



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date:

**Committee:
Schools Forum**

Date: Thursday, 26 January 2023
Time: 8.30 am
Venue: MS Teams

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Schools Forum

Mark Rogers
Marilyn Hunt
Stephen Matthews
Reuben Thorley
Sandra Holloway
Michael Revell
Georgia Moss
Mark Cooper
Bill Dowell
Carla Whelan
Sue Lovecy

James Pearson
James Staniforth
John Hitchings
Shelly Hurdley
Sian Lines
Charles Thomas
Andrew Smith

Your Committee Officer is:

Jo Jones DSG Funding Co-Ordinator, Learning and Skills – People Directorate
Tel: 01743 254343
Email: [Jo Jones@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Jones@shropshire.gov.uk)

AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 Minutes and Matters Arising - 1 December 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)

Paper A attached.

3 School Revenue Funding Settlement and School Arrangements 2023-24 (Jo Jones) (Pages 7 - 12)

Paper B, attached.

4 Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution (Phil Wilson) (Pages 13 - 14)

Paper C, attached.

5 Dedicated School Grant Monitoring 2022-23 (Stephen Waters) (Pages 15 - 20)

Paper D, attached.

6 High Needs Block 3 Year Forecasting (David Shaw) (Pages 21 - 30)

Paper E, attached.

7 Schools Forum Work Programme 2023-24 (Phil Wilson) (Pages 31 - 32)


Paper F, attached.

8 Communications

9 Future meeting dates

Thursday 16 March 2023	8.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 15 June 2023	8.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams

Agenda Item 2

	Schools Forum Date: 26 January 2023 Time: 8.30 am Venue: Via MS Teams	<u>Item/Paper</u> A Public
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MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2022 – HELD VIA MS TEAMS

Present

School forum members

Bill Dowell (Chair)
Caroline Clode – Association secretaries
Mark Cooper – Academy headteacher
John Hitchings – Academy governor
Marilyn Hunt – Primary headteacher (From 09.00)
Sandra Holloway – Primary governor
Stephen Matthews – Primary governor (From 09.20)
James Pearson – TMBSS
Michael Revell – Academy governor
Mark Rogers – Primary headteacher
James Staniforth – Post 16
Brian Thomas – Special academy headteacher
Carla Whelan – Academy representative
Sue Lovecy – Academy headteacher

Members

Gwilym Butler

Officers

David Shaw
Jo Jones
Neville Ward
Stephen Waters
Phil Wilson
Helen Woodbridge

Observers

Roger Evans
John Boken (from 09.17)
Steve Barnard

The chair welcomed all to the meeting. Steve Barnard from the ESFA was introduced.

		ACTION
1.	Apologies Apologies had been received from Shelly Hurdley, Karen Levell Sian Lines, Kerry Lynch, Alan Parkhurst, John Parr, Kirstie Hurst-Knight and Andrew Smith. Marilyn Hunt had advised that she would be late. Nick Bardsley sent late apologies as he had connection issues.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising The minutes were accepted as a true record. The actions had all been completed. Phil Wilson added that further funding (phase 2) has been received from the DfE for Ukrainian refugees and this will be distributed to qualifying schools.	
3.	School Funding Arrangements 2023-24 Jo Jones presented her paper. There were several areas where a vote was required: Split site funding Schools Forum approved the recommendation that the lump sum split site factor	

value of £15,000 for Ludlow Primary School continues to be allocated in 2023-24.

Transition of funding between blocks

A discussion was held with several colleagues voicing concern about the rising levels of SEN.

James Staniforth requested assurance that the high needs for 2023-24 has been modelled and understood. He was pleased that Post 16 issues had been worked on by David Shaw. He suggested ensuring that needs have been identified at transition stages and wondered if there is a contingency position to cover rising costs.

David Shaw acknowledged that this is a difficult judgement call. There is a need to recognise school and SEN challenges against a backdrop of a 12% increase in high needs funding last year. He advised that there is sufficient headroom to manage this for 2023-24. He undertook to bring a three-year forecast to Schools Forum in January following detail received in December.

John Hitchings and Brian Thomas spoke of the need to ensure that high needs is affordable before the decisions are made.

James Staniforth asked that the abnormal levels of NEET at Post 16 are factored into the modelling.

Mark Rogers expressed concern about the stress being caused to school staff when they are having to cope with children who should be in a different specialist provision.

Schools Forum agreed that until it could be proved by officers that the High Needs Block does not need any further transfer of funding, the recommendation that any remaining balance of the Schools Block, after fully funding individual schools in line with the NFF will be shared to schools by increasing their Basic Entitlement factor, would not be approved.

Schools Forum therefore agreed to the transfer of up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs block once all schools have been fully funded in line with the NFF as in previous years.

Affordability of the funding formula

Schools Forum approved the recommendation to reduce the MFG as necessary, and within allowable limits, to ensure affordability, and following this, if also required, to reduce the AWPU factor on a consistent basis across all Shropshire schools.

4. Consultation on the Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2023

Phil Wilson presented his paper and several votes were held.

Pupil Growth Contingency

Maintained primary school representatives on Schools Forum approved the recommendation to de-delegate funding of £35,000 from maintained primary school budgets for a pupil growth contingency for maintained primary schools in 2023-24.

Maternity cover

Maintained school representatives approved the recommendation to de-delegate

DS

funding of £250,000 from maintained primary and secondary school budgets for a centrally managed maternity budget for maintained schools in 2023-24.

Trade Union Duties (referred to as facilities time)

Maintained school representatives approved the recommendation to de-delegate funding of £25,000 from maintained primary and secondary school budgets for a centrally managed trade union duties budget for maintained schools in 2023-24.

Mark Rogers asked about academies (and this had been raised in previous years). He was concerned that union members in academies are still supported yet some academies are not paying. The chair requested a paper from Caroline Clode at a forthcoming meeting for clarity and Caroline Clode agreed to put this together.

CC

School improvement

Phil Wilson advised that responses from schools on this area were split with only just over half of schools responding. He proposed to go back to the 40 schools that did not respond.

Mark Rogers and Marilyn Hunt suggested that schools may have been confused by the questions/permutations. They suggested that the consultation be simplified and repeated with all maintained schools.

Maintained school representatives agreed that a revised two option consultation would take place and further agreed to approve the preference of the majority of schools.

PW

Redundancy fund.

Maintained school representatives approved the top-slicing of funding from maintained primary and secondary school budgets in 2023-24, based on reducing the redundancy fund to £150,000.

Statutory school finance

Maintained school representatives approved the top-slicing of funding for a statutory school finance budget from maintained primary and secondary schools in 2023-24, based on an estimated unit value of £2.48 per pupil.

