

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum

Place: Online Meeting - [Access the meeting online here](#)

Date: Thursday 11 June 2020

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
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
Denise Lloyd	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
John Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education
Nigel Roper	WASSH - Maintained Secondary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Fergus Stewart	Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
David Whewell	WGA - Secondary School Governor representative
Catrina 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 - 52*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 (copy attached).

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 53 - 70*)

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

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 13 March 2020 (minutes attached) and 2 June 2020 (minutes *to follow*).
- Early Years Reference Group – 19 March, 2 April, 13 and 27 May 2020 – (minutes attached).

6 **Admissions Appeals - Charging of Services** (*Pages 71 - 78*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to outline the local authority response to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for admissions appeals and the specific guidance around equivalent treatment of all schools.

7 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Provisional Outturn Budget Monitoring 2019/20** (*Pages 79 - 84*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to report the outturn position for the dedicated schools budget in 2019-20 and on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) deficit reserve at the end of 2019-20.

8 **Update from High Needs Working Group**

A verbal update on behalf of the High Needs Working Group will be provided at the meeting from Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills).

9 **DSG Deficit Repayment 2021-22 onwards** (*Pages 85 - 92*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to outline the DfE's change to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020, which sets out the treatment for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits.

10 **DSG Budget Monitoring 2020-21** (*Pages 93 - 98*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to present the budget and budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2020-21 as at 30th April 2020.

11 **Update on Early Years and School Settings - Impact of COVID-19**

The Forum will receive an update at the meeting on the impact of Covid-19 on early years and school settings.

12 **Special Schools Update** (*Pages 99 - 100*)

The Forum will receive an update on Special Schools from Alison Enever (Head of Special Schools Transformation).

13 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

15 October 2020
10 December 2020.

14 **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 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, Tracy Cornelius, 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) 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 is attached.

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 the 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.

Appendix 2 to Minutes - Completed Decision Matrix

8 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.

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

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”

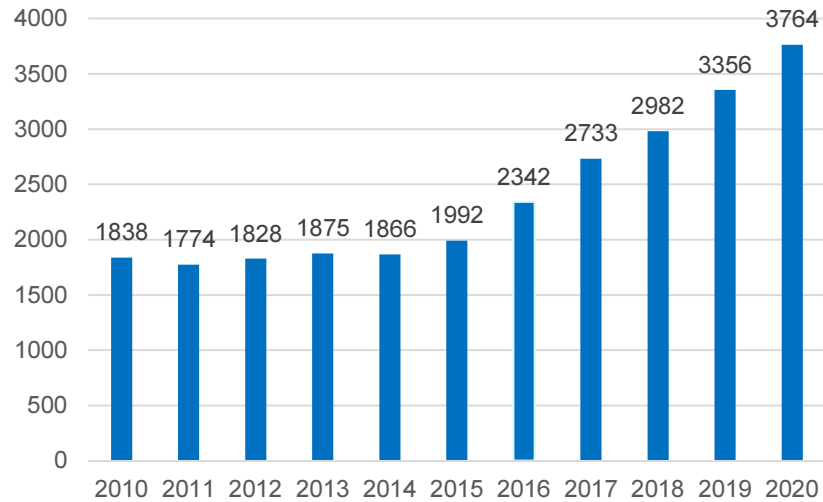
Nationally the Children and Families act 2014 has changed the way professionals work together to meet the needs of children with SEND. Our strategy needs to ensure that we:

- 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

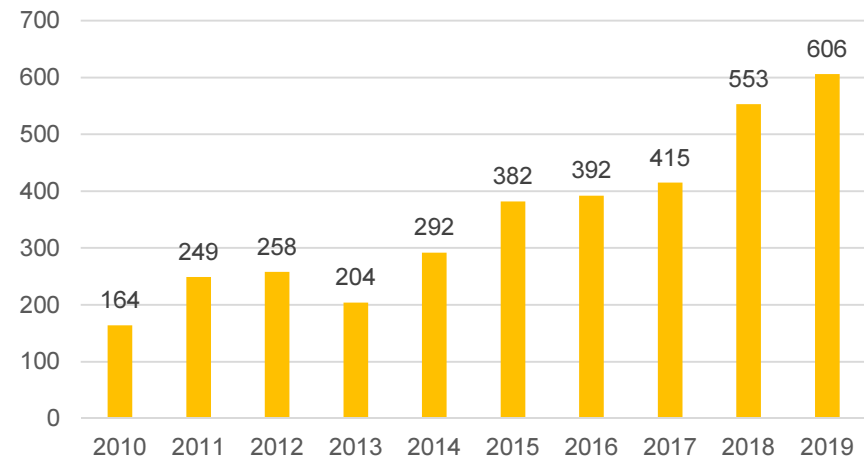
The pressures...

EHCP growth

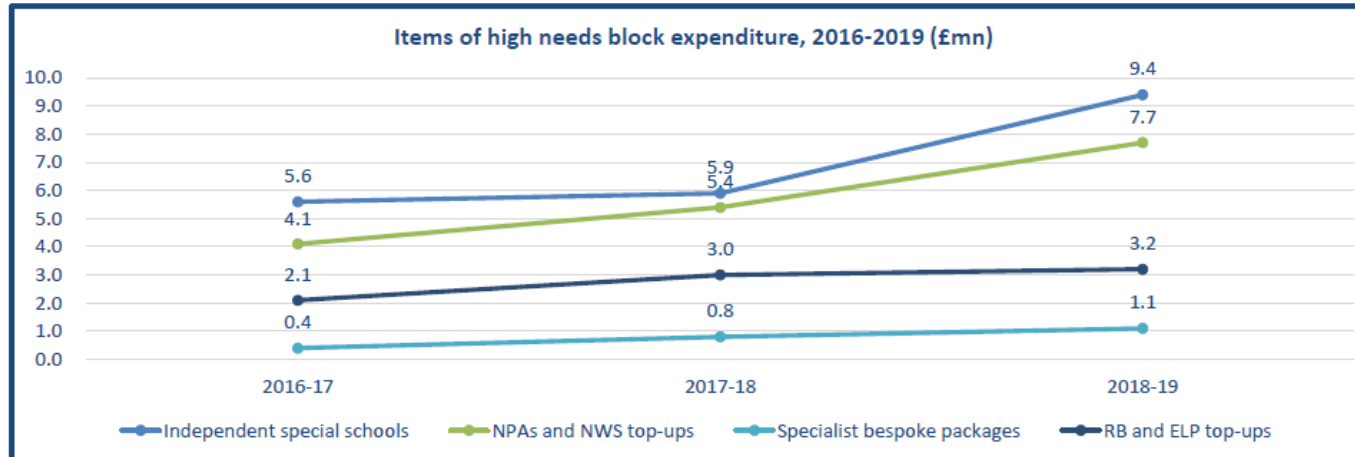
Total number of EHCP's (and statements)



