

Blackpool Council

2 October 2018

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 9 October 2018 at 9.15 am to 12.15pm
in Theatre, @The Grange (formally the City Learning Centre), Bathurst Avenue,
Blackpool, FY3 7RW

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 LAST MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2018 (Pages 1 - 10)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2018 as a true and correct record.

4 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

To consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman for the remaining period.

5 REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION

There were no proposed changes to the Membership and Constitution for 2018/19 so recommended that the document remains unchanged.

6 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE (Pages 11 - 14)

Lynn Donkin, Consultant in Public Health, to provide a written update to the Forum on recent Public Health items.

7 LOCAL AUTHORITY UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards Safeguarding and Inclusion, to provide a verbal update to the Forum on relevant Local Authority developments – including the School Safeguarding Adviser role.

8 ACADEMY AND FREE SCHOOL UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards Safeguarding and Inclusion, to provide a verbal update to the Forum on relevant Academy and Free School developments.

9 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE (Pages 15 - 20)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources, to provide a written report including updates from the working group and on the new Special Free School.

10 INCLUSION UPDATE (Pages 21 - 24)

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards Safeguarding and Inclusion, to provide a written update on the Illuminate Funding criteria and a verbal update including the Devolution of Alternative Provision Funding.

11 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2018/2019 (Pages 25 - 28)

Mark Golden, Finance Manager, to provide a written update to the Forum.

12 MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT FACTOR (Pages 29 - 30)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources, to provide a written update.

13 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2019/2020 PROPOSALS (Pages 31 - 36)

Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager, to provide a written update.

14 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2019

The Forum to note the dates for the Schools Forum Meetings in 2019:

- Tuesday 15 January 2019
- Tuesday 12 March 2019
- Tuesday 18 June 2019
- Tuesday 8 October 2019

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum to note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 9.15am, @ The Grange (formerly the City Learning Centre), Bathurst Avenue, Blackpool, FY3 7RW.

Venue information:

Ground floor meeting room, accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Danielle Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: 01253 477202, e-mail 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

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Present:

Primary School Head Teachers/Representatives

Ms J Hirst, Bispham Endowed (Chairman)

Ms E Allen, St John Vianney

Primary School Governor Representative

Ms M Lonican, School Governor representative

Academy School Representatives

Ms J Carroll, Roseacre

Mr S Brennand, Unity

Ms T Harrison, Thames

Mr D Medcalf, St Georges

Mr N Toyne, Devonshire

Ms S Jackson, Highfield (on behalf of H McKenzie OBE)

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

Special School Academy Representative

Ms S Fielder, Park Academy

Non-Schools Members

Ms A Baines, Staff/Teacher Associations

Mr D Dickinson, Staff/Teacher Associations

Mr R Rendell, Early Years Strategic Group

Pupil Referral Unit

Ms W Casson, Education Diversity

Post 16

Mr S Hughes, Blackpool and the Fylde College

In Attendance:

Cllr G Cain, Cabinet Secretary (Resilient Communities) (on behalf of Cllr K Benson)

Ms D Booth, Director of Children's Services (ITEM 4)

Mrs L Donkin, Consultant in Public Health

Ms M Foster, Head of Early Help (ITEM 4)

Mr M Golden, Finance Manager

Ms S McCartan, Service Manager, Early Help (ITEM 4)

Mr P Sharples, School Funding and PFI Manager

Mr P Thompson, Head of SEND

Ms N Turner, Integrated Commissioning Manager (ITEM 4)

Mr P Turner, Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Mrs H Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Mrs D Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser (minutes)

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Introductions were made and apologies for absence were received from Rosie Sycamore, Special School Maintained Representative and Roger Farley, Academy School Headteacher Representative.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tracey Harrison, Thames Primary School, declared an interest in Item 4, Children's Centres Consultation, the nature of the interest was the connection between Thames Primary School and Thames Children's Centre.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

It was reported that Stanley Primary School would not convert to an academy in contrast to the minutes.

It was reported by Richard Rendall, Early Years, that Better Start had undertaken quarterly quality mark monitoring for early years settings up to May 2018. It was noted that there were 40 settings on the Ofsted Early Years register with provision for under five's and 14 schools with pre-school provision not separately registered with Ofsted, totalling 54 settings. Three settings had so far achieved a quality mark, 22 were working towards the mark and a further six considering the process. It was reported that the Quality Marks were appreciated by Ofsted.

4 CHILDREN'S CENTRES CONSULTATION

Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services, Nicola Turner, Integrated Commissioning Manager and Sara McCartan, Service Manager, Early Help provided an update on the commissioning review of school based children's centres. The review considered the provision in Children's Centres. It was noted that during the development of a final recommendations report, where the local and national context had been considered, extensive consultation had taken place. The model offer had been identified and was discussed. The implications on staffing were also discussed and indicated that redundancies were expected but would be kept to a minimum, with alternative options of employment offered where possible. It was noted that the anticipated savings from the new model would realise the necessary savings required to offset the future reduction in funding, and would also allow for any redundancy and pension strain costs to be met.

It was commented that the delivery options presented in the review were fair and showed the best value for money for retaining services.

It was commented that the update had provided more positive and creative options for school based children's centres than had previously been discussed and that the best

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018

options for families were welcomed. On behalf of the Schools Forum, thanks and recognition were extended to those involved.

The forum noted the report.

(Diane Booth, Sara McCartan, Moya Foster and Nicola Turner left the meeting)

5 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Lynn Donkin, Consultant in Public Health, reported on various initiatives from Public Health since the previous meeting. The Give Up Loving Pop (GULP) campaign ran in April 2018 and encouraged school children to accumulate the most pop free days over the 21 day challenge, with the winner receiving a reward. A similar secondary school campaign would be developed in conjunction with Headstart. Furthermore, a campaign for under five's to promote good oral health and the choice of water or milk to drink had run across the North West with a localised version anticipated to be launched in June 2018.

A new Health visiting service for Blackpool was introduced in April 2018, to enable families in Blackpool to receive an enhanced universal offer to look to reduce health inequalities in communities. As a part of the health visiting transformation plan, the school readiness pilot would run until July 2018 to support the transition to school, following the pilot, the roll out of the initiative would be during the next academic year.

