



SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM AGENDA

8.00 - 10.00 am	11 January 2024	CEME
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Members: 27 Quorum: 11

MEMBERSHIP:

Representative Groups

Head Teachers (12): Emma Allen, Special
Margy Bushell, Primary
Kirsten Cooper, Primary
Georgina Delmonte, Primary Maintained
David Denchfield, Primary
Ray Lawrence, AP Academy
Gary Pocock, Academy
Jan Taylor, Primary Headteachers
Keith Williams, Academy

Governors (7):

**Non-School
Representatives (4):**

Trade Unions (3): Mary Bickmore
Steve Bowers
Denise Broom
John Delaney, Trade Union
Hayley Durrant
Neil Frost
Peter Liddle, UNISON
John McGill, NASUWT
Kate Ridley-Moy, Primary Academy Governor
Representative
David Turrell
David Unwin-Bailey
Dave Waters, Primary Maintained School Governor
Representative

For information about the meeting please contact:
Katherine Heffernan nick.carter@havering.gov.uk 01708 433884

If you are unable to attend please contact your named substitute or ask Katherine Heffernan to do so on your behalf.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

2. TO AGREE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2023 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the notes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023 as a correct and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

4. SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2024-25 (Pages 7 - 11)

5. DE-DELEGATION OF CENTRAL SERVICES FOR 2024-25 (Pages 12 - 13)

6. TREATMENT OF MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS ADDITIONAL GRANT 2024-25, TEACHERS' PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT AND PUPIL PREMIUM 2024-25 (Pages 14 - 16)

7. HIGH NEEDS FUNDING 2024-25 (Pages 17 - 18)

8. CENTRAL SERVICES BLOCK 2024-25 (Pages 19 - 20)

9. DELIVERING BETTER VALUE IN HIGH NEEDS (Pages 21 - 22)

10. EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2024-25 (Pages 23 - 30)

11. NEXT MEETINGS

Future meetings have been arranged as follows:

8 February 2024

13 June 2024

Meetings to start at 8am at CEME room 233 or 235

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM

Thursday 30th November 2023 (8:00 – 9:10am)

Present:

Representative Groups

LA Maintained School Representatives:

Primary: Kirsten Cooper (Chair)
Georgina Delmonte
Hayley Durrant
Hayley McClenaghan
Pav Sharma
David Unwin Bailey

Special: Emma Allen

Academy Representatives:

Primary: Chris Hobson

Secondary Neil Frost
David Turrell (Vice Chair)

Alternative Provision: Tony Machin*

Non-School Representatives:

Early Years PVI Sector: Emma Reynolds

Trade Unions: John McGill (Teaching staff union representative)
Peter Liddle (Support staff union representative)

Non Members in attendance:

Angela Adams	Clerk, HGS
Nick Carter	Strategic Finance Manager
Trevor Cook	Assistant Director of Education
Marcus Bennett	Head of SEND
Katherine Heffernan	Head of Finance (Business Partnering)
Hany Moussa	Principal Education Finance Officer
Jacqueline Treacy	Senior Inspector (Schools Causing Concern)

*for part of the meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

All were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Denise Broom, Andy Smith and Chris Speller. Forum colleagues noted that Pav Sharma was attending as a substitute for Chris Speller.

Katherine Heffernan and Marcus Bennett from Havering were observing the meeting.

2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH OCTOBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2023 were agreed as a correct and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

4. SCHOOLS FUNDING CONSULTATION

Forum members were asked to

- (i) Consider the responses to the Consultation on Schools and High Needs Funding 2024-25 submitted by schools and academies**
- (ii) Agree that Option A, which included a transfer of 0.5% from the School Block to the High Needs Block, be used in the calculation of funding for 2024-25**
- (iii) Consider whether any action was required following the results of the consultation and prior to the Local Authority receiving final funding allocations from the Department for Education later this month**

Forum members noted that following the last meeting, the Local Authority (LA) had consulted on the two options proposed. 29 responses had been received which equated to 38% of the total eligible to vote, 72.4% or 21 voted for Option A and 27.6% or 8 voted for Option B. It was noted that Option A was the Local Authority's preference as this allowed for greater flexibility. A breakdown of the responses were listed in Appendix B and feedback was listed under Appendix D.

H McClenaghan stated that she was surprised that more schools didn't respond. It was questioned what could be done to increase responses, there had been a short turnaround time but if you left it for too long people tended to forget to reply. It was suggested that a reminder could be sent and reminders could be given at cluster meetings. A calendar notification could also be sent.

However, it was agreed that for some schools either option would not have made much difference.

The final DSG allocation for 2024-25 would be available from the DfE around 18th December 2023.

The Schools Funding Forum:

- **Noted** the consultation responses
- **Agreed unanimously** to move forward with Option A

The next steps were noted and final proposals, based on Option A, for 2024-25 allocations would be brought to the meeting of the Forum on 11th January 2024.

5. NOTIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) FUNDING 2024-25

Forum members were asked to agree the revised calculation on notional SEN budgets for 2024-25

Forum members were advised that the proportion of the notional budget for SEN was calculated by a formula. The current formula used by the LA was based on the initial concept roll-out of the National Funding Formula. As part of the movement towards greater uniformity for notional SEN, the DfE are adopting prescriptive minimum funding levels for notional SEN within LA's funding formula.

