

Schools Forum

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Wednesday, 11th December,
2024
at 4.00 pm

Virtual Meetings - Virtual meeting

This meeting is open to the public

LEAD OFFICER
Clodagh Freeston

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AGENDA

1 WELCOME FROM CHAIR

2 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any apologies and changes to membership.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2024 and to deal with any matters arising.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Pages 5 - 10)

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

5 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Verbal report from the Head of Education Services.

6 SCHOOL`S FORUM MEMBERSHIP (Pages 11 - 14)

To consider the Schools Forum membership and outstanding vacancies.

7 MATTERS ARISING (Pages 15 - 22)

To receive updates on the following:

- a) Rationale/Impact of the transfer of funds from SB to CSSB
- b) Impact of restructuring on budget
- c) Pressures on HN block and any potential impact planned or otherwise
- d) Schools in Deficit Grant - funding formula used.

8 TRANSFER FROM SCHOOLS BLOCK (Pages 23 - 28)

To receive a briefing paper on the Transfer from Schools Block.

9 TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT FOR PFI - DECISION REQUIRED (Pages 29 - 30)

The Schools Forum is asked to vote on the Technical Adjustment for PFI schools.

10 UNION DE-DELEGATION (Pages 31 - 32)

The Schools Forum is asked to vote on the de-delegation of schools budget to fund trade union activity.

11 CHANGES TO THE SCC SEVERANCE & PENSIONS PAYMENTS: DISCRETIONARY EXCEPTIONS POLICY

To discuss the changes to the SCC Severance & Pensions Payments: Discretionary Exceptions Policy.

12 STANDING ITEM: LA UPDATE ON DFE/ESFA FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

To consider an update on any DFE/ESFA funding announcements.

13 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE (Pages 33 - 40)

To consider the briefing, which provides an overview of the recent 2025–26 Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula updates.

14 SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN (Pages 41 - 42)

To consider the proposed forward plan of activity over the 2025/26 financial year.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS, CLOSING REMARKS AND MEETING DATES

To consider any additional items and note the date of forthcoming meetings.

Wednesday 15 January 2025

Wednesday 02 April 2025

Time: 3:45PM for 4:00PM start

Venue: Virtual

2025/2026 Meetings:

Wednesdays

02 July 2025

17 September 2025

19 November 2025

14 January 2026

11 March 2026

Time: 3:45PM for 4:00PM start

Venue: Virtual

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Service Lead, Education and Early Help,

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Agenda Item 3

SCHOOLS FORUM

<u>In attendance</u>	
<u>Chair and Vice Chair</u>	
Harry Kutty	Headteacher – Cantell - Chair
Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior – Vice Chair
<u>Primary Schools</u>	
Mike Adams	Headteacher – Bitterne Manor Primary School
Peter Howard	Headteacher – Fairisle Junior
PK Macbride	Primary Governor – Bannister
John Draper	Headteacher – Swaythling Primary
<u>Secondary Schools</u>	
Jim Henderson	Headteacher Woodlands Community College
Roger Peplow	Governor St Georges
<u>Academy</u>	
Kevin Bennett	Freemantle Church of England Community Academy
Sean Preston	Hamwic Trust
<u>Special Schools</u>	
Andy Evans	Headteacher – Great Oaks School
<u>Observers</u>	
Councillor Winning	Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
<u>SCC officers</u>	
Steve Wade	Finance Business Partner
Clodagh Freeston	Service Manager - Education Strategy, Planning and Improvement
Juno Hollyhock	Interim Service Manager - Special Educational Needs and Disability
Kiraveer Kaur	Finance Analyst
Zoe Snow	

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Forum Members elected Harry Kutty as chair and Peter Howard as Vice Chair.

In addition the Forum welcomed Kevin Barnett as an Academy representative.

2. **STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

The new Chair thanked John Draper on behalf of the Forum for all of his hard work a Chair over the past years.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved that minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with the following amendment

The forum noted that the allocation of funding set out in item 2 of the minutes was in fact £245,000 and not £245m.

The Forum noted that the detail of funding allocated from the Central School Services Block should be included into future financial breakdowns in order to better understand the relevance of the allocations and any potential choices.

4. **STANDING ITEM: LA UPDATE ON DFE/ESFA FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Forum considered the briefing paper from the Finance Business Partner detailing matters relating to: the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG); the Central Services Block; the High Needs Block and the Use of surplus funds.

Members requested that a clearer understanding of how fundings were used and calculated within the Central Services Block in order to enable a clear and rational understanding of who the money was attributed.

Members were keen to understand how the recent restructuring had potentially affected the budget and whether there were any potential financial adjustments resulting from the restructure.

Members discussed the need for an assurance that the redesign of services wouldn't affect the provision of services and that there was an absolute clarity of what was being provided and the costs.

Members also discussed how and in what way the pressures of the High needs Block had been projected into this financial year and the potential for any savings.

RESOLVED

1. That officers be requested to provide clear understanding of the calculations used in assessing how the Central Services Block and how fundings were allocated.
2. That officers provide potential options for the allocation of any surplus funding.

5. **SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY**

The Forum considered a briefing paper setting out an understanding of the financial situation of maintained schools across the City.

Members discussed the level of deficit across schools and numbers of schools that had a deficit. It was requested that a further report come to a future meeting.

It was how the principle of the Authority's Deficit Recovery Plan were enacted and the potentials for short term support from the Authority. The Forum noted that any DRP should be equitable and fair so that all schools could understand them and requested that a formula with worked examples be provided.

6. **SEND UPDATE**

The forum discussed and report of the Interim Head of SEND detailing matters relating to Dingley's Promise, Cluster Funding and Special Schools bandings within the City.

