



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Frankwell Quay,
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ

Date:

**Committee:
Schools Forum**

Date: Thursday, 20 March 2025
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
Alison Ashley
Georgia Moss
Mark Cooper
Bill Dowell
Carla Whelan
Sue Lovecy
Sarah North

Sarah Finch
Lisa Henshall
Rachel Williams
Sarah Godden
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

AGENDA

1 Apologies

2 Minutes and Matters Arising - 23 January 2025 (Pages 1 - 6)

Paper A attached.

3 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2024-25 (Stephen Waters) (Pages 7 - 14)

Paper B attached.

4 Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution and Membership (Sam Bradley)
(Pages 15 - 20)

Paper C attached.

5 Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund January 2024-January 2025
(John Rowe and Lisa Taylor)

Presentation

6 Graduated Support Pathway (GSP) and EHCP Top-Up Funding (John Rowe and Lisa Taylor)

Presentation

7 Communication

8 Future meeting dates

Thursday 19 June 2025	8.30 – 10.30	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 11 September 2025 (tbc)	8.30 – 10.30	Face to Face (tbc)
Thursday 13 November 2025 (tbc)	9.00 – 11.00	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 11 December 2025 (tbc)	9.00 – 11.00	Microsoft (MS) Teams

Date: 23 January 2025

Time: 08.30 to 10.30

Venue: MS Teams

Paper

A

Public

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2025 – HELD VIA MS TEAMS

NOTES WERE PRODUCED USING AI VIA COPILOT AS AGREED BY FORUM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

1	Apologies	
	Apologies had been received from Mark Davis, Sian Lines, Sarah Godden	
2	Minutes and Matters Arising	
	The minutes were accepted as a true record	
3	Financial Position Update	DS
	<p>David provided an update on the latest financial position for the Council, highlighting a significant reduction in cost spending power for Shropshire, which is between 24 and 28 million compared to previous rules. He mentioned ongoing work on the medium-term financial strategy and the challenges faced by the Council due to the funding reduction.</p> <p>Financial Settlement: David explained that the draft settlement shared before Christmas indicated a significant reduction in cost spending power for Shropshire, between 24 and 28 million, compared to previous rules. This reduction poses additional pressure and necessitates further savings for the next year.</p> <p>Consultation and Strategy: David mentioned that there is a live consultation on the medium-term financial strategy, with ongoing work to address the challenges. The Council has responded to the initial settlement and is expecting further updates in February.</p> <p>Impact on Shropshire: David highlighted that Shropshire's funding increase is only 3.1%, one of the lowest figures among authorities, which presents a significant challenge. The Council is working through the implications and will share updates with the cabinet by February 12th.</p> <p>Deprivation and Costs: David noted that the financial settlement does not adequately recognize the higher unit costs and deprivation levels in Shropshire, impacting areas such as family hubs, early years funding, and road maintenance. The Council maintains over 3000 miles of roads, significantly more than metropolitan areas, adding to the financial strain.</p>	

	<p>Future Actions: David stated that the Council has shared the practical challenges with central government during the consultation period and is awaiting further information on the final financial strategy and settlement. Links to relevant papers and consultations were provided in the chat for colleagues to review.</p>	
4	<p>School Funding Arrangements 2025-26</p> <p>Sam updated the forum on the school funding arrangements, noting a 6.4% increase in allocation. She mentioned that the schools' National Funding Formula (NFF) is affordable and that the forum is asked to agree on the recommendation to transfer any remaining balance to the high needs block after fully funding individual schools.</p> <p>Funding Increase: Sam reported a 6.4% increase in school funding allocation, amounting to £13,013,500. This increase is due to changes in the number of pupils on roll (NOR) and updates to the schools' National Funding Formula (NFF).</p> <p>NFF Affordability: Sam confirmed that the NFF is affordable and that schools can be funded in line with the NFF. She provided details on primary and secondary unit funding based on the October school census numbers on roll.</p> <p>Block Transfers: Sam discussed the transfer between blocks in previous years and noted that it was not possible in 2023-24 and 2024-25 due to affordability. This year, a possible transfer of up to 0.5% would be possible to the high needs block after fully funding individual schools in line with the NFF.</p> <p>Forum Agreement: The forum was asked to agree on the recommendation to transfer any remaining balance up to 0.5% of the schools block into the high needs block after fully funding individual schools. The recommendation was approved by a show of hands.</p>	SB
5	<p>Top Up Funding Increase</p> <p>Lisa announced an immediate increase in the cost of provision map from £12 to £16 per hour, acknowledging that it is still not enough and that a broader review of funding and banding levels will be conducted.</p> <p>Immediate Increase: Lisa announced an immediate increase in the cost of provision map from £12 to £16 per hour, recognizing that the previous rate was outdated and unrealistic.</p>	LT



