to top ups

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## Wiltshire Council

### Schools Forum

21 January 2021

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#### **Schools Revenue Funding 2021-22 - Funding Settlement & Budget Setting Process**

##### **Purpose of the Paper**

1. To update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2021-22.
2. The report will outline the funding settlement announced on 17 December 2020 and the impact on school budgets arising from the settlement. The report will also outline the decision-making process for the 2021-22 budget.
3. Further detail on each of the funding Blocks and the specific decisions required will be provided in separate papers on this agenda. A separate decision paper will also be provided so that decisions can be considered after all the update reports have been discussed.

##### **Introduction to Funding Changes for 2021-22**

4. In the Autumn of 2019, the government announced its pledge to boost schools and high needs funding. Building on the 2019-20 funding levels, the cash increases of £14.5 billion over 3 years would comprise;
  - £2.6 billion in 2020-21
  - £4.8 billion in 2021-22 (increase by £2.2bn)
  - £7.1 billion in 2022-23 (increase by £2.3bn)
5. In addition, a further £700million was pledged for High Needs nationally in 2020-21 and a further £730m for 2021-22.
6. The Department for Education (DfE) have continued to allocate school funding on the basis of the National Funding Formula (NFF) which should see all schools benefitting from the additional funding. Nationally, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) shows an average increase of 3% in the pupil-led funding factors compared to 2020-21. The 2021-22 year is another 'soft' year with local Schools' Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology.
7. The introduction of mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels for the 2020-21 year have been continued and the rates have increased for the 2021-22 year as detailed in the table below.

<b><u>MPPFL</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21</u></b>	<b><u>2021-22</u></b>
Key Stage 1&2	£3,750	£4,180*
Key Stage 3	£4,800	£5,215*
Key Stage 4	£5,300	£5,715*

\* - Includes Teachers Pay and Pension element of £180 KS1&2 and £265 KS3&4

8. The introduction of the mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels represents a step towards the introduction of a 'hard' formula, where national rates must be implemented without allowing for local discretion. Further consultation regarding the 'hard' formula is expected as the DfE propose a transition and 'hardening' between now and 2024-25.
9. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) threshold has been adjusted to ensure that all schools gain through the allocations per pupil and must be set between +0.5% and +2.0%.
10. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data has been refreshed and the 2019 dataset will be used rather than the 2015 dataset.
11. Following the cancellation of the 2020 primary school assessments due to Covid-19, the Low prior Attainment ratios for years 1 and 7 for schools has been updated using the corresponding ratios for pupils in years 2 and 8.
12. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding will continue in the 2021-22 year at the same rates as in the 2020-21 year. The DfE have announced that the numbers of eligible PPG pupils will be taken from the October 2020 census and not the January 2021 census. The funding rates for 2021-22 are set out in the table below.

<b><u>Premium</u></b>	<b><u>Primary</u></b>	<b><u>Secondary</u></b>
FSM6 (Deprivation)	£1,345	£955
LAC and Post-LAC*	£2,345	£2,345
Service	£310	£310

\* - LAC PPG is payable to the LA's Virtual Headteacher. Where a pupil has previously been LAC but has left LA care through adoption, special guardianship order or child arrangements order, then the PPG is payable to the school.

## **School Revenue Funding Settlement 2021-22**

### ***Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-22***

13. The DfE issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council is **£406.342m**. This is an increase of £31.839m compared with 2020-21. The table below shows the breakdown of the Blocks.

<b><u>Block</u></b>	<b><u>2021-22</u></b>
Schools Block	£317,724,345
Central Block	£2,565,122
High Needs Block	£57,835,120
Early Years Block	£28,217,273
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>£406,341,860</b>

14. The increase reflects the impact of the increase to Schools' Block funding for the NFF incorporating the additional funding pledged by the government, the overall increase in the numbers of pupils to be funded from the Schools' Block, and the impact of the funding uplift through the NFF for the High Needs Block.
15. The increase also reflects the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants which were not previously included within the Blocks and sat outside the DSG. The additional funding for the Teachers Pay and Pension in the Blocks is £15.094m, which means that for comparative purposes the 'real' uplift in the DSG is £16.745m.
16. The split of funding between the Blocks is set out below to show the 'real' movements.

	<b><u>2019-20</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21</u></b>	<b><u>2021-22</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>	<b><u>Pay &amp; Pens.</u></b>
Schools Block	275,215,164	293,142,767	303,545,131	10,402,364	14,179,214
Central Block	2,570,343	2,479,715	2,455,503	-24,212	109,619
High Needs Block	47,091,825	51,996,188	57,029,690	5,033,502	805,430
Early Years Block	26,768,825	26,884,359	28,217,273	1,332,914	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>351,646,157</b>	<b>374,503,029</b>	<b>391,247,597</b>	<b>16,744,568</b>	<b>15,094,263</b>

17. The overall uplift in 'real' funding for comparative purposes is 4.47%, split as Schools - 3.55%, Central – **-0.98%**, High Needs – 9.68%, Early Years – 4.96%.
18. The **Schools Block** has been calculated based on the NFF figures published in October 2020. The funding values published in July 2020 have been used to calculate a PUF and SUF (primary unit of funding and secondary unit of funding) for

Wiltshire. These units of funding have been multiplied by the numbers of primary and secondary pupils from the October 2020 census to arrive at the Schools' Block total for 2021-22. (The rates now include the Teachers Pay and Pension funding)

19. The PUF and SUF rates for 2021-22 are detailed in the table below;

	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Inc / 'Real' Inc &amp; %</b>
<b>PUF</b>	£3,849.15	£4,079.69	£4,432.68	£352.99 / <b>£172.99 / 4.2%</b>
<b>SUF</b>	£4,885.94	£5,092.09	£5,514.14	£422.05 / <b>£157.05 / 3.1%</b>

20. Pupil numbers have increased in each phase, as per the table below:

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Primary	38,218	15	38,233	262	38,495	-45	38,450
Secondary	24,471	412	24,883	481	25,364	242	25,606
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62,689</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>63,116</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>63,859</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>64,056</b>

21. Included within the Schools Block of funding of £317.724m is the amount of £1.814m allocated on the basis of pupil growth within Wiltshire. A breakdown of the elements comprising the Schools' Block is detailed in the table below.

<b>Funding 2021-22</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Core funding	£301,730,998
Growth funding	£1,814,133
<b>Net Funding</b>	<b>£303,545,131</b>
Pay & Pension funding	£14,179,214
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£317,724,345</b>

22. The DfE have stipulated that the funding awarded through the Teachers Pay and Pension elements must be excluded when considering any transfers between the Schools' Block and other Blocks. Therefore, any transfer would be based upon the Net Funding figure of £303.545m, not the Total funding figure of £317.724m.
23. The **Central Schools Services Block** (CSSB) has been calculated according to the national funding formula for the CSSB. October 2020 pupil numbers have been multiplied by a unit value of £34.31 (unit rate of £32.59, plus £1.72 for centrally

employed teachers) and a headcount of 64,056. Funding for agreed historic commitments has then been added to that total. The Block is calculated as;

Pupil Funding (£34.31 x 64,056)	£2,197,762
Historic Commitment Funding	£367,360
<b>Total CSSB Funding</b>	<b>£2,565,122</b>

24. The **High Needs Block** has been allocated as per the baselines notified to local authorities in September 2020. These baselines are calculated according to the NFF for high needs, a significant percentage of which is allocated according to historic spend. The basic entitlement amount reflects the numbers of pupils in special schools has been updated to reflect the October 2020 census and the import/export adjustment. The uplifted funding reflects and includes Wiltshire's share of the £730m additional funding announced for High Needs in 2021-22.
25. Included within the Wiltshire allocation is £0.805m for the Teachers Pay and Pension funding for Special Schools. This has been equated to an uplift of £660 per place to be added to the current funding in Special Schools.
26. The DfE continue with their commitment to reviewing the High Needs NFF and a consultation is proposed with the initial changes expected to be reflected in 2022-23. The review will cover all factors of the High Needs NFF including the 'Historic Spend' factor and also the weightings applied to each factor.
27. The **Early Years Block** reflects the indicative hourly rates announced for 2021-22 and an estimate of the full year effect of the entitlement to an additional 15 hours of childcare for children of working parents which came into effect in September 2017. Again, Wiltshire remains on the funding floor for the early years national funding formula. It should be noted that the Early Years Block would ordinarily be updated during the 2021-22 financial year to reflect the January 2021 and January 2022 early years census data. In the current year, due to Covid-19, the census information will not present a true reflection and therefore the DfE will be looking at how to address the funding position.

