

MEETING

SCHOOLS FORUM

DATE AND TIME

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 2022

AT 4.00 PM

VENUE

MICROSTOFT TEAMS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Minutes of Previous meeting	5 - 10
4.	Matters arising	
5.	2021-22 DSG monitoring	11 - 14
6.	2022-23 Budget Update	15 - 20
7.	High Needs Block expenditure 2021-22 and projected expenditure 2022-23	21 - 26
8.	High Needs Commissioned Places	27 - 28
9.	AOB	
10.	Dates for next meetings	29 - 30

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Decisions of the Schools Forum

13 January 2022

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 3

Name	Representing
Claire Barnes (CB)	Secondary Academy - Governor
Kirstie Barrett (KB)	Primary School - Headteacher
John Bowra (JB)	Secondary Academy - Governor
Luke Bridges (LB)	Primary Maintained - Headteacher
Ziz Chater (ZC)	Primary Maintained - Headteacher
Nicola Curtis (NC)	Primary Maintained - Governor
Harvey Freeman (HF)	Primary School - Governor
Dan Hawkins (DH)	Primary Academy - Headteacher
Simon Horne (SH)	Secondary Maintained - Headteacher
Joanne Kelly (JK)	PRU – Headteacher
Ian Kingham (IK)	Special Academy - Deputy Head
Gilbert Knight (GK)	Special Maintained - Governor
Marc Lewis (ML)	Secondary Academy – for Gavin Smith (Headteacher)
Annette Long (AL)	Maintained Nursery - Headteacher
Liz Longworth (LL)	Primary Maintained - Headteacher
Sarah Maltese (SMa)	Primary School - Headteacher
Sian Morris (SMo)	Primary Academy - Headteacher
Keith Nason (KN)	Trade Unions
Chaya Posen (CP)	Primary Maintained - Headteacher
Sarah Sands (SS)	Primary Maintained - Headteacher
Matthew Stevens (MS)	Secondary Academy - Headteacher
Clare Wagner (CW)	Secondary Academy - Headteacher
Violet Walker (VW)	Secondary Academy - Headteacher
Councillor Longstaff	David Lead Member for Children’s Services
Ian Harrison (IH)	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, BELS
Paul Durrant (PD)	Head of Finance, Children’s Services
Gareth Evans (GE)	Finance Manager (Schools), Finance – Children’s Services
Sabrina Burrell (SB)	Senior Business Support Officer, BELS (Minute Taker)

1. TRAINING SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

IH started the meeting with a short training session. The presentation slides would be sent to all members following this meeting [circulated on 14.1.22].

SS referred to the working group of headteachers that Helen Phelan had agreed to convene to discuss banding and top-up funds. She asked if the Schools Forum has the power to decide on the level of funding for different bands. IH said that the working group can look at it and the Forum can discuss it but responsibility for managing the High Needs budget and the level of top-up payments rests with the local authority. Reports on the High Needs budget and on High Needs Commissioning are due to come to the Schools Forum at the next meeting or during the summer term.

SH said the Forum discusses a range of issues and asked IH to indicate some of the key issues discussed at Forum meetings. IH indicated that the Forum has had discussions on the overall level of High Needs Funding, the pressures on the High Needs budget, the Specialist Places Plan, funding of maintained nursery schools and the National Funding Formula

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

IH invited nominations for the Chair. GK nominated SH and this was supported by SS.

As there were no other nominations IH declared SH elected as Chair.

IH thanked GK for everything that he has done as previous Chair at this forum for the last few years as one of the most successful schools forums in terms of participation and in terms of engagement with key issues. SH added his thanks to GK for all his work and leadership of the Schools Forum.

SH took over the chair and invited nominations for Vice-Chair. He nominated GK. GK indicated he was happy to accept the position.

As there were no other nominations, SH declared GK elected as Vice-Chair

3. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

SH welcomed new members. SH stated that each School Forum meeting has to have a quorum, which is 40% of the membership. As there are now 26 members, the quorum is 11.

New Members introduced themselves:

- Kirstie Barrett – Headteacher at Coppetts Wood Primary School
- Liz Longworth – Headteacher at Northside Primary School
- Sarah Maltese – Headteacher at St. Paul's N11 Primary
- Dan Hawkins – Headteacher at Child's Hill and Claremont Primary Federation.
- Claire Wagner – Headteacher at Henrietta Barnett School
- Claire Barnes – Chair of Governors at Ark Pioneer
- Violet Walker – Headteacher at Queen Elizabeth Girls' School

Nicola Curtis – Chair of Governors at Frith Manor Primary School

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Robin Archibald

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

KN declared he is one of the Union representatives who are released from teaching to carry out union duties, which is part-funded through dedelegation but he does not personally gain.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising that are not dealt with in the rest of the agenda.

7. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

GE provided an update on the changes to membership of the Schools Forum agreed at the previous meeting. Eight new members have been appointed and there is now just one vacancy, which is the place for a 16 to 19 provider, which has been vacant for a while.

