

4 October 2021

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 12 October 2021 at 9.15 am
MS Teams Meeting

A G E N D A

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources to open the meeting.

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 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect the Chair of the Forum until August 2022.

4 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect the Vice Chair of the Forum until August 2022.

5 POWERS RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF SCHOOLS FORUMS (Pages 1 - 8)

To receive a reminder of the powers and responsibilities of a Schools Forum and to consider the characteristics of an effective relationship between the Schools Forum and the local authority.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 9 - 18)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021 as an accurate record.

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

7 REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION (Pages 19 - 20)

To consider and agree to the balance of representatives between primary, secondary and academy mainstream schools and the continuation of arrangements in relation to provisions in the Constitution in respect of numbers of representatives from any federation, multi-academy trust or academy sponsor.

8 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE (Pages 21 - 22)

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

9 DSG BUDGET MONITORING 2021 - 2022 (Pages 23 - 26)

To consider the budget position and Dedicated Schools Grant reserves of the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 31 August 2021.

10 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE (Pages 27 - 32)

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

11 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2022 - 2023 (Pages 33 - 52)

To consider the local authority's proposals for the allocation of schools funding in 2022/23. Voting restricted to school and Early Years representatives.

12 DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS (Pages 53 - 66)

To receive an update on the Department for Education Consultation – Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula.

13 COVID FUNDING UPDATE (Pages 67 - 72)

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

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 18 January 2022 and discuss venue arrangements.

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, email: 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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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

POWERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOOD PRACTICE OF SCHOOLS FORUMS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To remind members of the powers and responsibilities of Schools Forums, and to discuss the characteristics of an effective Schools Forum.

1.2 Action required: for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members are requested to note the powers and responsibilities of a Schools Forum, and to consider the characteristics of an effective relationship between the Schools Forum and the local authority.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 The operation of Schools Forum is governed by the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, and by subsequent amendments. The regulations set out the powers and responsibilities of these statutory bodies.

3.2 The Department for Education (DfE) has helpfully set out a summary of the powers and responsibilities in the document that can be found at Appendix 5(a). The main areas are summarised in the table below:

Schools Forum must be consulted on:	Schools Forum decides on:
Changes to schools formula	Movement of up to 0.5% from schools block to other blocks
Minimum funding guarantee in schools formula	Central spend and criteria for pupil growth and falling rolls
Changes to Early Years formula	Other central spend
Financial arrangements for pupils with SEND	De-delegation and education functions (maintained schools only)
Financial arrangements for pupils in Alternative Provision	Scheme for Financing Schools (maintained schools only)
Financial arrangements for Early Years provision	Election of chair and voting procedures

- 3.3 The DfE also publishes an Operational and Good Practice Guide for Schools Forums, which can be found at this link: [DfE external document template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). This document summarises the requirements of the Regulations, including membership and constitution, and procedural matters.
- 3.4 Section 2 of the Operational and Good Practice Guide outlines some aspects of what local authorities and Schools Forums should consider in ensuring that their Schools Forums are as effective as possible. It sets out the characteristics of an effective relationship between Schools Forums and local authorities, as follows:



List of acronyms:

DfE – Department for Education

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a) – Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Schools forum powers and responsibilities

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Financial issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding • arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding • arrangements for early years provision • administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants 	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contingencies administration of free school meals insurance licences/subscriptions staff costs – supply cover support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups behaviour support services library and museum services School improvement 	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
General Duties for maintained schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (please see operational guide for more information) 	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early years block provision • funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement • back-pay for equal pay claims • remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies • places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • admissions • servicing of schools forum • Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged • contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a 	Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<p>contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	<p>Read establishing local authority DSG baselines for more information.</p>		
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high needs block provision central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None, but good practice to inform forum</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Scheme of financial management changes</p>	<p>Proposes and consults the governing body and Head of every school</p>	<p>Approves (schools members only)</p>	<p>Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal</p>
<p>Membership: length of office of members</p>	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None (but good practice would suggest that they gave a view)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Determine voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects (may not be an elected member of the Council or officer)	None

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021

Present:

Maintained Primary School Head Teachers/Representative

Ms H Moreton, Holy Family

Primary Governor

Ms M Lonicon, Our Lady

Special School Maintained Representative

Mr N Oldham, Highfurlong

Academy / Free School Representatives

Ms A Bailey, Highfield (Star Academies)

Mr S Brennand, Unity (FCAT)

Mr G Dow, Anchorsolme (Sea View)

Mr S Eccles, St Mary's (BEBCMAT)

Mr R Farley, Westminster (FCAT) (Chair)

Ms T Harrison, Thames / Roseacre (AtC)

Mr M McIver, St George's/Baines Endowed (Cidari)

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

Pupil Referral Unit

Ms W Casson, Educational Diversity

Early Years

Ms R Dey, Pebbles Day Nursery

Post-16

Ms J Gray, Blackpool Sixth Form

Non-Schools Members

Ms A Baines, Staff/Teacher Associations

In Attendance:

Ms S Butler, Advanced Practitioner, School Standards, Safeguarding and inclusion (**Item 8 only**)

Mr M Golden, Finance Manager

Ms K Thompson, School Funding Officer

Mr P Thompson, Head of SEND

Mr P Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years

Mrs H Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Mrs D Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser (minutes)

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Roger Farley welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Elaine Allen, St John Vianney, Gill Hughes, Park Academy, Neil Adams, Unison, Councillor K Benson

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021

and Councillor J Hobson.

It was acknowledged that Rachel Dey had joined the Schools Forum membership to represent Early Years.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest noted at the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(Rachel Dey and Graeme Dow arrived during this item)

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 March 2021 were considered and agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Acronyms – a list of acronyms had been included on the Agenda at item 13.

Moving on Up Fund – a response from the Opportunity Area to ascertain whether funding was available for the Moving on Up programme was still awaited (Roger Farley), it was noted that there was an item regarding other issues relating to the Moving on Up programme at item 8.

High Needs – at the March 2021 meeting, a more comprehensive High Needs update was requested for the June 2021 meeting. It was noted that as this was not possible, a more comprehensive update would be provided at the October 2021 meeting, as more detailed work was underway.

Equipment Policy - Comments on the Equipment Policy had been shared with the Head of SEND to reflect that some equipment does not link directly to a child's education but was requested as a part of their health assessment.

Financial Support during Covid-19 – a standing item had been included on the Agenda at item 9.

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

(Simon Brennand and Phil Thompson arrived during this item)

Paul Turner, Assistant Director for Education, SEND and Early Years provided a report outlining an overview of recent developments with the Local Authority. In addition, relating to Covid-19, it was noted that cases had risen due to the Delta variant and this could impact on budgets within schools as they responded to the rise in cases.

In relation to inclusion, it was noted that Blackpool Football Club Community Trust was opening an independent school to support secondary pupils that struggled in a mainstream setting but had a keen interest in sport and physical activity. It was noted that the local

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authority had agreed to subsidise the cost of places at the new school for the first two academic years following a presentation to the Alternative Provision Quality Assurance Panel.

Questions and comments were welcomed following the report.

One member commented that the proposed provision at Blackpool Football Club Community Trust seemed very positive.

One member sought clarity as to whether the Opportunity Area Year Five funding was based on an academic year or a financial year for 2021-22 and whether a breakdown of allocations of the £1.5million in additional funding would be available. It was confirmed that the funding was based on a school year. A breakdown of spend would be presented to the Opportunity Area Board and schools would receive a service level agreement with details of funding for their school.

One member asked on behalf of NEU and Unison whether there had been any changes in advice to schools on the use of face coverings due to the Delta variant of Covid-19 and commented that all unions advocated the use of face masks. It was confirmed that there had been no update from the Director of Public Health in Blackpool but that some schools had decided to enforce mask wearing. It was noted that any future updates from Public Health would be circulated.

5 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT YEAR END BUDGET MONITORING 2020-2021

Mark Golden Finance Manager provided the report outlining the budget position of the Dedicated Schools Grant for the Financial Year End at 31 March 2021 and the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 31 March 2021.

It was reported that there were significant pressures on the High Needs block. Work was ongoing to manage the cost pressures with the development of a High Needs Block Medium Term Financial Plan incorporating an inclusion strategy and the opening of a social, emotional and mental health Free School. However, it was reported that expenditure continued to outstrip Department for Education funding in the short term.

The High Needs Budget had been overspent by £1.994m in 2020-21 as a result of previously reported pressures in special schools, the new resource provision, maintained top-up funding and Post-16 placements.

It was reported that Schools Forum set a deficit budget of £1.232m for the 2020-21 financial year, adding the over spend of £1.429m had resulted in a total in-year deficit of £2.661m. The position as at 31 March 2021, after incorporating the brought forward balance of £3.105m, was a total deficit of £5.766m.

It was noted that Maintained School balances increased from £2.39m to £3.92m over the year to 31 March 2021. There were no schools in deficit with an average balance as a percentage of School Budget Share at 15.2%, up from 11.6%.

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Questions and comments were welcomed following the report.

One member asked how the deficit in Blackpool compared to peers in other authorities. In response, it was acknowledged that most were also struggling with the pressures on the High Needs block. It was noted that those local authorities with the highest deficit would attract intervention and scrutiny from the Department for Education.

6 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2021-2022

Mark Golden Finance Manager provided the report outlining the budget position of the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 April 2021 and the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 30 April 2021.

It was reported that budget monitoring to the end of April 2021 forecasted a £362k over spend against a deficit budget of £327k. Therefore, the total in-year shortfall was estimated at £689k. Added to the brought forward deficit of £5.766m the resulting forecast Dedicated Schools Grant deficit by 31 March 2022 was £6.455m. This excluded the maintained schools reserves (£3.919m) and the specific Union Fees reserve (£44k).

It was noted that the High Needs Block had increased to £27.1m from last year but emerging pressures were anticipated. The delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan on the High Needs block would look at the options to bring down the deficit.

Questions and comments were welcomed following the report.

It was noted that the post-16 pressure of £228k would not all be recurring as some students had continued in education to allow them to complete their studies, which had been disrupted due to Covid-19.

7 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources provided a report to update on the latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget. It was noted that a more comprehensive report would be available at the October 2021 meeting to outline the internal work being undertaken by the local authority to address the High Needs deficit.

It was reported that a medium-term financial plan had been developed to monitor expenditure against the High Needs Budget and to outline predictions of where savings could be made.