### **Block Transfers 2021-22**

28. The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools' Block and other Blocks within the DSG. Local authorities have the flexibility to move up to 0.5% from the Schools' Block to the other Blocks including the high needs Block with the agreement of Schools Forum. It has previously been agreed by Schools Forum that a transfer up to a maximum of 0.5% would be supported. Due to the Secretary of State's previous decisions regarding transfers and the

requirement to passport 99.5% of the Schools' Block of funding to schools, a Disapplication Request to transfer a sum greater than 0.5% has not been submitted.

## **Budget Setting Process 2021-22**

29. Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The DfE are required to confirm the formula is compliant with the funding regulations and will then confirm budgets to academies by the end of February 2021. The LA is required to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2021.
30. In terms of setting the budgets for schools for 2021-22, the amount of funding available for distribution to schools will be calculated as follows:

DSG Schools Block Allocation	317,724,345
Less: Growth Fund	x,xxx,xxx
Less: Transfer to Other Blocks	x,xxx,xxx
Total available for School Funding	<b>xxx,xxx,xxx</b>

31. The update reports will show that many of the decisions in relation to individual funding Blocks will impact on the affordability, or otherwise, of other proposals and this will be important to take into account when considering the final decision paper.

## **De-Delegation**

32. There are a number of budgets that maintained primary and secondary schools can agree to de-delegate so that services continue to be provided centrally. De-delegation cannot be applied to amounts delegated to academies or special schools.
33. At the December 2020 Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue in 2021-22, as in 2020-21. The amount of each de-delegated service budget is based upon the relevant formula factors for maintained schools.

## **Proposal**

34. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Funding Working Group & SEN Working Group  
11 January 2021

Schools Forum  
21 January 2021

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## **DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK UPDATE 2021-22**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update schools forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2021-22 financial year and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.
2. Schools Forum will recall the budget proposal was approved in principle at the December meeting and the only change since this is the actual charge for copyright licences has been received from the DfE.

### **Main Considerations**

3. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the DfE has allocated a provisional CSSB allocation of £2.449 million for Wiltshire. This has been calculated using the national funding formula for the CSSB which applies a unit value of £34.31 to the pupil numbers from the October 2020 census. Funding for agreed historic commitments for 2021-22 is then added to the amount of funding generated by the formula to give the overall total CSSB.
4. Schools Forum will recall allocations were published earlier than usual in July 2020 and as a result a report was presented, and this budget was agreed in principal at the December 2020 meeting.

### **Protection and Funding Changes**

5. Schools Forum will remember that the DfE have been reducing historic commitments. Wiltshire has been allocated £0.367m for historic commitments based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2020-21 reduced by 20% of £0.092m. The DfE apply a maximum per pupil reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities of -2.5%. Permitted gains are capped at 6.45% for 2021-22.

### **Function of the CSSB**

6. The CSSB allocates funding to the LA to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils of maintained schools and academies. Funding includes:
  - funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
  - funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block
  - residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block.
7. The duties included within the CSSB are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **Additional Funding Changes for 2020-21**

8. Additional pension funding that local authorities have claimed for centrally employed teachers will be rolled into the ongoing responsibilities element of the CSSB. This funding

will be added as a per-pupil amount to the relevant local authority's per-pupil rate. As this funding is based on local authority claims received in May and June, the DfE will make this adjustment in DSG allocations later in the year, and these are not included in the provisional NFF allocations.

9. The decisions that schools forum are required to make in relation to the central schools block are listed below. These are in relation to the duties that local authorities have towards all schools.

10. Schools forum approval is required on a line by line basis for this group of services which are funded from central schools block. The tables show each line, the 2020-21 base and the proposed 2021-22 budget.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2020-21 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2021-22 £M
<b>Section A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools forum approval is <b>not</b> required (although they should be consulted)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Copyright Licences for 2021-22 for Wiltshire as set by the DfE.</li> </ul>	£0.382m	£0.395m*
<b>Section B</b> Schools forum approval is required on a <b>line-by-line</b> basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>back pay for equal pay claims</li> <li>remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies</li> <li>places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils</li> <li>admissions</li> <li>servicing of schools forum</li> <li>contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools</li> <li>contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (voted on by relevant maintained school members of the forum only)</li> </ul>	The limitation on increases to centrally held spend has been removed from the budgets for admissions and servicing of schools forums. It is therefore proposed to apply salary inflation to the budget for the central teams and address the safeguarding and admission pressures. This is affordable within the overall CSSB allocation.  <b>Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG**:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education Welfare Service</li> </ul>	£0.194	£0.199
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asset Management</li> </ul>	£0.181	£0.186
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory / Regulatory Duties</li> </ul>	£0.651	£0.669
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admissions</li> </ul>	£0.426	£0.438
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Servicing of Schools Forum</li> </ul>	£0.003	£0.003

*\*the actual amount for copyright licences is calculated by the DfE*

*\*\* Pay inflation has been added at 2.75% - this can be reviewed as national discussions continue.*

### **Section C – Historic Commitments**

11. In 2017-18 the DfE provided supplementary guidance on the funding and reporting of historic commitments within central DSG. The guidance also detailed the evidence that Schools Forum required on each item in order to approve the spend:

- **Minutes from the schools forum prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013** – schools forum should have agreed the commitment prior to 2013
- **Proof that the commitment extended at least as far as the 2018-19 financial year.** Evidence can include reports which indicated an end date in to 2018-19 or beyond, or where the commitment has no specific end date.
- **Where budgets relate to non-staffing costs, there must be a contractual commitment** (such as a PFI agreement or lease agreement) which extends into the relevant financial year.
- **Schools forum papers and minutes that show that approval has been granted for the financial year.** The forum is expected to approve each spending line annually. It is important that schools forums have sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision.

12. Having considered the guidance and the available evidence, the commitments agreed by schools forum for 2018-19 and therefore funded within the CSSB allocation for 2021-22 are as per the table overleaf. The reduction has been taken from the contribution to CERA in order that vulnerable pupils funding is prioritised.

13. The overall total is within the £0.367m allocated for historic commitments.

14. Schools Forum should consider the DfE's intention to reduce the historic funding over time in this and future years' funding decisions.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2020-21 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2021-22 £M
<p><b>Section C</b></p> <p><b>Historic Commitments:</b></p> <p>Schools forum approval is required on a <b>line-by-line</b> basis. The budget cannot exceed the value agreed in the previous funding period and no new commitments can be entered into</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged</li> <li>contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</li> <li>existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged)</li> <li>Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013</li> </ul>	<p><b>Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans</b> - Schools Forum decision December 2007 to support PEPs for Looked After Children from 2008/09 financial year as required under "Care Matters". Allocation based on original estimate of £500 per LAC and managed by Virtual Head Teacher. PPG Plus now also supports PEPs <i>and so this funding was reduced to £103,000 in 2018/19 – no change is requested by the Virtual School.</i></p>	0.103	0.103  <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p><b>Child Protection in Schools Adviser</b> - Schools Forum decision January 2006 to support staff within Children's Services to provide support and advice to schools enabling them to meet their statutory responsibilities.</p>	0.056	0.056  <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p><b>Prudential Borrowing</b> Schools forum decision to support approx. £3m capital financing for 13-year period</p>	0.300	0.208  <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.367</b>
Balance unallocated and available to transfer to the HNB		0.184	0.192

15. Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
16. The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units (PRUs), should agree the amount the local authority will retain.
  - If the local authority and schools forum are unable to reach a consensus on the amount to be retained by the local authority, the matter can be referred to the Secretary of State.
17. Local authorities should set a single rate per 5 to 16-year-old pupil for all mainstream maintained schools, both primary and secondary; in the interests of simplicity, this should be deducted from basic entitlement funding.
18. Many schools forums have agreed a top slice of schools funding to meet this shortfall. Wiltshire's schools have benefitted from taken the decision to treat the reduction in ESG funding as part of the general austerity reductions when setting the Council's medium-term financial plan. This has allowed the Council to fund business plan objectives and local priorities. The Council has deliberately selected to offer a level of protection for our school effectiveness services and have managed to avoid seeking approval from Schools Forum to date.
19. In addition, the DfE have provided an alternative transitional grant. The DfE have not yet confirmed that the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant will continue in financial year 2021-22. Should this grant be removed or significantly reduced, the situation will need to be reviewed.
20. There are no proposals to fund services for maintained schools only contained within this report.
21. Assuming the proposed budget is accepted by schools forum, an amount of £0.192m unallocated CSSB is estimated to transfer to fund high needs pressures.

