

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 of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

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Membership:	Representing:
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

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Schools Forum

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2024 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Aileen Bates, Helen Carpenter, Stella Fowler, John Hawkins, Toni Hayzen, Brett Jouny, Georgina Keily-Theobald, Nick Norgrove, Lisa Percy (Chair), Ed Powe, Giles Pugh, John Read, Graham Shore (Vice-Chair), Adam Smith, Trudy Srawley, and Nicola Whitcombe

Also Present:

Cllr Nabil Najjar (Virtual) and Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney

Grant Davis (Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager)
Kathryn Davis (Director – Education & Skills)
Daryll Freeman (Director – Children & Education)
Lisa Fryer (Head of SEND and Inclusion)
Ellen Ghey (Democratic Services Officer)
Louise Lewis (Head of Targeted Education)
Lucy Moses (High Needs Sustainability Mitigation Lead)
Lisa Pullin (Democratic Services Officer)
Ben Stevens (Sustainability Strategic Lead – High Needs Block)
Marie Taylor (Head of Finance – Children & Education)
Liz Williams (Finance Lead – High Needs Block Sustainability)

48 Apologies, Substitutions and any Changes of Membership

Apologies for absence from Members were received from:

- Lyssy Bolton
- Councillor Ross Henning
- Jo Grenfell
- Ros Sutton
- Karen Venner
- David Whewell

The Chair welcomed Adam Smith to the Schools Forum as a Maintained Primary Representative.

49 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Chair raised Minute Item 37, Public Participation, and it was confirmed that officers had provided a response to the question submitted.

Following which, it was:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum approved and signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2024 as a true and correct record.

50 **Chair's Announcements**

There were no Chair's announcements.

51 **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

52 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

53 **Updates from Working Groups**

The Chair raised the updates from the last meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 26 November 2024, and the previous joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group held on 28 November 2024.

There being no questions or comments on the updates, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the updates from the previous meeting of the Early Years Reference Group held on 26 November 2024, and the previous joint meeting of the School Funding Working Group and SEN Working Group held on 28 November 2024.

54 **Dedicated Schools Budget - Budget Monitoring 2024-25**

Marie Taylor, Head of Finance – Children & Education, introduced the report which presented the budget monitoring information against the Dedicated

Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2024-25 as at September 2024. The following was then highlighted:

- It was noted that an overspend of £14.942m was forecast against the overall schools budget after the transfer of £28.254m from the deficit reserve, agreed at budget setting, and in line with the Council's Safety Valve Agreement. Furthermore, the overspend against the High Needs Block (HNB) was projected to be £17.489m.
- Paragraphs 4 to 6 of the report, including Table 1, reminded Members that the Central Government's three-year statutory override in 2020 to separate Local Authorities' (LA) DSG deficits from their wider financial position had been extended until 2026.
- Each of the individual Blocks were then raised, in the order that they were detailed in the report.
- It was noted that the Early Years Block budgets were projected to underspend by £2.311m. Paragraphs 7 to 8 of the report highlighted the Department for Education's (DfE) introduction of an extension to the entitlements for 9months to 2-year olds and the universal 2-year old offer, resulting in a higher budget based on the DfE's introductory assumptions on take-up, however as parent take-up was largely unknown, forecast variances could still vary from the report.
- The HNB budgets were then detailed, and it was noted that the projected overspend was £17.489m, with the budgets being increases by the planned drawdown from the DSG reserve to facilitate improved budget monitoring, target setting, and methods of measuring success in respect of recovering planning.
- Paragraphs 11 to 13, including all tables, were then explained.
- The DSG reserve and Safety Valve Agreement were then detailed as per Paragraphs 15 to 17 of the report.

There being no questions or comments, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the forecast budget monitoring position including the balance on the DSG reserve at the end of September 2024, together with the reports later in the Agenda on the SEND Transformation Programme.

55 **Dedicated Schools Grant Consultations 2025-26**

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, introduced the report which updated Schools Forum with the results of the recent Autumn consultations relating to:

- De-delegation of central services – *Maintained Schools Only*
- De-delegation in support of the former Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) Grant – *Maintained Schools Only*

The following was then highlighted:

De-delegation of Central Services

- Paragraph 3 was briefly reiterated alongside the list of services consulted on as part of the process as per Paragraph 4 of the report.
- The full set of questions and responses could be seen in Appendix 1 of the report, with a breakdown of the responses and the conclusions drawn detailed for Members as per Paragraphs 6 and 7.
- Members were thanked for promoting the consultation amongst colleagues.

De-delegation in Support of the Former LAMB Grant

- The context behind the consultation was briefly recapped as per Paragraphs 8 to 10 of the report.
- Paragraphs 11 to 13 were then detailed which included a breakdown of the responses and conclusions drawn. Officers noted that it was widely recognised that there was a lower response rate due to the majority of Wiltshire schools' confidence in the decisions being made by the Schools Forum on their behalf.
- Finally, it was highlighted that 3 of the Secondary Schools as per the tables under Paragraph 12 were considering converting to Multi Academy Trusts.

There being no questions or comments, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum:

- a) **Noted the local consultation responses in relation to the schools delegated budget for the 2025-26 financial year.**
- b) **Made the 'in principle' decisions in accordance with the consultation responses as below:**
 - **De-delegation of central services for Maintained Schools:**
 - **FSM – *Primary and Secondary***
 - **Licenses – *Primary and Secondary***
 - **Trade Union – *Primary and Secondary***
 - **Maternity – *Primary and Secondary***
 - **Ethnic Minority Support – *Primary Only***
 - **Traveller Education – *Primary Only***
 - **Behaviour Support – *Primary Only***
 - **De-delegation of funding to support school improvement services for Maintained Primary Schools. To continue to fund**

at the rate of 100% loss in funding for Primary Schools only (£391k), recognising that Secondary Schools would prefer to source their own support.

56 Allocation of Funding for Pupil Growth 2025-26

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, introduced the report which sought agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the School's Block Growth Fund in 2025-26. The following was then highlighted:

- The Department for Education's (DfE) School Funding Operational Guidance for 2025-26 as per Paragraphs 4 to 5 of the report were listed and it was confirmed that Wiltshire's Growth Fund Criteria was fully compliant.
- The funding methodology and growth allocations were detailed; namely, that the DfE measured growth within Local Authorities (LAs) by middle layer super output areas (MSOA) which could be defined as small geographical areas to detect pockets of growth within LAs by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA between the October 2023 and October 2024 school census data. It was confirmed that Wiltshire was separated into 62 MSOA's, with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA.
- Paragraph 10 listed the growth allocations used for each LA; however, it was explained that LAs generally allocated growth funding using local arrangements by applying local knowledge and intelligence as there was not a national method adopted for allocating growth funding. In Wiltshire, it was confirmed that this would continue to be the responsibility of the Schools Forum, with the Wiltshire allocation for 2025-26 being announced in December 2024 as part of the Schools Funding Announcement.
- The requirements with regard to allocating funding from the Growth Fund were listed in Paragraph 14, with officers explaining the calculation applied as per Paragraph 15.
- The proposed criteria for funding pupil growth within the local Wiltshire funding formula for 2025-26 was then detailed.
 - Firstly, New School Allowance was briefly detailed as per Paragraphs 18 to 21 of the report, but it was confirmed that as no new schools were planned for 2025-26, officers would not be applying that funding.
 - Secondly, Class Expansion for Basic Need was briefly explained as per Paragraphs 22 to 23 of the report, with officers confirming that the Wiltshire criteria was fully compliant.
 - Thirdly, Infant Class Size Increases was briefly explained as per Paragraphs 24 to 25 of the report.
 - Finally, the Falling Rolls Fund was explained in more detail as per Paragraphs 26 to 38 of the report. It was confirmed that LAs would continue to have discretion over whether to operate a Falling Rolls Fund, and although Wiltshire had previously resisted the

establishing of such a Fund, and there being no pressure from schools or other groups to establish one, officers were asking Members to consider establishing a Falling Rolls Fund, accounting for its previous decisions on the topic and the additional pressures being placed upon the Schools Block. However, it was emphasised that no decisions would need to be made until the full Dedicated Schools Grant settlement had been confirmed.

In response to a question, it was acknowledged that the birth rate in Wiltshire was continuing to drop despite previous expectations of an uplift post-pandemic, and Members were informed that officers in the School Place Planning Team were researching the whole school estate across Wiltshire by community area to determine surplus places which would then be presented to the DfE and used as a basis for further contingency plans and strategies. Furthermore, officers were having conversations with school leaders to further explore the data and understand the surplus place situation across whole community areas to then collaborate on solutions.

Members emphasised the importance of involving schools in those discussions as early as possible due to the emotive nature of the topic and impact that it could have on school staff and residents' lives.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum:

- a) **Approved the criteria for allocating Pupil Growth Fund in 2025-26.**
- b) **Agreed that the budget for the Growth Fund be set at its meeting in January 2025, when the full Dedicated Schools Grant had been confirmed for the 2025-26 year.**
- c) **The Schools Forum gave consideration to the establishing of a Falling Rolls Fund and any criteria befitting such a Fund.**

57 **National Funding Formulae for Schools - 2025-26**

Grant Davis, Schools Strategic Financial Support Manager, introduced the report which updated the Schools Forum on the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2025-26. Furthermore, officers were seeking 'in principle' decisions from the Schools Forum with regards to Wiltshire's local school formula for the 2025-26 year. The following was then highlighted:

- The background to the report was detailed as per Paragraphs 5 to 8.
- It was noted that following the General Election and the appointment of a new Government in July 2024, the key funding arrangements for the 2025-26 year were still awaited and were anticipated to be published by

the end of November 2024, but that the Department for Education (DfE) had published three other papers as listed in Paragraph 3.

- Paragraph 10 listed the changes between the formulas from 2024-25 to 2025-26, with the provisional 2025-26 NFF funding values being detailed in Appendix 1 and the movement in NFF funding since 2019-20 to the provisional 2025-26 values being set out in Appendix 2.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was then discussed as per Paragraphs 11 to 15, and it was explained that unlike previous years where the NFF rate had been mandated between 0% and 0.5%, for the 2025-26 year, Schools Forum could set the rate between -0.5% and 0%. However, officers were proposing setting the MFG at 0.0% to ensure that all schools received a guarantee that their per pupil funding would at least be consistent with previous years, if not higher.
- Members were reminded that the Government had stated its intention to move to a single direct NFF by 2027-28 and to determine every school's budget centrally. However, 2025-26 was confirmed to be another 'soft' year, with local Schools Forums continuing to retain their role in determining school funding allocation methodologies, subject to any NFF requirements and constraints.
- The budget setting process for 2025-26 was briefly detailed as per Paragraphs 19 to 20, with initial modelling of the Schools Block demonstrating that the NFF was affordable and could be fully implemented based upon the October 2023 census data.
- It was emphasised that the decisions made by the Schools Forum in this meeting would be 'in principle', with final approval being made at the January 2025 meeting of the Forum.

There being no questions or comments on the report, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum made 'in principle' decisions for the following formula factors to enable school budgets to be prepared ready for the January 2025 meeting:

- a) The apply all the National Funding Formula factors in full.**
- b) To set the Minimum Funding Guarantee between -0.5% and 0%, in line with the National Funding Formula and subject to affordability.**

58 Schools Block Transfer 2025/26 - Consultation Outcome Report

Liz Williams, Finance Lead – High Needs Sustainability, updated the Schools Forum on the outcomes of the consultation on the proposal to transfer 1% from the Schools Block to the High Need Block (HNB) in 2025-26. The following was then highlighted:

- The background to the report was detailed as per Paragraphs 2 to 4 of the report, with the decision process being explained as Members considering the outcome of the consultation and deciding on a recommended level of block transfer for 2025-26 which would then be considered by the High Needs Sustainability Board during their meeting on 19 December for their final decision before updating the draft disapplication request to the Department for Education (DfE).
- The results of the consultation were explained as per Paragraphs 5 to 12 of the report, and officers thanked Members for promoting the consultation and acknowledged the feedback received regarding accessibility issues which they would review ahead of any other future consultations.
- Paragraph 13 listed a number of considerations for Members to take into account when reaching a decision, and highlighted that since the closure of the consultation, the DfE had issued provisional funding settlement information for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), as discussed under the previous Agenda Item, and that the DfE expected LAs to revisit block transfer requests in light of the higher HNB settlement.
- Finally, it was emphasised by officers that the views of schools within the consultation responses were taken seriously and that they would be taken into account when determining the appropriate method forwards.

When finalising which option to undertake, it was explained that any further consultations would be impractical given the short timescale before the next meeting of the Forum in January 2025. However, it was emphasised that the recommendation made by Members at the meeting was provisional. It was further clarified that in previous years, the Council had generally been able to afford a 0.5% transfer without impacting on the National Funding Formula (NFF), but without confirmation of the funding settlements and census data for 2025-26, officers could not make the same assumption until such time. Therefore, if Option C was recommended by Members, there was a possibility that the value may be lower than 0.5%, but it would also ensure that there would not be an impact on the NFF pending final funding figures.

Finally, Members thanked officers for considering the views of schools and for their continued hard work and emphasised the importance of continuing these conversations with colleagues across the County to best support all parties involved.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum considered the proposed level of transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2025-26 and recommended that Option C be implemented: a transfer of the maximum value affordable without impacting National Funding Formula values.

In line with Department for Education requirements, please find a record of the votes of all eligible voting Schools Forum Members below:

For	Against	Abstain
16	0	0

59 **Updates from SEND Transformation Programme**

Ben Stevens, Sustainability Strategic Lead – High Needs Block, provided the Schools Forum a verbal update on the SEND Transformation Programme. The following was highlighted:

- Members were informed that a revised version of the sustainability plan, subject to Cabinet approval, had been drafted for submission to the Department of Education (DfE) in response to the fact that the Council was not on track to meet Agreement Condition 2 to reduce the cumulative deficit.
- It was explained that the plan needed to provide a level of confidence to the DfE that the Council could return to a balanced position within the High Needs Block (HNB). Due to the significant backlog and unexpected increases in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) post-pandemic skewing the initial modelling, significant revisions to the plan were necessary and as such, the plan was now over a 7-year period as opposed to a 5-year period.
- Members were reassured that nothing within the revised plan conflicted with the values that were set out at the start of the process and that supporting children and young people with SEND in Wiltshire was still at the heart of the transformation programme.
- It was noted that the consultation on EHCP Top-Ups was ongoing, and strong attendance was reported at two of the schools focused consultation events that had been undertaken in the two weeks preceding the meeting. Members were encouraged to promote the consultation with colleagues and those who had attended the events were thanked.
- Officers raised the judgement that had been given by Inspectors from the Care and Quality Commission and Ofsted in early December 2024 and noted that they were proud of the work that had been undertaken to date and would be undertaken as part of the plan going into the future.
- It was confirmed that a more detailed report on the revised plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum.

There being no questions or comments, it was then:

Resolved:

The Schools Forum noted the update.

60 **Confirmation of Dates for Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting of the Schools Forum was confirmed as Thursday 23 January 2025 at 1.30pm and was scheduled to be held at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Future meeting dates were confirmed as below:

13 March 2025 – 1.30pm

12 June 2025 – 1.30pm

9 October 2025 – 1.30pm

61 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 2.45 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Ellen Ghey of Democratic Services,
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Press enquiries to Communications, direct line 01225 713114 or email
communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

23 January 2025

SEND Transformation Update

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on the draft revised SEND Sustainability plan which was submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2024.
2. To outline the changes proposed to the plan, including a change to the length of the plan and to the interventions that are contained within the plan.