MS pointed out that the report showed an asterisk next to his name, indicating Marc Lewis as a substitute. It was noted that this was an error and the asterisk should have been against Gavin Smith (head of The Wren Academy).

The report was noted.

8. 2021-22 DSG MONITORING

GE presented the report, which showed the current forecast for the DSG for the current year. The forecast is for an increase in the DSG reserve by £1.715m overall by the end of the financial year. The overspend in the high needs block of £1.026m is a reduction in the overspend forecast at the last meeting. There is an underspend in the growth fund of £2.7m. The net underspend of £1.715m will increase the DSG reserve carried forward at the end of the financial year from £3.244m to £4.959m.

The report was noted.

9. 2022-23 BUDGET PROPOSALS

GE presented the paper. It showed in paragraph 1.7, Table 1, what the indicative DSG income to the local authority is for the financial year 2022/23. The top part of the table shows DSG in the current year (2021/22) and the bottom part shows the indicative figures for 2022/23.

The high needs block is based on a national formula based on various factors, including population factors and some historical elements.

The early years block figures will be updated throughout the course of the financial year. The funding for three- and four-year-olds is increasing by £0.17 per hour. The council is proposing to pass that on in its entirety by increasing the base rate by 16 pence an hour and the deprivation rate by £0.01 an hour. For two-year-olds, the rate increases by 21 pence and again will be pass on in full.

The report mentions lump sums for maintained nursery schools, which are dealt with under item 12 below.

Table 2 (paragraph 1.14) shows the proposed school pupil-led factor rates in the National Funding Formula (including the area cost adjustment for Barnet as an outer London Borough). It is proposed to adopt these factors and to apply a Minimum Funding Guarantee at the maximum amount of +2%.

The report also shows the proposed funding levels and criteria for the growth fund and split-site allocations.

The council is required to submit its formula funding proposal to the DfE by 21 January using the DfE's 'Authority Proforma Tool' (the APT). This provides the DfE with details of the proposed formula whilst also calculating individual pupil-led school budgets.

It was agreed:

- *To note the 2022/23 draft indicative budget as shown in Table 1.*
- *To note and agree the 22/23 formula factor rates to be used in the APT submission (National Funding Formula rates) as shown in Table 2.*

To note and agree the Growth Fund criteria and amounts and the Split Site criteria and funding set out in the report

10. 2022-23 CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK

IH stated that Members of the forum who were here in October will recall seeing an almost identical report and the same for the dedelegation paper (item 11) and the reason why both have come back is because, although we agreed the central services block and the dedelegation at the last meeting, the budgets shown were estimates based on the previous year's pupil numbers and we said we would bring these reports back with the updated figures.

GE presented the report and said the figures have now been amended to take account of the October 2021 census figures, which change some of the figures by a marginal amount.

It was agreed to approve the expenditure lines that comprise the Central Services Block

11. 2022-23 DE-DELEGATION AND FORMERLY ESG FUNDED SERVICES

GE presented the paper. and said the figures have now been amended to take account of the October 2021 census figures, which change some of the figures by a marginal amount.

IH reported that the DfE is proposing to stop paying the school improvement grant to local authorities, which will mean that the statutory school improvement service, which includes the team of Learning Network Inspectors, will need to be funded through increased dedelegation. The grant is being phased out in 22-23 with a 50% cut but this loss of ca.£200,000 can be covered by a carried forward reserve arising from the increased dedelegation in 2019-20 when there was uncertainty over the continuation of the grant but subsequently the grant was paid, so the extra dedelegation money was not needed. The DfE consulted on the proposal to cut the grant and the vast majority of local authorities and schools that responded were against the cut, but the DfE has now said they are going ahead anyway. It will mean a loss of about £400,000 in 2023-24, which will need to be covered through increased dedelegation if the service is to be maintained at its current level.

It was agreed to note the revised rates per pupil based on adjustments relating to the October 2021 census

12. ADDITIONAL ITEM: PROPOSED USE OF CARRIED FORWARD DSG BALANCES

IH presented the paper.

As reported earlier, we are forecasting an end of year carry forward of £4.959m, which represent an in-year of about £1.7m in the carried forward reserves. The reserves are usually allocated to the High Needs block, as a contingency in case of further budget pressures and overspend. This is because we know about the massive problems and pressures on the high needs block and we have been shown to be right about that because of the overspends on high needs over the last couple of years, which have drawn on some of those balances carried forward.

However, given the increase in the high needs block and given the fact that the carry forward is going up by £1.7m, it is now proposed to redistribute some of that carry forward to schools and settings.

It would be wrong to put extra funding into the core funding formulae, as if we try to do it again the following year, we might not be able to afford it.

The paper sets out proposals for allocating £1.579m on a one-off basis as follows:

One -off lump sums for Maintained Nursery Schools	£400,000
One-off supplement to the hourly rate for 3- and 4-year-olds	£175,000
<u>New arrivals (Hong Kong and asylum seeker hotels) up to:</u>	<u>£1,000,000</u>
<u>Sub-total</u>	<u>£1,575,000</u>

A detailed explanation of the reasons for each proposal is set out in the report.

