

Blackpool Council

6 January 2020

SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 14 January 2020 at 9.15 am
in Room A, @the grange, Bathurst Avenue, Blackpool, FY3 7RW

A G E N D A

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

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

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

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

3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman of the Forum until January 2021.

4 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice Chairman of the Forum until January 2021.

5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 1 - 8)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2019 as an accurate record.

To discuss any matters arising not contained elsewhere on the Agenda.

6 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE (Pages 9 - 26)

Nicky Dennison, Public Health Specialist, to provide an update to the Forum on recent Public Health items.

7 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE (Pages 27 - 28)

Paul Turner, Head of Service for Schools Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion to provide an update.

8 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE (Pages 29 - 34)

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

9 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2019/20 (Pages 35 - 38)

Mark Golden, Finance Manager, to provide an update.

10 SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2020/21 PROPOSALS (Pages 39 - 46)

Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager to provide an update on the School Funding Formula proposals for 2020/21.

11 DRAFT 2020/21 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET PROPOSAL (Pages 47 - 50)

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources, to provide an update to the Forum outlining the 2020/21 Budget Proposals.

12 DE-DELEGATION OF SERVICES AND RETENTION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION FUNCTIONS 2020/21 (Pages 51 - 56)

Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Funding Initiative Manager to provide a report to the Forum on de-delegation of services and retention of funding for education functions.

13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Forum to note the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10 March 2019 at 9.15am @the grange, Bathurst Avenue, Blackpool, FY3 7RW

Venue information:

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

Other information:

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

Copies of the agendas and minutes of the Schools Forum are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019

Present:

Primary School Head Teachers/Representative

Ms J Hirst, Bispham Endowed (Chairman)

Primary School Governor Representative

Ms M Lonican, School Governor, Our Lady of the Assumption

Special Academy Representative

Susan Field, Chair of Governors, Park Community Academy

Academy Representatives

Ms A Bailey, Star Academies

Ms T Harrison, Thames

Ms J Heywood, Revoe

Mr D Logan, Roseacre (Achievement Through Collaboration)

Mr C Wardle, St Georges

Pupil Referral Unit

Ms W Casson, Educational Diversity

Non-Schools Members

Mr N Adams, Staff / Teacher Associations

Ms A Baines, Staff/Teacher Associations

Mr S Hughes, Blackpool and the Fylde College

Mr R Rendell, Early Years Strategic Group

In Attendance:

Councillor K Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools, Education and Aspiration

Mr M Golden, Finance Manager

Ms J Mills, Consultant in Public Health

Mr P Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager

Mr P Thompson, Head of SEND

Mr P Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Mrs H Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources

Mrs D Bowater, Democratic Governance Adviser (minutes)

Mr S Rae, ISOS representative (observer)

Mr S Day, ISOS representative (observer)

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

New members of the Forum were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Elaine Allen, St John Vianney; Karen Haworth, Woodlands; Simon Brennand, Unity; Roger Farley, Westminster; Edward Vitalis, Bright Futures; Derek Medcalf, St Georges; and Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services.

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were noted.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting pending the amendment of the school name from 'Park School' to 'Park Community Academy'.

Matters arising from the minutes that were not discussed elsewhere on the agenda were considered:

Item 3: As discussed under matters arising from the March 2019 meeting, an update on the review of the Pupil Referral Unit was sought. It was noted that the review report had been completed and presented to the Pupil Referral Unit, no further updates would be presented to the Schools Forum.

Item 4: Children's Centre Consultation update - members of the Staff and Teacher Associations had raised concerns relating to the settlement agreement for staff affected by the changes in the Children's Centres. It was noted that it was within the Schools Forum remit to discuss use of resources and the impact on finances and members had previously received the financial impact information. It was agreed to delegate responsibility to a member of the Schools Forum to attend future discussions on the matter, with a remit to agree to proposals for which the financial implications were within the overall funding already agreed by Schools Forum. Jo Hirst agreed to attend the discussions.

Resolved:

- **That Jo Hirst would represent the Schools Forum at future discussions relating to Children's Centres.**

4 REVIEW OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION

Paul Sharples, Schools Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager provided an update on the membership of Schools Forum for 2019-2020. It was noted that the membership had been reviewed and no changes were required.

Schools Forum representatives were reminded that members may nominate an appropriate substitute from the group they represent, to attend the Forum on their behalf subject to notification in advance, to the Clerk.

Resolved:

- **To remind members of the Schools Forum that they may nominate an appropriate substitute from the group they represent, to attend the Forum on their behalf subject to notification in advance, to the Clerk.**

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2019

5 PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Judith Mills, Consultant in Public Health provided an update report on work undertaken by Public Health since the previous meeting.

It was reported that the Summer Holiday Activity Programme was funded by the Blackpool Opportunity Area and had provided both activities and food in the six most deprived areas of the town. It was reported that following evaluation of the Activity programme, the findings would be circulated.

The Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) Survey was undertaken in Spring 2019 and findings indicated that 28% of boys and 42% of girls sometime felt afraid of going to school because of bullying and 39% of secondary school responders had used an e-cigarette or vaporiser. All responders were thanked for their input, it was recognised that there had been more primary school responses than secondary.

The Stop Smoking Model working with schools to proactively support and encourage young people to make informed choices about tobacco use would continue until October 2019 and participating schools would receive feedback on the project and discuss the next steps. It was recognised that there had been limited engagement with the drop in sessions despite the choice of location being made by the young people involved.

The Bystander Initiative pilot undertaken in Blackpool colleges had looked at how to prevent the increase in domestic abuse and sexual violence in society and to change social norms in peer cultures at all levels from high schools to college and university. The draft evaluation of the initiative had been sent to the colleges for comments.

Finally, it was reported that there was a planned redesign to the Children and Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS) across the Lancashire and South Cumbria footprint to develop a more consistent approach to services. It was noted that there would be no tender process but a combined delivery to create a new type of professional group as there were limited mental health nurses available. Judith Mills confirmed that headteachers (primary and secondary) could have input into the process by contacting Judith.mills@blackpool.gov.uk

Resolved:

- To circulate the Public Health Update to all headteachers for information (Danielle Bowater).

6 LOCAL AUTHORITY UPDATE

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion provided the update report for information. It was reported that two Consultants to support schools with certain subjects had been recruited and a new School Admissions Portal for the Education Management System was available to streamline admissions processes.

Resolved:

- To circulate the Local Authority Update to all headteachers for information (Danielle Bowater).

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7 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources, provided an update report on High Needs. As reported previously, Blackpool alongside other authorities was experiencing financial pressures on its High Needs Budget. A nine point action plan had been developed to better use available resources.

It was reported that additional funding of £700million for high needs had been announced in the Chancellor's Spending Round however the allocation to authorities had not been released. It had been announced that the allocation would result in an increase of between eight and 17%, subject to changes in population.

It was reported that the medium term plan had been revised and updated and a forecast in year overspend on the high needs block from 2019/20 had worsened from £1.5million to a predicted £2.0million, this was over and above the £431k funding transferred from the Schools Block and the dedicated schools grant deficit of £417k brought forward from last year. With the predicted minimum extra funding from the Spending Round monies, expenditure may increase in 2020/21 but the in year deficit may reduce to £884k with further reductions in subsequent years to start to offset the pressures. The cumulative deficit against the Dedicated Schools Grant would reach £3.5million by the end of 2021/22. In this regard, Mark Golden proposed that the recovery plan be extended for a further two years to a five year plan for future presentation to the Department for Education (DfE).

It was acknowledged that an overspend was a national problem, not isolated to Blackpool. Following discussion, it was noted that the statistics showing a comparison of overspend with other authorities would be included in the next High Needs update. It was further commented that the more the Authority tried to offset the overspend from other budgets, the less realistic picture was presented to the DfE.

Schools Forum members considered the proposals for funding for pupils in mainstream schools without an Education Health and Care Plan. The proposals outlined the process for supported places in mainstream settings to enable schools to apply for two terms of funding. It was reported that the High Needs Working Group had highlighted that financial pressures can arise from pupils who have emotional needs, the proposed process would address this. It was acknowledged that the proposal would result in an increase in spend initially but was anticipated as a 'spend to save' option. Following discussion, it was agreed to approve the proposals for funding for pupils in mainstream schools without an Education Health and Care Plan pending feedback from headteachers and SENCO's.

Finally, an update on the new Lotus School was presented. The new school was scheduled to open in September 2020 offering 48 places for 10 to 16 year olds with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. The local authority had been liaising with the Champion Education Trust to identify pupils to take up the places in the new school.

Resolved:

- **Comparison statistics relating to the high needs overspend in Blackpool compared to other local authorities to be presented in the next High Needs update (Hilary Wood).**

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- **To approve the proposals for funding for pupils in mainstream schools without an Education Health and Care Plan pending feedback from headteachers and SENCO's (Phil Thompson).**

8 INCLUSION

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion provided an update report. It was reported that Chief Executive Officers from the Multi Academy Trusts with secondary schools in Blackpool had developed a proposal for the creation of a continuum of provision to support high needs pupils, to improve inclusion and reduce permanent exclusions in their schools.

The proposal outlined a commitment from each of the secondary schools to admit an agreed number of pupils via the In Year Fair Access process and develop in house inclusion programmes. Each academy would commit to permanently exclude no more than three pupils each year (amalgamated at Trust level where appropriate), with penalties covering the full cost should the number be exceeded.

The proposals would reduce permanent exclusions and reduce the number of pupils on the Out of School Register. The proposed costs of the scheme were £1.08million. This would cover £5k per In Year Fair Access admission plus an amount per school to develop the required in house provision, the commissioning of three assessment places, whole school behaviour reviews and project management and evaluation costs.

It was reported that Blackpool Council had committed to contribute £200k towards the costs and the Opportunity Area Board were considering a contribution. Any shortfall of funds was expected to be covered by savings to the High Needs budget arising from a significant reduction in permanent exclusions. Schools Forum members were asked to support the implementation of the plan.

Following discussion, it was acknowledged that the large Pupil Referral Unit in Blackpool was predominantly fed by secondary schools therefore a better system in secondary schools was sought. Further comments welcomed the paper and the better promotion of inclusion. A change in the system and process was needed and it was positive that secondary settings had acknowledged this.

Schools Forum members determined that the process should have a mechanism for accountability inclusive of action plans per school and an impact assessment report. It was acknowledged that the contracts with schools would specify criteria. It was acknowledged that the Opportunity Area Board, The School Inclusion Team, Department for Education Team, School Improvement Board and Schools Forum would monitor progress.

(Wendy Casson left the meeting)

Schools Forum agreed by a majority vote, to support the implementation of the plan pending the following:

- The Blackpool School Improvement Board be asked to monitor the inclusion action plans by way of a standing item 'Secondary Inclusion Project Monitoring'

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- At the November 2019 Blackpool School Improvement Board meeting signed contracts with guidelines for the school plan (including the action plan, associated costs, impact assessment criteria and milestones) to be presented.
- Without an agreed inclusion action plan for each school, no funding from Schools Forum responsible budgets would be released.

Paul Turner, Head of Service for School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion provided an update on Illuminate Funding. It was reported that a budget of £85k was in place to support schools who admitted pupils with challenging needs. Payments had been on hold while proposals for secondary schools were considered and the criteria for primary pupils were reviewed. Following the proposals for secondary In Year Fair Access admissions, it was recommended that the Illuminate Funding reverted to apply to primary pupils only in accordance with the criteria and any payments relating to eligible pupils admitted since the scheme was put on hold be released to schools.