It was noted that the special early intervention provided by Dingley's Promise would be granted a contract extension due to a slight delay in the commencement of the original contract. The Forum was briefed on the numbers of children involved and the potential for financial savings. It was noted that as a result of the extension to the summer of 2027 it would enable cohorts of children to transition and in the mainstream and it would show you effective the pathway back into mainstream had been.

The Forum was informed of the appointment of a specialist to further explore the Mainstream Cluster Funding programme and model for SEND.

The Forum was also briefed on the progress of the review and updating of special school bandings in the City.

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Register of disclosures made in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and the Constitution of Southampton City Council

I.....[Councillors full name], as a Member or co-opted member of Southampton City Council, give notice that I have set out my interests in Appendix 1 and 2 below, and have put 'NONE' where I have no such interest in any area.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Appendix 1 of this form contains Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as prescribed by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. It is a criminal offence, without reasonable excuse, to:-

- (i) fail to register a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that you are aware of within 28 days of your election or re-election;
- (ii) take part in any debate or vote at any meeting where you have a registered or unregistered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:
- (iii) to fail to declare at a meeting and / or take part in a debate or vote if you are aware that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is not yet registered or notified to the Monitoring Officer:
- (iv) fail to register a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest within 28 days of declaring an unregistered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest at a meeting:
- (v) provide false or misleading information in relation to your registration or to be reckless as to its accuracy:
- (vi) take any steps or further action on a matter in which you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest other than referring it elsewhere.

Upon conviction a Member or Co-optee may be fined up to a maximum of £5,000 per offence.

Appendix 2 of this form contains 'Other Interests' required to be disclosed in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members as set out in the Constitution of Southampton City Council. It is a breach of the Code of Conduct to fail to disclose any interest that you know or ought to know that you have as soon as such an interest arises.

Forms should be completed and returned to: The Monitoring Officer, C/O Democratic Services, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

Please retain one copy of this form for your own records.

APPENDIX 1

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Please complete ALL parts of this form. If you do not have an interest under a particular section, please put 'None'. All of your interests must be disclosed, including those of your Spouse or Partner (as defined below).

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST	YOU	YOUR SPOUSE OR PARTNER (Your spouse, partner, a person you are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if they were a civil partner)
Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.		
Sponsorship: Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.		

<p>Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.</p>		
<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.</p>		
<p>Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.</p>		
<p>Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest.</p>		
<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:</p> <p>a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one</p>		

<p>hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or</p> <p>b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>		
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'Beneficial Interest' in relation to land means land or property that you own, or have a right to occupy (e.g. a tenancy) or receive an income from. This may include your home.

'Securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Finance Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

APPENDIX 2

OTHER INTERESTS

Please complete ALL parts of this form. If you do not have an interest under a particular section, please put 'None'. All of your interests must be disclosed, including those of your Spouse or Partner (as defined below).

Please provide details of your membership of, or your occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which you have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council	Trustee of Chipperfield Trust
Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature (E.G. Primary Care Trust, Police and Crime Panel, Other Councils)	
Any body directed to charitable purposes (E.G Any charitable trusts such as a Trust or Academy School, Other charitable organisation).	
Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (includes any political party or trade union, single interest action groups, National Trust, Friends of the Earth etc.)	

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Schools forums structure

A summary of the structure of schools forums.

Category	Schools members	Academies members	Non-school members
Represented groups	<p>Where the local authority maintains the following types of school, they must be represented on the schools forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Schools • Secondary Schools • Special Schools • Nursery Schools • PRUs 	<p>At least one academies member must be a representative of mainstream academies, which includes free schools, UTCs and Studio Schools. In addition, there must be one member for each of the following groups (if such exist in the local authority area):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special academies, including free schools • Alternative provision academies, including free schools 	<p>16 to19 providers</p> <p>Early years Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers</p> <p>Before considering other groups, the local authority must consider diocesan representation</p>

Category	Schools members	Academies members	Non-school members
Type of member	<p>Within each of the five groups above there could be the following types of member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteachers (or their representative) • Governors • Headteachers and Governors • In overall terms there must be at least one headteacher (or their representative) and one governor 	Any	Any
Schools forum structure	<p>Schools members and academies members must comprise at least two thirds of the schools forum membership</p> <p>Primary schools, secondary schools and academies must be broadly proportionately represented on schools forum, based on the total number of pupils registered at them</p>	<p>Schools members and academies members must comprise at least two thirds of the schools forum membership</p> <p>Primary schools, secondary schools and academies must be broadly proportionately represented on schools forum, based on the total number of pupils registered at them</p>	
Voting	Only primary representatives can	No voting on de-delegation or the	No voting on de-delegation or the

Category	Schools members	Academies members	Non-school members
	<p>vote on primary school dedelegation Only secondary representatives can vote on secondary school dedelegation All schools members can vote on the scheme for financing schools All schools members can vote on any other schools forum business, including the consultation on the funding formula.</p> <p>Maintained school members can vote on items relating to general duties and retained duties.</p>	<p>scheme for financing schools All academies members can vote on any other schools forum business, including the consultation on the funding formula.</p> <p>Academy members can vote only on retained duties.</p>	<p>scheme for financing schools Only PVI representatives can vote on the consultation on the funding formula.</p> <p>All non-school members can vote on any other schools forum business</p>
Elected by	<p>The relevant sub-group of the relevant type of school e.g. primary school governor representatives are elected by the governors of primary schools, secondary school headteachers are elected by the headteachers of secondary schools.</p>	<p>The relevant proprietors of academies elect for their group, e.g. mainstream academies, special academies and alternative provision academies</p>	<p>Election only applies to the representative for the 16 to 19 providers, who is elected by all eligible 16 to 19 providers</p>