Havering LA's notional SEN in the funding formula was low, when compared to the national average. The LA had also looked at other LAs for comparison and found that they had used 100% of Low Prior Attainment funding for notional SEN. However, Forum members had commented at the previous Forum meeting, that the factor should not be exclusively attributed for SEN, and did not agree to the proposal.

Following the comments from Forum members, the LA was now proposing that notional SEN funding for 2024-25 was calculated as follows. This revised proposal still met the DfE expectation that '*the majority or whole*' of the low prior attainment factor was attributed to notional SEN.

- 1.5% of basic entitlement funding
- 35.0% of deprivation funding (excluding current FSM)
- 35.0% of funding for English as an Additional Language
- 35.0% of funding for mobility
- 70.0% of low prior attainment for primary schools
- 70.0% of low prior attainment for secondary schools

It was questioned if there would be more pressure on Headteachers to demonstrate the spend by the DfE of Ofsted. In response, it was noted that the funding was not ring-fenced. However, the notional SEN funding would be higher than before which would be shown on the APT return. There was a potential risk that eventually this funding could be transferred to High Needs or ring-fenced, but there would probably be a national consultation before this happened. It was noted that there was a growth in High Needs across the country but once the SEN review had been completed, more information would be shared.

Forum members **agreed** the proposed formula for calculation of notional SEN funding.

6. DE-DELEGATION OF CENTRAL SERVICES FOR 2024-25

(1) LA maintained primary school forum members were asked to agree the de-delegation of funding for the following services to schools:

- (i) Insurance
- (ii) Free School Meals Eligibility checking
- (iii) Maternity Leave insurance
- (iv) Trade Union Facility Time
- (v) EAL Service
- (vi) Behaviour Support Service

There was brief discussion of these services. Forum members commented that it would have been useful to see the equivalent Academy SLA for the requested de-delegated services.

It was queried on whether Behaviour Support should be included in the Early Help offer as Headteachers felt that school staff were sometimes undertaking tasks that should be provided by the Early Help service. There was also discussion of how the Early Help service could be accessed to support schools.

Members commented that for the Behaviour Support Service, over the course of the next financial year, feedback will be provided on whether the service has had the necessary impact required to support schools, otherwise the de-delegation for the Behaviour Support Service may not continue in future years.

LA maintained primary school forum members voted as follows:

- (i) Insurance – **De-delegation agreed**
- (ii) Free school meals eligibility checking – **De-delegation agreed**
- (iii) Maternity leave insurance – **De-delegation agreed**
- (iv) Trade Union Facility Time – **De-delegation agreed**
- (v) EAL service – **De-delegation agreed**
- (vi) Behaviour support service – **De-delegation agreed**

(2) LA maintained primary and special school representatives were asked to agree the de-delegation of funding for the following Central Education Services:

- (i) Statutory and regulatory duties
- (ii) Core school improvement activities

Tony Machin joined the meeting at this point

LA maintained primary and special school representatives voted as follows:

- (i) Statutory and regulatory duties – **De-delegation agreed**
- (ii) Core school improvement activities – **Deferred to meeting of 11th January 2024**. See notes below for further details on deferral.

Eligible forum members voted as follows:

- 3 agreed
- 3 against
- 1 abstained – this cluster had not discussed this in full

It was noted that this element of the de-delegation had been discussed in cluster A and it was felt that there was some confusion. It was clarified that this funding was distinct from the funding offered to specific schools in difficulty. This delegation was needed to fund the new quality assurance programme providing monitoring and support, formerly funded by the discontinued SIMB Grant.

It was noted that cluster F had discussed this and the general consensus had been that a buy in service would be preferable.

The service provided from de-delegated funds would remain unchanged from the current year as laid out in Item 9 Appendix D of the School Forum agenda for 21st September 2023.

It was agreed to go back to the cluster groups to review this due to the confusion and the one abstention.

A decision would be needed by 11th January 2024 (the next funding forum meeting).

It was agreed that forum members would go back to their cluster to clarify the position and then feedback to the Chair and K Heffernan (Katherine.Heffernan@haverling.gov.uk).

A final vote for de-delegation of Core school improvement activities would take place at the next meeting.

ACTION: Applicable forum members / K Heffernan / Chair

7. KEY STAGE 2 ADMISSIONS

Forum members were asked to note the report.

It was noted that the report outlined the funding for Key Stage 1 admissions that took the school over their Published Admission Number (PAN) and explained why similar arrangements could not be applied in Key Stage 2 as it does not meet the criteria set out in regulations.

During the discussion a few Forum members stated that they had had problems accessing this funding. In response they were advised to follow the process for funding and email the dedicated officer in Education Finance in Havering. Once the request has been received by the LA, the funding was normally released once a term.

It was noted that in the upcoming academic year of 2024-25, the Year 3 and 4 cohorts would be an issue with regards to the number of places needed.

Forum members **noted** the report.

8. NEXT MEETINGS

Future meetings have been arranged as follows:

11 January 2024
8 February 2024
13 June 2024

Meetings to start at 8:00 a.m. at CEME room 233 or 235.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. EYFS funding rates at national and LA level had been announced the previous day for 2024 -25 and although there had been an increase in the funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, the level of funding was still a concern especially with the impact the pay increments would have.
- 9.2. Further work and modelling by Havering LA's Education Finance team was required before the options for Havering providers could be agreed. The figures would be available in January 2024.
- 9.3. An announcement with regards to funding for capital works would be made later in the week.
- 9.4. Forum members noted that this would be N Carter's last meeting and day working for Havering Local Authority. Nick was thanked for all his support to the schools over the years. His expertise and knowledge made him valuable to all. Nick always responded to emails quickly and supported Headteachers and Governing Bodies with kindness and acknowledgement.

