

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: [Online meeting via Microsoft Teams](#)
Date: Thursday 20 January 2022
Time: 1.30 pm

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

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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Membership:	Representing:
Aileen Bates	WGA - Special School Governor Representative
Lyssy Bolton	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Andy Bridewell	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Rebecca Carson	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Michele Chilcott	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Sam Churchill	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Stella Fowler	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Jo Grenfell	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
Jon Hamp	Special School Academy Representative
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Cllr Ross Henning	Observer - Local Youth Network
Georgina Keily-Theobald	WASSH - Maintained Special School Representative
Graham Nagel-Smith	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative
Nigel Roper	WASSH - Maintained Secondary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Ros Sutton	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Ian Tucker	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/Substitutions and Changes of Membership**

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

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

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 (copy attached).

3 **Chair'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 is electronically to the officer named on this agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 18 January 2022 (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 13 January 2022** to allow a response to be formulated. Questions are limited to a maximum of 2 per person or organisation.

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

6 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 27 - 28*)

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

- Early Years Reference Group – 5 January 2022 (*to follow*)
- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 10 January 2022 – (*attached*).

7 **School Improvement Services 2022-23 - National and Local Consultation** (*Pages 29 - 36*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum on the DfE's response to the consultation 'Reforming how Local Authorities School Improvement functions are funded' and provides feedback from the local consultation sessions.

8 **School Budget Setting 2022-23**

To consider the budget for 2022-23.

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 2022-23 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process** (*Pages 37 - 42*)

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 2022-23.

8b **Central School Services Block Update 2022-23** (*Pages 43 - 54*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2022-23 and the decisions that need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

8c **High Needs Block Update - 2022-23** (*Pages 55 - 60*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the High Needs block for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23.

8d **Early Years Block Update 2022-23 (Indicative Allocations)** (*Pages 61 - 72*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to update the Forum on issues related to the Early Years Block for 2022-23 and the decisions that need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23.

8e **Schools Block Update 2022-23 (Delegated Budget)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update the Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23. The report is *to follow*.

8f **Schools Supplementary Grant 2022-23 - Funding and Methodology (Pages 73 - 74)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum and outline the level of additional funding and how it will be allocated to schools in the 2022-23 year.

9 **School Budget Decisions 2022-23**

The Forum will be asked to consider the Schools Budgets for 2022-23 and make relevant decisions using the decisions matrix which is *to follow*.

10 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

17 March 2022 (if required)

9 June 2022

6 October 2022

8 December 2022.

11 **Urgent Items**

To consider any other items of business, which the Chair 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

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

Present:

Aileen Bates, Rod Bell, Andy Bridewell, Sam Churchill, Stella Fowler, John Hawkins, Cllr Ross Henning, Graham Nagel-Smith, Lisa Percy (Chair), John Proctor, Giles Pugh, Nigel Roper, Graham Shore (Vice Chair), Trudy Srawley, Ian Tucker, David Whewell, Catriona Williamson and Lynn Yendle

Also Present:

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Lisa Fryer (Education Officer – Independent Specialist Placements), Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), and Cllr Suzanne Wickham (Portfolio Holder for SEND)

33 Apologies/Substitutions and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from Rebecca Carson (Primary Academy Representative), Michele Chilcott WASSH (Secondary Academy Representative), Jo Grenfell (Observer- Post 16 – Wiltshire College), Georgina Keily-Theobald (Maintained Special School representative), and Debbie Muir (Early Years representative)

Apologies were also received from Jane Davies (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND, Transition and Inclusion), Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member – Children, Education and Skills) and Lucy Townsend (Corporate Director – People/Director of Children’s Services).

Substitutions

Lynn Yendle was substituting for Jon Hamp.

Membership changes

There were no changes to the membership of Schools Forum.

34 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Clerk had notified Schools Forum members earlier in the week that there was an error in the published agenda for the draft minutes of the last meeting of 7 October 2021. Minute number 24 (FACT Programme update) was repeated twice in the minutes with the same text appearing for minute number 25 (update from the High Needs Block Working Group). These had now been corrected on

the Council website and that version would be the minutes due to be approved at the meeting.

A maintained Primary representative highlighted an error in minute number 15 where it stated that Lisa Percy was the Vice Chair and it should read that Graham Shore was appointed at Vice Chair.

Resolved:

That the Chair approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools Forum held on 7 October 2021 subject to the changes being made as detailed above.

35 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair made the following announcements:

Early Years representative

Debbie Muir was to be the new Early Years rep (replacing Mark Cawley) but due to work commitments she was now unable to take up this position. The Early Years Reference Group were seeking to appoint a new representative at their next meeting on 5 January 2022 and this was likely to be Lyssy Bolton, CEO of The Mead Academy Trust.

January meeting of Schools Forum

It had been previously agreed that the December and January meetings of Schools Forum would be held in person. Schools Forum members had agreed that due to the current number of Covid cases in Wiltshire that it would be better for this meeting to be held virtually. Those present were then asked for their views on the location of the January meeting.

The general consensus was that it would be sensible to plan for another virtual meeting due to the new Covid variant.

Resolved:

That the next meeting of Schools Forum (20 January 2022) be held via Microsoft Teams.

36 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

37 **Public Participation**

No questions or statements were received in advance of the meeting.

38 **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 29 November 2021.

There were no questions arising.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 17 November 2021.

John Proctor (Early Years representative) reported that under item 7 of the minutes (Schools Forum and Chair of Early Years Reference Group transition) that it stated that there was no early year's representation at the Schools Forum meeting on 7 October 2021 which was not the case. Debbie Muir had been unable to attend the meeting on 7 October 2021, but John Proctor had been present. The Clerk would notify the notetaker for that meeting to arrange for the minutes to be amended.

There were no questions arising.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 29 November 2021 and the Early Years Reference group meeting on 17 November 2021.

39 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2021/22**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the budget monitoring report as at 31st October 2021 that was circulated with the Agenda and highlighted the following:

- An overspend of £8.271 million was currently projected against the overall school's budget;
- For early years budgets there was a favourable variance underspend of £1.264 million. The DfE would make a post year adjustment and remove this favourable variance;
- The Council has continued to use COMF funding to support settings with a range of schemes. In addition, a new allocation was available for flexible pastoral support for 2021-22 of £0.4 million for early years;
- The forecast underspend on schools block largely relates to the school's growth fund which currently shows an underspend and is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG;
- For high needs budgets there was a forecast overspend of almost £11 million. The needs of some learners changed during periods when schools were closed to most pupils. Inevitably post pandemic EHCNAs

and re-bandings were being requested which was putting additional activity into the system. In response to this temporary support fund payments (TSF) have been introduced to support learners whose needs are taking longer than 20 weeks to be assessed;

- The major driver of the increased cost is volume. It is important to note that the number of EHCPs being created had increased following the pandemic and requests for additional support for children with existing EHCPs continued which leads to an increase in overall unit cost. The forecast increase in EHCP's was 192 (4.7%);
- The DSG reserve brought forward figure was £19.474 million. The current forecast overspend of £8.082 million would take the reserve into an overall deficit position of £27.555 million; and
- A further informal meeting with the DfE was planned to discuss the DSG management plan and the progress against the recovery plans and a summary of that meeting would be shared with Schools Forum at the next available meeting.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2021 and the current balance on the DSG reserve.

40 **National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs - 2022-23**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought 'in principle' decisions from Schools Forum with regards to the Wiltshire funding formula for the 2022-23 year and highlighted the following:

- Prior to the funding settlement being announced in mid December, a number of 'in principle' decisions were sought to help with the school budget preparations. The 2022-23 year would be year 3 of the Governments pledge to boost schools funding, with an increase of £2.3 billion into the overall Schools block compared to the 2021-22 year;
- The Schools block DSG had been awarded an increase of 3.2% compared to the 2021-22 year. It would be another 'soft' year with Schools Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology. The DfE had confirmed their intention to move to a 'hard' NFF but had not confirmed the timeline as yet;
- The DfE had announced the indicative DSG block allocations based on the October 2020 census and there was uplift of funding across the blocks (except for the early years block which allocations had yet to be announced);
- The key changes for the 2022-23 budget were as follows:

- a. Overall, the DfE's School funding budget is set to increase by 3.2%
 - b. Core pupil-led funding factors and the lump sum to increase by 3%
 - c. The 'Minimum per pupil funding level' to increase by 2%
 - d. The Free School Meals factor (for the costs of providing a meal for eligible pupils) to increase by 2%
 - e. Every school to receive at least 2% more funding per pupil, (setting the MFG at +2%)
 - f. Changes to Sparsity calculations and funding allocations
 - g. Using the previous October census for calculating Deprivation FSM6 funding rather than the previous January census (reducing the lag)
- The only mandatory factor for 2022-23 would be the application of the minimum per pupil funding levels, being £4,265 and £5,525 in Primary and Secondary respectively;
 - The final formula would be presented at Schools Forum in January 2022 when the final allocations have been confirmed and subsequently to the full Council for political ratification and approval in February 2022. Wiltshire would be fully funded on the basis of the NFF values and therefore would be in a position to fund schools fully using NFF values;
 - The key funding decisions to be taken by Schools Forum for the 2022-23 year would include:
 - a. To apply all NFF factors in full
 - b. To apply the NFF sparsity values and methodology
 - c. To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF)
 - d. To agree the de-delegation arrangements for maintained schools
 - e. To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
 - Following a consultation regarding Sparsity funding, in support of small and rural schools, the DfE had increased the level of support through the sparsity factor. In 2021-22, 28 primary and 2 secondary schools had been eligible for sparsity funding and for 2022-23 under the new methodology this would rise to 50 primary and 3 secondary schools – a total of £1.7 million which was quite a significant increase which equated to less than 1% of the school's block funding; and
 - Initial modelling of the Schools Block demonstrates that the NFF is affordable, based upon the October 2020 census and therefore the full NFF could be implemented.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative commented that the sparsity funding should be fully utilised for Wiltshire's small rural schools and the new methodology would mean that 1 in 4 schools will get a boost of funding that would benefit the children and staff in those schools.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum agree the following ‘in principle’ decisions for the formula factors to enable school budgets to be prepared ready for the 20 January 2022 meeting.

a. To apply all NFF factors in full

b. To apply the NFF sparsity values and methodology

c. To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF).

