

# SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 1pm**

**via videoconferencing**

**Membership:** Tony Eginton (Chair), Phil Haigh (Chair of Sub Groups), Shabana Aslam, Kate Needs, Kris O'Sullivan, Mel Penney, Carly Rissen, John Buckingham, Jim Edgecombe, Dan Cowling, Jenny Rigby, Harshinder Buttar, John Garner, Nicola Edwards, Nicola Kelly, Helen Manwaring, Liam McGillicuddy, Ben Spinks, Sudhi Pathak, Paul Chambers, Elaine Caffary, Naazish Haq

**ShadowReps/Observers:** Debbie Gilder, Eleesa Dowding, Jo Palmer, Graham Wells, Bryony Smith, Pearl Greenwald

**Officers:** Ndenko Asong, Sailesh Patel, Sheilender Pathak, Andy Evans, Dan Kennedy, Abi Preston, Michael Hawkins, Julie Kelly, Kate Boulter (Clerk), Philip Ryan, Marina Evangelou

## AGENDA

	Item	Approx.time	Lead	Update
1	Welcome, apologies & opening comments	13.00–13.05	<b>Chair</b>	
2	Any Other Urgent Business	13.05–13.10	<b>Chair</b>	
3	Minutes of meeting held on 6 December 2023	13.10– 13.15	<b>Chair</b>	Minutes
4	Matters arising from meeting on 6 December 2023 a) TrainingforSchoolsForummembers	13.15– 13.25	<b>Chair</b>	Oral
5	Schools Forum Membership & Constitution a) Membership update	13.25– 13.30	<b>Chair</b>	Oral
6	Feedback from sub-groups/working groups a) High Needs Funding Group 9 January 2024 b) Early Years Funding Group 16 January 2024	13.30– 13.45	<b>PH</b>	Oral/ Draft Minutes
7	Items for Decision and Noting a) Summary of DSG Funding Allocations 2024/25 b) Schools Block 2024/25 budget and funding formula c) Central School Services Block 2024/25 budget d) Early Years 2024/25 budget and Hourly rates e) Funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty	13.45– 14:35	<b>SHP SAP/SHP SHP SAP SHP</b>	Report Report Report Report Report
8	Information Items a) High Needs Update b) Finance Update	14:35–14:45	<b>AP SHP</b>	Oral Oral
9	For note – agenda items for next meeting (as per forward plan)	14.45– 14.50	<b>Chair</b>	Oral
10	AOB (if any)	14:55– 15.00	<b>Chair</b>	Oral

## Appendix A - Early Years 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Complain

Description	Total 3 & 4 Year Olds	
<b>Base rate (forecasted hours x proposed hourly rate)</b>	<b>£20,805,790</b>	1
Lump sums	£0	
<u>Supplements:</u>		
Mandatory - Deprivation	£992,493	2
Additional Needs	£1,099,742	
Pensions	£110,277	
SEN inclusion fund (top up grants element)		3
Balancing	£109,243	4
<b>Total "passported" budget (a)</b>	<b>£23,117,544</b>	5
Centrally Retained 5% Budget	£1,216,713	6
<b>Total Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>£24,334,257</b>	7
Planned total base rate hours for core 15 and 30 hours (b)	3,677,662	8
Equivalent average rate to providers for three-and four-year old entitlement hours = (a) divided by (b)	£6.29	9
LA Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate from DfE	£6.61	10
Passport Rate	95.10%	
Target Passport Rate	95.00%	
Early Years DSG Funding Allocation balancing item	<b>-£24,334,257</b>	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>-£24,334,257</b>	
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>£0</b>	

**ce Checks for pass through rate.**

Total 2 Year Olds	Total 2 Year Olds Extended	Total U2 Year Olds	Total
£2,469,246	4,425,952	£3,392,892	£30,093,879
£0	£0	£0	£0
£102,310	245,886.22	£0	£1,457,838
£167,609	245,886.22	£0	£1,430,668
£0	£0	£0	£115,588
£0	£0	£0	£0
£17,193	£0	£0	£1,086,546
£0	£0	£0	£0
£2,756,358	£4,917,724	£3,392,892	£34,184,519
£0	£0	£0	£0
£145,072	£258,828	£178,573	£1,799,185
£0	£0	£0	£0
£2,901,430	£5,176,552	£3,571,465	£35,983,704
£0	£0	£0	£0
299,303	544,327	275,789	£4,797,080
£0	£0	£0	£0
£9.21	£9.03	£12.30	£37
£9.51	£9.51	£12.95	£39
£0	£0	£0	£0
96.84%	95.00%	95.00%	
95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	
£0	£0	£0	£0
-£2,901,430	-£5,176,552	-£3,571,465	-£35,983,704
£0	£0	£0	£0
-£2,901,430	-£5,176,552	-£3,571,465	-£35,983,704
£0	£0	£0	£0
-£0	£0	£0	£0

## Appendix B - Early Years Hourly Rates

### LA Funding Rates 2024-25

LA Rates	2022/23	2023/24	2023-24 - Sept 23	2024 -25
	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)
<b>3- &amp; 4-Year-olds</b>	6.14	6.34	6.40	<b>6.61</b>
<b>2-Year-olds</b>	6.29	6.87	9.10	<b>9.51</b>
<b>2-Year-olds working Parent New</b>				<b>9.51</b>
<b>Under 2-Year-olds New</b>				<b>12.95</b>
<b>MNS Supplementary</b>	4.13	4.94	5.21	<b>5.61</b>

### Provider Rates 2024-25

Provider Rates	2022/23	2023/24	2023-24 - Sept 23	2024 -25
	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)
<b>3- &amp; 4-Year-olds</b>	5.58	6.02	6.08	<b>6.29</b>
<b>2-Year-olds</b>	6.29	6.87	9.10	<b>9.21</b>
<b>2-Year-olds working Parent New</b>				<b>9.03</b>
<b>Under 2-Year-olds New</b>				<b>12.30</b>
<b>MNS Supplementary</b>	4.13	4.94	5.21	<b>5.61</b>



Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25	Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.21</b>	3.3%
<b>0.41</b>	4.5%
	0.0%
	0.0%
	7.7%


Increase between April 24 and April 25	Increase between April 24 and April 25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.27</b>	4.3%
<b>2.64</b>	38.4%

Increase between April 23 and April 24
%
3.3%
9.2%

Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25	Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.21</b>	3.5%
<b>0.11</b>	1.2%
	0.0%
	0.0%
	7.7%

Increase between April 24 and April 25	Increase between April 24 and April 25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.27</b>	4.5%
<b>2.34</b>	34.1%

Increase between April 23 and April 24
%
7.9%
9.2%

	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon</b>  <b>Schools Forum</b>  <b>17 January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Early Years Block Funding 2024-25</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sailesh Patel -spatel5@hillington.gov.uk
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendices A and B
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>That schools Forum note the updates in this report on the initial allocation of Early Years Block funding for 2024/25 including the extended entitlements for working parents of two-year-old children and children from age 9 months. The report covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update on the National Funding Formula for Early Years</li> <li>- Funding rates and draft budget for April 2024 to March 2025 for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 and 4-year-old universal entitlement and additional hours for working parents.</li> <li>• 2-year-old entitlements for disadvantaged families and the entitlement for working parents</li> <li>• Under 2s entitlements for children aged 9 months to 2 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 1. Introduction and Changes to Early Years Funding 2024/25

1.1. The DfE has extended the number of free childcare offers available to working parents in 2024/25. There will be new working parent entitlements introduced for 2-year-olds and children aged 9 months to 2 years during the year. The 2-year-olds offer will be for a maximum of 15 hours per week from 1st April 2024 and the under 2-year-olds offer for a maximum of 15 hours per week from 1st September 2024. It is intended that these offers will be extended further in 2025/26 to a maximum of 30 hours per week.

1.2. Local authorities are required to set a local formula for both the 2-year-old offers and the under 2s offer in the same way as it has for 3- and 4-year-olds over the past 6 years.

1.3. Eligibility for EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) and DAF (Disability Access Fund) has also been extended to the **new offers**.

1.4. This report will detail all the offers and the corresponding budgets required for approval based on the 2024/25 hourly rates issued by DfE and the activity data from the January 2023 census and DfE estimates for the new offers.

## 2. Early Years Block funding 2024/25

2.1. There are now eight funding streams in the Early Years Block of the DSG, as set out below. The focus of this paper are the 4 offers of free early years entitlements.

- for 3 and 4-year-olds (YO), which constitutes the bulk of the funding, and which is also subject to pass through and other requirements.
- For disadvantaged 2 YO – now requires local formula and subject to pass through and other requirements.
- For Working Parent 2 YO – **NEW** - requires local formula and pass through requirements.
- For Working Parent 9 months to 2 years – **NEW** - requires local formula and pass through requirements.

2.2. The basis of the 3 and 4 YO offer remains unchanged since it was introduced in April 2017. The requirements are listed below

- Set a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements for 3 and 4YO
- Must pass at least 95% of funding received to providers.
- Must use a universal base rate for all types of providers including maintained nursery schools
- Must use a deprivation supplement in their local 3 and 4YO formula
- Must not channel more than 12% of funding to providers as supplements – in Hillingdon supplements are budgeted for Deprivation and Additional Needs
- Must provide a SEN Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4YO
- Monitored compliance through the S251 Budget and Outturn reporting process.

2.3. There is a **new** national funding formula (NFF) which covers both the existing 2 YO entitlement for disadvantaged children and new working parent entitlements for 2 YO and children aged 9 months to 2 years. The requirements for these offers are listed below:

- Requirement to have a disadvantaged 2 YO rate that is at least equal to the working parent 2 YO rate.
- Must pass at least 95% of funding received for these 3 offers to providers.
- Must provide a SEN Inclusion Fund for under 2s and both 2-year-old offers
- May use supplements to target funding up to a maximum of 12% of the total hourly rate paid to providers NB This is not mandatory.

2.4 Summary explanations including funding rates applicable in 2024/25 are set out below:

- **Universal entitlement for 3- & 4-YO** – 15 hours free childcare for all 3- and 4-YO available for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding will be received by **Hillingdon at £6.61 per hour in 2024/25**. This is a £0.21 per hour increase or **3.3% increase** on the final 2023/24 funded rates at £6.40 per hour inclusive of Teachers Pay and Pension Allowance of £0.17 per hour.
- **Additional entitlement working parents 3- & 4-YO** – additional 15 hours free childcare for eligible 3- and 4- YO from the term after their 3rd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Parents are required to obtain a 30-hour code. Funding will be received by **Hillingdon at £6.61 per hour in 2024/25** financial year.

- **Disadvantaged 2-YO** – 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2-YO from the term after their 2nd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding received is **£9.51 per hour**. This is a £0.41 per hour increase in funding or circa **4.5% versus final 2023/24** rate of £9.10 per hour. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements for this offer as detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Working Parent 2-YO** – this is a **new offer** of 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2-YO from the term after their 2nd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding received is £9.51 per hour in line with the Disadvantaged 2-year-old offer. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements for this new offer are as detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Working Parent 9 months to 2-YO** – this is a **new offer** of 15 hours free childcare for eligible children from the term after they are 9 months for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. This offer will be introduced in September 2024 so the maximum number of weeks available in 2024/25 is 22 rather than 38. Funding received is £12.95 per hour which reflects the higher level of staffing required for this cohort. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Early Years (EY) Pupil Premium** – additional funding for disadvantaged children has been extended to all the Early Years offers detailed above. It will be paid as a top up of £0.68 per hour up to a maximum of £378.60 per year (38 weeks). Eligibility relates to benefits received by the family and must be confirmed by the provider and recorded on the termly head count.
- **Disability Access Fund** – additional per pupil funding for those receiving DLA to access all EY entitlements. This was previously for 3 and 4 YO only and has been extended to all Early Years offers from 1st April 2024. Funding has increased to £910 per eligible pupil per annum. (2023/24 £828)
- **Maintained Nursery School Supplementary Funding** – this additional funding for maintained nurseries was initiated as part of the move to the NFF (National Funding Formula) to provide funding protection with respect to historic duties to 3 and 4YO. An estimated initial allocation of **£374,131** in 2024/25 is based on the January 2023 census for 3 and 4YO accessing the universal entitlement. This figure includes the allowance for MNS share of Teachers Pay and Pension Grant. This allocation is subject to change depending on actual participation and will be adjusted accordingly in July 2024 and finally in July 2025 as a result of the January 2025 census.

2.5. Table 1 below shows the initial Early Years allocations for the 2024/25 financial year, based on January 2023 census figures and DfE estimated activity for new offers and updated funding rates for 2024/25. The total Early Years DSG initial allocation for 2024/25 is £36,829,223.

**Table 1:** Breakdown of Initial Early Years Funding Allocations 2024/25 (January 2023 headcount and DfE estimates)

<b>Early Years Funding Allocations Dec 2023.</b>	<b>Dec-23</b>
Funding (Universal)	18,442,704
Funding (Additional)	5,891,553
Funding (2YO) Universal)	2,901,430
Funding (2YO)-Additional	5,176,552
Funding (U2YO)	3,571,465
Funding (MNS) Maintained Nursery Supplementary	374,131
Funding (DAF) Disability Access Fund	153,790
Funding (DAF 2YO)	40,950
Funding (DAF U2YO)	11,830
Funding (EYPP) Pupil Premium	167,246
Funding (EYPP 2YO)	92,924
Funding (EYPP U2YO)	4,648
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>36,829,223</b>

2.6. DfE funding for Early Years is normally based solely on the Spring term headcount i.e., January. For the new offers there will be a termly headcount in 2024/25 to ensure that local authorities are funded for actual take up. The DfE Element recognises that their estimates may not be accurate and does not want to disadvantage authorities where take up is higher than expected.