AL asked how the consultation on the lump sum payments for maintained nursery schools will happen. IH said the council will produce a short consultation document and send it to schools and settings with a link to an online survey. This will start as soon as possible after the proposal is also considered by the council's Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee next week and it has to finish by the end of February because we have to submit the early years funding formula by the end of February.

SH suggested that a special meeting to consider the proposals may not be needed. He suggested that the lump sum proposal only needs to come back to the Forum if there is a very negative response to it. He suggested that the details of the proposal to fund schools for support for children of Hong Kong migrants and of families living in designated asylum seeker hotels could be developed by the council and subject to consultation with the chair and vice-chair and one other member of the Forum. Sarah Sands agreed to be the other member consulted.

It was agreed:

1. To approve the proposed use of carried forward DSG balances as set out in the report, subject to consultation with Early Years providers in respect of the proposal for lump sum allocations to maintained nursery schools.
2. To approve the proposed approach to Early Years Funding as set out above and to approve the proposals for lump sum payments to maintained nursery schools in principle, subject to consultation with Early Years providers on the proposed lump sum payments for Maintained Nursery Schools.
3. To approve the proposed approach to funding new arrivals as set out in the report.
4. That the proposal for the lump sum payments does not need to come back to a special meeting but should be considered agreed unless there is a very negative response to it through the consultation.
5. That the proposed methodology for calculating payments to schools in respect of new arrivals may be agreed by the council subject to consultation with the chair and vice-chair of the Schools Forum and Sarah Sands.

13. AOB

The format for Schools Forum meetings was discussed (whether online or face to face).

GS raised concerns over whether members of the public can attend the meetings if they are held online. IH stated that the agenda is published on the public part of the Council website under the committee meeting agendas. So the public can access the agenda. IH said that some wording can be added to the website where the agenda is published, advising people how they can join the online meetings.

SH proposed that Schools Forum meeting should be online until the end of the summer term when the format should be reviewed.

It was agreed that Schools Forum meetings should be online until the end of the summer term and should then be reviewed

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 31 March 2022	AGENDA ITEM 5 Item No. 4
Report Title	FY2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Monitoring forecast	
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Information	
Author	Ndenko Asong , Finance Manger – DSG Ndenko.Asong@Barnet.Gov.Uk	
Appendices		

1. Recommendation

1.1. For members of the forum to note the contents of the paper.

2. Summary

2.1. DSG brought forward balance from Financial Year 2020-21 was a £3.244m surplus.

2.2. The total DSG allocation for the London Borough of Barnet for Financial Year 2021-22 is £378.57m. The total academy recoupment was £137.836m, leaving £240.745 of receipts into the LA. (Table 1)

2.3. Allocations are updated for changes in High Needs import/export adjustments (a gain of £0.258m as well as changes to Early Years pupil numbers from the January 2022 census which resulted in a reduction of £0.91m in the Early Years block allocation.

2.4. The forecast expenditure for FY2021-22 is £238.476m (Table 2)

2.5. The current forecast is to increase the DSG reserve with the addition of a surplus of £2.3m resulting in a forecast overall carry forward reserve of £5.5m (see Table 2)

Table 1 - DSG Allocations, FY2021-22

Description	FY2021-22				
	Original Allocation	Nov 21 Update	Jan 22 Update	Mar 22 Update	Latest Change
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	153.735	153.735	153.735	153.735	-
Central Schools Services Block	2.193	2.193	2.193	2.193	-
Early Years Block	30.189	30.189	29.278	29.278	-(0.91)
High Needs Block	55.270	55.528	55.528	55.528	0.258
Total DSG	241.387	241.645	240.735	240.735	-(0.653)

Allocation figures are after recoupment for academies for SB and HN

Table 2 - DSG Forecast FY2021-22

Description	Revised Allocation	Outturn Forecast	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Dedicated School Grant Allocation	378.571	378.571	-
Academy recoupment (SB and HNB)	-(137.836)	-(137.836)	-
Total DSG attributable to LA	240.735	240.735	
Schools Block (SB) Expenditure			
• Individual School Budget (ISB)	150.222	150.418	0.197
• ESG Retained Funding	0.70	0.70	-
• Growth Fund	2.814	0.073	-(2.741)
Central Services Block Expenditure	2.193	2.193	0.0
Early Years Expenditure	29.278	28.797	-(0.481)
High Needs Block (HNB) Expenditure	55.528	56.294	0.766
Total Expenditure	240.735	238.476	-(2.259)
Net FY2021-22 position	0.0	2.259	2.259
B/Fwd Reserves	3.244	3.244	-
Carry Forward Reserves (Deficit)/Surplus	3.244	5.503	2.259

3. Expenditure

3.1. Early Years (EY)

- 3.1.1. The forecast expenditure for EY is currently £28.797m with 95% of the funding passed to schools and settings in accordance with the conditions of the grant.
- 3.1.2. The EY block was adjusted downwards following the spring EY pupil number updates. The adjustment was a reduction of £0.91m from the allocated budget.
- 3.1.3. Despite this adjustment, the forecast underspend for the EY block is £0.481m.
- 3.1.4. The funding for EY is based on actual take up. Any underspend is therefore most likely going to be taken up by adjustments by the ESFA in future funding updates and as such can be considered to be held as provision in reserves.