## **Proposals**

1. Schools Forum is asked to note the change to the copyright licence cost for 21-22 and reduction in the contribution to the high needs block in the report and the required decisions in relation to the central schools block budget for 2021-22. These will be considered fully in the decisions paper.
  - i. Section A – consult only
  - ii. Section B – approve on a line by line basis
  - iii. Section C – approve on a line by line basis
2. Notification of the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant has not yet been shared by the DfE. If the grant ceases or is significantly reduced, the expenditure plan will need to be reviewed, decisions made will be reconsidered at the next available schools forum meeting.

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163.3. We have included references to the relevant schedules in the 2018 (No. 2) Regulations.

### Statutory and regulatory duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of children’s services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)</li> <li>• Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)</li> <li>• Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools’ budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)</li> <li>• Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)</li> <li>• Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)</li> <li>• Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)</li> <li>• Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)</li> <li>• Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 57)</li> <li>• Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 74)</li> <li>• Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 58)</li> <li>• Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 59)</li> <li>• Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 60)</li> <li>• Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 61)</li> <li>• Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 62)</li> <li>• Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers’ pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the</li> </ul>

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
	<p>direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 63)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Sch 2, 76)</li> <li>• HR duties, including: advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Sch 2, 64); determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Sch 2, 65); appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Sch 2, 66)</li> <li>• Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 67)</li> <li>• Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 68)</li> <li>• Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 69)</li> <li>• School companies (Sch 2, 70)</li> <li>• Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 71)</li> <li>• Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 72)</li> <li>• Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 73)</li> </ul>

**Table 9a: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (statutory and regulatory duties)**



## Education welfare

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)</li> <li>• School attendance (Sch 2, 16)</li> <li>• Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection of attendance registers (Sch 2, 79)</li> </ul>

**Table 9b: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (education welfare)**

## Asset management

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)</li> <li>• General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Sch 2, 77a &amp; b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation)</li> <li>• the ability to sustain appropriate loads</li> <li>• reasonable weather resistance</li> <li>• safe escape routes</li> <li>• appropriate acoustic levels</li> <li>• lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards</li> <li>• adequate water supplies and drainage</li> <li>• playing fields of the appropriate standards</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and</li> </ul>

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
	<p>others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)</li> </ul>

Table 9c: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (asset management)

### Central support services

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing grants (Sch 2, 53)</li> <li>• Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Sch 2, 54)</li> <li>• Visual, creative and performing arts (Sch 2, 55)</li> <li>• Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming or athletics) (Sch 2, 56)</li> </ul>

Table 9d: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (central support services)

### Premature retirement and redundancy

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Sch 2, 78)</li> </ul>

Table 9e: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (premature retirement and redundancy)

## Monitoring national curriculum assessment

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 75)</li> </ul>

Table 9f: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (monitoring national curriculum assessment)

## Therapies

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is now covered in the high needs section of the regulations and does not require schools forum approval</li> </ul>

Table 9g: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (therapies)

## Other ongoing duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require schools forum approval</li> <li>Admissions (Sch 2, 9)</li> <li>Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)</li> <li>Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)</li> <li>Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)</li> <li>Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)</li> <li>Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No functions</li> </ul>

<b>Responsibilities held for all schools</b>	<b>Responsibilities held for maintained schools only</b>
studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance <sup>10</sup> (Sch 2, 23)	

**Table 9h: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (other ongoing duties)**

### Historic commitments

<b>Responsibilities held for all schools</b>	<b>Responsibilities held for maintained schools only</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)</li> <li>• Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))</li> <li>• Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))</li> <li>• Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No functions</li> </ul>

**Table 9i: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (historic commitments)**

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<sup>10</sup>Funding for this duty was previously delivered to local authorities via a s.31 grant. Additional funding was added to the CSSB baseline for this from 2018 to 2019.

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group  
11 January 2021

Schools Forum  
21 January 2021

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## **DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE 2021-22**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update schools forum on issues related to the high needs block for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22.
2. Schools Forum will recall the budget proposal was approved in principle at the December meeting and the only changes since this are the now confirmed planned places for September 2021 and the DSG management plan in appendix 2 (*to follow*).

### **Main Considerations**

3. As outlined in the paper on the funding settlement for 2021-22 the high needs block provisional allocation for Wiltshire in 2021-22 is £57.529 million. The high needs block has been calculated according to the new national funding formula for high needs. As previously reported to schools forum, Wiltshire is on the funding floor for the high needs NFF and therefore has received the minimum increase.
4. The table below shows the allocation and increase on 20-21:

	<b>High Needs</b>
2020-21	£51,987,188
2021-22	£57,528,558
Uplift	£5,541,370
% Uplift	10.66%

5. It has been nationally recognised that the level of funding for the most vulnerable pupils has been historically insufficient and included in the total allocation above is an additional £5.541m announced by the government in July. Whilst this additional funding is most welcome, it does not fully address the magnitude of the cumulative pressures from previous financial years nor does it fully address the anticipated pressure for 2021-22 financial year for Wiltshire. In addition to this, a more relevant formula model is anticipated following the outcome of the DfE consultation SEN review.
6. In terms of decision making for the high needs block the guidance on schools forum powers and responsibilities states that all central spend on high needs block provision is decided by the local authority. This would include decisions on top up values. Because of this and the interdependencies of decisions across all the funding blocks, final decisions on high needs will be presented alongside those that schools forum is required to make on all of the other blocks.

### ***Projected Demand on High Needs Block***

7. Appendix 1 provides an early assessment of pressure on the high needs block for 2021-22. These are summarised in the table overleaf:

<b>Pressure</b>	<b>£M estimate</b>
Additional Pressure to meet current Spend levels <i>(based on October 2020 forecast overspend over and above additional HNB pupil led funding)</i>	10.144
New funding for centrally employed teacher pension contributions	(0.152)
Estimate of increase in planned places in school including estimated top ups	1.811
Estimated Cost increase based on planned reduced EHCP rate of increase 2021-22 <i>Demand for placements with schools, colleges and external providers is based on SEN planning demography of 11.12%.</i>	4.716
Estimated Contract Inflation 2021-22 @ 2% <i>External Provider Contract inflation is added to Independent Special School Fees and SEN alternative provision at 2%</i>	0.348
Pay Inflation for SEN teams at 0% flat rate <i>The Chancellor has announced a public sector pay freeze to all staff with a salary of £24,000 and above – further detail is awaited</i>	0.000
Savings as per HNB recovery plan	(2.260)
<b>Total Estimated Cost Pressure for 2020-21</b>	<b>14.606</b>

8. This estimate includes the following assumptions:

- a. Numbers of places for special schools, resource bases and enhanced learning provision (ELP) increase following the place number review.
- b. That the split of funding for the early years inclusion support fund continues to be fully funded from the early years block.

### **DfE Allocation and Other Potential Funding Options**

9. It is not possible to fully fund the pressures above from within the high needs block. In order to partially fund the pressures on the high needs block, the following model could be implemented which includes a transfer from Schools Block.

	<b>£M</b>
DfE HNB Allocation for 2021-22	57.529
Transfer from Central Block (surplus)	0.192
Transfer from Schools Block 0.5%	£1.500
Excess Growth Fund	£TBC
Estimated funding shortfall	£6.943

10. In balancing the budget, it is recommended that;

- a. There is a transfer from the Central Block to High Needs Block – as previous years, any unallocated CSSB is transferred to contribute to the high needs pressures.
- b. Taking into account the wishes of schools who responded to the Autumn consultation, that there is a transfer of Schools Funding to High Needs Block of 0.5% - approximately £1.5 million to be transferred from Schools Block. This will be dependent on the decisions made by the forum around the schools formula.