41 **Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2022-23**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum with the results of the recent Autumn consultations relating to de-delegation of central services and transfer of funds from Schools Block to High Needs Block and highlighted the following:

- Under the “soft formula”, funding should be fully delegated to schools, however certain central services can be ‘de-delegated’ for maintained schools only, with approval of the respective maintained Schools Forum representatives;
- All maintained schools were consulted and 25 responses were received – 22 from primary schools and 3 from secondary schools. The response level was slightly down from last year. The results received were significantly in favour of retaining the de-delegated services in both the Primary and Secondary schools which would the inform eligible Schools Forum representatives when voting on the school budgets for 2022-23;
- The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools Block and other blocks within the DSG. In the last three financial years, Schools Forum had agreed to the following transfers;
 - 2019-20 - £2.2m which equated to 0.8% of Schools Block funding
 - 2020-21 - £2.065m which equated to 0.7% of Schools Block, which was subsequently reduced to 0.5% by the Secretary of State;
 - 2021-22 - £1.517m which equated to 0.5% of Schools Block funding
- It had been agreed at previous Schools Forum meetings that a request to transfer greater than 0.5% would not be applied for, due to previous decisions of the Secretary of State, unless the results of the consultation supported a greater transfer; and
- A three week consultation was carried out via Rightchoice and was open to all schools. A total of 19 responses were received – 7 from secondary schools and 12 from primary schools. All those that responded supported a transfer of funds from the Schools block to the High Needs block. Only 3 respondents supported a ‘hybrid’ option of a block transfer and a reduction in Top-Up values. The majority of respondents supported a transfer of 0.5% (£1.58 million).

Resolved that Schools Forum:

- 1. Note the local consultation responses in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2022-23 financial year.**
- 2. Agree the following ‘in principle’ decisions in accordance with the consultation responses as detailed below;**

De-delegation of central services for Maintained schools

- **FSM – primary and secondary**
- **Licences – primary and secondary**
- **Trade Union – primary and secondary**
- **Maternity – primary and secondary**
- **Ethnic Minority Support – primary only**
- **Traveller Education – primary only**
- **Behaviour Support – primary only**

- 3. Agree a block transfer between Schools Block and the High Needs Block, subject to affordability when school funding for 2022-23 has been confirmed as detailed below:**
 - **Transfer of 0.5% of Schools Block to the High Needs Block, the maximum allowable without Secretary of State approval which equates to approximately £1.58m.**

42 Update from High Needs Working Group

Helean Hughes (Director of Education and Skills) gave an update on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group and highlighted the following:

- The Temporary Support Funding had been discussed. There was currently an issue in meeting the statutory 20 week requirement for EHCPs. Due to national an increased demand for assessments and recruitment issues, Education Psychologist resource was in short supply which was causing delays and whilst they were trying to recruit additional EP resource there was an immediate issue for the meeting the 20 week deadline. The use of £4k per pupil was agreed to be used for supporting the pupil whilst awaiting the outcome of the EHCP application; and
- The test site for the Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) had been shared which set out what was available for learners with SEND, for parents. Schools and all parties. Officers were dedicated to being able to launch this in the new year.

Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion) reported that the DfE SEND review would be set up by Will Quince (Children’s Minister) and was due to be issued in the first quarter of 2022. They were hoping to see adaptations to be made to

the SEND Code of Practice so that the law that sits behind sets out the intentions of the DfE in terms of the inspection framework for Ofsted and CQC local area inspections.

Lisa Fryer (Education Officer – Independent Specialist Placements) presented an update on the Independent Special School wave 1 review and highlighted the following:

- There were 68 cases where savings had been made and the vast majority of those were in specialist ISS. There had been 54 step downs and/or 'bring backs' which had made savings to stepping down to a lesser option whilst fully meeting their needs in a different way or moving into mainstream education. So of the significant bring backs where from young people coming back into the county having been in 'out of county placements' for quite a long time;
- Some of the key things learned in the last 12 months were that ISS are not always more able to meet complex SEN learners needs. It was identified that it was possible to step down and bring back from ISS placements but this was often very labour intensive with colleagues working many hours on these;
- In 2020 there was an open book and a review of all those in the ISS sector was carried out. 68 young people were identified as the focus target group to step down and bring back and Officers would continue to look at cases to see if savings could be made;
- Something else that had been highlighted was that because of some unsatisfactory Ofsted judgements some of the groups who run ISS are starting to be more cautious about who they will take in their placements which impacts on our placement offers being withdrawn at short notice in some cases;
- Case studies of step down and bring backs were shared which showed how valuable that work was;
- The slide entitled 'Achieving better outcomes for learners with SEND' showed the sorts of savings that had been made with some day placements stepping down from something high end to something still supportive for that young person. The High Needs working group target savings of £500k had been achieved for 2020-21 and was on target to achieve for 2021-22; and
- The wave 2 takeaways were that the learner voice had been integral to step downs/bring back and would remain key as was keeping the young people close to their families and communities. The quality assurance monitoring of settings would continue to be increasingly focused on.

The Chair thanked Lisa Fryer for her presentation and confirmed that the slides would be attached as **Appendix 1** to the minutes.

The Wiltshire Parent Carer Council representative agreed that the amount of money spent on a placement didn't always mean it was of high quality although this was a perception from parents/carers. She reported that the Parent Carer Council had received a high number of calls relating to children and young people who were on long term part-time education timetables and that there were a lot of mental health issues because of this and the levels of school avoidance were high.

The Early Years representative commented that the considerable savings made in this work were impressive and he acknowledged how complex and time consuming the cases were but asked about the costs of the work to make those savings in relation to the staffing time etc spent on that work. Lisa Fryer confirmed that she had been seconded to move into this role and her post had had to be backfilled and whilst there had been some challenges, there hadn't been any additional resource brought in to carry out the work and that it was sitting within the existing team. They felt that it was proportionate between the amount of work going in and the savings being achieved and that the focus was on the best outcomes for the young people and that made it a worthwhile exercise.

Helean Hughes reported that the team would now be moving into business as usual work and that a model PFA pathway for adulthood would be the next challenge to ensure that it was fully addressing the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

Resolved: That Schools Forum

- 1. Note the minutes of the High Needs Block Working Group meeting held on 9 November 2021.**
- 2. Note the update on behalf of the High Needs Block Working Group.**
- 3. Note the update on the Independent Special School Review.**

Appendix 1 to Minutes attached - Slides for Update on Special School Review

43 Dedicated Schools Budget - Early Years, Central School Services and High Needs Block Update 2022-23

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, central school services and high needs blocks for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for the 2022-23 financial year and highlighted the following:

- Early years - In line with previous years, limited information for Wiltshire was available as yet in relation to early years funding. In the 2021 Spending Review the Chancellor announced national funding increases

of £160m, £180m and £170m for the next three years. It had also been announced that

- i) A 30% increase in the Disability Access Fund which was up £185 to £800 per annum per eligible child.
 - ii) An increase of £40 to £342 for the early years Pupil Premium
 - iii) A 2 year old funding increase of £0.21p per hour so rates would rise to £5.69 per hour subject to discussions at the next meeting of the Early Years reference group in January
 - iv) The 3 and 4 year old funding increase was yet to be confirmed but it was anticipated to be in the region of £0.16p so perhaps rising to £4.41 per hour.
- Settings had been advised not to make any planning decisions until the allocations for Wiltshire had been received later in December;
 - The provisional allocations for the high needs block were an uplift of 8.39% and 6.07% for the central block;
 - The DfE have been reducing historic commitments. Wiltshire has been allocated £0.294m for historic commitments based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2021-22 reduced by 20% of £0.073m;
 - The central schools services block allocates funding to the LA to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils of maintained schools and academies. Schools Forum approval was required on a line by line basis for the group of services which are funded from the central schools' block. An assumed level of inflation had been applied to the central copyright licences in section A;
 - For Section B it was proposed to apply salary inflation of 2% to reflect the 2% pay award for staff which was expected next year;
 - For Section C historic commitments it was proposed to follow factors for 2022-23. It was proposed to keep the funding for CiC Personal Education Plans at the same level, apply a level of inflation to the Child Protection in Schools Advisers and reduce the amount committed to prudential borrowing;
 - There would be a report later in the meeting relating to the DfE consultation around the removal of the School Improvement Grant amount and the School Funding working group had held an extraordinary meeting in September to formulate a response on behalf of School Forum. Assuming the proposed budget is accepted by Schools Forum, an amount of £0.219m unallocated CSSB was estimated as available and could be used as in previous years, to transfer to fund high needs pressures or, in light of the proposed reduction and removal of the school improvement brokerage and monitoring grant, an increased allocation

could be used by the local authority to support any school requiring support;

- High needs would hopefully see an 8% increase; however the high needs formula was updated to our detriment due to the lower numbers of learners with statements in 2017-18 than in more recent years. Whilst the additional funding of an additional £4.825 announcement in July 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 the 2021-22 financial year for Wiltshire;
- The SEN review was now promised in the first quarter of 2022. It was hoped that a national resolution could be found to ensure funding levels better reflect local demands;
- An early assessment of the pressures on the high needs block for 2022-23 was shared and highlighted that it was not possible to fully fund the pressures from within the high needs block. The high needs block allocation for 2021-22 was £62.354 million with a transfer from the central block surplus of £0.219 million and a potential transfer from school's block of 0.5% of £1.580 million plus a transfer of the excess growth fund which would still see a funding shortfall; and
- The DfE management plan and an update from the second informal meeting would be discussed at the January Forum meeting.