Background

3. The council has a Safety Valve agreement in place with the DfE through which the council commits to bring high needs expenditure into in-year balance by the end of the agreement, and the DfE commits to provide additional DSG to reduce the residual deficit as long as the council remains on track to deliver the plan.
4. The published agreement can be found on the DfE website: [Dedicated schools grant: very high deficit intervention - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/dedicated-schools-grant-very-high-deficit-intervention)
5. The agreement sets out commitments from the DfE and from Wiltshire Council. The DfE has committed to give Wiltshire Council an additional £67m over the 5 years of the agreement. These contributions are paid in instalments, profiled as follows:

Year	The Department agrees to pay the authority an additional £m of DSG by the year end
2023/24	£26.8m
2024/25	£6.7m
2025/26	£6.7m
2026/27	£6.7m
2027/28	£6.7m
2028/29	£13.4m

6. In addition, the council has agreed to regular monitoring, 3 times a year, to check on progress. The DfE will expect the council to report against the key conditions of the agreement, and on progress to deliver capital projects associated with the agreement.
7. These conditions are:
 - 1) The authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2028/29 and in each subsequent year.
 - 2) The authority undertakes to control and reduce the cumulative deficit, not exceeding £84.5m in financial year 2024/25.

- 3.1. Provide earlier support for children and young people with SEND, improving inclusion practices and managing pressure points and school transitions;
 - 3.2. Prevent the need for escalation by providing the right support, first time, including a more holistic response alongside health and social care, with improved management and communication;
 - 3.3. Increase the number of special school placements, resourced provision, and alternative provision to ensure that children and young people can access the support they need, with proper reintegration support for children who belong in mainstream provision;
 - 3.4. Improve transition pathways to provide a range of opportunities for young people with SEND to prepare for adulthood, including training, further education, and employment;
 - 3.5. Foster a culture of change across the Wiltshire SEND and AP system by engaging with partners and parent carers, improving trust and coproduction across the sector.
8. Delivery of the Safety Valve agreement is being managed through the SEND Sustainability plan. The SEND Sustainability Plan for Wiltshire has been developed with stakeholders to identify improvements in our SEND system that will create better support for children and young people and their families, while addressing the financial challenges.
 9. The first DfE payment of £26.8m was received in March 2024, and payments of £6.7m have been received during the 2025/26 financial year in line with the agreement.
 10. The revisions to the plan detailed in this report will be considered by Cabinet on 21 January 2025.

Programme Update – January 2025

11. As at the end of December, there are 6,354 EHCPs in the Wiltshire SEND system, this is 660 ahead of the forecast suggested by the original Safety Valve Plan. As a result of this increased growth in EHCPs, there are 41 more Independent Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) placements than this time last year. The average cost of a INMSS placement is £35.56k more than one in a maintained special school.
12. These factors are driving an overspend in the High Needs Block of £45.74m. This is £17.49m more than the £28.25m overspend included in the original plan (based on the Q2 monitoring report).
13. Appendix 1 goes into greater detail about the reasons for this, and the data insights that have been gathered since the original plan was submitted. In summary, firstly the predictions around how quickly impact would be felt were optimistic. Secondly, the original forecast was based on a 5-year average, which included years where demand was artificially suppressed by COVID-19 and the assumptions about what happens to that demand were also optimistic.
14. There has also been an impact because the council has made significant progress with clearing the EHCNA backlog, ensuring that where children and young people have a level of need which would warrant an EHCP, this is available to them. The

result of this is that the backlog is now at its lowest level since 2020, but this has brought more plans forward.

15. Given these factors, the plan has been re-baselined and a new forecast created that maps the existing interventions and impacts onto the revised trajectory. It became clear that, without risking the quality of support that is available to children and young people with SEND, getting to balance in five years would not be possible.
16. Given the commitment that the Council rightly shows to maintaining that quality, as highlighted in the recent Ofsted/CQC inspection, officers worked up plans that would reflect the values-based approach which underpins the original SEND Sustainability Plan.
17. To achieve this, an evidence led approach has been taken to understanding what could be achieved in the short term. Given that Wiltshire already has more EHCPs per head of population than many of its statistical neighbours, it is not unreasonable to have an ambition that is based on achieving similar data milestones to statistical neighbours for metrics like EHCNA requests, robust decision making, and ceased plans.
18. Eight short-term interventions have been developed to move Wiltshire towards that target system by April 2026. All eight interventions place the needs of children and young people at the centre and are grounded in an invest-to-save approach.
19. These interventions have been mapped onto the revised forecast and officers believe that the earliest time that the High Needs Block could be balanced is March 2031, two years later than originally planned. This would make the SEND sustainability programme a seven year process, rather than the five years originally set out in the Safety Valve Plan.
20. This would leave a £123.4m residual deficit for Wiltshire Council to manage, up from £70.3m in the original plan. This will be a challenge, especially if local government budgets continue to be pressured, as they have been in recent years.
21. Extending the length of the Safety Valve agreement, and adjusting the deficit limits in it, are not steps that the council can take unilaterally and there will need to be further discussion with the DfE. The council should not expect the DfE to increase the contribution they are making as part of the Safety Valve agreement.

Financial Implications

22. The updated sustainability plan is no longer predicting a positive in year balance by the end of 2028/29. The latest forecast is that a positive in year balance will be possible by the end of 2030/31. This would leave a £123.4m residual deficit for Wiltshire Council to manage, increased from £70.3m in the original plan.

Provision Type	Revised Forecast							
	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	2029/30 £'000	2030/31 £'000
Plan Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Mainstream Provision (incl. Resourced Provision Top Ups)	23,190	25,055	19,512	18,090	16,885	16,003	15,580	14,985
Resourced Provision (places only)	4,249	4,933	5,712	5,582	5,822	6,062	6,302	6,542
Special Schools	28,137	34,504	34,262	37,147	40,333	42,937	45,047	47,072
Independent and Non-maintained Special School Provision	20,263	28,373	26,525	25,111	17,547	5,328	3,480	3,893
Post 16 Provision	11,150	12,193	13,112	12,034	10,379	9,365	8,500	8,106
Alternative Provision	7,980	9,040	9,974	9,319	8,877	8,720	8,520	7,530
Therapies	667	669	873	873	873	873	873	873
Other High Needs Block places and top ups	1,047	1,103	1,087	1,054	1,003	932	840	748
High Needs Block staffing etc	0	6,303	7,693	6,723	6,736	6,749	6,763	6,776
Total Expenditure	96,683	122,172	118,751	115,933	108,455	96,969	95,906	96,527
High Needs Block	-70,798	-74,445	-80,301	-82,710	-85,192	-87,748	-90,380	-93,091
Block Transfer	-1,797	-2,000	-1,937	-3,867	-3,983	-4,102	-4,225	-4,352
In Year Surplus (-)/Deficit(+)	24,088	45,727	36,513	29,356	19,280	5,119	1,301	-917
Surplus/Deficit from other DSG Blocks	-2,766	-2,531						
Safety Valve Income	-26,800	-6,700	-6,700	-6,700	-6,700	-13,400		
Surplus/Deficit Brought Forward from Previous years	35,214	29,736	66,232	96,045	118,701	131,282	123,001	124,301
Total Deficit Balance	29,736	66,232	96,045	118,701	131,282	123,001	124,301	123,385

Proposal

23. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the update on the High Needs Sustainability Plan.

Report Authors:

Liz Williams, Finance Lead – High Needs Sustainability

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Ben Stevens, Inclusion, SEND & AP Transformation Lead

ben.stevens@wiltshire.gov.uk

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

LA Name	Date Report Submitted	Signed off by S151 Officer & Director of Children's Services	Name & Email Address of Key Personnel	
Wiltshire	11 th December 2024		CEO:	Lucy Townsend Lucy.Townsend@wiltshire.gov.uk
Do you need additional support from either of our specialist SEND advisers (early years / inclusion) to support the effective delivery of your Safety Valve plan? If yes, please specify which area (early years / inclusion) you would like extra support in, giving a brief overview of how this support would be beneficial.			S151 Officer:	Lizzie Watkin Lizzie.Watkin@wiltshire.gov.uk
			DCS:	Darryl Freeman Darryl.Freeman@wiltshire.gov.uk
			Other key contacts for Safety Valve:	Kathryn Davis – Director for Education and Skills Kathryn.Davis@wiltshire.gov.uk Florah Shiringo – Interim Director for Children and Families Florah.Shiringo@wiltshire.gov.uk Ben Stevens – Inclusion, SEND and AP Transformation Lead Ben.Stevens@wiltshire.gov.uk Liz Williams – High Needs Block Finance Lead Liz.Williams@wiltshire.gov.uk Lisa Fryer – Head of SEND and inclusion Lisa.Fryer@wiltshire.gov.uk
<p>The initial meeting held with both advisors was very helpful and so the intention is to continue working with them. Of particular interest, and subject to further exploration, was: advice shared on the use of attitudinal measures to assess the impact of SEND transformation on mainstream inclusion; enhanced provision opportunities in EYFS Reception classes; and the use of special schools as part of triads within a SEND review framework for mainstream schools.</p>				

Is your LA's Safety Valve plan on track?	Yes/No	Commentary
To achieve the Safety Valve agreement's projected deficit in the current year?	No	<p>As was reported in the August update, based on the Q1 forecast, the Wiltshire Safety Valve agreement is not on track to meet the projected deficit in year. This remains the case based on Q2 monitoring, and there has been further adverse movement of £5.05m.</p> <p>This is due to continued demand being higher than forecast, and this generating more independent non-maintained special school placements.</p>
To achieve a £0 DSG deficit by the end of the Safety Valve agreement?	No	<p>Further analysis has been undertaken to model forward the impact of the plan being off-track. It is no longer thought possible to reach a £0 deficit by the end of the 5 year Safety Valve agreement.</p> <p>This is a reflection that, despite positive steps being taken on inclusion, finance and post-16 workstreams, there has not been any appreciable impact seen in Year 1 so far, and consequently there has been additional cost been added to the system.</p> <p>There is a plan to reach balance 7 years after the commencement of the Safety Valve agreement (April 2031) and a discussion with the DfE about amending the agreement in line with this would be welcomed.</p> <p>Given how this impacts the residual deficit, which the council is responsible for, the authority has thoroughly explored options to get to a balanced position earlier.</p>

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

		However, it has not been possible to identify viable options without compromising the support that is offered to, and required by, Children and Young People with SEND in Wiltshire.
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	Yes/No	Commentary
Is your LA's Safety Valve capital project on track?	Yes	Despite a number of significant challenges, including an extended delay in determining the outcome of our application, the capital project is back on track and should deliver the expected placements on schedule.

Programme Headlines

This quarter, the biggest drivers of positive change have been (up to 3):

1. The continued relationships with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) and schools have enabled mature conversations and understanding across the system about the scale of SEND transformation required.
2. As the plan has been reworked, there has been system-wide willingness to engage with the process, despite the complexity and scale of the change required as well as competing priorities during the month of October when we were engaged in the Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND inspection.
3. There has been successful recruitment into teams which will deliver support on the ground in schools. The staff recruited are credible specialists in their field, which is vital to their success. This includes, for example, recruitment of secondary behaviour support advisory teachers and SEMH inclusion mentors.

This quarter, the biggest barrier(s) to successful implementation of the Safety Valve plan have been (up to 3):

1. Capacity from officers across the partnership was lower than usual, due to the Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND inspection, which kept key stakeholders busy for around a month. Leaders were very willing to give Safety Valve their full attention once the inspection had passed.

This quarter, the best examples of stakeholder engagement around the Safety Valve plan have been (up to 3):

1. The authority has continued to model co-design and engagement principles while delivering the plan and developing the new mitigations. There have been multiple engagement events with parent carers and schools to ensure stakeholders remain engaged, involved and have their views heard. For example, 3 face-to-face parent carer events were held in September across the county and webinars have been held monthly providing live Q&A opportunities. These have been led by the Director of Education and Skills and the Inclusion, SEND and AP Transformation Lead.
2. The first of the Stakeholder Reference Panels has taken place, bringing together schools, parent carers and the voice of children and young people to discuss and influence our project proposals.
3. The revised proposals and descriptors for EHCP top-up funding in Wiltshire have been developed through a series of small working groups with key stakeholders from the Statutory SEND team and the community care provider, HCRG Care Group. Consultation events have been delivered for schools and parent/carers as 'live' events to enable meaningful dialogue and discussion beyond the standard consultation response medium.

Alongside your Safety Valve financial and narrative monitoring reports, please share with us the latest strategic data dashboard utilised by your governance oversight board for Safety Valve.

NB This should not be something created for the DfE Safety Valve monitoring process; if you do not have a strategic data dashboard, just let us know.

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>																											
Condition 1: The authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2028-29 and in each subsequent year.	Update 1 (May)	<p>The current financial forecast is detailed on the attached finance template.</p> <p>The council is no longer predicting a positive in-year balance by the end of 2028/29. The latest forecast is that a positive in-year balance will be possible by the end of 2030/31 and in subsequent years.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>High Needs Block financial forecast 2023/24 - 2030/31 (£,000)</p> <table border="1" style="display: none;"> <caption>High Needs Block financial forecast data (Estimated)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Mitigated In-Year Overspend (£,000)</th> <th>Mitigated Cumulative Deficit (£,000)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2023/24</td><td>20,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2024/25</td><td>40,000</td><td>70,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2025/26</td><td>35,000</td><td>105,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2026/27</td><td>30,000</td><td>135,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2027/28</td><td>20,000</td><td>155,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2028/29</td><td>-5,000</td><td>150,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2029/30</td><td>-2,000</td><td>148,000</td></tr> <tr><td>2030/31</td><td>-1,000</td><td>147,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>	Year	Mitigated In-Year Overspend (£,000)	Mitigated Cumulative Deficit (£,000)	2023/24	20,000	30,000	2024/25	40,000	70,000	2025/26	35,000	105,000	2026/27	30,000	135,000	2027/28	20,000	155,000	2028/29	-5,000	150,000	2029/30	-2,000	148,000	2030/31	-1,000	147,000
	Year		Mitigated In-Year Overspend (£,000)	Mitigated Cumulative Deficit (£,000)																									
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Green																													
Update 2 (August)																													
Amber																													
Update 3 (November)	Red																												
Condition 2: The authority undertakes to control and reduce the cumulative deficit, not exceeding £84.5m in financial year 2024/25.	Update 1 (May)	<p>The forecast above includes all the mitigations that have been developed, including new targets that the authority has given itself to stabilise EHCP numbers by April 2026, it has included the Local Authority contribution, and has assumed the Safety Valve payments continue.</p> <p>Income for 2025/26 has been assumed to be £80.301m. This is in line with the provisional allocation announced on 28 November and represents an increase of 7.9% compared with 2024/25. This allocation will be updated following the final funding settlement in December and again in March 2025.</p> <p>In future years High Needs Block income is assumed to increase by 3% per annum in line with DfE guidance. It should be noted that if all other assumptions remain the same, a 5% increase per annum in the HNB would enable in year balance to be achieved 1 year earlier.</p> <p>The assumption of a 1% schools block transfer has been removed for 2025/26 and replaced with a proposed 0.5% transfer. This reflects the increased high needs block allocation for 2025/26. An assumption of 1% schools block transfer remains for future years.</p> <p>Inflation on unit costs has been assumed at 2.2% per annum</p> <p>This forecast does require INMSS spend to reduce to below £4m by the end of the plan which is very ambitious. We have adjusted the forecast in line with known slippage in these projects, but reaching balance in year 7 will require all the existing capital projects to be delivered on time. Additionally, there are a further 25 special school places planned</p>																											
	Green																												
	Update 2 (August)		Red																										
	Update 3 (November)		Red																										