All agreed Nick would be missed but all wished him a long and happy retirement.

Nick thanked all and stated that he had enjoyed working with the schools and the Schools Forum, everyone worked collaboratively and supported each other. Views were always expressed in a positive way.

Meeting closed at 9:10am.



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 4

Subject Heading:

Schools Funding Formula 2024-25

Report Author:

Hany Moussa – Principal Finance Officer

Eligibility to vote:

All school and academy members

SUMMARY

This report details the Local Authority's recommendations on the funding of Havering's schools and academies for the financial year 2024-25, following release of the October 2023 census data and Schools Block allocation by the DfE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum agrees that:

- (i) Havering adopts the national funding formula rates for the funding of schools and academies in financial year 2024-25 with a minimum funding guarantee of 0.50% per pupil and a gains cap of 2.50%
- (ii) £1,188,080 (0.50%) of the DSG Schools Block is transferred to the DSG High Needs Block
- (iii) £146,444 of the DSG Schools Block is used to support Pupil Growth and Falling rolls in addition to the £2,065,774 funding received for this

REPORT DETAIL

1. Schools Block Funding 2023-24

In July 2023 the Department for Education (DfE) released indicative funding allocations for 2024-25 using 2024-25 National Funding Formula (NFF) rates but with data values taken from the October 2022 census.

However, on 6th October 2023 the DfE published revised provisional allocations for 2024-25 for the schools National Funding Formula (NFF). The DfE uncovered an error made by officials during the initial calculations of the NFF.

The revised October 2023 NFF allocations resulted in a fall of £2.1m in the provisional funding allocation for Havering, and the consultation proposals were based on the revised allocation.

Following discussion at the Schools' Funding Forum, schools were consulted on two funding options for 2024-25. The results of the consultation were presented to the Schools' Funding Forum at the meeting held on 30th November 2023. 72% of respondents favoured Option A, which was:

- A transfer of 0.50% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block of the of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- High Needs funding rates for 2023-24 retained as the base rate for 2024-25
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) set at 0.50%
- A gains cap of 2.40%
- £500,000 moved to the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Fund

On 19th December 2023 the DfE issued the revised DSG Schools Block allocation to local authorities and the data from the October 2023 census for LAs to use in calculating their final proposals for funding schools.

There has been an increase in pupil numbers between October 2022 and October 2023 resulting in an increase in the LA's allocation of DSG Schools Block for 2024-25 as follows:

Funding for 2024-25 through the DSG Schools Block:

Financial year	Pupil Numbers	Schools Block allocation excluding pupil growth and premises factors £	Allocation through premises factors £	Mainstream School Additional Grant * £	Total allocation (excluding pupil growth) £	Allocation per pupil £
2024-25	39,654.0	233,444,021	2,106,176	-	235,550,197	5,940
2024-25 indicative	38,898.0	228,849,983	2,106,175	-	230,956,158	5,937
2023-24	38,898.0	217,322,297	2,440,293	7,479,093	227,241,683	5,842
Difference 2023-24 to 2024-25	756.0	16,121,724	-334,117	-7,479,093	8,308,514	98
	1.94%				3.66%	1.68%

* Mainstream School Additional Grant 2023-24 consolidated into Schools Block allocation for 2024-25

The table below shows how the final funding figure is calculated. The DfE calculated funding using NFF factors for 2024-25 but with October 2022 data. The total calculated for primary and secondary schools was then divided by the number of pupils in each sector at October 2022. This produced a primary unit of funding (PUF) and a secondary unit of funding (SUF). The final funding figure released in December is calculated by multiplying the PUF and SUF by the number of pupils on roll in each sector at the October 2023 census.

Financial year	Actual primary unit of funding (PUF) £	Actual secondary unit of funding (SUF) £	Primary pupil numbers	Secondary pupil numbers	Pupil Funding £	Premises Factor £	Mainstream School Additional Grant * £	Total Funding (excluding pupil growth) £
2024-25	5,171	6,981	23,963.5	15,690.5	233,444,021	2,106,176	-	235,550,197
2024-25 indicative	5,171	6,981	23,584.0	15,314.0	228,849,983	2,106,175	-	230,956,158
2023-24	4,912	6,627	23,584.0	15,314.0	217,322,297	2,440,293	7,479,093	227,241,683
Difference 2023-24 to 2024-25	259	354	379.5	376.5	16,121,724	-334,117	-7,479,093	8,308,514
								3.66%

* Mainstream Schools Additional Grant 2023-24 consolidated into Schools Block allocation for 2024-25

Havering's total allocation for 2024-25, excluding funding for growth, has increased by £8.31m (3.66%) compared to 2023-24. The increase in pupil numbers of 756 accounts for £3.81m (1.68%) of this.

The Total Schools Block funding including funding for pupil growth is as follows:

Financial year	Pupil Funding £	Premises Factors £	Pupil Growth £	Total £
2024-25	233,444,021	2,106,176	2,065,774	237,615,971

The pupil growth funding allocation for 2023-24 of £2,065,774 is £30,450 higher than figure for 2023-24 and £277,236 higher than the LA estimate used in the calculation of indicative school budget shares.