Schools Forum members unanimously agreed to approve the recommendation that the Illuminate Funding reverted to primary pupils only in accordance with the revised criteria. Any payments relating to eligible pupils admitted since the scheme was put on hold would be released to schools.

Resolved:

- **To support the proposals for secondary inclusion, pending the conditions outlined.**
- **To approve the recommendation that the Illuminate Funding reverted to primary pupils only in accordance with the revised criteria. Any payments relating to eligible pupils admitted since the scheme was put on hold would be released to schools.**

9 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2019-2020

Mark Golden, Finance Manager, provided an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget monitoring 2019/20. It was reported that the forecast gap on the DSG in 2019/20 had increased by £500k and the forecast DSG deficit was £2.459million by 31 March 2020. The increase in the out of borough placements was identified as a contributory factor. As reported at item 7, the forecast would trigger a need to provide a deficit recovery plan to the Department for Education by June 2020.

Phil Thompson indicated that a proposal had been taken to the schools Twilight sessions to look to provide special educational needs provision on mainstream sites to cater for pupils with Education Health and Care Plans. It was agreed that the proposal be discussed at the next Schools Forum meeting.

Resolved:

- **The proposal to provide special educational needs provision on mainstream sites to cater for pupils with Educations Health and Care Plans to be presented at the January 2020 Schools Forum (Phil Thompson).**

10 SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS FUNDING UPDATE

Paul Sharples, Schools Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager provided an update report on the latest developments relevant to the Schools Funding Formula. It was

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reported that the National Funding Formula factor values would increase by 4% with the exception of the free school meals factor which would increase at an inflation rate of 1.84%. Premises funding would continue to be allocated at local authority level.

It was reported that there would be no National Funding Formula gains cap applied to local authority allocations compared to 3% applied at school level in 2019/20. In 2020/21, each local authority would continue to set a local schools formula, in consultation with local schools. The government had re-confirmed the intention to move to a single 'hard' national funding formula to determine every school's budget, although timescales had not been set.

It was acknowledged that the minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) consultation would run until 22 October 2019 with the government response due to be published in November 2019.

Finally, it was reported that the government had announced an additional £66million to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers through the government's Early Years free entitlement grants.

The report indicated that the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant would continue to be paid separately from the national funding formula in 2020/21. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Department for Education had indicated that teachers' pension employer contributions would continue beyond 2021.

11 EXTENDING THE ACADEMIES RISK PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager provided an update report on the consultation issued by the Department for Education (DfE) on 'Extending the Academies Risk Arrangements to Local Authority Maintained Schools'. Interested parties were invited to comment on the proposal to extend the Academies Risk Protection Arrangements to include local authority maintained schools in order to reduce the cost of protecting them from risk. It was noted that the consultation closed on 4 November 2019.

Resolved:

- **Paul Sharples to circulate the paper to all headteachers for information.**

12 FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMY TRUSTS

Paul Sharples, School Funding and Private Finance Initiative Manager provided an update report on the consultation issued by the Department for Education (DfE) on the 'Financial Transparency of Local Authority Maintained Schools and Academy Trusts'. It was reported that the proposed new measures outlined would align some of the lines of accountability of maintained schools to be the same as academies.

The report was noted.

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13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Schools Forum was agreed as Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 9.15am, @the grange, Bathurst Avenue, Blackpool, FY3 7RW.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 11.46am)

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

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Nicky Dennison, Public Health Specialist
Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the following public health issues:

1. Holiday activity programme
2. Personal, Social and Health Education update

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To receive the updates.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 Holiday Activity Programme

The summer 2019 holiday activity programme has now been fully evaluated and a copy of the report is attached for further information at Appendix 6a. Following on from the success of the scheme the Holiday Activity Partnership will continue to look at how such a scheme can be sustainable for all school holidays and not just for the summer period. The partnership is also looking to expand and are looking for schools to be engaged with the programme along with local businesses.

A bid was submitted on the 13 December 2019, to the Department for Education, to fund a similar scheme in Summer 2020. This time the partnership are looking to deliver in ten areas across the town if successful. The areas identified are:

- Claremont
- Grange Park
- Mereside
- Revoe
- Talbot and Brunswick
- Bloomfield
- Marton
- Bispham

- South Shore
- SEND provision

The funding will be announced in February 2020, and if successful, the partnership will have a much better lead in time to implement the scheme. Further updates will be provided at the Schools Forum.

Personal, Social and Health Education Update

All schools have been offered a package of free support in preparation for Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education becoming statutory from September 2020. The uptake of the package has been good with 41 out of the 44 schools engaged in some or all of the available offer of

- Public Health training
- PSHE Association membership and INSET sessions
- Accredited resources/lesson plans and assistance with policy writing and parental engagement
- Google Resource website to enable all schools access to quality assured resources and/or other relevant information
- Termly forums to provide further training and opportunities to share best practice

The main focus of the project has been to develop a programme for primary school, however, the secondary schools, SEND schools and Educational Diversity can also access the offer of support as a continuation of the Secondary School PSHE project 2014-2016.

The PSHE Primary Support Officer post (Nicole Ronson) has been extended for a further 12 months, and Nicole will now be able to provide **free** support to schools until July 2021.

If any schools who have not accessed the support would now like to, Nicole can be contacted at: Nicole.ronson@blackpool.gov.uk / 07584 614846 / 01253 476746.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6a - Evaluation of Summer Holiday Activity Programme 2019

List of Acronyms:

PSHE – Personal, Social and Health Education

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disability

Evaluation of Summer Holiday Activity Programme 2019

Blackpool Council



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Background

In Blackpool in 2018, 4,741 children were receiving free school meals: 25.3% of all children on the school roll, compared to 13.5% of children in England (Blackpool Council, 2019; Public Health England, 2019). In addition, all primary school children in Blackpool are entitled to free school breakfasts (Blackpool Council, 2018).

With many families reliant on the provision of two free meals during term-time, there is growing concern about 'holiday hunger' affecting children, particularly those from families on a low-income (McConnon et al, 2017). Foodbanks report significant increases in demand during school holidays (The Trussell Trust, 2017). The Talbot and Brunswick Family Hub gave out 57 family food parcels over the course of the summer, which further highlights the impact of the summer holidays on families over the holiday period. The summer holidays present an additional challenge by causing 'learning loss' for children, disproportionately affecting those children from more deprived backgrounds – thought to be caused by social isolation and boredom as well as inequity in opportunities and experiences to enhance learning compared to their more affluent peers (Campbell, Watson and Waters, 2015).

'Children from low income families often forgo events that most of us would take for granted, for example school trips, inviting friends round for tea and holidays' (Blackpool Council, 2019)

The Blackpool Opportunity Area, which was launched to raise education standards locally, and increase social mobility, provided funding for the 'summer activities with food' programme for 2019.

The total service charge for this project was agreed at £117,840.10. Blackpool Council (Public Health Team) engaged with local service providers for the delivery: targeting six of the most deprived areas in Blackpool, the project

aimed to ensure healthy food and activities were available for children in Blackpool over the summer holidays.

Aims and Outcomes

The project's aims were to:

- Support, enrich and add value to planned holiday programmes including the provision of food where they exist and develop new activities in two areas where they do not, in six key areas of Blackpool where income deprivation and child poverty are highest; and
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to delivery of those activities, including targeting children and young people that are disadvantaged, and vulnerable to exclusion and absence.

The main outcomes for the project were to:

- Ensure healthy food and activities are available for children in Blackpool, prioritising the most disadvantaged children and to provide evidence of uptake;
- Show impact of the educational impact of providing food and activities over summer and share learning about what has worked well and what hasn't for future projects;
- Increase family learning and capability around health and wellbeing, e.g. Nutrition, cooking and budgeting.
- Have a positive impact on school attendance in September 2019 with a particular focus on key transition points from primary to secondary through coordination with existing OA projects, schools and local initiatives.

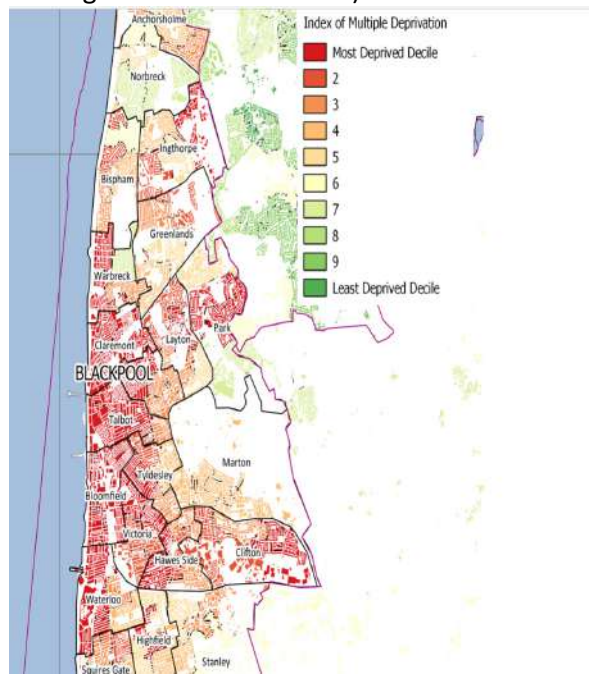
Implementation

Through discussion with the Opportunity Area it was agreed that the holiday provision would be provided across Blackpool at six locations. A literature review undertaken in Scotland highlighted that similar programmes across the country have been undertaken which targeted services based on geographical locations rather than selecting individual families. Thus enabling them to reach and engage deprived families on a universal basis without labelling or stigmatising them (Campbell, Watson and Watters, 2015).

This helped support the decision for Blackpool to offer a scheme that operated across the town rather than targeting specific families and taking a universal approach and to remove the potential of stigma for Blackpool families.

Map of Blackpool with indices of deprivation (2015)

<http://www.blackpooljsna.org.uk/People-and-Places/Wider-determinants-of-health/Deprivation.aspx> (Blackpool JSNA - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)



The map demonstrates the levels of deprivation within Blackpool and a decision was taken to offer Summer Holiday activities at six locations across Blackpool:

1. Claremont (Magic Club);
2. Grange Park (@TheGrange);
3. Mereside – Clifton (Boys and Girls Club);
4. Revoe – Victoria (Blackpool Football Trust);
5. Talbot and Brunswick (Children’s Centre)
6. Bloomfield (Boat House Youth)

The aim of the programme was to offer the same programme of activities which also include the provision of food. It was possible to offer the same programme at the first five locations and the activities included sports activities run by both Sport Blackpool and Blackpool Football Club Community Trust; a trip to the High Ropes; Family craft sessions and Cook and Eat classes run by Adult, Community and Family Learning and at Talbot and Brunswick these sessions were underpinned by the recent Ministry of Food training. Each area was also offered two transition sessions run by School Home Service (SHS), to support children moving from primary to secondary school (Year 6 to Year 7).

The funding was designed to build on existing holiday provision and a number of the locations offered additional activities to their summer programme, which has been funded locally, such as boxing and yoga at Magic Club; a football stadium tour; days out to Blackpool Zoo and Stanley Park; Fun Day at Talbot & Brunswick and Mereside; Scientist Adrian Pritchard; Beach Days and a Blackpool Zoo trip at @TheGrange.

Blackpool Football Trust also built on their existing links with South Shore Academy to provide weekly sessions for a group of older young people they were working with during term-time, in addition to delivering the Summer Holiday Activity Programme at Revoe.

