

Schools Forum 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Chair: TBD

Venue: MS Teams

Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Item No	Title of Report	Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Officer(s)	Paper(s)
1.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Decision	Clerk	
2.	Welcome to New Members		Chair	
3.	Apologies for Absence		Chair	
4.	Declarations of Interest	Update	Chair	
5.	Minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Update	Chair	
6.	Schools Forum Membership	Update	Clerk	6. 2023-24 Schools Forum Membership
7.	2022-23 DSG Forecast Outturn (M8)	Update	MB	7. 2022-23 DSG Forecast Outturn
8.	2023-24 Budget Proposal	Decision	RC	8. 2023-24 Proposed Budget
9.	Central Services Block	Update	RC	9. Central Services Block
10.	2023-24 De-Delegation	Update /Decision	RC	10. 2023-24 De-Delegation
11.	AOB		Chair	

## Order of Business

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## SCHOOLS FORUM

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2022

### AGENDA ITEM 5

Membership	Name	Phase	School	HT/Gov	Start Date	End Date
Maintained	*Luke Bridges	Primary	All Saints CE, N20	HT	03/07/2018	30/11/2024
Maintained	Ziz Chater	Primary	Martin Primary	HT	02/11/2018	30/11/2024
Maintained	*Simon Horne (C)	Secondary	Friern Barnet	HT	26/11/2018	18/01/2024
Maintained	*Sarah Sands	Primary	Garden Suburb Infants	HT	02/11/2018	30/11/2024
Maintained	Anthony Vorou	Primary	St John's CE, N11	Gov	15/10/2015	18/01/2024
Maintained	*Harvey Freeman	Primary	Hasmonean Primary	Gov	18/01/2021	18/01/2024
Maintained	Chaya Posen	Primary	Noam School	HT	07/07/2021	07/07/2024
Maintained	Kirstie Barrett	Primary	Coppetts Wood	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Maintained	Liz Longworth	Primary	Northside	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Maintained	Sarah Maltese	Primary	St Pauls N11	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Maintained	Vacant	Primary	Frith Manor	Gov	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Academy	Dan Hawkins	Primary	CHC Federation	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Academy	*Clare Wagner	Secondary	Henrietta Barnett	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Academy	*Sian Morris	Primary	The Hyde Primary Academy	HT	07/10/2021	07/10/2024
Academy	* Claire Barnes	Secondary	Ark Pioneer	Gov	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Academy	*Marc Lewis for Gavin Smith	Secondary	Wren Academy	HT	02/11/2018	30/11/2024
Academy	*Matthew Stevens	Secondary	Saracens	HT	07/11/2018	30/11/2024
Academy	*Robin Archibald	Primary	Broadfields Academy	HT	29/04/2016	30/11/2024
Academy	John Bowra	Secondary	Chris's college Finchley	Gov	22/06/2017	18/01/2024
Academy	*Violet Walker	Secondary	Queen Elizabeth Girls' School	HT	01/01/2022	31/12/2024
Special	*Ian Kingham	Special Academy	Oak Lodge	Dp HT	11/05/2018	18/01/2024
special	*Gilbert Knight (VC)	Special Maintained	Oakleigh	Gov	26/11/2018	18/01/2024
EY	Vacant	Maintained Nursery	Moss Hall Nursery	HT	26/11/2018	30/11/2024
EY	*Sarah Vipond	PVI	Middx University Nursery		28/04/2015	18/01/2024
PRU	*Joanne Kelly	PRU	PRUs	HT	28/04/2015	18/01/2024
Post-16	Vacant					
Trade Union	*Keith Nason	Trade Union	National Education Union		28/04/2015	18/01/2024

In attendance:

\*Cllr Pauline CoakleyWebb, Chair of Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee

\*Neil Marlow, Director, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)

\*Karen Flanagan, Director of SEND & Inclusion

\*Sharon Palma, Head of Finance

\*Ashley Hughes, Investments & Innovation

Madiha Bhenick, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Finance Manager

\*Richard Cox, Interim DSG Finance Manager

\*George Peradigou, Clerk

\*Denotes member present

## 1 INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair invited introductions, which were made by new members of staff, including Sharon Palma, new Head of Finance, Richard Cox, Interim DSG Manager, Karen Flanagan, Director of SEND & Inclusion, and Ashley Hughes, Deputy Director of Finance Investments & Innovation.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted on behalf of Sarah Maltese, Ziz Chater, Dan Hawkins, and Liz Longworth. It was noted that Steve Bernard of the Department for Education, who was due to attend as an observer, had also sent apologies.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared related to the agenda items to be discussed.

### **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were confirmed, and approved by the Chair.

### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Budget Working Party**

The Chair reminded members that the previous meeting had noted a large variance of balances with some schools having high balances and a record number of schools having deficit balances. Sarah Sands had since co-ordinated a Budget Working Party to investigate this and gave an update on proceedings.

It was noted that the first meeting had recently taken place with schools represented by Headteachers and Business Managers. She thanked the Local Authority (LA) for its support and representation from Neil Marlow, Director of BELS, Katie Dawbarn, Co-Head of School Improvement, and Ben Thomas, Strategic Lead, Sharon Palma, Head of Finance, Madiha Bhenick, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Finance Manager, Richard Cox, Interim DSG Finance Manager.

Members noted that the first meeting was useful in helping to understand why such budget variances existed and what support was available for schools struggling with deficit balances. Financial challenges were discussed, including those related to staffing, energy usage, SEND funding, building costs, and decreasing pupil rolls.

Suggestions from the meeting included:

- Requesting that the finance team deliver termly/quarterly briefings to keep schools updated on the latest financial and budgetary news impacting them.
- Obtaining clearer guidance on building support to ensure transparency (this will be discussed at the next meeting where the relevant staff have been invited).
- A presentation on pupil place planning to help schools plan accordingly.
- Explicit guidance on financial planning where schools faced financial difficulties.
- Guidance around timelines for budget settings to enable better budget modelling.
- Knowledge-sharing from schools who have built up healthy reserves.

The Chair thanked Sarah Sands for her thorough update and invited members to contact her if they wanted to get involved with the Budget Working Party. Sarah Sands undertook to advertise the next date and see if anybody else wanted to join.

Action: Sarah Sands

There were no other matters arising.

### **5 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

Sharon Palma stated that there had been no direct revisions to the scheme. Members also noted that the Salix Scheme, a school borrowing facility, had closed.

There would be no transitional impact, or otherwise, for Barnet Schools as a result because the Local Authority already matches the National Funding Formula.

## **6 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) MONITORING FORECAST OUTTURN 2022-23**

Sharon Palma gave a summary of the report, stating that, since the last meeting revised allocations had been received with regards to the DSG budget. The following was noted:

The latest DSG allocation showed an additional £2.688m. The Forecast DSG reserve at year end as £4.1m with a forecast saving of £1.5m (£1.460m) against the Growth Fund.

There was an additional £2.4m for Early Years due to an increase in pupil numbers and an additional £0.3m for High Needs due to the import/export adjustment (this adjustment was received for pupils living outside of the borough but attending Barnet schools).

