



SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM AGENDA

8.00 am	Thursday 10 February 2022	Zoom
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Members 18: Quorum: 7

MEMBERSHIP:

Representative Groups

LA Maintained School Representatives:

Head Teachers (7): Emma Allen, Special
Chris Speller, Primary
Kirsten Cooper, Primary
Georgina Delmonte, Primary
Hayley McClenaghan, Primary
David Unwin-Bailey, Primary
Garth Tucker, Primary

Governors (1): Dave Waters

Academy Representatives:

Primary (1): Kate Ridley-Moy

Secondary (4) Neil Frost
David Turrell
Keith Williams
Denise Broom
Vacancy x2

Special (1) Vicki Fackler

AP Academy (1) Gary Haines

**Non-School
Representatives:**

Early Years PVI Sector (1) Emma Reynolds

Post 16 Vacancy

Decision Board Vacancy

Trade Unions (2): John Delaney/John McGill, Teachers
Peter Liddle, Support Staff

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Nick Carter
Ncik.carter@haverling.gov.uk**

AGENDA ITEMS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

2 TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2022
(Pages 1 - 4)

To agree as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2022.

3 MATTERS ARISING

4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2022-23 (Pages 5 - 19)

Report attached

5 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS 2022-23 (Pages 20 - 26)

Report attached

6 DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR CORE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES 2022-23 (Pages 27 - 35)

Report attached

7 NEXT MEETINGS

A future meeting has been arranged as follows:

16 June 2021

Meetings to start at 8.00 a.m. at CEME rooms 233-235 or virtually

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Zena Smith
Democratic and Election Services Manager

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM
Virtual meeting
13 January 2022 (8.00 - 9.45 am)**

Present:

Representative Groups

**LA Maintained Primary
Schools**

Head Teachers: Kirsten Cooper
Emma Allen
Georgina Delmonte
Hayley McClenaghan
Chris Speller
Garth Tucker
David Unwin-Bailey

**Academy
Representatives:**

Primary Kate Ridley-Moy

Secondary: Keith Williams
Denise Broom
Neil Frost
David Turrell

Special Vicki Fackler

**Early Years PVI
Representative:** Emma Reynolds

Trade Unions: John Delaney
John McGill

**105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE
MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS**

There were no apologies for absence.

106 TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON...

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

107 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

108 SCHOOL FORMULA FUNDING 2022-23

The Forum noted that the Department for Education (DfE) had released the revised DSG Schools Block allocation which was based on October 2021 census data.

Pupil numbers had risen by 583 since October 2020 which had resulted in additional funding. Funding was 4.2% higher than for 2021-22. The rise in pupil numbers accounted for 1.5% of this, with 2.7% the result of increased funding rates.

The LA had calculated school funding using the October 2021 data set. After the transfer of £1,028,678 from the School Block to the High Needs Block and £681,022 to the Growth and Falling Rolls Fund, it was now possible to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at 1.2% and the Gains Cap at 2.8%. These figures were slightly higher than those used in the funding consultation where the Minimum Funding Guarantee had been 1.0% and the Gains Cap 2.5%.

The Forum were presented with anonymised figures for each school. The Chair, Keith Williams, expressed his concern at the fall in the number of pupils on roll some schools had experienced, and the likely future repercussions for their funding.

The Forum agreed:

- (i) to adopt the National Funding Formula rates for 2022-23 with a Minimum funding Guarantee of 1.2% and a Gains Cap of 2.8%
- (ii) to the transfer of £1,028,678 (0.5%) of the DSG Schools Block to the DSG High Needs Block
- (iii) that £680,000 of the DSG School Block be used to support Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls in addition to the £1,525,109 received for this

109 SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT 2022-23

The Forum were informed that an additional £1.6 billion had been allocated for schools and high needs in the Government's 2021 autumn spending review.

£1.2 billion of this would be allocated to schools through a new schools supplementary grant. This is intended to cover the cost of the Health and Social Care Levy and, for Years R – 11, other cost pressures. The Schools Supplementary Grant would be allocated for one year only with the

additional funding being consolidated into the DSG Schools Block for 2023-24.

Funding will be formula based using pupil numbers, 'Ever 6' free school meal numbers and a lump sum. Funding rates were subject to the Area Cost Adjustment with a higher rate for Havering than the 'rest of England' to account for London Weighting.

The Forum noted the report.

110 HIGH NEEDS FUNDING 2022-23

Members noted that the funding for special school pupil numbers from October 2021 had increased by £63,000.

£0.4 billion of the additional funding announced in the autumn spending review has been allocated for high needs with Havering due to receive an extra £1.4 million. This brings the total high needs allocation for 2022-23 to £36.6m, an increase of 14.9% on 2021-22.

The Forum noted the report.

111 CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICE BLOCK 2022-23

The Forum were presented with the final funding allocation for the Central Schools Services Block for 2022-23.

The Forum noted that the final allocation was £23k higher than the indicative allocation due to the rise in pupil numbers from October 2020 to October 2021. Allowing for an increase in the deduction for copyright licences this left £21k unallocated.

The Forum noted the report and agreed that the £21k unallocated be held as a contingency.

112 EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2022-23

The Forum was presented with the indicative Early Years funding allocation for 2022-23.

Members noted that funding rates to providers had been reviewed by the Local Authority in autumn 2021, in consultation with the Early Years Provider Reference Group (EYPRG), and an increase backdated to 1 April 2021. The cost of the SEN Inclusion Fund was expected to rise to £400k.

Members were informed that the Local Authority has been notified by the DfE of a retrospective reduction in funding for 2020-21 of £399k. This was because the number of funded hours at the January 2021 census was lower than at the January 2020 census due to the pandemic. The Forum

expressed concern at the loss of funding. Trevor Cook said that the LA would raise this again with the DfE.

The process for determining funding rates for 2022-23 was outlined to the Forum. The outcome of the funding consultation, together with the resultant proposed rates, would be brought to the meeting of the Forum on 10th February 2022.

The Forum noted the report.

113 DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR CORE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Forum were informed that the DfE had now confirmed that the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant would be cut by 50% in financial year 2022-23, and withdrawn completely from 2023-24.

The Local Authority proposed that the shortfall in funding in 2022-23 be made up by de-delegating £5.11 per pupil from LA maintained primary school budgets. Some of the Forum members reported that schools in their clusters were reluctant to make up the shortfall through de-delegation.

The Chair, Keith Williams, felt that if the issue was put to a vote the proposed de-delegation would not be supported. Nick Carter explained that although decisions on de-delegation are usually required before submission of the LA formula, due this year on 21st January, the DfE had stated that they would be happy to talk to councils if flexibility was required on timings.

The Forum agreed to bring this matter back to the meeting on 10th February 2022 to allow more information to be presented, and for clusters to meet and discuss.

114 NEXT MEETINGS

The Forum noted that the date of the next meeting was 10th February 2022.



