

Schools Forum

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2020 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Neil Baker (Chairman), Nikki Barnett, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Mark Cawley, Michelle Chilcott, Sam Churchill, Phil Cook, Jon Hamp, John Hawkins, Ross Henning, Mel Jacob, Lisa Percy (Vice-Chair), John Proctor, Nigel Roper, Graham Shore, Trudy Srawley, Fergus Stewart, David Whewell and Catriona Williamson

Also Present:

Gary Binstead (Head of Commissioning – Families and Children), Jane Davies (Portfolio Holder, Education and SEND), Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Helean Hughes (Director – Education and Skills), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), and Judith Westcott (Head of Special School Transformation)

1 Apologies and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from the following Forum members: Aileen Bates (SEN Governor representative), Giles Pugh (Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education representative), Charlotte Corfield (Observer – Wiltshire College – Nikki Barnett in place of Charlotte Corfield) Matt Sambrook (Consultant Headteacher) and Cllr Pauline Church (Cabinet Member).

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

There were no changes to the membership.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2019 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment –

Minute number 66 on page 9 of the Agenda - the third paragraph down to indicate that a low level of response was received to the consultation by inserting the following on the first line after The consultation responses “(which were low – 9 respondents)”.

Resolved:

That the Chairman sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools Forum held on 12 December 2019 subject to the agreed change above being made.

3 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded the Forum that although the meeting was not being webcast, it was a public meeting that anyone could attend. The Chairman asked if any members of the press were present – there were no members of the press present.

The Chairman reported that it was his intention that there be a short adjournment after the Officers had presented all of the reports to the Forum to allow them to canvass colleagues before the Forum would then go on to make the necessary decisions. This was agreed by the Forum members.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

5 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 6 January 2020. The Chair of the Working Group (John Proctor) highlighted to the Forum that a mid-year review of the hourly rates would be carried out once budget allocations are released later in the year to consider if a change to rates is affordable.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 7 January 2020. The Chairman confirmed that the joint working group had also met immediately prior to the Schools Forum meeting to look at the options that had been prepared by Officers.

On page 19 of the Agenda, on the third line up from the bottom the word “greed” should be amended to read “agreed”.

There were no questions raised.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the Early Years Reference group meeting held on 6 January 2020 and the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 7 January 2020.

6 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2019-20**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the budget monitoring report as at 30 November 2019 that was circulated with the Agenda.

Marie highlighted the following:

- That there was a forecast underspend of £0.210m on the school’s block budgets. There was a forecast overspend on the early years budget this year because the budgeted numbers of FTE’s has been exceeded by

take up of parents. The 30 hours of free childcare is only open for working parents – this is good for children but not for the budget. It was hoped that we play catch up and the funding will increase. The forecast overspend is £1.036m. The 2018/19 adjustment based on the January 2018 census data was a reduction of £0.359m;

- High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £6,494m with the biggest areas of overspend being Independent Special School (ISS) packages, Named Pupil Allowance (NPA) and alternative provision. The funding isn't at the required level to meet the growing demand in Wiltshire. There has been a significant increase in demand since the last report (27 FTE new NPA's, 19 FTE new special school top ups, 4 FTE new ISS places and 3FTE additional SEN education other than at school);
- The numbers of EHCPs requested has not slowed and it is forecast that 3,970 children in Wiltshire will have one by 31 March 2020;
- A lot of work has been done to look at what can be done with the High Needs budget pressures including the High Needs Block Working Group, an independent external review commissioned through ISOS, and re-organisation and alignment of Council services; this is being followed up by the joint working party, starting February 2020.
- There is a small but favourable forecast variance of £6k on central school's services block;
- Of concern is that the forecast overspends would take the DSG reserve into a deficit position of £9.580m. With effect from 2018/19 the DfE changed the regulations as there were lots of schools in deficit, under which Local Authorities have to explain their plans for bring the DSG account back into balance. Last year we were just under the 1% but in June this year we will be required to submit a recovery plan, this will not pose a problem as we do have a recovery plan under discussion; and
- In the Autumn of 2019 the DfE carried out consultation on changing the conditions and regulations applying to the DSG. The Government had intended to make a decision on the proposed changes in time to inform the setting of the LA budgets for 2020/21 but the outcome is still awaited – it is assumed that the December 2019 general election may have delayed things. Marie had met with the Cabinet Member (Cllr Pauline Church) to ask her to speak to MP Michelle Donelan to chase for a response.

A Forum Member asked when the Local Authority's 2020/21 budget submission was (21 January 2020) and expressed disappointment that the DfE expect us to set our budget but don't give us the information/toolkit to do it.

A Forum Member asked about the recovery plan. Marie reported that the Local Authority's recovery plan would cover a number of years and be dependent on factors agreed at the end of today's meeting.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position at the end of November 2019 alongside reports later on the agenda on the 2020/21 Schools Budget, levels of funding and recovery planning.

7 **School Budget Setting 2020-21**

7a Schools Revenue Funding 2020-21 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which should update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2020/21. Grant highlighted the following:

- The DfE had issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on 19 December 2019. In the Autumn of 2019 the Government announced a pledge to boost schools and high needs funding which a cash increase of £14.5 billion over 3 years. This was in addition to a further £700m for high needs funding nationally in 2020/21, a grant for the teacher's pension scheme contributions for the next 3 years until 2022/23. The Teacher's pay award grant would continue for the 2020/21 year;
- The DfE have continued to allocate funding based on the National Funding Formula (NFF) which should see all schools benefitting from the additional funding and we hope to hear soon about further grants, including Pupil Premium funding rates;
- The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council was £374.503 million which was an increase of £22,857 million from 2019/20. This increase reflects the impact of the increase to the school's block funding for the NFF and also incorporates the additional funding being pledged by the Government;
- Wiltshire has experienced pupil growth increases, with just under 64,000 pupils being funded. Schools block is calculated based on NFF figures published in October 2019 and they calculated primary and secondary units of funding which show an increase of 5.99% (primary) and 4.22% (secondary). Included within the school's block funding of £293.142 million is £2.604 million allocated for growth;
- The £2.479 million for central school's block includes funding for agreed historic commitments;

- The high needs block is based on the NFF of which a proportion is based upon historic spend and as we had previously been low on the historic spend we continue to receive low funding for this element of the NFF;
- The early years block reflects hourly rates for 2020/21 and it should be noted that the early years block will be updated during the 2020/21 financial year to reflect the January 2020 and January 2021 early years census data;
- The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the school's block and other blocks within the DSG. Local Authorities have the flexibility to move up to 0.5%. Anything higher would require approval from the Secretary of State (SoS) through a disapplication request, which has been applied for. We should hear about this request in early February. In 2019/20 the SoS approved our request for a transfer of £2.2 million (0.8%);

A Forum Member asked for details of the amount of the disapplication request made. Grant reported that this request was made in November (before the funding allocation was announced) was for an approval to transfer up to 1.58% between school's block and high needs block.