2.7. The initial allocation detailed above uses the January 2023 headcount and DfE estimates for new offers. This will be revised in July 2024 to take account of the January 2024 census and again in July 2025 to take account of the January 2025 census. The DfE may continue to require termly head counts for the new offers until they have bedded in.

2.8. It should also be noted here that the DfE intends to extend the new offers to working parents to 30 hours per week in future years so we will continue see big changes in these allocations for the foreseeable future. This means that the final allocations for the 3 and 4 YO offer in the financial year 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025) and Disadvantaged 2YO offers will be based on (five-twelfths January 2024 PTE census numbers) + (seven-twelfths January 2025 PTE census numbers), whilst the new offers will be based on actual termly head counts for 2024/25 as a minimum (DfE is yet to decide on post 2024/25 requirements)

2.9. There are always **risks associated** with the Early Years budget due to the link with **activity measured in the Spring terms of 2 financial years**. This is one reason the proposed budget holds a contingency amount.

### 3. 2024/25 DRAFT budget model – All Entitlements

3.1. The 2024/25 draft budget model is based on the initial allocation detailed above and summarised in **Appendix A**.

### 4. Key Elements of the Proposed Budget Models 2024/25

All providers, both schools, private & voluntary nursery providers and childminders to be funded according to the DFE regulations. For 3 and 4YO it is mandatory to pay a universal base rate and a supplement for deprivation based on IDACI bandings for individual children. This principle has been extended to both 2YO and under 2YO offers although not mandatory in 2024/25. The value of supplements for each entitlement must not exceed 12% of the total amount of the payments made.

4.1. Factor A - Universal base rates paid for every hour under the governments early years Entitlements for the financial year starting April 2024.

Note for 3 and 4 YO – The proposed rate is **£6.29 per hour**. This is an increase of 21 pence per hour on the September 2023 rate (**3.5 % increase**) and an increase of 27 pence per hour on the April 2023 rate (**4.5% increase**). (see **Appendix B for details**).

4.2. Factor B - Deprivation.

- This is a mandatory supplement for 3 and 4 YO offer and in order to remain within the overall supplements limit of 10% Modelling of current payments using current IDACI index.
- A deprivation supplement has been included for both 2 YO offers on the same basis as the 3 and 4 YO offer. However **not planning** on using this for under 2YO with a plan to review this for 2024-25 as more data becomes available.

4.3. Factor C – Pensions . This supplement is for 3 and 4 YO offer only and relates solely to the Teachers Pay and Pension grant which was rolled into the EY funding in 2023/24 and continues to be applicable in 2024/25.

- This funding also now includes the Teachers Pay Additional Grant paid to schools in 2023/24 which has been mainstreamed for 2024/25 plus an allowance for the proposed Teachers Pension Employer contribution increase from April 2024.

4.4. Factor D - SEN Inclusion Fund. All providers at some stage may require additional funding to help them support the needs of individual children with lower level or emerging SEN in their settings. The 2024/25 budget is proposed across all entitlements.

- The Early Years Inclusion Fund has been expanded to include all children covered by the extended entitlements who have a low level or emerging SEN from April 2024 as required by regulation.
- The funding is for use in the setting and is allocated to the provider on an individual basis.

4.6. Factor E – contingency funding. The contingency is available to manage volatility in funding versus activity between terms.

- The contingency is also intended to manage the risk with respect to deprivation for the new entitlements where average IDACI is based on estimates using past data for disadvantaged children and the 3&4 year old targeted offer.
- Contingency is included for the new extended entitlements.

4.7. Factor F - Central Services Expenditure. The model assumes a budget for central services of £1.799m which is equivalent to the 5% allowed across the entitlements under regulations. The proposed allocation of the central items is detailed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: proposed allocation of the 5% centrally retained budget**

<b>Centrally Retained 2024-25</b>	
Core Childcare & Early Years (FIS)	397,000
Early Years Advisory Teachers	335,000
Early Support Team	259,000
Provision for Vulnerable Children Placements	208,000
Early Years Overheads	280,000
Contingency	320,185
<b>Total Centrally Retained</b>	<b>1,799,185</b>

## 5. Recommendations and next steps

5.1. Schools Forum to note draft 2024/25 Early Year budget across all entitlements for **consultation**, including the revised base rates, deprivation, and local formula for 2-year-old and Under 2-year-old offers.

5.2. Budget Consultation to Maintained Nursery Schools, Primary Schools with Nurseries, PVI providers and Childminders in January 24.

5.3. Final proposals will be presented to March Schools Forum following provider consultation. Providers will be given estimates of summer term funding by 31st March 2024.

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718179/Early\\_education\\_and\\_childcare-statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf)

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) Early years funding – extension of the entitlements - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Early years funding – extension of the entitlements: response to consultation

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656638f3750074000d1ded9a/20231127\\_Early\\_Years\\_Funding\\_Rates\\_and\\_Stepbystep\\_Calculations\\_2024\\_to\\_2025\\_Funding\\_Output\\_Tables\\_-\\_FINAL.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656638f3750074000d1ded9a/20231127_Early_Years_Funding_Rates_and_Stepbystep_Calculations_2024_to_2025_Funding_Output_Tables_-_FINAL.xlsx)


Early years funding rates and step-by-step calculations 2024 to 2025

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers operational guide 2024 to 2025



	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 17 January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Allocation of 2023/24 funding for local authorities to support maintained schools in financial difficulty</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sheilender Pathak (Head of Finance Childrens and SEND)
<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Schools Forum representatives for maintained schools are asked to note and agree the proposed methodology for the allocation of the additional funding for schools in financial difficulty, as set out in section 3 of this report,

## 1. Introduction

This report sets out proposals to distribute Hillingdon’s 2023/24 “additional funding for local authorities to support maintained schools” in financial difficulty.

## 2. Background

At the end of November 2023 the Council received £491,623 of one off 2023/24 funding, as part of £20 million allocated by the DfE between local authorities who have aggregated school-level deficits as a proportion of their total maintained schools’ income above 1%. Local authorities’ allocations are in proportion to their aggregated school-level deficit.

The DfE want local authorities to be able to use this funding to best support their schools in the individual circumstances in which they find themselves and have given local authorities significant flexibility over how this funding can be used.

At the 6 December Schools Forum meeting, Schools Forum members requested for a strategy to be presented to the next Schools forum for discussion and agreement, so that the funding can be distributed promptly to individual schools.

DfE guidance states the funding should be used to limit deficit and where the greatest need exists.

### 3. Proposed Strategy to allocate the additional funding

The Council is aware of difficulties faced by individual schools, however, the Council is proposing to apply a methodology to distribute the funding in a fair and transparent way, with clear criteria that can be applied easily and quickly in practice.

The Council received this one off funding at the end of November and schools forum members are keen for this funding to be distributed quickly to schools in financial difficulty.

There are 5 schools that have deficits at 31.3.23 and the Council is proposing to use these deficits as the basis for distribution of the funding, on the grounds that this is the quickest fair way to allocate the funding using actual measurable data.

The Council is proposing to allocate the grant to these schools, based on the latest actual deficit (i.e. the deficit as at 31.3.23) as a proportion of their 23/24 funding.

Advantages:

- seems like the most fair and transparent method
- a quick and simple way to distribute the funding
- the funding could be distributed as soon as the method as been agreed
- targets schools with actual, existing deficits
- Does not rely on forecasts (which are subjective)
- i.e. which are already in financial difficulty
- other mechanisms are likely to be very time consuming and could become a bureaucratic process, and are likely to lead to complaints of unfairness, subjectivity etc. Any process that involves schools future plans is likely to lead to significant delays in distribution of the funds and will be using current forecast information that has not been sufficiently scrutinised and is subjective.

The table below shows the proposed allocation of the grant to each school, using the methodology proposed in this paper.

School Name	Phase	Closing Balance 31.3.23	2023/24 Income Budget	31.3.23 deficit as a proportion of funding	Proposed Allocation of Grant
Bishop Winnington-Ingram CofE Primary School	Primary	-520,384	1,625,546	-32.01%	157,383
Frithwood Primary School	Primary	-17,332	2,518,401	-0.69%	3,383
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	Primary	-55,622	1,244,445	-4.47%	21,974
St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	Primary	-14,494	1,433,270	-1.01%	4,972
Oak Wood School	Secondary	-2,350,123	10,069,508	-23.34%	114,740
<b>Total</b>		<b>-2,328,149</b>	<b>29,818,358</b>		<b>491,623</b>

**4. Recommendation**

Maintained schools representatives are asked to note the proposals in this paper and provide their views on this matter.

# HILLINGDON SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 1pm via Teams

## Voting members

NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE	TERM ENDS
<b>Maintained Nursery (1)</b>			
Shabana Aslam	McMillan Early Childhood Centre	PRESENT	Sep 2026
<b>Maintained Primary - Schools (4)</b>			
Kris O'Sullivan	Deanesfield Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Kate Needs	Lady Banks	PRESENT	Sep 2027
Mel Penney	Glebe Primary School	PRESENT	Sep 2027
Carly Rissen	Colham Manor	PRESENT	Sep 2024
<b>Maintained Primary - Governors (4)</b>			
John Buckingham	Glebe Primary School	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
Jim Edgecombe	Whiteheath Junior School	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
Tony Eginton (CHAIR)	Minet Infant & Nursery School & Hillside Junior School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Phil Haigh	Cherry Lane Primary School & Meadow High School	PRESENT	Sep 2024
<b>Maintained Secondary (1)</b>			
Dan Cowling	Oak Wood School	PRESENT	Sep 2026
<b>Maintained Special (1)</b>			
Jenny Rigby	Meadow High School	PRESENT	Sep 2027
<b>Academies (9)</b>			
Harshinder Buttar	Lake Farm Park Academy	PRESENT	Sep 2027
John Garner	Ruislip High School	APOLOGIES	Sep 2026
Nicola Kelly	Charville	PRESENT	Sep 2024
Helen Manwaring	Swakeleys School	APOLOGIES	Sep 2027
Liam McGillicuddy	Bishopshalt	PRESENT	Sep 2027
David Patterson	Queensmead School	APOLOGIES	Sep 2023
Nicola Edwards	William Byrd School	PRESENT	Dec 2027
(2 vacancies)			
<b>Special Academies (1)</b>			
Sudhi Pathak	Eden Academy Trust	PRESENT	Sep 2026
<b>Alternative provision (1)</b>			
Paul Chambers	The Skills Hub	PRESENT	Sep 2027
<b>Private Voluntary &amp; Independent Early Years Providers (2)</b>			
Elaine Caffary	4 Street Nursery	APOLOGIES	Sep 2024
Naazish Haq	Little Companions	PRESENT	Sep 2027
<b>14-19 Partnership (1)</b>			
(1 vacancy)			

## Other attendees (non-voting)

<b>Independent Non-Maintained Special School</b>			
Debbie Gilder	Field Heath School		APOLOGIES
<b>Shadow Representative (Maintained Primary - Schools)</b>			
Eleesa Dowding	Harmondsworth		NOT REQUIRED
<b>Shadow Representative (Maintained Primary - Governor)</b>			
Jo Palmer	Hillside Infant School and Hillside Junior School		NOT REQUIRED
Graham Wells	Colham Manor Primary School		NOT REQUIRED
<b>Maintained Special</b>			
Pearl Greenwald	Hedgewood School		PRESENT
Bryony Smith	Hedgewood School		PRESENT
<b>Officers</b>			
Ndenko Asong	LA Finance		PRESENT
Michael Hawkins	LA Head of Education & Lifelong Learning		PRESENT
Paul Gulley	LA Finance		APOLOGIES
Julie Kelly	LA Corporate Director of Children's Services		APOLOGIES
Dan Kennedy	LA Corporate Director of Central Services		APOLOGIES
Dominika Michalik	LA SEND Technical Specialist Lead		APOLOGIES
Catherine Mosdell	Independent Clerk		PRESENT
Sheilender Pathak (SHP)	LA Head of Finance Children's		PRESENT
Sailesh Patel (SAP)	LA Finance		PRESENT
Abi Preston	LA Director of Education & SEND		PRESENT
Philip Ryan	LA Early Years		APOLOGIES
<b>Observers</b>			
Carol Jumpp-Graham	NEU (Item7A only)		PRESENT

Michael Wilmott	NEU (Item 7A only)	PRESENT
Marina Evans	NEU (item 7A only)	PRESENT

		ACTION
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES &amp; INTRODUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies were accepted and recorded in the attendance list (above). The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate and could proceed to business.</li> <li>New members Nicola Edwards (HoS at William Byrd) and Ben Spinks (Middlesex Learning Partnership) were welcomed and introduced.</li> <li></li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for Schools - PH</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were <b>AGREED</b> as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Training for SF members:</b> AP/SAP have liaised with TE/PH and hope to present a draft schedule to the spring SF meeting.</li> <li>It was agreed to set the dates for SF meetings 2024/2025 before setting dates for training.</li> </ul>	<b>SAP</b>
5.	<p><b>SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Academy Membership:</b> Applications from William Byrd and the Middlesex Learning Partnership have been received which would leave one vacancy. It is essential appointments are made through the formal process. If anyone knows of a possible candidate, please provide the details.</li> <li><b>14-19 Partnership:</b> A member was appointed however resigned. Members note this category is an LA appointment. It was acknowledged that Jonty Archibald (Global Academy) would have the skills however accepted he might not have the time. TE/AP will contact him</li> </ul>	<b>TE</b>
6.	<p><b>FEEDBACK FROM SUB-GROUPS &amp; WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>(a) HIGH NEEDS FUNDING GROUP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft minutes were circulated in advance of the meeting.</li> <li>The LA will provide a report on the Month 7, 2023/24 forecast DSG outturn.</li> <li>Most top-up funding payments have been received; the LA finance team is in touch with any schools where payments remain outstanding.</li> <li>Members were assured payments to the independent schools are in a better position.</li> <li>Minimum Funding Guarantee – Special Schools: Members recognised the difficulty in paying at two different rates and, after consulting with the special schools, agreed to the LA’s suggestions to make a one-off year-end settlement adjustment.</li> <li>The questions over the payment of the 3.4% banded funding were discussed.</li> <li>Concerns were expressed that the level of EHCP funding does not cover associated costs in mainstream schools.</li> <li>The increase in costs at independent, non-maintained schools was noted. There are 406 students (including post-16) at a cost of over £22m which accounts for 40% of the overall budget.</li> <li>The LA SEND team is working on a projected numbers to find ways to manage the funding in future.</li> <li>A query was raised in regard to a named independent school. It was acknowledged that some backlog in payments remain in the independent sector and the importance of independent schools keeping the portal up to date was emphasised.</li> </ul>	

- NA confirmed he has a meeting with the school in question next week and hopes to resolve the outstanding issues.