Statutory Human Resources and Health and Safety

Maintained school representatives approved the top-slicing of funding for a centrally held statutory human resources and health and safety budget from maintained primary and secondary schools in 2023-24, based on a unit value of £4.40 per pupil.

Education Access Service

Maintained school representatives approved the top-slicing of funding for a centrally held budget for EAS from maintained primary and secondary schools in 2023-24, based on an increased unit value of £13.90 per pupil.

5. Central School Services Block 2023-24

Stephen Waters presented his paper and votes were held for several areas:

Historic commitments:

Contribution to combined budgets

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed that there will be a £45,220 reduction and therefore no contribution to combined budgets as per the detail of these costs outlined in Appendix C of the report presented to Schools Forum.

Termination of employment costs

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to contribute £582,169 to fund a portion of these ongoing pension commitments in the event that the appeal to the ESFA to protect the value of ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs is not successful, a reduction of £174,160 compared to 2023-24.

Prudential borrowing costs

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to continue to contribute £295,350 to fund the ongoing revenue costs of funding prudential borrowing for the Monkmoor Campus Project.

Ongoing responsibilities:

School admissions

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the increased charge of £271,600 for the provision of a School Admissions Team.

Servicing Schools Forum

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the budget of £10,000 for the servicing of Schools Forum.

Copyright Licences

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to the increased charge of £241,450 for the annual copyright licensing fees.

Ongoing responsibilities that LA hold for all schools

Maintained and academy school representatives agreed to continue to contribute £794,677 to ongoing responsibilities that the local authority provides for maintained schools and academies as per the detail of these costs outlined in Appendix D of the report to Schools Forum.

6. Early Years Provision in Shropshire

Neville Ward presented his paper which provided an update on Early Years provision.

He explained that there is a long term concern around recruitment and that low funding levels continue as a key area of concern for providers with Shropshire remaining in the lowest funded group of LAs.

Early Years settings are seeing increased levels of speech and language needs and behaviour issues. Two thirds of settings have accessed Talk Boost support

to help with speech and language.
The quality of provision remains good.

The chair congratulated the Early Years team on their achievements.

7. Government's Autumn Statement and Implications on School Funding

Phil Wilson provided an update.

The main points were that:

- the increase of 4% is lower than inflation levels
- there is no news regarding funding for early years or further education
- capital funding will increase but then decrease
- the Household Support Fund remains in place for a further year.

8. Communications

- The chair confirmed that the work of f40 is continuing. Phil Wilson undertook to share recent communications from f40 with Schools Forum
- The chair asked about meetings with MPs and was advised that these continue.
- The chair asked that Kirstie Hurst-Knight is briefed regarding Shropshire's position (f40 report) and the EY/FE funding levels.
- It was agreed that a letter is sent from Schools Forum to the DfE and ESFA.

PW

PW

Chair

9. Future meeting dates:

Thursday 12 January 2023 (since cancelled)

Thursday 26 January 2023 (since confirmed)

Thursday 16 March 2023

Thursday 15 June 2023

The meeting closed at 10.08

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Schools Forum

Date: 26 January 2023

Time: 8:30am – 10:30am

Venue: Microsoft TEAMS meeting

Paper

B

Public

SCHOOLS REVENUE FUNDING SETTLEMENT AND SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2023-24

Responsible Officer Jo Jones

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Tel: 01743 254343

Summary

This report provides information on the schools revenue funding settlement for 2023-24 and the dataset information provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) based on the schools' October 2022 census.

This report is for information only.

Recommendation

That Schools Forum notes Shropshire's schools revenue settlement for 2023-24 and school funding arrangements.

REPORT

Schools Revenue Funding Settlement 2023-24

1. Detailed information on Shropshire's school revenue funding settlement for 2023-24 was announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 16 December 2022.
2. The total 2023-24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is allocated under four main blocks: a Schools Block, an Early Years Block, a High Needs Block and a Central School Services Block (CSSB).
3. A summary of the 2023-24 DSG allocation, as announced on 16 December 2022, is shown in the table below alongside the 2022-23 DSG allocation (before recoupment for academies and deductions for direct funding of high needs places by the ESFA).

	2022-23 £m	2023-24 £m	Variation £m
Schools Block	*189.815	200.087	10.272
Provisional Early Years Block	16.809	18.278	1.919
Provisional High Needs Block	34.412	39.268	4.856
Central School Services Block	2.388	2.378	0.010
Total	243.424	260.011	17.057

* does not include supplementary grant as funded outside DSG in 22-23 (£5.531m)

2023-24 Schools Block key financial headlines

4. Shropshire's school pupil numbers as at October 2022 is 36,700. This compares to 36,457 at October 2021 – an increase of 243 funded pupils.
5. Shropshire's 2023-24 Schools Block allocation is based on the national funding formula (NFF) which provides for a Shropshire primary unit of funding of £4,959.85 (2022-23 was £4,747.30), and a secondary unit of funding of £5,971.03 (2022-23 was £5,687.14), along with funding for premises costs based on actual 2022-23 spend levels of £1.384m. The 2023-24 Schools Block funds the budget shares delegated to Shropshire schools and academies through the local funding formula.
6. In addition, the 2023-24 Schools Block includes growth funding which Schools Forum agreed to top-slice and hold centrally to allocate specifically to individual schools and academies meeting the agreed growth funding criteria. Shropshire's 2022-23 growth funding was £0.910m. The full allocation in 2023-24 is £0.972m.

2023-24 Early Years Block key financial headlines

7. The 2023-24 Early Years Block allocation is provisional at this stage as it is based on January 2022 Early Years census data. This provisional allocation will be updated in July 2023 and July 2024 with the final allocation based on 5/12ths of January 2023 pupil numbers and 7/12ths of January 2024 pupil numbers.
8. The provisional Early Years Block allocation includes funding for the universal 15 hours free entitlement funding for 3 and 4 year olds, the additional 15 hours free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents and the 2 year old free entitlement funding. In addition, the Early Years Block includes funding for the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the Disability Access Fund.
9. For 3 and 4 year olds, the amount per part time equivalent (PTE) pupil for the universal 15 hours free entitlement and the additional 15 hours free entitlement for pupils of working parents increases from £4.61 in 2022-23 to £4.87 in 2023-24. The amount per PTE 2 year olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds increases from £5.57 in 2022-23 to £5.63 in 2023-24.

