

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Online meeting - Via Microsoft Teams
Date: Thursday 8 June 2023
Time: 1.30 pm

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

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

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| Membership: | Representing: |
|---------------------------|---|
| Aileen Bates | WGA - Special School Governor Representative |
| Lyssy Bolton | Early Years Representative |
| Angela Brennan | Observer - Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum |
| Andy Bridewell | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |
| Rebecca Carson | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Michele Chilcott | WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative |
| Stella Fowler | WGA - Primary School Governor Representative |
| Jo Grenfell/Nikki Barnett | 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 |
| Graham Nagel-Smith | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Nick Norgrove | WASSH - Maintained Secondary School Representative |
| Emma Osmund | Early Years Representative |
| Lisa Percy | Secondary Academy Representative |
| Giles Pugh | Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative |
| John Read | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |
| Graham Shore | PHF - Primary Academy Representative |
| Trudy Srawley | Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council |
| Ros Sutton | WGA - Primary School Governor Representative |
| Mike Thomas | WASSH - Special School Academy Representative |
| Ian Tucker | Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative |
| David Whewell | WGA - Secondary School Governor Representative |
| Catriona Williamson | PHF - Maintained Primary Representative |

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For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

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PART I

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

1 **Apologies, Substitutions and any Changes of Membership**

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

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 28*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2023 (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 who are able to ask questions or make a statement in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Forum at each meeting. A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated to this at the start of each meeting, and each question or statement should last no longer than 3 minutes. Please register with the Officer named on this agenda, and in accordance with the deadlines below.

Statements

Members of the public who wish to submit a statement in relation to an item on this agenda should submit this electronically to the Officer named on the agenda **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 6 June 2023** (1 clear working day before the meeting). Statements must not be defamatory, frivolous, offensive, vexatious, unlawful or otherwise improper. They must not name or identify individual service users, members of staff or members of partner agencies.

Questions

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions to the Officer named on the front of this agenda **no later than 5pm on Thursday 1 June 2023** to allow a response to be formulated. Questions are limited to a maximum of 2 per person/organisation. A response will be given as either a direct oral answer or a written reply. Questions must not require the disclosure of confidential information. The Chair's ruling on rejection of a question is final.

6 **Updates from Working Groups (Pages 29 - 40)**

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

- Early Years Reference Group – 31 March 2023.
- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 22 May 2023 – *these are to follow as part of an Agenda supplement*

7 **Update on FACT (Families and Children Transformation) (Pages 41 - 42)**

Schools Forum will receive an update on the FACT programme from Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead).

8 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring Year End Position for 2022-23 (Pages 43 - 50)**

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to provide the budget monitoring year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2022-23 as at 31 March 2023.

9 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2023-24 (Pages 51 - 52)**

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 2023-24 as at 30 April 2023 – this report is *to follow as part of an Agenda supplement*.

10 **Update from the High Needs Working Group and Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme (Pages 53 - 66)**

Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion) will give a verbal update on behalf of the High Needs Working Group.

Cate Mullen will also give an update on the and Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme and some guidance summary notes are attached for information.

11 **DfE Consultation - Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula (Pages 67 - 74)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to provide an update following the Department for Education (DfE) consultation with stakeholders regarding their reforms to the National Funding Formula (NFF), which took place between June and September 2022.

12 **Planned Local Autumn Consultations (in Principle decisions) (Pages 75 - 82)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to brief Schools Forum and agree a set of questions to be sent out to all schools in the autumn of 2023 in relation to:

- Delegation of Central Expenditure 2024-25
- Funding for Education Function 2024-25
- Transfer of funding from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2024-25.

13 **Update on the work of the F40 Group** *(Pages 83 - 84)*

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) will provide a verbal update on the work of the F40 group.

14 **Scheme for Financing Local Authority Maintained Schools** *(Pages 85 - 86)*

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to provide Schools Forum with an update required to the Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

15 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings, as follows:

5 October 2023
 5 December 2023
 18 January 2024
 14 March 2024.

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 19 JANUARY 2023 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Rod Bell, Lyssy Bolton, Andy Bridewell, Rebecca Carson, Michelle Chilcott, Stella Fowler, John Hawkins, Georgina Keily-Theobald, Graham Nagel-Smith, Lisa Percy (Chair), Giles Pugh, Graham Shore (Vice Chair), Trudy Srawley, Catriona Williamson

Also Present:

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager), Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion), Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) and Lucy Townsend (part of meeting) – (Director of Children’s Services)

1 Apologies, Substitutions and Changes of Membership

Apologies were received from Aileen Bates, Angela Brennan, Cllr Ross Henning, Nick Norgrove, Emma Osmund, John Read, Ros Sutton, Ian Tucker, David Whewell and from Helean Hughes (Director – Education & Skills), Cllrs Laura Mayes (Cabinet Member – Children Education and Skills), Dominic Muns (Portfolio Holder for Education), Suzanne Wickham (Portfolio Holder for SEND).

Substitutions

Rod Bell was substituting for Ian Tucker.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 were presented.

Resolved:

That the Chair approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Schools Forum held on 8 December 2022.

3 Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

Sad news – Emma Russell

It was with great sadness and shock that we lost our friend and colleague Emma Russell shortly before Christmas.

Headteacher of Kennet Valley Primary School, Emma was a passionate, fun and inspiring individual. Emma worked tirelessly for the hundreds of children and families that passed through Kennet Valley during her time there. Emma was incredibly proud of her school and the achievements of her staff and children. She was a true community champion and brought much happiness to many people, not just within the school, but those in the community who were always warmly welcomed at school events and community activities.

Emma had only just received a long service award after 20 years of service and an unwavering commitment to making a difference to her pupils. Emma held ambitions not only for her pupils and staff but for education in Wiltshire as a whole. Never afraid to challenge, always willing to assist, for me Emma personified what it is to be a teacher and leader.

Today we officially lay her to rest and celebrate her life. She was a wonderful friend to many of us and having spoken to many children and parents who knew Emma through Kennet Valley I am certain that she will never be forgotten and her legacy remains for the children of Lockeridge and beyond.

4 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

5 **Public Participation**

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

6 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group meeting held on 6 January 2023 (which were contained in Agenda Supplement 1). There were no questions arising.

The Forum noted the update received by way of the minutes of the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN Working Group held on 9 January 2023. There were no questions arising.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the minutes of the meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 6 January 2023 and the joint meeting of the School Funding and SEN working group held on 9 January 2023.

7 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2022-23**

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which presented the year end budget monitoring information against the DSG for the financial year 2022-23 as at 30 November 2022 and highlighted the following:

- An overspend £9.325 million was currently projected across the overall DSG schools budget which was a small increase from the meeting in December 2022;
- Although an underspend of £2.257 million was forecast for the Early Years budget it was anticipated that the DfE's post financial year adjustment would claw this back in the summer in whole or part if the January 2023 census numbers fall;
- The main reason for the underspend was the take up for 3 and 4 year olds and there was a slight underspend on take up for 2 year olds although there was an overspend in the Inclusion Support Fund as the 30 hours take up was higher than anticipated, largely due to the expansion of the scheme to support working parents for up to 30 hours;
- Officers had been successful with a 2022-23 bid for COMF grant funding to use in early years settings to support flexible pastoral support. There had been no claims for hardship this year and it was suggested that settings could be approached again to see if they wished to make any bids;
- There was a forecast underspend on the School budgets of £179k – this was because of alternative grants being used including some Ukrainian funding;
- The High Needs budget was due to overspend by £12.182 million – when the level of funding doesn't match the local needs the budget cannot be set at an achievable level and is clear that the whole budget is under significant pressure;
- There had been an increase in EHC assessments which had been delayed due to the Covid backlog. The forecast increase in EHCP's was 574 which was a 13.1% increase compared to a 6.1% in 2021-22;
- There was a small forecast underspend for the Central Schools Services block of £421k which was driven by careful management of the specialist education packages for children in care as well as use of alternative external grant funding where possible to do so;
- The reserve brought forward of £25.973 million was increased by the positive early years block adjustment of £564k. The forecast overspend would take the reserve into a deficit position of £34.734 million. Officers were working closely with the DfE's Delivering Better Value (DVB) partners (CIPFA and Newton) to enhance current plans, adding insight from other local authority action plans and offering the opportunity to bid for transformational funding; and

- The Early Years Reference Group had considered the limited one off usage of the early years contingency to support children for school readiness and support for vulnerable early years pupils with additional needs. This would be by way of four FTE temporary Early Years Intervention Advisors, Inclusion Support for settings and an Early Years Conference in the summer or autumn term 2023. These proposals were anticipated to assist with Covid recovery for children and also contribute to the early help and prevention agenda.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the year end budget monitoring position as at 30 November 2022 in conjunction with the high needs recovery plan and the Delivering Better Value update.

8 High Needs Block Update

Cate Mullen (Head of SEND and Inclusion) presented a verbal update on behalf of the High Needs block working group and highlighted the following;

- There was currently a £34 million High Needs block deficit in Wiltshire and the aspirational challenge was to bring back the spending to a balanced budget;
- There was good news that £1.7 million of transformation funding had been made available to carry out deep dive work. This funding would support the development of roles and capacity to undertake the work associated with the DBV programme. It had been agreed to delay this start of this work until summer 2023 as this would enable key positions and capacity to be in place to align to the timetable for the DBV work. Schools Forum would be kept updated on this work;
- There was to be an additional £2.9 million of funding of the High Needs block to support an uplift in funding to Special Schools of 3.4%. A further protection through a positive minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for special schools of 3% has been applied to funding rates from 2021-22. These are to reflect HNB operational guidance and are new for 2023-24. It was planned to support early intervention support work in Wiltshire with the balance. Whilst there were two options available – namely to offset the deficit or to support activity linked to High Needs budget work it was felt more appropriate to utilise the balance to support work and early intervention to our children and families, supporting them at an earlier stage to hopefully reduce future demand;
- An extension to accounting override on the High Needs block deficit for a further 3 years had been granted by central Government to 31 March 2026, however, the override past this point was unclear. For now this gave short term certainty and would allow time for them to understand the Wiltshire and other LA's position; and

- An investment request/growth bid was due to be submitted to Cabinet soon to reflect the significant and ongoing growth within SEND.

The slides are attached to the minutes as **Appendix 1**.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the SEND update.

Appendix 1 to Minutes - High Needs Block update presentation

9 **Additional School Capital Funding for 2022-23 - Funding and Methodology**

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum and outline the level of additional capital funding and how it will be allocated to schools in the 2022-23 year and highlighted the following:

- In December 2022 the DfE announced an additional £500 million capital funding for the 2022-23 year to be prioritised on projects that improve a school estate's energy efficiency. Where individual schools judge that this is not appropriate based on local circumstances, schools have discretion to spend this on other capital projects. The DfE had issued guidance on how schools could improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs and the funding could be rolled forward into 2023-24;
- Schools should have already received this funding which was allocated as a £10,000 lump sum and then a weighted pupil rate of £20.06 depending on the pupils at the school; and
- The DfE are only able to fund 90% of costs for VA schools as VA Governing Bodies are responsible for their own capital works and are also unable to recover VAT. The net impact of the VA factor is a multiplier of x 1.08 which in effect increases their DFC allocation by 8%, to take account of the unrecoverable VAT.

A maintained schools representative asked if schools could decide to use the funding for example for staffing costs and if there would be any recourse if this was chosen? Grant Davis responded that the funding must be spent on capital expenditure and could not be used for staffing or any other revenue costs.

An early years representative asked if a weighting would be applied for children in mainstream schools but with higher needs attending resource bases for example. Grant Davis said that he would need to check and clarify that position, but the weighting is based upon the type of school rather than pupil characteristics.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative reported that their schools in Dorset and Wiltshire were carrying out decarbonisation surveys.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report on additional school capital funding for 2022-23.

10

School Budget Setting 2023-24

10a School Revenue Funding 2023-24 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2023-24 and highlighted the following:

- The DfE had issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on 16 December 2022. 2022-23 was the final year of the 'Boris Billions' which had pledged a cash increase of £14.5 billion over 3 years from 2020-21. There had also been a further pledge for high needs over the 3 years;
- For the 2023-24 year there had been an increase of £2.3 billion in to overall Schools Block and a further £400 million had been pledged for the High Needs for the year;
- The Schools Block of funding had now incorporated the 2022-23 Schools Supplementary Grant funding rates and these were now baselined into the NFF rates. It was another 'soft' year with local Schools Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology. The DfE have indicated their intention to move to 'hard' NFF by 2027-28. In the meantime there would be a tightening towards the full NFF but this would not impact Wiltshire who were already following the NFF funding factors;
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) had been adjusted to ensure all schools gain through the per pupil allocations and must be set between 0.0% and 0.5%. For the 2023-24 year the overall funding through the NFF had increased by 1.9%. Core pupil led factors and the lump sum increased by 2.4% and disadvantaged funding, FSM6 and IDACI factors increased by 4.3%. The minimum per pupil funding level increased by 3.3% and the FSM factor had increased by 2%;
- A transfer of up to 0.5% of Schools block funding to the High Needs block was permitted subject to Schools Forum approval;
- The Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) grant would be phased out completely and LA's were able to de-delegate funding from maintained schools to support school improvement;
- The DfE would continue to pay Business rates on behalf of all schools liaising with the LA directly around this;

- The Pupil Premium rates for 2023-24 were being uplifted by 5%;
- The provisional DSG allocation was £452.297 million which was increase of £29.887 million from 2022-23;
- Due to previous prudent decision making Wiltshire was able to fully fund their schools, but Officers were aware of colleagues in other LA's who were not able to fully fund their schools this financial year;
- There had been a drop in the numbers of primary school pupils but it was marginal at 1.5% bearing in mind the birth rate drops of 10%. There had been an increase in secondary school pupils and overall for the 2023-24 the increase was 109 pupils;
- Included within the Schools Block funding of £346.293 million is the amount of £1.964 allocated on the basis of pupil growth within Wiltshire;
- The uplifted funding for the High Needs block reflected and included Wiltshire's share of the £400 million additional funding announced for High Needs in 2023-24 and the additional High Needs allocation of £2.942 million;
- The indicative hourly rates for 2023-24 had been announced but it should be noted that the Early Years block would ordinarily be updated during the financial year to reflect the January 2023 and January 2024 early years census data;
- The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools' block and other blocks within the DSG of up to 0.5% with the agreement of Schools Forum (which has been previously agreed in principle);
- Local Authorities are required to submit their proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas by 20 January 2023 to the DfE who would then confirm the formula is compliant with the funding regulations. The DfE will then confirm the budgets to academies with the LA also needing to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2023;
- At the December 2022 Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue in 2023-24, as in 2022-23. The amount of each de-delegated service budget is based upon the relevant formula factors for maintained schools and would be voted on later in the meeting; and
- It had also been previously agreed that maintained schools would de-delegate funding to support school improvement services, previously funded from the LAMB grant which would be phased out from April 2023.