In relation to oral health, an increase in 'free from dental decay' was noted rising from 57.5% to 75.1% following a twelve month scheme which included supervised brushing and promotion of dental visibility in the community. Furthermore, diet and nutrition awareness were assisting with dental health.

Finally, Lynn Donkin advised that Public Health England had alerted authorities to outbreaks of measles in several areas in the UK. Although a good uptake of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine was apparent in Blackpool, advice was to promote the signs of measles and the vaccine option available. Information had been circulated to schools, it was also noted that the vaccine was available to adults.

In response to a question, it was recognised that a combination of initiatives contributed to the improvements in oral health as well as a culture change to better promote oral health. It was further asked whether secondary schools would be included in data collection on oral health. Lynn Donkin confirmed that data on 12 year olds was collected every two to four years; anecdotally, it was reported that secondary school children seemed to be making more healthy choices and promoting better choices should be encouraged.

It was noted that there had been a Public Health Working Group which included school representatives and public health staff to ensure schools were kept informed. It had been agreed that the working group was no longer required. Public Health updates would continue to come through Schools Forum and if necessary through the Primary/Special and Secondary Headteacher groups.

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The Forum noted the report.

(Lynn Donkin left the meeting)

6 LOCAL AUTHORITY UPDATE

Due to the appointment of Paul Turner to the role of Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion, a vacancy was available for the Safeguarding Advisor role. As a Schools Forum funded post, members were asked to consider whether they would like to re-appoint to the role and at what pay scale? It was acknowledged that the role would maintain a level of responsibility but the number of tasks would decrease. It was noted that the role should be fair and equitable and maintain the service and standard required by schools. It was agreed that a draft job description would be developed for consideration by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and relevant Council officers.

Paul Turner reported that the Early Years review was near completion. It was further noted that the Attendance Strategy would require review and consultation as it had last been updated in 2014. Consideration would be given to prosecutions for attendance and also identifying the right process for both schools and families in relation to attendance. The Pupil Welfare Service was scheduled to be looked at and updated.

It was noted that Project Search, a project to provide people with learning difficulties internships at the Local Authority was continuing, providing the options to learn and the possibility to access employment.

It was recognised that the Local Authority were looking to extend their administration and support for children missing from education. It was also noted that a Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) with an education specialism would visit the Local Authority during a Children's Services Ofsted inspection and was noted that schools may be visited during this type of inspection, with a focus upon children on part time timetables.

Data Protection Officer to support schools had been appointed. Data management queries from Schools could be sent to Paul Turner until the responsible officer commenced in post in September 2018.

The Forum noted the update.

The Forum agreed:

- A draft job description for the Safeguarding Advisor role would be developed for consideration by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and relevant Council officers (Paul Turner).

7 ACADEMY AND FREE SCHOOL UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion, reported that Stuart Aris would continue as Head Teacher at the Langdale Academy. It was noted that the Armfield Free School was on schedule to open in September 2018.

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The Forum noted the update.

8 INCLUSION UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion, informed members of the options available to reduce the High Needs Block spend in relation to Alternative Provision.

The report highlighted the forecast for 2018-2019 numbers to stay below 258 places with a permanent target of 200 Pupil Referral Unit (PPU) places. A Right to Succeed Programme would work with 100 pupils to prevent exclusion. A proposal by The Alternative School (TAS) for the commissioning of places was presented. The Alternative Provision devolution was a trial to allow schools to procure, commission or establish alternative provision within their schools or the local area to benefit Blackpool children.

Paul Turner sought views from the Schools Forum on Alternative Provision as the Local Authority would not commission services on behalf of schools without consultation. It was noted that the definition of Alternative Provision was anything not in a mainstream setting and did not include elective home educated.

For the Alternative Provision devolution, the two year High Needs pilot would allow schools to have more input in Alternative Provision and decide whether that worked in Blackpool. The Forum were asked to agree in principle to trial a different way to spend the Alternative Provision budget and decide how to monitor the spending. The pilot would attract additional funding from the Opportunity Area and the Schools Forum would quality assure the process.

Comments from members indicated that the additional funding would be welcomed. Concerns that some issues may not be seen in schools and that the overspend would pass from High Needs budget to schools budget were raised. Hilary Wood commented that the whole high needs budget would not be included but the extra money was available and consideration could be given to how it was used.

It was recognised that the funding should be used to create the best outcomes for children.

It was recognised that The Alternative School (TAS) had operated in Blackpool since 2016 and following discussion on Alternative Provision, they submitted their report for consideration.

It was recognised that the pilot would help to identify needs. Some members were concerned that Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) were opposed to the pilot. It was noted that Paul Turner would meet with FCAT representative to discuss the options further.

In response to a query relating to home and hospital provision, it was recognised that home and hospital provision was captured in the pupil referral unit numbers.

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Implications on the provision at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) were raised as a concern including possible staffing reduction implications and loss of staffing expertise. It was noted that the PRU was working with the Local Authority to establish needs. Paul Turner commented that the pilot would recognise the capacity of current provision to achieve preferred outcomes.

It was noted that the Right to Succeed programme would go ahead as it had been funded.

The forum agreed:

- To support the Alternative Provision pilot.
- That FCAT did not agree to the pilot but would engage with the process.

9 ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Paul Turner, Head of Schools, Safeguarding and Inclusion, reported the pupil numbers who were electively home educated. It was recognised that there would be more quality assurance of the elective home education process, it was further noted that there would be no support available for elective home education over the statutory requirements.

It was commented that accountability was welcomed and suggested that the Local Authority may recommend the original school as a return destination. It was acknowledged that attendance figures may be affected for persistent absentees in the rare chance that a school attendance order would need to be pursued, for children who had elected for home education but it was deemed to be unsuitable. Paul Turner acknowledged that this was a part of the process.

The Forum noted the report.

10 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources, provided an update on the developments with various aspects of High Needs funding.

The High Needs Funding Sub-group had highlighted that more pupils with additional needs would need to be supported in mainstream settings if costs were to be reduced and projects to address these issues had begun. The Sub-group also noted that where the SENCo in a school was a part of the senior leadership team, there was more potential for positive changes in relation to inclusion and support. It was noted that the Sub-group planned to analyse unit cost information relating to different types of placement at their June 2018 meeting.