Each of these five locations provided lunch with activities, largely provided by the Blackpool Catering Services. This was a combination of hot meals and ‘packed lunch’ meals dependant on

the activities each day. Talbot and Brunswick family Hub also offered breakfast as they do all year round; although this was not part of the funded programme.

Activities in these five areas were open to anyone wishing to attend.

Location 6, The Boat House offered a different Summer Holiday Activity programme. The Boathouse Youth delivered a range of activities including a Dance Project, day trips out and two week-long residential trips; some of which were targeted at older young people. The purpose of offering a different programme was to attract the teenagers to take part in the programme.

They also supplied lunch with the activities provided by Blackpool Catering Services. This was a combination of hot meals and 'packed lunch' meals dependant on the activity being undertaken.



'Cook and eat' session provided by ACFL

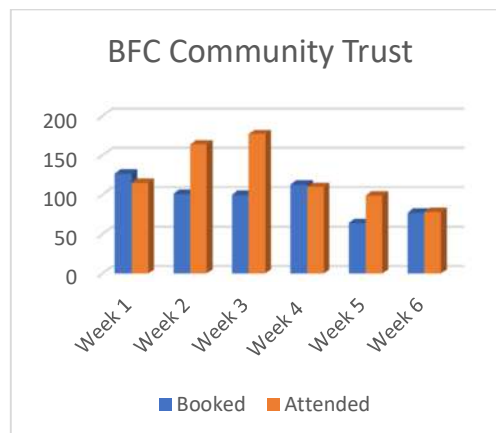
Activities

Blackpool FC Community Trust

The Blackpool FC Community Trust provided two roles within the project. The first was to provide a holiday provision at Revoe School over 3

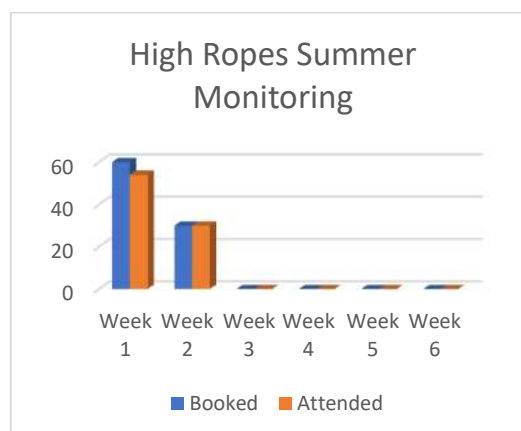
mornings (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and to provide multi sports across the five areas in the afternoons.

The chart below demonstrates these sessions were very popular with the young people with peak attendance during week three of the programme.



High Ropes

The High Ropes is situated at the Leisure Centre at Stanley Park. This session was offered to each of the five areas.



The chart highlights all the sessions were held within the first two weeks of the holiday programme provision. Unfortunately, the children from Revoe area were not able to attend the session due to issues of transportation. An alternative was considered, in that the mobile climbing wall was offered however, this was not possible as the equipment had been taken out of action for repair. Additionally, @the Grange

attended the session but due to weather conditions their session was curtailed. Both these areas were offered vouchers to be handed out to the children, so they could attend in their own time.

Adult Community Family Learning

The Adult Community Family Learning Team offered a range of courses focusing on families learning together to help support the family. The service offered a number of cookery and craft themed sessions:

- To support families to develop new skills
- To support families to learn together
- To provide activities that could be repeated at home.



The original intention was the sessions to be delivered at all 5 locations. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to deliver all the sessions at Mereside or Revoe. The key issue was due to the lack of family engagement in these areas and it was not possible for Adult Community Learning to deliver the sessions without parents being present.

Sport Blackpool

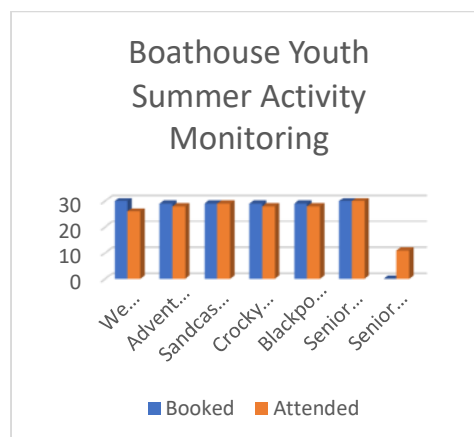
Sport Blackpool offered a multi-sport package across the five areas. The sessions were well received and the young people enjoyed taking part. The uptake of the sessions was good, but the chart below demonstrates that the number of

attendees was less than those who had originally booked to attend.



Boathouse Youth

The Boat House Youth organisation offered a different programme to the other five areas. They were already working in the Bloomfield area and engaged with an older age cohort, therefore funding was allocated to support 30 young people participate in a range of activities. This was due to aiming the programme at older children. They offered a range of activities which included performing arts, day trips, camping and outdoor activities and learning with the Head Start resilience framework. The chart demonstrates that these sessions were well attended.



Transition Sessions

Transitions sessions were offered as part of Summer Holiday Activities Programme for

children moving from primary school to secondary school (year 6 to year 7). Ten sessions were offered, two at each site, but only four of these were attended.



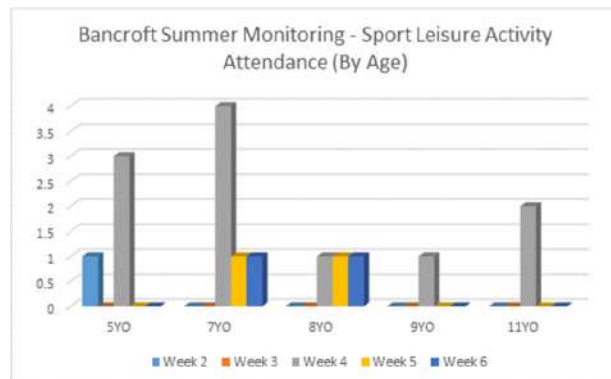
School Home Service who provided the sessions expressed that what happened this summer, in terms of the transition sessions, didn't work. They felt that the sessions that were attended went well; they were interactive and the children got something out of them. However they were very poorly attended, and particularly at the beginning of the school holidays, the children did not want to talk about school, especially when this meant missing out on 'fun' activities to do so. It also seemed that there were some issues with the understanding of what was being offered, and the timings of the sessions.

In future they felt it would be more beneficial to offer just one session at each location, towards the end of the summer holidays, and to focus on the transition of going back to school rather than just the transition from primary to high school.

Bancroft Park

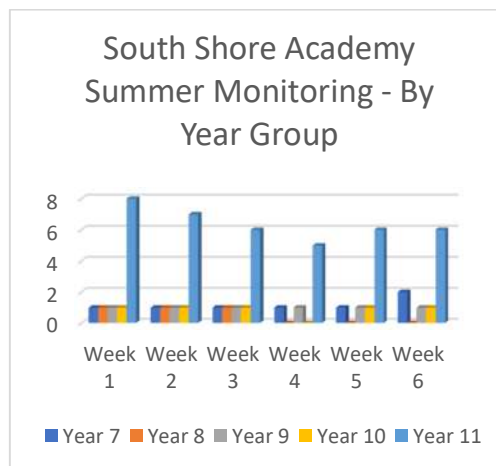
As Blackpool FC Community Trust were operating the Revoe scheme, it was felt that Sport Blackpool didn't need to offer another similar sports provision when they were already providing this. Therefore Sport Blackpool identified Bancroft Park as an alternative location for running the sessions that would have been delivered at Revoe. This resource was not particularly well utilised and it is unclear why this

was the case. As this session wasn't a pre-booked session it hasn't been possible to compare those who booked to the numbers attended, however, the chart demonstrates the age ranges attending and how low the attendance figures are.



South Shore Academy

The partnership was concerned that the majority of the activities were aimed at primary aged children, and that there was little provision for the teenage population. Blackpool FC Community Trust offered to deliver Football sessions on a Wednesday afternoon which would specifically target this age range. There was already a relationship with this school and the young people were already engaged with undertaking activities on the 3G pitch. The numbers attending were not particularly high, but it provided an activity for the older children.



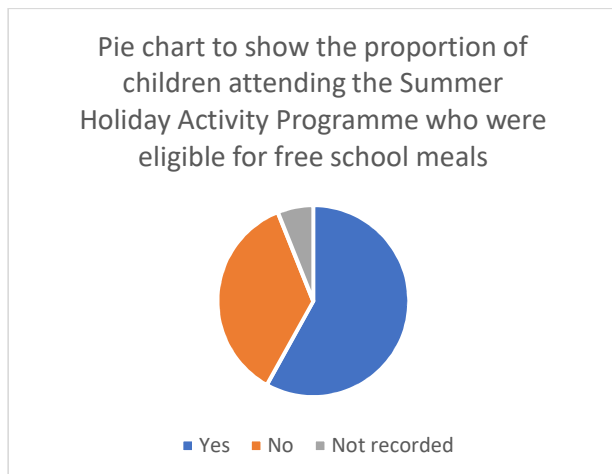
Celebration Event

In the early stages of preparation for the programme, it was suggested that a celebration event was arranged for the end of the programme to celebrate the success of the scheme and to give all children the opportunity to visit the beach. This was originally planned for the 30 August 2019, but moved to the 16 August, as it was realised it was the illumination switch on and could cause issues due to high volume of visitors in the town. All the plans were in place, but due to the weather conditions the event had to be cancelled.

Findings

In total, 567 children attended at least one session at one of the six locations.

The pie chart below demonstrates the proportion of children attending the programme who were receiving free school meals. Excluding the 27 children who attended activities but who are not yet of school-age, 58.1% of children attending the Summer Holiday Activity Programme were eligible for free school meals, indicating that although the programme was not targeted at specific families, it was effective in reaching some of the most deprived children in the town.

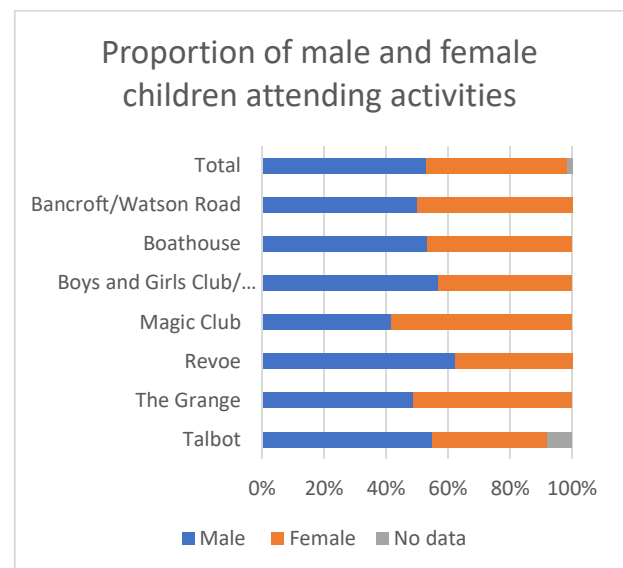


Eligibility for free school meals in itself can be a problematic measure of the requirement of free food during the school holidays. Additional

financial pressure during school holidays, including for childcare and activities can cause food poverty for some families on low incomes during holidays despite not being eligible for free school meals during term time (Campbell, Watson and Watters, 2015); this was also reflected in discussions with parents and local providers. In addition, local providers advised that some families would not be willing to state that their child/children are eligible for free school meals on their consent forms, even when this is the case, potentially leading to under-reporting of free school meal eligibility.