- Following the removal of the Education Services Grant in August 2017, a School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant was introduced. Funding was set for 3 years from 2017/18, but it was not yet known if this would continue beyond 2019/20;
- Local Authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools to the ESFA by January 2020 and then all schools and academies will be notified in February 2020; and
- As agreed at the December meeting of the Forum, the maintained schools voted for the de-delegation of services to continue in 2020/21 and this would be considered later in the meeting.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

7b DSG Budget - Schools Block Update 2020-21 (Delegated Budget)

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2020/21 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Grant highlighted the following:

- The DfE had allocated £293.142 million to Wiltshire which included funding of £2.604 million for the growth fund, based on the new growth fund formula;

- Cabinet approved the funding formula for 2019/20 which confirmed that Wiltshire would move as close to the NFF as possible. Modelling work has been carried out to calculate individual school budgets based on the agreed formula and this has found that the formula is fully affordable, subject to possible transfers out of the school's block;
- Where we have been unable to afford to fully fund schools based upon the NFF, FSM6 has always been the funding factor that we have compromised on;
- Growth funding allocations – The DfE changed their methodology for allocating growth funding and in 2019/20 growth has been larger than expected. There is no expectation from the DfE that we spend the £2.604 on growth – it forms part of the overall schools' block funding;
- At the Forum meeting in December 2019 the criteria for allocating growth funding was agreed and we are compliant with the condition of the DfE's funding regulations;
- There are no plans to open any new schools in the 2020/21 year. Historically the growth fund has supported new schools with diseconomy costs for the first 7 years or until the school is full. We are still awaiting the numbers for the basic need class expansion from colleagues in the School places team. Infant class sizes increases have been confirmed for 2019/20 with 5 schools being funded through this factor; and
- A national methodology for mobility factor funding has been introduced and Wiltshire has received funding through the NFF for mobility, however the application of the factor remains optional and to be determined by Schools Forum. Examples were given of how mobility would be funded if this were to be introduced in Wiltshire.

A Forum Member asked if the mobility factor would apply to Special Schools – Grant confirmed that that it would not apply to Special Schools. Grant reported that the Wiltshire decision had been not to fund mobility previously.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions detailed in paragraphs 26 to 29 on page 37 of the Agenda to the schools delegated budget for 2020/21 later in the meeting when all information had been received.

7c Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block Update 2020-21

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to update the Forum on issues related to the Early Years block for

2020/21 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- The £0.08p per child per hour minimum increase for 2020/21 has been included in the provisional early years block settlement which is £26.884 million. The allocations are based on the January 2019 census but will be updated during the 2020/21 year, however this is unhelpful for our planning;
- The Authority is able to top slice some of the 3 and 4-year-old funding to support early years settings. No changes are proposed to the hourly rates for deprivation and rurality;
- The numbers of 2-year olds is forecast at 908, when we have been funded for 770, so that exceeded the budget level and that is where the budget pressures come from. In light of the ongoing high needs block funding pressures it is unlikely that Schools Forum will be able to allocate any of the high needs block funding to support early years expenditure;
- The Authority must pass on the Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings or helping with building capacity (a one-off payment of £615); and
- Appendix 1 attached to the report was early years block modelling with option 1 showing the hourly rate at £4.20 with no uplift based on the grounds of in affordability (with the possibility of a review in the Autumn of 2020 to see if there could be an increase to providers then.

An Early Years representative reminded the group that whilst Schools receive grants for the increases to Teachers pay and pension contributions, this does not happen in the early years sector. There would be an increase on the National Minimum Wage from April of 6% and many premises would face an increase in business rates.

Marie reported to the Forum that the proposal to adopt option 1 (hourly rate of £4.20ppph) was reluctantly supported by the Early Years Reference Group. It had not been an easy discussion, but the reality was that any more wasn't affordable but that a review in the Autumn was supported.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum:

- 1) **Note the update on the early years block and retain the current rate of 3 and 4-year-old funding at £4.20 per hour on the grounds of affordability. It was further agreed that following the DfE updated funding allocations in the Autumn of 2020 that this would be reviewed and if affordable, increased at that point.**

- 2) The early years block to fully fund the Early Years Inclusion Fund at the current level. If any significant increase in DfE funding be notified, this fund should be increased accordingly during the financial year, to a maximum of 95% pass through to providers.**

7d High Need Block Funding Update 2020-21

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to her report which should update Schools Forum on issues related to the high needs block and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2020-21. Marie highlighted the following:

- The funding settlement for the high needs block is £51.996 million which has been calculated according to the new NFF for high needs. The DfE have promised us that there will be a review of the high needs block funding formula for 2021/22. Wiltshire's high needs funding remains insufficient, and the figure above has an additional £4.441 million (Wiltshire's share of the additional £680 million, with £100 million held centrally for adjustments announced by the Government in August 2019);
- The estimate of the additional pressure to meet the current spend levels is £6.5 million with a further allowance of £0.5 million included for 2019/20. It is hoped that this will not be needed but there could be moves/costly placements in this time. There is also the pressures of the estimated cost increase of EHCPs, estimated contract inflation, pay inflation for SEN teams, and an increase in Special School and Resource Base Planned Places for 2019/20;
- Also included in the cost pressures is a possible contribution of £1.5 million towards the DSG deficit reserve so that the Authority can work towards having an £8 million deficit down from £9.5 million. This totals a total cost pressure for 2020/21 of £14.400 million. The estimate assumes that the Special Schools Places etc remain at that level; and
- A suggestion was that to balance the budget consideration is given to transferring £5.767m from schools block, but this was modelled through and it is not affordable. To balance the budget, it is recommended that there is a transfer from the central block to the high needs block as previous years, of £0.185m there is a transfer of schools funding to the high needs block, at a level to be discussed in the decision making part of the meeting and £1.6 million be transferred from the DfE estimated growth fund which is surplus to estimated growth for 2020/21 into the Schools Block.

Helean Hughes (Director of Education and Skills) referred to her presentation (updated version attached as Appendix 1) Helean highlighted the following:

- The EHCP growth year on year and that the overspend is increasing;

- The journey so far and what had been put in place to work to reduce the high needs block pressures;
- That the SEN teams moved to Education and Skills in January 2020 which will ensure more alignment to early years, school effectiveness and employment and skills. A new SEND Inclusion Strategy was due to be signed off in March 2020. The SEND Board had been re-established which would ensure local oversight within a multi-agency board;
- Additional Specialist School places were planned with a £33 million commitment from the Local Authority together with additional resource bases and school expansions;
- There was a Strategic Financial Recovery Plan with 3 themes with a number of projects/actions to support the process:
 - i) Inclusive practice in schools
 - ii) Place planning
 - iii) Project planning
- There were projects in place to recover the high needs block deficit which included:
 - i) Dyslexia friendly schools
 - ii) An inclusion and school effectiveness project
 - iii) Re-evaluating and redeveloping the approach for Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) and Resource Base (RB) provision in schools;
 - iv) Looking at SEND assessment and EHCP's
 - v) Review of INMSS Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools including commission challenge
 - vi) Look at the Post 16 transition
 - vii) Develop an alternative provision for students with EHCP's
 - viii) Digital solutions
 - ix) Early intervention and support project.