Local authority appointment of members	Only if no election takes place by the agreed date or in the event of a tie	Only if no election takes place by the agreed date or in the event of a tie	Can appoint a 16 to 19 representative only if no election takes place by the agreed date or in the event of a tie. For all other non-schools members the local authority appoints, but it's good practice to seek nominations from the relevant bodies
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Other attendees who are permitted to contribute to a schools forum meeting:

- an observer appointed by the Secretary of State
- the Chief Financial Officer
- the Director of Children's Services
- officers providing financial & technical advice to schools forum
- the Executive Member for Children's Services
- presenters (restricted to the paper they are presenting)
- the Executive Member with responsibility for resources

SUBJECT: SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY GRANT
DATE: 11 December 2024
RECIPIENT: School's Forum – For Information

1. Schools Forum asked for further detail on the proposed distribution of the schools in financial difficulty grant.
2. The following table shows the schools' deficit balances, how the balance compares to the school's care funding and the proposed allocation of the grant

School	Deficit Balance £M	Compared to Core funding (%)	Proposed Allocation (£M)
Compass Pupil referral unit	1.138	67%	0.145
Hardmoor Early Years Centre	0.705	70%	0.090
Valentine Primary School	0.550	17%	0.070
Mansbridge Primary	0.478	41%	0.061
Mason Moor Primary	0.469	37%	0.060
Shirley Warren Primary	0.421	19%	0.054
Townhill Junior	0.340	24%	0.043
Polygon	0.290	18%	0.037
Total (a)	4.391		0.559
St Marks School	0.267	5%	
Fairisle Infant	0.064	5%	
Bitterne Manor Primary	0.062	6%	
Oakwood Primary	0.052	3%	
St Mary's Primary	0.042	1%	
Highfield Primary	0.022	1%	

The formula applied is

School deficit balance x grant value (£0.559M)

Deficit Total (4.391M)

3. The grant will be allocated in this financial year. The totals shown are the minimum and assume conditions outlined in paragraph 5 are met.

4. The local authority has been allocated additional funding (£559,332) to support maintained schools which find themselves in financial difficulty. Local Authorities have been given flexibility regarding the use of the grant. The following guidelines have been provided:
 - a) Section 6.7 of the guidance on the DFE schemes for financing schools allows for local authorities to pay cash sums towards elimination of a deficit balance. This is designed for circumstances where it is not reasonable to expect the school to eliminate the whole of the deficit from its own future resources. Such cash sums can be charged to the dedicated schools grant (DSG) only where they form part of a contingency fund approved by maintained school members of the schools forum under Regulation 11(5) of, and paragraph 51 of Schedule 2 to, the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.
 - b) The DFE expect funding to be allocated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the severity of the school's position and prioritising those in greatest need. Local authorities should report to their schools forum on how they are using the money.
 - c) Local authorities may wish to associate such conditions with the payment of money out of the sum that it may receive from the £20 million of additional funding. This could include mandating the use of some of the department's resource management tools and services, such as a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA).
 - d) This funding can be used to support maintained primary, middle, secondary and all-through schools, maintained special schools, pupil referral units, and maintained nursery schools.

5. There are 8 schools with a deficit balance that is greater than 10% of their core funding. where their combined deficits represent 90% of the total. Given the size of the deficits it is recommended that the funding is used to target these schools, pro-rated by the deficit balance, subject to the following conditions.
 - a. The school produces a Deficit Recovery Plan (DRP) and submits quarterly monitoring to schools finance. The DRP is refreshed with each budget update;
 - b. Where necessary the school makes use of the DFE's SRMA

SUBJECT: SEND/High Needs Block Update
DATE: 11th December 2024
RECIPIENT: Schools' Forum

SUMMARY:

The Schools' Forum is asked to note:

1. Matters arising from the previous meeting – INMSS projections and the need for new in-house provisions, progress on SEND places forecasting
2. SEND Improvement Plan update and any impact on the HNB
3. Update on the mainstream cluster funding programme
4. Update on the time limited mainstream inclusion grant
5. Update on Pupil Referral Unit funding review

INMSS projections and SEND place forecasting

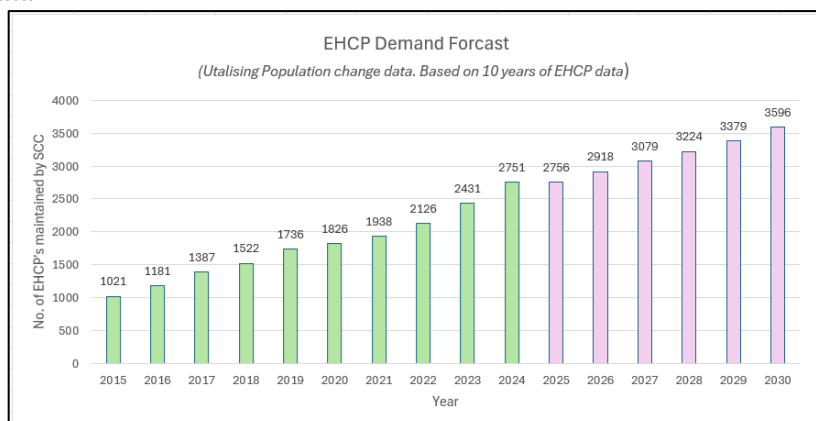
At the last Schools Forum we made reference to the reduction in the rate of numbers of children placed in independent non-maintained special schools (INMSS) which helped with the contribution of £2.99m to the DSG deficit in financial year 2023/24.