Financial year	Funding £
2024-25	2,065,774
2024-25 LA estimate	1,788,538
Difference 2024-25 actual to LA estimate	277,236

2023-24	2,035,324
Difference 2023-24 to 2024-25	30,450

The funding received for growth is used to meet both the cost of growth and the cost of support for falling rolls. The LA estimated that £500k would need to be transferred from the School Block in order to maintain funding to schools at previous levels. This was the figure agreed by the Schools Funding Forum at the meeting on 19th October 2023 and used in the consultation with schools.

Following re-calculation, using October 2023 pupil numbers, the LA estimates that £2.212m is required to maintain funding for growth and falling rolls at previous levels. With the increase in funding from the DfE to £2,065,774, only £146,444 now needs to be transferred from the Schools Block and not £500,000 as used when calculating provisional allocations.

2. Formula allocation of 2024-25 Schools Block

School funding allocations for 2024-25 were re-calculated using the October 2023 data set released by the DfE.

In line with Option A of the funding consultation:

- 0.50% (£1,188,080) was transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block
- the Minimum Funding Guarantee was set at 0.50%
- a gains cap of 2.40% was applied

and

- The reduced figure of £146,444 was transferred to the Pupil Growth and Falling Rolls Fund

This resulted in an overall position as follows:

MFG 0.5%, Gains cap 2.4%	£
Total Schools Block as above	237,615,971
Less: transfer to High Needs	-1,188,080
Less: required for growth DfE allocation	-2,065,774
Less: additional sum required for growth	-146,444
Schools Block available	234,215,673
Allocated through formula	234,113,571
Unallocated	102,102

The £102,102 unallocated provided scope for the gains cap to be increased. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) had already been set at the highest level permitted by the DfE. With the gains cap set at 2.50% the overall position is as follows:

MFG 0.5%, Gains cap 2.50%	£
Schools Block available	234,215,673
Allocated through formula	234,215,673
Unallocated reserve	-

The LA is proposing that the gains cap is set at 2.50%.

The table below shows the number of schools subject to MFG, or a gains cap in:

- (i) the provisional calculations with an MFG of 0.50% and a gains cap of 2.40%
- (ii) the final calculations with an MFG of 0.50% and a gains cap of 2.40%
- (iii) the final calculations with an MFG of 0.50% and a gains cap of 2.50%.

Option	MFG	Cap	No. of schools on MPPL		No. of schools on MFG		No of schools capped		Cost of MFG £000s	Saving from cap £000s
			Prim.	Sec.	Prim.	Sec.	Prim.	Sec.		
Provisional	0.5%	2.4%	1	0	2	1	31	12	103	863
Final	0.5%	2.4%	1	0	3	0	31	8	63	1,768
Final	0.5%	2.5%	1	0	3	0	30	8	63	1,665

The formula on which schools are to be funded in 2024-25 has to be submitted to the DfE by 22nd January 2024. The LA is proposing to submit a formula using the NFF formula and funding factors, with an MFG of 0.50%, a gains cap of 2.50% and the use of £146k to support the pupil growth fund.

Agenda Item 5



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

De-delegation of funding for central services 2024-25

Report Author:

Hany Moussa – Principal Finance Officer

Eligibility to vote:

LA maintained school representatives

SUMMARY

This item considers the de-delegation of funding, to maintain the provision of a range of services provided centrally and for statutory and regulatory duties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For LA maintained primary and special school representatives to agree the de-delegation of funding for the following:
 - (i) Core school improvement activities

REPORT DETAIL

The de-delegation of funding for central services was an agenda item at the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum held on 21st September 2023 with Trade Union facility time added at the meeting on 19th October 2023.

Forum members discussed all the areas proposed for de-delegation with schools in their clusters, and feedback was provided at the Schools Funding Forum held on 30th November 2023, with the majority of de-delegation agreed by Forum members and their clusters.

For de-delegation for Core school improvement activities, Forum members were invited to go back to their clusters to provide further details in respect of the activities that this provision would be supporting schools with. Forum members are to provide feedback from those meetings, so that a decision can be reached on whether this service is approved for de-delegation.

Education functions for which de-delegation is requested – applicable to LA maintained primary and special schools only

1. Core school improvement activities

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

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 School Forums or the Secretary of State.

For 2024-25, the LA is seeking de-delegation at an unchanged rate of £5.11 per pupil. This generates 50% of the total DfE grant withdrawn. The service provided from de-delegated funds would remain unchanged from the current year as laid out in Item 9 Appendix D of the School Forum agenda for 21st September 2023.

2024-25	Primary	Special
Formula factor	AWPU	Place
Amount	£5.11	£15.33
Total	£88,300	£2,400

2023-24	£5.11	£15.33
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Agenda Item 6



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 6

Subject Heading:

**Treatment of Mainstream Schools
Additional Grant 2024-25, Teachers Pay
Additional Grant and Pupil Premium
2024-25**

Report Author:

**Katherine Heffernan – Head of Finance
Business Partnering, Hany Moussa –
Principal Finance Officer**

Eligibility to vote:

Information only

SUMMARY

This report provides details of the treatment of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant 2023-24 which was rolled into the main funding formula and also the rates for Teachers' Pay Additional Grant and the Pupil Premium in 2024-25

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the treatment of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant in 2024-25
- (ii) notes the funding rates for the Teachers Pay Additional Grant 2024-25
- (iii) notes the funding rates for the Pupil Premium for 2024-25

REPORT DETAIL

1. Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) Update

In the 2022 Autumn Statement it was announced that the core school budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023-24 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.