It was also noted that despite additional government funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22, pupil numbers in high cost placements continued to increase. Forecasts showed costs in 2021/22 would exceed the High Needs funding allocation by around £1.8 million. Despite transfers from the Schools Block and the Central Schools Services Block to offset pressures, the cumulative deficit against Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) looked set to increase by a further £690k this year, reaching £6.5 million by March 2022, the equivalent to almost 5% of the

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total DSG.

It was reported that since the last meeting of Schools Forum, an estimate had been built in of a potential 10% increase in High Needs funding for 2022/23. This would be the third and final year of the announced three-year settlement for schools and High Needs, with increases for Blackpool in the first two years equating to approximately 11% each year. Assumptions had been made about inflationary uplifts on relevant expenditure lines in 2022/23. No assumptions had yet been made about increases to income or costs beyond 2022/23.

It had also been assumed that a 0.5% transfer from Schools Block would continue to be required in future years. This was shown on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for illustration purposes in each year until 2025/26, when it was anticipated that the Hard National Funding Formula may be implemented. A cumulative deficit on overall DSG of almost £1 million would remain at the end of 2025/26.

It was reported that all of the proposals from the Local Authority's Vision for SEND and Alternative Provision had been implemented, with the exception of the review of local post-16 specialist provision, for which more time was being taken to consider options. It was noted that the work with the Oracle would not have the same cost saving as anticipated.

It was further reported that the Local Authority continued with analysis and scrutiny of High Needs pupil number and cost trends with a view to refining a strategic plan for the commissioning of specialist places.

A consultation on banded funding for pupils with SEND in special schools and mainstream schools was undertaken and closed on 11 June 2021. It was noted that the extraordinary meeting of the Schools Forum scheduled for 5 July 2021 to discuss the findings of the consultation would be cancelled to allow further discussion with schools and trusts. The changes would not be implemented in September 2021, as originally planned.

Questions and comments were welcomed following the report.

It was noted that the in-year position improved by £2.3m in 2022-23 and it was asked how realistic this was and whether this was due to an increase in income or reduction in spend? In response, Mark Golden confirmed that the improved position was due to the anticipated increase in income.

One member asked whether there was any feedback on some of the concerns raised through the consultation on banding for special education needs. In response, Hilary Wood confirmed that there was a lot of information to sift through and any themes would be identified and the local authority would look to create a banding document that was fit for purpose. In response to a question asking whether schools would be included in the process, Hilary Wood confirmed that there would need to be modelling at school level and that the local authority would engage with schools in order to carry out this work.

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8 MOVING ON UP - UPDATE

Sharon Butler, Advanced Practitioner, Resilience Coach Team attended the meeting for this item to present the report to request the continuation of funding from the High Needs Block for the Resilience Coaches to provide targeted support to pupils in their transition from primary to secondary school.

Members were requested to approve the allocation of £216k per year from the High Needs Block to fund Resilience Coaches, as set out in the proposal and to approve the allocation of a further £48k from the High Needs Block to fund mental health counselling support within the Resilience Coach team. It was reported that the continuation of funding was subject to evaluation of the ongoing effectiveness of the Moving On Up programme. Members were also recommended to consider the proposal as a 'spend to save initiative', and part of the wider early help for children. As young people benefitted from the support via the Resilience Coach Team the outcomes were intended to reduce further outgoings for schools, to improve attendance and attainment, and to reduce exclusion figures.

It was reported that Moving On Up involved Resilience Coaches providing support to pupils, families and schools to ensure an effective transition from primary to secondary school. Pupils with low resilience were identified for support through the Student Resilience Survey or via teachers' assessment of them. It was acknowledged that the programme was supporting 146 young people in 2021 including support for all of 'our children' in Blackpool.

It was noted that a Resilience Therapy approach was used to support children with low resilience and was available to all Blackpool Schools. The young people identified to access the programme may have additional needs as well and the team contributed to the early help assessments. Funding was also requested for a mental health counsellor to work in the team and provide early intervention support.

Questions and comments were welcomed.

One member commented that it was clear to see the need for the services but asked how integrated the scheme was with Blackpool Mental Health Partnership and if there was any overlap of provision. In response, Sharon Butler confirmed that joined up working did take place and where a child may already access support from services, an alternative child may be identified to benefit from the Moving on Up programme as there were only two funded places per class.

Paul Turner commented that the Resilience Coach team had moved across into the School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion service and linked in with other pastoral support. It was recognised that the waiting list for CAHMS was long and that there were limited resources. The Education sector was supporting the mental health provision.

One member asked whether financial support from secondary schools could be ring-fenced to fund any additional pupils identified, as the financial burden was on primary budgets in the first instance as the year 6 children were in primary settings. In response, Sharon Butler confirmed that work with the year 6 children began prior to the transition to high school

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and the children would not know which high school they had been allocated.

It was queried as to why there were 120 places on the programme. It was noted that two places had been allocated per year 6 class and each Resilience Coach worked with 20 young people. It was recognised that costs were currently only included within the budget up to December 2021, so approval of continued funding would affect the budget deficit.

It was further commented that there needed to be discussions as to which initiatives to continue to support and fund from SEND budgets. It was requested that discussion be held at Schools Forum in early 2022.

Following a vote, all members in attendance agreed to approve the allocation of £216k p.a from the High Needs Block to fund Resilience Coaches and to approve a further £48k from the High Needs Block to fund mental health counselling support within the Resilience Coach Team.

Resolved:

- **All Forum Members in attendance agreed to approve the allocation of £216k per year from the High Needs Block to fund Resilience Coaches, as set out in the proposal.**
- **All Forum Members in attendance agreed to approve the allocation of a further £48k from the High Needs Block to fund mental health counselling support within the Resilience Coach team, as set out in the proposal.**
- **Discussion of which initiatives to continue to support from SEND budgets to be scheduled for a Schools Forum meeting in early 2022.**

(Sharon Butler left the meeting after item 8)

9 COVID-19 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer provided an update report of activity since the last meeting regarding financial support provided in the education sector during the COVID outbreak. It was noted that the report only contained details of any changes since the previous meeting.

It was reported that the Department for Education had announced a further £1.4 billion over the next three years to provide 100 million hours of tutoring and additional teacher training and development. This was in addition to the £1.7 billion already announced, and would be targeted at those children and young people considered most in need of support, particularly the disadvantaged, and would not be available for all pupils.

It was reported that the new education recovery package funding came directly from the Department for Health and Social Care, the first payments had been made and the second ones were due to be paid after the summer term. Any payments from the autumn term onwards would be confirmed depending on the pandemic situation at that time.

Following the update, questions and comments were welcomed.

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It was commented that the justification for spend and closing the gap using the catch up premium fund was a key focus for Ofsted, looking at the detail and quality of the spend.

10 CHANGE TO SCHOOLS FORUM REGULATIONS - IMPACT ON MEETINGS

Kirsty Thompson, School Funding Officer provided a report to highlight the change to regulations affecting the conduct of meeting for Schools Forum. It was noted that historically, Schools Forum meetings were held face to face. Due to the coronavirus, rules were relaxed to allow meetings to be held remotely. The Schools Forum (England) (Coronavirus) Amendment Regulations 2020 had made the temporary arrangements permanent.

Following discussion, it was agreed to continue to hold the virtual meetings and look to hold face to face meetings once social distancing measures were relaxed.

Resolved:

- **To note the Schools Forum (England) (Coronavirus) Amendment Regulations 2020 had made the temporary arrangements permanent.**
- **To look to hold face to face meetings once social distancing measures had been relaxed.**

11 MEETING DATES 2022

Schools Forum members considered and agreed the meeting dates for Schools Forum in 2022 as 18 January 2022, 15 March 2022, 14 June 2022 and 11 October 2022.

It was agreed to book the meetings from 9.15am to 11.5am initially with the view to extend the meeting time as required.

Resolved:

- **The meeting dates for 2022 were agreed with the new timeframe of 9.15am to 11.15am initially.**

12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 12 October 2021.

Roger Farley extended thanks to Wendy Casson as she would retire from her post prior to the next meeting.

13 GLOSSARY

The glossary of terms was noted for information.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended 10.24am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Schools Forum Constitution requires a review of membership at the first meeting of each academic year. The review should take into account the proportion of primary, secondary and academy representatives in order to ensure that the proportions remain representative of pupil numbers in each phase.
- 1.2 The Constitution has been reviewed for compliance with the Schools Forum Regulations (England) 2012, which are amended through subsequent Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.
- 1.3 Action required: for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Schools Forum is asked to agree to the balance of representatives between primary, secondary and academy mainstream schools.
- 2.2 Schools Forum is asked to agree to the continuation of arrangements in relation to provisions in the Constitution in respect of numbers of representatives from any federation, multi-academy trust or academy sponsor.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 Since the membership was last reviewed, there have been no further conversions of maintained schools to academies. Eleven of the Forum's 17 members represent primary, secondary and academy mainstream schools.
- 3.2 The table below details the number and percentage of pupils in these categories at September 2020 and September 2021, and indicates that no changes are required to the allocation of the available 11 Forum places:

	September 2020			September 2021		
	Pupil nos	%	Members	Pupil nos	%	Members
Primary heads	4654	25%	2	4447	24%	2
Primary governor			1			1
Academies	14154	75%	8	13815	76%	8
Total	18808		11	18262		11

- 3.3 In October 2014, Schools Forum agreed to relax constraints on federations, multi-academy trusts and academy sponsors. The constitution now contains provisions to allow federations, multi-academy trusts or academy sponsors representing three or more schools in Blackpool to nominate up to two members of Forum. It is proposed that these provisions are retained.
- 3.4 No changes to the Schools Forum Constitution and Terms of Reference are proposed.

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Paul Turner, Assistant Director – School Improvement and SEND
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

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.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The report is presented for information only.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 LA update

Schools have re-opened and they have had a relatively high percentage of attendance throughout the first few weeks of term. Lots of schools have more than 90% attendance, but the town average is just below 90%. Cases of Covid – 19 are relatively low, but are rising within school settings.

School Ofsted inspections are possible in a number of schools, but no schools have been visited this year, so far.

Opportunity Area Year five is underway, with a number of programmes related to inclusion, literacy and careers being funded for another year.

The SEND strategy consultation process is still ongoing, with the strategy, in draft form, expected by the end of November 2021.

The SEND banding consultation process is still ongoing.