An Early Years representative wished to highlight that in paragraph 6 of the report (page 52) that it stated that the cost pressure estimate assumed that the early years inclusion support fund would continue to be funded from the early years block. He wished to remind the Forum that previously the early years block was in surplus, but this block was now in deficit as they had taken in the inclusion support. This was eating into 95% of what was allocated and was going to eat into the rates all of the time. The concern from early years representatives was that they continue to absorb the high needs pressures to help the budget, but this has become, an implanted risk and they were seeing more and more nurseries closing.

Marie Taylor reported that the minimum that could be retained was 5% and that the funding levels might get better, but if all this was to go to inclusion support then we wouldn't be any better off. The demand for early years had changed

and it was hoped that there could be a further discussion/review around early years funding later in the year.

The Forum wished for it to be recorded that the decision was made this time last year to support the high needs block as a one off, but this could not happen indefinitely.

Marie reminded the Forum that the School Funding and SEN Working Group would be looking at the spend of NPA and Top Up Values as they are assumed to increase by 10% but a proposal is being made to reduce values by 10%.

The Local Authority has committed spend to aid the high needs recovery plan including the building of the new Special School with up to 450 places which is funded from borrowing of £33 million over 40 years at a cost of £1.5m per annum for each of the 40 years.

The level of £9.5 million of the DSG deficit reserve will require the submission of a report and recovery plan to the Secretary of State. Officers were disappointed that the results of the DfE's consultation on changing the conditions and regulations of the DSG had not been received and it was hoped that the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills may be able to chase the Minister for a response, but this was unlikely to be in time for the setting of the 2020/21 budget.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the pressures on the high needs block and the preferred option to reduce the shortfall against high needs budgets and that the budget decisions would be made later in the meeting.

Appendix 1 to Minutes - Revised High Needs Update/Presentation **7e Central Schools Services Block Update 2020-21**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to update schools forum on issues relating to the central schools block budget for 2020/21 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- The funding settlement for the central schools services block is £2.480 million to which funding for agreed historic commitments is then added. The DfE indicated that funding for historic commitments would reduce and as part of this Wiltshire's funding has been reduced by £115k for 2020/21;
- Schools Forum had previously considered the change in DfE legislation round the parity of service to all schools in respect of admission appeals. The authority must charge the same rate to everyone or not make a charge at all. It is not affordable for there to be no charge and the cost of an Admission Appeal has been costed to £939 per appeal. Schools had indicated that they would be more comfortable with a cost

of £300 per appeal. Officers were suggesting that they top slice (£70,290) from the Schools block to prop up the additional cost of appeals although it was anticipated that Academy colleagues would not be in favour of that as they like that as they have their own arrangements for admission appeals. If the £70k transfer was to be approved this would mean £70k less to add into high needs block, but it was an option. This would impact on the more popular schools. The decision would be to take it out of central schools block or not support the transfer as a subsidy to bring the cost of appeal down to £300 per appeal;

- Sections A and B on page 57 of the Agenda would require approval on a line by line basis later in the meeting. A 2% pay inflation had been included where there were costs which included salaries and the proposal to consider a transfer from the Schools Block to create the Admission Appeals subsidy would also be considered at that point;
- In relation to Section C – historic commitments – there was sufficient proof from the previous Schools Forum minutes that the funding and reporting of historic commitments extended at least as far as 2018/19;
- The Authority would need to think about the DfE's intention to reduce historic funding over time. It was proposed that the funding for LAC Personal Education Plans (reduced to £103k in 2018/19) continue to be funded at the same level. It was proposed that the Child Protection in Schools Adviser be increased to £56k as the preference is to keep the Safeguarding team in schools; and
- The total historic commitment has been reduced by the DfE from £574k to £459k. Schools Forum will need to agree the amount that is retained. If the proposed budget is accepted by the Forum this would mean that £185k of unallocated monies in the central services schools block could be transferred to fund the high needs pressures. If the Forum decide to a subsidy for Admission Appeals this would reduce the fund available to transfer to high needs.

Resolved:

- 1. That Schools Forum note the report and make the required decisions to the central school's block budget for 2020/21 later in the meeting when all information had been received.**
- 2. That Schools Forum note that the notification of the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant has not yet been shared by the DfE. If the grant ceases or is significantly reduced, the expenditure plan will need to be reviewed and decisions would need to be reconsidered at the next available Schools Forum meeting.**

The Chairman drew Schools Forum members attention to the A3 options spreadsheet (circulated at the meeting) and indicated that after a short break the Forum would be asked to resume the meeting and make the relevant decisions about spend and how to set the budget for 2020/21. There was an overspend in the high needs block and so consideration would need to be given of how other blocks could be used to offset that. He reminded the Forum that the Early Years budget had already been set. The spreadsheet gave a number of different options and Marie Taylor gave the Forum an explanation of the options to aid the Members ability to make decisions once they had a chance to discuss with colleagues during the break.

The Chairman asked for the Forum's views on the possible transfer of £70k to fund a subsidy on Admission Appeals.

An Academy representative reported that he felt academies should seek best value in any costs they incur and that he felt it would be wrong for an academy to purchase a more expensive service. (Most academies report they have purchased this service for around £300). Marie Taylor reported that the expense of the Local Authority providing the Admission Appeals service is due to the costs of the Local Authority in a traded services environment.

A Forum member asked if maintained schools would have to use the Local Authority Admission Appeals service? It was confirmed that maintained schools did not have to use the Local Authority but there would be a concern that if they did not they would not be able to ensure best practice and there would be concerns of complaints to the Ombudsman if the appeals were not consistent.

The Forum agreed to suspend the meeting at 3.50pm to allow for discussions with colleagues.

The meeting reconvened at 4.03pm.

7f School Budget Decisions 2020-21

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) reported that agreement was required from the Forum to set the overall Schools Budget at the level of the DSG Settlement of £374,503,029.

Resolved:

- 1. That Schools Forum agree to set the overall Schools Budget at the level of the DSG Settlement – namely £374,503,029.**

Grant then shared some PowerPoint slides with the Forum which gave details of the position and options to be considered if the growth fund was to be set at £1 million or £2.6 million. If the growth fund was set at £2.6 million it would give £1.7 million of headroom and would represent 0.59% of the allocation of Schools Block funding. If we only allocated £1 million that would create a Schools Block reserve which Schools Forum could determine how it could be used.