	<p>Further Review: Lisa acknowledged that the new rate of £16 per hour is still insufficient and that a broader review of funding and banding levels will be conducted. This review will involve working with schools and settings to ensure appropriate support.</p> <p>Banding Adjustments: Lisa mentioned that individual discussions will take place with schools to adjust bandings and ensure funding levels are appropriate. The goal is to have new bandings and funding levels in place by the start of the next academic year.</p>	
6	<p>Early Years Funding</p> <p>Andy presented the early years funding update, highlighting an increase in the budget to £42,158,731 due to the new entitlement for children from nine months to 30 hours of free entitlement. He also mentioned the proposal to employ SEND advisory teachers for early years to support settings and improve early intervention.</p> <p>Budget Increase: Andy reported an increase in the early years budget to £42,158,731, up from £29,196,000, due to the new entitlement for children from nine months to 30 hours of free entitlement starting in September.</p> <p>SEND Advisory Teachers: Andy proposed employing SEND advisory teachers for early years to support settings and improve early intervention. These teachers will provide outreach support to different settings, aiming to keep more young people in mainstream primaries and secondaries.</p> <p>Funding Allocation: Andy explained that the early years block covers provision of early years SEND, a disability and disadvantage fund, a sustainability fund, and centrally retained costs. The centrally retained costs are below the 3% guideline, ensuring maximum funds go to providers.</p> <p>Rate Increases: Andy announced rate increases for early years funding: £5.42 per hour for three and four-year-olds, £7.15 per hour for two-year-olds, and £9.25 per hour for nine-month-olds. These increases aim to support settings and improve outcomes for children and families.</p> <p>Forum Approval: The forum was asked to approve the 2025-26 funding rates as outlined. The rates were approved by a show of hands.</p>	AN
7	GSP and Top Up Funding Changes	LT/JR



	<p>John and Lisa discussed changes to the Graduated Support Pathway (GSP) and top-up funding, including the introduction of panels to review requests, the removal of the 1-2 and 3-term options, and the increase in the cost of provision map to £16 per hour. They emphasized the need for a broader review of funding and banding levels to ensure appropriate support for schools and settings.</p> <p>GSP Changes: John outlined changes to the Graduated Support Pathway (GSP), including the introduction of panels chaired by education quality advisors to review requests. The panels will include representatives from the school community and will meet monthly.</p> <p>Funding Duration: John announced that GSP funding will be awarded for 12 months as standard, removing the 1-2 and 3-term options. This change aims to provide more consistent support for children and schools.</p> <p>Alternative Provision: John explained that GSP funding will not cover the costs of registered alternative provision (AP) such as TMBSS, as these are already subsidized. However, primary schools can use GSP funding for short-term AP (up to six weeks) under certain conditions.</p> <p>AP Development Fund: John introduced a new primary AP Development Fund, allowing schools to bid for resources to address shared needs. This fund aims to provide additional support for groups of children with specific needs, such as secondary transition.</p> <p>Implementation Timeline: John stated that pilot panels will be launched in February, with a full rollout planned for April. The process will be reviewed in March, and the goal is to deliver resources to schools within two weeks of the panel meeting.</p>	
8	<p>Communication</p> <p>WD will be preparing and sending a detailed joint letter with the leader of the Council to MPs regarding the ongoing funding of Shropshire schools and early years</p>	
8	<p>Follow Up Tasks</p> <p>Links to financial papers and consultation added to chat for colleagues</p> <p>Provide link to overall DSG values and amounts from last few years to help understand the consolidation of grants</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>DS</p>



	Letter to be written to Government, highlighting challenges faced by Shropshire schools due to the funding settlement	DS
	Share the changes to GSP and Top Up funding with the broader school community through HT briefings	JR
	Initiate review of the bandings for all schools and hubs including individual discussions and working groups	LT
8	Future Meeting Dates Thursday 20 March 2025 Thursday 19 June 2025 Thursday 11 September 2025 (tbc) Thursday 13 November 2025 (tbc)	



This page is intentionally left blank

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING

Responsible Officer Stephen Waters
e-mail: Stephen.a.waters@shropshire.gov.uk 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 February 2025.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

1. The overall 2024-25 outturn against centrally retained DSG is forecast to be £11.873m in deficit as at the end of February. It should be noted that this figure is the in-year deficit and needs to be added to the £2.304m deficit carried forward from 2023-24 in order to give an overall cumulative DSG deficit position of £14.178m.