The interim Head of Service for SEND is Angela Wellings.

Blackpool Council's Chef's Academy launched in September 2021 at Highfield Day Centre for pupils aged 14-16.

The literacy strategy launch and Moving Forwards Together event took place at The Winter

Gardens on 30 September 2021 and was well attended.

3.2 **Academies**

No significant updates on Academies.

Sea View Trust are consulting upon use of The Oracle building for Park 6th form students.

3.3 **Statutory Assessment and Moderation**

This will recommence in the new calendar year.

3.4 **Inclusion update**

There were three permanent exclusions (PEX) at time of writing in the secondary phase.

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) numbers are low at 118.

Elective Home Education (EHE) numbers are still very high at c315 .

Blackpool Community Football Club Trust opened their independent school at the football stadium in September 2021, which means that there is an expanded Alternative Provision (AP) offer in Blackpool.

Commissioned places at The Alternative School are low, but still necessary.

Acronyms

SEND – Special Education Needs and Disabilities

PEX – Permanent Exclusions

PRU – Pupil Referral Unit

EHE – Elective Home Education

AP – Alternative Provision

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Darren Maddocks, Senior Accountant
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

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 August 2021 - Appendix 9(a).
- 1.2 To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 31 August 2021 – Appendix 9(b).
- 1.3 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 9(a) reflects the budgets as approved at the March 2021 Schools Forum.
- 3.2 Budget monitoring to the end of August 2021 is forecasting a £711k over spend against a deficit budget of £326k. Therefore, the total in-year shortfall is estimated at £1.037m. Added to the brought forward deficit of £5.766m the resulting forecast DSG deficit by 31 March 2022 is £6.803m. This excludes the maintained schools reserves (£3.919m) and the specific Union Fees reserve (£44k).
- 3.3 The major in-year variances are as follows:
 - Post 16 placements demand higher than budgeted of £209k.
 - Access and Inclusion £115k
 - Increased costs for the Oracle building £29k.
 - Resilience coaches as approved at a previous Schools Forum £86k.
 - Special Schools placement growth £93k
 - Exceptional Circumstances costs higher than budgeted £91k.

4.0 List of Appendices:

- 4.1 Appendix 9(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-2022 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2021.
Appendix 9(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 31 August 2021.

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 9(a) - Dedicated Schools Grant 2021-2022 Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2021

Service	2021/22						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Schools Block							
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	
Central School Services Block							
Servicing of Schools Forum	17	0	0	17	17	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	89	0	0	89	89	0	
School Admissions	160	0	0	160	160	0	
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	682	39	
Total Schools Block	95,589	0	(74,060)	21,529	21,568	39	
High Needs Block							
Special Schools							
Place Funding	5,508	0	(3,292)	2,216	2,268	52	Based on May Forecast
Top-up Funding	3,918	(6)	0	3,912	3,953	41	Based on May Forecast
SERFs							
Place Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Top-up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Resource Provision							
Place Funding	760	0	(267)	493	493	0	
Top-up Funding	585	0	(0)	585	590	5	Underwriting agreed for 2 years
Pupil Referral Units							
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	
Mainstream Schools							
Top-up Funding	2,353	30	0	2,383	2,385	2	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	165	0	0	165	256	91	Based on Q1 Forecast 21/22
Post-16 Education	2,514	(30)	(1,015)	1,468	1,677	209	Higher Recoupment than anticipated
Out of Borough	4,992	(6)	0	4,986	4,986	0	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,368	0	0	1,368	1,368	0	
Access and Inclusion	941	0	0	941	1,056	115	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	
Total High Needs Block	27,126	(12)	(4,574)	22,539	23,115	576	
Early Years Block							
2 Year Old Grants	1,665	0	0	1,665	1,665	0	
Early Years Pupil Premium	102	0	0	102	102	0	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,552	0	0	6,552	6,552	0	Additional Cost of Early Years Placements due to Covid. Impact of COVID currently being assessed. This will impact these figures.
Early Years Inclusion Fund	30	0	0	30	54	24	Based on Current spend patterns
Disability Access Fund	50	0	0	50	50	0	
Early Years Central Services	384	0	0	384	384	0	
Total Early Years Block	8,783	0	0	8,783	8,807	24	
Total Expenditure	131,498	(12)	(78,634)	52,851	53,490	639	
Dedicated Schools Grant Income							
ESFA Free School Income	(130,747)	0	78,385	(52,362)	(52,362)	0	
Transfer from growth contingency	(333)	261	0	(72)	0	72	Lotus School Income slightly less than forecast
	(91)	0	0	(91)	(91)	0	
Total Income	(131,171)	261	78,385	(52,525)	(52,453)	72	
In year (under)/over spend	327	249	(249)	326	1,037	711	

Appendix 9(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves

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)	1,037,000	(6,802,758)	
Maintained School Balances	3,919,362	0	3,919,362	
Union Fees Reserve	44,329	0	44,329	
	(1,802,067)	1,037,000	(2,839,067)	

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

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.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Schools Forum members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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 2020/21 and 2021/22, 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 around £2 million. Despite transfers from the Schools Block and the Central Schools Services Block to offset pressures, the cumulative deficit against Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) looks set to increase by a further £1 million this year, reaching £6.8 million by March 2022, equivalent to approximately 5% of the total DSG.
- 3.3 The medium-term financial plan has been revised to take account of updated forecasts and the funding allocation for 2021/22 (see Appendix 10(a) to this report).
- 3.4 Since the last meeting of Schools Forum, the provisional allocation of High Needs funding for 2022/23 has been announced. This will 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. 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.

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Despite the additional income and the actions that are being implemented to address pressures, a cumulative deficit on overall DSG of £2.7 million would still remain at the end of 2025/26.

Further work to address the High Needs deficit

- 3.7 All of the proposals from the Local Authority's Vision for SEND and Alternative Provision have now been implemented, with the exception of the review of local post-16 specialist provision, for which more time is being taken to consider options.
- 3.8 The Local Authority is continuing to carry out detailed analysis and scrutiny of High Needs pupil number and cost trends with a view to refining a strategic plan for the commissioning of specialist places. It is essential that a clear plan is devised for the use of places so that the limited capacity in special schools and resourced provision can be optimised, with pupils having their needs met in the most appropriate local setting. Findings will be presented at a future meeting of Schools Forum, with recommendations for bringing expenditure back within available funding.
- 3.9 In the short-term, there is an immediate need for additional space to accommodate pupils currently in Blackpool's special schools. Plans are underway to create additional capacity at the Oracle building for Park's post-16 students, with a public consultation ending on 4th October. As well as accommodating the current high number of sixth form students, this solution will give the school the space to be able to accept pupils with a higher level of need than has previously been the case, given that it is now designated to meet the needs of pupils with Global Learning Delay. It is expected that this will contribute to the easing of pressure on demand for places at Highfurlong and Woodlands special schools.
- 3.10 The local authority intends to continue to work with schools to develop additional SEND resource provision, so that Blackpool children can access appropriate support within local mainstream settings. This is particularly important for secondary-aged pupils, for whom no such local provision currently exists.

3.11 In summer 2021, the local authority consulted with schools on banded funding for pupils with SEND in special and mainstream schools. The outcome of the consultation was not conclusive, therefore further engagement with schools is being undertaken to establish a workable solution that is fit for purpose. It should be stressed that the primary purpose of this exercise is not to reduce the funding for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans, rather to introduce a system that facilitates flexibility for schools in the way that they provide for the individual needs of pupils, with the intention of achieving better outcomes for children. It is hoped, however, that this move will result in a more effective use of the limited resources available.

List of acronyms:

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10(a): High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan

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High Needs Block Medium-Term Financial Plan

Forecasts exclude inflationary impact, and costs and income are stated at 2021/22 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	
High Needs Block								
Special Schools								
Place Funding	4,879	4,950	5,548	5,777	5,870	5,930	5,990	Special School places: from April 2020 290 (P), 85 (HF), 120 (W); from September 2020 24 (L); from September 2021 300 (P), 80 (HF), 120 (W), 40 (L); from September 2022 300 (P), 80 (HF), 120 (W), 48 (L) 2021/22 onwards includes £660 per place for TPG/TPECG
Top-up Funding	2,768	3,388	3,970	4,475	4,615	4,660	4,707	Special School top-up: based on Sept 2020 figures
SERFs								
Place Funding	320	260	-	-	-	-	-	Mereside SERFs decommissioned from Nov 2020; Boundary and Bispham Endowed SERFs decommissioned from Dec 2020
Top-up Funding	111	117	-	-	-	-	-	Mereside SERFs decommissioned from Nov 2020; Boundary and Bispham Endowed SERFs decommissioned from Dec 2020
Transport	54	20	-	-	-	-	-	
Resource Provision								
Place Funding		190	760	671	523	473	456	Mereside and Thames Resource Provisions opening Nov 2020; Boundary, Revoe and Marton Resource Provisions opening Jan 2021
Top-up Funding		234	590	570	570	570	570	Mereside and Thames Resource Provisions opening Nov 2020; Boundary, Revoe and Marton Resource Provisions opening Jan 2021
AP Provision								
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:- September 2019 to March 2020 240, April to August 2020 272, September 2020 to March 2021 173, April to August 2021 215, September 2021 to March 2022 147, April to August 2022 178, September 2022 to March 2023 152, Less Proposal 4. Teachers Pay award /Superannuation Costs and New Services KS2, Engagement Coaches & Therapist & 4% Uplift in 22/23
Other AP	-	293	100	100	100	100	100	
Mainstream Schools								
Top-up Funding	1,250	1,837	2,355	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	0% Uplift in 2021/22 & 2% uplift in 2022/23. Future Years' forecast to be reviewed following outcome of banding consultation.
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	119	193	256	256	256	256	256	
Post-16 Education	2,030	2,569	2,723	2,724	2,724	2,724	2,724	3% Uplift in 2022/23 & built in the increase in numbers from 2021/22 onwards based on 15 year-olds leaving, 40 new placements each year @£30k per place, offset by transfers into new Free School starting in September 2020 and Resource Provision from Apr 21. 3% Uplift in 2022/23
Out of Borough	5,081	5,360	4,994	4,762	4,584	4,648	4,648	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,028	1,056	1,368	1,392	1,392	1,392	1,392	0% Uplift in 2021/22 & 2% 2022/23
Access and Inclusion	508	811	1,056	1,024	820	820	820	0% 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)								
Total High Needs Block Expenditure	22,594	25,613	27,701	28,024	27,728	27,846	27,937	
Available High Needs Block funding	19,496	22,276	25,369	28,086	28,086	28,086	28,086	
ESFA Free School Income			261	113	147	147	147	
Schools Block Transfer	431	101	457	489	489	489	-	
Central Schools Services Block		8						
HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	2,667	3,228	1,614	(665)	(994)	(876)	(296)	
Cumulative HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	3,016	6,245	7,859	7,194	6,200	5,324	5,028	
Cumulative Other Block (Surplus) / Deficit	89	(476)	(1,053)	(1,565)	(1,975)	(2,303)	(2,303)	
Cumulative DSG (Surplus) / Deficit	3,105	5,769	6,806	5,629	4,225	3,021	2,725	
Movement	2,684	2,663	1,037	(1,177)	(1,404)	(1,204)	(296)	

