

# Blackpool Council

7 March 2022

## SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 9.15 am  
MS Teams Meeting

## A G E N D A

**1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

**3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 1 - 14)

To consider and agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 as an accurate record.

To consider any matters arising not discussed elsewhere on the Agenda.

**4 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE** (Pages 15 - 16)

To receive an overview of recent developments within the local authority for information.

**5 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 (Pages 17 - 20)**

To report the budget position of the 2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant and Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 31 January 2022.

**6 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE (Pages 21 - 32)**

To consider the latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget.

**7 EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2022/23 (Pages 33 - 34)**

To consider and agree the Early Years Funding Formula for 2022/23.

**8 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022/23 (Pages 35 - 38)**

To consider the proposals for the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2022/23.

**9 COVID FUNDING UPDATE (Pages 39 - 40)**

To receive an update regarding financial support provided in the education sector during the COVID outbreak for information.

**10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 14 June 2022.

**11 GLOSSARY OF TERMS (Pages 41 - 42)**

A glossary of acronyms is included for information.

**Other information:**

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Danielle Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477202, e-mail [danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk)

Copies of the agendas and minutes of the Schools Forum are available on the Council's website at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk)

# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

### **Present:**

#### **Maintained Primary School Head Teachers/Representative**

Ms H Moreton, Holy Family

Dr E Allen, St John Vianney (attended for items 1-6 and item 10 only)

#### **Primary Governor**

Ms M Lonican, Our Lady (attended for items 4 -13 only)

#### **Special School Maintained Representative**

Mr N Oldham, Highfurlong

#### **Special School Academy Representative**

Ms G Hughes, Park (Sea View)

#### **Academy / Free School Representatives**

Mr G Dow, Anchorsolme (Sea View)

Mr R Farley, Westminster (FCAT) (Chair)

Ms T Harrison, Thames / Roseacre (AtC)

Mr A Hussain, Highfield (Star Academies)

Mr M McIver, St George's/Baines Endowed (Cidari) (attended for items 6 -13 only)

Mr E Vitalis, South Shore / Marton (Bright Futures)

#### **Post-16**

Ms J Gray, Blackpool Sixth Form

#### **Early Years**

Ms R Dey, Pebbles Day Nursery

#### **Non-Schools Members**

Mr N Adams, UNISON (attended for items 4 -13 only)

Ms A Baines, Staff/Teacher Associations

#### **In Attendance:**

Councillor J Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care and Schools

Mr D Maddocks, Senior Accountant

Mr P Turner, Assistant Director – School Improvement and SEND

Mrs H Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Ms A Wellings, Interim Head of SEND

Mrs D Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser (minutes)

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

### 1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Roger Farley welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Simon Brennand (Unity / FCAT), Simon Eccles (St Marys BEBCMAT), Victoria O Farrell (Education Diversity) and Mark Golden (Head of Accountancy, Deputy s151 Officer).

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest noted at the meeting.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 October 2021 were considered and agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the minutes:

#### **Discussion on SEND budgets to be scheduled for a Schools Forum meeting in early 2022 –**

At the October 2021 Schools Forum meeting it was noted that there were a number of items relating to SEND support including Early Help which were being reviewed and it was agreed that a more detailed overview would be presented to either the January 2022 or March 2022 Schools Forum meeting. At the January 2022 meeting, it was noted that an update relating to Early Help would be presented to the March 2022 meeting.

**DSG Budget Monitoring – it had been requested that future papers contain information relating to the quality of provision as well as the efficiency of the provision –** Hilary Wood confirmed that information relating to key performance indicators had been included within the High Needs update.

**Covid Funding Update – an update was requested on the clawback process and implications of the Government's tutoring recovery programme –** an update on Covid Funding was provided at item 11 including a link to the recently published government guidance on the National Tutoring Programme.

### 4 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

(Michelle Lonican and Neil Adams arrived during this item)

Paul Turner presented the report to provide an overview of recent developments in the local authority. It was reported that attendance through the first term of 2021/22 had been steady with most schools recording a consistent 90% attendance. It was noted that cases of Covid had risen during the last half term resulting in an increase of both pupil and staff absence. It was reported that schools were managing the situation well.

It was acknowledged that the referrals to the Pupil Referral Unit were lower than previous

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

years. It was recognised that there were also independent alternative provision providers within the authority area and that there was a need to maintain high quality alternative provision.

It was reported that elective home educated numbers had risen again although more slowly than the same period last year with a number of pupils returning to school since the beginning of the school year. It was noted that there would be discussion at the March Schools Forum meeting as to the funding relating to Elective Home Education and recognised that the Opportunity Area funding stream will reduce.

In relation to permanent exclusions, it was reported that they were marginally higher when compared to the same period in the last school year, but considerably lower than the pre-pandemic years.

The Forum then moved on to receive comments.

It was noted that in addition to the inspection information presented within the report, the Blackpool Sixth Form College had received a full Ofsted inspection in December 2021, the report was not yet published. Paul Turner agreed that this should have been included within the report and asked the Forum to note the information.

It was also highlighted that both colleges within the town (Blackpool Sixth Form College and Blackpool and the Fylde College) were monitoring attendance as a reduction could potentially impact the young people not in education employment or training (NEET). Paul Turner agreed to monitor this through the relevant local authority work stream.

It was commented that the reduction in access to Educational Diversity was positive however the increase in the elective home education numbers was a concern. One member asked whether this had impacted on staffing and resulted in any redundancies. It was also asked whether there was a financial plan for elective home educated children and acknowledged that they could be grouped into those whose parents had always chosen to elective home educate their children and then those who had done so as a result of Covid-19.

In response, Paul Turner indicated that there was no correlation between permanent exclusions and elective home educated children at the moment. It was noted that the local authority had sustained the pupil referral unit budget during the period of reducing pupil numbers. He also reiterated that the funding relating to high needs and early help would be discussed at the March Schools Forum meeting to address the deficit and also where to place funding in order to address current issues and reinvest for the future. Discussions as to early intervention at primary school age were required and a High Needs Block Working Group would be convened to consider a range of future funding options.

One member asked what the future plan was for the Pupil Referral Unit should the referral numbers remain low. It was queried whether there was too much resource and whether success in other areas would impact on the capacity at the Pupil Referral Unit. In response, Paul Turner indicated that there had been no absolute decisions regarding the Pupil Referral

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

Unit however consideration was being given to the number of buildings, the curriculum on offer and other investment. A proposal would be presented to the Schools Forum in Spring 2022. Hilary Wood also confirmed that there had been a predicated fall in numbers at the Pupil Referral Unit due to the work undertaken on inclusion. The local authority had therefore agreed to a two-year fixed funding agreement for the Pupil Referral Unit and work was being undertaken to look at the model once the fixed funding period comes to an end.

One member also enquired about the Chefs Academy offer. Paul Turner confirmed that the capacity of the Chefs Academy was for 24 young people aged 14 plus. It was noted that a mix of young people were considered for each place and that schools could purchase a place for £2k per year which provided two days of provision each week, one in a working kitchen and one working towards an NVQ qualification. The aim was to slowly expand the provision to ensure sustainability and high quality.

### **Actions:**

- **To note that the Blackpool Sixth Form College had received a full Ofsted inspection in December 2021, the report was not yet published.**
- **Paul Turner's team to monitor college attendance within the town and the potential impact on numbers of young people not in education employment or training (NEET).**
- **Paul Turner to convene a High Needs Block working group to consider future funding options.**

## **5 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2021-2022**

Darren Maddocks presented the update to report the budget position of the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 November 2021 and the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves forecast as at 30 November 2021.

It was reported that budget monitoring to the end of November 2021 forecasted a £693k over spend against a deficit budget of £326k. Therefore, the total in-year shortfall was estimated at £1.019m. The major in year variances included a higher demand relating to Post 16 placements than budgeted of £306k; increased costs for the Oracle building and resilience coaches relating to access and inclusion of £105k; Special Schools placement growth of £154k and Exceptional Circumstances costs higher than budgeted £175k.

In relation to reserves, the local authority were able to account for a transfer into DSG reserves of £1.604m from a provision that had been set aside in the current and previous financial years. The provision was set aside to allow payments to be made to new and growing academies and free schools for the April to August periods, given that the academy financial year differed from the local authority and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) financial year. It had subsequently been established that the provision was not required, as the ESFA had paid those schools in full, including for the period from April to August. The discrepancy in accounting treatment only came to light some time after the provision was first established, and the local authority assumed that the ESFA would recover the funding. In November 2021, the Department for Education confirmed that they would not recover the funding, stating that it should be treated as part of DSG.

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

When the transferred provision was added to the brought forward deficit of £5.766m and the in-year deficit of £1.019m, the resulting forecast DSG deficit by 31 March 2022 reduced to £5.181m. This excluded the maintained schools reserves (£3.919m) and the specific Union Fees reserve (£44k).

There were no questions following the report but the increase in money was welcomed.