Centrally Controlled Early Years Budget

2. The forecast outturn position for the Early Years Block is showing a £1.363m overspend against a provisional budget of £29.490m.
3. In 2024/25, the DfE introduced two new expanded childcare entitlements. From April 2024, they introduced the expanded annual free entitlement of 570 hours of early years education and childcare for 2 year olds from 'working families' from the start of the term after their second birthday. From September 2024, the expanded annual FE of 570 hours of early years education and childcare for 9 month olds from 'working families' from the start of the term after they turn 9 months old.
4. For existing entitlements, the indicative allocation of the EY block has been determined by applying an hourly rate per hour per child and multiplying this by the number of children on roll within the LA at the time of the EY census in the previous January. The level of funding is then adjusted using the data gathered in the EY census in the following January (2024) and again based on census in the following January (2025) with the final figure published in July 2025 being based 5/12ths on January 2024 and 7/12ths on January 2025 census.
5. For the new entitlements, the indicative allocations are updated following new termly headcounts in the summer 2024 and autumn 2024 terms, and the January 2025 census, with the final allocation published in July 2025 using the January 2025 census headcounts.



6. It is the time lag in the funding above that explains the majority of the £1.363m overspend with £1.307m relating to the free entitlements paid out to providers.
7. £0.804m of this overspend relates to the Under 2's entitlements, where the indicative allocation is £4.085m based on 727.58 PTEs and an hourly rate of £9.85, however the sum total of payments paid out to providers for the Autumn and Spring term equals £4.889m indicating an increase in numbers since the initial allocation.
8. Similarly, there is a £0.336m overspend relating to the universal and additional 15 hours entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds against a provisional allocation of £17.642m and a £0.166m overspend relating to the entitlements for 2 year olds against a provisional allocation of £7.400m
9. Once the Early Years Block DSG final allocation is published in July, we will report back to Schools Forum with the overall in-year surplus or deficit for the 2024-25 financial year.
10. In addition to above funding that goes out directly to providers, a budget of £0.395m was centrally retained within the Early Years Block DSG allocation to cover the costs of employment for those staff supporting EY provision, administration of the funding system and associated core costs of the provision of our service. The DfE stipulate that no more than 5% of each element of the EY block can be retained by LAs. There is a forecast overspend of £0.056m against this budget reflecting the increased staffing costs associated with administering the new funding.

Centrally Controlled High Needs Budget

11. The centrally controlled High Needs Block for 2024-25 is £32.189m. This budget excludes the place funding element of the High Needs Block totalling £10.161m. The total High Needs Block DSG allocation (before deductions) is £42.350m. It is important to note that Shropshire's 2024-25 High Needs Block DSG has increased by £2.194m compared to the £40.156m allocation in 2023-24. This 5.5% increase is a smaller percentage increase than the previous year's increase.
12. In January 2024, Schools Forum members confirmed that the National Funding Formula should be applied to funding factors. This meant that there was no further funding available to enable up to a 0.5% transfer from the schools block to the High Needs Block DSG. This is the second consecutive financial year where no transfer has been applied.
13. Overall, the forecast outturn position for the High Needs Block is an in-year deficit of £10.403m against a centrally controlled High Needs Budget of £32.189m.

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

14. On budget lines 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, shown in the Appendix, there is a forecast overspend of £6.441m.

Top Up funding - Mainstream Schools

15. Within this £6.441m forecast overspend, an overspend of £3.930m relates to the top-up funding paid to mainstream schools. As anticipated, there has been a large increase in top-up funding to mainstream schools reflecting increasing requests for EHC Needs Assessment and issuing of EHC plans. The increase has been particularly pronounced since the start of the 2024-25 academic year. This mirrors the increased numbers of requests for assessment seen during 2023 and 2024 calendar years.
16. It is important to note that the top-up funding to SEND hubs attached to mainstream settings is coded to this budget so some of the increase will relate to an increase in capacity in SEND hubs.