It was noted that the DSG reserves brought forward at the start of the year were £4.87m, of which £2.8m was earmarked – £1.4m for Hong Kong and Afghan refugees, £0.4m for maintained nurseries, and potentially £1m for Barnet Hill Academy.

A discussion ensued on the unexpected surplus in the High Needs budget. In response to a query from Sarah Sands, Neil Marlow confirmed that the number of pupils entitled to high needs support has increased as opposed to the number of pupils overall.

In response to a query from Ian Kingham, Sharon Palma confirmed that, while there was currently an underspend, she expected the high needs budget would be spent by year end.

It was noted that the LA would undertake a High Needs Review which is due to be commissioned by Karen Flanagan, the new Director of SEND and Inclusion. This was due to be discussed later in the meeting.

## **7 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA (NFF) 2023-24**

That Forum **NOTED** the provisional funding allocations and changes compared to 2022-23:

The NFF meant Barnet was set to receive £383.4m, an increase of £9.3m (2.5% uplift) compared to the previous year. This was broken down into:

Indicative DSG Funding 2023-24

- Schools Block £309.265m (+£5.15m)
- High Needs Block £71.757m (+£4.0m)
- Central Services Block £2.337m (+£0.111m)

Sharon Palma reminded members that the report did not reflect the £2.3b promised to schools nationally by the Government in the Autumn statement. This was expected to be received within the month, although no official confirmation has been

received. She confirmed that this was likely to be received by way of a grant in the first year and then possibly merged into the funding formula henceforth.

It was noted that the factor values were being increased for Free School Meals (FSM) 6 IDACI with an uplift of 4.3% while other funding factors increased by 2.4%.

2023-24 would be the first year that LAs would transition to the Direct National Funding Formula without allowing for adjustment through local funding formulas. She was pleased to remind Members that Barnet were one of the few LAs which matched the national funding formula, meaning there would be no impact on schools because of this transition. The Schools Supplementary Grant (SSG) grant was also due to be rolled into the NFF.

The Chair commented that the school budgets were indicative as they hadn't built in census data but could only increase because of the extra funding expected (as per the Government's Autumn announcement).

## **8 DE-DELEGATION 2023-24**

### **8.1 2023-24 Central Schools Services Block**

Members noted that the report was an update to show indicative figures which had slightly increased to approximately £2.3m, for which the split had been pro-rated based on the 2022-23 budget.

The Forum was asked to agree to the ongoing responsibilities and uphold the historic commitments.

Members of the forum **AGREED** the figures for ongoing responsibilities and noted that the final figures will be presented to the forum in January 2023.

The Chair also thanked Sharon Palma for including a breakdown in the report which showed how the money was being spent.

### **8.2 2023-24 De-delegation**

The Chair introduced the item. Maintained school Forum members were asked to agree to the following de-delegations from the Schools Block:

- Behaviour Support £77,038
- Narrowing the Gap £355,142
- Trade Union Duties £47,629
- School Contingency £460,461

Sharon Palma explained that the rates would be held the same as the current year 2022-23. Figures were based on the 2022-23 Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) which was subject to change.

Forum Members representing maintained schools unanimously **APPROVED** the de-delegation rates for financial year 2023-24.

### **8.3 2023-24 Former ESG Services**



The Forum was asked to agree to the following de-delegations from the Schools Block for the following services formerly funded by ESG.

- Statutory and regulatory duties for Finance, Internal Audit, Consistent Financial Reporting, Pensions Admin and Human Resources £550k
- Asset Management £125k
- Monitoring National Curriculum Assessments £25k

Sharon Palma reminded members that this was agreed by the forum the previous year.

Members of the Schools Forum **APPROVED** the proposal for 2023- 24 to charge the cost of services formerly funded from the ESG to the budgets of maintained schools, to the amount of £700,000.

#### **8.4 Proposal to increase de-delegation due to removal of School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMB) 2023-24**

The Forum was asked to agree to the following de-delegations from the Schools Block for the following:

- to continue the historic school improvement de-delegation of £118,908 to support the Learning Network Inspector Team.
- an additional sum of £361,416 following the removal of the remaining SIMB Grant to support the work of the School Improvement Team.

Neil Marlow outlined the importance of the School Improvement Team support to Barnet schools and reminded Members of the previous consultation where the Forum agreed the additional de-delegation, although the DfE subsequently decided to continue with the grant, meaning this previously agreed de-delegation had not materialised at the time. This was added to the DSG reserves and used to fund the Schools Improvement Service for the current year, when half the SIMB grant was removed.

Maintained school representatives on the School's Forum were asked to agree an increased amount of de-delegated funding for the school improvement service from £118,908 to £480,324 to cover the complete loss of the SIMB Grant and enable the school improvement service to continue in its current form. This would ensure the continuation of the current non-traded parts of the School Improvement Service following the removal of the entire SIMB grant in April 2023.

It was noted that disapproval of the proposal would make it necessary to reduce the budget of the non-traded school improvement service and reduce the council funding for the Learning Network Inspector team to a single post, tasked with carrying out the core statutory functions envisaged by the DfE.

Maintained school representatives of the Forum **AGREED** the following:

- to continue with the historic school improvement de-delegation of £118,908 to fund the Learning Network Inspector Team to deliver its statutory functions.
- to de-delegate, from the DSG Schools Block, the additional sum of £361,416 to support the work of the school improvement team following the governments withdrawal of the SIMB Grant.

- The options for de-delegation were outlined as set out in the report. Following a vote, the Forum opted to adopt **Option 3**: A weighted rate of £18.57 applying to primary aged children and a weighted rate of £6.67 applying to secondary aged children.

In response to a query from Cllr CoakleyWebb, Neil Marlow confirmed that amalgamated schools would be charged once whereas federated schools would be charged separately.

## **9 FORMULA FACTORS – CRITERIA FOR AGREEMENT – SPLIT SITES AND GROWTH 2023-24**

Richard Cox outlined that both the Split Site Criteria and Growth Fund Criteria for 2023-24 were unchanged from previous years and that only the resulting figures had been updated as outlined in the report.

It was noted that, as of 2024-25, the Split Fund element would be determined by the national formula funding and schools were encouraged to contact the LA if they thought they qualified for split sites before the end of December 2022.

The Forum **AGREED** the proposed Split Site Criteria and Growth Fund Criteria for 2023-24 as set forth in the report.

## **10 MINIMUM FUNDING GUARANTEE (MFG) & DISAPPLICATION 2023-24**

Sharon Palma outlined the report, which was an update. Members **NOTED** that the LA would be holding the minimum funding guarantee at the top end of 0.5%. It was noted that the DfE had stipulated that this was the maximum LA could set the MFG.

## **11 HIGH NEEDS BUDGET UPDATE**

The Forum **NOTED** that the review of the high needs block would be undertaken shortly, which the LA has commissioned to come out of the Transformation Fund.

Members of the Forum were asked to participate in the review via stakeholder interviews, where they'd represent their area and phase, and later be involved in the recommendations stage.

