

Schools Forum Agenda

Thursday 07th July 2022

Venue: Teams

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Item No	AGENDA ITEMS:	OFFICER(S)	PAPER(S) No.	COMMENT
1.	Apologies	Chair	N/A	
2.	Declarations of interests	Chair	N/A	
3.	Minutes from previous meeting & Matters arising	Chair		
4.	DSG Outturn FY21-22	NA	1	
5.	School Balances	NA	2	
6.	High Needs Block expenditure 2021-22 and projected expenditure 2022-23	NM	3	
7.	High Needs Commissioned Places	NM	4	
8.	AOB			
9.	<u>Date of next meeting:</u> Date: TBC Time: TBC Venue: Teams			

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 07 July 2022	Agenda Item No.	1
Report Title	FY2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Information		
Author	Ndenko Asong , Head of Finance CF/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. At the end of the financial year, the surplus carried to the DSG reserves for Barnet was £1.626m which brought the total reserve balance for Barnet DSG carried into FY2022-23 to £4.870m.

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 £240.735 of receipts into the LA.

2.3. The forecast expenditure for FY2021-22 is £238.476m (Table 1)

2.4. The current forecast is to increase the DSG reserve with the addition of a surplus of £1.63m resulting in a forecast overall carry forward reserve of £4.78m (see Table 1)

Table 1 - DSG Outturn FY2021-22

Description		FY2021-22	
	Revised Allocation	Outturn	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	150.504	0.282
• ESG Retained Funding	0.70	0.70	-
• Growth Fund	2.814	0.00	-(2.814)
Central Services Block Expenditure	2.193	2.194	0.001
Early Years Expenditure	29.278	28.683	-(0.596)
High Needs Block (HNB) Expenditure	55.528	57.028	1.500
Total Expenditure	240.735	239.108	-(1.627)
Net FY2021-22 position	0.0	1.627	1.627
B/Fwd Reserves	3.244	3.244	-
Carry Forward Reserves (Deficit)/Surplus	3.244	4.871	1.627

3. Expenditure

3.1. Early Years (EY)

- 3.1.1. The final recorded expenditure for EY is currently £28.683m. With 95% of the funding regulated to be earmarked for pass through to schools and settings there was a limit as to how much could be held centrally to support the central services for early years.
- 3.1.2. The underspend in EY block indicates there will be a funding adjustment for this block in the FY2022-23 DSG instalments. Details will be reported to the forum after publication from the DfE.

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 £0.282 overspend in the schools' block for the year is because of the overspend in the de-delegated contingency fund due to higher-than-expected redundancy costs in schools undergoing restructuring amidst financial strain. It is suggested that Schools Forum continue to review this fund as more and more schools begin to face financial difficulties and may need to draw from this pot.
- 3.2.3. The overspend also includes a £50k spend on funding for trade union duties within schools.
- 3.2.4. The growth fund continues to be the main driver of surplus for the DSG with an underspend of 2.814m partly due to unaccrued growth payments to be made in FY22-23.
- 3.2.5. The expenditure for services for maintained schools previously funded from the Education Services Grant came in on budget.

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. The spend for FY2122 was within the allocated budget.

3.4. High Needs Block

- 3.4.1. The final outturn for the High Needs block for the year is £57.028m resulting in a £1.5m overspend for the block.

- 3.4.2. The key areas of overspend include £0.872m for independent special schools including higher than expected joint funding costs for complex needs pupils. There is also a £0.261m overspend on top-ups for special schools against a £5.6m budget.
- 3.4.3. The final spend for mainstream independent schools sits at £2.7m which is £0.302m higher than budget.
- 3.4.4. There were also overspends in the amount the amount for SEN top-ups paid to primary Academy ARPs (£0.138m), special Academies (£0.140m), and post 16 institutions (£0.155m).

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 07 July 2022	Agenda Item No.	2
Report Title	School Balances – FY21-22		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Information		
Author	Ndenko Asong , Head of Finance CF/DSG Ndenko.Asong@Barnet.Gov.Uk		
Appendices			

4. Recommendation

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

5. Key context notes

5.1. The latest balances for academies are for academic year to August 2021, seven months behind the maintained school balances for the year to March 2022.

5.2. The maintained schools' balances are unaudited and may yet be subject to audit adjustments though we do not expect any material change.