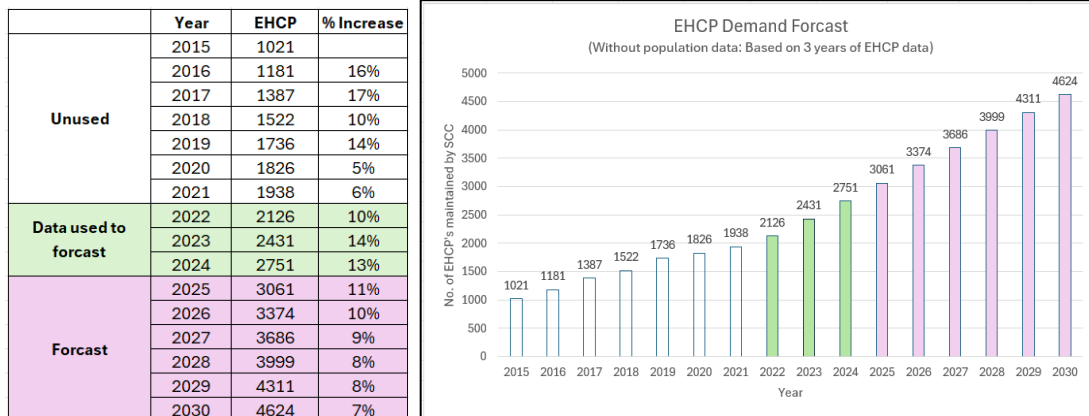
Unfortunately, going forward, these numbers are projected to rise again given the increase in numbers of very complex cases that we are experiencing, already this year we have seen an additional four placements, up from 12 in 2023 to 16. Numbers in 2022 were only 8 hence the reduction in spend.

We are currently looking at our SEND forecasting and are taking into account the changes in population in Southampton. Our historic data accuracy issues have made it difficult to project but we have looked at models that reflect three or ten years of EHCP data (7 years published and three from our current records) and known forecast population trends and a model that looks at just three years of our own data with no population impact – the two models that show the highest extremes of change are below (the other two models sit in the middle):

Ten years with population data

	Year	EHCP	% Increase
Data used to forecast	2015	1021	
	2016	1181	16%
	2017	1387	17%
	2018	1522	10%
	2019	1736	14%
	2020	1826	5%
	2021	1938	6%
	2022	2126	10%
	2023	2431	14%
	2024	2751	13%
Forecast	2025	2756	0%
	2026	2918	6%
	2027	3079	6%
	2028	3224	5%
	2029	3379	5%
	2030	3596	6%





One of the data issues that we have been experiencing is with the correlation between our Capita One held data from the EHCP primary source and the DfE published SEN2 return.

These should be the same as we submit our own data into the SEN2 system but the numbers then do not match up when published by the DfE. We have raised this directly with them.

We also had to undertake an exercise over the summer to open over 2000 EHCPs and upload missing primary need data. Primary need data is important as, along with age and provision data, this drives the formula for predicted HNB spend.

As the table above shows we anticipate considerable rises in EHCP numbers if we utilise our known data only and with no population forecast (*it should be noted that the figures given for 2024 are **to date** with a data point of November 25th*) so these will go up slightly and the forward projections will amend slightly. At the time of writing we have 29 ceases due and 45 plans due to be finalised by the end of this calendar year so this should leave a net increase of 16 on the current 2024 numbers. Not material but worth noting.

Next we will be breaking these numbers down into projected age range increases and then matching them across to provision and primary need requirements. This data should then show us how many additional places we need in the next six years, and when, and also what levels of EHCPs we are expecting our mainstream schools to have to host which should also drive the support and investment that we give to them.

There will be some necessary assumptions in these calculations, for example we are unlikely to double our special school places and so impact on mainstream and independent is likely to rise significantly if we cannot match rate of EHCP increase with improvements in numbers of resourced provision and SEN unit places.

Running alongside the initial forecasting will be a set of mitigation actions which will aim to reduce the projected rise. These mitigation actions include initiatives such as the cluster funding programme hence why our focus on this has been so intensive.

SEND Improvement Plan update and any impact on the HNB

The first tranche of reporting for the SEND Improvement Plan was received by the SEND Partnership Board this morning (Dec 11th).

The five key areas of action are:

- Improvement of uptake in the Healthy Child Programme Offer
- Improvement in transitions at all phases, but especially to adulthood
- Improvement in the quality of EHCP planning including oversight and monitoring of children in residential placements but without social worker involvement
- Reduction in neuro diversity waiting lists for assessment and prescribing
- Workforce development

The full plan can be seen here:

[Appendix – 2024 SEND post-inspection improvement plan](#)

The full report on progress against the actions can be provided on request.

Generally speaking, progress is good. We have requested a set of baseline KPIs from our stakeholders and we will use these to assess progress against actions quarterly.

At this point in time there are no definite pressures on the HNB but as we begin to identify further actions we may be looking to fund activity such as:

- SEND training offer development depending on results of the workforce survey
- Use of on on-line tool to assess EHCP funding, we are currently researching this but in one area it has led to a reduction of c£3m on their HNB spend

Update on the mainstream cluster funding programme

A meeting was held on November 26th for all professionals and stake-holders, this included a presentation from Camden who have been running the cluster programme for three years now (just into their third year).

A decision was given at this meeting to run a voluntary pilot of two clusters in the spring term following extensive consultation with schools.

The pilot will be unfunded and so there will be no additional pressure on the HNB this financial year but there will be a funded pilot with the same voluntary clusters in the spring term. Funding for this will come from the same area as this year - so by over-budgeting the line for EHCPs in mainstream schools. In 2024/25 it was predicted that there would be £600k to support clusters but that figure reduced as spending on EHCPs was higher than predicted following the unexpected 15% increase in EHCPs reported in January 2024.

At the time of writing schools are signing up to indicate whether or not they would like to be a part of this pilot and we are awaiting the national funding formula to identify how much funding can be ring-fenced for 2025/26.

Update on the time limited mainstream inclusion grant

Uptake on this grant has been exceptionally good with only five schools not submitting their expression of interest in the allocated funding by the deadline.

