

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Date: Thursday 9 December 2021
Time: 1.30 pm

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

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

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

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PART I

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

1 **Apologies/Substitutions and Changes of Membership**

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

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 24*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021 (copy attached).

3 **Chair's Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chair.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

To note any declarations of interests.

5 **Public Participation**

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

[Guidance on how to participate in this meeting online](#)

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this is electronically to the officer named on this agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 7 December 2021 (1 clear working day before the meeting)**. Statements should take no longer than 3 minutes to be read aloud.

Questions

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

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

6 **Updates from Working Groups** (*Pages 25 - 38*)

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

- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 29 November 2021 – attached.
- Early Years Reference Group – 17 November 2021 – attached.

7 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2021/22** (*Pages 39 - 44*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2021/22 as at 31st October 2021.

8 **National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs - 2022-23** (*Pages 45 - 50*)

The report of Grant Davis and Bea Seggari (Schools Strategic Support Team) seeks 'in principle' decisions from members of Schools Forum with regards to the Wiltshire funding formula for the 2022-23 year.

9 **Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2022-23** (*Pages 51 - 58*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum with the results of the recent Autumn consultations relating to de-delegation of central services and transfer of funds from Schools Block to High Needs Block.

10 **Update from High Needs Working Group** (*Pages 59 - 62*)

The minutes of the meeting of the High Needs Block Working Group meeting held on 9 November 2021 are attached. Schools Forum will also receive an update on behalf of the Working Group and there will be an update on the Independent Special School review.

11 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Early Years, Central School Services and High Needs Block Update 2022-23** (*Pages 63 - 72*)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues related to the early years, central school services and high needs blocks for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for the 2022-23 financial year.

12 **Allocation of Funding for Growth Fund 2022-23** (*Pages 73 - 78*)

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the school's block growth fund in 2022-23.

13 **Consultation on the Future Funding of School Improvement Services**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) to provide members

of Schools Forum with an update on the Department for Education's consultation "Reforming how local authority school improvement functions are funded". In addition, Grant will provide members with the results of a local consultation regarding the future funding of School Improvement Services for maintained schools. *(The consultation closes on 6th December 2021; this paper will be to follow).*

14 **Covid Updates**

Schools Forum will receive a verbal update on Covid costs and funding Schools and Early Years settings from Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) and Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education).

15 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

20 January 2022
17 March 2022 (if required)
9 June 2022
6 October 2022
8 December 2022

16 **Urgent Items**

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

PART II

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

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Schools Forum

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Aileen Bates, Nikki Barnett, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Sam Churchill, Stella Fowler, Jon Hamp, John Hawkins, Graham Nagel-Smith, Lisa Percy (Chair), John Proctor, Giles Pugh, John Read, Nigel Roper, Graham Shore (Vice Chair), Trudy Srawley, Ian Tucker, David Whewell, Karen Walker and Lynn Yendle

Also Present:

Jackie Day (Observer – Early Years sector), Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND), Cllr Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member – Children, Education & Skills), Cllr Dominic Muns (Portfolio Holder for Education), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education), Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead) and Cllr Suzanne Wickham (Portfolio Holder for SEND)

14 Election of Chair

Resolved:

The Forum agreed to appoint Lisa Percy as Chair of Schools Forum for 2021-22.

15 Election of Vice Chair

Resolved:

The Forum agreed to appoint Lisa Percy as Chair of Schools Forum for 2021-22.

16 Apologies/Substitutions and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from (Andy Bridewell - Maintained Primary Representative), Michele Chilcott (Secondary Academy Representative), Jo Grenfell (Observer – Post 16, Wilts College), Jon Hamp (Special School Academy Representative), Ross Henning – (Observer Local Youth Network) Georgina Keily-Theobald (Maintained Special School representative), Debbie Muir (Early Years representative) Catriona Williamson - (Maintained Primary Representative)

We have also received apologies from Lucy Townsend –Corporate Director – People/Director of Children’s Services.

Substitutions

The following substitutions were confirmed at the meeting:

Nikki Barnett is substituting for Jo Grenfell
Karen Walker is substituting for Andy Bridewell
John Read is substituting for Catriona Williamson.

Membership changes

The Chair welcomed Graham Nagel-Smith who is the new Primary Academy representative, Deborah Muir who is the new Early Years representative (replacing Mark Cawley) and Stella Fowler who is the new Primary Governor representative (replacing Mel Jacobs).

Jo Grenfell (Vice Principal Curriculum and Student Services – Wiltshire College) is replacing Denise Lloyd as the Post 16 observer representative but was not able to make the meeting today.

17 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 were approved.

Resolved:

That the Chair approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools Forum held on 10 June 2021.

18 **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair made the following announcements:

Review of Membership

The Clerk had contacted PHF, WASSH and WGA in September to ask them to confirm their representatives for Schools Forum for this academic year. As you will recall, at our meeting in January 2021 following a review of the proportion/membership it was identified that there should be a change to primary school representation from 4 maintained and 2 academies to 3 maintained and 3 academies. At that time it was agreed that this change would take effect from September 2021.

Accordingly PHF appointed Graham Nagel-Smith to take that position. WASSH confirmed that their membership would remain the same and the WGA confirmed that Stella Fowler would replace Mel Jacobs (who is now a Wiltshire Councillor) as a Primary School Governor representative and there remains a vacancy for another Primary School Governor representative.

On 15 September 2021, Grant Davis carried out a review of the proportion/membership of Schools Forum. He has looked at the October 2020

census information and confirms that three primary schools converted to academies since that time (Greentrees Primary, Pitton Primary and Winterslow Primary) and those are included these in the updated proportions.

This review shows that the proportions that were agreed at the January meeting this year still stand and we don't need to make any adjustments to our membership. Whilst strictly speaking, the proportions would suggest that we should have 4 academy secondary representatives and 0 maintained secondary representatives, we do need a maintained secondary representative on the Forum to represent maintained secondary schools so the split will remain as 3 academy and 1 maintained representative.

Comfort break

As the Agenda was quite lengthy it was agreed that a 5-minute comfort break would be factored in at an appropriate point.

19 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

20 **Public Participation**

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

21 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meetings of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 8 and 27 September 2021. There were no questions arising.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meetings of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 21 September 2021. There were no questions arising.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the joint meetings of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 8 and 27 September 2021 and the Early Years Reference group meeting on 21 September 2021.

22 **School Revenue Surplus and Deficit Balances 2020-21**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which presented the position of revenue balances for Wiltshire maintained schools as at 31st March 2021 and identified those schools in surplus and deficit. Grant highlighted the following:

- The number of LA maintained schools had decreased from 130 to 126 between 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021. Three special schools

amalgamated to become one school and two schools converted to an academy;

- The net surplus balances for the financial year 2020/21 were £11.67 million with 113 schools holding surplus balances of £14.39 million and 13 schools in deficit to a value of £2.72 million;
- For special schools, we show any surplus or deficit balance as a % of place funding – however it should be noted that place funding is only part of the funding for special schools. In special schools funding comprises place funding and top up funding on a roughly 50% place funding and 50% top up funding basis. The reason for using place funding only is due to the variable nature of top up funding;
- The DfE may ask local authorities to provide additional information where:
 - a) the authority has 5% of schools that have had a surplus of 15% or more for the last 5 years and where the individual surplus is least £10,000 each year. Authorities will only be asked for more information if at least 3 schools meet the criteria.
 - b) the authority has 2.5% of its schools in deficit by 2.5% or more for the last 4 years and where the individual annual deficit is at least £10,000.
- The number of schools in deficit has decreased from 20 in 2019/20 to 13 in 2020/21, and the value of the deficits has decreased by £0.8 million from £3.52 million in 2019/20 to £2.72 million in 2020/2;
- The number of schools in surplus has increased from 110 in 2019/20 to 113 in 2020/21 with the value of surpluses increasing by £4.43 million, from £9.96 million in 2019/20 to £14.39 million in 2020/21;
- The appendices to the report highlight that the LA may trigger an investigation from the DfE due to the number of schools holding excess revenue and deficit balances. However, for a number of schools that were holding a surplus above 15% there were reasons for this, e.g. they would be undertaking a capital funded project in the year to be able to achieve works at the school and they would not appear on the surplus balance list in the next financial year;
- The LA would continue to work with the schools in deficit to come up with a recovery plan; and
- Due to the restrictions imposed, because of Covid 19, the 2020/21 financial year was not a normal operating year for schools. Schools were fully funded during this period and faced restrictions regarding occupancy

and delivery of teaching which might explain in part the increase in the net revenue balances from 2019/20 to 2020/21 of £5.2 million.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

23 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2021-22**

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

- An overspend of £8.227M was currently projected against the overall school's budget;
- There was a forecast underspend on early years budgets which related to the vacant posts within the entitlement and early years teaching teams;
- The take up of early years placements was 5% less than planned which was disappointing due to parents choosing not to send their children back into settings following Covid, the LA were keen to get disadvantaged learner 2 years olds back into settings. The underspend is not highlighted until the September term however any underspend will be re-couped by the DfE in the post year adjustment;
- Unrelated to DSG, the Council has continued to allocate Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding to support settings with a range of schemes from a universal offer to support specialist kit and cleaning to lost income. The ringfenced sum for 2020-21 and 2021-22 is £1.6M. The amount paid out to date to settings is £0.912M;
- The forecast underspend on the school's budgets largely related to the school's growth fund which currently shows an underspend and is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG;
- The high needs budgets were projected to overspend by £9.643M with the biggest areas of overspend being Independent Special School packages, named pupil allowances and top ups in special schools, enhanced learning provision and post 16 funding. Some children found the return to school following lockdowns challenging and easing them back into learning with post pandemic re-bandings being requested puts pressure on the high needs budgets;
- The DSG reserve brought forward is a deficit of £19.474M. As previously agreed by Schools Forum with effect from 1 April 2021, the early years reserve would be ringfenced. The current forecast overspend would take the reserve into an overall deficit position of £27.701M; and

- The DfE had taken interest in the LA's budgets and had asked for a meeting to discuss the recovery plan and progress made – challenging questions were expected. Cabinet were also being kept informed of the position via their quarterly budget monitoring reports.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the budget monitoring position at the end of August 2021.

24 **Families and Children's Transformation Programme (FACT) Update**

Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead) gave an update on the FACT programme and highlighted the following:

- The FACT Partnership mission is 'Working together to improve opportunities and outcomes for children, young people and families across Wiltshire by developing excellent system wide approaches that make best use of all available resources'. There was also a vision for our Children, Young People and Families and for the Partnership;
- Partners feeling engaged is critical to the work on a number of priorities;
- Over the last 12 months the partnership had reviewed the project work they were doing. There had been a total of 27 projects and the partnership felt that this was too many and the work was getting a bit lost. The group of partners then decided to review their activity and pinned the work down to 7 priority multi agency projects;
- Speech language and communication – This project was a looking at the fundamental stepping stones for a good start at school and was moving along really well;
- Earliest support in communities – This was a project to push and develop early support in communities;
- Young People's Service – This was looking at multi agency responses to ensure good wrap around services that work together in the best possible ways to provide a great service for Wiltshire's young people;
- Transitional safeguarding – There had been a real push with this project and they were about to go live with a pilot for 16-25 year olds. This was focusing on putting the right services in place for young people who were vulnerable to exploitation/ on the edge of care/suffering drug and or alcohol issues/living chaotic lifestyles, having identified that when they move from children to adult services the risks don't get managed as well as they could. This project would look to ensure that their safeguarding and the transition is as solid as it can be and that the right services are in place for them to transition;

- Integrated working – This project was looking at how the Council and health partners work together to ensure that they commission the right services and how are they working for the young people and families;
- Alternative provision – All schools will already be familiar with alternative provision;
- Early Support Assessment - Following feedback from practitioners about the need for lots of school involvement the partnership had developed the ESA to replace the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) which was easier for schools to navigate – the project had another 6 months to run and the partnership would appreciate school input into their learning and would be reflecting on their feedback with the implementation of this change;
- Coming out of Covid – the partnership had agreed that an area of development would be Early Help. They know that a lot of work is going on but they are told by practitioners, schools and families that it is hard to find out what services are out there and how to get in touch. They had identified some gaps and were working to really reflect what they Early Help Strategy should look like and what could they learn from other Local Authorities and partnerships? This project was still to be scoped and schools' input would be vital; and
- Six key elements of a Partnership Early Help Strategy had been identified and they would build on the good things already in place and look at what could be done better.

Resolved

That Schools Forum note the FACT programme update.