In relation to the New Special Free School, it was noted that the opening date was unlikely to be before January 2020 rather than September 2019 as anticipated.

In relation to charging for permanent exclusions, the Forum was asked to consider increased charges in line with the increased value of factors in the 2018/19 school funding formula.

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The Forum members voted on the proposal with eight for the proposal, one against and one abstained.

The Forum was asked to consider reverting to the previous methodology, whereby a full year's costs were charged to the excluding school, apart from Year 11 pupils, where the charge would be pro rata'd to the end of the academic year. The forum members voted on the proposal with five against, none in favour and five abstained.

In relation to exceptional circumstances funding, the forum was asked to approve proposals to recalibrate the percentage required for high cost places to 20% of the notional SEN budget, compared to 35% in 2017-2018. The forum agreed to the proposal and to review the percentage each year.

The Forum noted that report.

11 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

11a Year End Budget Monitoring 2017/2018

Mark Golden, Finance Manager, provided an update on the budget position of the Dedicated Schools Grant for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2018 and the Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 31 March 2018.

Significant pressures on the High Needs Block were noted. The High Needs over spend had reduced since last reported in January 2017 by £291,000 from £849,000 to £558,000. It was further noted that the Schools Block and Early Years Block forecasted an under spend of £32,000 and an overspend of £6,000 respectively representing an improvement of £30,000 since January.

An impact on the reserves was noted as £25,677 year end surplus.

The Forum noted the report.

11b Initial Budget Position 2018/2019

Mark Golden, Finance Manager, provided a report on the budget position of the 2018-2019 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 May 2018 and the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 31 May 2018.

It was noted that the report reflected the budgets as approved at the March 2018 Schools Forum. Early monitoring suggested the main pressures would derive from the High Needs block and three areas of concern were highlighted as at May 2018. The numbers at the PRU were higher than planned with a forecast overspend of £95,000; Beaumont College had increased fees by 3% resulting in a £50,000 overspend within the post 16 budget; additional growth of £460,000 was added to the out of borough budget based on spend and demand in 2017-2018, however, the funding had already been used due to increased numbers during the summer term, therefore new places from September 2018 would create an over spend.

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One comment requested that schools look to work with the Local Authority to try to meet the additional needs of the child within school and provide reassurance to the parents that their child's needs could be met. Forum members requested clear guidance as to what funding was available and it was agreed that a flowchart would be produced and circulated. Schools also requested guidance on how to provide support through the assessment process. It was noted that exceptional circumstances funding was £119,000 in the Dedicated Schools Grant budget.

The Forum noted the report.

The forum agreed:

- That schools would promote the message to retain Blackpool Children in Blackpool schools where possible.
- That a funding flowchart be developed and circulated to schools to outline funding options within mainstream settings. (Phil Thompson)

12 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA DEVELOPMENTS

Paul Sharples, Schools Funding and PFI Manager, provided an update on recent working groups and discussions held by the Department for Education regarding undefined elements of the national schools funding formula. The two workshops included Pupil Growth and Mobility funding factors.

It was reported that Schools Forums can agree to set aside a contingency from the Dedicated Schools Grant to support schools that were permanently expanding, in Blackpool Mereside Academy was funded. It was also reported that inherent growth within the formula, in Blackpool, Gateway Academy and Armfield Free School were included as estimated numbers at new schools continue to expand.

It was noted that Mobility was a factor that was optional for Schools Forums and only 67 of the 152 local authorities chose to use it in 2017-2018. In January 2018, Schools Forum agreed to continue to use the Mobility factor to allocate funding to Blackpool schools.

Hilary Wood reported that at the Department for Education Workshop held on 18 June 2018, the National Formula was discussed and further details for 2019/20 were given. There will be a new methodology for allocating growth funding, and full details would be issued in July 2018. While a new methodology for mobility funding was under consideration, this was unlikely to be implemented in 2019/20. The information to be published in July 2018 would also contain further details about the Department for Education's plans for 2020/2021.

It was noted that there would be a Hospital Education consultation in Autumn 2018.

The Forum noted the report.

13 SCHEME FOR FINANCING BLACKPOOL SCHOOLS

Paul Sharples, Schools Funding and PFI Manager, outlined changes to the Department for Education guidance and requested approval on the revisions highlighted in Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools from maintained schools representatives.

The Forum agreed:

To adopt the outlined changes to the Department for Education guidance and requested approval on the revisions outlined in Blackpool's Scheme for Financing Schools.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 9 October 2018.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 12.15pm)

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

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Lynn Donkin, Consultant in Public Health
Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the Schools Forum with an update on relevant items from Blackpool Council's Public Health Directorate. This update brings the following items to the group's attention:

- PSHE Education consultation on guidelines open to 7 November 2018
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidance relevant to public health activities in primary schools including National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), vaccinations, oral health surveys
- Our Healthy Year – updates Change 4 Life materials released by PHE
- Blackpool Council's GULP campaign 2018

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To receive this update and note the items.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 PSHE

From September 2020 every pupil in England will be guaranteed a PSHE education that covers health education (HE) and relationships education (RE) (in all primary schools) / health education and relationships and sex education (RSE) (in all secondary schools), with these subjects being introduced into the curriculum. The guidelines are currently out for consultation (closing 7 November 2018).

RE and RSE must be taught in all maintained schools, academies and independent schools (including Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and special schools).

All schools, except independent schools, must make provision for Health Education, which covers both physical health and mental wellbeing.

Relationships Education in Primary schools will focus on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other peers and adults.

Relationships and sex education in Secondary schools will aim to give young people the

information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage, civil partnership or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships

Physical health and mental wellbeing - The aim of teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing is to give them the information that they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, recognise issues in themselves and others and, when issues arise, seek support as early as possible from appropriate sources.

Following the success of the Secondary School PSHE programme in 2014-16, Public Health have funded the post of a Primary PSHE Support Officer for two years to assist Primary schools in preparing for the introduction of PSHE into the curriculum. Nicole Ronson started in post earlier this month and will be contacting all Primary schools to undertake an audit of their current PSHE provision, map it against the proposed curriculum, and offer support to fill in any gaps. This will include preparing lesson plans / funding PSHE training and membership / setting up and chairing a PSHE Leads Forum where Leads can share best practice / funding the cost of replacement staff to allow PSHE Leads to attend training and Forums.