Action: Forum Members

It was noted that, since 2018, the number of children and young people with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) had increased 10% every year. Within Barnet this equated to an 85% increase since 2015 (including those in post 16 settings). It was noted that, due to the increased age range, an increase was expected.

Karen Flanagan commended the Forum for its work related to High Needs following the LA being chosen by the DfE as part of its research into good practice with regards to the High Needs Block. However, it was noted that the current trajectory showed that the LA was potentially heading into a deficit position, hence the importance of being proactive in terms of commissioning a High Needs Block review

to ensure funds were being used effectively to improve outcomes for high needs children.

The review was planned to begin in early January and end by early summer 2023, which is when recommendations would be expected.

## **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A discussion ensued regarding the membership of the Forum. It was noted that Nicola Curtis and Anette Long had resigned. Thanks were recorded to them for the terms they had served on the Forum.

The Forum now had three vacancies and the Clerk undertook to arrange elections and source replacements.

Action: Clerk

Neil Marlow reminded Members that it had previously been **AGREED** to consider the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair annually at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Clerk undertook to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Gilbert Knight reminded staff to ensure the website was kept up to date with meeting details, as it was a public meeting.

It was also noted that future dates would be set and circulated soon.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business for discussion, the Chair brought the meeting to a close.

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Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	Agenda Item No.	<b>AGENDA ITEM 6</b> 6
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Schools Forum Membership</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update		
Author	Richard Cox and George Peradigou		
Appendices	None		
Summary	Updated Membership of the School's Forum		
Recommendations	Members are asked to note the current membership		

The current school membership, updated with new members from January 2023, is below

<b>Name</b>	<b>Term End Date</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type</b>
Luke Bridges	30/11/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Ziz Chater	30/11/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Simon Horne (C)	18/01/2024	Maintained	Secondary	HT
Sarah Sands	30/11/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Anthony Vorou	18/01/2024	Maintained	Primary	Gov
Harvey Freeman	18/01/2024	Maintained	Primary	Gov
Chaya Posen	07/07/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Kirstie Barrett	31/12/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Liz Longworth	31/12/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Sarah Maltese	31/12/2024	Maintained	Primary	HT
Vacancy (Nicola Curtis resigned)		Maintained	Primary	Gov
Dan Hawkins	31/12/2024	Academy	Primary	HT
Clare Wagner	31/12/2024	Academy	Secondary	HT
Sian Morris	07/10/2024	Academy	Primary	HT
Claire Barnes	31/12/2024	Academy	Secondary	Gov
Gavin Smith	30/11/2024	Academy	Secondary	HT
Matthew Stevens	30/11/2024	Academy	Secondary	HT
Robin Archibald	30/11/2024	Academy	Primary	HT
John Bowra	18/01/2024	Academy	Secondary	Gov
Violet Walker	31/12/2024	Academy	Secondary	HT
Ian Kingham	18/01/2024	Special	Special Academy	Dep HT
Gilbert Knight (VC)	18/01/2024	special	Special Maintained	Gov
Ben Hasan (New)	07/12/2025	EY	Maintained Nursery	HT
Sarah Vipond	18/01/2024	EY	PVI	

Joanne Kelly	18/01/2024	PRU	PRU	HT
Vacancy		Post-16		
Keith Nason	18/01/2024	Trade Union	Trade Union	

The last review of membership by the School's Forum was at the meeting in January 2022. At that time, it was agreed to increase the number of primary/secondary places from 19 to 20, and the number of Forum members from 26 to 27. It was also agreed to allocate 11 places to maintained schools and 9 places to academies, based on the number of pupils in both provision types on the May 21 census. Finally, it was agreed that the number of primary/secondary places would not be prescribed by phase, provided that:

There is at least one from each phase for both groups; and

The overall balance between phases is more or less pro-rata to pupil numbers (within 5%); and

There is at least one primary governor and one secondary governor (across maintained school and Academy reps); and

There is at least one Academy governor and at least one maintained school governor.

All-through schools may be represented on the Forum either as a primary or as a secondary representative.

Representatives may be headteachers or governors, provided that each category includes at least one headteacher and one governor representative (as per DfE guidance).

As a result of these changes, the current representation for the Forum can be seen below.

Maintained (Primary & Secondary)	11
Academy (Primary & Secondary)	9
Special Schools	2
Early Years	2
16-19 provider	1
PRUs	1
Trade Unions	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>

There are currently 2 vacancies. 1 for a maintained primary representative and 1 for a 16-19 provider representative.

**Recommendation** - Members are asked to note the current membership.

Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	AGENDA Item No.	ITEM 7
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2022-23 DSG Forecast Outturn</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update		
Author	Madiha Bhenick – DSG Finance Manager		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of 2022-23 DSG forecast outturn as at Month 8 (Nov-22)		
Recommendations	Schools Forum to note 2022-23 Forecast outturn		

## 1. Summary

1.1. In November 2022, the DSG allocation for 2022-23 was revised, increasing the overall budget by £2.501m (Table 1).

1.2. The forecast expenditure for FY 2022-23 is £249.017m (Table 2).

## 2. DSG revised allocation

2.1. The 2022-23 DSG allocations are shown in Table 1 below. The allocations were amended in November 2022 to take into consideration the High Needs for Import & Export adjustments. The increase in Early Years is due to an increase in the number of pupils eligible for entitlement. Currently, this adjustment is an increase of £2.501m.

Table 1: DSG Allocation including the latest adjustment in November 2022

<b>Block</b>	<b>Original DSG Allocation 2022-23*</b>	<b>Nov 2022 Amended DSG Allocation*</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Schools Block	155,040	155,040	0
Central	2,266	2,266	0
Early Years	28,297	30,719	2,422
High Needs	62,353	62,432	0,079
<b>DSG Income</b>	<b>247,956</b>	<b>250,457</b>	<b>2,501</b>

\*After Recoupment

### 3. DSG FY2022-23 Forecast

3.1. The November (Month 8) forecast in Table 2 shows the updated DSG budget based on the latest allocation as set out by the DfE and the current outturn forecast is shown in the table below.

Table 2: DSG 22-23 forecast as at M8

#### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Description	Budget	Forecast	Full Year Variance
	£'000	£ '000	£ '000
<b>Schools Block</b>			0
Individual Schools Budget	151,595	151,595	0
ESG Retained Funding	700	700	0
Growth fund	2,745	1,600	(1,145)
<b>Central School Services Block</b>	2,266	2,266	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>157,306</b>	<b>156,161</b>	<b>(1,145)</b>
<b>Early Years Block</b>	30,719	30,719	0
<b>High Needs Block</b>	62,432	62,137	(295)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>93,151</b>	<b>92,856</b>	<b>(295)</b>
<b>DSG Income</b>	<b>(250,457)</b>	<b>(249,017)</b>	
<b>DSG Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,440)</b>

3.2. Within the schools' block, the amount forecast expenditure for individual school budgets and the ESG retained funding matches the budget. This is unlikely to change through the year.