The Chair commented that the early indicative allocations given and the provisional decisions made by Schools Forum had paid dividends to put us in a position to know where we are.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative reported that the Dorset Schools Forum had made the decision to reduce the funding available for Primary Schools. Grant Davis commented that Wiltshire were in a privileged position to be able to afford to fully fund their schools and but that down to good collaborative work and collective decisions of Wiltshire Schools Forum.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

10b Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block Update 2023-24 (Indicative Allocations)

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2023-24 and highlighted the following:

- The DfE had issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on 16 December 2022. 2022-23 was the final year of the 'Boris Billions' which had pledged a cash increase of £14.5 billion over 3 years from 2020-21. There had also been a further pledge for high needs over the 3 years;
- For the 2023-24 year there and been increase of £2.3 billion in to overall Schools Block and a further £400 million had been pledged for the High Needs for the year;
- The Schools Block of funding had now incorporated the 2022-23 Schools Supplementary Grant funding rates and these were now baselined into the NFF rates. It was another 'soft' year with local Schools Forum still retaining its role in determining the school funding allocation methodology. The DfE have indicated their intention to move to 'hard' NFF by 2027-28. In the meantime there would be a tightening towards the full NFF but this would not impact Wiltshire who were already following the NFF funding factors;
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) had been adjusted to ensure all schools gain through the per pupil allocations and must be set between 0.0% and 0.5%. For the 2023-24 year the overall funding through the NFF had increased by 1.9%. Core pupil led factors and the lump sum increased by 2.4% and disadvantaged funding, FSM6 and IDACI factors increased by 4.3%. The minimum per pupil funding level increased by 3.3% and the FSM factor had increased by 2%;
- A transfer of up to 0.5% of Schools block funding to the High Needs block was permitted subject to Schools Forum approval;

- The Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) grant would be phased out completely and LA's were able to de-delegate funding from maintained schools to support school improvement;
- The DfE would continue to pay Business rates on behalf of all schools liaising with the LA directly around this;
- The Pupil Premium rates for 2023-24 were being uplifted by 5%;
- The provisional DSG allocation was £452.297 million which was increase of £29.887 million from 2022-23;
- Due to previous prudent decision making Wiltshire was able to fully fund their schools, but Officers were aware of colleagues in other LA's who were not able to fully fund their schools this financial year;
- There had been a drop in the numbers of primary school pupils but it was marginal at 1.5% bearing in mind the birth rate drops of 10%. There had been an increase in secondary school pupils and overall for the 2023-24 the increase was 109 pupils;
- Included within the Schools Block funding of £346.293 million is the amount of £1.964 allocated on the basis of pupil growth within Wiltshire;
- The uplifted funding for the High Needs block reflected and included Wiltshire's share of the £400 million additional funding announced for High Needs in 2023-24 and the additional High Needs allocation of £2.942 million;
- The indicative hourly rates for 2023-24 had been announced but it should be noted that the Early Years block would ordinarily be updated during the financial year to reflect the January 2023 and January 2024 early years census data;
- The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools' block and other blocks within the DSG of up to 0.5% with the agreement of Schools Forum (which has been previously agreed in principle);
- Local Authorities are required to submit their proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas by 20 January 2023 to the DfE who would then confirm the formula is compliant with the funding regulations. The DfE will then confirm the budgets to academies with the LA also needing to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2023;
- At the December 2022 Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue in 2023-24, as in 2022-23. The amount of each de-

delegated service budget is based upon the relevant formula factors for maintained schools and would be voted on later in the meeting; and

- It had also been previously agreed that maintained schools would de-delegate funding to support school improvement services, previously funded from the LAMB grant which would be phased out from April 2023.

The Chair commented that the early indicative allocations given and the provisional decisions made by Schools Forum had paid dividends to put us in a position to know where we are.

The Salisbury Diocesan representative reported that the Dorset Schools Forum had made the decision to reduce the funding available for Primary Schools. Grant Davis commented that Wiltshire were in a privileged position to be able to afford to fully fund their schools and but that down to good collaborative work and collective decisions of Wiltshire Schools Forum.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report.

10c Dedicated Schools Budget - Central School Services Block Update 2023-24

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the report which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the central school's block budget for 2023-24 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- The central school services block budget allocation was £2.600m and this had been calculated using the NFF which applies a unit value of £36.75 to the pupil numbers from the October 2022 census. Funding for historic commitments for 2023-24 would then be added to the amount of funding generated by the formula to give the overall total CSSB;
- Schools Forum approval was required on a line by line basis for the group of services which are funded from the Central School Services block;
- Section A related to copyright licences being set at £457k although no decision was required by Schools Forum;
- Section C related to historical commitments with the overall total of £235k being allocated. This would reduce by 20% year on year; and
- This would leave a balance of £133k unallocated and available to transfer to the High Needs block and it was proposed to do this again this ear.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the change to the copyright licence cost for 2023-24 and reduction in the contribution to the High Needs block in the report and the required decisions below to the Central School Services block budget for 2023-24.

- i) Section A – central copyright licences -consult only**
- ii) Section B – central functions - approve on a line-by-line basis**
- iii) Section C – historic commitments -approve on a line-by-line basis**

Including the transfer of surplus CSSB grant to support the high needs block.

10d Dedicated Schools Budget - Schools Block Update 2023-24 (Delegated Budget)

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager referred to the report which sought to update on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2023-24 and highlighted the following:

- The DfE had allocated a Schools block quantum to Wiltshire of £346.293 million - this included funding of £1.964 million for the growth fund, based on the growth formula;
- Modelling work had been prepared to calculate individual school budgets based on the DfE's NFF. The main funding formula for 2023-24 was broadly similar to the formula for 2022-23 but the following changes should be noted:
 - An increase in Pupil and School led funding values of 2.4% with Deprivation funding increased by 4.3%
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee set between 0.0% and 0.5% to ensure all schools see a gain in funding on their pupil led funding. It was proposed to set this for Wiltshire at 0.5%
 - Increases in the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFL) to £4,405 and £5,715 in primary and secondary schools
- Agreement was given by Schools Forum in December 2022 to transfer £1.716 million (0.5%) to the High Needs block which would then mean there was £341 million available for school funding and once the NFF requirements had been taken would leave £532,650 for the Growth Fund and Officers were confident that this was sufficient for the demands for the year;
- There had been growth of 198 primary and 725 secondary pupils during 2022-23, within the DfE's growth areas, and there were no plans to open any new schools in the 2023-24 year. The Basic Need Class Expansion for additional classes was still to be confirmed with colleagues for the 2023-24 year and no more than 4 schools were expected to be funded through the Infant Class Size increases;

- Setting a positive MFG of 0.5% was fully affordable and would ensure that all schools see an uplift in their 'per pupil' funding of at least 0.5%. The cost to the formula in 2023-24 is £165k, subject to decisions to be taken later by Schools Forum; and
- As part of the DfE's proposals to support small and rural schools, the maximum sparsity value for primary schools has now increased to £56,300, with Secondary schools increasing to £81,900. There were 66 eligible primary schools and 2 secondary schools.

Resolved that Schools Forum:

- 1. Note the Schools Block update report.**
- 2. Agree to apply all the funding factors at the 2023-24 NFF rates.**
- 3. Note the stability and impact of the Sparsity factor.**
- 4. Agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at a level of 0.5%.**
- 5. Agree to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, £1.716m, as the funding formula is affordable.**
- 6. Agree that the Growth fund be set at £0.533m.**

(The decisions numbered 2-6 above were made later in the meeting under Agenda item 11)

The Forum agreed to suspend the meeting at 3.05pm for a comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 3.10pm.

10e Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MASG) 2023-24 - Funding and Methodology

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) referred to the report which sought to outline on the level of additional funding and how it will be allocated in schools in the 2023-24 year and highlighted the following:

- At the December meeting it was announced that there would be an additional £2 billion of funding for mainstream schools and high needs during 2023-24 in support of the general costs of living expenses, pay awards and the wider cost pressures in schools. The remaining £400 million was allocated to High Needs of which Wiltshire's share is £2.94 million;
- To differentiate between grants in 2022-23, this grant is called the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant and would be introduced from 1 April 2023 and would apply to maintained and academy schools. It is proposed that from 2024-25 that the additional funding would be baselined and

incorporated into the NFF values and therefore the MSAG will only be paid separately for this financial year;

- The funding would be allocated using 3 elements using data from the October 2022 census
 - i) a basic per pupil rate based upon the key stages
 - ii) A lump sum to be paid to all schools of £4,510
 - iii) A per pupil rate for FSM6 pupils (different rates for primary and secondary)
- There was an indicative allocations calculator provided on Right Choice which schools could use and the actual amounts would be confirmed in the Spring.

Resolved:

That Schools Forum note the report on the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant for 2023-24.

10f Dedicated Schools Budget - High Needs Block Update 2023-24

Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) referred to the revised report and appendices circulated with the Agenda supplement which sought to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the high needs block budget for 2023-24 and the decisions that would need to be made as part of the budget setting process. Marie highlighted the following:

- The DfE made late changes to the High Needs block allocation following publication of the Agenda and so the report and appendices were updated and were contained in the Agenda supplement. The total High Needs allocation for 2023-24 was £70.918 million and a later “additional high needs” allocation of £2.942 million to fund the cost burden of energy, teachers and support staff pay and other cost pressures plus the 3.4% additional grant payable to Special Schools;
- Whilst this additional funding was welcome it would still not keep pace with our spending but the DfE have recognised the additional pressures on the High Needs block;
- The recent SEN Review did not indicate that any more money would be forthcoming and it was anticipated that the findings would be published in the summer;
- The recovery actions of the High Needs Block Working Group continue and Schools Forum monitor these in conjunction with ongoing discussions with the DfE;
- As part of the Additional High Needs funding, the DfE have allocated £2.942 to Wiltshire. After calculation of the Special Schools 3.4%

increase, it was proposed to hold this grant separately and rather than continuing to reduce the funding gap, these funds could be used to invest in early help and prevention;

- The Special Schools would receive a total funding uplift of 3.4% in full and it was planned that there would be consultation with Special Schools School Business Managers to check that the placement numbers were correct. It was not clear from the guidance if this would be baselined or was a one off grant;
- The current forecast overspend on the School Funding reserve was £34.734 million. Wiltshire had done their fair share of lobbying and involvement with the F40 group and they would be involved in the DfE's programme of intervention work - Delivering Better Value programme to start in June 2023;
- At a recent conference attended it was reported that 75% of LA's were in deficit or did not have 'Good' Ofsted inspection outcomes – the whole country was struggling with the funding of high needs; and
- Council transformational funding of £1.6 million had been earmarked to support a significant programme of change which would align with the DBV programme to facilitate financial recovery for Wiltshire;

The Salisbury Diocesan representative asked for clarity around the decision to not badge the additional grant against the in year shortfall of £16 million but to elect to invest in early help to aid long term recovery. Marie Taylor confirmed this was the case.

Resolved: That Schools Forum

- 1. Note the pressures on the high needs block for 2023-24 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.**
- 2. Note the investment from the local authority's transformation reserve of £1.6 million. This would pre-date and align with Delivering Better Value funding from the DfE.**
- 3. Approve the approach to deploy the additional HNB funding in 2023-24, funding the Special schools minimum funding guarantee and invest in early help, prevention and long term recovery.**

11 School Budget Decisions 2023-24

The Chair led the Forum through the Decision Matrix and the decisions as detailed below were made:

Resolved: That Schools Forum

Overall budget

1. Agree to set the overall Schools Budget at the level of the DSG Settlement – namely £452,296,572.

Central Schools Services Block

2. Note the Local Authority Decision (Section A) to set the budget at £0.457 million for central copyright licences for 2023-24.
3. Agree as follows the Section B expenditure for the Central Schools Services:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| i) Education Welfare Service | £0.221 million |
| ii) Asset Management | £0.206 million |
| iii) Statutory/Regulatory duties | £0.743 million |
| iv) Admissions | £0.474 million |
| v) Servicing of Schools Forum | £0.003 million |
| vi) Centrally retained Teachers additional pension costs | £0.127 million |
4. Agree as follows the central spend on historic commitments (Section C):
 - i) Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans be funded at £0.103 million;
 - ii) Funding for Child Protection Officer in Schools Adviser at £0.056 million; and
 - iii) Prudential Borrowing at £0.076 million.
5. Note that these allocations allow a transfer of £0.133 million to support the high needs block.

Schools Block – Delegated Budget

6. Agree to apply all the funding factors at the 2023-24 NFF rates.
7. Note the stability and impact of the Sparsity factor.
8. Agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at a level of +0.5%.
9. Agree that the Growth fund be set at £0.533 million split as £0.1 million Infant Class Size and £0.433 million basic need.
10. Agree to transfer up to a maximum of £1.716 million (0.5%) from School's block to High Needs block.
11. Agree that the budgets for De-delegation of central services be as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| i) Access Budget Software | £57,105 |
| ii) FSM Eligibility | £30,218 |
| iii) Trade Union | £28,064 (total budget academies & Maintained is £76,000) |
| iv) EMAS & Travellers | £589,911 (Primary only) |
| v) Behaviour support | £694,579 (Primary only) |
| vi) Maternity supply | £606,825 |
| vii) School Improvement (LAMB) | £459,000 |

High Needs Block

12. Set the Minimum Funding Guarantee for Special Schools uplift at 3% between 2021-22 and 2023-24 as required by DfE guidance.
13. Set the 2023-24 funding for Special Schools to increase by 3.4% (place and top up) in line with mainstream schools as per revised DfE Guidance of 11 January 2023 (Note the use of the DfE's Supplementary funding grant of £2.9 million).
14. Note the pressures on the high needs block for 2023-24 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.
15. Note the investment from the Local Authority's transformation reserve of £1.6m. This will pre-date and align with Delivering Better Value funding from the DfE.
16. Provide views on the approach to deploy the additional High Needs Block funding in 2023-24, funding the Special Schools minimum funding guarantee and invest in early help, prevention and long term recovery.