We are already seeing feedback from some schools on how effective this funding has been.

Following feedback from the previous Schools Forum, and also Delegates and Officers, we amended the process to one of allocation not bidding (but with governance of the spend as per the legislation around HNB spend) and we actively encouraged schools to work in groupings and not individually.

The total allocation is £237,500 and any funds not claimed will be re-distributed to participating schools to ensure that the spend goes on Southampton children and not on reducing the deficit.

We did receive some strong push back from a small minority on our requirement to have oversight of schools' spend on this grant.

I remain convinced that it is our delegated responsibility to ensure spending of HNB is in line with the regulations and that we have a responsibility as an LA to assure ourselves of that but I am open to a discussion at Forum.

Update on Pupil Referral Unit funding review

Although the national funding formula has not been announced at time of writing, we have seen the policy note which indicates a recommended 7% increase in hospital school funding.

Given that the current hospital school allocations have not been reviewed or increased since 2014 I have taken the decision to apply this uplift from April 1st. It equates to a c£39k increase.

It would appear that we are somewhat out of kilter with our funds for the Compass PRU, not with our EHCP children necessarily but with our permanently excluded children.

To this end we have a proposal that is under consideration and will bring this to a future Schools Forum for discussion.

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Juno Hollyhock Interim Head of SEND
	E-mail:	Juno.Hollyhock@southampton.gov.uk

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: RATIONALE/IMPACT OF THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM SB TO CSSB

DATE: 11 December 2024

RECIPIENT: School's Forum

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The Central School Services Block (CSSB) was set up following the discontinuation of the Education Services Grant (ESG). The retained funding is to support the Local Authority's (LA) statutory duties for all schools.
2. The CSSB provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising two distinct elements:
 - a. Historic commitments - DSG MASH Contribution (Preventative Social Care) is a historic commitment. The EFSA have reduced the funding for historic commitments each year since 2021-22 by 20%.
 - b. Ongoing responsibilities – these include admissions, National Copyright Licences and Statutory and Regulatory duties including education welfare and attendance. A detailed list of retained responsibilities for Statutory and Regulatory Duties funded from the CSSB is shown in Appendix A
3. In January 2022 the Schools Forum it was first proposed to transfer funds from the Schools Block to the CSSB to reflect the reduction in funding to the CSSB. The Forum voted to transfer £0.103M to the CSSB; this decision was made as if the shortfall in the CSSB was not supported by schools in 2022-23, it would impact the ability of the Education team to continue to assist schools.
4. For 2023/24 funding for the CSSB reduced by a further £0.083M, with a cumulative reduction in funding of £0.186M to avoid a reduction in the level of provision of Education support services.
5. Funding for the Central School Services Block for 2024/25 reduced by a further £0.050M. The cumulative reduction increasing from £0.186M to £0.236M. In January 2024 Schools Forum agreed to a block transfer of £0.220M to avoid a reduction in the level of provision of Education support services. This transfer was to be ring fenced and released in tranches subject to proposed re-structuring of the Education service.
6. The revised funding for the central school services is summarised below

BRIEFING PAPER

Description of Movement	Sum of Movement (£M)
Central school services allocation	1.610
Block Transfer from schools block	0.220
Central school services block funding	1.830

7. The budget for the schools admissions and the schools copyright licences are held within the CSSB.

Service	£M
Admissions	0.422
Schools Copyright Licences	0.152
Central Schools Services Block	0.574

8. The Admissions service and Schools Copyright licences are directly allocated against the CSSB grant. In addition to this contributions from CSSB are made to the Early Help service within social care and the Education Service as summarised in the following table

Allocation of CSSB Resource	£M
Admissions	0.422
Schools Copyright Licences	0.152
Contribution to Early Help	0.504
Contribution to Education Statutory & Regulatory Services	0.752
Total allocation	1.830

9. The block transfers has maintained the level of provision for the following activities

- Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)
- Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)
- Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)
- Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)
- Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)

Education welfare

- Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)
- School attendance (Sch 2, 16)
- Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)

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Other ongoing duties

- Licenses negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require school's forum approval
- Admissions (Sch 2, 9)
- Servicing of school's forums (Sch 2, 12)
- Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Sch 2, 23)
- Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))

10. To illustrate, the sum of £0.220M funds the equivalent of:

- a. 5 Education Welfare Officers or;
- b. 5 Admissions Officers or;
- c. 5 Inclusion Services Officers.

11. The Education service is currently undertaking a redesign of its services, which will be implemented from April. Further detail can be shared with the Forum from January 2025.

12. It is likely that there will be a proposal to the Forum for a further block transfer in 2025/26 to enable the proposed redesigned service to be delivered within the current budget envelope. Any reduction in the contribution to the statutory and Regulatory Services would need to be mitigated; an outline of the consequential reduction in the service can be presented to the Forum to inform their decision.

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Steve Wade
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Central School Services Block – Statutory and Regulatory Duties

Responsibilities held for all schools

Statutory and regulatory duties:

- Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)
- Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)
- Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)
- Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)
- Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)
- Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)
- Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)
- Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)
- Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)

Education welfare

- Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)
- School attendance (Sch 2, 16)
- Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)

Asset management

- Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)
- General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)

Other ongoing duties

- Licenses negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require school's forum approval
- Admissions (Sch 2, 9)
- Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)
- Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)
- Servicing of school's forums (Sch 2, 12)
- Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)
- Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Sch 2, 23)

Historic commitments

- Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)
- Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))
- Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))
- Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))

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Responsibilities held for maintained schools only

Statutory and regulatory duties

- Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 58)
- Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 74)
- Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 59)

- Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 60)
- Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 61)
- Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 62)
- Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 63)
- Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 64)
- Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Sch 2, 77)
- HR duties, including: advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Sch 2, 65); determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Sch 2, 66); appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Sch 2, 66)
- Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 68)
- Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 69)
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 70)
- School companies (Sch 2, 71)
- Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 72)
- Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 73)
- Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 74)