85.2% of children taking part were from White British/British/English backgrounds, and there was no recorded ethnicity for 8.1% of the children, compared with the overall population of Blackpool of which 96.7% were classified as White British in the 2011 census (ONS, 2011).

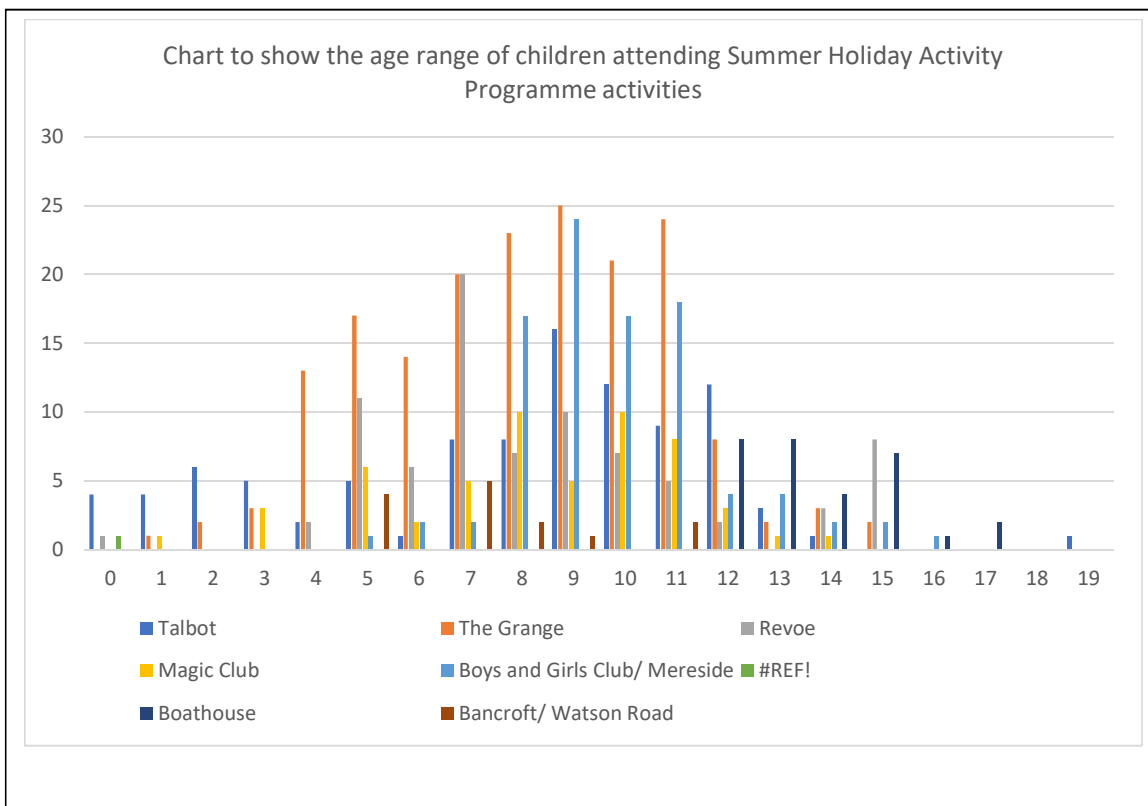
Overall, 52.9% of participants were male, 45.5% were female and there was no data available regarding gender for the remaining 1.6%. There was some variation in this from location to location – for example, only 37.8% of children attending Revoe were female compared with 58.2% at Magic Club.



The age of the children taking part ranged from 0 – 19 years old, with the majority aged 7-11 years. Some locations, such as Boathouse and South

Shore Academy had a much greater proportion of young people over 12 years old. The chart on the next page provides full details of the age range of children attending the Summer holiday programme.

county-wide increase in anti-social behaviour, following a year of particularly low ASB in 2018.



Anti-social behaviour

There were anecdotal reports that anti-social behaviour had reduced, particularly around the Talbot and Brunswick Children’s Centre and that young people were taking part in the activities, rather than damaging the building. In particular one individual known to the centre took part in the activities over the summer and acted as a Peer Educator for the group. Claremont report a 7% drop in ASB during July/August.

Police data demonstrated that although there may have been a decrease in anti-social behaviour in the immediate area surrounding Talbot and Brunswick Children’s Centre, there was an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour from 2018 to 2019 across Blackpool, including in the specific wards where the Summer Holiday Activity Programme was offered. Police Intelligence advised that this was part of a

“If it weren’t for the summer scheme I wouldn’t have done anything over the summer I would have stayed in or done something stupid at night” - Child

“The trips were amazing, the high ropes were the best, it’s nice to do something over the summer instead of playing on the PS4 all day” - Peer Educator

“I couldn’t believe it he has got up early each day and got ready for Boysie and come straight home afterwards. This never happens in gets up late, stays out late, and acts stupid while outside” – Peer Educator’s Parent



Cook and eat session provided by ACFL

Qualitative Feedback

As part of the programme it was important to understand how the children, young people and families felt about the programme being offered over the summer holidays and to establish whether there were any benefits for delivering such a scheme. Discussions were held with the providers and families of the Summer Holiday Activity Programme from each of the six locations. These were one-to-one informal semi-structured interviews, and participants were made aware that the purpose of these conversations was to gain feedback and share learning for the evaluation of the programme. **Please see Appendix 1 for Topic Guide.**

In addition to this Public Health took the opportunity to attend and observe activities at @TheGrange, Revoe, Magic Club, Mereside and Boys and Girls Club and had informal conversations with the children/young people participating about their experiences and feedback. There were meetings with parents/step-parents at @TheGrange and Magic Club during activities and they were asked for their feedback.

Discussions were held with the participants about the evaluation and the purpose of visiting. All participants were aware that their input would be contributing to the evaluation of the Summer Holidays Activity Programme.

What went well/was popular?

A number of key themes were identified through qualitative feedback. Food provided by Blackpool Catering Services (the main provider of summer food) was generally very popular with children and staff; staff expressed that they were easy to work with and accommodating, and that the food was familiar to the children. They reported that the majority of the children ate and enjoyed the food and any extra was taken home with them or given during morning sessions as snacks or breakfast.

Additional children and families attended summer holiday activities compared to usual activities; hence reaching more families. These families have reported that they will continue to engage with local support after the summer holiday activities end. Building on existing local resources enabled this, allowing families to access longer term support.

The activities provided were considered to be great for the age range who attended (generally around age 5 – 11 or 12 years old) and there was a good range of different activities. There was positive feedback from children at all the sites, and good attendance was maintained throughout the summer.

Parents were very positive about the experience; they were grateful for activities for the holidays and expressed that their kids really enjoyed it. It was a positive experience for parents as well—socialising, getting involved and accessing services at the same time. The summer programme gave parents at some of the locations the opportunity to build a supportive network and increase their confidence. Parents expressed that they will continue to do some of the activities they took part in (such as cooking as a family and taking their children to the beach) independently after the summer.

“Fantastic idea to help take some pressure off with the kids being on holiday” - Parent

“I’ve been able to socialise with the other mum’s in the café and met some lovely people.” - Parent

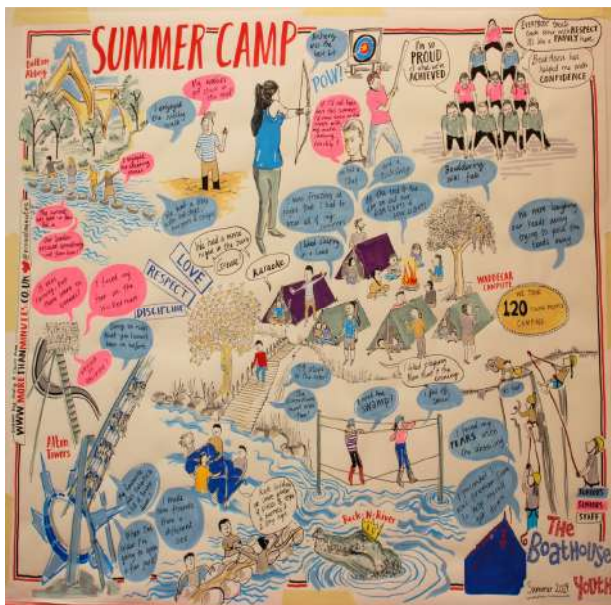


High Ropes Provided by Blackpool Leisure service

Children and young people had the opportunity to have experiences that they would not have had otherwise, including camping and outdoor activities, allowing them to have fun and build their confidence.

"It was good to see Dad take the kids to the beach instead of me. It helped that food was provided as he would not have made a picnic himself"- Parent

"The best bit for me was making a scarecrow because I could pick the clothes and spend time doing something with my mum." – Child



Visual minuting of Boathouse Youth's summer camps

It is important to highlight that the Boys and Girls Club and the Magic Club created Peer Mentor roles for the older children. This role was created to give these young people an opportunity to

take on a level of responsibility, support and role model for their peers. This role worked effectively and kept the older children engaged with the programme.

Challenges/problems

Although participants were generally very positive about the Summer Holiday Activity Programme, there were a number of challenges identified.

The short lead time for the project presented a challenge in engaging with schools and getting information out to children and families before the end of the school term. Some of the locations were able to attend Mereside, Christ the King and Boundary Schools to provide information at assemblies, as well as providing leaflets and posters with information, which made children aware of the opportunities available. Additionally, Devonshire Primary Academy allowed posters into the school. However, not all of the schools approached were able to accommodate this.

Feedback overall was that the general offer of activities was not tailored to, or particularly appealing for, children over the age of 12, however, this may be due to the short time scales for delivering the programme.

Sign-up to sessions was challenging, and some areas had enthusiastic sign-up compared with actual attendance. Several different strategies and processes were used to recruit young people onto the Summer Holiday Activities Programme, at different locations. Organised attempts to 'sign up' young people to activities in advance were not found to be helpful; for example at @TheGrange, they found that a large number of children and young people who were signed up then did not attend the sessions. This was in some part due to parents signing their children up to another provider's activities taking place on the same day. As this provider was to charge a cancellation fee for non-attendance, they had sent their children to that activity. Talbot and Brunswick Family Hub do not use a booking on

system but operate an open door policy 365 days a year.

Earlier in the report it was highlighted there was a lack of family engagement at Revoe and Mereside, which led to some sessions not taking place. The Provider at Revoe reported that this was disappointing for the children who attended. It was felt the children would have benefitted from outside agencies coming in to enhance the summer experience at Revoe similar to other locations and would have provided some more variety in the sessions offered.

During the evaluation of the activities two locations reported that they felt the packed lunches provided sometimes included unhealthy high-sugar snacks as well sandwiches and fruit and could have been more healthy/balanced. However, other locations were happy with the range of food offered across the summer period. Initially, at some locations children and young people were bringing their own brightly-coloured sugary drinks along to sessions. This was rectified by the provision of water bottles and drinking water throughout activity sessions, not just with lunch.

There was limited use of social media, which wasn't utilised in all locations.



Football sessions run by Blackpool Community Football Trust

Conclusions

Overall the Summer Holiday Activity Programme was well-attended and reached 567 children in

Blackpool. Both the children/young people and adults involved reported that they had positive experiences, and would like this or a similar programme to continue in the future.

"All your staff were so helpful and made everything possible. I think you are all fantastic" - Parent

"The staff have been amazing, really understanding and helpful, accommodating (child's) needs i.e. Autism and MLD"- Parent

As 58.1% of the children and young people who attended the Summer Holiday Activities Programme activities were eligible for free school meals, compared to the 25.3% of children in Blackpool's schools who are entitled to free school meals, it appears that the summer holiday programmes with provision of food effectively targeted areas of Blackpool where income deprivation and child poverty are highest. However, some of the most deprived areas in Blackpool (Warbreck, Hawes Side, and Waterloo) did not have any local provision, suggesting that some of the most vulnerable families were not reached or engaged with the programme.

