

SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 1pm

via videoconferencing


Membership: Tony Eginton (Chair), Phil Haigh (Chair of Sub-Groups), Shabana Aslam, Kris O’Sullivan, Carly Rissen, Mel Penney, John Buckingham, Jim Edgecome, Dan Cowling, Jenny Rigby, Tracey Hemming, Nicola Kelly, Helen Manwaring, Catherine Mosdell, David Patterson, Sandra Voisey, John Garner, Sudhi Pathak, Elaine Caffary, Paul Chambers, Wayne Edwards, Liam McGillicuddy, Harshindar Buttar.

Shadow Reps/Observers: Debbie Gilder, Eleesa Dowding, Kate Needs, Jo Palmer, Graham Wells, John Goddard.

Officers: Ndenko Asong, Sailesh Patel, Danny Doherty, 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. a) New members & attendees b) Members whose term of office has expired	13.00 – 13.10	Chair	
2	Any Other Urgent Business	13.10 – 13.15	Chair	
3	Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2024	13.15 – 13.20	Chair	Minutes
4	Matters arising from meeting on 17 January 2024 a) Training for Schools Forum members (refer Agenda Item)	13.20 – 13.20	Chair	Oral
5	Schools Forum Membership & Constitution a) Membership update (PVI, Academies)	13.20 – 13.25	Chair	Oral
6	Feedback from sub-groups/working groups. a) Early Years Funding Group 7 February 2024 (on Agenda) b) High Needs Funding Group 7 March 2024	13.25 – 13.30	PH	Draft Minutes
7	Items for Decision - Non			
8	Information Items a) Early years budget update on decisions/ hourly rate - paper b) High needs budget - paper c) Central block - paper d) DSG monthly outturn month 10 – verbal (no change since month 7 monitoring) - paper e) Update to schools forum on final schools budgets/ schools block de-delegation – verbal. f) School Forum Training – draft proposal to follow	13.30 13.45 14.00 14.15 14;30 14.40	SAP NA AP SAP MH SAP	Report Report Report Report Oral Report
9	For note – agenda items for next meeting as per forward plan	14.50 – 14.55	Chair	Oral
10	AOB (if any)	14:55 – 15.00	Chair	Oral

	London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 20th March 2024
Title	Early Years Block Funding 2024-25
Agenda Item	
Report by	Sailesh Patel -spatel5@hillington.gov.uk
Appendices	
Recommendation	<p>Note: School's Early Years Funding Group agreed the recommendations outlined in this paper for the early years funding arrangements for 2024-25, following the recent consultation with early years providers.</p>

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The paper sets out the findings and recommendations of the Early Years Funding Group which was tasked by Schools Forum to:
- Review alternative options for delivery of the Early Years particularly the expanded entitlement.
 - Evaluate and model the financial implications of alternative options for allocating the Early Years funding for 2024-25
 - Base the recommendations on the feedback from the consultation with Early Years providers.
- 1.2. The findings and recommendations set out in the paper were agreed and approved by the Funding Group.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Early Years Funding Group note the results of the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) consultation 2024/25, summarised in Table 2 in paragraph 5.3 of this report.
- 2.2. The Early Years Funding Group agree the proposals to allocate funding to early years providers based on the recommended early years single funding formula (EYSFF) and Early Years entitlements for 2024/25 as set out in section 5 of this report.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. The Local Authority has consulted with Hillingdon early years providers on changes to the funding arrangements for 2024/25.
- 3.2. The Early Years Funding Group met on 16 January 2024 and following several hours of discussion agreed the proposed hourly rates and principles and options for the Early Years funding formula funding for under 2s, 2YOs and 3 and 4 YOs. The proposals meet all the criteria listed out in the regulations.
- 3.3. The proposed funding formula principles and hourly rates were then shared at the Schools Forum Meeting on the 17th of January 2024 and forum members supported these and agreed that these should go out to consultation with Early Years providers. More specifically the Forum:
 - (1) NOTED the report.
 - (2) AGREED to consult maintained nursery schools, primary schools with nurseries, PVI providers and childminders on Options 1 and 2 as recommended by the Early Years Funding Group.
 - (3) AGREED to delegate the decisions for the EY funding options consultation, to the EY Funding Group, at their meeting on 7th February 2024, and to inform the PVIs and childminders of their funding immediately thereafter.
 - (4) NOTED that final agreed funding would be presented to the Schools Forum meeting on 20 March 2024.
- 3.4. Following the Schools Forum meeting on 17th January 2024 the Council launched a consultation with Maintained Nursery Schools, Primary Schools with Nurseries, PVI providers and Childminders on the proposals agreed by the Early Years Funding Group and Schools Forum.
- 3.5. The consultation was launched on 18 January 2024 with a closing date of 2nd February 2024. This was distributed, by email, to all schools and settings offering early years entitlements.
- 3.6. The consultation asked for feedback on the options agreed by the Early Years Funding Group and Schools Forum in relation to the EYSFF in line with the requirements and recommendations within the 'Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025' and the 'Early years funding – extension of the entitlements: response to consultation' documents published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 29 November 2023. The consultation document is included at Appendix A.
- 3.7. While early years providers and the schools Forum need to be consulted on any changes to local early years formulas, the final decision rests with the LA. The confirmed funding formula will be implemented from 1 April 2024.