3.2. Schools Block

- 3.2.1. Individual schools' income is passported to schools based on the funding formula. LBB applies the Schools National Funding Formula.
- 3.2.2. The ISB line of the Schools' Block is forecasting an overspend of £0.197 for the year. This is because of the overspend in the de-delegated contingency fund due to higher than expected redundancy costs in schools facing financial

difficulties, as previously reported. The Schools Forum has already agreed to make adjustments for this by increasing the de-delegated contingency fund in 2022-23.

- 3.2.3. There will be a significant underspend in the growth fund allocation of £2.74m which is making a significant contribution to the DSG reserves.
- 3.2.4. The expenditure for services for maintained schools previously funded from the Education Services Grant is still forecasted to come in on budget.
- 3.2.5. The Schools block as a whole is therefore expected to be underspent by the net amount of £2.544m with most of that as a result of the growth fund allocation.

3.3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- 3.3.1. This block of the DSG is retained by the LA to support central services for schools and to fund historic commitments.
- 3.3.2. The CSSB spend is approved by the Schools' Forum. There is no expected variance on the expenditure of this block against its budget for FY2021-22

3.4. High Needs Block

- 3.4.1. The current forecast spend for the high needs block is £56.294m against a net budget allocation £55.528m after recoupment for academies.
- 3.4.2. This is giving us a current overspend forecast of £0.766m for the HNB for FY2021-22.
- 3.4.3. The key areas of overspend include £0.410m for independent special schools and a £0.266m overspend in independent mainstream schools.
- 3.4.4. The overspend figure may change in the final outturn as a result of the allocation of costs for some tripartite placements that are funded jointly by education, health and social care.

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Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 31 March 2022	Agenda Item No.	5
Report Title	FY2022-23 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Update		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Information		
Author	Ndenko Asong , Finance Manger – DSG Ndenko.Asong@Barnet.Gov.Uk		
Appendices			

1. Recommendation

1.1. For members of the forum to note the contents of the paper.

2. Summary

2.1. The latest published Financial Year 2022-23 DSG allocation for the London Borough of Barnet is **£393.945m** before recoupment for academies. There has been no update from the December 2021 figure reported to the last meeting of the Schools Forum.

2.2. In addition to the published allocations, the DfE has also announced supplementary funding to boost the schools and high needs blocks and support the increased costs to operations expected due to the introduction of the health and social care levy.

2.3. An additional estimated **£8.65m** of Schools Supplementary Grant funding is expected for the schools block and an estimated **£2.45m** for the high needs block.

3. Year on Year change

3.1. Including the Schools Supplementary Grant income, total DSG for LBB is expected to increase by **6.99%** to **£405m**

3.2. The high needs block increases by **12%** and the schools block by **7%**. However, there is a decline in the early years block of **-3.4%**. This is the result of a decline in the number of children in Early Years settings.

Table 1 - Change in Early Years numbers in funding formula

	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	Change
	PTE	PTE	%
Universal Entitlement	5,756.86	5,436.31	-5.57%
Additional Entitlement	1,917.05	1,804.72	-5.86%
2YO Entitlement	726.48	624.75	-14.00%

Table 2 - DSG Year on Year change

Description	FY2022-23	FY2021-22	Change
	£m	£m	%
Early Years Block	28.297	29.278	-3.35%
Schools Supplementary Grant (SB)	8.652	-	
Schools Block (Published allocation)	297.756	286.252	
Total Schools Block	306.408	286.252	7.04%
Schools Supplementary Grant (HNB)	2.453	-	
High Needs Block (Published allocation)	65.628	60.847	
Total High Needs Block	68.081	60.847	11.89%
Central Schools Services Block	2.266	2.193	3.31%
Total DSG Allocation	405.052	378.571	6.99%

4. Financial Year 2022-23 budget allocation

4.1. The table below summarises the DSG income allocations for LBB and the forecast expenditure, with a forecast outturn position of net zero.

Table 3 - FY2022-23 DSG Summary Budget plan

Description	FY2022-23
	£m
Dedicated School Grant Allocation	393.946
Supplementary grant (SB)*	8.652
Supplementary grant (HNB)*	2.453
National Non-domestic Rates (NNDR)	- (2.881)
Academy recoupment (SB)	- (139.835)
Academy recoupment (HNB)	- (5.448)
Total DSG attributable to LA	256.888
Early Years Expenditure	28.297
Schools Block (SB) Expenditure	163.692
Central Services Block Expenditure	2.266
High Needs Block (HNB) Expenditure	62.633
Total Expenditure	256.888
Net FY2022-23 position	-
B/Fwd Reserves	5.503
Carry Forward Reserves (Deficit)/Surplus	5.503

* Estimates

4.2. There is a new system of paying NNDR for schools. This means a new line of recoupment for NNDR is expected from the DfE with respect to the allocated DSG. The DfE will retain the funding for NNDR and pay it on behalf of schools and so the LA budget will just show an allocation of funding and the same amount withheld to cover the NNDR costs.