Schools Funding Forum 10th February 2022

ITEM 4

Subject Heading:**Early Years Funding 2022-23****Report Author:****Nick Carter – Principal Finance Officer
(Schools)****Eligibility to vote:****All school and academy members and
the PVI representative**

SUMMARY

This report provides details of the consultation with early years providers on funding for financial year 2022-23, the outcome of which will be reported at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum agrees funding rates for 2022-23. Recommended rates will be determined following the closure of the funding consultation with providers and discussion of the outcome with the Early Years Provider Reference Group. To be agreed:

- 1 (i) The basic hourly rate for 2 year olds
(ii) The level of the contingency held for 2 year old funding
- 2 (i) Whether an Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund is created
(ii) The basic hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds
(iii) The total allocated to the Early Years Inclusion Fund and the hourly rate for eligible children
- 3 Whether deprivation is retained as the only supplementary factor and that the rates of funding continue to be aligned with the rates that are used for schools in the National Funding Formula
- 4 The level of the centrally retained budget for LA support

- 5 That the use of any underspend in the Early Years Block continues to be discussed with the Early Years Provider Reference Group before any proposals are brought to the Schools Funding Forum and before any decisions are made on its use.

REPORT DETAIL

Background

Early years education is funded through the Early Years Block of the DSG. Funding rates were announced on 25th November 2021 and indicative allocations for 2022-23 were issued to local authorities on 16th December 2021 along with the final allocations for the other DSG blocks.

In the autumn spending review 2021 the Government announced an increase in early years entitlements worth £160m in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. The hourly rates for all local authorities will be increased by 21p an hour for the 2 year old entitlement and by 17p an hour for the 3 and 4 year old entitlement.

The Local Authority produced proposals for 2022-23 funding rates for providers. These were discussed with the Early Years Provider Reference Group (EYPRG) on 10th January 2022 and the content of the funding consultation document decided.

Funding Consultation

The consultation document is shown at Appendix A. This was sent to all private, voluntary and independent early years providers and to head teachers of schools with nurseries.

The consultation ran until 4th February 2022, so was still open when this agenda item was prepared. The intention was for the outcome of the consultation to be discussed with EYPRG and the proposed funding rates then forwarded to members of the Schools Funding Forum for discussion and approval at this meeting.



Consultation with Early Years Providers on Funding for Financial Year 2022-23

Introduction

This consultation document proposes options for the allocation of funding to early years providers for the financial year 2022-23. Providers are asked to consider the proposals and respond back to the Local Authority for further consideration by the Early Years Provider Reference Group (EYPRG) and Schools Funding Forum.

Process

The consultation period will run until Friday 4th February 2022.

A summary of responses to the consultation will be reported to the meeting of the EYPRG on week commencing 7th February and final decisions taken by the Local Authority before funding statements are issued for the 2022-23 financial year.

Responding to the Consultation

The online link to consultation is sent to all private, voluntary and independent early years providers and head teachers of schools with nurseries.

You can contribute your views to the consultation in the online link that was provided.

If you require clarification on any point please email:

Education Finance at: education.finance@haverling.gov.uk

Early Years Funding 2022-23

1. Additional Funding for Early Years 2022-23

Early Years education is funded through the Early Years Block of the DSG. Funding rates were announced on 25th November 2021 and indicative allocations for 2022-23 were issued to local authorities on 16th December 2021 along with the final allocations for the other DSG blocks.

In the autumn spending review 2021 the Government announced an increase in early years entitlements worth £160m in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. The hourly rates for all local authorities will be increased by 21p an hour for the 2 year old entitlement and by 17p an hour for the 3 and 4 year old entitlement.

Havering's increase is as follows:

	2 year olds	3-4 year olds
2021-22	£5.74	£5.42
2022-23	£6.03	£5.59
Increase	£0.21	£0.17

The autumn spending review covered three years. As well as the £160m rise in 2022-23 funding will be increased by £180m in 2023-24 and by £170m in 2024-25.

2. Indicative DfE funding of Havering's Early Years Block funding 2022-23

Local authorities receive an initial allocation of Early Years funding for financial year 2022-23 based on the latest data available which was from the January 2021 Census.

Based on January 2021 data, Havering's initial allocation for 2022-23 is as below.

2 Year Olds			3/4 Year Olds			Total Funding for distribution to providers
Cohort (PTE)	Unit of funding	Allocation	Cohort (PTE)	Unit of funding	Allocation	
483.87	£6.03	£1,663,110	5,619.72	£5.59	£17,906,114	£19,569,224

This will be updated from the January 2022 Early Years census although the funding that a local authority's grant allocation based on that census is not adjusted until June/July. A local authority's initial allocation could, therefore, either increase for higher numbers of participation or reduce if lower.

3. Distribution to Providers

3.1 2 Year Olds Funding

The funding arrangements are straightforward as, unlike with 3 & 4 year olds, the grant is passed on fully to providers after the setting of a small contingency to fund any growth in the summer term.

Setting a small contingency will enable the LA to have a budget from which to fund local provision that is not funded by the Government, with any underspend/overspend to this element of funding carry-forward to the next financial year planning for the Early Years block.

Proposal

- (i) It is proposed to pass all of the central government increase of 21p to the base rate, increasing the hourly rate from £5.76 to £5.97.
- (ii) It is proposed to set a contingency of £53,000 for a 3% growth in provision to be funded (an additional 15 PTE children above the projected numbers).

Q.1	<p><i>Do you agree that for 2 year olds:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) <i>all of the 2022-23 central government two year old funding rate increase to the LA is passed to the hourly base rate, increasing the rate from £5.76 to £5.97</i>(ii) <i>a contingency is set at 3% of the number of places on which the LA is funded</i>
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3.2 3 & 4 Year Olds Funding

Local authorities are required to allocate at least 95% of the grant to providers. Local authorities are also required to set the level of a SEN Inclusion Fund to meet low level or emerging special needs.

The remaining grant is to be allocated to providers through a formula. At least 90% of the funding must be distributed through a basic hourly rate with up to 10% through supplementary factors

The base rate for 3 & 4 year olds was set at £5.02 at the start of the financial year 2021-22. Following an in-year review, using in-year providers' termly claims and updated projections for the remainder of the financial year, the 3 & 4 year old base rate was increased by 7p an hour to £5.09 an hour. The 7p increase included the use of Early Years Block previous years carry-forward, and could not be guaranteed as sustainable for 2022-23. This was dependent on central government's level of increase of the hourly rate that the LA was to receive for 2022-23.

Local Authority projected numbers used for Funding Options for 2022-23

The cohort size used in projections has been calculated by taking numbers currently shown in Synergy for the spring term, and where a provider has not yet supplied figures, adding the autumn term numbers for that provider. This means the final January 2022 figure, which will be used by the DfE to determine funding, is unlikely to be lower than the one used in projections, but may be higher. Based on the funding projections, there is anticipated to be a small sum available as a contingency. Should there be higher numbers, above the LA projected numbers, then this would lead to an increase from the additional funding available.