25 Update from the High Needs Block Working Group

Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead) gave an update on the FACT programme and highlighted the following:

- The FACT Partnership mission is 'Working together to improve opportunities and outcomes for children, young people and families across Wiltshire by developing excellent system wide approaches that make best use of all available resources'. There was also a vision for our Children, Young People and Families and for the Partnership;
- Partners feeling engaged is critical to the work on a number of priorities;
- Over the last 12 months the partnership had reviewed the project work they were doing. There had been a total of 27 projects and the partnership felt that this was too many and the work was getting a bit

lost. The group of partners then decided to review their activity and pinned the work down to 7 priority multi agency projects;

- Speech language and communication – This project was a looking at the fundamental stepping stones for a good start at school and was moving along really well;
- Earliest support in communities – This was a project to push and develop early support in communities;
- Young People’s Service – This was looking at multi agency responses to ensure good wrap around services that work together in the best possible ways to provide a great service for Wiltshire’s young people;
- Transitional safeguarding – There had been a real push with this project and they were about to go live with a pilot for 16-25 year olds. This was focusing on putting the right services in place for young people who were vulnerable to exploitation/ on the edge of care/suffering drug and or alcohol issues/living chaotic lifestyles, having identified that when they move from children to adult services the risks don’t get managed as well as they could. This project would look to ensure that their safeguarding and the transition is as solid as it can be and that the right services are in place for them to transition;
- Integrated working – This project was looking at how the Council and health partners work together to ensure that they commission the right services and how are they working for the young people and families;
- Alternative provision – All schools will already be familiar with alternative provision;
- Early Support Assessment - Following feedback from practitioners about the need for lots of school involvement the partnership had developed the ESA to replace the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) which was easier for schools to navigate – the project had another 6 months to run and the partnership would appreciate school input into their learning and would be reflecting on their feedback with the implementation of this change;
- Coming out of Covid – the partnership had agreed that an area of development would be Early Help. They know that a lot of work is going on but they are told by practitioners, schools and families that it is hard to find out what services are out there and how to get in touch. They had identified some gaps and were working to really reflect what they Early Help Strategy should look like and what could they learn from other Local Authorities and partnerships? This project was still to be scoped and schools’ input would be vital; and

- Six key elements of a Partnership Early Help Strategy had been identified and they would build on the good things already in place and look at what could be done better.

Resolved

That Schools Forum note the FACT programme update.

26 National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs - 2022-23

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which outlined the DfE's funding proposals for schools and high needs in 2022-23. Grant highlighted the following:

- There was positive news to report regarding funding for the 2022-23 year. It would be the final year of the "Boris billions" with an extra £7.1bn which was an increase of £2.3bn on 2021-22;
- Indicative figures had been given based on the October 2020 census data. The proposed total funding was £417M which was an uplift of almost £15.5M in 2021-22;
- There would be a 3% in uplift in Pupil-Led Factors led factors; the minimum per pupil funding level would increase by 2%, the FSM factor would increase by 2%; changes to sparsity would be reported later in the meeting;
- The October 2021 census (running today) would be used for calculating the Deprivation FSM6 funding rather than the previous January census which would reduce the lag;
- There was a proposed increase to the high needs block of 8% and the LA would still hopefully have the ability to transfer between blocks up to 0.5% of the budget, subject to Schools Forum approval;
- 2022-23 would be another "soft" year which would give Schools Forum the ability to determine how the Wiltshire's funding methodology would work for that year. The only mandatory factor for 2022-23 would be the application of the minimum per pupil funding levels being £4,265 in Primary and £5,525 in Secondary schools;
- As part of the budget setting process, when the final budget allocations had been confirmed to the LA in December, this would be put forward to Schools Forum in January for decision and then on to the Council for political ratification and approval in February 2022;
- Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE in January 2022. The DfE are required to confirm the formula is fully compliant with the funding

regulations and then the budgets will be confirmed to academies during February 2022. The LA will need to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2022 as in previous years.

- The new approach introduced as part of the NFF for calculating the Growth funding would continue in the 2022-23 year. The County will be broken down into middle layer super output areas (MSOA's) and the growth between the October 2021 census and October 2020 census would attract funding at £1,485 per primary pupil, £2,220 per secondary pupil and £70,800 for each new school (however there were no new schools in Wiltshire this year);
- The level of growth funding required and the size of the Growth Fund would be determined later in the year along with confirmation of the Growth funding criteria;
- As previously, there were a number of budgets included in the local formula that maintained schools only, can agree to de-delegate so that certain services continue to be provided centrally by the LA. Schools Forum would be asked to take this decision on behalf of maintained schools based upon the results of the consultation responses;
- Mainstream schools and Academies would continue to receive a clearly identified budget for SEN (Notional SEN budget) and would be expected to use Notional SEN to meet the needs of their SEN pupils; and
- Schools Forum would be asked to consider sparsity funding and a separate report was to be presented later in the meeting which detailed the results of the DfE's consultation on sparsity funding.

The Chair asked if Schools Forum would be asked to make "in principle" decisions at the December meeting in preparation for the decision making at the January 2022 meeting. Grant Davis confirmed that this would be the case as it would enable them to model the budgets and create recommendations/options for decisions in January.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

27 **Update on DfE Consultations**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to provide an update on the DfE's national consultations impacting on schools and Local Authority budgets and highlighted the following:

- Business rates – between March and May 2021 the DfE consulted on the centralisation of business rates for schools. On 18 August they published their response and changes to the current process. The key proposal was to centralise the payment of business rates on behalf of all

schools, both maintained and academy schools from April 2022. The impact would be minimal for maintained schools as Wiltshire is both the billing authority and funding body, therefore in essence schools don't physically receive funding for or pay for their school business rates. For academy schools, this will be a welcome change as at present, academy schools must pay for their business rates before recovering the monies from the DfE. The proposals should create efficiencies for schools as well as cashflow benefits for academy schools;

- Fair School Funding for All – As the deadline for responding to this consultation was prior to this meeting of Schools Forum an extraordinary meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group was held on 8 September to compile a response on behalf of the working group (shown in the minutes of the meeting attached to the agenda). This was shared with Headteachers, Governors and School Business Managers via Right Choice, Helean's Weekly Newsletter and the respective Headteacher and Governor 'Briefings'. All schools were also asked to respond to the consultation and the LA also submitted a response in its own right. It was noted that Wiltshire had a good response rate to the consultation;
- Sparsity – A separate report would be shared later in the meeting regarding the current sparsity consultation;
- SEN Review – This DfE review was still outstanding and the consultation was awaited.

An Early Years representative asked if Officers has raised the issue of nursery schools with the business rates consultation? Grant Davis reported that the DfE had advised that nurseries were outside the scope of this at the present time.

The Special School Governor representative asked if these consultations were sent out to Governors? Grant Davis reported that all consultations were shared via Rightchoice and would be shared via Headteacher/School Business Manager and Governor termly briefings so should reach Governors through those avenues and as soon as the SEN Review consultation was launched, they would share in the same way. Grant reported that email notifications can be set up to receive updates through Rightchoice and guidance on how to set that up could be shared outside of the meetings if helpful.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum

- 1. Note the DfE's consultation information around fair school funding and the SEN review.**
- 2. Note the changes and impact of the DfE changes to business rates payments following the DfE consultation.**
- 3. Refers to the separate paper for the consultation on Sparsity.**

Changes to Sparsity Funding 2022-23 - Government Consultation Response

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to outline the Government's response to the Schools National Funding Formula: Changes to Sparsity funding from 2022-23 and the changes which have been implemented into the NFF sparsity factor from 2022-23 and highlighted the following:

- The report sought to bring the latest government led changes to the attention of members of the Schools' Forum rather than for consultation. All funding decisions relating to the 2022-23 year would be taken later this year, following the announcement of the 2022-23 funding settlement;
- In the Spring of 2021 the DfE held the consultation – a total of 618 responses were received with Wiltshire making up 7% of the overall total number of responses submitted – thanks to all those that responded recognising that there are a large number of rural schools in Wiltshire;
- The proposals consulted upon were:
 - a) Measure sparsity distances by **road** journeys rather than as the **crow flies**, to better identify schools' remoteness.
 - b) Retain the same distance thresholds of 3 miles or 2 miles
 - c) Increase the maximum amount that schools can attract through the sparsity factor by £10,000 to
 - i. £55,000 for primary schools
 - ii. £80,000 for all other schools
- Previously there have been inequities for similar Wiltshire schools where some would attract funding and some would not;
- For the 2021-22 year Schools Forum agreed that the sparsity funding would be increased by 3% in line with other funding factors and the maximum funding was set at £26,780 for primaries and £69,525 for secondaries;
- 97% of respondents agreed that sparsity funding should be allocated to a greater number of schools. 95% of respondents agreed that sparsity distances should be measured by 'road' distance rather than 'crow flies' distance and 60% of respondents agreed to maintain the distance thresholds of 2 miles and 3 miles respectively for primary and secondary schools;
- The Council supports the proposal that sparsity distances will be measured by road distance and the increase to sparsity factor values;
- The DfE will also be introducing a 'distance threshold taper' which means that schools that are marginally below the main distance thresholds of 2

or 3 miles can now attract some funding through the sparsity factor but tapered to mean that they would receive less funding than if their sparsity distances were at or above the main thresholds;

- The 'distance threshold taper' has been set at 20% below the main distance thresholds, making it 1.6 miles for primary and 2.4 miles for secondary schools. In essence, a primary school with a sparsity distance between 1.6 and 2 miles (and met the other sparsity criteria) would now be allocated some sparsity funding and this would be a large impact for Wiltshire schools;
- A school is eligible for sparsity funding where the school's sparsity distance is above the tapered distance threshold and the school is considered small. For primary schools, this is less than 150 pupils or average year group size of 21.4 pupils. For secondary schools, this is less than 600 pupils, or average year group size of 120 pupils;
- Schools which are both equal to or above the main distance threshold and equal to or below the main year group threshold would be entitled to receive the maximum sparsity unit values. Where a school is between either or both of the main and tapered thresholds, a sparsity weighting would apply;
- The DfE are proposing three options for the LA and Schools Forum to choose how to fund schools – if using the NFF basis, this would accord with the level of funding to be received from the DfE;
- Detailed analysis using the October 2020 census data had shown that whichever method is used there would be 50 eligible primaries and 3 eligible secondaries. It showed that £1.7M of funding would be received but depending on which option was chosen this would not meet the funding requirements if the fixed option was chosen but would enable the NFF or tapered options to be used;
- Schools Forum would be required, as part of its funding decisions later this year, to confirm the preferred methodology for funding sparsity, including the maximum sparsity funding values. When funding moves to the 'hard' formula, schools will be funded using the proposed NFF methodology.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative asked how many schools in Wiltshire would be affected by this? Grant Davis confirmed that of the 202 primary schools, 29 secondary and 4 special schools in 2021-22, 30 schools are funded under sparsity for 2021-22 (28 primary and 2 secondary) and for 2022-23 this would rise to 50 primary and 3 secondaries. As Wiltshire is a rural county 1 in 4 (25%) would benefit from the planned changes to sparsity funding.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative was keen to ensure that members were aware that sparsity is a big issue. In Dorset this has been a key decision too

and they were keen to support at funding at NFF levels. This was to ensure that we achieve for the most impact for children in small and rural schools.

Grant Davis agreed that the impact for Wiltshire was huge that national recognition included the significant number of responses from Wiltshire schools was good.

A primary academy representative asked if Officers knew which schools would now become eligible for sparsity funding. Grant Davis reported that they had carried out some indicative modelling based on the October 2020 and could share the details of those schools with Schools Forum members at our next meeting.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

29 **Annual Schools Consultation - De-delegation and School Funding 2022-23**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to brief Schools Forum about the proposed consultation to schools and to agree the questions to be sent out to schools and highlighted the following:

De-Delegation

- De-delegation of a limited number of budgets/services was available to maintained schools only and they would be consulted on their views on the delegation or de-delegation of central budgets for the following budgets/services:
 - i) Free School Meal Eligibility Service
 - ii) Licences (Access Budget Planning)
 - iii) Trade Union Facilities costs
 - iv) Maternity costs
 - v) Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
 - vi) Travellers Education Service
 - vii) Behaviour Support Service
- As part of the consultation, maintained schools could agree that budgets should be de-delegated and retained centrally by the LA with services provided to all maintained schools, or agree that budgets should be delegated, and schools make/purchase their own provision as appropriate or agree that budgets should be delegated, and they then cluster together to purchase or deliver services;
- Under the second and third options above, the LA would not be able to continue to deliver a service unless there is sufficient buy back on a traded basis from schools (maintained or academy) to enable retention of sufficient staff. This will be difficult to predict, and the LA will need to decide whether it can afford to continue to deliver services centrally on a

fully traded basis with full cost recovery. This would require a risk assessment;

School Budgets

- In previous years Schools Forum had agreed to a transfer from the school's block to the high needs to contribute to the high needs recovery plan. The high needs block overspend for 2020-21 was £11.507M which correlates to the continuing rise in request for new Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and banding/funding increases. At the end of the last financial year the DSG reserve held an £18.717m deficit;
- Although the deficit is supported by a recovery plan, this is a long-term programme of change. The requirement for significant additional funding at national level is clear and acknowledged by the DfE; and
- It is recommended that we seek views of all schools on the questions in Appendix 2 which covers a range of options ranging from transferring funding from the Schools Block. The results of the consultation would be presented to Schools Forum in December.