**(b) EARLY YEARS FUNDING GROUP**

- Notification of funding has only recently been received therefore nothing to report to his meeting.

**7. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**7A: De-delegation (Trades Union)**

- The late circulation of the paper was acknowledged.
- The TU representatives took the opportunity of explain the importance of their work in support of staff and emphasised their value to schools in resolving issues with staff.
- The current rate per pupil is £2.19 and Members are asked to agree an increase to £6.25. The TU reps accepted this is a high increase and, if not acceptable, asked Members to consider a lower rate of £4.00.
- In discussion, Members felt more information on accountability and value for money would have been helpful. In response, an assurance was given confirming termly reports on activity are provided to Schools HR. Members agreed the annual report to SF from Schools HR was insufficient to justify the requested increase in costs.
- The TU reps stated that all staff have a statutory right to representation and employers have a duty to release ‘in school’ reps to carry out their duties. School reps are also given training on a wide range of topics to ensure professional conduct and standards are in place. If Members agree to the increase, the ‘in school’ reps will be more available and therefore disputes resolved more efficiently. The fees also cover the cost of the Unison & JMB reps based at the Civic Centre.
- It was acknowledged the costs requested apply to the maintained sector only; academies are able to ‘buy in’ however this is not a statutory requirement. Members felt this was an unfair system and the burden of cost was falling to the maintained sector.
- It was clear from discussion, Members would not agree to the £6.25 rate; members were asked to vote on the £4.00 rate.

**Decision:**

Do members agree to delegate £4.00 per pupil to the TU? Voting is for maintained school members only.		
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Primary/Nursery sector	2	5
Secondary sector	1	1

- In discussion:
  - Members recognised the decision for the secondary sector is ‘split’.
  - There is no guidance in the rules regarding split or casting votes.
  - The decision, on behalf of all maintained schools, is delegated to SF members therefore the vote is conclusive.
  - It was noted, in previous years, SF Members did not vote for de-delegation therefore this decision has some precedence.
  - Schools can make the individual decision to ‘buy-into’ the TU and pay the cost directly to the union.
- In conclusion, the TU reps emphasized the valuable service provided to schools and urged SF to reconsider its decision at the earliest opportunity.

**7B De-delegation (Pensions admin).**

- The paper was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- It was established the pensions admin payment does not apply to the academy sector therefore the decision is for the maintained sector only.

**Decision:**

Do members agree to de-delegate the pensions admin at £1.28 per pupil? Voting is for maintained school members only.		
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
Primary/Nursery sector	7	0
Secondary sector	2	0

- The Chair declared the decision to de-delegate the pensions admin is **approved**.

**7C: Schools block 24/25 NFF(and consultation returns)**

- The four options were presented to the October meeting at which time Members endorsed Option 4.
- SAP confirmed 35 responses to the consultation have been received.
- There were no additional comments or questions therefore the meeting moved to vote.

Do members agree to de-delegate Schools Block NFF for 2024/2025?		
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
All eligible schools	8	0

- The Chair declared the decision to de-delegate the pensions admin is **approved**.

**7D: Schools Block Transfer**

- In response to a query on the SF right to vote on a sum greater than 0.5%; it was confirmed the DFF guidance states, SF can approve up to 0.5% on its own volition however a vote is required even if the matter is referred to the Secretary of State.
- SF has 'no power' on transfers above 0.5% however the guidance stated SF is 'required to vote' specifically where a safety valve is in place.
- SHP stressed the need to set agreed parameters; the result will then be included in the disapplication process and all schools will be consulted.
- In discussion, SHP agreed, ideally, the consultation would be in advance of the SF vote but there is scope for a later consultation. Members agreed, as the safety valve has been in place for a couple of years, officers should have been aware of the guidance and ensured the consultation was undertaken in advance of SF.
- AP confirmed the importance of the vote. The LA wants to work in partnership with schools; officers are aware of the level of work involved. The High Needs budget is everyone's responsibilities; officers understand the pressure points that need to be addressed. Savings are required and we need to find a way to ensure the funding available can be used to meet needs.
- The Schools Block funding helps to support schools with a high number of EHCPs in place. The LA is looking to increase capacity and bring children currently in the independent schools into local facilities. Any movement will be at a natural transition point.
- In discussion, Members agreed the school community has a joint responsibility however there was a suggestion that schools, particularly schools in deficit, are 'bailing out' the LA.

**Decision:**

It was established that special schools cannot vote.

Do members agree to transfer 0.75% to High Needs.		
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
All eligible schools	1	7

**Action:** SHP confirmed he will now consult with all schools and circulate the paper presented to SF.

**7E: SEN Notional Funding – review consultations received.**

- SHP confirmed twenty-seven responses were received, twenty-six of which approved option one. One school recommended option 2.
- SHP stated the option one will be entered onto the ESFA schools budget setting template (the APT) subject to any ESFA limits built into the APT template.
- Members agreed to ‘note’ the report.

**Decision:**

Do members agree for the Council to use option 1 from the SEN Notional Funding?		
	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
All eligible schools	9	0

8.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**8A: DE-DELEGATION OF THE SIMB GRANT**

- SF did not approve this item during discussion at the October meeting which has allowed the LA to ask the Secretary of State to review the de-delegation process.
- In response to a question, SAP confirmed the LA has informed the Secretary of State of the decision made at the October meeting.
- One procedural query was made: SF made a decision at the October meeting; the LA disagreed and has referred back to the Secretary of State. If the LA has the power to seek to overturn SF decision – what is the point in the SF vote?
- SAP confirmed the LA is working within statutory guidance and there is a mechanism in place to resolve disagreements between SF and the LA.
- AP stated the LA has a statutory duty to provide the service but the funds are not available. The LA did pay last year.
- A Member suggested the LA could raise funds from council tax revenue.
- NA reaffirmed the council’s wish to work collaboratively with schools. The DfE will arbitrate where there is a difference of opinion between the LA and SF. It was noted, the DfE does not automatically support the LA position. NA emphasised the importance of SF engaging with the process and reiterated the importance of the SF vote.

**DECISION:** Members note that the LA has submitted a dis-application to retain the schools improvement funding for 2024-25.

**8B: 2023/2024 DSG budget monitoring.**

- SHP confirmed the cabinet paper is due to be published later today (6/12/23) and he would therefore give a verbal update. SHP confirmed the paper will be circulated to SF when published.
- The in-year forecast as at month 7 is now an in year overspend of £12.820m, which is an adverse movement of £8.358m since the last forecast.



- The cumulative deficit for end of 2023/2024 is now forecast at £26.487m, largely due to the increasing numbers and costs of High Needs provision.
- The mounting DSG deficits is a national problem and faced by many councils.
- Members expressed concern at the increasing overall deficit It would be helpful to know how much of the deficit is historical and how much relates to the current year.
- Teachers' Pay & Pension payment not made in FY2022-23 have now been paid covering all outstanding payments for this grant.
- Members agreed on the importance of seeing the month 7 figures in the Cabinet report once it has been published before any meaningful discussion can take place.

### **8C: High Needs update**

- Members agreed this item has been discussed throughout the meeting.

### **8D: Finance update**

- SAP confirmed a grant of £491k has been received which will be used to support schools in financial difficulty.
- A strategy is needed going forward, to include schools in deficit and those falling into financial difficulty; a draft paper will be presented to SF for discussion/approval.
- One member drew attention to the historical deficit at his own school. The DfE guidance states the funding should be used to limit deficit and where the greatest need exists. The LA received the grant at the end of November.
- AP stated the LA is aware of difficulties faced by individual schools however must take a broad borough-wide view.
- It was reiterated that Cabinet approved licenced deficits. In the past, SF has not been consulted in advance of the Cabinet decision. It was recognised that SF may have a valuable view. It was noted that some schools have the potential to increase student numbers which would have a positive impact on funding.
- Licenced deficits are approved in November; Members agreed it would be helpful if the approval could be brought forward to the spring when schools are setting their budgets.
- **Action:** A paper will be presented to the next SF.

### **8E: Asylum Seekers**

- The paper was circulated in advance; MH invited questions or comments.
- The provision seems considered. Is there provision for non-Ukrainian pupils?
- In general terms, pupils who join a school post-census take a lot of resources and are then moved on by the LA, often with no notice. Is any funding available?
- MH: The funding is 'per pupil' and in addition to Free School Meals. The challenge in accommodating the transient pupils is recognised. There is some support available via LEAP. The funding available will be promoted in the next briefing.
- The Ukrainian Support Worker is now in place.
- The details of financial support for Ukrainian pupils were acknowledged.
- The difficulty in keeping track of the more transient pupils, particularly those living in hotels, was recognised along with the associated safeguarding risks, including identifying children 'missing in education'.
- Members acknowledged and thanked the LA for the huge amount of support available.

### **8F: Scheme for Financing Schools**

- SHP confirmed the scheme was proposed at the October SF, and has been approved following appropriate consultation. In developing the scheme, the LA consulted

	<p>with all maintained schools. All twenty responders agreed with the recommendations and SF is now asked to give formal approval. The scheme is complaint with guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One member raised an issue regarding paragraph 2.3.1 which relates to the historical deficit and is detrimental to his school. It would not be possible for his school to provide a three-year budget and other schools might be in a similar position.</li> <li>• In response, SHP confirmed this element of the scheme has not changed. All maintained schools have been consulted and SF approved the scheme at the October meeting. Whilst individual school positions are acknowledged, the scheme is for all schools.</li> <li>• The LA is requesting SF approval however approved is not a statutory requirement.</li> <li>• The Chair stated, as an agenda item, the paper is provided for information rather than approval and apologised for any ambiguity.</li> <li>• <b>Decision:</b> Members 'note' the document.</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>Agenda Items for the next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard Agenda</li> <li>• Outcome of the de-delegation paper</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PH agreed, Funding for Schools was adequately discussed throughout the meeting.</li> </ul>	
	<p>In closing the meeting, TE thanked everyone for their preparation and contribution to the meeting.</p>	

The meeting closed at 15:44hrs.

# HILLINGDON SCHOOLS FORUM

## HIGH NEEDS FUNDING GROUP

**Draft** Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 at 10am via videoconferencing

### Membership:

NAME	ORGANISATION	ATTENDANCE
<b>Maintained Primary - Governors</b>		
Jim Edgecombe	Whiteheath Junior School	PRESENT
Tony Eginton	Minet Infant & Nursery School and Hillside Junior School	PRESENT
Phil Haigh (CHAIR)	Cherry Lane Primary School and Meadow High School	PRESENT
<b>Maintained Primary</b>		
Kris O'Sullivan	Deanesfield Primary School	PRESENT
Mel Penney	Glebe Primary School	PRESENT
<b>Maintained Special</b>		
Pearl Greenwald	Hedgewood School	PRESENT
Jenny Rigby	Meadow High School	PRESENT
Bryony Smith	Hedgewood School	PRESENT
<b>Academies</b>		
John Garner	Ruislip High School	PRESENT
Nicola Kelly	Charville	PRESENT
<b>Special Academies</b>		
Sudhi Pathak	Eden Academy Trust	PRESENT
<b>Alternative provision</b>		
Paul Chambers	Young Peoples Hub	APOLOGIES
<b>Private Voluntary &amp; Independent Early Years Providers</b>		
Elaine Caffary	4 Street Nursery	PRESENT
<b>Independent Non-Maintained Special School</b>		
Debbie Gilder	Pield Heath School	PRESENT

### Other attendees:

<b>Officers</b>		
Ndenko Asong	LA	PRESENT
Gary Binstead	LA	PRESENT
Kate Boulter	Independent Clerk	PRESENT
Dominika Michalik	LA	PRESENT
Nav Minhas	LA	PRESENT
Sailesh Patel	LA	PRESENT
Abi Preston	LA	PRESENT
Helen Redding	LA (Consultant)	PRESENT
Sonal Sisodia	LA	PRESENT

		ACTION
1.	<b>GENERAL ITEMS</b>	
1.1	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES</b> The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and there were introductions. Apologies were noted and recorded in the meeting attendance (above).	
1.2	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2023</b> The minutes were agreed as a correct record. The minutes had been reported to Schools Forum on 6 December 2023 and there were no matters arising.	
1.3	<b>NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNWL</li> </ul>	