Numbers for the summer term 2022, autumn term 2022 and spring term 2023 have been calculated by looking at the average change in numbers from the January base, in the five years prior to the pandemic.

Funding Options

Following discussions with EYPRG, we are consulting on two options. The first option directs all the available funds to the base and SENIF rate, and the second option includes a Sustainability Fund.

- **Option A - Base Rate and SENIF Rate increased to £5.19, and no Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund**

It is proposed that the funding rate for 3 & 4 year olds and the SENIF Rate is increased to £5.19, in line with the agreement to match fund the two rates going forward.

Option A proposal is as follows:

Proposed Base Rate	Increase in base rate	SEN Inclusion Fund	Hourly rate for SEN support	Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund
£5.19	10p	£408,000	£5.19	n/a

- **Option B – Base Rate and SENIF Rate increased to £5.16, and a budget of £100,000 for the Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund**

From the 95% to be allocated to providers, following feedback from the sector and in order to provide the LA with the means to support providers, the LA is offering the option of a budget of £100,000 for the Early Years Sustainability Fund.

The primary purpose of a sustainability fund is to provide financial support during a temporary period of threatened business viability. These would usually be regarded as being resolved within 12 months unless there are particular reasons why this should be over a longer timescale. Specific criteria would need to be met to attract funding and conditions would be applied to that funding, please see Appendix A.

In order to fund the Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund with a budget of £100,000, the 3/4 year old base rate and SENIF rate will both have to be reduced from £5.19 as per Option A to £5.16.

Any amount of Early Years funding that is directed to create an Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund, will lead to a reduction in the funding that can be directed through the base rate.

The Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund is part of the minimum of 95% of Early Years Block that is earmarked to fund providers direct, and any underspend/overspend will be relayed as per normal reporting for the overall funding at year end.

Option B proposal is as follows:

Proposed Base Rate	Increase in base rate	SEN Inclusion Fund	Hourly rate for SEN support	Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund
£5.16	7p	£406,00	£5.16	£100,000

Q.2	For 3/4 year olds, which option do you favour?
	Option A – Base & SENIF rates increased to £5.19 and no Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund
	Option B – Base & SENIF rates increased to £5.16 and a budget of £100,000 for Early Years Providers Sustainability Fund

3.3 Supplementary factors

As well as the basic hourly rate, local authorities can also allocate funding through a limited range of supplementary factors. Up to 10% of the formula funding can be allocated through supplementary factors which can include:

- deprivation (mandatory supplement); local authorities must use this supplement to recognise deprivation in their areas,
- rurality or sparsity (discretionary supplement); to support providers serving rural areas less likely to benefit from economies of scale,

- flexibility (discretionary supplement); to support providers in offering flexible provision for parents; this could, for example, childcare wraparound care, out-of-hours provision, or to encourage a particular type of provider in an area (such as to meet a need for childminders in an area),
- quality (discretionary supplement); to support workforce qualifications, or system leadership (supporting high quality providers leading other providers in the local area), and
- English as an additional language (EAL) (discretionary supplement).

In Havering, following past consultations, only the mandatory deprivation factor is used. The LA has reviewed the feasibility and reliability of using other optional supplements but recommends that this is not adopted in 2022-23. A further review will be carried out for 2023-24.

It has been agreed previously that the funding rates allocated for deprivation align with those of schools, using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

In September 2019 the Government released an update of the IDACI data. This showed a significant change in deprivation levels, particularly in London where it had reduced. To lessen the impact on funding, the DfE changed the basis on which pupils are assigned to the seven deprivation bands. This is now done on the basis of rank rather than score.

To lessen further the impact of the move from 2015 data to 2019 data, the DfE increased the National Funding Formula values for each band.

In Havering, funding for IDACI is currently allocated at the same rate for schools and early years providers. If this were to continue for 2022-23, funding rates would be as follows:

Band	Hourly rate		Annual rate (38 weeks x 15 hours)		% change
	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	
A	£0.71	£0.73	£404.70	£416.10	2.82%
B	£0.54	£0.56	£307.80	£319.20	3.70%
C	£0.51	£0.52	£290.70	£296.40	1.96%
D	£0.47	£0.48	£267.90	£273.60	2.13%
E	£0.30	£0.31	£171.00	£176.70	3.33%
F	£0.25	£0.25	£142.50	£142.50	0.00%
G	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.0%

Using the revised rates and methodology with October 2021 pupil data, the required budget for 2022-23 would be £410,227.

Q.3	<i>Do you agree that deprivation remains the only supplementary factor used in Havering's formula and the rates of funding continue to be aligned with the rates used in the schools' national funding formula?</i>
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4. Central Retention

Local authorities are able to centrally retain funding to lead and support the Early Years sector to deliver excellent quality provision, and to administer the distribution of Early Years Funded Entitlement and related supplements system.

The centrally retained funding supports the Local Authority to deliver their various statutory duties relating to early years, and to ensure sufficient, sustainable, high quality, accessible early education and childcare.

Any reductions to the central retention which funds a range of services, may result in an increase in the cost of traded services to the sector, and a reduction in the range and amount of advice and support (including financial support) to providers. It is through these central services that we are able to take actions to mitigate any changes brought about by the DfE.

The centrally retained funding is used to fund a number of services and activities across all sectors including mainstream, private, voluntary, independent sectors, and childminders to promote quality and improve outcomes for children in Havering, including;

- Provide support and advice to settings in relation to quality of early education and childcare, Ofsted and statutory requirements, with a focus on settings at requires improvement or inadequate, as well as providing targeted support around work with vulnerable groups.
- Transition as part of the COVID-19 recovery programme.
- Support and advice to settings in relation to support for children with SEND, with a particular focus on inclusion, quality and early identification of need.
- Meeting the Council's statutory duties to ensure a sufficiency of places for funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds across Havering.
- Monitoring and delivering sufficiency.
- Providing support, advice and to promote business sustainability.
- Individual commissioning of provision for the most disadvantaged families.
- Delivering census, compliance with DfE statutory guidance and requirements.
- Brokerage of places for vulnerable children and children identified as disadvantaged.
- Managing the funded entitlement by advising providers, processing, administering and making payments, including support for the Provider Portal.
- Delivering census.
- Maintenance and development of the Provider Portal and linked systems.
- Supporting communications and publicity, including promotional activities to support take-up of funded places, 30 hours, EYPP, Inclusion Fund, and DAF uptake.
- Implement a number of eligibility assessments, including the eligibility for free school meals of a pupil who is being provided with early years provision, the eligibility of a child for prescribed early years provision, or the eligibility of a child for the early years pupil premium.
- Strategic and operational leadership and management of the early years system and its finances.

The distribution set by the DfE for central retention means that an LA can only use a maximum of 5% for central support, and the remaining 95% is paid direct to providers. Havering actually retains less than the 5% maximum allowed by the DfE in order to make the most amount of funding available to providers.