In the 2023-24 financial year, mainstream schools were allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) and another proportion was available for high needs.

In the 2024-25 financial year this money has been rolled into the national funding formula as described in Item 6 of the September Forum. The grant will not therefore be payable separately.

2 Teachers Pay Additional Grant funding rates 2024-25

In July 2023 the Government announced £525m to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award with a further £900m in 2024-25. This funding will be allocated through the Teachers' Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) in both financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, before being consolidated into the National Funding Formula for 2025-26. Academies will receive an additional payment to cover the period April to August 2025.

Funding rates for Havering schools will include an Area Cost Adjustment of 1.08352 (mainstream) or 1.08911 (High Needs) and will be as follows:

Factor	National rate £	Havering rate £
Per pupil primary (including reception)	62.00	67.18
Per pupil KS3	86.00	93.18
Per pupil KS4	98.00	106.18
Lump sum	2,306.00	2,498.60
FSM ever 6 primary	53.00	57.43
FSM ever 6 secondary	77.00	83.43
Special School per place	446.00	485.74

Allocations will be calculated using data from the October 2023 school census. School level allocations will be published in May 2024. The indicative total funding figure for Havering schools and academies, estimated by the LA is around £3.8m. Funding should be received by schools in June and November 2024.

An estimate of funding by the LA shows primary schools in Havering receiving between £8k and £65k, with a median amount of £34k, and secondary schools receiving between £36k and £145k, with a median amount of £103k.

3 Pupil Premium 2024-25

Funding rates for the Pupil Premium in the financial year 2023-24 will increase by around 15% and will be as follows:

Category	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
Primary FSM6 pupils	1,455	1,480
Secondary FSM6 pupils	1,035	1,050
Looked After (LAC) and Previously Looked After (Post LAC)	2,530	2,570
Service children	335	340



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 7

Subject Heading:

High Needs Funding 2024-25

Report Author:

Hany Moussa – Principal Finance Officer

Eligibility to vote:

Information only

SUMMARY

This report provides details of the 2024-25 National Funding Formula allocation for High Needs following the DfE's announcement on 19th December 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block formula allocation for financial year 2024-25

REPORT DETAIL

1. High Needs Block National Funding Formula allocation 2024-25

The High Needs Block for 2024-25 is based on the National Funding Formula (NFF) figures released in July 2023 and reported to the Schools Funding Forum at the meeting held on 21st September 2023.

On 19th December 2023, the DfE issued the updated DSG High Needs Block allocation to local authorities.

Funding for 2024-25 through the DSG High Needs Block National Funding Formula:

Funding factor	2024-25		2023-24	Change 2023-24 to 2024-25 final	
	Final £	Indicative £	£	£	%
(A) Basic entitlement factor	2,187,440	2,182,364	2,184,830	2,610	0.1%
(B) Historic spend factor	11,194,567	11,194,567	11,194,567	0	0.0%
(C) Population factor	16,844,191	16,844,191	14,827,294	2,016,897	13.6%
(D) FSM factor	2,855,486	2,855,486	2,516,005	339,481	13.5%
(E) IDACI factor	3,002,258	3,002,258	2,656,963	345,295	13.0%
(F) Bad health factor	2,378,191	2,378,191	1,915,753	462,438	24.1%
(G) Disability factor	2,114,552	2,114,552	1,865,226	249,326	13.4%
(H) KS2 low attainment factor	1,954,795	1,954,795	1,550,097	404,698	26.1%
(I) KS4 low attainment factor	2,119,261	2,119,261	1,823,617	295,644	16.2%
(J) Funding floor factor	0	0	0	0	-
(K) Gains limit factor	-29,672	-29,672	0	-29,672	-
(L) Hospital education, AP teachers pay/pension and supplementary funding factor	143,850	143,850	140,718	3,132	2.2%
(M1) Import/export adjustment	-1,830,000	-1,830,000	-1,638,000	-192,000	11.7%
(M2) New and growing special free schools	24,000	24,000	36,000	-12,000	-33.3%
Additional Grant – Autumn Statement	0	0	1,760,760	-1,760,760	-
Total funding	42,958,919	42,953,843	40,833,830	2,125,089	5.2%

It should be noted that the figures shown are before DfE recoupment for the direct funding of academies and other non maintained institutions.

The total increase in high needs funding for 2024-25 of £2.1m should be considered alongside a projected cumulative deficit of £16m in the high needs block at the end of the 2023-24 financial year.



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 8

Subject Heading:

Central Schools Services Block 2024-25

Report Author:

Hany Moussa – Principal Finance Officer

Eligibility to vote:

All school and academy members

SUMMARY

This report is to inform the Schools Funding Forum of the final allocation received for the Dedicated Schools Block Central Schools Services Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the funding received and agrees that the additional sum in the final allocation is held as a contingency.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Dedicated Schools Grant - Central School Services Block 2024-25

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is allocated on the basis of the per-pupil rates and historic commitments announced in July 2023. The final allocation uses pupil numbers from the October 2023 census.

Funding for 2024-25 through the DSG CSSB is as follows:

Year	Ongoing responsibilities			Historical commitments	Total CSSB
	Pupil nos.	Per pupil £	£	£	£
2024-25	39,654.0	41.67	1,652,383	94,206	1,746,589
2024-25 indicative	38,897.5	41.67	1,621,025	94,206	1,715,231
2023-24	38,897.5	40.57	1,578,072	117,757	1,695,829
Difference 2023-24 to 2023-24	756.5	1.10	74,311	-23,551	50,760
Difference 2024-25 indicative to 2024-25	756.5	0.00	31,358	0	31,358

The services that the LA can fund from the CSSB are set out in the Operational Guidance on DSG allocations issued by the DfE. The Schools Funding Forum gave approval to the use of the ongoing responsibilities and historical commitments funding, based on the indicative allocations, at the meeting held on 21st September 2023. Details are shown below.