Marie Taylor reported that the DfE were not keen to disapply the regulations and Gemma Donolly from the DfE had reported that as there had been a change in Minister they may not agree to transfers of over 0.5%. It had been suggested that as part of the consultation a figure of over 0.5% transfer could be added back into the list of options to see what schools think of this as an option to close the gap.

The Chair reported that if they did agree to more than a 0.5% transfer that would only fill the hole a bit more and not fully and felt that we needed to have the findings of the SEN review to see a way forward but agreed that it could be added as an option in the consultation but that she had a view on what schools' responses would be on that.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum:

- i) Agree the consultation questions for maintained schools around delegation/de-delegation of budgets for central services within the schools' block as set out in Appendix 1.**
- ii) Agree the consultation questions for all schools around setting the 2022-23 Schools Budget as set out in Appendix 2.**

30 **Update on Covid Funding**

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

- The Recovery Premium funding was announced in February 2021 but the detail of which was not received until recently – this would be a minimum of £2,000 for primaries and £6,000 for secondaries based on the number of Pupil Premium pupils and deprivation and post LAC that were eligible, as at the October 2020 census. Service pupils were not included in the eligibility criteria;
- The allocations were £145 per mainstream pupil and £290 per special school
- In addition, School-Led Tutoring had been announced. School-led tutoring documentation has recently been announced as part of national tutoring funding for some vulnerable learners. It is felt better for them to be taught by existing staff that they are familiar with, 60% of pupil premium eligible pupils would drive the funding at rates of funding £13.50 in mainstream and £35.25 in special schools – 15 hours for each eligible pupil. Schools are funding at the 75% level and are expected to fund the 25% from either existing budgets or other Covid tutoring funding.

Marie Taylor reported that £1.6M of COMF funding had been ringfenced for early years with £900k being spent and £400k being earmarked for flexible pastoral support for those struggling to come back into early year settings or struggling in life generally.

Yesterday it was announced the previously named Winter Grant (now called the Household Support Grant) was for those who were struggling with costs of their essential living needs and support for families. Funding would be allocated to families whose children were eligible for free school meals. Officers would be in touch with schools and families with their plans for distributing funding.

The Chair reported that it was good to hear that these grants were coming through but it did make it hard to plan with them not receiving the details of them until the last minute. The tutoring funding was coming automatically but would be clawed back if not used appropriately.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the update on Covid funding.

31 Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings

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

- 9 December 2021 face to face subject to guidance
- 20 January 2022
- 17 March 2022 (if required).

32 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 4.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Pullin, of Democratic Services,
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Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114 or email
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Schools Forum

School Funding and SEN Working Group

MS TEAMS MEETING

29th November 2021

Minutes

Present: Marie Taylor (Chair), (Finance, local authority ((LA)), Grant Davis (Finance, LA), John Hawkins (Teacher / Governor rep), Catriona Williamson (Mere), Lisa Percy (Hardenhuish), Cate Mullen (Head of Inclusion & SEND, LA), Rebecca Carson (Woodford Valley) Sam Churchill (Hilmarton) Phil Cooch for Georgina Theobald-Kiely (Downland) Graham Nagel-Smith (Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls)

Apologies: Simon Thomas, Gary Binstead (LA), Andy Bridewell (Ludgershall Castle), Helean Hughes (Director LA), Graham Shore (Holy Trinity)

1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>MT welcomed the group to the virtual meeting. Various members had advised that they would be late / time limited and so the agenda was re-designed to accommodate and will be in a more logical order for Schools Forum next month.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>These were considered at Schools Forum in October – no actions outstanding.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p>8.30am – High Needs and DSG Management Plan (CM attended for this item)</p> <p>CM provided a verbal update to the group. Of note, next steps include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the work Matt Sambrook started (pre COVID) with schools around banding • Develop Secondary ELP provision • Transition Post 16 with Cara Madden leading on preparation for adulthood <p>CM has submitted a bid for a further three year funding for transformation work funded by the government's flexible use of capital receipts – this is limited only by the amount of capital receipts available and Cabinet prioritisation of schemes.</p> <p>JH said he was pleased to hear about support for secondary schools and asked about the ISS appeals processes – CM responded that the LA would continue to oppose appeals wherever it is appropriate and possible to do so and an efficient use of resource, particularly difficult around the national trial element re: partner services (e.g. therapeutic support)</p> <p>CM felt that not all HT colleagues had an understanding of the HNB pressures and the impact their decisions had on the budget. Suggested this was kept live with inclusion in HT briefings etc. MT added if there was pressure from the DfE to reduce numbers of EHCPS or funding levels, this would impact schools so important to share messaging</p>	GD/MT

5.	<p>9.00am – De-Delegation Consultation & Block Transfers (GD)</p> <p>GD shared his report and results of the local annual consultations</p> <p><u>De-delegated</u> consultation is limited to maintained schools – 25 responses with the majority preferring a de-delegated model across all services</p> <p><u>HNB 0.5% transfer</u> (est £1.58M) – for all schools – 19 responses, all supported the transfer with only 1 preferring reduced top ups and 3 a hybrid of the two. Majority supported transfer at 0.5% as in previous years.</p>	
6.	<p>9.15am Budget Monitoring for the period to 31st October 2021 (MT)</p> <p>MT shared her report with the group. The forecast overspend for 21/22 is £8.271m across all blocks.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Early Years – (£1.264M) lower part time equivalent (PTE) take up of the 3&4 year old grant than funded for – the majority of this will be re-couped by the DfE in 22-23 financial year.</p> <p>School Budgets – (£1.376M) the underspend is largely driven by the growth fund and this offsets the DSG overspend position.</p> <p>The HNB overspend is £10.911m – an increase since the August report as September placements are now firmed up again, based on higher numbers of EHCPs and levels of support requested.</p> <p>An estimate of £1M has been included to reflect TSF (Transition Support Fund) payments reflecting the current delay to timeliness of EHCP assessments – this sum will be formed up as learners are identified.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic and subsequent delay there is a lower than anticipated growth rate in the number of EHCPs issued.</p> <p>The pressures on the HNB continue and the HNB working group will be prioritising demand management, savings projects, commissioning and spend controls.</p> <p>Of major concern remains the impact of this on the DSG deficit reserve balance which is held in the local authority's balance sheet. The reserve balance is now forecast to be £26.701m at 31st March 2022.</p>	
7.	<p>9.25am School Revenue Funding 2022-23 'in principle' decisions (GD)</p> <p>GD shared his report, there was discussion around advantages of mirroring the NFF with regard to sparsity in preparation of the DfE's clear intention to move to a hard formula in 23-24.</p> <p>LP commented that at a recent RSC workshop, they were clear they wanted us to prepare and move towards a hard formula</p> <p>GD commented that the consultation mentioned at least a mandatory 10% move towards the NFF year on year by 23-24</p> <p>RC asked what the outcome of the move to academic year funding was for maintained schools – GD updated the DfE were yet to publish the outcome of that consultation</p>	

8.	<p>9.45am DfE Consultations – Autumn 2021 SIMB Consultation – DfE and Local (verbal update) (GD)</p> <p>DfE Consultation - GD updated the group following the exceptional meeting held in October. The SF standard response has been shared with schools and chairs of PHF and WASSH to be promoted. National interest with challenging responses from local authorities and lobby groups such as the F40. The Director of Ed & Skills has written to Wiltshire MPS to ensure they are aware of the impact of the withdrawal of this grant.</p> <p>Local Consultation – GD updated the group on the local consultation which has now become a necessity around de-delegation of school improvement, brokerage & monitoring. Responses are due 6th December and so these will be included in the report for Schools Forum.</p>	
9.	<p>10.00am Growth Fund Criteria (GD)</p> <p>GD took the group through the report and the opportunity to set up a falling rolls fund, the group felt this was not appropriate for Wiltshire at this time. GD commented that only about 50% of the LA's in the country have these and the criteria can be complex.</p>	
10.	<p>10.10am Early Years / High Needs / CSSB Update report for 22-23</p> <p>MT took us through the report</p> <p><u>Early Years</u> – no allocation notified yet however, national announcements around significant increases in funding and hourly rates – the local authority sets the EY budget, in consultation with the EYRG and so this will take place at the January EYRG meeting.</p> <p><u>CSSB</u> – the CSSB section A; licences for all schools – no decision required but other parts need to be approved by SF on a line by line basis in January. There is the usual 20% reduction to the historic commitments, overall a £0.149M increase Query around whether the HNB transfer sum could be re-directed to support school improvement – MT and GD to check CSSB guidance to see whether this is possible and will allow planning time to change service activity should de-delegation not be agreed by SF next month.</p> <p><u>High Needs</u> – overall a £4.825M increase but pressures estimated to exceed this additional funding</p>	MT/GD
11.	<p>Verbal Update - COVID Funding</p> <p>DfE COVID recovery premium £1bn – based on pupil premium pupils, the DfE have announced this will continue for 2 more years. The proposed rates remain at £145 for Primary but expected to double for Secondary schools</p> <p>.</p>	
12.	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) Funding – GD shared a slide from a DfE academy school bursar workshop around additional funding - £1.6bn on top of 22-23 previous plans to cover additional Health & Social Care Levy on national insurance and inflation (energy.)</p> <p>b) Virtual Meeting in December – the group considered whether the meeting planned for County Hall in December would be better held virtually due to the high rates of COVID in Wiltshire and the periods of time HT needed to be away from school when covering teaching staff absence. It was decided the meeting should be held virtually. To be reconsidered for January 2022 meeting. GD/MT to inform LP in Dem Services.</p>	GD/MT

10	<p><i>Date and Time of Next Meeting</i></p> <p>Next meeting – Monday 10th January 2022 @ 8.30am This is planned as a possible virtual teams meeting.</p> <p>Schools Forum papers will be circulated by Lisa Pullin Wednesday 1st December 2021</p> <p>Next Schools Forum meeting Thursday 9th December 2021 @ 1.30pm. This is planned as a possible virtual teams meeting.</p>	MT
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Early Years Reference Group Meeting

Wednesday 17 November 2021

1. Welcome and introductions

Lyssy Bolton (LB), Lucy-Anne Bryant (LAB), Jane Boulton, Jo Clarke (JC), Rosemary Collard (RC), Emma Cooke (EC), Jenny Harvey (JH)(notes), Sarah Hawkins (SH), Deborah Muir (DM), Emma Osmund (EO), John Proctor (JProctor), Claire Shipley (CS), Emily Wood (EW)

2. Apologies

Gary Binstead (GB), Lucy-Anne Bryant (LAB), Jackie Day (JD), Russ Martin (RM), Debbie Muir (DM), Jane Provis (JProvis)

3. Minutes of last meeting (21 September 2021)

The group approved the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

Item 5 – business rates for nurseries. MT reported that the Director of Resources has said this is a national issue and not a local choice on basis of affordability. MT will try to encourage further conversation with the Director. JProctor said that 50% of the cost of waiving business rates for the sector would be covered by central government. JProctor stated that all private and voluntary providers need to be encouraged to raise issue in writing with Wiltshire Council's Assistant Director for Finance, Lizzie Watkins, as the rates are a large financial burden on nurseries at this current time. He also said that Revenues and Benefits would know how many private nurseries there are in Wiltshire and would therefore be able to calculate the potential cost.

Item 7 – Inclusion Support Funding and EY High Needs budget transfer issue. JProctor asked how any EY surplus funds could now be ringfenced by EY instead of being transferred to High Needs. MT confirmed that it was the High Needs contribution in EY that was cut from the budget. Marie to ask why EY has not been given as much uplift as that given to High Needs Block previously. The ISF budget has been wholly funded from the EY block with no Higher Needs block top up however, a reimbursement of higher cost pressures is undertaken by Angela Everett (AE) which members would not be aware of. Marie to double check criteria with AE and feedback to group

Item 9 – EYRG membership. JH confirmed that contact has been made by St. Osmund's Pre School and Trudi Surman will no longer be attending EYRG meetings. Current representative vacancies are 1 voluntary setting and 1 childminder.

ACTION: MT to speak with Ian Brown for list of private nurseries in the county
MT to liaise with Angela Everett/Pam Thomson on ISF and feed back to group
LAB to make contact with possible representative replacements

5. EY budget monitoring pre-Schools Forum meeting

MT shared EY budget monitoring documentation with the group (copies of the documents are attached to these minutes)

There is currently a £1.3m underspend on this year's budget across the board. The DfE will make their mid-year adjustment so this will be reduced.

MT confirmed that there is a separate ringfenced budget that could be used to do some extra one-off work that could make a difference i.e., focused training, resources. Unfortunately, it cannot be used to add extra pence to the hourly rates.

Suggestions from the group included vulnerable children as a focus and nurseries who have a significant number of Child Protection. However, it was agreed that caution on how to support gaps was required for all age cohorts as all children are vulnerable as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. EC stated that they could come back to the group with proposals once the available budget was confirmed.