3.3. We are showing an underspend in the growth fund of £1.145m. Subject to further discussion, this is potentially earmarked in part for Barnet Hill Academy as and when they come on stream.

3.4. The Growth Fund forecast of £1.6m is made up primarily of Ark Pioneer Academy and Saracens High, £0.5m each. Ashmole Primary, St James Catholic High School and St Michaels circa £0.1m each

3.5. The Central Schools Services block will be spent to match the budget, leaving no under or overspending. This will not change through 2022-23.

3.6. There is a projected underspend at £0.295m across the range of High Needs.



Overspend for specialist inclusion service (£0.105m) and SENIF (£0.215m) has been off by savings on Autism packages (0.295m) and placements in independent schools (0.270m).

3.7. The expenditure in the Early Years block forecast is in line with the budget.

#### 4. DSG Reserves Forecast FY2022-23

Table 3: Forecast Reserve as at M8

DSG reserves	B/Fwd	Use of Reserve	Top Up Reserve	C/Fwd
	£'000	£ '000	£'000	£ '000
DSG Reserve	(4,870)	2,800	(1,440)	(3,510)

4.1. The current forecast at Month 8 is indicating that the DSG reserve will be £3.510m for FY22-23 as shown in Table 3.

4.2. The schools' forum (13.01.22) has agreed to earmark £1.0m of this reserve to fund Hong Kong & Afghanistan Refugees (HK&A Refugees) joining our schools in Barnet. The spend as at M8 regarding HK&A Refugees is £0.213m. The council is not expecting further significant spending for this financial year

4.3. The Maintained Nursery Lumpsum of £0.400m was agreed following Schools' Forum held on 13.01.22.

4.4. The breakdown of the £2.8m use of reserves is as follows.

Charges to Reserves	£'000
Hong Kong & Afghanistan Refugee Support	250
Trade Union Back Pay (2021-22)	50
Maintained Nursery Lumpsum	400
Missed Growth Funding for 2021-22	2,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,800</b>

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Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	Agenda Item No.	<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b> 8
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Budget Proposal</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Decision		
Author	Richard Cox – Interim Finance Manager - DSG		
Appendices	<p>Appendix 1 – Detailed Breakdown of DSG Schools Block</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Detailed Breakdown of DSG CSS Block</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Detailed Breakdown of Early Years Block</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Detailed Breakdown of High Needs Block</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Indicative Funding Allocations 2023-24</p>		
Summary	<p>This report summarises how the London Borough of Barnet is funded for its education functions through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).</p> <p>The report provides detailed analysis of each of the four blocks that make up the DSG and how the funding is broken down.</p> <p>Finally, the report shows how the local authority intends to fund its schools through National Funding Formula for 2023-24.</p>		
Recommendations	<p>We are asking that Schools Forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes the 2023/24 draft budget as shown in Table 1.</li> <li>2. Notes and agrees the 2023/24 formula factor rates used in the APT submission (National Funding Formula rates) as shown in Table 2. (All voting members)</li> <li>3. Notes and agrees Growth Fund criteria and amount, and Split Site criteria. (All voting members)</li> <li>4. Notes and agrees the revised funding rates for 3- and four-year-olds in nursery provision</li> <li>5. Notes and agrees the new funding arrangements for maintained nursery schools</li> </ol>		

## 1. Background

1.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is paid in support of the local authority's schools' budget. It is the main source of income for the schools budget. Local authorities are

responsible for determining the split of the grant between central expenditure and the individual schools budget (ISB) in conjunction with local schools forums. Local authorities are responsible for allocating the ISB through the APT to individual schools in accordance with the local schools' funding formula. School Forum members will be aware that that the London Borough of Barnet mirrors National Formula Funding values in its local funding formula.

1.2 The DSG is made up of four blocks:

- Schools Block
- Early Years Block
- High Needs Block
- Central School Services Block

1.3 The Schools Block (SB) allocates funding for pupils in Reception to Year 11 in state-funded mainstream schools and academies.

1.4 The Early Years block (EYB) funds early education entitlements for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds in private, voluntary, and independent settings, maintained nursery schools and school nursery classes. The funding for 2-year-olds is specifically for pupils from households with low incomes.

1.5 The High Needs Block (HNB) supports provision for vulnerable children and young people, mainly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.

1.6 The Department for Education (DfE) created a Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) in 2018/19, using the baseline of the schools block in 2017/18. The CSSB covers funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing and statutory responsibilities.

1.7 The DfE announced allocations of the gross DSG to local authorities on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The figures confirm the Schools Block and the Central School Services Block. However, the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block are indicative at this stage and will change during 2023.

The funding allocations show that there is growth across all four blocks as follows

Schools Block - £19.392m

High Needs Block - £6.67m

Early Years Block - £1.799m

Central School Services Block - £0.103m

TOTAL = £27.964m

1.8 The allocation for the Schools Block is based on October 2022 school census data. A proposed Minimum Funding Guarantee of +0.5% means that every Primary or Secondary school will receive at least this percentage increase per pupil through the formula in 2023/24 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula) above the amount it received in 2022/23.

In addition, each primary school is guaranteed a minimum of £4,405 per pupil and each secondary school is guaranteed to receive at least £5,715 per pupil in 2023/24.

**Table 1 Dedicated Schools Grant Analysis**

	Schools	High Needs	Early Years	Central Services
<b>Final Allocations for 2022-23</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Gross DSG	£ 297.756	£ 68.153	£ 30.720	£ 2.266
Academies Recoupment	-£ 139.835	£ -	£ -	£ -
NNDR	-£ 2.881	£ -	£ -	£ -
HN Place Funding	£ -	-£ 5.720	£ -	£ -
<b>Net DSG</b>	<b>£ 155.040</b>	<b>£ 62.433</b>	<b>£ 30.720</b>	<b>£ 2.266</b>
	Schools	High Needs	Early Years	Central Services
<b>Indicative Allocations for 2023-24</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Gross DSG	£ 317.168	£ 74.823	£ 32.519	£ 2.369
Academies Recoupment	-£ 150.894	£ -	£ -	£ -
NNDR	-£ 2.898	£ -	£ -	£ -
HN Place Funding	£ -	-£ 5.864	£ -	£ -
<b>Net DSG</b>	<b>£ 163.376</b>	<b>£ 68.959</b>	<b>£ 32.519</b>	<b>£ 2.369</b>
<b>Additional Funding</b>	<b>£ 19.395</b>	<b>£ 6.670</b>	<b>£ 1.799</b>	<b>£ 0.103</b>

## 2. Allocations by Block

2.1 Schools Block - The 2023/24 SB Income is based on the following rates:

- £5,149.51 Primary unit of funding based on 29,671.5 primary pupils (October 2022 census)
- £6,786.19 Secondary unit of funding based on 23,383.5 secondary pupils (October 2022 census)
- £5.690m of funding for Pupil Growth and Premises factors

TOTAL = £317.168m (Gross funding – subject to deductions for recoupment and NNDR)

- A more detailed breakdown of the schools block is shown at [appendix 1](#)

2.2 Central School Services Block – The 2023/24 CSSB for Barnet includes the following:

- £2.179m – allocation for ongoing responsibilities (includes retained duties, admissions, licensing and Schools Forum administration)
- £0.190m – Historic commitments allocation, a 20% reduction from 2022/23.