Ongoing responsibilities	2024-25 indicative £
Copyright licences	230,000
Admissions	524,380
Schools Forum	45,662
LA responsibilities to all schools	761,019
Pension funding	59,964
Total	1,621,025

Historical commitments	
Schools Partnerships/Schools Causing Concern	94,206
Total	1,715,231

Final funding for CSSB services	1,746,589
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The copyright licence fees for local authorities are normally announced alongside the schools funding settlement in December. This has been delayed by the DfE as negotiations are still ongoing with some of the copyright management organisations for new agreements and will stretch into the new year. This means the DfE will announce the applicable charges for the copyright licence at a later date.

Therefore, the LA is proposing that the provisional agreed distribution that was agreed in the September 2023 remaining unchanged. The additional CSSB allocation of £31,358 being earmarked to support any increase as a result of the final DfE charges being released for the National Copyright Licence, with any remaining balance to be held as contingency.



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 9

Subject Heading:

Delivering Better Value in High Needs

Report Author:

**Katherine Heffernan – Head of Finance
Business Partnering**

Eligibility to vote:

Information only

SUMMARY

This report provide an update on the Delivering Better Value in High Needs programme

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum

- (i) Notes the update on the DSG Management Plan to this group

REPORT DETAIL

Delivering Best Value (DBV) in High Needs Update

Trevor Cook provided an update on the DBV programme to all head teachers at the Education Strategic Briefing held on 14th September 2023. This paper gives a brief update on work since then.

The LA submitted a grant application for £1m to the DfE, the maximum sum permitted. This bid was accepted and funding of £1m was awarded to be split over two financial years (£333.3k in 2023-24 and the remaining £666.7k in 2024-25).

The workstreams to be funded by the grant are:

- Building parental confidence
- Establishing a multi-agency Inclusion Peer Review Team
- Increase capacity of professionals on the ground.
- Co-produced training

These actions are expected to produce a mitigation impact through ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the child can be met in the most appropriate and inclusive setting which also provides better value for money – in mainstream rather than special schools and in maintained schools rather than the independent sector.

However the projected savings although significant are lower than the potential pressure on the High Needs Block. As part of the DBV process the LA has been required to submit revised forward forecasts of the projected deficit by 2026-27. A prudent but realistic projection is a cumulative deficit of £91m which could be reduced to £83m through the delivery of the management plan.

The DfE will be considering our submission as well as those of other authorities in similar situations in early January.



Schools Funding Forum 11th January 2024

ITEM 10

Subject Heading:

Early Years Funding 2024-25

Report Author:

Hany Moussa – Principal Finance Officer

Eligibility to vote:

Information only

SUMMARY

This report summarises the announcement of indicative DSG Early Years Block funding for financial year 2024-25 and outlines the process for the Local Authority to determine early years funding rates for the next financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the indicative funding allocations for 2024-25
- (ii) notes the process and timeline for determining funding rates for 2024-25

REPORT DETAIL

1 Funding arrangements for 2023-24

The funding rates for 2023-24 for providers in Havering were originally agreed in February 2023. At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on 15th June 2023 details were provided of additional funding for Early Years announced in the spring budget. These were:

- An additional £204m for 2023-24
- An additional £288m for 2024-25

At the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on 21st September 2023, detail was provided on how the additional funding will impact on the rates that was previously agreed for the current financial year. The DfE prescribed that all additional funding is passed on to providers in the form of supplementary rates for the autumn and spring terms.

Funding rates for 2023-24:

Funding Factor	Funded age of the child	2023-24 Funding Rate Apr-23 to Mar-24 SU23/AU23/SP24	2023-24 Early Years Supplementary Grant Funding Rate Sep-23 to Mar-24 AU23/SP24
Factor 1 Base rate	Two year olds (includes an in-built deprivation rate)	£6.46 per hour	£2.12 per hour
	Three and four year olds Universal 15 hours funding Extended 30 hours funding	£5.34 per hour	£0.19 per hour
Factor 2 Deprivation Funding rate	Three and four year olds	IDACI A - £0.77 per hour IDACI B - £0.58 per hour IDACI C - £0.55 per hour IDACI D - £0.50 per hour IDACI E - £0.32 per hour IDACI F - £0.26 per hour	n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a
Factor 3 Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	Three and four year olds	£0.62 per hour	£0.04 per hour
Factor 4 Disability Access Funding (DAF)	Three and four year olds	£828 per annum	£30.92 per annum
Factor 5 Inclusion Fund	Two, Three and Four year olds SENIF/EIF	£5.34 per hour	n/a
	Two year olds Complex Needs/EHCP	£4.70 per hour*	n/a
	Three and Four year olds Complex Needs/EHCP	£5.82 per hour*	n/a

* This is the sum required to bring the total hourly funding for a child to £16.50. This is the hourly rate paid in support of an EHCP for a pupil in Years R -11.

2 Indicative Early Years Block allocation 2024-25

As part of the expansion of funding childcare, announced in the Spring 2023 Budget, under two year olds and two year olds, of working parents, will be funded up to 15 hours at different points from financial year 2024-25.