MT confirmed that £1million COMF was rolled forward from last year, with a further £600k allocated for this year. With other Covid-19 initiatives that have taken place already this year, most of this funding is already spent/allocated.

EC/MT suggested that it could be used for those in financial hardship. Both commented that childminders are really struggling at the moment. EC confirmed that at least 4 childminders a day are closing due to Covid-19, and there is no additional support money available to them. EC also confirmed that most childminder income is from babies/toddlers and wrap around care so it's very difficult from them.

ACTION: EC and MT to bring list of one-off work proposals to next meeting

6. Chancellors Budget announcement 2022-23 onwards

MT shared news from the Chancellors Budget announcement 2022-23 onwards (a copy of the announcement is attached to these minutes).

Childcare budget announcements included:

- £170 million by 2024-25 to increase the hourly rate;
- £180 million in 2024-25 to create network of family hubs;
- £150 million for training of early years staff (we believe this is a continuation of existing funding).

MT reported that a member of her team had been in a DfE call earlier in the day and a question about the 2 year old funding rates was asked. The DfE officers on the call said that no decision had been made on a national funding rate.

MT advised the group that whilst the documentation showed a hypothetical potential increase, no decision on funding rates could be made until confirmation was received from the DfE. JProctor suggested that it might be helpful for the sector to have this 'potential' information now as it might aid decisions on whether to remain open or permanently close. MT advised that these figures could in no way be used for any financial planning.

The group discussed the issue of recruitment and retention of staff. Providers have advertised vacant positions several times, but no applications have been received. Some nurseries have waiting lists but not the staff. EC commented that the difficulties being faced in recruitment and retention within the sector is not just a county issue, it is a national issue.

It was felt that school leavers need to be looked to with apprenticeships available to make Early Years an attractive profession to enter. There is still work to be done in this area. All agreed that the Covid-19 pandemic had hastened people leaving the profession whether through early retirement, guaranteed/higher income elsewhere.

RC reported that some nurseries are closing rooms so they can manage staff and children. Demand for childcare has significantly increased.

LB commented that it appears to be the same in schools, however, they are recruiting staff leaving early years settings looking for more secure employment/better employment packages.

EW informed the group that she attended a DfE webinar the day before focused on recruitment and retention. The attached list of perceived reasons why there are issues with recruitment was shared. It was also discussed at the webinar that the lack of professionalism given to working in the Early Years sector also contributed to problems with recruitment and retention of staff. The group also recognised that larger chain nurseries might be able to offer financial incentives to applicants.

ACTION: MT to speak with personal B&NES school contact re: Early Years representative at careers conventions in the county.

NB. Since the meeting, the DfE have issued further information around 22-23 funding rates and this has been included in the EY newsletter. It will also be included in the December Schools Forum report on EY funding for 22-23.

7. Schools Forum & chair of EYRG transition

JProctor reported that no EYRG representative attended the last Schools Forum meeting in his absence. DM was the 2nd group representative on School Forum but was unfortunately unable to attend. After discussion, it was agreed that if any agreed representative is unable to attend the meeting, they are to contact JH who will offer stand in instruction.

JProctor informed the group that from January 2022 he will be stepping back from active duty with his own nursery group and will also be looking to step down from EYRG and Schools Forum. Consideration needs to be given for a potential new chair and possibly deputy chair. JProctor confirmed that a Wiltshire Council officer could be EYRG chair, but they could not be a representative on Schools Forum, therefore it made sense that the chair is a representative from the EY sector.

He also felt the positions should be held by people who are trustees/directors of a nursery where they have a more detailed understanding of the pressures faced by a provision in areas such as finance and recruitment. Also, as attendance in meetings is required (3-4 times a year each for EYRG and Schools Forum), people at this level are less likely to be required in ratio numbers. There does need to be Early Years representation and a voice at Schools Forum, otherwise the sector will not be heard.

MT informed the group that inductions on Schools Forum and Finance can be offered the new chair to build confidence.

EW advised that an article to find a new chair could be put in the Early Years weekly newsletter, and that Facebook/Twitter/a vlog could also be used. JProctor said that the article needs to encourage managers who receive the newsletter to forward it onto their directors/trustees.

ACTION: EW to liaise with Communications re: new chair article/vlog

8. AOB

RC queried whether early years providers were able to charge parents of funded 2 year olds for meals. EW confirmed that providers can charge for meals, but parents should be given the option of providing their own packed lunch.

Referring to EYRG representation at Schools Forum, LB said that whilst she had significant understanding of Schools Forum, she felt that it possibly shouldn't be the School representative representing the Early Years sector at this meeting. The group discussed but felt that as long as LB attended with an Early Years focus, then this would be appropriate.

JB raised the issue of recruitment and retention and asked the group if anyone knew of anything that could develop a volunteer person's skill set in readiness for work. EC said that Right Choice training courses are also available to volunteers. The individuals would just need to get themselves set up on the system.

They also have a few young people from Fairfield College who need some help and guidance with getting something on their CV. EC advised that Mandy Timbrell (Head of Employment and Skills) might be able to assist. Her email address is Mandy.timbrell@wiltshire.gov.uk.

On behalf of Deborah Muir (DM), JH asked the group how they had been finding the recruitment of Level 3 staff in recent months. They had been advertising positions via the Wiltshire Council site and the school website, but very few qualified staff have applied. The group echoed DM's experiences, and said that retention seemed to be an issue. JP recommended refresher safeguarding training delivered by Tony Griffin; their staff had attended a very interesting session.

JP asked for an update on the Establishment Portal, and whether and when the new Establishment Portal could enable providers to submit all year round funding claims. EW confirmed that there is currently no upgrade to the system for the foreseeable future, and that the 'all year round' functionality is still a work in progress. EW apologised for the portal issues experienced by early years providers at the start of the Autumn funding period.

ACTION: None

9. Date of next meeting

The next meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 1pm.

EY Reference Group – 17-11-2021

Budget Monitoring 2021-22

Summary for Early Years Reference						Nov-21									
Job Title	PTE	Weeks Pa	Hours	Hourly Rate	Funding	Wiltshire Forecast	PTE	Weeks Pa	Hours	Hourly Rate	Forecast	Forecast Variance PTE	Forecast Variance Va		
3&4 Year olds	10,197	38	15	4.25	24,702,660	3&4 Year olds	9,571	38	15	4.25	23,184,883	-585	-1,116,777		
						Deprivation & Rurality					172,432				
					357,000	Mid term adjustments	41				100,374				
					421,600	ISF					357,000				
						EY Teams					417,600				
2 Year Olds	774	38	15	5.48	2,417,666	2 Year Olds	780	38	15	£5.48	2,401,254	6	16,412		
					187,421	EYPP					187,421				
					131,610	DAF					131,610				
					28,217,957						26,952,573	-579	-1,265,384		

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Extract from the Chancellor's SR21 Budget Announcement

Childcare – The Budget provides **new funding of £208m by 2024-25**,

- £170 million by 2024-25 to increase the **hourly rate** to be paid to early years providers, to deliver the government's free hours offers. This builds on the £44m increase confirmed at SR20 – *the hourly rate increase will be welcomed by providers in Wiltshire.*



- £180 million in 2024-25 to create a network of **family hubs** to improve access to services for families, and £20 million in 2024-25 for parenting support – *this may be useful to us as we move forward with family hubs and potentially link with childrens centres*

- reaffirming £150 million over the SR21 period for **training of early years staff** to support children's learning and development, as part of the £1.4bn announced in June 2021 to help children catch up on lost learning. *(Not new money sounds like a continuation of existing funding – potentially NPQ leadership & mgt)*

Follow up

← Thread



Will Quince MP  

@willquince



This afternoon I met with [@EYalliance](#) [@NDNAtalk](#) [@PACEYchildcare](#) where I was delighted to confirm that we are investing additional funding for the early years entitlements worth £160m in 2022-23, £180m in 2023-24 and £170m in 2024-25.

7:54 pm · 27 Oct 2021 · Twitter for Android

Assumptions on the potential hourly rates for Early Years Providers in Wiltshire - an early indicator tool only

1. Calculate Wiltshire's % share of the current national funding

2. Allocate £160M proportionately to 2 YO and 3&4 YO at national level

3. Allocate Wiltshire's proportionate share of the £160M

4. Estimate (with 20% sensitivity applied) potential hourly rates for the three year period

0.55%		19M		£ 106,551		£ 5.48		£ 5.67		£ 5.89				
0.80%		141M		£ 1,123,311		£ 4.25		£ 4.41		£ 4.58				
		<u>160M</u>		<u>£ 1,229,862</u>										

ns
 Funding allocated on same basis as existing 2, 3&4 YP funding
 funding is applied to hourly rates by DfE
 ons of children do not substantially change
 ct unknowns, 20% sensitivity applied for material change
 not share these wider than this group in schools Forum at this stage
 al cost increase around energy, minimum and living wage etc

5. Estimate therefore, the potential increase in hourly rate for the three year period

		21-22		22-23		23-24			
		£ -		£ 0.19		£ 0.22		£ -	
		£ -		£ 0.16		£ 0.18		£ -	

Potential Rates ONLY - not to be used for financial planning

DfE perceived list of reasons for EY recruitment issues

Screenshot by Emily Wood from DfE webinar, 16 November 2021

Recruitment | 16 November 2021

1. Older, more experienced EY practitioners have left or are expected to leave the profession.
2. Year-on-year increase in the numbers of children with more complex needs. Some providers are unable to find staff with the right experience to provide appropriate care.
3. Applicants are not happy with the hours offered, expecting more flexible working patterns, and some providers are having to advertise several times, which can be costly (and accept candidates who would have previously been unsuccessful).
4. Lower numbers of completed applications.
5. No longer able to rely on staff from the EU who have now left the market to return home, leaving gaps in the childcare workforce.
6. Rate of pay is not enough to attract new entrants- staff can work in other sectors with less responsibility.
7. Insufficient agency staff to meet demand and issues with quality of staff.
8. The requirement for English and maths, and/or mapping overseas qualifications, are barriers.
9. LAs do not have the capacity to support recruitment and retention as they have done previously.
10. Lack of level 3 and managerial staff available to recruit in the sector.
11. Staff are unwilling to take on extra responsibility because their pay scale does not reflect it
12. A perceived decline in the quality of new entrants due to poor learning received on training courses.

Questions:

- A. Are there any **recruitment** issues you think we have missed? Please also expand on anything already in the list where necessary.
- B. Which of these issues are most common or most concerning to you?
- C. What practical things are you trying or considering locally to address those key issues?

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Schools Forum funding & SEN working group
29th November 2021

Schools Forum
9th December 2021

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2021-22

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2021-22 as at 31st October 2021.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st October 2021.
3. An overspend of £8.271 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. The main driver for this forecast variance is the on-going pressures on the high needs block, the reasons for these are known and understood. The detailed budget monitoring report is shown in Appendix 1.

Early Years Budgets (Budget £28.217M, forecast variance (1.264M))

4. Following COVID outbreak in March 2020, government expectations around opening of early years setting has seen much change.
5. From the Spring Term 2021, the government's expectation is that settings would remain open and will only be paid for children attending settings.
6. The Council has continued to use COMF funding to support settings with a range of schemes from a universal offer to support specialist kit and cleaning to lost income. The ringfenced sum for 2020-21 and 2021-22 is £1.6M. In addition, a new allocation is available for flexible pastoral support for 2021-22 of £0.4M.
7. The variance on the budgets for the early years entitlement for 15- and 30-hours childcare for 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds is tabled below. There is a reduction in the take up for 2021 and the majority of this will be recouped in 2022-23 by the DfE.
8. There is a small underspend forecast due to vacant posts within the entitlement and early years teaching teams.
9. The DfE have now made the 20-21 adjustment, and this is reflected in the early years DSG reserve.

	Budgeted PTE	Forecast PTE	Forecast PTE Variance	Budgeted Spend £M	Forecast Spend £M	Forecast spend Variance £M
2-year olds	774	780	6	2.382	2.401	(0.016)
3- & 4-year olds	10,197	8,986	(1,211)	24.358	23.458	(1.245)
ISF	447	447	Nil	0.357	0.357	Nil

Schools Budgets (Budget £316.189M, forecast variance (£1.376M))

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

High Needs Budgets (Budget £59.713M, forecast variance £10.911M)

11. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £10.911m. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School packages, named pupil allowances (NPA) and top ups in special schools, enhanced learning provision (ELP) and post 16. The needs of some learners changed during periods when schools were closed to most pupils. Inevitably post pandemic EHCNAs and re-bandings are being requested which is putting additional activity into the system, in response, temporary support fund payments (TSF) have been introduced to support learners whose needs are taking longer than 20 weeks to be assessed.

12. The overall level of demand across the whole system is putting pressure on the high needs block. When the level of funding available does not match the local needs, the budget cannot be set at an achievable level and so the location of the overspend is not an indication of individual budget issues but that the whole block is under significant pressure.