4. National funding formula

- 4.1. A new national funding formula was published on 29 November 2023. The EYNFF will allocate funding to LAs for all universal entitlements, disadvantaged entitlements and the expanded entitlements for working parents.
- 4.2. The EYNFF that determines the amount of funding per child that each LA will receive is based on a universal base rate of funding for each child and factors for additional needs. Additional needs funding is allocated based on:
- Deprivation (free school meals)
 - English as an additional language (EAL)
 - Disability living allowance (DLA)
- 4.3. A national funding rate is applied to each of the factors with an area cost adjustment for each LA then applied to each factor.
- 4.4. The early years funding changes announced on 29 November 2023 include:
- Introduction of the new entitlements for two-year-olds of working parents from April 2024, with an EYSFF established locally.
 - Introduction of the new entitlements for under 2's of working parents from September 2024, with an EYSFF established locally.
 - Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) to be available for the first 15 hours of entitlements for all age groups.
 - Disability Access Funding (DAF) to be available for entitlements for all age groups.
 - SEN Inclusion Funding to be available for entitlements for all age groups.
- 4.5. The 2024/25 EYNFF illustrative local authority allocations were published on 29 November 2023. A summary of the Hillingdon allocations is outlined in table 1.

Table 1 - EYNFF 2024-25: illustrative Local Authority allocations Formula

Local Authority allocations Formula	Allocation	Hourly Rate
	£'m	£.p
Three- and four-year-olds - Universal hours	18.443	£6.61
Three- and four-year-olds - Additional hours	5.892	£6.61
Two-year-olds - Disadvantaged hours	2.901	£9.51
Two-year-olds - Working parent entitlements	5.177	£9.51
Under 2s - Working parent entitlements	3.571	£12.95
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	0.265	£0.68
Disability Access Funding (DAF)	0.207	£910 per annum
Maintained Nursery Schools	0.374	
Total	36.829	

5. Recommended Local Early Years Funding Formula for 2024/25

- 5.1. LA's allocate funding to early years providers based on a locally agreed funding formula; known as the early years single funding formula (EYSFF).
- 5.2. The Local Authority consulted with Hillingdon early years providers following confirmation of the 2024/25 arrangements. The consultation was active between 18 January 2024 and 2 February 2024.
- 5.3. The feedback from the consultation with the early years sector is summarised in the table below.

Table 2: Consultation


Question	Schools		PVI'S		Total	Total
	option 1	option 2	option 1	option 2	option 1	option 2
	No	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Question 1 (3 & 4 Year)	2	15	23	14	25	29
Question 2 (2-year-old)	2	15	23	14	25	29
Question 3 (Yes/No)	17	0	33	4	50	4
Question 4 (Agree / not agreed)	17	0	37	0	50	0

- 5.4. The results show that the majority of respondents agreed with:
- (1) Option 2 (i.e. lower proportions of mandatory supplement and higher proportions of additional needs and SEN inclusion supplements).
 - (2) Proposals in questions 3 and 4 (i.e. single hourly rates for all 2-Year-Old and SEN inclusion supplement for all provisions).
- 5.5. Therefore, the recommended proposed EYSFF funding an hourly rate to be allocated to providers is based on option 2 and applies a single hourly rate for all 2YO and a SEN inclusion supplement percentage for all provisions. Tables 3 below sets out the recommended allocations and provider hourly rates for 2024/25 based on these principles:

Table 3: Proposed 3- & 4-Year-Old Funding Allocations - EYNFF factor

Ref	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Proposed Allocation	Age 3 & 4 (Including Additional Hours)		Age 2 - Disadvantaged		Age 2 - Working Parent Entitlement		Age Under 2 - Working Parent Entitlement	
		£'m	£.p	£'m	£.p	£'m	£.p	£'m	£.p
2	Allocation	24.335	£6.61	2.901	£9.51	5.177	£9.51	3.571	£12.95
3	Less:								
4	Proposed centrally retained funding	1.216	£0.32	0.145	£0.48	0.259	£0.48	0.178	£0.65
5	Proposed provider funding: SEN Inclusion Fund	0.300	Per criteria, average £0.08	0.075	Per criteria, average £0.25	0.100	Per criteria, average £0.18	0.050	Per criteria, average £0.18
6	Proposed Schools only Pay and Pensions	0.095	Per criteria, average £0.05						
7	Proposed provider funding: Additional Needs	1.001	Per criteria, average £0.27	0.114	Per criteria, average £0.37	0.216	Per criteria, average £0.40		
8	Proposed provider funding: Deprivation	0.907	Per criteria, average £0.25	0.086	Per criteria, average £0.28	0.176	Per criteria, average £0.32		
9	Total Deductions	3.519		0.420		0.751		0.228	
10	Proposed provider funding: Base rate	20.816	£5.65	2.481	£8.15	4.426	£8.15	3.343	£12.12

- 5.6. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is passported at 100% of the budget allocation. The DfE allocation for DAF in 2024/25 is £206,570
- 5.7. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is passported at 100% of the budget allocation. The DfE allocation for EYPP in 2024/25 is £264,818.
- 5.8. The LA is permitted to retain up to 5% of each entitlements' allocation in 2024/25 for central spend and as agreed by the Early Years Funding Group and School Forum the recommended EYSFF shown in the tables above below apply this percentage for centrally retained spend.
- 5.9. Appendix B shows the calculations for the required compliance checks for the recommended EYSFF for 2024/25.

	London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 20th March 2024
Title	High Needs Budget Financial Year 2024-25 (Draft)
Agenda Item	8b
Report by	Ndenko Asong (NAsong@hillington.gov.uk)
Appendices	N/A
Recommendation(s)	
	To Note the details of the report.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report highlights details to note of the proposed Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 High Needs (HN) Budget for the council.
- 1.2. The DfE has since published early guidance on their intention for funding schools.

2. High Needs Funding allocation

- 2.1. The high needs funding allocation by the government for FY2024-25 has seen a **4.3% (£430m)** increase from last year giving a total budget of **£10.54** billion to be allocated via the high needs National Funding Formula (NFF).
- 2.2. The initial allocation for Hillingdon (published 19 December 2023) for HN is **£65.760m** before any recoupment by the DfE. This represents a **4.91%** increase from last year's funding allocation.

3. Budget Notes and Assumptions

- 3.1. The additional grant funding for special schools' high needs (i.e., additional 3.4% funding) received in FY2023-24 has been rolled forward as part of the base line funding for the FY2024-25 HN allocation. Appendix C provides estimates of the additional payment to be made to our special schools in FY2024-25
- 3.2. There has been a **14.28%** increase in commissioned places within the borough in order to meet the demand for SEN places and keep provision as local as possible. Appendix A provides details of the commissioning across schools in the authority.
- 3.3. Minimum funding guarantee (MFG) is set at **0%** for FY24-25. As a result, there will be no changes rates for state funded provisions beyond the recommendations of the banding review currently taking place.
- 3.4. The HN budget is set in line with the Safety Valve agreement with the DfE. Appendix B provides details of the FY24-25 budget breakdown.