Education welfare

- Inspection of attendance registers (Sch 2, 80)

Asset management

- General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Sch 2, 78a & b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:
 - appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation)
 - the ability to sustain appropriate loads
 - reasonable weather resistance
 - safe escape routes
 - appropriate acoustic levels
 - lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards

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- adequate water supplies and drainage
- playing fields of the appropriate standards
- General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)
- Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)

Central support services

- Clothing grants (Sch 2, 54)
- Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Sch 2, 55)
- Visual, creative and performing arts (Sch 2, 56)
- Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming or athletics) (Sch 2, 57)

Premature retirement and redundancy

- Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Sch 2, 79)

Monitoring national curriculum assessment

- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 76)

SUBJECT: Technical Adjustment for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schools
DATE: 11 December 2024
RECIPIENT: School's Forum

SUMMARY:

The Schools Forum is asked to vote on the Technical Adjustment for PFI schools

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. In Southampton there are 3 schools with Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts. The contract period for all schools is 30 years, from 29/10/2001 to 28/10/2031.
2. In previous years a PFI factor has been included to support the 3 PFI schools that have unavoidable extra premises costs, because they are a PFI school and to cover situations where the PFI 'affordability gap' is delegated and paid back to the local authority.
3. Additional funding is provided to Southampton schools within the Premises Factor of the schools block allocation. In 2024/25 the PFI Factor was increased by Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX), which was 10.4% for the year to April 2023 which increased the value from £738,000 to £815,746.
4. The recent policy announcement indicates that the PFI Factor for 2025/26 will be increased further by RPIX. It is recommended that the revised PFI Factor is fully allocated to the 3 PFI schools.
5. The APT allows for a technical adjustment to disapply the PFI costs so that the PFI schools benefit from the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) like every other school.
6. **A vote is required from maintained and academy schools to approve the technical adjustment relating to the PFI costs.**

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Steve Wade
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SUBJECT: Trade Union De-Delegation
DATE: 11 December 2024
RECIPIENT: School's Forum

SUMMARY:

The Schools Forum is asked to vote on the de-delegation of schools budget to fund trade union activity

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. Schools in Southampton can opt to create a central pot to provide fund trade union activity. The fund provides the backfill for the school which employs the trade union representatives.
2. Maintained schools can vote to have an element of their individual school budget de-delegated to be held centrally. Academies, special schools and Pupil Referral Units can elect to buy into the fund via a service level agreement.
3. In recent years maintained primary schools have voted for the de-delegation of their budgets. An accumulated surplus amount had been de-delegated prior to 2022/23 which has meant that for the following financial years, 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25, no amounts were de-delegated from schools' budgets.
4. The outturn for the last 3 years is shown in the table below. Based on the spend continuing at these levels there will be insufficient surplus for 2025/26.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Expenditure	28,287.67	31,873.43	35,126.63
SLA income	-9,378.00	0.00	-3,994.20
 Net Spend	 18,909.67	 31,873.43	 31,132.43

5. For maintained schools the following table summarises the amounts that would be de-delegated based on variable unit values:

De-delegated Unit - Primary AWP	£1.00	£1.45	£2.90
De-delegated total	£10,869.00	£15,760.05	£31,520.10
De-delegated Unit - Secondary AWP	£1.00	£1.45	£2.90
De-delegated total	£7,437.50	£10,784.38	£21,568.75

Note these estimates are based on October 2023 pupil numbers

6. Based on prior years the recommended unit value for primary schools is £1.45 per pupil.
7. Schools Forum are asked to vote on the decision to de-delegate budgets from maintained schools.

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Steve Wade
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SUBJECT: LA UPDATE ON DFE/ESFA FUNDING

DATE:

RECIPIENT: School's Forum

SUMMARY

This briefing provides an overview of the recent 2025–26 Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula updates.

1. Background

1.1 In July 2024, the Government advised that, due to the timing of the general election, it would not be possible to publish indicative allocations for the National Funding Formula (NFF) within the usual timeframe.

1.2 The DfE published a summary NFF policy note for 2025/2026 to on 6th of November to support Local Authorities in their planning prior to the release of final allocations. Local authorities have been informed that **there will be no substantial changes to the NFF for 2025/26, compared to 2024/25**. The final allocations and accompanying documentation were published on 28th of November 2024.

1.3 At this stage, no information has been published regarding Early Years funding allocations. The Local Authority does not intend to make any significant changes to the current local funding formula and plans to use any additional funding to increase the hourly funding rate for providers.

1.4 The table below provides a summary of the provisional allocations for 2025/26, alongside the funding allocations for 2024/25 in the Schools Block, High Needs Block, and Central School Services Block (CSSB). It does not include the Schools Block NFF growth and falling rolls funding allocations, as these will be calculated using the October 2024 school census data, in comparison to the October 2023 school census data.

	2025/26 Provisional NFF (£)	2024/25 Baseline Funding (£)	Change to 2024/25 (£)	Change to 2024/25 (%)
Schools block	£ 210,364,468	£ 205,977,203	£ 4,387,265	2.1%
Central school services block	£ 1,723,669	£ 1,789,065	−£ 65,396	−3.7%
High needs block	£ 50,074,063	£ 45,792,998	£ 4,281,065	9.3%
	£ 262,162,200	£ 253,559,266	£ 8,602,934	3.4%

2. School Block Update 2025 -26

2.1 The 2025 to 2026 schools NFF will use the same factors as the 2024 to 2025 NFF, except for some changes to the PFI factor as confirmed in September 2024.

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2.2 The main structural change to the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor expects that previous years' PFI funding through the NFF will increase in line with the Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX). If local authorities wish to request a higher increase, they must submit an affordability model to the DfE.