The Local Authority is proposing a reduction of £30k in the centrally retained budget, reducing it from the current year budget of £820k to £790k. This represents 4.47% of funding, well below the permitted 5%. The reduction relates to an expected fall in the cost of central database software with reduced training and implementation costs.

The breakdown of services funded from this are as follows:

Service	Amount (£,000)
Early Years Quality and Assurance Team	351
Early Years Admissions	196
CAD Support	79
Early Years Commissioning and Organisation	61
Finance	53
Central Database Software – EYAM	50
Grand Total	790

Q.4	<i>Do you agree that the central retained budget for LA support be set at the reduced level of £790k?</i>
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Appendix A – Early Years Sustainability Fund ***(subject to legal ratification)***

Stage one

The Local Authority provides a dedicated page for Early Years Providers in order to support the viability of their business. The link to the website is as follow https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20006/schools_and_education/445/delivering_education/4.

Further information is also available on the Havering Education Service Portal (www.hes.org.uk) on the **Early Years** Resource Page, Planning and Organisation - Business Support section. On behalf of the DfE, for the Early Years Sector, Hemsall have provided a useful guide called **The Hemsall's Business Change and COVID-19 Response Tool** which you may wish to refer to for assistance in the portal.

Examples and templates of the required documents (mandatory for stage two) is available via this link <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/tools-resources/business-tools/business-plans>

Local publications which should be referred to as part of your review are as follows:

- The London Borough of Havering's updated **Childcare Sufficiency Report 2019 – 2021** is available at the following link https://www.havering.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5319/childcare_sufficiency_report_2019-2021.pdf
- In order to assist with your future forecast please refer to the following link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1os65qsbhlaB2wKCzhUyTcKS5DwMGXGrM/view> for Early Years projections for 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds projections within Havering

The expectation from providers prior to the local authority being able to support providers is that all tools and guidance is used in order to support you in running your business. Any issues identified following the stage one review and action, then please refer to stage two of the process.

Stage two

Following stage one highlighting issues, in order to apply for Early Years Sustainability Grant we need to carry out a pre-assessment review to establish what stage your business is at present and if your business is likely to be a going concern (provider is financially stable enough to meet its obligations and continue its business for the foreseeable future).

The information below outlines the expectation we require from providers who wish to apply for this process, please provide the following documents which you may have carried out in the previous process:

- Business plan with 3 year projections
- Business plan financial tables
- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis

Please ensure all documents are sent to us in one email with the subject heading "Early Years Sustainability Grant – Pre-Assessment Review – **PROVISION NAME**". Once we have received all the above documentation, we will then carry out the pre-assessment review, and advise you whether we require further information or whether you have reached the next stage of the Early Years Sustainability Grant process (Stage three).

Early Years Sustainability Grant Procedure

Sustainability Support Grants are available for Early Years Providers who are experiencing sustainability problems. This guidance outlines the criteria and requirements for allocating the funds available.

Purpose

The primary purpose is to provide financial support during a temporary period of threatened business viability. Will usually be regarded as being resolved within 12 months unless there are particular reasons why this should be a longer timescale.

Funding Criteria

C1 – Directory and Funding Agreement

- (i) C1A - Providers must have an active Directory and Funding Agreement
- (ii) C1B - Providers must have had the Directory and Funding Agreements for at least three consecutive years.

C2 - Provisions

Eligible provision includes all of the following at present:-

- Day Nurseries
- Childminders
- Independent Schools
- Mainstream Schools
- Pre Schools

C3 - Finance

- Sustainability funding will not be approved when:
 - (i) C3A - Reserves are available.

Sufficient “free reserves (profit) / contingency / planned future expenditure” are held and available for the whole business or provision, that would adequately cover the short term problem e.g. £5000 held put aside to pay for future building maintenance, renewal of equipment or furnishings, new equipment, etc.

- (ii) C3B - Short term cash flow issue.

1 term projected loss of below 25% of the previous term claim, following which service returns to operating in surplus.

C4 - Quality

- C4A - Providers must have an Ofsted rating or equivalent of Good or above Inspection Judgement for Early Years
- C4B - Providers not meeting criteria C4A will have their application referred to the Early Years Quality and Assurance Team to review and provide recommendations. They will consider issues, such as quality in that area. We will also consider the sufficiency around your area.

Prior to Early Years Quality and Assurance Team providing recommendations, they will require providers with a below Good or no Ofsted Inspection Judgement to agree an action plan to attain a Good or above Inspection Judgement within a reasonable timescale for the support of this grant. As a prerequisite, the Early Years Quality and Assurance Team will be monitoring the progress of the action plan that has been agreed and will conduct at a minimum termly reviews.

Use of Support Grants and General Funding Points

- Sustainability of provision can be assisted through support of appropriate expenditure including staff costs, rent, heating and lighting etc.

This funding is not intended as a source for capital expenditure and will not provide for toys, equipment, furniture, fixtures & fittings, unless these are as a result of emergency Health & Safety issues raised by Ofsted, which if not remedied would result in closure of the setting. Early Years Organisation will need to be advised and all records pertaining to those works must be provided within two weeks of the expenditure.

- The maximum amount available for the grant is [£t.b.c.](#)

The Early Years Planning & Organisation Lead & Education Finance Team will assess applications, supporting documentation and financial budgets in order to determine what level of support is appropriate.

- Applicants must provide and retain for inspection an income & expenditure statement, showing where the funding is required to meet the shortfall in income. The grant cannot be used to maintain profit margins. Applicants must provide the last full set of accounts which has been independently audited or verified, e.g. by their accountant. In addition, a statement of income & expenditure for the current financial year to date, together with projections of income & expenditure for the rest of the financial year, plus a current bank statement for the last 3 months.
- Early years provider must also provide a business/financial plan showing how the support forms part of a progressive move towards viability. Providers should submit an actual business plan/3 year financial projections to show them getting over the short term difficulty.
- Private sector providers may receive the grant but must meet all conditions. This includes providing a balance sheet showing that they do not have reasonable funds in reserve to meet the position and statements to show that (a) they are running temporarily at a loss and therefore face the real possibility of closure and (b) the grant funding will not result in them making a profit beyond reasonable wage costs.

If funds are transferred to another holding account then the same information is required as per your main account as above. This will also include any private income that is used in conjunction with local authority funding in order to run your business. This will ensure that a true reflection of the position of the business is portrayed.

- Assess what funding from other sources has already been provided, these may be checked before allocation is released, to avoid any duplication.
- Applications must relate to expenditure to be incurred in the same financial year, 1st April to 31st March.