Appendix A – LBH SEN Commissioned Places

Name		School Type	Sector Type	AY23/24	AY24/25	Total Places	Total Cost	
Grangewood School	Not applicable	Special	Academy	131	131	131.00	1,310,000.00	
Moorcroft School	Not applicable	Special	Academy	119	89	101.50	1,015,000.00	
The Willows School	Not applicable	Special	Academy	60	60	60.00	600,000.00	
Charville Primary - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy		16	9.33	56,000.00	
Coteford Junior School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	7	7	7.00	42,000.00	
Lake Farm Park Academy - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	13	13	13.00	78,000.00	
Pinkwell Primary School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	10	10	10.00	60,000.00	
St Martin's Church of England Primary School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	12	12	12.00	72,000.00	
Wood End Primary - DU	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Academy		24	14.00	84,000.00	
Northwood School - SRP	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	10	10	10.00	60,000.00	
Vyners School - SRP	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	16	16	16.00	96,000.00	
The Skills Hub	Not applicable	AP	Free School	110	103	105.92	1,059,166.67	
Pentland Field School	Not applicable	Special	Free School	162	143	150.92	1,509,166.67	
The PRIDE Academy	Not applicable	Special	Free School	76	95	87.08	870,833.33	
Hedgewood School	Not applicable	Special	Maintained	190	190	190.00	1,900,000.00	
Meadow High School	Not applicable	Special	Maintained	250	280	267.50	2,675,000.00	
Cherry Lane Primary School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	10	10	10.00	60,000.00	
Coteford Infant School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	10	3	5.92	35,500.00	
Deanesfield Primary School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	8	8	8.00	48,000.00	
Glebe Primary School (Hillingdon) - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	11	11	11.00	66,000.00	
Hayes Park School - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	13	13	13.00	78,000.00	
Ruislip Gardens - Assessment Centre	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained		16	9.33	56,000.00	
Ruislip Gardens - SRP	Primary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained		16	9.33	56,000.00	
Harlington - DU	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained		16	9.33	56,000.00	
Harlington School - SRP	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	7	7	7.00	42,000.00	
Oak Wood School - SRP	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Maintained	12	12	12.00	72,000.00	
Pre 16 totals			Subtotal	1237	1311	-	1280.17	12,056,666.67
Moorcroft School	Not applicable	Special	Academy	26	52	41.17	411,666.67	
Vyners School - SRP	Secondary	Special Resource Provision	Academy	2	2	2.00	12,000.00	
The Skills Hub	Not applicable	AP	Free School	10	10	10.00	100,000.00	

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Pentland Field School	Not applicable	Special	Free School		19		11.08	110,833.33
The PRIDE Academy	Not applicable	Special	Free School		15		8.75	87,500.00
HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges)	16 plus	Further Education	Further Education	406	670		560.00	3,360,000.00
16 – 18 totals			Subtotal	444	768	-	633.00	4,082,000.00
HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges)	16 plus	Further Education	Further Education	114	15		56.25	337,500.00
19+ totals			Subtotal	114	15	-	56.25	337,500.00
			Total	1795.00	2094.00	-	1969.42	16,476,166.67

Appendix B – FY 2024-25 High Needs Budget

		FY2024-25 Budget
Funding	£	
DfE Funding Allocation	65,760,038	
Recoupment	-9,862,000	
Net DfE Funding Allocation	55,898,038	
Schools Block Transfer	2,098,145	
Other Grant funding	615,000	
Total Funding	58,611,183	


Expenditure	£	
† Commissioned places funding	6,249,500	
Mainstream top-up funding	9,915,275	
Special Resource Provision top-up funding	3,935,514	
Special School top-up funding	20,041,519	
Independent and Further Education placements	17,176,679	
Alternative Provision	1,569,884	
Therapies	940,162	
Other SEN funding	4,626,348	
SEN Central Services	3,748,119	
Total	68,203,000	

Net High Needs Surplus/Deficit	-9,591,817	
Safety Value Contribution		
-> LA Contribution	2,500,000	
-> DfE Contribution	4,000,000	
High Needs Annual Surplus/Deficit	-3,091,817	

† Includes special school additional grant funding

Appendix C – Table of estimates for Special Schools Additional Funding

LAESTAB	SCHNAME	Additional Funding Estimates FY24-25
3127012	GRANGEWOOD SCHOOL	174,751.33
3127010	MOORCROFT SCHOOL	184,486.52
3127001	PENTLAND FIELD SCHOOL	158,543.16
3127007	THE PRIDE ACADEMY	111,009.95
3127002	THE WILLOWS SCHOOL	50,533.71
3127009	Hedgewood School	220,400.00
3127004	Meadow High School	240,998.31
Total		1,140,722.98

	London Borough of Hillingdon FAO Chair of Schools Forum March 2024
Title	Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) Budget 2024-25
Agenda Item	8c
Report by	Danny Doherty and Abi Preston
Appendices	None
Recommendation	The Chair of Schools Forum is asked to approve the Council's CSSB budget for 2024/25 following agreement at the 17 January 2024 Schools Forum meeting for The Chair to approve the breakdown of the 2024/25 CSSB Budget of £2,429k.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. This report sets out the services and support which the Council proposes to fund from the 2024/25 CSSB grant together with the budget allocations.