One of the key aims of the project was to 'develop a co-ordinated approach to delivery of those activities, including targeting children and young people that are disadvantaged, and vulnerable to exclusion and absence'. Time limitations meant that generally schools and other key agencies such as social care were not involved in the project. Without their involvement, it is difficult to assess whether the activities were accessed by those children and young people who are vulnerable to exclusion and absence. However, the providers at the different locations were able to develop a network, which can be built upon for future programmes.

Generally the food provision was popular and five of the six locations reported that the children and young people ate and enjoyed the meals, which were a combination of hot meals and 'packed lunch' meals. It was noted one of the centres offered a free breakfast which was used to

engage with the young people to attend the sessions. There was a consensus that this could be looked at as part of the wider free school breakfast scheme to consider how the two schemes could be linked together.

It is clear the provision was very popular with the primary age children and that all providers agreed that more could be done to engage the older age range. It was suggested that consideration should be given to the type of activities offered and that these could be tailored towards teenagers. There was a range of ideas suggested by the partnership including ideas such as hair and beauty, boxing, grime music, photography, athletics, BMX, etc. The network agreed that it would be helpful to work with local high schools to find out what is already being delivered and what is popular, and build on this.

The day trips were popular with the children and it was clear from the feedback that they would have benefited from additional trips being provided. The partnership agreed that this would have been beneficial that trips could include museums, the zoo, local farms and country parks, as well as utilising local resources like Stanley Park and the Beach.

"It was the most exciting time of my life!!! the best bits were paddling in the sea and free ice cream on the beach"- Child

The two sport providers had different levels of staffing ratio which made it difficult with delivering the provision as there were times when more children turned up to take part, which made it difficult to turn them away. Further consideration needs to be given to the ratios in order to meet the needs of the different locations.

The partnership formed between the providers and the Area Co-ordinator grew in strength and is a significant move forward in Blackpool offering a more coherent Youth Service moving forward. Partners felt that the programme should be extended to cover all school holidays, and not

just the summer holiday period. It has therefore been agreed the partnership would continue to consider how the future provision could be delivered, and to look at ways the scheme could be funded in the future. It was also noted that other partners were required to be part of the partnership to help develop and enhance the provision.

Some of the areas expressed that they would like to have more flexibility and autonomy in the summer holiday activity programme in future. They feel that they know their local areas and their needs best, and so are in the best position to tailor the provision to the needs of the communities where they are based. Partners were of the opinion that the days out and day time activities were more suited to their clients rather than arranging residential activities. The general consensus was that to offer a range of day activities was more cost effective and reached out to greater numbers of children. Concern was expressed that residential courses are expensive and limited to a smaller number of children able to access them.

"It's brilliant the boys have made friends, socialised and enjoyed the activities" – Parent

"I enjoyed the cold food more than the hot because with the hot food there was only one choice, but with the packed lunches you could swap stuff with our mates" - Child

All partners agreed that it was important to continue to encourage the on-going development of skills, and maintain the positive relationships that have been built with adults during the scheme and after the summer holidays, such as providing free evening football sessions during school time and encouraging attendance at youth clubs.



Stadium Tour at Blackpool FC

Recommendations

A number of recommendations have been developed from the evaluation and detailed below:

- Consider how the partnership can provide equity across Blackpool and ensure all areas receive some provision in the locations not covered by this scheme.
- To review the Council's free school breakfast scheme offered and consider how both the holiday activity scheme and Breakfast scheme could work in partnership to make funds available for food across the whole year, not just during term time.
- More focus on provision for older young people (aged 12-17 years old), providing activities specifically targeted at this age group, and not run alongside the activities for younger children, unless acting as peer educators or junior leaders.
- Provision of water throughout the day as well as for lunch. Work with the GULP ('Give Up Loving Pop') campaign to provide water bottles for use over the summer.
- Utilise existing local resources such as the beach and Stanley Park for low-cost activities, and to build families' confidence in using them independently in the future.
- Consider giving local providers more autonomy in developing summer programmes.

- Ensuring that children and young people are involved in decision making and planning future activities.
- Continue to foster the partnership which has developed over the summer, with regular meetings continuing throughout the year and enhance the partnership by inviting other local providers, schools, the Police, and seek opportunities to work with local businesses.
- Change the provision of transition sessions to include all age groups (the transition from the summer holidays to the next year of school) rather than just the year 6 to year 7 transition, and offer this towards the end of the break from school to coincide with when children and young people are starting to think about returning to school.
- Assess the feasibility of providing food and activities in Blackpool during other school holidays (Christmas and Easter breaks, and half terms)
- Work with schools to ensure that the communication regarding future programmes reaches the most vulnerable children and families.
- Co-ordination of activities across the community to avoid sessions clashing.
- Improve the use of social media to promote the holiday activities programme.

Acknowledgments

Local providers across the six locations worked with enthusiasm and passion to deliver summer holiday activities, under significant time pressures. They demonstrated commitment and team work to build and work as a network to deliver a varied programme across the summer, giving children and families in Blackpool the opportunity to try new experiences and have fun alongside the provision of food. It is intended that this partnership will continue to work together and grow.

The Blackpool Opportunity Area (OA) Programme seeks to improve social mobility for children and young people, to break the link between social

background and destination. It is recognised that over holiday periods, some pupils may lose progress they gained throughout the academic year and begin to disengage from education and that in Blackpool some children will go hungry during holiday periods.

The Blackpool OA worked with Blackpool Public Health Team to provide funding to support, enrich and add value to planned holiday programmes where they exist and develop new activities in two areas where they do not in key areas of Blackpool where income deprivation and child poverty are amongst the highest. It was agreed to include the provision of food at these activities. Where possible the area coordinators were asked to target children and young people that are disadvantaged, and vulnerable to exclusion and absence.



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Appendix 1

Local co-ordinators

Processes and how have they worked – for -
example, recruitment/getting people involved, -
engagement with schools, taster sessions, etc. -
What’s worked well? -
What hasn’t worked well or has been a particular -
challenge? -
Key learning points -
Next year/in future what would you like to be -
able to offer more of/start doing... -

Children

What has been the best part? -
What has been the worst part? -
What would you like to be different/do next -
year? And how? -
Did you have breakfast/lunch? What did you have -
and what did you think of it? -

Parents

How did you find out about the sessions? -
What do you think about them – what has -
worked well/ what have you and your child -
enjoyed the most? -
What have you not liked and/or what would you -
change? -

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Paul Turner, Head of School Standards, Safeguarding and Inclusion
Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

LOCAL AUTHORITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide a high level overview of recent developments within the Local Authority to the forum.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note for information.

3.0 Background Information:

3.1 Local Authority update

No staffing updates since the last Forum meeting.
No Ofsted inspections since the last Forum meeting.

3.2 Academies

During the autumn term, a number of inspections were conducted by Ofsted –

South Shore – Requires Improvement
Norbreck - Good
Anchorsholme - Good
Mereside – Good
Hawes Side – Good and declining
Langdale – Good and declining

3.3 Statutory Assessment and Moderation

A number of moderators have been trained and their assessments to allow them to moderate assessments at KS1 and KS2.

3.4 Inclusion update

Data correct as of 02/01/2020.

EHE	251
Educational Diversity	241
PEX (Secondary)	10
FTE (Secondary)	592
Overall Absence	4.78% / 8.58%
Persistent Absence	13.83% / 26.21%

The current data shows that the 2019-20 picture is largely similar to the 2018-19 academic year. A significant number of pupils being absent from school due to Norovirus and winter vomiting has affected attendance. This has also been evident in staff absence.

Contracts have been issued for the project that was outlined at the last meeting. This project aims to reduce the number of permanent exclusions across Blackpool Secondary Academies. Concerns raised by Forum members about accountability and scrutiny have been raised with Secondary Academy CEOs. The Department for Education, in partnership with Blackpool Council, have ensured that there is a tight accountability framework in place. The project will be monitored robustly by both partners and updates and reports will be given to the Blackpool Opportunity Area partnership board, which will report by exception to BSIB and Schools Forum if issues arise.

List of Acronyms:

EHE – Elective Home Education

PEX – Permanent exclusions

FTE – Fixed Term Exclusions

CEO's – Chief Executive Officers

BSIB – Blackpool School Improvement Board

Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources
Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

HIGH NEEDS UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To update Schools Forum members on latest developments relevant to the High Needs budget.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note and discuss the contents of this report.

3.0 Background Information

High Needs Budget 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 At the Schools Forum in October, members considered the additional funding for High Needs announced by the Chancellor in the Spending Round for the coming year. At that time, Blackpool's allocation was not known, but the local authority knew that there would be a minimum of an 8% increase, equating to at least £1.56m. The actual allocation amounted to £2.78 million, made up of an increase of 13% on the 2019/20 allocation, plus additional funding linked to higher pupil numbers in the October 2019 census.

3.3 The medium-term plan has been revised to take account of updated forecasts (see Appendix 8a to this report). The plan has also been extended to cover a five-year period, given that any deficit recovery plan would more than likely need to extend beyond three years. Since it was last reported at Schools Forum, the forecast in-year overspend on the High Needs Block for 2019/20 has worsened from £2.0 million to a predicted £2.3 million. This is over and above the £431k funding transferred from the Schools Block and the DSG deficit of £417k brought forward from last year.

- 3.4 The plan includes a proposed transfer of £101k headroom from the Schools Block in 2020/21, which will be considered under a later agenda item, but makes no assumptions about transfers from other blocks of the DSG beyond next year. The plan has also been updated to account for the changes predicted by the Continuum of Provision plan for decreases in secondary exclusions.
- 3.5 The medium-term plan now shows that, while an in-year overspend continues into 2020/21, the current assumptions would result in break-even positions in the following two years. However, an increasing upward trend in pupil numbers in special schools and Out of Borough placements means that costs thereafter resume their upward trend and exceed funding allocations. Using this set of assumptions, the cumulative deficit against DSG would reach around £3.8 million by the end of 2024/25.
- 3.6 It is therefore clear that, despite the additional funding from central government, radical action is still required in order to reverse the continuing upward trend in costs. The local authority proposes to tackle those budget lines which are continuing to grow at a faster pace than the funding or where efficiencies can be identified. In particular, strategies will be drawn up in consultation with relevant stakeholders with respect to the following:
- Special schools – given the growing number of pupils in all three schools, the local authority will work in partnership with those schools to identify opportunities to manage numbers at more affordable levels. Failing this, it may be necessary to reduce per pupil funding through a review of the banded funding model.
 - SERFs – consideration will be given to ways in which support for behaviour needs in the primary phase could be most effectively managed.
 - Out of Borough – this line of the budget is placing ever-increasing pressure on available resources. While there will always be a need for specialist provision for a number of pupils with the most complex needs, the local authority will proactively identify further opportunities for new local provision in circumstances where this provides better outcomes at a lower cost.
 - Local Authority budgets (Specialist Advisory and Referral Service, Access and Inclusion, and Other High Needs Central Services) – the Local Authority will carry out reviews of the services included in these lines in order to identify efficiencies.
- 3.7 The High Needs Action Plan will be updated in consultation with the High Needs Funding Working Group, which next meets on 22 January 2020, and presented back to Schools Forum in March with updates on progress to date.

