

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
Date: Thursday 12 December 2019
Time: 1.30 pm

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Membership:	Representing:
Neil Baker	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Aileen Bates	WGA - Special School Governor Representative
Andy Bridewell	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Rebecca Carson	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Mark Cawley	Early Years Representative
Michelle Chilcott	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Sam Churchill	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Phil Cook	WASSH - Maintained Special School Representative
Charlotte Corfield	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
Jon Hamp	Special School Academy Representative
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Cllr Ross Henning	Observer - Local Youth Network
Mel Jacob	WGA - Primary School Governor Representative
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education
Nigel Roper	WASSH - Maintained Secondary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Fergus Stewart	Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
David Whewell	WGA - Secondary School Governor representative
Catriona Williamson	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative

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PART I

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

1 **Apologies and Changes of Membership**

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

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 5 - 40*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 (copy attached).

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 41 - 44*)

The Forum will be asked to note the update from the joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group held on 2 December 2019 – copy attached.

6 **DSG Expenditure - Wiltshire Virtual School** (*Pages 45 - 48*)

The report of Kathryn Davis (Head of Virtual School) will present to the Forum the forecast expenditure on looked after children in full time alternative education provision for the financial year 2019/20.

7 **Dedicated Schools Budget Consultations - Update 2020-21** (*Pages 49 - 70*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children's Services) seeks to update on the results of Wiltshire's Autumn consultations which will help inform Schools Forum decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process at the January 2020 meeting and to update on the DfE consultation around future treatment of DSG deficit reserve balances.

8 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2019/20** (*Pages 71 - 76*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children's Services) seeks to present monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2019/20 as at 31 October 2019.

9 **High Needs Recovery Planning**

The Forum will receive an update on high needs recovery planning from Helean Hughes (Director – Education and Skills) at the meeting.

10 **Schools Block - National Funding Formula 2020-21** *(Pages 77 - 80)*

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to build upon the report presented to Schools Forum in October 2019 for school revenue funding and will with regards to the National Funding Formula for the schools block of funding for the 2020-21 year.

11 **Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2020-21** *(Pages 81 - 86)*

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks agreement from Schools Forum on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the school's block growth fund in 2020-21.

12 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

16 January 2020
26 March 2020
11 June 2020
15 October 2020
10 December 2020

13 **Urgent Items**

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

PART II

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

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2019 AT COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Neil Baker (Chairman), Aileen Bates, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Sam Churchill, Phil Cook, John Hawkins, Ross Henning, Mel Jacob, Lisa Percy (Vice-Chair), Giles Pugh, Ellen Plowman, John Proctor, Nigel Roper, Trudy Srawley, Fergus Stewart, David Whewell and Catriona Williamson

Also Present:

Cllr Pauline Church (Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills), Jane Davies (Portfolio Holder for Education and SEND), Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), Louise Lewis (Head of School Effectiveness), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), Judith Westcott (Acting Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning)

43 Election of Chair

Resolved:

The Forum agreed to appoint Neil Baker as Chair of Schools Forum for 2019/20.

44 Election of Vice Chair

Resolved:

The Forum agreed to appoint Lisa Percy as Vice Chair of Schools Forum for 2019/20.

45 Apologies and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from the following Forum members: Mark Cawley (Early Years Rep), Michelle Chilcott (Secondary Academy Rep) and Jon Hamp (Special School Academy Rep).

Apologies were received from the following Wiltshire Council Officers: Terence Herbert (Executive Director – Children and Education) and Helen Jones (Director – Commissioning).

Membership Changes:

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

Fergus Stewart (Head of St Laurence School, Bradford on Avon is the new Chair of WASHH). Fergus replaces Neil Spurdell (Head of Sheldon School) on the Forum.

At the last meeting, we identified where there was the need to appoint an additional primary academy representative and this position has been filled by Rebecca Carson of Woodford Valley Primary Academy.

Lindsay West is no longer the Principal of Durrington Infants School and so a new Primary Academy representative is needed. Catriona Williamson as Chair of PHF will raise it and seek a new representative at their next meeting in November.

Cllr Ross Henning will join as the Observer representative on behalf of the Local Youth Network. Ross is the Vice Chair of the Chippenham Local Youth Network.

We are still awaiting a Primary School Governor Rep from the WGA (to replace Sue Jiggins).

46 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Resolved:

That the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019.

Forum Members asked about an update on the Admissions Appeals service as this had been requested to be presented to this meeting. Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) confirmed that this was still being worked on with colleagues in Democratic Services and would come to the next Forum meeting on 12 December 2019.

47 **Chair's Announcements**

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

The Chairman made the following announcement:

Press attendance at meetings

The meeting is not being webcast today, however we are aware that this is a public meeting that anyone can attend. The Chairman asked if any members of the press were present. There were no members of press or public present at the meeting.

48 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

49 **Wiltshire Schools Forum Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference**

Lisa Pullin (Clerk to the Panel) referred to the Proportionality, Membership and Terms of Reference report that had been circulated with the Agenda.

Lisa reminded the Forum of the review of a proportionality of membership that was carried out in June 2019 where it was identified that there was a change to the Wiltshire pupil numbers and that there was a need to appoint another Primary Academy representative to the Forum.

Rebecca Carson (Headteacher – Woodford Valley) had been appointed as the additional Primary Academy representative and the Forum's Terms of Reference would need to be amended to reflect this change in membership numbers, with approval via the Delegated Decision process to be sought from the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills. Lisa referred to Terms of Reference which were attached as Appendix 1 and asked the Forum to note that there was also a minor change to correct a Wiltshire Council job title.

The Forum were also asked to note the current vacancies and that requests had been made to the Primary Heads Forum and Wiltshire Governors Association to nominate representatives:

- A Primary Academy representative (previous Head had left School)
- A Primary Governor representative
- Observer representative – Wiltshire Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum.

Resolved:

That Wiltshire Schools Forum:

- Notes that the proportionality of the Forum has been reviewed and that in light of this a new Primary Academy representative (Rebecca Carson) has been appointed.**
- Approves the proposed changes to the Forum's Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix 1 and requests that these changes be presented to the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Skills for approval through the delegated decision process.**
- Notes the current Membership details of the Forum.**

- iv) **Recommends that representatives to the vacancies detailed in the report be requested to be appointed by the Primary Heads Forum (PHF), Wiltshire Governors Association (WGA) and the Wiltshire and Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum as soon as possible.**

50 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 13 September 2019 that was circulated with the Agenda.

A Forum Member asked if the plans to roll out the Liquidlogic system was still intended? Marie Taylor (Head of Finance - Children and Education) confirmed that yes this roll out was still ongoing.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group meeting held on 1 October 2019 (circulated within Agenda Supplement (1)).

It was noted that Catriona Williamson, Sam Churchill and Nick Breakwell were present at the joint meeting and that their attendance should be amended on the notes.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 13 September 2019 and the joint meeting of the Schools Funding and SEN Working Groups held on 1 October 2019 subject to them being amended to confirm the correct attendance.

51 **Schools Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2018/19**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which presented the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at 31 March 2019 and identified those schools that were in surplus and in deficit. Grant also explained the appendices to the report in some detail and asked the Forum to note that the analysis excluded 2 schools that had converted to academies during the 2018/19 financial year.

Grant highlighted the following:

- As part of the DSG's assurance framework, the DfE ask Local Authorities to provide additional information in certain circumstances. Wiltshire would not trigger an investigation from the DfE from the number of schools that have had revenue balances of more than 15% of their school budget share for the last 5 years. However, there could be an investigation triggered in relation to the number of schools that have had a deficit balance of more than 2.5% for the last four years;

- The number of schools in deficit has decreased from 19 in 2017/18 to 16 in 2018/19, however the value of the deficits has increased from £3.24m in 2017/18 to £3.67m in 2018/19. This was positive news and recognised that it was not easy to change things around to achieve this;
- The number of schools in surplus in 2017/18 and 2018/19 remains constant at 125 and 124 respectively, however the value of the surpluses has increased by £0.59m from £9.70m in 2017/18 to £10.29m in 2018/19;
- Lypiatt Primary School (which had a high surplus) closed in August 2019 and was a site-specific school for MOD children who had returned from overseas following a family breakdown. Numbers had considerably reduced and there was no deemed need. The school had previously been propped up by MOD funding and this had been withdrawn, making the school unviable;
- There were a number of other schools not highlighted in Appendix 3 due to Officer/formatting error which have also had revenue budgets in excess of 15% for the last 5 years and these were – Crockerton, Southwick and Urchfont; and
- A number of support mechanisms have been put in place to support schools facing financial difficulty. The Local Authority continues to support the F40 Group which works for fairer funding for schools with Wiltshire being the 7th lowest funded. There was an increased capacity of Schools Strategic Financial Advisors to work with schools facing deficit budgets. There was a new structure within the School Improvement Team to support schools facing a number of challenges and there was collaborative work with Regional and School Improvement Advisers to ensure that recovery plans take account of both educational as well as financial needs.

Forum Members asked the following questions:

13 of the schools that were in deficit in 2018/19 were Primary Schools – is there a trend in respect of this?

Grant Davis reported that this is a backward-looking report and across the board it does look like more schools would be heading into difficulty and towards a deficit balance. The DfE had reclassified the numbers of pupils/size of schools and less than 100 pupils was now classed as a very small school with pupils between 100 and 175 being classed as a small school. Wiltshire has consistently had a birth rate which produced 5,500 pupils each year, however, due to a demographic dip, the birth rate has dipped to less than 5000 a year leading to a 10% drop in pupils starting school, which will affect school's intake and future planning.

If birth rates continue to drop and there are more “smaller” schools in Wiltshire, how would they recover and be able to stay open?

Grant reported that a Small School Strategy was currently being worked on and being led by the Director for Education and Skills and the team would be sharing the lessons learned with those schools who have successfully come out of deficit.

Does the re-categorisation of schools make a difference to us in Wiltshire?

Grant reported that Wiltshire does have a higher proportion of very small schools.

New schools and extensions have been built to existing schools in Wiltshire to deal with an increase in demand – was there wrong forecasting on this?

Grant reported that 1400 children were expected as part of the Army re-basing and that this number hadn't quite materialised and whilst specific schools were identified to deal with this increase, it is also up to parental choice as to where they send their children to school. All we can do is prepare for what is planned but we cannot take into account parental preference.

Should surplus balances be used for the benefit of the education of the child?

Grant reported that going forward over the next 5 years it was likely that there would be no surplus balances as costs were likely to rise with budgets not rising in line with this. The 5 year projection shows that the overall position will have moved from a collective budget surplus to a collective deficit.

It can't help our case when we say we are poorly funded if we have so many schools with budget surpluses?

Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills) reported that she is hearing that many schools have had to make very tough decisions to keep within budgets and may have made cuts that they are not entirely comfortable with.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report on School Revenue Surplus and Deficit balances for 2018/19.

52 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2019/20**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the Dedicated Schools Budget Monitoring 2019/20 report that was circulated with the Agenda. Marie highlighted the following:

- That an overspend of £4.864m was currently projected against the overall schools' budget which is really concerning and although this was the first report of the new financial year, the ongoing pressures on the high needs block is known and understood;

- The budgets for the free entitlement for 15 and 30 hours childcare are currently forecast to be overspent by £0.978m – this is because the take-up has increased above the budgeted hours which were based on the average take up of the past 3 years;
- High needs budgets are projected to overspend by £3.958m with the biggest areas of overspend being Independent Special School packages, Named Pupil Allowances and top ups in non-Wiltshire provision;
- The major driver of the increased cost is volume which is measured in FTE pupils and at the last meeting, Forum members asked for more detail about activity which was included within Appendix 2. It was important to note that the number of EHCP's being requested has not slowed at all and are rising at a similar rate as 2018/19. There had been an increase of 5.98% in EHCP's from 1 April 2019 to September 2019 which is 213 EHCP's – an average increase of 14/15 per month;
- There had been an increased take up of the Inclusion Support Fund with the budget being based on previous take up, so this was beneficial for the children accessing this, but not for the budget;
- There was also a huge increase of 26% for the Named Pupil Allowance;
- Of real concern was that the forecast overspend would take the DSG reserve in to a deficit position of £7.130m. Last year the Authority did not trigger the submission of a DfE Action Plan for a DSG deficit of more than 1% of total DSG, but it was looking likely we would require a recovery plan and explanation to the DfE in June 2020. The ISOS findings and new SEN Strategy currently being drafted would be used as an operational tool to take the school budget forward;

A Forum member noted that the SEN alternative provision, Direct Payments and Elective Home Education provision has jumped from 37 to 137 and appears to have come out of nowhere. Marie reported that they were now monitoring this data closely as it was the first time it has become part of the monitoring and it was good that the authority were now aware of it.

Resolved:

That the Forum note the budget monitoring position as at the end of August 2019 together with the findings and recommendations from the ISOS report and presentation and the Schools Budget 2020/21 consultation report.

53 **High Needs Update**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the journey so far presentation (shown at the meeting and attached as Appendix 1

to this Minutes) which showed the timeline and actions taken by the Authority to address the budget pressures on the high needs block.