2. Background

- 2.1. The CSSB allocation provides support to maintained schools and academies by funding;
 - ongoing responsibilities
 - historic commitments
- 2.2. It 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.
- 2.3. 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 School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/0001/2023-0001)).

2.4. The historic commitment element within CSSB has been progressively reduced each year since 2013-14. For 2024-25 it has been reduced by a further 20%.

3. 2024/25 CSSB Funding Allocation for Hillingdon

3.1. The CSSB allocation for 2024-25 is £2,429k which represents a reduction of £51k from last year (refer 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:

4.1. The table below sets out the functions that the Council proposes to fund from the CSSB for 2024/25 together with the proposed budget allocations:

Description	Budget
	£'000
1. Admissions	476
2. Virtual School	506
3. Education Safeguarding	184
4. Non Statemented LAC Placements	82
5. Copyright Licences estimate	300
6. ESG Retained Services	876
7. School Forum Costs	5
Total Cost	2,429
CSSB DSG Allocation for 2024-25	2,429

4.2. Admissions - **£476k**

This represents the cost of The School Placement and Admissions team of £476k. 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.

4.3. Virtual School - **£294k**

The Hillingdon Virtual School is part-funded from the CSSB along with a contribution from the Pupil Premium Plus grant. The CSSB funding for this team is £506k, with £294k charged to the Pupil Premium Plus grant.

4.4. Education Safeguarding - **£184k**

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

4.5. Non-statemented LAC placements - **£82k**

There is a continuing pressure linked to the number of looked after children who have been placed out of borough in residential provision. The CSSB only funds the education element of these placements, and there is an on-going budget requirement of £82k for these placements.

4.6. Copyright Licences - **£273k**


The ESFA procures copyright licences centrally for all schools and the cost is then charged to the DSG. The estimated cost for 2024/25 is £300k, based on an expected increase of 10% from the 2023/24 charge of £273k.

4.7. ESG retained services - **£876k**

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 estimated costs of these duties for 2024/25 is £876k.

4.8. School Forum - **£5k**

This budget of £5k represents the cost of administering schools forum, such as clerking costs.

	London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 20 March 2024
Title	DSG Monitoring Report FY2023-24 P9
Agenda Item	8d
Report by	Ndenko Asong (NAsong@hillington.gov.uk)
Appendices	N/A
Recommendation(s)	To Note the details of the report.

1. Dedicated Schools Grant (£12,820k overspend)

- 1.1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) monitoring position being reported for Month 9 is an in-year overspend of £12,820k when compared to the budgeted position, this is consistent with the position at Month 7 and continues to be driven by High Needs placement demand and cost pressures.
- 1.2. The position reflects ongoing pressures in the cost of High Needs placements, largely driven by inflationary factors which that are not reflected in the funding from the DfE. The cumulative deficit carried forward to 2024/25 is forecast at £26,487k. This is the position reported to Cabinet (15 February 2024).
- 1.3. The issue of mounting DSG deficits remains a national issue, with projections for a £4bn deficit across the country forming a key strand to lobbying by sector bodies such as the LGA and London Councils.

Table 1: DSG Income and Expenditure Summary

Funding Block	Month 9		Variance (As at Month 9) £'000	Variance (As at Month 7) £'000	Change from Month 7 £'000
	Approved Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000			
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(348,931)	(348,931)	0	0	0
Schools Block	266,069	266,069	0	0	0
Early Years Block	26,511	26,511	0	0	0
Central Schools Services Block	2,938	2,938	0	0	0
High Needs Block	55,693	68,513	12,820	12,820	0
Total Funding Blocks	2,280	15,100	12,820	12,820	0
Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2023	21,887	21,887			
Safety Valve Funding	(7,750)	(10,500)			
Balance Carried Forward 31 March 2024	16,417	26,487			

2. Dedicated Schools Grant Income (nil variance)

- 2.1. There is currently no expectation of a change in the DSG allocation budgeted for the financial year.

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3. Schools Block (nil variance)

- 3.1. The Schools Block includes all funding paid directly to mainstream schools as part of their delegated budget share, including the funding recouped by the ESFA and paid to mainstream academies.
- 3.2. There is also a growth contingency fund which is funded from the Schools Block. Schools that are expanding, in agreement with the local authority, to meet basic need pupil population growth, receive additional funding to provide financial recompense throughout the relevant financial year to cover the cost of this agreed and planned growth.