Early Years Block

17. Agree to increase the current rate of 2-year-old funding to £5.75 and 3 and 4-year-old funding to £4.68 per hour.
18. Note that pay inflation will be added at 9% to the central early years' teams reflecting the above inflation pay increase in 2022-23 and the 4.5% estimate for 2023-24 financial years.
19. Note the deprivation and rurality increase to reflect current spending levels at £300,000.
20. Note that all other funding factors remain at current 2022-23 levels or funded levels.

21. Note that Inclusion Support Fund will be set at £0.359 million and that the Early Years block is to fund the Early Years Inclusion Support Fund at the current level and the High Needs Block to allocate £0.180 million to increase support available in line with the SEN strategy around prevention.
22. Agree up to £828 per child for 2023-24 from the Disability Access Fund – the local authority to passport the funding.
23. Agree to the uplift in funding for Pupil Premium to be set at £0.62 per hour – the local authority to passport the funding.
24. Agree to ensure that at least 95% of funding is passed through to providers.

12 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

16 March 2023 (if required)
8 June 2023
5 October 2023
5 December 2023.

13 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 3.45 pm)

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

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

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High Needs Block Update

Cate Mullen

19th January 2023

Areas of Challenge

- £34m HNB deficit in Wiltshire

Good News

- Transformation reserve of £1.6m has been made available
- This will support the development of roles and capacity to undertake the work associated with the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme
- Delay agreed for DBV to summer 2023 – this will enable key positions and capacity to be in place to align to the timetable for this piece of work.

Good News

- Additional funds made available to fund the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for special schools
- £2.9m additional HNB – consideration of early intervention approaches to utilise this
- Extension to the override for HNB deficit from central Government for a further 3 years
- Investment request/growth bid to be considered by cabinet to reflect the significant and ongoing growth within SEND

Early Years Reference Group Meeting Friday 31 March 2023

1. Welcome and introductions

Jane Boulton (JB), Jackie Day (JD), Lucy-Anne Bryant (LAB), Emma Cooke (EC), Charlotte Forester (CF), Jenny Harvey (JH) (notes), Kirsty Merrifield (KM), Debbie Muir (DM), Emma Osmund (EO) (Chair), Marie Taylor (MT), Emily Wood (EW)

2. Apologies

Gary Binstead (GB), Lyssy Bolton (LB), Sarah Hawkins (SH), Naomi Wright (NW)

3. Minutes of last meeting (6 January 2023)

All agreed as true and accurate.

4. Matters arising

All actions from the last meeting were confirmed as being completed.

Agenda Item 9 – EC confirmed that a library of film clips can be recorded, timings just need to be confirmed. The work has not been commissioned as yet.

Agenda Item 10 – EC confirmed that the Autumn conference will be focused on Inclusion for Early Years, possibly October/November although date is to be confirmed. Ideas for keynote speakers are being sought, so group members were encouraged to send through suggestions to EC who will try to organise. The EY Inclusion team would really like EY settings to be directly involved speaking about their experiences and highlighting what the inspirational work being done on the ground. Ideas and keynote speaker suggestions offered were Steven Donohue, speech and language therapists, Portage representative, occupational therapy, family and parent confidence with Juno Sullivan as a possible speaker.

Agenda Item 12 - EW confirmed that this was found not to be an issue across the board with the majority of providers accessing the maximum number of weeks available for Summer.

ACTION: All members to send any keynote speaker ideas to EC

5. Budget announcement (LAB/All)

LAB shared the headline statements from the budget with the group for discussion again.

LAB advised that national funding rates mentioned in the budget would not be the same for all local authorities.

All agreed that the term 'childcare' should be dropped and replaced with 'EY Education'.

There was concern that there was no mention of recruitment and retention within the Early Years sector which was echoed by all local authorities who attended a DfE webinar last week.

It was felt that clarity was needed on capital funding.

There was concern that support and funding appears to be aimed at the most advantaged which is widening the gap with the most disadvantaged.

The 'golden handshakes' for childminder agencies and childminders who register with them were queried. These payments were deemed to be unfair.

The extension of early years entitlement to include children from the age of nine months was also queried in terms of when it would start. EC and LAB agreed that it would depend on when a child was born, but guidance is awaited.

It was felt clarity was needed on the extension of EYPP and whether it would include 2 year olds now or it remained available for 3&4 year olds only.

There was the suggestion of a baby boom as a result of these new incentives. EC/LAB confirmed they have spoken with midwifery who are keeping an eye on appointment bookings. If there is a spike in these appointments, the local authority will know there will be a future issue.

JD commented that several early years providers received parent queries as soon as the budget announcements were made and raised the issue of where these children are going to attend. EC echoed these thoughts as there is a lack of spaces across the county and stated that new parents possibly think they can just get childcare when they need it. This could force unemployment.

DM asked about Wiltshire's current occupancy rates. LAB informed the group that there are some pockets around the county which have some gaps. However, we are reaching limits in certain parts of the county, i.e. Melksham. Wiltshire Council Early Years have engaged with Hempsalls to attempt to unpick the county picture as we are very concerned. There is a meeting with the DfE every 4 weeks to discuss and go over findings.

There was discussion about sufficiency of places linked with recruitment. EC advised that they will be going into schools to talk about childcare and early years education and trying to raise the profile of the profession.

LAB confirmed that the new staff ratios detailed in the budget are voluntary, and early years provider don't have to adopt them if they don't wish to.

LAB commented that the timescales around wrap around care were concerning.

EO commented that she felt that the voices of early years providers are heard by EYRG council officers. Whilst she recognised that the situation won't change overnight, she thanked Wiltshire Early Years for taking Wiltshire provider issues and concerns to the DfE.

EC and LAB also confirmed that development of the Early Years strategy is ongoing; this will be coming to the EYRG and the sector for further development.

MT raised the topic of lobbying stating that there would be nothing to stop EYRG from pulling together thoughts from the meeting into a letter to share with councillors, the F40 group and Wiltshire Council CLT in order to raise awareness of the pressures facing the sector. There is a need to be increasingly proactive, so it was felt a letter coming from Chair of EYRG might hold more prominence.

**ACTION: Budget thoughts and comments to be sent to JH who will forward to LAB/EC etc.
EC and LAB to start off letter for councillors (then to be passed to MT and finally EO)**

6. Finance update 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 (MT)

MT reported an overall spend of £29 million against an overall budget of £31m for EY in 2022/2023 with a relatively small and previously forecast underspend of £2 million. As per funding guidance, this will be clawed back by the DfE in June/July as their annual "post year adjustment" although unlikely to reflect exactly the actual variance.

A copy of the MT's funding report was submitted to Schools Forum along with the minutes of the January 2023 meeting. Schools Forum considered and approved the proposals set out in the report.

The government's Spring budget 2023 has impacted figures, but MT will inform the group in due course as and when more detail is received.

LAB informed the group that take-up for 2 year olds currently stands at 96%, and Wiltshire settings have done incredibly well to achieve this rate. Universal Entitlement for 3&4 year olds is at 98% whilst Extended Entitlement is at 55%. We need to investigate the reasons why Extended Entitlement take-up is not as high as it could be.

KM reported that her setting is seeing an increase in parents accessing their full 30 hours entitlement rather than just a proportion of it or none at all. This could be due to increased awareness of the funding with parents as some parents previously didn't realise they were eligible.

EO thinks this could also be due to parents recognising the impact of covid. They are now increasing the hours their children spend in early years provision, as they appear to place more value on the work of early years providers. EC commented that they have noticed that whilst parents might only work for 16 hours, they are using the full 30 hours. In addition, due to the shortage of spaces in some areas, once a parent finds a baby space they are prepared to travel even in if they move out of that area.

EO is progressing the temporary staff funded from the reserve.

ACTION: LAB and EW to look at Extended Entitlement take up

7. Family Hubs (LAB)

LAB reported on Family Hubs to the group. Family hubs will be a front gate for family services signposting parents to services they need. They will be a commissioned part of the service for families. Currently, Children's Centres offer a 0-5 service; hubs will offer a 0-19 service. There is a consultation out at the moment and LAB asked all group members to encourage their parents to complete it. There have been consultation events at 24 different venues across the county to inform families about the hubs and find out what services they would like to see as part of the offer. Minority groups such as EAL, EMTAS and traveller/boater families are also being approached to find out what they would want. The contract will start in 2024.

A report based on the outcomes of the consultation and the plans for the development of family hubs will go to cabinet in June 2023.

ACTION: None

8. Family Help pilot for Westbury and Warminster (Simon Thomas)

Simon Thomas, FACT Lead (Families and Children's Transformation) joined the meeting and delivered a presentation on Family Help and the Westbury and Warminster pilot. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

ACTION: None

9. HELM (EC)

HELM has been running for a few meetings and it has now been taken over by EC's team. However the Summer term funding has been organised by the SEND team. EC confirmed that a partial service redesign is being looked into, identifying what has worked well, what hasn't worked well and what have been the barriers.

The Terms of Reference draft is near to completion. Feedback is needed from the sector so another SNAP survey will be sent out after Easter. Details will be included in the EY newsletter and on social media. It will be brought to the next meeting.

DM commented that they have recently received more efficient communication around ISF, it is so much easier and has made such a difference.

EC reported that they have received feedback from settings about the ISF funding they have been paid, in that it is too much for the needs of the individual child for reasonable adjustments. EC shared that the banding system could be changed to 3 bands with a basic outline set out below:

- Band 1 – minor adjustment for child to attend setting
Low level emerging need, settings tend to manage without EYIA involvement.
- Band 2 – moderate need children
A moderate level of need with possible EYIA involvement
- Band 3 – most complex children (this would be more money than is currently received by Band 2 children)
Complex need(s) with more specialist provision needed. Usually more than 1 agency involved.

However, this is currently on hold as a result of the Spring budget. The local authority will need to reassess whether it can continue to fund under 3s under 'Invest to Save' if funding is not increased. There is a possibility it might have to return to the statutory duty of funding 3&4 year olds only. MT questioned if ISF now covered 30 hours which was confirmed if parents were claiming the Extended Entitlement.

DM commented that ISF is a lifeline for some children as some children are having to wait 30-50 weeks for an EHCP.

EC confirmed that 7 other LA offers were checked, and they are also offering similar banding systems. ISF has never been designed to cover 1:1 support. It will definitely need to be revisited in the run up to April 2024.

MT asked if the LA could model the 2 schemes and assess the cost difference? Case examples could benefit providers to comment on. EC will look at a possible pilot for 1, maybe 2 towns.

JB commented that some children are not being seen by some professionals due to the length of waiting lists, i.e. speech and language. However the settings are still supporting the child as there is a need there.

EC stated that a mid-term adjustment can be done on what funding is needed as there does need to be a cut off at some point. The number of children coming through has increased dramatically. A more robust system is required which will reduce the number of inconsistencies. This will mean some children will need to be rebanded.

ACTION: None

10. 30 hour parent consent form (EO)

EO raised the difficulty of the current location of the 30 hour parent consent form and said that some settings cannot find the form, and others are not aware of its existence.

JH agreed to promote the form in the EY Newsletter and move the form to a more prominent location 3&4yo page in download section.

**ACTION: JH to add article to EY Newsletter about the 30 hour parent consent form
JH to move the 30 hour parent consent form's location**

11. Any Other Business

JB informed the group that she has received an invitation to the coronation of King Charles III. The group congratulated Jane on this deserved recognition.

ACTION: None

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 29 September 2023 at 2pm-3:50pm, with the possibility of an extraordinary meeting approximately June.

WILTSHIRE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN'S TRANSFORMATION (FACT) PARTNERSHIP

FAMILY HELP

WHAT IS FAMILY HELP?

Wiltshire's multi-agency Family Help arrangements enable children, young people and families to access the right help at the right time through a co-ordinated approach to prevention and early intervention through:

- a co-ordinated approach at a whole population/universal level to prevent needs from arising and to build resilience across all residents
- a robust multi-agency approach to spotting any additional needs at the earliest point and providing effective joined-up support that prevents the needs from escalating further

Across Wiltshire, the project will deliver:

- A clear unifying brand for Family Help
- Online database of services, community resources & activities – via Wiltshire Together platform
- Co-ordinated whole system workforce development offer
- Consistency of core approaches across the Early Help workforce

The Warminster & Westbury pilot will also develop & test the benefits of:

- Wrapping services/groups around local cluster(s) & communities
- Local case consultation
- More flexible/responsive practice model
- Local community of practice
- Working with sibling groups across phases
- Local training & sharing
- Local 'voice' activity

Westbury/Warminster Pilot

- Pilot Locality Co-Ordinator recruited and starts full time mid-March whilst supporting the currently development work
- Local engagement activity ongoing
- Recruited to the two Family Help Practitioner & Community Navigator roles to support delivery in the pilot area; due in post mid April
- Advert is live for Early Help Mental Health Practitioner
- Monthly Pilot Operational Group meetings

EMERGING PRIORITIES

- Mental health & emotional well-being support
 - Children/young people
 - Adults
- Understanding & accessing the offer
- Parental isolation

TESTING THE PRIORITIES

- Schools
- EY settings
- Wider stakeholders
- Children, young people & families

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Update on the Families and Children's Transformation Programme

Schools Forum will receive an update on the FACT Programme from Simon Thomas (FACT Programme Lead).