Deficit Recovery Plan

- 3.8 The size of the forecast deficit at 31 March 2020 means that, should the rules remain unchanged, Blackpool will be required to submit a deficit recovery plan to the Department for Education. The plan would need to demonstrate actions to recover the deficit over three years, or a case can be made to explain why a longer recovery period (typically five years) is required.
- 3.9 Last year, local authorities were required to submit deficit recovery plans if their deficit as at 31 March 2019 exceeded 1% of their total DSG allocation. Recovery plans were required from and submitted by 32 local authorities, with support provided by the Department for Education as appropriate.
- 3.10 Feedback from the Department for Education states that good plans included the following elements:
- Having a clear strategic plan
 - Realising longer term invest to save methods
 - Showing a good understanding of EHCP numbers and how to best manage them
 - Understanding where the local pressures were and working with everyone involved to reduce these
 - Investing in local provision so there is less cost in outsourcing
 - Clear ongoing joint working with stakeholders
- 3.11 Areas for improvement were quoted as including:
- Short-term cost cutting exercises where the long-term effects were not clear
 - Unrealistic projected reductions in EHCP numbers
 - Large projected increases in EHCP numbers with no clear calculations
 - Lack of consultation with the Schools Forum
 - Unachievable savings
 - Not showing a clear understanding of local pressures
 - Showing additional funding as a saving
 - Referring to lengthy additional documentation

Lotus School update

- 3.12 As previously reported, Lotus Special School is due to open on Langdale Road in September 2020, and will provide 48 places for 10 to 16 year olds with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. This is a vital part of the High Needs medium-term financial plan, as it will provide cost effective local provision, and avoid

the need to place pupils in more expensive out of borough independent settings.

- 3.13 The construction of the building is well underway, and is on track to be completed for the planned opening in September 2020. The local authority is liaising closely with Champion Education Trust regarding the identification of pupils who could take up places in the new school. Once this work has progressed further, the broad assumptions currently made within the medium-term plan will be replaced with more accurate forecasts of costs, as well as savings elsewhere in the High Needs budget.

List of acronyms:

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

SERF's – Special Education Referral Unit

EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan

List of Appendices:

Appendix 8a – High Needs Medium-Term Financial Plan

High Needs Block Medium-Term Financial Plan

Service	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Notes Current Version
	Actual £000s	Forecast £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	Budget £000s	
High Needs Block								
New Free School (opening September 2020 - c£1m pa when full)	-	-	350	863	1,000	1,000	1,000	Assumes 24 places from September 2020, increasing to 48 from September 2021
Special Schools								
Place Funding	4,093	4,735	4,860	4,883	4,900	4,900	4,900	April 2018 to August 2018 234 (P), 63 (HF) and 100 (W); from September 2018 255 (P), 63 (HF) and 100 (W); from April 2019 270 (P), 76 (HF) and 110 (W); from September 2019 290 (P), 76 (HF) and 120 (W); from September 2021 290 (P), 80 (HF) and 120 (W)
Top-up Funding	2,548	2,644	2,837	3,206	3,447	3,451	3,515	Updated 27/9 based on Sept 19 intake
SERFs								
Place Funding	395	320	320	320	320	320	320	Highfield and Marton SERFs decommissioned from September 2018
Top-up Funding	153	105	111	111	111	111	111	Highfield and Marton SERFs decommissioned from September 2018
Transport	64	54	48	49	50	51	52	
AP Provision								
PRU - Place Funding	2,580	2,533	2,208	1,913	1,850	1,850	1,850	Reduced from 250 places to 200 from September 2020, 185 from September 2021
PRU - Top-up Funding	1,260	1,243	1,072	841	868	868	868	Forecast numbers:- September 2019 to March 2020 240, April to August 2020 272, September 2020 to March 2021 182, April to August 2021 215, September 2021 to March 2022 147, April to August 2022 178, September 2022 to March 2023 152
Per AP		64	165	165	165	165	165	
Mainstream Schools								
Top-up Funding	984	1,024	1,062	1,081	1,101	1,122	1,143	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	64	163	96	96	96	96	96	
Post-16 Education								
Out of Borough	2,031	1,960	2,012	2,065	2,119	2,176	2,234	Increase in placement costs including inflationary increase @ 3%
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	4,187	4,978	5,448	4,685	4,265	4,385	4,508	Based on 16 year-olds leaving, 20 new placements each year @£35k per place and inflationary increase @3%, offset by transfers into new Free School starting in September 2020
Access and Inclusion	1,044	1,101	1,183	1,203	1,223	1,243	1,264	
Other High Needs Central Services	232	496	514	378	382	387	391	
(Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	767	772	772	772	772	772	772	
Total High Needs Block Expenditure	20,402	22,193	23,057	22,630	22,670	22,896	23,188	
Available High Needs Block funding	18,957	19,496	22,276	22,656	22,756	22,756	22,756	Includes additional funding for new Special Free School
Additional High Needs Block allocation in-year	296	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Schools Block Transfer	400	431	101	-	-	-	-	
Council Funding	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	
HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	349	2,266	680	(26)	(86)	140	432	
Cumulative HNB (Surplus) / Deficit	349	2,615	3,295	3,269	3,183	3,323	3,754	
Cumulative Schools & Early Years Block (Surplus) / Deficit	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	
Cumulative DSG (Surplus) / Deficit	417	2,683	3,363	3,337	3,251	3,391	3,822	

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**
Relevant Officer: Mark Golden, Finance Manager
Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2019-2020

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To report the budget position of the 2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant as at 30 November 2019 - Appendix 9(a).
- 1.2 To report the amount of Dedicated Schools Grant reserves as at 30 November 2019 – Appendix 9(b).

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 2019 Schools Forum.
- 3.2 Since budgets were set Mainstream Top-Up Funding has increased and there has been a larger than expected increase in the number of Out of Borough placements and Special School numbers. The forecast gap on the DSG in 2019-20 has increased from £1.207m to £2.144m.
- 3.3 The forecast DSG deficit now stands at £2.561m by 31 March 2020.

4.0 List of Appendices:

- Appendix 9(a) -Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-2020 Budget Monitoring Report to 30 November 2019.
- Appendix 9(b) -Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 30 November 2019.

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 2019-2020 Budget Monitoring Report to 30 November 2019

Service	2019/20						Comments
	Budget	In Year Adj.	Recoupment	Adjusted Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Schools Block							
Local School Budget							
- Delegated	82,313	0	(64,123)	18,190	18,190	0	
- Third Party & Public Liability Insurance (de-delegated)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	18	0	0	18	18	0	
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	12	0	0	12	12	0	
- Education Functions (retained)	158	0	0	158	158	0	
Pupil Growth Contingency	77	0	590	667	667	0	
	82,578	0	(63,533)	19,045	19,045	0	
Central School Services Block							
Servicing of Schools Forum	15	0	0	15	15	0	
Licences & Subscriptions	85	0	0	85	85	0	
School Admissions	153	0	0	153	156	3	
Contribution to Combined Budgets - Children's Centres	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	
Former ESG Retained Duties							
- Education Welfare	204	0	0	204	204	0	
- Asset Management	57	0	0	57	57	0	
- Statutory / Regulatory Duties	77	0	0	77	77	0	
	1,591	0	0	1,591	1,594	3	
Total Schools Block	84,169	0	(63,533)	20,636	20,639	3	
High Needs Block							
Special Schools							
Place Funding	4,677	0	(2,565)	2,112	2,170	58	Increase in numbers
Top-up Funding	2,470	0	0	2,470	2,644	174	Increase in numbers
SERFs							
Place Funding	320	0	(80)	240	240	0	
Top-up Funding	105	0	0	105	105	0	
Transport	77	0	0	77	54	(23)	Transport SLA
Pupil Referral Units							
Place Funding	2,533	0	0	2,533	2,533	0	
Top-up Funding	1,303	0	0	1,303	1,244	(59)	Based on Summer Term Numbers
Other AP	0	0	0	0	157	157	Continuum of Provision
Mainstream Schools							
Top-up Funding	833	0	0	833	1,027	194	Increased demand
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	163	0	0	163	96	(67)	Forecast Lower than Predicted
Post-16 Education	2,023	0	(696)	1,327	1,269	(58)	Reviewed line by line
Out of Borough	4,440	0	0	4,440	5,024	584	£491k Placements, £92k Transport SLA
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,082	0	0	1,082	1,057	(25)	Supplies and Services
Access and Inclusion	335	0	0	335	335	0	
Other High Needs Central Services	772	0	0	772	772	0	
(Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)							
Total High Needs Block	21,133	0	(3,341)	17,792	18,727	935	
Early Years Block							
2 Year Old Grants	1,750	(131)	0	1,619	1,619	0	
Early Years Pupil Premium	111	(11)	0	100	100	0	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,659	(274)	0	6,385	6,385	0	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	10	0	0	10	10	0	
Disability Access Fund	47	0	0	47	47	0	
Early Years Central Services	421	0	0	421	421	0	
Total Early Years Block	8,998	(416)	0	8,582	8,582	0	
Total Expenditure	114,300	(416)	(66,874)	47,010	47,948	938	
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(113,093)	416	66,977	(45,701)	(45,701)	0	
Post-16 funding from the EFA	0	0	(103)	(103)	(103)	0	
Total Income	(113,093)	416	66,874	(45,804)	(45,804)	0	
In year (under)/over spend	1,207	0	0	1,206	2,144	938	

Appendix 9(b) - Dedicated Schools Grant Reserves as at 30 November 2019

Description	Brought Forward 1st April 2019	Total Forecast Expenditure FY 2019-20	Forecast Surplus / (Deficit) at 31st March 2020	Comments
DSG Reserve	(417,323)	2,144,000	(2,561,323)	
Equal Pay Earmarked Reserve	0	0	0	
Rates Holding Account	0	0	0	
SSA Voluntary Redundancy Reserve	0	0	0	
Insurance Holding Account	0	0	0	
	(417,323)	2,144,000	(2,561,323)	

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

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

Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2020/21 PROPOSALS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the local authority's proposal for the allocation of the schools funding formula for 2020/21.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to the local authority's proposal for the allocation of school funding in 2020/21 by applying the following principles:

- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values;
- Set a minimum funding guarantee of 1.84% compared to 2019/20 per pupil funding;
- Set no cap on gains in line with local formula consultation responses;
- Set aside surplus growth funding allocation of £180k in a growth fund contingency;
- Transfer the £101k headroom from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 In 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced its plans to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for schools funding to local authorities. Between 2018/19 and 2020/21 the NFF model is being used to determine the Schools Block total allocation for each local authority in the country as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation.

3.2 A statement by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, on 3 September 2019 confirmed that there was to be additional funding for schools in 2020/21. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) subsequently published operational guidance detailing how the funding will be distributed to local authorities. The guidance confirms the following changes to elements of the schools NFF for 2020/21:

- The minimum per-pupil funding levels will be set at £3,750 for primary schools, compared to £3,500 in 2019/20 and £5,000 for secondary schools, compared to £4,800.
- The funding floor will be set at 1.84%, compared to 0.5% for 2019/20. This minimum increase in 2020/21 allocations will be based on the individual

school's NFF allocation in 2019/20.