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



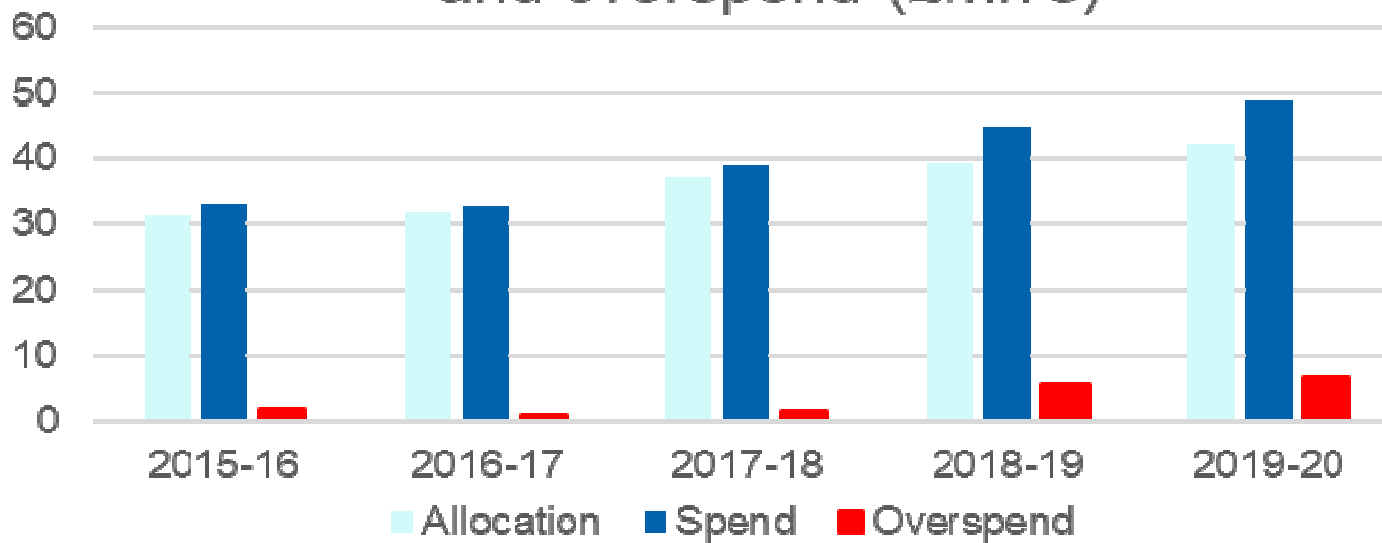
Part 1: Current context – (c) resources



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

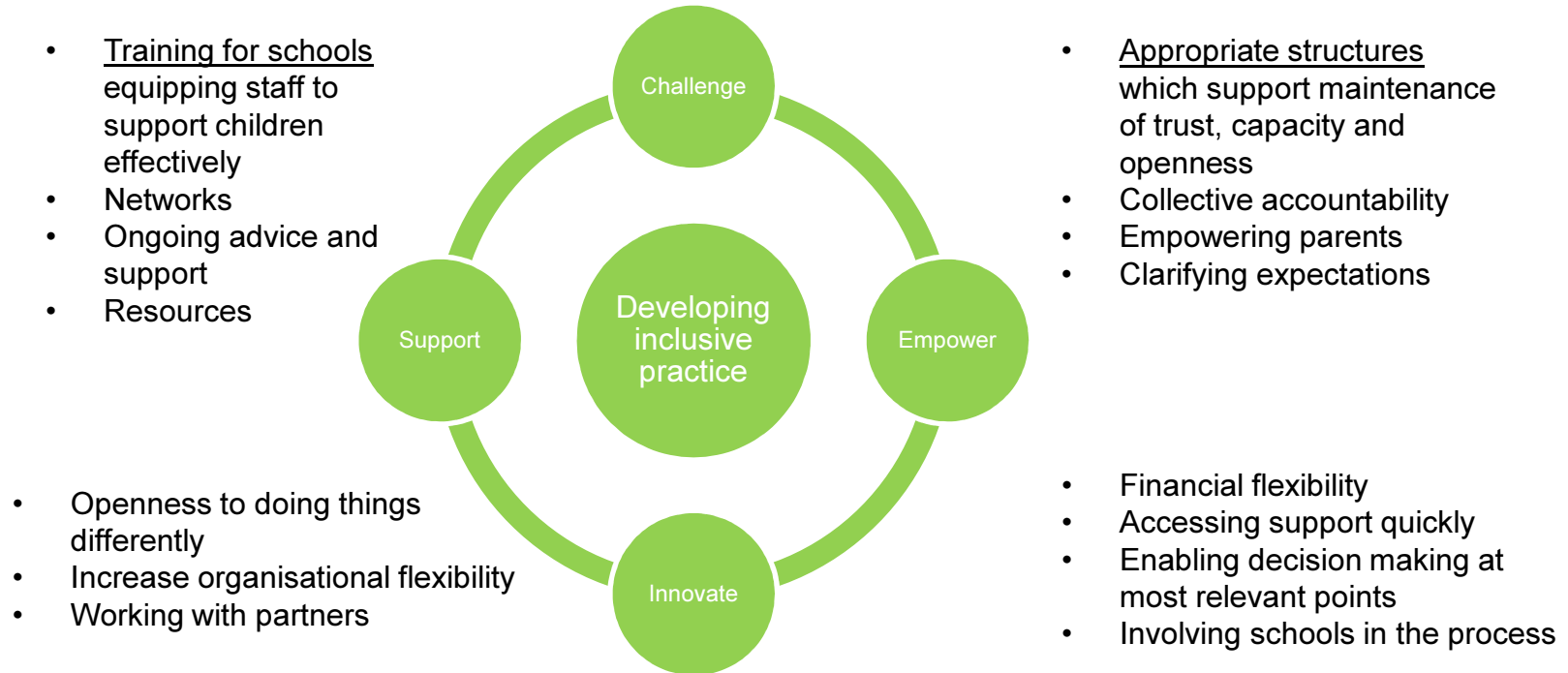
- Increased Special School & Resource Base Planned Places

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

Developing inclusive practice in schools



Specific projects/ actions to support this process

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

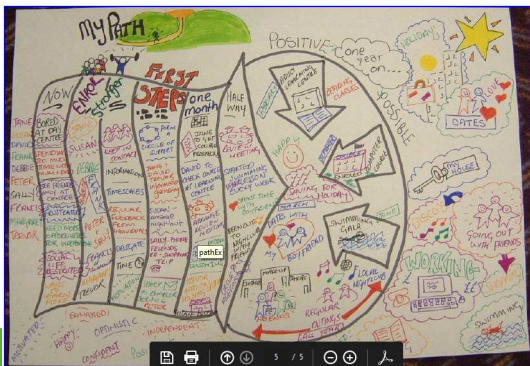
- Increase quality of interface – increase ease of use and understanding
- Simplify access and use of framework
- Enable better understanding of comorbidity of need through adapted layout and information

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

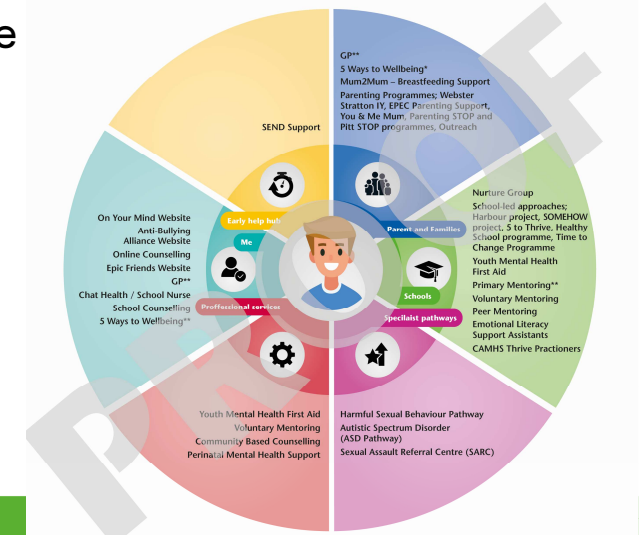
Refocus the SEN and inclusion teams to focus on system and capacity building rather than the heavy and increasing focus on individual casework (should be seen in coordination with the actions above)

- 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

Schools Forum - January 2020
 Decision Matrix for 2020-21 Budget

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

Schools Forum

School Funding and SEN Working Group

13th March 2020

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority (LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), Neil Baker (Christchurch), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle) Judith Westcott (Childrens Commissioning LA), Matt Look (Childrens Commissioning LA), Phil Cook (Larkrise), Matt Sambrook (Exeter House / Secondee HT to the LA)

Apologies: Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), Sam Churchill (Hilmarton), Gary Binstead (Childrens Commissioning LA) Helean Hughes (Director LA) Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley)

1	<p>Minutes from previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising</p>	
3.	<p>Schools Budget Update 2020-21</p> <p>Grant Davis took the group through the key changes of the schools budget for 2020-21; Good news for 2020-21 for Wiltshire, FSM6 fully funded unlike previous years' compromises to part fund. Minimum per pupil funding level – the mandatory minimum, 49 schools gain. GD pointed out that Hampshire could not afford the level and had to apply to the Secretary of State for a disapplication</p> <p>At this point the group had an animated discussion around the report later in the agenda on DfE legislative changes and the implications for Wiltshire.</p> <p>Minimum funding Guarantee – set as a positive 0.5% - 2020-21 – 1.84% as affordable in the formula, for the first time ever, no capping required Growth – high due to the military, a gross increase any reductions are ignored NB asked would the LA consider a reduction to funding for 2, 3- & 4-year olds. MT confirmed it could be reluctantly considered however, the guidance is not clear as it currently stands and legal advice would need to be taken. NB asked whether an academy can set up a resource base without the LA requiring one. GD confirmed the LA would need to be consulted if funding was sought however schools are free to set up with existing funding so support their own pupils. JW confirmed the LA is actively trying to develop RBs with links to special schools. RB places are all allocated through SEN panel.</p>	

4.	<p>Schools Budget Update 2021- EY, HN & CSS Blocks</p> <p>Marie Taylor took the group through the report. Although Schools Forum agreed a transfer of 0.7% in the January meeting, this was not approved by the SoS and so the Chair & Deputy were engaged in off line discussions to agree the best way forward and avoids calling an extraordinary Schools Forum. It is our understanding that only 2 local authorities disapplication's were approved under exceptional circumstances. The Chair & Deputy agreed that the most pragmatic and straightforward approach was for the difference of £0.599m to be added to the growth fund to be available to re-allocate in future years. The group were happy with this approach. The pro-active approach taken around the growth fund will allow flexibility and assist with future years budget setting.</p> <p>High Needs Block. The pressures on the HNB and lower value transfer from SB mean that a balanced HNB budget is not affordable within the increased level of DSG for 2020-21. The three strands of work; inclusive practice, place planning and numerous projects to reduce demand and pressure lead by the HNB working group will be key in achieving a balanced position moving forward.</p> <p>The Early Years block – the 8p for 2-year olds was fully passported however the increase to the 3- & 4-years olds was not affordable. This will be reviewed in the autumn and will take into account the new accounting legislation around DSG deficit reserve.</p> <p>The CSSB despite being reduced by the DfE, central costs are kept to a minimum and a transfer of £0.184m to the HNB possible.</p>	
3	<p>Budget Monitoring for the period to 28th February 2020</p> <p>MT shared her report with the group. The forecast overspend for 19/20 is £8.150m.</p> <p>Highlights: This comprises £1.049m early years – based on higher than budgeted FTE of 2, 3&4-year olds, higher take up of the EY ISF and the DfE's negative in year adjustment of £0.359m.</p> <p>The HNB forecast overspend is £7.356m – again, based on higher numbers of EHCPs and levels of support requested. This forecast will continue to increase if requests continue to be received at the current rates. (12% growth in a rolling year.) The pressures on the HNB continue and the HNB working group will be prioritising demand management, savings projects, commissioning and spend controls.</p> <p>Schools block and CSSB are showing forecast underspends of £0.189 million and £0.067 million respectively. The Virtual HT has taken recovery actions to maximise external grant and underspend DSG.</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 £10.416m.</p> <p>This overspend needs to be considered moving forward in conjunction with the DfE change in legislation to carry forward DSG overspends to Schools Budgets in future years.</p>	

4	<p>Legislative change to accounting for DSG Clarifying the Specific Grant and Ring-fenced Status of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from the DfE</p> <p>Marie took the group through the report and changes – this poses significantly different treatment which has huge implications for schools funding in future years.</p> <p>Grant had shared at the Spring term headteacher briefings and Marie had drafted a letter to heads and governors which were shared in appendix 1. Heads voiced significant concerns around the speed and actions required to bring the high needs block into balance. The HNB working group will be taking this forward as outlined in the paper.</p>	
5	<p>Admissions Appeals – Charging of Services</p> <p>Marie took the group through the report. Although a number of options have been explored for example, funding from CSSB, the legal advice recently provided is clear that funds have been delegated and appeals should be chargeable to all schools moving forward. The direct costs only are being recovered in order to provide a level of protection to schools. This change will be notified to all schools and will apply wef September 2020.</p>	
11	<p><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>Next meeting – date set at: Monday 1st June 2020 @ 8.30am</p> <p>Re-arranged to Tuesday 2nd June @ 11am</p> <p>Next Schools Forum meeting Thursday 11th June 2020 @ 1.30pm</p>	

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Early Years Reference Group Extraordinary Meeting

Thursday 19 March 2020

1. Welcome and introductions

Jane Boulton, Lucy-Anne Bryant, Mark Cawley, Rosemary Collard, Jenny Harvey (notes), Sarah Hawkins, John Proctor, Trudy Surman

2. Outline of Wiltshire Plan in relation to schools, childcare settings and Covid-19

- LAB apologised to the group for the delayed response and lack of communication to the Early Years sector from Wiltshire Council.
- Guidance and plans are changing by the hour.