Ben Bryant and Karina Kulawik from the ISOS Partnership were present at the meeting to share the findings and recommendations from their final report (attached under Agenda item 18 as a confidential part II paper). It was confirmed that this report was no longer confidential and could now be shared as appropriate.

Ben reported to the Forum that he intended to give them the top line messages from the findings (presentation slides from meeting attached as Appendix 2 to the Minutes) and referred Forum members to the main report (which was now available as detailed above). Ben explained the aims of the review:

Evidence: To build an evidence base and collective understanding of how effectively the local system supports young people with high needs.

Engagement: To engage a broad range of partners, build consensus and harness collective expertise to shape and implement solutions.

Shared strategy: To work co-productively to develop a shared strategic approach.

ISOS approached the project as follows:

Phase 1 – Initial scoping

Between January and March 2019, ISOS carried out initial work to understand the current context, analysis of data and documents and scoped out their evidence-gathering.

Phase 2 – In-depth evidence gathering

Between April and May 2019, ISOS carried out broad engagements with key partners to gather feedback and evidence.

Phase 3 – Testing findings and shaping recommendations

Between June and July 2019, ISOS were testing findings and shaping recommendations and a future approach through co-production.

Ben thanked all those that had worked with ISOS and contributed to workshops etc.

Ben detailed the overarching messages which were:

- Wiltshire is a well-regarded local SEND and high needs system.
- The system is, however, facing considerable demand and financial pressures.

- There is a willingness to forge new relationships and a collective ethos around high needs.
- There is the need to build strong, strategic and co-productive relationships and partnerships with all key partners in the local system.
- There is the need to ensure core processes that govern the day to day operation of the system are effective, transparent and have the confidence of families and professionals.
- There needs to be a strategically planned continuum of SEND and high needs support, services and provision.

As part of the six broad themes (detailed below) that the review has explored, Ben gave details of the headline findings, potential “quick wins” and the identified longer term actions to the Forum.

1. Co-production with parents/carers and young people.
2. Partnerships working across education, health and care.
3. Identification, assessment and access to support.
4. Building inclusive capacity in mainstream schools and settings and providing targeted support for inclusion.
5. Developing responsive, effective local specialist provision.
6. Preparation for adulthood.

As previously identified the high needs block resources in Wiltshire are under severe pressure with an overspend that has been growing since 2016/17. As a first step ISOS looked at areas of spend that account for a significant proportion of the high needs block and where there has been growth in spending for the last 3 full financial years. Four areas were identified (detailed below) and ISOS had identified what might need to be done to get back to a balanced budget:

- Top-ups
- Non-maintained Special School placements
- Specialist bespoke packages at Independent Special Schools
- Enhanced Learning Provision in secondary schools.

A Forum Member commented that if nationally there is a move to bring more children back into mainstream education that will mean a further increase in EHCP’s which will continue to increase budget pressures. Does this Authority approve too many EHCPs and are they “too soft”?

Ben responded that there were some perceived inconsistencies that a rise in requests would mean a rise in volume and in turn a rise in acceptance of an EHCP. Work would need to be undertaken to ensure that there was a rigorous and consistent decision-making process in place. Karina Kulawik reported that most requests for EHCPs are identified in early years and that is a problem for Wiltshire as those young people will stay with them. The push for EHCPs comes from all directions and they are seen by most as the way for an early intervention when most cases it should be delivered through SEN support services. The Authority would need to build trust around extended support and outreach SEN support and not automatically go down the EHCP route.

A Forum Member asked if there was any correlation to others who receive similar funding to us – are we overspent because we are poorly funded? Ben responded that, yes, we are less well off than our statistical neighbours, but the pressure is not solely caused by underfunding and he did not feel there was any direct correlation. Wiltshire is unique as most schools head for an EHCP as a mechanism for support.

A Forum Member asked if support is not funded by an EHCP – where does it come from? Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills) reported that they are working on a pathway which is a pre to an EHCP. They were exploring current resources and spending on assessments to look at alternatives. It would be a cultural change not just go down the EHCP route, but to explore and offer SEN support. With the increase in EHCP requests it is a vicious circle as Support Workers spend a lot of time writing reports in response to applications and so have less time available to go into schools to provide SENCO support.

Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills) explained to the Forum the next steps following the ISOS findings.

Work had been undertaken to re-structure the Education and Skills Teams from November 2019. There would be closer alignment with School Effectiveness and a new post of Head of Inclusion and SEND was being recruited to. The final structure is attached as Appendix 3 to the Minutes.

Short term developments

- Matt Sambrook (Headteacher of Exeter House Special School and CEO of the Somerset Road Education Trust) had been seconded to work 3 days a week to lead on developing a joined-up approach to inclusion across Wiltshire. This was funded through FACT and had no impact on the high needs block;
- There had been a review of the SEND panel to ensure consistent chairing, application of banding and this was currently awaiting approval by Terence Herbert (Executive Director);
- The Team was developing communication by hosting free Heads' briefings and SENCO briefings to keep them informed of developments
- The SEMH pathway is being developed
- Transitions framework- clearer outcomes to be delivered
- A review of alternative provision in primary and secondary schools was being carried out (Forum Members were encouraged to complete the online survey)
- A targeted review of Independent Special School placements and electively home educated children was being carried out to look at who might be able to come back into mainstream schools with support

Long term developments – co-produced

- Review of ELP- redefine the model and align with resource bases

- Refining the banding framework (this is in conjunction with a FACT workstream)
- Providing targeted support without an EHCP- pathway being defined-enhancing SENs
- In-reach and out-reach- new schools in the north and the south
- Dyslexia specialisms in primary and secondary schools. Upskill schools to be able to support those with dyslexia
- Inclusion aligned to regional working (already working with School Effectiveness).

A Forum Member asked when would the “short term” developments be in place – Helean reported that it was planned to be this academic year – 2019/20.

Forum Members felt that the Authority should be ambitious and work towards all schools being dyslexia friendly. Helean reported that this was being worked towards – it was planned that schools would be trained up and that other schools could lead the work to make this happen.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) asked how it was intended to recruit volunteers from schools to help with all planned improvements/changes? It seems to be volunteers always from the same schools! Helean reported that she would be going to the School Governors conference in November (which would hopefully be represented by all Wiltshire Schools) to ask for volunteers there.

The Forum thanked Ben Bryant and Karina Kulawik from ISOS for all their work on the high needs review that was carried out.

A Forum Member asked how and when updates on the work would be received. It was suggested that this be reported via the School Funding Working Group.

Helean Hughes reported that the SEND Board was to be re-established. The Forum would be interested in the financial aspects of this and would look to hold them to account and so would welcome a regular progress report.

A Forum Member noted that they would be asked to make financial decisions in January and would need as much information as possible to be able to make informed decisions. Marie Taylor reported that the identified savings won't be visible by January 2020 and we won't see the impact of any changes for some time. There will also be a review of Independent Special School placements and movement on this will depend on Headteacher's inclusively being able to accept children back into mainstream and parent's willingness to move their children.

The Forum accepted that all schools would need to work together and that it will take a few years for these changes to come through and for need to spend less is accepted but no one wants this to affect a child's education.

Marie Taylor reported that they would be having to ask all schools how they use their SEN funding. The School and SEM Funding Working Group would meet before the December Forum meeting and the January 2020 Forum meeting.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum support the proposals identified by ISOS in relation to the high needs review in principle and that further reports are brought to Schools Forum in due course.

Appendix 1 to Minutes - High Needs Update - Journey so far

Appendix 2 to Minutes - Summary of key findings and recommendations

Appendix 3 to Minutes - Final Structure

54 **School Revenue Funding 2020-21**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the reported circulated with the Agenda which sought to outline and update Schools Forum on the content of the DfE's operational guidance on Schools Revenue Funding for 2020/21. Grant highlighted the following:

- An update to the National Funding Formula (NFF) funding rates are due to be announced in October and this has tended to be towards the end of Term 1;

Lisa Percy reported that the MP for Chippenham had requested to be at Hardenhuish tomorrow (11 October) and she thought that this might be because an announcement on funding was due to be made then?

- The elements of the NFF that are to be in place for 2020/21 for mainstream school funding;
- The High Needs NFF will see an increase to all Local Authorities funding of at least 8%, taking account of changes to their 2 to 18-year-old population and the additional £1.1m announced as part of the £125m uplift for 2019/20. For Wiltshire this would mean a minimum increase of £3.76m to the high needs block. There is a gains cap of 17%, which is the maximum increase an Authority could gain. This would equate to a maximum increase of £7.99m which would be a great help. It was anticipated that around a £5.2m uplift would be more likely;
- For the 2020/21 the DfE have confirmed it will be another "soft" funding year and each Authority along with its Schools Forum will be able to determine its school funding formula. The only mandatory factor for 2020/21 will be the application of the minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 for primary and £5,000 for secondary schools;
- Indicative funding allocations from the DfE will be made available in October and based upon the October 2018 census.

A Forum Member asked when would the “hard” funding formula be in place? Grant reported that the DfE state that they are “moving towards this”.

Lisa Percy reported that she would endeavour to ask the Chippenham MP tomorrow to see if any further information was known.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

55 **Annual Schools Consultation - Delegation of Central Expenditure 2020/21 and Transfer of Schools block to High Needs Block 20/21**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to seek Schools Forum’s agreement to a set of consultation questions which was due to be sent out to all schools in relation to delegation of central expenditure for 2020/21 and a transfer from schools block to the high needs block.

Marie referred to Appendix 1 which was a tick table, asking maintained schools to indicate their preference around delegation/de-delegation of budgets for central services within the Schools’ Block. Forum Members approved the table as drafted.

Marie reported that it was likely that Schools Forum would be asked to discuss and make a decision regarding a transfer from the Schools’ Block to the high needs block for 2020/21 as well as other plans to reduce the forecast overspend for 2019/20 of £4.864m. It is recommended that we seek the views of all schools on the proposed questions in Appendix 2 which cover a range of options from transferring funding from Schools Block’, using the growth fund estimated surplus in the first instance and reducing the unit values of direct funding levels of support for children and young people.

The Forum considered the questions in Appendix 2 and Marie was asked to incorporate the following:

- i) The detail from the ISOS Action Plan into the background information so the context is understood, and the news is not all “doom and gloom”.
- ii) School’s Forums previously agreed principles regarding school funding and what was agreed to do last year - raised by David Whewell.
- iii) Details about the referral to the Secretary of State so those completing survey can understand the position and be aware of the implications
- iv) Preamble for Schools to contact their Schools Forum’s reps for any further information required

Marie reported that the consultation would be sent out to all Heads/School Business Managers and Governors. The response last year was low and as the response was due by the end of November 2019, all were asked to encourage responses. Helean Hughes would flag this at the forthcoming Headteacher briefings in November.

The Forum asked that the final version of the consultation questions be shared with Neil Baker, Lisa Percy and David Whewell as Schools Forum representatives before issued to schools.

Resolved:

- 1. That Schools Forum approved the consultation questions for maintained schools around delegation/de-delegation of budgets for central services within the Schools Block as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. That Schools Forum approve the consultation questions set out in Appendix 2 subject to the incorporation of items i) to iv) above with final approval before despatch being sought from Neil Baker, Lisa Percy and David Whewell.**

56 **Government Consultation - Implementing Mandatory Minimum per Pupil Funding Levels**

Grant Davis (School Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report that outlined the content of the DfE's consultation on implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels. Grant highlighted the following:

- Provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding will be announced in October (based on October 2018 census details) and full and final details of the funding allocations will be announced in December 2019;
- The DfE launched the consultation on 10 September 2019 and responses must be made by 22 October 2019. The consultation focusses on how best to implement the minimum per pupil funding levels and it raises questions on both technical and operational arrangements and provides an opportunity for respondents to raise wider issues and concerns;
- From 2020/21 there will be a mandatory rise for primary schools and the minimum per pupil level of funding will increase from £3,500 to £3,750 with a rise in secondary schools from £4,800 to £5,000;
- This would mean that in Wiltshire 9% of primary and 50% of secondary schools would be underfunded with these new arrangements – the gains would go to the bigger primary schools and half of Wiltshire's secondary schools. It would also mean that schools with low levels of Deprivation and Prior Attainment funding would benefit and be topped up under these proposals, whereas those more inclusive schools with higher levels of deprivation and low attainment would not gain. It was the feeling of Schools Forum that extra money should be shared around for those that are inclusive and that additional funding would be more fairly distributed through the AWPU and the Additional Educational Needs factors;

A Forum Member asked if a gains cap would be applied and Grant confirmed that under the NFF a gains cap can still be applied as part of the minimum funding guarantee. The full details are due to be published in December 2019.

- There are four questions from the DfE as part of the consultation and Officers will draft a response as soon as possible to be shared with the Schools Forum members which they can bear in mind when they complete their own responses.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and that the Local Authorities response to the DfE's consultation on Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels be shared with Schools Forum Members in order for responses to be submitted by 22 October 2019.

57 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

12 December 2019

16 January 2020

26 March 2020.

58 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

59 **Consideration of Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was resolved that there was no need to exclude the press and public from the meeting as neither were present at the meeting. The report that had been circulated as Part II of the Agenda was now able to be released/shared and so this was considered within Part I of the meeting.