2.3 The teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG) and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) 2024 will be rolled into the schools NFF in 2025 to 2026. The recently announced core schools budget grant (CSBG) will also be added to the schools NFF for 2025 to 2026.

<u>School Block</u>	2024-25 Baseline Funding	Provisional schools NFF funding in 2025-26	% Change
DSG (excluding growth and falling rolls)	£ 191,451,017	£ 207,243,757	2.1%
Additional grants (TPAG, TPECG, CSBG)	£ 11,472,155		
DSG premises funding	£ 3,054,031	£ 3,120,711	2.2%
Total	£ 205,977,203	£ 210,364,468	2.1%

2.4 The table below shows the provisional unit values for each factor in the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2025-2026, excluding the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA). It incorporates the addition to the baseline from the rolled-in value of the three grants (TPAG, TPECG, and CSBG) from 2024-2025. The 'CSBG uplift' represents the extra funding added to the baseline to cover the full-year cost of the 2024 teachers' pay award.

Provisional factor values in 2025 to 2026	2024 - 25 NFF values excluding ACA	TPAG 24-25	TPECG 24-25	CSBG 24-25	CSBG u plift	Provisional 2025-26 NFF Excluding ACA
Primary basic entitlement	£3,562	£62	£75	£76	£51	£3,847
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,022	£86	£106	£108	£71	£5,422
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,661	£98	£119	£122	£80	£6,113
Primary FSM	£490					£495
Secondary FSM	£490					£495
Primary FSM6	£820	£53	£65	£70	£45	£1,060
Secondary FSM6	£1,200	£77	£100	£100	£68	£1,555
Primary IDACI F	£235					£235
Primary IDACI E	£285					£285
Primary IDACI D	£445		/			£445

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Primary IDACI C	£485					£490
Primary IDACI B	£515					£520
Primary IDACI A	£680					£685
Secondary IDACI F	£340					£340
Secondary IDACI E	£450					£450
Secondary IDACI D	£630					£635
Secondary IDACI C	£690					£695
Secondary IDACI B	£740					£745
Secondary IDACI A	£945					£950
Primary EAL	£590					£595
Secondary EAL	£1,585					£1,595
Primary LPA	£1,170					£1,175
Secondary LPA	£1,775					£1,785
Primary mobility	£960					£965
Secondary mobility	£1,380					£1,385
Primary lump sum	£134,400	£2,306	£2,800	£2,900	£1,915	£145,100
Secondary lump sum	£134,400	£2,306	£2,800	£2,900	£1,915	£145,100
Primary sparsity	£57,100					£57,400
Secondary sparsity	£83,000					£83,400
Middle-school sparsity	£83,000					£83,400
All-through sparsity	£83,000					£83,400
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£53,700					£54,000
Split sites distance funding	£26,900					£27,000
London fringe	1					1

2.5 Minimum per pupil levels (MPPLs) will remain mandatory in local authority funding formulae, guaranteeing a minimum of £4,955 per primary pupil and £6,465 per secondary pupil.

Minimum per pupil (MPPL) funding	2024-25 NFF values	Uplifts for 2024-25 TPAG, TPEG and CSBG	Additional CSBG uplifts	Provisional 25-26 NFF
Primary MPPL	£ 4,610	£ 257	£ 62	£ 4,955
Secondary MPPL	£ 5,995	£ 350	£ 83	£ 6,465

2.6 The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a per pupil protection to ensure funding between years does not decrease below a certain percentage. For the current year the MFG range is 0.0% to +0.5% per pupil, the SCC local formula is currently +0.5% MFG. For 2025-26 the allowable range is to be between minus 0.5% to +0.0%.

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2.7 The DfE reiterated the drive towards the NFF implementation by requesting local authorities to continue with their local formula factor values and for those to be set at least 10% closer to the NFF. SCC formula factors are already fully aligned with 2024-25 NFF values.

2.8 The table below presents the provisional mandatory funding factors for 2025/26 alongside the NFF values for 2024/25 for reference. Local authorities will be allowed to set their 2025 to 2026 factor values anywhere within +/-2.5% of the 2025 to 2026 NFF values.

Factor	2024-25 NFF including ACA (Mirrored in SCC APT 24-25)	Provisional 25-26 NFF including ACA	NFF change %	25-26 APT minimum	25-26 APT maximum
Primary basic entitlement	£3,614.43	£3,903.90	8.0%	£3,806.30	£4,001.50
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,095.92	£5,502.19	8.0%	£5,364.64	£5,639.74
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,744.33	£6,203.41	8.0%	£6,048.32	£6,358.50
Primary FSM	£497.21	£502.32	1.0%	£489.76	£514.88
Secondary FSM	£497.21	£502.32	1.0%	£489.76	£514.88
Primary FSM6	£832.07	£1,075.68	29.3%	£1,048.79	£1,102.57
Secondary FSM6	£1,217.66	£1,578.00	29.6%	£1,538.55	£1,617.45
Primary IDACI F	£238.46	£238.48	0.0%	£232.52	£244.44
Primary IDACI E	£289.20	£289.22	0.0%	£281.99	£296.45
Primary IDACI D	£451.55	£451.58	0.0%	£440.29	£462.87
Primary IDACI C	£492.14	£497.25	1.0%	£484.82	£509.68
Primary IDACI B	£522.58	£527.69	1.0%	£514.50	£540.88
Primary IDACI A	£690.01	£695.13	0.7%	£677.75	£712.51
Secondary IDACI F	£345.00	£345.03	0.0%	£336.40	£353.66
Secondary IDACI E	£456.62	£456.66	0.0%	£445.24	£468.08
Secondary IDACI D	£639.27	£644.39	0.8%	£628.28	£660.50
Secondary IDACI C	£700.16	£705.28	0.7%	£687.65	£722.91
Secondary IDACI B	£750.89	£756.02	0.7%	£737.12	£774.92
Secondary IDACI A	£958.91	£964.05	0.5%	£939.95	£988.15
Primary EAL	£598.68	£603.80	0.9%	£588.71	£618.90
Secondary EAL	£1,608.33	£1,618.59	0.6%	£1,578.13	£1,659.05
Primary LPA	£1,187.22	£1,192.38	0.4%	£1,162.57	£1,222.19
Secondary LPA	£1,801.13	£1,811.40	0.6%	£1,766.12	£1,856.69
Primary mobility	£974.13	£979.27	0.5%	£954.79	£1,003.75
Secondary mobility	£1,400.31	£1,405.48	0.4%	£1,370.34	£1,440.62
Primary lump sum	£136,378.37	£147,246.03	8.0%	£143,564.88	£150,927.18
Secondary lump sum	£136,378.37	£147,246.03	8.0%	£143,564.88	£150,927.18
Primary sparsity	£57,940.51	£58,248.95	0.5%	£56,792.73	£59,705.17