5. Use of carried forward DSG underspend

5.1. The Schools Forum agreed at its meeting in January to proposals to allocate £1.58m of DSG balances to address particular budget pressures facing schools and settings:

- £400,000 to provide each maintained nursery school with a lump sum of £100,000 for one year, to enable the schools to operate in-year during 2022-23 on a break-even basis, pending a longer-term solution to the funding of maintained nursery schools.
- £179,000 of general carried forward reserves to provide a temporary funding supplement of 4 pence per hour to all providers for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Up to £1 million funding to support schools with the extra costs of children of asylum seeker families living in designated hotels and of Hong Kong families (British National (Overseas) status holders) who enrol in Barnet primary and secondary maintained schools and Academies after the October 2021 school census date.

5.2. The proposal in respect of lump sums for maintained nursery schools was agreed subject to consultation with early years providers. Consultation took place between 24th January and 21st February and all providers of places for 3- and 4-year-old children were invited to respond. The results of the consultation were as follows:

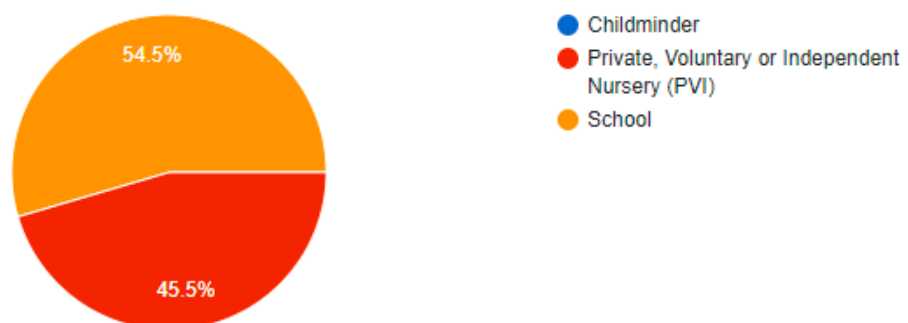
Responses

Schools (18 responses) – 16 Yes, 2 No

PVIs (15 responses) – 8 Yes, 7 No

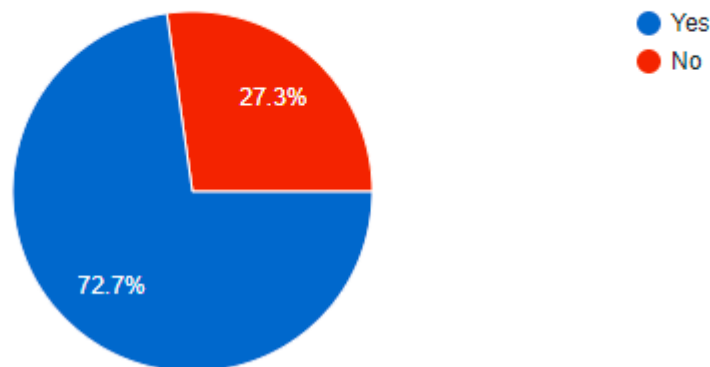
Q1. Are you responding as a:

33 responses



Q2. Do you agree with the proposal as laid out in the consultation document?

33 responses



- 5.3. In light of the responses, the proposal is being implemented, with the one-off payments being reflected in the final Early Years Funding Formula for Barnet for 2022-23. The payments will be included in the budgets to the four maintained nursery schools. Discussions are continuing over the long-term funding arrangements for funding the four schools.
- 5.4. The agreed one-off temporary funding supplement of 4 pence per hour to all providers for 3- and 4-year-olds is also going ahead and the funding will be paid to providers from April. This is on top of the full passporting of the increased funding from the DfE for 3- and 4-year-old places and 2-year-olds places.
- 5.5. At its last meeting the Schools Forum agreed that the proposed methodology for calculating payments to schools in respect of new arrivals may be agreed by the council subject to consultation with the chair and vice-chair of the Schools Forum and Sarah Sands. Appendix 1 shows the methodology that has been agreed following that consultation. A communication is being sent to schools setting out the approach and inviting them to identify pupils eligible for funding. BELS and the council will then follow the methodology as set out and arrange for the first set of payments to be made to schools early in the new financial year, followed by further, final payments in August.
- 5.6. The council is awaiting details of proposed additional funding for schools in respect of any refugee Ukrainian children and young people enrolling in Barnet schools and will notify schools of the arrangements, and process payments, in line with DfE guidance as soon as possible.

Appendix 1

Methodology for calculating and processing funds to schools re-migrant children (in asylum seeker hotels and HK families)

Background

The Schools Forum and Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee have agreed to allocate up to £1million of carried forward DSG reserves on a one-off basis in the 2022-23 schools year to provide funding to schools for all children of asylum seeker families living in the designated hotels and Hong Kong families (British National (Overseas) status holders) who enrol in Barnet maintained primary and secondary maintained schools and Academies after the October 2021 school census date. It has been agreed that payments should be calculated pro-rata for the weeks the children attend up to the end of July 2022 with the unit of funding being a fixed percentage of the AWPU funding for the relevant age group.