TOTAL = £2.369m

A more detailed breakdown of the Central Services block is shown at [appendix 2](#)

2.3 Early Years Block – The Early Years Block is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2022. An update to the 2023/24

EYB allocation will be made once the January 2023 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised. The allocation will be updated in July 2023 based on the January 2023 census numbers.

- It has been confirmed that the hourly rate received by Barnet for 3- and 4-year-olds has increased from £6.24 to £6.41.
- It is proposed to increase the passthrough basic hourly rate for 3 and 4 year by £0.42 to from £5.45 to £5.87
- It is proposed that the deprivation rate based on IDACI is increased by £0.01 from £0.29 to £0.30 per hour, therefore passing on the increase from the government directly to providers.
- The DfE funding rate for 2-year-olds has been increased by £0.63 and it is proposed to pass this increase on to providers, thus increasing the rate from £6.29 an hour in 2022-23 to £6.92 an hour in 2023-24.
- From April 2023, funding for Maintained Nursery Schools is included within the Early Years Block. Each part-time equivalent is funded at £3.80 per hour and it is proposed to pass this funding onto our Maintained Nursery Schools in full.

TOTAL = £32.519m

A more detailed breakdown of the Early Years block is shown at [appendix 3](#)

2.4 High Needs Block (HNB) - The provisional HNB income for Barnet has been calculated as follows:

- £65.334m - Actual High Needs National Funding Formula allocation
- £4.509m - based on a £5,200.81 per pupil Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) weighted base rate \* 867 (pupils in special schools/special academies based on the October 2022 census)
- £0.756m - Import/export adjustment for net 75 imported pupils
- £0.306m – Additional High Needs Funding for Special Free School
- £0.918m – hospital education and teachers' pay and pension

TOTAL = £74.823m (Gross funding – subject to deductions for high needs place funding)

The final import/ export adjustment data will be amended based on January 2022 school and FE providers' HN pupil census data.

A more detailed breakdown of the High Needs block is shown at [appendix 4](#)

### **3. APT submission to the DfE**

5.1 The council is required to submit a completed Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the DfE annually, which shows all the detailed calculations and assumptions underpinning the proposals for allocating budgets to schools. For Academies and Free Schools, it captures the data required by the Education and Schools Funding Agency (ESFA) to calculate academy budgets and recoupment deductions to the gross DSG. Table 2 below shows the Schools' Block Funding Factor rates in the National Funding Formula (NFF).



**Table 2 - Schools' Pupil led Factor rates (for the APT submission to the DfE)**

		2022-23 Barnet Formula	2023-24 NFF Rates (Area Cost Adjusted)		
Description		Amount Per Pupil	Amount Per Pupil		
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,540.05	£3,739.75		
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,991.51	£5,272.45		
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£5,625.35	£5,942.38		
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary Amount	Secondary	Primary Amount	Secondary
	FMS	£517.20	£517.20	£528.90	£528.90
	FMS6	£649.25	£951.86	£776.82	£1,134.93
	IDACI Band F	£242.09	£352.13	£253.43	£369.13
	IDACI Band E	£297.11	£467.68	£308.52	£490.33
	IDACI Band D	£462.18	£654.75	£484.82	£683.16
	IDACI Band C	£506.19	£715.27	£528.90	£749.27
	IDACI Band B	£539.21	£770.29	£561.95	£804.37
	IDACI Band A	£704.27	£979.37	£738.25	£1,024.74
3) Looked After Children	LAC	Not a Factor under NFF			
4) English as an Additional Language	EAL 3	£621.74		£639.08	
	EAL 3		£1,683.64		£1,724.43
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry	£1,017.89	£1,463.56	£1,041.27	£1,498.54
6) Prior Attainment	Low Attainment % old FSP 73	£1,243.47		£1,272.66	
	Secondary Low Attainment (Year 7-9)		£1,881.72		£1,928.27
	Secondary Low Attainment (Year 10-11)				

5.2 The proposed funding rates for 2023/24 financial year are shown in table 2 above, along with the current factors in the Barnet funding formula for 2023/24. Under the National Funding Formula (NFF), Basic Entitlement Schools Block Factor rates for 2023/24 have been increased by 5.5% from 2022/23 before the addition of the area cost adjustment.

5.3 In October 2022, the government decided to increase the core schools' budget by a net £2bn in 2023-24 and a further £2bn in 2024-25 after adjusting for the removal of the health and social care levy. The teachers' pay award is 5% whilst support staff pay will increase by up to 10% for the lowest paid. Energy costs and general inflation will further erode budgets, so it is not yet possible to say whether this uplift represents real terms increase in school funding as compared to previous years.

5.4 The APT is due for submission on 20 January 2023. The main purpose of this tool is:

- To allow local authorities to model different options for their 2023 to 2024 schools block funding formulae and at the same time act as the proforma which local authorities will submit in January 2023; it is also the mechanism by which we provide the schools block dataset to local authorities
- To capture all the data required by Educations and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to calculate academy budgets, including information on the number of occupied high needs places at special units and resourced provision in mainstream academies to determine the place funding rate
- To enable ESFA to check that the formula has been applied reasonably and in compliance with regulations and conditions of grant, and that central budgets are being allocated in line with regulations
- To enable ESFA to check that at least 99.5% of funding allocated through the schools' block element of the DSG is passed through the funding formula set by the local authority or allocated to the growth fund or falling rolls fund.
- To collect data on maintained schools' schools block budgets for publication
- To use the notional allocations for academies for recoupment purposes; recoupment will continue to take place based on the budget, including the minimum funding guarantee, that the academy would have received as a maintained school
- To give ESFA information about which academies and future converters are judged by the local authority as meeting the criteria to qualify for exceptional factors or MFG exclusions so that these can be considered in their funding allocations.

5.5 In addition to the rates submitted in the APT as shown in Table 2, the authority also must clarify the funding criteria used when allocating growth and split site funding; the criterion for these factors is as previously agreed by Schools Forum and as described below:

### **Growth Fund:**

5.6 The Growth Fund can only be used only to:

- Support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
- Support additional classes to meet infant class size regulation
- Meet the costs of new schools

5.7 Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible for funding the growth needs of all their schools in their area, including new and existing maintained schools and academies. LAs must fund growth needs to all schools on the same criteria. Schools Forum is required to approve the Growth Fund criteria.

5.8 The costs of new schools will include the lead-in costs and will also include post start up and diseconomy of scale costs. Growth Fund support should be provided where academies are created to meet basic need.

5.9 For 2023/24, the DfE has set minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) amounts for primary schools at £4,405 and for secondary schools at £5,715. In view of this change it is proposed to amend the existing Growth Fund criteria to reflect the MPPF values, where new classes start in September/the autumn term of the financial year 2023/24. This will increase the amounts payable to primary schools from £74,638,150 to £77,088 and for secondary schools; from £96,688 to £100,013 for each new class of 30.