3.2 **GDPR**

Public Health England will shortly be writing out to all schools.

The letter provides advice on the lawful basis under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for children's personal information to be used for height and weight measurements (NCMP), dental surveys and vaccinations in primary schools.

The key message is that **no change** is needed to the current ways in which children's personal information is used and shared for these primary school health data collections to be lawful under the GDPR.

No change is needed to the current ways in which parents are informed of the primary school health data collections for these to be lawful under the GDPR. A more detailed explanation for each of the collections is provided in the letter.

3.3 **Our Healthy Year - C4L Campaign**

Our Healthy Year is a set of Change4Life resources designed to support teachers, school nurses and parents of Reception and Year 6 children to lead healthier lives and support them in the years in which they are weighed and measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme.

The curriculum-linked Our Healthy Year printed resources include:

- Reception teacher toolkit
- Year 6 teacher toolkit
- Inspiration for the whole school leaflet
- Classroom Charter poster
- Stickers

The printed materials are supported by nearly 40 digital resources which teachers can download from the Change4Life School Zone. These include activity sheets, presentations and take home materials. Schools can order the Reception and Year 6 toolkit, as well as the stickers while stocks last.

3.4 **GULP Campaign in Primary Schools**

The GULP campaign was once again run by Fit2Go in the Primary schools this year, with both Years 4 and 5 taking part. Over 1400 children took part in the challenge (to remain pop-free for 21 days).

One class from each year with the most 'pop-free' days won a visit to the High Ropes at Stanley Park.

Year 4 winners were Stanley Primary

Year 5 winners were Holy Family

The class teachers were very excited to have won and were looking forward to their visit to the High Ropes.

We are hoping to run the challenge again next year – to include Years 4,5 and 6.

List of acronyms:

NCMP – National Child Measurement Programme

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

HE – Health Education

RE – Relationships Education

RSE – Relationships and Sex Education

PRU – Pupil Referral Unit

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

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.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note and discuss the contents of this report.

3.0 Background Information

Update from High Needs Funding Working Group

3.1 As with many areas around the country, Blackpool is currently experiencing financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. A three-year plan was created in advance of the current financial year, which sought to bring expenditure within available funding by 2020/21. A sub-group of the Forum was established to monitor the plan, and discuss emerging issues and potential solutions.

3.2 The sub-group has met twice since the last Schools Forum meeting. The three-year plan has been revised to take account of recent activity (see Appendix to this report). The changes since the original version can be summarised as follows:

- Slippage in the planned opening date of the new special free school from September 2019 to January 2020, with a phased admission of new pupils. This is due to a delay by the Department for Education in announcing the successful proposers.
- Additional income in respect to places at the new special free school. Recent information has clarified that the Education, Skills and Funding Agency currently hold a separate pot from which special free school places are funded. This is being brought into the main funding arrangements, but new places will be matched with a transfer into local authorities' baselines from the separate pot.
- A review of forecast numbers at special schools, with significant pressure on places at Park and Highfurlong.

- A review of forecast numbers at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), with a slower than planned reduction in numbers. This is in part due to the planned placement in the PRU of a number of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans who would otherwise have been placed in more expensive Out of Borough schools.
 - An increase in post-16 costs due to provider price increases.
 - Increases in Out of Borough costs due to demand pressures as well as the delayed opening of the new special free school.
 - Savings in the current year as a result of the vacant School Safeguarding Adviser post.
- 3.3 The combination of the above has resulted in the forecast gap between High Needs income and expenditure in 2018/19 increasing to c.£1.3m, of which £800k has been met by the transfer of funding from the Schools Block and match-funding from the Council. The gap in 2019/20 is forecast to increase to £989k, with a break-even position being reached by 2020/21.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the assumptions underpinning the three-year plan remain highly ambitious, particularly with respect to numbers of pupils in specialist places.
- 3.5 The Working Group discussed that there are positive signs that the number of pupils in the PRU will be successfully reduced over time, but that the biggest risk currently lies with the ability to control the number of pupils in specialist placements. Recently published data from the January 2018 Census shows that, in Blackpool, 79% of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans are placed in specialist provision. This has increased from 72% the previous year, and is significantly higher than the national proportion which stands at only 50%. Unless this trend is reversed, the assumptions in the three-year plan will fail to be achieved, and a break-even position will not prove possible.
- 3.6 The Working Group considered how the proportion of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in mainstream schools might be influenced. There was broad acknowledgement that this would require staff development, and the following options were discussed:
- Outreach support is available from Park School via the Teaching School Alliance.
 - Speech and language support is available from Park School and from Educational Diversity.
 - Could Educational Diversity staff be deployed into schools to use their expertise to support inclusion units?
 - How can more schools be encouraged to engage in development for their staff with respect to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?
 - SENCOs could be offered work experience opportunities at Park School.

- 3.7 It was agreed that the influence of Senior Leadership Teams within schools is vital if whole-school change is to be effected. It will be essential to raise the profile of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities through the School Improvement Board so that system-wide solutions can be sought.

New special free school

- 3.8 Plans for the new special free school are progressing well. The Education, Skills and Funding Agency has approved the self-delivery of the scheme by Blackpool Council, and design work is now well underway. Blackburn Central High School with Crosshill are in the process of establishing a multi-academy trust, and it has been decided that the new school will be named Lotus School.