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

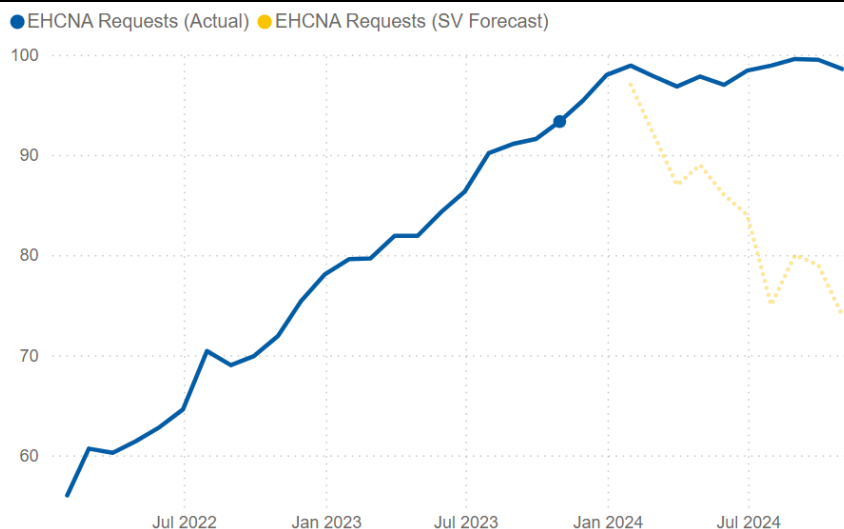
Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>																								
		<p>for September 2025, 50 from September 2028, and more resource base places beyond what was previously planned.</p> <p>The forecast also retains an assumption that the authority can reduce EHCP rates to be in line with Good or Outstanding councils. This means EHCP numbers as at 31 March 2031 are assumed to be 5,938 compared with an unmitigated forecast of 7,996.</p> <p>This would leave a £122.5m residual deficit for Wiltshire Council to manage, up from £70.3m in the original plan. This will be a challenge, especially if local government budgets continue to be pressured, as they have been in recent years. Therefore, the council will be regularly reviewing what steps it can take to accelerate the impact of the plan and meet key milestones more quickly.</p>																								
Condition 3.1: Provide earlier support for children and young people with SEND, improving inclusion practices and managing pressure points and school transitions.	Update 1 (May)	<p>The Wiltshire SEND Local Area Partnership inspection was undertaken during this period. The outcome, which was to award the highest grading, and the final report was published on 6th December.</p> <p>In the report, inspectors specifically highlight how inclusive this system is saying “Wiltshire children benefit from an inclusive education system. The development of the ‘ordinarily available provision for all learners’ strategy has helped secure a system-wide commitment to inclusive practice in schools.” Inspectors were also impressed with the early help offer in Wiltshire, and the work around school transition points.</p> <p>Receiving such positive, independent validation of the inclusion approach in Wiltshire has given leaders confidence that the direction of travel set out in the Sustainability Plan was the right one. However, this is not leading to complacency, and leaders understand that significant work is still required.</p> <p>The preventative early support activity that was expected during this quarter has been delivered, as was the case last quarter. However, the activity is not having an impact on overall EHCP numbers, and this is impacting our ability to meet financial targets.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">EHCP Numbers</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Apr '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">May '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Jun '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Jul '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Aug '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Sep '24</th> <th style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Oct '24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">SV Forecast</td> <td>5562</td> <td>5586</td> <td>5609</td> <td>5632</td> <td>5645</td> <td>5649</td> <td>5669</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e6e6e6;">Actual</td> <td>5728</td> <td>5815</td> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">5867</td> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">5861</td> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">5932</td> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">6051</td> <td style="background-color: #f8d7da;">6161</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The number of EHCPs is around 500 ahead of the forecast figure. Demand, as measured by the number of EHC Needs Assessment requests received, has continued to hold steady. This remains at the highest level it has ever been in Wiltshire, but the fact that demand is not continuing to increase shows a more stable system is emerging, that is significantly more predictable than it was when the plan was first submitted in December 2023. This is also in contrast to the reported position in other local authorities who are continuing to see their EHCNA request rate rise.</p>	EHCP Numbers	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	SV Forecast	5562	5586	5609	5632	5645	5649	5669	Actual	5728	5815	5867	5861	5932	6051	6161
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SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition

Assurance Level

Progress Update from this Quarter
Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts



EHCNA Numbers (12 month rolling ave)	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24
	97.83	97.00	98.44	98.92	99.58	99.50	98.58

There are a number of reasons why this condition is so far offtrack. Firstly, the predictions around how quickly impact would be felt were optimistic. This was partly due to delays with the onboarding of new staff, especially with those on school contracts, but also due to time required to drive forward systemic cultural change.

Secondly, the original forecast was based on a 5-year average, which included years where demand was artificially suppressed by the pandemic. An assumption was made that this suppressed demand was compensated for by the rapid growth in demand since the pandemic and the system might be returning to the mean. However, the demand this year has continued, and broadly follows a 2-year average line, rather than the 5-year line.

There has also been an impact because the council has made significant progress with clearing the EHCNA backlog, ensuring that where children and young people have a level of need which would warrant an EHCP, this is available to them. The result of this is that the backlog is now at its lowest level since 2020, but this has brought more plans forward.

This realisation has driven a re-appraisal and re-forecasting of the data trends in the system. There are five key insights:

- a) Demand is strongest in Early Years – which was understood before, but the new analysis has revealed that a quarter of assessment requests were made for three-year-olds last year.
- b) There appear to be opportunities to cease plans pre-16 when children and young people meet outcomes. According to the data, since 2020 fewer than 15 children and young people with SEND of statutory school age have 'met all outcomes' and been able to have their plan ceased. This seems unrealistically low and does not align with Wiltshire's strong attainment data for children and young people with SEND.

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
		<p>c) While improving significantly this year, the No to Assess and No to Issue rates in Wiltshire are lower than our statistical neighbours. This implies that there are further opportunities to improve the robustness of decision making in this area underpinned by effective SEND support for children and young people who are pre-statutory.</p> <p>d) There have been consistent and sustained shifts 'up' in placement, with more children going into Special School or Independent Special schools and whilst multi-disciplinary decision-making and allocation of resource are robust, work is ongoing to increase the volume and breadth of specialist provision available within our local SEND system, in line with the council's ambitious Specialist Place Planning strategy.</p> <p>e) More children with EHCPs are now funded on a Band 3 or 4 plan instead of a Band 0 or 1 plan. This is reflective of school funding pressures which are seen nationally and experienced more profoundly in Wiltshire as an F40 council. The EHCP Top-Up Funding review is focussed on prioritising funding allocations based on need and bringing our system into balance.</p> <p>f) The biggest growth areas are in Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Speech Language and Communication (SLCN) which have grown as a proportion of EHCPs.</p> <p>Given these insights, changes to the plan have focussed on accelerating or developing proposals in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training to improve confidence in the mainstream inclusion offer. 2. Improve communication around mainstream inclusion. 3. Communicate the inclusion offer more explicitly. 4. Develop the support which is part of inclusion offer. 5. Support children and young people with SEN through transitions. 6. Work with Public Health to develop a more effective early help offer. 7. Change our processes to offer Social Care Early Help Assessments earlier. 8. Greater support in Early Years 9. Increased prioritisation of Annual Review attendance and focus on Outcomes met, supporting pre- and post-16 ceases. <p>In addition to these proposals, which will generate a large benefit in the medium to long term, Wiltshire Council are committing to urgent action to arrest the negative movement.</p> <p>The authority has set an ambitious target of stabilising EHCP numbers by April 2026.</p> <p>This will be done through a limited number of highly targeted, tangible projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small team who will work intensively with parent carers over a period of 6-8 weeks seeking to solve problems quickly and efficiently, avoiding recourse to statutory assessment. • A more intensive approach to utilising Early Help and Early Support Assessments in Early Years which includes the Early Years Pathway Navigators who are starting in January 2025.

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>																		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting support to schools who appear to be outliers in the data, based on inclusion metrics, and working with them to support best practice and inclusion. Work to identify children and young people with EHCPs who are close to meeting all of their outcomes, prioritising their annual reviews and celebrating successes and step down from an EHCP. In parallel, training on producing SMART outcomes will be prioritised at system-wide level. <p>These 4 interventions are expected to have an impact on EHCP growth of 39 plans a month, which is £30m over the life of the plan. This gives the system a much better chance of achieving balance through the medium-long term interventions articulated in the original plan.</p>																		
Condition 3.2: Prevent the need for escalation by providing the right support, first time, including a more holistic response alongside health and social care, with improved management and communication.	Update 1 (May)	<p>The activity that was planned to support this agreement condition is on track. The percentage of children and young people in Independent Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS) placements is broadly in line with the figures reported at the last quarter (5.86% in July, 5.62% in October) and so this workstream is RAG rated as Green – on track.</p> <p>These percentages equate to one fewer INMSS placement in October as compared to July, but 44 more than this time last year. Independent sector placements are only commissioned where there is no maintained provision available in county. Robust decision-making at point of placement occurs in Wiltshire. Opportunities for planned step-downs at age-phase transfer points and appropriate points mid-phase continue to be actively explored. These step-downs will accelerate when our new local planned specialist placements come online, and we are developing options to use modular or temporary accommodation to bring this forward.</p> <p>● INMSS (actual) ● INMSS (forecast)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>INMSS Percentage Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>INMSS (actual)</th> <th>INMSS (forecast)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jul 2022</td> <td>5.3%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 2023</td> <td>5.2%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul 2023</td> <td>5.4%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan 2024</td> <td>5.6%</td> <td>6.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul 2024</td> <td>5.8%</td> <td>6.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Local Area Partnership inspection highlighted the strong partnership work, which is already happening in Wiltshire, as well as the ongoing commitment to provide a truly holistic response to SEND need.</p> <p>To this end, the partnership has been working on a toolkit for schools to support them in managing medical needs in mainstream settings. This joint piece of work, between the council and ICB will launch in January 2025. The clarity around responsibilities and where to turn for support or advice should help schools and settings feel more confident and reduce any need for escalation.</p> <p>The rollout of Family Hubs was highlighted in the August report as an area of good practice, and these have continued to be an area of</p>	Month	INMSS (actual)	INMSS (forecast)	Jul 2022	5.3%	-	Jan 2023	5.2%	-	Jul 2023	5.4%	-	Jan 2024	5.6%	6.0%	Jul 2024	5.8%	6.8%
	Month		INMSS (actual)	INMSS (forecast)																
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SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
		<p>strength. Work is ongoing to understand what can be done to further support this service as it currently has a waiting list. The main drivers for referrals are mental health of parent carers or children and young people.</p> <p>The 'go-live' date of the SEND early help line was pushed back due to the Local Area SEND inspection creating a pause in the induction plan that was in place. However, this has now launched.</p> <p>The consultation on EHCP top-up funding has opened as planned. The proposal will secure special school funding, to ensure that the system avoids INMSS placements, and will address the current trend whereby schools regularly seek 'up-banding'. The expectation is that, should this proposal be adopted, it will re-link funding to need.</p> <p>Recognising the need to address the growth in INMSS placements, the authority is also taking urgent action in this area. These proposals aim to reduce growth in INMSS placements by 20% by April 2026, above and in addition to the expected reduction generated by action under Condition 3.3 (increasing availability of maintained special school and resource base placements).</p> <p>This action is focussed both on stepping down children and young people mid-phase as part of the annual review process, and on establishing Assistant Education Officer posts to ensure support and challenge is available to push back on no responses from schools, where appropriate, thereby preventing escalation,</p>
<p>Condition 3.3: Increase the number of special school placements, resourced provision, and alternative provision to ensure that children and young people can access the support they need, with proper reintegration support for children who can be appropriately supported in mainstream provision.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>As was the case in August, significant progress has been made against this condition, however the delivery of special school places is still Amber – Off Track.</p> <p>156 new special school places were due to come online in September, but unfortunately only 98 were delivered. These delays were due to a new academy free school being unable to take children up to expected PAN following challenges with leadership and staffing capacity (DfE regions group has full awareness). Also, delays in Ofsted registration timeline for an independent provision within local authority premises, run by a subsidiary company of a MAT with special school expertise.</p> <p>Work is underway to bring the growth in places back on track as soon as possible within the current academic year. Confirmation of the capital funding to support new special school places in the south of the county has secured the next phases of this work. Urgent work was required to move this crucial scheme forward to secure the site and to get approvals. This workstream is now on track and is forecast to deliver a new 120 place special school will start to take pupils from September 2025.</p> <p>Another element of this work which has made real progress is the creation of further secondary resource bases. While the need for places had been identified, there was not a clear pathway forward. Thanks to highly focused work from the SEND team and dedicated project management resource from SEND transformation, there is now a clear</p>
	Amber	
	Update 2 (August)	
	Amber	
Update 3 (November)	Amber	

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
		<p>pipeline, and schools lined up to launch new secondary resource bases from September 2025, and into the 2025/26 academic year.</p> <p>Following the rigorous commissioning and procurement exercise Brunel Education (a subsidiary company of Brunel Academies Trust) were awarded the contract to deliver education provision from Melksham House on 1st July 2024, at a Wiltshire owned building. The provision will include places for 50 primary age learners with SEMH needs who have an EHCP. The provision will also support a cohort of up to 25 secondary age learners with an EHCP who have SEMH needs. The provider will also be working with the local authority in supporting our outreach model to support the wider system in delivering high quality education for learners.</p> <p>The provider has now commenced the Ofsted registration process which we hope to conclude in early 2025.</p> <p>To ensure a greater continuum of offer for learners, Wiltshire Council is currently undertaking a procurement exercise to appoint a provider to deliver DfE registered Alternative Provision from a Wiltshire owned building. The commissioning specification has been updated to reflect the latest demand modelling for SEMH needs, and a new tender process will begin within the next 3 months.</p> <p>This provision will be for 50 secondary age young people, including children with or without an EHCP, which aims to have places commissioned by the local authority and schools directly. As with Melksham House, the provider will be expected to support the wider system with an outreach model that delivers high quality education for learners.</p>
<p>Condition 3.4: Improve transition pathways to provide a range of opportunities for young people with SEND to prepare for adulthood, including training, further education, and employment.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>In May and August, it was reported that the system expected to be back on track for this condition by November. This has not been achieved. Project activity has been delivered on time; however the data is behind target and despite assurances that ceasing would pick up, this has not been achieved. Ceases have dropped from 32 a month in July to 28 a month in October (based on a 12-month rolling average).</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;"> ● EHCPs Ceased (Actual) ● EHCPs Ceased (Forecast) </p>
	Amber	
	Update 2 (August)	
	Amber	
Update 3 (November)	Amber	
		<p>The rate of ceasing has continued to decline and</p>

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
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		<p>so the authority should, rightly, be proud of the work done to support children and young people with SEND into education or employment. However, the numbers need to be higher without this percentage increasing.</p> <p>The authority has taken on a new Project Manager focussed primarily on the post-16 space, and great progress has been made in creating a structured and strategic plan for this workstream.</p> <p>A new document articulating the pathways for children and young people with SEND has been produced and should be published early next year. This document clearly sets out the options for children and young people with SEND in Wiltshire, so that realistic but ambitious conversations can be held.</p> <p>The Post 16 Partnership and Strategy group has been guiding this work as part of their development into a more strategic cross-system group. Partners meet on a regular basis to identify progress against priority actions and to ensure that work is moving forwards. This has led to a greater focus on developing employment and education pathways as well as work towards improved transition planning. This work will also be reflected in our strategic action plan, post-SEND AP inspection.</p>
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<p>Condition 3.5: Foster a culture of change across the Wiltshire SEND and AP system by engaging with partners and parent carers, improving trust and co-production across the sector.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>This deal condition is currently green – on track. The authority has continued to engage partners and parent carers to ensure that trust remains high.</p> <p>The first substantive meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Panel was held, which brings schools and settings, parent carers, and voice of children and young people together to discuss the development of the transformation projects.</p> <p>The agenda for the meetings is driven by the members themselves and after the meeting, a “You Said, We Did” report was generated so that members can recognise how we responded to their comments and will be able to see the direct impact that they had on the projects. The projects discussed at this panel were: the Inclusion Charter, EHCP Funding, SEMH Graduated Response, specialist support in early years, and improvements to the behaviour support service.</p>
	Green	
	Update 2 (August)	
	Green	
	Update 3 (November)	
	Green	