60 **Strategic Review of Support, Services and Provision for Children and Young People with High Needs in Wiltshire - Final report from ISOS Partnership (Part II)**

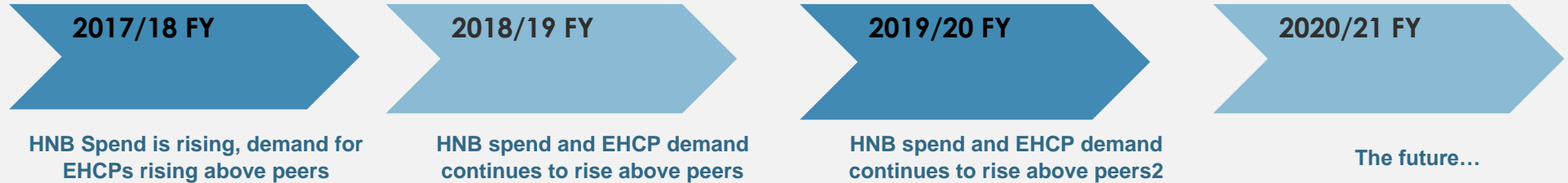
This report was considered as part of High Needs update (minute number 53) and at the time of the meeting the report was no longer confidential.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 4.55 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk of Democratic Services.
Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

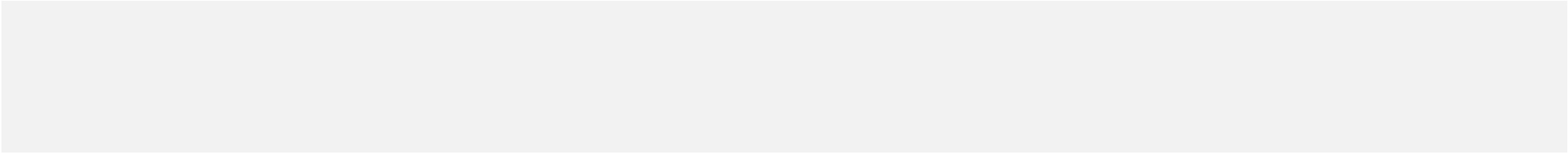
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The Journey so far....



	2017/18 FY	2018/19 FY	2019/20 FY	2020/21 FY
Timeline & Actions	Jan 18 - Schools Forum did not approve transfer of Schools Block to HNB for 2018/19	HNB Working Group comprising heads & LA officers set up - meetings Autumn Term 2018	Jan 19 - Schools Forum agreed to transfer £2.2m (0.8%) SB to HNB for 2019/20	Sept 19 - national funding announcement nationally; £700bn new money for HNB
		Causal factors identified & reported to SF	£0.3m re-directed from CSSB to HNB	Sept 19 - national funding announcement £14.5 bn new money for Schools over 3 years
		Director Ed & Skills appointed - given lead on SEND	Matt Sambrook appointed to lead on Inclusion for 12 months wef Sept 19	Sept 19 - national funding announcement £3.2 bn teachers pay award over 2% & pension increase over 3 years
		Local Authority £0.2m ringfenced to transform HNB spend	ISOS workshops with schools, parents & LA Interim Report & findings to SF June 19	
		LA commission ISOS external consultants to continue & test	Sept 19 - ISOS Final Report & Recommendations - to SF Oct 2019	
		Autumn 18 - Schools Consulted on Transfer & LA approached to contribute £1.3 million	Local Authority (ISOS) Action Plan launch	
		In year additional HNB from DfE £1.128m	Inclusion & SEN Strategy Drafted - Consulted on Autumn 19 & Finalised Feb 2020	
		CS Case Management System - single database implementation (improved data) £2.7m investment across CSC & Education	Panel Review (external consultant) Final report	
		Nov 18 - Cabinet approved £19m Centre of Excellence in the North	SEN Restructure & move to Education & Skills Nov 19	
		Dec 18 - additional SEN capital - total £1.4m (to now until 20/21) - to create new places in schools	Sept 19 - further System of Excellence consultation with updated plan higher cost - Cabinet November 2019	

	Jan 19 - Special Free School (South) application successful £12m	Update to Local Authority MTFS in progress	
Final HNB Overspend = £1.722m	Final HNB Overspend = £4.735m	Forecast HNB Overspend = £4.864m	Forecast HNB Overspend = TBC
DSG Reserve = POSITIVE £0.846m	DSG Reserve = DEFICIT £2.6m incl £1.3m from LA top up	DSG Reserve = £7.130m deficit	DSG Reserve = TBC



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Strategic review of support, services and provision for children and young people with high needs in Wiltshire

Summary of key findings and recommendations

October 2019



Aims of the review

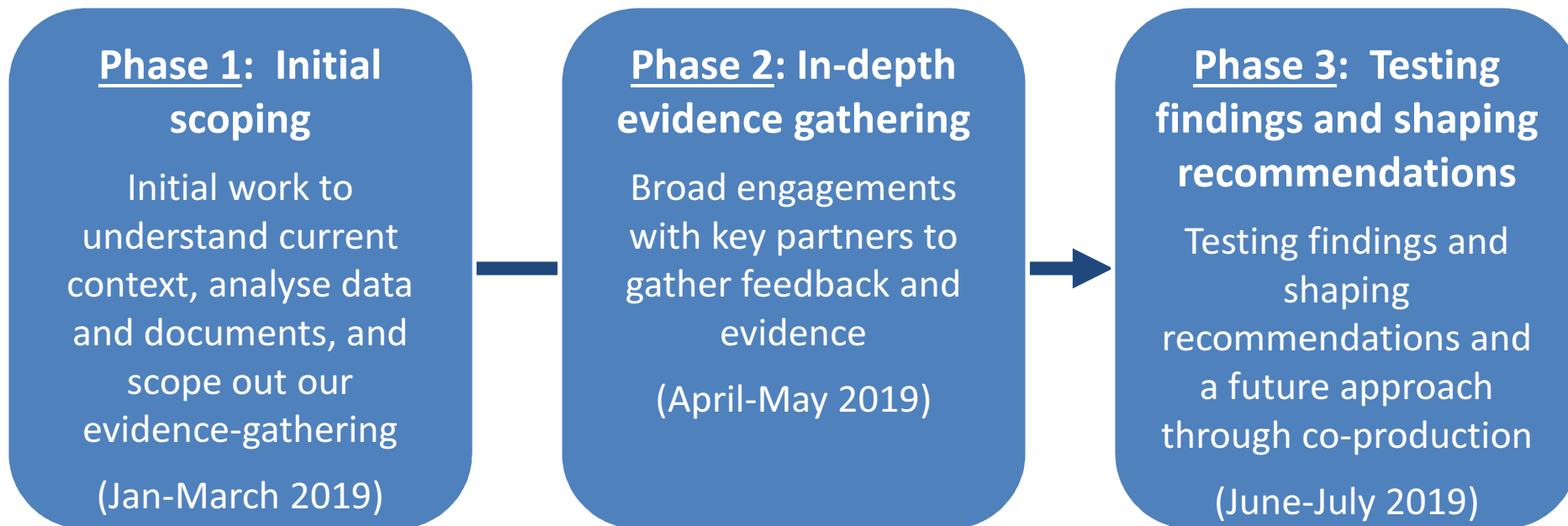
Evidence: To build an evidence base and collective understanding of how effectively the local system supports young people with high needs.

Engagement: To engage a broad range of partners, build consensus and harness collective expertise to shape and implement solutions.

Shared strategy: To work co-productively to develop a shared strategic approach.

How we have approached the project

Page 23



Overarching messages

Wiltshire is well-regarded local SEND and high needs system.

At the forefront of developments around SEND and high needs (SEND pathfinder, National Exclusions Trial). Positive local area SEND inspection in 2018. High % of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks. Good outcomes for children with SEN in early years, primary and post-16.

The system is, however, facing considerable demand and financial pressures.

Wiltshire is seeing a significant increase in EHCPs, particularly for younger children. The high needs block is overspent and under significant pressure. These trends are not sustainable. It is clear that current arrangements (processes, continuum of support) need to be reconsidered.

There is a willingness to forge new relationships and a collective ethos around high needs.

New leadership of the education agenda has been welcomed. Partners, providers and parents are keen to foster a new, collective ethos, strategy and partnership around high needs. They highlight some “quick wins” to improve confidence in the local system: communication and relationships, rigorous core processes, building capacity and consistent quality of support.

Overarching messages

There is the need to build strong, strategic and co-productive relationships and partnerships with all key partners in the local system.

It would be a mistake to see the pressures on the high needs block purely as a financial issue. The factors driving these pressures are manifold, complex and inter-related. They are systemic in nature, and the solutions to them will require a whole-system approach.

There is the need to ensure core processes that govern the day-to-day operation of the system are effective, transparent, and have the confidence of families and professionals.

Parents and professionals expressed a lack of confidence in the consistency of some of core process that cover access to support (EHC assessments, issuing EHCPs, banding, SEND panel). There needs to be a coherent structure that aligns operations, commissioning and strategy.

There needs to be a strategically planned continuum of SEND and high needs support, services and provision.

This will involve ensuring that there are clear and complementary roles for all forms of support, services and provision, how they contribute to the overall strategy and outcomes for the system, which keep pace with changing needs and deliver consistently.

Six broad themes that we are planning to use to structure our discussions and evidence-gathering

- ① **Co-production with parents / carers and young people**
- ② **Partnerships working across education, health and care**
- ③ **Identification, assessment and access to support**
- ④ **Building inclusive capacity in mainstream schools and settings, and providing targeted support for inclusion**
- ⑤ **Developing responsive, effective local specialist provision**
- ⑥ **Preparation for adulthood**

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



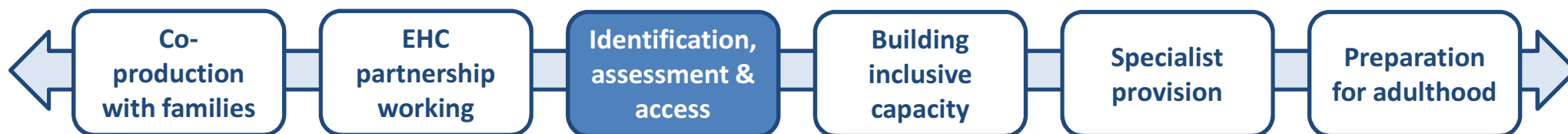
Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a strong mechanism for <u>strategic engagements</u> with parents, through WPCCC. 2. Parents raised concerns about the quality and consistency of <u>communication</u>. 3. There are <u>opportunities to strengthen co-productive</u> working with parents and young people – this will be particularly important in taking forward the findings of this review.
Potential “quick wins” <small>Page 27</small>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Co-production</u> – start discussions with parents about how to take forward the findings from this review. Build a understanding and ownership of the challenges facing the system. 2. <u>Young people’s voice</u> – use existing networks of professionals, providers and families to identify “young people advocates”. Start to develop a network of young people to engage on strategic issues facing the system.
Longer-term actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Co-production</u> – identify some specific, dedicated co-productive projects to undertake with parents and carers. Feedback suggests (a) introductory information about the local SEND system, (b) effective mainstream inclusion and (c) working with families to prepare for adulthood could be the focus of some initial co-productive projects. 2. <u>Young people’s voice</u> –develop core routines for having systematic conversations with young people about their aspirations, and use this to inform planning pathways and commissioning.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