Hilary Wood also provided assurances that the money that had been set aside had not impacted on schools but was a technical accounting adjustment. She also confirmed that there had been confusion between the local authority and the ESFA which took time to understand and which was why the amount grew. Following discussion, the ESFA confirmed that the money could be retained as a one-off situation.

### 6 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

(Matt McIver arrived during this item)

Hilary Wood presented the report to update on the latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget. As previously reported, owing to the pressure on the High Needs budget, a medium term financial plan had been developed to monitor forecast expenditure against the high needs budget and factor in predictions of where savings could be achieved.

It was noted that despite additional government funding in recent years, pupil numbers in high cost placements continued to increase. The latest forecasts showed a position where costs in 2021/22 would exceed the High Needs funding allocation by £2.254 million. However it was noted that the cumulative deficit against Dedicated Schools Grant was expected to reduce by a forecast £585k to £5.184 million by March 2022 due to the provision that had been released.

It was noted that the allocation of High Needs funding for 2022/23 had been confirmed. As reported at the last meeting, this would be the third and final year of the announced three-year settlement for schools and High Needs, with the increase for Blackpool equating to almost 11% compared to 2021/22. Furthermore, the Spending Review in October 2021 announced an additional £1.6 billion for schools and High Needs, on top of previous allocations. The High Needs element had been confirmed as £325 million, of which Blackpool would receive £946k, taking the year-on-year increase to almost £4 million, or 15%. It was anticipated that there would be enough in the High Needs budget in future years to cover spend, and that the cumulative deficit might be recovered in the next three years.

It was reported that the local authority, in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Board, was in the process of drawing up a SEND Improvement Plan. A number of actions within the plan would have financial implications for the High Needs Block. In the short-term, due to the immediate need for additional space to accommodate pupils in Blackpool's special schools, plans continued to create additional capacity at the Oracle building for Park's post-16 students.

## **MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022**

It was also noted that the key performance indicator information provided showed trends and impact on SEND and inclusion.

The Forum then moved on to receive comments.

One member commented that the report was encouraging however queried why there was still a high cost relating to out of area placements and what the pressures were should this continue. It was also queried about low Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) numbers and the reasons for this. In response Paul Turner confirmed that all children who required an EHCP would receive one. In relation to provision, the local authority were looking at options for provision to reduce costs where possible and still provide the best options. The decision-making process for placing children out of borough would also be considered as would the questions asked at Annual Review meetings to determine whether the provision was correct.

It was noted that Blackpool Sixth Form were looking at their provision for young people with SEND to look to meet the needs and help to keep students within the borough. It was acknowledged that there were land based courses out of borough that could not be accessed in Blackpool colleges.

One member asked whether Blackpool needed its own Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) provision.

One member commented that as the special school provision available in Blackpool was renowned and parents felt confident choosing the provision for their children, this created an issue of increased demand for special school places. In contrast, the capacity within special school settings was full therefore support was needed to ensure that children were accessing the right education setting and those who could access that in mainstream schools, did so. The challenge remained of retaining parental confidence, supporting parental choice and making the system work.

### **7 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES FUNDING**

Hilary Wood presented the report on the local authority's proposal to replace the current methodology for allocating Exceptional Circumstances funding to mainstream schools and the proposed reduction in the budget for Exceptional Circumstances from £165k to £100k from 2022/23.

It was noted that in 2013/14, the way that pupils with high cost needs were funded changed nationally. There was a significant transfer of funding from central Council budgets into mainstream schools' delegated budgets, and a new requirement for those schools to fund the first £6,000 of the costs of meeting the additional educational needs of each pupil.

As a school's notional SEN budget was not separate to its formula funding, but an assumed element of it, each local authority set out in its local formula how the notional SEN budget was calculated. In Blackpool, formula factors of prior attainment and deprivation were



## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

considered.

It was recognised that on occasion, a school may have a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs and may not have funding to cover the number of pupils with high needs. The Department for Education therefore allowed local authorities to define the circumstances in which additional funding may be provided from the local authority's High Needs block. As agreed by Schools Forum, in Blackpool, this additional funding (Exceptional Circumstances funding) was calculated by comparing 20% of a school's Notional SEN Budget with the number of pupils with EHC plans, and funding was allocated if the 20% was insufficient to meet the first £6,000 of additional costs for those pupils. The calculation was carried out three times a year, using a snapshot of pupils on roll at the start of each term.

It was noted that the number of schools receiving funding had increased from six in 2017/18 to 19 (so far) in 2021/22, with costs rising from £50k to a forecast £340k (against a budget of £165k) during the same period. In a situation where over half of mainstream schools were in receipt of funding, this could no longer be classed as "exceptional circumstances". It was also suggested that many schools did not anticipate the funding, given that a number of queries were received each year asking what the funding related to.

Due to the pressures on the High Needs Block, the local authority proposed a change to the current criteria for accessing funding to reflect only exceptional circumstances. In considering the options for change, account had been taken of practice across other North West authorities relating to this source of funding for schools.

Hilary Wood outlined the proposed methodology to be undertaken from April 2022 and the change in threshold from 20% of the notional SEN budget to 35%. Payments would also not be automatically generated, but schools would need to apply for funding if they felt they had insufficient funding to cover the first £6k of costs for pupils with high needs.

It was reported that had the 35% threshold been applied in 2021/22, it would have resulted in an estimated four schools receiving funding of almost £100k in total. It was therefore proposed that the Exceptional Circumstances budget for 2022/23 be reduced from £165k to £100k.

The Forum then moved on to receive comments.

It was suggested that the aim should first be to contain spend with the existing budget before looking to reduce the spend rather than an initial cut in the budget. In response, Hilary Wood confirmed that the model was based on the change of threshold of the notional SEN budget from 20% to 35%. Paul Turner also confirmed that a review of how the policy premise was originally determined was required.

A further question asked whether the young people with SEND could be distributed more evenly across the schools. Hilary Wood confirmed that there were 19 schools that provided for more children than their budget accounted for. It was also suggested that owing to the number of queries relating to the funding, some schools were not reliant on the funding however the retention of the ability to offer exceptional circumstances funding was needed.

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

It was also suggested that there needed to be best practice to enable all schools to be appealing to families.

A concern was raised as to the wording and to determine what 'exceptional circumstances' were and the thresholds of the policy being discussed. In response, Paul Turner confirmed that the discussion in the Forum related to the finances as the proposal was to change the formula. It was also commented that some schools may have already budgeted for the funding.

It was reiterated that the local authority wanted to implement the new methodology from April 2022, however the awaited outcome of the government SEND review may provide a need for further changes. However the local authority wanted to proceed and support from Schools Forum members was sought.

Following a vote of those Schools Forum members in attendance, the majority agreed to support the local authority's proposal to replace the current methodology for allocating Exceptional Circumstances funding to mainstream schools with the alternative methodology.

Following a vote of those Schools Forum members in attendance, the majority did not agree to support the proposed reduction in the budget for Exceptional Circumstances to £100k from 2022/23.

### **Resolved:**

- **Following a vote of those Schools Forum members in attendance, the majority agreed to support the local authority's proposal to replace the current methodology for allocating Exceptional Circumstances funding to mainstream schools with the alternative methodology.**
- **Following a vote of those Schools Forum members in attendance, the majority did not agree to support the proposed reduction in the budget for Exceptional Circumstances to £100k from 2022/23.**

## **8 DRAFT DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET 2022-2023**

Hilary Wood presented the report to outline the provisional estimates for the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2022/23.

It was reported that in addition to the DSG, the Government had announced an extra £1.6 million for schools and High Needs in its Spending Review of October 2021. The allocation for Blackpool schools had been provisionally set at just over £3 million, taking the increase to £6.5 million, which equated to 6.9% compared to 2021/22. It was noted that the additional funding would be allocated directly to schools as a supplementary grant, with school-level funding amounts confirmed in spring 2022.

It was reported that Blackpool would also receive an additional £946k of High Needs funding, taking the year-on-year increase to £3.8 million, or 15.1%.

## **MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022**

The provisional forecast expenditure against DSG for 2022/23 was provided and it was noted that the additional £3 million that schools were to receive directly via the supplementary grant had been excluded, but the additional £946k of High Needs funding had been included.

It was reported that the local authority had proposed to add £90k to the Schools Block total of £98.8 million from the growth fund contingency, and also transfer 0.5% to the High Needs Block, which amounted to £494k. The net figure would be allocated to schools via the local school funding formula.

It was recognised that Central Schools Services Block had decreased in total by £87k and a proposal would be presented to the March Schools Forum meeting on the detailed proposed budget. It was also recognised that the total High Needs block increase of £3.8 million, including additional Spending Review monies, would have a significant impact on the ongoing pressures on costs for pupils with additional needs. It was proposed that the Early Years Block funding be fully allocated to Early Years provision and services. It was also noted that the birth rate was reducing and the implications that this would have.