Additional Requirements

- An explanation of how the financial difficulty has arisen and the action they are taking to ensure future sustainability; plus, a check list of the items they need to supply as per Stage 2.
- You should note that successful applicants will invariably be required, as a condition of support, to provide on-going regular financial information by way of budgets and budget monitoring. Other conditions of support, as considered appropriate, may also be imposed.
- Applications will not be considered for any provider if they have failed to provide the required monitoring information or to carry out any other condition of support from a previous application.
- Any funds provided must only be used for the purpose approved and evidence will be sought, including invoices and time sheets where appropriate, to show how it has been utilised.
- Must meet Ofsted registration standards where appropriate, and achieve acceptable quality of service.

Definitions

Ofsted - the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They conduct inspections to services providing education and skills for learners of all ages, and they also inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people.

Providers - Pre Schools, Day Nurseries, Mainstream Schools, Independent Schools, Childminders.

Agenda Item 5



Schools Funding Forum 10th February 2022

ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

High Needs Funding for Schools 2022-23

Report Author:

Nick Carter – Principal Finance Officer (Schools)

Eligibility to vote:

All school and academy members

SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the funding areas being considered by the High Needs Task and Finish Group. Proposals to bring to the Schools Funding Forum will be determined at a meeting of the group on 4th February 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the areas examined by the Task and Finish Group
- (ii) considers a package of changes to high needs funding for schools, and agrees the funding methodologies and rates for 2022-23

REPORT DETAIL

1 Background

At their meeting on 13th January 2022 the Schools Funding Forum agreed to the transfer of £1,028,678 (0.5%) from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Block to the DSG High Needs Block.

This followed the Local Authority consultation on Schools and High Needs Funding 2022-23 in which 91% of the schools responding expressed a preference for the funding option that included the 0.5% transfer. The transfer of just over £1m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block was to be coupled with the implementation of proposals to increase the high needs funding allocated to schools in 2022-23.

A total increase of around £2.5m is envisaged for schools' high needs funding allocations. £1,028,678 of this will be funded by the transfer from the School Block, with the remainder to be met from the Council's DSG High Needs budget.

A Task and Finish Group, comprised of Head Teachers and Local Authority officers, was established to consider options for increased high needs funding. The Group is due to meet on 4th February 2022 with the aim of deciding which proposals to bring to the Schools Funding Forum for discussion and agreement.

2 Areas considered by the Task and Finish Group and LA proposals

Funding in support of Education Health Care Plans

Since proposals were taken to the first meeting of the High Needs Task and Finish Group in October, the total number of teaching assistant hours per week in support of EHCPs has risen from 21,870 to 23,689. This means the cost of increasing the funding rate has also risen. For example, the cost of moving to a funding rate of £16.00 per hour has increased from £1,769,898 to £1,916,226.

Teaching assistant time in support of an EHCP is currently funded at £14.00 per hour after the first 11 hours. Appendix A shows a calculation of the average hourly cost of a teaching assistant. The average spinal point for a special needs teaching assistant in LA maintained primary schools is 4.34. The figure is unlikely to be significantly different in academies and secondary schools. The average cost of a teaching assistant in 2022-23, including an estimated pay award for 2021-22 and for 2022-23, will be £16.44 per hour.

Schools are funded for EHCP support for 39 weeks each academic year, with some variation each financial year depending on the timing of the Easter break. Teaching assistants are, however, paid for 43.6 weeks per year, or 44.1 weeks if they have over five years service. Taking this into account, the hourly cost increases to £18.46.

Schools are expected to meet the first £6,000 of support for an EHCP from the School Budget Share. At the current funding rate of £14.00 per hour this equates to the first 11 hours. As the rate is increased, the hours represented by £6,000 falls. For example if the rate increased to £15 per hour, £6,000 would only purchase 10.25 hours.

Appendix B shows the impact of hourly funding rates from £14.00 to £18.46, both in terms of the increased cost to the Council's High Needs Block and the reduction in cost to the School Budget Share.

The Inclusion Supplement

Frequently referred to as 'headroom', the Inclusion Supplement provides additional funding to schools that have a disproportionately high number of pupils with EHCPs.

Schools are expected to meet the first £6,000 of support from the School Budget Share. The DfE acknowledges that where a school has a high number of pupils with an EHCP the need to fund the first £6,000 will place a strain on the budget. Local Authorities are, therefore, permitted to provide additional funding to schools that have a high number of pupils with an EHCP. The DfE does not prescribe the method of calculating the additional funding.

Notional SEN Funding

Part of a school's individual budget share is identified as 'Notional SEN funding'. In Havering this is calculated as:

Pupil led funding 1%

Plus

Deprivation funding 16.5%

Plus

Low prior attainment funding 40% primary schools, 45% secondary schools.

The idea of Notional SEN funding is to demonstrate that an element of the School Budget Share is intended for special needs. This includes meeting the first £6,000 cost of an EHCP and supporting SEN pupils who do not have an EHCP.

Current calculation of the Inclusion Supplement

Funding is currently calculated as follows:

- Calculate the percentage of pupils in the each sector that have an EHCP.
- Identify those schools with an above average number of EHCPs for the sector and calculate by how many EHCP pupils they are above average.
- Multiply the number of EHCPs the school is above average by £6,000. This identifies the cost to the school of meeting the first £6,000 of an above average number of pupils with an EHCP. (A)
- Calculate the average per pupil funding for each sector.
- Calculate the difference between the funding that each school receives and what it would receive if it were funded at the sector per pupil average. (B)
- If any additional funding the school receives at (B) is not sufficient to meet the additional cost at (A), the school will receive an Inclusion Supplement. This will be between 25% and 100% of the difference, depending on how far the school's funding deviates from the average.

If this methodology is applied to current data, 13 primary schools receive a total of £193,805 and two secondary schools a total of £180,886, making a total of £374,691.

Proposed calculation of the Inclusion Supplement

The LA is proposing to simplify the calculation of the Inclusion Supplement using the Notional SEN funding as the basis for calculation. A school would be expected to use up to 75% of the Notional SEN funding it receives to meet the £6,000 cost per EHCP.

Each school would have at least 25% of the Notional SEN funding remaining to meet other SEN support costs.

Funding would be calculated as follows:

- Multiply the number of EHCPs in the school by £6,000 (A).
- Multiply the Notional SEN funding received by the school by 0.75 (B)
- If (A) is greater than (B), the school receives the difference.

If this methodology is applied to current data, 18 primary schools receive a total of £399,846 and three secondary schools a total of £225,160 making a total of £625,006.

Backdating funding for new EHCPs

A pupil arriving a school may require one to one support from the first day. If that pupil does not have an EHCP in place, the school will not receive funding until an EHCP has been finalised and will then receive funding starting from the date of finalisation. This means that the school receives no funding for the assessment period.

The cost of simply backdating the start of each EHCP by 20 weeks, to cover the assessment period, would be prohibitively expensive. The Task and Finish Group and Schools Funding Forum felt that the problem was most acute with pupils in Reception and Year 7. One option would be to introduce funding initially for these year groups only.

Further work on this will be undertaken prior to the meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 4th February 2022.