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**Schools Forum Funding & SEN Working Group
22 May 2023**

**Schools Forum
8 June 2023**

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2022-23

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2022-23 as at 31st March 2023.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the detailed budget monitoring report as at 31st March 2023.
3. There is a final overspend of £9.276 million against the overall schools budget which is a small decrease since the last report. The detailed budget monitoring report is shown in Appendix 1 and a summary per funding block is shown in table 1, below:

| Table 1 DSG Block Summary | DSG Allocation from the DfE £m | Wiltshire Transfers £m | Current Annual Budget £m | Period 12 Outturn £m | Period 12 Outturn Variance £m | % Variance |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Early Years Block | 30.867 | 0.180 | 31.047 | 28.337 | (2.710) | -9% |
| Schools Block | 328.594 | (1.628) | 326.966 | 325.745 | (1.221) | 0% |
| High Needs block | 64.643 | 1.708 | 66.351 | 79.850 | 13.499 | 20% |
| Central Block | 2.604 | (0.260) | 2.344 | 2.051 | (0.293) | -12% |
| Overall | 426.708 | 0.000 | 426.708 | 435.984 | 9.276 | 2% |

Early Years Budgets (Budget £31.047M, forecast variance (£2.710M))

4. There is a significant underspend based on take up compared to census funding levels, it is anticipated that the DfE's post financial year adjustment will adjust for this in whole or, part in the 2023-24 financial year.

| Table 2 - Early Years Learners | Budgeted PTE | Actual PTE | Actual PTE Variance | Budgeted Spend £M | Actual Spend £M | Actual Spend Variance £M |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 3- & 4-year olds | 10,738 | 9,784 | -954 | 27.055 | 24.313 | (2.742) |
| 2-year-olds | 828 | 773 | -55 | 2.686 | 2.508 | (0.178) |
| ISF | 2,826 | 3,997 | 1,171 | 0.537 | 0.760 | 0.223 |
| | <i>hours</i> | <i>hours</i> | <i>hours</i> | | | |

COMF Grant Funding

5. Early Years officers were successful with a 2022-23 bid to the Director of Public Health to facilitate containment of the virus as below.
 - a. Payment to open or partially open settings - funded and non-funded provision; a one-off grant to support purchase of PPE and increased cleaning costs. £0.370 million.
 - b. Deep cleaning and hardship fund – available for applications of support £0.100.

Schools Budgets (Budget £326.966M, forecast variance (£1.221M))

6. The forecast underspend on schools largely relates to the school supply cover fund and alternative grants being used to fund service teams and growth fund which shows an underspend which is helping to offset the overall pressure on the DSG.

High Needs Budgets (Budget £66.351M, forecast variance £13.499M)

7. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £13.499m. 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 under significant pressure.
8. Following the pandemic, when professionals could not assess children and young people in school, EHC assessments were delayed due to inevitable backlog. Whilst we have put in place temporary support funding to support learners, we continue to see increases in requests for assessment for plans, and our assumptions around future plans will need constant adjustment to be as accurate as possible.
9. 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. Please note the lower growth rate of EHCPS than in previous years in the table below.

| Table 3 - Number of EHCP Learners | Children with an EHCP in Wiltshire | Prior Year Data (2021-22) |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| As at 1 st April 2022 | 4,371 | (01/4/21) – 4,118 |
| As at 31 st March 2023 | 4,911 | (31/3/22) – 4,371 |
| Annual movement | 540 | 253 |
| % Movement | 12% | 6% |

10. Children not being in school and able to be assessed during the pandemic has meant the number of plans issued during 2021/22 was lower than anticipated. The inevitable impact of lockdown on children has increased the number of referrals for assessment and additional resource has been deployed to manage the demand. The 2022/23 increase has been significant as plans are completed, and it is anticipated the impact of this will be on going until we see requests for assessment subside in line with the recovery planning and Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme.
11. The biggest areas of overspend are Independent Special School packages, alternative provision, followed by costs of pupils in non-Wiltshire schools, named pupil allowances and top ups. These are costs driven by demand and are shown in the full time equivalent (FTE) table below:

| Table 4 - High Needs Learners | Budgeted Volume FTE | Actual Volume FTE | Volume variance FTE | % change in volume | Budgeted unit rate |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wiltshire School Provision | | | | | |
| Special School Places | 833.67 | 833.67 | - | 0% | £10,000 |
| Special School Top Ups | 798.80 | 928.34 | 129.55 | 16% | £10,799 |
| ELP Places | 298.81 | 298.81 | - | 0% | £6,000 |
| ELP Top Ups | 512.85 | 541.00 | 28.15 | 5% | £4,719 |
| Resource Base Places | 329.25 | 329.25 | - | 0% | £6,000 |
| Resource Base Top Ups | 330.43 | 483.88 | 153.45 | 46% | £5,998 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Prim | 789.20 | 868.44 | 79.24 | 10% | £5,972 |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Sec | 401.45 | 426.48 | 25.03 | 6% | £5,032 |
| Transition Support Funding | 226.65 | 408.86 | 182.21 | 80% | £4,412 |
| Independent / External Provision | | | | | |
| Independent Special School Fees | 218.30 | 283.33 | 65.04 | 30% | £53,062 |
| 6th Form | 567.95 | 613.98 | 46.02 | 8% | £10,841 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 353.00 | 353.00 | 0.00 | 0% | £6,000 |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 177.83 | 248.78 | 70.95 | 40% | £13,459 |
| Alternative Provision & DP (SEN) | 172.13 | 473.34 | 301.21 | 175% | £13,771 |

12. 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 and Head of Inclusion & SEN.

Central School Services Block (Budget £2.344M, forecast variance (£0.293M))

13. There is a small forecast underspend in this area driven by careful management of the specialist education packages for children in care as well as use of unplanned alternative external grant funding.

DSG Reserve

14. The reserve brought forward of £25.973 million is increased by the positive early years block adjustment of £0.564 million. The forecast overspend takes the reserve into a deficit position of £34.685 million.

| Table 5 - DSG Reserve | Early Years Internal Ringfence (effective 01- 04-22) £M | Schools Block, HNB & Central £M | Total 22/23 FY £M |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Balance Brought Forward from 21/22 | | 25.973 | 25.973 |
| Early Years Adjustment (prior year) | -0.564 | | -0.564 |
| Actual Variance 22/23 | -2.710 | 11.986 | 9.276 |
| Balance CFWD 2022 | -3.274 | 37.959 | 34.685 |

15. The Transformation Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council has approved project spend of £1.620m over 23/24 and 24/25 financial years to deploy temporary resources to drive the change programme forward.

16. The local authority is working closely with the DfE Delivering Better Value partners CIPFA and Newton to enhance our current plans, adding insight from other local authority action plans. Newton have allocated £1.000m to Wiltshire, to be made available when specific milestones are met.

17. The early years reference group have considered limited one-off usage of the early years contingency to support children for school readiness and support for vulnerable early years pupils with additional needs. The proposed expenditure is 4fte temporary (2-year contracts) early years intervention advisers, estimated cost £0.190m, Inclusion Support for settings including outreach from and mentoring / training including showcasing videos of staff working with children together with an Early Years Conference in the summer or Autumn term with a focus on inclusion for early years professionals, linked to an early years recruitment campaign. This will assist with COVID recovery for children and also contribute to the early help and prevention of plans.

Proposals

18. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position including the balance on the DSG reserve at the end of the financial year in conjunction with the high needs recovery plan and Delivering Better Value (DBV) update later in the agenda.

Report Author: Marie Taylor,

Head of Finance, Children & Education

Tel: 01225 712539

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

Appendix 1 – Schools Budget Forecast Position as at 31st March 2023

74.642 5.97137828 22.995 0.919815

| | a | b | c | d = (c-b) | e = (d/b) | f | d = (c-b) | g |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Service Area | Current Annual Budget | Period 12 Outturn | Period 12 Outturn Variance | | | 21/22 Outturn Variance | February forecast variance | Budget Move- ment from Previous Report |
| | £m | £m | £m | % | | | £m | |
| Three to Four Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding | 27.055 | 24.313 | (2.742) | -10.14% | | (2.004) | (2.183) | -0.559 |
| Two Year Olds EY Entitlement Funding | 2.686 | 2.508 | (0.178) | -6.63% | | 0.111 | (0.175) | -0.003 |
| Early Years Inclusion Support Fund | 0.537 | 0.760 | 0.223 | 41.44% | | 0.089 | 0.233 | -0.011 |
| Early Years Pupil Premium & DAF | 0.339 | 0.350 | 0.011 | 3.24% | | (0.049) | 0.011 | 0.000 |
| Early Years Central Expenditure | 0.430 | 0.407 | (0.023) | -5.34% | | (0.032) | (0.004) | -0.019 |
| Early Years Block | 31.047 | 28.337 | -2.710 | -8.73% | | -1.885 | -2.117 | -0.592 |
| Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Local Authority Schools | 111.575 | 111.575 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Schools Budget Shares Primary & Secondary - Academy Schools | 212.179 | 212.179 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Education Functions | 0.230 | 0.230 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Licences and Subscriptions | 0.055 | 0.055 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.002 | (0.015) | 0.015 |
| Free School Meals | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Staff Supply Cover (Not Sickness) | 0.641 | 0.458 | (0.183) | -28.58% | | (0.091) | (0.094) | -0.089 |
| Behaviour Support Team | 0.665 | 0.665 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement | 0.565 | 0.480 | (0.085) | -15.00% | | (0.061) | (0.088) | 0.003 |
| De Delegated Total | 1.954 | 1.686 | -0.268 | -13.71% | | -0.150 | -0.197 | -0.071 |
| Growth Fund | 1.029 | 0.076 | (0.953) | -92.60% | | (0.795) | (0.658) | -0.295 |
| Schools Block | 326.966 | 325.745 | -1.221 | -0.37% | | -0.795 | -0.855 | -0.365 |
| Special School Place Funding | 8.337 | 8.337 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Resource Base (RB) Funding | 1.975 | 1.975 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Funding | 1.793 | 1.793 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| High Needs Block (all schools) | 12.105 | 12.105 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Named Pupil Allowances (NPA) | 6.733 | 7.626 | 0.893 | 13.27% | | 1.093 | 0.890 | 0.003 |
| Special School Top-Up | 8.626 | 10.578 | 1.951 | 22.62% | | 1.664 | 1.392 | 0.559 |
| Resourced Base (RB) Top-Up | 1.982 | 3.377 | 1.395 | 70.39% | | 0.206 | 1.256 | 0.139 |
| Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) Top-Up | 2.420 | 2.686 | 0.265 | 10.96% | | 1.163 | 0.260 | 0.006 |
| Estimate of Transitional Support (TSP) payments | 1.000 | 1.126 | 0.126 | 12.64% | | 0.459 | 0.090 | 0.036 |
| Secondary Alternative Provision Funding | 2.875 | 2.674 | (0.200) | -6.97% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | -0.200 |
| Non Wiltshire Pupils in Wiltshire Schools | 0.000 | 0.055 | 0.055 | 0.00% | | (0.029) | 0.000 | 0.055 |
| Devolved to Maintained & Top Up Total | 23.636 | 28.122 | 4.486 | 18.98% | | 4.555 | 3.888 | 0.598 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 2.118 | 2.118 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools | 2.393 | 3.338 | 0.945 | 39.49% | | 0.775 | 1.063 | -0.118 |
| Post-16 Top-Up | 6.157 | 6.620 | 0.463 | 7.52% | | 3.050 | 0.699 | -0.236 |
| Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools | 11.583 | 15.888 | 4.305 | 37.16% | | 1.627 | 4.307 | -0.002 |
| SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education | 2.370 | 6.113 | 3.742 | 157.88% | | 0.308 | 3.154 | 0.589 |
| Education Other than at School (EOTAS) | 0.491 | 0.338 | (0.153) | -31.19% | | (0.066) | (0.155) | 0.001 |
| Funding for Places outside Schools | 25.113 | 34.416 | 9.302 | 37.04% | | 5.695 | 9.068 | 0.234 |
| High Needs in Early Years Provision | 0.454 | 0.428 | (0.026) | -5.77% | | (0.032) | 0.000 | -0.026 |
| Speech & Language | 0.564 | 0.560 | (0.005) | -0.84% | | (0.015) | (0.014) | 0.009 |
| SEND Business Support | 0.115 | 0.119 | 0.004 | 3.46% | | 0.000 | 0.004 | 0.000 |
| 0-25 Inclusion & SEND Teams | 2.564 | 2.576 | 0.012 | 0.47% | | (0.206) | 0.030 | -0.018 |
| Specialist Teacher Advisory Service | 1.390 | 1.214 | (0.176) | -12.69% | | (0.132) | (0.096) | -0.080 |
| Other Special Education | 0.409 | 0.312 | (0.097) | -23.80% | | (0.149) | 0.012 | -0.109 |
| Commissioned & SEN Support Services | 5.497 | 5.208 | -0.289 | -5.25% | | -0.533 | -0.064 | -0.225 |
| High Needs Block | 66.351 | 79.850 | 13.499 | 20.34% | | 9.717 | 12.891 | 0.608 |
| Central Licences | 0.409 | 0.409 | (0.000) | 0.00% | | 0.000 | (0.000) | 0.000 |
| Central Provision (Former ESG) | 1.191 | 0.967 | (0.224) | -18.79% | | 0.266 | 0.007 | -0.231 |
| Admissions | 0.447 | 0.415 | (0.032) | -7.21% | | (0.015) | (0.023) | -0.009 |
| Servicing of Schools Forums | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Central Provision within Schools Budget | 2.050 | 1.794 | -0.256 | -12.49% | | 0.251 | -0.015 | -0.241 |
| Education Services to CLA | 0.103 | 0.066 | (0.037) | -35.62% | | (0.081) | (0.053) | 0.016 |
| Child Protection in Schools & Early Years | 0.058 | 0.058 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Prudential Borrowing | 0.133 | 0.133 | 0.000 | 0.00% | | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Historic Commitments | 0.294 | 0.257 | -0.037 | -12.48% | | -0.081 | -0.053 | 0.016 |
| Central School Services | 2.344 | 2.051 | -0.293 | -12.49% | | 0.170 | -0.068 | -0.224 |
| Total Schools Budget | 426.708 | 435.984 | 9.276 | 2.17% | | 7.056 | 9.850 | -0.574 |
| Pupil Premium (academy & maintained) | 15.284 | 15.284 | 0.000 | 0 | | | | Academy & Maintained school (excl CiC) |
| 6th Form Funding Maintained Schools (LSC Grant) | 1.118 | 1.118 | 0.000 | 0 | | | | Maintained schools only |
| UI Free School Meal Grant Provisional (academy & maintained) | 5.543 | 5.543 | 0.000 | 0 | | | | Figure provided by DW |
| PE & Sports Revenue Grant (academy & maintained) | 1.508 | 1.508 | 0.000 | 0 | | | | Figure provided by DW |
| DfE Revenue Grants for all Wiltshire Schools | 23.452 | 23.452 | 0.000 | 0 | | | | |
| TOTAL DfE SCHOOLS FUNDING | 450.160 | 459.436 | 9.276 | 2.06% | | | | |