2023-24 High Needs Block key financial headlines

10. The High Needs Block includes funding for local authority high needs pupils/students aged 0-25.
11. For 2023-24 Shropshire's High Needs Block is based on the high needs national funding formula and includes an imports/exports adjustment to reflect place funding of pupils educated in other local authority areas. Shropshire is a net exporter of high needs pupils and the imports/exports adjustment to Shropshire's high needs block is a provisional loss of £0.966m in 2023-24.
12. The funding floor factor in the high needs NFF for 2023 to 2024 has reduced to 5% per head of 2 to 18 population (previously 8%). This is based on the amount local authorities received in high needs funding in 2022 to 2023.
13. The Government's Autumn 2022 statement announcement of extra funding for High Needs has been included in the DSG figures for 2023-24. For Shropshire the High Needs block was increased by an additional £1.644m on top of the increases announced in July 2022.

2023-24 Central School Services Block (CSSB) key financial headlines

14. The CSSB within the DSG includes funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. The CSSB is split into funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing responsibilities and includes funding previously allocated to the local authority through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).
15. In 2023-24 the Government continues to reduce local authorities' funding for historic commitments by 20% compared to the 2022-23 baseline, with a protection so that no local authority loses more than the equivalent of 0.5% of its 2022-23 schools block allocation. The LA submitted evidence to the ESFA to protect Shropshire from the 20% cut on the Prudential Borrowing and Pension Compensation payments, which was agreed. Therefore, Shropshire's historic commitments funding has only reduced by 4.12% (£45.2k) compared to 2022-23, resulting in an overall CSSB allocation in 2023-24 of £2.378m.

School Funding Arrangements 2023-24

16. The Schools Block element of the DSG for 2023-24 is based on a primary unit of funding and secondary unit of funding calculated by the Department for Education (DfE) from the individual school notional NFF allocations using October 2021 total pupil numbers.
17. Allocating funding to schools in 2023-24 through the NFF using October 2021 pupil data will therefore not be an exact match to the Schools Block funding received by using the pre-calculated primary and secondary units of funding.
18. In 2022-23, after calculating individual school budgets in line with the NFF and retaining sufficient Growth Fund (£0.366m) for expected need in 2022-23, it

was possible to transfer £0.949m (the full 0.5% allowable) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to continue to support the on-going cost pressures in this area.

19. For 2023-24 all schools have been fully funded after calculating individual school budgets in line with the NFF. In doing so, there have been some unexpected impacts on the Growth Fund, and the historic headroom for transferring funding to the High Needs Block, that are being urgently followed up with the ESFA. There is only £30,000 available for the Growth Fund which is insufficient to meet the commitments approved by Schools Forum last summer, while it will not be possible to transfer any funding to the High Needs Block. Officers are seeking clarification from the ESFA for these significant changes in the 2023-24 settlement. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) 2023-24

20. The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023 to 2024 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.
21. In the 2023 to 2024 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated additional funding through the 'mainstream schools additional grant' (MSAG) 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula. The indicative allocation for the MSAG for Shropshire is £8m.
22. The MSAG will fund the following providers, for the 5 to 16-year-old age range: primary and secondary maintained schools, primary and secondary academies and free schools, and all-through academies.
23. The funding rates consist of the following 3 elements, which are based on factors already in the schools national funding formula:
 - a basic per-pupil rate (with different rates for primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4)
 - a lump sum paid to all schools, regardless of pupil numbers
 - a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils
24. Local authority-maintained mainstream schools and mainstream academies will receive allocations under the MSAG, covering the 2023-24 financial year. School-level allocations will be published in May 2023. Funding for maintained mainstream schools will be paid to local authorities, who will be required to pay it to individual schools at the published rates. The ESFA will pay funding at the published rates directly to mainstream academies.
25. The indicative allocation for the MSAG for Shropshire is £8m. Schools can read the methodology, calculator guidance and access the calculator tool at the following; [Mainstream schools additional grant 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mainstream-schools-additional-grant-2023-to-2024)

26. Local authorities will be required to pass on proportionate funding to special schools and alternative provision settings from their high needs funding allocations, equivalent to the average funding increase that mainstream schools will receive through the MSAG.

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SCHOOLS FORUM – APRIL 2023

Member Category	Name	School/Trust/Organisation	Term to
Schools representation (21 members – 75%)			
Primary Headteachers (3 members)	Mark Rogers	Oxon	31/03/23
	Alan Parkhurst	Crowmoor	31/08/23
	Marilyn Hunt	Kinnerley	31/03/25
	Stephen Matthews	St Laurence	31/03/26
Secondary Headteachers (1 member)	Reuben Thorley	Community College	31/12/23
Primary Governors (3 members)	Sandra Holloway	Meole Brace Primary	31/08/24
	Michael Revell	Buntingsdale	31/12/23
	Vacancy		
Special Schools (1 member)	Brian Thomas	Severdale	31/03/24
Academies (12 members)	Georgia Moss	Diocese of Hereford MAT	31/12/23
	Alan Doust	Central Shropshire AT	31/12/25
	Mark Cooper	The 3-18 ET	31/08/22
	Bill Dowell	Central Shropshire AT	27/01/25
	Carla Whelan	Marches AT	17/03/25
	Sue Lovecy	3-18 Education Trust	17/03/25
	Vacancy		
	Vacancy		
	Vacancy		
	Vacancy		
Pupil Referral Unit (1 member)	James Pearson	TMBSS	31/01/26
Further Education	James Staniforth	Shrewsbury Colleges Group	16/06/25
Non-schools representation (8 members – 25%)			
SSGC Early Years & Childcare Diocese	John Hitchings	Little Explorers	
	Shelly Hurdley	Lichfield	
	Vacancy	Hereford	
	Sian Lines	Shrewsbury	
	Vacancy	National Education Union	
Association of Secretaries 16-19 Education Sector	Charles Thomas		
	Andrew Smith	Derwen College	

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Schools Forum

Date: 26 January 2023

Time: 8:30 am

Item

Public

Paper

D

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING

Responsible Officer Stephen Waters

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Tel: (01743) 258952

Summary

This report outlines to Schools Forum members the centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast outturn position at the end of December 2022.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

1. The overall 2022-23 outturn against centrally retained DSG is forecast to be £0.426m in surplus as at the end of December 2022. It should be noted that this figure is the in-year surplus and needs to be added to the £0.717m revised surplus carried forward from 2021-22 in order to give an overall cumulative DSG surplus position of £1.143m.
2. Please note that this cumulative DSG surplus carried forward of £0.717m from 2021-22 increased by £0.135m from the £0.582m reported in the 2021-22 DSG monitoring outturn paper presented to Schools Forum in June following the publication of the final Early Years Block DSG allocation for 2021-22 in July 2022.
3. In December 2021, Schools Forum approved a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support growth pressures on the High Needs Block. Agreement was given to transfer the remaining schools block budget, up to 0.5% after fully funding schools with the National Funding Formula factors and values. In 2022-23, the Council has been able to fully fund schools in this way, while transferring across the full 0.5% of the Schools Block budget to the High Needs Block budget which has increased the High Needs Block budget in year by £0.949m from the published allocation (before deductions) of £35.724m to a budget of £36.673m.