- c. It is possible that the DfE estimated growth fund surplus to estimated growth fund requirements for 2021-22. In the January decision report suite, Schools Forum will be asked to consider the growth fund level.
- d. The recovery actions of the High Needs Block working group are as presented to Schools Forum are progressed. These assumes a level of success when working with schools on inclusion policy for children and young people.
- e. Earmarked funding as part of the FACT programme is maximised in order to facilitate changes required to achieve savings.

#### **DSG Deficit Reserve & Management Plan**

- 11. The current forecast overspend on the School Funding reserve is £19.898m. This is currently being cash flowed by the local authority.
- 12. This level of deficit has triggered the requirement to submit a DSG Management Plan to the DfE. This has been completed by the High needs recovery group and will be encompassed into the governance and sign off alongside the Council's budget and Schools Budget for 21-22 by Members at Council at the February meeting. The draft is attached as Appendix 2 (*to follow*). This document pulls together the work of ISOS, the High Needs Recovery Group and the SEN and Inclusion Strategy 2020 and is a requirement of the DfE and as such needs to be signed off by Schools Forum alongside the 21-22 budget setting papers.

#### **Proposals**

- 13. Schools Forum is asked to note the pressures on the high needs block for 2021-22 and the potential options to reduce the shortfall against high needs budgets including agreeing a transfer from Schools Block to balance the high needs pressures. This will form part of the decision-making matrix – our final report at today's meeting.
- 14. Schools Forum is asked to approve the draft DSG Management Plan for presenting to Cabinet and submission to the DfE.

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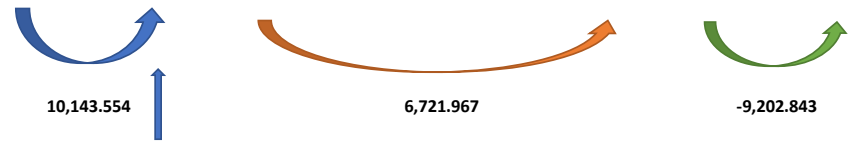


**Appendix 2 - High Needs Budget Proposed Allocation with shortfall allocated as balancing item**

Type of Service	CC	GL	BASE 2021	Forecast Expenditure 20-21	Recharge Teachers Pay Grant (CSSB)	Known changes to Places	Estimated demand impact (11.12% EHCPs)	Apply Contract Inflation Rate	Planned Savings per recovery plan	Savings targets to balance to allocation	Budget Estimate 21-22	Estimated Contract Inflation	Notes
			col a	col b	col c	col d	col e	col f	col g	col h	col i	col j	
High Needs 10041 High Needs fund Sch (SS, ELP & RB PLACES)	10041	790008	11,410.330	11,410.330		822.000		0.000			12,232.330	0%	
High Needs 12190 SEND Central Equipment	12190	790008	145.900	145.900			0.000	0.000			145.900	0%	no change
High Needs 12265 DSC & Portage	12265	790008	454.330	429.960			0.000	0.000			429.960	0%	AE no inflation
High Needs 12850 IndepSpecialSchFees	12850	790008	10,696.047	13,552.206			1,461.966	300.283	-507.000	-1,471.035	13,336.420	2%	Framework inflation
High Needs 12851 SEN EHE & AP	12851	790008	1,718.080	2,132.429			237.126	47.391	-93.000	-411.027	1,912.920	2%	Framework inflation
High Needs 12860 Speech and Language	12860	790008	565.690	565.690				0.000			565.690		CC checking
High Needs 12905 Named Pupil Allowances	12905	790008	5,030.570	8,360.811			815.366	0.000	-360.000	-1,559.268	7,256.910	0%	
High Needs 12906 WTop Up Payments Special Schools	12906	790008	6,868.950	9,191.214		989.376	972.426	0.000	-600.000	-1,741.470	8,811.546	0%	
High Needs 12907 Top Up Payments Resource Bases	12907	790008	1,673.750	2,264.464			248.335	0.000	-200.000	-449.049	1,863.750	0%	
High Needs 12908 Top Up Payments ELPS	12908	790008	932.620	1,681.612			184.998	0.000	-200.000	-294.760	1,371.850	0%	
High Needs 12909 TOP UP POST 16	12909	790008	3,619.760	2,790.900			528.001	0.000	-300.000	-543.711	2,475.190	0%	
High Needs 12910 Specialist Provision	12910	790008	124.900	124.900			0.000	0.000			124.900	0%	
High Needs 12951 Wiltshire Pupils NWS	12951	790008	1,760.790	2,404.311			267.359	0.000		-472.520	2,199.150	0%	
High Needs 12970 Secondary Dev Funding	12970	790008	2,790.900	2,790.900			0.000	0.000			2,790.900	0%	
High Needs 13032 SENSORY SERVICE	13032	790008	936.140	936.140	-63.710		0.000	0.000			872.430	0%	Pay inflation unlikely 21-22
High Needs 13050 Behaviour Support Service	13050	790008	368.700	368.700	-25.700		0.000	0.000			343.000	0%	Pay inflation unlikely 21-22
High Needs 13160 EOTAS Service	13160	790008	412.900	503.443	-16.900		0.000	0.000		-0.003	486.540	0%	Pay inflation unlikely 21-22
High Needs 13530 0-25 Inclusion	13530	790008	1,009.490	1,009.490	-46.350		0.000	0.000			963.140	0%	Pay inflation unlikely 21-22
High Needs 13540 0-25 SEND Locality Team	13540	790008	1,038.030	1,038.030			0.000	0.000			1,038.030	0%	Pay inflation unlikely 21-22
			<b>51,557.877</b>	<b>61,701.431</b>	<b>-152.660</b>	<b>1,811.376</b>	<b>4,715.577</b>	<b>347.675</b>	<b>-2,260.000</b>	<b>-6,942.843</b>	<b>59,220.556</b>		

**Notes**

1. The shortfall in the base is £10 million
2. The 21-22 pressures are estimated at £6.7 million
3. Savings (to balance) are £9 million, £2 million of this is attached to a plan



<b>Funding available</b>	
Provisional HNB Allocation	£57,528.558
0.5% transfer Schools Block	£1,500.000
Balance of CSSB	£192.000
rounding	-£0.002
	<b>£59,220.556</b>
Balance (should be zero)	£0.000
<b>Funding Increase</b>	
20-21 Allocation (final)	£51,987.188

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Funding & SEN Working Group  
11 January 2021

Early Years Reference Group  
12 January 2021

Schools Forum  
21 January 2021

## DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT –EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE 2021-22 (INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS)

### Purpose of the Report

1. To update the working groups and schools forum on issues related to the early years block for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2021-22.
2. The operational guidance for the early years block confirms that schools forums must be consulted on changes to local early years funding formulae, including agreeing central spend, although the final decision rests with the local authority. This is done though the Early Years reference group and the Schools Funding & SEN Working Group in addition to Schools Forum.

### Main Considerations

3. In his 2020 Spending Review, the Chancellor announced the following:
  - £44 million nationally for early years education in 2021-22 to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the government’s free hours offers.
4. The provisional early years block settlement for Wiltshire for 2021-22 is £28.217 million of this sum, £0.265 million relates to the increased hourly rates.
5. The 2021-22 allocation comprises the following elements:

	<b>PTE (where applicable)</b>	<b>Rate (where applicable)</b>	<b>£ million</b>
3 & 4-year-old funding – Universal 15 hours	6,981.7	£4.44/hour	17.669
3 & 4-year-old funding – Working Parents 15 hours	2,086.7	£4.44/hour	7.812
2-year-old funding	773.78	£5.48/hour	2.417
Disability Access Fund	214 children	£615/child	0.132
Early Years Pupil Premium (max £302.10 / 570 hours pa)			0.187
<b>Total “Initial” or provisional allocation for 2021-22</b>			<b>28.217</b>

6. The allocations for the free entitlement for 3- and 4-year olds, and for 2-year olds are based on the January 2020 census and will be updated during the 2021-22 financial

year for the January 2021 census. Following the COVID19 pandemic and DfE numerous changes to the 20-21 guidance and the numbers of children taking up their entitlements, it is difficult to estimate whether funding will reduce or, benefit from any protections in place. In order to follow the accounting concept of prudence, the budget must be set within initial allocations.