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2022/23

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the local authority's proposals for the allocation of schools funding in 2022/23.
- 1.2 Action required – for approval by relevant members; voting restricted to school and Early Years representatives.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Schools Forum is asked to agree to the local authority's proposals for the allocation of school funding in 2022/23 by applying the following principles:
 - Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values;
 - Set a minimum funding guarantee of 2% per pupil funding;
 - Transfer 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block;
 - Transfer any surplus from the growth funding allocation into the growth funding contingency.
- 2.2 Schools Forum is asked to agree whether the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block should be effected by a reduction to the Basic Entitlement factor values, or by the implementation of a cap on gains.
- 2.3 Schools Forum is asked to agree that Blackpool's local formula for schools in future years continues to mirror as far as possible the National Funding Formula (NFF) each year, until such time as there is a national change in funding for schools, or other circumstances require a change to be made. This would mean that formula factor values would mirror those in the NFF, and that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) would be set at the same level as the funding floor used in the NFF.
- 2.4 Schools Forum is asked to agree that, in future years, any surplus NFF growth funding is set aside in the Growth Fund Contingency, and any shortfall in NFF growth funding would be initially met from the Growth Fund Contingency, until such time as there is a national change in funding for growth, or other circumstances require a change to be made.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 In July 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the provisional school funding allocations for local authorities in 2022/23. This will be the third year of a three-year settlement for schools, with additional funding being allocated in each of the three years.
- 3.2 The provisional Schools Block allocation for 2022/23 is calculated by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) through the schools NFF using October 2020 pupil data. Individual school budgets are then aggregated at local authority level to calculate a Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) and a Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF), which will then be multiplied by the number on roll in October 2021 to determine Blackpool's final Schools Block funding. Blackpool's Primary Unit of Funding has been set at £4,737, an increase of 2.6%, and the Secondary Unit of Funding has been set at £6,415, an increase of 3.1%.
- 3.3 Within the NFF for 2022/23, formula factor values will increase by approximately 3%, with the exception of the free school meals factor, which will be increased by an inflation rate of 2%, as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs of providing free meals. Premises funding (Rates, Private Finance Initiative, Split site and Exceptional Premises) will continue to be allocated at local authority level on an historic basis, based on actual spend in the 2021/22 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor only.
- 3.4 The Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels, which are mandatory in local funding formulae, will increase to £4,265 for primary schools, and £5,525 for secondary schools.
- 3.5 There will be no NFF gains cap applied to local authority level allocations, but local authorities will still be able to use a cap in their local formulae. The funding floor used in the national formula will be set at 2% in 2022/23, meaning that all schools' NFF allocations will see a minimum gain per pupil of 2% above their 2021/22 baseline pupil-led funding.
- 3.6 Other technical changes to the formula for 2022/23 include:
- Data on pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years (FSM6) is now taken from the October school census instead of from the January census, to bring the factor into line with new arrangements for pupil premium.
 - In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile and key stage 2 tests will be used as a proxy for the 2020 and 2021 assessments, which were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- For the provisional NFF allocations, pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 attract funding for mobility on the basis of their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school (the May 2020 census was cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Further to the consultation on changes to the payment process of schools' business rates, the DfE has confirmed that the business rates payment system for schools will be centralised and ESFA will pay billing authorities directly on behalf of state funded schools from 2022/23 onwards. This change has not yet been reflected in provisional settlement figures for the Dedicated Schools Grant, however, so the illustrations in the consultation incorporated business rates on the same basis as in 2021/22.
- Sparsity funding is now based on road distance instead of on straight-line distance from pupils' home to school, and a sparsity distance taper has been introduced, in addition to the existing year group size taper. No Blackpool schools attract sparsity funding through the NFF.

3.7 Subject to updates for October 2021 Census information, the Schools Block allocation is likely to increase by almost £2 million, or 2.95% per pupil, compared to 2021/22. The provisional figures have enabled the local authority to produce illustrative school-level funding, taking account of the additional funding from Government.

3.8 In order to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes in funding, local authorities are obliged to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG). This is based on a school's per pupil funding excluding Rates, Sparsity and Lump Sum. In support of the Government's intention to increase funding at school level, the DfE's regulations on funding formulas require local authorities to set an MFG at a rate between 0.5% and 2% per pupil for 2022/23.

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Consultation

3.9 As required by funding regulations, the local authority launched a consultation on proposals for the 2022/23 schools funding formula on 1st September 2021 (see Appendix 11(a)). This year, the review has focused on the following areas:

- Continued replication of the National Funding Formula for Blackpool schools
- Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
- Growth fund contingency

3.10 The consultation closed on 24th September 2021, with nine responses received covering the views of 13 mainstream schools. The responses are summarised below:

Question 1

Do you agree that we should continue to replicate as far as possible the National Funding Formula in Blackpool's local formula for schools?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100.0%	13
2 No	0.0%	0
Comments:		2
Total		13

Question 2

Do you agree that Blackpool's local formula for schools in future years should continue to mirror as far as possible the NFF?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100%	13
2 No	0%	0
Comments:		2
Total		13

Question 3

Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2022/23?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100.0%	13
2 No	0.0%	0
Comments:		2
Total		13

Question 4

If a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made in 2022/23, do you think that this should be done by using Option A (reduction to Basic Entitlement values) or Option B (cap on gains)?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Option A – reduce Basic Entitlement values	46.0%	6
2 Option B – cap on gains	54.0%	7
Comments:		3
Total		13

Question 5

Do you agree that any surplus funding available from the 2022/23 growth funding should be set aside in a growth fund contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years, and that any shortfall in growth funding should be drawn down from the contingency?

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	100.0%	13
2 No	0.0%	0
Comments:		2
Total		13

Question 6

Do you agree that the growth contingency continues to operate in future years as described in the Growth Funding section of this consultation?

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Yes	85.0%	11
2 No	15.0%	2
Comments:		1
Total		13

3.11 Blackpool's proposed schools funding formula 2022/23

Given the unanimous support for the replication of the NFF, the Local Authority proposes the following features for the 2022/23 formula:

- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values (subject to a decision regarding the transfer of funding from the Schools Block);
- Set a minimum funding guarantee of 2% per pupil funding.

3.12 There was also unanimous support for Blackpool's local formula for schools in future years to continue to mirror as far as possible the National Funding Formula (NFF) each year, until such time as there is a national change in funding for schools, or other circumstances require a change to be made. It is therefore proposed that this is taken forwards, meaning that formula factor values in future years will mirror those in the NFF, and that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will be set at the same level as the funding floor used in the NFF.

3.13 The proposal for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block also received 100% support from respondents, therefore the Local Authority proposes to implement a transfer of 0.5% in the 2022/23 formula.

3.14 In the consultation paper, two options were presented with illustrations for the transfer of funding from the Schools Block: Option A – reduce Basic Entitlement values; or Option B – place a cap on gains. Six out of the nine responses chose Option A, however one of the respondents who chose Option B was from a

Multi-Academy Trust representing a number of schools, so this swung the outcome towards Option B, with seven out of the 13 votes. Given that the result was so close, it is proposed that a further discussion takes place at Schools Forum in order to consider the preferred treatment.

- 3.15 All respondents to the consultation supported the allocation of any surplus growth funding to the growth contingency, with any shortfall in growth funding being met from the existing contingency, so the local authority proposes to implement this approach.
- 3.16 There was majority support for the proposal for this approach to growth funding to continue to be applied in future years. It is therefore proposed that this is adopted for all future years until such time as there is a national change in funding for schools, or other circumstances require a change to be made.

Next steps

- 3.17 In December 2021, the ESFA will publish the final allocations of the Schools Block of funding based on October 2021 Census data. The local authority will then produce the draft 2022/23 formula for final sign-off at Schools Forum in January 2022 before individual school budgets are issued before the end of February 2022.

List of acronyms:

NFF	National Funding Formula
MFG	Minimum Funding Guarantee
DfE	Department for Education
ESFA	Education & Skills Funding Agency
PUF	Primary Unit of Funding
SUF	Secondary Unit of Funding
RPIX	Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
FSM6	Free School Meal Ever 6

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11A - Blackpool Schools Funding Formula consultation 2022/23

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23

Consultation Document

September 2021

Blackpool Council



Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 Consultation

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Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 Consultation

Introduction

This document sets out proposals and options for Blackpool's school funding formula in 2022/23, and seeks feedback from Blackpool schools. **The consultation runs until Friday 24th September 2021**, and the outcome will be presented to Schools Forum in October 2021, with approval of the final formula sought at Schools Forum in January 2022.

Timetable

1 st to 24 th September 2021	Consult Blackpool Schools on 2022/23 formula options
12 th October 2021	Outcome of consultation presented to Schools Forum
December 2021	Department for Education (DfE) publishes Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for local authorities based on pupil data from October 2021 census
18 th January 2022	Schools Forum to consider local authority's final proposals for schools funding formula for 2022/23
21 st January 2022	Submission of 2022/23 funding formula to Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)
February 2022	Budgets issued to schools for 2022/23

Background

In 2017 the Department for Education's (DfE) announced its plans to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for schools.

Since 2018/19, the Schools NFF has been 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. The DfE is currently consulting on using the NFF to directly set individual school budgets, but until that time, funding at school level will continue to be determined by local authority formulae.

In September 2019, the Department for Education announced that school funding would rise by £2.6 billion for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22, and £7.1 billion for 2022/23.