Funding for Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs)

Schools with an ARP currently receive funding as follows:

- The pupil led funding relevant for the Key Stage of each pupil in the ARP. This is topped up to £4,000 for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils.
- £4,000 for each place at the ARP that is unfilled
- £6,000 per place 'place funding'
- £6,667 per place 'pupil top-up'

This means that an ARP at a primary school receives £16,667 per place. An ARP at a secondary school receives £17,435 for each place filled by a KS3 pupil, £18,041 for each place filled by a KS4 pupil and £16,667 for each place that is unfilled.

The £6,667 pupil top-up matches the lowest funding band for pupil top-up in special schools, Level C (ii). There are, however, very few pupils in special schools that are funded on this lowest band. The LA is proposing that the £6,667 pupil top-up is increased to £10,000 to match the next funding band for pupil top-up in special schools,

Level C (ii). Funding would be increased by a further £660 to mirror the additional payment to special schools for pay and pension increases.

The additional £3,993 per place would mean a school with a 12 place ARP receiving an additional £48k a year.

The cost of this change, based on existing ARP place numbers, is £367k.

3 Timeframe

In order to provide schools with details of high needs funding from 1st April 2022 the funding methodology, and funding rates, need to be agreed by the Schools Funding Forum at their meeting on 10th February 2022.

High Needs Funding Review February 2022**EHCP hourly rate**

£

TA paid on Grade 1

At July 2021 offer rate + 2% 2022 rise

1	21,651
2	21,826
3	22,218
4	22,620
5	23,025

Average spinal point 4.34

22,758

Average N.I. % 5.85 1,331

Average pension % 29.77 6,775

Total average cost 30,864

Adjusted for Health and Social Care Levy

Hourly cost

16.44

Adjustment for holiday pay

No of weeks funding 39

Staff work 38 weeks paid 43.6

or 44.1

Use 43.8

Adjusted hourly rate

18.46

High Needs Funding Review February 2022

The impact of changes in the hourly rate of funding for an EHCP - with change in hours met from SBS

Total number of pupils supported by TA

878

Hourly rate £	Total TA hours / week	£6,000 represented as hours per week	Hours per week per pupil met from Notional SEN	Total hours per week met from Notional SEN	Total hours per week met from HN Block	Total weeks	Cost met by HN Block £	Increase over current £	Funding received by school for 32.5 hpw pupil £	Increase over current £	Cost to SBS of supporting 32.5 hpw pupil £
14.00	23,689	10.99	11.00	9,658	14,031	39	7,660,926		11,739		11,659
15.00	23,689	10.26	10.25	9,000	14,690	39	8,593,358	932,432	13,016	1,277	10,382
15.50	23,689	9.93	10.00	8,780	14,909	39	9,012,491	1,351,565	13,601	1,862	9,797
16.00	23,689	9.62	9.50	8,341	15,348	39	9,577,152	1,916,226	14,352	2,613	9,046
16.50	23,689	9.32	9.25	8,122	15,568	39	10,017,686	2,356,760	14,961	3,222	8,437
17.00	23,689	9.05	9.00	7,902	15,787	39	10,466,781	2,805,855	15,581	3,842	7,818
17.50	23,689	8.79	8.75	7,683	16,007	39	10,924,436	3,263,510	16,209	4,470	7,189
18.00	23,689	8.55	8.50	7,463	16,226	39	11,390,652	3,729,726	16,848	5,109	6,550
18.46	23,689	8.33	8.33	7,317	16,372	39	11,786,659	4,125,733	17,398	5,659	6,000



Schools Funding Forum 10th February 2022

ITEM 6

Subject Heading:

De-delegation of funding for core school improvement activities 2022-23

Report Author:

Nick Carter – Principal Finance Officer (Schools)

Eligibility to vote:

LA maintained school representatives

SUMMARY

This item provides details of the Local Authority's proposal to de-delegate funding for core school improvement activity in 2022-23, following the announcement by the Department for Education that the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokerage Grant will be reduced by 50% in 2022-23 prior to complete removal from 2023-24.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools' Funding Forum agrees to:

- (i) the de-delegation of £5.11 per pupil for core school improvement activities for financial year 2022-23

REPORT DETAIL

The funding of core school improvement activities

In January 2022 the DfE announced that the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokerage Grant would be reduced by 50% for financial year 2022-23 and then removed completely from 2023-24.

This follows a Government consultation in the autumn entitled 'Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded'. Although 71% of respondents opposed the removal of the Grant, the DfE has taken the decision that it should cease.

At the same time, local authorities were given the power to fund all improvement activity, including core activity, via de-delegation with the agreement of schools forums or the Secretary of State.

Havering received £178k in the 2021-22 financial year. This represents 26% of the funding for the non-traded activities carried out by Hsis, which encompass the core improvement activities. Making up the 50% shortfall for 2022-23 would require £89k of de-delegated funds, which equates to £5.11 for each pupil Year R -11. Havering is seeking the agreement of the Schools Funding Forum to de-delegate this amount.

This item was discussed by the Schools Funding Forum at their meeting on 13th January 2022. Representatives from LA maintained schools felt that they needed further information on the use of the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokerage Grant, and the opportunity to discuss the matter further with school in their clusters, before they could consider de-delegation of funds.

A letter sent to Head Teachers of LA maintained primary schools informing them that the LA was seeking Schools Funding Forum approval for de-delegation, and outlining the rationale, is shown at Appendix A. A paper providing further information regarding the purpose of the budget, the implications of not approving de-delegation and options for the future is shown at Appendix B. This was sent to Head Teachers of LA maintained primary schools on 25th January 2022.



Nick Carter

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10 January 2022

To: Head Teachers of LA maintained primary schools in Havering

Dear Colleague

Proposed de-delegation of funding for core school improvement activities 2022-23

At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on Thursday (13th January 2022) we will be asking the LA maintained primary schools members if they are prepared to approve the de-delegation of £5.11 per pupil for LA core school improvement costs. I wanted to provide you with some background to this, as it is coming at short notice and after other de-delegation arrangements have been agreed.

In November the DfE held a consultation entitled 'Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded'. In this they made two proposals:

- 1 That the 'School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant' is reduced by 50% for the 2022-23 financial year and then removed completely from 2023-24
- 2 That LAs should be given the power to fund all improvement activity, including core activity though de-delegation, with the required agreement from the schools forum or Secretary of State. Essentially LAs will be permitted to obtain the funding lost from the reduction and removal of the grant through de-delegation, if agreement is given.

There had been no indication that the consultation was coming and it came late in the planning cycle, after most LAs, including Havering, had gone through the process of de-delegation for other services. Making up the 50% shortfall for 2022-23 would require £89k of de-delegated funds, which equates to £5.11 for each pupil in Year R -11.

To date the DfE response to the consultation has not been published. This was due in 'late December / early January'. The DfE have advised that where LAs are seeking to de-delegate funding they would should seek approval from their schools forum for de-delegation prior to the publication of the response. This would be conditional on that response including a reduction in the grant for 2022-23.