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) reported that there was concern that if the consultation from the DfE resulted in the removal of DSG overspent deficit reserve from future years funding, if Schools Forum opted not to transfer funds and / or 2020-21, this could increase school funding to a level which might not be sustained in the future as the DfE would update the legislation and remove future local flexibility and schools might commit to spending they could not afford in future years.

Officers gave examples of the monetary amounts of the possible % transfers between blocks. The Forum were reminded that the DfE allow a transfer of up to 0.5%. The Authority had already made a disapplication request to the Secretary of State and the request would have more weight if it was supported by the Schools Forum.

Officers highlighted the range of options but wanted to ensure that the Forum were aware that a reduction in funding rates would have a compensating impact on Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPFL). If the Forum agreed to not fund Mobility this would release £571,828 but after MFG and PPPFL it would make £345,186 available for transfer. Also funding FSM6 at 75% would release £1.673 million but after MFG and MPPFL would be £1.017 million available for transfer.

The Chairman reported that he felt the Forum would need to transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs block but because the DfE had not yet issued their guidance we don't know yet if they might top slice this block in the future.

The Forum debated the options presented and it was noted that there was agreement that the Mobility factor NOT be funded. This enabled the discussions to move on to consideration of option (applying all NFF values, setting growth fund at £2.6 million and no funding of Mobility factor). This Option would also include a transfer of £2.065 million to the high needs block.

The growth fund set at the DfE level would be higher than the required estimate by an estimated £1.6m which means the underspend would offset in year overspends elsewhere and be available to lower the amount of any adverse variance in 2020-21 financial year. The variance blocks would be accounted for separately to allow further consideration once the DfE have updated the legislation around treatment of the DSG.

Schools Forum wished for it be recorded that the importance of inclusion needs to be pressed. Schools Forum had repeatedly campaigned for fairer funding and was now at the point where the full NFF values could be afforded. Therefore, it felt wholly appropriate to fund schools at this level.

The Chairman concluded the discussion that the consensus was there was agreement for the option to transfer £2.065m (0.7%) but that support for Helean Hughes work on inclusion needs to be highlighted to encourage inclusive practice.

Resolved:

2. That the Option to transfer £2.065m (0.7%) was agreed by the Forum.

Central Schools Services Block

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

Education Welfare Service	£0.194 m
Asset Management	£0.181 m
Statutory/Regulatory duties	£0.651 m
Admissions	£0.426 m
Servicing of Schools Forum	£0.003 m

4. That the Forum do not agree to transfer £70,290 from the Schools Block to create an Admission Appeals subsidy or, include in Section B of the CSSB.
5. Central spend on historic commitments (Section C) agreed as follows:
 - i) Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans be funded at £0.103 million;
 - ii) Funding for Child Protection Officer in Schools Adviser at £0.056 million; and
 - iii) Prudential Borrowing at £0.300 million.
6. Schools Forum note the LA decision (Section A) to set budget at £0.382 million for central copyright licences for 2020/21.
7. Schools Forum agree that there be no top slice for services formerly funded from the general duties' element of ESG pending DfE grant announcement unless a significant change to DfE grant for School Improvement is notified.

Schools Block – Delegated Budget

8. Schools Forum agreed that Free School Meal Ever 6 formula factor be set at 100% of the NFF value.
9. Schools Forum agree to the Minimum Funding Guarantee being set at +1.84%.
10. Schools Forum agree not to implement the Mobility factor for the 2020-21 year.
11. Schools Forum note the Growth Funding awarded of £2.6 million from the DfE and agreed that the Wiltshire Growth fund be set at £2.6 million.

12. Schools Forum agreed that Wiltshire will not implement a falling rolls fund in 2020/21.

13. Schools Forum unanimously agreed to transfer £2.065 million (0.7%) from Schools block to High Need block subject to a disapplication request to the Secretary of State.

14. That the budgets for De-delegation of central services be agreed as follows:

i)	HCSS	£61,014
ii)	FSM Eligibility	£21,388
iii)	Trade Union	£70,000
iv)	EMAS & Travellers	£528,269 (Primary only)
v)	Behaviour support	£612,000 (Primary only)
vi)	Maternity supply	£524,460

Early Years Block

15. Schools Forum agreed that the Wiltshire Early Years Single Funding Formula be set at £4.20 per hour. This rate to be reconsidered in August 2020 if funding allows. Rurality to be set at £0.52 per hour and deprivation set at £0.40 per hour.

16. The early years block to fully fund the Early Years Inclusion Fund at £367,300, to be increased if the January 2020 census increase allows.

17. If any significant increase in DfE funding be notified, the Early Years Inclusion fund should be increased accordingly during the financial year, to a maximum of 95% pass through to providers.

18. Schools Forum agreed that 95% of 3 & 4-year-old funding would be passed through to providers.

19. Schools Forum agreed that the funding rate for two-year olds would be set at £5.40 per hour.

High Needs Block

20. Schools Forum agreed that values for Special Schools, ELPs and Resources Bases are to remain at the 2019/20 values and that proposed reductions of NPAs and top ups are to be taken forward by the High Needs Recovery Group.

21. Schools Forum agreed that funding levels for alternative provision to remain unchanged from the 2018/19 and 2019/20 levels and that budgets to be fixed for the next three years to ensure stability.

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

A copy of the completed Decision Matrix is attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

8 **Appendix 2 to Minutes - Completed Decision Matrix**
Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

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

26 March 2020
11 June 2020
15 October 2020
10 December 2020.

9 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 4.50 pm)

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

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High Needs Budget Schools Forum January 2020

SEND and Inclusion in Wiltshire

The vision is to work together to create an environment where:

“All children and young people with SEND and their families will have a voice that is heard. They will know how to access, and be able to access the joined-up support they need to thrive in their communities, to enjoy life and reach their full potential”

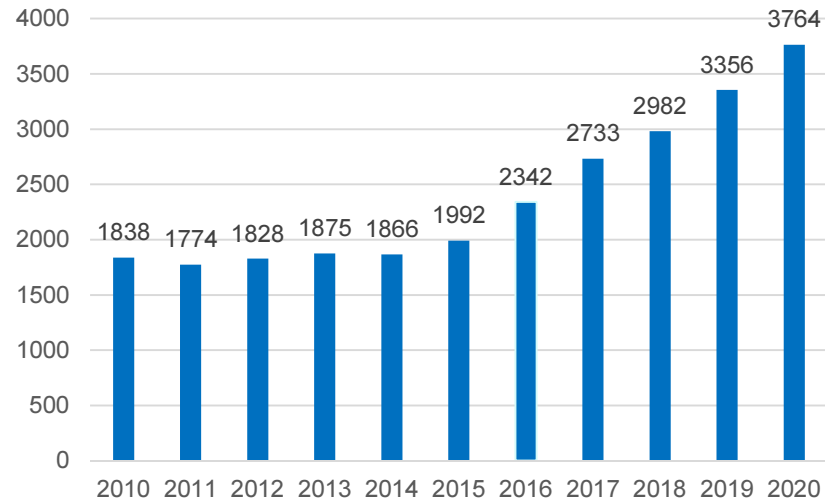
Nationally the Children and Families act 2014 has changed the way professionals work together to meet the needs of children with SEND. Our strategy needs to ensure that we:

- get education, health care and social care services working together
- tell children, young people and their parents what they need to know about their disability or special educational needs
- make sure children, young people and families know what help they can get when a child or young person has special educational needs or a disability
- make sure that different organisations work together to help children and young people with special educational needs
- give children and young people and their parents more say about the help they get
- set up one overall assessment to look at what special help a child or young person needs with their education, and their health and social care needs, all at the same time
- give a child or young person just one plan for meeting their education, health and social care needs, which can run from birth to age 25 if councils agree that a young person needs more time to get ready for adulthood
- make sure children, young people and their parents can choose some of the help they need
- provide ways to help sort things out if a child or young person or their parent needs to appeal about the help they get

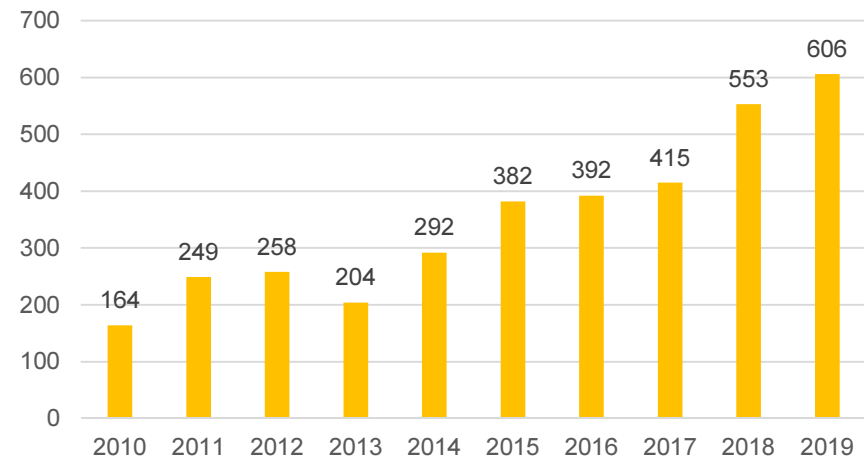
The pressures...

EHCP growth

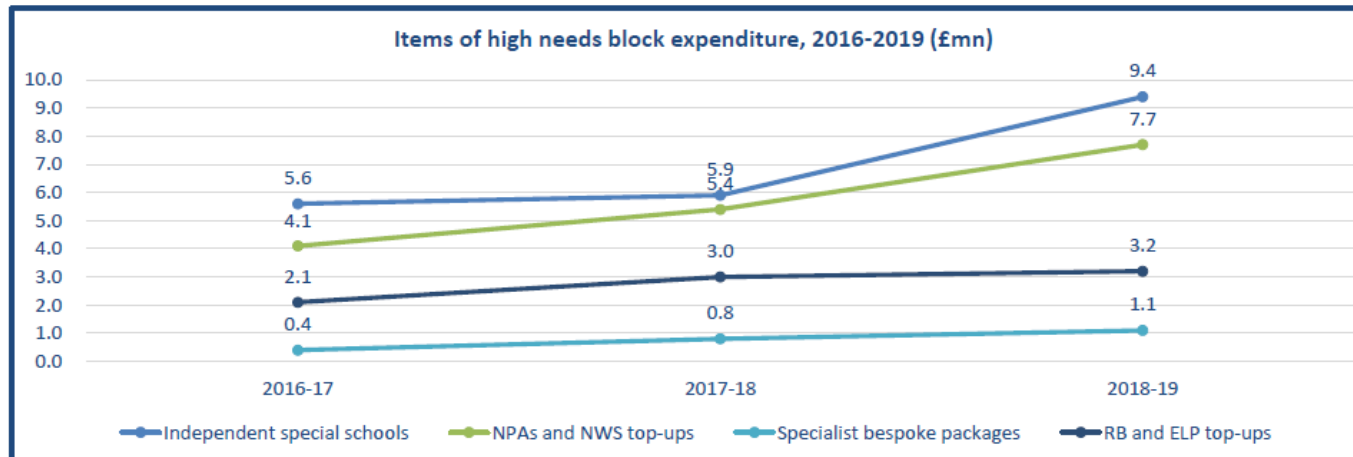
Total number of EHCP's (and statements)



Number of new EHCP's (and statements) 2010 - 2019 (calendar years)