In summary, it was estimated that the in-year surplus on DSG could amount to £2.3 million, which would reduce the forecast cumulative deficit at 31 March 2023 to £4.5 million.

There were no questions or comments following the report.

### **9 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2022-2023 PROPOSALS**

Hilary Wood presented the report and it was noted that the principles of the Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 had been agreed at the last meeting. Members were asked to consider the local authority's proposal for the schools funding formula for 2022/23 and to note the estimated allocations of the Schools Supplementary Grant 2022/23 for schools for pupils aged between five and 16.

The Minimum per Pupil Funding levels, which were mandatory in local funding formulae, increased to £4,265 for primary schools, and £5,525 for secondary schools. It was noted that on 16 December 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) announced allocations of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2022/23. Based on a Pupil Unit of Funding of £4,747 and a Secondary Unit of Funding of £6,415, together with pupil numbers taken from the October 2021 school census, Blackpool's Schools Block of funding was £98.818 million, which included growth funding of £674k.

The growth funding of £674k compared to £645k in 2021/22. Currently in Blackpool, the only new and growing school was Armfield Academy. The requirement to fund the estimated new pupils from September 2022 to March 2023 was £770k, leaving a gap of £96k compared to the available growth funding. A growth fund contingency of £90k set aside from previous year's growth funding could be brought into the formula to practically bridge the gap. The 2022 intake at Armfield would see the secondary phase filled up, with only two further years of new year groups to follow in the primary phase. This means that the

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

requirement for growth funding for Armfield in 2023/24 and 2024/25 would be much reduced.

It was noted that in October 2021 Schools Forum agreed to make a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, and to do this by way of a reduction to the Basic Entitlement factor values.

It was reported that the additional schools funding would be allocated through the schools supplementary grant from April 2022 before being incorporated into the National Funding Formula, the grant would continue from April to August 2023 for academies.

The schools supplementary grant would only be payable to public sector employers therefore further education colleges, sixth form colleges, independent learning providers, as well as private and voluntary sector early years providers would not be eligible to receive the funding.

The Forum then moved on to receive comments.

It was queried whether the allocation of the supplementary schools grant had to be based on free school meal allocation as this widened the gap in funding and was disproportionate. In response, Hilary Wood confirmed that the allocations were based on a national formula of a per pupil amount, a lump sum, and additional funding for those who received free school meals.

A further question related to the modelling for the costs. Hilary Wood confirmed that the government had undertaken some modelling and that there was an expectation that the funds would assist with the increase in teacher salaries as well as the introduction of the health and social care National Insurance levy.

A further observation was that some of the costs were not pupil premium related and yet the allocation was based on pupil premium figures which was unfair. In response, Hilary Wood confirmed that the formula had been developed centrally and the only influence would be for the local authority to participate in relevant consultation exercises relating to the allocation of funds and the formula.

Following a vote of those schools and early years members in attendance, the majority agreed to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2022/23 and noted the estimated allocations of the Schools Supplementary Grant 2022/23 for schools for pupils aged between five and 16.

In addition, Councillor Hobson agreed to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2022/23.

### **Resolved:**

- **Following a vote of those schools and early years members in attendance, the majority agreed to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2022/23 and noted the estimated allocations of the Schools**

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

### Supplementary Grant 2022/23 for schools for pupils aged between five and 16.

#### To note:

- **Councillor Hobson agreed to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2022/23 as the elected member of the Forum.**

### **10 DE-DELEGATION OF SERVICES AND RETENTION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION FUNCTIONS 2022-2023**

Hilary Wood presented the report and approval was sought for the de-delegation of services and the retention of funding for Education Functions. It was recognised that only maintained school representatives were eligible to vote on the recommendations. It was also noted that there had been a meeting of the Primary Headteachers prior to the Schools Forum meeting where the points had been discussed.

#### ***Free School Meals***

It was noted that the de-delegation amount per Free School Meal pupil would be set at £13.23 in 2022/23, compared to £13.00 in 2021/22. The increase equated to 1.75% which was in line with the anticipated local government pay award for 2021/22.

Maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the continued de-delegation of funding for free school meal eligibility checks at the rate of £13.23 per free school meal pupil.

#### **Resolved:**

- **Maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the continued de-delegation of funding for free school meal eligibility checks at the rate of £13.23 per free school meal pupil\*.**

#### ***Union Duties***

It was noted that agreement was reached between unions on the number of days that each union could claim from the central pot to fund the facilities time of the teaching unions. In October 2020 Schools Forum agreed that Unison would be included within the collective funding arrangements. Therefore members of both teaching and non-teaching unions could be supported by local representatives during the school day. Schools Forum also agreed to a five-year plan for the use of accumulated reserves, which set out the per pupil rate payable by schools, as well as the day rate for union cover.

It was proposed that in line with the agreed five-year plan, the de-delegation amount for 2022/23 would increase by 20p per pupil to £4.40 compared to £4.20 per pupil de-delegated in 2021/22. However, it was noted that forecast reserves at March 2022 were likely to be higher than anticipated in the five-year plan.

It was queried whether the reserves could be utilised and either look to freeze the payment for 2022/23 or reduce the increase by half to 10p per pupil. Hilary Wood confirmed that the amount could be considered outside of the meeting following modelling of these options or brought back to the March 2022 Schools Forum for discussion.

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

The maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the continued de-delegation of funding for union duties but did not agree to a specified rate per pupil at this time.

### **Resolved:**

- **The maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the continued de-delegation of funding for union duties but did not agree to a specified rate per pupil at this time\*.**

### **Action:**

- **Hilary Wood to determine the rate per pupil options for the de-delegation of funding for union duties considering use of the reserves and either discuss with the mainstream primary school members outside of the Forum meeting or bring information back to the March 2022 Schools Forum.**

### ***School Improvement***

It was reported that in October 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) consulted on reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions were funded. In the consultation, the DfE proposed to reduce the LA School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant by half in 2022/23, and remove it completely from April 2023. Given the small number of local authority schools, Blackpool had historically received the minimum grant level of £50k each year.

It was recognised that the grant had been provided to local authorities since 2017 to enable them to fulfil their core school improvement responsibilities in respect of maintained schools. The funding available to local authorities to meet their statutory duties would need to be replaced by de-delegation of funding from maintained schools, or by setting up a traded service.

The rationale for the DfE's proposal to remove the grant was due to their belief that local authorities used the grant predominantly on early challenge and support in cases of potential underperformance, rather than for formal intervention powers. The DfE therefore proposed that funding for these activities be replaced by de-delegation from maintained school budgets or buy-back from a traded service, arguing that academies in trusts have their funding reduced in respect of school improvement through the MAT top-slice, and stand-alone academies have to pay for it from their school budgets.

The consultation closed in November 2021. A verbal update at the meeting confirmed that the outcome had been published in recent days, noting that the plans were to be taken forward as proposed, with Blackpool's grant reducing to £25k in 2022/23 before being removed completely from 2023/24. It was noted that in order to replace the lost income of £25k in 2022/23, and continue the same level of support for maintained schools, de-delegation of £5.58 per pupil would be required.

It was confirmed that through discussions with Primary Headteachers, they were overall in support of the proposal.

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

The maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the de-delegation of funding for school improvement services at the rate of £5.58 per pupil.

### **Resolved:**

- **The maintained mainstream primary school members in attendance agreed to the de-delegation of funding for school improvement services at the rate of £5.58 per pupil\*.**

\*As a point of clarity, it was noted that the voting on the de-delegation of services did not apply to special schools however the maintained special schools member confirmed that those schools would be happy to adopt the de-delegation arrangements for free school meals, union duties, school improvement and education functions as discussed.

### ***Education Functions***

It was noted that in the 2015 Spending Review, the Government announced that it would be cutting £600m from the Education Services Grant (ESG), a funding stream paid to local authorities outside of the local government finance settlement in respect of certain education functions. There were two elements of ESG – the retained grant, and the general grant. Retained ESG was only paid to local authorities, and funded the responsibilities they hold for all pupils in the area, regardless of whether they could be educated in maintained or academy schools. The general element of ESG was paid to local authorities in respect of the pupils in maintained schools. It was also paid separately to each academy in respect of the pupils in their own school.

In November 2016, details were released of how the £600m of savings would be realised. The retained element of ESG was transferred into Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2017, and formed part of the Central Schools Services Block since April 2018. The general element of the grant ended in September 2017 for both local authorities and academies.

Despite this, the local authority remained responsible for providing the functions that were covered by it on behalf of its maintained schools. Financial regulations allow for funding to be retained from the budgets of maintained schools in order to cover the costs.

In previous years, Schools Forum agreed to allow the local authority to retain funding from maintained school budgets in order to cover specific support that was provided to maintained schools (but not to academies) at no cost.

The 2022/23 amount had been calculated at £36.94 per pupil, which equated to a 1.75% increase on the 2021/22 amount of £36.30, in line with the anticipated local government pay award for 2021/22.

