



Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee

20 March 2023

Title	Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet 2023-24
Report of	Chair of the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	None
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Summary

The annual report on school funding arrangements was agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 12 January 2023.

The report describes the key features of Barnet's Schools Budget for 2023-24 and sets out the council's approach to financing schools through formula funding in the Authority Proforma

Tool submission (which sets out the local funding formula for Barnet primary and secondary schools and thus indicates the level of funding under the formula for each school). This includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +0.50%, which means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2023-24 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula).

The council mirrors the National Funding Formula for schools alongside 78 of 150 English Local Authorities.

The report also provides an update on the funding of maintained nursery schools in Barnet and the allocation of the High Needs Block for Special Educational Needs in 2023/24.

Officer Recommendations

That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:

- 1. Note the approved formula funding to be used in the Authority Proforma Tool (which specifies the authority's funding formula for schools) as set out and agreed at the Schools Forum on 12 January 2023**
- 2. Note the approved final Authority Proforma Tool for submission to the Department for Education (DfE).**
- 3. Note the recommendation of the proposed use of Direct Schools Grant (DSG) reserves of £0.75m for funding for new arrivals and £1.0m for therapies for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP).**
- 4. Note that the Early Years funding allocation is estimated using pupil data taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2022. The final allocation will be updated in July 2023 based on the January 2023 census numbers and as set out and agreed at Schools Forum on 12 January 2023**
 - The hourly rate received by Barnet for 3- and 4-year-olds has increased from £6.24 to £6.41.**
 - The proposal to increase the passthrough basic hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds by £0.42 to from £5.45 to £5.87**
 - The proposal 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 the proposal 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 the proposal to pass this funding onto our Maintained Nursery Schools in full.**

5. Note that the Provisional High Needs funding allocation as set out and agreed at Schools Forum on 12 January 2023 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**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 This report advises the committee of the agreed funding blocks for Schools, High Needs and Early Years for 2023-24.

2. Reasons for decision

- 2.1 To duly inform the committee of the decisions undertaken through Delegated Powers in relation to schools funding in Barnet.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 3.1 N/A

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 N/A

5. Implications of decision

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 Funding will be distributed to Barnet maintained schools in accordance with the arrangements set out in the report to Schools Forum on 12 January 2023.
- 5.2.2 The proposed use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves as set out in the report to the Schools Forum on 12 January 2023 and agreed by the Schools Forum will cost a maximum of £1.75 million and will not impact on the funding to schools and settings available through the DSG allocations to the council for 2023-24.
- 5.2.3 As the DSG is a ring-fenced grant specific for funding schools and education, and the council does not have a negative reserve on its balance sheet for the DSG, there is not expected to be any adverse impact on the council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) arising from this decision.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 The Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee: Has responsibility for all matters relating to children, care experienced (up to the age of 25), schools and education.

5.3.2 Chief Officers have delegated authority to make decisions in accordance with the powers delegated under Article 9 of the Constitution and under the Schemes of Delegation.

The Executive Director for Children Services has delegated authority:

- To determine each school's budget share through the development and implementation of a local Fair Funding Formula, in consultation with schools and Schools Forum
- To submit plans/bids for funding to the DfE or other Government Directorates as required, following appropriate consultation.

5.4 **Insights**

N/A

5.5 **Social Value**

5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders

5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 The annual submission of school funding information to the Department for Education is governed by a strict timetable to ensure that schools are allocated budgets in good time for each new financial year.

5.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.2 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

5.8 **Corporate Parenting**

5.8.1 The APT submission does not impact on the funding of the Virtual School; nor does it

affect High Needs funding, which is a significant factor for looked after children, as a significant number are supported through funding from the High Needs Block.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.9.1 The Schools Forum meeting was held on the 12 January 2023. The Schools Forum has agreed to continue to use the National Funding Formula with protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2023-24.

5.10 Environmental Impact

- 5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. Background papers

- 6.1 [Agenda for Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on Wednesday 19th January, 2022, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 6.2 [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Schools Forum, 12/01/2023 16:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 6.3 [Decision - Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet 2023-24 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
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