Methodology

1. BELS will write to schools in March 2022 to inform them about the funding available and to ask them to identify and send us the names of any children who enrolled at the school after the October 2021 census date who:
 - Have been living in the designated asylum seeker hotels or
 - Are children of Hong Kong families who are British National (Overseas) status holders

In each case the school will be asked to complete a simple form including the name of the child, home address, the enrolment date, leaving date if they have now left the school and, for Hong Kong children, confirmation that the school has checked and verified the family's BNO status.

2. BELS admissions team will verify the status of each individual and liaise with the schools over individual children/families as necessary. The admissions team will confirm to schools which pupils will be funded and for how many weeks (from the enrolment date (provided it is after the census) to the leaving date or 31st March, whichever is later.
3. BELS will use this information to develop a rough estimate of the likely profile of eligible pupils who will be in schools, including new enrolments, up until the end of the summer term, and the number of weeks they are likely to be in school between 1 April and end of July, assuming a similar pattern and rate of enrolment as in the period October to March. We will use those calculations to model what percentage of the AWPU we can allocate to each pupil week in school without going over the £1m – we will take a cautious approach to ensure we don't overspend even if that means we end up only spending say £900k. Any underspend on the £1million will go back into DSG reserves.
4. Schools will be notified of the provisional allocations of funding and the funding will be distributed to school early in the summer term.
5. The process above will be repeated for the summer term, with schools notifying BELS of any further enrolments and the leaving dates for any eligible children who leave the school; BELS will verify again and work out the funding due to each school. Final payments for weeks attended up to the end of the summer term will be made to schools in August.

BELS/LBB
March 2022

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Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 31 March 2022	Agenda Item No.	6
Report Title	High Needs Block expenditure 2021-22 and projected expenditure 2022-23 AJENDA ITEM 7		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Discussion & Decision		
Author	Helen Phelan , Director of SEND & Inclusion Helen.Phelan@Barnet.Gov.Uk Ian Harrison , Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning Ian.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk		
Appendices			

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the School's Forum with a break down of the High Needs Block for 2021/22, the pressures against the budget, and the projected spend against the High Needs Block for 2022/23, taking account of increasing numbers of pupils with SEND and rising demand for additional SEND specialist places in Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) and special schools.
- 1.2 The report also provides a summary of ... and recommendations for mainstream school funding from the SEN Funding Working Group.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The total High Needs Budget for 2021/22 is £60.847m, or £55.528 after Academies recoupment. The increase in the High Needs funding from 2021/22 to 2022/23 is £7.234m. Taking Schools Supplementary Grant of £2.453m into account, it gives us a total High Needs Budget of £68.081 for 2022/23, or £62.633m after Academies recoupment.
- 2.2 Budget calculations for 2022/23 have been based on the current and projected number of SEN places Barnet needs in mainstream schools and specialist provision, including Out of Borough and independent placements. Forecast spend also takes account of Hospital funding for young people with significant mental health needs, the SEN Inclusion Fund, increases in funding for mainstream schools outlined in the recommendations from the SEN Funding Working Group, expenditure on Hard to Place pupils, Residential care for children without an EHCP and the implementation of Barnet's Autism Strategy.

3. High Needs Block end of year forecast 2021/22

- 3.1 Table 1 below shows the budget for 2020/21 against the areas of expenditure, with the outturn for each area and the updated budget for 2021/22. Table 2 then shows the forecast outturn for 2021/22, the current estimates of budget requirements for 2022/23 and the variance between these.

Table 1: 2020/21 Budget, Outturn 2020/21, and updated Budget 2021/22

Area	Budget 2020/21	Outturn 2020/21	Updated budget 2021/22
	£	£	£
Place funding and PRU top-up	6,687,171	6,728,180	7,909,761
Top-up ARPs	3,287,617	3,457,697	3,993,118
Top-up Special schools	8,833,879	9,305,625	9,756,414
Top-up Post 16	4,004,290	3,979,617	3,995,000
Mainstream top-ups	9,683,371	10,445,714	11,202,954
Top-up Out of Borough	2,648,309	2,612,811	2,841,700
Independent sector	8,470,725	9,337,038	9,462,473
Other (SEN Inclusion Fund, Hard to Place pupils, Hospital Funding, Autism Strategy, Residential Care without EHCP)	6,060,255	5,365,598	6,366,580
Total expenditure	49,675,617	51,232,281	55,528,000