2.	<b>DSG SEND FUNDING</b>	
2.1	<p><b>DSG OUTTURN LATEST MONTH AVAILABLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group considered a report which showed the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast position was an in-year overspend of £13m. This was the latest position as reported for Month 7 representing a significant change from the last reported position. The Council remained in a Safety Valve Agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) which secured government support for the delivery of the Council's DSG Recovery Programme and financial support towards the elimination of the cumulative DSG deficit. The latest report followed the conclusion of an internal zero-based review and refresh of the Safety Valve work programme. The LA awaited ratification by the DfE of the final Safety Valve submission.</li> <li>The deficit brought forward from 2022-23 was £21,887K and after considering the safety valve funding of £10.5m, the cumulative deficit carried forward at the end of 2023-24 was £26.5m. The sole material variance on the Schools Budget at Month 7 remained the High Needs Block where inflationary pressures on individual High Needs placements were significantly outstripping funding made available by the DfE through the DSG. This differential accounted for the budgeted £2,280K pressure, with continuing high levels of inflation exacerbating this in the new year. There was no standard mechanism for the DSG to be varied to reflect inflationary pressures and therefore the shortfall represented a continuing challenge in the context of the Safety Valve.</li> </ul>	
2.2	<p><b>TOP-UP ARREARS FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The work to identify and resolve incorrect top-up payments was substantially completed.</li> <li>The published figures did not include last year's arrears.</li> <li>It was possible that previous years' accounts would need to be revised and the LA was awaiting advice on this from the auditors.</li> </ul>	
2.3	<p><b>HIGH NEEDS FUNDING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group considered a report which summarised the increases to High Needs funding and included a table showing the estimated budget share of the 3.4% lump sum additional payment for 2024/25. It was not known whether this payment would be provided in future years.</li> <li>There was a difference of opinion as to whether the 3% and 3.4% payments were part of per pupil funding. Previously members of the Group had been advised by an officer that they were, however the current advice from officers was that they were not part of per pupil funding.</li> <li>For the 2024/25 academic year, the LA had commissioned 1,044 places in the Borough's special schools and 229 places in its SRPs which was a 3% and 62% increase respectively. A report was provided showing a breakdown of special school and SRP planned place numbers. Some members stated they had not been consulted by the LA and it was agreed that separate meetings would take place where needed.</li> <li>A projection of additional costs for next year would be provided for the next Schools Forum meeting.</li> </ul>	NA
2.4	<p><b>POTENTIAL CHANGES TO BANDED FUNDING MODEL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HR reported that the working group looking at the changes would be meeting monthly and regular updates would be provided to this Group. The next meeting of the Banded Funding Group would be looking at examples from other LAs.</li> <li>Members voiced concern that some schools had a disproportionate percentage of children with EHCPs. HR confirmed this was being looked at as part of the review. There were huge variations in numbers of SEND children across the Borough, with the percentage in schools ranging from 3% to 33% compared to a national average of 13%.</li> <li>HR confirmed EY would be factored in as part of the review.</li> <li>HR said she was happy to visit schools.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>INMSS &amp; POST-19</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Group considered a report which showed the 2023-4 FTE, total funding and average funding for independent and non-maintained special schools and post-19.</li> <li>The LA was working hard to place in local provision. Independent providers were only</li> </ul>	

	<p>used if ordered by a tribunal or if there were complex needs which could not be met elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group observed that the report did not show health and social care contributions. Officers advised that robust conversations with health colleagues were taking place.</li> <li>• The LA had completed work around children with SEND placed out of borough, and who should fund LAC in and out of borough.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>EHCPs</b>	
4.1	<p><b>EHCP CURRENT NUMBERS &amp; PROJECTIONS 2024-25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group considered a report which gave a summary of the growth assumptions for EHCPs which had been modelled into the Safety Valve Agreement submitted to the DfE.</li> <li>• The net EHCP growth in the current year was expected to be 7% with growth rate expected to fall in the future as measures were taken to improve early intervention.</li> <li>• There was an intentional move to integrate as many pupils as possible into mainstream provision.</li> <li>• The LA had commissioned more special school places for next year and increased the capacity in SRPs. Secondary was an area of focus and it was planned to create more secondary SRPs.</li> <li>• The banded funding review would help forecast levels of need to assist with planning.</li> <li>• During phase transfer, some schools were receiving huge numbers of applications.</li> <li>• The number of EHCPs in the Borough's secondary schools was below national average.</li> <li>• All schools needed to be inclusive so EHCPs could be more evenly distributed. Some schools were indicating they could not meet need. The LA was analysing data to understand differences and move to a more standardised approach.</li> <li>• The Group observed that pupils with EHCPs leaving primary school were generally going into special schools, and this could indicate that children were inappropriately placed at primary level.</li> <li>• It was necessary to look at the banding distribution. Some parents wished to keep their child in mainstream and resisted special school places. The distribution of pupils with complex needs in mainstream impacted on staffing and recruitment.</li> </ul>	
4.2	<p><b>TARGETED SUPPORT FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS WITH HIGH EHCPs</b></p> <p>This would be discussed at a later date.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>CAPITAL PLAN - PLACE PLANNING</b>	
5.1	<p><b>SEND PLACE PLANNING INCREASES - UPDATE ON SPECIAL SCHOOL EXPANSION PLANS</b></p> <p>NM provided an oral update on the current status of capital projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaville had opened its SRP.</li> <li>• Ruislips Gardens had experienced a slight delay and would handover at the end of January.</li> <li>• The successful trust for the free school would be announced soon. An opening date of 2026 had been indicated however the Group considered this optimistic.</li> <li>• Harefield planning application had been approved.</li> </ul>	
5.2	<p><b>FURTHER CAPACITY REQUIREMENT POST 2026-27 (END OF SAFETY VALVE AGREEMENT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DfE had observed that the number of children in placements in the Borough was much higher than national and it wanted the LA to reduce the number.</li> <li>• Progress needed to be made quickly with SRPs particularly secondary.</li> <li>• The number of children and young people currently in the system needed to be looked at in more detail to estimate what additional capacity would be needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>SAFETY VALVE AGREEMENT</b></p> <p>The LA was re-negotiating the Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE and would provide further details when it was in a position to do so. It was likely the Agreement would be extended to 2028.</p>	
7.	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><u>CNWL</u></p> <p>Members queried the contract position regarding CNWL. Officers advised that the statutory duty was being met, however members expressed concern that reduction in therapy support visits was having a detrimental impact on children and requested that virtual</p>	

	meetings be held during the term there was no support visit to the school. Officers were reviewing the contract and current arrangements and welcomed feedback.	
8.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Thursday 7 March 2024 at 10am.	

The meeting closed at 12.25pm.

**Hillingdon Schools Forum**  
**2024-25 DSG Schools Block Budget**

	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>DSG Funding Allocations 2024/25</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sheilender Pathak (Head of Finance Childrens and SEND)
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the 2024/25 DSG Funding Allocations for Hillingdon, announced by the Government on 19th December 2023

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report provides Schools Forum with an overview of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding announced by the Government on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and informs the Council of the indicative amounts of each block of the DSG that will be allocated to Hillingdon for 2024/25.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 Schools Forum are asked to note the content of this report.

**3. Dedicated Schools Grant Funding 2023/24**

3.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published the draft authority level DSG allocations for the schools, central school services, early years, and high needs blocks on 19 December 2023.

3.2 Table 1 sets out the published baseline DSG funding for 2024/25, compared to the 2023/24 DSG allocation updated in November 2023.

**Table 1: DSG Funding Allocations for 2024/25**

	<b>DSG Funding</b>	<b>DSG Funding</b>	<b>Change in Funding</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Funding Block</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>		
Schools	276,403,806	280,971,388	4,567,582	1.7%
High Needs	62,529,770	65,760,038	3,230,268	5.2%
Central Services	2,480,893	2,429,443	-51,450	-2.1%
Early Years	26,014,453	36,829,223	10,814,770	41.6%
<b>Total DSG Budget</b>	<b>367,428,922</b>	<b>385,990,092</b>	<b>18,561,170</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

#### **4. Schools Block and additional Pay and Pensions Grants**


- 4.1 The final allocation of Hillingdon's 2024/25 Schools Block DSG is £281.0m before recoupment and including the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of £9.025m, which has been rolled into the schools block national funding formula (NFF) for 2024/25. This compares to £276.4m in 2023/24 (including the 2023/24 MSAG). This represents a £4.6m (1.7%) increase in Hillingdon's Schools Block allocation and a 1.6% increase in per pupil funding between 2023/24 and 2024/25, before recoupment for academy and free school provision. Nationally the percentage increase in Schools Block funding is 2.2% and the per pupil increase is 2.0%.
- 4.2 There will be a separate pay grant for teachers' pay (TPAG) in 2024 to 2025. This is over and above the funding schools will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. The DfE aim to publish school level allocations showing the total funding allocated for the 2024 to 2025 financial year and the conditions of grant in April 2024, but provisional figures indicate this could equate to a 1.7% increase in the per pupil funding for 2024/25.
- 4.3 Schools will also receive further funding to support with increases to employer contribution rates to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme from April 2024. This is over and above the funding they will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. The DfE will announce further details on this funding for pensions, including funding rates and allocations, in due course.

#### **5. 2024/25 DSG Block Budgets**

Separate reports with details on the proposed Schools Block, Early Years Block and CSSB block budgets are provided within this agenda pack for Schools Forum 17 January 2024. Details on the High Needs budget will be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting, once the DfE have provided feedback and outcomes in relation to the Councils DSG management plan submission which was submitted as part of the DfE's Safety Valve programme.



**Hillingdon Schools Forum**  
**2024-25 DSG Schools Block Budget**

	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>2024/25 DSG Schools Block budget and funding formula</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sheilender Pathak (Head of Finance Childrens and SEND) and Sailesh Patel (Finance Business Partner - DSG)
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A- Funding factors values for 2024/25 Appendix B- Funding with and without Block Transfer.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>To note the principles and values of the proposed schools funding formula for 2024/25.</p> <p>To agree to the recommendations in this report relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 2024/25 budget for the growth fund.</li> <li>• charges to maintained schools budgets to cover the cost of school support services and a proposed contingency fund for schools in financial difficulty.</li> </ul>

**1. Details of Recommendations**

**Schools Forum is asked to note:**

1. The principles of the Hillingdon schools local funding formula for 2024/25, as agreed by Schools Forum on 6 December 2023 and set out in section 5.1 of this report.
2. The 2024/25 funding factor values as set out in Appendix A and the draft 2024/25 funding allocations for each school set out in Appendix B.

**Schools Forum is asked to agree the Council's proposals:**

3. To set the 2024/25 budget for growth of £1.219m as set out in section 6.8

**The maintained school representatives are asked to agree the:**

4. Amounts to be charged to maintained schools budgets for 2024/25 to contribute towards:
  - the cost of General Education Duties carried out by the Council on behalf of its maintained schools (as set out in section 9.5 of this report).
  - a proposed contingency fund to assist maintained schools in financial difficulty (as set out in section 10.1 of this report).

## 2. Report Summary

- 2.1 This report provides a briefing on the final Schools Block allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2024/25, following the receipt of final funding allocations and the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) in December 2023.
- 2.2 This report outlines the principles under which the Council will set the local Hillingdon school funding formula for 2024/25 in light of the 2024/25 settlement for the Schools Block of the DSG received in December 2023, and proposes budgets for:
  - the 2024/25 Growth Fund
  - the funding of some support services for maintained schools in 2024/25 that were previously funded from the Education Services Grant
  - a proposed contingency for maintained schools in financial difficulty

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The final allocation of Hillingdon's 2024/25 Schools Block DSG has been received from the Education and Standards Funding Agency (ESFA) and this is £281.0m before recoupment and including the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of £9.025m, which has been rolled into the schools block national funding formula (NFF) for 2024/25. This compares to £276.4m in 2023/24 (including the 2023/24 MSAG). This represents a £4.5m (1.7%) increase in Hillingdon's Schools Block allocation and a 1.6% increase in per pupil funding between 2023/24 and 2024/25, before recoupment for academy and free school provision. Nationally the percentage increase in Schools Block funding is 2.2% and the per pupil increase is 2.0%.
- 3.2 There will be a separate pay grant for teachers' pay (TPAG) in 2024 to 2025. This is over and above the funding schools will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. Provisional figures indicate this could equate to a 1.7% increase in the per pupil funding 2024/25. The methodology for allocating this grant to mainstream schools has been published at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-additional-grant-2024-to-2025/teachers-pay-additional-grant-2024-to-2025-methodology>

The DfE aim to publish school level allocations showing the total funding allocated for the 2024 to 2025 financial year and the conditions of grant in April 2024.

- 3.3 Schools will also receive further funding to support with increases to employer contribution rates to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme from April 2024. This is over and above the funding they will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. The DfE will announce further details on this funding for pensions, including funding rates and allocations, in due course. Further details are available at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-funding-for-schools-in-england-at-a-record-high>

3.4 In 2024/25, as in previous years, each local authority will continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. In July 2021, DfE published a consultation on proposals for completing their reforms of the funding system, whereby individual schools' budgets would be set directly through one single national formula, rather than local funding formulae. The consultation proposed that, from 2023/24, local authorities will be required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF, to smooth the transition.

#### **4. Schools Block 2023/24 Budget Consultation Feedback**

4.1 Four options for Hillingdon's 2024/25 funding factors were presented to the Schools Forum meeting on 18 October 2023 and following the meeting schools were consulted on two of these options (the two options preferred by Schools Forum). The consultation was open from 20th October 2023 to 17th November 2023. The Council received 35 responses, all from primary schools, agreeing to approve Model 4 and its principals for use in the final funding formula for 2024-25.