Details of national funding formula for 2022/23

In July 2021, the ESFA provided further detail on how the increase in funding will be implemented via the schools NFF for 2022/23. The NFF formula factors values will increase by approximately 3%, with the exception of the free school meals factor, which will be increased by an inflation rate of 2%, as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs of providing free meals. Premises funding (Rates, Private Finance Initiative, Split site and Exceptional Premises) will continue to be allocated at local authority level on an historic basis, based on actual spend in the 2022/23 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor only.

For the first time in 2021/22, funding was included in the Basic Entitlement formula factor to replace the former Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant and this continues to be the case.

The Minimum Per Pupil Funding levels, which are mandatory in local funding formulae, will increase to £4,265 for primary schools, and £5,525 for secondary schools.

There will be no NFF gains cap applied to local authority level allocations, but local authorities will still be able to use a cap in their local formulae. The funding floor used in the national formula will be set at 2% in 2022/23,

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meaning that all schools' NFF allocations will see a minimum gain per pupil of 2% above their 2021/22 baseline pupil-led funding.

Other technical changes to the formula for 2022/23 include:

- Data on pupils who have been eligible for free school meals at any time in the last six years (FSM6) is now taken from the October school census instead of from the January census, to bring the factor into line with new arrangements for pupil premium.
- In calculating low prior attainment proportions, data from the 2019 early years foundation stage profile and key stage 2 tests will be used as a proxy for the 2020 and 2021 assessments, which were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- For the provisional NFF allocations, pupils who joined a school between January and May 2020 attract funding for mobility on the basis of their entry date, rather than by virtue of the May school census being their first census at the current school (the May 2020 census was cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Further to the consultation on changes to the payment process of schools' business rates, the DfE has confirmed that the business rates payment system for schools will be centralised and ESFA will pay billing authorities directly on behalf of state funded schools from 2022/23 onwards. This change has not yet been reflected in provisional settlement figures for DSG, however, so the illustrations in this paper incorporate business rates on the same basis as in 2021/22.
- Sparsity funding is now based on road distance instead of on straight-line distance from pupils' home to school, and a sparsity distance taper has been introduced, in addition to the existing year group size taper. No Blackpool schools attract sparsity funding through the NFF.

Proposals for Blackpool's formula

The July 2021 announcement included provisional funding allocations for local authorities in 2022/23 using October 2020 pupil numbers. While the total allocation will be updated using the October 2021 census pupil numbers, we know that Blackpool's Primary Unit of Funding has increased by 2.6% to £4,737, and the Secondary Unit of Funding has increased by 3.1% to £6,415.

Subject to updates for October 2021 Census information, the Schools Block allocation is likely to increase by almost £2 million, or 2.95% per pupil. The provisional figures have enabled us to produce illustrative school-level funding, taking account of the additional funding from Government.

In order to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes in funding, local authorities are obliged to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG). This is based on a school's per pupil funding excluding Rates, Sparsity and Lump Sum. In support of the Government's intention to increase funding at school level, the DfE's regulations on funding formulas require local authorities to set an MFG at a rate between 0.5% and 2% per pupil for 2022/23.

This year, we are consulting on the following matters:

- Continued replication of the National Funding Formula for Blackpool schools
- Transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
- Growth fund contingency

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 Consultation

1. Continued replication of the National Funding Formula for Blackpool schools

In previous years, Schools Forum has approved the replication as far as possible of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Blackpool schools. We therefore propose that this continues, which will allow for the following features:

- Use of the values for the formula factors from the NFF.
- Setting of the MFG at the maximum 2%, in line with the funding floor used in the NFF. This means that all schools will receive an increase of at least 2% per pupil on pupil-led factors.

Question 1	Do you agree that we should continue to replicate as far as possible the National Funding Formula in Blackpool’s local formula for schools?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Rather than having to consult with schools each year about replicating the NFF, the local authority proposes that Blackpool’s local formula for schools continues to mirror as far as possible the NFF each year, until such time as there is a national change in funding for schools, or other circumstances require a change to be made. This would mean that formula factor values would mirror those in the NFF, and that the MFG would be set at the same level as the funding floor used in the NFF.

Question 2	Do you agree that Blackpool’s local formula for schools in future years should continue to mirror as far as possible the NFF?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

2. Transfer of funding to the High Needs Block

As has been the case in recent years, the Schools Block allocation within the DSG funding framework remains ring-fenced in 2022/23, but the local authority retains limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block funding into other blocks, with the approval of Schools Forum. To make such a transfer, the local authority is required to consult with all schools and seek the agreement of Schools Forum.

The local authority may submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education in cases where the Schools Forum does not support the proposal to move funding out of the Schools Block, or where a transfer of more than 0.5% is proposed.

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In line with Blackpool Education Improvement Board’s 2020-2030 Vision: a school-led strategy for sustainable change and improvement, a number of actions have been and are being taken to address the significant ongoing pressures on the High Needs budget. However, the plans are ambitious, and continuing increases in the number of pupils requiring specialist provision could offset any financial benefits derived from implementation of the proposals.

Despite the actions being taken, High Needs expenditure is forecast to exceed funding by around £1.8 million in 2021/22, resulting in a cumulative deficit on DSG of c.£6.5 million by March 2022. Even with additional government funding for High Needs and successful implementation of all current plans, it could take more than five further years to recover the deficit on DSG. (See the latest version of the High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan at Appendix 1.)

For this reason, the local authority is proposing to continue to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2022/23. Subject to the final DSG settlement, this would reduce the cumulative DSG deficit by approximately £489k.

Question 3	Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2022/23?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

The reduction in school budgets could be effected in a number of ways, and the views of schools are sought on two alternative methodologies. The first (Option A) would be by reducing the Basic Entitlement formula factor values by a small percent, in line with the methodology used in 2021/22 when each of the factors was reduced by 0.76%. The second (Option B) would be to apply a cap on gains, which is the methodology that has been used in earlier years.

Appendix 2 to this document contains anonymised illustrations of the impact on individual schools’ provisional allocations of each of the options. It should be noted that the data used in the illustrations is derived from the October 2020 School Census, and that final school budgets will use October 2021 School Census data. The illustrations are therefore provided to allow stakeholders to see a hypothetical scenario of the difference in impact across schools of the two options, in order for views to be sought on the principles of the methodologies.

Option A (reduction in Basic Entitlement values) has the benefit of spreading the amount to be transferred to the High Needs Block across the majority of schools. The only schools where a reduction to budgets would not be made are those where the Minimum Funding Guarantee of the Minimum Per Pupil Level of Funding applies. In the illustrations at Appendix 2, a reduction of 0.91% (or between £29 and £46 per pupil) has been applied to the Basic Entitlement values to release £489k.

Option B (cap on gains) has the benefit of guaranteeing a certain level of increase for all schools where this would accrue using the NFF factor values, and only those schools with potential increases above this level

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would see their gains capped. In the illustrations at Appendix 2, a cap on gains of 2.82% has been applied in order to release £489k.

Using October 2020 data, the impact of each of the options is summarised in the table below:

	Option A	Option B
Number of schools impacted by less than £5k	1	2
Number of schools impacted by between £5k and £10k	9	5
Number of schools impacted by between £10k and £20k	13	15
Number of schools impacted by more than £20k	7	6
Total number of schools impacted (out of 39)	31	28
Maximum impact on any one school	£49,619	£56,549

NB: the number of schools impacted, and the scale of the impact will differ from the above summary due to changes in factors such as relative deprivation from one year to the next for each school.

Question 4	If a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made in 2022/23, do you think that this should be done by using Option A (reduction to Basic Entitlement values) or Option B (cap on gains)?
Option A	
Option B	
Comments	

3. Growth Funding

Blackpool’s School Organisation Plan covering the period 2020 to 2028 identifies a potential shortfall of Year 7 places in Blackpool schools, likely to occur during the academic years 2023/24 to 2026/27. To this end, the local authority is exploring opportunities with secondary schools who may be in a position to accommodate a temporary increase in Year 7 admissions during those years. Under the school funding system, pupil numbers are funded on a lagged basis, so an increase in pupil numbers in one year will not result in increased funding until the following year. For this reason, any agreed increases in pupil numbers to meet basic need requirements are funded on estimated numbers within Blackpool’s local formula so that funding is available to the relevant school in the year of the increase.

To provide local authorities with additional funding to plan for such increases, there is a separate formulaic allocation for each local authority in respect of growth, but there is no guarantee that this will be sufficient to meet all of the planned additional places in any one year. Funding is currently used in Blackpool to cover the ongoing growth of Armfield Academy.

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Given that the anticipated increase in secondary pupil numbers coincides with a forecast decrease in primary pupil numbers, there is a risk that the authority’s growth allocation will be insufficient to meet the temporary requirement for additional secondary places. For the reasons outlined above, the local authority proposes that any surplus funding is set aside in a growth fund contingency, which will be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years. The surplus would be calculated after ensuring that the new national funding formula flows in full to all schools, so that no capping of school-level allocations is required (subject to the decision made regarding transfers to the High Needs block).

Schools Forum approved the setting aside of growth funding on this basis in 2020/21, when a growth contingency of £180k was established. However, the formulaic growth funding received in 2021/22 was insufficient to fund the requirement in that year, so the contingency was reduced to £90k. Should a further shortfall arise in 2022/23, this remaining contingency will be used initially to close the gap.

Question 5	Do you agree that any surplus funding available from the 2022/23 growth funding should be set aside in a growth fund contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years, and that any shortfall in growth funding should be drawn down from the contingency?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Rather than having to consult with schools each year about adding to and drawing from the growth contingency, the local authority proposes that the methodology described in the section above continues to be implemented each year until such time as there is a national change in funding for growth, or other circumstances require a change to be made.

Question 6	Do you agree that the growth contingency continues to operate in future years as described in the Growth Funding section of this consultation?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 Consultation

How to Respond

This consultation closes on Friday 24th September 2021.

We would ask that only one co-ordinated response is made for each mainstream school affected by this consultation, and that you indicate the name of the school for the purpose of analysis. Individual responses will not be shared with other schools and evaluation will be anonymised.

It would be helpful if you could complete your responses to the questions posed and any associated comments using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/TZ4AGE2qbC>

You can alternatively complete a copy of the survey at the final section of this document and return by e-mail to hilary.wood@blackpool.gov.uk. Any queries regarding the consultation can be sent to this same e-mail address.