Resolved: That Schools Forum

- 1. Note the early years information in the report and that the budget for early years will be considered in full at the January 2022 meeting.**
- 2. Note the central services information in the report and the required decisions in relation to the central school's block budget for 2022-23 and agree the decisions in principle in advance of setting the Schools budget in January 2022.**
 - i) Section A – consult only**
 - ii) Section B – approve on a line-by-line basis (*including a potential transfer to the high needs block or, pending the local consultation additional DSG funding to support school improvement.*)**
 - iii) Section C – approve on a line-by-line basis**
- 3. Note that any updates around the DfE consultation to remove the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant will be brought to the January 2022 meeting for update and decision.**

4. **Note the pressures on the high needs block for 2022-23 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 be considered in full at the January 2022 meeting alongside the recovery plan. That Schools Forum note the report and consider the questions raised in the report.**

44 **Allocation of Funding for Growth Fund 2022-23**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the school's block growth fund in 2022-23 and highlighted the following:

- Growth allocations for 2022-23 would be based on pupil data from the October 2021 census and the October 2020 census. Funding is allocated to local authorities based on the actual growth in pupil numbers they experienced over the previous year;
- In Wiltshire, growth is measured by separating the county into 62 middle layer super output areas (MSOA) with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area. The growth factor allocates £1,485 for each primary 'growth' pupil, £2,200 for each secondary 'growth' pupil and £70,800 for each brand new school that opened in the previous year. No new schools were planned;
- Schools Forum will be asked to agree the size of the growth fund budget and with regard to allocating funding from the growth fund there were a number of requirements as detailed below:
 - a. can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
 - b. to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulations
 - c. to meet the costs of new schools
 - d. the fund must be used consistently for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies
 - e. any funds remaining at the end of the financial year will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.
 - f. local authorities will be required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated. These should provide a transparent and consistent basis (with differences permitted between phases) for the allocation of all growth funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid

- g. local authorities will need to propose the criteria and size for the growth fund to Schools Forum and gain its agreement on both the criteria and size of the fund before growth funding is allocated.
- Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools whose numbers have fallen but are expected to rise again within 3 years. Wiltshire Schools Forum had always resisted the establishing of a Falling Rolls fund – there had been no pressure from schools or other groups to establish such a fund and because of the previous financial pressures on schools block it has not been considered appropriate. Over 50 other local authorities did not have a Falling Rolls fund.

There were no comments from Schools Forum Members on the establishment of a Falling Rolls fund and the Chair reported that this could be considered at the January meeting once the budget and allocations had been confirmed.

Resolved that Schools Forum

- 1. Approve the criteria for allocating pupil Growth Fund in 2022-23.**
- 2. Agree that the budget for the Growth Fund be set at its meeting in January 2022, when the full DSG has been confirmed for the 2022-23 year.**
- 3. Continue to give consideration to the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and any criteria befitting such a fund.**

45 Consultation on the Future Funding of School Improvement Services

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which was circulated as Agenda Supplement 1 which sought to provide an update on the DfE's consultation 'Reforming how local authority school improvement functions are funded' and provided the results of a local consultation regarding the future funding of School Improvement Services for maintained schools. Grant highlighted the following:

- The consultation from the DfE was launched in late October 2021 with a closing date for responses of 26 November 2021. Colleagues from the Schools and SEN Working Group met to discuss a response to the consultation which was shared with schools in November 2021. All schools, governors and other stakeholders were encouraged to respond;
- The 2 key questions of the consultation were to
 - a) Remove the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB) which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities

- b) Make provisions within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity via de-delegation from schools' budget shares
- The grant was introduced in 2017 to help local authorities fund school improvement activities and the proposal would be to reduce this grant by 50% for maintained schools for 2022-23 and then remove the grant for 2023-24;
 - There were 28 responses from the schools to the consultation – 25 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special. There were a number of options of which the responses were asked to rank their preference. The preference for 27/28 of the respondents was for the status quo to be retained with the DfE continuing to fully fund School Improvement through the SIMB; and
 - The second preference was to move to a de-delegation model with maintained schools having to de-delegate part of their budget to fund School Improvement services.

Catriona Williamson (maintained primary representative) stated that they currently bought in School Improvement services as they believed they were of higher quality and felt it would be hard for her to make a decision on behalf of all other maintained schools today and would have to justify to her Governors why there could be money taken out of their budget to fund School Improvement services that they did not wish to take up.

John Hawkins (Teaching representative) wished to report that from his Governor perspective of his School their School Improvement Adviser was outstanding and they were very pleased with their service.

Andy Bridewell (maintained primary representative) reported that he felt torn about this decision and would like the opportunity to share more information with their other maintained primary representatives and seek their views before being asked to make a decision.

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) reported that decision could be taken at the 20 January meeting of Schools Forum to allow time for more discussion with maintained schools.

The Chair asked for other maintained school representatives for their views:

Sam Churchill (maintained primary representative) agreed that she would prefer to not make the decision today on behalf of other maintained schools.

Nigel Roper (maintained secondary representative) reported that he shared the views of colleagues and whilst there were only 4 secondary maintained schools, they were happy with the School Improvement services they were currently

receiving and felt it would be best to defer the decision as there was no urgency for the decision to be made today.

Catriona Williamson (maintained primary representative) agreed with colleagues that she was not ready to make a decision today.

David Whewell reminded that the views of Governors of maintained schools views should also be sought.

Aileen Bates (maintained special school governor representative) reported that as the only maintained special school representative present she would also wish to consult with colleagues and defer the decision to the next meeting.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) offered to provide additional information from colleagues in School Improvement to explain about the grant to better inform the planned discussions with colleagues – this was welcomed by the maintained representatives.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the local consultation responses in relation to the school improvement services for the 2022-23 financial year and postpone decision making until the January 2022 meeting.

46 **Covid Updates**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) gave a verbal update on Covid funding/costs for schools and early years settings and highlighted the following:

- The good news was that the Recovery Premium was set to continue for a further two academic years after 2021-22. The allocations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 were to be £145 per primary mainstream pupil and an amount to be confirmed for secondary mainstream pupils and £290 per special school pupil. The secondary school rate would be shared as soon as received;
- A Workforce Fund had opened for absenteeism for staff related to absences from Covid. The detail would be added to Rightchoice but the claim process was in the still being established;

Marie Taylor reminded Schools Forum of the additional £400k of flexible pastoral support for early years settings mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Grant Davis reported hot off the press news that an additional £1.6 billion of funding for 2022-23 had been announced. There was an employer's National Insurance increase of 1.25% (as part of the Health and Social Care Levy) as detailed below:

- Funding would offset additional National Insurance costs

- Funding would help towards teacher starting salary increases
- Funding would help towards the hike in energy costs

The distribution method was to be confirmed. It was likely to be a separate grant in 2022-23 and baselined in 2023-24 through the National Funding Formula.

Details would be shared with Schools via Rightchoice.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the verbal updates on funding provided at the meeting.

47 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

20 January 2022 (now likely to be a virtual meeting at the request of Schools Forum members)
17 March 2022 (if required)
9 June 2022
6 October 2022
8 December 2022.

48 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30pm - 4.06pm)

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

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk)

High Needs Block Recovery Work

Independent Special Schools Update

Wave 1: What did we learn?

ISS are not always more able to meet complex SEN learners needs...multiple 'failing' placements on an ongoing basis

20
+

Staff skill levels/expertise in ISS is typically = to or no better than in our MSS or mainstream...teaching and support staff shortages are acute in ISS

Quality of provision in ISS is variable. High staff turnover (including Leadership Teams). Red flag OFSTED/QCC Reports/ soft intel a concern in 7 settings currently

It is possible to 'Step-Down' & 'Bring Back' from ISS...but this is often very labour intensive

68
+

Our learners in ISS are typically taught in small class groups, staff ratios are high and there is usually access to Therapy Teams and/or onsite AP/rural environment

Considerable case by case savings can be made but net overall improvement is only possible if there is capacity further down the SEN System

Market Forces = £££...ISS market illusion of 'can do'...but there is increasing caution from some companies/resultant closures, driven by increased OFSTED/QCC scrutiny

Achieving better outcomes for learners with SEND...

Case Study 'J'
 Step Down: ISS Day
 Special SEMH to
 Mainstream College
HNB Saving = £68085

Case Study 'L'
 Step Down: ISS Day
 Special SEMH to
 Mainstream College
HNB Saving = £33769

Case Study 'M'
 Step Down: ISS Day
 Special SEMH to
 Downland School **HNB**
Saving = £63433

Case Study 'T'
 Step Down: ISS 38
 weekly boarding SEMH
 to ISS Day SEMH **HNB**
Saving = £72713

Student 'N'
 Step Down: ISS Day
 ASC to TIPS package
HNB Saving = £47851

Case Study 'M'
 Step Down: ISS Day
 ASC to Mainstream
 College **HNB Saving =**
£ 57821

Savings on this slide =
 £343,672

Savings on previous slide = £184,230

And there are 45 more to calculate...

HNB Target Savings
 2020-21: £500,000

HNB Target Savings
 2021-22: £500,000

HNB Target Savings
 2022-23
 £1m

SEND System of Excellence & Linked Wave 2 ISS Priorities:

Developing Holistic Plans with C/YP:

Learner Voice has been integral to 'Step Downs'/'Bring Backs' and will remain key

Inclusion & Removing Exclusion in Education:

Assessing individual needs carefully prior to placement, at Phase Transfers and Crisis points will continue

Inclusion & Wellbeing In The Community:

Focus on educating learners as close to their families/communities

Improving Range & Quality of Provision:

Ongoing - Higher Needs SEMH Secondary Provision at Strategic SEND Dec 21 for consideration

Progress & Attainment:

QA Monitoring of settings is increasingly focussed on individual data: attendance, progress over time and accreditation outcomes

Well Planned Transitions:

Whilst all ISS cases are prioritised for Annual Review attendance, APT lens is supporting learners/families with transition



Schools Forum

School Funding and SEN Working Group

MS TEAMS MEETING

10th January 2022

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Sam Churchill (Hilmarton) Georgina Theobald-Kiely (Downlands) Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Graham Shore (Holy Trinity)

Apologies: Simon Thomas, Gary Binstead (LA), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA),