4.2 A summary report of the schools' feedback from the consultation was provided to the Schools Forum Meeting held on 6th December 2023. After taking account of the feedback, School Forum members voted in favour of using the values and principles in Model 4 in the final funding formula for 2024/25 LBH rates. Therefore, the funding formula set out in this report is consistent with the option agreed by Schools Forum and this is explained in more detail in section 5 of this report.

#### **5. Setting the 2024/25 schools funding formula**

5.1 The 2024/25 local schools funding formula will be set by the Council using the following the principles agreed by Schools Forum on 6 December 2023:

- the funding factors in the local Hillingdon schools funding formula will move 10% closer to the factor values in the NFF, with the AWPU rate being set at the highest rate that can be funded (i.e. if there is a balance remaining in the Schools Block following application of the NFF factor values that will be distributed via adjusting the AWPU).
- the Minimum Funding Guarantee will be set at the highest rate that can be funded within the 0% and +0.5%.
- each school will receive a minimum increase in their per pupil funding of 0.5% based on the funding factors that are impacted by the MFG (i.e. AWPU, deprivation factors, EAL, mobility and prior attainment).
- The formula will retain the funding ratio per pupil of Primary to Secondary sector as 1 to 1.32

5.2 The full list of factor values (including the area cost adjustment) that the Council proposes to use in its local Hillingdon formula are set out in Appendix A.

- 5.3 The proposed budgets in this report use the ESFA's Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and operational guidance to update the model agreed by Schools forum in December 2023, to take into account the following updates in December 2023:
- Pupil numbers which the ESFA have now been updated for the October 2023 census.
  - The Council did not meet the criteria for the Falling rolls Fund of 10% between years.
  - The Councils Growth Fund is £1.219m

## 6. Growth Fund

6.1 Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block DSG allocations.

6.2 Local authorities may operate a Growth Fund which can be used to:

- Support growth in pre 16 numbers to meet their basic need
- Support additional classes to meet the infant class sizes regulations
- Meet the cost of new schools including the lead in costs and post start up and diseconomy of scale costs.

6.3 The Growth Fund represents a top slice against the Schools Block. It is held by the Council and paid out to eligible schools once the pupil numbers for the 2024/25 academic year are confirmed by the Autumn 2024 census.

6.4 Growth Funds cannot be used to support schools in financial difficulty or support general growth due to popularity (which is to be managed through lagged funding).

6.5 For 2024/25, the DfE has amended Growth Fund Schools Block funding as well as allocation criteria. The DfE has also introduced some new mandatory requirements. The DfE has confirmed that Growth Funds will continue to be managed locally under the 'hard' NFF framework and that changes to these mechanisms, to improve their value and the consistency of approach between local authorities, will be made gradually. We expect more changes to come in 2025/26. The way that Growth Fund funding is allocated by the DfE to local authorities has not changed.

### **New Growth Fund formula**

6.6 The government introduced a formulaic approach to allocating funding for pupil growth four years ago, rather than using levels set by each LA. The growth fund grant allocation funds:

**Implicit Growth** - the regulations require new schools building up their numbers to be funded through the formula for pupils forecasted to join such schools in the September of each financial year; and

**Explicit Growth** – expansions of existing schools and bulge classes to meet basis need. This funds schools for additional classes that would not otherwise be

funded in that financial year due to the lagged nature of the school funding formula.

Hillingdon's explicit growth fund rules for expansions of existing schools and bulge classes in 2023 to 2024 are:

**Expansions** - Calculated by taking the total AWPU funding for the year, divided by the total number of pupils and multiplying by 30 (assumed class size), then pro rata 7 months (reflecting new class starting in September covering funding until the new financial year in April). A school will attract this funding for every year of an expansion, until the school has reached full capacity/ end of the expansion.

**Bulge Class** - Growth funding is also provided for schools who have significant growth in pupil numbers who are not expanding. If a school has an increase of over 25 pupils in the lowest year of the school, funding will be provided for each additional form of entry (assumed to be 30 pupils) which is calculated using the average AWPU rate for the year. This calculation will be carried out termly and funding provided proportionally. For academy schools who are expanding, the LA will also provide funding for the period April to August, to reflect the difference in funding year compared to maintained schools. This funding is calculated at 5/12ths of average AWPU multiplied by 30

For the first time in 2024 to 2025 local authorities will be required to provide growth funding in all cases where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment).

As a minimum local authorities will have to provide funding to a level which is compliant with the following formula: **primary growth factor value (£1,550) × number of pupils × ACA.**

In Hillingdon for 2024-25 this would equal **£51,237** for 1 additional form of entry. The primary growth factor value will be used for all school types, recognising there is one teacher pay scale and that this funding is a minimum value.

Hillingdon's current criteria, which uses AWPU, would **be above**, and therefore compliant with, this **minimum value**.

- 6.7 A review of the Growth Fund Contingency requirement, which provides funding for expanding schools and funding for significant in-year growth, estimates that the budget in 2024/25 should be £854k, a decrease of £355k from the previous year. The calculations include 1 growing Primary School, 1 Growing Secondary school and contingency for funding of year 6 pupil classes over pan in Secondary schools etc.
- 6.8 The growth funding allocated through the funding formula for 2024/25 is £1,219k which is sufficient to cover the growth requirement due to an overall increase in Pupil number of 221 in Hillingdon and is a decrease from 2023/24 of £431k.

## **7. Falling Rolls**

7.1 For the first time in 2024-25 the government will allocate funding to local authorities based on falling rolls as well as growth. Funding will be allocated based on year-on-year reductions in pupil numbers at medium super output areas (MSOA) level. MSOAs are small geographical areas, within wards. Allocations will be based on differences between the primary and secondary number on roll at schools located within each MSOA between the most recent October pupil census and the census in the previous October.

7.2 The falling rolls allocation for each local authority will be £140,000 + area cost adjustment (ACA) per MSOA which sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the two census years.

7.3 Hillingdon did not meet the criteria of the MSOA in 2024/25.

7.4 Local authorities will continue to have discretion over whether to set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support schools with falling rolls.

## **8. Provisional Funding at Schools Level**

8.1 The proposed 2024/25 School Block DSG Budget has been produced on the assumption of a 0.75% transfer from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. Following the Schools Forum meeting held on 6th December 2023 the Council submitted a disapplication of grant regulations application to be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) to request a 0.75% transfer from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. The Council is still awaiting a decision on this so we have included two models in this report, one with the block transfer and one without.

8.2 Table 1 below summarises the proposed allocation of the 2024/25 Schools Block DSG with the 0.75% schools block transfer at a local authority level. This shows:

- Basic Entitlement (which is the funding through AWPU)
- Additional Education Needs (AEN), which is the sum of funding for the funding factors that are mostly linked to deprivation factors such as free school meals, English as an additional language, low prior attainment.
- School Factors (the lump sum, split sites, additional lump sums for amalgamated schools etc).

**Table 1: Proposed 2024/25 School Block Budget:  
(with 0.75% schools block transfer)**

	£'M
Basic Entitlement Total	209.1
AEN Total	50.8
School Factors	17.0
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>276.9</b>
MFG / Capping Adjustment	0.9
<b>Post MFG Budget</b>	<b>277.8</b>
<b>Growth Fund</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>2024/25 Schools Block allocation</b>	<b>279.0</b>

8.3 Table 2 below summarises the allocation of the 2024/25 Schools Block DSG in the same manner as Table 1, but without a schools block transfer:

**Table 2: Model of 2024/25 School Block Budget:  
(without a schools block transfer)**

	£'M
Basic Entitlement Total	211.4
AEN Total	50.8
School Factors	17.1
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>279.3</b>
MFG / Capping Adjustment	0.5
<b>Post MFG Budget</b>	<b>279.8</b>
<b>Growth Fund</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>2024/25 Schools Block allocation</b>	<b>281.0</b>

8.4 Appendix B shows the provisional 2023/24 funding allocations for each school and how the total funding is provisionally allocated across schools in each scenario (i.e. with and without the schools block transfer). It is important to note that these allocations are provisional as they are subject to validation checks undertaken by ESFA on the proposed funding allocations submitted by the Council to ESFA through the APT proforma. The final school level allocations will be presented to the March 2024 School Forum meeting.

8.5 It should also be noted that the following elements of the 2024/25 schools funding are applicable to maintained schools only and are outside the funding formula, and these need to be deducted from the funding allocations shown at Appendix B. These two areas are considered in more detail in sections 9, 10 and 11 of this report:

- (i) Funding of General Education duties for maintained schools' budgets (see section 9 for details).
- (ii) De-delegation of maintained schools' budgets (see sections 10 and 11 below).

## **9. Funding of general duties for maintained schools**

9.1 Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the Education Services Grant (ESG) from maintained schools budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools Forum.

9.2 Until 1 April 2017 the Council received an ESG to cover the cost of delivering its responsibilities in respect of schools. This had two elements, a retained duties element covering the Council's duties to all schools (which now forms the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant) and a general duties rate which related to maintained schools only. The general duties rate ended on 1 April 2017 with a transitional grant being payable to local authorities for 2017/18. This resulted in a reduction in the Council's grant income of c£2M from 2018/19 whilst the duties remain.

9.3 In light of the reductions in grant funding the cost of services across the Council were reviewed and significant budget reductions were made. This has enabled the Council to reduce the cost of the services that were previously funded by the ESG to a significantly lower level. This has however limited the scope of the services that can be provided to schools to a minimum level that is needed to discharge the Council's responsibilities.

9.4 Until now the Council has never asked maintained schools to contribute towards these statutory services and has instead managed to pay for all such costs through the Council's General Fund. However, due to significant inflationary pressures over the past few years and increasing duties and responsibilities regarding general duties carried out by the Council on behalf of its maintained schools, this is no longer tenable and the Council is therefore proposing to charge (top slice) the maintained schools budget share in 2024/25, for a contribution towards these costs.

9.5 The Council proposes to charge £200,172 to the maintained school budget shares which equates to £10.93 per pupil, to cover the costs of the services listed below which were previously funded by ESG.

- £10k: monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)
- £60k: expenditure on inspecting attendance registers under the Education (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)
- £50k: appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, paragraph 74)
- £10k: functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)



- £50k: appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67) and consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68).
- £20k: monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)

## **10. De-delegation for a contingency fund to support maintained schools in financial difficulty**

- 10.1 The Council is proposing to create a contingency fund of £200,172 to assist maintained schools in financial difficulty. It is most likely that this fund will be used to contribute towards the redundancy costs of schools in financial difficulty, where they are taking action to help balance their budgets by restructuring their staffing establishments. This represents £10.93 per pupil of the maintained schools budget shares.
- 10.2 Schedule 2 of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2023 allows for the creation of such a contingency fund by top slicing (de-delegating) maintained schools' 24/25 budgets. The funds will then be redistributed to schools in financial difficulty through the new collaborative process, where the Council will be working more closely with maintained schools in financial difficulty in order to help them remain in surplus.
- 10.3 Each maintained primary and secondary school member representative will decide for their phase.

## **11. De-delegation - notes**

- 11.1 DfE allow funding for specified services to be de-delegated for maintained primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.
- 11.2 At the schools Forum meeting on 6 December Maintained School Representatives of Schools Forum voted to de-delegate the Teachers Pensions Administration for maintained schools in 2024-25 at a rate of £1.28 per pupil.
- 11.3 A proposal to de-delegate budgets for Schools Improvement Services was rejected at the schools forum meeting on 6 December 2023. A disapplication was submitted, but following discussions with the EFSA the Council decided to withdraw this disapplication. This was on the grounds that the schools forum minutes from the October 2023 schools forum meeting had not made it clear that schools were now happy with the service.
- 11.4 It should be noted that the proposal to de-delegate Trade Union facilities time contributions for 2024/25 was rejected by representatives of maintained schools at the Schools Forum meeting on 6 December 2023.

## **12. Payment of School Business Rates**

- 12.1 Changes to the arrangements for administering the payment of schools business rates are being introduced from 1 April 2024 to reflect latest ESFA guidance.
- 12.2 Under the previous arrangements the funding certificate for each mainstream school included the estimated funding required for the payment of their business rates, and schools received this funding. The business rates bills were paid by the Council on behalf of each maintained school and these costs were then charged back to each school by the Council. Academies paid their business rates bills directly.
- 12.3 With effect from 1 April 2024 rates will be paid by the ESFA directly to billing authorities on behalf of all maintained schools and academies. As ESFA are now making business rates payments directly to billing authorities, less cash will need to be moved to schools but schools' budgets (and funding certificates) need to continue to reflect the cost of business rates.
- 12.4 The 2024/25 school funding certificates will include a line showing "Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (after deduction of de delegation, education functions and indicative 2024-25 NNDR)" so schools will not actually receive a cash backed budget for their business rates costs.
- 12.5 Under the new arrangements billing authorities communicate the cost of schools' rates to the ESFA by uploading rates bill data to an online billing portal.

## **13. Notional SEN**

- 13.1 It should also be noted that the NFF includes notional SEN amounts within the school's block funding allocations to schools. Each school's 2024/25 funding certificate will include a notional SEN amount which is calculated based on the percentages applied to each of the pupil led factors as agreed by schools forum in December 2023. Schools are expected to use this element of their Schools Block funding to support pupils who require SEN support. Schools may also receive additional pupil specific funding for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan or for SEN Centres based at schools from the High Needs budget. These allocations will be separately determined and notified to schools. The notional SEN element is allocated to school's post MFG via the local funding formula is £29.981m.

## **14. Next steps**

- 14.1 Deadline for submission to ESFA of the APT proforma that is used to calculate Individual School Budgets is 22 January 2024. This will be subject to a series of validation checks by ESFA which could lead to adjustments to the provisional funding allocations to individual schools shown in Appendix B of this report.