List of acronyms:

PRU – Pupil Referral Unit

List of Appendices:

Appendix 9A – High Needs budget medium-term financial plan

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Service	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Notes Current Version	Notes from MTFP Version 1
	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s		
High Needs Block						
New Free School (opening January 2020 - c£1m pa when full)	-	-	124	863	Assumes 24 commissioned places from January 2020, of which 12 will be filled from January 2020 and 24 from April 2020, then 48 places from September 2020	Assumes 24 places from September 2019 and 48 places from September 2020
Special Schools						
Place Funding	3,880	4,093	4,151	4,130	April 2018 to August 2018 234 (P), 63 (HF) - an increase of 9 since 2017/18 and 100 (W); from September 2019 255 (P) - an increase of 21, 63 (HF) and 100 (W); from September 2020 250 (P), 63 (HF) and 100 (W)	Includes additional 9 places commissioned at Highfurlong from April 2018 and additional 21 places at Park from September 2018 (reducing by 5 places from September 2019)
Top-up Funding	2,151	2,564	2,528	2,646	Based on actual numbers in September 2018 of 271 (P), 74 (HF) and 96 (W); forecast numbers in September 2019 of 262 (P), 76 (HF) and 104 (W); forecast numbers in September 2020 of 254 (P), 80 (HF) and 107 (W)	
SERFs						
Place Funding	500	395	320	320	Highfield and Matron SERFs decommissioned from September 2018	Highfield and Matron SERFs decommissioned from September 2018
Top-up Funding	280	140	105	105	Highfield and Marton SERFs decommissioned from September 2018	Highfield and Marton SERFs decommissioned from September 2018
Transport	120	77	77	77		
Pupil Referral Units						
Place Funding	2,580	2,580	2,388	2,104	Reduced from 258 places to 225 from September 2019 and 200 from September 2020	Reduced from 258 places to 225 from September 2019 and 200 from September 2020
Top-up Funding	1,436	1,273	1,039	987	Includes actual top-up payment for Summer Term 2018, then forecast reduced to 225 places from September 2018 and 200 from September 2019	Reduced from 283 places to 258 from April 2018, 200 from September 2018, 175 from September 2019 and 150 from September 2020
Mainstream Schools						
Top-up Funding	777	810	833	833	SSA Manager post disestablished (part of SEN restructure), offset by increase in support following decommissioning of SERFs	SSA Manager post disestablished (part of SEN restructure), offset by increase in support following decommissioning of SERFs
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	57	119	163	163	Increase in funding to Highfield and Marton following decommissioning of SERFs	Increase in funding to Highfield and Marton following decommissioning of SERFs
Post-16 Education	1,725	1,796	1,796	1,796	Increase in proportion of Head of SEN post allocated to HNB	Increase in proportion of Head of SEN post allocated to HNB
Out of Borough	3,225	4,246	4,293	3,134	Based on 16 year-olds leaving, and 20 new placements each year @£35k per place, offset by transfers into new Free School starting in January 2020	Based on 16 year-olds leaving, and 20 new placements each year @£35k per place, offset by transfers into new Free School starting in September 2019
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,070	1,092	1,082	1,082	SEN restructure partially offset by £25k Park SLA finishing September 2018	SEN restructure partially offset by £25k Park SLA finishing September 2018
Access and Inclusion	267	300	335	335	Restructure savings offset by School Safeguarding Advisor post	Restructure savings offset by School Safeguarding Advisor post
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	772	772	772	772		
Total High Needs Block Expenditure	18,840	20,256	20,006	19,347		

Available High Needs Block funding 18,840 18,957 19,017 19,337 Includes additional funding for new Special Free School

(Surplus) / Shortfall - 1,299 989 10

(Surplus) / Shortfall in MTFP Version 1 800 642 28

Movement 499 347 (18)

Analysis of movement since Version 1

New Free School opening January 2020 rather than April 2020, with slower take-up of places	-	(306)	-
Only give Free School place funding for 24 places from January 2020 to August 2020	-	(60)	(100)
Increase in OOB costs due to delay in Free School opening	-	385	-
Additional DSG funding for new Special Free School	-	(60)	(380)
Increase in forecast PRU numbers	166	129	205
Increase in forecast Special School numbers	111	2	-
Out of Borough additional forecast pressure as at Month 5 2018/19	207	207	207
School Safeguarding Advisor vacancy savings	(35)	-	-
Post-16 increase in Beaumont College fees	50	50	50
	499	347	(18)

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Relevant Officer: Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards Safeguarding and Inclusion

Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

ILLUMINATE FUNDING CRITERIA

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an outline proposal to the Forum about how the criteria could be applied and for a decision to be made about the application of the formula.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree that additional funding (a one off payment of £2,000) will be considered by for those accessing a place and on a primary or secondary school or academy roll who meet a minimum of 2 of the following criteria:-

- 1) Where projections identified at the time of an admission request are that there will be very poor examination attainment Progress 8 (-2) for secondary or working below the expected standards (BLW) at end of Key Stage 1 for primary.
- 2) A casual (non-essential) school transfer in the previous two school terms. This is a move instigated by the parent / carer which was not necessary*.
- 3) Previous attendance at 80% or below (not including any non-attendance generated by in-house delays –whilst an admission request is under consideration).
- 4) Prosecution for non-attendance within the previous 12 months.
- 5) Previous Elective Home Education of 1 term or more (whilst resident within another local authority area).
- 6) Two or more fixed period exclusions in the term prior to admission.
- 7) Previous and ongoing involvement of 2 (or more) recognised intervention or support agencies (external to what the school or academy would normally

provide).

**School moves accepted as being necessary could include those where a family moved address and could not easily access the original school or academy (the statutory travel distances of 2 or 3 miles will be a consideration); where a family moved from one local authority area to another; where a managed move was agreed and successful; if a permanent exclusion necessitated a different school. (Evidence will be gathered prior to applications for funding being considered).*

2.2 It is recommended that consideration of additional funding is applied to:-

- New to area Year 6 and 11 students as a priority.
- New to area Year 5 and 10 students requiring a summer term placement as a priority.
- Other new to area Year 5 and Year 10 students exceptionally.
- Key stage 2 and 4 returning from Education Diversity - where the student has not previously been on roll at any Blackpool primary or secondary school or academy (unless the pupil was previously permanently excluded).
- Blackpool resident children and students only in all categories.

2.3 The funding must be used by the school or academy to support the specific child or student to whom it is allocated. It is recommended that the funding is transferred as soon as possible when (or soon after) the student is admitted. If the student fails to attend or is permanently excluded (within 1 school term) the funding must be reimbursed. This will either be in full or pro-rata depending on the circumstances (if support has been arranged or purchased and monies paid are non-refundable this will be taken into account). All allocations are one-off payments at point of admission with no repeat funding for the same child or student in subsequent years (even where there is another change of school or academy).

2.4 Consideration of cases will be undertaken away from the statutory In Year Fair Access (IYFA) process, by an Education Access Officer, a member of the Admission Team and other colleagues where appropriate (Safeguarding / SEND - depending upon the circumstances of each case).