5.10 Schools Forum is also required to approve the size of the Growth Fund, which is estimated to be £2.481m.

The list of schools to whom the local authority is expecting to provide growth funding in 2023-24 is as follows:

**Table 3 Growing Schools**

School	Note
<b>Permanent Growth</b>	
Ark Pioneer	Ends 2023-24
St Michaels Catholic Grammar School	Ends 2023-24
<b>Bulge Classes</b>	
Holly Park	Ends 2023-24
Underhill	Ends 2023-24
<b>Conversion to Mainstream</b>	
Barnet Hill	From September 2023 TBD

5.11 Growth Criteria:

- “Bulge classes opened at the request of the local authority - £10,000 one-off start-up grant plus £77,088 (7/12x£4,405x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September. £100,013 (7/12x£5,715x30) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Permanent expansions approved by the local authority - £77,088 (7/12x£4,405x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September, £100,013 (7/12x£5,715x30) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Temporary accommodation costs incurred as a direct result of LA approved expansions.
- Independent schools transferring to VA status - Allocation based on funding formula pro-rata for months open, based on previous actual pupils on roll, plus permanent expansion funding if appropriate.
- Newly established schools for which the LA is responsible to provide start-up up funding - Start-up funding of £220,000 primary/ £300,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- New school phases (expansions to All-through status): New phase start-up funding of £50,000 primary/ £90,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- Diseconomies of scale funding will be available to new basic needs academies and maintained schools opening new phases until there are pupils in every year group. No diseconomies of scale funding will be available to independent schools which become maintained. Diseconomies of scale per empty year group, paid from year

after opening until pupils in all year groups. Academies are paid these rates in the current financial year with a further 5/12ths payment to cover the full academic year.”

**Split site funding:**

5.12 The Local Authority intends to use the following criteria for qualifying settings in the APT for 2023/24.

“School buildings on split sites are funded as follows (excludes sports and play areas, premises used for nurseries and sixth forms only and all-through schools where each site is used solely for either primary or secondary phases):

- The funding rate for a school on a split site is currently £33,313 (primary) or £110,546 (secondary).
- All through schools receive the primary split site allocation (£33,313) if they have primary year groups on more than one site, and £22,109.20 per secondary year group (£110,546/5) located across more than one site. This is increased by part year fractions as schools expand across sites.
- Secondary schools on split sites also receive an allowance for staff travel between sites, depending on how far apart the two sites are. The rate is £59,483. If the buildings are very close and simply separated by a public road this rate is multiplied by 0.2. If further apart the multiplier is 1.4.”

5.13 The schools block income for 2023/24 as shown in table 1 above is £317.168m. The draft 2023/24 schools block expenditure as submitted on the APT is broken down as follows:

Split Sites and Lump Sum	£ 17,458,952
NNDR Allocations	£ 2,898,084
Formula Funding and MFG Allocations	£ 294,330,590
Growth Funding	£ 2,480,796
<b>Total Schools Block Allocation</b>	<b>£ 317,168,422</b>

Appendix 5 4.1 shows the indicative MFG and school factors funding allocations for individual schools compared with 2022/23 for each school for the Schools Block. These may be subject to data corrections and will be verified by the DfE before final confirmation to schools. The figures do not include Growth, Post-16, early years or SEN funding.

## Appendix 1 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Schools Block

Schools Block	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
Primary Unit of Funding	£ 4,922.40	£ 5,149.51	£ 227.11	4.61%
Secondary Unit of Funding	£ 6,457.91	£ 6,786.19	£ 328.28	5.08%
NOR Primary	29,653.00	29,671.50	18.50	0.06%
NOR Secondary	22,605.50	23,383.50	778.00	3.44%
NNDR Allocation	£ 2,880,605	£ 2,900,580	19,975.00	0.69%
NFF Allocation	£ 289,003,969	£ 308,512,989	£ 19,509,020	6.75%
Premises Factor	£ 3,141,760	£ 3,161,735	£ 19,975	0.64%
Growth Factor	£ 2,665,934	£ 2,528,127	-£ 137,807	-5.17%
<b>Schools Block (before deductions)</b>	<b>£ 297,755,907</b>	<b>£ 317,168,422</b>	<b>£ 19,412,515</b>	<b>6.52%</b>
Deductions				
Academies Recoupment	-£ 139,835,342	£ -	£ -	
NNDR Allocation	-£ 2,880,605	-£ 2,900,580	-£ 19,975	
<b>Schools Block (post deductions)</b>	<b>£ 155,039,960</b>	<b>£ 314,267,842</b>	<b>£ 19,392,540</b>	

## Appendix 2 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Central Services Block

Central Services Block	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
CSSB Unit of Funding	£ 38.81	£ 41.08	£ 2.27	5.85%
CSSB Pupil Count	52,258.50	53,055.00	796.50	1.52%
CSSB Allocation	2,028,153.00	2,179,500.00	151,347.00	7.46%
Historic Funding Commitments	£ 237,409.00	£ 189,928.00	-£ 47,481.00	-20.00%
<b>Total CSSB</b>	<b>£ 2,265,562</b>	<b>£ 2,369,428</b>	<b>103,866.00</b>	<b>4.58%</b>

## Appendix 3 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Early Years Block

Early Years	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
Hourly Rate for 3 and 4 Year Olds EYNFF	£ 6.24	£ 6.41	£ 0.17	2.72%
NOR 3 and 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement	5,764.35	5,764.35	-	0.00%
Allocation for 3 and 4 Year Olds (15 hours)	£ 20,502,641	£ 21,061,206	£ 558,565	2.72%
NOR 3 and 4 Year Olds additional 15 hours	1,976.01	1,976.01	£ -	0.00%
Allocation for 3 and 4 Year Olds (30 hours)	£ 7,028,273	£ 7,219,748	£ 191,475	2.72%
Hourly Rate for 2 Year Olds	6.29	6.92	£ 0.63	10.02%
NOR 2 Year olds	803.55	803.55	£ -	0.00%
Initial Allocation for 2 Olds	£ 2,880,968	£ 3,169,523	£ 288,555	10.02%
Pupil Premium	£ 167,741	£ 173,333	£ 5,592	3.33%
Disability Access Fund	£ 140,000	£ 150,696	£ 10,696	7.64%
Hourly Rate for Nursery School Funding	£ -	£ 3.80	£ 3.80	100.00%
NOR for Nursery School Funding	343.60	343.60	£ -	0.00%
Indicative Funding Nursery Schools	£ -	£ 744,238	£ 744,238	100.00%
<b>Total Early Years Block</b>	<b>£ 30,719,623</b>	<b>£ 32,518,744</b>	<b>£ 1,799,121</b>	<b>5.86%</b>