1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting. Various members had advised that they would be late / time limited and so the agenda was re-designed to accommodate and will be in a more logical order for Schools Forum later this month</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>These were considered at Schools Forum in December – no actions outstanding</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p>Schools Funding Reports (GD)</p> <p>GD shared his reports – highlights, still a “soft” year with local flexibility, Year 3/3 of Boris Billions funding pledge, MFG set at 2% locally, means no drop in per pupil funding, Sparsity is the largest change, various agreements in principle were achieved in December SF meeting around de-delegated (excl. SIMB) and transfer to HNB. All schools will have their budgets by the end of February 2022.</p> <p>Schools Block Modelling £328M of which Growth funding set by the DfE at £1.913M, business rates now funded centrally at £3.034m and assumption around a HNB transfer at (£1.643m), sparsity only comprises 0.72% of the total schools budget. A mandatory uplift of 2% in the minimum per pupil funding levels.</p> <p>Supplementary Funding Support promised for the health and social care levy (1.25% on national insurance) and wider cost pressures in school (energy, rising inflation, unknown pay award etc) This will be paid to all schools in April (including academies) – funding is based upon number on roll. any maintained nurseries and post 16 pupils, additional support for FSM6 pupils and a lump sum per school.</p>	
5.	<p>DfE removal of the Schools Improvement Brokerage and Monitoring Grant and proposed de-delegation in 22-23 (at 50%) and beyond at 100%. (GD)</p> <p>Grant updated the group on the information briefings commentary and online voting The DfE have not yet confirmed their response to the consultation. Autumn Consultation 86% support for Option 2 – full de-delegation Session 1 (Thursday) 100% support from attendees who voted Session 2 (Friday) 86.6% support from attendees who voted</p>	

	<p>CW had helpfully carried out a consultation with PHF members. She fed back that some schools appreciated the service but felt that could not afford additional de-delegation. Value for money and a steer with service requirements was raised as something which schools may like to see evidence of for future years (time was not on our side for 2022-23) and it was agreed this would be very possible moving forward. GD and HH offered to meet separately with CW to look at specific feedback and have a closer look at solutions prior to Schools Forum.</p>	GD/HH/ CW
6.	<p>Early Years Block Update 2022-23 (MT)</p> <p>Marie shared her report including the national increases to funding rates. The options were consulted on with the EY reference group on the 5th January and the group supported the local authority recommendation – option 3. All options adhered to the 95% passporting requirements.</p>	
7.	<p>High Needs Block Update 2022-23 (MT)</p> <p>Marie shared her report around the high needs budget including the later announcement from the DfE around the supplementary grant. The demand on the high needs budget exceeds the funding available from the DfE, the budget is therefore set at the reduced (pro-rata'd) level with rates of top ups and named pupil allowances protected at the current level. There are assumptions in the report around transfers between blocks. LP suggested the report reiterated that these funding / demand pressures were national, not just local to Wiltshire and that the transfer from Schools Block assisted with protecting current Top up and NPA.</p> <p>With regard to the supplementary funding, it is proposed that due to the lateness of the announced funding, the funding is allocated on a temporary / interim arrangement for 2022-23 and any permanent changes feed into a banding review for 23-24. Grant and Marie are due to meet with SW colleagues on 12-01-22 to discuss approaches to allocating funding, to explore a consistent approach across the south west.</p>	MT MT/GD
8.	<p>Central Schools Services Block (MT)</p> <p>Marie shared her report around the central school services budget*. The historic section has reduced by 20% and this CERA has been reduced. This minimises impact on central school services.</p> <p>*Note, apologies, an error post meeting was noticed in that VAT had been included in the copyright licences and this has since been corrected, reducing copyright and increasing the amount available to transfer to HNB.</p>	
9.	<p>AOB (MT)</p> <p>There was no AOB from the group – the meeting closed at 10.15am.</p>	
10	<p><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>IF there is Schools Forum business, the next SFWG meeting will be – Monday 7th March 2022 @ 8.30am. This is planned as a virtual teams meeting. Papers will be circulated by Lisa Pullin Wednesday 9th March 2022</p> <p>IF there is Schools Forum business, the next Schools Forum meeting will be Thursday 17th March 2022 @ 1.30pm. This is planned as a possible virtual teams meeting.</p> <p>If there is no business, the next Schools Forum will be June 2022.</p>	MT

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

20th January 2022

School Improvement Services 2022-23 – National and Local Consultation

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum with the consultation response to the Department for Education's consultation '*Reforming how local authorities school improvement functions are funded*'.
2. The consultation response will help to inform Schools Forum decisions for setting the budgets for the 2022-23 financial year.

Background to Consultation

3. The Department for Education (DfE) released its consultation '*Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded*' on the 29th October 2021 with a closing date for responses of the 26th November 2021.
4. Colleagues from the Schools and SEN Working Group met to discuss a response to the consultation which was shared with schools in November 2021. All schools, governors and other stakeholders were encouraged to respond.
5. The two key questions which formed the mainstay of the DfE consultation were to:
 - a. **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMB), which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities; and
 - b. **Make provisions** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) via de-delegation from schools' budget shares.
6. The SIMB has been provided to local authorities since 2017, to help fulfil their core improvement activities, which was originally based upon the number of maintained schools within the county.
7. The SIMB replaced the previous Education Services Grant (ESG) at a significantly reduced funding value. At this point in time, the DfE introduced an option for Schools Forum to agree to de-delegate funding for 'Education Functions'. From 2017, as a result of the SIMB and re-structuring of the School Improvement service, it was determined that a request for de-delegation would not be pursued.

The Consultation Response

8. The DfE published its [response to the consultation](#) on the 11th January 2022 and has confirmed its position following the consultation.
 - i. **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMB), by 50% in 2022-23 and in full from 2023-24; and
 - ii. **Include** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) via de-delegation from schools' budget shares.

9. The consultation was well supported with 565 individual responses, including a significant number of responses from Wiltshire schools, organisations, governors and the Council (over 40 responses and 7% of total responses were from Wiltshire).
10. The key argument put forward by the DfE for the removal of the grant surrounds its use. The DfE considers that the grant has been primarily used for providing improvement functions including early support and challenge to improve school performance rather than for exercising formal intervention powers.
11. There is a considerable argument in favour of early intervention to prevent the need for having to exercise formal intervention, however this appears to have carried little weight for the future funding of the grant. Indeed, the DfE's response concentrates on the grant having been provided in support of 'Schools Causing Concern', in accordance with their guidance of the same name.
12. The DfE provided further narrative to each of the 4 questions to help confirm and justify their decision including.
 - LA's focus more on the non-intervention aspects of their core school improvement activities as they prefer to act before performance deteriorates to the point of requiring formal intervention, and that this overlaps with wider (non-core) school improvement provision
 - the vast majority of respondents indicated their LA provides early support and challenge before intervention becomes necessary
 - the DfE expect MATs to fund school improvement activity via deducting the cost of the activity from their academy budgets, and for this reason, believe it is right to move towards removing this grant and putting school improvement funding on a more even footing
 - whilst de-delegation would put pressure on school budgets, the recent Spending Review has announced an additional £1.6bn of core schools funding in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, which is on top of the £2.4bn year-on-year increase already announced as part of Spending Review 2019
 - in line with other de-delegation decisions, the Secretary of State will retain the power to approve the de-delegation contrary to the decisions of the Schools Forum, if satisfied that the council had demonstrated such de-delegation was necessary to ensure the council is adequately funded to exercise core school improvement activities
 - the DfE recognise that many respondents would prefer Government continuing to pay this grant, however removal will bring funding arrangements for LA's school improvement activity closer into line with those in the academy sector; and will enable councils to better adjust over time to the Government's longer-term ambition for all schools to become academies within a strong trust
 - the DfE will update the Schools Causing Concern guidance to make clear, core school improvement activity goes beyond exercising of formal intervention powers and provide further clarity over core functions

The Local Consultation

13. To provide Schools Forum with a steer, a local consultation was arranged and presented to the December 2021 meeting of Schools Forum. (The December report is appended to this report, as Appendix 1).
14. A proposal was brought to the meeting and both Governors and Representatives for maintained schools asked if the decision could be deferred to enable further information to be provided and also further consultation with maintained schools, by their representative bodies.
15. The Primary Heads Forum Executive liaised with its members and the Director of Education and Skills arranged two information sessions, including a Q&A opportunity for schools to raise any concerns or queries.
16. A straw-poll was conducted to canvas views from schools at the information sessions to gain a feel for the support for de-delegating funding for School Improvement. The results from the two sessions supported the views expressed in the local consultation held before the December 2021 Schools Forum.
 - *Local Consultation – 86% of respondents in support of de-delegation*
 - *First Information Session – 100% of respondents in support of de-delegation*
 - *Second information Session – 87% of respondents in support of de-delegation*
17. The local consultation process has been very engaging and the opportunity exists for maintained schools to participate in shaping the future of School Improvement services in the future.
18. The consultation for the de-delegation of funding for services for maintained schools must be performed annually. In Wiltshire, this is carried out in the Autumn each year, ready to inform Schools Forum members and for 'in principle' decisions to be taken ahead of the budget setting meeting in January.

Proposals

19. Schools Forum is asked to note the outcome from the DfE's consultation and the local consultation responses in relation to the school improvement services for the 2022-23 financial year.
20. Schools Forum is asked to consider de-delegating funding in support of School Improvement services being provided for the 2022-23 year.

Report Author: Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager

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APPENDIX 1

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

9th December 2021

Local Consultation – School Improvement Services 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum with the results of the recent consultation with maintained schools relating to;
 - removal of the *'School improvement, monitoring and brokering grant'* 2022-23 and 2023-24
2. The survey results will help to inform Schools Forum decisions for setting the budgets for the 2022-23 financial year.

Background to Consultation

3. The Department for Education (DfE) released its consultation *'Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded'* in late October 2021 with a closing date for responses of the 26th November 2021.
4. Colleagues from the Schools and SEN Working Group met to discuss a response to the consultation which was shared with schools in November 2021. All schools, governors and other stakeholders were encouraged to respond.
5. The two key questions which formed the mainstay of the DfE consultation were to:
 - c. **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMB), which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities; and
 - d. **Make provisions** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) via de-delegation from schools' budget shares.
6. The SIMB has been provided to local authorities since 2017, to help fulfil their core improvement activities, which was based upon the number of maintained schools.
7. The proposals from the DfE are to reduce the grant by 50% in 2022-23, with full removal in the 2023-24 year. Local authorities would have the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation or on a traded basis.