2.5 Illuminate funding will not be allocated in relation to the admission of permanently excluded students as this is covered within a separate funding stream. The funding will not be available for those with a full Education, Health and Care Plan. It will not be available for Looked After Children who receive a higher level of pupil premium

funding which can be allocated to provide additional support.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 The Illuminate Funding is discretionary funding that is applied to new to area pupils or pupils who are re-integrating from Educational Diversity.
- 3.2 Currently the total funding available is £85k, within the High Needs Block. In 2017/18 only £24k was allocated, indicating that the criteria may be too tight.
- 3.3 Proposals to extend the criteria have been discussed at the IYFA Panel, Joint Consultative Group, and at the Primary Heads meeting. The new criteria are summarised in section 2 of this report.
- 3.4 If approved, it is proposed that any allocations for eligible pupils are back dated to September 2018.

List of acronyms:

IYFA – In Year Fair Access

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Mark Golden, Finance Manager
Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2018-2019

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To report the budget position of the 2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 August 2018 - Appendix 11(a).
- 1.2 To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 31 August 2018 – Appendix 11(b).

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.

3.0 Background:

- 3.1 The monitoring report at appendix (a) reflects the budgets as approved at the March 2018 Schools Forum.
- 3.2 As in 2017-18, early monitoring suggests the main pressures will come from the High Needs Block. As at August 2018 there are three areas of concern:

- Numbers in special schools are higher than planned resulting in a forecast overspend of £111k.
- Numbers at the PRU are higher than planned resulting in a forecast overspend of £166k.
- Beaumont College has increased fees by 3% resulting in an overspend of £50k within the Post 16 budget.
- £460k of additional growth was built in to the Out of Borough budget based on 2017-18 spend and demand projections. However, placement increases are forecast to still be over spent by £207k.

4.0 List of Appendices:

- 4.1 Appendix 11(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2018-2019 Budget Monitoring Report to 30 August 2018.
- Appendix 11(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 30 August 2018.

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 Referral Unit
PRU	-	Pupil Referral Unit

Appendix 11(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2018-2019 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2018

Service	2018/19						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Schools Block							
Local School Budget							
- Delegated	79,124	0	(61,028)	18,096	18,096	0	
- Third Party & Public Liability Insurance (de-delegated)	290	0	0	290	290	0	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	18	0	0	18	18	0	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	11	0	0	11	11	0	
- Education Functions (retained)	154	0	0	154	154	0	
Pupil Growth Contingency	76	0	148	225	225	0	
	79,673	0	(60,880)	18,794	18,794	0	
Central School Services Block							
Servicing of Schools Forum	15	0	0	15	15	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	80	0	0	80	80	0	
School Admissions	153	0	0	153	153	0	
Contribution to Combined Budgets - Children's Centres	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	
Former ESG Retained Duties							
- Education Welfare	204	0	0	204	204	0	
- Asset Management	57	0	0	57	57	0	
- Statutory / Regulatory Duties	77	0	0	77	77	0	
	1,585	0	0	1,585	1,585	0	
Total Schools Block	81,259	0	(60,880)	20,379	20,379	0	
High Needs Block							
Special Schools							
Place Funding	4,093	0	(2,340)	1,753	1,753	0	
Top-up Funding	2,453	0	0	2,453	2,564	111	Numbers higher than forecast
SERFs							
Place Funding	395	0	(155)	240	240	0	
Top-up Funding	140	0	0	140	140	0	
Transport	77	0	0	77	77	0	
Pupil Referral Units							
Place Funding	2,580	0	0	2,580	2,580	0	
Top-up Funding	1,107	0	0	1,107	1,273	166	Numbers higher than forecast
Mainstream Schools							
Top-up Funding	810	0	0	810	810	0	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	119	0	0	119	119	0	
Post-16 Education	1,746	0	(762)	984	1,034	50	3% increase in Beaumont College fees
Out of Borough	4,039	0	0	4,039	4,246	207	Increase in placements and Aurora fees
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,092	0	0	1,092	1,092	0	
Access and Inclusion	335	0	0	335	300	(35)	School Safeguarding Advisor vacancy saving
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	772	0	0	772	772	0	
Total High Needs Block	19,757	0	(3,257)	16,500	16,999	499	
Early Years Block							
2 Year Old Grants	1,652	0	102	1,754	1,732	(21)	Funding will be adjusted by DfE based on participation
Early Years Pupil Premium	98	0	13	111	135	24	Funding will be adjusted by DfE based on participation
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	5,996	0	698	6,694	6,777	83	Funding will be adjusted by DfE based on participation
Early Years Inclusion Fund	10	0	0	10	10	0	
Disability Access Fund	41	0	0	41	41	0	
Early Years Central Services	382	0	0	382	387	4	
Total Early Years Block	8,179	0	813	8,991	9,081	90	
Total Expenditure	109,194	0	(63,324)	45,870	46,459	589	
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(108,794)	0	63,634	(45,160)	(45,246)	(86)	
Post-16 funding from the EFA	0	0	(310)	(310)	(310)	0	
One off use of Reserves as approved at March 16 Forum	(400)	0	0	(400)	(400)	0	
Total Income	(109,194)	0	63,324	(45,870)	(45,956)	(86)	
In year (under)/over spend	(0)	0	0	0	504	504	

Appendix 11(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 31 August 2018

Description	Brought Forward 01/04/18	Total Expenditure FY 2018-19	Surplus / (Deficit) at 31st March 2019	Comments
Uncommitted DSG Reserve	25,677	0	25,677	
2018-18 DSG in year deficit	0	504,000	(504,000)	Overspend forecast as at 31st August 2018
Equal Pay Earmarked Reserve	0	0	0	
Rates Holding Account	0	0	0	
SSA Voluntary Redundancy Reserve	0	0	0	
Insurance Holding Account	0	0	0	
	25,677	504,000	(478,323)	