13. The major driver of the increased cost is volume. Activity (volume) is measured in FTE – full time equivalent pupils. Variance analysis is provided at Appendix 2. It is important to note that the number of EHCPs being created has increased following the pandemic and requests for additional support for children with existing EHCPs continues which leads to an increase in overall unit cost.

	Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire
Number as at 1 st April 2021	4,122
As at 31 st October 2021	4,264
Forecast demand (<i>based on historical trend</i>)	4,314
Forecast Year to Date Movement	192 (4.7% increase)

14. As Schools Forum are aware, much work has been done, over recent years to investigate and address the issues. More detail is reported regularly through the high needs working group update from the Director, Education and Skills. Cabinet is kept informed in the quarterly budget monitoring report.

DSG Reserve

15. The reserve brought forward is £19.474 million. Schools Forum will recall that with effect from 1st April 2021, the early years reserve will be ringfenced. The current forecast overspend would take the reserve into an overall deficit position of £26.555 million.

DSG Management Plan and Informal Meetings with the DfE

16. Officers are currently updating the 2021-22 version of the DfE's DSG management plan with forecast need, plans to address need and progress against recovery plans. A further informal meeting with the DfE is planned and Schools Forum will be updated on this at the January 2022 meeting.

DSG Reserve	Early Years Ringfence (effective 01-04-21)	Schools Block, HNB & Central	Total 20/21 FY
Balance Brought Forward from 20/21		18.474	18.474
Early Years Adjustment 20/21 prior year		(0.189)	(0.189)
Forecast variance 21/22	(1.264)	9.535	8.271
Estimated balance CFWD 2022	(1.264)	27.820	26.555

Proposals

17. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2021 and the current balance on the DSG reserve.

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Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31st October 2021

a	b	c	d = (c-b)	e = (d/b)	f	d = (c-b)	g
Service Area	Current Annual Budget £m	Period 7 Forecast £m	Period 7 Forecast Variance £m	%	20/21 Outturn Variance	September forecast variance £m	Budget Move-ment from Previous Report
Three to Four Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding	24.703	23.458	(1.245)	-5.04%	-0.229	0.000	-1.245
Two Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding	2.417	2.401	(0.016)	-0.65%	(0.162)	0.000	-0.016
Early Years Inclusion Support Fund	0.357	0.357	0.000	0.00%	(0.042)	0.000	0.000
Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF	0.319	0.319	0.000	0.00%	(0.107)	0.000	0.000
Early Years Central Expenditure	0.422	0.418	(0.004)	-0.87%	(0.155)	(0.079)	0.075
Early Years Block	28.217	26.953	-1.264	-4.48%	-0.695	-0.079	-1.185
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools	113.044	113.044	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools	198.985	198.985	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Licences and Subscriptions	0.053	0.047	(0.006)	-10.99%	(0.000)	(0.006)	0.000
Free School Meals	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.00%	(0.008)	0.000	0.000
Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness)	0.619	0.566	(0.053)	-8.63%	0.000	(0.036)	-0.017
Behaviour Support Team	0.639	0.639	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement	0.543	0.504	(0.039)	-7.12%	(0.076)	(0.030)	-0.008
De Delegated Total	1.882	1.784	-0.098	-5.20%	-0.084	-0.073	-0.025
Growth Fund	2.278	1.000	(1.278)	-56.10%	(2.735)	(1.278)	0.000
Schools Block	316.189	314.813	-1.376	-0.44%	-2.819	-1.350	-0.025
Special School Place Funding	8.062	8.062	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Resource Base (RB) Funding	1.972	1.972	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding	1.875	1.875	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
High Needs Block (all schools)	11.909	11.909	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	6.416	8.310	1.894	29.52%	2.684	2.078	-0.184
Special School Top-Up	8.251	10.192	1.941	23.53%	2.540	1.225	0.717
Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up	2.013	2.266	0.253	12.59%	0.621	0.227	0.027
Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up	1.667	2.833	1.167	70.00%	0.896	1.187	-0.021
Estimate of Transitional Support (TSP) payments		1.000	1.000	#DIV/0!			
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	2.791	2.791	0.000	0.00%	0.025	0.000	0.000
Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Devolved to Maintained & Top Up Total	21.137	27.393	6.255	29.59%	6.766	4.716	0.539
Wiltshire College Places	2.100	2.100	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Salisbury 6th Form	0.012	0.012	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	2.074	2.602	0.528	25.46%	0.520	0.538	-0.010
Post-16 Top-Up	2.824	5.833	3.009	106.57%	1.484	2.782	0.227
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	11.846	13.035	1.189	10.04%	2.160	1.739	-0.550
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	2.290	2.668	0.378	16.51%	0.699	(0.126)	0.504
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.536	0.502	(0.034)	-6.28%	0.002	(0.034)	0.000
Funding for Places outside Schools	21.682	26.752	5.071	23.39%	4.865	4.899	0.172
High Needs in Early Years Provision	0.454	0.422	(0.032)	-7.05%	(0.032)	(0.032)	0.000
Speech & Language	0.566	0.564	(0.001)	-0.22%	(0.023)	(0.001)	0.000
SEND Business Support	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams	2.468	2.214	(0.254)	-10.28%	0.000	(0.368)	0.114
Specialist Teacher Advisory Service	1.138	1.011	(0.128)	-11.22%	(0.181)	0.015	-0.142
Other Special Education	0.271	0.271	0.000	0.00%	(0.148)	0.000	0.000
Commissioned & SEN Support Services	4.985	4.570	-0.415	-8.32%	-0.384	-0.386	-0.028
High Needs Block	59.713	70.624	10.911	18.27%	11.247	9.229	0.682
Central Licences	0.395	0.395	0.000	0.00%	(0.001)	0.000	0.000
Central Provision (Former ESG)	0.990	0.990	0.000	0.00%	(0.050)	0.000	0.000
Admissions	0.426	0.426	(0.000)	-0.06%	0.038	(0.002)	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	1.814	1.813	-0.000	-0.01%	-0.011	-0.002	0.002
Education Services to CLA	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.00%	(0.057)	0.000	0.000
Child Protection in Schools & Early Years	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Prudential Borrowing	0.208	0.208	0.000	0.00%	0.000	0.000	0.000
Historic Commitments	0.367	0.367	0.000	0.00%	-0.057	0.000	0.000
Central School Services	2.181	2.181	-0.000	-0.01%	-0.068	-0.002	0.002
Total Schools Budget	406.300	414.571	8.271	2.04%	7.664	7.798	-0.527
Pupil Premium (academy & maintained)	15.540	15.540	0.000	0			Academy & Maintained school (excl CiC)
6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant)	1.121	1.121	0.000	0			Maintained schools only
UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained)	5.462	5.462	0.000	0			Provisional allocations
PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained)	3.619	3.619	0.000	0			Allocation published 28/10/21
DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools	25.741	25.741	0.000	0			
TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING	432.041	440.312	8.271	1.91%			

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 31st October 2021 - 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 October 2021- this is a measure of volumes of pupil placements / support arrangements

Appendix 2 - Variance Analysis

<i>h</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>k = (j-i)</i>	<i>l = (k/i)</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>o</i>
Volume analysis	Budgeted Activity FTE	Period 7 Forecast Activity FTE	Period 7 Forecast Variance FTE	Variance %	20/21 Outturn Volume	Volume movement from Previous Report	Forecast Average Prices	20/21 Actual Average Prices	Unit
Three/Four Year Olds	10,197	8,986	(1,212)	-12%	9,938	- 1,211	£4.25	£4.20	p/hr
Two Year Olds	774	780	6	1%	774	6	£5.48	£5.40	p/hr
ISF	447	447	0	0%	0	447	£615	£615	pa
							£0.53	£0.53	p/hr
Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	11,418	10,213	(1,205)	-11%	10,712	- 758			
Sp Sch Place Funding	806	806	0	0%	1,094	6	£10,000	£6,546	pa
RB Funding	329	329	0	0%	460	- 14	£6,000	£4,200	pa
ELP Funding	313	313	0	0%	594	- 8	£6,001	£3,213	pa
	1,447	1,447	0	0%	2,148	- 15			pa
NPA	1,120	1,427	306	27%	1,042	117	£5,825	£5,661	pa
Special School Top-Up	779	960	181	23%	778	- 47	£10,616	£10,327	pa
RB Top-Up	342	399	57	17%	351	- 4	£5,682	£5,736	pa
ELP Top-Up	360	571	210	58%	317	6	£4,963	£4,512	pa
TSP		250	250		-	250	£4,000	£0	pa
	2,603	3,606	1004	39%	2,487	323	£7,596	£7,821	pa
Wiltshire College Places	350	350	0	0%	350	-	£6,000	£6,000	pa
Salisbury 6th Form	2	2	0	0%	-	-	£6,000	£6,000	pa
Non Wiltshire Schools	181	203	23	12%	177	3	£12,795	£11,193	pa
Post-16 Top-Up	262	484	222	85%	394	- 18	£12,053	£10,526	pa
Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch	231	260	29	12%	214	6	£50,121	£49,988	pa
SEN AP, DP & EHE	170	194	24	14%	164	- 36	£13,754	£13,501	pa
	1,195	1,688	298	25%	1,300	- 45	£15,851	£17,245	pa
High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET	5,245	6,741	1,302	25%	5,935	262	£10,476		

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

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum:

9th December 2021

National Funding Formulae for Schools and High Needs – 2022-23

Purpose of report

1. To seek 'in principle' decisions from members of Schools Forum with regards to the Wiltshire funding formula for the 2022-23 year.
2. At the October 2021 Schools Forum meeting, the key funding arrangements as published by the DfE in its document '*The national funding formulae for schools and high needs – 2022-23*', were presented.
3. Prior to the funding settlement being announced in December, a number of 'in principle' decisions are sought to help with the school budget preparations. Separate papers have been prepared relating to the De-delegation consultation and the transfer of funding to support the High Needs Block.

Background

4. The 2022-23 year represents year 3 of the Governments pledge to boost schools funding, with an increase of £2.3bn into the overall Schools Block compared to the 2021-22 year.
5. The DfE will allocate school funding on the basis of the National Funding Formula (NFF) to local authorities. The funding is then run through the local funding formula, taking account of Schools Forum decisions to create individual school budgets. The Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been awarded an increase of 3.2% compared to the 2021-22 year.
6. The 2022-23 year will be another 'soft' year with local Schools' Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology. The DfE have confirmed their intention to move to a 'hard' national funding formula but have not confirmed the timeline.
7. A consultation earlier this year '*Fair Schools funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula*' was considered by members of Schools Forum. The consultation included a number of proposals including.
 - Introduction of a 'hard' formula with no local flexibilities
 - Setting standard criteria for Growth funding
 - All formula factors should mirror the NFF by 2023-24
 - All formula factors should move 10% closer to the NFF values in 2023-24
 - Movement for all school funding to an 'academic year' basis

Proposals for 2022-23

8. The DfE have announced the indicative DSG Block allocations, based upon October 2020 census data which will be refreshed when the December funding allocations are announced.
9. The table below sets out the indicative DSG funding for the Schools, High Needs and Central Blocks. (The Early Years Block figures are simply replicated from the 2021-22 allocation to provide a view of the overall quantum of funding for 2022-23.)

	Schools	High Needs	Central	Early Years	TOTAL
2021-22	£314,778,576	£57,528,558	£2,448,599	£27,243,000	£401,998,733
2022-23	£325,282,108	£62,353,552	£2,597,335	£27,243,000	£417,475,995
Uplift	£10,503,532	£4,824,994	£148,736	£0	£15,477,262
% Uplift	3.33%	8.39%	6.07%	0.00%	3.85%

10. The main formula for the 2022-23 year is broadly similar to the formula for the 2021-22 year however the key changes are detailed below.
 - a. Overall, the DfE's School funding budget is set to increase by 3.2%
 - b. Core pupil-led funding factors and the lump sum to increase by 3%
 - c. The 'Minimum per pupil funding level' to increase by 2%
 - d. The Free School Meals factor (for the costs of providing a meal for eligible pupils) to increase by 2%
 - e. Every school to receive at least 2% more funding per pupil, (setting the MFG at +2%)
 - f. Changes to Sparsity calculations and funding allocations, summarised later in this report
 - g. Using the previous October census for calculating Deprivation FSM6 funding rather than the previous January census (reducing the lag)

Role of Schools Forum and the Local Authority

11. As 2022-23 will be another 'soft' year, our Wiltshire Schools Forum will be able to determine the school funding formula.
12. The only mandatory factor for 2022-23 will be the application of the minimum per pupil funding levels, being £4,265 and £5,525 in Primary and Secondary respectively.
13. The final formula will be presented at Schools Forum in January 2022 when the final allocations have been confirmed and subsequently to the full Council for political ratification and approval in February 2022.
14. Wiltshire will be fully funded on the basis of the NFF values and therefore will be in a position to fund schools fully using NFF values.