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
		<p>As a snapshot, a survey about how supportive the panel members were of each project were taken before the agenda item and then after it. Confidence that these projects will improve outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND in Wiltshire increased by just over 10%.</p> <p>Alongside this 'showpiece' engagement event, project managers are continuing to bring stakeholder voices into their work on a regular basis. This mirrors the commitment shown to co-design during the development of the plan. At an early stage in the projects, representative groups are given the chance to feed in. This includes Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC), Schools Forum, and the System of Excellence Steering Group.</p> <p>System of Excellence Steering Group is made up of the special school headteachers, and representatives from mainstream schools, early years, the ICB and post 16 providers. This group have had a substantive impact on the work that is happening in the Wiltshire system and are a key part of driving culture change.</p> <p>Work to create an in-house replacement for the POET survey is continuing and this new survey is expected to go live early in 2025. This survey will be supported by AI review and interpretation algorithms to assist with processing and ensure that the team can see changes and trends as soon as possible.</p> <p>These metrics will be used to measure the effect of culture change efforts in the system and to understand where the council needs to improve communication, in terms of what is said, how it's said and where it is said.</p>

RAG	Definition
S	Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) complete
A	Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) remains on target
O	Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) are currently off target, with plans to mitigate
R	Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) are off target

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME RISK REGISTER

Risk	Assurance Level	Mitigation	Progress Update from this Quarter
<p>Risk 1: There is a risk that unpredictability in the system could lead to the authority failing to meet financial targets despite the plan working.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>The authority needs to remove as much unpredictability from the system as possible. This will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing the backlog of EHC needs assessments to remove the unknown risk around those plans. 2. Map and improve financial decision-making to ensure it is clear and has the right level of scrutiny and rigour. 3. Increase the visibility of financial decision-making in the system to all partners so that they are better able to forecast accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The investment in Educational Psychologist capacity has continued to benefit the system and the authority remains on track to clear the backlog by April 2025. • Work has continued to look at how EHCPs are funded and proposals for a new funding scheme are now out to consultation. This will rebalance the system and lead to a reduction in ad hoc funding payments, and requests to increase banding which are not needs led.
	Green		
	Update 2 (August)		
	Green		
	Update 3 (November)		
<p>Risk 2: There is a risk that a failure to maintain trusted relationships could fundamentally erode faith in the inclusive vision for our SEND system</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>The authority will continue to hold stakeholders close to this work and co-design the projects with them. The messaging and communication will emphasise the importance of co-design and of improved outcomes from children and young people with SEND. Quick wins early in the project will deliver tangible improvements for stakeholders and children and young people with SEND.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND inspection has highlighted good working relationships in the system. • The first Stakeholder Reference Panel was undertaken, and those results are being fed into the transformation work. • Open working relationships with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) have enabled mature conversations about the work. • Consultation with schools on 1% transfer from the Schools Block as part of the Safety Valve plan has highlighted strong feelings from Head Teachers about affordability for schools to make this level of contribution. The council is listening carefully to schools and is identifying mitigations.
	Green		
	Update 2 (August)		
	Green		
	Update 3 (November)		
<p>Risk 3: There is a risk that partners struggle to engage at the required pace leading to a slower pace of change than is required to meet the plan.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>The authority will continue to engage partners and check-in with them about pace of change and progress. Recognising that the financial risk lies with the local authority, the programme team will remain cognisant that other partners will have differing priorities. The authority will ensure that the benefits for other partners are clearly articulated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work has been undertaken to articulate and communicate the positive outcomes for schools and settings. • Key partners, including Schools Forum and the ICB, have reiterated their commitment to the delivery of this plan.
	Amber		
	Update 2 (August)		
	Green		
	Update 3 (November)		
	Green		

SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME RISK REGISTER

Risk	Assurance Level	Mitigation	Progress Update from this Quarter
<p>Risk 4: There is a risk that failure to access the required capital leaves the system reliant on expensive independent special school places.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>The authority has put in a request for £5.7m of additional capital through the Safety Valve programme, and this would deliver an extension to a special school in the south of the county. Other projects need to have allocated capital. The authority has considered options to reduce reliance on the capital, essentially derisking the project, but 120 additional places for £5.7m already represents excellent value for money, and Wiltshire has a low number of special school places for a county of its size. It is difficult to imagine an alternative that would reduce reliance on INMSS placements while still meeting the statutory obligations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to capital has been completed and work is progressing.
	Amber		
	Update 2 (August)		
	Amber		
	Update 3 (November)		
	Blue		
<p>Risk 5: There is a risk that system partners struggle to recruit or resource the changes required in our system leading to failed attempts at change.</p>	Update 1 (May)	<p>The authority must maintain contact with key partners and include them in decision making so that it can take account of the impact of the transformation programme on their services. The authority will also review unintended consequences that might impact partners and will offer support with recruitment where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners remain fully engaged with the work at a strategic level and so monitoring is underway. Recruitment support for special schools is being delivered to help them get the staff they need to support this transformation.
	Amber		
	Update 2 (August)		
	Amber		
	Update 3 (November)		
	Amber		

Wiltshire Council

School Funding & SEN Working Group
14 January 2025

Schools Forum
23 January 2025

Dedicated Schools Grant Revenue Funding 2025-26 - Funding Settlement & Budget Setting Process

Purpose of the Paper

1. To update Schools Forum on the revenue funding settlement and the budget setting process for 2025-26.
2. The report will outline the funding settlement announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 18 December 2024 and the impact on school budgets arising from the settlement. The report will also outline the decision-making process for the 2025-26 budget.
3. Further details on each of the funding Blocks and the specific decisions required will be set out in individual papers on this agenda. A separate 'Decision Matrix' will also be provided so that decisions can be considered after all the update reports have been discussed.

Introduction to Funding Changes for 2025-26

4. The 2025-26 year represents the first year of school funding since the general election in July 2024. Following the increases in both Teachers and Support Staff pay, the new Government has pledged to boost schools funding, with an increase of £2.3bn (3.5%) into the overall Dedicated Schools Grant compared to the 2024-25 year. Of this increase, £1bn is committed to High Needs and SEND for the 2025-26 year, the remaining £1.3bn for schools.
5. This compares to an increase of £1.8bn in Schools Block funding and £440m for High Needs in the 2024-25 year. The total quantum of funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant now stands at £68.75bn of which the High Needs Block comprises £11.2bn.
6. The Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG), designed to fund the 'unfunded' 3% of the Teachers Pay Award from September 2023, was continued into the 2024-25 year, as a separate grant. Moving into the 2025-26 year, this grant will be incorporated into the core funding values for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum, at the prevailing rates used in the grant.

7. Similarly, there was also an additional grant for the 2024-25 year, the Teachers' Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG) to reflect the additional costs of the increase to employer contribution rates for the Teachers Pensions' Scheme from April 2024. The contribution rate was increased by 5 percentage points from 23.68% to 28.68%. The TPECG grant followed the same funding format as the TPAG, and will be incorporated also into the AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum core funding values in 2025-26.
8. In July, the new government concluded the pay negotiations for teachers and subsequently for support staff too. The respective pay awards of 5.5% and a flat rate increase of £1,290 to all pay scale points were supplemented by a new 'Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)'.
The CSBG was awarded for the seven-month period from September 2024 to March 2025. The CSBG has now been uplifted to reflect the annualised funding and incorporated into core school funding rates for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum for 2025-26.

Grant Element	TPAG	TPECG	CSBG (full-year equiv.)	TOTAL
Primary basic per-pupil	£62	£75	£127	£264
KS3 basic per-pupil	£86	£106	£179	£371
KS4 basic per-pupil	£98	£119	£202	£419
Primary FSM6 per-pupil	£53	£65	£115	£233
Secondary FSM6 per-pupil	£77	£100	£168	£345
Lump sum	£2,306	£2,800	£4,815	£9,921

10. For Special Schools, the TPAG, TPECG and the CSBG will be rolled up into one grant and awarded in the 2025-26 as a new CSBG. Full details of the grant will be released in due course.
11. The Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been awarded an increase of 0.5% for the core funding factors compared to the 2024-25 year. Representations have been made to the Department for Education that this level of increase is unsustainable for schools.

12. At the Autumn Statement (October 2024 Budget) the Government fixed the timing envelope for Phase 2 of the Spending Review, which will conclude in the Spring of 2025. Phase 2 will *deliver a new settlement for public services, making changes to how the government approaches public spending to support public services.*
13. The DfE has allocated school funding to Wiltshire based on the National Funding Formula (NFF). The funding has then been run through the local funding formula, taking account of Schools Forum decisions, to create individual school budgets, in line with the NFF requirements.
14. The 2025-26 year is another 'soft' year with local Schools' Forum still retaining their role in determining the school funding allocation methodology. The DfE have confirmed their intention to move to a 'hard' NFF and are continuing with a gradual tightening of local formulas towards the full NFF.
15. As Wiltshire has already made the decision to mirror the NFF, there are limited implications from this tightening for Wiltshire schools. In preparing school budgets, the DfE set minimum and maximum funding factor values, however complying with the NFF values ensure Wiltshire schools are fully funded.
16. The introduction of mandatory '*minimum per pupil funding levels*' for the 2020-21 year represents a step towards the introduction of a 'hard' or 'direct' NFF and the rates have increased for the 2025-26 year as detailed in the table below.

<u>MPPFL</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Key Stage 1&2	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265	£4,405	£4,610	£4,955
Key Stage 3	£4,800	£5,215	£5,321	£5,503	£5,771	£6,221
Key Stage 4	£5,300	£5,715	£5,831	£6,033	£6,331	£6,831

17. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) threshold has been adjusted to ensure that all schools gain through the allocations per pupil and must be set between -0.5% and 0.0%. Schools Forum agreed at the December 2024 meeting to set this at the maximum 0.0%, subject to affordability.

18. The main formula for the 2025-26 year is broadly similar to the formula for the 2024-25 year however there are some changes, as detailed below.
- a. Overall, funding through the DSG has increased by 3.5%.
 - b. Core pupil-led funding factors and the lump sum increased by 0.5%.
 - c. The ‘*Minimum per pupil funding level*’ to increase to.
 - i. £4,955 for Primary
 - ii. £6,465 for Secondary
 - d. The Free School Meals factor (for the costs of providing a meal for eligible pupils) has increased by 1% (from £490 to £495)
 - e. A transfer of up to 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block is permitted, subject to Schools Forum approval and a higher level of transfer is subject to Secretary of State approval.
 - f. All NFF factors must be used in the formula.
19. Following the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 school assessments due to Covid-19, the Low Prior Attainment data from 2019 will continue to be used as a proxy for the assessments which would have taken place in 2020 and 2021.
20. The DfE will continue to pay Business Rates on behalf of all Wiltshire schools, as introduced in 2022-23. The DfE will liaise directly with Wiltshire Council for the payment of Business Rates, removing the need for schools to pay their own Business Rates and then recovering the funding.
21. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding will continue in the 2025-26 year, with the rates for the new year still to be confirmed. The numbers of eligible PPG pupils will be taken from the October 2024 census. The funding rates for 2024-25 are set out in the table below.

Premium	Primary		Secondary	
	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26
FSM6 (Deprivation)	£1,480	?	£1,050	?
LAC and post-LAC*	£2,570	?	£2,570	?
Service	£340	?	£340	?

* - LAC PPG is payable to the LA's Virtual Headteacher. Where a pupil has previously been LAC but has left LA care through adoption, special guardianship order or child arrangements order, then the PPG is payable to the school.

School Revenue Funding Settlement 2025-26

Dedicated Schools Grant 2025-26

22. The DfE issued the revenue funding settlement for schools on 18 December 2024. The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council is **£551.890m**. This is an increase of **£58.429m** compared with 2024-25. The table below shows the breakdown of the Blocks.

Block	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Schools Block	£317,724,345	£328,593,782	£346,293,208	£364,467,745	£391,209,428
Central Block	£2,565,122	£2,604,175	£2,600,176	£2,643,673	£2,881,422
High Needs Block	£57,835,120	£62,690,534	£70,917,828	£74,270,643	£80,886,124
Early Years Block	£28,217,273	£28,520,960	£32,485,360	£52,885,506	£76,913,524
TOTAL FUNDING	£406,341,860	£422,409,451	£452,296,572	£494,267,567	£551,890,498

23. The increase in the Schools Block for 2025-26 reflects the core increase and the additional funding from the TPAG, TPECG and CSBG awarded in the 2024-25 year.
24. The split of funding between the Blocks is set out below to show the year-on-year movements.

	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Schools Block	293,142,767	317,724,345	328,593,782	346,293,208	364,467,745	£391,209,428	26,741,683	7.34%
Central Block	2,479,715	2,565,122	2,604,175	2,600,176	2,643,673	£2,881,422	237,749	8.99%
High Needs Block	51,996,188	57,835,120	62,690,534	70,917,828	74,270,643	£80,886,124	6,615,481	8.91%
Early Years Block	26,884,359	28,217,273	28,520,960	32,485,360	52,885,506	£76,913,524	24,028,018	45.43%
TOTAL FUNDING	374,503,029	406,341,860	422,409,451	452,296,572	494,267,567	551,890,498	57,622,931	11.66%

25. The **Schools Block** has been calculated based on the NFF funding factor values published initially in November 2024 and applied to the October 2024 census information. These have been used to calculate a PUF and SUF (primary unit of funding and secondary unit of funding) for Wiltshire. These units of funding have been multiplied by the numbers of primary and secondary pupils to arrive at the Schools' Block total for 2025-26. (In 2025-26, the rates incorporate the TPAG, TPECG, and CSBG grants from the 2024-25 year.)
26. The PUF and SUF rates for 2025-26 are detailed in the table below.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Increase / %
PUF	£3,849.15	£4,079.69	£4,432.68	£4,574.45	£4,801.29	£5,075.59	£5,488.18	£412.59 / 8.13%
SUF	£4,885.94	£5,092.09	£5,514.14	£5,659.78	£5,951.59	£6,258.62	£6,780.05	£521.43 / 8.33%

27. Pupil numbers have moved in each phase, as per the table below:

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Primary	38,233	262	38,495	-45	38,450	-297	38,153	-566	37,587	-636	36,951	-471	36,480
Secondary	24,883	481	25,364	242	25,606	487	26,093	675	26,768	362	27,130	50	27,178
TOTAL	63,116	743	63,859	197	64,056	290	64,246	109	64,355	-274	64,081	-421	63,658

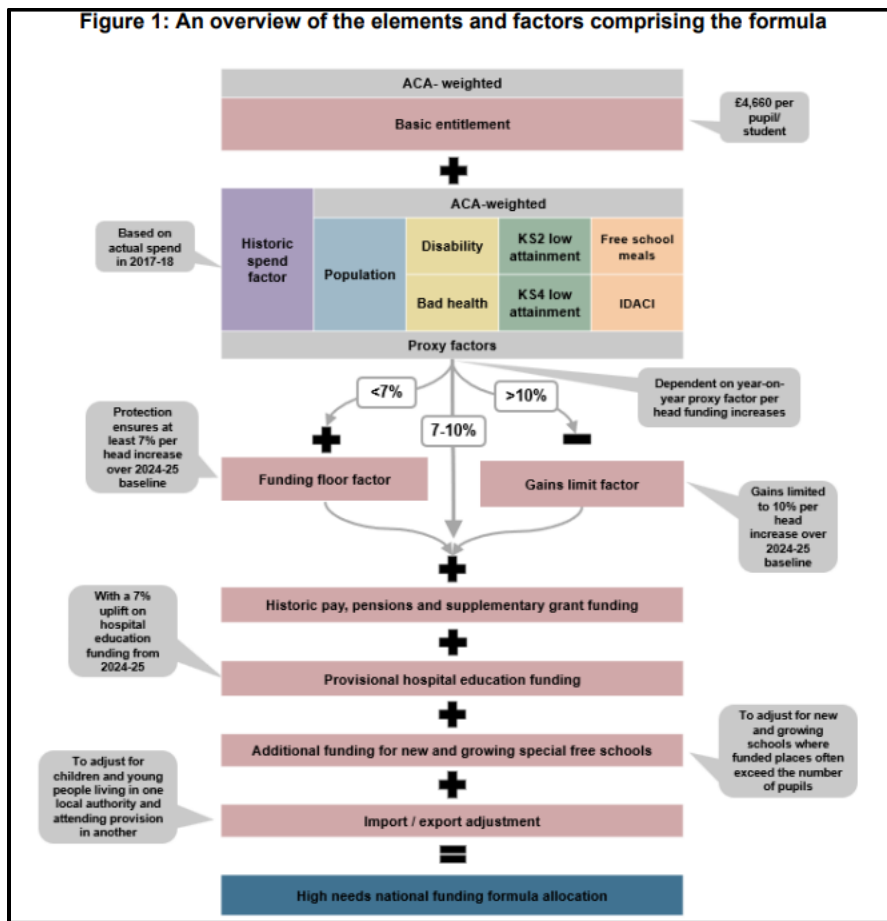
28. Included within the Schools Block of funding of £391.209m is the amount of £1.411m allocated on the basis of pupil growth and falling rolls, within Wiltshire. A breakdown of the elements comprising the Schools' Block is detailed in the table below.