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT FACTOR

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum about the potential shortfall on the Management Improvement Factor (MIF) provision and discuss options for resolving the situation.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the content of this report and discuss options for resolving the potential shortfall on the Management Improvement Factor (MIF) provision.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 At the request of the Joint Steering Committee, a fund was established in 2002/03 to replace the 'Retire with Dignity' grant which had been available for two years through the Standards Fund. It was acknowledged that such a fund, held centrally on behalf of schools, could provide assistance to schools when wishing to manage staffing issues which were not related to competence, disciplinary or ill health. The custodian of the scheme was the Executive Director of Children, Adult and Family Services on behalf of schools, in order that anonymity and independence could be guaranteed.
- 3.2 The fund was set at £250,000 from 2002/03, with each school contributing its share according to staffing levels in the January school census. The fund contributed 50% towards the costs of retirement or similar costs, with the school contributing the other 50%, and per pupil contributions were made by schools each year thereafter in order to top up the level of the fund.
- 3.3 As part of the review of the local funding formula in autumn 2010, the continuing worth of the MIF fund was questioned, with some stakeholders believing that the management of such staffing issues should be dealt with by individual schools. A consultation on the continuation of the fund was inconclusive. As a consequence, it was agreed that contributions to the fund would reduce to 50% for the financial year 2011/12, pending a review of the scheme's longer-term future.

- 3.4 At its meeting of October 2011, Schools Forum considered a number of options regarding the scheme. No universally acceptable solution could be found for the continuation of the scheme, and so it ceased with effect from 31st March 2012.
- 3.5 The provision that was set aside from the MIF fund and from schools was intended to meet the additional annual costs arising from the early retirement of staff. During 2017/18 payments were made in respect of 40 former school leaders, totaling £128k. The value of the scheme stood at £769k at 31st March 2018, and therefore there is only sufficient funding to cover a further five full years once inflationary increases are factored in, and assuming all pension recipients survive. The ages of former staff members range from 75 to 63, and so it is highly likely that the scheme will fall into deficit in the next several years.
- 3.6 Modelling has been undertaken to estimate the likely shortfall on the fund, based on the assumption that all beneficiaries live until the age of 85. This shows that there could be a potential total deficit of £1.8 million on top of the existing provision of £769k. Given that there are no reserves of Dedicated Schools Grant, an alternative solution is required to resolve the issue. If an annual contribution was set aside to increase the value of the provision to a level to meet the anticipated costs, this would require an amount of £82k each year from 2018/19 until 2039/40.
- 3.7 It is likely that there will be an increase in the Central Schools Services Block in 2019/20, with little or no requirement for an increase in costs within the local authority. Final allocations will not be notified until December 2018, but provisional figures show that the increase may be in the region of c.£11k p.a. The local authority would be prepared to contribute any headroom in future years to the MIF provision in order to help mitigate the potential shortfall.
- 3.8 Schools Forum members are asked to debate the matter and discuss further options for managing the potential deficit position.

List of acronyms:

MIF – Management Improvement Factor

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Relevant Officer: Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager

Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2019/20 PROPOSALS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the local authority's proposal for the allocation of the schools funding formula for 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2019/20 by adjusting the following formula factors:

- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula values;
- Set a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% and apply the 1% funding floor protection;
- Increase the minimum per pupil funding levels in line with the national funding formula;
- Transfer 1% of the total Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block;
- Continue to set the mobility factor unit value at an amount affordable within the total allocated funding for that factor;
- Set an effective cap at a level to ensure that the formula is affordable overall and scaling 100%.

3.0 Background Information:

3.1 In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced its plans to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for schools funding to local authorities. In 2018/19 and 2019/20 the NFF model is being used to determine the Schools Block total allocation for each local authority in the country as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation.

3.2 The NFF model introduced from April 2018 included the following:

- At least 1% per pupil by 2019/20, on "pupil-led factors" compared to 2017/18 allocated baselines;
- A gains cap of 6% by 2019/20 compared to 2017/18 allocated baselines;
- At least £4,800 per pupil for each secondary school and £3,500 per pupil for each primary school by 2019/20; and

- The overall Schools Block funding provided to local authorities ring-fenced, with some limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% out of the Schools Block to any other block, subject to Schools Forum approval.

3.3 A further ministerial statement made by Nick Gibb published in July 2018 confirmed the Government's commitment to deliver the proposals set out above and included further adjustments to the NFF, as follows:

- From 2019/20 the DfE will allocate funding to local authorities to support schools with significant in-year growth in pupil numbers. This means that local authorities will be funded according to actual levels of pupil number growth, rather than on the basis of historic spending;
- To provide stability for authorities and schools through the transition to a hard national formula, local authorities will continue to determine local formulae in 2020/21.

3.4 Unit values for the national formula in 2019/20 remain unchanged to those in 2018/19, with the exception of primary low prior attainment. This factor has reduced from £1,050 in 2018/19 to £1,022 for 2019/20, as a result of the number of pupils attracting the funding increasing, because of changes made to the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile in 2013. This increase comes from changes to the assessment, rather than changes to the underlying level of need. Therefore, to maintain the total proportion of spend on primary low prior attainment through the national formula the increase in the eligible cohort is to be balanced with a reduction in the factor value.

3.5 The DfE has not yet determined how some of the school-led factors (Rates, PFI, Split site and Exceptional Premises) will be calculated in a national formula beyond 2019/20, and will continue to work with stakeholders and experts in the sector to improve the method of funding. In 2019/20 these factors will continue to be allocated on an historic spend basis.

3.6 Growth funding enables local authorities to support schools with significant in-year pupil growth, which is not otherwise immediately recognised by the lagged funding system. In 2018/19 growth funding was allocated on an historic basis which created a pressure in Blackpool's formula due to the opening of the new free school in that year. From 2019/20, growth funding will be allocated to local authorities on a formulaic basis, based on the actual growth in pupil numbers they experienced the previous year. Growth will be measured by counting the increase in pupil numbers in each middle super output area (MSOA) in the local authority between the two most recent October censuses. Only positive increases in pupil numbers will be included, so a local authority with positive growth in one area, and negative growth in another, will not be denied growth funding.