4. Early Years Block (nil variance)

- 4.1. Two-year-old funding was adjusted in July to reflect the number of children accessing the entitlement based on the January 2021 census. The 3 and 4-year-old funding for both the universal and the additional free entitlement was also adjusted in July following the January 2021 census. This resulted in an increase of £2,796k in the overall Early Years block funding allocation as the number of children accessing the additional free entitlement has increased significantly over the past year.

5. Central School Services Block (nil variance)

- 5.1. The published DSG budget allocations confirmed a 20% decrease in the Central School Services Block provided for historic commitments. For FY 2023-24 this resulted in a £135k reduction in funding. This reduction in funding only increases the pressure on the services being funded by the central school services block.

6. High Needs Block (£12,820k overspend)


- 6.1. The High Needs (HN) Block continues to present a significant pressure within the DSG, with an overspend of £12,820k currently forecast as at M9. There has been no change in the forecast from the last reported position at M7. The cumulative deficit carried forward to 2024/25 is forecast at £26,487k.
- 6.2. As highlighted above the HN position reflects ongoing pressures in the cost of placements, driven by inflationary factors which are not reflected in the funding. The cumulative deficit carried forward to 2024/25 is forecast at £26,487k.
- 6.3. Approximately £6m of the year-on-year cost increase is due to a 10% growth in the number of EHCPs and the remainder of the total cost increase (around £5.3m) is due to a 9% increase in the average cost of an EHCP placement. The Council has already identified that under-capacity in borough has driven increases in the number and cost of independent placements significantly and is a key area of management action within the High Needs Block.
- 6.4. Inflationary pressures across the sector have continued to increase and are impacting on the costs of High Needs placements within each type of school setting as we continue to preserve these services to pupils with High Needs. Measures are in place to reduce the number of high cost Out of Borough Independent placements which present the largest unit cost within the High Needs Block, costing 58% more on average than In Borough Independent placements. However, these improvements will take time to deliver as there is a significant time lag between implementing new policies and the impact on costs.
- 6.5. The Council submitted an updated DSG Management Plan to the DfE in December 2023 as part of the DfE's Safety Valve programme. The Council is awaiting feedback and outcomes from the DfE in relation to the refreshed plan.

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- 6.6. The challenge of mounting DSG deficits is a national issue with London Councils estimating that deficits could rise across London to almost £300m by the end of 2023/24 and a deteriorating. The number of students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those requiring SEN support has risen substantially over the past year and is expected to continue to rise through to 2025/26 with no changes in either statutory responsibilities or the funding regime expected in the near future.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The sole material variance on the Schools Budget at Month 9 remains the High Needs Block where inflationary pressures on individual placements are significantly outstripping funding made available by the DfE through the DSG.
- 7.2. This differential accounts for the budgeted £2,280k pressure, with continuing high levels of inflation exacerbating this in the new year. There is no standard mechanism for the DSG to be varied to reflect inflationary pressures and therefore the shortfall represents a continuing and on-going challenge in the context of the Safety Valve.

	London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 20 March 2024
Title	Teachers Pay Additional Grant & Pension Contribution Grant 2024-25
Agenda Item	8e
Report by	Ndenko Asong (NAsong@hillington.gov.uk)
Appendices	N/A
Recommendation(s)	To Note the details of the report.

1. Teachers Pay & Pension Employer Contribution Grants 2024-25 – Department of Education (DfE) Announcements

- 1.1. The paper confirms the Department for Education (DfE) methodology and arrangements for both Teachers Pay (TPAG, announced 19 Dec 2023) and Pension (TPECG, announced 11 March 2024).
- 1.2. While the announcements highlight the national funding, £900m for Teachers Pay and £1.1bn for Pension they confirm that the detailed school level allocations and conditions of grant will be published in the Spring of 2024. The detail of the announcements can be found on the Gov.Uk site on the following links:
- [Teachers' pay additional grant 2024-25](#)
 - [Teachers' pension employer contribution grant 2024-25](#)
- 1.3. The guides advise that the grants will fund mainstream school providers (Age 5 to 16-year-old) and Special Schools and Alternative Provision (AP) including:
- primary and secondary academies and free schools
 - all-through maintained schools
 - all-through academies
 - city technology colleges
 - maintained special schools
 - special academies and free schools
 - pupil referral units (PRUs) maintained by a local authority (pre-16 provision only)
 - AP academies and free schools (pre-16 provision only)
 - maintained hospital schools and the equivalent academies
 - non-maintained special schools (NMSS)
- 1.4. We will provide a further report on the school level allocations and provide a communication update for schools following the Spring announcement.