Centrally Controlled Early Years Budget

4. In July 2022, the provisional Early Years Block DSG allocation was updated based on the number of part time equivalents (PTEs) taking up the entitlements as recorded on the January 2022 PTE census numbers. Shropshire's provisional Early Years Block DSG allocation for 2022-23 is £17.368m, an increase of £0.641m compared to the final allocation for 2021-22.
5. The forecast outturn position for the Early Years Block is a £0.001m overspend against a provisional budgeted level of £17.368m. There are no variances to budget forecast at this stage in the year relating to the large budgets for universal free entitlement for 3-4 year olds or 2 year olds entitlement.

Centrally Controlled High Needs Budget

6. The centrally controlled High Needs Block for 2021-22 is £27.455m. This budget excludes the place funding element of the High Needs Block totalling £9.218m but does include the transfer of £0.949m funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as approved by Schools Forum.
7. It is important to note that Shropshire's High Needs Block DSG allocation has increased by £3.927m from £31.797m in 2021-22 to £35.724m in 2022-23. This is partly due to the funding floor factor in the high needs national funding formula for 2022-23 providing for every local authority to receive an underlying increase of at least 8% per head of 2 to 18 population. The other explanation for the increase is the "additional high needs funding" allocation of £1.342m which has been factored in to the 2022-23 High Needs Block DSG allocation for the first time following the 2021 Autumn Spending Review. In December 2021, it was announced that the July 2021 National Funding Formula allocations were to be supplemented by the allocation of an additional £325 million intended to reflect the cost to all employers of the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost increases that were not anticipated when the NFF allocations were published in July 2021.
8. Overall, the forecast outturn position for the High Needs Block is an in-year surplus of £0.386m against a centrally controlled High Needs Budget of £27.455m.

Lines 1.2.1 & Line 1.2.2 - Top Up funding – Mainstream Schools and Post 16 Further Education

9. On budget lines 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, shown in the Appendix, there is a forecast underspend of £0.272m.

Top Up funding - Mainstream Schools

10. Within this £0.272m forecast underspend, an underspend of £0.429m relates to top-up funding paid to mainstream schools. Total expenditure on top-up funding to

mainstream schools in Shropshire is forecast to be £4.966m in 2022-23 as per table below. This is a small decrease of £0.030m compared to last year's outturn figure of £4.996m. This figure includes the Graduation Support Pathway payments as well as top-up funding.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Top-Up and GSP Payments	£	£	£	£
Mainstream Primary	2,248,729	2,435,329	3,030,191	3,029,037
Mainstream Secondary	1,775,416	1,877,045	1,965,336	1,936,922
Total	4,024,145	4,312,374	4,995,527	4,965,959
% Increase on previous year		7.2%	15.8%	-0.6%

11. The reason for the £0.429m forecast underspend is that the budget for 2022-23 was increased to £5.396m in anticipation of a higher level of growth than we have experienced in the first few months of this financial year.
12. Offsetting, the £0.291m underspend there is a forecast overspend of £0.176m on the net recoupment budget which represents recoupment of top-up funding between local authorities. This budget is difficult to forecast accurately as top-up funding is recouped, in some cases a year in arrears. This forecast assumes a similar level of income is recouped as 2021-22.

Lines 1.2.1 & Line 1.2.2 - Top Up funding – Special Schools

13. In addition to the underspends detailed above, there is a £0.019m forecast underspend relating to top-up funding paid to Shropshire special schools. Total expenditure on top-up funding to special schools in Shropshire is forecast to be £5.688m in 2022-23 as per table below.
14. Total expenditure on top-up funding to special schools totalled £4.988m in 2021-22 therefore there has been a £0.700m forecast increase though it is important to recognise that £0.247m of this increase represents forecasted top-up funding in the Autumn and Spring Term for the new Special School, Keystones.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Top-Up Funding Special Schools	£	£	£	£
Total	4,956,492	5,226,448	4,987,940	5,687,584
% Increase on previous year		5.4%	-4.6%	14.0%

Post 16 Further Education Colleges

15. Within the “1.2.2 - Top Up funding - Academies, Free Schools and Colleges” budget heading there is a budget of £2.770m allocated for Post 16 funding at further education colleges and sixth form colleges.
16. Despite anticipated growth in 2021-22, the 2021-22 outturn position reported actual expenditure of £1.844m and therefore an underspend of £0.926m against the £2.770m budget.

17. For 2022-23 the budget of £2.770m has remained at the same level.
18. The table below shows data for the years; 2020-21, 2021-22 and the forecast for the 2022-23 financial year. The figures break down the student numbers between further education and specialist post 16 independent providers. This table highlights that the total number of post 16 college placements is forecast to decrease to 247 from 254 and that decrease is on both the lower cost, mainstream college providers where there is a decrease from 214 to 209 young people and the Post 16 independent specialist settings where there is a decrease from 40 to 38.
19. There is a forecast increase in expenditure of £0.110m compared to 2021-22 outturn position, however despite this there is still a significant forecast underspend of £0.816m being reported. This is because the budgeted level of £2.770m still reflects the significant growth built into the budget in 2021-22 which did not materialise.
20. Despite the large forecast underspend, it is important to note that significant growth in the expenditure on post 16 further education college placements is the national picture and Shropshire has seen particularly significant growth in recent years in terms of the number of post 16 FE college placements.
21. A review of the number of EHC Plans in the 16-25 age range, indicates that the % increase in EHC plans is approximately 10% year on year so you would expect large expenditure growth in this budget area. Instead, we believe there is a higher proportion of post 16 pupils attending Independent Special Schools or independent alternative providers and the expenditure for these young people is showing in the budget area relating to independent providers instead.
22. The Council has and will continue to experience significant expenditure in this area as a direct result of changes in legislation which has seen local authorities having significant new statutory duties for students with special educational needs up to the age of 25 years under the Childrens and Families Act (September 2014). The local authority's SEN team work closely with local colleges to increase accessibility to education within mainstream colleges rather than more expensive independent specialist providers. Council officers have been successful in achieving this to date with a much lower proportion of Post 16 students in independent specialist provider settings when compared with several years ago.

