

Schools Forum

Thursday 11th January 2024 16:00-17:30 via MS Teams

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Item No	Title of Report	Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Officer(s)	Paper(s)
1.	Welcome and Apologies		Chair	
2.	Membership Updates	Update	Clerk	
3.	Declarations of Interest	Update	Chair	
4.	Minutes of the Last Meeting (19 October 2023) and Matters Arising	Update	Chair	attached
5.	Vice Chair Nominations	Decision	Chair	
6.	2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn (M9)	Update	JD	attached
7.	2024-25 Budget Proposal	Decision	SP/SG	attached
8.	2024-25 Central Services Block	Update	SP/SG	attached
9.	2024-25 De-Delegation	Update/ Decision	SP/SG	attached
10.	Proposed use of DSG Reserves	Decision	NM	
11.	High Needs Block Update	Update	KF	attached
12.	AOB - Next Meeting: 19 March, 4pm.	Decision	Chair	

SCHOOLS FORUM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2023

Membership	Name	Phase	School	HT/Gov	End Date
Maintained	*Joel Sager	Primary	Pardes House	HT	12/10/26
Maintained	*Ziz Chater	Primary	Martin Primary	HT	30/11/24
Maintained	*Simon Horne (C)	Secondary	Friern Barnet	HT	18/01/24
Maintained	*Sarah Sands	Primary	Garden Suburb Infants	HT	30/11/24
Maintained	Anthony Vorou	Primary	St John's CE, N11	Gov	18/01/24
Maintained	*Harvey Freeman	Primary	Hasmonean Primary	Gov	18/01/24
Maintained	Chaya Posen	Primary	Noam School	HT	07/07/24
Maintained	*Jackie Menczer	Primary	Menorah Primary	HT	03/02/26
Maintained	*Liz Longworth	Primary	Northside	HT	31/12/24
Maintained	Vacant	Primary		HT	
Maintained	Vacant	Primary		Gov	
Academy	Vacant	Primary		HT	
Academy	Clare Wagner	Secondary	Henrietta Barnett	HT	31/12/24
Academy	*Sian Morris	Primary	The Hyde Prim. Acad.	HT	07/10/24
Academy	Claire Barnes	Secondary	Ark Pioneer	Gov	31/12/24
Academy	*Aaron Livingston (Sub for Gavin Smith)	Secondary	Wren Academy	HT	30/11/24
Academy	*Matthew Stevens	Secondary	Saracens	HT	30/11/24
Academy	Robin Archibald	Primary	Broadfields Academy	HT	30/11/24
Academy	*John Bowra	Secondary	Chris's College Finchley	Gov	18/01/24
Academy	*Violet Walker	Secondary	QE Girls' School	HT	31/12/24
Special	*Ian Kingham	Special Academy	Oak Lodge	Dp HT	18/01/24
Special	Vacant	Special Maintained		Gov	
EY	*Kelly Brooker	Maintained Nursery	Moss Hall Nursery	HT	07/12/25
EY	Sarah Vipond	PVI	Middx University Nursery		18/01/24
PRU	*Joanne Kelly	PRU	PRUs	HT	18/01/24
Post-16	*Kate James	Post-16	Barnet & Southgate College	HT	30/05/26
Trade Union	*Keith Nason	Trade Union	National Education Union		18/01/24

Non-Members:

*Cllr Pauline CoakleyWebb, Chair of Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee
 Ben Thomas, Strategic Lead, Barnet LA (Local Authority)

*Neil Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS)

*Sharon Palma, Head of Finance

*Karen Flanagan, Director of SEND & Inclusion (BELS)

Alison Dawes, Director of School Access, Skills & Corporate Services

*Jacob Davies, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Finance Manager

*George Peradigou, Clerk

*Denotes present

1 **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair extended a welcome to new members Joel Sager, Headteacher of Pardes House, Kelly Brooker, Headteacher of BEYA, and Aaron Livingston, who replaced Marc Lewis to represent Wren Academy. He also welcomed Jacob Davies the new DSG Finance Manager replacing Richard Cox, for whom thanks were recorded.

The following membership updates were also noted:

- A special maintained school governor representative was still required after a recent election resulted in no confirmed nominations.
- An academy primary headteacher was required to replace Dan Hawkins, who had recently stepped down.
- A maintained primary school governor was required to replace Ian Philips, who had resigned as a governor at Squires Lane Learning Federation.
- A maintained primary school headteacher was required to replace Sarah Maltese, who had resigned as Headteacher of St Pauls N11.

Members joined the Chair in thanking the above members for their contributions during their terms of office on the Forum.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted on behalf Robin Archibald.

3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2023, a copy of which was circulated prior to the meeting, were confirmed and approved.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

7. Schools Balances 2022-23

A discussion had previously ensued related to the projected sharp reduction in pupil rolls. It was noted that the West Hendon ward councillors requested information about the financial pressures faced by schools in their ward resulting from this.

Neil Marlow stated that Alison Dawes had given a presentation outlining the pupil place projections at the recent Directors Briefing to Chairs and Vice Chair, as well as the recent Directors Meeting with Headteachers. At these briefings, it was agreed that Headteachers should ensure that their ward councillors were aware of the pupil place projections.

9. Free School Meals (FSM) Working Party

It was noted that this working party was no longer required as the Mayor of London had, since, confirmed that additional FSM money would be offered for kosher meals.

10. Schools in Financial Difficulties Panel

Sarah Sands confirmed that, following the surveys conducted with schools, the outcomes report was sent to MPs, Councillors, and Unions to help lobby the government to help alleviate financial pressures. However, the response from the DfE had not raised hopes of any additional funding.

There were no other matters arising.

6 VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS

The Chair highlighted that the position of Vice Chair was still vacant. After no nominations were received, the Chair invited members to express an interest or discuss their potential interest with him prior to the next meeting.

Action: Members

7 SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Sharon Palma outlined the report which contained an update on the DfE statutory guidance for the Scheme for Financing Schools. Arising from the discussion:

Members noted that there had been no directed revisions. However, as outlined under 2.3 of the report, the guidance was updated related to the handling of income from the sale of assets.

8 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) OUTTURN 2023-24

The report updated the Forum on the 2023-24 DSG Outturn. Sharon Palma outlined the following:

The report gave a snapshot of the DSG outturn at month 6. For the benefit of new members, she explained that the grant was made up of what the Local Authority (LA) received before passporting it onto schools.

At midpoint in the year, the forecast outturn was predicting an underspend of £1.8m, which was largely to do with the underspend against the growth fund as well as the underspend against the individual schools' budgets of approximately £600k. As discussed at the last meeting, the latter related to cash advances paid to schools to assist with cashflow. As previously agreed, leniency would be exercised, via payment plans, when recovering these from schools.

In response to a query, Sharon Palma explained that, while the reserves seemed high at £8m, some of this had already been committed and it would also be required to cover the High Needs deficit forecasted.

The earmarked spending for the reserves was outlined as follows:

- £787k for Hong Kong and Afghan refugees
- £1m for High Needs Therapies
- Approximately £1.5m for Early Years (subject to clawback)
- High Needs projected deficit (to be determined)

8 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA (NFF) 2024-25

The Chair apologised for the late circulation of the report and explained that this was due to an error by the DfE in its original July 2023 report, which it then corrected before recirculating.

The report provided an overview of the provisional NFF for 2024-25 based on the recent DfE published data. Sharon Palma outlined the following:

Based on the new published figures, the amount to be received by Barnet was revised down by £2.4m, when compared to the figures published in July 2023.

In response to a query from Cllr CoackleyWebb, Sharon Palma stated that, based on the original July figures, the Funding Factor Values per pupil were set to rise by 2.6% but would now only rise by 1.4% based on the corrected publication. Cllr CoackleyWebb requested that a breakdown of the Funding Factor Values per pupil be sent to her via email.

The funding formular did not include the Teachers' Pay Award Grant, for which Barnet was set to receive £3.2m to be equally split between maintained schools and academies.

Jackie Menczer stated that the DfE had promised additional funding to federated schools, although this was not reflected in the NFF. Neil Marlow would investigate this alongside the Finance Team to confirm what was agreed between Richard Cox, the former Interim DSG Finance Manager, and the DfE to ensure this is covered by the budget settlement for Menorah Primary Boys and Menorah Primary Girls. The Chair suggested that this matter be dealt with outside of the meeting as it was an isolated case.

9 CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB) 2024-25

The report contained an update of the 2024-25 Central School Services Block (CSSB). Sharon Palma outlined the following:

The indicative CSSB for 2024-25 had increased by £0.120m to £2.487m. The increase had been pro-rated as per the current year's budget as outlined in Table 1 of the report.

Historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities were outlined. It was noted that ongoing responsibilities included an ongoing responsibility for copywrite licencing, which was fixed and dictated by the DfE.

For the benefit of new members, the Chair summarised Table 1 of the report.

The Forum unanimously **APPROVED** the ongoing responsibilities and the proposed pro-rating of the CSSB to fund them.