7. The *operational guidance for early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers 2021-22* was published in December 2020. The **key points** on local authority funding of providers are that local authorities:

- should set a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements for 3- and 4-year olds (that is, both the universal 15 hours, and the additional 15 hours for working parents)
  - must plan to pass on at least 95% of their 3 and 4-year-old funding directly to providers to deliver the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements
  - The remaining 5% must be spent on:
    - Centrally retained funding (early years teams)
    - Any transfers to 2 years olds
    - Any extra hours in addition to the governments' entitlement
    - Any funding movement out of early years block
  - may request that the 95% requirement be disapplied in specific, exceptional circumstances
  - must now use a universal base rate for all types of provider in their local 3 and 4-year-old formula, including for Maintained Nursery Schools
  - may continue to use 'lump sums' to distribute additional funding to Maintained Nursery Schools
  - must use a deprivation supplement in their local 3 and 4-year-old formula, and any other supplements used must fall within one of the allowable categories
  - must not channel more than 10% of their funding for 3 and 4 olds through funding supplements
  - must provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) for 3- and 4-year olds, this can also include 2-year olds.
  - must pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3- and 4-year olds and is only payable in the universal 15 hours entitlement.
  - must pass on Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding in full to providers for eligible 3- and 4-year olds which should be used for example, to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings or helping with building capacity.
8. The DfE will monitor compliance with these requirements. Wiltshire is already compliant with the requirements of the formula, and the SEN Inclusion Fund, and there are no current circumstances where a disapplication of the 95% requirement is being recommended.
9. There are no pass-through requirements for the 2-year-old funding and no requirements for compulsory supplements. Local authorities are encouraged to fund providers for the entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year olds on the basis of a flat hourly

rate for all providers. Wiltshire is compliant with this approach and proposes to pass through 100% of the 2-year-old funding to providers.

#### 10. Main changes from 20/21 Guidance are;

- clarification of continuation of supplementary funding for MNS for the financial year 2021 to 2022
- additional information about the publication of indicative and conditional supplementary funding allocations for MNS

#### Early Years Single Funding Formula

11. The DSG settlement including an “initial” allocation for Early Years announced in December 2020 confirms the hourly rate that Wiltshire will be funded at as £4.44 per hour for the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements. Wiltshire remains on the funding floor for the early years national funding formula.

#### 3&4-Year-Old Funding

12. The historical and proposed rates are in the table below:

Hourly rate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Proposed 21-22
Deprivation	£0.40	£0.40	£0.40	£0.40
Rurality	£0.52	£0.52	£0.52	£0.52
Basic Hourly Rate – 3&4-year olds	£4.16	£4.20	£4.20	£4.25

13. The historical funded PTE are in the table below:

PTE	2018-19 Funded	2019-20 Funded	2020/21 Funded	2021-22 Indicative
3 & 4-year-old	9,721	9,677	10,068	10,068

14. Due to the pandemic and changes to the traditional funding arrangements the forecast activity for both 2, 3 & 4-year-old entitlement in 2020-21 are not relevant. This is because the grant has been utilised to support closed and settings with reduced numbers of children attending.

15. Whilst DfE funding rates have increased over 2020-21 and 2021-22 it is not possible to pass this on in full however, a models have been prepared to share in consultation with the working groups which provide a minimum of £50,000 contingency to absorb any increases in children throughout 2021-22 financial year.

16. In light of the ongoing high needs block funding pressures it is unlikely that schools forum will not be able to allocate any of the high need block funding to support early years expenditure.

17. The DfE guidance is clear that local authorities should target SEN Inclusion Funds at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG.

18. Schools Forum will need to consider the budget pressures on all DSG blocks and may look to reconsider the current funding position of the SEN inclusion fund. This would impact on the affordable hourly rate for providers and this has been modelled.
19. On the grounds of reasonableness to providers and budget affordability, it is proposed therefore that the early years inclusion support funding will continue to be fully funded from early years block and at the 2020-21 funding level. Should subsequent increases in early years block be notified, the early years inclusion support funding should be increased at a level to match local levels of demand.
20. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detailed modelling of the funding level scenarios. Please note that rurality and deprivation have been re-aligned in all scenarios based on 2020-21 trends although actual allocations for both deprivation and rurality will be unknown until March when the IDACI report is available.
21. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the calculations of compliance with the % pass through. All scenarios are compliant.
22. Appendix 3 is an extract from the DfE guidance showing guidance for the % pass through calculation.
23. The over allocation in provisional budgets above would be removed from the general budget for 3- & 4-year olds in order to set a balanced budget.

### **2-Year-Old Funding**

24. The historical and proposed rates are in the table below:

<b>Hourly rate</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>Proposed 21-22</b>
Basic Hourly Rate – 2-year olds	£5.32	£5.32	£5.40	£5.48

25. The historical funded PTE are in the table below:

<b>PTE</b>	<b>2018-19 Funded</b>	<b>2019-20 Funded</b>	<b>2020/21 Funded</b>	<b>2021-22 Indicative</b>
2-year-old	797	770	774	774

26. The hourly rate for 2-year olds in Wiltshire has been confirmed as £5.48 for 2021-22. An increase of the minimum national increase of £0.08. This mirrors the £0.08 increase received and fully passported to providers in 2020-21.
27. Following pre consultation with the EYRG representatives, as in previous years it is proposed that the full hourly rate be passed on to providers delivering provision to 2-year olds.

### **Disability Access Fund**

28. 3- and 4-year olds will be eligible for the fund if they meet the following criteria:
  - The child is in receipt of child disability living allowance and;
  - The child receives universal 15 hours entitlement
29. 4-year olds in primary school reception classes are not eligible for disability access fund (DAF) funding.

30. Settings of 3- and 4-year olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year. Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive DAF.
31. Early years providers are ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children and local authorities must check that DAF eligibility requirements are met.
32. The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child. If a child is splitting their entitlement between two or more providers, then parents should be asked to nominate the main setting. If a child receiving DAF moves from one setting to another within a financial year the new setting is not eligible to receive DAF for this child within the same financial year. There is no change in allocated funding rate for 2021-22.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium**

33. Ringfenced Funding continues to be allocated through the early years block for the early years pupil premium (EYPP). The EYPP allocation remains at £0.187 million for 2021-22 and it is proposed to set the budget in line with the funding level.

### **Proposals**

34. Schools Forum is asked to note the update on the early years block and provide views on the proposals in relation to the early years single funding formula and percentage pass through to providers:
  - Local Authority preferred proposal:
    - i. to increase the current rate of 2-year-old funding to £5.48 and 3 & 4-year-old funding to £4.25 per hour
  - All other funding factors remain at current 2020-21 levels or, funded levels.
  - The early years block to fully fund the Early Years Inclusion Fund at the current level. The demand on this fund exceeds this level of funding in the 2020-21 financial year and for that reason, should any significant increase in DfE funding be notified, this fund should be increased accordingly during the financial year, to a maximum of 95% pass through to providers.