Post 16 FE College Placements Expenditure	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	2022-23 £
Mainstream College FE Placements	1,267,304	701,108	789,090
Independent Specialist P16 Settings	1,449,135	1,497,492	1,532,364
Recharge to Social Care	- 498,405	- 355,002	- 367,525
Total	2,218,034	1,843,598	1,953,929
Student Numbers	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Mainstream College FE Placements	225	214	209
Independent Specialist P16 Settings	37	40	38
Total	262	254	247

Lines 1.2.3 - Top Up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers

23. The 2022-23 budget of £7.442m for Independent Providers has been increased by £0.892m compared to the 2021-22 budget level of £6.550m. The large increase in budget reflects that Shropshire experienced a 26% increase in expenditure in this budget area in 2021-22 and is therefore seen as an area of high growth, mirroring the national picture. Increasing the budget to £7.442m reflected anticipated growth of 12% compared to last year's outturn figure of £6.666m.
24. Forecast expenditure for 2022-23 is £8.114m, therefore reflecting a large forecast increase of 22% relative to last year's outturn figure of £6.666m, resulting in a forecast overspend of £0.672m. This is much higher growth than anticipated though a small number of placement changes can have a drastic affect on the forecasted outturn position.
25. One of the trends that has come to light in 2022-23 financial year, is the much more frequent use of independent alternative providers, particularly in relation to children who are post 16. This partly explains the increase in overspend as well as an increase in numbers attending out of county, independent special schools.
26. Another trend is that the value of, and number of contributions to complex, joint funded placements with social care and the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has not increased in 2022-23 relative to 2021-22 levels. Where there has been increases, these have tended to reflect a 2% price inflation agreed regionally with providers.

Lines 1.2.4 - Additional High Needs Targeted Funding for Maintained Schools and Academies

27. This budget is in line with the Government's recommendation to target additional high needs funding at schools with a disproportionate number of high needs pupils. A high needs contingency payment is made where a school does not receive enough Element 2 funding within their notional SEN budget to contribute £6,000 to the cost of provision for each high needs pupil, or a school does not have at least 20% of Element 2 funding within their notional SEN budget remaining once they have contributed £6,000 for each of their high needs pupil.

28. A budget of £0.400m was set aside for additional high needs target funding required in year. In 2021-22, actual expenditure only totalled £0.185m resulting in an underspend. The lower level of expenditure in 2021-22 reflected a decrease in demand for these high needs contingency payments in this financial year, and the position as at the end of December 2022 indicates a similar forecast position for 2022-23 with an underspend of £0.172m anticipated.
29. As mentioned in “Paper E – High Needs Block – 3 year Forecasting”, there is a proposal to decrease the budget to £0.300m in 2023-24 and beyond.

Lines 1.2.5 - SEN Support Services

30. There is a forecast overspend of £0.219m against this budget totalling £1.693m in 2022-23. The majority of the overspends in 2022-23 relate to one-off staffing overspends where additional staff have been employed, sometimes as agency workers.

Overall position

31. The Council’s DSG financial position is relatively healthy in forecasting a cumulative surplus of £1.143m as at the end of the 2022-23 financial year.
32. £0.222m of this £1.143m surplus relates to the 2021-22 surplus carried forward on the Schools Growth Fund plus the 2022-23 forecast surplus to be carried forward on the Schools Growth fund. This value is to be earmarked for the Schools Growth Fund in 2023-24 where the Council’s Schools Growth fund needs “topping-up” to meet 2023-24 expenditure requirements.
33. The High Needs Block DSG 3 year forecasting exercise demonstrates that future expenditure growth is likely to outstrip future growth in High Needs Block DSG allocations, specifically from 2024-25 and beyond.
34. It is also important to note that a small proportion of high-cost, low incident cases can disproportionately impact the High Needs Block DSG financial position. We know that many young people have been adversely impacted over the past 2 years and this is no different for SEND children, and may well be even more pronounced. The impact over this period has the potential to see the number of vulnerable children and young people presenting with complex mental health and behavioural needs requiring provision increasing and this will have a knock on effect on the High Needs Block DSG as we meet the needs of this cohort.



Schools Forum

Date: 26 January 2023

Time: 8:30 am

Venue: Virtual via Microsoft (MS) Teams

Item

Public

Paper

E

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK – 3 YEAR FORECASTING

Responsible Officer Stephen Waters

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Summary

This report provides an update on the current 3-year forecast for the High Needs Block DSG financial position.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

Introduction

1. This report provides an update to Schools Forum members in relation to the forecasted High Needs Block DSG financial position over the 3 year period; 2023-24 to 2025-26.
2. The methodology used to arrive at the figures in this report has been to use the current High Needs Block DSG financial position in 2022-23 as a baseline for future year's expenditure. The next step was to consider what trends we have observed in expenditure growth, and then use these trends to determine a set of assumptions that forecast future High Needs Block DSG expenditure. Assumptions have also been used to determine future High Needs Block DSG allocations in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Current High Needs Block DSG financial position – 2022-23

3. As set out in "Paper D – Dedicated Schools Grant monitoring", the forecasted cumulative DSG surplus at the end of 2022-23 is £1.143m, an increase from £0.717m as at the end of 2021-22.

4. Within this figure, the forecasted position on the High Needs Block DSG is a surplus or underspend of £0.386m against a centrally controlled High Needs Budget of £27.455m.
5. This budget excludes the place funding element of the High Needs Block totalling £9.218m but does include the transfer of £0.949m funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as approved by Schools Forum. This is important to note, as without this transfer from the Schools Block, the High Needs Block would be reporting an in-year deficit position of £0.563m.

Future High Needs Block DSG financial position – 2023-24 to 2025-26

6. Please see attached the financial appendix which shows the forecasted expenditure and income and therefore overall surplus/deficit position on the High Needs Block DSG over the period 2023-24 to 2025-26. The main assumptions on each budget area are set out below:

High Needs Block Budget or Allocation

7. In 2022-23, the total High Needs Budget comprises two elements; the published High Needs Block DSG allocation (£35.724m) and the 0.5% transfer from schools block (£0.949m). In 2022-23 this resulted in a total High Needs Budget of £36.673m.
8. For 2023-24, Shropshire Council has been awarded a provisional allocation of £39.268m. This represents a 9.9% increase on the 2022-23 allocation. However, forecasting forward to 2024-25 and beyond, the High Needs Operational Guidance document states the following: *“Revenue funding will continue to grow in 2023-24 and 2024-25, but on a scale smaller than the increases over the last 3 years. This is why LAs will be asked in working with the department to use an assumption of a 5% increase on their total high needs block allocation between 2022-23 and 2023-24, and 3% year on year beyond that, until allocations are confirmed”*. Therefore for 2024-25 and 2025-26, a 3% growth in High Needs Block DSG allocation has been forecast.
9. At this moment, there is no funding available for a 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2023-24, after fully funding the National Funding Formula to schools. For this reason, the forecasts for 2023-24 to 2025-26 assume no transfer of funding from the Schools Block to High Needs Block.