10 DE-DELEGATION 2024-25

The report contained an update of the 2024-25 de-delegation. Sharon Palma outlined the following:

The Forum was asked to consider ratifying the de-delegation rates proposed for year 2024-25, which, as set out in the report, were the same as those for 2023-24.

Keith Nason requested that academies be given the option to subscribe to traded services from September to August as opposed to April to March. The Chair requested that this be considered by BELS staff and responded to by the next meeting.

Action: Neil Marlow

In response to a query from Jackie Menczer, Sharon Palma confirmed that federated schools would still be charged separately and would not be able to split the charge for these services.

Primary school representatives of maintained schools **RATIFIED** the primary school de-delegations proposed for 2024-25.

Secondary school representatives of maintained schools **RATIFIED** the secondary school de-delegations proposed for 2024-25.

It was noted that the confirmed budgets would be updated in January 2024 based on the October 2023 census data.

11 FORMER EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT (ESG) SERVICES 2024-25

The report contained a proposal to continue to fund services previously funded from the ESG, from maintained school shares. Sharon Palma and Jacob Davies outlined the following:

When the grant was originally revoked from the schools block funding, the Schools' Forum agreed to fund these through de-delegation. The services and total amounts to be funded under the proposal were statutory and regulatory duties, asset management, and monitoring national curriculum assessments, as detailed in section 3.7 of the report.

In response to a query from Aaron Livingston, it was confirmed that academies would need to fund the outlined services themselves as de-delegation related to maintained schools only. This was because this process brought money from maintained schools' budgets to the central budget to cover the cost of running these services. As this didn't happen for academies, they would need to fund these services out of their own budgets.

The Forum **APPROVED** the continued use of £700k for 2024-25 to maintain the level of services previously funded by the ESG.

11 SPLIT SITES, GROWTH FUND, AND FALLING ROLLS CRITERIA 2024-25

The report contained an update of the 2024-25 split-sites, growth fund, and falling rolls criteria. Sharon Palma and Neil Marlow outlined the following:

Some LAs established a Falling Rolls Fund to support schools with falling rolls. However, to qualify for this, the LA required data to show that school rolls would be going back up within 3-5 years. This would be difficult to prove in Barnet.

Sarah Sands suggested contacting boroughs which had successfully accessed this funding to find out more about the data they provided to prove to suggest rolls would be increasing within that timeframe.

Action: Neil Marlow/Sarah Sands

The Forum noted the new changes to Split-Site Funding, the Growth Fund criteria, and the new methodology for calculation and allocation of falling rolls for 2024-25.

12 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK REVIEW AND SEND UPDATES

The report contained an update of the Financial Position for the High Needs (HN) Block, expenditure for 2022-23 and predicted expenditure for 2023-24. Karen Flanagan outlined the following:

It was noted that, for the past 3 years, the HN block allocation had increased year-on-year by 10%, which had been in line with the growth in demand. However, this

year, the interim allocation received had shown an increase of only 3.75%. This presented a forecasted deficit of £3.1m for 2024-25, which would increase year-on-year if the 8% projected increase in demand for EHCPs continued. This was outlined further in section 3 of the report.

It was noted that, the previous year, additional grants were given to LAs to help the HN block budget. It was hoped that this would be the case again for the following year and the Forum would be updated accordingly.

The Forum also noted the changes to the fair share formula following discussions with schools. This meant that all EHCPs, as opposed to just Barnet EHCPs, were taken into account through the new calculation.

In response to a query, Karen Flanagan confirmed that the Forum would not need to cover the cost of the recruitment the full-time HN block project lead recommended in section 6 of the report.

The High Needs Review Report, a summary of which was given, would soon be circulated to the Forum. The recommendations of the report would need to be reviewed by a Task and Finish Group to help implement any changes moving forward.

Ian Kingham stated that he had received an email regarding the NFF (before deductions) for 2024-25, which seemed more optimistic than what was now being presented. Karen Flanagan undertook to check the discrepancy between the two figures (£71m and £74m).

Action: Karen Flanagan

Ziz Chater stated that many of her colleagues had concerns about proposals for peer moderation to determine the funding accessed schools. Karen Flanagan stated that the Parent-Carer Forum had supported this approach and that this had worked well in other LAs, bring in more transparency as well as allowing for continue professional development (CPD) for those involved.

Sian Morris echoed the concerns raised by Ziz Chater. She also stated that, while schools would welcome earlier funding and intervention, there were concerns about the impact this would have on those children who genuinely needed EHCPs.

While appreciating it depended on relations with neighbouring boroughs, Sian Morris raised concerns about children who would transfer between boroughs and how this would affect their support/application, when compared to the continued support offered by an EHCP.

Sarah Sands and Neil Marlow assured members that recommendations were not suggesting that EHCPs be abolished. The aim was to allow schools to access funding and support at an earlier stage without the need for the lengthy EHCP application to first be completed. This was likely to result in needing fewer EHCPs. Karen Flanagan echoed this and reiterated the benefits of early support and funding for schools as the EHCP process was taking up a lot of time and resources for schools and the LA.

The Forum **AGREED** that a Task and Finish Group be established to work with the Project Lead to review the recommendations of the HN Review and plan next steps for funding splits for the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) between Early Years (EY) and HN blocks of the DSG.

Action: Karen Flanagan

13 SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES PANEL

Neil Marlow thanked the members who had joined the panel, the first meeting of which took place earlier that afternoon. Arising from the discussion:

Stakeholders were well represented, including members of the Schools' Forum, school governors, the LA's Finance team, the School Improvement team, and the Internal Audit team. The Panel sought after more school governor representatives. Governor members of the Forum were asked to express their interests to Neil Marlow.

Action: School Governor Members

The Panel agreed that what was lacking for schools was the strategic support required when faced with budgetary difficulties, which would help them use funds more efficiently whilst still delivering a high-quality education. The Panel aimed to produce guidance and flow charts to help guide schools accordingly.

Neil Marlow and colleagues from Finance would also attend the next Primary and Nursery Headteacher Forum to hear more about their main challenges.

14 ATP DEADLINE

Sharon Palma reminded Members that the DfE would send out the final budgets on 22nd December 2023 based on the October census.

This would be presented to the Forum at the meeting on 25 January 2024.

15 PROPOSED USE OF DSG UNDERSPEND

Neil Marlow introduced the item and explained that the current situation in the middle east was the reason for the late circulation of this proposal. Arising from the discussion:

It was anticipated that there would be an influx of pupils from the middle east requiring school places. As the October census date had already past, schools would not receive extra money for admitting these pupils. £441k remained from the original amount allocated to displaced families, which was expected to be enough to cover any new arrivals. However, the Forum was asked to approve the use of an extra £250k of the DSG underspend to ensure schools had access additional funding, if required.

It was noted that the LA awaited the Government's decision with regards to whether those coming from Gaza would be designated as asylum seekers, enabling them to go on rolls at Barnet schools.

The Forum **APPROVED** the proposal to use an additional £250k of the DSG underspend on incoming of pupils from the current conflicts in the middle east.

16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

In response to a query from Harvey Freeman, Neil Marlow confirmed that RAAC costs for maintained schools had not come out of DSG funding nor school budgets and was covered by the Barnet Estates Team through core central funding.

Due to a change to the guidance, surveys were conducted at the start of the year and found no maintained schools with RAAC issues. Only one academy school was found to have RAAC and this school was aware of the issue by April 2023, before the guidance had changed in September 2023.

Violet Walker stated that she was also awaiting a response from the DfE regarding her school's RAAC status. She stated that she had received no responses to numerous emails sent after the initial survey was carried out. Neil Marlow stated that the DfE would have reported back if the school had a RAAC issue but offered to follow up with the DfE if needed.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place at 4pm on Thursday 25th January 2024.

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

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 11 January 2024	Agenda Item No.	6
Report Title	2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update		
Officer(s)	Sharon Palma Head of Finance – Children and Families sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk Jacob Davies Finance Manager DSG jacob.davies@barnet.gov.uk		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report provides an update on the 2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn as at Month 9 (31 st December 2023)		
Recommendations	Schools Forum to note the 2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn		

1. Summary

1.1. Since the last Schools Forum meeting on 19th October 2023, the DSG allocation for 2023-24 has been revised to reflect additional High Needs funding of £0.500m due to import and export adjustments and, confirmed Early Years 2022-23 funding clawback of £1.129m. The impact of these changes is an overall reduction of £0.629m in the final budget allocation. However, it should be noted that Early Years funding is provisioned on a lead/lag basis and the subsequent clawback was anticipated and will be met through reserves which have been earmarked in this instance.