The Local Consultation

8. In order to provide Schools Forum with a steer, a local consultation was arranged to provide a basket of options, with schools being asked to rank each of the options in order of priority. A copy of the consultation is held at Appendix 1.
9. The consultation was open to all maintained schools and a total of 28 responses were received, which can be broken down as follows.
 - 2 secondary schools
 - 25 primary schools
 - 1 special school

10. Of the schools that responded, the results can be summarised as detailed in the table below;

Scoring	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
First preference	27	0	1	0
Second preference	1	24	2	1
Third preference	0	2	14	8
Fourth preference	0	1	9	16
TOTAL	28	27	26	25

11. This data will inform the decision making around the 2022-23 budget for school improvement services. A breakdown of individual responses is detailed at Appendix 2.

Proposals

12. Schools Forum is asked to note the local consultation responses in relation to the school improvement services for the 2022-23 financial year.

13. Schools Forum is asked to consider the making of an 'in principle' decisions in accordance with the consultation responses as below;

- ***Pending the outcome of DfE consultation, funding to be de-delegated in the 2022-23 year, based upon the removal of 50% of the SIMB grant, using Key Stage Funding Weighting or not.***
- ***In the event of the SIMB grant not being reduced, any de-delegated funding to be passed back to maintained schools.***

Report Author: Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager

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Appendix 1 – Future Funding of School Improvement - Consultation

Please rank the options below in order of priority, where 1 is your preferred option and 4 is your least favoured option?

Options	Detail	Rank																				
Option 1	<p>To retain the status quo.</p> <p>The DfE continue to appropriately fund local authorities for core activity or, to transfer the grant into the central school services block to allow local authorities and Schools Forum to have local control to respond to local need.</p>																					
Option 2	<p>To fully de-delegate funding for School Improvement services.</p> <p>(Maintained schools would de-delegate funding from their school budgets to fund School Improvement services)</p> <p>(Academy schools could access School Improvement services on a fully traded basis.)</p> <p><i>There were 25,072 pupils attending a maintained school in Wiltshire in the October 2021 census. On this basis, de-delegation per pupil could be:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2"><i>NOR no weighting across sector (per pupil)</i></th> <th colspan="2"><i>NOR with Key Stage Funding weighting (per pupil)</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22-23 (50% grant removed)</td> <td>£9.39</td> <td>£9.39</td> <td>£8.88</td> <td>£13.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23-24 and thereafter (100% grant removed)</td> <td>£18.79</td> <td>£18.79</td> <td>£17.76</td> <td>£26.28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>NOR no weighting across sector (per pupil)</i>		<i>NOR with Key Stage Funding weighting (per pupil)</i>			Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	22-23 (50% grant removed)	£9.39	£9.39	£8.88	£13.14	23-24 and thereafter (100% grant removed)	£18.79	£18.79	£17.76	£26.28	
	<i>NOR no weighting across sector (per pupil)</i>		<i>NOR with Key Stage Funding weighting (per pupil)</i>																			
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary																		
22-23 (50% grant removed)	£9.39	£9.39	£8.88	£13.14																		
23-24 and thereafter (100% grant removed)	£18.79	£18.79	£17.76	£26.28																		
Option 3	<p>Cease LA School Improvement Services funded by the grant.</p> <p>This means that the current supportive and preventative approach, such as the School Improvement Adviser programme,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which reduces the need to exercise formal intervention powers, - ensures that rapid progress is made, - pupils receive the <i>suitable education</i> they deserve <p>will no longer be possible.</p> <p>Posts within the School Improvement service will therefore be deleted.</p> <p>(All support to academies is fully chargeable.)</p>																					
Option 4	<p>Secretary of State to override a local Schools Forum Decision</p> <p>For the Secretary of State for Education to override any local Schools Forum decision not to de-delegate and impose de-delegation for School Improvement services, at the amounts detailed in Option 2.</p>																					

Please respond to the consultation by sending your completed response to absupport@wiltshire.gov.uk by Monday 6th December 2021

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	Ranking			
School 1	2	4	1	3
School 2	1	2	4	3
School 3	1	2	3	4
School 4	1	2	3	4
School 5	1	2	3	4
School 6	1	2	4	3
School 7	1	2	3	4
School 8	1	2	4	3
School 9	1	2	3	4
School 10	1	2	3	4
School 11	1	2	4	3
School 12	1	2	3	4
School 13	1	2	4	3
School 14	1	2	3	4
School 15	1	2	3	4
School 16	1	*2/3	4	*2/3
School 17	1	2	3	4
School 18	1	2	3	4
School 19	1	3	4	2
School 20	1	2	4	3
School 21	1	2		
School 22	1	2	4	4
School 23	1	2	3	4
School 24	1	2	3	4
School 25	1	3	2	4
School 26	1	2	3	4
School 27	1		2	
School 28	1	2		

Scoring	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
First preference	27	0	1	0
Second preference	1	24	2	1
Third preference	0	2	14	8
Fourth preference	0	1	9	16
TOTAL	28	27	26	25

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Wiltshire Council

School Funding & SEN Working Group - 10th January 2022

Schools Forum - 20th January 2022

Schools Revenue Funding 2022-23 - Funding Settlement & Budget Setting Process

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2022-23.
2. The report will outline the funding settlement announced on 16th December 2021 and the impact on school budgets arising from the settlement. The report will also outline the decision-making process for the 2022-23 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 2022-23

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, a further £730m for 2021-22 and £780m for 2022-23.
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 3.2% in the pupil-led funding factors compared to 2021-22. The 2022-23 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 2022-23 year as detailed in the table below.

8.

<u>MPPFL</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Key Stage 1&2	£3,750	£4,180*	£4,265
Key Stage 3	£4,800	£5,215*	£5,321
Key Stage 4	£5,300	£5,715*	£5,831

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

9. 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. Following the Department for Education (DfE) consultation in 2021, further guidance regarding a move towards a 'hard' formula is expected between now and 2024-25.
10. 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%.
11. The Sparsity factor has seen the greatest changes of all formula factors. The National Funding Formula (NFF) has;
- increased the maximum sparsity values by £10,000
 - calculated sparsity distances based upon road distances
 - applied a sparsity distance taper (making schools eligible where the school has a sparsity distance 20% below the main threshold)
12. Data for pupils who are eligible for FSM6 funding is now taken from the October census rather than the previous January school census.
13. Following the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 school assessments due to Covid-19, the Low Prior Attainment data from 2019 will be used as a proxy for the assessments which would have taken place in 2020 and 2021.
14. The DfE will pay Business rates on behalf of all schools from 2022-23 onwards removing the need for schools to pay their own Business rates and then recover the funding.
15. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding will continue in the 2022-23 year, with the rates being uplifted from the current 2021-22 rates. The DfE have confirmed that the numbers of eligible PPG pupils will be taken from the October 2021 census and not the January 2022 census. The funding rates for 2022-23 are set out in the table below.

<u>Premium</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Secondary</u>	
Year	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
FSM6 (Deprivation)	£1,345	£1,385	£955	£985
LAC and Post-LAC*	£2,345	£2,410	£2,345	£2,410
Service	£310	£320	£310	£320

* - 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 2022-23

Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23

16. The DfE issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on the 16th December 2021. The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council is **£422.409m**. This is an increase of **£16.067m** compared with 2021-22. The table below shows the breakdown of the Blocks.

<u>Block</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Schools Block	£317,724,345	£328,593,782
Central Block	£2,565,122	£2,604,175
High Needs Block	£57,835,120	£62,690,534
Early Years Block	£28,217,273	£28,520,960
TOTAL FUNDING	£406,341,860	£422,409,451

17. The increase reflects the impact of the uplift to the Schools' and High Needs Blocks incorporating the additional funding pledged by the government.
18. The increase also reflects the Teachers Pay and Pension Grants which were incorporated into the core Blocks in 2021-22.
19. The split of funding between the Blocks is set out below to show the year-on-year movements.

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Schools Block	275,215,164	293,142,767	317,724,345	328,593,782	10,869,437	3.42%
Central Block	2,570,343	2,479,715	2,565,122	2,604,175	39,053	1.52%
High Needs Block	47,091,825	51,996,188	57,835,120	62,690,534	4,855,414	8.40%
Early Years Block	26,768,825	26,884,359	28,217,273	28,520,960	303,687	1.08%
TOTAL FUNDING	351,646,157	374,503,029	406,341,860	422,409,451	16,067,591	3.95%

20. The **Schools Block** has been calculated based on the NFF funding factor values published in July 2021 and applied to the October 2021 census information. These 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 2021 census to arrive at the Schools' Block total for 2022-23. (Since 2021-22, the rates include the Teachers Pay and Pension funding, built into the basic AWPU funding rates)

21. The PUF and SUF rates for 2022-23 are detailed in the table below;

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Increase / %</u>
PUF	£3,849.15	£4,079.69	£4,432.68	£4,574.45	£141.77 / 3.2%
SUF	£4,885.94	£5,092.09	£5,514.14	£5,659.78	£145.64 / 2.6%

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

	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Primary	38,218	15	38,233	262	38,495	-45	38,450	-297	38,153
Secondary	24,471	412	24,883	481	25,364	242	25,606	487	26,093
TOTAL	62,689	427	63,116	743	63,859	197	64,056	290	64,246

23. Included within the Schools Block of funding of £328.594m is the amount of £1.913m allocated on the basis of pupil growth within Wiltshire. A breakdown of the elements comprising the Schools' Block is detailed in the table below.

Funding 2022-23	Amount £
Core funding	£326,680,815
Growth funding	£1,912,967
Total Funding	£328,593,782

24. In 2021-22, the DfE 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. This requirement has been removed and any transfer would be based upon the Total Funding figure of £328.594m.
25. The **Central Schools Services Block** (CSSB) has been calculated according to the national funding formula for the CSSB. October 2021 pupil numbers have been multiplied by a unit value of £35.96 and a headcount of 64,246. Funding for agreed historic commitments has then been added to that total. The Block is calculated as;

Pupil Funding (£36.96 x 64,246)	£2,310,286
Historic Commitment Funding	£293,888
Total CSSB Funding	£2,604,175

26. The **High Needs Block** has been allocated as per the baselines notified to local authorities in December 2021. 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 2021 census and the import/export adjustment. The uplifted funding reflects and includes Wiltshire's share of the £780m additional funding announced for High Needs in 2022-23.
27. The DfE continue with their commitment to reviewing the High Needs NFF and a consultation is proposed and due in the first quarter of 2022-23. The review should cover all factors of the High Needs NFF including the 'Historic Spend' factor and the weightings applied to each factor.
28. The **Early Years Block** reflects the indicative hourly rates announced for 2022-23 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 2022-23 financial year to reflect the January 2022 and January 2023 early years census data.
29. For 2022-23, the Early Years Pupil Premium rate will be £0.60 per hour, per eligible child and up to a maximum of 570 hours per annum. The Disability Access Fund will be £800 per eligible child.