Funding 2025-26	Amount £
Core funding – PUF's (36,480 x £5,488.18)	£200,208,806
Core funding – SUF's (27,178 x £6,780.05)	£184,271,589
Premises Factors (NNDR, split sites, rents, PFI)	£5,317,939
Growth & Falling Rolls funding	£1,411,093
Falling Rolls funding	£0
Total Funding	£391,209,428

29. The **Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)** has been calculated according to the national funding formula for the CSSB. October 2024 pupil numbers have been multiplied by a unit value of £42.90 and a headcount of 63,658. Funding for agreed historic commitments has then been added to that total. The Block is calculated as.

Funding 2024-25	Amount £
Pupil Funding (£42.90 x 63,658)	£2,730,950
Historic Commitment Funding	£150,472
Total CSSB Funding	£2,881,422

30. The **High Needs Block** has been allocated as per the baselines notified to local authorities in December 2024. These baselines are calculated according to the NFF for high needs, in Figure 1 below.



- The basic entitlement amount reflects the numbers of pupils in special schools and has been updated to reflect the October 2024 census. (this performs a similar role to the PUF’s and SUF’s in mainstream schools)
- A significant percentage of funding is allocated according to historic spend and provides every local authority with a set percentage (50%) of their 2017-18 spending on high needs to reflect past spending patterns.
- Of the other Proxy factors.
 - The Population factor sets out the number of pupils aged 2-18 living within the LA area
 - The remaining 6 factors allocate funding specifically based upon levels of attainment, deprivation and health/disability
- A “percentage protection” funding floor ensures that the total of the relevant funding elements increase on a per head basis from the per head 2024-25 baseline by at least 7% in 2025-26.
- The AP factor provides funding for Hospital Education and other alternative provision.
- The Import/Export Adjustment reflects the impact of Wiltshire pupils attending a provision in another LA area and vice versa. Wiltshire is a net exporter of pupils, and the High Needs Block is reduced accordingly.
- After the adjustments have been made, the resulting High Needs Block allocation has been calculated as follows.

Funding 2025-26	Amount £
Basic Entitlement	6,521,782
NFF Funding from Proxy factors	74,906,684
Special Free School Funding	788,077
AP / Hospital	997,581
Import / Export Adjustment	-2,328,000
Total High Needs Funding	80,866,124

31. The **Early Years Block** reflects the indicative hourly rates announced for 2025-26 and an estimate of the full year effect of the entitlement to an additional 15 hours of childcare for children of working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds which came into effect in September 2017.
32. Funding within the Early Years Block has increased provisionally by over £24m. This is not a mistake, but reflects the increased provision being made available within the early years sector. The extended funding reflects the following funding changes and extension in provision.
- The 2-year-old entitlement for working parents
 - The under 2's entitlement funding
 - Early Years Pupil Premium for 2-year-olds
 - Early Years Pupil Premium for under 2-year-olds
 - Disability Access funding for 2-year-olds
 - Disability Access funding for under 2-year-olds
 - Increase in entitlement rates for 3- and 4-year olds
 - Increase in 2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement rates
33. The Early Years provisional allocation has been calculated as follows.

Funding Element	2024-25 Amount £	2025-26 Amount £	Increase / Decrease
Universal entitlement for 3 and 4-year-olds	22,347,050	21,934,368	-412,682
Additional 15 hours for eligible working parents	11,083,480	11,370,035	286,555
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	3,101,130	2,946,692	-154,438
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	9,256,020	16,155,385	6,899,365
Under 2's entitlement	6,357,318	23,765,192	17,407,874
Pupil premium for 3 and 4-year-olds	262,890	311,152	48,262
Pupil Premium for 2-year-olds	142,874	54,361	-88,513
Pupil Premium for under 2's	7,144	4,891	-2,253
Disability Access Fund for 3 and 4-year-olds	245,700	276,710	31,010
Disability Access Fund for 2-year-olds	67,340	77,854	10,514
Disability Access Fund for under 2's	14,560	16,884	2,324
Total Early Years Funding	52,885,506	76,913,524	24,028,018

34. It should be noted that the Early Years Block will be updated during the 2025-26 financial year to reflect the January 2025 and January 2026 Early Years census data and that the above figures are provisional.

Block Transfers 2025-26

35. The funding regulations do allow for a transfer of funding between the Schools' Block and other Blocks within the DSG. Local authorities have the flexibility to move up to 0.5% from the Schools' Block to the other Blocks including the High Needs Block, with the agreement of Schools Forum. It has previously been agreed by Schools Forum that a transfer would be supported, if affordable and schools funded according to the NFF values.
36. Due to the requirement that any transfer in excess of 0.5% would require the express approval from the Secretary of State, a Disapplication Request to transfer was submitted to meet DfE timescales, as previously reported to Schools Forum.

Budget Setting Process 2025-26

37. Local authorities are required to submit the proposed delegated budget for schools in their areas to the DfE by 22 January 2025. The DfE are required to confirm the formula is compliant with the funding regulations and will then confirm budgets to academies by the end of February 2025. The LA is required to notify maintained schools of their budget shares by the end of February 2025.
38. In terms of setting the budgets for schools for 2025-26, financial modelling has confirmed that the NFF is fully affordable. Taking account of setting a Growth Fund of £0.5m, a Block transfer of 0.236% or £0.914m is affordable.
39. The amount of funding required to fund all schools in accordance with the NFF is £386.035m. The Schools Block funding available for distribution to schools in 2025-26 is calculated as follows:

DSG Schools Block Allocation	391,209,427
Less: NNDR (Business Rates)	-3,760,345
Less: Growth Fund	-500,000
Less: Transfer to Other Blocks	-913,886
Total available for School Funding	386,035,196

40. For the first time since the introduction of the NFF, a transfer of 0.5% is not affordable, mirroring the position of a number of other local authorities. Analysis of the reasons for the Block Transfer of 0.5% not being affordable can be broken down as.

Element	Percentage	Amount
Schools Block Funding Increase	7.34%	
Increased requirement to meet Core NFF values	7.73%	
Gap	0.39%	£1,397,976
Reduction in Growth Funding		£398,495
TOTAL		£1,796,471

41. The update reports will show that many of the decisions in relation to individual funding Blocks will impact on the affordability, or otherwise, of other proposals. Schools Forum members need to be aware that the full NFF is affordable for the 2025-26 year and that this confirmation informs the final decision matrix.

De-Delegation

42. There are a number of budgets that maintained primary and secondary schools can agree to de-delegate so that services continue to be provided centrally. De-delegation cannot be applied to amounts delegated to academies or special schools.
43. At the December 2024 Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed by the maintained schools voting members that the de-delegation of services would continue in 2025-26, as in 2024-25. The amount of each de-delegated service budget is based upon the relevant formula factors for maintained schools.
44. In addition, it was agreed that maintained primary schools would de-delegate funding to support school improvement services, previously funded from the LAMB grant, which was phased out at the end of March 2023.

Proposal

45. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.

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Wiltshire Council

School Funding & SEN Working Group
14 January 2025

Schools Forum
23 January 2025

DSG Budget – Schools Block Update 2025-26 (Delegated Budget)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues relating to the schools delegated budget for 2025-26 and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.

Main Considerations

2. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the Department for Education (DfE) has allocated a Schools Block quantum to Wiltshire of £391.209 million. This includes funding of £1.411 million for growth and falling rolls, based on the growth and falling rolls formula, detailed later in this report.
3. Modelling work has been prepared to calculate individual school budgets based on the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF). The main funding formula for 2025-26 is broadly similar to the formula for 2024-25 but the following changes should be noted.
 - An increase in Pupil and School led funding values of 0.5%
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee to be set between -0.5% and 0.0% to ensure all schools see their levels of pupil led funding being maintained
 - Increases in the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFL) to £4,955 and £6,465 in primary and secondary schools respectively
4. Financial modelling has been completed for the 2025-26 year and suggests that the NFF is fully affordable within the funding envelope provided by the DfE. The Schools Block of funding is sufficient to afford the full NFF, including a transfer of £0.914m (0.236%) to the High Needs Block, with further discussion of funding factors detailed in this report.

The National Funding Formula

5. Since the introduction of the NFF, it has been Wiltshire's intention to move across to mirror and replicate the formula in the 'soft' years, prior to moving to the 'hard' formula. Over the last seven years, Wiltshire has moved across to funding schools, subject to affordability, using the NFF factor values. Where the NFF values could not be afforded, the Free School Meal Ever6 (FSM6) factor was compromised to ensure the other factor values were affordable. For the last six years, the formula has been fully affordable.
6. The DfE published their NFF factor values in November 2024 and following the announcement about the size of the DSG, the funding formula has been modelled to incorporate the NFF factor values (see Appendix 1 for rates).
7. Based upon the Schools Block allocation, the formula is fully affordable for the 2025-26 financial year, applying all the NFF factor values. Wiltshire has been funded through the NFF and this has ensured that Schools Forum is presented with a position of affording the full NFF, for schools.
8. Within the modelling, the following elements have been included, as agreed with Schools Forum in December 2024:
 - Full NFF values applied for all funding factors
 - MFG set at the maximum level of 0.0%
 - Transfer from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block of an affordable amount (£0.913m)
9. The table below sets out the funding position having applied all the NFF values and taken account of any proposed transfers, to demonstrate the affordability position.

Funding 2025-26	Amount £
Core funding	£389,798,334
Growth and falling rolls funding	£1,411,093
Net Funding	£391,209,427
Less: NNDR Business rates	(£3,760,345)
TOTAL	£387,449,082
Transfer to High Needs Block (0.236%)	(£913,886)
Available for School Funding	£386,535,196
NFF requirements	£386,035,196
Growth Fund	£500,000
Schools Block Allocated	£386,535,196

Growth Funding & Falling Rolls Allocation 2025-26

10. Growth and Falling Rolls allocations for 2025-26 are based upon pupil data from the October 2024 census and the October 2023 census. The DfE take a formulaic approach to calculating both growth and falling rolls funding. They do not expect local authorities to use these funding rates in their local arrangements for funding growth and falling rolls but instead they function as a proxy for calculating funding for supporting schools at LA level.
11. The county is separated into 66 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) with an average of 4 schools in each MSOA area. Growth is measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each MSOA between the October 2023 and October 2024 censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers are included, so positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not neutralise the position and funding for the positive growth will stand.
12. For the second year, the DfE has issued funding to LAs based on falling rolls. The formula for allocating funding to LA's is measured by looking at the MSOA's between the October 2023 and October 2024 censuses. Where a fall in pupil numbers of greater than 10% is experienced, then for each MSOA area experiencing the fall, an allocation of £141,890 has been allocated.
13. Wiltshire has experienced a drop in pupil numbers but not sufficiently in any of the MSOA areas to exceed the 10% threshold, therefore Wiltshire is not eligible for any Falling Rolls funding for the 2025-26 year.
14. Schools Forum took a decision at its December meeting, based upon several factors, not to introduce a Falling Rolls Fund in 2025-26. Nationally the majority of Schools Forums' have not introduced such a fund.
15. At the Schools Forum meeting in December 2024, the criteria for allocating Growth funding in the 2024-25 year was confirmed. The amount of funding allocated to Wiltshire for the 2025-26 year is set out in the table below.

<u>Funding 2025-26</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Growth in Pupils	241	435	
Rate	£1,581.54	£2,367.57	
Amount	£381,199	£1,029,893	£1,411,092
	<u>Eligible Areas</u>	<u>Funding</u>	
Falling Rolls	0	£141,890	£0
Total Funding			£1,411,092

Historical Position

16. Growth funding forms part of the Schools Block of funding. Schools Forum has historically agreed an annual budget to be retained for funding pupil growth and has operated successfully within this funding envelope. In the financial year 2025-26 it is proposed to set the budget once again in line with the affordability, having applied Page 49 for the funding factors.

Affordability

17. There are no plans to open any new schools in the 2025-26 year. The growth fund supports new primary and secondary schools with diseconomy costs for the first 7 years or until the school is full.
18. The Basic Need Class Expansion for additional classes is still to be confirmed with colleagues in the School Place Planning Team for the 2025-26 academic year. Growth is being experienced in some areas as new housing becomes available, despite a falling birth rate being experienced more generally.
19. The Infant Class Size increases will be confirmed during the year, but it is anticipated four / five schools are to be funded through this factor.
20. The total Growth Fund requirement for 2025-26 is anticipated to come within the proposed budget of £500k, based upon the funding of all the NFF factors in full. Any surplus or deficit in the Growth Fund will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

21. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is designed to prevent schools from experiencing significant reductions in their calculated 'per pupil' funding, year on year. Historically, the MFG had been set at -1.5% to prevent reductions in 'per pupil' funding of greater than 1.5%.
22. For the 2025-26 funding year, the DfE are seeking to ensure that all schools see a minimal drop in their calculated 'per pupil' funding and have therefore proposed that the MFG is set at a figure of between -0.5% and 0.0%. At the December Schools Forum meeting, it was agreed to set the MFG at the 0.0% level, subject to affordability.
23. As in the 2024-25-year, modelling of the MFG is no longer a significant issue, as the majority of schools have moved off the MFG funding and as a result, no capping of schools would be required to fund the MFG again this year. This correlates with the DfE's intention to move all schools across towards the NFF, with an intention of introducing a 'hard' formula in due course.
24. Setting an MFG of 0.0% is fully affordable and will ensure that all schools maintain their current level of 'per pupil' funding, if not an increase. The cost to the formula in 2025-26 is £0.421m (0.1% of Schools Block funding).

Sparsity

25. The DfE introduced changes to the Sparsity funding as part of the NFF in 2022-23. Schools Forum agreed to mirror the NFF sparsity changes within the Wiltshire formula.
26. The criteria for Sparsity funding are based upon size and sparsity distance. The threshold is for primary schools of 150 pupils or less and secondary schools of 600 pupils or less. The distance threshold is based upon the average road distance from the pupil's home to next nearest compatible school.
27. Where this distance is greater than 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary pupils, a school is eligible for funding. The NFF applies a 'distance taper' which means that primary and secondary schools with a sparsity distance within 20% of the threshold (1.6miles and 2.4miles for primary and secondary), are now eligible for funding, using a tapering mechanism.
28. The formula also uses a tapering mechanism based upon size of the school such that schools receive a weighted proportion of the maximum value.
29. As part of the DfE's proposals to support small and rural schools, the maximum sparsity value for primary schools has now increased to £57,400, with Secondary schools increasing to £83,400. The table below shows the impact of these changes on the 2025-26 formula.