## Appendix 4 Detailed Breakdown of High Needs Block

High Needs Block	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
Total high needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	£ 59,478,857	£ 65,334,166	£ 5,855,309	9.84%
Basic Entitlement Unit of Funding	£ 5,194.59	£ 5,200.81	£ 6.22	0.12%
NOR Special Schools and Academies	823.00	867.00	44.00	5.35%
Import and Export Adjustment	£ 756,000	£ 756,000	£ -	0.00%
Additional Funding for Special Free Schools	£ 306,000	£ 306,000	£ -	0.00%
Pay and Pension / Supplementary Funding	£ 883,861	£ 918,286	£ 34,425	3.89%
NFF Historic Spend	£ 59,478,857	£ 65,334,166	£ 5,855,309	9.84%
Additional High Needs Allocation	£ 2,453,250	£ 2,999,718	£ 546,468	22.28%
<b>Total High Needs Block (before Deductions)</b>	<b>£ 68,153,116</b>	<b>£ 74,823,273</b>	<b>£ 6,436,477</b>	<b>9.79%</b>

High Needs Block Deductions	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
<b>Mainstream</b>				
Pre 16 SEN Places at £6,000	£ 615,000	£ 690,000	£ 75,000	12.20%
Pre 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£ 110,001.00	£ 60,000.00	-£ 50,001.00	-45.46%
Post 16 SEN Places at £6,000	£ 28,000.00	£ 30,000.00	£ 2,000.00	
<b>Special Academies</b>				
Pre 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£ 1,800,834.00	£ 1,730,000.00	-£ 70,834.00	-3.93%
Post 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£ 706,667.00	£ 810,000.00	£ 103,333.00	14.62%
<b>Special Free Schools</b>				
Pre 16 SEN Places at £10,000	505,000.00	580,000.00	£ 75,000.00	14.85%
Post 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£ 126,667	£ 140,000	£ 13,333.00	10.53%
<b>AP Academies and Free Schools</b>				
SEN Places at £4,169	£ 4,167	£ -	-£ 4,167.00	-100.00%
<b>16-19 Academies and Free Schools</b>				
SEN Places at £6,000	£ 24,000	£ 24,000	£ -	0.00%
<b>FE Colleges and ILP's</b>				
SEN Places at £6,000	£ 1,800,000	£ 1,800,000	£ -	0.00%
<b>Total High Needs Block Deductions</b>	<b>£ 5,720,334</b>	<b>£ 5,864,000</b>	<b>£ 143,664</b>	<b>2.51%</b>

High Needs Summary	2022-23	2023-24	Change	Percentage
Total High Needs Block (before Deductions)	£ 68,153,116	£ 74,823,273	£ 6,670,158	9.79%
Total High Needs Block Deductions	£ 5,720,334	£ 5,864,000	£ 143,666	2.51%
<b>Total High Needs Block (after deductions)</b>	<b>£ 62,432,782</b>	<b>£ 68,959,273</b>	<b>£ 6,526,492</b>	<b>10.45%</b>







Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	AGENDA ITEM Agenda Item No.	9
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Information and Decision		
Author	Sharon Palma – Head of Finance, Childrens and Family Services  Richard Cox – Interim DSG Finance Manager		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of the 2023-24 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)		
Recommendations	Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the expenditure lines that comprise the Central School Services Block.		

### 1. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the expenditure lines that comprise the Central School Services Block.

### 2. Summary

The final CSSB for FY2023-24 has increased by £0.104m to £2.369m as compared to 2022-23. Where appropriate, the increase in budget has been pro-rated against the 2022-23 budget.

### 3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

3.1 The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is formulated to cover both historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities. The former are fixed amounts committed in 2012-13 and cannot be increased under the National Funding Formula. The Department for Education (DfE) expects that historical commitments will reduce over time and therefore have reduced allocations by 20% for 2023-24.

3.2 Ongoing responsibilities includes funding for duties for all pupils within the Local Authority (LA) boundary, admissions and appeals, Schools Forum administration and copyright licensing.

3.3 Schools Forum is required to approve Central Services Block amounts, except for Copyright Licensing, which is negotiated on behalf of all LAs by the DfE. The DfE published final allocations in December 2022 which shows the cost to Barnet is £0.335m.

3.4 The CSSB for 2023-24 is £2.369 million comprising a Historical commitment to combined budgets of £0.190m (a reduction £0.047m from 2022-23) and ongoing responsibilities of £2.179m. The budgets are summarised below:

		2023-24	2022-23
		£m	£m
<b>Historic Commitments</b>	Safer Families	0.075	0.093
	CAF Team	0.115	0.144
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	School Admissions	0.425	0.401
	Servicing of Schools Forum	0.036	0.034
	Copyright Licensing Costs	0.335	0.289
	Education Welfare Service	0.493	0.465
	Asset Management	0.043	0.041
	Statutory/Regulatory Duties	0.847	0.798
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.369</b>	<b>2.265</b>

3.5 The fall in funding for Historical Commitments will mean a £0.047m reduction in the charge for combined budgets from the General Fund. The final figure for ongoing responsibilities was based on the October 2022 census.



Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	Agenda Item No.	<b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b> 10
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 De-Delegation and Services Previously Funded from Education Services Grant</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update and Decision		
Author	Richard Cox – Interim DSG Finance Manager		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of 2023-24 De-Delegation Rates		
Recommendations	That Schools Forum to note and approve the updated de-delegation rates for FY 2023-24		

## 1. Recommendation

Schools Forum to note and approve the updated de-delegation rates for FY 2023-24.

## 2. De-Delegation

2.1 In December 2022, Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate the following services:

- Behaviour Support (primary maintained schools)
- Narrowing the Gap (primary and secondary maintained schools)
- Trade Union Duties (primary and secondary maintained schools)
- Additional School Improvement Services (primary and secondary maintained schools)
- School Contingency, including redundancy costs for Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary and secondary maintained schools)

2.2 The rates reported were calculated using pupil numbers from the October 2021 census. The rates have now been adjusted to take account of the updated figures in the October 2022 census. The revised de-delegation rates are shown in the table below. These revised amounts ensure that the total amount de-delegated for each service and for each phase remain the same as last year. The change in rates reflects the fact that the number of primary school pupils has remained relatively stable, and the number of secondary pupils has marginally increased (hence a decrease in rates).

2.3 The main difference to the de-delegation rates as compared to 2022-23 relates to Additional School Improvement where the de-delegation now includes the value of the former School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant.

De-Delegated Services	2023-24 Final		2023-24 Provisional		2022/23	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
	Per Pupil	Per Pupil	Per Pupil	Per Pupil	Per Pupil	Per Pupil
Behaviour Support	£ 3.22	£ -	£ 3.22	£ -	£ 3.22	£ -
Narrowing the Gap	£ 12.33	£ 10.96	£ 12.33	£ 11.02	£ 12.33	£ 11.02
Trade Union Duties	£ 1.66	£ 1.44	£ 1.66	£ 1.45	£ 1.66	£ 1.45
Additional School Improvement	£ 18.57	£ 6.61	£ 18.57	£ 6.67	£ 4.15	£ 3.61
Schools Contingency (Inc. Schools in Financial Difficulty)	£ 15.89	£ 14.63	£ 15.89	£ 14.71	£ 15.89	£ 14.71

### 3. Services previously funded from the Education Services Grant

3.1 In December 2022, Schools Forum also agreed to approve the proposal for 2023-24 to continue charging the cost of services formerly funded from the ESG to the budgets of maintained schools, at the current year (2022-23) level of £0.700m. It was reported that this would mean a deduction from budgets of approximately £23.83 for maintained primary and secondary schools and that the final figure would be available once 2023/24 pupil numbers are known.