Glossary

DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
NFF	National Funding Formula
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
MFG	Minimum funding guarantee

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Appendix 1 – High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan

Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Special schools	7647	8338	9185	9805	9994	10095	10199
Special Educational Resource Facilities	484	397	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Provision	0	424	1330	1241	1093	1043	1026
Alternative Provision	3680	3861	3250	3202	3202	3202	3202
Mainstream top-up	1369	2031	2546	2592	2592	2592	2592
Post-16	2030	2569	2742	2743	2743	2743	2743
Out of Borough	5081	5360	4994	4762	4584	4648	4648
Central Council teams and budgets	2303	2634	3175	3179	2981	2981	2981
Total High Needs expenditure	22594	25614	27222	27524	27189	27304	27391
High Needs Block allocation	19496	22276	25369	28086	28086	28086	28086
In-year (surplus)/deficit - High Needs Block	3098	3338	1853	-562	-897	-782	-695
Transfer from Schools Block	-431	-101	-457	-489	-489	-489	0
(Surplus)/deficit from other DSG blocks	21	-573	-640	-512	-410	-328	0
In-year (surplus)/deficit - DSG	2688	2664	756	-1563	-1796	-1599	-695
Cumulative DSG deficit	3105	5769	6525	4962	3166	1567	872

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Appendix 2 – Illustrative 2022/23 budget allocations at school level

School number	Actual 21-22 Budget	Provisional 22-23 Budget	Potential year-on-year gain	Potential year-on-year gain %	Option A Reduce Basic Entitlement		Option B Cap on gains	
					Potential 22-23 Budget	Difference to Provisional 22-23 Budget	Potential 22-23 Budget	Difference to Provisional 22-23 Budget
1	£2,841,216	£2,939,496	£98,280	3.46%	£2,921,531	£-17,965	£2,916,094	£-23,403
2	£894,736	£909,636	£14,900	1.67%	£909,636	£0	£909,636	£0
3	£1,921,708	£1,986,243	£64,535	3.36%	£1,975,722	£-10,521	£1,971,052	£-15,191
4	£1,555,507	£1,609,720	£54,213	3.49%	£1,599,375	£-10,345	£1,595,080	£-14,640
5	£1,713,222	£1,747,902	£34,680	2.02%	£1,747,902	£0	£1,747,902	£0
6	£1,088,593	£1,126,230	£37,637	3.46%	£1,120,135	£-6,096	£1,115,690	£-10,540
7	£836,937	£866,984	£30,047	3.59%	£861,181	£-5,803	£856,994	£-9,990
8	£1,766,527	£1,816,484	£49,957	2.83%	£1,804,409	£-12,074	£1,812,721	£-3,763
9	£974,214	£1,008,855	£34,641	3.56%	£1,002,730	£-6,125	£998,167	£-10,689
10	£968,168	£1,002,556	£34,387	3.55%	£996,343	£-6,213	£991,929	£-10,627
11	£868,853	£899,915	£31,061	3.57%	£893,965	£-5,949	£889,793	£-10,122
12	£867,978	£898,883	£30,905	3.56%	£892,992	£-5,891	£888,902	£-9,981
13	£1,715,675	£1,764,832	£49,157	2.87%	£1,753,285	£-11,547	£1,759,679	£-5,153
14	£2,442,496	£2,523,053	£80,557	3.30%	£2,506,173	£-16,881	£2,506,880	£-16,173
15	£2,085,103	£2,154,388	£69,285	3.32%	£2,142,724	£-11,664	£2,140,237	£-14,151
16	£999,552	£1,034,080	£34,528	3.45%	£1,028,248	£-5,832	£1,024,138	£-9,942
17	£1,192,785	£1,214,042	£21,257	1.78%	£1,214,042	£0	£1,214,042	£0
18	£1,776,325	£1,837,142	£60,817	3.42%	£1,827,060	£-10,082	£1,822,530	£-14,612
19	£2,419,898	£2,468,943	£49,045	2.03%	£2,468,943	£0	£2,468,943	£0
20	£2,027,104	£2,096,711	£69,607	3.43%	£2,085,281	£-11,430	£2,080,589	£-16,123
21	£2,439,547	£2,526,198	£86,651	3.55%	£2,509,728	£-16,470	£2,504,499	£-21,699
22	£2,558,402	£2,610,252	£51,850	2.03%	£2,610,252	£0	£2,610,252	£0
23	£2,492,443	£2,542,933	£50,490	2.03%	£2,542,933	£0	£2,542,933	£0
24	£1,868,412	£1,932,919	£64,507	3.45%	£1,921,929	£-10,990	£1,917,455	£-15,464
25	£2,787,473	£2,847,294	£59,821	2.15%	£2,840,624	£-6,670	£2,847,294	£0
26	£908,608	£924,286	£15,678	1.73%	£924,286	£0	£924,286	£0
27	£1,438,673	£1,464,928	£26,255	1.82%	£1,464,928	£0	£1,464,928	£0
28	£2,097,250	£2,172,012	£74,761	3.56%	£2,157,915	£-14,097	£2,152,676	£-19,336
29	£1,048,634	£1,085,169	£36,535	3.48%	£1,078,956	£-6,213	£1,074,748	£-10,421
30	£2,076,345	£2,141,430	£65,085	3.13%	£2,129,531	£-11,899	£2,131,133	£-10,297
31	£498,885	£516,257	£17,371	3.48%	£513,473	£-2,784	£509,518	£-6,739
32	£5,226,499	£5,373,318	£146,820	2.81%	£5,340,639	£-32,679	£5,369,410	£-3,908
33	£5,116,993	£5,268,577	£151,584	2.96%	£5,235,182	£-33,396	£5,256,706	£-11,871
34	£4,136,486	£4,282,088	£145,602	3.52%	£4,254,223	£-27,865	£4,248,387	£-33,701
35	£6,696,443	£6,937,363	£240,919	3.60%	£6,887,743	£-49,619	£6,880,813	£-56,549
36	£6,104,081	£6,323,212	£219,132	3.59%	£6,278,524	£-44,688	£6,271,950	£-51,262
37	£6,298,306	£6,524,316	£226,010	3.59%	£6,478,036	£-46,280	£6,471,515	£-52,801
38	£5,943,201	£6,058,871	£115,670	1.95%	£6,058,871	£0	£6,058,871	£0
39	£4,252,609	£4,404,598	£151,989	3.57%	£4,373,661	£-30,938	£4,404,598	£0
	£94,945,889	£97,842,116	£2,896,227		£97,353,111	£-489,005	£97,352,970	£-489,146

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Consultation Response Form

Name:	
Title:	
School/Trust:	

Question 1	Do you agree that we should continue to replicate as far as possible the National Funding Formula in Blackpool's local formula for schools?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Question 2	Do you agree that Blackpool's local formula for schools in future years should continue to mirror as far as possible the NFF?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Question 3	Do you think that a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2022/23?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula 2022/23 Consultation

Question 4	If a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made in 2022/23, do you think that this should be done by using Option A (reduction to Basic Entitlement values) or Option B (cap on gains)?
Option A	
Option B	
Comments	

Question 5	Do you agree that any surplus funding available from the 2022/23 growth funding should be set aside in a growth fund contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years, and that any shortfall in growth funding should be drawn down from the contingency?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Question 6	Do you agree that the growth contingency continues to operate in future years as described in the Growth Funding section of this consultation?
Yes	
No	
Comments	

Please return completed forms to hilary.wood@blackpool.gov.uk by Friday, 24th September 2021.

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum members on the Department for Education Consultation – Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula.
- 1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 Schools Forum members are asked to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 On 8th July 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) launched the first stage of a consultation on its stated objective of moving to a National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools. The proposals in this consultation set out the principles for such a move, with a further stage likely to follow at the end of 2021/early 2022 setting out the finer details.
- 3.2 Since its introduction in 2018/19, the schools NFF has been a ‘soft’ formula. This means that the DfE, through the NFF, calculates funding allocations in relation to each individual mainstream school, based on its particular characteristics. These individual school-level allocations are then aggregated for each local authority (LA). The LA, from its aggregated total, then determines individual schools’ final funding allocations through a local formula, which it is responsible for setting.
- 3.3 While the DfE has set some parameters within which local formulae must operate, LAs have had discretion about the amount of funding put towards each factor and some flexibility over which factors to use in their local formulae. In some areas, the operation of the local formula can, and often does, mean that an individual school’s funding varies from that which the NFF itself allocates. This is not the case, however, for Blackpool schools: given that the NFF resulted in an increase in funding for Blackpool when it was first introduced, we were able to closely mirror the NFF in our local formula, with all schools benefitting from year-on-year increases in funding.

- 3.4 The majority of local authorities have now moved towards the NFF. After allowing for the area cost adjustment, 105 of the 150 local authorities in England have moved all of the factor values in their local formulae closer to the NFF over the past the years, and 73 are now mirroring the NFF funding factors almost exactly. For this reason, the DfE feels that it is now time to complete the move to a funding system in which all individual schools' funding allocations are set directly by the national formula without substantive further local adjustment. This system, previously called a 'hard' formula, is now being referred to by the DfE as a 'direct' formula.
- 3.5 This consultation sets out proposals for how the system can move towards a direct NFF, by setting out both proposals for what a fully delivered direct NFF should look like and for the next steps to be taken to ensure a smooth transition towards this. The DfE is not proposing, at this point, to set a fixed target date by which the direct NFF will be fully in place. Instead, they wish to take a measured approach to the transition to a direct NFF starting in 2023/24 – moving LAs' local formulae progressively closer towards the NFF, achieving greater fairness and consistency in funding, but also providing the opportunity to consider the impact of each step before making the next move. This consultation includes proposals on how (and how quickly) LA formulae could move towards a hard NFF, as well as proposals on the eventual completion of these reforms to the NFF.
- 3.6 The following sections contain summaries of the matters covered by the consultation.

3.7 ***Scope of the direct NFF***

In order to deliver on its fundamental aims, the DfE proposes that all NFF funding factors – pupil-led and school-led – should be included in the direct formula and that all funding distributed by the NFF should be allocated to schools on the basis of the direct formula, without further adjustments by LAs.

3.8 ***Funding for premises factors***

The consultation includes proposals for how the DfE could improve premises factors within the NFF in advance of the introduction of the direct formula, so that allocations are based on a consistent, objective assessment of current need, rather than the previous years' local spending decisions. The factors covered relate to PFI, exceptional circumstances, and split sites.