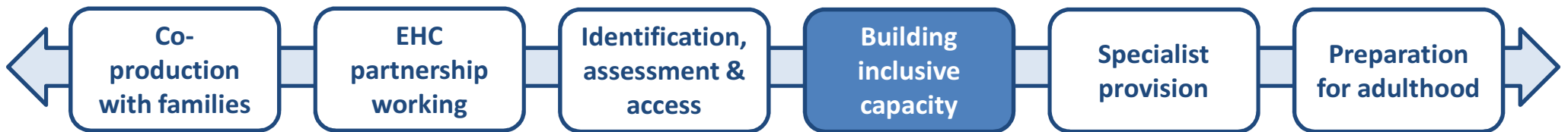
Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>There were mixed views about the quality of support provided across education, health and care.</u> 2. <u>There is the need to strengthen joint commissioning across agencies at a strategic level.</u> 3. <u>There is a perceived lack of join-up between services on a day-to-day level.</u>
Potential “quick wins”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The EHC process</u> – revisit and set out clearly how all agencies will contribute to EHC assessments, plans and annual reviews. Co-produce this with parents and professionals. 2. <u>Consistent communication</u> – ensure that there is a consistent understanding of and messages about the local system and how it supports young people with SEND and high needs. 3. <u>Support for young people with health-related needs</u> – develop and agree protocol.
Longer-term actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Joint commissioning</u> – strengthen joint commissioning in areas where there are identified gaps in the continuum of support, most notably SEMH, OT and PT. Building on the work that has been well received around the autism pathway, focus on “pathways” for specific needs. Test whether the local offer sets out a seamless joint pathway of support, identify gaps. 2. <u>Holistic family support</u> – strengthen links between early help and SEND / high needs support, so that there is an offer of holistic support for families to avoid issues escalating.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professionals were positive about the quality of <u>information</u>, but parents less so. 2. There were some concerns about the <u>core systems for identifying young people's needs</u>. 3. Strong concerns that <u>support depends on getting medical diagnoses and EHCPs</u>. 4. Concerns re: consistency, robustness and transparency of <u>decision-making about support</u>. 5. There were also concerns about the <u>paperwork and processes</u> for accessing support.
Potential "quick wins"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Information</u> – work with parents to co-produce a refined local offer, building on information already available, but also giving a more strategic overview of the system. 2. <u>Access to support</u> – strengthen the panel's work through consistent chairing, consistent application of banding descriptors, reintroducing peer-to-peer moderation from SENCOs, considering thresholds (particularly the low rate of refusal to assess).
Longer-term actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Access to support</u> – refining the banding framework, developing routes to access time-limited top-up funding without an EHCP, and creating a more responsive support offer. 2. <u>Identification</u> – undertake further focused work with health professionals and education providers, as well as other services, to consider what accounts for the high proportion of children with autism as an identified primary need and to ensure the autism pathway is operating effectively to identify young people's needs and bring in support at the right time.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstream</u>: Examples of positive approaches to inclusion in mainstream schools and settings, but the evidence suggests that this is not consistent. Networks required to challenge poor practice and build inclusive capacity need to be strengthened. Transition a concern. 2. <u>Targeted</u>: There was mixed feedback on the offer of targeted services that support inclusion. Overall, there is both the opportunity and the need to reframe the offer of targeted support.
Potential "quick wins"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstream inclusion</u> – start a co-productive dialogue with mainstream settings / schools, parents / carers, about principles and hallmarks of good mainstream inclusion in Wiltshire. 2. <u>SENCO networks</u> – re-establish county-wide (locally delivered) SENCO networks, offering a rolling programme of induction and training around county practices and priorities. 3. <u>Whole-school inclusion</u> – share intelligence and join up support re: whole-school inclusion.
Longer-term actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mainstream inclusion</u> – continue to develop a set of consistent expectations of mainstream inclusion across Wiltshire. Set this out on the local offer. Build on networks to facilitate school-to-school working. Develop a rolling programme of whole-school inclusion support. 2. <u>Targeted support</u> – consider the current offer of (and potential overlaps within) targeted support. Work with SENCOs and school leaders to co-produce a new offer, with clear aims, consistent models of support, and outcome measures.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Resourced provision</u> – primary “resource bases” seen to be strong feature of the SEND continuum; concerns about join-up with and clarity of “enhanced learning provisions” (ELPs). 2. <u>Special school</u> – need for a vision for specialist provision, rooted in the whole continuum of inclusion support and focused on long-term outcomes for young people with SEND. 3. <u>AP</u> – at both primary and secondary, concerns about access to alternatives to exclusion.
Potential “quick wins”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Resourced provision</u> – start a discussion with secondary schools about the future of the ELPs, linked to the discussion about expectations of mainstream inclusion, define “additionality”. 2. <u>Special school provision</u> – refine placement process, banding; enable special schools to develop collective offer for the most complex needs. Tighten INMSS commissioning. 3. <u>AP</u> – begin a focused discussions with schools about current AP arrangements.
Longer-term actions	<p><u>The role of specialist provision as a whole –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is a clear vision about the overall role of specialist provisions and the rest of the continuum, with clear processes for commissioning and adapting the offer. • This will require co-productive work with schools and professionals to refine the ELP model and define a clear and consistent offer of resourced provision and special school provision. • This will require considering what will be needed to support young people who might require a placement in an INMSS, and those who could be reintegrated from specialist provision. • Ensure this is understood by all professionals involved in placement decisions.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Longer-term actions

1. Specialist provision (continued) – ensure that there is a clear and consistent process for specialist providers, mainstream providers and other agencies to work together to identify pupils who could be reintegrated into mainstream school and to support transition.
2. Independent placements – first, strengthen individual placement commissioning (consistent focus on outcomes, on specific support being commissioned, and on transitions). Second, develop a process whereby specialist providers and other services can come together to consider local, bespoke alternatives to independent placements. Third, consider the current in-county offer of specialist provision for pupils with SEMH needs.
3. AP – working with primary and secondary school leaders and other partners, revisit and refine current arrangements around preventing exclusion and the use of AP. We understand further work on this area is planned to start shortly.
4. Commissioning – develop a process of regular, pro-active, strategic discussions with specialist providers individually and collectively about current and anticipated future trends and planned need for provision (not just about numbers of planned places).

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

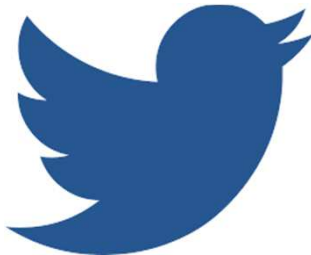


Headline findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening and broadening options for young people preparing for adult life was one of the <u>key areas of positive practice</u> within Wiltshire. 2. This <u>remains a developing area</u>, with ongoing work required to ensure the local area provides good opportunities for young adults with SEND and high needs.
Potential "quick wins"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Developing pathways</u> – continue to build on existing work around education study programmes and supported internships, focusing on routes into employment, strengthening special-school-college transition, and developing the offer from adult social care services. 2. <u>Planning processes</u> – develop routines for identifying young people with the most complex needs, requiring some transitional / ongoing support with their care needs.
Longer-term actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Joint offer of support</u> – pull together a broader offer of joined-up, seamless support drawing on inputs from education, social care, health and community services. Ensure that this offer is well co-ordinated and jointly owned by professionals. 2. <u>Young people's voice</u> – develop a set of core routines for having systematic conversations with young people about their aspirations, capture this, and use this to inform planning of individual pathways as well as shaping future commissioning priorities.

Our details



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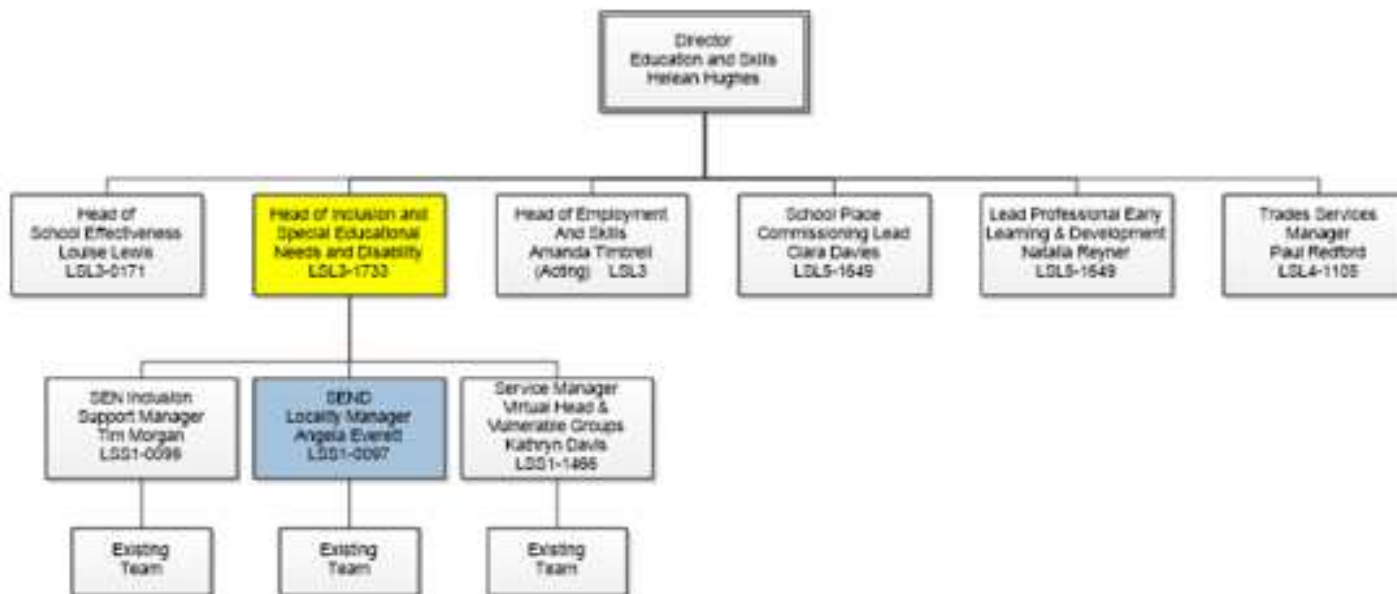
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Isos- next steps

- Closer alignment with school effectiveness from 1st November 2019
- Head of Inclusion and SEND

Final Structure – Education & Skills



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School Funding Working Group and SEN working Group

2nd December 2019

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, LA), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Neil Baker (Christchurch), Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Sam Churchill (Hilmarton), Matt Sambrook (Exeter House / Secondee LA), Andy Bridewell (Lugershall Castle)

Libby Johnson (Democratic Services) and Kathryn Davis (Virtual Head) attended for the first part of the meeting.

Apologies: Judith Westcott (Childrens Commissioning LA), Phil Cook (Larkrise), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Nick Breakwell (SEN LA) & Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley)

1	Minutes from previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.	
2	Matters Arising Marie welcomed Andy to the Group as a new member Marie introduced Libby & Kathryn attending for their items only	
3	Verbal Update – Admissions Appeals Charging (Libby) Libby updated the group; the cost of the LA providing support for an average appeal has been calculated at around £900. Schools have indicated they can get an alternative provider for around £300. A report is to be taken to CLT (Corporate Leadership Team) at the Council to see whether the service can be provided at a subsidised level to schools. The benefits of this will be to ensure due process is being followed, thus protecting reputational risk for schools and the council. The group raised conflict of interest; independent panel members are used, whether trading training on how to conduct an admissions appeal would be an alternative; possibly and CW said that negotiation was also an option for some appeals. The group agreed the principle and look forward to the CLT decision.	LJ
4	DSG Expenditure – Wiltshire Virtual School Kathryn presented her report; there is a forecast overspend against the DSG for CLA (Children Looked After) however, this will be met from PPG for CLA in 19/20. Kathryn confirmed there was additional funding to be allocated for Post 16 PP and the total PPG for CLA was £772,800. Approx. 300 CLA are of school age. The group welcomed the clarity and transparency of the report and thanked Kathryn for preparing it.	No actions
5	Autumn Consultations MT shared her report which covers: a. Local Authority Consultation Results: De-delegated (maintained schools only) b. Local Authority Consultation Results: Transfer of Schools Budget to support demand on HNB 20/21 (all schools)	

	<p>c. DfE Consultation on Clarifying the Specific Grant & Ring-Fenced Status of the DSG</p> <p>Responses (although limited in number) for consultations a & b will be used to inform setting the Schools Budget at the January 2020 meeting.</p> <p>Consultation c from the DfE (11/10/19-15/11/19) was seeking views on the treatment of overspends leading to deficit DSG reserve balances – the proposals are around changing the conditions of grant so that any overspend is carried forward to the schools budget in future years. On a positive note, we hope this will push the inclusion agenda forward however, there is little incentive within this for the local authority to achieve value for money – Marie reassured the group of two things, firstly that the local authority would not be reacting in this way but would continue with the recovery actions and sufficiency planning and that there is a strong relationship between Schools Forum and the local authority which gives us the opportunity to ensure our partnership approach to problem solving continues.</p> <p>The group noted the report but had concerns around the lack of responders in a and b and the financial burdens in c.</p>	
6	<p>Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2019 MT shared her report.</p> <p>The pressures on the HNB continue during the planning and transformation around the SEN service and working with schools.</p> <p>The forecast overspend for 19/20 is £6.429m. Highlights: This comprises £0.995m early years – based on higher than budgeted FTE of 3&4-year olds. The HNB forecast overspend is £5.685m – again, based on higher numbers of EHCPS and levels of support requested. This forecast will increase if requests continue to be received at the current rates.</p> <p>Of major concern is the impact of this on the DSG deficit reserve balance which is held in the local authority's balance sheet. The reserve balance is now forecast to be £8.695m - deficit.</p> <p>The additional monies pledged nationally for 20/21 will assist but not resolve this issue and certainly not for overspends relating to 18/19 and 19/20 financial years.</p> <p>There was much discussion around reasons for this overspend (parent preference, threat of tribunal, provider placement choice, inclusion & CCG / health funding.) Nick Breakwell has done some analysis on primary need – can this be shared with the group? MT to check with NB</p> <p>MT speak to Directors around discussions with CCG & requests for information around joint funding arrangements being shared amongst local authority finance officers.</p> <p>MT reminded the group of Bristol's judicial review in recent years where savings were mooted without sufficient consultation and consideration.</p>	<p>MT > NB</p> <p>MT</p>