Block Transfers 2022-23

30. 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, if affordable. 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 2022-23

31. Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE by 21st January 2022. 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 2022. The LA is required to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2022.
32. In terms of setting the budgets for schools for 2022-23, the amount of funding available for distribution to schools will be calculated as follows:

DSG Schools Block Allocation	328,593,782
Less: Growth Fund	x,xxx,xxx
Less: Transfer to Other Blocks	x,xxx,xxx
Total available for School Funding	xxx,xxx,xxx

33. 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

34. 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.
35. At the December 2021 Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue in 2022-23, as in 2021-22. The amount of each de-delegated service budget is based upon the relevant formula factors for maintained schools.

Proposal

36. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Funding Working Group & SEN Working Group - 10th January 2022

Schools Forum - 20th January 2022

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK UPDATE 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2022-23 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 2021 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 CSSB allocation of £2.604 million for Wiltshire. This has been calculated using the national funding formula for the CSSB which applies a unit value of £35.96 to the pupil numbers from the October 2021 census. Funding for agreed historic commitments for 2022-23 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 2021 and as a result a report was presented, and this budget was agreed in principle at the December 2021 meeting.

Protection and Funding Changes

5. Schools Forum will remember that the DfE have been reducing historic commitments. Wiltshire has been allocated £0.293m for historic commitments based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2021-22 reduced by 20% of £0.074m. The DfE apply a maximum per pupil reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities of -2.5%. Permitted gains are capped at 5.56% for 2022-23.

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.
8. Additional pension funding that local authorities have claimed for centrally employed teachers are now rolled into the ongoing responsibilities element of the CSSB. This funding has been added as a per-pupil amount to the relevant local authority's per-pupil rate.
9. The decisions that Schools Forum is 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 2021-22 base and the proposed 2022-23 budget.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2021-22 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2022-23 £M
<p>Section A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Forum approval is not required (although they should be consulted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Copyright Licences for 2022-23 for Wiltshire as set by the DfE. 	£0.395m	£0.409m*
<p>Section B</p> <p>Schools Forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> back pay for equal pay claims remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils admissions servicing of Schools Forum contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (voted on by relevant maintained school members of the Forum only) 	<p>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.</p> <p>Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG**:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Welfare Service 		£0.199	£0.203
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management 		£0.186	£0.189
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory / Regulatory Duties 		£0.669	£0.682
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions 		£0.438	£0.447
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing of Schools Forum 		£0.003	£0.003

*the actual amount for copyright licences is calculated by the DfE a 24% increase on 21-22 FY.

** Pay inflation has been added at 2.00% - this can be reviewed as national discussions continue.

Centrally Retained Teachers additional pension costs

Introduced in 2021-22 financial year	£0.110M
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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 1st 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 2022-23 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 £0.293m 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	2021-22 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2022-23 £M
<p>Section C</p> <p>Historic Commitments:</p> <p>Schools Forum approval is required on a line-by-line 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"> capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged 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 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) Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	<p>Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans - 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>Child Protection in Schools Adviser - 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	0.058 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p>Prudential Borrowing Schools Forum decision to support approx. £3m capital financing for 13-year period</p>	0.208	0.133 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
Total		0.367	0.294
Balance unallocated and available to transfer to the HNB		0.270	0.227

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. Assuming the proposed budget is accepted by Schools Forum, an amount of £0.227m unallocated CSSB is estimated to transfer to fund high needs pressures.

DfE Consultation in Progress – Removal of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant

20. The DfE launched a consultation proposing the removal of the local authority grant on 29th October 2021 with a response date of 26th November 2021.
21. Schools Forum working group held an extraordinary meeting to prepare a Schools Forum response. This has been shared with chairs of WASSH and PHF and members encouraged to respond. The proposals have been the subject of much discussion and lobby groups including the f40 have submitted responses. There are concerns around the removal of this grant at this post pandemic time having a detrimental impact on attainment focus and financial recovery and being incongruous to prevention and support meaning that formal intervention powers are avoided, and pupil outcomes prioritised.
22. The DfE proposal is for local authorities to de-delegate these services at 50% reduced grant for 2022-23 and complete removal for future years. The DfE findings to their consultation are yet to be published.
23. Following a separate local consultation around de-delegation, at Schools Forum in December, a consensus could not be reached and local consultation and further information provision for school leaders and governors is scheduled to take place on 6th and 7th January 2022 with decision making postponed until the January 2022 meeting. Support for de-delegation was 86% in the Autumn consultation, 100% in session 1 and 86.6% in session 2. Full consultation feedback and the question and answers sessions will be shared as part of a separate report on this agenda.

24. There are no proposals to fund services for maintained schools only contained within this report however, there is a separate report where members will consider de-delegation for these services.

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 2022-23. These will be considered fully in the decisions paper.
 - i. Section A – central copyright licences - consult only
 - ii. Section B – central functions - approve on a line-by-line basis
 - iii. Section C – historic commitments - approve on a line-by-line basis
 - Including the transfer of surplus CSSB grant to support the high needs block
2. That the future arrangements around school improvement brokerage and monitoring grant are discussed in the separate report on today's agenda on this and are subject to the DfE's official response, anticipated early January and not available at the time of writing this report.

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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"> • Director of children’s services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a) • Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b) • Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22) • Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools’ budget shares (Sch 2, 15c) • Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d) • 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) • Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19) • Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f) • Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17) • Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 57) • Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 74) • Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 58) • 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) • 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) • Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 61) • 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) • Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers’ pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the

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"> • Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Sch 2, 76) • 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) • Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 67) • Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 68) • Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 69) • School companies (Sch 2, 70) • Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 71) • Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 72) • Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 73)

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

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

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"> • Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)

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

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

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"> No functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 75)

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"> No functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is now covered in the high needs section of the regulations and does not require schools forum approval

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

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

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

Historic commitments

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

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

¹⁰Funding 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.

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues related to the high needs block for 2022-23 the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23.
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 2022 and the DSG management plan in discussion with the DfE.

Main Considerations

3. As outlined in the paper on the funding settlement for 2022-23 the high needs block provisional allocation for Wiltshire in 2022-23 is £62.691 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. In addition to the allocation, and as with schools block, a later supplementary allocation of £2.415 million has been added – this is to fund the cost burden of the health and social care levy and other cost pressures.
4. The table below shows the allocation and increase on 20-21:

	High Needs
2022-23	£62,690,534
2021-22	£57,528,558
Uplift	£5,161,976
% Uplift	8.97%
Supplementary Allocation for 2022-23	£2,414,704

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 £5.162m 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 2022-23 financial year for Wiltshire. In addition to this, a more relevant formula model is anticipated following the outcome of the DfE consultation SEN review which is now anticipated in the first quarter of 2022.
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 2022-23. The bases for the estimate are summarised below:

Pressure	£M estimate
Additional Pressure to meet current Spend levels <i>(based on October 2020 forecast overspend over and above additional HNB pupil led funding)</i>	9.656
Estimate of increased planned places in Wiltshire specialist provision <i>(subject to further change in February)</i>	0.542
Estimated Cost increase based on planned reduced EHCP rate of increase 2022-23 <i>Demand for placements with schools, colleges and external providers is based on SEN planning demography of 11%, pro-rated to 8% to take into account the phasing of requests.</i>	3.804
Estimated Contract Inflation 2022-23 @ 4% <i>External Provider Contract inflation is added at the Bank of England forecast CPI rate for 22-23</i>	1.064
Pay Inflation for SEN teams at 2% flat rate This reflects the Council standard which is based on the Bank of England forecast CPI for 2022-23 financial year	0.073
TSP – new for 2021-22	1.000
Increase Day 6 provision	0.100
Increase ISF – high needs contribution	0.180
Rounding	(0.130)
Total Estimated Cost Pressure for 2022-23	16.290
Movement in assumed transfers from CSSB and SB	0.032
Increase in 2022-23 HNB from the DfE	(5.162)
Budget Estimate reduction – to align with DfE allocation	(11.160)
Additional Supplementary Funding 2022-23	£2.415

DfE Allocation and Other Potential Funding Options

8. It has been the preference of Schools Forum in previous years to prioritise and protect rates of named pupil allowance and top up funding to ensure inclusivity is possible. The budget proposal assumes this is still the approach and therefore transfer is proposed as below.
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 other blocks.

	£M
DfE HNB Allocation for 2022-23	62.354
Transfer from Central Block (surplus)	0.227
Transfer from Schools Block 0.5% (if affordable)	1.643
Excess Growth Fund (if affordable)	£TBC
Estimated funding shortfall	£11.160

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 £1.643 million to be transferred from Schools Block. This will be dependent on the decisions made by the Forum around the schools formula and affordability of the transfer.
- c. It is possible that the DfE estimated growth fund surplus to estimated growth fund requirements for 2022-23. Any underspent growth fund will contribute to the overall DSG deficit position next year. 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 continue and Schools Forum monitor these in conjunction with ongoing discussions with the DfE.
- e. Cabinet is requested to roll forward any unspent transformation funds from their flexible use of capital receipts powers.

Supplementary Funding

11. The DfE have allocated an amount of £325 million nationally following the publication of the DSG 2022-23 allocations. £2.415 million has been allocated to Wiltshire (0.74%). The supplementary grant is
12. These allocations are on top of the DSG high needs block allocations calculated under the national funding formula but are subject to the same DSG conditions of grant. This extra funding recognises the additional costs that local authorities and schools will face in the coming year, which were not foreseen when the original high needs block allocations were calculated, including the Health and Social Care Levy.
13. The additional funding also takes into account that colleges and other providers offering extra hours of study to students with high needs may require extra high needs top-up funding to support those students.
14. Due to the lateness of these allocations, detailed modelling has not taken place, officers are meeting South West peers on the 12th January to discuss and share modelling ideas.
15. Wiltshire's preferred approach prior to this meeting was to set up interim arrangements supporting specialist planned places for 12 months during 2022-23 as well as allowing for increases in externally commissioned provision. This will allow more time for consultation with schools and parent carers via the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council. The proposal will be a banding review with the supplementary funding increasing the on-going base budget available for distribution.
16. Appendix 1 shows the proposed approach to applying this grant. The DfE have been clear that they expect local authorities to increase funding to special schools, pupil referral units and further education. There will inevitable be cost pressure from externally commissioned services. Schools Forum views are sought on this approach.
17. Methodology is to apply 3% to the overall special school funding quantum, to apply 2% to mainstream specialist place and top up rates and named pupil allowances to take into account the schools block supplementary funding, to add 3% to the value of the secondary alternative provision service level agreement, to increase further education top up budget by £1.038m as per the DfE guidance and other relevant budgets 2% to offset fee increases.