The maintained school members in attendance, agreed to the amount of £36.94 per pupil being retained from school budgets for the purpose of funding education functions.

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022

### Resolved:

- **The maintained school members in attendance, agreed to the amount of £36.94 per pupil being retained from school budgets for the purpose of funding education functions.**

### 11 COVID FUNDING UPDATE

Hilary Wood provided an update on developments since the last meeting regarding financial support provided in the education sector during the COVID outbreak. Information included a link to further information on the National Tutoring Programme, Coronavirus workforce fund for schools, providing school meals during the coronavirus outbreak and the national testing programme for schools and colleges.

One member asked whether the meal vouchers would be available for schools during the February half term break. It was confirmed that schools would receive an update and information outside of the meeting.

### 12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 15 March 2022.

It was recognised that the meeting would be held in person if feasible.

### 13 GLOSSARY

The glossary of terms was provided for information.

### Chairman

(The meeting ended 11.02am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:  
Danielle Bowater Democratic Governance Adviser  
Tel: 01253 477202  
E-mail: [danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.bowater@blackpool.gov.uk)



**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Paul Turner – Assistant Director  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2022

## LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview of recent developments within the local authority to the Forum.

1.2

Action required:

- For information (no decision required)

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The report is presented for information only.

### 3.0 Background Information

3.1 Attendance throughout the second term of 2021-22 school year has improved slowly since Christmas. Numbers of pupils and staff with Covid have reduced.

Elective Home Education numbers have now reduced to below the figure for the same period last year, at 354.

Permanent Exclusions are higher when compared to the same period in the last school year, but are considerably lower than the pre-pandemic years when the figures had been 23 (2017) 13 (2018) 10 (2019). The current figure is 11.

The number of pupils in the PRU is much reduced when compared to previous year, with 149 pupils.

Only 69 of the current cohort will move upwards into another year group in September 2022.

#### Ofsted inspections

Montgomery received a Section 5 inspection after the February half-term break. The report is currently unpublished.

Langdale Free School received a Section 5 inspection on the 2 and 3 March 2022.

Blackpool and the Fylde College was inspected before Christmas and was rated as Good.

Blackpool Sixth Form College was also inspected and was rated as Outstanding.

Westminster Primary Academy was also rated as Good.

The local area was inspected in the first week in March 2022, looking at SEND provision. The report will be available in April 2022.

### **SEND**

The SEND strategy will be renewed and available this term as part of a consultation process.

The SEND banding consultation process is still ongoing.

Members have been recruited to the High Needs Block working party and the first meeting is imminent.

### **Education Investment Areas**

Blackpool has been named as one of fifty five Education Investment Areas nationally. More details will be available from the DFE as soon as possible.

### **List of acronyms:**

**PRU – Pupil Referral Unit**

**SEND – Special Education Needs and Disabilities**

**DFE – Department for Education**

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Darren Maddocks, Senior Accountant  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 20022

## **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2021-2022**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To report the budget position of the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 January 2022 - Appendix 5A. To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 January 2022 – Appendix 5B.

1.2 Action required:  
- For information

### **2.0 Recommendation:**

2.1 To note contents of the report.

### **3.0 Background:**

3.1 The monitoring report at Appendix 5A reflects the budgets as approved at the March 2021 Schools Forum.

3.2 Budget monitoring to the end of January 2022 is forecasting a £697k over spend against a deficit budget of £325k. Therefore, the total in-year shortfall is estimated at £1.022m. See further details of the reserves position at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 below.

3.3 The major in-year variances are as follows:

- Post 16 placements demand higher than budgeted of £305k.
- Access and Inclusion £107k
  - Increased costs for the Oracle building.
  - Resilience coaches as approved at a previous Schools Forum.
- Special Schools placement growth £154k
- Exceptional Circumstances costs higher than budgeted £175k.

### ***Reserves***

3.4 The statement of forecast reserves is set out at Appendix 5B to this report. As reported to Schools Forum in January 2022 the local authority is able to account for a transfer into DSG reserves of £1.604m from a provision that has been set aside in the current and previous financial years. The provision was set aside to allow payments to be made to new and growing academies and free schools for the April to August periods, given that the academy financial year differs from the local authority and ESFA financial year. It has been established that the

provision is not required, as the ESFA has paid those schools in full, including for the period from April to August. The discrepancy in accounting treatment only came to light some time after the provision was first established, and the local authority assumed that the ESFA would recover the funding. However, in November 2021, the Department for Education confirmed that they will not recover the funding, stating that it should be treated as part of DSG.

When this transferred provision is added to the brought forward deficit of £5.766m and the in-year deficit of £1.022m, the resulting forecast DSG deficit by 31 March 2022 reduces to £5.183m. This excludes the maintained schools reserves (£3.919m) and the specific Union Fees reserve (£44k).

#### **4.0 List of Appendices**

4.1 Appendix 5A - Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-2022 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2022.

Appendix 5B - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 January 2022.

#### **List of Acronyms:**

DSG	-	Dedicated Schools Grant
LA	-	Local Authority
HNB	-	High Needs Block
SSA	-	Special Support Assistant
ESFA	-	Education and Skills Funding Agency
SERF	-	Special Education Resource Facility
PRU	-	Pupil Referral Unit

## Appendix 5A - Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-2022 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2022

Service	2021/22						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
<b>Schools Block</b>							
Local School Budget							
- Delegated	94,745	0	(74,490)	20,255	20,255	0	
- Third Party & Public Liability Insurance (de-delegated)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	19	0	0	19	19	0	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	18	0	0	18	18	0	
- Education Functions (retained)	164	0	0	164	164	0	
Pupil Growth Contingency	0	0	430	430	430	0	
	94,946	0	(74,060)	20,886	20,886	0	
<b>Central School Services Block</b>							
Servicing of Schools Forum	17	0	0	17	17	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	89	0	0	89	89	0	
School Admissions	160	0	0	160	141	(19)	Staffing Underspend
Contribution to Combined Budgets - Children's Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Former ESG Retained Duties							
- Education Welfare	228	0	0	228	228	0	
- Asset Management	63	0	0	63	63	0	
- Statutory / Regulatory Duties	86	0	0	86	86	0	
Equal Pay	0	0	0	0	39	39	Equal pay Reserve
	643	0	0	643	663	20	
<b>Total Schools Block</b>	<b>95,589</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(74,060)</b>	<b>21,529</b>	<b>21,549</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>High Needs Block</b>							
<b>Special Schools</b>							
Place Funding	5,508	0	(3,292)	2,216	2,343	127	Based on Nov Forecast
Top-up Funding	3,918	(6)	0	3,912	3,939	27	Based on Nov Forecast
<b>SERFs</b>							
Place Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Top-up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Resource Provision</b>							
Place Funding	760	0	(267)	493	513	20	
Top-up Funding	585	0	(0)	585	570	(15)	Underwriting agreed for 2 years
<b>Pupil Referral Units</b>							
Place Funding	1,913	0	0	1,913	1,913	0	
Top-up Funding	1,237	0	0	1,237	1,297	60	Pressure on Income Target due to low KS2 provision numbers
Other AP	100	0	0	100	100	0	
<b>Mainstream Schools</b>							
Top-up Funding	2,353	30	0	2,383	2,356	(27)	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	165	0	0	165	340	175	Based on Term 1 & 2 Forecast 21/22
Post-16 Education	2,514	(30)	(1,015)	1,468	1,773	305	Higher Recoupment than anticipated & 2 Additional High cost Placements
Out of Borough	4,992	(6)	0	4,986	4,992	6	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,368	0	0	1,368	1,346	(22)	Staffing Underspend
Access and Inclusion	941	0	0	941	1,048	107	Cost of Oracle building and Resilience Coaches for full year plus Mental Health Support
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	772	0	0	772	772	0	
<b>Total High Needs Block</b>	<b>27,126</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(4,574)</b>	<b>22,539</b>	<b>23,303</b>	<b>764</b>	
<b>Early Years Block</b>							
2 Year Old Grants	1,665	(16)	0	1,649	1,608	(41)	
Early Years Pupil Premium	102	(7)	0	95	95	0	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,552	(343)	0	6,209	6,082	(127)	Correction of Year end adjustment figures following updated information from the ESFA
Early Years Inclusion Fund	30	0	0	30	83	53	
Disability Access Fund	50	0	0	50	6	(44)	
Early Years Central Services	384	0	0	384	384	0	
<b>Total Early Years Block</b>	<b>8,783</b>	<b>(366)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,417</b>	<b>8,258</b>	<b>(159)</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>131,498</b>	<b>(378)</b>	<b>(78,634)</b>	<b>52,485</b>	<b>53,110</b>	<b>625</b>	
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant Income</b>	<b>(130,747)</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>78,384</b>	<b>(51,997)</b>	<b>(51,997)</b>	<b>0</b>	
ESFA Free School Income	(333)	261	0	(72)	0	72	Lotus School Income slightly less than forecast
Transfer from growth contingency	(91)	0	0	(91)	(91)	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(131,171)</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>78,384</b>	<b>(52,160)</b>	<b>(52,088)</b>	<b>72</b>	
<b>In year (under)/over spend</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>(250)</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>697</b>	

**Appendix 5B - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves Forecast as at 31 January 2022**

Description	Brought Forward 1st April 2021	Total Forecast Expenditure FY 2021-22	Forecast Surplus / (Deficit) at 31st March 2022	Comments
DSG Reserve	(5,765,758)	1,022,000	(6,787,758)	
New & Growing Schools	0	(1,604,408)	1,604,408	Provision released into reserves
Maintained School Balances	3,919,362	0	3,919,362	
Union Fees Reserve	44,329	0	44,329	
	(1,802,067)	(582,408)	(1,219,659)	

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2022

## HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum members on latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget.
- 1.2 Action required – for information (no decision required).