The plan yesterday was:

for all schools and nurseries to close at end of the day Friday 20th March 2020, and for there to be hubs in community areas across the county comprising of a school with childcare provision.

This has now changed to:

all schools and special schools expected to be re-open from Monday 23rd March 2020 solely for the following children - those with an EHCP, CIN, CP, Looked After children and key worker children (children attracting EYPP are not included in these categories).

- Keyworkers are currently defined as medical staff, police, social workers, delivery drivers and armed forces personnel. We are awaiting further information on what classifies as a 'key worker' as we believe there should be more professions included in the list.
- We are also awaiting further information from central government on the stance on the closure of settings and childminders.
- LAB has a meeting at 1.30pm today with legal representation about providers open for keyworker children as it appears many providers are experiencing problems with their insurance companies.
- Further information will be released at around 4pm this afternoon.

ACTION: LAB to report back to group on outcome of 1.30m meeting

3. Childcare setting commitments and offer

- RC said they had contacted their insurance company (Doctor Dot), and as they were staying open to provide services to emergency and key worker personnel, they were told there was no reason for them not to be insured. LAB advised all providers to check with their individual insurance companies.

- SH asked if settings could merge together to provide a service. LAB confirmed that this would be possible if operating under legal ratios and normal safeguarding measures were in place.
- LAB and group discussed the possible future need to centralise services. All agreed that the idea of central hubs would not work due to bring together a larger group of individuals and the risk of contagion would be greater for children and staff alike. It was felt virus suppression would be better managed and more successful in smaller groups.
- Possibility of 'loaning out' of staff to another provision was also discussed. Whilst possible, it was felt this could be problematic for a number of reasons and could be too disruptive and unsettling for children and staff. However, if it was agreed between providers, then it was felt that the simplest and most manageable method of payment would be for the 'provider loaning staff' to invoice the 'loaning provider' directly. A letter is due to go out to early years providers asking for staff skillsets in the event that we need to have a central pool of staff who could operate across a number of settings.
- JH confirmed that Free Entitlement funding for 2,3&4 year olds would continue to be paid to early years providers. Summer 2020 estimates are currently being collected from providers, and these would be used to calculate estimated monthly payments. In the event of no estimate being submitted, Wiltshire Council would look to use Summer 2019 actual data as the basis for a Summer 2020 estimate on which payments could be made.
- All agreed that clearer and more absolute clarification was required on what constitutes a vulnerable child. LAB confirmed this would be CP and CIN. In addition, the group asked who is policing who the keyworker children are? LAB acknowledged that we would all be relying on people's honesty.
- Some provisions are really struggling and could do with more council support. LAB confirmed there were 3 Assistant Commissioners as well as the Advisory Teachers available. They were currently fielding calls from the sector, but LAB confirmed they need to be more pro-active supporting such providers in these unprecedented circumstances

ACTION: Increased communication from Wiltshire Council to the EY sector over the next few days

ACTION: LAB will email the group if additional and/or further topic discussion is required.

4. Any other considerations

- Resource bases appear to be closing down completely across the county. LAB confirmed these are being contacted by Wiltshire Council requesting them to re-open and use Wiltshire Council trained/qualified staff who can work in these provisions.

Early Years Reference Group Extraordinary Meeting

Thursday 2 April 2020

1. Welcome and introductions

Jane Boulton, Lucy-Anne Bryant, Mark Cawley, Rosemary Collard, Jenny Harvey (notes), Sarah Hawkins, Debbie Muir, John Proctor, Natalia Reyner, Trudy Surman

2. How is it so far?

- LAB confirmed that initial thinking was that Wiltshire Council would use hubs and look at ways of moving staff between provision. We are now asking the EY sector representatives through this group for their ideas on how we can move forward and what additional support might be required by the sector.
- Discussion took place around the individual provisions and their experiences/ situations:
 - A mix of closed and open early years provision, with staff being furloughed.
 - Where children are moving to 'sister' settings within a group i.e. setting hub, their key worker is going with them to help the child settle.
 - Large number of requests for childcare were initially received, but the number hasn't quite materialised. Possibly informal and illegal childcare arrangements being used. Local Authority needs to ensure sufficient childcare across the county in line with statutory guidance.
 - Open provision is starting to become increasingly expensive to remain open – low child numbers with duty staff in line with ratios and statutory responsibilities.
 - Positive and negative experiences with parents and their perceived right to childcare in the current crisis.
 - Daily and weekly arrangements in place for parents and providers to communicate about childcare requirements.
 - A number of providers are open over the bank holiday weekend to assist key worker parents and also over the Easter school break. Where no provision is required on a day, providers are closing for that day.
 - Are enhanced pay rates being offered to staff for working bank holidays as well in the current crisis? LAB confirmed we are approaching DfE for confirmation on costs recovery.
 - Some providers using the Tapestry system for uploading and downloading children's work and photos being carried out at home.
 - Out of school provision requests for school aged children when schools are closed.
 - Contradiction in DfE guidance on furloughing of staff and accessing Free Entitlement Funding in Summer 2020 to which we are currently awaiting a response. Want to give accurate information to the sector. Lissie Bolton has a conference call with the DfE later today, so clarification will be sought again.
 - Coronavirus Small Business Grant Fund - £10K. LAB to confirm who would be able to apply for this grant.
 - All agreed FE funding needs to continue being paid to providers until they are able to build child numbers back up again.
 - An idea mooted was for later school starts for children due to move up to school 1 September 2020 with a revised start date of end of September. LAB asked

group to think about the proposal for discussion next time we reconvene. Providers would be able to put in claims for the 1 month FE for these children.

- The group thought that deferring a school term would be more beneficial to all parties allowing school/EY provider staff and children to get themselves sorted and settled after potentially 6 months out. Mental health and emotional needs of children to be considered. LAB to take forward with internal team as a viable option. MC raised concern about the impact this could have on a potential log jam with the younger years coming through. Would this be workable for providers?
- Staff leave before Covid-19 and accrued leave throughout furlough period could cause staggered opening and increased pressure on settings to resolve this as well as adhering to ratios. NR suggested that this could be discussed in the DfE conference call

ACTION: LAB to continue approaching DfE for confirmation on costs recovery.

LAB to confirm who would be able to apply for Coronavirus Small Business Grant Fund

LAB to take idea of October half term deferred school entry to internal team for discussion.

Group to think about the staggered school entry ideas discussed ready for the next meeting.

3. Funding additional hours

- No-one has experienced any issues with payment of hours outside of FE.

4. Shopping and PPE

- LAB asked if everyone was able to access supplies of food and PPE. Some providers were experiencing issues. LAB told the group to let us know and we would take the issue to the Economy cell group and try to resolve the issue through other ways.
- JP didn't think EY providers would see increases in the number of children needed childcare. There are now more cases of children being affected and this could stimulate more children being kept at home.

5. AOB

- Providers would like information on which schools are currently open. Some are receiving holiday club requests – RC confirmed they had had 23 requests so far. LAB confirmed schools have been asked to open over the bank holidays and whole Easter break. If a local club isn't open (and it should be) then email SchoolEffectiveness@wiltshire.gov.uk and the query can be taken up from there.
- NR suggested that the provision maps should be shared with EY providers, need to take this higher up to get set up.
- Cost issues of school run and external holiday clubs – free if school run, cost involved if external.
- Business rates – some providers have already had their April payments debited from their accounts. Everyone thought payment holidays had started immediately. LAB to confirm this with Revs and Bens.

- LAB confirmed Wiltshire Council is looking at incentivising those providers who have remained open, and budget remodelling is currently taking place. LAB will confirm arrangements once they are finalised.
- Some providers said it is quite lonely and scary for them, they are putting themselves in vulnerable positions by working with the KW families and it's difficult maintaining staff morale.
- *System?? – providers need to access their details and update for the Easter bank holiday/break. LAB – what system was this – gov.uk?*
- Providers stated that Wiltshire's communications with the sector have been good compared to other local authorities. LAB confirmed that working with EY sector representatives is and will continue to help Wiltshire Council tailor our response to the current situation. NR confirmed that the council appreciate the working relationship it has with the group and the sector.
- Jane Boulton thanked the EY Funding team for helping Springboard DSC resolve an issue with their Summer 2020 estimated hours.

ACTION: **LAB/NR to organise for provision maps to be shared with EY providers**
 LAB to confirm situation regarding business rates with Revs and Bens
 LAB to confirm incentivisation scheme once finalised

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evening by parents and supervised in the setting so that other children don't touch them.

Policy decisions: Staff have to declare if they will be available from 1st June. Work contract expectation that they are available to work unless shielding. Has made it clear that decisions whether to return need to be made on 1st June and next opportunity will be July to enable planning.

Springboard – The number of places available will depend on whether staff with young children can gain a KW place at their school. Will need to stick to current numbers unless colleagues can return. Trying to decide priority group above and beyond KW and Vulnerable. Prioritising school starters. A major challenge is their shared children as majority also attend mainstream settings. Filtering down parental preferences.

Snapdragons – both surveys completed. Majority want to return (only 11 out of 1000 saying they don't want a 0-5 place). Have also requested booking patterns in case this changes. They have capacity to do this as not everyone is returning at the same time. Helpful for staff planning. Able to accommodate demand. Needs to be made clear to schools that there cannot be an expectation to run breakfast and after school clubs as this means taking school aged children from other sites.

Staff moving between settings needs to be considered e.g. moving from breakfast club to nursery. Are they changing clothes? (Need to minimise risk). T&B have found a way round this which has been risk assessed. (When the staff arrive to run OSC daytime children have left).

T&B: Have surveyed parents, tight deadline. Retainers to secure finances. Likelihood of having to reduce staffing numbers/hours.