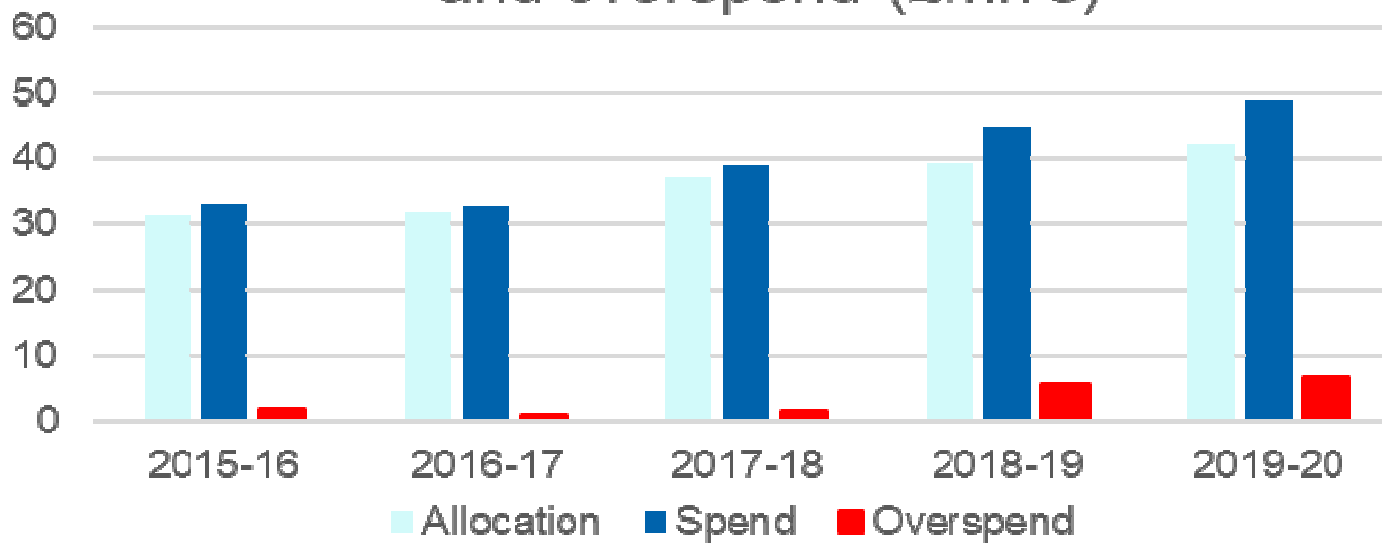
Part 1: Current context – (c) resources



While Wiltshire is less well-funded than similar local areas and the national average, and indeed is due to gain under changes to the high needs funding formula, this should not detract from a focus on the areas and causes of pressure on the high needs block. The evidence we have gathered suggests that the overspend on high needs has not been caused by the fact Wiltshire is less well-funded than it ought to be, but rather that there are systemic trends and factors that are driving the increased expenditure, which need to be addressed. If these are not addressed, any gains in funding allocations are likely to be outstripped by increased demand. The chart above shows four main areas of expenditure that have grown over the last three full financial years – (a) placements in independent special schools, (b) top-ups in mainstream (named pupil allowances or NPAs) and non-Wiltshire schools (NWS), (c) specialist bespoke packages of support for pupils not in school, and (d) top-ups for pupils in resource bases (RBs) and enhanced learning provisions (ELPs). These are all areas that are driven by factors within the Wiltshire system.

Expenditure

High Needs Block allocations, spend and overspend (£mn's)



The journey so far.....

- High Needs block working group (Heads and Local Authority) Autumn 2018- identifying issues, unpicking challenges
- Director Education and Skills assumes strategic lead SEND end of 2018
- ISOS consultants review of HN commissioned January 2019, consultation with school leaders, parents/carers, health and Local Authority officers across the spring and summer
- Final report presented to Schools Forum in Autumn 2019 by ISOS

PART 2: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overarching messages

In the course of this report, we make a series of recommendations – both immediate and longer-term actions – under our six main themes. Here, we want to emphasise three overarching points that underpin many of the recommendations we make.

1. **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 overspend on the high needs block as something that results from poor financial planning or is the responsibility of any one organisation. Instead, the factors that are driving the pressures giving rise to the overspend are multiple and complex. By the same token, taking forward an agenda of strengthening inclusion and support for young people with SEND and high needs will require a genuine partnership approach. There are some areas of strong partnership working within Wiltshire, but there are not systematic, strategic engagements with parents, schools and settings, and partner agencies to build shared ownership of the issues the system is facing, and develop a shared vision and strategy for how the local system will support young people with SEND and high needs.

2. **There is the need to ensure core processes that govern the day-to-day operation of the system are working effectively, are transparent, and have the confidence of families and professionals.** Throughout this review, we have heard concerns about a lack of confidence on the part of parents and providers in the consistency of some of the core process that cover access to support. This includes requests for EHC assessments, the issuing of EHCPs, and the provision of banded funding, and centre around a perceived lack of consistency in charring, application of criteria, and decision-making, as well as an absence of peer-level moderation, on the main SEN panel. This panel oversees the use of c.£40m of public money: it is important to get this right. At the same time, changes are also needed with regard to the leadership structure around SEND. The current separation of operational, commissioning, funding and strategic leadership has not helped to foster a coherent and effective oversight of the system. Aligning these functions and establishing robust system governance are much needed.

3. **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.

PART 2: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendations: Quick wins

- **Mainstream inclusion** – start a co-productive dialogue with mainstream settings and schools, parents and carers, and other services about what the principles and hallmarks of good mainstream inclusion in Wiltshire should be – to provide a foundation for consistent practice and improving parents’ confidence in mainstream inclusion. Embedding this will be part of a longer piece of work, but we suggest it is important to start this process and identify some foundational principles.
- **SENCO networks** – re-establish county-wide (although potentially locally delivered) SENCO networks, offering a rolling programme of induction, training in core processes, and practice enhancement around county-wide priorities for SENCOs and other leaders involved in supporting children with SEND. Ensure the work of the networks is centrally co-ordinated, professionally supported and informed by a shared strategy / priorities – co-produce this with SENCOs.
- **Whole-school inclusion** – through work that is already in train, agree processes for sharing intelligence and joining up support for school improvement and inclusion, so that there is a focus on whole-school improvement, and support and challenge to school leaders and governors around school effectiveness and inclusion.

Recommendations: Longer-term actions

- **Mainstream inclusion** – continue to develop a set of consistent expectations of mainstream inclusion across Wiltshire, and ensure this is set out on the local offer so that there is transparency about what families and professionals can expect to be consistent across all schools. (Leaders suggested creating a Wiltshire inclusion quality mark.) Build on this and existing networks to facilitate school-to-school working. Develop a rolling programme of whole-school inclusion support.
- **Targeted support** – 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.

The journey so far.....

- CCG recently appointed a Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) to oversee health involvement and contributions
- Part-time CCG funded post SEND lead worked- improving health input, working with individual families where health plays a significant part

Isos recommendations implemented:

- SENCo networks re-established
- Headteacher briefings- 6 times a year in 4 locations
- Consultant Headteacher to lead on Inclusion in Schools- September 2019
- SENs team moved to Education and Skills January 2020- new post created Head of SEND and Inclusion
- Alignment to EYs, School Effectiveness and employment & skills- 0-25
- Head of Inclusion and SEND in post from Summer term 2020
- New SEND & Inclusion strategy in draft following consultation
- SEND Board re-established
- FACT workstream- A good Education for All- multi-agency approach

The journey so far.....

- Additional Specialist places:
 - 400 place school planned in the north with £33m commitment from the Local Authority
 - SEMH/ASD Free school in the south (£12m investment from DfE) 150 places 5-19 ASD & SEMH (2022 opening)
 - Springfield Satellite in the south 32 places
 - Additional Resource base places: Fitzmaurice Primary (12 places), Rivermead (12 places), Wansdyke Community (8 places), The Avenue (10 places) Manorfield (5 places)
 - Expansions: Downlands (16 places), Exeter House (18 places), Rowdeford (28 places) & Springfield north (44 places)

Place Planning

- Increased Special School & Resource Base Planned Places

Financial Year	TOTAL	Special	Mainstream	Notes
19/20	97	87	10	<i>44 Springfields, 5 Downlands, 18 Exeter House & 20 Rowdeford</i>
20/21	66	56	10	<i>32 Springfields (south) 16 Downlands 8 Rowdeford</i>
Future		North Expansion South Free School 150		

Strategic Financial Recovery Plan Themes

1. Inclusive Practice in Schools
2. Place planning
3. Project planning

Specific projects/ actions to support this process

Development of Wiltshire Graduated Response Document (GRSS) – currently in draft, to:

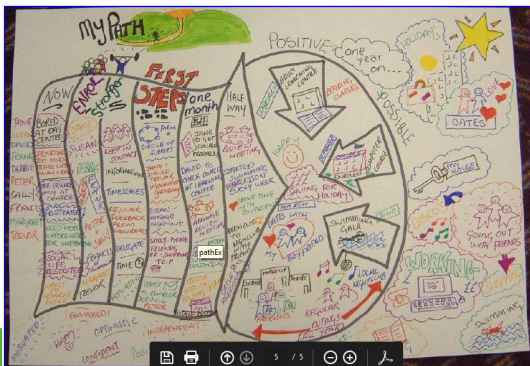
- Increase quality of interface – increase ease of use and understanding
- Simplify access and use of framework
- Enable better understanding of comorbidity of need through adapted layout and information