14.2 Council approval of the 2024/25 schools budget on 22 February 2024.

14.3 The final Schools Block funding allocations for each school will be reported to Schools Forum on 20 March 2024. The Council expects to issue 2024/25 funding certificates soon after that meeting.

## Appendix A - Funding Factors Values (Unit Rates) 2023/24 and 2024/2

NFF 23-24			ACTUAL RATES 2023-24 FORMULA				NFF 24
				0.6			
		1.10187	ACA	Partial Move to NFF Rates with focus on Hillingdon Priorities			1.10187
		NFF Rates inc ACA					NFF Rate:
UNIT RATES	PRIM	SEC	PRIM	SEC	PRIM %	SEC %	PRIM
Prim AWPU	3,740	-	3,719	-	-0.5%		3,920
KS3 AWPU	-	5,272	-	5,141		-2.5%	-
KS4 AWPU	-	5,942	-	5,794		-2.5%	-
FSM	529	529	542	542	2.5%	2.5%	539
FSM Ever 6	777	1,135	1,100	1,328	41.6%	17.0%	902
IDACI F	253	369	260	278	2.5%	-24.6%	259
IDACI E	309	490	316	403	2.5%	-17.9%	314
IDACI D	485	683	447	600	-7.8%	-12.1%	490
IDACI C	529	749	542	668	2.5%	-10.8%	534
IDACI B	562	804	576	824	2.5%	2.5%	567
IDACI A	738	1,025	757	1,050	2.5%	2.5%	748
Low Prior Attainment	1,273	1,928	1,274	1,825	0.1%	-5.3%	1,288
EAL 3	639	1,724	792	1,528	23.9%	-11.4%	649
Mobility	1,041	1,499	1,017	1,466	-2.3%	-2.2%	1,056
Split sites basic			100,000	100,000			59,095
Split sites distance	-	-					29,602
Lump Sum	141,039	141,039	143,000	143,000			147,902
Sparsity	62,035	90,243	63,586	92,499			62,836

1.1.31

Prim:Sec Ratio  
1 to 1.31

Formula M  
Models bas  
MSAG rolle



**Model 2**

Model rates 2024-25 FORMULA

**without 0.75% Block Transfer**

**Local Rates 2024-25 - AWPU and Lump sum**

PRIM	SEC	PRIM %	SEC %
3,972		1.3%	
-	5,527		0.0%
-	6,074		-2.5%
539	539	0.0%	0.0%
902	1,321	0.0%	0.0%
259	374	0.0%	0.0%
314	495	0.0%	0.0%
490	693	0.0%	0.0%
534	759	0.0%	0.0%
567	814	0.0%	0.0%
748	1,040	0.0%	0.0%
1,288	1,953	0.0%	0.0%
649	1,744	0.0%	0.0%
1,056	1,519	0.0%	0.0%
59,095	59,095	0.0%	0.0%
29,602	29,602	0.0%	0.0%
151,599	151,599	2.5%	2.5%
62,836	91,338	0.0%	0.0%

1.1.32 no cap

MFG 472,381

**No Tfr**


**Appendix B - Provisional Individual Schools Budgets with and without 0.75% Block Transfer**  
**(Prior to de-delegation and NDR deductions)**

School Name	NOR 23-24	NOR 24-25	change in NOR	24-25 Post MFG Budget with 0.75% Block Transfer	24-25 Post MFG Budget without 0.75% Block Transfer	% Increase to MFG Budget with 0.75% Block Transfer	% Increase to MFG Budget without 0.75% Block Transfer	Difference in Post MFG Budget due to Block Transfer
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,052</b>	<b>45,078</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>£277,845,747</b>	<b>£279,943,884</b>			<b>-£2,098,137</b>
Bourne Primary School	191	203	12	£1,180,218	£1,187,204	1.95%	2.67%	-£6,987
The Breakspear School	592	600	8	£2,872,142	£2,872,142	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Colham Manor Primary School	575	590	15	£3,274,896	£3,274,896	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Coteford Infant School	178	179	1	£1,095,040	£1,101,201	1.88%	2.57%	-£6,161
Deanesfield Primary School	622	624	2	£3,149,461	£3,149,461	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Field End Infant School	268	244	-24	£1,424,648	£1,433,046	2.25%	2.95%	-£8,398
Glebe Primary School	588	582	-6	£2,879,839	£2,879,839	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Harefield Junior School	237	219	-18	£1,312,259	£1,319,796	1.07%	1.76%	-£7,537
Harefield Infant School	162	143	-19	£890,481	£890,481	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Harlyn Primary School	416	401	-15	£2,239,758	£2,253,559	5.99%	6.72%	-£13,801
Harmondsworth Primary School	192	191	-1	£1,134,398	£1,140,534	0.50%	1.14%	-£6,136
Heathrow Primary School	397	389	-8	£2,182,228	£2,195,616	0.92%	1.61%	-£13,388
Lady Bankes Primary School	564	556	-8	£2,806,398	£2,806,398	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Minet Junior School	435	413	-22	£2,419,233	£2,433,447	1.22%	1.86%	-£14,214
Minet Infant and Nursery School	328	326	-2	£2,132,109	£2,143,329	1.40%	1.98%	-£11,220
Newnham Junior School	356	357	1	£1,768,910	£1,768,910	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Newnham Infant and Nursery School	261	263	2	£1,377,743	£1,385,493	0.50%	1.15%	-£7,751
Whitehall Junior School	385	384	-1	£2,190,830	£2,190,830	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Whiteheath Junior School	337	312	-25	£1,558,016	£1,568,754	1.74%	2.53%	-£10,738
Yeading Junior School	460	458	-2	£2,634,489	£2,634,489	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Yeading Infant and Nursery School	345	341	-4	£2,100,924	£2,100,924	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Highfield Primary School	291	267	-24	£1,558,042	£1,567,231	3.12%	3.83%	-£9,189
Rabbsfarm Primary School	585	591	6	£3,522,747	£3,543,087	1.50%	2.14%	-£20,340
Warrender Primary School	352	385	33	£1,897,335	£1,910,586	0.79%	1.57%	-£13,251
Whitehall Infant School	301	291	-10	£1,774,014	£1,784,029	0.63%	1.27%	-£10,015
Whiteheath Infant & Nursery School	240	209	-31	£1,148,531	£1,155,724	1.64%	2.39%	-£7,193
Frithwood Primary School	391	392	1	£1,979,666	£1,979,666	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Ruislip Gardens Primary School	266	242	-24	£1,375,854	£1,378,585	0.50%	0.73%	-£2,731
Cherry Lane Primary School	594	578	-16	£3,347,608	£3,348,473	0.50%	0.53%	-£865
Bishop Winnington-Ingram CofE Primary School	195	202	7	£1,114,367	£1,114,367	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	190	171	-19	£951,819	£957,705	2.52%	3.28%	-£5,885
Dr Triplett's CofE Primary School	415	413	-2	£2,226,048	£2,240,262	1.81%	2.51%	-£14,214
St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	208	210	2	£1,080,653	£1,085,330	0.50%	1.01%	-£4,677
Botwell House Catholic Primary School	625	625	0	£3,385,549	£3,407,060	2.44%	3.13%	-£21,511
St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	407	410	3	£2,025,303	£2,039,414	0.83%	1.59%	-£14,111
St Catherine Catholic Primary School	201	201	0	£1,202,259	£1,209,177	1.31%	1.98%	-£6,918
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	211	211	0	£1,167,372	£1,174,634	1.06%	1.78%	-£7,262
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	627	630	3	£2,978,377	£2,978,377	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Oak Farm Primary School	550	541	-9	£2,739,875	£2,758,495	0.82%	1.55%	-£18,620
Grange Park Junior School	414	380	-34	£2,083,571	£2,083,571	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Grange Park Infant and Nursery School	263	254	-9	£1,494,667	£1,503,409	0.98%	1.64%	-£8,742
Hillside Infant School	172	172	0	£1,053,356	£1,053,356	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Hillside Junior School	224	226	2	£1,285,112	£1,285,112	0.50%	0.50%	£0
St Andrew's C of E Primary School	184	189	5	£1,121,417	£1,127,922	1.20%	1.89%	-£6,505
Hayes Park School	595	609	14	£3,150,904	£3,171,864	1.90%	2.62%	-£20,960
Oak Wood School	1095	1068	-27	£8,090,188	£8,183,380	0.94%	2.14%	-£93,192
Harlington School	1019	1072	53	£8,204,977	£8,300,656	1.63%	2.85%	-£95,679
Belmore Primary Academy	549	549	0	£3,052,067	£3,070,962	0.72%	1.38%	-£18,895
Brookside Primary School	315	323	8	£1,888,427	£1,888,427	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Coteford Junior School	289	278	-11	£1,541,707	£1,551,275	0.96%	1.66%	-£9,568
Laurel Lane Primary School	315	282	-33	£1,808,853	£1,808,853	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Field End Junior School	356	327	-29	£1,769,276	£1,780,531	0.54%	1.26%	-£11,254
Hewens Primary School	390	382	-8	£2,044,873	£2,051,983	0.50%	0.88%	-£7,110
Nanaksar Primary School	99	140	41	£863,376	£863,376	0.50%	0.50%	£0
John Locke Academy	586	600	14	£2,931,709	£2,952,359	2.05%	2.81%	-£20,650
Lake Farm Park Academy	617	632	15	£3,484,105	£3,484,105	0.50%	0.50%	£0
St Martin's Church of England Primary School	301	248	-53	£1,515,056	£1,515,056	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Pinkwell Primary School	547	591	44	£3,420,164	£3,440,504	1.94%	2.58%	-£20,340
Rosedale Primary School	375	384	9	£2,099,670	£2,100,689	0.50%	0.55%	-£1,019
Ryefield Primary School	389	388	-1	£2,099,395	£2,099,395	0.50%	0.50%	£0
William Byrd Primary Academy	539	527	-12	£2,948,042	£2,963,159	0.50%	1.05%	-£15,117
West Drayton Academy	612	624	12	£3,462,129	£3,462,129	0.50%	0.50%	£0

**Appendix B - Provisional Individual Schools Budgets with and without 0.75% Block Transfer**  
(Prior to de-delegation and NDR deductions)

School Name	NOR 23-24	NOR 24-25	change in NOR	24-25 Post MFG Budget with 0.75% Block Transfer	24-25 Post MFG Budget without 0.75% Block Transfer	% Increase to MFG Budget with 0.75% Block Transfer	% Increase to MFG Budget without 0.75% Block Transfer	Difference in Post MFG Budget due to Block Transfer
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,052</b>	<b>45,078</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>£277,845,747</b>	<b>£279,943,884</b>			<b>-£2,098,137</b>
Hermitage Primary School	408	420	12	£2,298,714	£2,313,170	3.64%	4.36%	-£14,455
Cranford Park Academy	789	808	19	£4,365,289	£4,393,098	0.99%	1.66%	-£27,809
Hillingdon Primary School	633	628	-5	£3,320,394	£3,320,394	0.50%	0.50%	£0
Wood End Park Academy	864	894	30	£4,770,058	£4,790,581	0.50%	0.95%	-£20,523
St Matthew's CofE Primary School	400	388	-12	£2,236,230	£2,249,584	2.99%	3.66%	-£13,354
Cowley St Laurence CofE Primary School	393	387	-6	£2,166,296	£2,179,616	1.07%	1.75%	-£13,319
Charville Academy	394	389	-5	£2,197,596	£2,210,984	0.73%	1.39%	-£13,388
Parkside Studio College	36	55	19	£614,635	£623,549	0.53%	3.35%	-£8,915
De Salis Studio College	140	136	-4	£1,149,633	£1,160,469	0.50%	1.57%	-£10,836
Global Academy	127	142	15	£1,245,589	£1,244,674	0.50%	0.50%	£915
Park Academy West London	759	802	43	£6,326,272	£6,404,267	2.51%	3.83%	-£77,995
Ruislip High School	1018	1050	32	£6,962,215	£7,057,065	0.95%	2.36%	-£94,850
UTC Heathrow	79	93	14	£905,612	£904,258	0.50%	0.50%	£1,354
Bishop Ramsey Church of England School	984	987	3	£6,366,982	£6,455,477	2.08%	3.55%	-£88,495
Bishopshalt School	929	963	34	£6,778,136	£6,866,769	2.25%	3.63%	-£88,633
Haydon School	1333	1316	-17	£9,085,749	£9,200,080	2.96%	4.29%	-£114,331
Vyners School	1154	1216	62	£7,812,759	£7,920,735	1.16%	2.60%	-£107,976
Queensmead School	1201	1202	1	£8,142,366	£8,249,374	1.43%	2.80%	-£107,008
Uxbridge High School	1127	1160	33	£8,606,716	£8,710,823	2.73%	4.01%	-£104,107
Northwood School	893	892	-1	£6,138,739	£6,217,255	0.50%	1.83%	-£78,516
Rosedale College	827	818	-9	£6,048,630	£6,064,118	0.50%	0.76%	-£15,488
Hewens College	458	471	13	£3,933,278	£3,981,430	1.51%	2.83%	-£48,152
The Douay Martyrs Catholic School	1279	1245	-34	£8,509,374	£8,621,771	1.19%	2.55%	-£112,397
Swakeleys School for Girls	1167	1160	-7	£7,943,058	£8,048,271	1.07%	2.45%	-£105,212
Barnhill Community High School	1232	1255	23	£9,791,593	£9,902,885	2.71%	3.85%	-£111,291
Harefield School	240	245	5	£2,120,151	£2,147,580	1.56%	3.11%	-£27,428
Guru Nanak Sikh Academy	1405	1367	-38	£8,497,203	£8,600,983	1.97%	3.25%	-£103,780



	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 17 January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) Budget 2024-25</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sailesh Patel -spatel5@hillington.gov.uk
<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Schools Forum is asked to approve the Council's CSSB budget for 2024/25

## 1. Introduction

The Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) grant is a block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) intended to fund local authorities to carry out the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies, as defined by the Department of Education (DfE) and listed below.