<u>2025-26</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Eligible Schools	63	2	64
Funding	£2,462,298	£88,960	£2,551,258
<u>2024-25</u>			
Eligible Schools	62	2	64
Funding	£2,480,245	£96,003	£2,576,248
<u>2023-24</u>			
Eligible Schools	66	2	68
Funding	£2,402,634	£107,562	£2,510,196
<u>2022-23</u>			
Eligible Schools	62	4	66
Funding	£2,236,040	£142,411	£2,378,451*
<u>2021-22</u>			
Eligible Schools	28	2	30
Funding	£295,939	£49,594	£345,533

* – This represents 0.65% of the total Schools Block Allocation

Split Site Funding

30. Split site funding is awarded to schools operating across more than one site and has formed part of the Wiltshire formula. The DfE have determined that funding for this factor will be based upon a two-pronged criterion.
- **Basic eligibility** – schools attract a lump sum of funding for each additional eligible site (up to a maximum of three sites). Funding for this element in 2025-26 will be £54,000
 - **Distance funding** – the additional site must be at least 100 metres from the main site. A tapering calculation will apply for distances between 100 metres and 500 metres, with the maximum funding being £27,000. The tapering will be on a straight-line basis
 - The maximum amount of funding a school can receive for split site funding will be £81,000 for having two sites
31. Wiltshire currently has six split site schools. Five of these schools will receive the maximum allocation of £81,000 and one will receive a lower allocation of £72,922, due to the distance between the two school sites falling below 500 metres. The total funding awarded through this factor is £477,922, which equates to 0.12% of the schools block funding.

Minimum per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPFL)

32. The MPPFL's were introduced as part of the NFF and have been increased annually as part of the DfE's proposals to standardise funding across the country. These are mandatory as part of the NFF and there is no scope for amending these values without permission from the Secretary of State.
33. The thresholds in primary and secondary schools for 2025-26 are £4,955 and £6,465 for primary and secondary respectively. The rates have been increased to incorporate the following grants awarded separately in 2024-25.
- Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)
 - Teachers Pension Employers Contribution Grant (TPECG)
 - Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)
34. The overall funding allocated through the MPPFL is £2.097m in 2025-26, a decrease of £0.118m on the 2024-25 figure (£2.215m). This follows the trend of year-on-year reductions required for the MPPFL.

35. As the NFF is embedded, the quantum of funding awarded through the MPPFL and the number of schools eligible to receive funding should continue to decrease.

Year	Schools Eligible		Funding to Schools		
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Total Funding
2021-22	75	14	£3,833,014	£2,743,228	£6,576,242
2022-23	61	11	£3,076,671	£1,874,834	£4,951,505
2023-24	32	4	£1,700,428	£796,828	£2,497,255
2024-25	29	3	£1,486,911	£728,348	£2,215,259
2026-26	23	3	£1,309,678	£787,294	£2,096,972

Proposals

- 36. Schools Forum is asked to note the report.
- 37. Schools Forum to confirm its intention to apply all the funding factors at the 2025-26 NFF rates.
- 38. Schools Forum to confirm setting the MFG at a level of 0.0%, as being fully affordable.
- 39. Schools Forum to confirm transferring 0.236% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, £0.914m, as the full NFF funding formula is affordable.
- 40. Schools Forum to agree the level of the Growth fund at £0.5m.

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Appendix 1

Factor	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Primary KS1&2 AWPU	£2,747	£2,857	£3,123*	£3,217	£3,394**	£3,562***	£3,847****
Secondary KS3 AWPU	£3,863	£4,018	£4,404*	£4,536	£4,785**	£5,022***	£5,422****
Secondary KS4 AWPU	£4,386	£4,561	£4,963*	£5,112	£5,393**	£5,661***	£6,113****
Primary & Secondary FSM	£440	£450	£460	£470	£480	£490	£495
Primary FSM6	£540	£560	£575	£590	£705**	£820***	£1,060****
Secondary FSM6	£785	£815	£840	£865	£1,030**	£1,200***	£1,555****
IDACI Primary Band A	£575	£600	£620	£640	£670	£680	£685
IDACI Primary Band B	£420	£435	£475	£490	£510	£515	£520
IDACI Primary Band C	£390	£405	£445	£460	£480	£485	£490
IDACI Primary Band D	£360	£375	£410	£420	£440	£445	£445
IDACI Primary Band E	£240	£250	£260	£270	£280	£285	£285
IDACI Primary Band F	£200	£210	£215	£220	£230	£235	£235
IDACI Secondary Band A	£810	£840	£865	£890	£930	£945	£950
IDACI Secondary Band B	£600	£625	£680	£700	£730	£740	£745
IDACI Secondary Band C	£560	£580	£630	£650	£680	£690	£695
IDACI Secondary Band D	£515	£535	£580	£595	£620	£630	£635
IDACI Secondary Band E	£390	£405	£415	£425	£445	£450	£450
IDACI Secondary Band F	£290	£300	£310	£320	£335	£340	£340
Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,022	£1,065	£1,095	£1,130	£1,155	£1,170	£1,175
Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,550	£1,610	£1,660	£1,710	£1,750	£1,775	£1,785
EAL – Primary	£515	£535	£550	£565	£580	£590	£595
EAL - Secondary	£1,385	£1,440	£1,485	£1,530	£1,565	£1,585	£1,595
Mobility – Primary	£0	£875	£900	£925	£945	£960	£965
Mobility – Secondary	£0	£1,250	£1,290	£1,330	£1,360	£1,380	£1,385
Lump Sum	£110,000	£114,400	£117,800	£121,300	£128,000**	£134,400***	£145,100****
Sparsity – Primary (Max.)	£25,000	£26,000	£45,000	£55,000	£56,300	£57,100	£57,400
Sparsity – Secondary (Max.)	£65,000	£67,500	£70,000	£80,000	£81,900	£83,000	£83,400
Split Sites						£80,600	£81,000
Primary - MPPFL	£3,500	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265	£4,405	£4,610	£4,955
Secondary – MPPFL	£4,800	£5,000	£5,415	£5,525	£5,715	£5,995	£6,465

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

** - Incorporates the Schools Supplementary Grant funding for 2022-23 for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum

*** - Incorporates the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant for 2024-25 for AWPU, FSM6 and Lump Sum

**** - Incorporates the Teachers Pay Grant, the Teachers Pension Grant and the Core Schools Budget Grant

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group
14 January 2025

Schools Forum
23 January 2025

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE 2025/26

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues related to the high needs block for 2025/26 the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process for 2025/26.
2. The budget approach for 2025/26 was approved in principle at the December meeting. Since this meeting, final allocations have been published. Proposals for the expenditure plan are in this report.
3. Budget proposals for 2025/26 reflect the revised high needs sustainability plan submitted by Wiltshire Council in December 2024.

Main Considerations

4. As outlined in the paper on the funding settlement for 2025/26 the high needs block provisional allocation for Wiltshire in 2025/26 is £80.886 million, an 8.9% increase on the 2024/25 allocation. The high needs block has been calculated according to the national funding formula for high needs.
5. The table below shows the allocation and increase on 24/25:

	High Needs
2025/26	£80,886,124
2024/25	£74,270,643
Uplift	£6,615,481 8.9%

6. In terms of decision making for the high needs block the guidance on Schools Forum powers and responsibilities states that all central spend on high needs block provision is decided by the local authority. This would include decisions on top up values. Because of this and the interdependencies of decisions across all the funding blocks, final decisions on high needs will be presented alongside those that schools forum is required to make on all of the other blocks.

Proposed High Needs Budget 2025/26

7. The proposed budget for 2025/26 reflects the updated high needs sustainability plan, submitted to the DfE in December 2024. It is projected that in 2025/26 the overall DSG deficit will increase by £36.513m in order to meet demand pressures and to support the investment needed to achieve the required mitigations in the updated plan.
8. The increase in the deficit takes into account the provisional high needs block allocation announced in December 2024 and an assumption of a transfer of 0.24% (£0.914m) from the schools block, agreed in principle by Schools Forum in December 2024.
9. Appendix 1 shows the proposed budget for 2025/26. The budget includes the following assumptions:
 - a. updated forecast for EHCP numbers and the impact of further targeted actions within the sustainability plan. The impact of these actions is expected to reduce the growth in EHCP

numbers and reduce the growth in independent and non-maintained special school placements. Savings of £2.800m have been built into the plan to reflect these actions.

- b. All existing plans for the development of new special school and resource base places are built into the plan.
- c. Unit costs are based on actual unit costs for 2024/25 and inflation applied as detailed below.
- d. Inflation on top up rates has been assumed at 2.2%.

Schools Block Transfer

- 10. At the December 2024 meeting, Schools Forum considered the outcome of the consultation on a 1% transfer from schools block to the high needs block. Schools did not support the proposal for a 1% transfer and the decision at the meeting was to support the maximum level of transfer that would be affordable without impacting on NFF formula rates. Based on the provisional funding information it was expected that this transfer could be up to 0.5% as had been transferred in previous years.
- 11. Analysis of the final funding settlement information shows that the maximum affordable transfer without impacting on NFF rates for schools is £0.914m, or 0.24%. This amount has been built into the proposed budget for 2025/26, however following the discussion at the High Needs Sustainability Board in December this also needs to be ratified by Cabinet on 21 January 2025.
- 12. The block transfer amount leaves a shortfall of £0.816m in the high needs budget for 2025/26 compared with the revised sustainability plan submitted to the DfE. This has been included in the budget as a further savings target.

Special School Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 13. The 2025/26 guidance requires local authorities to set a minimum funding guarantee for special schools at 0%. Inflation on current top up rates has been assumed at 2.2%.

DSG Deficit Reserve & Management Plan

- 14. The current forecast overspend on the DSG reserve is £66.232m at 31 March 2025, after Safety Valve payments. The proposed budget for 2025/26 will increase this to £96.045m by 31 March 2026. This presents a significant financial risk to the Council if the statutory override on DSG deficits is lifted at the end of the 2025/26 financial year. No announcement on any extension of the statutory override has yet been made.

Proposals

- 15. Schools Forum is asked to note the assumptions in the high needs block for 2025/26 and the mitigating actions which reflect the revised high needs sustainability plan submitted to the DfE in December 2024. This will form part of the decision-making matrix on the agenda for today's meeting.

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Appendix 1 – Proposed High Needs Budget 2025/26

Service Area	Proposed Budget £m
Place Funding - Special, Resource Base and ELP	17.826
High Needs Block Place funding (all schools)	17.826
Named Pupil Allowances (NPA)	11.143
Special School Top-Up	18.084
Resource Base and ELP Top Up	6.505
Transitional Support (TSP) payments	0.893
Additional Top-Up Support	2.213
Secondary Alternative Provision Funding	3.011
Devolved to Maintained & Top Ups (all schools)	41.849
Wiltshire College Places	2.718
Wiltshire Pupils in Non Wiltshire Schools	3.985
Post-16 Top-Up	10.394
Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools	26.275
SEN Alternative Provision, Direct Payments & Elective Home Education	6.900
Education Other than at School (EOTAS)	0.563
Funding for Places outside Schools	50.835
High Needs in Early Years Provision	1.021
Speech & Language	0.764
Support for AP, SEN & Inclusion	6.792
Commissioned AP & SEN Support Services	8.577
Savings to be identified	(0.816)
High Needs Block	118.271
Funding	£m
High Needs Block	(80.886)
Block Transfer - Schools Block	(0.914)
Block Transfer - CSSB	(0.138)
Block Transfer - EY Block	0.180
Drawdown on Deficit Reserve	(36.513)
Total Funding	-118.271

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Funding Working Group & SEN Working Group
14 January 2025

Schools Forum
23 January 2025

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK UPDATE 2025-26

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on issues relating to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) budget for 2025-26 financial year and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the budget setting process.
2. Schools Forum will have historically approved the budget proposal in principle at the December meeting however, the 2024 general election prevented July guidance from being issued.

Main Considerations

3. The CSSB covers funding allocated to local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. CSSB funding is split into two elements: funding for on-going responsibilities and funding for historic commitments.
4. As outlined in the funding settlement paper the DfE has allocated a CSSB allocation of £2.900million for Wiltshire. This has been calculated using the national funding formula for the CSSB which applies a unit value of £42.90 to the pupil numbers from the October 2023 census. This will be updated with the October 2024 census data when this becomes available. Funding for agreed historic commitments for 2025-26 is then added to the amount of funding generated by the formula to give the overall total CSSB.

Funding Changes

5. In 2025-26 funding is also being rolled into the CSSB which was provided separately in 2024-25 in respect of
 - a. Increased copyright licence costs for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and
 - b. Centrally employed teachers, through the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) and the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG).
6. In rolling these grants into the baseline, where the CSBG was part year in 2024-25, the DfE has increased it to reflect annualised costs and added them to the amount per pupil baseline above.

	2024-25 baseline funding for copyright licences	2024-25 additional; funding for copyright licences	25/26 additional funding for copyright licences
Central Licences	£514,920	£19,563	£36,559

Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG)	Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG).
£68,616	£132,491

Reductions – Historic Commitments

7. Schools Forum will remember that the DfE have been reducing historic commitments. Wiltshire has been allocated £0.150m for historic commitments based on those commitments agreed as eligible in 2024-25 reduced by 20% being £0.038m.

Protections and Permitted gains - On going responsibilities

8. Local authorities are protected from reductions for on-going responsibilities (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences). The maximum per pupil reduction is 2.5%. Permitted gains in per pupil funding are set at 2.98%. Wiltshire's baseline gain is 2.72%.

Function of the CSSB

9. The CSSB allocates funding to the LA to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils of maintained schools and academies. Funding includes:

- funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
- funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block
- residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block

10. The duties included within the CSSB are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

11. Funding changes in paragraphs 5 and 6 are now rolled into the ongoing responsibilities element of the CSSB. This funding has been added as a per-pupil amount to the relevant local authority's per-pupil rate. Therefore, funding is allocated to a central copyright licence budget and to central services in respect of increases in teacher pay and pension.

12. The decisions that schools forum is required to make in relation to the central schools block are listed in Appendix 2. These are summarised in the proposals.

13. Appendix 3 details the budgeted amounts for all areas but in particular on-going responsibilities and historical commitments which require voting on a line-by-line basis.

14. For 2025/26, due to the 20% reduction in historic commitments, the transfer to support the high needs block is no longer affordable. Additionally, CERA and education services to children looked after are impacted as below.

Central Schools Services Block - movements analysis

	24-25 Budget Estimate*	25/26 Inflation	25-26 Cost & Grants added in	25-26 Historic reduction	25-26 Budget Estimate	
A Central Licences	530,600	-	40,400	-	571,000	Copyright licences
Central Provision (Former ESG)	1,387,400	45,600	-	-	1,433,000	Statutory regulatory duties
Teachers Pension & Core Grant	138,300	-	201,100	-	339,400	Funds teaching teams in HNB & EY Block
Admissions	390,100	11,700	-	-	401,800	
Servicing of Schools Forums	3,700	100	-	-	3,800	
B On going Responsibilities	1,919,500	57,400	201,100	-	2,178,000	
Education Services to CLA	103,000	-	-	(8,700)	94,300	
Child Protection in Schools & Early Years	56,200	-	-	-	56,200	
Prudential Borrowing	28,900	-	-	(28,900)	-	
C Historic Commitments	188,100	-	-	- 37,600	150,500	20% year on year DfE reduction
Central School Services Block	2,638,200	57,400	241,500	- 37,600	2,899,500	
Transfer HNB	25,200	-	-	-	-	
DfE Allocation	2,663,539	-	-	-	2,899,512	

*includes mid year increase in central licences

Proposals

1. Schools Forum is asked to note the changes in the 2025-26 budget proposal for 2025/26 on the table above and the consider the required decisions in relation to the central schools block budget for the sections outlined above and in appendix 3.
 - i. Section A – central copyright licences - consult only
 - ii. Section B – ongoing responsibilities - approve on a line-by-line basis
 - iii. Section C – historic commitments - approve on a line-by-line basis

Documents relied upon for this report

[National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[Schools operational guide: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

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Appendix 1: Extract from the DfE Guidance: Central services that may be funded with agreement of schools forum

The split of services between responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools, and those that relate to maintained schools only are shown below.