Change the banding system to an assessment matrix model – model in draft, being reviewed by relevant professionals

- Enable understanding of totality of need across the system that can be quantified
- Enable better understanding and approach for moderation
- Enable better decisions to be made on the basis of better / more informed information

Specific projects/ actions to support this process

- Develop PATHs approach to planning and development of Pre-EHCP/EHCP planning to better meet needs of individuals within a community (currently in planning process – EPS led) to begin practically from March/April 2020. This will also support the re-development of the EHCP model.
- Establish a SEN help desk to increase access to support and direct school to enable them to get the support they need at the time they need it (April, 2020)
- Whole school SEND implemented and used by all schools to enable better recognition of needs, support and intervention required



Specific projects/ actions to support this process

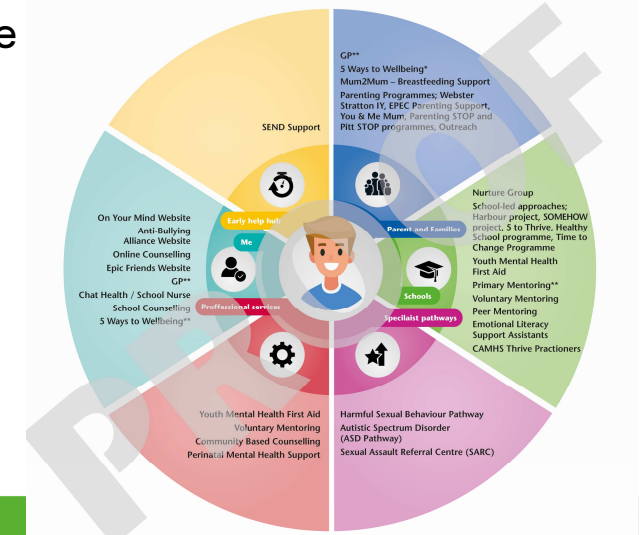
Refocus the SEN and inclusion teams to focus on system and capacity building rather than the heavy and increasing focus on individual casework (should be seen in coordination with the actions above)

- As capacity allows regionalise the inclusion support system in support of developing local solutions to meet local needs
- All schools to have an SEN surgery meeting that will be run by a multi-agency team – this will identify and support: environmental development, use of graduated support, training and individual student needs. This work will be enhanced for schools with resource bases or ELP provision to support schools in reviewing these provisions to support internal (and where appropriate) external need
- All special schools to have a multi-agency review to support their capacity development moving forwards and quality assure any subsequent outreach support and development work

Specific projects/ actions to support this process

Development of tiered training model (should be seen as complementary to previous slide) – ensuring that all schools increase capacity and increased minimum training and understanding to meet pre-EHCP need. All Wiltshire schools :

- Gold NASEN membership for all schools (access to online training, forums and resources)
- Autism Education Trust (AET) hub managed and developed at county level (free access to level 1 training for all schools, heavily subsidised access for level 2-3)
- Development of Wiltshire inclusion mark which recognises the training and commitment to inclusion by schools receiving this SEMH pathway – ensuring that all schools are aware of the support and can access it easily. This approach is being replicated for other pathways



Projects to recover HNB deficit

- Dyslexia friendly schools
- Inclusion and school effectiveness project
- ELP/RBs
- SEND assessment and EHCP
- Review of INMSS including commissioning challenge
- Post 16 Transition
- SEND AP project
- Digital solutions
- Early intervention and support project

Dyslexia friendly schools

Aims:

- Initially funding and supporting 16 schools to gain the national Dyslexia mark, basing the SSENs team (in respect to Dyslexia) into these schools, creating community model of provision around these key schools.
- Work with the voluntary sector to create ongoing training and support across the county.
- Reducing placing at Dyslexia Special schools by 25% over next 6 years.
- To create a cumulative saving of £260,000 in 5 years and £120,000 thereafter.

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.007M	£0.051M	£0.088M (£0.126 in 23-24)

Inclusion and school effectiveness project

Aims:

- To bring together schools, school effectiveness, inclusion services and SEND through a range of specific collaboration projects. In so doing accelerate inclusive engagement and the development of joined-up ideas and practical solutions which will lead to sustainable, efficient and effective practice.
- To engage a minimum of 45-60 schools from January 2020 (15-20 region) and replicate this in year 2 and 3 (which will lead to the direct engagement of almost 80% of schools in Wiltshire)
- To specifically target high needs areas with disproportionate ECHP/ tier 3 need
- Significantly decrease application for EHCP and tier 3 services through higher quality foundational practice and provision and early tier 2 access

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.800M	£1.00M	£1.00M

ELP/RBs

Aims:

- Re-evaluate and re-develop the approach, use and allocation of Enhanced learning provision (ELP) and Resource base (RB) provision in schools
- Increase capacity, effectiveness and value for money in provisions
- Increase impact and inclusive capacity within the schools themselves
- Increase capacity for cross-school working and wider inclusive capacity development
- Decrease applications to Special schools for students whose needs could be met through enhanced provision models
- Either reduction in direct costs or reduction in special school application associated cost

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.400m	£0.400m	£0.400m

SEND assessment and EHCP

Aims:

- Review SEND statutory panel and associated advice/pathways
- Devise a 'no EHCP' support package- time-limited
- Tripartite funding of plans
- Review banding
- Peer-to-peer moderation

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£1.000m	£1.000m	£1.000m

Review of INMSS including commissioning challenge

Aims:

- There are 205 ISS placements costing at total of £12m. Some of these placements are joint funded with Local Authority Social Care budgets and occasionally a CCG contribution. The total cost to the High Needs block is 9.6m. This is an average of £48k per placement. ISS placements are made for a variety of reasons. There are three broad categories under which this provision can be considered.
- Develop greater oversight of ISS usage and actively manage all placements. This would be to work with the second and third categories of placement (high-cost specialist & day specialist centres) and to focus on the following key points:
- Point of Placement- agree the overall package, for example lifetime of placement and lifetime placement costs along with the outcomes for placement. As an example if we were placing a 12 year old we would specify that the placement was up to 16 with four years at fixed cost with the agreed outcome that the child would return to maintained provision for post 16 provision.
- Phased Transfer Points. Attend key reviews and also ensure SENDLW review activity was focussed on transition as well as outcomes.
- Developing intelligence on gaps in the market that lead to ISS placements being made and then working with local providers to fill those gaps and prevent future requirement for ISS placements.