Table 2: Variance forecast for 2021/22 with the budget for 2022/23

Area	2021/22 Month 11 Forecast	2022/23 Budget Estimate	Variance Forecast 2021/22 to Estimate 2022/23
	£	£	£
Place funding and PRU top-up	7,848,180	8,533,698	685,518
Top-up ARPs	4,134,090	4,449,913	315,823
Top-up Special schools	10,229,625	11,596,477	1,366,852
Top-up Post 16	3,991,456	4,289,000	297,544
Mainstream top-ups	11,048,425	12,225,199	1,176,774
Top-up Out of Borough	2,722,000	3,056,617	334,617
Independent sector	9,961,473	11,183,473	1,222,000
Other (SEN Inclusion Fund, Hard to Place pupils, Hospital Funding, Autism Strategy, Residential Care without EHCP)	6,358,710	6,524,613	165,903
Total expenditure	56,293,959	61,858,989	5,565,030

- 3.2 The High Needs Block budget for 2022/23 is £62.633m (to be verified as recoupment calculation may change). Based on the budget forecast for 2022/23 of a spend of £61,858,989, this leaves £0.774m in the High Needs Block for contingencies, which at 1.2% of the total budget is a relatively low amount, although there will also be some overall DSG reserves carried forward from 2021/22 that could be drawn on if necessary.
- 3.3 The current forecast for place funding shows an increase of £685,518. There has been an increase in places in all of the special schools, and the increase takes account of the additional places at the proposed Northway annex which is due to open on the Grasvenor Infant school site in September 2022. It also takes account of 10 additional places at the Pavilion PRU and additional ARP places at Broadfields primary, which now has two ARPs (one for Autism and one for Cognition and Learning) and the new ARP at Friern Barnet secondary school (for Cognition and Learning) which is due to open in September 2022.
- 3.4 The increased funding in 2022/23 for top-ups in ARPs and special schools is for the additional places in Barnet schools which over time will impact on some of the independent school costs, including travel costs. The increased funding also takes into account a 2.5% increase in funding for special schools, which includes funding to cover the cost of the 1.25% increase in National Insurance contributions from April 2022. A higher increase is not proposed for special schools given the current rates compare favourably with rates paid in other London Boroughs and taking account of the carried forward balances of the Special Schools at the end of the 2020/21 financial year (which is the school year for Academies).
- 3.5 There has been an increase in numbers of specialist placements for 16–18 year olds and this is reflected in the increase in the 2022/23 budget of £297,544 for post 16 top-ups.
- 3.6 The budget assigned for mainstream top-ups takes account of growth, with an anticipated increase of £650,000 for new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The remaining £526,774 has been assigned for the additional costs associated with the recommendations of the SEN Funding Working Group, if these are agreed. The recommendations of the Group are presented in the following section.
- 3.7 The Out of Borough (OoB) budget has been increased by 5% for 2022/23 to meet the additional demand, but the additional planned provision in Barnet will help to keep it at this level in subsequent years.
- 3.8 The budget assigned to the independent sector takes account of an additional 12 places in independent mainstream schools at a total cost of £324,000 and 14 additional Independent Special school day placements, costing £472,000. These figures do not take account of the additional Transport costs. With more specialist provision being developed in Barnet, these costs should reduce over time, assuming demand for specialist placements levels off.
- 3.9 The increase of £165,103 in the 2022/23 budget for “Other” takes account of the increase in requests for a Personal Transport Budget, an increase in Hospital funding for young people experiencing significant emotional and mental health difficulties, increased funding for Hard to Place pupils, and funding for the Transition Hub for young people with SEND coming into Barnet from other countries (including Hong Kong).

4. SEN Funding Working Group Recommendations

- 4.1 As a result of concerns about SEN funding in mainstream schools, 10 Head teachers met with the Director of SEND and Inclusion to form an SEN Funding Working Group to look at some options for additional funding for mainstream schools in certain circumstances. Comparison top-up rates from other local authorities were looked at by the group, with the conclusion that Barnet's top up rates are roughly at a midpoint when compared with other local authorities.
- 4.2 £526,774 has been budgeted in the 2022/23 Budget to cover the costs of the recommendations. If the recommendations are not agreed, or agreed in part, the remainder of the funding will go into the contingency funding to cater for any unexpected growth.

4.3 The recommendations from the group are as follows:

i) Fair Share and SEN Notional Funding

Where the funding for EHCPs in a mainstream school is 60% or more of the SEN Notional funding and the school has a deficit budget, the school will be given additional funding. The amount of funding will be determined by the number of EHCPs and the banded funding rates for the EHCPs, taking account of the school's SEN Notional funding and deficit budget.

ii) Full funding of pupils in mainstream schools awaiting specialist placement

The Working Group have agreed the following criteria:

Funding would be from the term after the specialist placements panel where it is agreed that a specialist placement is appropriate. This is for pupils who have an EHCP and who have Banded funding of 'D' or above. The maximum top-up funding a school could receive would be £18,000.

iii) Exceptional Circumstances Funding for pupils in the process of receiving an EHCP

The Working Group have agreed the following criteria:

This would only be applied to pupils where the school's provision map shows a need for Banded funding of 'D' or above. Schools will need to request this and provide the evidence to support the request for early funding. EHCP top-up funding to start 6 weeks early (i.e. at 14 weeks of the process), after the decision to issue has been made.

iv) Wording of the EHCP

The final recommendation does not include additional funding for mainstream schools, but it does enable schools to use their SEN funding more flexibly, whilst at the same time ensuring that EHCPs are compliant with the SEND Code of Practice, ensuring that provision is individualised to the needs of the child, specific and quantifiable.