Appendix 1 - the service forecasts of expenditure as at 30th April 2022 - 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 30th April 2022- this is a measure of volumes of pupil placements / support arrangements

Appendix 2 - Variance Analysis

| <i>h</i> | <i>i</i> | <i>j</i> | $k = (j-i)$ | $l = (k/i)$ | <i>m</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Volume analysis | Budgeted Activity FTE | Period 12 outturn Activity FTE | Period 12 Outturn FTE | Variance % | 21/22 Outturn Volume |
| Three/Four Year Olds | 10,738 | 9,784 | (954) | -9% | 9,721 |
| Two Year Olds | 828 | 773 | (55) | -7% | 828 |
| ISF | 2,826 | 3,997 | 1,171 | 41% | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Early Years Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET | 14,392 | 14,554 | 162 | 1% | 10,549 |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Sp Sch Place Funding | 834 | 834 | 0 | 0% | 806 |
| RB Funding | 329 | 329 | 0 | 0% | 329 |
| ELP Funding | 299 | 299 | 0 | 0% | 315 |
| | 1,462 | 1,462 | 0 | 0% | 1,449 |
| NPA | 1,191 | 1,295 | 104 | 9% | 1,215 |
| Special School Top-Up | 799 | 928 | 130 | 16% | 872 |
| RB Top-Up | 330 | 329 | (1) | 0% | 383 |
| ELP Top-Up | 513 | 541 | 28 | 5% | 444 |
| TSP | 227 | 409 | 182 | 0% | 95 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | 3,059 | 3,502 | 443 | 14% | 3,009 |
| Wiltshire College Places | 353 | 353 | 0 | 0% | 350 |
| Non Wiltshire Schools | 178 | 249 | 71 | 40% | 216 |
| Post-16 Top-Up | 568 | 614 | 46 | 8% | 544 |
| Ind & Non-Maint Sp Sch | 218 | 283 | 65 | 30% | 259 |
| SEN AP, DP & EHE | 172 | 473 | 301 | 175% | 197 |
| | 1,489 | 1,972 | 483 | 32% | 1,566 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| High Needs Block ACTIVITY DRIVER DATASET | 6,010 | 6,937 | 926 | 15% | 6,024 |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|

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

High needs budget monitoring as at March 2023

| Analysis of Price & Volume Variance as at March 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Budgeted Volume FTE | Actual Volume | Volume variance | % change in volume | Budgeted unit rate | Budgeted £ | Variance | Actual £ | Actual Unit rate | Unit Rate Variance | Variance | % change in rate | Total Variance | |
| Wiltshire School Provision | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Special School Places | 833.67 | 833.67 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 10,000 | 8,336,700 | - | 8,336,700 | 10,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - | |
| Special School Top Ups | 798.80 | 928.34 | 129.55 | 16.2% | 10,799 | 8,626,200 | 1,398,980 | 10,577,523 | 11,394 | 595 | 5.5% | 1,951,323 | |
| ELP Places | 298.81 | 298.81 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 1,792,854 | - | 1,792,854 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | |
| ELP Top Ups | 512.85 | 541.00 | 28.15 | 5.5% | 4,719 | 2,420,150 | 132,829 | 2,685,508 | 4,964 | 245 | 5.2% | 265,358 | |
| Resource Base Places | 329.25 | 329.25 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 1,975,480 | - | 1,975,480 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - | |
| Resource Base Top Ups | 330.43 | 483.88 | 153.45 | 46.4% | 5,998 | 1,981,920 | 920,412 | 3,376,965 | 6,979 | 981 | 16.4% | 1,395,045 | |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Prim | 789.20 | 868.44 | 79.24 | 10.0% | 5,972 | 4,713,191 | 473,240 | 5,405,991 | 6,225 | 253 | 4.2% | 692,800 | |
| Named Pupil Allowance - Sec | 401.45 | 426.48 | 25.03 | 6.2% | 5,032 | 2,019,939 | 125,967 | 2,220,321 | 5,206 | 174 | 3.5% | 200,382 | |
| Transition Support Funding | 226.65 | 408.86 | 182.21 | 80.4% | 4,412 | 1,000,000 | 803,902 | 1,126,372 | 2,755 | -1,657 | -37.6% | 126,372 | |
| Independent / External Provision | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Independent Special School Fees | 218.30 | 283.33 | 65.04 | 29.8% | 53,062 | 11,583,340 | 3,450,893 | 15,888,272 | 56,076 | 3,014 | 5.7% | 4,304,932 | |
| 6th Form | 567.95 | 613.98 | 46.02 | 8.1% | 10,841 | 6,157,185 | 498,921 | 6,620,191 | 10,783 | -58 | -0.5% | 463,006 | |
| Wiltshire College Places | 353.00 | 353.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 6,000 | 2,118,000 | - | 2,118,000 | 6,000 | 0 | 0.0% | - | |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 177.83 | 248.78 | 70.95 | 39.9% | 13,459 | 2,393,380 | 954,916 | 3,338,454 | 13,419 | -40 | -0.3% | 945,074 | |
| Alternative Provision & DP (SEN) | 172.13 | 473.34 | 301.21 | 175.0% | 13,771 | 2,370,380 | 4,148,031 | 6,112,754 | 12,914 | -857 | -6.2% | 3,742,374 | |
| Total Forecast | 6010.31 | 7091.17 | 1080.85 | 18.0% | | 57,488,719 | 12,908,091 | 71,575,385 | | | | 1,178,575 | 14,086,666 |

0.00

Control check

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Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2023-24

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 2023-24 as at 30 April 2023 – this report is *to follow as part of an Agenda supplement*.

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DELIVERING BETTER VALUE (DBV) in SEND

- DfE-led national programme, in partnership with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
- 55 Local Authorities with High Needs Block deficits, split into 3 ‘tranches’
- Wiltshire ‘diagnostic’ phase of DBV programme runs August to December 2023
- Up to £1m in grant funding available on successful completion of programme

PRINCIPLES (and criteria for grant):

- **Whole-system Participation:** children and young people, parent carers, education providers, as well as health and social care partners
- **Evidence Based Decisions:** quantified & qualified understanding of local need, demand and expenditure
- **Identify Sustainable Changes:** in each LA that can drive high quality outcomes

OBJECTIVES:

- “implement sustainable changes that **improve support and outcomes for children** and young people with SEND”
- “**improve financial stability** of local authorities’ High Needs Block budgets”

TRANCHE 3, WAVE 8: SHARING EXPERIENCE & LEARNING

● Wave 8 Introduction



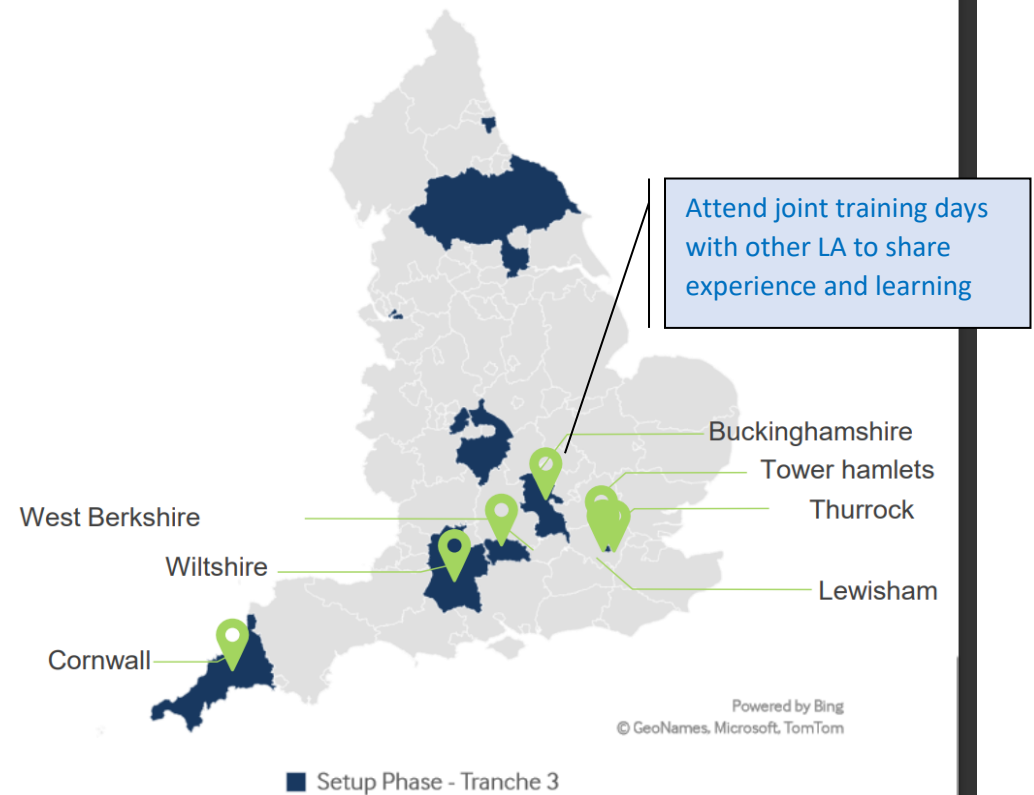
In Tranche 3 there are **14 Local Authorities**, which are split into **2 waves** geographically.



Each wave will be going through the diagnostic **concurrently**, allowing Local Authorities to learn from and support each other.



Your local authority will be within **Wave 8**. Your wave lead will be communicated in due course, however there are **set-up actions** which should be completed starting from now. The other LAs in your wave are shown on the map.



THE DELIVERING BETTER VALUE APPROACH: MODULES and OUTPUTS

DBV Phase 1: Diagnostic Stages

Press **Esc** to exit full screen

MODULAR APPROACH

- Collate & Review Evidence Base
- Understand local 'root causes' driving demand & spend
- Aligned strategy & implementation plan based on findings



Set Up
To understand current position and develop a diagnostic plan



Module 1: Baselines and Forecasts
To understand the volume and type of support Children and Young people have received historically, and what this might look like going forward

REVIEW HISTORICAL TRENDS:

- # Requests and EHCP
- Primary Need
- Setting and Placements
- Total Spend and Unit Costs

ASSURE FUTURE SPEND PROJECTIONS



Module 3: Implementation Planning
To build findings into effective implementation planning, identifying strengths, enablers and risks



Module 2: Root Causes Diagnostic
To identify and quantify the highest impact changes that could be made to deliver better outcomes for children and young people

WHAT IS DRIVING DEMAND & SPEND?

- Changing Needs
- Provision/Offer – scope and reach
- Policy
- Process
- Practice



Grant Application
To apply for funding, using the diagnostic work, to support implementation



Phase 2: Implementation
To start implementing the opportunities and plans identified during the diagnostic

THE DELIVERING BETTER VALUE APPROACH: MODULES and OUTPUT



DBV Diagnostic



1. Diagnostic Identify Opportunities and what it will take to deliver them

- Understand and quantify opportunities
- Understand how opportunities fit with existing and previous change programmes
- Understand enablers and risks to change
- Engage stakeholders to understand their perception of opportunities
- Develop a high level change plan

What are the expected Outputs of a DBV Diagnostic?

Module 1: Baselines and Forecasts

Outputs:

- Baselines of key performance and spend measures
- Refreshed future view of performance and spend if nothing changes
- Assured Opportunities
- Agreed formulas to calculate opportunities
- Priority diagnostic focus areas

Module 2: Root Cause Diagnostics

Outputs:

- Quantified opportunities in terms of spend and outcomes for CYP
- Refreshed future view of spend with impact of opportunities on spend
- Future view of when there will be impact on changes on measures
- Data backed evidence of opportunities

Module 3: Implementation Planning

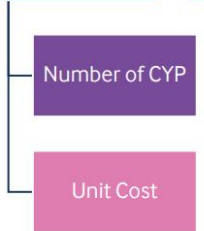
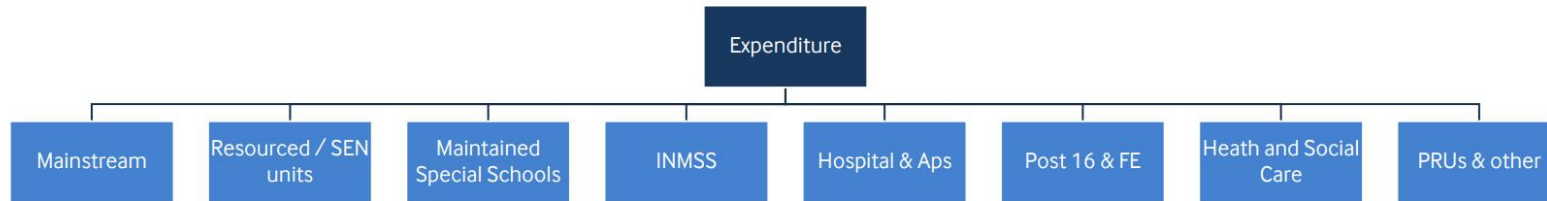
Outputs:

- High level implementation plans
- Workstream summaries
- High level system engagement plans
- Assessment of how ready a local authority is for change
- Risks identified for change programme

MODULE 1 EXAMPLE OUTPUT



● Example Output: High Impact Areas



| | What is driving the trend behind HNB? | What is driving the cost behind these?* | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1 | INMSS | Number of CYP 25% growth | Unit Cost 5% shrink |
| 2 | Mainstream | Number of CYP 13% growth | Unit Cost 2% growth |
| 3 | Maintained Special | Number of CYP 9% growth | Unit Cost 7% shrink |