Responsibilities held by local authorities for all schools are funded from the central school services block, with the agreement of schools forums or the Secretary of State.

Responsibilities held by local authorities for maintained schools only are funded from maintained schools budgets only, with agreement of the maintained schools members of schools forums.

The department has included references to the relevant schedules in the annually updated school finance regulations. These provisions will be replicated in the regulations we make for the 2024 to 2025 funding year.

50.1 Responsibilities held for all schools

Statutory and regulatory duties

- Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Schedule 2, paragraph 15a)
- planning for the education service as a whole (Schedule 2, paragraph 15b)
- authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Schedule 2, paragraph 15c)
- formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Schedule 2, paragraph 15d)
- internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 15e)
- consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Schedule 2, paragraph 19)
- plans involving collaboration with other local authority services or public or voluntary bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 15f)
- standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Schedule 2, paragraph 17)
- provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 21)
- revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Schedule 2, paragraph 22)

Education welfare

- functions in relation to school attendance (Schedule 2, paragraph 16)
- responsibilities regarding restrictions on the employment of children (Schedule 2, paragraph 18)
- functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Schedule 2, 20)

Asset management

- management of the local authority's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Schedule 2, paragraph 14a)
- landlord responsibilities, including those in relation to land leased to academies for schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 14b)

Other ongoing duties

- licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 8); this does not require schools forum approval
- operation of the system of admissions and appeals (Schedule 2, paragraph 9)
- fees or expenses payable in connection with the attendance of non-SEN pupils at schools not maintained by any local authority (Schedule 2, paragraph 10)
- remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Schedule 2, paragraph 11)
- servicing of schools forums (Schedule 2, paragraph 12)
- back-pay for equal pay claims (Schedule 2, paragraph 13)
- writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Schedule 2, paragraph 23)

Historic commitments

- capital expenditure funded from revenue (Schedule 2, paragraph 1)
- prudential borrowing costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(a))
- termination of employment costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(b))
- contribution to combined budgets (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(c))
- special educational needs transport costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(d))

50.2 Responsibilities held for maintained schools only

School improvement

- expenditure related to core school improvement activities of local authorities with respect to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 53)

Statutory and regulatory duties

- functions of local authority related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Schedule 2, paragraph 58)
- authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Schedule 2, paragraph 59)
- monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)
- internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 61)

- functions under regulations made under section 44 of the Education Act 2002 (Consistent Financial Reporting) in so far as the functions related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 62)
- investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 63)
- functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 64)
- HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 65)
- determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 66)
- appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67)
- consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68)
- compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (Schedule 2, paragraph 69)
- provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 70)
- school companies (Schedule 2, paragraph 71)
- functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)
- establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Schedule 2, paragraph 73)
- appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, paragraph 74)
- budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 75)
- retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Schedule 2, paragraph 77)

Education welfare

- inspection of attendance registers (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)

Asset management

- general landlord duties for all maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraphs 78a & b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises (England) Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:
 - appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation)
 - the ability to sustain appropriate loads
 - reasonable weather resistance
 - safe escape routes
 - appropriate acoustic levels
 - lighting, heating, and ventilation which meets the required standards
 - adequate water supplies and drainage
 - playing fields of the appropriate standards
 - general health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)

- management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings
- Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

Central support services

- clothing grants (Schedule 2, paragraph 54)
- provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Schedule 2, paragraph 55)
- visual, creative, and performing arts other than music (Schedule 2, paragraph 56)
- outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming, or athletics) (Schedule 2, paragraph 57)

Premature retirement and redundancy

- dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 79)

Monitoring national curriculum assessment

- monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)

Additional note on central services

Services set out above will also include administrative costs and overheads relating to these services (regulation 1(4)) for:

- expenditure related to functions imposed by or under chapter 4 of part 2 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (financing of maintained schools), the administration of grants to the local authority (including preparation of applications) and, where it is the local authority's duty to do so, ensuring payments are made in respect of taxation, national insurance, and superannuation contributions
- expenditure on recruitment, training, continuing professional development, performance management and personnel management of staff who are funded by expenditure not met from schools' budget shares and who are paid for services
- expenditure in relation to the investigation and resolution of complaints
- expenditure on legal services

Appendix 2: Extract from DfE guidance: schools forum approvals for centrally held CSSB funding

A number of the services that are covered by funding that is held centrally are subject to a limitation of no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2023 to 2024.

This limit does not apply to admissions or the servicing of schools forums.

Schools forum approval is required each year to confirm the amounts on each line.

When using centrally held funding, local authorities must treat maintained schools and academies on an equivalent basis.

The following sections set out the level of approval required for each centrally retained service.

Where schools forum approval is not provided, the local authority can apply to the Secretary of State to decide.

51.1 Schools forum approval is not required (although they should be consulted)

- central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State

51.2 Schools forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis

- admissions
- servicing of schools forum
- contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools
- contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (voted on by relevant maintained school members of the forum only)

51.4 Schools forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis – the budget cannot exceed the value agreed in the previous funding period, and no new commitments can be entered into

- capital expenditure funded from revenue:
 - projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013; no new projects can be charged
 - details of the remaining costs should be presented
- contribution to combined budgets:
 - where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources
- existing termination of employment costs
 - costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013; no new redundancy costs can be charged
- prudential borrowing costs:
 - the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013
 - details of the remaining costs should be presented

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2024-25 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2025-26 £M
Section A			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools Forum approval is not required (although they should be consulted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Copyright Licences for 2025-26 for Wiltshire as set by the DfE.* 	£0.530	£0.571
Section B	The limitation on increases to centrally held spend has been removed from the budgets for admissions and servicing of schools forums. It is therefore proposed to apply salary inflation to the budget for the central teams and address the safeguarding and admission pressures. This is affordable within the overall CSSB allocation.		
	Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG**:		
Schools Forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> back pay for equal pay claims remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils admissions servicing of schools forum contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools contribution to responsibilities that local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Welfare Service 	£0.241	£0.248
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management 	£0.225	£0.231
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory / Regulatory Duties 	£0.810	£0.954
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions 	£0.502	£0.402
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing of Schools Forum 	£0.003	£0.004

** Pay inflation for 2025/26 has been added at 3.00%

Centrally Retained Teachers additional pension costs	£M	£M
Introduced in 2021-22 financial year	£0.138	£0.339

Section C – Historic Commitments

1. In 2017-18 the DfE provided supplementary guidance on the funding and reporting of historic commitments within central DSG. The guidance also detailed the evidence that Schools Forum required on each item in order to approve the spend:

- Minutes from the Schools Forum prior to 1 April 2013** – schools forum should have agreed the commitment prior to 2013
- Proof that the commitment extended at least as far as the 2018-19 financial year.** Evidence can include reports which indicated an end date in to 2018-19 or beyond, or where the commitment has no specific end date.
- Where budgets relate to non-staffing costs, there must be a contractual commitment** (such as a PFI agreement or lease agreement) which extends into the relevant financial year.
- Schools Forum papers and minutes that show that approval has been granted for the financial year.** The forum is expected to approve each spending line annually. It is important that schools forums have sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision.

2. Having considered the guidance and the available evidence, the commitments agreed by schools forum for 2018-19 and therefore funded within the CSSB allocation for 2024-25 are as per the table overleaf. The reduction has been taken from the contribution to CERA in order that vulnerable pupils funding is prioritised. It should be noted that this will no longer be possible in future years due to the 20% year on year reduction in the historic commitments allocation

3. The overall total is within the £0.188m allocated for historic commitments.

4. Schools Forum should consider the DfE's intention to reduce the historic funding over time in this and future years' funding decisions.

Approval required & legislative narrative	Services covered	2024-25 Budget £M	Wiltshire Budget Proposal 2025-26 £M
Section C			
Historic Commitments:			
Schools forum approval is required on a line-by-line basis. The budget cannot exceed the value agreed in the previous funding period and no new commitments can be entered into	Funding for LAC Personal Education Plans - Schools Forum decision December 2007 to support PEPs for Looked After Children from 2008/09 financial year as required under "Care Matters". Allocation based on original estimate of £500 per LAC and managed by Virtual Head Teacher. PPG Plus now also supports PEPs and so this funding was reduced to £103,000 in 2018/19 – no change is requested by the Virtual School.	£0.103	£0.094 <i>Meets definition and evidence is available</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) Prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	Child Protection in Schools Adviser - Schools Forum decision January 2006 to support staff within Children's Services to provide support and advice to schools enabling them to meet their statutory responsibilities.	£0.056	£0.056 <i>Meets definition and evidence is available</i>
	Prudential Borrowing Schools forum decision to support approx. £3m capital financing for 13-year period	£0.029	£0.000 <i>Meets definition and evidence is available</i>

Total		£0.188	£0.151
Balance unallocated and available to transfer to the HNB		£0.025	

Wiltshire Council

Early Years Reference Group
9 January 2025

Schools Funding & SEN Working Group
14 January 2025

Schools Forum
23 January 2025

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE 2025-26 (PROVISIONAL ALLOCATIONS)

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the working groups and Schools Forum on issues related 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.
2. The operational guidance for the early years block confirms that representatives of the sector and Schools Forums must be consulted on changes to local early years funding formulae, including agreeing central spend, although the final decision rests with the local authority. This is done through the Early Years reference group and the Schools Funding & SEN Working Group in addition to Schools Forum.

Main Considerations

3. In the 2021 Spending Review, and Spring budget of 2023 a number of national increases to increase early years were detailed including increased funding rates and extensions to the age entitlements for parents of eligible children. The full year impact of these is now complete for the 2025-26 financial year.
4. The new and expanded entitlements are in their infancy. To reflect the changing nature of anticipated take up by parents and carers, the DfE have changed their funding methodology both in terms of data sources and methodology. The universal and additional entitlements for 3- & 4-year-old children and families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support will continue to be collected from the January 2025 and 2026 censuses. The local authority will be expected to collect data from an additional two headcounts for working family under 2s and 2-year-old funding and funding will be allocated termly, based on updated data. The aim being this should protect us from under / over funding in the early period.
5. In order to follow the accounting concept of prudence, the budget must be set within initial allocations.
6. The provisional early years block settlement for Wiltshire for 2025-26 is £76.914 million and is comprised of the following elements:

FUNDING from the DfE	PTE (unless*)	<i>2024-25 Funded Rate/Hr (unless *)</i>	2025-26 Funded Rate/Hr (unless *)	£ million
3 & 4-year-old Universal 15 hrs & Working Parents 15 hrs	10,233	£5.47	£5.71	33.304
2-year-old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)	666	£7.48	£7.76	2.947
2-year-old funding	3,652	7.48	£7.76	16.155
Under 2-year-old funding	3,978	10.14	£10.48	23.765
Early Years Pupil Premium * (<i>per child per hour</i>)	650	£0.68	£1.00	0.370
Disability Access Fund * (<i>per child per annum</i>)	396	£910	£938	0.371
Total “Initial” or provisional allocation for 2025-26				76.914

7. The *Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2025-26* was published in December 2024. The key points on local authority funding of providers remain as previous years with the following changes in addition to the funding changes outlined:

- An increased minimum pass-through requirement for local authorities in 2025 to 2026 the pass-through rate will increase from 95% to 96%.
- An expectation that local authorities will announce their funding rates to childcare providers by 28 February 2025 – this will be mandated from the financial year 2026 to 2027.
- Changes to the special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) and disability access fund (DAF) including expanded expectations around SENIF arrangements and greater details in how DAF should be allocated and distributed with no financial impact for the purposes of this report.

Increased minimum pass-through requirement

8. Following a national consultation the first steps have been taken to increase the rate and this is proportionate to the increased sums in the early years block. The 96% rate has to be applied separately to each of the following:

- 9-month-old children up to 2-year-olds of eligible working parents
- 2-year-old children of eligible working parents
- 2-year-old children from families receiving additional support
- 3 and 4-year-olds (universal and additional hours)

9. The 96% includes

- base rate funding for all providers
- supplements for all providers
- lump sum funding for MNS (this applies to 3 and 4-year-olds only, please note any funding from DfE’s MNS supplementary allocation will be excluded – see below)
- the funding paid directly to providers from the SENIF (this includes funding drawn from both the early years block and the high needs block)
- contingency funding

10. The remaining 4% can include the following:

- base rate funding for all providers
- supplements for all providers
- lump sum funding for MNS (this applies to 3 and 4-year-olds only, please note any funding from DfE's MNS supplementary allocation will be excluded – see below)
- the funding paid directly to providers from the SENIF (this includes funding drawn from both the early years block and the high needs block)
- contingency funding

Announcing the Funding Rates

11. The local authority currently issues rates for guidance only once Schools Forum has met and finalises once Full Council have met. Wiltshire is fully compliant with the date set and the new expectation will have no impact.

Setting a local formula

The following criteria are in place for setting a local formula

- Should consult with the early years providers and Schools Forum on the formula
 - Should set a local funding rate for 2 year old entitlements – the disadvantaged rate should be at least equivalent to the working parent entitlements
 - Should set a local funding rate for children aged 9 months to 2 years
 - Should set a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements for 3- and 4-year olds (that is, both the universal 15 hours, and the additional 15 hours for working parents)
 - must plan to pass on at least 96% of their 9 month, 2 years and 3 and 4-year-old funding directly to providers to deliver the entitlements.
 - may request that the 96% requirement be disapplied in specific, exceptional circumstances
 - must use a universal base rate for all types of provider in their local 3 and 4-year-old formula, including for Maintained Nursery Schools
 - may continue to use 'lump sums' to distribute additional funding to Maintained Nursery Schools
 - must use a deprivation supplement in their local 3 and 4-year-old formula, and any other supplements used must fall within one of the allowable categories
 - must not channel more than 12% of their funding 9 month old to 2 years, 2 year olds or for 3 and 4 olds through funding supplements
 - must provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) for all eligible for the entitlements and who have SEN regardless of the hours taken.
 - must pass on Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding in full to providers for all eligible for the entitlements with a disability which should be used for example, to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings or helping with building capacity.
 - must pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for all eligible for the entitlements and is only payable in the 15 hours entitlement however this will be extended to 30 hours from September 2025.
12. The DfE will monitor compliance with these requirements. Wiltshire is already compliant with the requirements of the formula, and the SEN Inclusion Fund, and there are no current circumstances where a disapplication of the 96% requirement is being recommended.

13. Local authorities are encouraged to fund providers for the entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds at least equivalent to flat hourly rate for all 2 year olds. Wiltshire is compliant with this approach and proposes to pass through 100% of the 2-year-old disadvantaged funding to providers.

Funding Rates for Wiltshire

14. The early years reference group (EYRG) met on 9 January 2025 and considered a number of funding options attached as Appendix 1.

15. In previous years the group has applied the following principles

- To passport fully funding for 2 year old children of families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged children)
- To prioritise increases where possible to do so – to the 3&4 year old sector as this will have the largest financial impact across the sector.

16. In addition to this, the group felt the rate for Under 2 year olds was higher than necessary to fund the higher staffing ratios required in the 'baby rooms' and therefore wanted to explore reducing the rate for this cohort of children.

17. The unanimous consensus of the group was to support option 4.

- passport in full the rate for families of 2-year-olds receiving additional support (previously 2-year-old disadvantaged rate) of £7.76 per entitled hour an increase of £0.28 (3.7%) on the previous year and
- to set the 2-year-old working parent rate at £7.45, an increase of £0.28 (3.9%) on the previous year and
- to set the 9 months to 2 years working parent rate at £9.98, - an increase of £0.35 (3.6%) on the previous year.
- to set the 3- and 4-year-old rate at £5.52 per entitled hour, an increase of £0.31 (5.9%) per hour on the previous year
- This provides a £0.062m contingency to absorb any increases in children throughout 2025-26 financial year. In this way, the funding increases are maximised to affordability, recognising the challenging business environment settings are operating in of increased wages, energy costs and recruitment and retention challenges.