17. There is currently a £0.279m underspend forecast against 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 up to a year in arrears.

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

18. In addition to the figures mentioned in paragraph 15 there is a £2.790m overspend on top-up funding to special schools.

19. Total expenditure on top-up funding to special schools has increased significantly in 2024-25, due by changes to top-up funding levels payable to 2 Shropshire special schools as reported to Schools Forum in the June 2024 meeting.

20. With Severndale Specialist School, an annual review process was undertaken to review each pupil's needs and therefore the appropriate banding level. The banding levels were increased and pupils allocated to appropriate banding levels and the resulting changes backdated to the start of the 2023-24 academic year. As a result, a one-off payment of £2.274m was made to the school which accounts for much of the budget pressure on this budget line.

21. As well as the one-off payment, the revised banding levels have resulted in an increase in top-up funding paid to Severndale School in the Autumn Term and Spring Terms compared to the Summer Term.

22. This review of, and subsequent increase in, banding levels across the Council's special schools aligns with the strategy to build capacity in these settings where appropriate and significantly reduce the numbers of pupils placed in independent special school settings.

23. Another explanation for the increase in overspend in this budget line is the planned increase in numbers at Keystone Special School, where up to 120 pupils are now able to be placed from September 2024.

24. These increases in funding have resulted in forecast expenditure of £8.842m in relation to top-up funding to state-funded, special schools. This accounts for 21% of expenditure within the High Needs Block DSG budget of £42.350m, and this aligns with the strategy to appropriately fund the Council's special schools. However, work now remains to realise the financial benefits to the DSG High Needs Block by being able to transfer pupils from independent special schools to our state funded special schools, from special schools to SEND Hubs and Hubs to mainstream schools. This is a complicated process that involves the view of parent carers, pupils, schools and the Local Authority but does provide the opportunity to deliver a more sustainable financial position for the DSG overall.

Line 1.2.2 - Post 16 Further Education Colleges

25. There is a budget of £2.159m allocated for Post 16 funding at further education colleges and sixth form colleges.

26. The 2023-24 outturn position reported actual expenditure of £1.685m and therefore an underspend of £0.475m against the 2023-24 budget.

27. For 2024-25, despite the overall increase in High Needs Block DSG allocation, a decision was made to keep the budget for Post 16 Further Education Colleges at the same level of £2.159m to reflect the decrease in spend on this type of placement in the last 3 financial years.

28. There is a forecast increase in expenditure of £0.146m compared to 2023-24 outturn position, however despite this increase there is still a significant forecast underspend of £0.328m being reported.

29. Despite the 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 EHC Plans.

30. We understand that 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.

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

31. The 2024-25 budget of £12.715m for Independent Providers has been increased by £2.732m compared to the 2023-24 budget level of £9.983m. The large increase in budget reflects that Shropshire experienced a significant increase in expenditure in this budget area in 2022-23 and 2023-24, highlighted by actual expenditure totalling £13.892m in 2023-24, an overspend of £3.910m in that year. Increasing the budget to £12.715m, while increasing the budget by £2.732m still results in a budget that is £1.176m less than last year's outturn figure. This emphasises the need to bring down expenditure in this area and not only reduce the increase in expenditure.
32. Forecast expenditure for 2024-25 is £15.895m, resulting in a forecast overspend of £3.180m.
33. There are several explanations for the large increase in forecasted expenditure in 2024-25. Firstly, the Council has experienced a sharp increase in demand year on year for Independent Special School placements as evidenced by the number of new placements, particularly at one SEMH provider where capacity has been increased. There also continues to be a more frequent use of independent alternative providers, particularly in relation to children who are post 16. This trend has continued in 2024-25 and partly explains the overspend as well as the underspend on the Post 16 Further Education College placements budget.
34. A positive factor is that the £15.895m only represents a 14% increase in expenditure on Independent Special School placements relative to the 2023-24 financial year. This is much lower percentage increase than the previous year's increase and indicates that increasing funding to Council's special schools and SEND hubs has helped to decrease the acceleration of expenditure in this area.
35. The Council has established a SEND Commissioning and Procurement Panel to review requests and make decisions on high needs funding for Independent Special Schools and Mainstream Special Schools. The panel also acts as a forum to ratify and respond to fee uplifts from all settings in conjunction with and accounting for decisions made at the West Midlands Price Review Panel on behalf of the 14 local authorities including Shropshire.