18. For 2022-23, officers will liaise with all school consultative bodies, the Wiltshire Alliance, WASSH and PHF as it is particularly important that any interim arrangements are known and understood by all school leaders.

DSG Deficit Reserve & Management Plan

19. The current forecast overspend on the School Funding reserve is £26.555m. This is currently being cash flowed by the local authority. Plans are underway for the S151 to write to both the DfE and the MHCLG to express concerns around financing of this deficit.
20. Schools Forum will recall there is much national lobbying around adequate and appropriate funding models and the majority of local authorities have deficit DSG reserves with few recovery arrangements leaving them able to fully deploy their statutory responsibilities around these learners. The outcome of the SEN Review is awaited with interest.
21. The plan is currently in draft and is scheduled to be discussed with the DfE early this year, the plan will be shared with Schools Forum when agreed with the DfE.

Proposals

22. Schools Forum is asked to note the pressures on the high needs block for 2022-23 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.
23. Schools Forum is asked to note the continuation of recovery actions feeding into the DSG Management Plan and that this will be brought to a future Schools Forum meeting as part of the High Needs Recovery Update report.
24. Schools Forum is asked to provide views on the approach and approve the approach to deploy supplementary funding in 2022-23 and including future funds into a banding review thereafter.

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Appendix 1 - estimate of High Need Block Budget Requirement 2022-23

3.85%

Service Area	Current Annual Budget 2021-22	Period 8 Forecast	Estimate of Budget Requirement	PRO-RATED TO FUNDING LEVEL	TOTAL BUDGET for High Needs 22-23
	£m	£m	£m		£m
Special School Place Funding	8.062	8.062	8.620	8.620	11.035
Resource Base (RB) Funding	1.954	1.954	2.010	2.010	2.010
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	1.875	1.875	1.803	1.803	1.803
Salisbury 6th Form	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012
High Needs Block (all schools)	11.903	11.903	12.445	12.445	14.860
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	6.416	8.276	8.938	7.001	7.001
Special School Top-Up	8.251	9.517	10.278	8.051	8.051
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	2.013	2.297	2.480	1.943	1.943
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	1.667	2.825	3.052	2.390	2.390
Temporary Support (TSP) payments		1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.791	2.791	2.791	2.791	2.791
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
Devolved to Maintained & Top Up Total	21.137	26.706	28.539	23.177	23.177
Wiltshire College Places	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	2.074	2.667	2.995	2.346	2.346
Post-16 Top-Up	2.806	6.407	6.919	5.420	5.420
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	11.846	12.990	14.591	11.445	11.445
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	2.290	2.074	2.329	1.824	1.824
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.536	0.502	0.564	0.564	0.564
Funding for Places outside Schools	21.652	26.740	29.499	23.701	23.701
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.454	0.422	0.634	0.634	0.634
Speech & Language	0.566	0.564	0.564	0.564	0.564
0-25 Provision & SEND Teams	2.556	2.302	2.607	2.607	2.607
Specialist Teacher Advisory Services	1.138	1.011	1.161	1.161	1.161
Other Special Education	0.271	0.271	0.271	0.271	0.271
Commissioned & SEN Support Services	4.985	4.570	5.238	5.238	5.238
High Needs Block	59.677	69.918	75.720	64.560	66.975
		9.656	5.802	-11.160	
			8%		
Combined Totals - DfE Allocation			£62,690,534	£65,105,238	
plus transfer CSSB			62.691	65.105	
plus transfer SB			0.227	0.227	
			1.643	1.643	
			£64.561	£66.975	

Notes - HNB Budget (pre supplementary funding)

862 Special School Places	
335 RB Places	
300.58 ELP Places	
2 sixth form HNB places	
11% growth - pro rata throughout year, reduced to an average of 8%	
Budget estimate pro-rated down to available funds	
Introduced 2122, full year impact	
11% growth - pro rata throughout year, reduced to an average of 8%	
Externally commissioned placements include inflation at CPI 4%	
Budget estimate pro-rated down to available funds	
Includes growth of £0.1M Day 6 provision PEX	
Includes growth of £0.180M EY ISF to extend current policy	
Includes an estimate for pay inflation at 2%	
Includes an estimate for pay inflation at 2%	
Key	
Estimate reduced pro-rata with available funding level	

Note: rates have been protected at 21-22 levels

Proposed Allocation of Supplementary Grant £2.415m	Notes - HNB Budget Supplementary funding
£m	
0.259	3% in line with mainstream
0.040	
0.036	2% to take into account mainstream 3% funding
0.000	
0.335	
0.179	2% to take into account mainstream 3% funding
0.242	3% in line with mainstream
0.050	2% to take into account mainstream 3% funding
0.061	2% to take into account mainstream 3% funding
0.084	3% in line with mainstream - apply to SLA values
0.615	
0.060	2% to take into account mainstream 3% funding
1.038	Increase per guidance 15%
0.292	2% to offset pro-rata reduction
0.047	2% to offset pro-rata reduction
0.011	2% to offset anticipated fee increases
1.447	
0.000	
2.397	
0.018	balance - allocate for future growth

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Wiltshire Council

Early Years Reference Group - 5th January 2022

Schools Funding & SEN Working Group - 10th January 2022

Schools Forum - 20th January 2022

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT –EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE 2022-23 (INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the working groups and schools forum on issues related to the early years block for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23.
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 through the Early Years reference group and the Schools Funding & SEN Working Group in addition to Schools Forum.

Main Considerations

3. In his 2021 Spending Review, the Chancellor announced a number of national increases to increase early years entitlements:
 - £160 million in 2022-23
 - £180 million in 2023-24 and
 - £170 million in 2024-25
4. This included uplifts to the 2 3- and 4-year-old rates as well as uplifts to the disability access fund and pupil premium.
5. The provisional early years block settlement for Wiltshire for 2022-23 is £28.521 million and is comprised of the following elements:

FUNDING	PTE (where applicable)	2021-22 Funded Rate	2022-23 Funded Rate	£ million
3 & 4-year-old funding Universal 15 hours	6820	£4.44/hour	£4.61/hour	17.669
3 & 4-year-old funding Working Parents 15 hours	3090	£4.44/hour	£4.61/hour	7.812
2-year-old funding	671	£5.48/hour	£5.69/hour	2.175
Disability Access Fund	202 children	£615/child	£800/child	0.162
Early Years Pupil Premium	419 children			0.143
Total “Initial” or provisional allocation for 2022-23				28.521

6. The allocations for the free entitlement for 3- and 4-year olds, and for 2-year olds are based on the January 2021 census and will be updated during the 2022-23 financial year for the January 2022 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 2022-23* was published in December 2021. 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 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.
 - 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.

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. There are no major changes identified by the DfE in their operational guide

Funding Rates for Wiltshire

11. The early years reference group (EYRG) met on the 5th January 2022 and considered a number of funding options attached as Appendix 1. The consensus of the group was to support the local authority recommendation of option 3, to passport in full the 2-year-old disadvantaged rate of £5.69 per entitled hour an increase of 21p on the previous year and to set the 3 and 4 year old rate at £4.42 per entitled hour, an increase of 17p per hour on the previous year whilst providing a minimum of £50,000 contingency to absorb any increases in children throughout 2022-23 financial year.
12. Please note that rurality and deprivation have been based on 2021-22 although actual allocations for both deprivation and rurality will be unknown until March when the IDACI report is available.

Provider Rates	PTE (where applicable)	2021-22 Wiltshire Rate	Proposed 2022-23 Wiltshire Rate	£ million
3 & 4-year-old entitlement (all)	3090	£4.25/hour	£4.42/hour	25.025*
2-year-old entitlement	671	£5.48/hour	£5.69/hour	2.175
Deprivation, rurality				0.230
Central EY functions				0.430
EY Inclusion Support Fund				0.357
Disability Access Fund	202 children	£615/child	£800/child	0.162
Early Years Pupil Premium	419 children			0.143
Total proposed budget for 2022-23				28.521

*includes £0.056million contingency

Early Years Inclusion Funding

13. As part of the preventative inclusive agenda and as part of the recovery actions for the high needs block budget, an additional sum of £0.180 million is ringfenced from the high needs block to support longer hours of the inclusion support fund (ISF).

14. 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. With a dual funded approach, applications for all children can be assessed under one ISF system.

Disability Access Fund

15. 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

16. 4-year olds in primary school reception classes are not eligible for disability access fund (DAF) funding.

17. Settings of 3- and 4-year olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £800 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.

18. Early years providers are ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children and local authorities must check that DAF eligibility requirements are met.

19. 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.

Early Years Pupil Premium

20. Ringfenced Funding continues to be allocated through the early years block for the early years pupil premium (EYPP). The EYPP allocation is set at £0.143 million for 2022-23 and it is proposed to set the budget in line with the funding level.

Compliance

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.

Proposals

23. 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 £5.69 and 3 & 4-year-old funding to £4.42 per hour
 - ii. Pay inflation be added at 2% to the central early years teams
- All other funding factors remain at current 2021-22 levels or, funded levels.
- To note that the early years block is to fund the Early Years Inclusion Fund at the current level and the high needs block to allocate £0.180

million to increase support available in line with the SEN strategy around prevention.