1.2. The 2023-24 Forecast Outturn is £263.983m (Table 2).

2. 2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn

2.1. At month 9, the reported DSG Forecast Outturn is £1.823m favourable variance against the budget of £265.806m as set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – 2023-24 DSG Forecast Outturn

	2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Budget (Final Allocation)	2023-24 Forecast Outturn after reserves applied	2023-24 Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Expenditure				
Schools Block:				
Individual Schools Budget	152.267	160.196	159.571	(0.625)
ESG Retained Funding	0.700	0.700	0.700	0
Growth fund	0.384	1.761	0.563	(1.198)
Central School Services	2.344	2.369	2.369	0
Sub-total	155.695	165.026	163.203	(1.823)
Early Years Block	29.181	31.390	31.390	0
High Needs Block	60.975	69.390	69.390	0
Sub-total	90.156	100.780	100.780	0
Grand Total	245.851	265.806	263.983	(1.823)
Income				
DSG Income	(250.692)	(265.806)	(265.806)	
DSG Balance	(4.841)	0	(1.823)	(1.823)

2.2. Within the Schools Block, the underspend of £0.625m against individual schools budget is due primarily to timing differences in repayment of cash advances previously paid to a number of schools experiencing cash flow difficulties. The forecast expenditure of £0.700m against the ESG retained funding matches the budget.

2.3. After agreed funding of £0.394m for Hasmorean High School for Boys and £0.169m for Underhill, against the budget of £1.761m, the growth fund is forecast to underspend by £1.198m.

3. 2023-24 DSG Forecast Reserves

Table 2: DSG Forecast Reserves as at M9

DSG reserves	B/Fwd	Use of Reserve	Top Up Reserve	C/Fwd
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
DSG Reserve	(9,711)	2,916	(1,823)	(8,618)

3.1. The DSG reserve brought forward balance into 2023-24 was £9.711m. The Schools' Forum has agreed to use up to £1.000m of reserves to fund the Hong Kong & Afghanistan Refugees joining our schools in Barnet, of which £0.213m was spent in 2022-23 and the remaining balance of £0.787m is planned to be utilised in

2023-24. In addition, a further £1.000m is earmarked for therapies (High Needs) and £1.129m of Early Years is confirmed and subject to DfE clawback.

3.2. The breakdown of the £2.916m use of reserves is summarised as follows.

Charges to Reserves	£'000
Hong Kong & Afghanistan Refugee Support	787
Therapies (High Needs)	1,000
Early Years Clawback	1,129
Total	2,916

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 11 January 2024	Agenda Item No.	7
Report Title	2024-25 Budget Proposal		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Decision		
Officer(s)	Sharon Palma Head of Finance – Children and Families sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk Sanjaya Gunatilake Finance Manager (DSG Projects) sanjaya.gunatilake@barnet.gov.uk		
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Detailed Breakdown of DSG Schools Block Appendix 2 – Detailed Breakdown of DSG CSS Block Appendix 3 – Detailed Breakdown of Early Years Block Appendix 4 – Detailed Breakdown of High Needs Block Appendix 5 – Funding Rates and Pupil Numbers used to calculate school budgets. Appendix 6 – Indicative School Budget Share Allocations 2024-25		
Summary	This report summarises how the London Borough of Barnet (LBB) is funded for its education functions through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The report provides detailed analysis of each of the four blocks that make up the DSG and how the funding is broken down. Finally, the report shows how the local authority intends to fund its schools through National Funding Formula for 2024-25.		
Recommendations	We are asking that Schools Forum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the 2024-25 DSG budget allocation as shown in Table 1. 2. Note and agree the 2024-25 formula factor rates used in the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Authority Proforma Tool submission (National Funding Formula rates) as shown in Appendix 5. (All voting members) 		

	<p>3. Note and agree Growth Fund criteria and the amount. (All voting members)</p> <p>4. Note the Early Years funding rates 2024-25.</p>
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is paid in support of the LBB schools' budget and is the main source of income for the schools budget.
- 1.2 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 ESFA Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to individual schools in accordance with the local schools' funding formula.
- 1.3 Schools Forum members will be aware that the London Borough of Barnet mirrors the National Formula Funding values in its local funding formula and will continue to do so in 2024-25.
- 1.4 The DSG is made up of four blocks:
- Schools Block (SB)
 - Early Years Block (EYB)
 - High Needs Block (HNB)
 - Central School Services Block (CSSB)
- 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. In 2024-25, the 2-year-old funding has been extended beyond disadvantaged families to include 2-year-olds of working parents and new funding for children of 9 months up to 2 years old, of working parents.
- 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 School 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 19th December 2023. 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 2024.

The net DSG allocation to the local authority shows that there is growth across all four blocks as follows:

- Schools Block - £6.026m (3.7%)
- High Needs Block - £2.077m (3.0%)
- Early Years Block - £13.934m (44.4%)

- Central School Services Block - £0.115m (4.9%)
- TOTAL = £22.152m (8.3%)

Table 1 : Dedicated Schools Grant Analysis

	Schools £m	High needs £m	Early Years £m	Central Services £m	Total £m
Final Allocations for 2024-25					
Gross DSG	£333.129	£77.678	£45.324	£2.485	£458.615
Less: Academies Recoupment	-£160.968				-£160.968
Less: NNDR	-£3.478				-£3.478
Less: HN Place Funding		-£6.210			-£6.210
Net DSG	£168.683	£71.468	£45.324	£2.485	£287.960

	Schools £m	High needs £m	Early Years £m	Central Services £m	Total £m
Final Allocations for 2023-24					
Gross DSG	£317.168	£75.339	£31.390	£2.369	£426.267
Less: Academies Recoupment	-£151.611				-£151.611
Less: NNDR	-£2.901				-£2.901
Less: HN Place Funding		-£5.949			-£5.949
Net DSG	£162.657	£69.390	£31.390	£2.369	£265.807

Additional Funding	£6.026	£2.077	£13.934	£0.115	£22.152
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2. Allocations by Block

2.1 Schools Block - The 2024/25 SB Income is based on the following rates:

- £5,425 Primary unit of funding based on 29,353.5 primary pupils (October 2023 census)
- £7,129.1 Secondary unit of funding based on 23,635.5 secondary pupils (October 2023 census)
- £5.386m of funding for Pupil Growth and Premises factors

TOTAL = £333.129m (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 2024/25 CSSB for Barnet includes the following:

- £2.333m – allocation for ongoing responsibilities (includes retained duties, admissions, licensing and Schools Forum administration)
- £0.152m – Historic commitments allocation, a 20% reduction from 2023/24.

TOTAL = £2.485m

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

Early Years Block – The Early Years Block is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2023. An update to the 2024/25 EYB allocation will be made once the January 2024 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised. The allocation will be updated in July 2024 based on the January 2024 census numbers. For 2024 to 2025, the 95% pass-through requirement will apply separately to the entitlements for:

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

For 3 and 4-year-olds, there is no change, and the pass-through requirement will apply to the universal and additional hours in combination. However, for 2-year-olds and under, the requirement will apply to each of the entitlements individually.

- It has been confirmed that the hourly rate received by Barnet for 3- and 4-year-olds has increased from £6.41 to £6.74.
- The DfE funding rate for 2-year-olds disadvantage entitlement has been increased by £2.67 from £6.92 to £9.59.
- In 2024-25, early years funding was extended to 2-year-olds of working parents and children under 2 year olds. Additionally, £11.079m was allocated for this purpose. These children will also attract early years pupil premium and disability access fund.

TOTAL = £45.324m

A more detailed breakdown of the Early Years block is shown at [Appendix 3](#). A proposal on how these changes will impact Barnet's current early years funding formula will be presented to Schools Forum in March 2024 for approval.

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

- £70.794m - High Needs National Funding Formula allocation
- £4.696m - based on a £5,194.16 per pupil Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) weighted base rate * 904 (pupils in special schools/special academies based on the October 2023 census)
- £1,248m - Import/export adjustment for net 208 imported pupils
- £0.940m – hospital education and teachers' pay and pension

TOTAL = £77.678m (Gross funding – subject to deductions for high needs place funding)

The final import/ export adjustment data will be amended based on January 2023 School and FE providers' High Needs pupil census data.

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

3. APT submission to the DfE

3.1 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.

3.2 The completed APT must be submitted no later than 22 January 2024. The main purpose of APT tool is to:

- allow LAs to model different options for their SBF formulae and to act as the proforma which is submitted to the DfE in January of each year; it is also the mechanism by which the DfE provide the schools block dataset
- capture all of the data the DfE require 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
- enable the DfE 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
- enable the DfE to check that all funding allocated through the schools block element of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) is passed through the funding formula set, or allocated to the growth fund or falling rolls fund
- collect data on maintained schools' schools block budgets for publication
- use the notional allocations for academies for recoupment purposes
- give DfE information about academies and future converters
- to provide data for use by DfE in modelling the national funding formula (NFF) allocations for the following year

4. Indicative school budget shares for 2024-25

4.1 Appendix 5 shows the funding rates, the pupil numbers and the total funding allocated via each formula factor in calculating the 2024-25 school budget shares. As in the previous year, Barnet continues to mirror the national funding formula rates.

4.2 For 2024-25 financial year the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) has been included in the DSG for 2024 to 2025. To ensure schools do not lose funding as a result of this change, additional funding has been added to each school's MFG baseline. The amount added reflects the number of pupils included in the school's MFG baseline.