- 3.3 NFF formula factors have increased by 4%, with the exception of the free school meals factor, which has increased by an inflation rate of 1.84%, as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs. Premises funding (Rates, Private Finance Initiative, Split site and Exceptional Premises) continues to be allocated at local authority level on an historic basis, based on actual spend in the 2019/20 local formula, with an inflationary increase (RPIX) for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor only.
- 3.4 There has been no NFF gains cap applied to local authority allocations, compared to 3% applied at school level in 2019/20. Local authorities are still able to use a cap in their local formulae.
- 3.5 There is a new formulaic approach for the mobility factor so that it allocates this funding fairly to all authorities, rather than on the basis of historic spend. The new methodology involves tracking individual pupils using their unique pupil ID through censuses from the past 3 years. If the first census when the pupil was in the school was a spring or summer census, they are counted as a mobile pupil. This excludes reception pupils who start in January. This methodology also excludes pupils who joined in the summer term after the summer census, or pupils who joined in October before the autumn census.
- 3.6 To be eligible for mobility funding, the proportion of mobile pupils a school has must be above the threshold of 6%, compared to 10% under the previous eligibility criteria. The formula will then allocate a per-pupil amount to all mobile pupils above that threshold. The ESFA set the NFF per pupil values for mobility at £875 for primary and £1,250 for secondary.
- 3.7 Growth funding is based on the same methodology as 2019/20, and will have the same transitional protection ensuring that no authority whose growth funding is unwinding will lose more than 0.5% of its 2019/20 schools block allocation. However, there is no longer any capping or scaling of gains from the growth factor in 2020/21. This element differs in that Blackpool suffered capping and scaling of £270k in 2019/20. The allocation in 2020/21 for growth funding is £798k, compared to £556k in 2019/20. Following the conclusion in 2019/20 of the planned expansion of both Gateway and Mereside, the continued growth of Armfield Academy is fully funded within the available allocation.
- 3.8 In 2020/21, while local authorities continue to have discretion over the design of the majority of their funding formulae, the government consulted on making the minimum per-pupil funding (MPPF) levels a mandatory factor in local formulae. This is seen as a first step towards a "hard" NFF. The government published its response on 19 December 2019, and the outcome is that the MPPF values are now compulsory in local formulae. To read the Government's full response, please follow the link below:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attach>

Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Consultation

3.9 As required by funding regulations, the local authority conducted a consultation on proposals for the 2020/21 schools funding formula in November 2019. This year, the review has focused on the following areas:

- The implementation of the Minimum per Pupil Funding levels;
- Whether schools think a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made in 2020/21, the level of transfer and the preferred capping methodology;
- The creation of a Growth Fund Contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years.

3.10 The local authority received responses from 20 different schools. The responses are summarised below:

3.11 Question 1

If local authorities retain discretion over minimum per pupil funding levels within their formulae, do you agree that we should increase the levels in line with the national formula?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	100.0%	20
2	No	0.0%	0
3	Comments:	0.0%	0
Comments:			1
Total			20

As discussed in paragraph 3.8 above, following a national consultation, the government has now made the inclusion of MPPF levels mandatory in all local formulae.

3.12 Question 2

Do you think that a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be made again in 2020/21?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	45.0%	9
2	No	55.0%	11
3	Did Not Answer	0.0%	0
Comments:			7
Total			20

3.13 Question 3

Do you agree that if a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made in 2020/21, this should be at the maximum allowable of 0.5%?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	55.0%	11
2	No	40.0%	8
3	Did Not Answer	5.0%	1
Comments:			6
Total			20

3.14 Question 4

If a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block is made in 2020/21, would your preference be for a straight cap with no scaling, or a 4% cap with scaling?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Straight cap and no scaling	35.0%	7
2	4% cap with scaling	45.0%	9
3	Did Not Answer	20.0%	4
Comments:			2
Total			20

Given that a small majority of respondent are not in favour of a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2020/21, we do not propose to cap gains in the local formula. This ensures that all Blackpool schools receive their full funding in line with their relative need. This year it has been possible to increase school level funding by £5.9m, a 7.13% increase on 2019/20.

With the removal of the cap on gains at national level level, this has resulted in headroom of £101k, once the NFF values are fully applied in the Blackpool formula. This happens when the relative need across the entire school population drops from one year to the next, as the primary and secondary units of funding are fixed by the Department of Education based the previous year's census (proportions of deprivation, low prior attainment, Mobility and English as an additional language). We therefore propose a transfer of the headroom of £101k to the High Needs Block for 2020/21 only.

3.15 Question 5

Do you agree that any surplus funding available from the 2020/21 growth funding may be set aside in a growth fund contingency to be available for meeting any unfunded growth in future years?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	75.0%	15
2	No	20.0%	4
3	Did Not Answer	5.0%	1
Comments:			4
Total			20

As detailed in paragraph 3.7, in 2020/21, growth funding has also been allocated without the imposition of the cap on gains suffered by Blackpool in previous years. As a result we have been able to fully fund the current year's growth entirely within the available funding, without having to reduce funding to other schools. In line with the above responses, the local authority propose to set aside the surplus in growth funding of £180k in 2020/21 in a growth fund contingency, to be available for meeting any future unfunded growth.

3.16 With reference to agenda item 8 'High Needs Update' including detail of the medium term High Needs pressures, the local authority proposes the following in respect of Blackpool's 2020/21 schools formula:

- Continue to apply the National Funding Formula unit values;
- Set a minimum funding guarantee of 1.84% compared to 2019/20 per pupil funding;
- Set no cap on gains in line with the local formula consultation responses;
- Set aside surplus growth funding allocation of £180k in a growth fund contingency;
- Transfer the £101k headroom from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

List of acronyms:

DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
NFF	National Funding Formula
RPIX	Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
MPPF	Minimum per-pupil funding

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10a Blackpool Schools Funding Formula Proforma 2020/21

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Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma										
LA Name:	Blackpool									
LA Number:	890									
Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level				Disapplication number where alternative MPPF values are used			
£3,750	£4,800.00	£5,300.00	£5,000.00							
Pupil Led Factors										
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00					
	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)		Notional SEN (%)
	Primary (Years R-6)	£2,857.00		11,803.00		£33,721,171	£61,037,811	38.32%		
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,018.00		3,932.33		£15,800,115		17.95%		
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,561.00		2,525.00		£11,516,525	13.09%				
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)		Primary Notional SEN (%)
	FSM	£450.00	£450.00	3,575.97	2,110.88	£2,559,080	£13,882,183	15.77%		10.00%
	FSM6	£560.00	£815.00	4,553.74	3,169.78	£5,133,465				10.00%
	IDACI Band F	£210.00	£300.00	1,523.87	808.29	£562,498				50.00%
	IDACI Band E	£250.00	£405.00	780.14	427.83	£368,304				50.00%
	IDACI Band D	£375.00	£535.00	735.24	398.56	£488,945				50.00%
	IDACI Band C	£405.00	£580.00	1,120.88	640.68	£825,552				50.00%
	IDACI Band B	£435.00	£625.00	1,405.95	808.17	£1,116,697				50.00%
IDACI Band A	£600.00	£840.00	2,561.36	1,536.70	£2,827,644			50.00%		
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC X March 19	£0.00		223.47		£0	£644,157	0.00%		
	4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£535.00		530.49	£283,810		0.42%		
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,440.00		62.34	£89,766				
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£875.00	£1,250.00	219.85	62.57	£270,581	£6,972,378	0.31%		
6) Prior attainment	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total		Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	
	Primary Low Attainment		£1,065.00	36.05%	4,255.52	£4,532,125	£6,972,378	7.92%		75.00%
	Secondary low attainment (year 7)	64.53%		21.73%						
	Secondary low attainment (year 8)	63.59%		25.54%						
	Secondary low attainment (year 9)	58.05%	£1,610.00	23.87%	1,515.68	£2,440,253				75.00%
	Secondary low attainment (year 10)	48.02%		25.24%						
Secondary low attainment (year 11)			20.64%							
Other Factors										
Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)		Notional SEN (%)		
7) Lump Sum	£114,400.00	£114,400.00			£4,461,600	5.07%				
8) Sparsity factor					£0	0.00%				
Please provide alternative distance and pupil number thresholds for the sparsity factor below. Please leave blank if you want to use the default thresholds. Also specify whether you want to use a tapered lump sum or the NFF weighting for any of the phases.										
Primary distance threshold (miles)		Primary pupil number average year group threshold		Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity primary lump sum?	Fixed					
Secondary distance threshold (miles)		Secondary pupil number average year group threshold		Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity secondary lump sum?	Fixed					
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)		Middle school pupil number average year group threshold		Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity middle school lump sum?	Fixed					
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)		All-through pupil number average year group threshold		Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity all-through lump sum?	Fixed					
9) Fringe Payments					£0	0.00%				
10) Split Sites					£0	0.00%				
11) Rates					£635,928	0.72%				
12) PFI funding					£121,471	0.14%				
13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)										
Circumstance					Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)		Notional SEN (%)		
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY19-20					£0	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	
Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools					£0	0.00%				
Exceptional Circumstance3					£0	0.00%				
Exceptional Circumstance4					£0	0.00%				
Exceptional Circumstance5					£0	0.00%				
Exceptional Circumstance6					£0	0.00%				
Exceptional Circumstance7					£0	0.00%				
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)					£87,755,528	99.71%				
14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level					£251,520	0.29%				
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)					£88,007,049	100.00%				
15) Minimum Funding Guarantee					1.84%	£376,747				
Where a value less than 0.5% or greater than 1.84% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value										
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)										
Capping Factor (%)		Scaling Factor (%)			No					
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied					£0					
					Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)		Notional SEN (%)		
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)					£376,747	0.43%		100.00%		
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula					£88,383,796		£9,470,105			
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)										
Additional funding from the high needs budget					£96,000.00					
Growth fund (if applicable)					£180,490.00					
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)					£0.00					
Other Adjustment to 19-20 Budget Shares					£0					
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)					£88,564,286					
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement					69.36%					
% Pupil Led Funding					93.78%					
Primary: Secondary Ratio					1 :		1.35			

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

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

Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

DRAFT 2020/21 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET PROPOSAL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To share with Schools Forum the provisional estimates for the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2020/21.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the provisional estimates for future use of DSG.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 On 19 December 2019, the Department for Education issued the provisional allocations of DSG for 2020/21. Blackpool's allocations, shown alongside the original allocations for 2019/20, are as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20	Increase
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	88.665	82.993	5.672
Central Schools Services Block	1.423	1.606	-0.183
High Needs Block	22.276	19.496	2.780
Early Years Block	8.733	8.998	-0.265
Total	121.097	113.093	8.004

3.2 Appendix 11a to this report sets out the provisional forecast expenditure against DSG for 2020/21.

3.3 The Schools Block funding has increased by £5.7 million, which equates to almost 7%. As per the previous report, the Local Authority is proposing to set aside a growth fund contingency of £180k, and also make a transfer of £101k to the High Needs Block out of the headroom in the Schools Block.

3.4 The Central Schools Services Block has decreased in total by £183k. This is made up of an increase of £17k (2.8%) on the main block funding, and a decrease of £200k (20%) on the historic commitments funding. There is a balance of £29k that requires allocating within this Block, and updated proposals will be brought to the next

Schools Forum meeting in March 2020.