Warminster: awaiting responses. Parents are changing minds due to guidance changes. Don't currently take 2s. Large outdoor space for 3-4s will be useful.

Cleaning/avoidance of cross-contamination tips:

Steps providers are taking:

Outdoor handwashing; roping off areas; staggering outdoor play times, hiring outdoor washing stations. Anti-bacterial spray not plentiful. Regular handwashing; antibacterial cleaning of flooring vital.

Being firm with parents re. illness isolation periods needed. Having confidence to say that to parents. Staff teams need to read government guidance and also have training. Staff need to avoid inter-mixing and stay with key children.

Keeping children outside as much as possible.

Establishing clear and consistent cleaning and housekeeping procedures.

Good to re-establish the past cleaning standards.

Staff training – need to implement a COVID19 induction for returning staff.

**ACTION: LAB/NR
to raise at schools'
cell**

Possibility of NDNA training on this becoming available online.
Stories to help explain to children are useful.
Family – an account from a Danish nursery re-opening successfully following COVID19.
Training available from Gompels,

Further guidance will be out next week. NDNA guidance for settings is being developed.

Insurance still an issue – e.g. food poisoning outbreaks are covered but Covid19 related matters are not.

Some providers are triaging children as they come through the door – contactless temperature checks. Guidance states no benefit in temperature checking. But some nurseries have decided to use this and/or visors – mainly if parents find it reassuring. Agreement that this is an example of something you could do if you wanted to and parents wanted this. Would be a choice for managers.

PPE is challenging to get hold of. Could LA help? Visors and masks required in isolation situations when a suspected outbreak occurs. LA currently assisting care homes with this so could they extend to settings?

New providers of affordable hand sanitisers: Sky chemicals hand gel, Ramsbury Brewery. All agreed this is often overpriced.

Settings need to think about what this will look like with additional children and families joining as the risk will look different.

Snapdragons- Filming a video tour of how to enter building to make it visual. Staggered drop off times, spacing (but no security support). One-way system were other solutions shared.

Changes to funding if all settings are open from 01/06:

Nicola McCann – modelling for incentive was originally based on the definition of vulnerable and key worker when all settings were instructed they must close unless serving those families. Now unlikely to be able to honour this as all settings can re-open.

To relieve burden of cash flow problems in June with settings re-opening from scratch it may be necessary to spread the June adjustment over 2 or 3 months.

Furlough scheme being extended to October may have some impact on settings re-opening.

Suggestion given to survey settings – would they prefer a hit in June but 100% funding after or would they prefer this is spread. Nicola confirmed both options are viable financially. Request for statement – for full transparency LA will put the top sliced budget amount into a separate line.

Transitions:

ACTION: Sarah Hawkins to circulate

ACTION: Jane Boulton to forward

ACTION: LAB/NR to investigate

Lucy-Anne updated the group about the new transition working party. This includes heads, teachers and setting managers and is developing some shared good practice guidance. Query around delayed entry to school. This is looking unlikely now that children will transition back to settings before the summer. It would be a parental decision to defer entry.

Date of next meeting:
27th May 2020 12.30-2pm

A.O.B.
No A.O.B.

Early Years Reference Group Extraordinary Meeting

Wednesday 27 May 2020

1. Welcome and introductions

Jane Boulton, Lucy-Anne Bryant, Mark Cawley, Rosemary Collard, Jenny Harvey (notes), Sarah Hawkins, Debbie Muir, John Proctor, Natalia Reyner.

2. Apologies

Russ Martin, Trudy Surman.

3. Minutes and actions

JH apologised for the lack of minutes from meeting held on 6 May 2020, the electronic notes taken have been lost.

The issue around space in single room settings was raised with the Schools Cell and how it may be an issue for sufficiency going forward depending on the number of children that can be accommodated. Larger settings can use different entrances to provide drop off and pick up points

Snapdragons and running of out of school clubs – LAB confirmed this had been raised and managed with schools.

ACTION: None

4. Funding from June

Funding estimate adjustments - LAB confirmed that the Local Authority is not expecting any provider to be out of pocket financially but we will continue to pay providers as per their original Summer 2020 funding estimate. Funding estimate adjustments will only be considered where providers can evidence that their numbers and funded hours after re-opening on 1 June are higher than their original funding estimate.

Incentive payments - LAB confirmed that with 58% of early years providers due to re-open from 1 June 2020 and increased child attendance, Wiltshire Council will be unable to continue to pay an incentive to providers at its current rate of £100 per child per week. As PPE is likely to be a large cost for providers from 1 June, the Local Authority will be consulting with the EY sector within the next few days on 2 proposals:

1. Closed providers to continue to receive 80% funding. Open providers to continue to receive 100% funding plus a one-off payment - £1,000 for settings and £150 for childminders up to end of August 2020.
2. Closed providers to continue to receive 80% funding. Open providers to continue to receive 100% plus £10 per child per week (as long as they remain open) until the end of the Summer 2020 school term.

LAB and NR confirmed that thanks to a donation, hand sanitiser (500ml bottles) are being delivered to front line settings, i.e. schools and EY providers. Providers will be informed when these are available and if they will be delivered or available from various collection points.

LAB confirmed that any unused funding will remain in DSG and funding reallocation discussions will take place later in the year.

ACTION: None

5. Opening from June

All EYRG representatives confirmed their settings will be/will continue to be open from 1 June offering a range of increased booking flexibility for parents in order to operate safely within the new guidelines. At this time, the biggest barriers are school day lengths and PPE. Schools are not operating their before and after school clubs which impacts on staff at daycare provision with school aged children.

Generally take-up numbers are on the lower side at present.

Managing expectations - RC raised a concern that parents do not seem to be fully taking on board the implications of the current Covid-19 situation and that everything is going back to the way it was pre-crisis. Parents will need to bear with providers and all agreed that expectations need to be managed in this 'new normal'.

Capacity - RC feels this is a huge issue moving forwards as a result of capping numbers of children. Providers can accept fewer existing children back, and fewer new younger children. This will be a problem for both providers and parents if the guidance isn't relaxed soon. LAB to include this as a COVID-19 Risk in the log.

One setting guideline - NR and group discussed this new guideline. NR understands this might not always be possible so providers involved would need to carry out their own risk assessments ensuring risk of transmission is kept to a minimum. JP felt this was impractical and that the guidance needed to be firm on only 1 setting. RC felt the wording 'where possible' leaves this guideline open to misuse. NR stated that in the main, 1 setting will work and that it would only be a few exceptions that would require a re-working.

Shared placements - JB confirmed 98% of their children at the DSC share funding with another provider. 7 of their children so far have had their mainstream provision chosen over the DSC, and the Local Authority needs to be aware of this. Another issue for DSCs is children being held back in September and continued support being offered to children remaining at home. Potentially there will not be as much space for younger children.

General child attendance – RC raised concern that children have been off radar for a long time, and for some, other issues are being 'hidden' by remaining at home, i.e. safeguarding. Public Health are happy to work with early years providers to relay the message to parents that the best place now for children is at an EY provision/school.

Provision opting for a delayed restart – NR confirmed the Local Authority is supportive of provision not re-opening from 1 June, preferring a delayed re-opening in order to digest and get systems in place. Some providers have been pro-active about 1 June restart by contacting parents/staff several weeks ago, and getting measures put in place ready. MC asked if there were any providers who were keeping their doors closed permanently LAB confirmed she was unaware of any providers who fell into this category.

Lunchtimes – some providers have experienced problems with lunchtime cover and new guidelines so staff have been working a continuous day. Other providers offer a 1 hour slot for staff members within which to have a lunch break but remain within earshot and sight whilst 2 bubble groups merge. Providers need to see what works best for their provision and

continuously assess and adjust. Any changes to bubble groups will need to be risk assessed and managed.

Church/village hall based provision – LAB confirmed this provision type is experiencing a number of issues such as toilet access and permission to use a public building for childcare in current situation. This area is being risk managed so that the Local Authority can find childcare places to find places for children who might be caught in this situation.

No one from the group had received requests from parents who were shop workers for a delayed restart date to 15 June.

ACTION: LAB to refer capacity issue re: number capping to Risk Management Log

6. AOB

Daily EY newsletters have now ceased, with a possible change to a weekly edition. The last parent newsletter will be issued this Friday, 29th May 2020.

LAB and NR are meeting with Ofsted and DfE later and asked the group for any issues to be raised. Issues to be raised - inspection timetable, changes to provision such as staff changes and First Aid courses attendance

The group all agreed that the release of new operational guidance by the DfE (1 week before providers are due to re-open on 1 June) makes the situation more difficult than normal.

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 10 June 2020, 12.30pm – 2.00pm; a meeting invitation will be sent out shortly.

ACTION: LAB to send out meeting invitation to the next meeting

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

11th June 2020 (postponed from 26th March 2020)

Admissions Appeals – Charging of Services

Purpose of report

1. To outline the local authority response to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for admissions appeals and the specific guidance around equivalent treatment of all schools. The report is for information only.

Background and Legislative Extract

2. Where the local authority holds duties in relation to all schools, all schools must be treated on an equivalent basis. Paragraph 156.1 & 156.2 of the Schools Revenue Funding 2019-20 – Operational Guide states;

“Local authorities should not be treating voluntary aided schools, foundation schools or academies, differently from maintained schools in the services they provide to them; this is set out in the DSG conditions of grant. “

“Schools such as voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and academies, cannot therefore be charged for services that are provided free of charge to community and voluntary controlled schools, and paid for out of the centrally held DSG. For example, although admissions appeals are not a duty that the local authority holds in relation to all schools, we would still expect all schools to be treated fairly and equitably by the local authority.”

3. This does not include services where funding has been retained centrally from maintained school budgets, such as de-delegated services.
4. Within the Wiltshire funding formula (National Funding Formula) all school funding has been delegated to schools as part of the formula allocation, therefore no funding has been retained centrally for servicing admission appeals.
5. The Department for Education's Guidance 'Scheme for financing local authority-maintained schools' provides that a local authority can charge maintained schools budget share directly for *“costs incurred by the authority in administering admissions appeals, where the local authority is the admissions authority and the funding for admission appeals has been delegated to all schools as part of their formula allocation.”*

6. Wiltshire Council's Schools Admission Team has traditionally supported the appeals process, wherever possible, even if they have not managed the whole process. Some schools, particularly academy schools, have put into place their own arrangements for the process of managing admission appeals.
7. Supporting the appeals process involves time from both the Schools Admissions Team and a member of the Democratic Services Team to minute the meeting and ensure that due process is followed.
8. The local authority is no longer in a position to support the appeals process without recovering the costs associated with running admissions appeals. Charging all schools, regardless of their status, Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Voluntary Controlled, Community or Academy will then be consistently applied.