4.3 The allocation for the Schools Block is based on October 2023 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 2024-25 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula) above the amount it received in 2023-24.

4.4 In addition, each primary school is guaranteed a minimum of £4,610 per pupil and each secondary school is guaranteed to receive at least £5,995 per pupil in 2024-25.

4.5 Appendix 6 shows the indicative school budget shares for 2024-25 for both maintained and academy schools. 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.

5. Growth Fund:

5.1 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.

5.2 The Growth Fund can only be used only to:

- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
- meet the costs of new schools (these are new schools identified from the latest census data)
- meet the revenue costs, for schools, of removing or repurposing surplus places

5.3 The growth fund must not be used to support:

- schools in financial difficulty: any such support for maintained schools should be provided from a de-delegated contingency
- general growth in individual schools (due to popularity) where there is no overall pupil number growth in the local area. This is managed through lagged funding. This includes cases where academies have admitted above pupil admission numbers (PAN) by their own choice

5.4 Local Authorities should report any unspent growth funding remaining at the year end to the schools forum. For local authorities that have an overall DSG surplus, funding may be carried forward to the following funding period.

5.5 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.

5.6 For 2024-25, the DfE has set minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) amounts for primary schools at £4,610 and for secondary schools at £5,995. 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 2024-25. This will increase the amounts payable to primary schools from £77,088 to £80,675 and for secondary schools; from £100,013 to £104,912.50 for each new class of 30.

5.7 Schools Forum is also required to approve the size of the Growth Fund, which is estimated to be £1.089m.

5.8 Growth Criteria:

- “Bulge classes opened at the request of the local authority - £10,000 one-off start-up grant plus £80,675 ($7/12 \times £4,410 \times 30$) for a primary class of 30 opening in September. £104,912.5 ($7/12 \times £5,995 \times 30$) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Permanent expansions approved by the local authority - £77,088 ($7/12 \times £4,405 \times 30$) for a primary class of 30 opening in September, £100,013 ($7/12 \times £5,715 \times 30$) 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.”

6. Falling Rolls

- 6.1 For the first time in 2024 to 2025 the department will allocate funding based on falling rolls.
- 6.2 Funding will be allocated based on the reduction in pupil numbers that Medium Super Output Areas (MSOA) within each local authorities experience for each year. It is based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll in each MSOA in a local authority between the most recent October pupil census and the census in the previous October.
- 6.3 The falling rolls allocation for each local authority will be £140,000 per MSOA which sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the 2 census years. These allocations will be subject to an ACA.
- 6.4 Local authorities have the discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund. For a school to be eligible for falling role fund 2022 SCAP must shows that school places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years. This is a mandatory requirement. Currently, there are no Barnet schools with falling role that meet the SCAP requirement.

7. Split site funding:

7.1 In 2024 to 2025 ESFA introduced a national formulaic approach to split sites funding, which replaces the previous local authority-led approach. The new split sites factor is compulsory for all local authorities, ensuring that split sites funding will be allocated consistently and fairly across the country.

The factor is made up of 2 parts, both of which are compulsory:

- basic eligibility funding: a lump sum payment for each of their additional eligible sites
- distance funding: additional funding on top of the basic eligibility lump sum for schools whose eligible sites are separated by more than 100 metres (by road distance) from the main site

The basic eligibility criteria for split sites funding requires additional sites to:

- be part of the main school, that is, to share the same unique reference number (URN) with the school's main site
- be separated from the school's main site by a public road or railway
- have a building on them which is maintained by the school and which is primarily used for the education of 5 to 16- year-old pupils in mainstream education. This excludes playing fields, 'ancillary buildings' and buildings leased out full time by the school to another entity.

7.2 Split sites funding is by default included in the baseline calculation within the APT. As such, any loss in funding for schools which have previously benefited from their local split site factor is automatically protected through the MFG.

Appendix 1 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Schools Block

Schools Block				
	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Change	Percentage
Primary unit of funding	£5,149.5	£5,425.0	£275.5	5.4%
NOR Primary	29,671.5	29,353.5	-318.0	-1.1%
Primary schools allocation	£152,793,686	£159,243,032	£6,449,346	4.2%
Secondary unit of funding	£6,786.2	£7,129.1	£342.9	5.1%
NOR Secondary	23,383.5	23,635.5	252.0	1.1%
Secondary schools allocation	£158,684,874	£168,499,371	£9,814,497	6.2%
Premises Factor (inc. NNDR)	£3,161,735	£3,817,084	£655,349	20.7%
Growth Factor	£2,528,127	£1,569,074	£-959,053	-37.9%
Schools Block (before deductions)	£317,168,422	£333,128,561	£15,960,139	5.0%
Deductions				
Academies Recoupment	£-151,610,676	£-160,967,599	£-9,356,923	6.2%
NNDR Allocation	£-2,900,580	£-3,477,701	£-577,121	19.9%
Schools Block (post deductions)	£162,657,166	£168,683,261	£6,026,095	3.7%

Appendix 2 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Central Services Block

Central School Services Block				
	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Change	Percentage
CSSB unit of funding	£41.1	£44.0	£2.9	7.2%
CSSB pupil count	53,055.0	52,989.0	-66.0	-0.1%
CSSB allocation	£2,179,500	£2,332,576	£153,076	7.0%
Historic Funding Commitments	£189,928	£151,943	£-37,985	-20.0%
Total CSSB	£2,369,428	£2,484,519	£115,091	4.9%

Appendix 3 Detailed Breakdown of DSG Early Years Block

Early Years	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Change	Percentage
Hourly Rate for 3 and 4 Year Olds EYNFF	£6.41	£6.74	£0.33	5%
NOR and 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement	5,588.10	5,588.10	£0.00	0%
Allocation for 3 and 4 year Olds (15 hours)	£20,417,241	£21,468,363	£1,051,122	5%
NOR 3 and 4 Year Old additional 15 hours	1,963.91	1,963.91	0.00	0%
Allocation for 3 and 4 Year Olds (30 Hours)	£7,175,538	£7,544,949	£369,411	5%
Hourly Rate for 2 Year Olds	£6.92	£9.59	£2.67	39%
NOR 2 Year Olds Disadvantage entitlement	716	716	0.00	0%
Allocation 2 Year Olds Disadvantage entitlement	£2,824,822	£3,914,746	£1,089,924	39%
NOR 2 Year Olds working parents entitlement		1,199	1,199	
Allocation 2 Year Olds working parents (new entitlement)		£6,556,171	£6,556,171	
Hourly rate for Under 2s entitlement		£13.06	£13.06	
NOR for Under 2s entitlement		607.67	£607.67	
Allocation under 2s entitlement (new entitlement)		£4,523,618	£4,523,618	
Initial Allocation for 2 Olds	£2,824,822	£14,994,535	£12,169,713	431%
Pupil Premium	£162,423	£280,646	£118,223	73%
Disability Access Fund	£150,696	£230,230	£79,534	53%
Hours Rate for Nursery Schools Funding	£3.80	£4.64	£0.84	22%
NOR for Nursery School Funding	304.5	304.5	£0	0%
Indicative Funding for Nursery Schools	£659,547	£805,342	£145,795	22%
Total Early Years Block	£31,390,267	£45,324,066	£13,933,799	44%

Appendix 4 Detailed Breakdown of High Needs Block

High Need Block	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Change	Percentage
Total high needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculations	£65,334,166	£70,794,226	£5,460,060	8.4%
Basic Entitlement Unit of Funding	£5,200.81	£5,194.16	£-6.65	-0.1%
Number of pupils (in special schools and academies)	867	904	37	4.3%
Basic entitlement (area cost adjusted)	£4,509,103	£4,695,521	£186,418	4.1%
Import and Export Adjustment	£1,248,000	£1,248,000	£0	0.0%
Additional Funding for Special Free Schools	£330,000	£0	£-330,000	-100.0%
Pay and Pension / Supplementary Funding	£918,286	£939,974	£21,688	2.4%
Additional High Needs Allocation	£2,999,718	£0	£2,999,718	-100.0%
Total High Needs Block (before Deductions)	£75,339,273	£77,677,721	£2,338,448	3.1%

High Needs Block Deductions				
Mainstream				
pre 16 SEN Places at £6,000	£685,500	£678,000	£-7,500	-1.1%
Pre 16 SEN Place at £10,000	£73,334	£90,000	£16,666	22.7%
Post 16 SEN Places at £6,000	£30,000	£30,000	£0	0.0%
Special Academies				
Pre 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£1,776,667	£1,810,000	£33,333	1.9%
Post 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£810,000	£810,000	£0	0.0%
Special Free Schools				
Pre 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£580,000	£780,000	£200,000	34.5%
Post 16 SEN Places at £10,000	£140,000	£140,000	£0	0.0%
AP Academies and Free Schools				
SEN Places at £4,169				
Alternative provision (AP) academies and free schools				
Pre-16 AP Places	£17,500	£30,000	£12,500	71.4%
16-19 Academies and Free Schools				
SEN Place at £6,000	£36,000	£42,000	£6,000	16.7%
FE Colleges and ILP's				
SEN Places at £6,000	£1,800,000	£1,800,000	£0	0.0%
Total High Needs Block Deductions	£5,949,001	£6,210,000	£260,999	4.4%

High Needs Summary				
Total High Needs Block (before Deductions)	£75,339,273	£77,677,721	£2,338,448	3.1%
Less: Total High Needs Block Deductions	£5,949,001	£6,210,000	£260,999	4.4%
Total High Needs Block (after deductions)	£69,390,272	£71,467,721	£2,077,449	3.0%

Appendix 5 Funding Rates and Pupil Numbers used to calculate school budgets.