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Appendix 1 - Options for setting the Early Years Block Budget 2022-23

Funding Announcement 22-23		PTE	Hours per week	38 weeks as published	Hourly Rate as published	Allocations as at 22/23 Jan 22
2 Year old EY Entitlement	671	15	38	£5.69	£2,174,860	
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	202			£800/child	£161,600	
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	419	15	38	£0.60	£143,151	
3 & 4 Year Old EY Entitlement	9,910	15	38	£4.61	£26,041,349	
<i>Universal</i>	6820.57					
<i>Working</i>	3089.75					
					£28,520,960	

Funding 2 year old entitlement at the fully funded rate - fund all central costs including deprivation & rurality from 3 & 4 year old entitlement funding

Funding Options 22-23	20-21 Rates	21-22 Rates	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3 (recommended option)	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	
2 year old rate	5.40	5.48	£5.69	£5.69	£5.69	£5.69	£5.69	£5.69	We agreed in December the principle of maximising the disadvantaged rate
3 & 4 year old rate	4.20	4.25	£4.40	£4.41	£4.42	£4.43	£4.44	£4.45	
Increase on previous year rate			£0.15	£0.16	£0.17	£0.18	£0.19	£0.20	
Disability Access Fund (DAF)			£161,600	£161,600	£161,600	£161,600	£161,600	£161,600	As funded level
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)			£143,151	£143,151	£143,151	£143,151	£143,151	£143,151	As funded level
Deprivation, rurality			£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	£230,000	Depn & rurality were unchanged - well within (prob COVID impact) so status quo
EY Inclusion funding			£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	
Central EY functions			£430,030	£430,030	£430,030	£430,030	£430,030	£430,030	Pay inflation estimates to the central team functions
2 Year old EY Entitlement			£2,174,860	£2,174,860	£2,174,860	£2,174,860	£2,174,860	£2,174,860	As funded level
3 & 4 Year Old EY Entitlement			£24,855,083	£24,911,571	£24,968,060	£25,024,549	£25,081,038	£25,137,527	Modelling options here - straightforward, based on a range of increases
TOTAL			£28,351,723	£28,408,212	£28,464,701	£28,521,190	£28,577,679	£28,634,167	
Balance available for contingency			£169,236	£112,747	£56,259	-£230	-£56,719	-£113,208	The balance available converts to contingency in 3&4 year old funding
% balance of 2,3&4YO			0.63%	0.42%	0.21%	0.00%	-0.21%	-0.41%	
Change for every 1p increase				£56,489	£56,489	£56,489	£56,489	£56,489	
			Affordable	Affordable	Affordable	Unaffordable	Unaffordable	Unaffordable	

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Appendix 2: Worked example of calculating the pass-through rate
Early Years Block modelling - 22-23 Financial Year

Appendix 2

			Option 1	Option 2	Option 3 (recommended option)	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for 3 and 4 year olds	£24,855,083	£24,911,571	£24,968,060	£25,024,549	£25,081,038	£25,137,527
	2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for 3 and 4 year olds						
	3	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000
	4	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Quality (including funding to MNS)						
	5	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)						
	6	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
	7	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: EAL (including funding to MNS)						
	8	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000	£357,000
	9	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old contingency	169,236	112,747	56,259			
		Subtotal =	£25,611,319	£25,611,319	£25,611,319	£25,611,549	£25,668,038	£25,724,527
B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding						
C	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,648,882	5,648,882	5,648,882	5,648,882	5,648,882	5,648,882
D	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds	4.4	4.41	4.42	4.43	4.44	4.45
		= (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£4.53	£4.53	£4.53	£4.53	£4.54	£4.55
	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61	4.61
	14	Test of meeting requirement F = (D / E) * 100 = ((line 12) / (line 13))*100	98.3%	98.3%	98.3%	98.3%	98.6%	98.8%

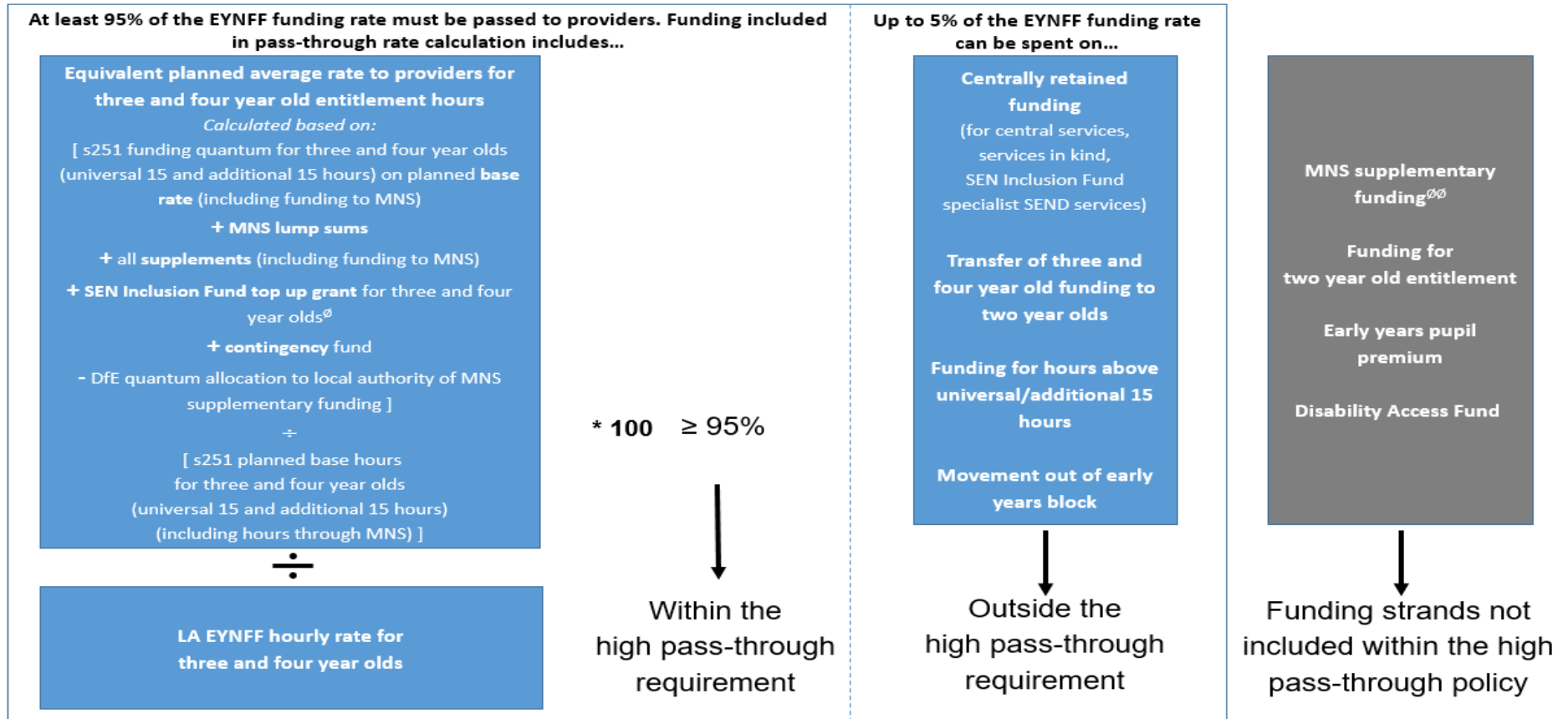
The local authority is passporting 100% of the 2 year old grant rate

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

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Appendix 3

Extract from DfE guidance: Passporting Compliance



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

^{∅∅} 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

School Funding & SEN Working Group - 10th January 2022

Schools Forum - 20th January 2022

Schools Supplementary Grant 2022-23 - Funding & Methodology

Purpose of the Report

1. At the December 2021 Schools Forum meeting, members were advised that additional funding was being made available to schools for the 2022-23 year, however there was limited detail at that point.
2. This paper serves to update Schools Forum and outline the level of additional funding and how it will be allocated to schools in the 2022-23 year.

Introduction to Schools Supplementary Grant 2022-23

3. In the Autumn of 2021, the Governments spending review confirmed an additional £1.6bn funding for schools and high needs, in addition to the previous funding pledges. Of the additional funding, £1.2bn has been allocated to schools in support of the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy (employers National Insurance increase of 1.25%) and the wider cost pressures in schools.
4. Due to the timing of the funding announcement, it was not possible for the additional funding to be built into the core National Funding Formula (NFF) values and therefore the funding is being paid as a Supplementary Grant in 2022-23. It is proposed that from 2023-24 that the additional funding will be baselined and incorporated into the NFF values and therefore the grant will only be paid separately for the 2022-23 year.
5. The supplementary grant will be paid to all maintained schools and academies and all eligible schools will receive their funding from the Spring term 2022.
6. As the funding cycle for academies follows the academic year and not the LA financial year, academy schools will receive additional supplementary grant funding for the period April – August 2023. This provides an equitable solution rolling the funding into academies core funding from September 2023, ensuring parity over funding between maintained schools and academies.

School Funding Rates

7. The funding has been provided to assist schools with the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider cost pressures. Funding rates have been differentiated between early years pupils in maintained nurseries, mainstream 5-16 year-old pupils and post-16 pupils, with the bulk allocated to the mainstream 5-16 year-old pupils.

8. Funding will be allocated using the following three elements, which are already key components of the NFF, using data from the October 2021 census.
- A basic 'per pupil' rate based upon the 'key stages'
 - A lump sum paid to all schools (irrespective of size) - £3,680
 - A per pupil rate for FSM6 pupils (different rates for primary and secondary)
9. The table below sets out the funding rates for each element.

	<u>Early Years</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Key Stage 3</u>	<u>Key Stage 4</u>	<u>Post-16</u>
Basic per pupil rate	£24	£97	£137	£155	£35
FSM6 per pupil rate		£85	£124	£124	
Lump sum per school			£3,680		

10. The table below sets out some indicative funding for Wiltshire schools.

<u>School</u>	<u>Per Pupil</u>	<u>FSM6</u>	<u>Lump</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Small Primary (51)	£4,947	£607	£3,680	£9,234
1xFE Primary (209)	£20,273	£2,309	£3,680	£26,262
2xFE Primary (424)	£41,128	£3,604	£3,680	£48,412
Small Secondary (413)	£58,993	£9,218	£3,680	£71,891
Medium Secondary (847)	£122,717	£16,804	£3,680	£143,201
Large Secondary (1275 + 273)	£192,870	£30,039	£3,680	£226,499

Proposal

11. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.

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