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report, paying particular attention to details of the safety valve programme at paragraphs 3.6 to 3.9.

### 3.0 Background Information

#### *Medium-term financial plan*

- 3.1 As reported in previous meetings, Blackpool, along with many other areas around the country, is experiencing financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. In order to better understand Blackpool's financial position, a medium-term financial plan has been developed to monitor forecast expenditure against the High Needs Budget, and factor in predictions of where savings may be achievable.
- 3.2 Despite additional government funding in recent years, pupil numbers in high cost placements are continuing their upward trend. Latest forecasts show a position where costs in 2021/22 will exceed the High Needs funding allocation by £2.258 million. However, transfers from the Schools Block and the Central Schools Services Block, together with the release of the new and growing schools provision, combine to offset pressures, with the cumulative deficit against Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reducing by a forecast £581k to £5.188 million by March 2022.
- 3.3 The medium-term financial plan has been revised to take account of updated forecasts and the funding allocation for 2022/23 (see Appendix 6(a) to this report). Assumptions have been made about inflationary uplifts on relevant expenditure lines in 2022/23, but no assumptions have yet been made about increases to income or costs beyond 2022/23.

- 3.4 As reported previously, given the scale of the deficit and the ongoing pressures on costs, it has been assumed that a 0.5% transfer from Schools Block will continue to be required in future years, although this will be subject to approval by Schools Forum each year. This is therefore shown on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for illustration purposes in each year until 2025/26, when it is anticipated that the direct National Funding Formula may be implemented.
- 3.5 It is pleasing to be able to report that the additional income in 2022/23 and subsequent years, together with the transfer of the provision for new and growing schools, are contributing to a forecast position whereby the cumulative deficit could be recovered within a four-year period by March 2026. It should be noted, however, that the Medium-Term Financial Plan contains a number of ambitious assumptions, so it is vital that concerted efforts continue to be made to contain expenditure.

### ***Safety Valve Programme***

- 3.6 In 2020/21, the Department for Education (DfE) introduced the 'safety valve' intervention programme for those local authorities with the highest percentage DSG deficits, recognising that help would be needed for these authorities to turn things around in a short space of time. The programme requires those local authorities to develop substantial plans for reform to their high needs systems and associated spending, with support and challenge from the DfE, to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing. The authorities are held to account for their reform and savings via regular reporting to the DfE. The DfE in turn helps the local authorities with additional funding over time to contribute to their historic deficits, contingent on delivery of the reforms.
- 3.7 A small number of local authorities were supported in both 2020/21 and 2021/22. As part of its ambition to eliminate historic deficits in a short period of time, the DfE is expanding the programme to work with a larger cohort of local authorities in 2022/23, as well as supporting a further 55 authorities through its new Delivering Better Value in SEND programme.
- 3.8 Blackpool has been invited by the DfE to take part in the safety valve programme in the second round of 2022/23, which will begin in September 2022. The invitation is based on the deficit position as at March 2021, which showed a deficit of 4.4% against DSG levels, rather than more recent forecasts of deficit recovery plans. Further details about the programme and timelines are expected in the spring. In the meantime, the local authority has been asked to prioritise the development of a DSG management plan, using the DfE's standard suite of spreadsheets.
- 3.9 The DSG management plan allows local authorities to plot the financial impact of no action being taken, then add actions – or 'mitigations' – to the plan to demonstrate



how savings can be achieved to arrive at an in-year balanced budget. Local authority officers are now prioritising the development of this tool, taking into account courses of action that are already planned to address the deficit position. A meeting of the reconvened High Needs Funding Working Group has been arranged for 21 March 2022, and this meeting will be used to discuss Blackpool's approach to the exercise, with a full report brought back to the next Schools Forum in June 2022.

### ***Early help in schools***

- 3.10 Discussions have taken place in previous Schools Forum meetings regarding the targeting of funding towards initiatives that provide early help support in schools, thereby delivering better outcomes for young people and avoiding more costly interventions at a later stage. The High Needs Funding Working Group on 21 March 2022 will be used to consider priorities for schools.
- 3.11 An amount of £400k per year has been allowed for within the Medium-Term Financial Plan at Appendix 6(a) from September 2022 onwards. The Working Group will consider a number of existing initiatives whose temporary funding is due to end in the short-term, with a view to shaping the local authority's plans for the most effective targeting of this funding, thereby ensuring that the benefits of these projects do not end when the funding finishes. Proposals will be brought back to the meeting of Schools Forum in June 2022.

### ***Review of special school funding***

- 3.12 Since the last meeting of Schools Forum, discussions have taken place with special schools regarding a number of matters relating to the way that they are funded. The discussion paper is included at Appendix 6(b) to this report, with the outcome summarised below:
- Additional pupils in excess of commissioned places will be funded in full in the months where the number of pupils exceeded 2% above commissioned places.
  - All nursery pupils to be funded as if they attend on a full-time basis.
  - The banding of pupils will be reviewed where schools believe that they are wrongly banded.
  - No further uplift required in 2022/23, given the other changes being made as a result of matters discussed.
- 3.13 All changes will take effect from April 2022, and it is estimated that costs will be met within budget levels.

***Key performance indicators***

- 3.14 Appendix 6(c) to this report contains a number of financial and non-financial key performance indicators to allow Schools Forum members to understand trends and impact around SEND and inclusion. Please note that this has not been updated since the meeting of Schools Forum in January 2022.

**List of acronyms:**

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

DfE – Department for Education

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 6(a): High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan

Appendix 6(b): Special School Funding Discussion Paper

Appendix 6(c): SEND and Inclusion Key Performance Indicators

## High Needs Block Medium-Term Financial Plan

Forecasts exclude inflationary impact, and costs and income are stated at 2022/23 levels

Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Notes Current Version
	Actual £000s	Actual £000s	Forecast £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	
<b>High Needs Block</b>								
<b>Special Schools</b>								
Place Funding	4,879	4,950	5,361	5,894	5,944	5,962	5,991	Highfulong from 85 to 105 from Sep 2021 Lotus 24 from Sep 2020, 40 from Sep 2021, 48 from Sep 2022 Park from 290 to 300 from Sep 2021 Woodlands 120 2021/22 onwards includes £660 per place for TPG/TPECG
Top-up Funding	2,768	3,388	3,959	4,480	4,509	4,524	4,549	Special School top-up: based on Dec 2021 figures
<b>SERFs</b>								
Place Funding	320	260	-	-	-	-	-	Mereside SERFs decommissioned from Nov 2020; Boundary and Bispham Endowed SERFs decommissioned from Dec 2020
Top-up Funding	111	117	-	-	-	-	-	
Transport	54	20	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Resource Provision</b>								
Place Funding		190	760	519	413	400	400	Mereside and Thames Resource Provisions opening Nov 2020; Boundary, Revoe and Marton Resource Provisions opening Jan 2021. Boundary closing March 2022.
Top-up Funding		234	590	530	572	572	572	
<b>AP Provision</b>								
PRU - Place Funding	2,533	2,208	1,913	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	Reduced from 250 places to 200 from September 2020, 185 from September 2021 2021/22 onwards includes £660 per place for TPG/TPECG
PRU Top-up Funding	1,147	1,359	1,297	1,252	1,252	1,252	1,252	Forecast numbers:- Fixed funding agreed based on September 2020 to March 2021 173, April to August 2021 215, September 2021 to March 2022 147, April to August 2022 178. September 2022 onwards - funding to be agreed, forecasts based on 152 pupils. Teachers pay award/superannuation costs and KS2 Engagement Coaches & Therapist in 22/23
Other AP	-	293	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Mainstream Schools</b>								
Top-up Funding	1,250	1,837	2,326	2,479	2,479	2,479	2,479	1.75% Uplift in 2021/22 & 2% uplift in 2022/23. Future Years' forecast to be reviewed following outcome of banding review.
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	119	193	340	165	165	165	165	Proposed changes to be consider by Schools Forum Jan 2022
Post-16 Education	2,030	2,569	2,818	2,860	2,885	2,885	2,885	3% Uplift in 2022/23 & built in the increase in numbers from 2021/22 onwards
Out of Borough	5,081	5,360	4,998	4,762	4,584	4,648	4,648	Based on 16 year-olds leaving, 40 new placements each year @£30k per place, offset by transfers into Lotus starting in September 2020 and Resource Provision from Apr 21. 3% Uplift in 2022/23.
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,028	1,056	1,346	1,531	1,531	1,531	1,531	1.75% Uplift in 2021/22 & 2% 2022/23
Access and Inclusion	508	811	1,048	1,414	1,449	1,449	1,449	1.75% Uplift in 2021/22 & 2% 2022/23
Other High Needs Central Services	767	767	772	772	772	772	772	
(Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)								
<b>Total High Needs Block Expenditure</b>	<b>22,594</b>	<b>25,613</b>	<b>27,627</b>	<b>28,608</b>	<b>28,506</b>	<b>28,590</b>	<b>28,644</b>	
<b>High Needs Block allocation</b>	<b>19,496</b>	<b>22,276</b>	<b>25,369</b>	<b>29,207</b>	<b>29,207</b>	<b>29,207</b>	<b>29,207</b>	
<b>In-year (surplus)/deficit - High Needs Block</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>(599)</b>	<b>(701)</b>	<b>(617)</b>	<b>(563)</b>	
<b>Schools Block Transfer</b>	<b>(431)</b>	<b>(109)</b>	<b>(457)</b>	<b>(494)</b>	<b>(494)</b>	<b>(494)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Other Block (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>(565)</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>	<b>(512)</b>	<b>(410)</b>	<b>(328)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>In Year (Surplus) / Deficit DSG</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>(581)</b>	<b>(1,605)</b>	<b>(1,605)</b>	<b>(1,439)</b>	<b>(563)</b>	
<b>Cumulative DSG (Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>5,768</b>	<b>5,188</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>(25)</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank

**Special School Funding  
Discussion Paper  
January 2022**

***Introduction***

In recent discussions with special schools, a number of issues around funding have been discussed. This paper address two of those issues, with options for changes to the current methodologies. Following feedback from special schools, any proposals for change would be put to the Schools Forum by the local authority.

***Additional Place Funding***

Blackpool's special schools are funded on the "place-plus" system, i.e. they receive a guaranteed £10,000 per place commissioned by the local authority each year, plus a monthly amount of top-up funding for each pupil on roll at the start of each month, in line with the banding linked to the level of pupils' needs.

In accordance with the ESFA's timescales, the number of commissioned places in special academies and free schools is agreed in the autumn term of the previous year, to come into effect from the following September.

Changing circumstances can affect the number of pupils requiring a place in a special school; the number of places required can therefore differ from the number commissioned. A local agreement has been in place with Blackpool special schools for a number of years for circumstances where the number of pupils placed exceeds the places commissioned in any one month: where the number of additional pupils is 5% or less of the commissioned places, the school receives top-up only for those additional pupils; where the number of additional pupils exceeds 5% of the commissioned places, the school also receives one-twelfth of £10,000 for that month for all pupils over the number of commissioned places.

This methodology for allocating additional place funding has recently been questioned, as it can give rise to a significant shortfall in funding, particularly for the largest special school. A number of alternative methodologies have therefore been modelled, as follows:

- Option 1 - no change - fund additional places when exceeds 5% above commissioned places
- Option 2 - fund all additional places
- Option 3 - fund additional places when exceeds 3 above commissioned places
- Option 4 - fund additional places when exceeds 2% above commissioned places

The impact on the additional place funding for each school under each of these options is set out in the table on the following page for both 2020/21 and an estimate for 2021/22. The table also shows how many additional pupils each school would take under each option with no additional funding. (NB the years refer to the local authority's financial year from April to March.)

	Highfurlong	Lotus	Park	Woodlands	Total
<b>Current commissioned places (from September 2021)</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>Option 1 - no change - fund additional places when exceeds 5% above commissioned places</b>					
- Number of additional pupils over commissioned places with no additional funding	5	2	15	6	
<b>Option 2 - fund all additional places</b>					
- Number of additional pupils over commissioned places with no additional funding	0	0	0	0	
- Extra funding that would have been allocated in 2020/21	£500	£0	£76,667	£0	£77,167
- Extra funding estimated to be allocated in 2021/22	£18,333	£0	£35,667	£0	£54,000
<b>Option 3 - fund additional places when exceeds 3 above commissioned places</b>					
- Number of additional pupils over commissioned places with no additional funding	3	3	3	3	
- Extra funding that would have been allocated in 2020/21	£0	£0	£76,667	£0	£76,667
- Extra funding estimated to be allocated in 2021/22	£10,000	£0	£35,667	£0	£45,667
<b>Option 4 - fund additional places when exceeds 2% above commissioned places</b>					
- Number of additional pupils over commissioned places with no additional funding	2	0	6	2	
- Extra funding that would have been allocated in 2020/21	£0	£0	£65,000	£0	£65,000
- Extra funding estimated to be allocated in 2021/22	£17,167	£0	£35,667	£0	£52,833

**Questions:**

- Which of these options do schools have a preference for?
- Should any clawback be actioned if pupil numbers are lower than the places commissioned?
- When should any change be actioned from: April 2022 or September 2022?

LA response – following discussion at the meeting with head teachers on 1 February 2022, it was agreed that option 4 would be implemented from April 2022, with all additional places funded in the months where the number of pupils exceeded 2% above the commissioned places.

**Early Years pupils**

Pupils in nursery classes in special schools typically attend for only part of the week. For the purpose of funding, the top-up funding is reduced in proportion to the number of days attended, and it is assumed that each pupil only occupies part of a place, which can have an impact on when the additional place funding would be triggered. For example, a child attending three days per week would be assumed to occupy 0.6 of a place, and would receive 60% of the full top-up funding, and a

child attending two days per week would be assumed to occupy 0.4 of a place and would receive 40% of the full top-up funding.

Feedback from schools suggest that this methodology can have a detrimental impact on finances, given that “spare” days from one pupil cannot necessarily be filled by another pupil, although staffing needs to be in place to meet the needs of all nursery pupils.

The following options are therefore set out for consideration:

- Option 1 – no change – fund nursery pupils in accordance with the number of days attended
- Option 2 – fund all nursery pupils as if they attend on a full-time basis
- Option 3 – fund nursery pupils who attend for three days or more on a full-time basis, and those who attend for two days or less on a 50% basis

The impact on annual funding for each school under each of these options based on the current number of nursery pupils is set out in the table below.

	Highfurlong	Lotus	Park	Woodlands	Total
<b>Current number of nursery pupils</b>	1 x 0.8 1 x 0.6 4 x 0.4 = 3 FTE	0	1 x 1.0 = 1 FTE	1 x 1.0 = 1 FTE	
<b>Option 1 - no change – fund nursery pupils in accordance with the number of days attended</b>					
- Number of FTE nursery pupils funded	3	0	1	1	
- Extra funding based on current cohort	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Option 2 - fund all nursery pupils as if they attend on a full-time basis</b>					
- Number of FTE nursery pupils funded	6	0	1	1	
- Extra funding based on current cohort	£22,603	£0	£0	£0	£22,603
<b>Option 3 - fund nursery pupils who attend for 3 days or more on a full-time basis, and those who attend for 2.5 days or less on a 50% basis</b>					
- Number of FTE nursery pupils funded	4	0	1	1	
- Extra funding based on current cohort	£6,876	£0	£0	£0	£6,876

**Questions:**

- Which of these options do schools have a preference for?
- When should any change be actioned from: April 2022 or September 2022?

LA response – following discussion at the meeting with head teachers on 1 February 2022, it was agreed that option 2 would be implemented from April 2022 in order that schools had the capacity and funding to increase children’s participation up to full-time at the appropriate time.

**Funding uplift 2022/23**

Schools will have a number of inflationary pressures on budgets next year. These will include the introduction of the Health and Social Care employer’s National Insurance levy, pay awards (some of which are still in negotiation for 2021/22), and significant increases in utility bills. Feedback from special schools would be welcomed as to the potential impact on costs in 2022/23, and difficulties that might be faced in meeting such increases within current funding levels.

LA response – following discussion at the meeting with head teachers on 1 February 2022, it was agreed that the banding of pupils would be reviewed where schools believed that they were wrongly banded. All revised bandings will take effect from April 2022. Head teachers agreed that no further uplift was required in 2022/23, given the other changes being made as a result of matters in this discussion paper.