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total	Total	Percentage
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,919.84		29,355.00		£115,066,903		
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£5,526.51		14,231.00		£78,647,764		
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£6,229.70		9,420.00		£58,683,774		
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	
2) Deprivation	FSM	£539.23	£539.23	6,255.54	5,132.00	£6,140,503	£26,832,503	8.1%
	FSM6	£902.38	£1,320.55	6,554.54	6,101.00	£13,971,361		
	IDACI Band F	£258.61	£374.16	4,492.21	3,429.86	£2,445,026		
	IDACI Band E	£313.63	£495.21	2,516.61	2,238.22	£1,897,668		
	IDACI Band D	£489.70	£693.29	1,065.72	978.47	£1,200,251		
	IDACI Band C	£533.72	£759.32	622.70	673.37	£843,649		
	IDACI Band B	£566.74	£814.34	205.21	253.13	£322,436		
	IDACI Band A	£748.31	£1,039.93	3.00	9.00	£11,609		
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	
3) English as an Additional	EAL 3 Primary	£649.27		9,524.54		£6,184,014	£10,152,397	3.1%
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,744.23		1,751.65	£3,055,277		
4) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£1,056.44	£1,518.63	505.84	249.38	£913,106		
	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	
5) Low prior attainment	Primary low prior attainment		£1,287.54	29.37%	8,621.07	£11,099,958	£18,853,176	5.7%
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	55.77%		17.01%				
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	54.47%		16.66%				
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	54.47%	£1,953.32	16.67%	3,969.25	£7,753,218		
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	64.53%		16.72%				
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)	64.53%		16.86%				
Factor			Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	
6) Lump Sum			£147,901.82	£147,901.82			£17,452,415	5.3%
7) Sparsity factor			£62,836.27	£91,338.18			£0	0.0%
8) Fringe Payments					Fringe multiplier	1.0000	£0	0.0%
9) Split Sites			Basic eligibility funding	£59,095.00	Distance funding rate	£29,602.00	£339,383	0.1%
10) Rates							£3,477,700	1.1%
11) PFI funding							£0	

Appendix 6 – Indicative School Budget Share Allocations 2024-25

LAESTAB	School Name	2023/24 Pupils	23-24 Post MFG Budget	Minimum per pupil funding: post MFG minimum funding per pupil rate	2024/25 Pupils	24-25 Post MFG Budget	Minimum per pupil funding: post MFG minimum funding per pupil rate	Change in Pupils	Change in Post MFG Budget	% Change in Post MFG Budget	Change in Per Pupil MFG
3023520	Akiva School	421	£1,866,673	£4,405	421	£1,955,412	£4,610	0	£88,739	5%	£205
3023317	All Saints' CofE Primary School N20	211	£1,102,039	£5,204	206	£1,149,370	£5,557	-5	£47,331	4%	£352
3023300	All Saints' CofE Primary School NW2	162	£1,036,291	£6,378	161	£1,091,888	£6,759	-1	£55,597	5%	£381
3022020	Alma Primary	200	£959,281	£4,779	193	£993,804	£5,128	-7	£34,523	4%	£349
3024013	Ark Pioneer Academy	824	£5,737,446	£6,902	901	£6,678,624	£7,346	77	£941,178	16%	£444
3025406	Ashmole Academy	1304	£8,173,014	£6,200	1302	£8,586,569	£6,514	-2	£413,555	5%	£314
3022050	Ashmole Primary School	422	£1,967,111	£4,491	421	£2,079,699	£4,735	-1	£112,588	6%	£244
3022002	Barnfield Primary School	419	£2,328,107	£5,488	415	£2,393,496	£5,680	-4	£65,389	3%	£196
3022079	Beis Yaakov Primary School	414	£1,855,801	£4,413	414	£1,943,014	£4,610	0	£87,212	5%	£197
3023524	Beit Shvidler Primary School	205	£1,017,705	£4,925	207	£1,074,207	£5,143	2	£56,502	6%	£218
3022003	Bell Lane Primary School	346	£1,934,888	£5,529	374	£2,191,135	£5,789	28	£256,247	13%	£260
3025408	Bishop Douglass School Finchley	734	£5,651,409	£7,668	754	£6,033,259	£7,965	20	£381,850	7%	£297
3023511	Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School	411	£2,178,662	£5,291	414	£2,274,410	£5,482	3	£95,748	4%	£191
3023519	Broadfields Primary School	643	£3,341,073	£5,160	643	£3,610,746	£5,572	0	£269,672	8%	£412
3022008	Brookland Infant and Nursery School	270	£1,456,856	£5,321	260	£1,468,747	£5,556	-10	£11,890	1%	£235
3022007	Brookland Junior School	359	£1,758,699	£4,843	353	£1,815,251	£5,074	-6	£56,553	3%	£231
3022009	Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery School	423	£2,186,421	£5,075	419	£2,255,031	£5,268	-4	£68,610	3%	£193
3022067	Chalgrove Primary School	219	£1,216,224	£5,418	218	£1,260,893	£5,620	-1	£44,669	4%	£202
3022010	Childs Hill Primary School	418	£2,317,339	£5,472	412	£2,416,457	£5,778	-6	£99,117	4%	£306
3023302	Christ Church Primary School	210	£1,043,816	£4,948	203	£1,077,174	£5,278	-7	£33,357	3%	£330
3024211	Christ's College Finchley	822	£5,735,272	£6,932	847	£6,203,821	£7,272	25	£468,549	8%	£340
3022011	Church Hill School	211	£1,113,703	£5,179	205	£1,135,156	£5,414	-6	£21,454	2%	£236
3023522	Claremont Primary School	302	£1,778,166	£5,866	268	£1,673,473	£6,215	-34	£104,693	-6%	£349
3022014	Colindale Primary School	626	£3,338,286	£5,154	627	£3,537,731	£5,428	1	£199,446	6%	£274
3022015	Coppetts Wood Primary School	221	£1,313,762	£5,785	193	£1,219,753	£6,101	-28	£-94,009	-7%	£316
3024210	Copthall School	770	£5,598,526	£7,246	798	£6,186,188	£7,724	28	£587,662	10%	£477
3022016	Courtland School	210	£1,069,712	£4,995	211	£1,150,479	£5,334	1	£80,767	8%	£339
3022017	Cromer Road Primary School	415	£2,060,892	£4,872	415	£2,157,869	£5,087	0	£96,977	5%	£215
3022073	Danegrove Primary School	626	£3,217,014	£5,004	631	£3,484,036	£5,307	5	£267,021	8%	£304
3022019	Deansbrook Infant School	209	£1,216,834	£5,738	169	£1,061,816	£6,158	-40	£-155,017	-13%	£420
3022018	Deansbrook Junior School	298	£1,567,692	£5,240	293	£1,626,132	£5,525	-5	£58,441	4%	£285
3022021	Dollis Primary School	397	£2,216,485	£5,437	372	£2,178,653	£5,669	-25	£-37,832	-2%	£232
3024212	East Barnet School	1119	£7,323,410	£6,482	1104	£7,669,841	£6,871	-15	£346,431	5%	£389
3022023	Edgware Primary School	425	£2,342,884	£5,456	411	£2,363,355	£5,680	-14	£20,471	1%	£224
3022001	Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	159	£811,451	£4,979	166	£894,520	£5,246	7	£83,070	10%	£267
3022024	Fairway Primary School and Children's Centre	202	£1,196,959	£5,674	206	£1,290,140	£5,967	4	£93,181	8%	£293
3025405	Finchley Catholic High School	895	£5,741,720	£6,386	891	£6,016,051	£6,717	-4	£274,331	5%	£331
3022025	Foulds School	321	£1,514,546	£4,612	313	£1,559,962	£4,853	-8	£45,416	3%	£241
3024003	Friern Barnet School	740	£5,597,154	£7,482	724	£5,793,388	£7,901	-16	£196,234	4%	£420
3022026	Frith Manor Primary School	453	£2,277,490	£4,933	440	£2,320,494	£5,157	-13	£43,004	2%	£224
3022028	Garden Suburb Infant School	239	£1,355,680	£5,591	219	£1,352,902	£6,071	-20	£-2,778	0%	£480
3022027	Garden Suburb Junior School	336	£1,724,221	£5,073	329	£1,774,426	£5,322	-7	£50,205	3%	£249
3022029	Goldbeaters Primary School	418	£2,367,917	£5,604	421	£2,478,422	£5,814	3	£110,505	5%	£210
3025409	Hasmonean High School for Boys	537	£3,424,193	£6,298	575	£3,852,857	£6,613	38	£428,664	13%	£315
3024014	Hasmonean High School for Girls	426	£2,745,527	£6,346	425	£2,855,186	£6,599	-1	£109,659	4%	£253
3023516	Hasmonean Primary School	199	£1,022,604	£5,055	194	£1,049,832	£5,309	-5	£27,227	3%	£254
3025400	Hendon School	1048	£7,724,926	£7,342	1035	£7,999,805	£7,694	-13	£274,880	4%	£352
3022031	Hollickwood Primary School	187	£1,135,833	£5,969	190	£1,225,351	£6,325	3	£89,518	8%	£356
3022032	Holly Park Primary School	422	£2,108,114	£4,933	432	£2,278,584	£5,202	10	£170,470	8%	£268
3023304	Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	199	£1,068,832	£5,353	202	£1,161,017	£5,726	3	£92,185	9%	£373
3023515	Independent Jewish Day School	201	£966,930	£4,726	204	£1,026,960	£4,934	3	£60,030	6%	£208
3025427	JCoSS	993	£6,913,388	£6,908	987	£7,125,093	£7,154	-6	£211,705	3%	£246
3022036	Livingstone Primary and Nursery School	215	£1,315,855	£6,011	208	£1,329,317	£6,255	-7	£13,461	1%	£244
3026905	London Academy	1379	£9,297,262	£6,676	1404	£9,881,561	£6,960	25	£584,300	6%	£284
3022037	Manorside Primary School	205	£1,111,534	£5,287	210	£1,195,586	£5,535	5	£84,052	8%	£248