Currently, the wording in the EHCP is:

"The funding will support X amount of hours a week based on Banding TA hours. To be provided to ensure that all needs are met and (child's name) makes measurable progress".

The recommended change to the wording in the EHCP is:

"The funding will support X amount of hours a week based on Banding TA hours. This could be delivered in a range of ways, according to the needs of the child, including small group work, paired work, or short bursts of targeted

intervention with an adult. The support provided will be designed to ensure that all needs are met and (child's name) makes measurable progress.

5. Recommendations to Schools Forum

- 5.1 The School's Forum is asked to note the report on the expenditure against the High Needs Block 2021/22 and the projected expenditure for 2022/23.
- 5.2 The School's Forum is asked to agree the recommendations of the SEN Funding Working Group.

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Item: High Needs Commissioned Places		Item No.	7
Authors	Helen Phelan		
Position	Director SEND & Inclusion	AGENDA ITEM 8	
Date	21.3.22		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the School's Forum with an update on commissioned places in specialist provision for children and young people with SEND for 2022/23. This includes the specialist provision in Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) and Special schools in Barnet.

Background

Decisions about commissioning of additional places are based on the SEND needs analysis and sufficiency review that took place in November 2021, together with data from the placement panels that have taken place in November 2021 and February 2022. There are three panels a year, run by the SEN Assessments and Placement team and all attended by senior managers in special schools and ARPs. The third panel takes place in May and mainly focuses on post 16 placements and mid-year reviews requesting a change of type of provision.

The numbers of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased from 2,682 in 2019-20 to 2,931 in 2020-21, with a forecast figure of 3,268 in 2021-22 which is a 22% increase over 2 years. This increase is not unique to Barnet, and most Local areas in and outside London have experienced the same level of increase. Autism continues to be the biggest area of need in Barnet and nationally, and there is an increasing number of young children coming through with very complex needs requiring access to specialist provision in special schools.

The majority of children and young people with an EHCP will have their needs met in a mainstream school with appropriate support and reasonable adjustments made to meet the objectives in the EHC Plan. The outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP in Barnet are good, and above the national level.

All of the specialist providers, including ARPs and special schools, work very closely with the local authority to secure enough of the right type of provision. This has led to a number of creative solutions over the last two years with the development of satellite bases on mainstream sites for some of the special schools. There is a Mapledown satellite at Copthall school, and an Oakleigh satellite at Queenswell school. In addition, a new Cognition and Learning ARP at Broadfields primary school opened in September 2021 and a new Cognition and Learning ARP is being planned at Friern Barnet secondary school to open in September 2022.

Commissioning plans

1. We are awaiting confirmation of the closure of Grasvenor Infant Academy by the DfE following the listening period currently taking place. Initial consultation is currently underway on a proposal to expand Northway special school through the establishment of an annex on the Grasvenor site if the closure of Grasvenor goes ahead. Subject to that, we will move to the formal stage of consultation over Northway, beginning with the publication of a statutory notice. Subject to the DfE decision on Grasvenor and the outcome of the consultation on the expansion of Northway, the school will become an all through school, with 44 additional places from September 2022, rising to 72 additional places.
2. The new Windmill free special school is due to open in September 2023 and will provide an additional 90 places over the following five years. The school will be managed and run by Oak Lodge special school's Academy Trust.
3. On the basis of the number of children and young people requiring access to specialist provision, additional places have been commissioned from September 2022 as follows. The tables show the number of commissioned places for the ARPs and special schools in Barnet, and the variance from the number of commissioned places of the previous year, 2021/22.

Table 1 - Place numbers for Additional Resourced Provisions (ARPs) 2022/23 and variance with 2021/22

ARP places	2022/23 commissioned places	Variance from previous year
Broadfields (two ARPs – one for Autism and one for Cognition and Learning)	50	+14
Chalgrove	12	-
Childs Hill	12	-
Claremont	13	+1
Colindale	5	-1
Coppetts Wood	16	+2
Livingstone	6	-
Orion	22	-
Summerside	12	+1
Friern Barnet	10	+10
Hendon	38	-
JCoSS	52	+1
London Academy	1	-1
Whitefield	13	+5
Total	262	+32

Table 2: Place numbers for Special schools 2022/23 and variance from 2021/22

Special school	2022/23 Commissioned places	Variance from previous year
Kisharon	72	+22
Mapledown	105	+1
Northway	169	+44
Oakbridge (Oak Lodge post 16)	22	-
Oakhill	47	+7
Oakleigh	116	-
Oak Lodge (pre-16)	207	+7
Total	738	+81

Recommendation

The School's Forum is asked to note the commissioned high needs places for the 2022/23 school year.

Dates for next meetings:

AGENDA ITEM 10

- 7th July 2022
- 20th October 2022
- 12th January 2023

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