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**Appendix 1 - Hourly Rate options to consult with the Early Years Reference Group**

Funding Announcement 21/21	20/21 PTE (January 19 census)			20/21 Hourly Rate as published		20/21 Allocations as at Dec 19		Universal Working	
	Hours per week	38 weeks							
2 Year old EY Entitlement	773.78	15	38	£5.48	£2,416,979				
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	214.00			£615/child	£131,610				
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	620.40	15	38	£0.53	£187,423				
3 & 4 Year Old EY Entitlement	10068.46	15	38	£4.44	£25,481,259				6981.73 3086.73
					<b>£28,217,271</b>				

**Two basic options**

*To continue to fund 2 year olds at funded rate?*

*IE Increased from £5.40 to £5.48*

*or*

*To use flexibility not to passport funding in full to 2 year olds and maximise 3&4 year old funding to settings?*

*No inflation or increases have been applied to centrally held funding eg: deprivation / sparsity*

Options	20-21 Rates	1	2	3	4	5	6
2 year old rate	£5.40	£5.48	£5.44	£5.45	£5.46	£5.47	£5.42
3&4 year old rate	£4.20	£4.25	£4.25	£4.25	£4.25	£4.25	£4.26
Contingency unallocated		82k	99k	95k	90k	86k	51k
% Contingency of 2, 3&4 YO funding		0.31%	0.37%	0.35%	0.34%	0.32%	0.19%
Disability Access Fund (DAF)		£131,610	£131,610	£131,610	£131,610	£131,610	£131,610
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)		£187,423	£187,423	£187,423	£187,423	£187,423	£187,423
Deprivation, rurality		£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000
EY Inclusion funding		£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000
Central EY functions		£421,600	£421,600	£421,600	£421,600	£421,600	£421,600
2 Year old EY Entitlement		£2,416,979	£2,399,337	£2,403,748	£2,408,158	£2,412,569	£2,390,516
3 & 4 Year Old EY Entitlement		£24,390,844	£24,390,844	£24,390,844	£24,390,844	£24,563,015	£24,448,235
		£28,135,457	£28,117,814	£28,122,225	£28,126,635	£28,303,217	£28,166,384
Contingency for any increase in take up of hours		£81,814	£99,456	£95,046	£90,635	-£85,946	£50,887
		<i>viable option</i>	<i>viable option</i>	<i>viable option</i>	<i>viable option</i>	<i>viable option</i>	<i>viable option</i>

**Notes**

**Option 1**

Maximises the 2 year old funding and passports the increase in full. The guidance previously protected 2 year old funding however, this has been relaxed. To do this, the 3&4 year old rate needs to be £4.25 in order to leave a contingency for any increased take up of hours.

**Options 2-5**

Applies a percentage of the 2 year old increase however, this does not free up sufficient funds to apply an additional 1p to 3&4 year olds. Tests what would need to happen in order to increase 3&4 year old funding by an additional 1p. Options 2-5 are not viable options for the sector as they do not maximise opportunity to increase the hourly rates.

**Option 6**

In order to increase the 3&4 year old rate by 1p per hour, the hourly rate for 2 year olds would need to be £5.42.

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## Early Years Block modelling - 21/22 Financial Year

## Appendix 2: Worked example of calculating the pass-through rate

Wiltshire

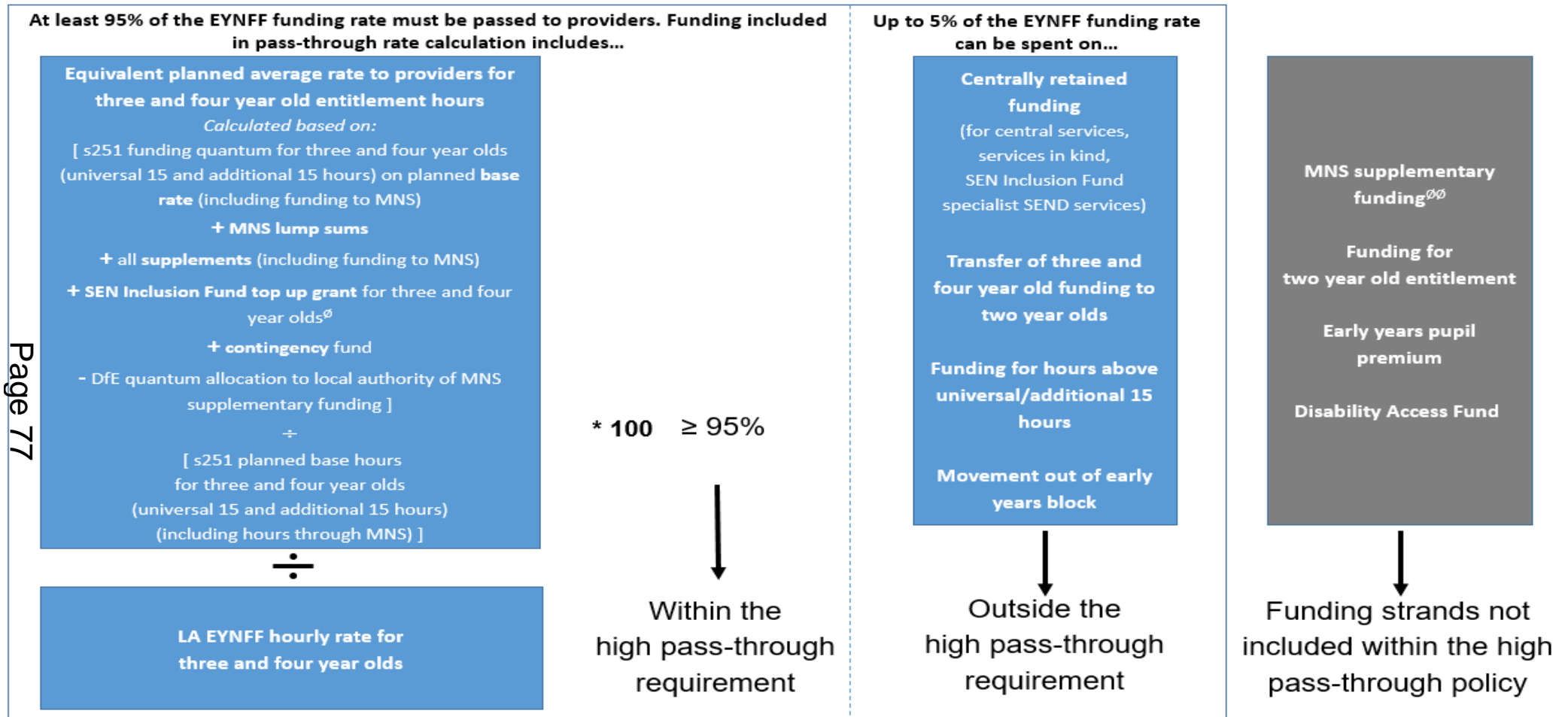
A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for 3 and 4 year olds	£25,481,259
	2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for 3 and 4 year olds	£0
	3	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£220,000
	4	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Quality (including funding to MNS)	£0
	5	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	£0
	6	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£10,000
	7	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: EAL (including funding to MNS)	£0
	8	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£357,000
	9	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old contingency	£81,814
Subtotal =			<b>£26,150,073</b>
B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	0
	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,995,590
C	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds = (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£4.36
	E	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)
F	14	Test of meeting requirement $F = (D / E) * 100 = ((\text{line } 12) / (\text{line } 13)) * 100$	<b>98.2%</b>

The local authority is passing on 98.2% of the EYNFF hourly rate they received from central government for 3 and 4 year olds to their providers, the local authority will meet the policy requirement. To be compliant, the calculated pass-through rate must be at least . 95.0%, i.e. rounding up 94.9% will not be considered as meeting the requirement.

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**Early Years Block 21-22 Update - Appendix 3**

**Extract from DfE guidance: Passporting Compliance**



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<sup>∅</sup> SEN Inclusion Fund must be established by combining an amount from either one or both of their early years block and high needs block.

<sup>∅∅</sup> DfE allocated MNS supplementary funding quantum to local authority. Only the MNS funding from the EYNFF allocation is considered within the pass-through rate calculation.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

21 January 2021

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## DSG Budget – Schools Block Update 2021-22 (Delegated Budget)

### Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2021-22 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

### Main Considerations

2. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the Department for Education (DfE) has allocated a schools' block quantum to Wiltshire of £317.724 million. This includes funding of £1.814 million for the growth fund, based on the growth formula, detailed later in this report.
3. Cabinet approved the funding formula for 2020-21 which confirmed that Wiltshire would move as close to the national funding formula (NFF) as possible. In doing so the Wiltshire formula replicated the formula factors in the NFF as closely as possible.
4. Formula factors were all fully funded at the published NFF values in 2020-21 apart from the Mobility factor, which was not funded through the formula. Historically, due to the major beneficiaries being service schools, who were already benefitting from additional one-off growth funding from the DfE and also the MOD's Education Support Fund, Schools Forum felt that the factor's introduction would not achieve an equitable position. A school's mobility position could move each year and is less predictable as a factor.
5. Modelling work has been prepared to calculate individual school budgets based on the proposed formula. The main funding formula for 2021-22 is similar to 2020-21 but the key following changes should be noted;
  - An increase in Pupil and School led funding values of 3%
  - Teachers Pay and Pension Grants being baselined into AWPU values
  - IDACI data has been refreshed
  - Minimum Funding Guarantee to be set between 0.5% and 2.0% to ensure all schools see a gain in funding on their pupil led funding
  - Maximum Sparsity funding being increased from £26,000 to £45,000 for small and rural primary schools
  - Increases in the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFL) to £4,180 and £5,415 in primary and secondary schools
6. Initial modelling suggests that the NFF is fully affordable within the funding envelope provided by the DfE. The Schools Block of funding is sufficient to afford the full NFF with further discussion of some factors detailed in this report.