3.2 Based on the October 2022 census numbers the final per pupil amount is £23.80 per pupil in maintained primary and secondary schools.

Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	Agenda Item No.	<b>AGENDA ITEM 11</b> 11
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Proposed Use of DSG Reserve</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Decision		
Author	Neil Marlow Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning BELS		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report provides proposals for the intended use of DSG Reserves in 2023-24		
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to the proposed use of £750,000 of DSG reserves to fund new arrival Asylum Seekers as set out in the report.</li> <li>2. Agree the proposed use of £1m of DSG reserves to fund therapies for children with EHCP as set out in the report.</li> </ol>		

1.1 The forecast carry-forward of Dedicated Schools Grant funding to 2023/24 is £3.5m. Carried forward DSG reserves have generally been used to support pressures in the DSG High Needs budget and the growth in Education, Health and Care Plans means it would be prudent to retain most of this carry forward to support the High Needs budget in 2023-24. In 2022/23 a decision was made to allocate £1,575,000 of the carried forward underspend on

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>

1.2 Of the £1m earmarked for spending for new arrivals (Hong Kong and asylum seeker hotels) only £0.213m was spent in 2022/23.

1.3 As this was not all spent and the reserve is still healthy, it is proposed to allocate up to £750,000 for new arrivals from asylum seeker hotels. The existing hotels that we had last year are still in operation and there is an additional asylum seeker hotel in Finchley.

## **New arrivals - children of asylum seeker families living in designated hotels**

- 1.4 The continuing influx of asylum seekers to the United Kingdom, many of them from Afghanistan, has meant that the three hotels that were designated by the government for temporary housing for newly arrived asylum seeker families has been added to, with a further hotel in Finchley. Children of school-age living in these hotels are entitled to be admitted to local schools even if on a temporary basis.
- 1.5 This creates financial challenges for many schools, as they incur extra costs to support the welfare and regular attendance of the children from these families. Schools may incur extra staffing costs, whether for extra teachers (or fractions of teachers), teaching assistants and other support staff or for specialist mentors to support individual children. Some incur extra costs for extra school clubs and for providing English as an Additional Language support. For children from poorer families, many schools have also had to incur non-staff costs, for example on providing free school meals, until eligibility is established and on purchasing school uniforms, sportswear and equipment (such as laptops).
- 1.6 It is proposed to allocate one-off funding from carried forward underspend in the Dedicated Schools Grant to support schools that enrol children after the October 2022 census date for the period these children are in schools up until the end of the summer term 2023. It is proposed to include funding for all schools with children living in the designated hotels.

## **Approach to funding of new arrivals**

- 1.7 The technical mechanism for providing the funding for new arrivals, as it will sit outside the school funding formula, is again to allocate the money toward 'ongoing local authority statutory responsibilities for all schools in respect of the welfare and attendance of pupils'. The allocation requires the agreement of the Schools Forum and the proposals for spending the money also requires the agreement of the Schools Forum.
- 1.8 The Schools Forum is asked to approve the allocation of this funding. The Forum is also asked to approve the following proposed approach to the funding
- The funding will be capped at £0.75m and will be one-off for the financial year 23-24 only.
  - The payments should be based on an agreed proportion of the 2023/24 AWPU funding for schools for each eligible pupil, with the proportion being adjusted to ensure the total allocation is within the agreed £0.75m budget.
  - Funding is for all children of asylum seeker families living in the designated hotels who enrol in Barnet maintained primary and secondary schools and primary and secondary Academies after the October 2022 school census date with payments being calculated pro-rata for the weeks they attend up to the end of July 2023.
  - The mechanism for payment to the schools will be the same as that deployed in 2022/23 for this purpose
  - The proposals, if agreed by the Schools Forum, will be recommended for approval by the authorisation of the Executive Director, Children's Services, who will then approve the amounts to be paid to eligible schools.

## Therapies for Children with ECHP

1.9 As can be seen by Table 1 below, the number of children and young people the Council supports through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) has increased significantly since the introduction of the Children and Family Act (2014). This is not surprising given the threshold for a Statutory Education, Health and Care, Needs Assessment (EHCNA) was lowered and at the same time the age range of those eligible was increased to 0-25 years.

1.10 Since 2015, the 0-15 cohort in Barnet has increased by 51.85%, the total increase in the number of EHCPs maintained by Barnet since 2015 has increased by 85.49

**Table 1. Growth in EHCPs since 2015.**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
England	240,183	256,315	287,290	319,819	353,995	390,109	430,697	473,255
London	41,104	43,708	48,554	53,975	59,672	65,853	72,193	78,203
Barnet	1,731	1,817	2,088	2,256	2,372	2,682	2,899	3,211

1.11 Barnet was subject to a joint CQC/Ofsted local area SEND Inspection between the 17 - 21 January 2022. The inspection outcome feedback letter can be found [here](#).

1.12 The feedback letter was extremely favourable in many areas *“Children and young people with SEND enjoy their time in education .... The support they receive helps them to access learning at school and college more easily...Parents and carers are typically positive about their children’s experiences in schools and colleges”*.

1.13 A key area for improvement was in the delivery of therapies.

*“Gaps in therapy provision narrow the support available to meet the needs of children and young people. Some providers find it a challenge to meet the needs of those with speech and language difficulties due to the limited availability of speech and language therapists, for example.*

*Waiting times for occupational therapy and physiotherapy have been too long. Some children and young people have not been able to access the support they have needed”*.

*SEND Area Inspection Outcome Letter March 2022*

1.14 The Council has already put in place the Language Enrichment Programme (LEP) and support to schools in terms of Occupational Therapy via the OTTO club. These were initially funded by the Covid recovery funds which have now been fully depleted. These programmes need to be reviewed to consider the best use of funding to optimise impact for Children and young people with SEND including either continuation, adaption or change.

1.15 There is a need for direct therapy to be commissioned for children and young people who have been identified as requiring direct intervention as well as wider staff training to increase the skill level of all schools in meeting the wider therapeutic needs of children with SEND.

- Direct therapy would be for those children who have already been identified as requiring direct intervention.
- Training could include part funded training sessions to schools for Trauma Informed Practice and Emotional Literacy or emotionally based school refusal as well as support to improve whole school approaches to speech and language for example.

1.16 Item 7, Table 3 (p.14) of the Schools Forum papers show a carry forward in the DSG reserves of £3.51m and it is proposed to utilise £1m of this to support the therapy and training offer across the local area as above.

**Recommendations:**

We are asking that Schools Forum

1. Agree the proposed use of DSG reserves as set out above, to the funding new arrivals as set out above - £750,000
2. Agree the proposed use of DSG reserves for the funding of therapies for children with EHCP - £1m