The Charges

9. Currently academies are charged, and it is proposed that inflation is applied to these from the 2020-21 academic year and charges are rolled out to all schools. Prices are akin to those of other local authorities and do not recover the total cost to the local authority (i.e.: including overheads such as ICT) as they are not deemed to be a traded service but a chargeable service. The prices kindly provided by the diocese are listed for your information.

	Local Authority 2020-21 Prices (per appeal)		Diocesan Non- Member Prices	Diocesan Partnership Agreement Member Prices
Appeal Full Service (Panel, Presentation and Clerking)	£535		£540 1 st appeal £450 2 nd appeal £360 3 rd & subsequent appeals	£360 1st appeal £300 2nd appeal £240 3rd & subsequent appeals
Preparation and Presentation Service (Admissions team only)	£314			
Panel and Clerking (Appeal arrangements only)	£221			
Additional appeal heard on the same day	£232			
Late withdrawal of appeal or settled appeal (3 days or less)	£232			
Withdrawal or settled (over 4 days)	£154			

10. During the spring / summer term, the services will write to schools to gauge interest in local authority buy back and at that stage collect average appeal numbers from interested schools in order to see whether a discount scheme would be beneficial. Wiltshire Council does not hold a monopoly as the provider of Admission Appeals and therefore schools can consider using other providers but must be assured that due process will be followed.

Impact for Wiltshire Schools and Budgeting for Costs

11. The effect of these provisions is that local authorities will not be permitted to fund any appeals and will need to charge all schools the same rate in order to adhere to the DfE's operational guidance.
12. Implementation is from September 2020. This means that the majority of the appeals which take or have taken place in April/May 2020 will not be charged for in this 2020-21 financial year. Schools will be able to plan for the costs associated with any Admission Appeals when setting their 2021-22 budget.

Communicating the Change

13. A letter to heads and governors explaining the change will be shared with schools in later this term, in co-ordination with PHF and WASSH. The service will provide Schools with information and guidance around the statutory requirements should they choose not to remain with the local authority service(s). Schools will be asked to indicate whether or not they wish to purchase the council offer from September 2020. The additional cost pressure will be felt in the 2021-22 financial year, aligned to the appeals timetable. The proposed letter is attached as Appendix 1.

Proposal

14. It is proposed that from the start of the new academic year 2020-21, that the local authority will charge all schools for which they are the admissions authority for admission appeals.
15. Schools Forum to note the content of the report.

Report Author:

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Date TBC

**To Wiltshire Headteachers,
Chair of Governors and
Finance Officers
of Academy, Maintained and
Special Schools**

County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: DSG2021

Dear Colleague

Please read this important update on DfE legislative changes around equivalent treatment of all schools with regard to Admissions Appeals which will have a financial impact for some schools from the 2021/22 financial year onwards.

Admissions Appeals Charges

Where the local authority holds duties in relation to all schools, all schools must be treated on an equivalent basis. Paragraph 156.1 & 156.2 of the Schools Revenue Funding 2019-20 – Operational Guide states;

“Local authorities should not be treating voluntary aided schools, foundation schools or academies, differently from maintained schools in the services they provide to them; this is set out in the DSG conditions of grant. “

“Schools such as voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and academies, cannot therefore be charged for services that are provided free of charge to community and voluntary controlled schools, and paid for out of the centrally held DSG. For example, although admissions appeals are not a duty that the local authority holds in relation to all schools, we would still expect all schools to be treated fairly and equitably by the local authority.”

This does not include services where funding has been retained centrally from maintained school budgets, such as de-delegated services.

Within the Wiltshire funding formula (National Funding Formula) all school funding has been delegated to schools as part of the formula allocation, therefore no funding has been retained centrally for servicing admission appeals.

The Department for Education's Guidance 'Scheme for financing local authority-maintained schools' provides that a local authority can charge maintained schools budget share directly for "costs incurred by the authority in administering admissions appeals, where the local authority is the admissions authority and the funding for admission appeals has been delegated to all schools as part of their formula allocation."

Wiltshire Council's Schools Admission Team has traditionally supported the appeals process wherever possible, even if they have not managed the whole process. Some schools, particularly academy schools have put into place their own arrangements for the process of managing admission appeals.

Supporting the appeals process involves time from both the Schools Admissions Team and a member of the Democratic Services Team to minute the meeting and ensure that due process is followed.

The local authority is no longer in a position to support the appeals process without recovering the costs associated with running admissions appeals. Charging all schools, regardless of their status, Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Voluntary Controlled, Community or Academy will then be consistently applied. Wiltshire Council does not hold a monopoly as the provider of Admission Appeals and therefore schools can consider using other providers but must be assured that due process will be followed.

The Charges

Currently academies are charged, and it is proposed that inflation is applied to these from the 2020-21 academic year and charges are rolled out to all schools. Prices are akin to those of other local authorities and do not recover the total cost to the local authority (i.e.: including overheads such as ICT) as they are not deemed to be a traded service but a chargeable service.

Introducing the charges from September 2020 means that the majority of the appeals which take or have taken place in April/May 2020 will not be charged for in this 2020-21 financial year. Schools will be able to plan for the costs associated with any Admission Appeals when setting their 2021-22 budget.

	Local Authority 2020-21 Prices (per appeal)
Appeal Full Service (Panel, Presentation and Clerking)	£535
Preparation and Presentation Service (Admissions team only)	£314
Panel and Clerking (Appeal arrangements only)	£221
Additional appeal heard on the same day	£232
Late withdrawal of appeal or settled appeal (3 days or less)	£232
Withdrawal or settled (over 4 days)	£154

In order to assess the take up if the local authority service for September 2020 onwards, we would be grateful if you would complete the short snap survey

[LINK HERE](#)

[Snap survey Questions](#)

It is hoped to offer a pre-ordered and pre-paid “bundle” of admissions appeals. We would be grateful if you would be able to answer these 3 questions to help us assess the demand and calculate the potential discount.

1. Will you be purchasing services from the local authority from September 2020 for ad-hoc appeals?
2. Will you be purchasing services from the local authority from April 2021 covering the annual April / May appeals time period?
3. How many appeals would you expect to have on an annual basis for your school?

Statutory Responsibilities around Admissions Appeals

Admissions appeals must be administered in line with the School Admissions Appeals Code 2012, the code has the force of law. On the 14 April 2020 the DFE issued further guidance on admissions appeals during COVID 19. The new regulations relax some of the current requirements that are set out in the [School Admission Appeals Code 2012](#) and enable admission authorities to proceed with their admission appeals. Details of the new regulations can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for-school-places. These are currently being examined by the admissions team and further guidance will be issued in September 2020.

Yours sincerely

Helean Hughes
Director, Education & Skills

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

11th June 2020

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20

Purpose of the Report

1. To report on the outturn position for the dedicated schools budget in 2019-20.
2. To report on the dedicated schools grant (DSG) deficit reserve at the end of 2019-20.

Main Considerations

Academy Recoupment

3. The final budget for 2019-20 has been adjusted to reflect all academy recoupment through the year, including part year adjustments for in-year converting schools. The budget has been reconciled to the DSG allocation notified to the local authority in March 2020.

Outturn 2019-20

4. Appendix 1 shows expenditure as at 31st March 2020. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was overspent by £9.071 million at the end of the year, which is further explained below.
5. Appendix 2 shows the activity for the financial year and in particular measures the increases in demand for services which, are the driver for cost pressures across high needs and early years blocks.
6. The overspends on the high needs and early years Block are £8.470 million and £1.082 million respectively and these are offset by underspends in the schools and central blocks.
7. This net overspend leads to a DSG deficit reserve of £11.376 million. Schools Forum Members will be aware of the recent legislative change to transfer the whole of the balance of the DSG deficit reserve to top slice future years schools budget shares. The implications of this together with proposed actions are explored in further detail in a report from the Strategic Financial Support Manager for Schools.
8. Schools Forum Members will be aware of the ongoing partnership work around the high needs pressures and there is are updates from the Director of Education and Learning later in the agenda on the work of the HNB working group comprising officers and head teachers together with an update from the new Head of Special School Transformation, Alison Enever.

Schools Funding

9. The growth fund underspent by £0.174 million – this small underspend reflects lower than anticipated usage of the fund.

Early Years Budgets

10. Budgets for the free entitlement for 30 hours childcare for 2, 3- & 4-year olds were overspent by £1.082 million. This wholly based on a full year of 30 hours entitlement.

11. It is important to note that the overspend reported above for 2, 3 and 4-year-old grant will have a post financial year adjustment from the DfE - previously this has borne little relation to the final variance due to the formula and floors and ceilings used by the DfE in their calculation however we would anticipate this would be a positive adjustment.
12. The table below show this forecast underspend relates to volume of take up which has driven the overspend.

	Planned Volume (in FTE)	Final Volume (in FTE)	Volume Variance (in FTE)
2-year-old Funding	385	419	34 (or 32%)
3 & 4-year-old Funding	4,791	4,997	206 (or 4%)
ISF	447	591	144 (or 32%)
Overall	5,623	6,007	384 (or, 6.8%)

High Needs Budgets

13. The high needs budget allocation was topped up with a transfer of £2.2million from schools block and £0.334 million from central schools services block. Despite this, high needs budgets overspent by £8.470m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School Fees, Named Pupil Allowances and top ups in schools and colleges, alternative provision and elective home education support for pupils with SEND. The ELP top up budget shows an underspend which is partially offsetting the overspend in other areas.