Key Performance Indicators		Indicator Guide	Baseline	Baseline	AY 2020/21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Sept to Dec-21	Notes
			AY 2018/19	AY 2019/20					
1	Percentage of children with EHCPs placed in mainstream Primary Schools	Higher is better	14.9%	17.3%	19.4%	16.7%	17.7%	17.9%	Where a child has attended more than one school in the period, they are counted twice. Figure is likely to increase by the end of the academic year.
2	Percentage of children with EHCPs placed in mainstream Secondary schools	Higher is better	8.2%	9.8%	10.4%	11.0%	11.1%	11.3%	Where a child has attended more than one school in the period, they are counted twice. Figure is likely to increase by the end of the academic year.
3	Number of children on roll in Alternative Provision	Lower is better	157	168	170	141	144	144	AP includes any child that attends any setting that would be included in the AP census
4	Number of children on roll at the Pupil Referral Unit	Lower is better	391	320	268	137	149	171	This includes any child that was at Educational Diversity at any point within the period.
5	Number of children supported in Resourced Provision within mainstream schools	Higher is better	N/A	N/A	24	39	45	45	68 places commissioned
6	Number of children with EHCPs in Independent or Non-Maintained Special Schools	Lower is better	136	139	122	87	95	97	Where a child has attended more than one school in the period, they are counted twice.
7	Percentage of new EHCPs placed in mainstream schools	Higher is better	63.0%	82.2%	87.0%	63%	92%	80%	This includes any child attending a FE College/Sixth Form, a Nursery/Pre School, PRU, Primary School or Secondary School
8	Percentage of new EHCPs placed in Independent or Non-Maintained Special Schools	Lower is better	8.5%	3.2%	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	3.4%	
9	Percentage of children with EHCPs whose needs are met within Blackpool schools, colleges or learning centres	Higher is better	76.6%	76.8%	81.8%	86.3%	86.4%	86.5%	This includes any child with an EHCP within the period. If a child has attended more than one school, they are included more than once
10	Actual/forecast annual spend on placements in Independent or Non-Maintained Special Schools	Context	£3942k	£4559k	£4801k	£4230k	£4240k	£4240k	Figures relate to financial years
11	Permanent Exclusion Rate from Primary Schools	Lower is better	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
12	Permanent Exclusion Rate from Secondary Schools	Lower is better	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	
13	Fixed Term Exclusion Rate from Primary Schools	Lower is better	2.7%	2.0%	1.1%	0.04%	0.10%	0.50%	
14	Fixed Term Exclusion Rate from Secondary Schools	Lower is better	35.2%	18.4%	17.6%	1.9%	1.0%	6.5%	
15	Number of days lost to exclusion for children with identified SEND	Lower is better	1715	1356.5	1290	145	384.5	54	This includes children with an EHCP and those on SEN Support at the time of their exclusion
16	Number of days lost to exclusion for children with EHCPs	Lower is better	108.5	139.5	128	24.5	37.5	0	
17	Progress made by children with identified SEND and EHCPs - Primary	Higher is better							No progress scores available
18	Progress made by children with identified SEND and EHCPs - Secondary	Higher is better							No progress scores available
19	Actual/forecast DSG deficit/(surplus) by end of current year	Lower is better	£421k	£3105k	£5768k	£6980k	£5184k	£5184k	One-off windfall of £1.6m due to release of reserves
20	Projected DSG deficit/(surplus) by end of 2024/25	Lower is better	-	£531k	£1831k	£3732k	£466k	£466k	High Needs block increasing by £3.8m in 2022/23

This page is intentionally left blank

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2022

## **EARLY YEARS FUNDING FORMULA 2022/23**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 Schools Forum is asked to agree the local authority's proposed formula for Early Years funding for three- and four-year old early education, as well as the value of the Inclusion Fund for 2022/23, and to note the funding rate for two-year olds.

1.2 Purpose of the report – for consultation (local authority decision).

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To agree to the local authority's proposed formula for three- and four-year old early education for 2022/23, as outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 below. Voting is restricted to school and PVI members.

2.2 That the Early Years Inclusion fund for three- and four-year olds is apportioned at a rate of 4p per hour, equating to approximately £60k per annum.

2.3 To note the local authority's funding rate for two-year olds at £5.39 per hour.

### **3.0 Background Information**

3.1 The local authority has carried out a review of the funding for early years education, including the single funding formula for three- and four-year olds, in collaboration with the Early Years Provider Strategic Group.

3.2 The local authority is permitted to retain up to 5% of early years funding towards the cost of central expenses for administration of the grant. As a result of savings identified, the local authority is able to release £43,000 from central expenditure thereby reducing retention from 4.45% to 4.02%, thereby allowing more funding to pass to providers.

#### **Three- and four-year old funding rates**

3.3 The Department for Education has announced an increase in the Early Years funding rates for Blackpool of 17p per child per hour for 2022/23. The overall funding rate has risen to £4.67 from £4.44 in 2021/22.

3.4 The local authority proposes to pass through the full amount of the government increase to Early Years providers through the single funding formula. It is therefore proposed that the overall hourly Base Rate is increased by a total of 18p per child per hour to include the 17p additional funding, together with 1p from savings. This will bring the Base Rate up to £4.36 per hour, compared to £4.18 in 2021/22.

3.5 The 2022/23 funding proposals can be summarised as follows:

	£ per child per hour
<b>Base rate</b>	£4.36
<b>Deprivation:</b>	
Top 0-10% of deprived postcodes	16p
Top 11-20% of deprived postcodes	8p
Top 21-30% of deprived postcodes	4p
<b>Quality supplement:</b>	
Education led by staff with Early Years Teacher Status (or Early Years Professional), or other suitably qualified teacher (i.e. Qualified Teacher Status foundation stage/primary)	8p

#### **Early Years Inclusion Fund**

3.6 The Early Years Inclusion Fund is set aside from the three- and four-year old grant in order to support settings to improve early learning and development outcomes for children with additional needs. In light of higher demand for support from the Inclusion Fund in 2021/22, it is proposed for 2022/23 that the value of the fund is increased and apportioned at 4p per hour. This would equate to approximately £60k per annum, compared to the budget of £30k set aside in 2021/22. This will be funded from the savings identified in central expenditure.

#### **Two-year old funding rates**

3.7 Government funding for eligible two-year olds has increased by 21p to £5.57 per child per hour for 2022/23, from £5.36 for 2021/22. The local authority intends to pass through the full amount of the government increase, together with 1p from savings, to Early Years providers and increase the rate to £5.39, from £5.17 in 2021/22.

**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2022

## **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022/23**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To share with Schools Forum the proposals for the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2022/23.

1.2 Action required – for consultation (local authority decision).

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To agree the proposal for future use of DSG.

### **3.0 Background Information**

3.1 At its meeting in January 2022, Schools Forum was presented with the provisional estimates for expenditure against Dedicated Schools Grant in 2022/23. The forecasts for 2022/23 have been updated, and are presented at appendix 8a to this report.

#### **Schools Block**

3.2 Blackpool's allocation for the Schools Block is £98.818m. As agreed by Schools Forum in previous meetings, a transfer of 0.5% equating to £494k has been made to the High Needs Block, and the remaining growth contingency of £90k has been added into the Schools Block. The total amount allocated to schools and academies through the local schools formula is therefore £98.414m.

3.3 A small balance of £6.5k remains following the running of the formula. This relates to the difference between the allocation within DSG for business rates compared to the actual allocation through the local formula. The Department for Education had proposed a change to the treatment of business rates payments, however this will not be introduced in Blackpool in 2022/23. It is anticipated that this balance will either be recovered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, or it will be required to fund any in-year adjustments to business rates funded through the formula this year.

### **Central Schools Block**

- 3.4 The allocation in 2022/23 for this block stands at £1.196m, which is made up of £684k of ongoing funding, plus a reduced amount of £512k in respect of the historic contribution to combined budgets. The proposed allocation of the £684k can be seen at appendix 8a to this report, while the review of Children’s Centres means that the £512k is surplus to requirements, and can be used to contribute to the offsetting of the DSG deficit.

### **High Needs Block**

- 3.5 Forecast expenditure against the High Needs Block in 2022/23 amounts to £28.657m. Funding for this is made up of £28.261m from the High Needs Block, £946k from the additional Spending Review allocation, the transfer of £494k from the Schools Block, plus £49k funding for new and growing special free schools. This total of £29.751m leaves a forecast surplus of £1.093m in this funding block.
- 3.6 The earlier report on High Needs (Agenda item 6) gave further information about the longer-term forecasts for the High Needs Block, together with the actions agreed to date to seek to control expenditure in future years. These and other actions will continue to be implemented, with the objective of achieving the predicted underspend in the next and subsequent years.

### **Early Years Block**

- 3.7 Expenditure against the provisional Early Years Block allocation of £8.649m is shown as a breakeven position. The allocations will be updated once the January 2022 and the January 2023 census have been processed. The funding rates from central government have been increased by 21p per child per hour for 2-year olds, and by 17p per child per hour for 3- and 4-year olds. As outlined in the earlier agenda item, it is proposed that these increases are passed onto providers in full, with each rate supplemented by a further 1p achieved by savings against central expenditure.

### **Summary**

- 3.8 In summary, the DSG budget for 2022/23 has been set with the anticipation of an overall surplus of £1.605m, which would be offset against the cumulative DSG deficit.