Recoupment of High Needs place funding

10. In 2022-23 the total recoupment of High Needs place funding for Academies was £6.287m. This includes place funding at 2 Special Schools; Severdale School and Woodlands School, plus place funding at the SEND hubs attached to Mainstream Academies as well as Post 16 FE College placements.

11. The % increase in EHC Plans between 2022 and 2023 is estimated to be 5.4% based on a forecast increase in EHC Plans from 1982 in 2022 to 2089 in 2023. As a result, a 5% increase in pupil numbers or demand has been applied to the Mainstream and Special School academies numbers. This has been applied from September 2023 in the case of mainstream settings and September 2024 in the case of Special Schools.
12. For our Post 16 cohort, historically there has been a higher % growth in EHC Plans year on year. Based on the latest EHCP forecast numbers, a 10% increase in pupil numbers or demand has been applied to the place numbers for both Special School - Post 16 and Further Education College numbers.
13. In 2023-24, as well as the place funding for Severndale and Woodlands schools, the place funding for the new Special Free School, Keystones will also be directly recouped from Shropshire's High Needs Block DSG allocation. The assumptions here are slightly in different as there is a plan to increase commissioned places from 50 to 90 in September 2023 and 90 to 120 in September 2024 so the expenditure has been calculated based on these figures.
14. In terms of price inflation, at this moment in time it is assumed that the £10,000 per commissioned place funding will continue at the same rate as the ESFA has not stated otherwise.
15. These assumptions above have had the impact of significantly increasing forecasted place funding directly recouped from the High Needs Block DSG allocation from £6.287m in 2022-23 to £8.810m in 2025-26.

High Needs place funding – Maintained Settings

16. In 2022-23 the total High Needs place funding for maintained settings was £2.931m. The majority of this relates to the Council's Pupil-Referral-Unit, TMBSS where there are 156 commissioned places. It also covers SEND hubs attached to maintained schools as well as an element of contingency for academy settings in the case of mid-year changes.
17. For TMBSS, the assumption for forecasting purposes is that the number of commissioned places will remain at 156 so no growth has been built in here.
18. For the SEND Hubs, a 5% increase in pupil numbers or demand has been applied to the numbers from September 2023.
19. A contingency of £0.200m equal to 20 commissioned places will be budgeted for in each of the years 2023-24 to 2025-26. This allows the Council the flexibility to react to any increases in demand for place numbers mid-year.
20. These assumptions above have resulted in forecast expenditure of £2.470m in 2023-24. Please note that this is lower than the 2022-23 level. There are 2 reasons for this. Firstly, the Free-Special School (Keystones) place funding totalling £0.292m in 2022-23 has not been directly recouped in 2022-23 so appears under

this funding total in 2022-23 but this is not the case in 2023-24 as it will be recouped directly. Secondly, in 2022-23 there is budget allocated for some mainstream academy school places which were not recouped in error as part of the £6.287m, however these have been included in the 2023-24 forecasts and beyond for academies.

Top-Up funding – Primary and Secondary Schools (including GSP payments)

21. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding to primary schools totalled £3.273m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £3.029m. Applying the 5% increase in EHC Plans for 2023-24 and beyond gives a figure of £3.180m in 2023-24, increasing to £3.506m in 2025-26.
22. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding to secondary schools totalled £2.123m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £1.937m. Applying the 5% increase in EHC Plans for 2023-24 and beyond gives a figure of £2.034m in 2023-24, increasing to £2.242m in 2025-26.
23. There is no assumed growth in top-up funding banding values or rates but this is something to be kept under review in 2023-24 and beyond.

Top-Up funding – Special Schools (including GSP payments)

24. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding to special schools totalled £4.396m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £4.377m. It is important to note that these figures only reflect a part-year effect of top-up funding to the new Free Special School, Keystones which opened in September 2022 so that needs to be taken account of in 2023-24 and beyond.
25. As such the forecasted expenditure for 2023-24 is £5.272m. This assumes a full year effect of Keystones' top-up funding whilst applying the 5% increase in EHC Plans for growth purposes. This figure increases to £5.812m in 2025-26.
26. Any growth in top-up funding values would come from the Additional High Needs Funding allocation of £1.644m so would not impact on the 2023-24 to 2025-26 forecasts shown in the appendix.

Top-Up funding - Pupil Referral Unit

27. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding to the Pupil Referral Unit, TMBSS totalled £1.311m, and the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure in line with this budget. No growth has been applied to 2023-24 to 2025-26 in line with the assumption that the number of commissioned places will remain at 156.

Top-Up funding – Recoupment

28. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding - recoupment totalled £1.200m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £1.377m.

Applying the 5% increase in EHC Plans for 2023-24 and beyond gives a figure of £1.445m in 2023-24, increasing to £1.594m in 2025-26.

Top-Up funding - Academies, Free Schools and Colleges – Colleges

29. In 2022-23 the total budget for Further Education college placement expenditure totalled £2.770m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £1.954m. This is an underspend of £0.816m. The reasons for this are set out in Paper D.
30. As discussed under the place funding assumptions, the % increase in EHC Plans in the post 16 cohort is assumed to be 10% rather than 5% in future years. For this reason, a 10% growth is applied to the 2022-23 forecast. Additionally, there is inflationary growth assumed of 5% in relation to price uplifts. This means that the total growth applied to the 2022-23 forecast is 15%, giving total forecasted expenditure of £2.247m for 2023-24.
31. In 2024-25 and 2025-26, the growth % has been decreased to 12% and 10%, assuming that officers are able to manage both the inflationary and demographic growth, given that the High Needs Block DSG funding allocation is only forecast to increase by 3% in these 2 financial years.

Top-Up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers

32. In 2022-23 the total budget for top-up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers totalled £7.442m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £8.114m. This is an overspend of £0.672m. This relates to an increase in numbers of young people attending independent settings, both independent special schools and independent alternative providers.
33. The 5% increase in EHC Plans has been applied for 2023-24 and beyond as well as inflationary growth of 5% in relation to price uplifts, giving total growth of 10%.
34. In 2024-25 and 2025-26, the growth % has been decreased to 7.5% and 5%, assuming that officers are able to manage both the inflationary and demographic growth, given that the High Needs Block DSG funding allocation is only forecast to increase by 3% in these 2 financial years.