	<p>This overspend needs to be considered moving forward in conjunction with the DfE Consultation proposal to carry forward DSG overspends to Schools in future years.</p> <p>The group noted the report but had concerns around the level of spend exceeding grant and the cumulative result on the DSG reserve in the balance sheet.</p>	
7	<p>Update on Schools Revenue Funding 20/21 GD shared his informative reports on NFF and Growth Fund which were supported by the group. After much debate, the group felt that there was insufficient reasoning / need for schools to introduce the mobility factor whilst local flexibility remains (prior to the national hard formula being rolled out.) The additional funding (£ tbc) could be used to offset significant budgetary pressures in the HNB.</p> <p>In addition, the group discussed the option of introducing a Falling Rolls Fund and the criteria for such a fund. Given the nature of the DfE criteria, it is very difficult to predict that rolls will rise in the following years and any fund would require a top slice of the Schools Block DSG. To be discussed at Schools Forum further and to be taken into account when setting the budget at the January 2020 meeting.</p> <p>Marie to add EY to report for SF.</p>	MT
8	<p>Verbal Update – ESF MOD Funding 2021 Grant gave a verbal update on the success of the local authority bid. The total bids submitted were £1.8m of a £2m total fund. The Council only succeeded in £54k for a SEND national trainer however, several of our schools were successful in their own bids so some positive news. When the 19/20 bids were put forward, the MOD believed 1500 children would be returning to Wiltshire, in the event only 609 have arrived and so the likelihood of the same level of success as 19/20 were slim.</p>	
9	<p>Verbal Update – High Needs Recovery Action Planning Unfortunately, Helean could not attend the meeting so Matt highlighted the main actions which savings have been attributed to – namely; Dyslexia Friendly Schools School Inclusion & Effectiveness SEND assessment & EHCPs Use of technology ISS Placement Review (NB) Post 16 AP Pre EHCP-District Specialist Centres Banding Review The group had a lively discussion around the issues and potential resolution moving forward including SLAs for RB & ELP provision, inclusion, limitations, joined up approach, Support at lower tiers. Sam asked do primaries need re-educating about the benefits of ELP provision for children to avoid special school place requests? Sam asked would it be better not to issue EHCPs prior to age 7?</p>	MS MS

	<p>Matt confirmed when YP get older, they want their EHCP and diagnoses removed in order to gain certain types of employment for example.</p> <p>Work is on going and will be presented to Schools Forum on 12/12/19.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>John asked about Budget Roadshows</p> <p>Marie responded that rather than run evening events as in previous years, it was intended to run these through the Head Teacher Briefings (geographical x 4 each term) plus an event for governors and school business managers</p> <p>Marie to discuss with Helean</p>	MT
11	<p><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>Next meeting – has already been set – 7th January 2020 8.30am – room tbc by Marie</p>	MT

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

12 December 2019

DSG Expenditure – Wiltshire Virtual School

Purpose of the Report:

1. To present the forecast expenditure on looked after children in full time alternative education provision for the financial year 2019/20.

Main Considerations:

2. For the financial year 2019/20, £102,800 was allocated by the Schools' Forum to the Virtual School, from the DSG budget, to provide full-time alternative educational provision for the small number of looked after children and young people who:
 - do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
 - do not receive education as part of a social care package; **and**
 - are unable to successfully access a mainstream education setting
3. The same amount of funding (£102,800) was allocated by Schools' Forum in 2018/19, after a reduction of £100,000 in allocation for the financial year 2017/18, which reflected the timing of an increase in Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding allocated by the DfE via the Pupil Premium Grant. This additional PP+ funding continues to be allocated, via the Virtual School, to maintain and support stability of on-roll school places for pupils, on an assessed, needs-led basis.
4. This year, full-time alternative educational provision has been required for a small number of children and young people looked after by Wiltshire Council, in line with the criteria listed above.
5. The allocated DSG funding has been used to manage the costs of this provision. Costs provided below are actual and projected, to the end of the financial year 2019-20:

Year Group (AY 2019/20)	Provision	Cost at end of FY 2019/20	Provision Duration - Weeks FY 2019/20
8	Pupil Referral Unit, Reading	£8,625	17
9	Independent Alternative Provider, Kent	£21,000	26
9	Independent Alternative Provider, Essex*	£10,000*	16*
10	Independent Alternative Provider, Blackpool	£13,680	39
11	Pupil Referral Service, Bristol	£12,888	52
11	Independent Alternative Provider, Wiltshire	£15,000	23
Year Group - (AY 2018/19)			
9	Independent Alternative Provider, Kent	£6,283	29
11	Independent Alternative Provider, Bristol	£5,712	14
11	Independent Alternative Provider, Bristol	£15,400	17
Total		£108,588	
DSG		-£102,800	
Overspend (Balance from PPG)		£5,788	

**estimated cost – provision being sought for a YP who has just completed a custodial sentence*

6. There has been no increase in the amount per capita pupil premium grant funding available from the DfE for looked after children.
7. The Virtual School has received an extension to the pupil premium grant from the DfE this financial year of £60,738 to enable provision of the local authority's extended statutory duties for previously looked after children. Conditions of grant are clear that this funding cannot be used for looked after children.
8. DSG funding made available during 2019/20 has ensured access to and stability of educational provision for some of our most vulnerable looked after children and young people.
9. Costs for full-time alternative educational provision during 2019/20 are broadly similar to costs incurred during 2018/19. There is no expectation that the need for this provision will decrease during 2020/21. As such, I would like to request allocation of funding at the same level for 2020/21.

Proposals:

10. Schools' Forum is asked to note the expenditure forecast at the end of 2019/20 and to consider the request made for 2020/21.

Report Author: Kathryn Davis, Head of Virtual School

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

12 December 2019

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET Consultations - Update 20-21

- Schools block De-delegated Budget Consultation
- Transfer of Schools Block to support the High Needs Block Consultation
- DfE Consultation – Clarifying the Specific Grant & Ringfenced Status of the DSG

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools forum on the results of Wiltshire's Autumn consultations which will help inform Schools Forum decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process at the January 2020 meeting.
2. To update schools forum on the DfE consultation around future treatment of DSG deficit reserve balances.

Main Considerations

De-Delegated Consultation Responses

3. Under the "soft formula" funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can then be de-delegated for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. Services to be considered for de-delegation in 2020-21 are:
 - HCSS Software Licence
 - Trade Union Facilities Costs
 - Maternity Costs
 - Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
 - Traveller Education Service
 - Behaviour Support Service
4. Schools forum will consider these proposals alongside other funding factors for 2020-21 at the January 2020 meeting. In order to inform schools forum, maintained school heads were consulted with via a snap survey so that their views could be considered.
5. The question set & results are summarised as Appendix 1 (anonymised.)
6. There were a limited number of results however these were significantly in favour of retaining de delegated services. This data will inform the decision making around the 2020/21 budget which will be taken in January 2020.

Transfer of Schools Block to Support the High Needs Block

7. In January of this year, Schools Forum agreed up to 1% transfer from schools block to support the high needs block which was subsequently approved by the Secretary of State. In order for Schools Forum to consider this in January 2020, views of all schools should be considered. The autumn consultation questions were agreed at the October Schools Forum and was subsequently shared with schools through the Right Choice as a “snap survey” with a deadline of 30th November 2019.
8. The covering letter, question set & results are summarised as Appendix 2a & b (anonymised.) A total of 4 primary schools and 5 secondary schools responded in total.
 - Overwhelmingly heads supported removing excess growth from the DfE’s growth fund (100%) where practicable to do so.
 - There was a mixed response over levels of transfer with the majority selecting a transfer of £1.5m (0.545% of total schools block funding) one school selecting the minimum option (£1.0m) and one school selecting the maximum option (£4.5m.)
 - 67% of respondents believe children with EHCPs can be supported with reduced funding, whilst 33% did not.
 - A useful comment was made around alternatives to a per pupil reduction model so that large schools were not penalised which, could mirror the flat rate within the school funding formula.
 - Two schools have volunteered to be part of a working group.
9. This data will inform the decision making around the 2020/21 budget which will be taken in January 2020.

The DfE consultation: Clarifying the Specific Grant & Ringfenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant

10. The DfE describe this consultation as “The Department for Education is consulting on changing the conditions and regulations applying to the dedicated schools grant (DSG), to clarify that it is a ring-fenced specific grant, separate from the general funding of local authorities. It will also clarify that local authorities are expected to carry forward any deficits they may have on their DSG accounts, and the deficit does not have to be covered by their general reserves. The government will then make a decision on the proposed changes, in time to inform the setting of local authorities’ budgets for the 2020 to 2021 financial year.”
11. This consultation was published on the 11th October, the day following the last Schools Forum meeting and closed on the 15th November 2019, prior to this meeting. Therefore, the consultation and local authority response were forwarded to all Schools Forum members for information and action.
12. The consultation questions can be found at Appendix 3.
 - At the end of each financial year, a local authority may have underspent or overspent its DSG allocation. The conditions of grant for the DSG provide that any underspend must be carried forward to the next year’s Schools Budget. To date, the conditions of grant have provided three options for dealing with an overspend:

- the local authority may decide not to fund any of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question, and to carry forward all the overspend to the schools budget in future years
 - the local authority may decide to fund part of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question and carry forward part to the schools budget in future years (This was Wiltshire's choice for 18/19 financial year.)
 - the local authority may decide to fund all of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question
13. DSG is a specific grant, and the conditions of grant make clear that it can only be spent on the Schools Budget, and not on other aspects of local government expenditure. But where there is an overspend on the DSG, local authorities may currently decide to fund that from general resources. This has led some local authority Chief Finance Officers (often referred to as section 151 officers, with reference to section 151 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972) to conclude that if their DSG account is in deficit, they need to be able to cover the deficit from the authority's general reserves. We know that a similar view is held by organisations that audit local authority accounts. Given the size of some authorities' DSG deficits, and the other pressures on authorities' reserves, there is a risk that covering DSG deficits from general funds may lead authorities to make spending reductions in other services that they would not otherwise make.
14. The Government's intention is that DSG deficits should not be covered from general funds but that over time they should be recovered from DSG income. No timescale has been set for the length of this process.
15. The impact of this change has potential to be significant with the proposal that DSG deficit balances held in the local authority balance sheet are carried forward to be met from future DSG income.

Proposals

16. Schools Forum is asked to note the report local consultation responses and taken them into account when making the required decisions in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2020-21 at the January 2020 meeting.
17. Schools Forum is asked to note the DfE consultation and consider the impact when making the required decisions in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2020-21 at the January 2020 meeting.

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

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

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De-Delegation Consultation : REPORT from SNAP SURVEY

Appendix 1

ID.completed	ID.date	ID.start	ID.endDate	ID.end	ID.time	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q1d	Q1e	
Complete response received	Date of interview	Time interview started	Completion date of interview	Time interview ended	Duration of interview	Free School Meals	Licences & Subscriptions	Staff Costs/Supply Cover	EMAS/Travellers	Behaviour Support Services	Type
completed	21/10/19	15:37:37	21/10/19	15:37:53	0.27	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	21/10/19	16:36:09	21/10/19	16:37:17	1.13	Centrally Retain	Delegate	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	22/10/19	08:45:10	22/10/19	08:45:53	0.72	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	22/10/19	13:50:51	22/10/19	13:51:32	0.68	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Delegate	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	22/10/19	14:37:05	22/10/19	14:37:58	0.88	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	22/10/19	14:52:18	22/10/19	14:53:20	1.03	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Secondary
completed	22/10/19	17:49:30	22/10/19	17:50:43	1.22	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	23/10/19	14:12:05	23/10/19	14:12:32	0.45	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	25/10/19	14:05:05	25/10/19	14:06:16	1.18	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	05/11/19	16:53:03	05/11/19	16:53:35	0.53	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	07/11/19	12:59:00	07/11/19	12:59:31	0.52	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	11/11/19	12:24:31	11/11/19	12:24:44	0.22	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	12/11/19	12:49:45	12/11/19	12:51:58	2.22	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Delegate		Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	12/11/19	14:25:17	12/11/19	14:25:55	0.63	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	13/11/19	12:04:27	13/11/19	12:04:49	0.37	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	14/11/19	10:37:22	14/11/19	10:37:50	0.47	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	14/11/19	13:46:02	14/11/19	13:47:53	1.85	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate	Secondary
completed	14/11/19	14:37:10	14/11/19	14:37:59	0.82	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	15/11/19	15:23:54	15/11/19	15:29:17	5.38	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary
completed	15/11/19	15:55:01	15/11/19	15:55:46	0.75	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Centrally Retain	Primary

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Consultation Results Analysis						
OVERALL	Centrally Retain	20	19	18	17	19
	Delegate		1	2	2	1
	Blank				1	
		20	20	20	20	20
OVERALL %	Centrally Retain	100%	95%	90%	85%	95%
	Delegate	0%	5%	10%	10%	5%
	Blank	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%
SECONDARY/P RIMARY SPLIT	Secondary - Centrally Retain	2	2	1	1	1
	Secondary - Delegate	0	0	1	1	1
	Secondary - Blank	0	0	0	0	0
	Primary - Centrally Retain	18	17	17	16	18
	Primary - Delegate		1	1	1	
	Primary - blank				1	
		20	20	20	20	20
SECONDARY/P RIMARY SPLIT %	Secondary - Centrally Retain	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%
	Secondary - Delegate			50%	50%	50%
	Secondary - Blank					
	Primary - Centrally Retain	100%	94%	94%	89%	100%
	Primary - Delegate		6%	6%	6%	
Primary - blank				6%		

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17th October 2019

Headteachers and
Chairs of Governors of
Maintained
and Academy Schools

Accountancy
Finance & Procurement
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref: 002
Our ref: HNB

Dear Colleague

Re: Annual consultation on Schools Funding 20/21 for ALL SCHOOLS

The DfE have confirmed their intention to move to a single “hard” national formula to determine every schools budget. For the 20/21 financial year however, the “soft” funding rules will apply which allow more local flexibility. Each year, Schools Forum set the annual budget for Schools in January. Under the “soft” funding rules, this includes certain decisions which can be made locally. Schools Forum are interested in collecting your input into the difficult decisions to be made around financing of the High Needs Block in the 20/21 financial year.