- 3.5 As per the High Needs update considered in the earlier agenda item, the estimated costs of the High Needs budget exceed the available funding by £781k, which would be reduced to £680k by the transfer of £101k from the Schools Block. Despite an increase of £2.78 million (14%) in funding, forecast costs have increased by almost £2 million. Further work will be carried out before the next Schools Forum meeting to consider options for additional savings, which will be reflected in the final DSG budget proposals for 2020/21.
- 3.6 It is proposed that the Early Years Block funding is fully allocated to Early Years provision and services. The reduction in this Block is a result of reduced participation levels, although an increase of 1.84% in the hourly funding rate has been given by the Government, which equates to 8p per child per hour. A small amount of savings have been identified in the central expenditure requirements, and a consultation with Early Years providers is currently underway to determine how this should be re-allocated.
- 3.7 With the proposed transfer of funding from the Schools Block, and without any further corrective action, it is currently estimated that the in-year deficit on DSG will amount to £680k, which would add to the forecast cumulative deficit at 31 March 2020 of £2,615k.

List of acronyms:

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

List of Appendices:

Appendix 11a – Draft DSG Budget 2020/21

	2020/21 Total	2019/20 Total	Movement	% Change	Notes
Schools Block					
Local Schools Budget (including de-delegated amounts)	88,383,796	82,313,699	6,070,097	7%	
- Union Duties (de-delegated)	-	18,216	(18,216)	-100%	To be Determined
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks (de-delegated)	-	11,710	(11,710)	-100%	To be Determined
- Education Functions (retained)	-	157,705	(157,705)	-100%	To be Determined
Pupil Growth Contingency	180,490	76,705	103,785	135%	
	88,564,286	82,578,035	5,986,251	7%	
Central Schools Services Block					
Servicing of Schools Forum	15,000	15,000	-	0%	
Licences & Subscriptions	88,261	84,967	3,294	4%	
School Admissions	152,712	152,712	-	0%	
Contribution to Combined Budgets	800,000	1,000,000	(200,000)	-20%	
Former ESG retained duties					
- Education Welfare	204,000	204,000	-	0%	
- Asset Management	56,600	56,600	-	0%	
- Statutory / Regulatory duties	77,000	77,000	-	0%	
Balance to Allocate	29,080	-	29,080		
	1,422,653	1,590,279	(167,626)	-11%	
High Needs Block					
Special Schools					
Place Funding	5,000,000	4,676,667	323,333	7%	
Top-up Funding	3,047,413	2,469,897	577,516	23%	
Total Special Schools	8,047,413	7,146,564	900,849	13%	
SERFs					
Place Funding	320,000	320,000	-	0%	
Top-up Funding	111,108	105,260	5,848	6%	
Transport	47,676	77,442	(29,766)	-38%	
Total SERFs	478,784	502,702	(23,918)	-5%	
Alternative Provision					
Place Funding	2,208,333	2,533,333	(325,000)	-13%	
Top-up Funding	1,071,987	1,303,410	(231,423)	-18%	
Other AP Provision	165,000	-	165,000	#DIV/0!	
Total Alternative Provision	3,445,320	3,836,743	(391,423)	-10%	
Mainstream Schools					
Top-up Funding	1,061,563	832,813	228,750	27%	
Exceptional Circumstances Funding	96,000	162,984	(66,984)	-41%	
Total top-up for Mainstream Schools	1,157,563	995,797	161,766	16%	
Post-16 Education	2,011,655	2,022,759	(11,104)	-1%	
Out of Borough	5,447,522	4,440,300	1,007,222	23%	
Specialist Advisory and Referral Service (SARS)	1,182,880	1,081,517	101,363	9%	
Access and Inclusion	514,176	335,151	179,025	53%	Continuum of Provision
Other High Needs Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	771,865	771,865	-	0%	
	23,057,178	21,133,398	1,923,780	9%	
Early Years Block					
2 Year Old Grants	1,715,232	1,749,615	(34,383)	-2%	
3 & 4 Year Old Grants	6,870,136	6,659,184	210,952	3%	
Early Years Pupil Premium	100,373	110,617	(10,244)	-9%	
Disability Access Fund	47,355	47,355	-	0%	
Early Years Inclusion Fund	-	10,000	(10,000)	-100%	To be Determined
Other Early Years Central Services (Management, Central Support Costs, Training, Admin Support, Pension Top-slice)	-	421,229	(421,229)	-100%	To be Determined
	8,733,096	8,998,000	(264,904)	-3%	
Total	121,777,213	114,299,712	7,477,501	7%	
Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations	(121,097,541)	(113,093,000)	(8,004,541)		
Deficit / (Surplus)	679,672	1,206,712	(527,040)		

	Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
Original DSG Allocations 2020/21	88,665,404	1,422,653	22,276,388	8,733,096	121,097,541
Proposed transfers between blocks	(101,118)	-	101,118	-	-
Allocations above	88,564,286	1,422,653	22,377,506	8,733,096	121,097,541

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Report to: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

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

Date of Meeting: 14 January 2020

DE-DELEGATION OF SERVICES AND RETENTION OF FUNDING FOR EDUCATION FUNCTIONS 2020/21

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Approval is sought for the continued de-delegation of services and the retention of funding for Education Functions.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The local authority recommends that de-delegation is approved by maintained primary school representatives for 2020/21 in respect of Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Checks (more detail provided in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.9); and Union Duties (more detail provided in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.11).

2.2 Maintained school representatives, including primary, special and pupil referral unit members, are asked to approve an amount to be retained from school budgets in respect of education functions, previously funded by the Education Services Grant (more detail provided in paragraphs 3.12 to 3.18).

3.0 Background Information

De-delegation of Services

3.1 The Schools Finance Regulations that came into effect in April 2013 require the delegation to schools of the entirety of the Schools Block funding, subject to certain prescribed exceptions.

3.2 Maintained, mainstream schools may choose, by vote at Schools Forum, to de-delegate some of these prescribed elements of funding to be managed centrally by the local authority on behalf of them. Delegation means the allocation of funding to schools through the local schools funding formula. De-delegation means the retention of funding by the local authority.

3.3 Decisions are to be made by primary and secondary phases separately, and voting is restricted to school members representing those phases. De-delegation does not apply to academies, which could instead choose to buy into local authority services. It also does not apply to special schools or Pupil Referral Units, as they no longer receive delegated budgets in the same way that mainstream schools do, but they will

be able to access any collective arrangements using their funding.

- 3.4 The difference between de-delegation and buy back is that, with de-delegation, all maintained schools in that phase will not receive an element of funding in their delegated budgets, and the local authority will hold the de-delegated budgets centrally and provide services on behalf of all schools. If de-delegation is not voted for, all schools will receive the full amount of funding, and may choose, on a school-by-school basis, how to fund those responsibilities. As with any item of expenditure, should Schools Forum not vote for de-delegation, groups of schools could still choose to combine their resources in order to achieve best value, including buying services back from the local authority where available.
- 3.5 In 2019/20, maintained schools voted to de-delegate the following services:
- a) Free School Meal eligibility checks
 - b) Union duties
- 3.6 Decisions are now required whether to continue to de-delegate the functions listed in 3.5 above for the 2020/21 financial year, as detailed below.

Free School Meal eligibility checks

- 3.7 This service is carried out by the Council's Benefits Team, who access DWP and Council benefits information in order to determine eligibility for free school meals. Eligibility is reviewed on a weekly basis and communicated to schools. The full FSM eligibility checking service specification includes:
- Establishing entitlement to FSM for each pupil via Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme claims for parents/guardians;
 - Processing of Free School Meal applications for parents who are not entitled to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction, including those in receipt of Universal Credit, by completion of the Free School Meal application form;
 - Processing of claims relating to FSM entitlement, including collection and verification of evidence when required, notification of entitlement to parent/guardian/school, and maintenance of records, within 10 working days of receipt of all information;
 - Provision of a comprehensive enquiry and resolution service for the school and parents or guardians, to be resolved within 5 working days;
 - Maximisation of income available to parents by awarding Free School Meals in all appropriate cases;
 - Production and issue of standard weekly reports to the school;
 - Notification to parent/guardian when entitlement ceases due to a change of circumstances, within 10 working days of receipt of all information;
 - Processing changes of address/school;
 - Provide information as required to assist the school in their reconciliation of data and quarterly census returns;
 - Provision of guidance to the school as and when required;

- Secure storage of data to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- 3.8 Schools are not permitted to access the benefits information directly from the relevant agencies, and therefore a school based solution would necessitate the regular provision by parents of benefits entitlement, significant administrative resource for schools, as well as the development of technical expertise. For this reason, the local authority would strongly advise the continued de-delegation of funding for this purpose.
- 3.9 In order to fund the current level of service as described in paragraph 3.7, the de-delegation amount per Free School Meal pupil will be set at £12.65 in 2020/21, compared to £12.06 in 2019/20.

Vote – do maintained mainstream primary school members agree to the continued de-delegation of funding for free school meal eligibility checks?

Union duties

- 3.10 Historically, this budget is held centrally in order to fund the facilities time of the teaching unions. Agreement is reached between unions through the Professional Teaching Association (PTA) regarding the number of days that each union can claim from the central pot.
- 3.11 To retain current levels of support for those schools that are part of the collective agreement, the de-delegation amount for 2020/21 shall be frozen for the fifth year in a row at £4.00 per pupil.

Vote – do maintained mainstream primary school members agree to the continued de-delegation of funding for PTA union duties at £4.00 per pupil?

Education Functions

- 3.12 In the 2015 Spending Review, the Government announced that it would be cutting £600m from the Education Services Grant (ESG), a funding stream paid to local authorities outside of the local government finance settlement in respect of certain education functions.
- 3.13 There were two elements of ESG – the retained grant, and the general grant. Retained ESG was only paid to local authorities, and funded the responsibilities they hold for all pupils in the area, regardless of whether they are educated in maintained or academy schools. The general element of ESG was paid to local authorities in respect of the pupils in maintained schools. It was also paid separately to each academy in respect of the pupils in their own school.
- 3.14 In November 2016, details were released of how the £600m of savings would be realised. The retained element of ESG was transferred into Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2017, and has formed part of the Central Schools Services Block since

April 2018. The general element of the grant ended in September 2017 for both local authorities and academies.

3.15 The functions of the local authority covered by the general element of the grant include:

- School improvement
- Statutory and regulatory duties in respect of maintained schools, such as best value and procurement advice, internal audit compliance, pension scheme administration
- Education welfare, including the inspection of attendance registers
- Asset management to ensure maintained school buildings are in a satisfactory condition
- Central support services, such as music tuition, visual, creative and performing arts, outdoor education centres
- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments

3.16 The local authority remains responsible for providing these functions on behalf of its maintained schools, and financial regulations allow for funding to be retained from the budgets of maintained schools in order to cover the costs.

3.17 In 2019/20, Schools Forum agreed to allow the local authority to retain an amount of £34.63 per pupil from maintained school budgets. In arriving at this figure, the local authority has taken regard of the functions and support provided to maintained schools (but not to academies) at no cost. The education functions covered by the retention in respect of maintained schools include:

- Budgeting, accounting and finance functions, e.g. production of statement of accounts, year-end audit, VAT advice, treasury management
- Production of and monitoring of compliance with the Scheme for Financing Schools
- Internal audit compliance visits
- Administration of local government and teachers' pension schemes
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown
- Functions under the Equality Act 2010
- Asset management, including condition surveys to ensure assets are in suitable state of repair
- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments

3.18 The 2020/21 amount has been calculated at £35.33 per pupil, which equates to a 2% increase on the 2019/20.

Vote – do maintained school members, including primary, special and pupil referral unit members, agree to the amount of £35.33 per pupil being retained from school budgets for the purpose of funding education functions?

List of acronyms:

FSM – Free School Meals

DWP – Department for Work and Pensions

ESG – Education Services Grant

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations

DfE – Department for Education

PTA – Professional Teachers Association

VAT – Value Added Tax

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