This report sets out the functions that the Council proposes to fund from the 2024/25 CSSB grant and the associated budget allocations.

## 2. Background

The CSSB continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out statutory central functions on behalf of all maintained schools and academies, comprising 2 distinct elements:

- ongoing responsibilities
- historic commitments

The CSSB brings together:

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

The functions that can currently be funded from the CSSB are listed in Schedule 2, Parts 2 and 3 of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2023.

The DfE have been reducing the element of funding within CSSB each year, that local authorities receive for historic commitments made prior to 2013 to 2014. In 2024 to 2025, for those local authorities that receive it, historic commitments funding has been reduced by a further 20%.

### 3. 2024/25 CSSB Funding Allocation for Hillingdon

The Council's CSSB allocation for 2024-25 is £2,429k and this is a net reduction of £51k from last year, as can be seen in the table below.

Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2024 to 2025 schools block and central school services block	Central school services block (CSSB)			
	CSSB unit of funding (£s)	CSSB pupil count	Funding for historic commitments (£s)	Total central school services block (£s)
	[J]	[K]	[L]	[M]
		= [C] + [D]		= ( [J] * [K] ) + [L]
312 Hillingdon	44.31	45,044.50	433,521	2,429,443
312 Hillingdon July 23	43.06	45,030	541,901	2,480,893
24-25 Change	1.25	14.50	-108,380	-51,450.00

### 4. Functions to be funded from the 2024/25 CSSB

The table below summarises the functions that the Council proposes to fund from the CSSB for 2024/25 and the associated budget allocations:

Description	Budget
	£'000
Education Services	854
Education Safeguarding	184
Non Statemented LAC Placements	300
Copyright Licences est	300
ESG Retained Services	791
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>2,429</b>
DSG Allocation for 2024-25	2,429

#### Education Services (Total £854k)

(i) The School Placement and Admissions team consists of 1.9 (FTE) Senior Admissions Officers and 3.9 (FTE) Admissions Officer at a total budgeted cost of **£258k**. Given the increase in workload and the growth in elective home education, the team structure will need to be reviewed further in the coming months.

(ii) The Hillingdon Virtual School is part-funded from the CSSB Block along with a contribution from the Pupil Premium Plus grant. The team consists of a Virtual School

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Headteacher and 11 FTE practitioners. The DSG funding for this team is **£304k** with £231k charged to the Pupil Premium Plus grant.

- (iii) Part funding of four posts in the Education Services structure. These are as follows, Deputy Director Education, Head of Access to Education, Vulnerable Learners Support Manager and Post-16 Partnership Co-ordinator with the total DSG requirement for these posts being **£292k**.

#### Education Safeguarding

The DSG has historically funded the LADO post along with the School Domestic Violence and Child Protection officer posts. The budget requirement for these three posts is **£184k**.

#### Non-statemented LAC placements

There is a continuing pressure linked to the number of looked after children who have been placed out of borough in residential provision. The DSG only funds the education element of these placements, and there is an on-going budget requirement of **£300k** for these placements.

#### ESG retained services

In the 2015 Spending Review, the DfE announced that ESG funding would cease in 2017/18 and that for those services defined as retained duties previously funded through the ESG, the funding and responsibility would be transferred into the DSG. The Schools Revenue Funding Operational Guide provides the definition of those services deemed to be retained duties. The DSG baseline includes a sum of **£791k** for retained duties, and it is proposed that this figure is retained in 2024/25 to fund these services.

#### Copyright Licences

The ESFA procures copyright licences centrally for all schools and the cost is then charged to the DSG. The estimate for 2024/25 is **£300k**, based on an expected increase of 10.8% from 2023-24 amount of £272.5k

## Appendix A - Early Years 2024-25 Proposed Budget and Complain

Description	Total 3 & 4 Year Olds	
<b>Base rate (forecasted hours x proposed hourly rate)</b>	<b>£20,805,790</b>	1
Lump sums	£0	
<u>Supplements:</u>		
Mandatory - Deprivation	£992,493	2
Additional Needs	£1,099,742	
Pensions	£110,277	
SEN inclusion fund (top up grants element)		3
Balancing	£109,243	4
<b>Total "passported" budget (a)</b>	<b>£23,117,544</b>	5
Centrally Retained 5% Budget	£1,216,713	6
<b>Total Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>£24,334,257</b>	7
Planned total base rate hours for core 15 and 30 hours (b)	3,677,662	8
Equivalent average rate to providers for three-and four-year old entitlement hours = (a) divided by (b)	£6.29	9
LA Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate from DfE	£6.61	10
Passport Rate	95.10%	
Target Passport Rate	95.00%	
Early Years DSG Funding Allocation balancing item	<b>-£24,334,257</b>	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>-£24,334,257</b>	
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>£0</b>	

**ce Checks for pass through rate.**

Total 2 Year Olds	Total 2 Year Olds Extended	Total U2 Year Olds	Total
£2,469,246	4,425,952	£3,392,892	£30,093,879
£0	£0	£0	£0
£102,310	245,886.22	£0	£1,457,838
£167,609	245,886.22	£0	£1,430,668
£0	£0	£0	£115,588
£0	£0	£0	£0
£17,193	£0	£0	£1,086,546
£2,756,358	£4,917,724	£3,392,892	£34,184,519
£145,072	£258,828	£178,573	£1,799,185
£0	£0	£0	£0
£2,901,430	£5,176,552	£3,571,465	£35,983,704
299,303	544,327	275,789	£4,797,080
£9.21	£9.03	£12.30	£37
£9.51	£9.51	£12.95	£39
96.84%	95.00%	95.00%	£0
95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	£0
-£2,901,430	-£5,176,552	-£3,571,465	-£35,983,704
-£2,901,430	-£5,176,552	-£3,571,465	-£35,983,704
-£0	£0	£0	£0

## Appendix B - Early Years Hourly Rates

### LA Funding Rates 2024-25

LA Rates	2022/23	2023/24	2023-24 - Sept 23	2024 -25
	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)
<b>3- &amp; 4-Year-olds</b>	6.14	6.34	6.40	<b>6.61</b>
<b>2-Year-olds</b>	6.29	6.87	9.10	<b>9.51</b>
<b>2-Year-olds working Parent New</b>				<b>9.51</b>
<b>Under 2-Year-olds New</b>				<b>12.95</b>
<b>MNS Supplementary</b>	4.13	4.94	5.21	<b>5.61</b>

### Provider Rates 2024-25

Provider Rates	2022/23	2023/24	2023-24 - Sept 23	2024 -25
	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)	£ (per hr)
<b>3- &amp; 4-Year-olds</b>	5.58	6.02	6.08	<b>6.29</b>
<b>2-Year-olds</b>	6.29	6.87	9.10	<b>9.21</b>
<b>2-Year-olds working Parent New</b>				<b>9.03</b>
<b>Under 2-Year-olds New</b>				<b>12.30</b>
<b>MNS Supplementary</b>	4.13	4.94	5.21	<b>5.61</b>

Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25	Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.21</b>	3.3%
<b>0.41</b>	4.5%
	0.0%
	0.0%
	7.7%

Increase between April 24 and April 25	Increase between April 24 and April 25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.27</b>	4.3%
<b>2.64</b>	38.4%

Increase between April 23 and April 24
%
3.3%
9.2%

Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25	Increase between Sept 23 and 24-25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.21</b>	3.5%
<b>0.11</b>	1.2%
	0.0%
	0.0%
	7.7%

Increase between April 24 and April 25	Increase between April 24 and April 25
£ (per hr)	%
<b>0.27</b>	4.5%
<b>2.34</b>	34.1%

Increase between April 23 and April 24
%
7.9%
9.2%

	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon</b> <b>Schools Forum</b> <b>17 January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Early Years Block Funding 2024-25</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sailesh Patel -spatel5@hillington.gov.uk
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendices A and B
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>That schools Forum note the updates in this report on the initial allocation of Early Years Block funding for 2024/25 including the extended entitlements for working parents of two-year-old children and children from age 9 months. The report covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update on the National Funding Formula for Early Years</li> <li>- Funding rates and draft budget for April 2024 to March 2025 for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 and 4-year-old universal entitlement and additional hours for working parents.</li> <li>• 2-year-old entitlements for disadvantaged families and the entitlement for working parents</li> <li>• Under 2s entitlements for children aged 9 months to 2 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 1. Introduction and Changes to Early Years Funding 2024/25

1.1. The DfE has extended the number of free childcare offers available to working parents in 2024/25. There will be new working parent entitlements introduced for 2-year-olds and children aged 9 months to 2 years during the year. The 2-year-olds offer will be for a maximum of 15 hours per week from 1st April 2024 and the under 2-year-olds offer for a maximum of 15 hours per week from 1st September 2024. It is intended that these offers will be extended further in 2025/26 to a maximum of 30 hours per week.

1.2. Local authorities are required to set a local formula for both the 2-year-old offers and the under 2s offer in the same way as it has for 3- and 4-year-olds over the past 6 years.

1.3. Eligibility for EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) and DAF (Disability Access Fund) has also been extended to the **new offers**.

1.4. This report will detail all the offers and the corresponding budgets required for approval based on the 2024/25 hourly rates issued by DfE and the activity data from the January 2023 census and DfE estimates for the new offers.



## 2. Early Years Block funding 2024/25

2.1. There are now eight funding streams in the Early Years Block of the DSG, as set out below. The focus of this paper are the 4 offers of free early years entitlements.

- for 3 and 4-year-olds (YO), which constitutes the bulk of the funding, and which is also subject to pass through and other requirements.
- For disadvantaged 2 YO – now requires local formula and subject to pass through and other requirements.
- For Working Parent 2 YO – **NEW** - requires local formula and pass through requirements.
- For Working Parent 9 months to 2 years – **NEW** - requires local formula and pass through requirements.

2.2. The basis of the 3 and 4 YO offer remains unchanged since it was introduced in April 2017. The requirements are listed below

- Set a single funding rate (including the same base rate and supplements) for both entitlements for 3 and 4YO
- Must pass at least 95% of funding received to providers.
- Must use a universal base rate for all types of providers including maintained nursery schools
- Must use a deprivation supplement in their local 3 and 4YO formula
- Must not channel more than 12% of funding to providers as supplements – in Hillingdon supplements are budgeted for Deprivation and Additional Needs
- Must provide a SEN Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4YO
- Monitored compliance through the S251 Budget and Outturn reporting process.

2.3. There is a **new** national funding formula (NFF) which covers both the existing 2 YO entitlement for disadvantaged children and new working parent entitlements for 2 YO and children aged 9 months to 2 years. The requirements for these offers are listed below:

- Requirement to have a disadvantaged 2 YO rate that is at least equal to the working parent 2 YO rate.
- Must pass at least 95% of funding received for these 3 offers to providers.
- Must provide a SEN Inclusion Fund for under 2s and both 2-year-old offers
- May use supplements to target funding up to a maximum of 12% of the total hourly rate paid to providers NB This is not mandatory.

2.4 Summary explanations including funding rates applicable in 2024/25 are set out below:

- **Universal entitlement for 3- & 4-YO** – 15 hours free childcare for all 3- and 4-YO available for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding will be received by **Hillingdon at £6.61 per hour in 2024/25**. This is a £0.21 per hour increase or **3.3% increase** on the final 2023/24 funded rates at £6.40 per hour inclusive of Teachers Pay and Pension Allowance of £0.17 per hour.
- **Additional entitlement working parents 3- & 4-YO** – additional 15 hours free childcare for eligible 3- and 4- YO from the term after their 3rd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Parents are required to obtain a 30-hour

code. Funding will be received by **Hillingdon at £6.61 per hour in 2024/25** financial year.

- **Disadvantaged 2-YO** – 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2-YO from the term after their 2nd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding received is **£9.51 per hour**. This is a £0.41 per hour increase in funding or circa **4.5% versus final 2023/24** rate of £9.10 per hour. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements for this offer as detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Working Parent 2-YO** – this is a **new offer** of 15 hours free childcare for eligible 2-YO from the term after their 2nd birthday for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. Funding received is £9.51 per hour in line with the Disadvantaged 2-year-old offer. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements for this new offer are as detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Working Parent 9 months to 2-YO** – this is a **new offer** of 15 hours free childcare for eligible children from the term after they are 9 months for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. This offer will be introduced in September 2024 so the maximum number of weeks available in 2024/25 is 22 rather than 38. Funding received is £12.95 per hour which reflects the higher level of staffing required for this cohort. The rate to be paid to providers in 2024/25 will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in line with the requirements detailed above in paragraph 2.2.
- **Early Years (EY) Pupil Premium** – additional funding for disadvantaged children has been extended to all the Early Years offers detailed above. It will be paid as a top up of £0.68 per hour up to a maximum of £378.60 per year (38 weeks). Eligibility relates to benefits received by the family and must be confirmed by the provider and recorded on the termly head count.
- **Disability Access Fund** – additional per pupil funding for those receiving DLA to access all EY entitlements. This was previously for 3 and 4 YO only and has been extended to all Early Years offers from 1st April 2024. Funding has increased to £910 per eligible pupil per annum. (2023/24 £828)
- **Maintained Nursery School Supplementary Funding** – this additional funding for maintained nurseries was initiated as part of the move to the NFF (National Funding Formula) to provide funding protection with respect to historic duties to 3 and 4YO. An estimated initial allocation of **£374,131** in 2024/25 is based on the January 2023 census for 3 and 4YO accessing the universal entitlement. This figure includes the allowance for MNS share of Teachers Pay and Pension Grant. This allocation is subject to change depending on actual participation and will be adjusted accordingly in July 2024 and finally in July 2025 as a result of the January 2025 census.