Funding Values Proposed in the NFF for 2022-23

15. The table below sets out the NFF funding values for school for the 2022-23 year.

Factor	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Primary KS1&2 AWPU	£2,747	£2,857	£3,123*	£3,217*
Secondary KS3 AWPU	£3,863	£4,018	£4,404*	£4,536*
Secondary KS4 AWPU	£4,386	£4,561	£4,963*	£5,112*
Primary & Secondary FSM	£440	£450	£460	£470
Primary FSM6	£540	£560	£575	£590
Secondary FSM6	£785	£815	£840	£865
IDACI Primary Band A	£575	£600	£620	£640
IDACI Primary Band B	£420	£435	£475	£490
IDACI Primary Band C	£390	£405	£445	£460
IDACI Primary Band D	£360	£375	£410	£420
IDACI Primary Band E	£240	£250	£260	£270
IDACI Primary Band F	£200	£210	£215	£220
IDACI Secondary Band A	£810	£840	£865	£890
IDACI Secondary Band B	£600	£625	£680	£700
IDACI Secondary Band C	£560	£580	£630	£650
IDACI Secondary Band D	£515	£535	£580	£595
IDACI Secondary Band E	£390	£405	£415	£425
IDACI Secondary Band F	£290	£300	£310	£320
Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,065	£1,095	£1,130
Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,610	£1,660	£1,710
EAL – Primary	£515	£535	£550	£565
EAL - Secondary	£1,385	£1,440	£1,485	£1,530
Mobility – Primary	£0	£875	£900	£925
Mobility – Secondary	£0	£1,250	£1,290	£1,330
Lump Sum	£110,000	£114,400	£117,800	£121,300
Sparsity – Primary	£0-£25,000	£0-£26,000	£0-£45,000	£0-£55,000
Sparsity – Secondary	£0-£65,000	£0-£67,500	£0-£70,000	£0-£80,000
Primary - MPPFL	£3,500	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265
Secondary – MPPFL	£4,800	£5,000	£5,415	£5,525

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

Key Funding Decisions taken by Schools Forum in 2021-22

16. The key funding decisions taken by Schools Forum for the 2021-22 year included.
- To include the NFF Mobility factor within the Wiltshire formula
 - To apply all other NFF factors in full
 - To increase sparsity funding by 3% not to the NFF rates
 - To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF)
 - To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block

Key Funding Decisions taken by Schools Forum for 2022-23

17. The key funding decisions to be taken by Schools Forum for the 2022-23 year include.
- To apply all NFF factors in full
 - To apply the NFF sparsity values and methodology
 - To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF)
 - To agree the de-delegation arrangements for maintained schools (separate paper)
 - To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (separate paper)

Sparsity Funding

18. Following a consultation regarding Sparsity funding, in support of small and rural schools, the DfE has increased the level of support through the sparsity factor. The major changes to the factor include.
- The maximum amount of sparsity funding schools can attract through the NFF has increased by £10,000, to £55,000 for primary schools and £80,000 for secondary schools.
 - Using 'road' distances rather than 'crow flies' distances to calculate sparsity distances.
 - Retaining the sparsity distance thresholds at 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary schools but introducing a distance tapering of 20% which means that schools with a sparsity distance of 1.6 miles in primary and 2.4 miles in secondary schools will become eligible for funding (tapered on a straight-line basis).
 - Wiltshire is funded on the basis of this new NFF methodology and will be expected to implement these changes into their local formula. This would bring more schools into scope for receiving funding, as detailed below.

<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Eligible Schools	50	3	53
Funding	£1,596,365	£121,073	£1,717,438
<u>2021-22</u>			
Eligible Schools	28	2	30
Funding	£295,939	£49,594	£345,533

Budget Setting Process 2022-23

19. The timeline for setting the 2022-23 budget is expected to follow.

December 9 th	Schools Forum agree in principle decisions for funding, de-delegation and block transfers
December 17 th	DfE issue funding allocations
January 20 th	Schools Forum confirm and 'sign off' school budgets for the 2022-23 financial year
February 15 th	School budgets signed off at Full Council meeting
By 28 th February	all schools notified of funding for 2022-23

20. In terms of setting the budgets for schools for 2022-23, the amount of funding available for distribution to schools will be calculated as follows.

DSG Schools Block Allocation	£325,282,108
Less: Growth Fund	x,xxx,xxx
Less: Transfer to Other Blocks	x,xxx,xxx
Total available for School Funding	xxx,xxx,xxx

Initial Modelling

21. Initial modelling of the Schools Block demonstrates that the NFF is affordable, based upon the October 2020 census and therefore the full NFF could be implemented. There are questions for Schools Forum to consider regarding a move to the full NFF.

Proposal

22. Schools Forum to make 'in principle' decisions for the following formula factors to enable school budgets to be prepared ready for the January 2022 meeting.

- a. To apply all NFF factors in full
- b. To apply the NFF sparsity values and methodology
- c. To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% (in line with NFF)

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

9th December 2021

Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum with the results of the recent Autumn consultations relating to;
 - De-delegation of central services - Maintained Schools only
 - Transfer of funds from Schools Block to High Needs Block – all schools.
2. The survey results will help to inform Schools Forum decisions for setting the budgets for the 2022-23 financial year.

De-Delegation of Central Services Consultation Responses

3. Under the “soft formula”, funding should be fully delegated to schools, however certain central services can be ‘de-delegated’ for maintained schools only, with approval of the respective maintained Schools Forum representatives.
4. The funding regulations require that all maintained schools are consulted and given the opportunity to express their preferences for the services which can be de-delegated. The services consulted as part of the 2022-23 consultation process were:
 - Free School Meal Eligibility Checks
 - Access Budget Planning Software Licence (formerly known as HCSS)
 - Trade Union Facilities Costs
 - Maternity Costs
 - Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
 - Traveller Education Service
 - Behaviour Support Service
5. The consultation took place through Right Choice with a window of three weeks for schools to consider their responses. Schools Forum members can see the questions and results of the consultation, detailed in Appendix 1.
6. A total of 25 responses were received, 22 responses from Primary Schools and 3 from Secondary Schools. This compares favourably to the consultation for the 2020-21 year where only 20 responses were received but less favourably than the consultation for the 2021-22 year where a total of 36 responses were received.
7. The results received were significantly in favour of retaining the de-delegated services in both the Primary and Secondary schools which will inform eligible Schools Forum representatives when voting on the school budgets for 2022-23.

Transfer of Schools Block to Support the High Needs Block

8. Schools have been consulted during recent years regarding a potential transfer of funds between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block of the DSG. Whilst it has been a generally unwelcome question to ask schools, members of Schools Forum have acted with integrity and in the greater interests of schools and supported a transfer of funds to help with the increasing demand and costs of SEN, within the county.
9. The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools Block and other blocks within the DSG. In the last three financial years, Schools Forum agreed to the following transfers.
 - 2019-20 - £2.2m which equated to 0.8% of Schools Block funding
 - 2020-21 - £2.065m which equated to 0.7% of Schools Block, which was subsequently reduced to 0.5% by the Secretary of State.
 - 2021-22 - £1.517m which equated to 0.5% of Schools Block funding
10. Local Authorities have the flexibility to move up to 0.5%. Anything higher would require approval from the Secretary of State through a disapplication request. It was agreed at previous Schools Forum meetings that a request to transfer greater than 0.5% would not be applied for, due to previous decisions of the Secretary of State, unless the results of the consultation supported a greater transfer.
11. In order for Schools Forum to make a decision about a potential transfer, the autumn consultation questions were agreed at the October Schools Forum meeting and was subsequently issued through the Right Choice as a survey with a window of three weeks for schools to consider their responses.
12. Schools Forum members can see the questions and results of the consultation, detailed in Appendix 2.
13. This consultation was open to all schools, both maintained and academy schools and a total of 19 responses were received, slightly down from the 22 responses received last year but considerably higher than the 9 received the previous year and can be broken down as follows.
 - 7 secondary schools
 - 12 primary schools
14. Of the schools that responded, the results can be summarised as below;
 - All 19 respondents supported a transfer of funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
 - Only 1 respondent supported a reduction in Top-Up values.
 - Only 3 respondents supported a 'Hybrid' option of a block transfer and a reduction in Top-Up values.
 - The breakdown of transfer values has been detailed, as below.

Value	Schools	% Support
£0.5m (0.17%)	1	5.3%
£1.0m (0.34%)	3	15.8%
£1.58m (0.5%)	15	78.9%
£2.0m (0.63%)	0	0.0%

15. This data will inform the decision making around the 2022-23 budget for both De-delegation in maintained schools and a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

Proposals

16. Schools Forum is asked to note the local consultation responses in relation to the schools delegated budget for 2022-23 financial year.

17. Schools Forum is asked to make 'in principle' decisions in accordance with the consultation responses as below;

- **De-delegation** of central services for Maintained schools
 - FSM – primary and secondary
 - Licences – primary and secondary
 - Trade Union – primary and secondary
 - Maternity – primary and secondary
 - Ethnic Minority Support – primary only
 - Traveller Education – primary only
 - Behaviour Support – primary only

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

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Appendix 1 – De-Delegation Consultation

Questions

DfE Heading	Wiltshire Budget	Delegate?	Retain Centrally?
Free school meals eligibility	Free School Meals Eligibility Service		
Licences/subscriptions	HCSS Licence		
Staff costs – supply cover	Trade Union Duties		
	Maternity Costs		
Support for minority ethnic pupils and underachieving groups	Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) – Primary		
	Traveller Education Service – Primary		
Behaviour support services	Primary Behaviour Support Service		

Results

A summary of the results is set out below.

PRIMARY	FSM	Licences	Trade Union	Maternity	EMAS	Traveller Education	Behaviour Support
Delegate	1	1	0	0	3	3	3
De-delegate	21	21	22	22	19	19	19
Total	22	22	22	22	22	22	22

SECONDARY	FSM	Licences	Trade Union	Maternity	EMAS	Traveller Education	Behaviour Support
Delegate	0	0	0	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
De-delegate	3	3	3	3	N/a	N/a	N/a
Total	3	3	3	3	N/a	N/a	N/a

Appendix 1 – De-Delegation Consultation

Dedelegated Responses 2022-23

SCHOOL	RESPONSE						
	FSM	HCSS	Trade Union	Maternity	EMAS	Traveller	Behaviour Supp
P1	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P2	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P3	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P4	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P5	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P6	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P7	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P8	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P9	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P10	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P11	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P12	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate
P13	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P14	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P15	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P16	Delegate	Delegate	Retain	Retain	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate
P17	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P18	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate
P19	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P20	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P21	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
P22	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
S23	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Delegate	Delegate	Delegate
S24	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain
S25	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	Retain	N/A

Appendix 2 – Block Transfer Consultation

Qu 1 – Please enter your DfE Number and school name here:

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Qu 2a – Taking the factors above into account, do you support a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block?

Yes	
No	

Qu 2b – If you support a transfer, please indicate the amount of transfer:

Value to Transfer	£/Pupil	Please select
£0.0m (0.0%)	£0.00 / pupil	
£0.5m (0.16%)	£7.79 / pupil	
£1.0m (0.32%)	£15.58 / pupil	
£1.58m (0.5%)	£24.63 / pupil	
£2.0m (0.63%)	£31.16 / pupil	

Qu 2c - No transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2022-23. The impact of this would be that Top-Ups and Named Pupil Allowance (NPA) funding levels would have to be reduced to help with cost pressures in the High Needs Block. Do you support a reduction in these rates?

Yes	
No	

Qu 2d - Would you prefer to see a hybrid of the above with a transfer from Schools Block to top up the High Needs Block together with reduced values for top ups and Named Pupil Allowances?

Yes	
No	

Qu 3 - If you do not agree to the transfer of funds or the reduction of top-up funding levels, how else do you suggest that we fill the funding gap that we have for High Needs?

Appendix 2 – Block Transfer Consultation

Consultation Responses

<u>High Needs Consultation Responses 2022-23</u>						
SCHOOL	Transfer To High Needs		Reduction In Top Ups		Hybrid Option	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	No
P1	✓			✓		✓
P2	✓			✓		✓
P3	✓			✓		✓
P4	✓			✓		✓
P5	✓			✓		✓
P6	✓					
P7	✓			✓		✓
P8	✓			✓	✓	
P9	✓			✓		✓
P10	✓			✓	✓	
P11	✓		✓		✓	
P12	✓			✓		✓
S1	✓			✓		✓
S2	✓			✓		✓
S3	✓			✓		✓
S4	✓			✓		✓
S5	✓			✓		✓
S6	✓			✓		✓
S7	✓			✓		✓

Value to Transfer

SCHOOL	Value to Transfer				
	0%	0.17%	0.34%	0.50%	0.63%
P1				✓	
P2				✓	
P3				✓	
P4				✓	
P5				✓	
P6				✓	
P7			✓		
P8				✓	
P9				✓	
P10				✓	
P11			✓		
P12			✓		
S1				✓	
S2				✓	
S3		✓			
S4				✓	
S5				✓	
S6				✓	
S7				✓	
	£0.0M	£0.5M	£1.0M	£1.58M	£2.0M

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High Needs Block Working Group Meeting – 9th November 2021

Present

Sean McKeown, Lisa Percy, Sarah Garbutt, Helean Hughes, Cate Mullen, Marie Taylor, Grant Davis

Minutes of last meeting

High Needs Budget Plan - Communications – all happened with Sue Ellison

Provision mapping – Cate Mullen awaiting a Cheshire East decision about providing us with their model. They offer a complete 'Toolkit', but we are only requesting a small part of their package. They are currently re-working their Provision Mapping model and we are awaiting their decision as to whether we can adopt their model. – CM awaiting decision and to update in due course.