LAESTAB	School Name	2023/24 Pupils	23-24 Post MFG Budget	Minimum per pupil funding: post MFG minimum funding per pupil rate	2024/25 Pupils	24-25 Post MFG Budget	Minimum per pupil funding: post MFG minimum funding per pupil rate	Change in Pupils	Change in Post MFG Budget	% Change in Post MFG Budget	Change in Per Pupil MFG
3023523	Martin Primary School	619	£3,154,036	£5,003	621	£3,398,062	£5,362	2	£244,027	8%	£359
3025948	Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School	206	£975,890	£4,669	193	£980,922	£4,995	-13	£5,032	1%	£326
3025949	Menorah Foundation School	343	£1,573,981	£4,496	315	£1,538,404	£4,762	-28	-£35,577	-2%	£266
3024004	Menorah High School for Girls	311	£1,965,331	£6,296	314	£2,115,206	£6,709	3	£149,874	8%	£413
3023513	Menorah Primary School for Girls	378	£1,688,591	£4,454	377	£1,927,494	£5,113	-1	£238,902	14%	£658
3025402	Mill Hill County High School	1247	£7,952,083	£6,355	1248	£8,430,639	£6,729	1	£478,556	6%	£374
3022048	Millbrook Park Primary School	392	£2,008,969	£5,070	404	£2,202,441	£5,388	12	£193,471	10%	£318
3023305	Monken Hadley CoFE Primary School	148	£778,485	£5,249	149	£834,114	£5,585	1	£55,629	7%	£336
3022042	Monkfrith Primary School	420	£1,939,842	£4,546	419	£2,035,554	£4,771	-1	£95,712	5%	£225
3022044	Moss Hall Infant School	355	£1,841,077	£5,141	315	£1,759,545	£5,525	-40	-£81,533	-4%	£384
3022043	Moss Hall Junior School	434	£2,107,397	£4,819	450	£2,287,735	£5,041	16	£180,338	9%	£222
3022045	Northside Primary School	210	£1,190,590	£5,524	210	£1,238,557	£5,724	0	£47,968	4%	£199
3025201	Osidge Primary School	404	£2,089,156	£5,154	386	£2,120,908	£5,473	-18	£31,752	2%	£319
3023501	Our Lady of Lourdes RC School	208	£1,066,430	£5,109	199	£1,110,774	£5,559	-9	£44,343	4%	£450
3022078	Pardes House Primary School	356	£1,635,874	£4,541	356	£1,711,480	£4,743	0	£75,606	5%	£202
3022038	Parkfield Primary School	377	£2,104,825	£5,546	402	£2,317,433	£5,723	25	£212,808	10%	£178
3024208	Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School	1007	£6,618,690	£6,544	1016	£7,038,088	£6,893	9	£419,398	6%	£349
3025401	Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet	959	£5,726,911	£5,937	958	£5,960,032	£6,179	-1	£233,121	4%	£243
3022071	Queenswell Infant & Nursery School	166	£1,032,161	£6,030	165	£1,098,386	£6,430	-1	£66,225	6%	£400
3022072	Queenswell Junior School	270	£1,484,582	£5,441	270	£1,567,982	£5,936	-9	£83,400	6%	£495
3022004	Rimon Jewish Primary School	198	£973,682	£4,876	206	£1,070,629	£5,149	8	£96,947	10%	£273
3023512	Rosh Pinah Primary School	342	£1,552,139	£4,500	360	£1,704,542	£4,692	18	£152,403	10%	£191
3022041	Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School	207	£969,278	£4,671	207	£1,011,722	£4,946	-3	£42,444	4%	£274
3023510	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School	409	£1,901,591	£4,637	404	£2,019,079	£4,947	-2	£117,488	6%	£309
3024011	Saracens High School	849	£6,252,103	£7,355	871	£6,834,754	£7,836	22	£582,651	9%	£481
3022053	Shalom Noam Primary School	209	£1,035,184	£4,931	207	£1,064,690	£5,117	-2	£29,506	3%	£186
3023502	St Agnes' Catholic Primary School	402	£2,133,607	£5,292	403	£2,223,506	£5,499	1	£89,899	4%	£207
3024000	St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School	585	£4,043,002	£6,851	526	£3,907,225	£7,348	-59	-£135,777	-3%	£497
3023315	St Andrew's CoFE Voluntary Aided Primary School,	208	£1,032,178	£4,946	202	£1,068,565	£5,269	-6	£36,388	4%	£324
3023504	St Catherine's RC School	421	£1,988,195	£4,707	421	£2,063,799	£4,883	0	£75,604	4%	£176
3025407	St James' Catholic High School	1075	£7,444,203	£6,891	1081	£7,941,880	£7,306	6	£497,677	7%	£415
3023307	St John's CoFE Junior Mixed and Infant School	210	£1,061,863	£5,037	211	£1,149,606	£5,425	1	£87,743	8%	£388
3023309	St John's CoFE Primary and Nursery School	210	£1,053,144	£4,992	206	£1,091,128	£5,269	-4	£37,985	4%	£277
3023509	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	453	£2,287,805	£5,024	443	£2,398,171	£5,381	-10	£110,365	5%	£357
3023521	St Mary's and St John's CoFE School	1485	£9,169,026	£6,050	1492	£9,761,433	£6,390	7	£592,407	6%	£341
3023311	St Mary's CoFE Primary School	409	£2,015,114	£4,868	410	£2,125,628	£5,113	1	£110,514	5%	£246
3023312	St Mary's CoFE Primary School, East Barnet	216	£1,079,165	£4,979	209	£1,107,591	£5,279	-7	£28,425	3%	£299
3025404	St Michael's Catholic Grammar School	606	£3,826,043	£6,286	639	£4,189,490	£6,525	33	£363,447	9%	£239
3023313	St Paul's CoFE Primary School N11	191	£1,085,226	£5,664	193	£1,176,044	£6,073	2	£90,818	8%	£408
3023314	St Paul's CoFE Primary School NW7	209	£1,064,827	£5,080	206	£1,107,571	£5,359	-3	£42,744	4%	£279
3023507	St Theresa's Catholic Primary School	175	£963,942	£5,486	160	£939,467	£5,843	-15	-£24,475	-3%	£357
3023506	St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	281	£1,371,463	£4,868	281	£1,471,589	£5,222	0	£100,126	7%	£354
3022051	Summerside Primary Academy	408	£2,206,351	£5,387	398	£2,303,337	£5,761	-10	£96,985	4%	£375
3022070	Sunnyfields Primary School	208	£1,217,813	£5,734	211	£1,285,087	£5,947	3	£67,274	6%	£213
3023500	The Annunciation Catholic Infant School	144	£861,272	£5,964	162	£1,018,287	£6,267	18	£157,016	18%	£304
3023514	The Annunciation RC Junior School	181	£1,002,563	£5,515	182	£1,059,506	£5,792	1	£56,943	6%	£278
3024001	The Archer Academy	818	£5,396,780	£6,375	810	£5,600,817	£6,716	-8	£204,038	4%	£342
3024215	The Compton School	1045	£7,048,333	£6,726	1048	£7,542,538	£7,174	3	£494,206	7%	£448
3024752	The Henrietta Barnett School	520	£3,160,085	£6,047	520	£3,344,027	£6,395	0	£183,942	6%	£348
3022047	The Hyde School	412	£2,205,226	£5,337	420	£2,327,565	£5,523	8	£122,339	6%	£187
3022077	The Orion Primary School	839	£5,045,971	£5,998	840	£5,240,482	£6,220	1	£194,511	4%	£221
3024010	The Totteridge Academy	829	£6,192,913	£7,440	853	£6,617,117	£7,722	24	£424,204	7%	£282
3023316	Trent CoFE Primary School	209	£1,049,088	£5,000	208	£1,086,447	£5,199	-1	£37,360	4%	£200
3022055	Tudor Primary School	222	£1,277,299	£5,632	196	£1,195,010	£5,931	-26	-£82,288	-6%	£300
3022057	Underhill School	504	£2,810,141	£5,471	455	£2,717,289	£5,832	-49	-£92,852	-3%	£362
3022049	Watling Park School	380	£2,203,679	£5,760	406	£2,503,650	£6,123	26	£299,971	14%	£363
3022076	Wessex Gardens Primary School	322	£1,813,922	£5,536	262	£1,611,380	£6,007	-60	-£202,542	-11%	£471
3024012	Whitefield School	598	£4,826,226	£8,029	579	£4,878,644	£8,374	-19	£52,418	1%	£345
3022060	Whitings Hill Primary School	422	£2,520,542	£5,752	418	£2,603,704	£5,962	-4	£83,163	3%	£209
3023518	Woodcroft Primary School	385	£2,201,727	£5,629	398	£2,375,039	£5,863	13	£173,311	8%	£234
3022054	Woodridge Primary School	204	£1,028,904	£4,950	204	£1,098,121	£5,271	0	£69,216	7%	£321
3026906	Wren Academy Finchley	1334	£7,654,571	£5,717	1330	£8,070,868	£6,043	-4	£416,297	5%	£326