For the PFI factor, the DfE has begun engagement with a selection of local authorities to gather more information on how PFI costs are funded in their local formulae, which will inform a separate consultation on the PFI factor in the NFF. This is a particularly complex area, and no changes are anticipated before 2024-25. Blackpool has one school that receive PFI funding.

The exceptional circumstances factor only applies to costs such as rents, or joint-use facilities, which the great majority of schools do not face. The DfE plans to consult on this specific issue in due course, and will consider which costs could be met through a formulaic calculation in the NFF, and which are better dealt with through a national application-based system. Blackpool has no schools that receive exceptional circumstances premises funding.

The optional split site factor is only available for schools with unavoidable extra costs due to having buildings on different sites. LAs must base allocations on objective criteria of a split site and set a clear formula. The DfE is considering how these schools can be funded on the basis of a formulaic assessment of additional costs, and will consult on proposals separately. Blackpool has no schools that receive split site funding.

3.9 ***Funding for growth***

At present, funding is allocated to LAs through the NFF's growth factor, which LAs distribute to schools that are growing to meet additional demand for school places. This is necessary to help such schools meet the additional costs that they incur as a result of growth in pupil numbers, before these additional pupils lead to schools receiving greater core allocations in the following year under the lagged funding system. The allocations to LAs is not linked to actual growth in individual schools, but is calculated by a formula that looks at total pupil numbers in middle super output areas.

The DfE proposes that in future, growth funding will be allocated directly to schools based on information about forecast pupil numbers collected from local authorities and academy trusts. Standard amounts would be paid to school, and national criteria would be used to determine which schools are eligible for funding. The main criterion would involve the size of the forecast growth, to ensure that additional funding is only allocated where growth is significant. Where growth is not significant, schools would be expected to manage within the funding allocations on the basis of lagged data until the following year, when budgets would increase to reflect the higher pupil numbers. Funding would be subject to an adjustment process, which will be designed to prevent additional funding being allocated where there is a significant difference in actual pupil numbers compared to forecast numbers.

Not all growth in schools is to meet basic need; growth can also occur where a school becomes more popular. At present, the DfE provides academies experiencing significant forecast growth due to increased popularity with additional funding to reflect their increased costs. The DfE aims to move to a more transparent and consistent approach for allocating popular growth funding,

and proposes to make funding available for schools which have seen an increase in popularity, after being recently sponsored by a multi-academy trust which has improved the school's performance. Rather than being based on forecast numbers, popular growth would be funded via the adjustment process, with the same amounts and criteria used for basic need growth.

3.10 ***Falling rolls funding***

For falling rolls funding, to protect capacity where it will be needed in the near future, the DfE proposes that it will use information from LAs to demonstrate that spare capacity is likely to be needed within the next three years. Funding will only be provided where schools had already experienced at least one year's decrease to their number on roll, in addition to the forecast decrease in the coming year. It is proposed that this funding would continue to be provided only to schools with a Good or Outstanding grade at their most recent Ofsted inspection. The amount of funding would be standardised, and factored into schools' core NFF allocations.

3.11 ***Start-up funding for new schools***

At present, where an LA is the proposer of a new free school, those schools receive a Project Development Grant of £25k and any additional start-up funding is determined by LAs' growth criteria. This has led to inconsistencies across the country in amounts new schools opened through this route receive, as well as inconsistencies in the amount these schools receive compared to schools opened through the central free school programme. The DfE's review of existing local criteria for growth funding will encompass start-up costs for new schools, and it will consult on detailed proposals in the second stage of this consultation.

3.12 ***Transition to the direct NFF***

From 2023/24, the DfE proposes to begin to tighten the rules on local funding formulae, so that schools' allocations move closer to the NFF distribution, ensuring a smooth transition towards a direct formula and delivering a more consistent funding system.

From 2023/24, the DfE proposes that all LAs should be obliged to use each of the NFF factors in its local formulae, and only those factors. The exception to this will be any NFF factors that are significantly reformed in 2023/24, e.g. the newly formularised premises factors, which would not be compulsory in the first year that they are introduced.

The DfE also proposes that, in 2023/24 each LA would be required to bring each of its local formula factors at least 10% closer to the NFF factor value. As above,

any premises factors which are allocated according to a newly formulaic basis in 2023-24 would be exempt from these requirements. LAs would also not be allowed to 'over-shoot' the NFF value. LAs would not be required to move factor values nearer to the NFF if they were already very close to the NFF (local factor values within 1% of the respective NFF values). The DfE's ambition is to build momentum towards a direct NFF through gradually increasing the pace at which local formulae are tightened in subsequent years. After an initial 10% movement closer to the NFF in 2023/24, and subject to the impact of this movement, the DfE aims to move at least 15% closer to the NFF in 2024/25 and at least 20% closer in 2025/26.

3.13 ***Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)***

In the second stage of the consultation on the direct NFF, the DfE will seek feedback on whether, as a result of requiring LA formulae to move closer to the NFF from 2023/24, LAs should be given greater flexibilities over the level of MFG in order to manage affordability pressures, or whether this should be managed through the flexibility to cap and scale gains.

3.14 ***English as an Additional Language (EAL)***

For pupils with EAL, LAs have flexibility relating to the number of years in which an EAL pupil has been in the school system, in order to attract this funding. The DfE proposes that this flexibility should be removed from 2023/24, so that all LAs would need to use the NFF's 'EAL3' measure (pupils attract funding if they are recorded on the census as having entered state education in England during the last three years, and their first language is not English). Blackpool already uses the EAL3 measure in its local formula.

3.15 ***Sparsity funding***

The 'sparsity' factor includes a number of flexibilities which LAs can currently use. As the DfE has introduced a new methodology for calculating sparsity distances in the NFF from 2022/23, it plans to retain these flexibilities in 2023/24, in order to minimise the disruption for LAs. No Blackpool schools qualify for sparsity funding.

3.16 ***Pooling of funding by Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)***

In 2013, MATs were granted the ability to pool General Annual Grant (GAG) funding. This allows a Trust to pool some of the funding provided for all of the pupils for which it is responsible and distribute it between its constituent academies. The DfE has stated that the move towards a hard NFF does not alter the key benefits that MAT pooling can bring, and therefore intends that this

freedom will remain during the move to a direct NFF and continue once the transition to a direct formula is complete.

3.17 ***Funding of central school services***

The Dfe has categorised ongoing services for schools that are delivered centrally (either by LAs, or by academy trusts) into three broad headings:

- Local authorities' ongoing responsibilities for all schools – both maintained and academies (for example relating to admissions, or monitoring school attendance). These are funded from the ongoing responsibilities element of the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) that is paid to LAs in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- De-delegated central functions for schools that local authorities (for maintained schools) and MATs (for academies) are responsible for. These functions are generally funded through local authorities or MATs top-slicing school budgets. Statutory school improvement functions are also delivered centrally for schools for maintained schools, but provided for separately through the local authority school improvement monitoring and brokering grant.
- Optional traded services for all schools paid out of individual school's delegated budget share that are offered to schools to buy or not.

In moving towards a direct NFF, the DfE intends to review which services best sit within each of these three categories and whether there is scope to set out a clearer list of services to be funded centrally, alongside a greater move towards de-delegated and traded services. This consultation will be followed by a more technical consultation on the future of central school services covering these issues.

The DfE has stated that it will continue to fund statutory responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools centrally (for example some admissions duties), and that it does not intend to change the existing scheme whereby DfE purchases centrally copyright licences for all state-funded schools. They may also consider whether LA's funding for any remaining central school services should become part of the Local Government Finance Settlement rather than a reduced CSSB block.

The Central School Services Block also includes a historic commitments element, relating to continuing expenditure by LAs on commitments entered into before 2013, on activities which since that date have been deemed not to be appropriate for local authorities to fund directly from the DSG. The DfE has been reducing this funding since 2020, and proposes that it fully removes the remaining funding for historic commitments by the time the direct NFF is introduced, with the

exception of a separate legacy grant for those LAs with unavoidable commitments. Blackpool is in receipt of the reducing historic funding, but no longer has any commitments against it, so there is no further risk from the reduction of funding.

3.18 ***Implications of direct NFF on funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)***

This consultation has been published ahead of the publication of the government's SEND Review, which is considering improvements to make sure that the SEND system is consistent, high quality, and integrated across education, health and care, and to make it financially sustainable for the future. As such, the recommendations of the SEND Review will have important implications for how support for pupils with SEND is delivered and funded, including in mainstream schools. The DfE recognises therefore that there will need to be further consultation in the future on how the move to a direct formula can best support and deliver the specific recommendations coming out of the SEND Review, once published, and anticipates that this will form part of the second stage consultation on the direct formula.

The NFF uses a set of proxy factors to reflect the likely prevalence SEND within a school, and to direct more funding to those schools with a greater number of pupils with these needs. Specifically for SEND, currently measures of deprivation and low prior attainment act as the strongest proxy measures in the NFF for the number of children with SEND in a mainstream school. There are currently wide variations between the value of these proxy factors within LAs' formulae, and a direct NFF will help to ensure that this funding to help schools support children with SEND is distributed consistently between schools across the country. The review of these proxy indicators for SEND will be considered as part of the second stage consultation following the conclusion of the SEND review.

In recent years, there has been increased pressure on LAs' high needs budgets. One way that this pressure has been managed is through the flexibility that LAs have had to move funding from the mainstream schools funding block to their high needs budget. Blackpool has used this flexibility on a number of occasions. The DfE recognises that continuing with such an approach would not enable schools to see the benefits of the direct formula. Following the recommendations from the SEND Review, future consultations will consider whether a new mechanism, in place of the current block transfers, needs to be developed for situations in which LAs continue to face significant, unavoidable, pressures on their high needs spending – for instance, in areas where particularly high usage is being made of special schools, which are fully funded through LAs' high needs budgets, and relatively low proportions of children with EHCPs are being educated in mainstream schools. Future consultations will also consider

any changes to how mainstream schools receive high needs funding, and to the future of notional SEN budgets, in the light of recommendations from the SEND Review.

3.19 ***Role of Schools Forums***

Schools Forums are representative bodies in each LA to advise on (and, in some cases, take) local funding decisions. They have a wide range of responsibilities, covering funding for schools, high needs, early years and central LA services. As well as these formal responsibilities, they play an important role in local stakeholder engagement – they are well-established networks that bring local providers together to discuss common issues.