Lines 1.2.5 – SEN Support Services

36. There is a forecast overspend of £1.263m against the SEN Support Service budget of £2.121m. Similarly to 2022-23 and 2023-24, the overspend in 2024-25 relates to staffing where additional staff have been employed, sometimes as agency workers to support the wider increase in demand. Some of these employees are working with the Educational Psychology Service to address increasing demand. There is also an increase in the use of external Speech and Language Therapists.

Overall position

37. The Council's DSG financial position of a forecast cumulative deficit of £14.178m as at the end of the 2024-25 financial year reflects a continuing pressure on the total High Needs budget as expenditure continues to increase sharply year on year. This increase has been particularly pronounced over the last 2 financial years; 2023-24 and 2024-25.
38. The cumulative DSG forecast position also reflects a pressure on the Early Years Block DSG, however we anticipate that the majority of the £1.307m identified pressure on the Early Years

Block DSG will be offset by the anticipated increase in Early Years Block DSG allocation for 2024-25 (final allocation) following the January 2025 census headcount.

39. As it stands, there is a DSG Deficit statutory override in place until March 2026. This means that any deficit associated with the DSG is kept off the councils' balance sheet due to the statutory override set out in The Local Authorities Capital Finance and Accounting (England) Regulations. Nationally, there is concern that no announcement has been forthcoming on whether this override will be extended. If the override is not extended, the High Needs deficit will have an impact on the council's overall financial position and this risk will need to be addressed through the council's medium term financial strategy.
40. A representative from the DfE has contacted the Council to arrange a meeting to focus on addressing the DSG deficit and offering support around financial management, a DSG management plan and sharing good practice. This meeting is set to go ahead in April or May and officers will report back to Schools Forum with any developments in this area.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX

CENTRALLY RETAINED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FUNDING PERIOD (2024-25)