The grant is provided to support councils in fulfilling their core improvement activities. These include the statutory power to warn and intervene in schools causing concern. Guidance sets out the expectations that councils should:

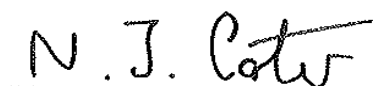
- Understand the performance of maintained schools in their area and work with them to explore ways to support progress.
- Work closely with the Regional School Commissioner, diocese and other local partners to ensure schools receive the support they need
- Where underperformance is recognised, work with the RSC to ensure the right approach, including warning notices and intervention powers
- Encouraging good and outstanding schools to take responsibility for their own improvement, support other schools and enable other schools to access the support they need.

The DfE justification for removing the grant is that there is no longer a clear distinction between core improvement activities and additional improvement activities. Core improvement activities form part of a wider continuum of support. This creates a disparity with academies, where funding for support would be top-sliced from the individual academy budget by the academy trust. The DfE are, therefore, suggesting that support for LA maintained schools should be financed through de-delegation, which is, in practice, the LA top-slicing the sum needed to provide support to LA maintained schools.

The grant represents 26% of the funding for the non-traded activities carried out by Hsis, which encompass the core improvement activities detailed above. For schools identified as requiring additional support this will include regular school performance review meetings and implementing any actions agreed. This can include support for senior leadership, middle leadership, specific curriculum subjects or indeed any areas of concern. Support may be provided by Hsis staff, or HSiS may arrange for support to be provided in conjunction with another school, providing that school with the opportunity to be a system leader.

The core improvement support received will vary between schools, based on performance and need, but can also vary over time. A school may not require additional support at present but may do as circumstances change. A suitably funded school improvement service will help to ensure that schools requiring support are identified early, and support put in place when needed, wherever that may be across the family of Havering maintained schools. It should be remembered that currently all LA maintained schools in Havering are judged by OFSTED to be Good or Outstanding.

Yours sincerely



Nick Carter Principal Finance Officer (Schools)

Proposed de-delegation of funding for core school improvement activities 2022-23

At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on Thursday 13th January 2022, the Local Authority maintained primary schools members were asked to approve the de-delegation of £5.11 per pupil for LA core school improvement statutory costs.

This paper provides LA maintained primary schools with further information regarding the purpose of the budget, the implications of not approving it, and options for the future when the grant is totally removed.

For context, Havering has historically received an annual 'School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant' of £169k, which the DfE have confirmed is to be reduced by 50% for the 2022-23 financial year, and then removed completely from 2023-24. The grant is provided to support councils in fulfilling their core improvement and statutory activities, including the statutory power to warn and intervene in schools causing concern, to understand the performance of maintained schools in their area, and work with them to explore ways to support progress.

Local Authorities already work closely with the Regional School Commissioner, diocese and other local partners to ensure schools receive the support they need, and where underperformance is recognised, work with the RSC to ensure the right approach, including warning notices and intervention powers. The Local Authority also encourages good and outstanding schools to take responsibility for their own improvement, to support other schools, and enable other schools to access the support they need.

In general, the statutory functions related to school improvement activity is delivered by a range of staff in the Havering School Improvement Service (HSIS), which is part of the Education Quality & Effectiveness team in the Education Services directorate. The grant represents a significant (26%) proportion of the total non-traded budget within HSIS, and any reduction in the overall budget would impact on the statutory services and support for schools.

The core improvement and statutory support received will vary between schools, based on performance and need, but can also vary over time. A school may not require additional support at present, but may do as circumstances change. A suitably funded school improvement service will help to ensure that schools requiring support are identified early, and support put in place when needed, wherever that may be across the family of Havering maintained schools.

The type of activity delivered through the grant is broadly defined under either *Quality Assurance* or *Safeguarding*, and further details for each aspect are shown below.

Quality Assurance and Schools Causing Concern;

The grant contributes towards the overall salary and on-costs for the Senior Inspector – Schools Causing Concern within HSIS, as well as other staff within HSIS and across the Education directorate who contribute to the monitoring and improvement activity and support. Below are the specific areas of support;

- Development and delivery of QA framework, which includes the provision of an annual QA support visit for all schools.
- Following up on any concerns or issues raised by leaders during the QA visit with other LA officers including those in other teams e.g. H&S, highways, catering, HR, etc.
- Provide regular updates to schools on OFSTED inspection practice/foci.

- Specific support for schools preparing for inspection, including pre-inspection briefings, support for subject leaders etc.
- Discussion with inspector and follow-up as needed with HT, including attendance at feedback meeting.
- Investigate and respond to school based Ofsted complaints within statutory timescales.
- Specific support for Schools Causing Concern;
 - Preparing for, and contributing at half-termly Schools Monitoring Group from officers across Education directorate, including HSIS, HGS, HR, Finance, Admissions, Attendance, Behaviour, CAD, School Organisation, Asset Management, H&S, to identify concerns and agree support arrangements.
 - Responsible for management of half-termly performance review meetings at each school causing concern, including attendance at any additional committees, such as finance and resources,
 - Arranging and brokering any additional support for school causing concern, including LA officers, school-to-school support, focussed visits etc.
 - Commissioning external advisers due to specific expertise required to support schools development plans.
 - Responsible for overseeing any additional support, including following-up on any specific reports, and getting feedback from the school being supported.
 - Providing information for LA School's finance lead for funding forums reports to ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Providing additional time to school causing concern, including regular keeping-in-touch conversations, reviewing and evaluating key documents, and providing feedback e.g. SSE/SDP/Subject plans.
 - Organising and arranging reviews in school causing concern including the involvement of LA officers from HSIS and other teams e.g. CAD, Early Years etc.
 - Writing and QA'ing reports following in school support e.g. reviews, working with leaders.
 - Following up on formal LA powers of intervention, including letters of concern or warning notices.
 - Brokering of formal federations, including support for legal processes, consultation papers, consultation support, support with meetings etc.
 - Support for placing of governors and selection of governors/new governor induction.
- Conduct regular analysis of results for reporting to schools, and elected members through Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- Supports HT by providing a single point of contact (HSIS QA Link Inspector), including regular contact through calls and emails, supporting them if they have failing teachers, issues with governors, problems with challenging parents etc.
- Attend regular meeting with diocese and/or RSC to discuss schools causing concern.
- Support HT recruitment process.
- Provide training for statutory moderation, including acting as assessment co-ordinator role, and assessment networks for schools.
- Supporting with visits to schools whilst end of key Stage statutory assessments taking place to ensure processes being followed correctly.
- Supporting STA investigations if required.

Safeguarding;

The grant contributes towards the overall salary and on-costs for the two Safeguarding Advisors within HSIS. Below are the specific areas of support;

- Deliver network meetings on a monthly/half-termly basis to all Havering schools with key updates and focused presentations from key safeguarding partners and agencies including HAST, Operation Encompass, Community Safety/DA Act 2021

updates, Prevent, RSHE, Child Abuse Linked to Faith & Belief, Neglect/Obesity etc.