5.3. Where the financial statement of a MAT does not provide breakdown information of school balances within the trust, a proportional allocation is used.

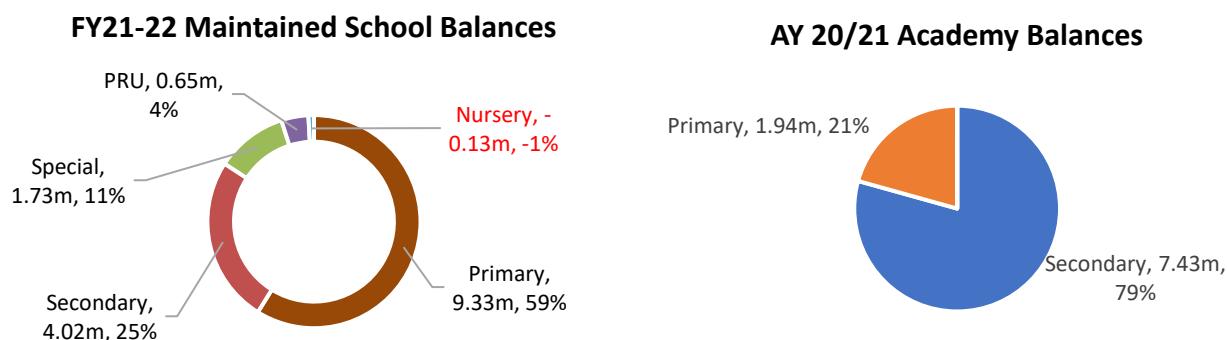
6. School Balances

6.1. With 127 schools in the borough, the overall balances are approximately, **£24.96m¹**. This is made up of 87 maintained schools and 40 academies. The table below shows a breakdown of schools by phases.

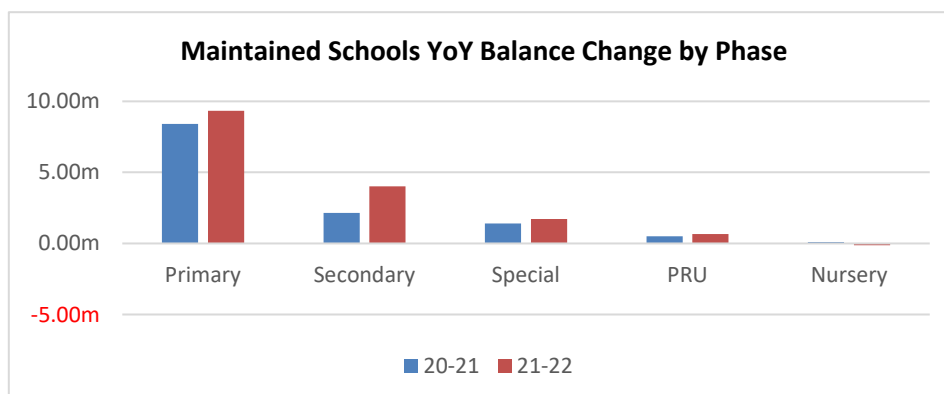
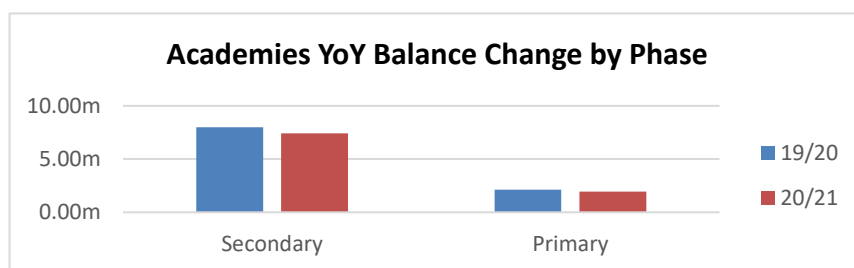
	Maintained	Academy
Primary	73	16
Nursery	2	0
Secondary	7	21
Special	3	3
PRU	2	0
Total	87	40

¹ Balance is of maintain schools as at end of March 22 and academies as at Aug 21 for those academies for which financial information was available.