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 11 January 2024	Agenda Item No.	8
Report Title	2024-25 Central School Services Block (CSSB)		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update / Decision		
Officer(s)	Sharon Palma Head of Finance – Children and Families sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk Sanjaya Gunatilake Finance Manager (DSG Projects) sanjaya.gunatilake@barnet.gov.uk		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of the 2024-25 Central School Services Block (CSSB)		
Recommendations	Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the expenditure lines that comprise the final 2024-25 budget for Central School Services Block (CSSB).		

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the expenditure lines that comprise the final 2024-25 Central School Services Block (CSSB) as set out in Table 1 below.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The final CSSB for FY 2024-25 has increased by £0.117m to £2.486m as compared to FY 2023-24. Where appropriate, the increase in budget has been pro-rated against the 2023-24 budget.

3. Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 3.1. The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is formulated to cover both historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities. The former are fixed amounts committed in FY 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 2024-25.
- 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 School Services Block amounts, except for Copyright Licensing, which is negotiated on behalf of all LAs by the DfE. After the amount is finalised, it is deducted from the CSSB. Normally this is announced alongside the schools funding settlement in December. However, negotiations are still ongoing with some of the copyright management organisations and therefore, the final fees will be announced later in the current year.
- 3.4. The CSSB for 2023-24 is £2.486 million comprising an historical commitment to combined budgets of £0.152m (a reduction of £0.038m or 20% compared to 2023-24) and ongoing responsibilities of £2.334m. The budgets are summarised below:

Table 1 – 2024-25 Central School Services Block

		2024-25	2023-24
		£m	£m
Historic Commitments	Safer Families	0.060	0.075
	CAF Team	0.092	0.115
Sub-total		0.152	0.190
Ongoing Responsibilities	School Admissions	0.455	0.425
	Servicing of Schools Forum	0.039	0.036
	Copyright Licensing Costs	0.359	0.335
	Education Welfare Service	0.528	0.493
	Asset Management	0.046	0.043
	Statutory/Regulatory Duties	0.907	0.847
Sub-total		2.334	2.179
TOTAL		2.486	2.369

- 3.5. The fall in funding for Historical Commitments will mean a £0.038m reduction in the charge for combined budgets from the General Fund. The final figure for ongoing responsibilities was based on the October 2023 census.

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 11 January 2024	Agenda Item No.	9
Report Title	2024-25 De-Delegation and services previously funded from Education Services Grant		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update / Decision		
Officer(s)	Sharon Palma Head of Finance – Children and Families sharon.palma@barnet.gov.uk Sanjaya Gunatilake Finance Manager (DSG Projects) sanjaya.gunatilake@barnet.gov.uk		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of the 2024-25 De-Delegation Rates		
Recommendations	That Schools Forum note and approve the updated de-delegation rates for FY 2024-25		

1. Recommendation

1.1 Schools Forum agree the updated primary de-delegation rates for FY 2024-25 (previously approved at Schools Forum on 19 October 2023).

2. De-Delegation

2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) requires Schools Forum to review the de-delegated items each year and undertake a vote on whether to delegate or retain centrally. The voting is limited to maintained schools, with each sector (primary and secondary) having a separate vote. Academy schools are excluded as they will receive the funding through the delegated.

2.2 In October 2023, 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 (primary and secondary maintained schools)

2.3 The forum also approved the local authorities' proposal to keep the 2024-25 de-delegation rates the same as those used in the financial year 2023-24. These rates were approved based on estimated budgets calculated using October 2022 census pupil data. The latest calculation based on the October 23 pupil data shows that the overall de-delegated amount is lower by £16,779 than the previous year. This is due to the slight reduction in primary-age pupil numbers, as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 1 – 2024-25 De-delegated Services

De-delegated Services	Estimates based on October 22 Census*	Calculation based on October 23 Census	Reduction
Behaviour Support	£76,977	£75,786	(£1,191)
Narrowing the Gap	£77,667	£75,011	(£2,656)
Trade Union Duties	£47,614	£47,027	(£587)
Additional School Improvement services	£480,335	£473,590	(£6,745)
School Contingency	£460,433	£454,832	(£5,601)
Total De-delegation	£1,143,026	£1,126,247	(£16,779)

*These amounts were presented to the Schools Forum on 19 October 2023.

2.4 A marginal uplift to the primary de-delegation is proposed to ensure minimal impact on services budgets. This uplift will bring the 2024-25 de-delegation total to the same level as in the previous financial year and protects the schools' contribution in cash terms.

Table 2 – 2024-25 De-delegated Services Rates per Pupil

De-delegated Services	Schools Forum October 23		Updated Rates October 23 Census		Change	
	Primary Per Pupil	Secondary Per Pupil	Primary Per Pupil	Secondary Per Pupil	Primary Per Pupil	Secondary Per Pupil
Behaviour Support	3.22		3.27	-	0.05	0.00
Narrowing the Gap	12.33	10.96	12.89	10.96	0.56	0.00
Trade Union Duties	1.66	1.44	1.69	1.44	0.03	0.00
Additional School Improvement services	18.57	6.61	18.86	6.61	0.29	0.00
School Contingency	15.89	14.63	16.14	14.63	0.25	0.00

3. Services previously funded from the Education Services Grant

3.1 In October 2023, Schools Forum also agreed to approve the proposal to continue charging the cost of services formerly funded from the ESG to the budgets of maintained schools. The de-delegation budget is fixed at the 2023-24 level of £0.700m. This would mean a deduction from budgets of approximately £24.09 for maintained primary and secondary schools based on the October 2023 census.

Meeting/Date	Schools Forum 11 January 2024	Agenda Item No.	11
Report Title	High Needs Block Review: Update.		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Update.		
Officer(s)	Karen Flanagan Director of SEND and Inclusion.		
Appendices	Appendix 1. HNB report		
Summary	An update with regard the High Needs Block (HNB) review.		
Recommendations	The Schools Forum is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update and next steps 		

1. Summary of report.

1.1 As outlined in previous School Forum reports the Council commissioned a review of the High Needs Block Spend, the findings of which were shared in the October 2023 Schools Forum meeting.

1.2 One of the recommended areas for consideration was to explore alternatives to funding exceptional high needs of children without recourse to an Education, Health and Care Plan (ECEHCP).

1.3 This report summarises the LA network meeting attended by Barnet representatives on the 28 November 2023 and outlines next steps.

2. LA network meeting.

2.1 The event took place at Croydon college and included LAs from

- Camden
- Croydon
- Hounslow
- Kent
- Kingston
- Southampton
- Kirklees
- Nottinghamshire
- Sutton
- Hertfordshire.

2.2 Participants from Barnet were:

- Darren Turnpenny BELS Finance Director (online)
- Sanjaya Gunatilake LBB DSG (online)
- Jacob Davies DSG Finance Manager LBB (online)
- Amanda Ryzman – Principal Educational Psychologist (online)
- Joann Moore - Strategic Lead Inclusion Advisory Team/ Head of Service Barnet Early Years SEND Team (in person)
- Karen Flanagan director SEND Inclusion (in person)
- Siobhan Stacey BELS SEND Finance (in person)
- Robin Archibald Head Teacher (primary) (in person)
- Simon Horne Head Teacher (secondary)/SF chair (in person).