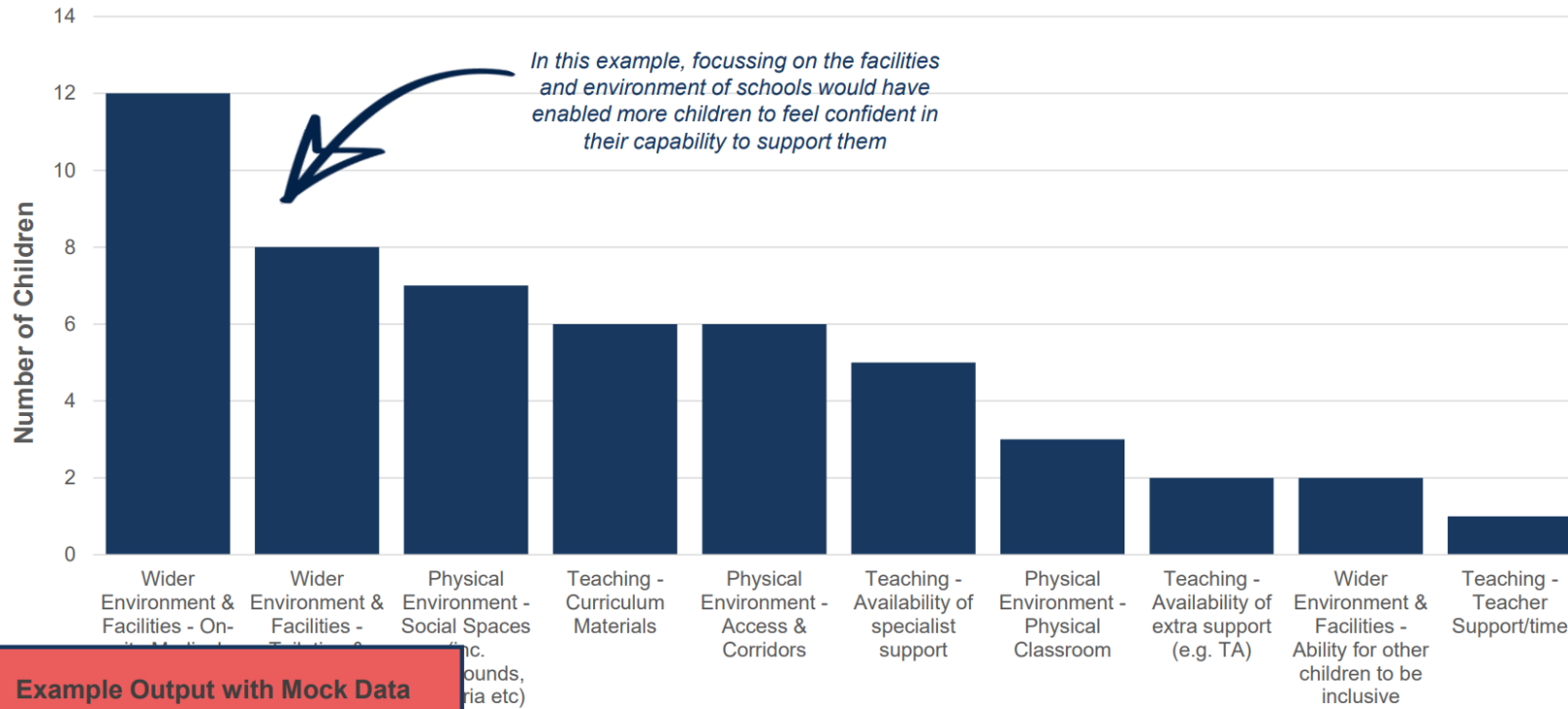
Example Output with Mock Data

MODULE 2 EXAMPLE OUTPUT

● Example Output: Case Review Follow Up



E.g. What would your school have needed to better support you?



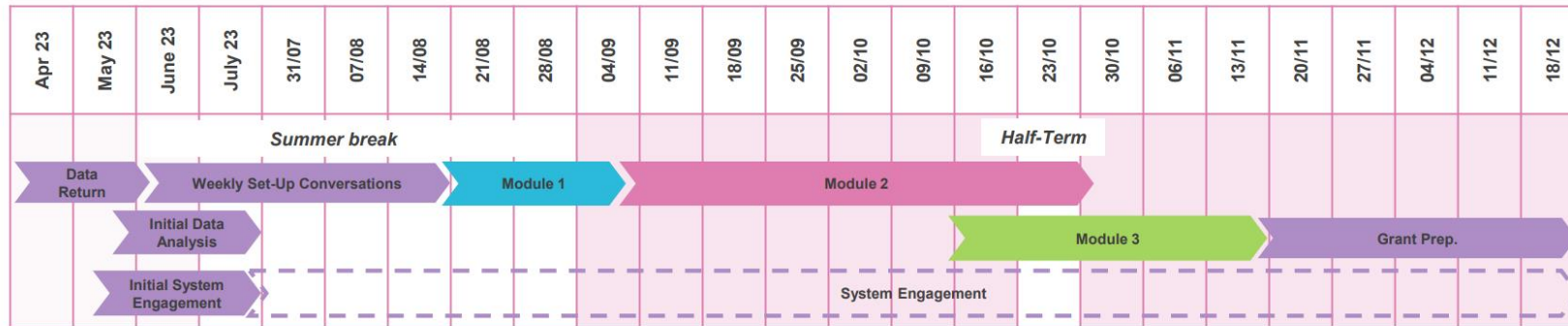
Example Output with Mock Data

THE 'DIAGNOSTIC' TIMELINE: APRIL – DECEMBER 2023

Diagnostic Timelines: Wave 8



Timelines for the diagnostic process have been adjusted following feedback from Tranches 1 and 2. Timelines have also been adjusted to take into account school holidays as much as possible. We will be reaching out shortly to provide the option to switch wave and training dates if required to ensure flexibility around the school holidays.



Key dates for training and other activities (e.g. case reviews) are listed here. As part of the set-up activities you will need to identify the relevant groups to attend these sessions, and ensure the diary invites, which will come from the DBV email account, are protected. Guidance on who is required at these sessions can be found in the Set-Up section.

Module 1
Training Dates
(In Person)
 22/08 – 23/08
 (01/08-02/08)

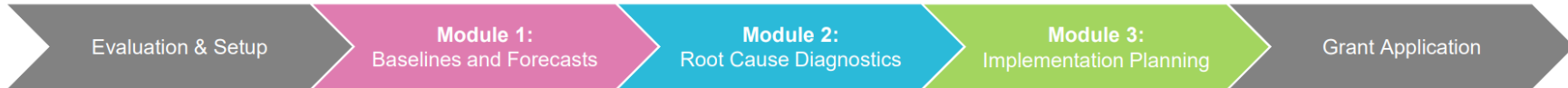
Module 2
Training Dates
(In Person)
 20/09-21/09
Case Reviews
(Virtual)
 W/C 11/09
 W/C 18/09

Module 3
Kick-Off (Virtual)
 17/10
Designing Implementation (Virtual)
 19/10
Consolidation
 25/10 (1/2 day)
Playback Days
(In Person)
 14/11

Getting the Right People to the Right Sessions



Any questions on who the right people for these sessions can be covered in the **general helpdesk** sessions, [by submitting a query here](#).



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><u>Evaluation & Set-Up</u></p> <p>Sharing Data Request</p> <p>Representatives from Business Intelligence, Financial Analysis or SEND Analysis teams</p> <p>Set-Up Conversations (1hr virtual)</p> <p>DBV Lead and SEND Lead and any other representatives from SEND, Finance and Business Intelligence</p> | <p><u>Module 1</u></p> <p>Training (2 days in-person)</p> <p>Representatives from Finance teams with understanding of financial data, Budget Holders from the Service, SEND Lead</p> <p>Holding BI/Finance Team Time (1hr/day)</p> <p>Representatives from Business Intelligence and Finance teams with understanding of financial data plus Budget Holders from the Service</p> <p>CIPFA Documentations (8hrs total)</p> <p>Representatives from Finance teams with understanding of financial data, Budget Holders from the Service, SEND Lead</p> <p>CIPFA Reviews (2 x 1hr sessions)</p> <p>Finance teams, SEND Lead</p> | <p><u>Module 2</u></p> <p>Training (2 days in-person)</p> <p>2-5 representatives from Business Improvement roles (or practitioners involved in improvement), including SEND Lead</p> <p>Holding BI/Finance Team Time (1hr/day)</p> <p>Representatives from Business Intelligence and Finance teams with understanding of financial data plus Budget Holders from the Service</p> <p>Case Reviews (3 x 4hr sessions)</p> <p>Representatives from training as facilitators, 2-5 representatives from each of the following groups: LA, Education, Health, Parents/Carers</p> <p>Deep-Dives (2 hr sessions TBD)</p> <p>Representatives from case reviews to facilitate, plus required subject matter experts in deep-dive topics</p> | <p><u>Module 3</u></p> <p>Kick-Off (2hr virtual)</p> <p>Delivery leads, project manager, change leads (likely to be identified in Module 2)</p> <p>Designing Implementation (2hr virtual)</p> <p>Delivery leads, project manager, change leads (likely to be identified in Module 2)</p> <p>Consolidation Session (1/2 day in-person)</p> <p>Delivery leads, project manager, change leads (likely to be identified in Module 2)</p> <p>Playback Days/Grant Clinic (2 days in-person)</p> <p>Delivery leads, change leads & finance team</p> |
| <p>Weekly Check-In with DBV Team (30 mins weekly virtual)</p> <p>Nominated SEND Lead</p> | <p>End of Module DCS/151 Briefings (3 x 1hr virtual)</p> <p>SEND Lead, 151 Officer, DCS representative</p> | <p>Check-Ins with Local Steering Groups (As Required)</p> <p>Local Authority representatives as usual in each group</p> | <p>Regular Time with Local Partners (As Required)</p> <p>Local Authority representatives with existing relationships</p> |

WHOLE-SYSTEM CASE REVIEWS – APPROACH & OBJECTIVES

● Case Review workshops allow us to gather evidence on the outcomes of children and young people



The Case Review is part of a wider evidence gathering process, that allows us to identify and quantify the highest impact changes to improve our SEND system, and ensure we are consistently achieving excellent outcomes for our children and young people on the most sustainable way.

Alongside working with practitioners and staff to begin gaining an understanding of areas of the strength and challenge in the SEND system, **Case Review Workshops help us to define these areas of opportunity for improvement, and begin to understand their size and impact.**



Case Review Aim:

The aim of this workshop is to **understand the ideal settings/support to achieve long term outcomes for real life cases of children and young people**, and to **understand areas we have been doing this well, and the root causes where there is an opportunity to do something differently**. Each workshop may focus on a slightly different cohorts of children and young people, to better understand trends across the system.

UNDERSTAND

CASE REVIEW WORKSHOPS

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

COMBINE AND SHARE

What are the outputs of the sessions?

- Number of cases where we achieved an ideal outcome (as defined by practitioners)
- In cases where we did not achieve an ideal outcome, identification of the barriers that prevented us

- 3 x 4hr virtual sessions
- Separate Parent and practitioner sessions
- Sample 50 cases per session from representative cohorts
- Discuss individual experiences of parents and compare this to the practitioner experiences of the same cases.
- Identify cases where 'ideal outcome' achieved and barriers where it wasn't
- Understand the ideal settings/support to achieve long term outcomes for real life cases of children

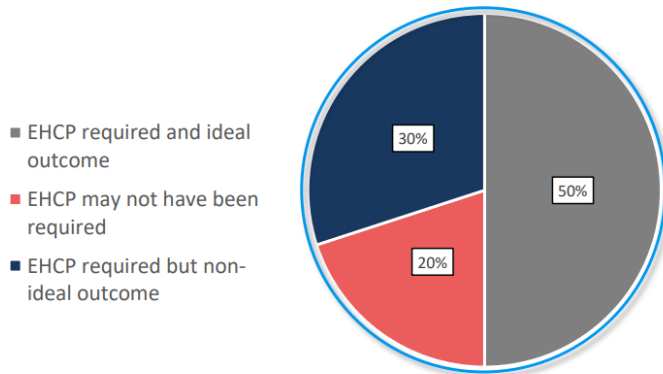
CASE REVIEWS – EXAMPLE OUTPUTS

● Example Output: Case Review workshop

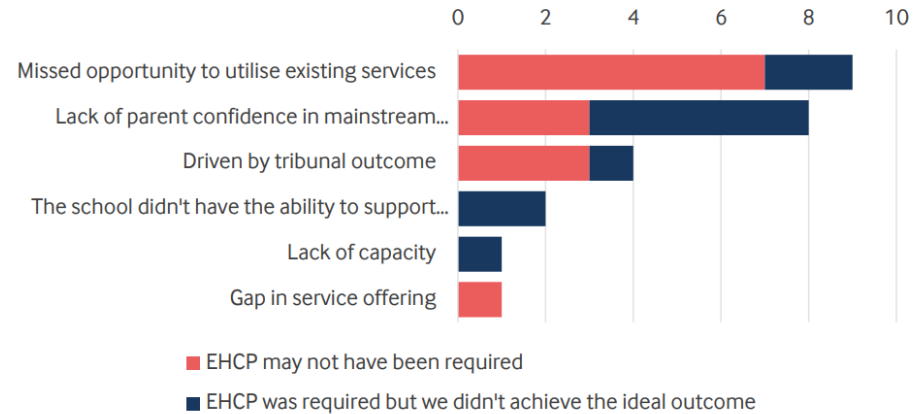


The case reviews were held on 18/01/23 and 23/01/23 with **30 participants** across a range of disciplines (healthcare, social care, LA, schools), reviewing **50 cases** to understand whether we delivered an **ideal outcome** to a CYP with SEND. We specifically wanted to identify the underlying reasons for any differences between ideal outcomes, and the actual outcomes achieved.

Did the children reviewed receive the ideal outcome according to their needs?



