

# AGENDA

**Meeting:** Schools Forum

**Place:** Kennet Room - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

**Date:** Thursday 23 January 2025

**Time:** 1.30 pm

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Pullin, Tel 01225 713015 or email [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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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<b>Membership:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Aileen Bates	WGN - Special School Governor Representative
Lyssy Bolton	Early Years Representative
TBC	Observer - Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum
Helen Carpenter	Chair of WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Stella Fowler	WGN - Primary School Governor Representative
Nikki Barnett/Jo Grenfell	Observer - Post 16, Wiltshire College
John Hawkins	Teaching Association Representative
Toni Hayzen	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Cllr Ross Henning	Observer - Local Youth Network
Brett Jouny	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Georgina Keily-Theobald	WASSH - Maintained Special School Representative
Emily Mullord	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Nick Norgrove	WASSH - Maintained Secondary School Representative
Lisa Percy	WASSH - Secondary Academy Representative
Edward Powe	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Giles Pugh	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education Representative
John Read	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Graham Shore	PHF - Primary Academy Representative
Adam Smith	PHF - Maintained Primary Representative
Trudy Srawley	Observer - Wiltshire Parent Carer Council
Ros Sutton	WGN - Primary School Governor Representative
Karen Venner	Early Years Representative
David Whewell	WGN - Secondary School Governor Representative
Nicola Whitcombe	WASSH - Special School Academy Representative

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## **Public Participation**

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

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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 - 16*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2024 (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 21 January 2025**. 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 16 January 2025** 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**

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

- Early Years Reference Group – 9 January 2025 (*to follow*)
- Joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group – 14 January 2025 (*to follow*).

## 7 **SEND Transformation Update (Pages 17 - 34)**

The report of Liz Williams (Finance Lead – High Needs Sustainability) and Ben Stevens (Inclusion, SEND and AP Transformation Lead) seeks to update Schools Forum on the draft revised SEND Sustainability Plan which was submitted to the Department for Education in December 2024.

## 8 **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Top Up Funding - Consultation Report**

The report of Ben Stevens (Inclusion, SEND and AP Transformation Lead) seeks to update Schools Forum on the progress made in developing the new Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) top-up funding scheme, including the responses received during the consultation process. The report is *to follow*.

## 9 **School Budget Setting 2025-26**

To consider the budget for 2025-26.

The following update reports provide details on the overall funding settlement on each of the funding blocks, the decisions will be made after consideration of all the update papers via the decision matrix.

### 9a **Dedicated Schools Grant Revenue Funding 2025-26 - Funding Settlement and Budget Setting Process (Pages 35 - 46)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2025-26.

### 9b **DSG Budget - Schools Block Update 2025-26 (Delegated Budget) (Pages 47 - 54)**

The report of Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2025-26 and the decisions that need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

### 9c **Dedicated Schools Budget - High Needs Block Update 2025-26 (Pages 55 - 58)**

The report of Liz Williams (Finance Lead - High Needs Block Sustainability) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues related to the high needs block for 2025-26 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

9d **Dedicated Schools Budget - Central School Services Block Update 2025-26** (Pages 59 - 68)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for the 205-26 financial year and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

9e **Dedicated Schools Grant - Early Years Block Update - 2025-26 (Provisional Allocations)** (Pages 69 - 82)

The report of Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children and Education) seeks to update Schools Forum on issues relating to the early years block for 2025-26 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2025-26.

10 **School Budget Decisions 2025-26**

Schools Forum will be asked to consider the Schools Budgets for 2025-26 and make relevant decisions using the decisions matrix.

11 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

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

13 March 2025  
12 June 2025  
9 October 2025  
11 December 2025.

12 **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