Once a hard NFF is fully implemented, some of schools forums' powers and responsibilities will no longer apply. While the move to a direct NFF would mean that the role of schools forums will change, the DfE expects that this kind of representative group will continue to play an important part in local decision making and stakeholder engagement.

The DfE intends to conduct a wider review of the role of schools forums as plans progress with the introduction of the hard NFF, and following decisions on the future of the SEND system. This wider review will cover the rules around the membership and structure of schools forums, to consider whether these remain appropriate in light of the changes as a result of the move to a direct NFF, and any new responsibilities that schools forums take on.

3.20 ***Moving to a consistent funding year***

Currently maintained schools are funded on a financial year basis (April to March) and academies on an academic year basis (September to August), and the DfE is keen to understand the appetite for a change in funding year for maintained schools, to an academic year basis, as part of the shift to a direct formula.

3.21 The consultation closed on 30th September 2021, and full details can be found on the DfE's website at this link: [Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#). The consultation questions and the local authority's response can be found at Appendix 12(a) to this report.

List of acronyms:

DfE – Department for Education

NFF – National Funding Formula

LA – local authority

PFI – Private Finance Initiative

EAL – English as an Additional Language

MAT – Multi-Academy Trust

GAG – General Annual Grant

CSSB – Central Schools Services Block

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

ESFA – Education and Skills Funding Agency

PUF – Primary Unit of Funding

SUF – Secondary Unit of Funding

ACA – Area Cost Adjustment

LGFS – Local Government Finance Settlement

List of Appendices:

Appendix 12(a): Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to
the National Funding Formula – consultation questions
and Blackpool Council’s response

Appendix 12(a)

Department for Education Consultation – Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula (Summer 2021) Consultation questions and Blackpool Council response

Question 1: Do you agree that our aim should be that the directly applied NFF should include all pupil-led and school-led funding factors and that all funding distributed by the NFF should be allocated to schools on the basis of the hard formula, without further local adjustment through local formulae?

Yes

Question 2: Do you have any comments on how we could reform premises funding during the transition to the directly applied NFF?

The PFI factor is not something that can be formularised, as each local authority will have entered into different contractual arrangements for schools in their area. Individual approaches for the calculation of the PFI factor should be agreed between the ESFA and the local authority for each school where this applies. It is appreciated that this will be a lengthy process, but the timescales for implementation of the direct NFF should allow for this work to be carried out. Any other solution to the PFI factor could result in shortfalls for schools if local authority charges start to diverge from the funding that schools receive. The funding could potentially be treated as a separate legacy grant outside of the NFF.

Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal to use national, standardised criteria to allocate all aspects of growth and falling rolls funding?

Yes

Question 4: Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to growth and falling rolls funding?

We feel very strongly that funding for popular growth should not be limited to academies, as being part of a multi-academy trust is not the only route to school improvement. Maintained schools who become more popular as a result of improvements should not be financially disadvantaged when compared to academies.

We believe that there are circumstances when falling rolls funding should be available for schools who do not yet have a good or outstanding Ofsted judgement. If there is a basic need for additional places in the future, then denying any school access to funding to support it to maintain an appropriate level of capacity could jeopardise strategic place planning within that area.

Question 5: Do you agree that, in 2023-24, each LA should be required to use each of the NFF factors (with the exception of any significantly reformed factors) in its local formulae?

Yes

Question 6: Do you agree that all LA formulae, except those that already 'mirroring' the NFF, should be required to move closer to the NFF from 2023-24, in order to smooth the transition to the hard NFF for schools?

Yes

Question 7: Do you agree that LA formulae factor values should move 10% closer to the NFF, compared with their distance from the NFF in 2022-23? If you do not agree, can you please explain why?

Yes

Question 8: As we would not require LAs to move closer to the NFF if their local formulae were already very close to the NFF, do you have any comments on the appropriate threshold level?

The methodology implemented needs to also allow some scope for a small move away from the factor values in specific circumstances. For example, the final Schools Block funding is based on PUFs and SUFs calculated using the previous year's census data; when the updated census data is fed through the formula, there could be a shortfall in funding required to match the factor values (or move closer to them) due to the changing characteristics of pupils. Likewise, if a local authority's Schools Forum approves the transfer of funding from the Schools Block for the first time, it could result in some of the factor values (e.g. Basic Entitlement) needing to be reduced in order to release the funding to be transferred.

Consideration also needs to be given to the treatment of the Area Cost Adjustment and the interplay with factor values. There is not an ACA factor in the local formula in the same way that there is in the NFF, and as a result, some local authorities apply their respective ACA to each of the factor values within their formula, whereas others do not. There will need to be an agreed approach on this in order for plans for the move towards the NFF to be possible.

Question 9: Do you agree that the additional flexibility for LAs in the EAL factor, relating to how many years a pupil has been in the school system, should be removed from 2023-24?

Yes

Question 10: Do you agree that the additional flexibilities relating to the sparsity factor should remain in place for 2023-24?

Unsure

Question 11: are there any comments you wish to make on the proposals we have made regarding ongoing central school services, including on whether in the future central school services funding could move to LGFS?

We would wish to see the calculation of funding for ongoing central school services continuing to reflect levels of deprivation in an area. The demands on services such as Pupil Welfare are greater in areas of high deprivation, and services like School Admissions are impacted by higher levels of pupil transience.

We would be concerned about moving CSSB funding into the LGFS, given that those local authorities receiving floor protection through the local government formula may be allocated no additional funding through this stream, resulting in a real loss of funding for statutory school support services.

Question 12: Do you agree with the proposal for a legacy grant to replace funding for unavoidable termination of employment and prudential borrowing costs? We will also invite further evidence on this at a later stage.

Yes

Question 13: How strongly do you feel that we should further investigate the possibility of moving maintained schools to being funded on an academic year basis?

Agree

Question 14: Are there any advantages or drawbacks to moving maintained schools to being funded on an academic year basis that you feel we should be aware of?

As well as normal year-end processes, maintained schools and local authorities would be required to carry out additional mid-year exercises for the purpose of determining amounts to feed into Whole of Government Accounts.

An advantage of a consistent funding year would be the ability to report on all school

activity and balances on the same basis. It would also remove the need for part-year adjustments, for example relating to grants or recoupment adjustments.

Question 15: Please provide any information that you consider we should take into account in assessing the equalities impact of the proposals for change. Before answering this question, please refer to Annex (C) of the consultation document.

Question 16: Do you have any further comments on our move to complete the reforms to the National Funding Formula?

It is essential that the next stage of the school funding reforms is not progressed until the outcome of the SEND Review has been published, so that findings and recommendations can be appropriately factored in.

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 12 October 2021

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 outbreak.
- 1.2 Action required – for information.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

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)
 - New education recovery package for children and young people
 - 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, there have been no further announcements regarding financial support to schools relating to the Covid pandemic. However, the Department for Education has shared some useful slides that set out the different strands of Covid Recovery monies that have been announced. The slides can be seen at Appendix 13(a) to this report.
- 3.3 Given that there have been no recent changes regarding funding for schools relating to the Covid pandemic, it is proposed that updates will only be brought to Schools Forum if there are any significant new developments to report.

List of acronyms:

DfE – Department for Education

CJRS – Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

ESFA – Education and Skills Funding Agency

NRPF – No recourse to public funds

List of appendices:

Appendix 13(a) – Covid recovery programmes overview



Department
for Education

Covid recovery programmes overview

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September 2021

The three recovery announcements

Announcement 1 – June 2020

£650m Catch-Up Premium

- Shared across primary and secondary schools over the 20/21 AY.

£350m National Tutoring Programme

- Schools component will support 250,000 pupils 20/21 AY
- Includes £96m for 16-19 providers to provide small group tutoring activity for disadvantaged 16-19 students
- EY: Includes funding for early language support for reception-aged pupils and £9m for Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) in EY

Announcement 2 – February 2021

£302m Recovery Premium (including £22m for Accelerator Fund)

- Allocations will reflect disadvantage funding eligibility and will have additional weighting applied to specialist settings.

£200m to expand tutoring programmes.

Includes:

- £83m expansion of NTP for primary and secondary schools in 21/22 AY.
- £102m extension of the 16-19 Tuition Fund for a further year.
- £18m to support early language development in the early years.

£200m to deliver face-to-face summer schools in summer 2021

Announced alongside, but not funded within the package: support through Holiday Activities and Food Programme across the country and Oak National Academy resources available throughout the summer holidays.

Announcement 3 – June 2021

£1bn expansion of tutoring:

- £218m expansion of NTP.
- £579m for local tutoring provision using new or existing school staff.
- £222 million to extend 16-19 tuition fund for two further years.

£253m new funding to help provide 500,000 teacher training opportunities.

Includes:

- £69m to extend the rollout of the Early Career Framework reforms.
- £184m for reformed middle- and late-career National Professional Qualifications.

£153m for evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners.

Announced alongside, but not with new funding: Schools or colleges able to offer students in yr.13 option of repeating up to a year.

Eligibility and payments

Programme	Payment method	Eligibility
Catch Up Premium (20/21 AY)	Paid directly to schools	All state funded primary and secondary schools, special schools and AP
Recovery Premium (20/21 AY)	Paid directly to schools (apart from £22m accelerator)	
Tutoring NTP (20/21 – 23/24 AY)	Schools can access subsidised tuition.	
Tutoring local provision (21/22 AY)	Details tbc shortly	
Summer Schools (Summer 21)	Schools apply for funding – form released shortly.	State-funded secondary schools, special schools and AP
Teaching ECF (21/22 – 23/24 AY)	Teachers sign up to a local provider	All new teachers
Teaching Middle – Late career NPQ (21/22 – 23/24 AY)	Details tbc shortly	Middle and Late Career teachers
Tutoring 16-19 tuition fund (20/21 – 23/24 AY)	Direct to providers who opt in.	16-19 providers with eligible 'disadvantaged' students.
Repeat Year 13 (21/22 AY)	(lagged) 16-19 funding allocations	Secondary schools, 16-19 providers
EY training & development (21/22 – 23/24 AY)	Details tbc shortly	Details tbc
Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) (21/22 AY)	Schools request places , priority given to high FSM%	State funded schools with reception classes
Early Language support (21/22 AY)	Details tbc shortly	EY staff. Will target around 50 LAs with high disadvantage

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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
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
SERF	Special Educational Resource Facility
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SSA	School Support Assistant
SUF	Secondary Unit of Funding
TUC	Trades Union Congress
VAT	Value Added Tax