18. Rurality and deprivation are unchanged but in line with forecast spend for 2024-25 financial year although actual allocations for both deprivation and rurality will be unknown until March when the IDACI report is available. It is likely there will be pressure on this budget due to the extended age ranges funding however the amounts are unclear at this stage.

19. Therefore, the following rates and budget are proposed for 2025/26 financial year.

Wiltshire Provider Rates	PTE (where applicable)	2024-25 Wiltshire Rate	Proposed 2025-26 Wiltshire Rate	£ million
3 & 4-year-old Universal 15 hrs & Working Parents 15 hrs *	10,232.71	£5.21	£5.52	32.188
2-year-old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)	666	£7.48	£7.76	2.947
2-year-old funding	3,652	£7.17	£7.45	15.510
Under 2-year-old funding	3,978	£9.63	£9.98	22.631
Contingency across all age funding				0.062
Deprivation, rurality				0.250
Central EY functions				0.879
EY Inclusion Support Fund - delegated to providers				1.505
EY Inclusion Support Fund - centrally retained				0.200
Early Years Pupil Premium (per hour)	650	£0.68	£1.00	0.370
Disability Access Fund (per child)	396	£910	£938	0.371
Total proposed budget for 2024-25				76.914

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)

20. The wider age range of children means that the investment in SENIF needs to increase. Demand for support from SENIF has increased during the year in line with demand for support for school age children and these factors are both taken into account when preparing the 2025-2026 estimate for SENIF support for children with additional needs. Within this, £0.200m is earmarked to create a preventative service to support inclusivity in the early years and primary phase.
21. As part of the preventative inclusive agenda and as part of the recovery actions for the high needs block budget, an additional sum of £0.180 million is ringfenced from the high needs block to support children with an EHCP in the early years sector.
22. The DfE guidance is clear that local authorities should target SEN Inclusion Funds at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG. With a dual funded approach, applications for all children can be assessed under one ISF system.

Disability Access Fund

23. This fund is available to children accessing entitlements if they meet the following criteria:
- The child is in receipt of child disability living allowance and;
 - The child receives 3- & 4-year-old universal 15 hours, or is the 2 year old child of a family receiving additional support or is the child aged 9months to 2 years or aged 2 years of eligible working parents.

24. 4-year-olds in primary school reception classes are not eligible for disability access fund (DAF) funding.
25. Settings of eligible children for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £938 per year. Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive DAF.
26. Early years providers are ultimately responsible for identifying eligible children and local authorities must check that DAF eligibility requirements are met.
27. The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child. If a child is splitting their entitlement between two or more providers, then parents should be asked to nominate the main setting. If a child receiving DAF moves from one setting to another within a financial year the new setting is not eligible to receive DAF for this child within the same financial year.
28. Ringfenced Funding continues to be allocated through the early years block for the DAF). The DAF allocation is set at £0.371 million for 2025-26 and it is proposed to set the budget in line with the funding level.

Early Years Pupil Premium

29. The EYPP gives providers additional funding to support children from families receiving additional support accessing an entitlement place.
30. For 2025 to 2026, EYPP covers all children who are accessing the entitlements and meeting the eligibility criteria detailed in the operational guidance from the DfE.
31. Ringfenced Funding continues to be allocated through the early years block for the EYPP. The EYPP allocation is set at £0.370 million for 2025-26 and it is proposed to set the budget in line with the funding level.

Compliance

32. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the calculations of compliance with the % pass through. The recommended scenario is compliant.
33. DfE guidance showing guidance for the % pass through calculation can be found in the link to the DfE guidance below.

Proposals

34. Schools Forum is asked to note the update on the early years block and provide views on the proposals in relation to the early years single funding formula and percentage pass through to providers:
 - Local Authority preferred proposal:
 - i. to set the following provider rates for entitled children;
 - a. Under 2 years £9.98
 - b. 2 years £7.45
 - c. 2 years disadvantaged £7.76
 - d. 3 and 4 years (universal and working parents) £5.52
 - ii. that the central team budget be set at £0.879m
 - iii. that the SENIF budget be set at £1.705m (from the early years block)
 - iv. Deprivation and rurality increased to reflect current spending levels at £250,000

- All other funding factors remain at current 2024-25 levels or, funded levels.
- To note that the early years block is to fund the Early Years Inclusion 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.

Documents relied upon in this report:

[Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[Early-years-funding-2025-to-2026/2025-to-2026-early-years-national-funding-formulae-technical-note](#)

[Early_Years_Funding_Rates_and_Step-by-Step_Calculations_2025_to_2026 .xlsx](#)

[Early-years-funding-2025-to-2026/easy-explainer-early-years-funding-rates](#)

[Early-years-funding-2025-to-2026 case studies](#) (*Case studies to support local authorities communicate rates to providers by the 28 February.*)

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Dedicated schools grant: Indicative 2025 to 2026 Early years block allocation consultation EYRG

Hours per week	Weeks in Term
15	38

Appendix 1b

% Share of total funding received

31%

21%

4%

44%

WILTSHIRE - FUNDING RECEIVED	Under 2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)			Universal & Working Parents 3&4 year old funding			Total Under 2s 2, 3&4Year Old Funding
	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	
25-26 LOCAL RATES	£10.48	3,978.37	23,765,191	£7.76	3,652.42	16,155,384	£7.76	666.19	2,946,692	£5.71	6,739	21,934,367	
		3,978	23,765,191		3,652	16,155,384		666	2,946,692		3,493	11,370,034	
24/25 rates	10.14			7.48			£7.48			£5.47			
% Increase	3.4%			3.7%			3.7%			4.4%			
Increase prior year £	£0.34			£0.28			£0.28			£0.24			
EY Pupil Premium	£1.00	8.58	4,891	£1.00	95.37	54,361				£1.00	545.88	£311,152	£370,403
Disability Access	£938.00	18	16,884	£938.00	83	77,854				£938.00	295	276,710	£371,448
TOTAL OVERALL FUNDING FOR WILTSHIRE													£76,913,519

Option 1 for consultation - Early Years Reference Group (mirror Wiltshire funding uplift)

WILTSHIRE - FUNDING for PROVIDERS	Under 2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)			Universal & Working Parents 3&4 year old funding			Total Under 2s 2, 3&4Year Old Funding
	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	
25-26 RECOMMENDED LOCAL RATES	£9.95	3,978	22,569,900	£7.44	3,652	15,485,843	£7.76	666	2,946,692	£5.44	6,739	20,891,783	
		3,978	22,569,900		3,652	15,485,843		666	2,946,692		3,493	10,829,594	
24/25 rates	9.63			7.17			£7.48			£5.21			
% Increase	3.4%			3.7%			3.7%			4.4%			
Increase prior year £	£0.32			£0.27			£0.28			£0.23			
Contingency													£614,286
Deprivation													£200,000
Rurality													£50,000
Early Years Commissioning, Finance Entitlement & Quality team													£878,900
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF)													£1,504,675
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF New Service)													£200,000
EY Pupil Premium													£370,403
Disability Access													£371,448
TOTAL OVERALL FUNDING FOR WILTSHIRE													£76,913,524

0.80%
24/25 forecast £238,559

3% pay award uplift on 24/25 budget

plus £180k HNB top up

Option 2 for consultation - Early Years Reference Group (uplift each Option 1 rate by various p where less than funded rate)

WILTSHIRE - FUNDING for PROVIDERS	Under 2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)			Universal & Working Parents 3&4 year old funding			Total 2, 3&4Year Old Funding
	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	
25-26 RECOMMENDED LOCAL RATES	£10.01	3,978.37	22,705,961	£7.45	3,652.42	15,510,002	£7.76	666.19	2,946,692	£5.46	6,739.29	20,968,611	£73,000,683
		3,978	22,705,961		3,652	15,510,002		666	2,946,692		3,493.42	10,869,419	
24/25 rates	9.63			7.17			£7.48			£5.21			
% Increase	4.0%			3.9%			3.7%			4.8%			
Increase prior year £	£0.38			£0.28			£0.28			£0.25			
Contingency													£337,414
Deprivation													£200,000
Rurality													£50,000
Early Years Commissioning, Finance Entitlement & Quality team													£878,900
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF)													£1,504,675
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF New Service)													£200,000
EY Pupil Premium													£370,403
Disability Access													£371,448
TOTAL OVERALL FUNDING FOR WILTSHIRE													£76,913,524

0.44%
24/25 forecast £238,559
3% pay award uplift on 24/25 budget
plus £180k HNB top up

Option 3 for consultation - Early Years Reference Group (uplift each funded rate by various p is achieved)

WILTSHIRE - FUNDING for PROVIDERS	Under 2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)			Universal & Working Parents 3&4 year old funding			Total 2, 3&4Year Old Funding
	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	
25-26 RECOMMENDED LOCAL RATES	£10.06	3,978.37	22,812,769	£7.45	3,652.42	15,510,002	£7.76	666.19	2,946,692	£5.49	6,739.29	21,083,853	£73,282,471
		3,978	22,812,769		3,652	15,510,002		666	2,946,692		3,493.42	10,929,156	
24/25 rates	9.63			7.17			£7.48			£5.21			
% Increase	4.5%			3.9%			3.7%			5.3%			
Increase prior year £	£0.43			£0.28			£0.28			£0.28			
Contingency													£55,626
Deprivation													£200,000
Rurality													£50,000
Early Years Commissioning, Finance Entitlement & Quality team													£878,900
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF)													£1,504,675
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF New Service)													£200,000
EY Pupil Premium													£370,403
Disability Access													£371,448
TOTAL OVERALL FUNDING FOR WILTSHIRE													£76,913,524

0.07%
24/25 forecast £238,559
3% pay award uplift on 24/25 budget
plus £180k HNB top up

Option 4 for consultation - Early Years Reference Group - to reduce the Under 2s increase and uplift the 3&4 year old rate - EYRG PROPOSED OPTION

WILTSHIRE - FUNDING for PROVIDERS	Under 2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year olds entitlement funding			2 year old funding - families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)			Universal & Working Parents 3&4 year old funding			Total 2, 3&4Year Old Funding
	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Funded Rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	Local Hourly rate	PTE	Indicative funding allocation	
25-26 RECOMMENDED LOCAL RATES	£9.98	3,978.37	22,631,356	£7.45	3,652.42	15,510,002	£7.76	666.19	2,946,692	£5.52	6,739.29	21,199,095	
		3,978	22,631,356		3,652	15,510,002		666	2,946,692		3,493.42	10,988,894	
											10,233	32,187,988	£73,276,037
24/25 rates	9.63			7.17			£7.48			£5.21			
% Increase prior year	3.6%			3.9%			3.7%			5.9%			
Increase prior year £	£0.35			£0.28			£0.28			£0.31			
Contingency													£62,060
Deprivation													£200,000
Rurality													£50,000
Early Years Commissioning, Finance Entitlement & Quality team													£878,900
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF)													£1,504,675
Inclusion Support Fund (ISF New Service)													£200,000
EY Pupil Premium													£370,403
Disability Access													£371,448
TOTAL OVERALL FUNDING FOR WILTSHIRE													£76,913,524

LIVE CHANGES in EYRG meeting

0.08%
24/25 forecast £238,559
3% pay award uplift on 24/25 budget
plus £180k HNB top up

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Schools Forum - January 2025
 Early Years Block modelling - 2025-26 Financial Year
 Appendix : Worked example of calculating the pass-through rate

Appendix 2

Options 1-4

	5.47	10.14	7.48	7.48
Weeks	38	38	38	38
Hours	15	15	15	15
PTE	10,233	3,978	3,652	666

2 Year Olds families receiving additional support (previously disadvantaged)

			3&4 Year Olds Universal & Working	Under 2s Working Parents	2 Years Working Parents		
Option 1	A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for relevant age group	£31,721,377	£22,569,900	£15,485,843	£2,946,692
		2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for relevant age group	£0			
		3	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£200,000			
		4	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Quality (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		5	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		6	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£50,000			
		7	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: EAL (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		8	Anticipated budget for relevant age group SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£861,930	£335,100	£307,645	
		9	Anticipated budget for relevant age group contingency	£351,886	£136,806	£125,597	
	Subtotal =			£33,185,193	£23,041,805	£15,919,085	£2,946,692
	B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	0	0	0	0
	C	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,832,645	2,267,671	2,081,879	379,728
	D	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds = (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£5.69	£10.16	£7.65	£7.76
	E	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	£5.71	£10.48	£7.76	£7.76
F	14	Test of meeting requirement F = (D / E) * 100 = ((line 12) / (line 13))*100	99.6%	97.0%	98.5%	100.0%	
Option 2	A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for relevant age group	£31,838,030	£22,705,961	£15,510,002	£2,946,692
		2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for relevant age group	£0			
		3	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£200,000			
		4	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Quality (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		5	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		6	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£50,000			
		7	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: EAL (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		8	Anticipated budget for relevant age group SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£861,930	£335,100	£307,645	
		9	Anticipated budget for relevant age group contingency	£193,282	£75,144	£68,987	
	Subtotal =			£33,143,243	£23,116,205	£15,886,634	£2,946,692
	B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	0	0	0	0
	C	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,832,645	2,267,671	2,081,879	379,728
	D	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds = (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£5.68	£10.19	£7.63	£7.76
	E	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	£5.71	£10.48	£7.76	£7.76
F	14	Test of meeting requirement F = (D / E) * 100 = ((line 12) / (line 13))*100	99.5%	97.3%	98.3%	100.0%	
Option 3	A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for relevant age group	£32,013,009	£22,812,769	£15,510,002	£2,946,692
		2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for relevant age group	£0			
		3	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£200,000			
		4	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Quality (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		5	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		6	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£50,000			
		7	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: EAL (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		8	Anticipated budget for relevant age group SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£861,930	£335,100	£307,645	
		9	Anticipated budget for relevant age group contingency	£31,865	£12,388	£11,373	
	Subtotal =			£33,156,804	£23,160,257	£15,829,020	£2,946,692
	B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	0	0	0	0
	C	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,832,645	2,267,671	2,081,879	379,728
	D	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds = (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£5.68	£10.21	£7.60	£7.76
	E	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	£5.71	£10.48	£7.76	£7.76
F	14	Test of meeting requirement F = (D / E) * 100 = ((line 12) / (line 13))*100	99.6%	97.5%	98.0%	100.0%	
Option LIVE	A	1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for relevant age group	£32,187,988	£22,631,356	£15,510,002	£2,946,692
		2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for relevant age group	£0			
		3	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	£200,000			
		4	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Quality (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		5	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		6	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	£50,000			
		7	Anticipated budget for supplements for relevant age groups: EAL (including funding to MNS)	£0			
		8	Anticipated budget for relevant age group SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	£861,930	£335,100	£307,645	
		9	Anticipated budget for relevant age group contingency	£35,550	£13,821	£12,689	
	Subtotal =			£33,335,468	£22,980,277	£15,830,336	£2,946,692
	B	10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	0	0	0	0
	C	11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5,832,645	2,267,671	2,081,879	379,728
	D	12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds = (A-B) / C = (lines 1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 - 10) / (line 11)	£5.72	£10.13	£7.60	£7.76
	E	13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	£5.71	£10.48	£7.76	£7.76
F	14	Test of meeting requirement F = (D / E) * 100 = ((line 12) / (line 13))*100	100%	96.7%	98.0%	100%	

The pass-through rate needs to be calculated for each of the funding streams and be compliant in each.
 The local authority is passing on over 96% of the EYNFF hourly rate they received from central government for Under 2, 2 year olds and 3 and 4 year olds to providers, the local authority will meet the policy requirement in option 3 only.

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