- 3.7 For each local authority, the growth factor will allocate:
- £1,370 for each primary 'growth' pupil;
 - £2,050 for each secondary 'growth' pupil; and
 - £65,000 for each brand new school that opened in the previous year (that is, any school not appearing on the October 2017 census but appearing on the October 2018 census);
 - These calculations are subject to a separate floor protection and capping and scaling of gains.
- 3.8 Provisional growth funding calculations for 2019/20 based on the new allocation methodology estimate that this could be additional funding to Blackpool of £340k. It should be noted that no allocations have yet been announced, so this is the local authority's interpretation of the published methodology, and the amount is therefore subject to change. While this change in methodology is welcomed, there will still be a shortfall of some £328k required to fund all of the new places in Blackpool schools.
- 3.9 Local authorities will continue to manage their growth funding locally in 2019/20 as they did in 2018/19.

Consultation

- 3.10 In summer 2018, the Department for Education announced provisional funding allocations for local authorities in 2019/20 using October 2017 pupil numbers. While the total allocation will be updated using the October 2018 census pupil numbers, we know that the Primary Unit of Funding has increased by c.2% to £4,082, and the Secondary Unit of Funding has increased by c.3% to £5,426. In total, the Schools Block allocation is likely to increase by approximately £2 million, which includes the increase in primary and secondary per pupil amounts as well as the anticipated additional growth funding referred to earlier in this document. The provisional figures have enabled us to produce illustrative school-level funding, taking account of the additional funding from Government.
- 3.11 As required by funding regulations, the local authority conducted a consultation on proposals for 2019/20 schools funding formula in September 2018. This year, the review has focused on the following areas:
- The level of funding floor and minimum funding guarantee protection;
 - The impact of increasing the minimum per pupil funding levels in line with the national funding formula;
 - The impact of transferring Schools Block budget to the High Needs Block.
- 3.12 Responses were received from 23 different schools, including a response from a Blackpool Special School. Given that special schools do not receive their funding via the formula, their feedback is provided for information only. The responses are summarised below:

3.13

Which methodology do you prefer for the protection of funding at school level?												
Answer Choice	Response %	Response Total	Primary		Secondary & All-through		Other		Primary, Secondary and All-through Schools (Excluding Other)		All Respondents	
			Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%		%		%
1 <i>Option A</i>	43.5%	10	5	31.3%	5	83.3%	0	0.0%	10	45.5%	10	43.5%
2 <i>Option B</i>	56.5%	13	11	68.8%	1	16.7%	1	100.0%	12	54.5%	13	56.5%
3 <i>Option C</i>	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Comments:		5										
<i>answered</i>		23	16	100.0%	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	22	100.0%	23	100.0%

100% of respondent were in favour of either option A or B, which both included a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5%. Although opinion was divided on whether we should also apply the funding floor protection to protect schools at a minimum of 1% above their 2017/18 baseline funding levels, overall, there was a small majority in favour of the inclusion of this factor.

3.14

Do you agree that we should increase the minimum per pupil funding levels?												
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	Primary		Secondary & All-through		Other		Primary, Secondary and All-through Schools (Excluding Other)		All Respondents	
			Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%		%		%
1 <i>Yes</i>	100.0%	23	16	100.0%	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	22	100.0%	23	100.0%
2 <i>No</i>	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Comments:		2										
<i>answered</i>		23	16	100.0%	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	22	100.0%	23	100.0%

The proposal to increase the minimum per pupil funding levels received unanimous support.

3.15

Do you agree that a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is required again in 2019/20?												
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	Primary		Secondary & All-through		Other		Primary, Secondary and All-through Schools (Excluding Other)		All Respondents	
			Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%	Sub-total	%		%		%
1 <i>Yes</i>	82.6%	19	13	81.3%	5	83.3%	1	100.0%	18	81.8%	19	82.6%
2 <i>No</i>	17.4%	4	3	18.8%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	4	18.2%	4	17.4%
Comments:		7										
<i>answered</i>		23	16	100.0%	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	22	100.0%	23	100.0%

The vast majority of schools agreed that there is a requirement to transfer funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019/20. Comments generally focused on the need to reduce the high needs spend prior to the introduction of a 'hard' national funding formula, where no flexibilities to transfer budget will exist. There was also a view that some schools are 'penalised' for already providing considerable support for pupils.

3.16

Do you agree that the local authority should request approval from the Secretary of State for Education to transfer 1% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019/20?													
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total	Primary Sub-total	%	Secondary & All-through Sub-total	%	Other Sub-total	%	Primary, Secondary and All-through Schools (Excluding Other)	%	All Respondents	%	
1	Yes	43.5%	11	6	37.50%	4	66.67%	1	100.00%	10	45.45%	11	47.83%
2	No	56.5%	12	10	62.50%	2	33.33%	0	0.00%	12	54.55%	12	52.17%
Comments:			7										
<i>answered</i>			23	16	100.0%	6	100.0%	1	100.0%	22	100.0%	23	100.0%

The proposal to transfer 1% of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block met with divided opinion, with a small majority not in favour of the proposal. Within secondary and all-through schools, where this proposal would have the greatest level of impact on funding, 67% of respondents are in favour of the proposal.

3.17

In light of consultation feedback received, and with reference to the previous agenda items considering the 2018/19 budget position and medium-term High Needs pressures, the local authority proposes the following in respect of Blackpool's 2019/20 schools formula:

- Continued use of the national funding formula unit values;
- A 0.5% minimum funding guarantee (MFG), which was supported by all schools that responded to the consultation. This means that all schools will see at least some increase in their per-pupil funding;
- The application of funding floor protection to protect schools at a minimum of 1% above their 2017/18 baseline funding levels, which was supported by a small majority of respondents to the consultation;
- An increase to the minimum per pupil funding levels to the national funding formula levels of £3,500 per primary pupil and £4,800 per secondary pupil, also supported by 100% of respondents;
- The transfer of 1% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This proposal met with divided opinion, with ten of the twenty-two mainstream schools supporting the proposal. Given the increasing pressures on the High Needs budget discussed in the earlier item, there is little option but to apply to the Secretary of State for Education for a disapplication of the funding regulations, to partially ease the pressures in the short term.
- The continued use of a mobility factor in the formula. The unit value will continue to be set at a level affordable within the funding that is allocated to Blackpool based on historic spend.
- The setting of an effective cap at a level to ensure that the formula is affordable overall, with scaling above the cap set at 100%.

List of acronyms:

DfE – Department for Education

NFF – National Funding Formula

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

PFI – Private Finance Initiative

MFG – Minimum Funding Guarantee

MSOA – Middle Super Output Area