2.5. Table 1 below shows the initial Early Years allocations for the 2024/25 financial year, based on January 2023 census figures and DfE estimated activity for new offers and updated funding rates for 2024/25. The total Early Years DSG initial allocation for 2024/25 is £36,829,223.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Initial Early Years Funding Allocations 2024/25 (January 2023 headcount and DfE estimates)**

<b>Early Years Funding Allocations Dec 2023.</b>	<b>Dec-23</b>
Funding (Universal)	18,442,704
Funding (Additional)	5,891,553
Funding (2YO) Universal)	2,901,430
Funding (2YO)-Additional	5,176,552
Funding (U2YO)	3,571,465
Funding (MNS) Maintained Nursery Supplementary	374,131
Funding (DAF) Disability Access Fund	153,790
Funding (DAF 2YO)	40,950
Funding (DAF U2YO)	11,830
Funding (EYPP) Pupil Premium	167,246
Funding (EYPP 2YO)	92,924
Funding (EYPP U2YO)	4,648
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>36,829,223</b>

2.6. DfE funding for Early Years is normally based solely on the Spring term headcount i.e., January. For the new offers there will be a termly headcount in 2024/25 to ensure that local authorities are funded for actual take up. The DfE Element recognises that their estimates may not be accurate and does not want to disadvantage authorities where take up is higher than expected.

2.7. The initial allocation detailed above uses the January 2023 headcount and DfE estimates for new offers. This will be revised in July 2024 to take account of the January 2024 census and again in July 2025 to take account of the January 2025 census. The DfE may continue to require termly head counts for the new offers until they have bedded in.

2.8. It should also be noted here that the DfE intends to extend the new offers to working parents to 30 hours per week in future years so we will continue see big changes in these allocations for the foreseeable future. This means that the final allocations for the 3 and 4 YO offer in the financial year 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025) and Disadvantaged 2YO offers will be based on (five-twelfths January 2024 PTE census numbers) + (seven-twelfths January 2025 PTE census numbers), whilst the new offers will be based on actual termly head counts for 2024/25 as a minimum (DfE is yet to decide on post 2024/25 requirements)

2.9. There are always **risks associated** with the Early Years budget due to the link with **activity measured in the Spring terms of 2 financial years**. This is one reason the proposed budget holds a contingency amount.

### 3. 2024/25 DRAFT budget model – All Entitlements

3.1. The 2024/25 draft budget model is based on the initial allocation detailed above and summarised in **Appendix A**.

### 4. Key Elements of the Proposed Budget Models 2024/25

All providers, both schools, private & voluntary nursery providers and childminders to be funded according to the DFE regulations. For 3 and 4YO it is mandatory to pay a universal base rate and a supplement for deprivation based on IDACI bandings for individual children. This principle has been extended to both 2YO and under 2YO offers although not mandatory in 2024/25. The value of supplements for each entitlement must not exceed 12% of the total amount of the payments made.

4.1. Factor A - Universal base rates paid for every hour under the governments early years Entitlements for the financial year starting April 2024.

Note for 3 and 4 YO – The proposed rate is **£6.29 per hour**. This is an increase of 21 pence per hour on the September 2023 rate (**3.5 % increase**) and an increase of 27 pence per hour on the April 2023 rate (**4.5% increase**). (see **Appendix B for details**).

4.2. Factor B - Deprivation.

- This is a mandatory supplement for 3 and 4 YO offer and in order to remain within the overall supplements limit of 10% Modelling of current payments using current IDACI index.
- A deprivation supplement has been included for both 2 YO offers on the same basis as the 3 and 4 YO offer. However **not planning** on using this for under 2YO with a plan to review this for 2024-25 as more data becomes available.

4.3. Factor C – Pensions . This supplement is for 3 and 4 YO offer only and relates solely to the Teachers Pay and Pension grant which was rolled into the EY funding in 2023/24 and continues to be applicable in 2024/25.

- This funding also now includes the Teachers Pay Additional Grant paid to schools in 2023/24 which has been mainstreamed for 2024/25 plus an allowance for the proposed Teachers Pension Employer contribution increase from April 2024.

4.4. Factor D - SEN Inclusion Fund. All providers at some stage may require additional funding to help them support the needs of individual children with lower level or emerging SEN in their settings. The 2024/25 budget is proposed across all entitlements.

- The Early Years Inclusion Fund has been expanded to include all children covered by the extended entitlements who have a low level or emerging SEN from April 2024 as required by regulation.

- The funding is for use in the setting and is allocated to the provider on an individual basis.

4.6. Factor E – contingency funding. The contingency is available to manage volatility in funding versus activity between terms.

- The contingency is also intended to manage the risk with respect to deprivation for the new entitlements where average IDACI is based on estimates using past data for disadvantaged children and the 3&4 year old targeted offer.
- Contingency is included for the new extended entitlements.

4.7. Factor F - Central Services Expenditure. The model assumes a budget for central services of £1.799m which is equivalent to the 5% allowed across the entitlements under regulations. The proposed allocation of the central items is detailed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: proposed allocation of the 5% centrally retained budget**

<b>Centrally Retained 2024-25</b>	
Core Childcare & Early Years (FIS)	397,000
Early Years Advisory Teachers	335,000
Early Support Team	259,000
Provision for Vulnerable Children Placements	208,000
Early Years Overheads	280,000
Contingency	320,185
<b>Total Centrally Retained</b>	<b>1,799,185</b>

## **5. Recommendations and next steps**

5.1. Schools Forum to note draft 2024/25 Early Year budget across all entitlements for **consultation**, including the revised base rates, deprivation, and local formula for 2-year-old and Under 2-year-old offers.

5.2. Budget Consultation to Maintained Nursery Schools, Primary Schools with Nurseries, PVI providers and Childminders in January 24.

5.3. Final proposals will be presented to March Schools Forum following provider consultation. Providers will be given estimates of summer term funding by 31st March 2024.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718179/Early\\_education\\_and\\_childcare-statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf)

Early education and childcare statutory guidance for local authorities - June 2018

Early years funding – extension of the entitlements - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Early years funding – extension of the entitlements: response to consultation

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656638f3750074000d1ded9a/20231127\\_Early\\_Years\\_Funding\\_Rates\\_and\\_Stepbystep\\_Calculations\\_2024\\_to\\_2025\\_Funding\\_Output\\_Tables\\_-\\_FINAL.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656638f3750074000d1ded9a/20231127_Early_Years_Funding_Rates_and_Stepbystep_Calculations_2024_to_2025_Funding_Output_Tables_-_FINAL.xlsx)

Early years funding rates and step-by-step calculations 2024 to 2025

Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers operational guide 2024 to 2025



**London Borough of Hillingdon  
Schools Forum  
17 January 2024**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Allocation of 2023/24 funding for local authorities to support maintained schools in financial difficulty</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sheilender Pathak (Head of Finance Childrens and SEND)
<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Schools Forum representatives for maintained schools are asked to note and agree the proposed methodology for the allocation of the additional funding for schools in financial difficulty, as set out in section 3 of this report,

**1. Introduction**

This report sets out proposals to distribute Hillingdon’s 2023/24 “additional funding for local authorities to support maintained schools in financial difficulty”.

**2. Background**

At the end of November 2023 the Council received £491,623 of one off 2023/24 funding, as part of £20 million allocated by the DfE between local authorities who have aggregated school-level deficits as a proportion of their total maintained schools’ income above 1%. Local authorities’ allocations are in proportion to their aggregated school-level deficit.

The DfE want local authorities to use this funding to best support their schools in the individual circumstances in which they find themselves and have given local authorities significant flexibility over how this funding can be used.

At the 6 December Schools Forum meeting, Schools Forum members requested for a mechanism to be presented to the next Schools forum for discussion and agreement, so that the funding can be distributed promptly to individual schools.

DfE guidance states the funding should be used to limit deficit and where the greatest need exists.

**3. Proposed Strategy to allocate the additional funding**

The Council is aware of difficulties faced by individual schools, however, the Council is proposing to apply a methodology to distribute the funding in a fair and transparent way, with clear criteria that can be applied easily and quickly in practice.

The Council received this one off funding at the end of November and schools forum members are keen for this funding to be distributed quickly to schools in financial difficulty.

There are 5 schools that have deficits at 31.3.23 and the Council is proposing to use these deficits as the basis for distribution of the funding, on the grounds that this is the quickest fair way to allocate the funding using actual measurable data.

The Council is proposing to allocate the grant to these schools, based on the latest actual deficit (i.e. the deficit as at 31.3.23) as a proportion of their 23/24 funding.

#### Advantages:

- seems like the most equitable and transparent method
- a quick and simple way to distribute the funding
- the funding could be distributed as soon as the method has been agreed
- targets schools with actual, existing deficits, i.e. which are already in financial difficulty
- does not rely on forecasts (which are subjective)
- other mechanisms are likely to be very time consuming and could become a bureaucratic process, and are likely to lead to complaints of unfairness, subjectivity etc. Any process that involves schools future plans is likely to lead to significant delays in distribution of the funds and will be using current forecast information that has not been sufficiently scrutinised and is subjective.

The table below shows the proposed allocation of the grant to each school, using the methodology proposed in this paper.


School Name	Phase	Closing Balance 31.3.23	2023/24 Income Budget	31.3.23 deficit as a proportion of funding	weighted allocation of funding	Proposed Allocation of Grant
Bishop Winnington-Ingram CofE Primary School	Primary	-£ 520,384	£ 1,625,546	-32.01%	52.04%	£ 255,820
Frithwood Primary School	Primary	-£ 17,332	£ 2,518,401	-0.69%	1.12%	£ 5,500
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	Primary	-£ 55,622	£ 1,244,445	-4.47%	7.27%	£ 35,717
St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	Primary	-£ 14,494	£ 1,433,270	-1.01%	1.64%	£ 8,081
Oak Wood School	Secondary	-£ 2,350,123	£ 10,069,508	-23.34%	37.94%	£ 186,505
<b>Total</b>		<b>-£ 2,957,955</b>	<b>£ 16,891,170</b>	<b>-61.52%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>£ 491,623</b>

#### 4. Recommendation

Maintained schools representatives are asked to note the proposals in this paper and provide their views on this matter.



**Hillingdon Schools Forum**  
**2024-25 DSG Schools Block Budget**

	<b>London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>DSG Funding Allocations 2024/25</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Report by</b>	Sheilender Pathak (Head of Finance Childrens and SEND)
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the 2024/25 DSG Funding Allocations for Hillingdon, announced by the Government on 19th December 2023

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report provides Schools Forum with an overview of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding announced by the Government on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and informs the Council of the indicative amounts of each block of the DSG that will be allocated to Hillingdon for 2024/25.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 Schools Forum are asked to note the content of this report.

**3. Dedicated Schools Grant Funding 2023/24**

3.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published the draft authority level DSG allocations for the schools, central school services, early years, and high needs blocks on 19 December 2023.

3.2 Table 1 sets out the published baseline DSG funding for 2024/25, compared to the 2023/24 DSG allocation updated in November 2023.

**Table 1: DSG Funding Allocations for 2024/25**

	<b>DSG Funding</b>	<b>DSG Funding</b>	<b>Change in Funding</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Funding Block</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>		
Schools	276,403,806	280,971,388	4,567,582	1.7%
High Needs	62,529,770	65,760,038	3,230,268	5.2%
Central Services	2,480,893	2,429,443	-51,450	-2.1%
Early Years	26,014,453	36,829,223	10,814,770	41.6%
<b>Total DSG Budget</b>	<b>367,428,922</b>	<b>385,990,092</b>	<b>18,561,170</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

#### **4. Schools Block and additional Pay and Pensions Grants**

- 4.1 The final allocation of Hillingdon's 2024/25 Schools Block DSG is £281.0m before recoupment and including the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of £9.025m, which has been rolled into the schools block national funding formula (NFF) for 2024/25. This compares to £276.4m in 2023/24 (including the 2023/24 MSAG). This represents a £4.6m (1.7%) increase in Hillingdon's Schools Block allocation and a 1.6% increase in per pupil funding between 2023/24 and 2024/25, before recoupment for academy and free school provision. Nationally the percentage increase in Schools Block funding is 2.2% and the per pupil increase is 2.0%.
- 4.2 There will be a separate pay grant for teachers' pay (TPAG) in 2024 to 2025. This is over and above the funding schools will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. The DfE aim to publish school level allocations showing the total funding allocated for the 2024 to 2025 financial year and the conditions of grant in April 2024, but provisional figures indicate this could equate to a 1.7% increase in the per pupil funding for 2024/25.
- 4.3 Schools will also receive further funding to support with increases to employer contribution rates to the Teachers' Pensions Scheme from April 2024. This is over and above the funding they will receive via the NFF from within the December 2023 DSG allocations. The DfE will announce further details on this funding for pensions, including funding rates and allocations, in due course.

#### **5. 2024/25 DSG Block Budgets**

Separate reports with details on the proposed Schools Block, Early Years Block and CSSB block budgets are provided within this agenda pack for Schools Forum 17 January 2024. Details on the High Needs budget will be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting, once the DfE have provided feedback and outcomes in relation to the Councils DSG management plan submission which was submitted as part of the DfE's Safety Valve programme.