- 6.2. The maintained school balances increased by 24% from **£12.58m** to **£15.60m** in the year to March 22 whilst academy balances decreased 7.4% from **£10.11m** to **£9.36m** in the year to August 21.
- 6.3. The charts below show the makeup of school balances at the end of March 22 and August 21 for maintained and academies respectively.



- 6.4. Maintained schools ended the year with **21** schools in deficit, up from **12** last year. The total amount of deficit also increased **£330k** to **£1.67m** in the year to March 22.
- 6.5. Academies had 2 schools in deficit at the end of August 21. This has not changed from the previous year. The level of deficit, however, did grow by £430k from **£1.4m** to **£1.9m**.
- 6.6. Despite making up only **8%** of maintained schools in the borough, the maintained secondaries added **£1.87m** to the reserves in the year to March 22 compared to **£0.91m** from the maintained primaries which make up **84%** of the maintained schools.
- 6.7. The maintained nurseries as a group have an overall net deficit balance with two nurseries out of the four in deficit.



Meeting/Date	Schools Forum	Agenda Item No.	3
Report Title	High Needs Block expenditure 2021-22 and projected expenditure 2022-23		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	Discussion & Decision		
Author	Neil Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning Neil.Marlow@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.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The total High Needs Budget for 2021/22 was £60.847m, or £55.528 after Academies recoupment. The increase in the High Needs funding from 2021/22 to 2022/23 is £6.824m. Taking Schools Supplementary Grant of £2.453m into account, it gives us a total High Needs Budget of £68.081m for 2022/23, or £62.352m 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 outturn 2021/22 and trend 2020/21 to 2022/23

- 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 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 Out-turn	2022/23 Budget	Variance Out-turn 2021/22 to Budget 2022/23
	£	£	£
Place funding and PRU top-up	7,852,798	8,566,831	714,033
Top-up ARPs	4,134,091	4,449,913	315,822
Top-up Special schools	10,157,696	11,616,712	1,459,016
Top-up Post 16	3,970,086	4,289,000	318,914
Mainstream top-ups	11,041,201	12,295,199	1,253,998
Top-up Out of Borough	2,790,042	3,056,617	266,575
Independent sector	10,920,469	11,497,226	576,757
Other (SEN Inclusion Fund, Hard to Place pupils, Hospital Funding, Autism Strategy, Residential Care without EHCP)	6,162,251	6,581,117	418,866
Total expenditure	57,028,634	62,352,615	5,323,981

- 3.2 The High Needs Block budget for 2022/23 is £62.353m. Based on the budget forecast for 2022/23 of a spend of £62.040m, this leaves £0.313m in the High Needs Block for contingencies, which at 0.5% of the total budget is a relatively low amount, although there will 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 £714,033. 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 2021/22 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 £318,914 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 £587,325 has been assigned for the additional costs associated with the recommendations of the SEN Funding Working Group, which were agreed by Schools Forum in March.
- 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 £418,866 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. Recommendations to Schools Forum

- 4.1 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.

Item: High Needs Commissioned Places		Item No.	4
Authors	Neil Marlow		
Position	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning		
Date	07.07.22		
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, February 2022 and May 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 took place in May and mainly focused on reception placements for September 2023 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) have increased from 2,682 in 2019-20, 2,931 in 2020-21 and, 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 another starting at Whitefield school from September 2023, and an Oakleigh satellite at Queenswell school, which is being further expanded from September 2023. 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 to open at Friern Barnet secondary school in September 2022.			
Commissioning plans			
1. Grasvenor Infant Academy will be closing on 22nd July 2022. Consultation has now closed on the proposal to expand Northway special school through the establishment of an annex on the Grasvenor site when the closure of Grasvenor goes ahead. Northway 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	14	+2
Childs Hill	12	-
Claremont	13	+1
Colindale	5	-1
Coppetts Wood	16	+2
Livingstone Nursery	6	-
Livingstone Primary	16	-
Orion	22	-
Summerside	12	+1
Friern Barnet	10	+10
Hendon	38	-
JCoSS	52	+1
London Academy	1	-1
Whitefield	13	+5
Total	280	+34

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	164	+39
Oakbridge (Oak Lodge post 16)	22	-
Oakhill	47	+7
Oakleigh	116	-

Oak Lodge (pre-16)	207	+7
Total	733	+76

Recommendation

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