Background

Nationally there is significant pressure on the High Needs Block. Demand is outstripping the national funding available and Wiltshire, like the majority of other Local Authorities is facing a significant and increasing level of overspend for the 19/20 Financial Year. Wiltshire has seized every opportunity to take part in lobbying and research and surveys to be presented to the Government. The Government have acknowledged this funding shortfall with a pledge for additional funding of £700m nationally in 2020/21 which although welcome news, will not resolve our local pressures.

An external review was commissioned and paid for by the local authority. The ISOS Partnership have worked with schools, the local authority, the WPCC, young people, and other partners to capture experiences and pressure in the current system. They attended Schools Forum on the 10th October and presented their findings and recommendations. For those of you who are interested in the final or summary presentation of the report – it can be accessed here:

[Agenda for Schools Forum on Thursday 10 October 2019, 1.30 pm | Wiltshire Council](#)

As a result, there is much work to be done which can be separated out into short and longer-term actions. Those longer-term actions involve changing practices and behaviours and will require a great deal of trust between all stakeholders.

Action Planning & Developments

With effect from 1st November 2019, SEN education services will move to Skills & Learning under Helean Hughes who is the Council's Director for Education and lead for SEN. This means closer alignment with School Effectiveness. Recruitment is currently underway for a new post, the Head of Service Inclusion & SEN.

Other short-term actions include:

- £0.2m FACT (transformation programme) local authority budget identified to fund external review and consultant headteacher time
- Local Authority contribution of £1.3m into the High Needs budget 2018/19
- Appointment of Matt Sambrook (Headteacher and Multi-Academy Trust CEO) leading on developing a joined-up approach to inclusion across Wiltshire- FACT
- Review of SEND panel- consistent charring, application of banding etc
- Developing communication- Heads' briefings and SENCo briefings
- SEMH pathway
- Transitions framework- clear outcomes
- Alternative Provision review- primary and secondary
- Targeted review of ISS placements and EHE

The longer-term developments will be co-produced:

- Review of ELP in Secondary schools - redefine the model and align with resource bases
- Refining the banding framework
- Providing targeted support without an EHCP- pathway being defined- enhancing SENs
- In-reach and out-reach- new schools in the north and the south
- Dyslexia specialism- primary and secondary
- Inclusion aligned to regional working

In November 2019, Cabinet will discuss the "System of Excellence" – a significant investment for Wiltshire with an estimated cost of £32m, offering Special School provision and outreach in the North of the County. This is funded by borrowing the capital as the council does not have this funding available. The annual revenue cost to the council is estimated at £1.6m for the next 50 years – this is not funded from Schools Budget (DSG.) In January 2018, the local authority was successful in bidding for a 150 place £12m Special Free School in the South of the County which is scheduled to open in September 2022. This school is DfE capital grant funded. The Inclusion & SEN Strategy is currently in development, aiming for publication in February 2020.

On Friday 11th October, the DfE released the 20/21 provisional schools budget allocations. Wiltshire has been allocated £4.441million for high needs block. Although most welcome, this in itself will not be sufficient to cover the increasing needs of children and young people identified by schools. Link to allocations below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2020-to-2021>

Current Year (19/20) Budget Setting

In setting the 19/20 Schools Budget, Schools Forum agreed a schools budget to reduce funding across the whole of the mainstream population than further reduce funding to Wiltshire's most vulnerable in Special Schools Resource Bases and Enhanced Learning Provision settings etc. This meant a lower reduction in per pupil funding and impact. In 2019/20, the Secretary of State approved the Schools Forum decision to transfer up to **1%** of Schools block funding to support pupils with EHCPs.

Schools Forum are keen to hear your views but appreciate it is a very complex area. Both the Chair (Neil Baker) and vice-chair (Lisa Percy) have committed to making themselves available to discuss any aspect with you.

Neil Baker – Headteacher, Christ Church Primary School 01225 863444

Lisa Percy – Headteacher, Hardenhuish School 01249 650693

Please respond by 30th November 2019

Yours sincerely



Marie Taylor
Head of Finance, Children & Education

Direct line: 01225 712539

Email: marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

COPY of SNAP SURVEY QUESTIONS 2020/21 Budget Setting

There is no doubt that High Needs Block spend must be reduced across the authority and that Schools, Schools Forum, the Local Authority, health colleagues, the WPCC, Parents and Carers and Young People will need to work collaboratively on the difficult decisions which need to be made around the suite of proposals and resolutions.

Qu 1 – Please enter your DfE Number here:

--

For the first time in 19/20, the DfE provided their own calculation of the Growth Fund for local authorities at £2.2m. Schools Forum agreed for 19/20 that this was at a higher level than local need dictated and that £1.2million could be removed from the Growth Fund to support High Needs Pupils.

Qu 2 – Do you support Schools Forum in setting the Growth Fund at the locally required level for 20/21 financial year and transfer the surplus to support the High Needs Block?

YES / NO

Assuming Schools Forum vote to use the surplus Growth Fund in this way, there will be a lower amount required which will impact mainstream funding – see Qu 3 below:

Qu 3 – Which of the following options do you think will be most appropriate to fund the gap which, if requests for EHCPs and increased funding per child do not reduce will continue to rise at the current rate of 15 EHCPs per month and at an estimated spend above available current funding of £6.8m per annum? (Please refer to the table in the covering letter for more detail.)

Amount	% Reduction impact on your School Budget assuming £1.2m trf from Growth Fund	% Reduction impact on your School Budget assuming £1.2m trf from Growth Fund	
£1.0m	None	0.36%	Schools Forum can approve up to a 0.5% Budget Transfer
£1.5m	£4.73 per pupil on roll	0.545%	
£2.0m	£11.03 per pupil on roll	0.72%	
£2.5m	£20.49 per pupil on roll	0.901%	

£3.0m	£28.37 per pupil on roll	1.091%	Transfers above 0.5% need Approval from the Secretary of State
£3.5m	£36.26 per pupil on roll	1.272%	
£4.0m	£44.13 per pupil on roll	1.454%	
£4.5m	£52.02 per pupil on roll	1.636%	

Although the local authority's preference is to reduce funding for individual children & young people in our most inclusive schools, a third option is to reduce the value of amounts devolved to schools to support vulnerable pupils with EHCPs. This might be by reducing the value of NPAs or top ups.

The DfE have stated they want young people to have access to a world-class education system which will give them the best possible opportunities, whatever direction they wish to take and that HNB funding will have a positive impact for those pupils identified as SEND (which includes those with disabilities), by improving their ability to access the right educational provision and thereby addressing educational inequalities for children with SEND.

Qu 4 – Do you believe that children with EHCPs can be supported with lower value NPAs or Top ups?

YES / NO

Qu 5 – We would be very interested to hear your views on any alternative modelling Schools Forum could consider which might reduce the pressure on the High Needs Block?

Finally, there is much work to do combining our mutual strengths and capacities to work with each other on an equal basis for positive and sustainable change;

Qu 6 – Would you be willing to be part of a working group and key decision maker in a SEN WORKING GROUP?

YES / NO

Contact details can be provide here

Or, emailed to marie.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please respond by **30th November 2019**

ID.complete	ID.date	ID.start	ID.endDate	ID.end	ID.time	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Type
Complete response received	Date of interview	Time interview started	Completion date of interview	Time interview ended	Duration of interview	Do you support Schools Forum in setting the Growth Fund a...	Which of the following options do you think will be most ...	Do you believe that children with EHCPS can be supported ...	We would be very interested to hear your views on any alt...	Would you be willing to be part of a working group and ke...	Type
completed	21/10/2019	09:43:54	21/10/2019	09:45:13	1.32	Yes	£1.5m £4.73 per pupil on roll	Yes	We are faced with a very unpalatable choice; reduce funding for all students, or reduce funding for those designated as SEND. Given this decision, the ability to be flexible in our approach by retaining our budget allows us to make a local decision about the needs of individuals. From our perspective, we would therefore prefer a reduction in the size of an NPA to a wholesale transfer of a significant proportion	No	Secondary
completed	21/10/2019	22:06:08	21/10/2019	22:12:43	6.58	Yes	£1.5m £4.73 per pupil on roll	Yes		Yes	Secondary
completed	22/10/2019	14:44:27	22/10/2019	14:51:50	7.38	Yes	£2.0m £11.03 per pupil on roll	Yes		No	Secondary
completed	05/11/2019	11:06:19	05/11/2019	11:11:05	4.77	Yes	£1.0m	Yes		No	Primary
completed	11/11/2019	08:58:33	11/11/2019	09:00:11	1.63	Yes	£1.5m £4.73 per pupil on roll	No		No	Primary
completed	15/11/2019	11:40:45	15/11/2019	11:48:16	7.52	Yes	£1.5m £4.73 per pupil on roll	Yes	I understand the rationale that getting all schools to share the pain is better than disadvantaging those with SEN. However this does in fact disproportionately hit larger schools and I dont see the model being appropriate going forwards. If there has to be an ongoing call on Finances from elsewhere, how about alternating the areas targeted?	No	Secondary
completed	28/11/2019	11:34:48	28/11/2019	11:36:24	1.6	Yes	£2.0m £11.03 per pupil on roll	Yes		No	Secondary
completed	02/12/2019	08:22:55	02/12/2019	08:24:29	1.57	Yes	£4.5m £52.02 per pupil on roll	No		No	Primary
completed	02/12/2019	08:24:36	02/12/2019	08:25:50	1.23	Yes	£1.5m £4.73 per pupil on roll	No		Yes	Primary

9
100%
Total = 9

Yes = 6 (67%) No = 3 (33%) Total = 9	Useful Comments around flat rate + per pupil reduction opposed to a per pupil reduction (so mirroring the school funding formula)	Two volunteers for a group	Prim = 4 (44%) Sec = 5 (56%) Total = 9
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Department
for Education

Clarifying the Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Government consultation

Launch date 11 October 2019

Respond by 15 November 2019

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Introduction

The Department is consulting on changing the conditions of grant and regulations applying to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), so as to clarify that the DSG is a ring-fenced specific grant separate from the general funding of local authorities, and that any deficit an authority may have on its DSG account is expected to be carried forward and does not require to be covered by the authority's general reserves.

This public consultation exercise seeks views on making such changes and will allow those with comments, views or concerns to express them. The Government will then make a decision on the proposed changes, in time to inform the setting of local authorities' budgets for the financial year 2020-21.

Who this is for

- Local Authorities in England
- Schools Forums
- Those who audit Local Authorities in England
- Other interested parties

Issue date

The consultation was issued on 11 October 2019.

Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the team on:

- by email: DSGArrangements.Consultation@education.gov.uk

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: Consultations.Coordinator@education.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

The response

The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in Winter 2019.

About this consultation

Since 2006 the Department has funded local authorities for their current expenditure on schools, early years and children and young people with high needs through a specific grant known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), made under section 14 of the Education Act 2002. This specific grant must be spent on the local authority's Schools Budget, which is defined in regulations (currently the School and Early Years Finance (England) (No 2) Regulations 2018).

At the end of each financial year, a local authority may have underspent or overspent its DSG allocation. The conditions of grant for the DSG provide that any underspend must be carried forward to the next year's Schools Budget. To date, the conditions of grant have provided three options for dealing with an overspend:

the local authority may decide not to fund any of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question, and to carry forward all the overspend to the schools budget in future years

the local authority may decide to fund part of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question, and carry forward part to the schools budget in future years

the local authority may decide to fund all of the overspend from its general resources in the year in question

Carrying forward an overspend to the schools budget in future years requires the consent of the local schools forum, or if that is not forthcoming the authorisation of the Secretary of State. In practice, schools forums have almost always approved the carrying forward of an overspend.

Until the last few years, few local authorities were recording DSG overspends, and those overspends were small. However, pressures on the high needs budget have led to more and larger overspends in recent years. Local authorities' budget data for 2019-20 shows that at the end of 2018-19, about half of all authorities experienced an overspend, amounting to over £250m in all, while others were still carrying forward surpluses. The national net position was an overspend of £40m, and authorities were forecasting that there would be a net overspend of £230m at the end of 2019-20.

The Government announced at the end of August 2019 that funding for schools and high needs will rise by £2.6bn for 2020-21, £4.8bn for 2021-22, and £7.1bn for 2022-23, compared to 2019-20. This includes £780m extra for high needs in 2020-21: the division of funding between schools and high needs for 2021-22 and 2022-23 has yet to be determined. This additional funding will help many local authorities to bring their DSG accounts into balance, but a number of authorities will already have substantial deficits at the end of 2019-20 and will not be able to recover them immediately.

The DSG is a specific grant, and the conditions of grant make clear that it can only be spent on the Schools Budget, and not on other aspects of local government expenditure. But where there is an overspend on the DSG, local authorities may currently decide to fund that from general resources. This has led some local authority Chief Finance Officers (often referred to as section 151 officers, with reference to section 151 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972) to conclude that if their DSG account is in deficit, they need to be able to cover the deficit from the authority's general reserves. We know that a similar view is held by organisations that audit local authority accounts. Given the size of some authorities' DSG deficits, and the other pressures on authorities' reserves, there is a risk that covering DSG deficits from general funds may lead authorities to make spending reductions in other services that they would not otherwise make.