Additional High Needs Targeted Funding for Maintained Schools and Academies

35. This budget is in line with the Government's recommendation to target additional high needs funding at schools with a disproportionate number of high needs pupils. A high needs contingency payment is made where a school does not receive enough Element 2 funding within their notional SEN budget to contribute £6,000 to the cost of provision for each high needs pupil, or a school does not have at least

20% of Element 2 funding within their notional SEN budget remaining once they have contributed £6,000 for each of their high needs pupil.

36. In 2022-23 the total budget for additional targeted high needs funding was £0.400m but the forecast for 2022-23 is only £0.228m which shows there is some headroom in this budget.
37. For 2024-25 to 2025-26 the budgeted level for additional targeted high needs funding has been decreased to £0.300m for each of the 3 financial years.

SEN Support Services

38. In 2022-23 the total budget for SEN Support Services was £1.693m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £1.912m. Some of the overspends in 2022-23 relate to one-off staffing arrangements and the budget which was set for 2023-24 is £1.810m. It is then assumed to increase by 5% from 2024-25 onwards in line with the % increase in EHC plans.

Hospital Education Services

39. In 2022-23 the total budget for Hospital Education Services was £0.170m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £0.147m.
40. The underspend relates to the £0.065m budget for hospital education placement fees so the budget for this has been maintained at £0.065m for 2023-24 and increased by 5% from 2024-25 onwards.
41. The remaining £0.105m budget relates to a staffing recharge for 2 hospital tutors. This has been assumed to increase by 5% each year. As a result, the Hospital Education Services budget will increase from £0.175m in 2023-24 to £0.193m in 2025-26.

Other Alternative Provision Services

42. In 2022-23 the total budget for Other Alternative Provision Services was £0.138m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £0.113m.
43. The underspend relates to the £0.050m budget for specialist educational equipment where expenditure can vary year to year. The remaining £0.088m relates to the Portage Service which is a joint arrangement with Telford & Wrekin Council.
44. Applying the 5% increase for 2023-24 and beyond gives a figure of £0.119m in 2023-24, increasing to £0.131m in 2025-26.

Support for Inclusion

45. In 2022-23 the total budget for Support for inclusion was £1.198m, however the latest forecast shows forecasted expenditure for 2022-23 of £1.229m.
46. For 6th day provision, 5% growth in 2023-24 and beyond has been assumed which increases the forecasted expenditure from £0.396m in 2022-23 to £0.458m in 2025-26.
47. On the remainder of the Inclusion Services budget, 5% growth has been applied to the latest 2022-23 forecast on some elements of the budget whereas budget levels remain at current levels on others. This has had the overall impact of increasing this budget line from £0.845m in 2023-24 to £0.871m in 2025-26.

Additional High Needs Allocation

48. The provisional allocation for 2023-24 is £1.644m. This will be passported on to the County's special schools to deal with inflationary pressures. In 2024-25 and beyond it is assumed that this will increase in line with the corresponding increase in High Needs Block DSG funding allocation which is assumed to be 3%. If it is any more or less than this, the expenditure will be increased or decreased accordingly.

Summary

49. The table below is a high level summary of the information contained in the financial appendix.

	<u>2022-23</u> <u>Allocation</u> <u>£m'</u>	<u>2022-23</u> <u>Forecast</u> <u>£m'</u>	<u>2023-24</u> <u>£m'</u>	<u>2024-25</u> <u>£m'</u>	<u>2025-26</u> <u>£m'</u>
High Needs Block DSG Allocation	36.673		39.268	40.446	41.659
Overall Budget					
Recoupment of High Needs place funding	(6.287)	(6.287)	(6.963)	(8.223)	(8.810)
Maintained School Place Funding	2.931	2.931	2.470	2.498	2.528
Centrally Controlled High Needs Budget	27.455	27.069	29.790	31.582	33.209
Total High Needs Budget	36.673	36.287	39.222	42.304	44.547
Total High Needs (Surplus) or Deficit		(0.386)	(0.111)	1.724	2.681

Cumulative High Needs Block (Surplus) or Deficit		(0.921)	(-1.032)	0.692	3.373
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50. Given all the assumptions above, the summary table below shows that given the anticipated growth for 2023-24, there is forecasted to be a £0.111m in year surplus on the High Needs Block DSG allocation for 2023-24.
51. In 2024-25, the High Needs Operational guidance advises using an assumption of 3% growth in High Needs Block DSG allocation. This means an increase in income of £1.178m to £40.446m. The corresponding increase in required expenditure is 7.7% or £3.013m using the assumptions set out above hence there is a movement from a forecasted surplus in 2023-24 to a forecasted in year deficit of £1.724m in the 2024-25 financial year. This would result in a cumulative High Needs Block deficit of £0.692m as at the end of the 2024-25 financial year.
52. In 2025-26, using a 3% growth in High Needs Block DSG allocation assumption, the High Needs Block DSG allocation will increase by £1.213m to £41.659m. The corresponding increase in required expenditure is 5.2% or £2.170m using the assumptions set out above hence there is a forecasted deficit of £2.681m in this year. This would result in a cumulative High Needs Block deficit of £3.373m as at the end of the 2025-26 financial year.
53. This exercise demonstrates that although the High Needs Block DSG financial position looks healthy in 2022-23 with a forecast in-year surplus of £0.386m, we anticipate that the financial position will start to worsen from 2024-25 onwards if current growth assumptions are correct. This is demonstrated by a forecast cumulative deficit of £0.692m at the end of 2024-25.
54. To plan for this, Schools Forum members and Officers will need to consider a range of strategies to manage the future increase in demand so that it is sustainable within future year's High Needs Block DSG allocations.

	2022-23 Allocation £	2022-23 Forecast £
High Needs Block DSG Allocation before Recoupment	35,724,110	
Transfer from Schools Block	949,080	
High Needs Block DSG Allocation Overall Budget	36,673,190	

Less High Needs Deductions		
Mainstream Academies - SEN Hubs	- 201,167	- 201,167
Special Academies - Pre-16	- 4,260,000	- 4,260,000
Special Free - School	-	-
Special Academies - Post-16	- 710,000	- 710,000
Post-16 - FE Colleges	- 1,116,000	- 1,116,000
Recoupment of High Needs place funding	- 6,287,167	- 6,287,167

High Needs Block DSG After Recoupment	30,386,023
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Internal Allocation of Centrally Retained High Needs Block

Maintained Special School Place Funding (TMBSS)	1,560,000	1,560,000
Maintained School SEN Hubs Place Funding	360,000	360,000
Additional Commissioned Place Funding at Mainstream Academies	159,000	159,000
Additional Commissioned Place Funding Contingency	232,060	232,060
Teachers Pay/Pension for Special Academies	328,020	328,020
Keystones Special School Commissioned Places	291,670	291,670
Maintained School Place Funding	2,930,750	2,930,750