Sarah Garbutt has joined the SEND Board.

Temporary Support Funding (TSF) – CM

CM shared her proposal regarding TSF on screen for the group to see. Sean and Lisa are the first school colleagues to see the TSF model.

CM outlined the issue of meeting the statutory 20-week requirement for EHCPs. Unfortunately, due to national and local recruitment issues, Education Psychologist (EP) resource is in short supply which is causing delays in meeting the 20-week deadline. Whilst significant measures are being taken to recruit additional EP resource, there is an immediate issue for meeting the 20-week deadline.

The proposed TSF model would see £5k paid in recognition of no EHCP being issued within the statutory period, funding equating to the midpoint between Bands Upper 1 and Lower 2. This would apply to all EHCP's initiated since the 1st September 2021 and paid in three tranches' during the year, one each term, in line with Named Pupil Allowance (NPA) payments. A new payment process would be established. Once an EHCP had been formalised then the funding would move across to the correct EHCP Band. There would be no plans to recoup for 'over-funding' or pay additional monies for 'under-funding'.

The same requirements would apply in terms of following the statutory EHCP process but to help with current 'time lag' and gap in funding, the TSF funding issued to schools would provide interim financial support.

In terms of cost, the proposal is cost neutral to the High Needs Block. Either an EHCP would be issued with banded funding or the TSF would be payable.

Questions / Comments

LP – what can be accessed with the funding? Is it directed or just going into a school's budget? Monies should be to provide support in the interim period – it is extra monies designated for the specific pupil?

CM – The funding should be treated as with any EHCP funding – used to support the pupil.

SM – an example of how the funding would work would be useful – this will avoid a number of further questions. The FAQ is helpful.

LP – use one example across ELP/RB/SS

SG – clear documentation and then an example would be really helpful for all schools

SM – how will the TSF be communicated to schools? – HH - through Heads Briefings / Govs Briefings, then Newsletter, so should have good coverage.

HH – funding would apply to plans initiated from 1st September 2021 – SG questioned timeline as there was a bulge before September and wondered whether the number of applications that were already in the pipeline – will they be covered or missed? CM - Need to quantify and refer to the numbers in progress, but we could look at covering the pre-September bulge.

Agreed it should cover the pre-September cases too.

MT – keeping scheme simple hence using the £5k – some instances where schools may be over-funded for low banded pupils – there is a risk that schools may put in higher level of provision than can be afforded through banding, when EHCP is issued.

LP – what happens if school arranges extra support e.g., Equine therapy, but then can't afford it afterwards – just need to be clear that funding is one-off through the TSF, pending a final banding. Also, what would happen if no plan is issued – school has had funding? – MT – No recovery will be made

CM – there is an emphasis on putting in place sustainable support, more than what's currently in place for the pupil.

HH – is there is a cost to the HN budget?

MT – possibly a minor proportional overpayment, hence using average banding. Paid termly so minimising period of any overpayment.

LP – do we align funding with a banding e.g., Upper 1 at £4,067, so work at £4,000?

SG – Opportunity to reinforce the use of Notional SEN budgets.

Agreed – use £4k was agreed and can then roll-back to prior to 1st Sept cases too.

Agreed - Issue a worked example, to be shared with schools

Agreed – TSF to be included in Briefings, Newsletter and then communicated with SENCOs too.

This will only be a **temporary measure** until we reach meeting our stat responsibility of 20 weeks, whilst EP recruitment continues

CM to cover off at the Briefings

Budget Monitoring - MT

No huge differences to data presented to Schools Forum at their October meeting. There is always a data lag so we may expect spend to increase over time and the financial impact of the EHCP bulge is not fully quantified yet.

There is a projected underspend in the Growth Fund which will help towards the High Needs overspend.

Early Years Budgets – An overall underspend within early years may benefit their sector – this is a difficult formula to project but there is always a ‘catch-up’ in the ensuing year. If there is any capacity to fund additional training / resources, then this may be possible from the separate ringfence moving forward.

Ordinary Available Provision (OAP)- CM

CM led through link to ‘beta’ test/development site. OAP started last year as a Wilts focussed resource, not just schools and set out what is available for learners with SEND, for parents, schools, and all parties.

The new Wiltshire Local Offer site was presented, and new sections shared – Section 3 taken from the Graduated Response Model. Section 2 based upon Portsmouth model (SG has fed back to Andrew Morrison, after working with Lyssy and suggested that there was some repetition which will be looked at.)

SG - Focus on Teacher Standards summarises lots of information – link to the School Improvement Framework. We should not rely on the Portsmouth model for our site.

CM – SEMH needs more work, and the site is not finished yet, more links to real life examples are required but it is a huge step forward.

SG – happy to help with work on the OAP

CM – link has been shared with schools in September but not had full feedback yet – it was felt that more productive feedback comes from workshops that have been run with schools.

DfE Scrutiny – High Needs Recovery - MT

MT – It feels like the DfE have led us a ‘merry dance’ with false starts in terms of our information provided. Where Wiltshire had provided the documentation and plans behind our High Needs Recovery journey, the DfE have now insisted that they want us to complete their Recovery Plan Models.

MT has started to complete their ‘document’ which is hugely time consuming. Only the Exec Summary needs to be shared with Schools Forum but there is a huge amount of supporting information behind the plans.

MT worked through the ‘Mitigations’ in the Exec Summary including.

- Possibly setting up our own ISS - purchasing one (Supported by Council’s Director of Finance)
- Extra places in Special Schools, new free School in the south of county
- 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block
- £5m uplift in HN funding each year
- Extra HN Capital for creating new places (confirmed in The Chancellor’s Budget and Spending Review for 2021)
- Reduce EHCP numbers / rate – HH&LP – can more be ceased; LP has ceased plans and gave an example. Also, can we engage with College about their numbers and shifting the ‘mindset’ in families and with pupils.

- SM – The achieving of a plan is the ‘panacea’ for families, and they don’t want to lose the ‘security blanket’ of a plan.
- SG – what can be done to help the transition between mainstream and resource bases. CM – need to slow the growth, but seeing more growth in EY settings
- LP - SEMH discussion – not everyone knows what to do about SEMH and there is an unmet need and no AP provision in place – needing turnaround plans which help. ‘Project SEMH’ is not working for all – geographic location to support the schools in the west of the county. College provision is not focussed on SEMH.
- Alternative Provision - Need a rep to join the working group about accessing Project SEMH. LP to speak to North Heads to try and find a rep to push for support for the North.
- SG & LP – what is put in place before an EHCP?
- Transformational culture change – HH & MT to look if funding to help change ‘mindsets’ and shape something up – possible use of transformation funding?

Next steps “finalise” finance areas of the plan and share with operational colleagues to sign off prior to sharing with DfE.

Regional Dataset – CM

- CM presented the group with some tables and statistics from the south west. Benchmarking data is always lagged so can easily be out of date – The SEN2 data is from 2020-21, so is historic and therefore Cate presented some 2021-22 data from Quarter 1, to the group, which is more up to date.
- The information shows the rate of children with an EHCP per 10,000 pupils -Wiltshire is above the SW Average and our Statistical Neighbour Average.
- The data also shows how many EHCPs are turned around in 20 weeks and shows Wiltshire in a below average position compared to both SW, National and Statistical neighbour averages.

LP – On a positive note, this shows the starting point and then it will be helpful to show the data of how we improve

SM – what will it look like by Qtr. 4? – CM, timeliness will be lower than the 41%, so we will move backwards, before we see any improvements. HH – lots of mitigating actions being taken

CM – lots of scrutiny around performance but we are working equitably with all EHCPs. Some LA’s may be ‘tactical’ about their EHCP caseload to help with statistical performance, not showing the true underlying position. Wiltshire works fairly through all its EHCP’s.

AOB - none

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
29th November 2021

Schools Forum
9th December 2021

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – EARLY YEARS, CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES AND HIGH NEEDS BLOCKS UPDATE 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To update schools forum on issues related to the early years, central school services and high needs blocks for 2022-23 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23 financial year.

Main Considerations

EARLY YEARS

2. In line with previous years, limited information for Wiltshire is available yet in relation to Early Years funding.
3. In his 2021 Spending Review, the Chancellor announced national funding increases of £160m, £180m and £170m for the next three years. Further to this, announcements have been made around
 - Disability Access Fund - an increase of £185 to £800 per annum per eligible child
 - Early Years Pupil Premium - an increase of £40 to £342 (maximum) per annum per eligible child
 - 2 year old disadvantaged funding, in Wiltshire we have traditionally protected the increases to support this group of children and so the increase will be fully passported to settings. An increase of 0.21p per hour so rates rising to £5.69 per hour per eligible child.
 - 3&4 year old universal & working parents funding - the DfE are final increase yet to be confirmed but estimated at 17p and with a minimum funding floor - until the Wiltshire allocation is received it is impossible to confirm however, I would anticipate this would be in the region of 16p per hour per eligible child so perhaps rising to £4.41 per hour per eligible child.
4. Settings have been advised not to make any planning decisions on this information until the allocations for Wiltshire have been received later this month. The DfE will announce the initial early years block allocations alongside the dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for 2022 to 2023 next month and final increases will be confirmed at Schools Forum in January 2022.

CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES & HIGH NEEDS BLOCKS

5. The following provisional allocations were released earlier this year.

	High Needs	Central
2021-22	£57,528,558	£2,448,599
2022-23	£62,353,552	£2,597,335
Uplift	£4,824,994	£148,736
% Uplift	8.39%	6.07%

CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES

Protection and Funding Changes

- Schools Forum will remember that the DfE have been reducing historic commitments. Wiltshire has been allocated £0.294m for historic commitments based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2021-22 reduced by 20% of £0.073m. The DfE apply a maximum per pupil reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities of -2.5%. Permitted gains are capped at 5.56% for 2022-23.
- The per pupil rate has been increased by 1.65% and there are 197 additional pupils in the provisional allocation hence the net increase since 2021-22.

Function of the CSSB

- The CSSB allocates funding to the LA to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils of maintained schools and academies. Funding includes:
 - funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
 - funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block
 - residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block
 - Included in the baseline is an allocation for additional pension costs of centrally employed teachers.
- The duties included within the CSSB are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- Schools Forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis for this group of services which are funded from central schools block. The tables show each line, the 2021-22 base and the proposed 2022-23 budget.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2021-22 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2022-23 £M
Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools forum approval is not required (although they should be consulted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Copyright Licences for 2021-22 for Wiltshire as set by the DfE. 	£0.395m	£0.411m*

<p>Section B</p> <p>Schools forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • back pay for equal pay claims • remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies • places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • admissions • servicing of schools forum • contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools • contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (voted on by relevant maintained school members of the forum only) 	<p>The limitation on increases to centrally held spend has been removed from the budgets for admissions and servicing of schools forums. It is therefore proposed to apply salary inflation to the budget for the central teams and address the safeguarding and admission pressures. This is affordable within the overall CSSB allocation.</p> <p>Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG**:</p>		
	• Education Welfare Service	£0.199	£0.203
	• Asset Management	£0.186	£0.189
	• Statutory / Regulatory Duties	£0.669	£0.682
	• Admissions	£0.438	£0.447
	• Servicing of Schools Forum	£0.003	£0.003