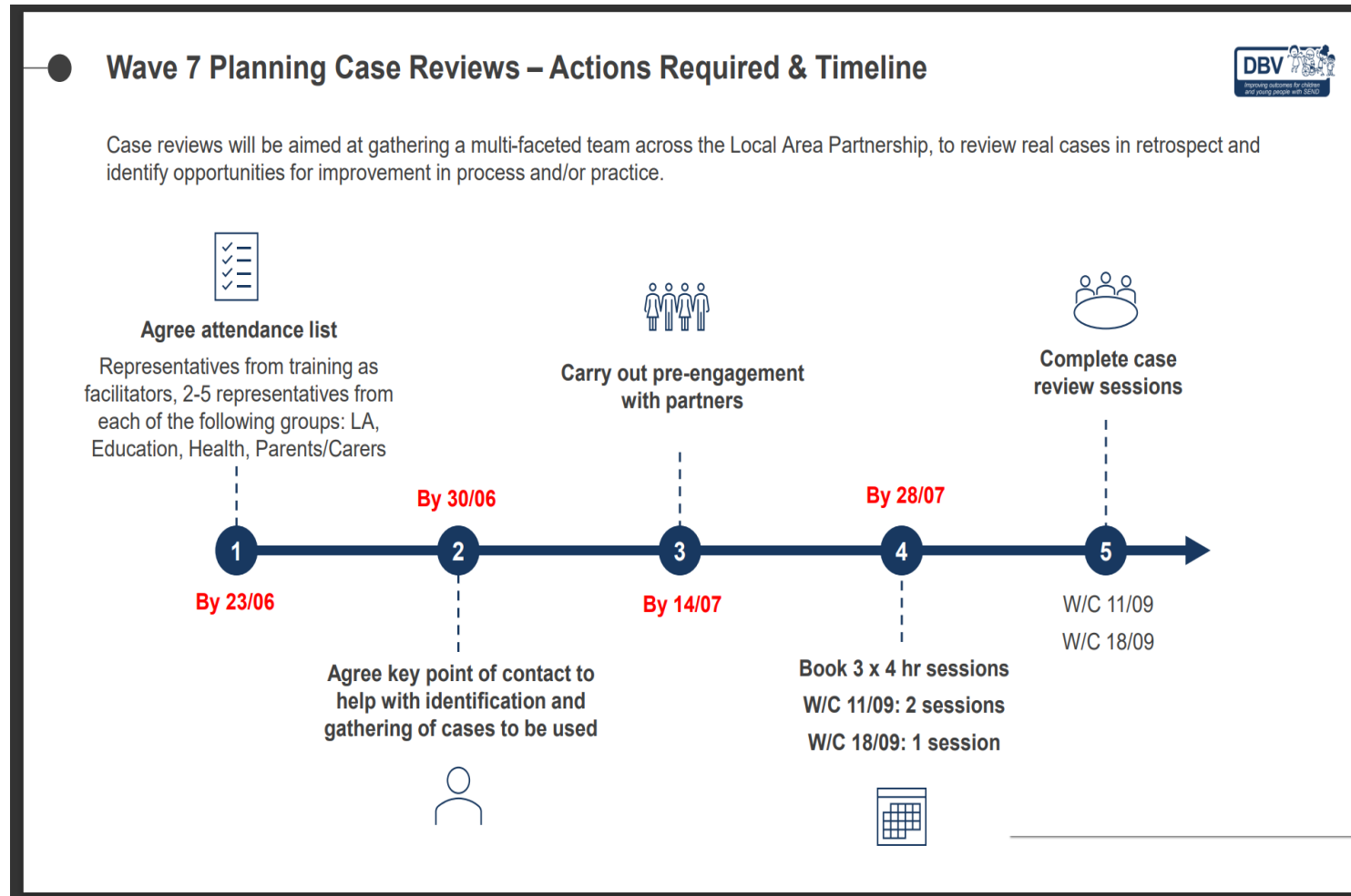
What were the reasons for not achieving the ideal outcome?



Example Output with Mock Data

...not achieving the ideal outcome but the 2 primary reasons accounting for 68% of reasons were ...y to utilise existing services and a lack of parental confidence in mainstream settings.

CASE REVIEWS – NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS:

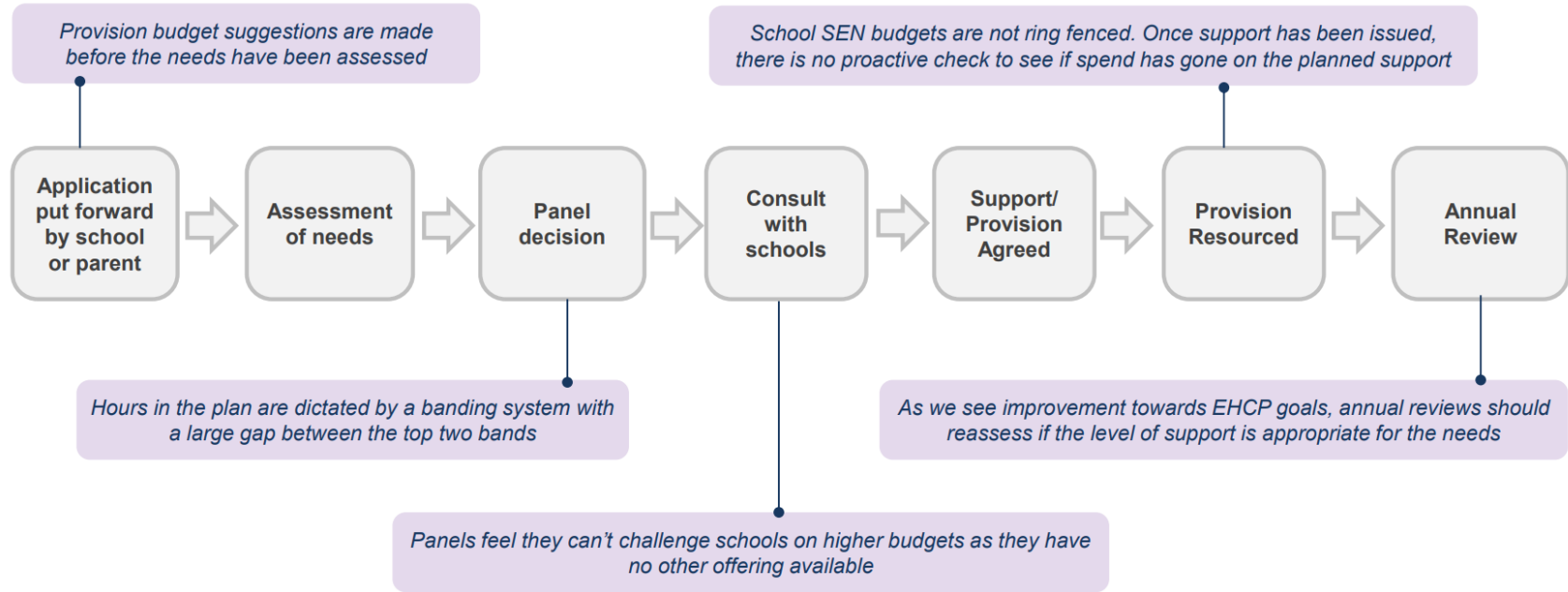
- Identify named lead for each system partner and canvas representatives for workshops
- Agree criteria for case selection for each session e.g.
 - lowest band EHCP
 - escalation at transition
- Brief partners through existing forums (SEND Board, School Forum, Wiltshire Laernig Alliance), on DBV programme and opportunities to participate
- Newton will advise workshop dates/timings

'DEEP DIVE' ANALYSIS



● Example Output: Process Mapping

E.g. Mapping the process that children receive support with to better understand if we're meeting their needs

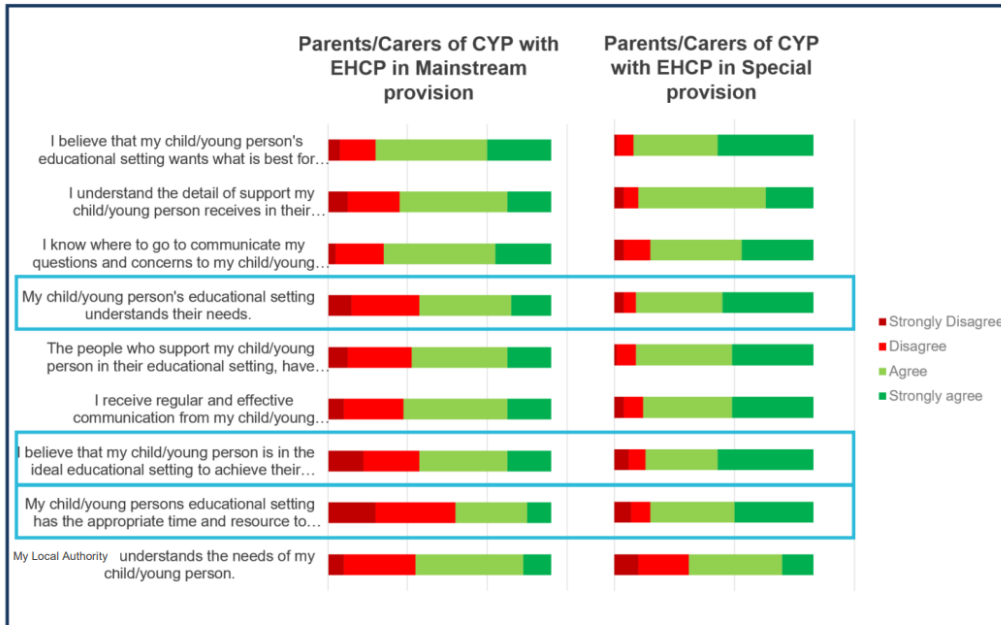


Example Output with Mock Data

● Example Output: Parents/Carers Survey



● Surveys reveal parents and carers still feel that understanding, capacity and capability are blockers to mainstream inclusivity



Across the board, parents and carers feel more confidence in special schools to understand their child's needs and have the capacity and capability to carry out that support.

Particular differences can be seen in **understanding need**, feeling that the children are in the **right provision** and the provision's **capacity** (time and resource).

In case reviews, 15% of all cases saw non-ideal outcomes, at least partly due to parental confidence, yet we can see capacity and other factors influence this.

Example Output with Mock Data

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
22 May 2023

Schools Forum
8 June 2023

DfE Consultation – ‘Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula’

Purpose of report

1. To provide an update following the Department for Education (DfE) consultation with stakeholders regarding their reforms to the National Funding Formula (NFF), which took place between June and September 2022.
2. The Government’s response to the consultation was issued in April 2023 and it is planned that many of the changes will take effect in the 2024-25 year. With the aim of creating greater consistency nationally and convergence towards the NFF, the key areas of the consultation included.
 - a. Flexibility for transferring funding between Blocks
 - b. National approach to calculating indicative SEND budgets
 - c. Growth & Falling Rolls Funding
 - d. Split Site Funding
 - e. Rental (Exceptional Circumstances)
 - f. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)
 - g. The Funding Cycle
3. The DfE have published their response following the consultation and this report sets out the outcome from the responses and the proposed next steps.
4. The report is for information only and it should be noted that this is the second stage of the consultation for implementing the NFF and further consultation is planned on areas including Private Finance Initiative and High Needs funding arrangements.

Background

5. A link to the DfE's consultation response can be accessed using the link [here](#).
6. The DfE held the consultation on proposed changes to complete their reforms to school funding and move to a "direct" schools NFF. The second stage of the consultation built upon the first stage, a year earlier, and sought views on practicalities of implementing the NFF.
7. The consultation sought views on the approach to reforming areas of the NFF, particularly based upon 'locally set' criteria and the two main factors due for change in 2024-25 will be.
 - a. Operating Growth and Falling Rolls Funds
 - b. Split Site Funding
8. The other main area which was consulted upon was the ability to transfer funding between 'Blocks', in support of the High Needs Block and then the role of calculating indicative SEND budgets for schools (Notional SEN).
9. The consultation reflected the continued DfE journey towards a '**hard**' formula with no or little local flexibility. In Wiltshire, our mainstream formula has been aligned with the NFF and therefore there would be no, or very little impact, on mainstream funding and budgets for Wiltshire schools. However, both the Growth Fund and Split Site funding are based upon locally set criteria.
10. A School Funding and SEN Working Group (Schools Forum) response was compiled and shared with Headteachers, Governors and School Business Managers via Right Choice and Helean's Weekly Newsletter. Wiltshire was well represented with responses from schools, the Diocese, the local authority and Wiltshire Schools Forum. A total of 196 responses were submitted.

Outcomes from the Consultation

High Needs

11. The key outcomes for High Needs from the consultation include:

- Continued flexibility to transfer funding to high needs budgets, with a corresponding adjustment to mainstream schools' funding allocations, through an application process to the Secretary of State. (This will include a 'menu' of options for how the transfer will be funded)
- Introduce a national approach to calculating schools' indicative SEND budgets and consult further on the design and operation of this approach, including aligning with the reforms in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.

12. To quote from the consultation response.

"We can confirm that, in introducing the direct NFF, the Government will allow local authorities to request funding transfers to high needs budgets, and that these requests will draw from a short menu of potential options on how the funding adjustment to mainstream schools should be made".

"We continue to think it would be helpful to identify for each school an indicative budget as a guide to the resources that might be needed by a school in supporting its pupils with SEND, and to reinforce the message that schools' core budgets are expected to provide for support to these pupils".