2023-24 £	2024-25 £	2025-26 £
39,267,555	40,445,582	41,658,949

- 653,500	- 686,175	- 720,484
- 4,260,000	- 4,384,250	- 4,603,463
- 733,333	- 1,075,000	- 1,200,000
- 710,000	- 751,417	- 826,558
- 1,206,000	- 1,326,600	- 1,459,260
- 6,962,833	- 8,223,442	- 8,809,765

32,304,722	32,222,140	32,849,185
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Growth Assumption
9.9% - Percentage change in elements included in the funding floor and gains calculation (per head of 2-18 population)
Assumed £0 transfer from Schools Block
Based on £39.627m High Needs Block DSG provisional allocation in 2023-24 and then 3% growth in funding forecast for 2024-25 and beyond

Based on 60 places in 2023-24 and assumed 5% growth in Commissioned Places from September 2023 and each September thereafter
Based on 426 places in 2023-24 and assumed 5% growth in Commissioned Places from September 2024 and each September thereafter
Assumes increase from 50 to 90 commissioned places from September 2023, and to 120 from September 2024
Based on 426 places in 2023-24 and assumed 10% growth in Commissioned Places from September 2024 and each September thereafter
Based on 201 places in 2023-24 and assumed 10% growth in place numbers from 2024-25 financial year onwards

1,560,000	1,560,000	1,560,000
371,667	390,250	409,762
-	-	-
200,000	200,000	200,000
337,861	347,996	358,436
2,469,527	2,498,246	2,528,199

Based on 156 places in 2023-24. No growth in place numbers anticipated
Based on 46 places in 2023-24 and assumed 5% growth in Commissioned Places from September 2023 and each September thereafter
Has moved up to Mainstream Academies - SEN Hubs line above
Assumed a Contingency for 20 Commissioned Places in each of the 3 years
Based on £660 per commissioned place
Has moved up to Special Free School line above

1.2.1	Top Up funding - Primary Schools (including GSP payments)	3,272,600	3,029,037
1.2.1	Top Up funding - Secondary Schools (including GSP payments)	2,122,560	1,936,922
1.2.1	Top Up funding - Special Schools	4,395,680	4,376,760
1.2.1	Top Up funding - Pupil Referral Unit	1,310,830	1,310,824
1.2.1	Top Up funding - Recoupment	1,200,260	1,376,658
1.2.2	Top Up funding - Academies, Free Schools and Colleges - Colleges	2,770,490	1,953,929
1.2.3	Top Up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers	7,441,880	8,114,345
1.2.4	Additional High Needs Targeted Funding for Maintained Schools and Academies	400,000	227,962
1.2.5	SEN Support Services	1,692,520	1,911,732
1.2.6	Hospital Education Services	170,190	147,293
1.2.7	Other Alternative Provision Services	138,040	112,943
1.2.8	Support for Inclusion - 6th Day Provision	324,000	395,575
1.2.8	Support for Inclusion - Staffing & Other	874,360	833,428
	Additional High Needs Allocation	1,341,851	1,341,851
	CENTRALLY CONTROLLED HIGH NEEDS BUDGET SUB TOTAL	27,455,261	27,069,260

3,180,489	3,339,514	3,506,489
2,033,768	2,135,457	2,242,230
5,271,988	5,535,587	5,812,366
1,310,830	1,310,830	1,310,830
1,445,491	1,517,766	1,593,654
2,247,018	2,516,661	2,768,327
8,925,780	9,595,213	10,074,974
300,000	300,000	300,000
1,810,245	1,900,757	1,995,795
175,450	184,222	193,433
118,590	124,520	130,746
415,354	436,122	457,928
845,474	858,123	871,404
1,643,729	1,693,041	1,743,832
29,724,207	31,447,812	33,002,008

Assumed 5% Growth in pupils in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast
Assumed 5% Growth in pupils in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast
Assumed 5% Growth in top-up value (inflation growth) in 2023-24 applied to Q3 forecast. Also assumed full year of Top-Up funding budget for Keystones Special Free School. Assumed 5% growth in 2024-25 and 2025-26
Based on 156 places in 2023-24. No growth in place numbers anticipated so a flat amount is forecasted consistent with 2022-23
Assumed 5% Growth in pupils in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast
Assumed 10% Growth in pupils in 2023-24 applied to Q3 forecast + 5% increase in placement fees (inflation growth). Assumed 12% growth from 2024-25 financial year and 10% in 2025-26 on assumption that % growth can be managed down
Assumed 5% Growth in pupils 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast + 5% increase in placement fees (inflation growth). Assumed 7.5% growth from 2024-25 financial year and 5% in 2025-26 on assumption that % growth can be managed down
Assumed a level of £0.300m contingency for "Additional High Needs/Threshold" funding for mainstream schools
Based on budget set in 2023-24, and then assumed 5% increase from 2024-25 onwards
Hospital Education Placement fees budget to remain at £65,000 in 2023/24 but inflated by 5% thereafter.
Assumed 5% inflation growth/uplift in 2023-24 and beyond for the Hospital Tutors staffing recharge
Assumed 5% Growth in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast
Assumed 5% Growth in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast
Assumed 5% Growth in 2023-24 and beyond applied to Q3 forecast. Some elements remain at current levels as per 2023-24 budget setting
Assumed same level of increase as High Needs Block DSG Funding i.e 3% from 2024-25 onwards

Total High Needs Budget	36,673,178	36,287,177
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39,156,567	42,169,500	44,339,971
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Total High Needs Block (Surplus) or Deficit	- 386,001
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- 110,988	1,723,918	2,681,022
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Cumulative High Needs Block (Surplus) or Deficit including forecast unearmarked surplus carry forward	- 920,774
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- 1,031,762	692,156	3,373,178
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Schools Forum

Date: 26 January 2023
 Time: 8.30 am to 10.30 am
 Venue: Virtual via Microsoft (MS) Teams

Item

E

Public

Schools Forum Work Programme 2023-24

Indicative programme. Other reports will be added on topical issues and/or commissioned by Schools Forum.

Meeting	Report
16 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2022-23
15 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 School Balances as at March 2023 Growth Fund Allocations 2022-23 and 2023-24 Early Years Block Allocation 2023-24 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2023-24
14 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 Updated Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 School Revenue Funding Update 2024-25 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2023-24
2 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2024 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2023-24
30 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Funding Arrangements 2024-25 Consultation on the Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2024 Central School Services Block 2024-25
25 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Revenue Funding Settlement and School Arrangements 2024-25 Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution
14 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2023-24

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