External Factors

14. Unlike local authority budgets, the Council is unable to prioritise non-statutory services or indeed, increase Council tax to increase these budgets and sufficiently fund the education of these vulnerable pupils. Schools Forum will be aware;
15. This significant overspend must be viewed alongside national factors. Nationally, Wiltshire remains one of the very lowest funded local authority for schools in the Country.
16. The demand for high needs funding is out-stripping the budgets available to local authorities across the country, resulting in serious deficits in the high needs block in over half of all local authorities. Many are finding it extremely difficult to recover these deficits and cuts to existing high needs services and pupil top-up funding makes what provision that is available simply unsustainable.
17. There is an emerging crisis in high needs funding, created in part by the continued use of historic funding levels, that Fair Funding Groups, local authorities and Schools continue to urge government to address before permanent damage is done to very many vulnerable pupils.
18. Whilst local action plans are very much in place to reduce spend, with rising demand and an elongated age group in scope, the only long-term solution remains a national increase in Schools Funding. Only increasing base budget will allow strategic plans to be rolled out.
19. The complexity of the high needs services demanded by more and more children (and their parents) is far greater than was the case just a few years ago, more accurate medical assessment and improved methods of treatment increase demand still further. Such increasing needs requires recognition through the national high needs formula.

Activity Data (Volume)

20. One of the major drivers of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in full time equivalent placements. (FTE) the table below show that volume has increased at a similar level (15%) as expenditure (17%). Continuing demand pressures are significantly outstripping the high needs block allocation.

	Budgeted	Final Outturn	Final Variance
HNB Spend	£49.401M	£57.871M	£8.470M (17% increase)
Number of EHCPs	3,351 <i>as at Jan 2019 when we set the budget</i>	3,860 <i>as at 31/03/20</i>	509 (15% increase)

Demand shown above is leading to placements being made outside local authority provision. Appendix 2 shows the activity data across placement budgets for 2019-20.

Internal Response - Capital Investment - Expansion of Place Provision

21. Wiltshire was successful in a Free School Bid for 150 place Special School provision in the South of the County. Wiltshire's capital contribution to this scheme will be found from the DfE SEND capital grant, not DSG. This school will create additional places and enable more children to be placed in Wiltshire Special Schools.
22. The Council has committed to investing £33.194 million, a significant capital sum to extend provision in the North of the county and create a system of excellence; funded by borrowing. The local authority budget will finance the capital and interest repayments. **At the time of writing, confirmation from the OSA to proceed was awaited.**
23. The DfE SEND capital grant allocation was increased to £1.36 million for the period to 2021 and is fully allocated to schemes. 153 additional places are planned in schools as a result of this funding.
24. The council has allocated £0.300 million through Families and Children Transformation (FACT) to fund the research and transformation journey.

Internal Response – High Needs Block Working Group, ISOS report and the HNB Recovery Plan

25. The High Needs Block Working Group was established in September 2018 met through the Autumn 2018 term to look at drivers for demand and explore ways to move forward. An external consultancy, ISOS who are nationally recognised for their work with the DfE and SEND funding were contracted to work with stakeholder groups. ISOS presented their approach to the March 2019 Schools Forum meeting and their findings and recommendations to Schools Forum in October 2019. A specialist consultant headteacher is currently contracted to work with schools on the inclusion agenda. A recovery plan was drafted and shared with Schools Forum in January 2020. A second working group with new membership was set up early in 2020 and there is a separate update on the agenda from the Director of Education & Skills on current progress against the HNB recovery plan and the inclusion approach.

Central Schools Budgets

26. There is a planned underspend of £0.263 million on central school budgets held and managed by the local authority on the schools behalf – including maternity and copyright licences.

DSG Reserve

27. The deficit reserve brought forward of £2.072 million was increased by the early years block negative adjustment of £0.206 million.
28. The overspend and adjustments to the DSG above will create a deficit DSG reserve of £11.376 million.

	£ million
Balance Brought Forward 18-19	(2.072)
Early Years post year adjustment 18-19	(0.206)
DSG Overspend 19-20	9.072
Carried Forward deficit reserve 19-20	(11.376)

29. This overspend equates to 2.6% of total DSG. The local authority will cashflow this deficit until it is able to follow the DfE's guidance that;
- a) full collection takes place through the top-slice in 2021-22 financial year or,
 - b) any disapplication to the Secretary of State for Education takes effect or,
 - c) further change to guidance or, funding levels in future years is received.
30. The DfE updated their guidance around deficit DSG reserves following a national increase in deficit reserve levels. The guidance distributed following the consultation states that where a local authority has an overall deficit on DSG of 1% or more at the end of the 2019 to 2020 financial year, it must by 30 June 2020 submit a recovery plan to the Department for Education, setting out how it plans to bring the overall DSG account into balance within a maximum of three years. In exceptional cases the authority may propose to leave some of the accumulated deficit outstanding, where it is not practicable to do otherwise. The recovery plan should be discussed and, if possible, agreed with the Schools Forum, and will require Chief Finance Officer sign off prior to submission to the Department for Education. In previous years the DfE have asked authorities with a cumulative deficit of 2% or more to provide plans outlining how they will bring their deficits back into balance. The decision to move the threshold to 1% is in recognition of the increase in local authorities recording a DSG deficit over the last two years.
31. The DfE recovery plan will now take into account the top slice from the schools block in 2021-22 financial year as well as the plan shared with schools forum to reduce both demand and expenditure in January 2020.
32. DSG reserve deficit does pose a significant concern. The impact of this is explained fully later in the agenda and Schools Forum need to ensure all relevant steps are made to work alongside local authority officers to form a plan around high needs block activity to ensure best value across services provided by schools, centrally retained teams and external providers.

Proposals

33. Schools Forum is asked to note the final outturn budget monitoring position and the continued pressure on high needs budgets.
34. Schools Forum are asked to continue to contribute to the on-going work of the High Needs Working Group, a multi-agency response to the high needs pressures.
35. Schools Forum are asked to ensure Wiltshire schools engage with the recovery plan which includes rolling out the inclusion agenda.

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

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Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31st March 2020 - Provisional Outturn

a	b	c	d = (c-b)	e = (d/b)	f	d = (c-b)	g
Service Area	Current Annual Budget £m	Provisional Outturn £m	Provisional Outturn Variance £m	%	18/19 Outturn Variance	November 19 forecast variance £m	Budget Move- ment from Previous Report
Three to Four Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	22.938	23.925	0.986	4.30%	-0.399	0.468	0.518
Two Year Olds Free Entitlement Funding	2.335	2.539	0.204	8.73%	0.074	0.407	-0.203
Early Years Inclusion Support Fund	0.357	0.380	0.023	6.39%	0.009	0.181	-0.159
Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF	0.357	0.316	-0.041	-11.58%	0	0.000	-0.041
Early Years Central Expenditure	0.422	0.332	-0.090	-21.24%	-0.008	(0.020)	-0.069
Early Years Block	26.410	27.492	1.082	4.10%	-0.324	1.036	0.046
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools	270.233	270.233	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools		0.000	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000
Licences and Subscriptions	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000
Free School Meals	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000
Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness)	0.597	0.610	0.013	2.18%	0	0.000	0.013
Behaviour Support Team	0.616	0.616	0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	0.000
Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement	0.518	0.462	-0.056	-10.82%	0	(0.030)	-0.026
De Delegated Total	1.803	1.760	-0.043	-2.39%	0.000	-0.030	-0.013
Growth Fund	0.979	0.804	-0.174	-17.83%	-0.130	(0.180)	0.006
Schools Block	273.015	272.797	-0.218	-0.08%	-0.130	-0.210	-0.007
Special School Place Funding	7.160	7.160	-0.000	0.00%	0	0.000	-0.000
Resource Base (RB) Funding	1.636	1.646	0.010	0.60%	0	0.000	0.010
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	1.955	1.955	-0.000	-0.01%	0	0.000	-0.000
High Needs Block (all schools)	10.751	10.760	0.009	0.09%	0.000	0.000	0.009
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	4.346	6.641	2.295	52.80%	1.207	1.598	0.696
Special School Top-Up	7.722	8.615	0.893	11.57%	0.165	0.446	0.448
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	1.790	2.036	0.246	13.75%	0.455	0.247	-0.001
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	1.508	1.106	-0.402	-26.65%	0.219	(0.409)	0.007
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.791	2.915	0.124	4.46%	(0.035)	0.000	0.124
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Devolved to Maintained Total	18.157	21.313	3.157	17.39%	2.011	1.882	1.275
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	1.953	2.152	0.199	10.19%	0.979	0.119	0.080
Post-16 Top-Up	3.695	4.376	0.681	18.43%	(0.829)	0.171	0.510
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	10.221	12.669	2.448	23.95%	2.212	2.860	-0.412
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	0.250	2.084	1.834	733.78%	0.788	1.552	0.282
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.484	0.484	0.000	0.00%	(0.252)	(0.149)	0.149
High Needs Top Up Funding	16.603	21.765	5.161	31.09%	2.898	4.554	0.607
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.422	0.422	0.000	0.00%	0.012	0.000	0.000
Speech & Language	0.519	0.535	0.016	3.08%	0.032	0.006	0.010
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	1.172	0.093	8.66%	0.066	0.057	0.036
Other Special Education	0.216	0.249	0.033	15.16%	(0.157)	(0.006)	0.039
Commissioned & SEN Support Services	3.890	4.033	0.142	3.66%	-0.151	0.057	0.085
High Needs Block	49.401	57.871	8.470	17.14%	4.758	6.494	1.976
Central Licences	0.373	0.373	0.000	0.07%	-0.003	0.000	0.000
Central Provision (Former ESG)	1.005	0.783	-0.222	-22.11%	-0.074	0.000	-0.222
Admissions	0.411	0.403	-0.008	-1.83%	-0.007	(0.006)	-0.002
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	1.563	-0.230	-12.82%	-0.084	-0.006	-0.224
Education Services to CLA	0.103	0.070	-0.033	-32.48%	-0.037	0.000	-0.033
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	0.411	-0.033	-7.53%	-0.037	0.000	-0.033
Central School Services	2.236	1.973	-0.263	-11.77%	-0.121	-0.006	-0.258
Total Schools Budget	351.062	360.133	9.071	2.58%	4.183	7.314	1.757
Pupil Premium (academy & maintained)	15.314	15.314	0.000	0			
6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant)	1.182	1.182	0.000	0			
UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained)	3.345	3.345	0.000	0			
PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained)	3.605	3.605	0.000	0			
Teachers' Pension Grant	0.401	0.401	0.000	0			
Teachers' Pay Grant		0.000	0.000	0			
Army Rebasing Funding	1.476	1.476	0.000	0			
Other Schools Grants							
DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools	25.324	25.324	0.000	0			
TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING	376.386	385.457	9.071	2.41%			