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.500m	£0.500m	£1.00m

Post 16 Transition- pathway to adulthood

Aims:

- To start the process much earlier to gain the right skills needed for independence
- To champion increased independence, enabling young people to live, work and be active contributors in their community, making the best use of their own and other available resources and opportunities
- To promote person centred support and outcome focused practices
- To adopt strength-based principles that considers informal as well as formal networks of support and community capacity
- To reduce the impact of transition by working in a more integrated way with multi-agency partners and adopting co-production in working with children and young people
- To promote Choice and Control with shared responsibility and community resilience

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.300m	£0.600m	£0.600m

**Wiltshire's Multi Agency
Preparing for Adulthood
and
Transition
policy and procedure**

PROFESSIONALS' VERSION

Date: September 2019

Draft

Wiltshire Council

SEND Alternative Provision (AP) project

Aims: Develop AP provision for students with EHCPs

- Develop/commission provision for EHCP students requiring AP
- Reduce reliance on costly AP packages

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.360m	£0.360m	£0.500m

Digital solutions

Aims: To use online digital approaches to enable educational providers to access support and training for children without an EHCP.

Outcomes:

- Quick and easily accessible help
- Professional time is used for coached and mentored support rather than assessment and diagnosis
- Better use of SEN Support and reduce use of EHCPs
- More children/young people support in mainstream settings
- Less need for MLD students to go to special schools as ELP and mainstream is giving relevant support.
- Where EHCPs are required more of the funding can go to pastoral support

Potential impact on the HNB			
19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
-£0.025M Investment	£0.500M	£2M	£2 – £5M dependent on engagement

Early intervention and support project

Aims:

- Review the process through which early assessment and identification is being carried out
- Provide enhanced early intervention and support for Early years settings without the need to escalate to EHCPs at such an early stage.
- Increase communication and partnership between Early Years settings, schools and parents to increase understanding on managing SEN in early phases

Potential impact on the HNB			
	20-21	21-22	22-23
	£0.300m	£0.600m	

Next steps..

- Working group to convene to discuss plans and identify future savings: The Mead Trust, Studley Green, Larkrise, Palladium Trust
 - all welcome, further volunteers please contact Marie or Grant

DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
				Local Authority	Schools Forum	DfE	
Overall Budget	Overall Schools Budget	individual decisions for blocks to feed in	Schools Budget to be set at level of DSG Settlement £374,503,029	Decides	Proposes		Agreed to set budgets in line with DSG allocation at £374,503,029.
Central Schools Services Block	Ongoing commitments eg Admissions, Schools Forum support, Services formally funded from retained duties element of ESG		Line by Line summary, appendix to Central DSG Report. Summarised in Proposed Budget summary Propose as presented in Appendix	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed, line by line for each budget. No agreement to fund Admission Appeals from the Central Block.
	Central spend on historic commitments	will inform any further funding to be delegated if spend is not agreed, is not evidenced or does not meet criteria	Propose agree eligible expenditure as per table in Central Schools Services Block Report	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed on a line by line basis.
	Central Licences negotiated by Secretary of State		Propose Budget for central copyright licences set at £0.382m	Decides	None	None	Agreed, Copyright Budget in line with DfE arrangements at £0.382m
	Central spend on general duties for maintained schools - services previously funded by ESG general duties rate	would be a top slice for maintained school budgets - impacts on delegated budget decision	No top slice proposed -pending DfE Grant announcement	Proposes	Decided by maintained school members	Adjudicates if Schools Forum does not agree LA proposal	Agreed, no top slice.
Schools block - Delegated Budget	Affordability of local formula		Converge as closely as possible to the NFF. Propose that any reduction required for affordability is applied to FSM Ever6 formula factor as per 18/19 & 19/20	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	After the presentation of a series of options, it was agreed to fund the formula on the basis of the full National Funding Formula rates and that the Mobility factor is not introduced in the 2020-21 year.
	Minimum Funding Guarantee		Propose set MFG plus 1.84%	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agreed, to ensure that all schools see an increase in their per pupil funding which is set at +1.84%.
	Growth fund		Growth fund to be set at £1m - split £0.1m Infant class Size and £0.9m basic need Propose criteria remain unchanged Total Growth Fund from DfE of £2.6M awarded to Wiltshire, Local Fund set at £1m	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agreed to set the Growth Fund at £2.6m, in accordance with the DfE's calculated Growth Funding. Split as £0.1m for Infant Class Size and the £2.5m for Basic Need growth.
	Falling Rolls Fund	impacts on available quantum for delegated budget	Propose Wiltshire does not have a falling rolls fund	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Ensures formula is compliant with regulations	Agreed not to establish a Falling Rolls Fund.
	Transfer to High Needs from Schools Block		To Transfer £TBCm (TBC%) from Schools Block to High Needs Block. If Sec of State does not approve, then a max of 0.5% can be transferred - £1.465M	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	Subject to SofS Agreement beyond 0.5%	Agreed transfer of £2.065m which equates to 0.7% of the Schools Block of funding to High Needs Block.
	De-Delegation of Central Services		HCSS - £61,014	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed
	De-Delegation of Central Services		FSM Eligibility - £21,388	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Trade Union - £70,000	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed
	De-Delegation of Central Services		EMAS & Travellers - £528,269	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Behaviour Support - £612,000	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed

DSG Block	Decision Required	Inter-dependencies with other decisions	Proposal	Decision Maker			Decision - noted at meeting
				Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	
	De-Delegation of Central Services		Maternity Supply - £534,460	Proposes	Decides for each line	Made by Maintained only	Agreed
High Needs Block	Top Up values for NPAs, ELP, Resource Bases and Special Schools		Initial proposal no change from 2017-18 values - consideration by working party Spring Term dependent on decision today	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed
	Funding levels for Alternative Provision		Consulting on proposed change - 3 year settlement and protection from extreme NOR movements	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed
	Savings proposals to meet shortfall in high needs block - High Needs Working Group to determine plans		Proposals to be developed to meet on-going shortfall in budget. Any transfer from the Schools Block cannot be deemed as recurrent. If money to be moved between blocks this must be determined at the January meeting	Decides	none - but would consult Schools Forum	none	Agreed
Early Years Block	Agree Wiltshire formula - including supplements to be applied		Proposed formula as per EY Block report with supplements for Rurality and Deprivation. Proposed Basic Hourly rate £4.20 (no increase on the grounds of affordability - to be reconsidered Aug 2020 if funding allows) Rurality: £0.52 per hour Deprivation £0.40 per hour	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed
	Level of Inclusion Support Fund and how funded	Links to High Needs Block decisions	Proposed ISF £367,300, to be increased if January 2020 census increase allows	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed
	% Pass Through to settings		Proposal in Early Years report for maintaining at least 95% pass through	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed
	Hourly rate for free entitlement for 2 year olds		Proposed hourly rate of £5.40 (previously £5.32) reflecting DfE increase passported	Proposes and decides	must be consulted	none	Agreed