- Regular liaison with Havering Safeguarding Children's Partnership training officer regarding any training needs/requests from schools.
- Provide regular DSL communications, including updates; warnings and advice in response to local and national events/concerns (including hoaxes etc.); training opportunities (e.g. HSCP courses and Prevent); key projects (e.g. Barnardo's/ Harmful Sexual Behaviours) etc.
- Provision of advice to all schools via telephone/email on a wide range of topics, including Safer Recruitment/SCR/DBS; issues around Parental Responsibility; CME; private fostering; peer-on-peer abuse etc.
- Attend regular meetings with LADO to discuss specific cases, including direct liaison with schools when a concern received by the LADO has not met threshold, but a discussion has been important.
- Investigate and respond to school based Ofsted safeguarding complaints within statutory timescales.
- Production of safeguarding training video for Governors, available through Governor Hub.
- Attend regular digital safeguarding meetings with to co-ordinate the LA on-line safety messages, including specific advice and guidance to schools.
- Complete quality assurance of S175 audits completed by schools.
- Co-ordination of external training, such as recent FGM training offered for all schools by an external consultant.
- Attendance at a range of meetings/panels, including:
 - HSCP
 - CSE
 - MACE
 - Missing
 - Contest
 - Channel
- Responsible for education input into the updating of social care safeguarding documents, including ensuring the threshold document is up to date and incorporates contextual risks/harm.
- Supporting information sharing across Safeguarding partners
- Liaison with key providers, including charities, regarding a range of projects for schools, including Barnardos /Harmful Sexual Behaviours, attendance at meetings, sharing communications with DSLs, chasing up participation.
- Liaison with commercial Concerns companies, including contacting CPOMS/My Concern on behalf of schools.
- Regularly updating a range of policies and guidance documents for use across Havering. In 2021, these included KCSIE 2021 with tracked changes; Safeguarding & CP policy; Equality policy; Whistleblowing policy; Safer Recruitment guidance; Transgender guidance; First Day Calling policy.
- Maintaining a list of safeguarding contacts, which is updated and distributed at least annually, and ongoing advice given to individual DSLs/schools around key contacts.
- S175 model audit pro-forma updated annually and sent to all schools and AP, which includes the template for the HT's safeguarding report to governors.

Other De-delegated Services:

The Local Authority recognises that this is a further request for funding from maintained schools, at a time when there are many competing pressures for budget. It is hoped that the information above provides greater clarity on how this grant has been used.

The Local Authority has completed some further analysis to show the overall impact of the wider de-delegated services on school budgets, and the table below shows the percentage of the ISB for the various de-delegated services;

Services de-delegated in Havering - percentage of ISB

	%
Insurance *	0.40
Maternity leave **	0.59
Trade Union facility time	0.06
EAL	0.12
Behaviour Support and Attendance services	0.24
Free school meal eligibility checking	0.03
Contingencies (schools in financial difficulty)	0.24
	1.68

Because insurance and cost of maternity are generally either deducted direct from the ESFA for academies, or are charged to individual academy budgets, the table below shows the overall impact on school budgets discounting these costs;

De-delegated services excluding insurance and maternity	0.69%
Education Functions costs subtracted from school budgets	0.39%
Total de-delegated (excl. insurance and maternity) and Education Functions	1.08%
Sums budgeted by schools for school improvement, finance, GS support, HR and payroll	1.41%
Total cost to school budgets of central service provision	2.49%

For comparison, MAT's top-slice for central support services range from 3% to 15%, although most average between 5-6%.

Impact of Not Approving De-delegation;

LA maintained primary schools members of the Funding Forum have been asked to approve the de-delegation of £5.11 per pupil for LA core school improvement statutory functions detailed above, and by approving this de-delegation, the functions can continue in their entirety.

If a decision is taken to not approve the de-delegation, then a number of services will have to cease, or be delivered differently, but this will ultimately be determined by elected Member priorities as to what is funded, or not. However, given the extent of the budget reduction, the following changes to services may be necessary;

Quality Assurance and Schools Causing Concern;

- Annual QA support visit only for maintained schools identified by HSIS as causing concern, with all other schools receiving a QA support visit every two years, based on Ofsted cycle.
- Specific support for Schools Causing Concern;
 - Half-termly performance review meetings at each school causing concern, would have to be charged as part of a traded package at the rate of £275 per half day, including attendance at any additional committees, such as finance and resources.
 - Additional support for school causing concern, such as focussed visits etc would have to be charged as part of a traded package at the rate of £275 per half day.
 - Any additional time to school causing concern for reviewing and evaluating key documents, writing and QA'ing reports, and providing feedback e.g.

SSE/SDP/Subject plans would have to be charged as part of a traded package at the rate of £275 per half day.

- Brokering of formal federations, including support for legal processes, consultation papers, consultation support, support with meetings etc would have to be charged as part of a traded package at the rate of £275 per half day.
- Single point of contact (HSIS QA Link Inspector) for HT would not continue, but schools could access generic support through a central email.
- Support for HT recruitment process would have to be charged as part of a traded package at rate of £275 per half day.

The types of interventions and brokered support for schools identified as causing concern may also have to change. For example, an alternative to establishing a performance review monitoring process would be for the Local Authority to engage with the RSC, who would identify potential brokerage to an existing Multi-Academy Trust.

Safeguarding;

- Network meetings would be held on a termly basis to all Havering schools, and DSL communications would be limited to termly updates, including warnings and advice in response to local and national events/concerns; training opportunities; key projects etc.
- Provision of advice to all schools would be limited to email only.
- Policies and guidance documents that are updated regularly would be charged as part of an updated traded package, including Safeguarding & CP policy; Equality policy; Whistleblowing policy; Safer Recruitment guidance; Transgender guidance; First Day Calling policy etc.

As a small service, staff in HSIS deliver functions across job portfolios, with permanent team members being part-traded and part-statutory. There is a risk that uncertainty would result in staff leaving the service, taking with them valuable expertise and experience. This would also impact on aspects of the traded offer as costs for external providers are much higher, and this cost would need to be passed on to schools. For example, if HSIS have to commission external providers to deliver CPD sessions, subject traded support, reviews, networks, SIP'ing, etc., then these traded services also then begin to lack alignment with the core statutory services.

Next Steps:

Schools will be aware that the Local Authority has recently announced that it is seeking to review the current QA framework, and schools are asked to participate in this review. This review will enable the Local Authority to identify the core statutory functions that need to remain, whilst also identifying activities that could be provided on a traded basis, or cease. This would ensure that the current level of de-delegation is not increased for 2023-24, and it is hoped that this could be reduced, or removed entirely as this would allow sufficient time for HSIS to transition their services.

As with other grants, such as the school-to-school support grant, expenditure and the impact will be reported through the appropriate Funding Forum meeting to ensure full transparency and accountability.