This funding forms part of the roll-out of the expansion programme, where central government's objective is to provide 30 hours of funded entitlement for children from 9 months to 4 years old of eligible working parents.

The funding rates for Havering for 2024-25 are as follows:

Age	2023-24 total rate £	2024-25 total rate £	Change £	Change %
Under 2 year olds	n/a	12.11	12.11	n/a

Age	2023-24 EYNFF* rate £	2023-24 EYSG** rate £	2023-24 total rate £	2024-25 total rate £	Change £	Change %
2 year olds	6.52	2.12	8.64	8.90	0.26	3.0

Age	2023-24 EYNFF* rate £	2023-24 EYSG** rate £	2022-23 TPPG*** rate £	2023-24 TPPG*** rate £	2023-24 total rate £	2024-25 total rate £	Change £	Change %
3/4 year olds	5.65	0.19	0.07	0.07	5.98	6.16	0.18	3.0

* EYNFF – Early Years National Funding Formula

** EYSG – Early Years Supplementary Grant

*** TPPG – Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants

The 2023-24 total funding rate for 3&4 year olds is £5.98. This incorporates the Early Years Supplementary Grant of 19p and the grants for teachers' pay and pensions from 2022-23 and 2023-24, which was previously paid separately in each of the applicable years to maintained schools with nurseries, totalling 14p. The funding rate for 2024-25, which incorporates the previous grants is £6.16, a rise of 18p (3.0%), which is to support the National Living Wage (NLW) increases.

Indicative allocations for 2024-25 have been calculated by applying the 2024-25 hourly funding rates to January 2023 data.

2.1 The table below shows a comparison between the indicative figures for 2024-25 and the indicative figures for 2023-24 released in December of each of the respective years that the final DSG allocations have been released.

Category	2024-25	2023-24	Change in numbers	Change £	Change %
Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from early years national funding formula (£ / hr)	6.16	5.72	-	0.44	7.69%
Number for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	4,096.42	4,207.01	-110.59	-	-2.63%
Indicative funding allocation for universal entitlement (15 hours) for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	14,383,350	13,716,535	-	666,815	4.86%
Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from early years national funding formula (£ / hr)	6.16	5.72	-	0.44	7.69%
Number for 3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents (part-time equivalent)	1,832.76	1,795.88	36.88	-	2.05%
Indicative funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	6,435,187	5,855,287	-	579,900	9.90%
Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)	8.90	6.52	-	2.38	36.50%
Number for 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	505.14	533.34	-28.20	-	-5.29%
Indicative funding allocation for 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	2,562,576	1,982,105	-	580,471	29.29%
Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	128,602	120,365	-	8,237	6.84%
Funding allocation for disability access fund for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	138,320	112,608	-	25,712	22.83%
Sub-total Early Years Block (£s) - Existing Entitlements	23,648,035	21,786,900	-	1,861,135	8.54%
Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)	8.90	-	-	8.90	NEW
Estimated number for 2 year old entitlement for working parents (part-time equivalent)	1,119.28	-	1,119.28	-	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for 2 year old working parent entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	5,678,108	-	-	5,678,108	-
Hourly rate for under 2s entitlement (£ / hr)	12.11	-	-	12.11	NEW
Estimated number for under 2s entitlement (part-time equivalent)	567.09	-	567.09	-	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for under 2s entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	3,914,453	-	-	3,914,453	-

Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for 2 year olds (£s)	71,160.00	-	-	71,160.00	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for under 2s (£s)	3,559.00	-	-	3,559.00	NEW
Funding allocation for disability access fund for 2 year olds (£s)	39,130.00	-	-	39,130.00	NEW
Funding allocation for disability access fund for under 2s (£s)	15,470.00	-	-	15,470.00	NEW

Sub-total early years block (£s) - NEW Entitlements	9,721,880	-	-	9,721,880	NEW
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Total early years block (£s)	33,369,915	21,786,900	-	11,583,015	53.17%
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The indicative figures for 2024-25 include the funding added into the hourly rate to replace the EYSG Grant and the teachers' pay and pension grants.

2.2 The table below shows a comparison between the indicative figures for 2024-25 and the indicative figures for 2023-24 adjusted to include funding for the additional grants.

Category	2024-25	2023-24 inc Grants	Change in numbers	Change £	Change %
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Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from early years national funding formula (£ / hr)	6.16	5.98	-	0.18	3.01%
Number for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	4,096.42	4,207.01	-110.59	-	-2.63%
Indicative funding allocation for universal entitlement (15 hours) for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	14,383,350	14,340,014	-	43,336	0.30%

Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from early years national funding formula (£ / hr)	6.16	5.98	-	0.18	3.01%
Number for 3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents (part-time equivalent)	1,832.76	1,795.88	36.88	-	2.05%
Indicative funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	6,435,187	6,121,437	-	313,750	5.13%

Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)	8.90	8.64	-	0.26	3.01%
Number for 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	505.14	533.34	-28.2	-	-5.29%
Indicative funding allocation for 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	2,562,576	2,626,593	-	-64,017	-2.44%

Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	128,602	124,778	-	3,824	3.06%
Funding allocation for disability access fund for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	138,320	116,814	-	21,506	18.41%

Sub-total Early Years Block (£s) - Existing Entitlements	23,648,035	23,329,636	-	318,399	1.36%
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Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)	8.9	-	-	8.9	NEW
Estimated number for 2 year old entitlement for working parents (part-time equivalent)	1,119.28	-	1,119.28	-	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for 2 year old working parent entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	5,678,108	-	-	5,678,108	-