2.3 The Local Authorities in attendance (either remotely or in person), were at various stages of development with alternative models of funding some high needs pupils without the need for an EHCP.

2.4 Some LAs like Hertfordshire, Camden and Nottinghamshire had been using alternative models for some time, for others like Croydon, the move had been more recent and a variety of LAs including Barnet were at the very early exploratory stage.

2.5 There were a variety of reasons for looking at or implementing, alternative funding models. For some of the LAs present it was to try and improve current practice particularly where there had been a Written Statement Of Action (following an Ofsted Inspection) or where the LA were in financial difficulties.

2.6 It is important to note that the model per se will not and is not intended as an alternative to the issuing of EHCPs, and neither will it save significant amount of money. LAs did however, talk about a slowing of the increase in HNB spend. This could be attributed to earlier intervention in some cases and there is no doubt that the system is far more fluid in terms of CYP accessing funding and existing the system when the funding is no longer needed for that individual.

2.7 There are local differences in operational delivery for example in Camden the decision meetings (called Cluster Inclusion Forums) are held in person and in Croydon they are online. In some models initially it was headteachers making the decisions about whether to issue funding or not and if yes how much; in other models it was SENDCOs.

2.8 There were similarities between all models that were considered to be good practice. The advantages are:

- Systems were less bureaucratic and much quicker than an Educational Health Care Needs Assessment. This meant that funding was being made available








to support the CYP at a much earlier stage and freed up capacity of both educational and LA staff.



- All decisions were peer moderated and thus more equitable – based on levels of need of the child compared to other children across the borough, rather than other peers in that school or practice in the ‘home’ educational environment.
- There was a cluster lead who both supported and challenged schools – the ‘honest broker’.
- Parents were informed of the outcome in writing, this made explicit the support that would be in place for their child and increased confidence.
- The involvement of both secondary and primary staff – developed knowledge and practice of transition between phases.
- The involvement of wider practitioner and expertise such as early help, EPs, SLT, Specialist Inclusion team, admissions. This meant there was an ongoing cycle of professional development, as well as consistent messaging and reminders about local systems and expectations.
- Decisions for all High Needs are made via the same route and subject to the same scrutiny (i.e. CYP with EHCPs would have their funding decisions made by the same process).

2.9 There are of course challenges to alternative models of funding which would need to be considered.

- Communication – getting the message right for clarity and to avoid myths (this is not a cost cutting exercise).
- Buy in – from all stakeholders such as education providers, LA staff, Health, parents.
- Tailoring the model to existing local arrangements.
- Capacity to develop the local model and implement any changes.

2.10 What would it mean for CYP and their families?

Faster access to funding – when it is needed, for as long as it is needed.	
Same best endeavours duty (statutory) on education providers irrespective of whether a CYP has an EHCP or not.	
Not transferable to other LAs (yet).	
Same funding whether you have an EHCP or not	
Equitable – decision based on need.	
Cannot access specialist schools – this is for mainstream pupils only	
Education providers are provided with advice in terms of how to support the child.	

<p>No early access to express a preference for next phase of education (via phase transfer process for CYP with EHCPs). <i>In other LAs there is agreement for children accessing HN funding to go via the medical route for mainstream admissions</i></p>	
<p>Written document outlining provision that the provider needs to put in place and is funded for</p>	

3. Next Steps

3.1 We have advertised for a secondment for a project lead (as agreed in Schools Forum October 2023) in the Schools Circular (see appendix 1).

3.2 The key aspects of the role would be:

- Develop ToR for the Task and Finish (T&F) group.
- Recruit appropriate range of stakeholders for the Task and Finish Group so that a minimum of two options are scoped out and explored. It is essential that any options are fully and authentically codesigned and produced with all stakeholders. This will include arrangements for observation of systems already in place in other LAs and or meetings with relevant stakeholders in those LAs so we can learn from best practice as well as the lessons learned by others.
- Develop a project plan with timelines (including implementation phases if the agreed option is different to the current system), costs (including any start-up costs), Equality Impact Assessment; risk assessment; communication and engagement strategy and training programme and present the options to the Schools Forum in a written format.

3.3 Peter Gray remains available to be commissioned to offer expert support with this work.

3.4 If an alternative model is agreed, we would expect the new arrangements to be in place at either the start of the academic year 2024 or the new financial year Easter 2025.

End of Report.

Appendix 1: BELS HNB report update and Secondment Opportunity.
(W/B 18 September 2024).

HNB Review: Update and Secondment Opportunity.

Thank you to all who took part in the HNB review conversation and feedback sessions.

- Please see attached the final report.

We will be looking at all the recommendations over time, however, the area we are exploring first is alternative methods of funding pupils with high needs without the need for an EHCP.

Recently a number of BELS staff and two of our Headteachers attended a LA networking event where we met with other LAs that have either put alternative systems in place or, are in the process of doing so.










The advantages of funding without recourse to EHCPs are:

- Systems were **less bureaucratic** and **much quicker** than an Educational Health Care Needs Assessment. This meant that funding was being made available to support the CYP at a much earlier stage and freed up capacity of both educational and LA staff.
- All decisions were **peer moderated** and thus more **equitable** – based on levels of need of the child compared to other children across the borough, rather than other peers or practice in the ‘home’ educational environment.
- There was a cluster lead who **both supported and challenged schools** – the ‘honest broker’.
- Parents were informed of the **outcome in writing**, this made explicit the support that would be in place for their child and increased confidence.
- The involvement of both secondary and primary staff – **developed knowledge and practice of transition** between phases.
- The involvement of wider practitioner and expertise such as early help, EPs, SLT, Specialist Inclusion team, admissions meant there was an **ongoing cycle of professional development**, as well as consistent messaging and reminders about local systems and expectations.
- Decision so for all High Needs are made via the same route and subject to the same scrutiny (i.e. CYP with EHCPs would have their funding decisions made by the same process).

There are of course challenges to alternative models of funding which would need to be considered.

- Communication – getting the message right for clarity and to avoid myths and misunderstandings (for example this is about getting support to children and young people with identified needs in mainstream school more quickly and NOT cost cutting).
- Buy in – from all stakeholders such as education providers, LA staff, Health, parents.
- Tailoring the model to existing local arrangements.
- Capacity to develop the local model and implement any changes.

What would it mean for CYP and their families?

Faster access to funding – when it is needed, for as long as it is needed.	
Same best endeavours duty (statutory) on education providers irrespective of whether a CYP has an EHCP or not.	
Not transferable to other LAs (yet).	
Same funding whether you have an EHCP or not	
Equitable – decision based on need.	
Cannot access specialist schools – this is for mainstream pupils only	
Education providers are provided with advice in terms of how to support the child.	
No early access to express a preference for next phase of education (via phase transfer process for CYP with EHCPs). <i>In other LAs there is agreement for children accessing HN funding to go via the medical route for mainstream admissions</i>	
Written document outlining provision that the provider needs to put in place and is funded for	

Next Steps.

We are looking for a project manager to explore potential alternatives and develop a suite of options for us to consider implanting in Barnet.

The project manager would lead on all aspects of the project from the research to implementation stage.

We would very much like to second a programme manager from our on local area to lead on this project.

- This could be a SENDCO or other leader /aspiring leader from one of our schools or a Governor for example.

In the first instance we anticipate the person would need to be seconded for two days per week from 19 February 2024 - to 24 May 2024.

The key aspects of the role would be to:

- Develop ToR for the T&F group.
- Recruit appropriate range of stakeholders for the Task and Finish Group so that a minimum of two options are scoped out and explored. It is essential that any options are fully and authentically codesigned and produced with all stakeholders. This will include arrangements for observation of systems

already in place in other LAs and or meetings with relevant stakeholders in those LAs so we can learn from best practice as well as the lessons learned by others.

- Develop project plan with timelines (including implementation phases if the agreed option is different to the current system), costs (including any start-up costs), Equality Impact Assessment; risk assessment; communication and engagement strategy and training programme and present the options to the Schools Forum in a written format.

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a tailor made system for Barnet and will provide you with excellent strategic, project management and finance experience. You will be supported by a DfE recognised HNB expert, Peter Grey

If an alternative approach is adopted there is the opportunity to extend this secondment by a further year in order to oversee the implementation of the decided approach (until July 2025).

The secondment is for term time only.

If you would like to be considered for the role, please submit an Expression of Interest to karen.flanagan@barnet.gov.uk demonstrating your skills and knowledge that are relevant to the role and an initial action plan.

This needs to be submitted on or before Noon Friday 12 January 2024. A stakeholder group will review all EOIs. In the event we are not able to recruit based on the strength of the EOI we may select a number of candidates for further interview.

The final decision will be made on or before the 26 January 2024. In the event we are not able to recruit from within our schools network we will advertise for an agency or fixed term position.

Please remember to secure your HTs or Principal's agreement before submitting.