## The National Funding Formula

7. Since the introduction of the NFF, it has been Wiltshire's intention to move across to mirror and replicate the formula in the 'soft' years, prior to moving to the 'hard' formula. Over the last three years, Wiltshire has moved across to funding schools, subject to affordability, using the NFF factor values. Where the NFF values could not be afforded, the Free School Meal Ever6 (FSM6) factor was compromised to ensure the other factor values were affordable.
8. The DfE published their NFF factor values in the Summer of 2020 and following the announcement about the size of the DSG, the funding formula has been modelled to incorporate the NFF values (see Appendix 1 for rates).
9. Based upon the Schools' Block allocation, the formula is fully affordable for the 2021-22 financial year, applying all of the NFF factor values. Wiltshire has been fully funded through the NFF and this has ensured that Schools Forum is presented with a position of affording the full NFF.
10. Within the modelling, the following elements have been included:
  - Full NFF values applied for all funding factors
  - Increased Sparsity funding in line with NFF proportional increases
  - Mobility included and funded at NFF values
  - MFG set at the maximum level of 2%
  - Split site increased £90,000 as agreed with Schools Forum (76.4% of lump sum value)
  - Transfer from Schools' Block to High Needs Block of 0.5% (£1.517m)
11. The table below sets out the funding position having applied all of the NFF values and taken account of any proposed transfers, to demonstrate the affordability position.

<b>Funding 2021-22</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
Core funding	£301,730,998
Growth funding	£1,814,133
<b>Net Funding</b>	<b>£303,545,131</b>
Pay & Pension funding	£14,179,214
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£317,724,345</b>
Transfer to High Needs Block (0.5%)	£1,517,725
<b>Available for School Funding</b>	<b>£316,206,620</b>
NFF requirements	£313,996,486
Growth Fund	£2,210,134
<b>Schools Block Allocated</b>	<b>£316,206,620</b>



## Growth Funding Allocation 2021-22

12. Growth allocations for 2021-22 are based upon pupil data from the October 2020 census and the October 2019 census.
13. The county is separated into 62 MSOA's with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area. Growth is measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA between the October 2019 and October 2020 censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers are included, so positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not be denied growth funding.
14. The DfE do not expect local authorities to use these rates in their local arrangements for funding growth but instead the growth factor acts as a proxy for overall growth costs at local authority level.
15. At the Schools Forum meeting in December 2020, Schools, the criteria for allocating Growth funding in the 2021-22 year was confirmed. The amount of funding allocated to Wiltshire for the 2021-22 year is set out in the table below.

<u>Funding 2021-22</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Secondary</u>		<u>New School</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Growth in Pupils</b>	502.5		492		0		994.5
<b>Rate</b>	£ 1,455	£	2,175	£	68,700		
<b>Amount</b>	£ 736,372	£	1,077,761	£	0	£	1,814,133
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 736,372</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,077,761</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,814,133</b>

### Historical Position

16. Growth funding forms part of the Schools Block of funding. Schools Forum has historically agreed an annual budget to be retained for funding pupil growth and has operated successfully within this funding envelope. In the financial year 2021-22 it is proposed to set the budget once again in line with the affordability, having applied NFF rates for the funding factors.

### Affordability

17. There are no plans to open any new schools in the 2021-22 year. The growth fund supports new primary and secondary schools with diseconomy costs for the first 7 years or until the school is full.
18. The Basic Need Class Expansion for additional classes is still to be confirmed with colleagues in the School places team for the 2021-22 academic year. However, growth is being experienced as new housing becomes available across the County, despite a falling birth rate being experienced.
19. The Infant Class Size increases have been confirmed for 2020-21 with six schools being funded through this factor.
20. The total Growth Fund requirement for 2021-22 is anticipated to come within the proposed budget, as allocated by the DfE and based upon the funding of all of the NFF factors in full. Any surplus or deficit in the Growth Fund will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

## Minimum Funding Guarantee

21. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was designed to prevent schools from experiencing significant reductions in their calculated per pupil funding, year on year. Historically, the MFG had been set at -1.5% to prevent reductions in funding of greater than 1.5%.
22. Following the additional funding pledge, the DfE are seeking to ensure that all schools see an uplift in their calculated per pupil funding and have therefore proposed that the MFG is set at a positive figure of between 0.5% and 2.0%.
23. As in the 2020-21 year, modelling of the MFG is no longer a significant issue, as the majority of schools have moved off the MFG funding and as a result, no capping of schools would be required to fund the MFG again this year. This correlates with the DfE's intention to move all schools across towards the NFF, with an intention of introducing a 'hard' formula in due course.
24. Setting a positive MFG of 2% is fully affordable and will ensure that all schools see an uplift in their 'per pupil' funding of at least 2%. The cost to the formula in 2021-22 is less than £0.250m, subject to decisions taken by Schools Forum.

## Sparsity

25. Sparsity is an optional funding factor within the NFF. Prior to the introduction of the NFF, Wiltshire had elected not to support Sparsity funding due to the inequitable situation which can arise where two 'like' schools are funded differently simply because one school is deemed eligible for sparsity funding.
26. The criteria for Sparsity funding are based upon size and sparsity distance. The threshold is for primary schools of 150 pupils or less and secondary schools of 600 pupils or less. The distance threshold is based upon the average straight-line distance (as the crow flies) from the pupil's home to next nearest compatible school is greater than 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary pupils.
27. The formula uses a tapering mechanism based upon size and sparsity distance such that schools receive a weighted proportion of the maximum value.
28. As part of the DfE's proposals to support small and rural schools, the maximum sparsity value for primary schools was increased from £26,000 to £45,000, with Secondary schools increasing from £67,500 to £70,000. The table below shows the impact of these changes as well as a 3% proportional (NFF) uplift.

	<b>NFF rates</b>	<b>20-21 rates</b>	<b>3% uplift</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
	<b>£45,000/£70,000</b>	<b>£26,000/£67,500</b>	<b>£26,780/£69,525</b>	<b>£26,000/£67,500</b>
Total Funding Allocated	£547,216	£335,469	£345,533	£345,739
Eligible Primary Schools	28	28	28	29
Eligible Secondary Schools	2	2	2	2
Highest Funding – Primary	£35,387	£20,446	£21,059	£19,405
Lowest Funding – Primary	£541	£312	£858	£660
Average Funding - Primary	£17,760	£10,261	£10,569	£10,200
Highest Funding – Secondary	£31,033	£29,925	£30,823	£29,137
Lowest Funding – Secondary	£18,900	£18,225	£18,225	£20,812
Average Funding - Secondary	£24,967	£24,075	£24,797	£24,975

## Mobility

29. The DfE created a new methodology for the mobility factor for the 2020-21 NFF. The national methodology was introduced, and Wiltshire has received funding through the NFF for Mobility, however, applying the factor remains optional and to be determined by Schools Forum.
30. Pupils eligible for funding through the mobility factor are pupils whose school census record at their current (or predecessor school) in the last three years indicates an entry date which is not 'typical'.
31. For Year groups 1 to 11, 'typical' means that the first census on which a pupil is recorded as attending the school is the October census. Therefore, 'not typical' means that the first census a pupil is recorded as attending the school is the January or May census.
32. The DfE have produced the table below to provide examples of when pupils may or may not be classified as eligible for mobility funding.

In Figure 7, 5 pupils attending an all-through school are illustrated. Pupil 1's first appearance is in an October census, so that pupil is not classified as mobile for the purposes of the NFF mobility factor. Pupil 2, who was currently in year 11 in 2018/19, had their first appearance in the school in a January census, so they are classified as mobile. Pupil 3's first census is also January but as the pupil was in year R at the time, they are not mobile. Pupil 4's first census is May and so is mobile. Pupil 5 has been at the school for at least 3 years so is not eligible for mobility funding.