Hourly rate for under 2s entitlement (£ / hr)	12.11	-	-	12.11	NEW
Estimated number for under 2s entitlement (part-time equivalent)	567.09	-	567.09	-	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for under 2s entitlement (15 hours) (£s)	3,914,453	-	-	3,914,453	-

Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for 2 year olds (£s)	71,160.00	-	-	71,160.00	NEW
Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium for under 2s (£s)	3,559.00	-	-	3,559.00	NEW
Funding allocation for disability access fund for 2 year olds (£s)	39,130.00	-	-	39,130.00	NEW
Funding allocation for disability access fund for under 2s (£s)	15,470.00	-	-	15,470.00	NEW

Sub-total early years block (£s) - NEW Entitlements	9,721,880	-	-	9,721,880	NEW
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Total early years block (£s)	33,369,915	23,329,636	-	10,040,279	43.04%
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The indicative allocations for the **existing entitlements** for 2024-25 will be updated as follows:

- July 2024 - updated based on January 2024 census numbers
- July 2025 - updated based on five-twelfths of the January 2024 census numbers (to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024 period), and seven-twelfths of the January 2025 census numbers (to cover September 2024 to March 2025)

The indicative allocations for the **new entitlements** for 2024-25 will be updated on the basis of actual take-up for each term, collected through 2 additional headcounts. Every local authority will have to provide the DfE with these additional headcounts for 2024 summer and 2024 autumn terms. This is in addition to the yearly spring census (January 2025) that LAs provide as part of the current arrangements.

Further information about the termly collections will be released in early 2024 by the DfE. Provisional dates that the DfE have advised that the headcounts will occur are as follows:

- June 2024
- November 2024

3 Determining funding rates for providers 2024-25

For 2024 to 2025, the 95% pass-through requirement will apply separately to each individual entitlement for:

- 9 months old, up to 2-year-olds of working parents (under two year olds)
- 2 year old children of working parents
- 2 year-old children from disadvantaged families
- 3 and 4 year olds (universal and additional hours)

For 3 and 4 year olds, there is no change to current arrangements, and the pass-through requirement will apply to the universal and additional hours in combination.

Whereas, for 2 year olds and under two year olds, the requirement will apply to each of the entitlements individually.

If a local authority intends on having a single funding formula for both of the 2 year old entitlement funding streams (children of working parents and children from disadvantaged families), the pass through will have to be calculated separately for each of these. The DfE have set these arrangements to prevent cross-subsidisation between the working parent formula and the disadvantaged formula.

The Local Authority is planning to meet with the Early Years Provider Reference Group (EYPRG) to discuss funding for 2024-25 and to agree the content of the consultation with providers.

The outcome of the consultation will be shared with EYPRG and the resulting proposals brought to the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on 8^h February 2024 for approval.

4 Teachers Pay and Pension Grants (TPPG)

Following a higher than anticipated pay rise for teachers in September 2018 and an increase of 7.2% in the employers' contribution rate for teachers' pensions in September 2019, the DfE introduced a pay and a pension grant to support schools with the additional costs. These were calculated on a per pupil basis with nursery pupil numbers included. In the 2021-22 financial year, funding for Year R – Year 11 was rolled into the national funding formula basic per pupil rate.

Funding for nursery aged pupils, however, continued to be funded as separate grants paid to maintained schools with nursery classes.

For 2023-24, the 2022-23 pay and pension grant funding allocated to maintained schools for nursery pupils has been rolled into the overall three and four year old entitlement, resulting in a 7p uplift in the overall rate.

During 2023-24, the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) recommended a pay award of 6.5% across all teaching pay scales, which has been accepted in full by the Education Secretary, and that was to take effect from 1st September 2023. The DfE released an additional Teachers Pay Grant to maintained schools, to support schools with the additional cost as a result of the pay award and the costs of employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme. The grant has been rolled into the three and four year old rate for the forthcoming financial year (2024-25), in line with the previous grant allocation. For 2024-25, the 2023-24 additional Teachers Pay Grant funding allocated to maintained schools for nursery pupils has been rolled into the overall three and four year old entitlement, resulting in a 7p uplift in the overall rate. This uplift is to support with the costs of the additional pay award and the costs of employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme which are due to increase from April 2024.

If the additional funding resulting from this rolling in is distributed as part of the basic hourly rate then all providers would receive a proportion, rather than just the maintained schools that formerly received the separate grants. As part of the current year (2023-24) arrangements for funding Early Years providers, the quality supplement is used to support the schools with this additional cost.

The Early Years Funding Operational Guide 2024 to 2025 released by the DfE states the following:

'We encourage local authorities to consider using the quality supplement [one of the supplements for funding that LAs are allowed to include in local Early Years formula] to distribute the additional funding they receive in respect of teachers' pay and pensions.'

'As with all other supplements, it is for local authorities to determine the appropriate metric for allocating funding, so long as their approach is in line with the principles set out above.'

'We continue to encourage local authorities to consider the purpose for which this funding has been provided when designing their approach to local distribution. They could continue to target the funding to take account of additional pressures that some providers might face, from, for example, the need to pay employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.'

In the three and four year old indicative allocations for 2024-25, the additional hourly rate of funding received as a result of the rolling in of the pay and pension grants is 14p. The equivalent amount for 2023-24 was 7p.