The Government's intention is that DSG deficits should not be covered from general funds but that over time they should be recovered from DSG income. No timescale has been set for the length of this process.

The Department has held discussions with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) about changes that we might make to the DSG conditions of grant and the regulations in order to create certainty that local authorities will not have to pay for DSG deficits out of their general funds. The proposals we are now making following these discussions are described below, and are intended for implementation from the start of the financial year 2020-21, so that local authorities would take them into account in setting budgets for 2020-21.

Proposals

We propose to change the conditions of grant for the DSG with effect from the end of the financial year 2019-20 (ie, any overspend at the end of 2019-20 will fall under the new arrangements). This is therefore expected to inform and affect budget setting processes for 2020-21, as well as the presentation of reserves in the annual accounts for 2019-20. Subject to the outcome of consultation, we propose that future arrangements for dealing with overspends will be worded as follows:

- the local authority must carry forward the whole of the overspend to the schools budget in future years;
- the local authority may not fund any part of the overspend from its general resources, unless it applies for and receives permission from the Secretary of State to do so.

The main reason for including the second bullet is that some local authorities have traditionally made small contributions from their general fund to some elements of the schools budget, unconnected to considerations relating to DSG deficits, and we would not wish to prevent this in future.

Question 1: Do you agree that we should change the conditions of grant so that future arrangements for dealing with DSG overspends are worded as follows:

- the local authority must carry forward the whole of the overspend to the schools budget in future years;
- the local authority may not fund any part of the overspend from its general resources, unless it applies for and receives permission from the Secretary of State to do so.

Question 2: As noted in the context section, carrying forward an overspend to the schools budget in future years currently requires the consent of the local schools forum, or if that is not forthcoming the authorisation of the Secretary of State. This is set out in [regulations 8\(6\) and 8\(10\) of the School and Early Years Finance \(England\) \(No 2\) Regulations 2018](#). If the conditions of grant are changed so that the local authority must carry forward the whole of any DSG overspend to the schools budget in future years, it will no longer make sense to require the schools forum to agree such a carry forward. We therefore propose to delete regulations 8(6) and 8(10) from the new regulations for the financial year 2020-21.

Do you agree that we should delete regulations 8(6) and 8(10) from the new School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year 2020-21, so that local authorities are able to carry forward any DSG overspend to the schools budget in future years as the new conditions of grant will require?

Question 3: The purpose of making these changes to the conditions of grant and to the regulations is to establish clearly that local authorities will not be required to cover any DSG deficit from general funds, and therefore do not need to have free general reserves available to match the deficit.

Do you agree that the proposed new conditions of grant and regulations will establish clearly that local authorities will not be required to cover any DSG deficit from general funds?

Respond online

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations to submit your response.

Other ways to respond

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

By email

DSGArrangements.Consultation@education.gov.uk

By post

Funding Stakeholder Engagement Team
Academies and Maintained Schools Funding Division: Funding Directorate
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE

Deadline

The consultation closes on 15 November 2019



Department
for Education

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
2 December 2019

Schools Forum
12 December 2019

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2019-20 as at 31st October 2019.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st October 2019.
3. An overspend of £6.429 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. This is an increase since the last report although the on-going pressures on the high needs block are known and understood, in line with national pressures and recovery plans are in place to significantly reduce pressure long term.

Schools Block

4. There is a forecast underspend of £0.247 million on the schools block budgets. This is largely due to a positive adjustment from the DfE allocating additional growth as a result of academy conversions.

Early Years Budgets

5. Budgets for the free entitlement for 15- and 30-hours childcare for 2, 3- & 4-year olds are currently forecast to be overspent by £0.995 million. This is because the take up of hours has increased above the budgeted hours which was based on the average take up of the past three years. In addition to this, the inclusion support fund has been utilised more fully than in previous years.

	Budgeted FTE	Forecast FTE	Forecast FTE Variance	Budgeted Spend £M	Forecast Spend £M	Forecast spend Variance £M
2 year olds	385	358	(27)	2.335	2.168	(0.167)
3 & 4 year olds	4791	4996	205	22.938	23.919	0.981
ISF	447	673	226	0.357	0.538	0.181

6. The 18/19 adjustment based on the January 2018 census data was a reduction of £0.359 million. The forecast is included to follow the accounting principle of prudence however, the increased take up should be reflected in the January census and allocation increased as such.

High Needs Budgets

7. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £5.685m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School packages, Named Pupil Allowances and payments in relation to alternative provision including direct payments & elective home education.
8. The major driver of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in FTE – full time equivalent pupils. At the last meeting, Schools Forum requested more granular detail around the activity and this has been provided in Appendix 2. There is much management information, but it is important to note that the number of EHCPs being requested has not slowed at all and is rising at a similar rate as 2018/19.

	Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire
Number as at 1 st April 2019	3,433
As at 31 st October 2019	3,680
Current Year to Date Variance (7 months)	247 (7.19 % increase)

9. Much work has been done, Schools Forum members will recall we set up the High Needs Block Working Group (August to December 2018.) to collect views on the drivers for increased spend including EHCP and banding review funding requests from schools. Recommendations from this group included an external review and this was commissioned through ISOS. ISOS have worked with the local authority, WPC, schools, health colleagues, children & young people and parents and carers through the Spring and Summer of 2019 to examine processes and systems of support and inclusion. ISOS recommendations are in the process of being rolled out and the presentation on these plans is later the agenda.
10. Additionally, there are recovery plans in place across the whole of Wiltshire Council budgets at present to stop or delay all uncommitted spend which is not linked to safeguarding, elections, trading or longer-term transformation or savings plans. This will have a positive impact on DSG spending levels.

Central School Services Block

11. There is a minor favourable forecast variance of £0.004 on the centrally held school budgets.

DSG Reserve

12. The reserve brought forward of £2.060 million is reduced by the early years block adjustment of £0.206 million. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £8.695 million.
13. With effect from 2018-19, the department tightened the rules governing deficits in local authorities' overall DSG accounts, under which local authorities have to explain plans for bringing DSG account back into balance. The DfE intend to require a report from any local authority that has a DSG deficit of more than 1% as at the end of any financial year. The current DSG reserve stands at 0.6% and so no report was required for 2018/19.
14. The forecast DSG deficit reserve would take the % to over the DfE's 1% and would require a recovery plan. The ISOS findings and new SEN Strategy will feed into a recovery plan and SEN Strategy currently in draft which will be used as an operational tool to take the school budget forward.

	DSG Reserve £ M
2018/19 Brought Forward	(2.060)
2018/19 Early Years Adjustment	(0.206)
2019/20 Forecast Overspend	(6.429)
2019/20 Forecast DSG Reserve - Deficit	(8.695)

Proposals

15. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2019 alongside;

- a. the recovery action plan presentation later in the agenda
- b. Reports on the various Autumn consultations – de-delegated services, transfer of schools block to high needs block and the DfE’s consultation on treatment of the DSG as a ringfenced grant in the local authority’s accounts
- c. Reports on the 20/21 Schools Budget and levels of funding

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Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31 October 2019

Service Area	a	b	c	d = (c-b)	e = (d/b)	f	d = (c-b)	g	Previous Report
	Current Annual Budget £m	Period 7 Forecast £m	Period 7 Forecast Variance £m	%	18/19 Outturn Variance	August forecast variance £m	Budget Move- ment from Previous Report		
Three to Four Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	22.938	23.919	0.981	4.28%	-0.399	1.008	-0.027		
Two Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	2.335	2.169	(0.167)	-7.14%	0.074	(0.181)	0.014		
Early Years Inclusion Support Fund	0.357	0.539	0.181	50.79%	0.009	0.181	0.000		
Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF	0.357	0.357	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Early Years Central Expenditure	0.422	0.422	0.000	0.00%	-0.008	(0.030)	0.030		
Early Years Block	26.410	27.405	0.995	3.77%	-0.324	0.978	0.017		
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary	105.125	105.125	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Licences and Subscriptions	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.00%	0	(0.009)	0.009		
Free School Meals	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness)	0.597	0.571	(0.025)	-4.26%	0	(0.026)	0.001		
Behaviour Support Team	0.616	0.616	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement	0.518	0.476	(0.042)	-8.14%	0	(0.017)	-0.025		
De Delegated Total	1.803	1.735	-0.068	-3.75%	0.000	-0.052	-0.016		
Growth Fund	1.007	0.827	(0.180)	-17.85%	-0.130	0.000	-0.180		
Schools Block	107.935	107.688	-0.247	-0.23%	-0.130	-0.052	-0.195		
Special School Place Funding	3.840	3.840	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Resource Base (RB) Funding	0.809	0.809	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	0.283	0.283	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
High Needs Block ISB Maintained	4.932	4.932	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	4.346	5.739	1.393	32.06%	1.207	1.216	0.177		
Special School Top-Up	7.731	8.067	0.336	4.34%	0.165	0.044	0.292		
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	1.790	2.020	0.230	12.84%	0.455	0.168	0.062		
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	1.508	1.101	(0.408)	-27.02%	0.219	(0.440)	0.032		
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.791	2.791	0.000	0.00%	(0.035)	0.000	0.000		
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Devolved to Maintained Total	18.166	19.718	1.551	8.54%	2.011	0.988	0.563		
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	1.953	1.997	0.044	2.25%	0.979	0.045	-0.001		
Post-16 Top-Up	3.695	3.837	0.142	3.85%	(0.829)	(0.036)	0.178		
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	8.825	11.410	2.585	29.29%	2.212	1.868	0.717		
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	0.250	1.591	1.341	536.56%	0.788	1.122	0.218		
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.484	0.405	(0.079)	-16.30%	(0.252)	(0.106)	0.027		
High Needs Top Up Funding	15.207	19.240	4.033	26.52%	2.898	2.893	1.140		
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.422	0.422	0.000	0.00%	0.012	0.000	0.000		
Speech & Language	0.519	0.525	0.006	1.15%	0.032	0.006	0.000		
0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams	1.654	1.654	0.000	0.00%	(0.104)	0.000	0.000		
Specialist Teacher Advisory Service	1.078	1.155	0.076	7.07%	0.066	0.092	-0.016		
Other Special Education	0.216	0.235	0.018	8.50%	(0.157)	(0.021)	0.039		
Commissioned & SEN Support Services	3.890	3.991	0.101	2.59%	-0.151	0.077	0.024		
High Needs Block	42.195	47.880	5.685	13.47%	4.758	3.958	1.727		
Central Licences	0.373	0.373	0.000	0.07%	-0.003	0.000	0.000		
Central Provision (Former ESG)	1.005	1.005	0.000	0.00%	-0.074	0.000	0.000		
Admissions	0.411	0.407	(0.004)	-1.08%	-0.007	(0.021)	0.017		
Servicing of Schools Forums	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Central Provision within Schools Budget	1.792	1.788	-0.004	-0.25%	-0.084	-0.021	0.017		
Education Services to CLA	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.00%	-0.037	0.000	0.000		
Child Protection in Schools & Early Years	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Prudential Borrowing	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000		
Historic Commitments	0.444	0.444	0.000	0.00%	-0.037	0.000	0.000		
Central School Services	2.236	2.232	-0.004	-0.20%	-0.121	-0.021	0.017		
Total Schools Budget	178.776	185.205	6.429	3.60%	4.183	4.864	1.565		
DSG for academy schools (all blocks)	172.286	172.286	0.000	0					
Pupil Premium (academy & maintained)	15.314	15.314	0.000	0					
6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant)	1.182	1.182	0.000	0					
UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained)	3.345	3.345	0.000	0					
PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained)	3.605	3.605	0.000	0					
Teachers Pension Grant	0.401	0.401	0.000	0					
Other Schools Grants	to follow	to follow							
DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools	196.134	196.134	0.000	0					
TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING	374.910	381.339	6.429	1.71%					

Appendix 2 - Variance Analysis

Volume analysis	i	j	k = (j-i)	l = (k/i)	m	n	o
	Budgeted Activity FTE	Period 7 Forecast Activity FTE	Period 6 Forecast Variance FTE	%	18/19 Outturn Volume	18/19 Outturn Price	Unit
Three/Four Year Olds FE	4,791	4,996	205	4%	4802	£4.16	p/hr
Two Year Olds FE	385	358	-27	-7%	479	£5.32	p/hr
ISF	447	673	226	51%		£615	pa
						£0.53	p/hr
Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	5,623	6,027	404	7%	5,281		
Sp Sch Place Funding	384	384	0	0%	360	£10,000	pa
RB Funding	135	135	0	0%	148	£6,000	pa
ELP Funding	47	47	0	0%	59	£6,000	pa
	566	566	0	0%	567		
NPA	819	1,151	332	41%	1011	£5,739	pa
Special School Top-Up	762	811	49	6%	780	£10,189	pa
RB Top-Up	325	377	52	16%	324	£5,510	pa
ELP Top-Up	84	335	251	301%	389	£3,697	pa
	1,990	2,673	684	34%	2,504	£7,879	pa
Non Wiltshire Schools	199	193	-6	-3%	192	£10,133	pa
Post-16 Top-Up	381	355	-26	-7%	360	£9,716	pa
Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch	187	229	41	22%	201	£46,694	pa
SEN AP, DP & EHE	37	159	122	325%	n/a	n/a	pa
	804	936	131	16%	753	£21,418	pa
High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	3,360	4,175	815	24%	3,824		

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

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 31st March 2020 - this is an estimate of net expenditure on the schools budget

Appendix 2 - the service forecasts of planned activity in FTE (full time equivalent pupils) as at 31st March 2020 - this is a measure of volumes of pupil placements / support arrangements

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

12 December 2019

Schools Block – National Funding Formula 2020-21

Purpose of the Report

1. To build upon the report presented to Schools Forum in October 2019 for school revenue funding and update schools forum with regards to the National Funding Formula for the schools block of funding for the 2020-21 year.