Appendix 2 - Variance Analysis

h	i	j	k = (j-i)	l = (k/i)	m
Volume analysis	Budgeted Activity FTE	Provisional Outturn Activity FTE	Provisional Outturn Variance FTE	%	18/19 Outturn Volume
Three/Four Year Olds FE	4,791	4,997	206	4%	4802
Two Year Olds FE	385	419	34	9%	479
ISF	447	591	144	32%	
Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	5,623	6,007	384	7%	5,281
Sp Sch Place Funding	716	716	0	0%	626
RB Funding	273	273	0	0%	258
ELP Funding	326	326	0	0%	328
	1,315	1,315	0	0%	1,212
NPA	819	1,162	343	42%	1011
Special School Top-Up	761	875	113	15%	780
RB Top-Up	353	391	38	11%	324
ELP Top-Up	431	353	-78	-18%	389
	2,365	2,781	416	18%	2,504
Non Wiltshire Schools	199	201	2	1%	192
Post-16 Top-Up	375	443	68	18%	360
Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch	187	237	49	26%	201
SEN AP, DP & EHE	37	199	162	432%	n/a
	799	1,080	281	35%	753
High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	4,478	5,175	697	16%	4,469

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 DiE 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

11 June 2020

DSG Deficit Repayment 2021-22 onwards

Purpose of report

1. To outline the DfE's change to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020, which sets out the treatment for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits.

Background

2. The Department for Education (DfE) clarified that DSG is a ring-fenced specific grant separate from the general funding of local authorities. Any deficit an authority may have on its DSG account is expected to be carried forward to the next year's schools' budgets and cannot be recovered through the local authority's general reserves.
3. The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force from February 2020 have been amended as follows:
 - Where a local authority has a DSG deficit from previous funding periods it must:
 - o Deduct all that expenditure from its schools' budget
 - o Deduct such part of that expenditure as the authority may determine and carry forward the remaining part to the next funding period, or
 - o Carry forward all that expenditure to the next funding period
 - A local authority may apply to the Secretary of State for authorisation to disregard the requirements above.
4. The impact of these changes upon Wiltshire, carrying a DSG deficit forward from previous years as at the end of 2019-20 mean the options for treating the deficit are:
 - a. The whole of the DSG deficit would be carried forward to the 2020-21 year and deducted from the money available for the 2020-21 year
 - b. Carry part of the DSG deficit into the 2020-21 year and deducted from the 2020-21 allocation, with the remainder being carried forward to the 2021-22 financial year
 - c. Carry all the DSG deficit into the 2021-22 year
 - d. Apply to the Secretary of State for authorisation to disregard the requirements and fund the deficit from another source other than the DSG
5. Due to the timing of the Department for Education's guidance, not being made available until February 2020, options a and b above would not be available to Wiltshire as the school budgets for the 2020-21 year had already been ratified by Schools Forum and approved by the Council.

6. This leaves options c and d open to Wiltshire in order to deal with the DSG Deficit. In the main this would leave the payback of the DSG deficit as at the end of 2019-20 until the financial year 2021-22.
7. Based upon the guidance, the DSG deficit for 2019-20 will need to be repaid in the 2021-22 year, as shown in the table below. Any DSG Deficit as at the end of the 2020-21 year, can be spread over the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years.

	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget
2019-20 DSG Deficit	<i>No repayment as budget was agreed prior to new guidance</i>	<i>Whole of 2019-20 DSG Deficit to be recovered in 2021-22</i>

	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget
2020-21 DSG Deficit	The recovery of the whole of 2020-21 DSG Deficit is to be spread over both financial years.	

8. Having established that Wiltshire will need to repay the 2019-20 DSG deficit in the 2021-22 financial year, some indicative modelling has taken place to try and project the financial impact upon schools of repaying the DSG Deficit.

Modelling Impact of DSG Deficit

9. The DSG Deficit at the end of the 2019-20 financial year is projected to be £10½m. Profiling the £10½m deficit across all of our Wiltshire schools based upon the number on roll at each school would suggest a 'cost per school' as per the table below:

Impact Upon Schools	Total NOR	KS1&2	KS3	KS4	Cost to School
Luckington Community School	56	56	0	0	£7,708.63
Hilmarton Primary School	110	110	0	0	£15,141.95
Neston Primary School	211	211	0	0	£29,045.01
Bitham Brook Primary School	332	332	0	0	£45,701.15
Christ Church Primary School	427	427	0	0	£58,778.29
Wyvern College	399	0	276	123	£80,461.44
Kingsbury Green Academy	675	0	412	263	£137,555.74
Abbeyfield School	840	0	491	349	£171,748.50
Hardenhuish School	1,221	0	735	486	£249,091.54
Royal Wootton Bassett Academy	1,407	0	848	559	£287,009.63

(These schools have been selected as a representative sample of all Wiltshire schools for comparative purposes)

10. Based upon the guidance, this £10½m needs to be repaid in the 2021-22 year and therefore it is imperative that the impact of the repayment is modelled to understand whether schools can be fully funded and that the 'minimum per pupil funding level' can be adhered to.

Step 1

11. The Government committed to funding schools an additional £14.5bn over the next three years, as set out below;

	<u>Annual Extra Funding</u>	<u>Total Extra Funding</u>
2020-21	£2.6bn	£2.6bn
2021-22	£2.2bn	£4.8bn
2022-23	£2.3bn	£7.1bn
		£14.5bn

12. Wiltshire saw an annual increase in its School Block from 2019-20 to 2020-21 of £17.540m (excl. Growth). Some of this funding increase was based upon a growth in pupil numbers of 744 pupils, (262 primary and 482 secondary).
13. It is important to understand how much of the additional Schools Block funding of £17.540m has come through the Governments funding pledge (£2.6bn) and how much has come through pupil number growth. The importance of this is to enable us to differentiate the two elements so that future income for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 years can be projected.
14. The table below sets out some of the key metrics between the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years. Growth Funding has been excluded as it is subject to significant variations each year and does not form part of the 'core' school funding.

	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
PUF rate	4,079.69	3,849.15	230.54	5.99%
SUF rate	5,092.09	4,885.94	206.15	4.22%
Primary Pupils	38,495	38,233	262	0.69%
Secondary Pupils	25,365	24,883	482	1.94%
	63,860	63,116	744	1.18%
Premises funding	4,332,340	4,258,777	73,563	1.73%
Schools Block excl. Growth	290,538,324	272,997,732	17,540,592	6.43%
Funding per pupil - DFE	4,549.65	4,325.37	224.28	5.19%

15. Of the uplift in funding of £17.540m, the elements which need to be removed are for the growth in pupil numbers and also the growth in premises funding. This will ensure that we return to a consistent starting point to calculate the impact and Wiltshire's 'real' share of the £2.6bn of additional school funding.

16. The table below shows the breakdown of how Wiltshire's share of the £2.6bn additional funding has been calculated.

2020-21 Allocation		
Excluding Growth		290,538,324
Pupil & Premises Growth		
262*PUF	- 1,068,879	
482*SUF	- 2,454,387	
Premises	- 73,563	- 3,596,829
Pupil-led Funding equivalent for 2020-21		286,941,495
Less: 2019-20 Funding		-272,997,732
Growth in Funding 2020-21 from £2.6bn	5.11%	13,943,763

17. Of the additional £2.6bn of funding from the government, Wiltshire's share has been calculated as £13.944m, an uplift of 5.11%. This excludes any growth in funding respect of pupil number growth and additional premises funding.

18. This logic can now be applied to calculate future years funding allocations for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years, as in the table below.

Funding Pledge Total	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Over next 3 years - the pledge is a total of £14.5bn, split annually as in the table	2,600,000,000	2,600,000,000	2,600,000,000
		2,200,000,000	2,200,000,000
			2,300,000,000
	2,600,000,000	4,800,000,000	7,100,000,000
Extra Funding 2020-21 - Wiltshire	13,943,763		
	5.11%		
Projected Extra Funding 2021-22		11,798,569	
		4.11%	
Projected Extra Funding 2022-23			12,334,867
			4.13%

19. In the 2020-21 financial year, all of the funding growth has been allocated to schools, which includes the uplift of £13.944m.

20. For the 2021-22 financial year, of the uplift in national funding of £2.2bn, Wiltshire's projected share is £11.799m, an uplift of 4.11%. The table below sets out how this will impact upon the DSG available to be allocated in accordance with the funding formula to schools.

DSG for 2020-21	290,538,324
Growth - £2.2bn for 2021-22	11,798,569
2021-22 Total DSG excl. Growth	302,336,893
DSG Deficit to offset	- 10,500,000
Available DSG in 2021-22	291,836,893
Growth in DSG from 2020-21	1,298,569
% Growth	0.45%

21. Due to the requirement to repay the 2019-20 DSG Deficit of £10½m, Wiltshire schools will only see a 'real' increase in the size of the schools block of funding of £1.298m which equates to an increase of 0.45%. (It is assumed in the above table that there is no transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and that the Growth Fund will be funded 100% from Growth funding received, therefore having a neutral impact upon the Schools Block.)

22. The uplift in core Pupil and School lead factors for the 2020-21 year, as part of the National Funding Formula was 4% and applied to the following formula factors;

- AWPU
- Prior Attainment
- EAL
- Lump Sum
- Sparsity
- Deprivation (uplifted by inflation 1.86%)

23. Based upon the uplift of 4% in 2020-21 (£2.6bn of additional funding), it is highly probable that an uplift of 3% for these factors (£2.2bn of additional funding) for 2021-22 would be introduced through the National Funding Formula. In addition, the minimum per pupil funding level (mppfl) is set to increase in Primary schools from £3,750 per pupil to £4,000 per pupil.