**Figure 7: Mobility example**

Census	Pupil 1	Pupil 2	Pupil 3	Pupil 4	Pupil 5
Oct-15					Y5
Jan-16					Y5
May-16				Y1	Y5
Oct-16				Y2	Y6
Jan-17			YR	Y2	Y6
May-17			YR	Y2	Y6
Oct-17			Y1	Y3	Y7
Jan-18		Y10	Y1	Y3	Y7
May-18		Y10	Y1	Y3	Y7
Oct-18	Y7	Y11	Y2	Y4	Y8

33. The NFF proposes that schools will receive funding for all mobility-eligible pupils through this factor, above the mobility threshold set at 6%. NFF funding is set at £900 for primary mobility and £1,290 for secondary mobility, pupils above the 6% threshold.
34. Due to the impact of Army Rebasing, which mostly took place in the Summer of 2019, previous modelling of the mobility factor had significantly favoured Wiltshire's service schools, who were also in receipt of additional funding sources to support their schools (DfE and MOD). Schools Forum had agreed not to introduce the mobility factor in the 2020-21 year.
35. Following the release of the October 2020 census data, modelling of the mobility factor has moved significantly from the 2020-21 year to the 2021-22 year. The table below demonstrates the position.

<b><u>2020-21 Position</u></b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Schools Eligible	97	5	102
Total Funding	£534,849	£32,864	£567,713
Highest Funding	£43,662	£15,912	
Lowest Funding	£70	£1,225	
Average	£5,514	£6,573	
<b><u>2021-22 Position</u></b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Schools Eligible	58	1	59
Total Funding	£219,193	£776	£219,969
Highest Funding	£28,494	£776	
Lowest Funding	£90	£776	
Average	£3,779	£776	

36. Of the eligible schools in 2021-22, there are 11 service schools and 48 non-service schools eligible for the funding. With Army Rebasing completed and now being in a period of 'Army - business as usual' it is appropriate to consider the principles behind this factor. Mobility, in essence provides funding for the lagged period where pupils start at a school after the October census, but the school will receive no funding for the pupil until the following year.

37. Modelling of the school budgets suggests that the funding allocated through the mobility factor would be £219,969. The 'real' cost to the formula is less than this due to a number of the schools eligible for mobility funding, being in receipt of MFG and MPPFL funding. Introducing and awarding mobility funding will reduce the individual schools funding through MFG and MPPFL.

### **Minimum per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPFL)**

38. The MPPFL's were introduced as part of the NFF and have been increased annually as part of the DfE's proposals to standardise funding across the country. These are mandatory as part of the NFF and therefore there is no scope for amending these values without permission from the Secretary of State.

39. The DfE's initial proposals had been to increase the primary MPPFL from £3,750 to £4,000 per pupil for the 2021-22 year and retain the secondary MPPFL funding level at £5,000 per pupil.

40. Following the decision to include the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants within the AWPU funding values, increasing them by £180 and £265 for primary and secondary, the MPPFL rates have also been increased accordingly to £4,180 and £5,415.

41. The overall funding allocated through the MPPFL is £6.576m in 2021-22, an increase of £2.076m on the 2020-21 figure of £4.500m.

## **Proposals**

42. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.
43. Schools Forum to confirm its intention to apply all the funding factors at the 2021-22 NFF rates.
44. Schools Forum to note the modelling of the Mobility factor and decide whether to introduce Mobility as a funding formula factor.
45. Schools Forum to note the modelling of the Sparsity factor and decide whether to apply the NFF values, previous years values or proportional uplift of 3%.
46. Schools Forum to agree setting the MFG at a level of between 0.5% and 2.0%.
47. Schools Forum to agree the level of the Growth fund at £2.210m.

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## Appendix 1

<b>Factor</b>	<b>2019-20 Value</b>	<b>2020-21 Value</b>	<b>2021-22 Value</b>
Primary KS1&2 AWPU	£2,747	£2,857	£3,123*
Secondary KS3 AWPU	£3,863	£4,018	£4,404*
Secondary KS4 AWPU	£4,386	£4,561	£4,963*
Primary & Secondary FSM	£440	£450	£460
Primary FSM6	£540	£560	£575
Secondary FSM6	£785	£815	£840
IDACI Primary Band A	£575	£600	£620
IDACI Primary Band B	£420	£435	£475
IDACI Primary Band C	£390	£405	£445
IDACI Primary Band D	£360	£375	£410
IDACI Primary Band E	£240	£250	£260
IDACI Primary Band F	£200	£210	£215
IDACI Secondary Band A	£810	£840	£865
IDACI Secondary Band B	£600	£625	£680
IDACI Secondary Band C	£560	£580	£630
IDACI Secondary Band D	£515	£535	£580
IDACI Secondary Band E	£390	£405	£415
IDACI Secondary Band F	£290	£300	£310
Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,065	£1,095
Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,610	£1,660
EAL – Primary	£515	£535	£550
EAL - Secondary	£1,385	£1,440	£1,485
Mobility – Primary	£0	£875	£900
Mobility – Secondary	£0	£1,250	£1,290
Lump Sum	£110,000	£114,400	£117,800
Sparsity – Primary	£0-£25,000	£0-£26,000	£0-£45,000
Sparsity – Secondary	£0-£65,000	£0-£67,500	£0-£70,000
Primary - MPPFL	£3,500	£3,750	£4,180
Secondary – MPPFL	£4,800	£5,000	£5,415
Area Cost Adjustment	1.00703	1.00716	1.00716

\*- Includes the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants of £180 for Primary and £265 for Secondary

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 £406,341,860	Decides	Proposes		
Central Schools Services Block	Ongoing commitments eg Admissions, Schools Forum support, Services formally funded from retained duties element of ESG		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	
	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	
	Central Licences negotiated by Secretary of State		Propose Budget for central copyright licences set at £0.395m	Decides	None	None	
	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 -pending DfE Grant announcement	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 and fund factors at the NFF rates.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	
	Introduction of the Mobility factor		Following completion of Army Rebasing and greater stability of school populations, review the principle of funding Mobility for those schools with significant Mobility and suffering lagged funding.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	
	Sparisty funding rates		Confirm the sparsity funding rates for 2021-22, based upon options presented, fund at full NFF rates, uplift by 3% (NFF uplift) or retain the 2020-21 rates.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	
	Minimum Funding Guarantee		Propose set MFG positive 2%	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	
	Growth fund		Growth fund to be set at £2.21m - split £0.1m Infant class Size and £2.1m basic need Criteria remain unchanged from previous year and agreed at Schools Forum meeting December 2020, Total growth funding awarded by DfE of £1.814M to Wiltshire.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	
	Transfer to High Needs from Schools Block		To Transfer up to a maximum of £1.517m from Schools Block to High Needs Block. This equates to 0.5% of the Schools Block (net of Teachers Pay and Pension funding).	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Subject to SofS Agreement beyond 0.5%	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Access Budget Software - £52,544	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		FSM Eligibility - £27,804	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Trade Union - £70,000	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		EMAS & Travellers - £542,796	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Behaviour Support - £639,105	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Maternity Supply - £549,158	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	

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 Decision Matrix for 2021-22 Budget

DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
High Needs Block	Top Up values for NPAs, ELP, Resource Bases and Special Schools		Initial proposal no change from 2020-21 values - note proposed consultation on High Needs formula for 2022-23 with less weighting on the historical funding factor.	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	
	Approval of the draft DSG Management Plan, prior to submission to Cabinet and the DfE		Schools Forum to approve the content of the DSG Management Plan, as set out in the DfE's Management Plan template.	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	
Early Years Block	Agree Wiltshire formula		Proposed formula as per EY Block report Proposed Basic Hourly rate increases to £4.25 for 3&4 year olds and £5.48 for 2 year olds.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	
	Level of Inclusion Support Fund and how funded	Links to High Needs Block decisions	Proposed ISF £357,000 as in the 2020-21 year.	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	
	% Pass Through to settings		Proposal in Early Years report for maintaining at least 95% pass through	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	