**the actual amount for copyright licences is calculated by the DfE and will follow is due course.*

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

**** An amount of £0.110 is estimated by the DfE for centrally retained teachers additional pension costs.*

Section C – Historic Commitments

11. In 2017-18 the DfE provided supplementary guidance on the funding and reporting of historic commitments within central DSG. The guidance also detailed the evidence that Schools Forum required on each item in order to approve the spend:
 - a. **Minutes from the schools forum prior to 1st April 2013** – schools forum should have agreed the commitment prior to 2013
 - b. **Proof that the commitment extended at least as far as the 2018-19 financial year.** Evidence can include reports which indicated an end date in to 2018-19 or beyond, or where the commitment has no specific end date.
 - c. **Where budgets relate to non-staffing costs, there must be a contractual commitment** (such as a PFI agreement or lease agreement) which extends into the relevant financial year.
 - d. **Schools forum papers and minutes that show that approval has been granted for the financial year.** The forum is expected to approve each spending line annually. It is important that schools forums have sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision
12. Having considered the guidance and the available evidence, the commitments agreed by schools forum for 2018-19 and therefore funded within the CSSB allocation for 2022-23 are as per the table overleaf. The reduction has been taken from the contribution to CERA in order that vulnerable pupils funding is prioritised.
13. The overall total is within the £0.294m allocated for historic commitments.
14. Schools Forum should consider the DfE's intention to reduce the historic funding over time in this and future years' funding decisions.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2021-22 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2022-23 £M
<p>Section C</p> <p>Historic Commitments:</p> <p>Schools forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis. The budget cannot exceed the value agreed in the previous funding period and no new commitments can be entered into</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	<p>Funding for CiC Personal Education Plans - Schools Forum decision December 2007 to support PEPs for Looked After Children from 2008/09 financial year as required under "Care Matters". Allocation based on original estimate of £500 per LAC and managed by Virtual Head Teacher. PPG Plus now also supports PEPs <i>and so this funding was reduced to £103,000 in 2018/19 – no change is requested by the Virtual School.</i></p>	0.103	0.103 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p>Child Protection in Schools Adviser - Schools Forum decision January 2006 to support staff within Children's Services to provide support and advice to schools enabling them to meet their statutory responsibilities.</p>	0.056	0.058 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
	<p>Prudential Borrowing Schools forum decision to support approx. £3m capital financing for 13-year period</p>	0.300	0.133 <i>Meets definition And required evidence is available</i>
Total		0.459	0.294
Estimated balance unallocated and available to transfer to the HNB		0.270	0.219

15. Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
16. The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units (PRUs), should agree the amount the local authority will retain.
 - e. If the local authority and schools forum are unable to reach a consensus on the amount to be retained by the local authority, the matter can be referred to the Secretary of State.
17. Local authorities should set a single rate per 5 to 16-year-old pupil for all mainstream maintained schools, both primary and secondary; in the interests of simplicity, this should be deducted from basic entitlement funding.
18. Many schools forums have agreed a top slice of schools funding to meet this shortfall. Wiltshire's schools have benefitted from taken the decision to treat the reduction in ESG funding as part of the general austerity reductions when setting the Council's medium-term financial plan. This has allowed the Council to fund business plan objectives and local priorities. The Council has deliberately selected to offer a level of protection for our school effectiveness services and have managed to avoid seeking approval from Schools Forum to date.

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

19. Schools Forum working group held an extraordinary meeting in October to prepare a Schools Forum response. This has been shared with chairs of WASSH and PHF and members encouraged to respond. The proposals have been the subject of much discussion and lobby groups including the f40 have submitted responses. There are concerns around the removal of this grant at this post pandemic time having a detrimental impact on attainment focus and financial recovery and being incongruous to prevention and support meaning that formal intervention powers are avoided, and pupil outcomes prioritised.
20. There are no proposals to fund services for maintained schools only contained within this report however, there is a separate report where members will consider de-delegation for these services.
21. Assuming the proposed budget is accepted by schools forum, an amount of £0.219m unallocated CSSB is estimated as available and can be used as in previous years, to transfer to fund high needs pressures or, in light of the proposed reduction and removal of the school improvement brokerage and monitoring grant, an increased allocation which is used by the local authority to support any school requiring support.

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE

22. Following the DfE consultation around the calculation of the HNB formula, Wiltshire returns to a higher proportion of historic formula funding. This is detrimental due to lower numbers of learners with statements in 2017-18 than in more recent years. This is offset by Wiltshire being below the funding floor and therefore a protection of 8% offers a level of protection.

23. In addition to the outdated funding model, it has been nationally recognised that the level of funding for the most vulnerable pupils has been historically insufficient and included in the total allocation above is an additional £4.825m announced by the government in July. Whilst this additional funding is most welcome, it does not fully address the magnitude of the cumulative pressures from previous financial years nor does it fully address the anticipated pressure for 2021-22 financial year for Wiltshire.
24. The SEN review is now promised in the first quarter of 2022. It is hoped a national resolution can be found to ensure funding levels better reflect local demands.
25. In terms of decision making for the high needs block the guidance on schools forum powers and responsibilities states that all central spend on high needs block provision is decided by the local authority. This would include decisions on top up values. Final allocations are expected later this month, taking the latest census data into account. Because of this and the interdependencies of decisions across all the funding blocks, final decisions on high needs will be presented alongside those that schools forum is required to make on all of the other blocks in January.

Projected Demand on High Needs Block

26. An early assessment of pressures on the high needs block for 2022-23 are summarised in the table below:

Pressure	£M estimate
Additional Pressure to meet current Spend levels <i>(based on October 2022 forecast overspend over and above additional HNB pupil led funding)</i>	10.144
Estimate of increase in planned places in school (to be confirmed in January)	1.000
Impact of Transitional Support Fund Learners <i>Based on 250 learners</i>	1.000
Estimated Cost increase based on planned reduced EHCP rate of increase 2022-23 <i>Demand for placements with schools, colleges and external providers is based on SEN planning demography of 8.00%.</i>	5.000
Estimated Contract Inflation 2022-24 @ 4% <i>External Provider Contract inflation is added to Independent Special School Fees and SEN alternative provision at 4%</i>	0.800
Pay Inflation for SEN teams at 2% flat rate	0.100
Total Estimated Cost Pressure for 2022-23	18.044

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

DfE Allocation and Other Potential Funding Options

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

	£M
DfE HNB Allocation for 2021-22	62.354
Transfer from Central Block (surplus)	0.219
Transfer from Schools Block 0.5%	1.580
Excess Growth Fund	£TBC
Estimated funding shortfall	£TBC

29. In balancing the budget, it is recommended that:

- a. There is a transfer from the Central Block to High Needs Block – as previous years, any unallocated CSSB is transferred to contribute to the high needs pressures.
- b. Taking into account the wishes of schools who responded to the Autumn consultation, that there is a transfer of Schools Funding to High Needs Block of 0.5% - approximately £1.580million to be transferred from Schools Block. This will be dependent on the decisions made by the forum around the schools formula.
- c. It is possible that the DfE estimated growth fund surplus to estimated growth fund requirements for 2022-23. In the January decision report suite, Schools Forum will be asked to consider the growth fund level.
- d. The recovery actions of the High Needs Block working group are as presented to Schools Forum are progressed. These assumes a level of success when working with schools on inclusion policy for children and young people.
- e. Earmarked funding as part of the FACT programme is maximised in order to facilitate changes required to achieve savings.

DSG Reserve

30. The current forecast overspend on the School Funding reserve is £26.555m. This is currently being cash flowed by the local authority.
31. The DfE management plan and update from the second informal meeting will be discussed at the January meeting as the meeting with the DfE has not yet been scheduled.

Proposals

32. Schools Forum is asked to note the early years information in the report. The budget for early years will be considered in full at the January 2022 meeting.
33. Schools Forum is asked to note the central services information in the report and the required decisions in relation to the central schools block budget for 2021-22. Schools Forum is asked to agree these decisions in principle in advance of setting the Schools budget in January 2021.
 - i. Section A – consult only
 - ii. Section B – approve on a line-by-line basis (*including a potential transfer to the high needs block or, pending the local consultation additional DSG funding to support school improvement.*)
 - iii. Section C – approve on a line-by-line basis

34. Any updates around the DfE consultation to remove the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant will be brought to the January 2021 meeting for update and decision.
35. Schools Forum is asked to note the pressures on the high needs block for 2022-23 and the potential options to reduce the shortfall against high needs budgets including agreeing a transfer from Schools Block to balance the high needs pressures. This will be considered in full at the January 2021 meeting alongside the recovery plan.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

9th December 2021

Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the school's block growth fund in 2022-23.

Background

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

Funding Methodology

4. Growth allocations for 2022-23 will be based on pupil data from the October 2021 census and the October 2020 census.
5. Funding is allocated to local authorities based on the actual growth in pupil numbers they experienced over the previous year. This ensures that over time local authorities are funded on the basis of the actual growth they experience (on a lagged basis), rather than being based upon historic spending decisions.
6. The DfE measure growth within local authorities at **middle layer super output area** (MSOA)¹ level. MSOAs are used as these are small enough geographical areas to detect 'pockets' of growth within local authority areas. Growth is measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA in the local authority between the October 2020 and October 2021 censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers will be included, so positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not be denied growth funding.
7. In Wiltshire, growth is measured by separating the county into 62 MSOA's with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area.

8. For each local authority, the growth factor allocates:
- £1,485 for each primary 'growth' pupil (was £1,455, £1,425, and £1,370 previously)
 - £2,220 for each secondary 'growth' pupil, (was £2,175, £2,130, and £2,050 previously) and
 - £70,800 for each brand-new school that opened in the previous year. (was £68,700, £67,000, and £65,000 previously)
9. The DfE do not expect local authorities to use these rates in their local arrangements for funding growth. The growth factor in the national funding formula is a proxy for overall growth costs at local authority level, and not at the level of individual schools. Local authorities generally allocate growth funding using a local arrangement as there is no national method adopted for allocating growth funding. Therefore, schools forum should therefore continue to make decisions about growth funding locally as they do now.

(The Wiltshire allocation for 2022-23 will be announced in December as part of the schools funding announcement.)

Main Considerations

10. The growth funding forms part of the local authority's Schools Block of funding. For 2022-23, growth funding will be allocated using the formulaic approach, based upon lagged growth data. With regard to allocating funding from the growth fund, the requirements are that:
- a) can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
 - b) to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulations
 - c) to meet the costs of new schools
 - d) the fund must be used consistently for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies
 - e) any funds remaining at the end of the financial year will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.
 - f) local authorities will be required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated. These should provide a transparent and consistent basis (with differences permitted between phases) for the allocation of all growth funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid

- g) local authorities will need to propose the criteria and size for the growth fund to Schools Forum and gain its agreement on both the criteria and size of the fund, before growth funding is allocated.

Proposed Criteria

11. The proposed criteria for funding pupil growth within the local Wiltshire funding formula in 2022-23 are as follows:

New School Allowance (unchanged from 2013-14):

12. Schools receive funding in advance of pupils arriving in the school, based on the result of the pupil teacher ratio rounded up to the nearest next whole number. The PTRs used are 26.5:1 for KS1 & 27.5:1 for KS2.
13. The topped-up element to the next whole number is arrived at by multiplying the result by the salary of a teacher on the top point of the teacher's main scale 6 + on-costs. This element will apply until the first year group has left the school or until the school is full (whichever occurs first).
14. In addition, the costs of a head teacher and 10 hours admin support will be available one "old" term before opening. 55% of the Lump Sum will be available two "old" terms before opening. In the first year of opening the school will also receive funding towards supplies and services comprising, 34% of the Lump Sum, 17% in the second year & 8.5% in the third year after opening. (The Lump Sum is proposed at £121,300, the NFF rate for 2022-23).
15. New schools may also receive an estimate of the new pupil intake for the forthcoming academic year. This approach will be in place for the number of years equal to the number of year groups at the school. The initial estimate may be changed at a later date (but no later than the end of Term 6) to more accurately reflect the likely new intake, with the agreement of the school.

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

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

Infant Class Size Increases:

17. This is payable to a Primary School with infant classes which is required to set up an additional class in the Autumn term as required by the infant class size

regulations, and the school cannot accommodate all of its additional Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils in classes of 30 or less, i.e. the total number of pupils in the 3 year groups exceeds a multiple of 30. Where the total increase in NOR between the two October census dates is greater than 13 and necessitates that an extra class would be required, then additional funding is allocated per additional class.

18. Schools Forum is required to consider and approve the above criteria for application in 2022-23.

Falling Rolls Fund

19. LA's may set aside Schools Block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.

20. Any fund established for the purposes of a Falling Rolls fund would represent a top-slice of the Schools Block. Criteria would need to be established to support the fund, including clear trigger points for qualification. Compliant criteria could include;

- Support only available to Good or Outstanding schools
- Surplus capacity exceeds a certain proportion of PAN
- Local planning data shows that the places will be filled within the next three years
- The school will be required to make redundancies in order to contain spending within its formula budget

21. Any formula for funding schools could include;

- A rate per vacant place and maximum number of places
- A lump sum payment to schools

22. Wiltshire Schools Forum has always resisted the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and is being asked to consider establishing such a fund, in light of its previous decisions on this topic and the additional pressures being placed upon the Schools Block.

23. There has been no pressure from schools or other groups for the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund, due to the limitations around the criteria.

Proposal

24. It is proposed that:

- a) Schools Forum approve the criteria for allocating pupil Growth Fund in 2022-23.

- b) Schools Forum agree that the budget for the Growth Fund to be set at its meeting in January 2022, when the full DSG has been confirmed for the 2022-23 year.
 - c) Schools Forum give consideration to the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and any criteria befitting such a fund.
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