Main Changes

2. At the October 2019 meeting, the main changes impacting upon the schools block of funding for the 2020-21 year were reported as;
 - a. The Minimum per pupil Funding Levels to be set at £3,750 in Primary and £5,000 in Secondary schools.
 - b. A 4% increase in the formula's core factors, except for Free School Meal (FSM) factor which will be increased by inflation.
 - c. Premises factors (rates, PFI, split site, rents) will be funded at the local authority level without inflationary increases.
 - d. No mandatory NFF gains cap, but Schools Forum may continue to apply one.
 - e. Introduction of a new formulaic approach to the mobility factor.
 - f. Growth funding to be based upon the same methodology as in 2019-20. (Protection provided to ensure that no LA will lose funding of greater than 0.5% of its Schools Block allocation, should is growth be significantly lower year on year).
 - g. Teachers Pay and Pension Grants to continue for the 2020-21 year, with rates to be published later in the year.

National Funding Formula (NFF)

3. The NFF is split into three main components;
 - a. Core Funding
 - i. Pupil-led factors (AWPU, deprivation, prior attainment, EAL)
 - ii. School-led factors (lump sum, sparsity)
 - iii. Area cost adjustment (applied to i&ii to reflect labour market rates)
 - b. Premises Funding – PFI, split sites, rates and exceptional factors
 - c. Growth Funding – allocated on a formulaic approach since 2019-20

4. The NFF core funding uplift alongside the minimum per pupil funding levels designed to ensure that if applied, will ensure that all schools see an uplift of 1.84% compared to their baseline for 2019-20.
5. The proposed funding levels under the NFF for 2020-21 are detailed in the table below, which applies the uplift and published by the DfE.

Factor	2019-20 Value	2020-21 Value	Uplift
Primary KS1&2 AWPU	£2,747	£2,857	£110
Secondary KS3 AWPU	£3,863	£4,018	£155
Secondary KS4 AWPU	£4,386	£4,561	£175
Primary & Secondary FSM	£440	£450	£10
Primary FSM6	£540	£560	£20
Secondary FSM6	£785	£815	£30
IDACI Primary Band A	£575	£600	£25
IDACI Primary Band B	£420	£435	£15
IDACI Primary Band C	£390	£405	£15
IDACI Primary Band D	£360	£375	£15
IDACI Primary Band E	£240	£250	£10
IDACI Primary Band F	£200	£210	£10
IDACI Secondary Band A	£810	£840	£30
IDACI Secondary Band B	£600	£625	£25
IDACI Secondary Band C	£560	£580	£20
IDACI Secondary Band D	£515	£535	£20
IDACI Secondary Band E	£390	£405	£15
IDACI Secondary Band F	£290	£300	£10
Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,065	£43
Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,610	£60
EAL – Primary	£515	£535	£20
EAL - Secondary	£1,385	£1,440	£55
Mobility – Primary	£0	£875	£875
Mobility – Secondary	£0	£1,250	£1,250
Lump Sum	£110,000	£114,400	£4,400
Sparsity – Primary	£0-£25,000	£0-£26,000	£0-£1,000
Sparsity – Secondary	£0-£65,000	£0-£67,500	£0-£2,500
Primary - MPPFL	£3,500	£3,750	£250
Secondary – MPPFL	£4,800	£5,000	£200
Area Cost Adjustment	1.00703	1.00716	0.00013

Mobility Factor

6. The Mobility factor has not previously been adopted by Wiltshire as one of its formula funding factors. There has never been a national approach to calculating mobility. The DfE have introduced a new formulaic approach to the mobility factor. In terms of awarding funding to LA's, the DfE will award funding on the basis of a 'fair' allocation rather than based upon historical spend.
7. Mobility will continue to be an optional factor for Schools Forum to utilise, however the LA will be awarded funding upon the factor. The factor awards funding to schools with a high proportion of pupils who first join a school on a non-standard date.
8. The new methodology involves tracking pupils through their unique pupil ID through census from the past 3 years. If the first census when the pupil was in the school was a Spring or Summer census, then they are a 'mobile' pupil. (The methodology excludes pupils who joined in the Summer term after the Summer census, or pupils who joined in October before the Autumn census.
9. To be eligible for mobility funding, the proportion of mobile pupils a school has, must be above the threshold of 6%. For all pupils above the threshold an amount per-pupil will be allocated at £875 and £1,250 for primary and secondary pupils respectively. On the basis of the October 2018 census, funding would be awarded to 132 primary and 10 secondary schools.

Funding 2020-21

10. The DfE will continue to fund Wiltshire and all other LA's using Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUFS and SUFS), which present actual units of funding to build up our overall DSG Schools Block allocation.
11. The Premises factors will continue to be funded on an historical basis for split sites, rates and exceptional factors.
12. Growth funding will be funded following the new formulaic approach which applies the growth in individual MSOA's (Middle Layer Super Output Area's). For growth the funding rates will be the growth in primary pupil numbers x £1,425 and secondary pupil numbers x £2,130 and £67,000 for each new school. Until verified pupil data has been provided, it would be impossible to calculate exact allocation for Wiltshire.

Potential Allocation for 2020-21

The DfE have provided indicative allocations for Wiltshire, based upon the October 2018 census, so are indicative but not final. They certainly provide a useful comparison.

Block	2019-20	2020-21	Growth
Schools	£271.5m	£287.0m	£15.5m
High Needs	£46.9m	£51.3m	£4.4m
Central	£1.99m	£1.88m	-£0.11m
Total (excl. EY)	£320.39m	£340.18	£19.79m

- Assumes same pupil characteristics as at October 2108 census
- Excludes Growth Fund income

13. Early Years provisional allocations have not yet been shared but local estimates are included in the table below, estimated at current census funding levels but increased by

the hourly rate increase to show estimated growth. In June of this year, the DfE launched a campaign to promote and raise awareness of the benefits of 30 hours free childcare can have for families and we have seen, potentially as a result of this, a large increase in demand which has outstripped both the contingency allocation and the overall funding level for 2019/20.

14. The funding rates have been confirmed at £0.08 pence per hour increase for all age groups. A report will be taken to the Early Years reference group regarding funding of central provision and payment rates to settings for 20/21 financial year once the provisional allocations are published. The budgeted rates must be set at a level which is within funding constraints and strategic requirements fully considered in resourcing the central teams.

Block	2019-20	2020-21	Growth
Early Years Allocation	£26.410m	£27.243m	£0.834m
Hourly Rate 2 Year Olds	£5.32	£5.40	£0.08
Hourly Rate 3 Year Olds	£4.30	£4.38	£0.08

•

15. Final allocations and guidance for the 2020-21 year will be published in December 2019.

Proposals

16. Schools Forum to note the content of the report.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

12 December 2019

Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2020-21

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the school's block growth fund in 2020-21.

Background

2. Wiltshire currently operates a growth fund and Schools Forum agreed to a number of criteria for the allocation of funding for pupil growth in previous years. The current growth fund criteria has previously been confirmed as being fully compliant by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
3. There has been a change in the methodology for funding local authorities for growth, however this has not changed the way in which growth funding is allocated locally to schools.

New Funding Methodology

4. Growth allocations for 2020-21 will be based on pupil data from the October 2019 census and the October 2018 census.
5. Funding is now allocated to local authorities based on the actual growth in pupil numbers they experienced the previous year. This ensures that over time local authorities are funded on the basis of the actual growth they experience (on a lagged basis), rather than being based upon historic spending decisions.
6. The DfE measure growth within local authorities at **middle layer super output area** (MSOA)¹ level. MSOAs are used as these are small enough geographical areas to detect 'pockets' of growth within local authority areas. Growth is measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA in the local authority between the October 2018 and October 2019 censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers will be included, so positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not be denied growth funding.
7. In Wiltshire, growth is measured by separating the county into 62 MSOA's with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area.
8. For each local authority, the growth factor allocates:

- £1,425 for each primary 'growth' pupil (was £1,370)
 - £2,130 for each secondary 'growth' pupil, (was £2,050) and
 - £67,000 for each brand new school that opened in the previous year. (was £65,000)
9. The DfE have set these values by looking at the amount spent on growth across all local authorities in 2017-18 and uplifted for 2020-21.
10. The DfE do not expect local authorities to use these rates in their local arrangements for funding growth. The growth factor in the national funding formula is a proxy for overall growth costs at local authority level, and not at the level of individual schools. Local authorities will generally allocate growth funding using a local arrangement as there is no national method adopted for allocating growth funding. Therefore, schools forum should therefore continue to make decisions about growth funding locally as they do now.
11. In line with other elements of the national funding formula, the hybrid area cost adjustment (ACA) will be applied to growth allocations to reflect the variation in labour market costs across the country. (For Wiltshire, the uplift is 1.007%)

(The Wiltshire allocation for 2020-21 will be announced in December as part of the schools funding announcement.)

Main Considerations

12. The growth funding forms part of the local authority's schools block of funding. For 2020-21, growth funding will be allocated using the formulaic approach, based upon lagged growth data. With regard to allocating funding from the growth fund, the requirements are that:
- 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.

Proposed Criteria

13. The proposed criteria for funding pupil growth within the local Wiltshire funding formula in 2020-21 are as follows:

New School Allowance (unchanged from 2013-14):

14. Schools receive funding in advance of pupils arriving in the school, based on the result of the pupil teacher ratio rounded up to the nearest next whole number. The PTRs used are 26.5:1 for KS1 & 27.5:1 for KS2 + 1.1. The topped up element to the next whole number is arrived at by multiplying the result by the salary of a teacher on the top point of the teacher's main scale + on-costs. This element will apply until the first year group has left the school or until the school is full.
15. In addition the costs of a head teacher and 10 hours admin support will be available one "old" term before opening. 55% of the Basic Flat Rate will be available two "old" terms before opening. In the first year of opening the school will also receive 34% of the Basic Flat Rate, 17% in the second & 8.5% in the third year after opening. (The Basic Flat Rate is currently £110,000, the NFF rate as agreed in 2018-19).
16. New schools may also receive an estimate of the new pupil intake for the forthcoming academic year. This approach will be in place for the number of years equal to the number of year groups at the school. The initial estimate may be changed at a later date (but no later than the end of Term 6) to more accurately reflect the likely new intake, with the agreement of the school.

Class Expansion for Basic Need (unchanged from 13-14):

17. Where a school is expanded to provide additional classes to meet a basic need for places identified by the LA, from the month of opening for the remainder of the financial year only the school will receive $\frac{7}{12}$ ths* x 30 x relevant AWPU for each additional class. Where a full class may not be needed then the school would receive $\frac{7}{12}$ ths x estimate of increased September intake x relevant AWPU. The definition of "expanded" is that a building project or addition of a mobile classroom has taken place.

* - For Academy schools the funding is paid for 12/12ths as it relate to their funding year.

Infant Class Size Increases:

18. This is payable to a Primary School with infant classes which is required to set up an additional class in the Autumn term as required by the infant class size regulations, and the school cannot accommodate all of its additional Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils in classes of 30 or less, i.e. the total number of pupils in the 3 year groups exceeds a multiple of 30. Where the total increase in NOR between the two October census dates is greater than 13 and necessitates that an extra class would be required, then additional funding is allocated per additional class.
19. Schools Forum needs to approve the above criteria for application in 2020-21.

Falling Rolls Fund

20. LA's may set aside Schools Block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.
21. Any fund established for the purposes of a Falling Rolls fund would represent a top-slice of the Schools Block. A criteria would need to be established to support the fund, including clear trigger points for qualification. Compliant criteria could include;
- Support only available to Good or Outstanding schools
 - Surplus capacity exceeds a certain proportion of PAN
 - Local planning data shows that the places will be filled within the next three years
 - The school will be required to make redundancies in order to contain spending within its formula budget
22. Any formula for funding schools could include;
- A rate per vacant place and maximum number of places
 - A lump sum payment to schools
23. Wiltshire Schools Forum has always resisted the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and is being asked to give consideration to establishing such a fund.

Proposal

24. It is proposed that:

- a) Schools Forum approve the criteria for allocating pupil Growth Fund in 2019-20.

- b) Schools Forum agree that the budget for the Growth Fund to be set at its meeting in January 2020, when the full DSG is known for the 2020-21 year.

- c) Schools Forum give consideration to the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and any criteria befitting such a fund.

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