#### **List of acronyms:**

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

#### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 8a – DSG Budget 2022/23

	2022/23	2021/22	Movement	% Change	Notes
	Total	Total			
<b>Schools Block</b>					
Local Schools Budget	98,178,624	94,745,090	3,433,534	3.6%	Includes £494k transfer to HN
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	18,837	18,938	(101)	-0.5%	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	19,025	17,875	1,150	6.4%	
- School Improvement	25,026	-	25,026	-	
- Education Functions (retained)	165,676	163,676	2,000	1.2%	
Business Rates reserve	6,486	-	-		
	<b>98,413,674</b>	<b>94,945,579</b>	<b>3,461,609</b>	3.6%	
<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>					
Servicing of Schools Forum	18,113	16,771	1,342	8.0%	
Licences & Subscriptions	93,018	89,217	3,801	4.3%	
School Admissions	168,407	159,962	8,445	5.3%	
Former ESG retained duties					
- Education Welfare	234,928	228,085	6,843	3.0%	
- Asset Management	68,341	63,282	5,059	8.0%	
- Statutory / Regulatory duties	101,318	86,091	15,227	17.7%	Incl. reallocation from Early Years
	<b>684,124</b>	<b>643,408</b>	<b>40,716</b>	6.3%	
<b>High Needs Block</b>					
<b>Special Schools</b>					
Place Funding	5,894,333	5,507,500	386,833	7.0%	
Top-up Funding	4,529,118	3,917,947	611,171	15.6%	
<b>Total Special Schools</b>	<b>10,423,451</b>	<b>9,425,447</b>	<b>998,004</b>	10.6%	
<b>Resource Provision</b>					
Place Funding	518,667	760,000	(241,333)	-31.8%	Closure of Boundary / inclusion of
Top-up Funding	530,183	585,180	(54,997)	-9.4%	part-funding in school budgets
<b>Total Resource Provision</b>	<b>1,048,850</b>	<b>1,345,180</b>	<b>(296,330)</b>	-22.0%	
<b>Alternative Provision</b>					
Place Funding	1,850,000	1,912,500	(62,500)	-3.3%	
Top-up Funding	1,251,650	1,237,418	14,232	1.2%	
Other AP Provision	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%	
<b>Total Alternative Provision</b>	<b>3,201,650</b>	<b>3,249,918</b>	<b>(48,268)</b>	-1.5%	
<b>Mainstream Schools</b>					
Top-up Funding	2,479,470	2,352,815	126,655	5.4%	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	165,000	165,175	(175)	-0.1%	
<b>Total top-up for Mainstream Schools</b>	<b>2,644,470</b>	<b>2,517,990</b>	<b>126,480</b>	5.0%	
Post-16 Education	2,859,831	2,514,294	345,537	13.7%	
Out of Borough	4,761,788	4,993,881	(232,093)	-4.6%	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,531,339	1,367,612	163,727	12.0%	2 X advisory Teachers from PRU
Access and Inclusion	1,414,108	940,541	473,567	50.4%	£400k allocation for early help
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	771,865	771,865	-	0.0%	
	<b>28,657,352</b>	<b>27,126,728</b>	<b>1,530,624</b>	5.6%	
<b>Early Years Block</b>					
2 Year Old Grants	1,499,590	1,664,616	(165,026)	-9.9%	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,578,405	6,551,647	26,758	0.4%	
Early Years Pupil Premium	100,083	102,171	(2,088)	-2.0%	
Disability Access Fund	69,600	50,430	19,170	38.0%	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	60,000	30,000	30,000	100.0%	
Other Early Years Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Training, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	341,000	383,918	(42,918)	-11.2%	Incl. reallocation to Central Schools Services
	<b>8,648,678</b>	<b>8,782,782</b>	<b>(134,104)</b>	-1.5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,403,828</b>	<b>131,498,497</b>	<b>4,898,845</b>	3.7%	
<b>DSG</b>	<b>(137,870,110)</b>	<b>(130,747,483)</b>	<b>(7,122,627)</b>	5.4%	
<b>ESFA special free school funding</b>	<b>(49,333)</b>	<b>(333,333)</b>	<b>284,000</b>		
<b>Transfer from growth contingency</b>	<b>(89,767)</b>	<b>(90,729)</b>	<b>962</b>		
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations</b>	<b>(138,009,210)</b>	<b>(131,171,545)</b>	<b>(6,837,665)</b>		
<b>Deficit / (Surplus)</b>	<b>(1,605,382)</b>	<b>326,952</b>	<b>(1,938,820)</b>		

	Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
Original DSG Allocations 2022/23	98,817,997	1,196,124	28,261,139	8,648,678	136,923,938
Additional allocation - Spending Review 2021	-	-	946,172	-	946,172
Proposed transfers between blocks	(494,090)	-	494,090	-	-
ESFA special free school funding	-	-	49,333	-	49,333
Transfer from growth contingency	89,767	-	-	-	89,767
	98,413,674	1,196,124	29,750,734	8,648,678	138,009,210
Estimated spend as above	98,413,674	684,124	28,657,352	8,648,678	136,403,828
Reduction/(addition) to cumulative DSG deficit	-	512,000	1,093,382	-	1,605,382

This page is intentionally left blank



**Report to:** **SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**Relevant Officer:** Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources  
**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2022

## COVID FUNDING UPDATE

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To inform Schools Forum of updates since the last meeting regarding financial support provided in the education sector during the Covid-19 outbreak.

1.2 Action required – for information.

### 2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 To note the contents of the report.

2.2 Given that Covid-19 funding streams for schools are drawing to a close, it is proposed that updates to Schools Forum on this topic can now end.

### 3.0 Background Information:

3.1 Updates on COVID financial support for the education sector have previously been given to Schools Forum in respect of the following funding streams:

- Catch-up premium: coronavirus (Covid-19)
- National Tutoring Programme
- Recovery Premium
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) workforce fund for schools
- Exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (Covid-19)
- Providing school meals during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak
- Coronavirus Job retention scheme Furlough
- Free early education entitlements funding during coronavirus (Covid-19)
- National Testing programme for Schools and Colleges
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) mass testing for Schools and Colleges
- Coronavirus (Covid-19) no recourse to public funds: free school meals

- 3.2 Since the last meeting, updates have been announced around the following funding streams for schools:

***In-school vaccination programme and air cleaning units***

- 3.3 In January 2022, the Government announced £8 million of funding from NHS England to enable schools to support the in-school vaccination programme, and to provide air cleaning units for classrooms and teaching spaces in early years settings, schools and colleges.

- 3.4 Funding for the vaccine programme will provide secondary schools, special schools and alternative provision with a one-off payment of £1,000 plus £1.14 for each pupil aged between 12 and 15. School-level allocations and terms and conditions of the grant can be found at the following link:

[COVID-19 12 to 15 vaccination programme funding for schools: conditions of funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-12-to-15-vaccination-programme-funding-for-schools-conditions-of-funding)

***National Tutoring Programme***

- 3.5 In March 2022, the Department for Education added new guidance for local authorities and virtual school heads on school-led tutoring for looked after children. The guidance can be found at the following link:

[School-led tutoring grant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-led-tutoring-grant)

***National Testing programme for Schools and Colleges***

- 3.6 Schools and academies with secondary age pupils, along with colleges and other eligible establishments, were able to submit claims for exceptional premises costs incurred during the mass testing of pupils and students on their return in January 2022. The window to claim closed on 20 February 2022.

[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) mass testing funding for schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-mass-testing-funding-for-schools-and-colleges)

## Glossary

ACA	Area Cost Adjustment
AP	Alternative Provision
ASCL	Association of School and College Leaders
AtC	Achievement through Collaboration
ATL	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
BEBCMAT	Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi-Academy Trust
BFC	Blackpool Football Club
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CJRS	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
CSSB	Central Schools Services Block
DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHE	Elective Home Education
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
ESG	Education Services Grant
EY	Early Years
FCAT	Fylde Coast Academy Trust
FSM	Free School Meals
FSM6	Free School Meals Ever 6
GAG	General Annual Grant
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HNB	High Needs Block
IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index
KS1/2/3/4	Key Stage 1/2/3/4
LA	Local Authority
LGFS	Local Government Finance Settlement
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
MFG	Minimum Funding Guarantee
MPPF	Minimum per-pupil funding
MTFP	Medium Term Financial Plan
NAHT	National Association of Head Teachers

# Glossary

NASUWT	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
NEU	National Education Union
NFF	National Funding Formula
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
NUT	National Union of Teachers
NW	North West
PEX	Permanent Exclusion
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PTA	Professional Teaching Association
PUF	Primary Unit of Funding
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector
RPA	Risk Protection Arrangement
RPIX	Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SERF	Special Education Resource Facility
SSA	School Support Assistant
SSA	Special Support Assistant
SUF	Secondary Unit of Funding
TUC	Trades Union Congress
VAT	Value Added Tax