Implication for the 2021-22 Year

24. The key question relates to 'affordability' of the funding formula for schools for the 2021-22 year. Initial modelling has taken place using the Authority Pro-Forma Tool (APT) which is the budget tool supplied by the DfE and used to create school budgets, ensuring affordability and compliance with funding regulations.
25. The following assumptions have been made in modelling the affordability of school budgets for the 2021-22 year;
- Pupil numbers are unchanged (to ensure we are comparing consistently)
 - The Wiltshire Growth Fund will be cost neutral i.e. income received = expenditure
 - No transfer between Schools Block and High Needs Block
 - Pupil and School Lead factors uplifted by 3%
 - Deprivation factors uplifted by inflation
 - Minimum per pupil funding level for primary schools increased to £4,000
26. Working this through the APT and looking at the affordability for schools' budgets for 2021-22, the funding formula would be unaffordable, by £5.342m. The table below sets out how this impact has been calculated.

DSG for 2021-22	302,336,893
DSG Deficit Offset	- 10,500,000
Available to Fund Schools 2021-22	291,836,893
Funding required for funding schools 2021-22	297,178,749
Unaffordability Gap	- 5,341,856

27. In order to return financial balance in year would require the following actions;

- Reduction in AWPU's by 10%
- Removal of funding for FSM & FSM Ever6
- Reduction of Lump Sums to £100k
- Removal of Sparsity factor
- No funding of Mobility

28. For each course of action taken, there is a corresponding impact upon the minimum per pupil funding level, which is a mandatory funding factor.

2022-23 and Beyond

29. It is accepted that repaying the DSG deficit is not a problem only in 2021-22 but goes beyond this point too. This report has focussed primarily on the repayment of the DSG Deficit, as at the end of the 2019-20 financial year, being £10½m.
30. The work of the High Needs Working Group is focussing on making in-roads to the financial pressures within the High Needs Block, however future years deficits cannot be discounted and repaying DSG deficits beyond 2021-22 cannot be discounted. The table below sets out a potential DSG Deficit repayment plan, paying back the DSG Deficit in full by the end of the 2023-24 year. (The figures for future years deficits are for indicative purposes only.)

	New NFF for High Needs			
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
DSG Deficit Balance brought forward	10,500,000	18,500,000	11,800,000	6,800,000
In-year additional overspend	8,000,000	3,800,000	2,000,000	-
Repaid / Offset against DSG Allocation	-	10,500,000	7,000,000	6,800,000
Balance	18,500,000	11,800,000	6,800,000	-

31. For the 2022-23 year, the Schools Block funding is set to increase by £12.334m, the final year of the governments funding pledge to increase the DSG by £2.3bn. Using the same modelling as above, the DSG allocation and DSG Deficit to be repaid for 2022-23 are presented in the table below.

DSG for 2021-22	302,336,893
Growth - £2.3bn for 2022-23	12,334,867
2022-23 Total DSG excl. Growth	314,671,760
DSG Deficit to offset	7,000,000
Available DSG in 2022-23	307,671,760
Growth in available DSG from 2021-22	15,834,867
% Growth	5.24%

32. Again, using the same assumptions as at para. 24, an increase in the Pupil and School lead factors of 3% has been modelled through the APT budget modelling tool. Modelling would suggest that in the 2022-23 year, a repayment of £7m of DSG Deficit would be affordable and leave 'headroom' of £4.675m, as detailed in the table below.

DSG for 2022-23	314,671,760
DSG Deficit Offset	- 7,000,000
Available to Fund Schools 2022-23	307,671,760
Funding required for APT for 2022-23	302,996,189
Headroom	4,675,571

33. Modelling the projections into the 2023-24 financial year, assuming a cash freeze position would also leave 'headroom', as detailed in the table below.

DSG for 2023-24	314,671,760
DSG Deficit Offset	- 6,800,000
Available to Fund Schools 2023-24	307,871,760
Funding required for APT for 2023-24	302,996,189
Headroom	4,875,571

Conclusions

34. Modelling the repayment of the DSG Deficit for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years has shown Wiltshire will not be in a position to repay the 2019-20 DSG Deficit in full in the 2021-22 financial year. The repayment of the £10½m cannot be afforded if Wiltshire is to comply with the funding requirements of the National Funding Formula.
35. Based upon the projected growth in funding in 2022-23 and scale of DSG deficits, Wiltshire will be in a position to repay a DSG Deficit of £7m and still leave an element of 'headroom'. Similarly, this position would be mirrored in the 2023-24 financial year.

Next Steps

36. A disapplication request to be made to the Secretary of State to enable Wiltshire to re-profile its DSG Deficit over the coming years, as repaying the deficit of £10½m is unaffordable in the 2021-22 financial year, however spreading it over the ensuing three years would be sustainable.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

11th June 2020

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2020-21

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the budget and budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2020-21 as at 30th April 2020.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the overall DSG budget and budget monitoring summary as at 30th April 2020.
3. Appendix 2 to this report shows the budgeted and forecast activity across relevant expenditure lines.
4. In setting the budget for 2020-21 financial year, schools forum agreed a transfer of £2.065 million or 0.7 % from schools block to support the high needs demand pressures. This request was not approved by the secretary of state for Education.
5. An overspend of £8.329 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. This is the first report of the new financial year although the on-going pressures on the high needs block are known and understood it is likely this forecast will be subject to change.

Schools Block and transfers between DSG blocks

6. In setting the annual budget, Schools Forum have power to transfer up to 0.5% from schools block to any of the other blocks. In January as part of the budget setting, schools forum agreed to transfer 0.7% or, £2.065 million to support the high needs block. When the disapplication was submitted, it was not approved by the Secretary of State. The amount was too small to distribute to schools and the notification was received very late and so, following consultation with the Chair of schools forum, the balance of £0.600 million was transferred into the schools growth fund and is it anticipated it will generate an underspend.
7. Early forecasts around the growth fund indicate an overall favourable variance of £2.199 million.

Early Years Budgets

8. Budgets for the free entitlement for 15 and 30 hours childcare for 2, 3 & 4 year olds are currently forecast to breakeven. This is because insufficient information is available from the May census following the government decision not to collect this data during the COVID19 pandemic.
9. No additional funding has been allocated to this sector during the COVID19 pandemic at the time of writing this report although settings were asked to remain open wherever possible during March, April and May for children with a social worker, EHCP or children of key workers. From 1st June 2020, it was the government's expectation that settings would be open for all children.
10. The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places across the county. It was therefore decided that the funding would be used to fund closed settings at 80% of their estimated childcare hours - in line with the support

provided for businesses and furloughed staff and the balance would be used to fund additional payments to open settings to cover the additional costs of staff, personal protective equipment and cleaning during this time. In additional settings who can evidence financial hardship will be able to apply to a hardship fund for support. It is the intention that this will not put pressure on the early years block and that the scheme will be self-financing.

11. The DfE's 19/20 adjustment based on the January 2019 census data is currently outstanding. At the time of setting the budget, there was insufficient funding to allocate an increase to 3 & 4-year-old funding but the full 8p increase was passed onto 2 year old funding. This will be reassessed during the autumn following the updated allocation from the DfE.

High Needs Budgets

12. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £10.528m. At this early stage in the year, an assumption has been made across the demand driven high needs budgets that the 19-20 spend level plus an average 12% increase will continue.
13. More granular detail around the demand and activity has been provided in Appendix 2. It is important to note that the number of EHCPS being requested has not slowed significantly and is rising at a similar rate as 2019/20.
14. The local authority and schools have been responding to government statutory guidance and local needs of children and young people throughout the COVID19 pandemic. The extent to which additional pressure of childrens needs both during the pandemic and when returning to school in the 'recovery' phase may be felt across the high needs block is not yet fully understood and is therefore a risk. To date, the DfE have not announced any additional financial support to local authorities for high needs pupils.

	Children with an EHCIP in Wiltshire
Number as at 1 st April 2020	3,860
Forecast number as at 31 st March 2021 <i>(Assuming 12% increase)</i>	4,321
Forecast Year to Date Variance	461 (12% increase)

15. Much work has been done on the high needs block recovery plan and this was explored in more detail earlier in the agenda.

DSG deficit Reserve

16. The deficit reserve brought forward of £11.376 million will be adjusted by the early years block adjustment in the Autumn. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £19.705 million. This will be reduced by the brought forward amount plus any in year early years adjustment relating to 2019-20 moving into 2021-22 financial year.

	DSG Reserve £ M
2019-20 Brought Forward	(11.376)
2019-20 Early Years Adjustment	TBC
2020-21 Forecast Overspend	(8.329)
2020-21 Forecast DSG Deficit Reserve	(19.705)
2021-22 Top slice 19-20 bwfd against schools budget <i>(will be adjusted by early years in due course)</i>	11.376
2021-22 Brought forward DSG deficit in top slice	(8.329)

Proposals

17. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of April 2020 alongside the provisional outturn report for 2019-20, the update from the high needs working group and DSG deficit repayment reports.
18. Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast balance of the DSG deficit reserve as at the end of March 2021 pre and post the transfer to schools block.

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Special Schools Transformation Update

Alison Enever
11th June 2020

Wiltshire Council

The logo for Wiltshire Council, featuring a stylized white wave or swoosh underneath the text.

- The Office of the School Adjudicator made their determination on 28th May, supporting the proposals we had put forward. This means that on 31st August Larkrise, Rowdeford and St Nicholas will technically close as 3 separate schools, and on 1st September 2020 a new single school will be created based across the 3 existing sites.
- The Shadow Governing Board will now be formed to prepare for the new single school. A Terms of Reference has been produced and the 3 schools' governing boards are nominating members to the Board to deliver important next steps including:
 - Preparing for the Full Governing Board (Instrument of Government)
 - Recruiting to the Executive Head role – interim and permanent
- We will shortly be announcing who our main contractor is who will be working with the Council, young people, parents, carers, staff and governors to design and build the new school.
- We are committed to keeping people informed and engaged on the programme and have launched a fortnightly governors' update. We also have a full newsletter covering all our transformation work for special schools being sent out every other month.
- Working closely with colleagues in Education to take forward work on our System of Excellence to deliver an even stronger and inclusion-focused offer across both special schools and mainstream for children with SEND. Linking with Free School in the south of Wiltshire and SEND capital grant investment in resource base and special school provision.