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Secondary sparsity	£84,221.76	£84,633.49	0.5%	£82,517.65	£86,749.33
Middle-school sparsity	£84,221.76	£84,633.49	0.5%	£82,517.65	£86,749.33
All-through sparsity	£84,221.76	£84,633.49	0.5%	£82,517.65	£86,749.33
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£54,490.46	£54,798.66	0.6%	£53,428.69	£56,168.63
Split sites distance funding	£27,295.97	£27,399.33	0.4%	£26,714.35	£28,084.31
London fringe	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00

2.9 Local authorities will again be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their total schools block allocations to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. A disapplication will continue to be required for transfers above 0.5%, or for any amount without schools forum approval.

3. High Need Block Update 2025-26

3.1 The budget announcement on 30th of October 2024 included national increases in schools funding. According to Treasury figures, £2.3bn will be allocated to the core schools budget, representing a 1.8% increase in funding nationwide. Of this £2.3bn, £1bn will be directed towards SEND and Alternative Provision, resulting in an overall real term increase of 6%.

3.2 The structure of high needs NFF will remain unchanged for 2025-26 as the government wants more time to consider what changes are needed to the NFF.

3.3 The only exception is the funding floor factor and gains limit factors these have been set to ensure all local authorities see an increase between 7% and 10% per head of local authorities' 2 to 18 year old projected population.

<u>High Need Block</u>	2024-25 Baseline Funding	Provisional schools NFF funding in 2025-26	% Change
DSG - Elements which are used in the funding floor and gains calculations	£ 42,010,177	£ 46,285,217	10%
DSG - Elements which are excluded from the funding floor and gains calculation	£ 3,782,822	£ 3,788,845	0%
Total	£ 45,792,998	£ 50,074,063	9.3%

3.4 The excluded elements are the basic entitlement factor, historic teachers' pay and pension funding factor and import/export adjustment. The provisional allocations for those elements of the HN NFF that will be subject to later changes. Figures will be updated in December 2024 and May/June 2025 to reflect 2024/25 academic year school and college data.

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3.5 The minimum funding guarantee will continue to apply to special schools at the same rate as 2024-25 which is 0% and will only apply to place and top-up funding.

3.6 TPAG, TPECG and CSBG for special schools and alternative provision will be allocated through the separate outside of the high needs NFF in 2025 to 2026. These funding streams will be brought together and paid as **a single 2025 to 2026 CSBG**. Further details of this 2025 to 2026 CSBG will be published in December 2024.

4. Central Services Block Update 2025-26

4.1 The central schools services block (CSSB) will continue to have two distinct elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments.

4.2 For 2025-26 CSSB will include additional funding for increased copyright licence costs, which was issued in the November 2024–25 DSG allocation, as well as funding for centrally employed teachers, previously provided through the Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) and the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG). The 2024–25 funding for these elements has been added to the baseline for ongoing responsibilities.

<u>CSSB</u>	2024-25 Baseline Funding	Provisional CSSB 2025-26 NFF funding	% Change
Historic commitments	£ 205,391	£ 164,313	-20.0%
Ongoing responsibilities	£ 1,583,674	£ 1,559,356	-1.5%
<i>Baseline per-pupil allocation</i>	£ 1,404,349	£ 1,544,082	-1.3%
<i>TPECG</i>	£ 54,392		
<i>CSBG</i>	£ 105,027		
<i>Copyright licences funding</i>	£ 19,906	£ 15,274	-23.3%
Total	£ 1,789,065	£ 1,723,669	-3.7%

4.3 The CSSB ongoing responsibilities allocation for 2025-26 will be based on the October 2024 Census data, which will be published as part of the Funding Settlement in December 2024. This allocation is calculated on a per-pupil basis, with 90% derived from the basic per-pupil amount and 10% from deprivation factors.

4.4 Funding for historic commitments is being reduced by 20% from LAs’ 2024-25 allocations, in line with previous years.

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SUBJECT: Calendar of Work 2025/26
DATE: 11 December 2024
RECIPIENT: School's Forum – For Information

1. The proposed forward plan of activity over the 2025/26 financial year is outlined below

Meeting	
April 2025	Scheme for Financing Schools update Q3 Monitoring DSG
July 2025	DSG 2024/25 provisional outturn Schools 2024/25 provisional outturn
October 2025	Provisional NFF Funding announcement Q1 Monitoring DSG disapplication requests
November 2025	Decisions requiring Schools Forum votes Q2 Monitoring DSG
January 2026	DSG Funding allocations (Schools, CSSB, High Needs and Early Years) Schools Budget Share allocations (APT)
March 2026	Scheme for Financing Schools update Q3 Monitoring DSG

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