Outcomes from the Consultation

Growth & Falling Rolls Funding

13. The key outcomes for the Growth & Falling Rolls Fund criteria from the consultation include:
- As part of the transition to a full NFF, to establish and implement minimum criteria requirements in 2024-25, before moving to full NFF standards
 - Local authorities will not be required to provide funding where the growth is as a result of parental choice or academies have admitted above PAN by their own choice
 - The DfE will place minimum requirements on how much funding should be provided
 - The DfE will continue to engage with local authorities and other stakeholders on the particular design of the new requirements – including the minimum funding rates – in advance of publishing final guidance in the Schools Operational Guide in July 2023
 - Removal of requirement for schools to ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ to be eligible to receive Falling Rolls funding
 - Growth funding had previously been allocated on the basis of ‘growth’ in Medium Super Output Areas (MSOA), however funding will now be calculated on both ‘growth’ and significant ‘decline’ in numbers from 2024-25 – further details will be made published in the Schools Operational Guide in July 2023
 - From 2024-25, the DfE will expand the use of growth and falling rolls funding to allow local authorities to fund the revenue costs associated with repurposing or reducing school places. Such funding could support local authorities to repurpose surplus space to create SEND Units or Resourced Bases in mainstream schools
 - The DfE have confirmed that LA’s will retain some local flexibility in the allocation of growth funding to schools, rather than moving to a fully national, standardised system

Outcomes from the Consultation

Split Site Funding

14. The key outcomes for the Split Sites Funding criteria from the consultation include;
- The DfE plans to allocate split sites funding nationally on the basis of a formula factor made up of a 'basic eligibility' element and a 'distance eligibility' element from 2024-25
 - 'Basic eligibility' criteria to include.
 - ✓ *To be separated from the school's main site by a public road or railway.*
 - ✓ *To be used primarily for the education of 5 to 16-year-olds.*
 - ✓ *To share a unique reference number (URN).*
 - ✓ *To have a building on a site that is maintained by the school*
 - ✓ *excluding playing fields from being eligible for split sites funding*
 - A split site distance criteria of 500metres is used with a 'taper' from 100metres
 - The DfE are proposing that around 60% of the 2024- 25 NFF lump sum is an appropriate amount for the split site allowance this given that an additional site should cost less to run than the school's main site – this figure is still being reviewed (Wiltshire currently fund at 76% of the lump sum value)
 - Data on split site funding to form part of the annual budget preparation by the LA
 - Schools with split sites which lose funding, or are no longer eligible, as a result of the "formularisation" of the split sites factor will see their funding protected through the minimum funding guarantee (MFG)
15. Wiltshire currently has 6 split site schools. Under the DfE proposals, all would continue to meet the criteria for funding.

Outcomes from the Consultation

Exceptional Circumstance Funding (Rentals)

16. The DfE have not committed to a fixed date by which changes to the 'Exceptional Circumstances' factor will be implemented.
17. The key proposals in the consultation are:
 - move away from a locally led approach to a national application system
 - Raising the funding threshold to account for at least 2.5% of a school's budget, up from the current 1%, will not be implemented for now, but given further consideration
18. Wiltshire currently has 7 schools eligible for rental funding, in order to enable whole school events such as assemblies, or for the hire of sports fields to enable PE activities.

Outcomes from the Consultation

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

19. The DfE are proposing some 'light touch' changes to the MFG as detailed below.
 - The DfE will use local formulae baselines – and actual GAG allocations for academies – in the year that we transition to the direct NFF (in other words, continue to use local formula for the purposes of determining the MFG)
 - The DfE will move to a simplified pupil-led funding protection under the direct NFF. This will simplify the calculation significantly, which will help improve the transparency of the funding system and make it easier for schools to understand how their funding levels are calculated

Outcomes from the Consultation

The Funding Cycle

20. The DfE were keen to understand the best approach to the annual funding cycle and following the consultation, propose the following.
- The DfE recognises the need to provide early information to schools and the sector to support budget planning
 - The DfE will continue to give early information regarding the design of the subsequent year's formula in July each year
 - Given the strong support for a calculator tool, the DfE will aim to develop a product that schools can use to estimate future funding
 - Regarding de-delegation, the DfE confirm that they will issue one single data collection in March when the direct NFF is introduced

Next Steps

21. The DfE will announce the 2024-25 National Funding Formula for schools and high needs in July, in line with the usual timetable. This will also confirm requirements on local authorities to bring their local funding formulae closer to the NFF in 2024-25, following the initial transitional steps in 2023-24.
22. The DfE plan to engage with the sector further on funding for PFI schools, and the determination of indicative SEND budgets. This will support a smooth transition to the direct NFF.

Impact in Wiltshire

23. Having moved the Wiltshire funding formula to align with the NFF, there will be a minimal impact for schools in Wiltshire. The areas which could impact upon our schools are still subject to further consultation and confirmation and include the following factors:
- Split site funding – final details to be released in July
 - PFI funding – to be consulted on later in stage 3 of the consultation
 - Exceptional Premises factors (Rentals) which have always been funded on a historical basis, will be decided in the future.
 - Full details of the national approach to funding growth and falling rolls will be released in July

Role of Schools Forum

24. The move to a direct NFF would mean that the role of schools' forums will change. The DfE expect that schools' forums will continue to play an important part in local decision making and stakeholder engagement.
25. The proposed reforms do not, for example, have an impact on schools' forums' existing roles in relation to early years funding or de-delegation. The DfE continue to review how schools' forums engage with high needs funding issues, following the SEND Review.

Proposals

26. Schools' Forum notes the DfE's response to their consultation on reforms to the NFF.

Report author:
Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager
01225 718587
grant.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group 22 May 2023

Schools Forum 8 June 2023

Annual Schools Consultation

- *Delegation of Central Expenditure 2024-25*
- *Funding for Education Functions 2024-25*
- *Transfer of funding from Schools Block to High Needs Block 2024-25*

Purpose of report

1. To brief Schools Forum and agree a set of questions to be sent out to all schools in the Autumn of 2023.

Background - De-Delegation of Central Expenditure

2. In order to give schools greater choice over how to spend their budgets, Local Authorities are required to work on the basis that services within the notional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block, and the funding for them, should be delegated to schools in the first instance.
3. This means that a number of DSG funded budgets that have previously been retained centrally must now be delegated to schools. There are a number of exceptions to this and there are also a number of budgets that maintained primary and/or secondary schools can agree to *de-delegate* so that they continue to be provided centrally.
4. De-delegation cannot be applied to amounts delegated to academies or to special schools. Delegation or de-delegation cannot be agreed on an individual school basis for maintained schools but can be agreed by phase so a different outcome can be agreed for primary and secondary schools. Approval for de-delegation is by the relevant phase members of Schools Forum following responses to this consultation.
5. A consultation document will be sent out to all maintained schools in the autumn to seek views on the delegation of central budgets. The budgets/services being consulted on are as follows:
 - Free School Meal Eligibility Service
 - Licences (Access Budget Planning)
 - Trade Union Facilities costs
 - Maternity costs
 - Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
 - Travellers Education Service
 - Behaviour Support Service

6. There are a number of outcomes that could flow from the proposals to delegate the budgets. These include:
 - a. Following consultation, maintained schools agree that budgets should be de-delegated and retained centrally by the LA with services provided to all maintained schools;
 - b. Schools agree that budgets should be delegated, and schools make/purchase their own provision as appropriate;
 - c. Schools agree that budgets should be delegated, and they then cluster together to purchase or deliver services.
7. Under scenario (a) the LA would be able to retain a level of service to provide to maintained schools, gaining from the economies of scale through this arrangement. The size of the service may need to be scaled back over time as the number of academies increases.
8. Under scenarios b and c 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.
9. **Appendix 1** to this report lists the consultation questions.

De-Delegation for School Improvement Functions

10. Following consultation last year, the DfE have reduced the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering Grant (LAMB) in full 2023-24. Local authorities have the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation or on a traded basis.
11. A local consultation exercise was undertaken in advance of the 2023-24 year to determine whether maintained schools would elect to de-delegate funding from their budgets to support the loss in the LAMB grant.
12. The annual grant had stood at £459,000 in the 2021-22 year and was reduced by 50% in 2022-23 and fully removed in 2023-24. In 2022-23, maintained schools de-delegated funding of £9.39 per pupil and in 2023-24, this was £19.63 per pupil.
13. The new Head of the School Improvement team has been working with Primary and Secondary school leaders to set out proposals regarding options for the delivery of the service from 2023-24, in order to understand the most appropriate route to fulfil their needs.

Background – Transfer of Schools Block to High Needs Block 2024-25

14. Schools Forum will recall a transfer of 0.5% of School Funding was agreed to contribute to the High Needs Block recovery plan in the 2023-24 financial year. A transfer of funding has historically been agreed each year, where this has been affordable within the 'cash envelope' for school funding and the NFF has been applied.
15. There is a Government commitment to increase schools revenue funding again for 2024-25 which includes national increases in both Schools Funding and funding for High Needs.
16. The HNB overspend for 2018/19 was £4.8m, 2019-20 was £9.1m, 2020-21 was £11.507m, for 2021-22 was £8.948 and for 2022-23 was £13.499m, 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 2022-23 financial year, the DSG reserve held a cumulative £34.685m deficit (includes EY adjustment).
17. 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.
18. The forecast position for 2023-24 is subject to another report but shows an overspend once again and should this come to fruition the DSG deficit reserve will be even greater which is becoming unsustainable for the local authority to cashflow.
19. For this reason, it is recommended that we seek views of all schools on the questions in **Appendix 3** which covers a range of options ranging from transferring funding from Schools Block.

Proposals

20. That Schools Forum decide on the consultation questions for maintained schools around delegation/de-delegation of budgets for central services and School Improvement within the schools' block. Appendix 1 & 2.
21. That Schools Forum decide on the consultation questions for all schools around setting the 2024-25 Schools Budget. Appendix 3.

Report author:
Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager
01225 718587
grant.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – De-Delegation 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) | | |
| | Traveller Education Service | | |
| Behaviour support services | Primary Behaviour Support Service | | |

Appendix 2 – De-delegation for School Improvement Functions Questions

Please rank your preferred options below in order of preference, where 1 is your preferred option and 5 is your least favoured option? (Schools are currently funding at the 100% rate)

| <u>Options</u> | <u>Impact in School Effectiveness</u> | <u>Cost to Schools</u> | <u>Amount per pupil</u> | <u>Rank</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB | Reduction in Services - £459k | £0 | £0 | |
| Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB | Reduction in Services - £229.5k | £229,500 | £9.81 | |
| Schools fund 75% of LAMB | Reduction in Services - £114,8k | £344,250 | £14.72 | |
| Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB | Reduction in Services - £57.3k | £401,625 | £17.17 | |
| Schools fund 100% of LAMB | Existing service maintained | £459,000 | £19.63 | |

Amount per pupil to be updated based upon maintained pupil numbers

Appendix 3 –2024-25 Schools Consultation:

Background

- *The High Needs block overspent by £4.8m in 2018/19, by a further £9.1m in 2019/20, by £11.5m in 2020/21, by £8.948m in 2021-22 and £13.499m in 2022-23, with a further forecast to overspend in 2023/24.*
- *There is a £34.685m deficit DSG reserve on the Council's balance sheet – the forecast 2023/24 overspend will increase this deficit further.*
- *EHCP's have been increasing by an average of over 11% annually mirroring the national level, before taking into account any impact from Covid.*
- *The LA is working with schools and settings and is taking actions to address the level of overspend. Many of these actions require a partnership approach and require planning and change management in order to achieve long term success.*

The DSG is ringfenced and therefore to manage this overspend, it is suggested an amount is transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as in the previous three years.

Q1 a) Taking the factors above into account, do you support a transfer of funding from the School Block to the High Needs Block, where it can be afforded within the overall 'cash envelope' for schools funding and application of the National Funding Formula?

| | |
|------------|--|
| Yes | |
| No | |

b) If you support a transfer, please indicate the amount: (amounts to be updated for latest pupil numbers)

| Value to Transfer | £/Pupil | Please select |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| £0.0m (0.0%) | £0.00 / pupil | |
| £0.5m (0.144%) | £7.76 / pupil | |
| £1.0m (0.288%) | £15.51 / pupil | |
| £1.72m (0.5%) | £26.68 / pupil | |

c) No transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024-25.

This decision is on the understanding that High Needs funding and support, currently provided to schools, may have to be reduced to help towards balancing the High Needs Block budget?

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Agree to transfer funds | |
| Agree NOT to transfer funds | |

d) Would you prefer to see a hybrid of the options above. This would involve a partial transfer from Schools Block to top up the High Needs Block along with a partial reduction in High Needs funding and support provided to schools.

| | |
|------------|--|
| Yes | |
| No | |

2) 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?

| |
|--|
| |
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Update on the work of the F40 Group

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) will provide a verbal update on the work of the F40 group.

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
22 May 2023

Schools Forum
8 June 2023

Scheme for Financing Local Authority Maintained Schools

Purpose of report

1. To provide members of Schools Forum with an update required to the Wiltshire Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

Background

2. Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. Wiltshire undertook a wholesale re-write of its scheme ready for the 2021-22 year and is required to ensure that any Department for Education (DfE) Directed Revisions or other updates are duly incorporated.

Update 2023-24

3. The update issued in March 2023 required one minor tweak to the scheme, which will be incorporated into the Wiltshire scheme. The update reads as follows.

7.4 Income from the sale of assets

The scheme should contain a provision which allows schools to retain the proceeds of sale of assets, except in cases where the asset was purchased with non-delegated funds (in which case it should be for the local authority to decide whether the school should retain the proceeds), or the asset concerned is land or buildings forming part of the school premises and is owned by the authority. Any retention of funds from the sale of land assets is subject to the consent of the Secretary of State, and any conditions the Secretary of State may attach to that consent relating to use of proceeds.

The retention of proceeds of sale for premises not owned by the local authority will not be a matter for the scheme.

Update 2022-23

4. The update issued in March 2022 also required one minor change to the scheme, which will be incorporated into the Wiltshire scheme for 2023-24. The update reads as follows.

5.8 Borrowing by schools

The scheme should contain a provision reminding schools that governing bodies may borrow money (which includes the use of finance leases) only with the written permission of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State's general position is that schools will only be granted permission for borrowing in exceptional circumstances. From time to time, however, the Secretary of State may introduce limited schemes in order to meet broader policy objectives.

The scheme must contain a provision that allows schools to use any scheme that the Secretary of State has said is available to schools without specific approval.

Schemes may explicitly bar schools from using interest bearing credit cards and overdrafts, which are regarded as borrowing. However, they should encourage the use of procurement cards by schools, as these cards can be a useful means of facilitating electronic purchase. Schemes may also wish to permit the use of credit or charge cards. However, no interest charges should be incurred by the school, with balances fully cleared on a monthly basis.

Proposals

5. That Schools Forum note the updates required to the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

Report author:
Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager
01225 718587
grant.davis@wiltshire.gov.uk