	2024-25 Budget £	2024-25 Forecast Spend £	2024-25 Variance £
DEDELEGATED ITEMS			
1.1.1 Contingencies	53,710	15,131	- 38,579
1.1.2 Behaviour Support Services	-	-	-
1.1.3 Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	-	-	-
1.1.4 Free school meals eligibility	-	-	-
1.1.5 Insurance	-	-	-
1.1.6 Museum and Library Services	-	-	-
1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions	-	-	-
1.1.8 Staff costs Maternity supply cover	266,950	383,026	116,076
1.1.9 Staff costs Trade Union Duties	27,800	27,140	- 660
1.1.10 School Improvement	158,430	158,430	-
DEDELEGATED ITEMS SUB TOTAL	506,890	583,727	76,837
CENTRALLY CONTROLLED EARLY YEARS BUDGET			
1.3.1 Central Expenditure on Children under 5	395,250	451,266	56,016
1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget - Early Years PVI's and Maintained Nursery Provision	29,094,380	30,401,213	1,306,833
CENTRALLY CONTROLLED EARLY YEARS SUB TOTAL	29,489,630	30,852,479	1,362,849
CENTRALLY CONTROLLED HIGH NEEDS BUDGET			
1.2.1 Top Up funding - Maintained Providers	3,703,720	4,147,754	444,034
1.2.2 Top Up funding - Academies, Free Schools and Colleges - Excluding FE College Placements	9,804,680	15,801,718	5,997,038
1.2.2 Top Up funding - Academies, Free Schools and Colleges - FE College Placements	2,159,300	1,831,789	- 327,511
1.2.3 Top Up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers	12,715,470	15,895,060	3,179,590
1.2.4 Additional High Needs Targeted Funding for Maintained Schools and Academies	400,000	380,570	- 19,430
1.2.5 SEN Support Services	2,121,150	3,383,981	1,262,831
1.2.6 Hospital Education Services	170,190	135,496	- 34,694
1.2.7 Other Alternative Provision Services	143,500	179,077	35,577
1.2.8 Support for Inclusion	971,140	837,078	- 134,062
1.2.9 Special Schools and PRUs in Financial Difficulty	-	-	-
1.2.10 PFI / BSF Costs at Special Schools and AP / PRUs	-	-	-
1.2.11 Direct Payments (SEN and Disability)	-	-	-
1.2.12 Carbon Reduction Commitment Allowances (PRUs)	-	-	-
CENTRALLY CONTROLLED HIGH NEEDS BUDGET SUB TOTAL	32,189,150	42,592,524	10,403,374
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK			
1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets	-	-	-
1.4.2 Schools Admissions	308,150	316,421	8,271
1.4.3 Servicing of Schools Forums	10,000	7,348	- 2,652
1.4.4 Termination of employment costs	756,330	756,330	-
1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund	-	-	-
1.4.6 Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA)	-	-	-
1.4.7 Prudential Borrowing Costs	295,350	295,350	-
1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN	-	-	-
1.4.9 Equal Pay - Back Pay	-	-	-
1.4.10 Pupil growth / Infant Class sizes	-	-	-
1.4.11 SEN Transport	-	-	-
1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State (Deficit)	-	-	-
1.4.13 Other Items (Copyright Licensing Agency fee)	276,700	276,700	-
1.5. Ongoing duties	776,230	800,995	24,765
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET SUB TOTAL	2,422,760	2,453,144	30,384
TOTAL CENTRAL DSG	64,608,430	76,481,874	11,873,444
SCHOOLS BLOCK GROWTH FUNDING (PART OF ISB)	350,000	350,000	-
TOTAL CENTRAL DSG + SCHOOLS BLOCK GROWTH FUNDING	64,958,430	76,831,874	11,873,444
£			
DSG DEFICIT CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEARS	2,304,440		
2024-25 IN YEAR DEFICIT	11,873,444		
CUMULATIVE CENTRAL DSG SURPLUS	14,177,884		
Breakdown of total DSG:			
TOTAL CENTRAL DSG	64,958,430		
High Needs Budget - Place Funding			
Post 16 FE Colleges	1,080,000		
Pre and Post 16 SEN Places - Special Academies	4,967,500		
Pre-16 Special Free Schools	1,075,000		
Pre and Post 16 SEN Places - Resourced Provisions	464,500		
Total deduction to 2024-25 High Needs Block for direct funding of places by ESFA	7,587,000		
TMBSS	1,560,000		
Maintained School SEND Hubs	382,000		
Additional Commissioned Place Funding at Special Academies	304,000		
Teachers Pay/Pension for Special Academies	328,020		
Total deduction to 2024-25 High Needs Block for central funding of places	2,574,020		
HIGH NEEDS BUDGET - Place Funding	10,161,020		
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET SHARES (Excluding De-delegated Items and transfer to Growth Fund)			
	208,578,834		
TOTAL DSG Allocation (Updated November 2024)	283,708,440		

This page is intentionally left blank

Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution

Responsible Officer

Sam Bradley email: Samantha.bradley@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 256411

Summary

At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum approved the constitutional arrangements for the annual re-apportionment of membership to take account of the changing mix between maintained and academy schools. This report details the required re-apportionment from April 2025 based on the academy conversions up to March 2025.

It is also appends an updated version of the Constitution to operate from April 2025.

Recommendation

To approve the re-apportionment of Schools Forum membership from April 2025 as outlined in the paper and detailed with vacancies in Appendix A.

REPORT

Membership

1. All local authority School Forums are constituted in accordance with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012. Shropshire Schools Forum approved the current Constitution at their meeting on 13 September 2012, with the new Constitution becoming operational from 1 October 2012.
2. At their meeting on 7 November 2013, Schools Forum received a report on a document from the then Education Funding Agency (EFA) - now Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) - which referenced a requirement for regular reviews of Forum membership to take account of the pace of academy conversions and to ensure that membership remains proportionate (based on pupil numbers).
3. The following membership structure has operated from 1 April 2022: 6 primary (3 headteachers, 3 governors), 1 secondary (1 headteacher), 12 academy, 1 special school place and 1 pupil referral unit place (PRU). The special school and PRU places are not included in the apportionment calculation.

4. In the November 2013 report Schools Forum agreed that a re-apportionment of membership should take place annually, from 1 April, using the pupil numbers from the previous October's school census.

5. In order to model the position from April 2025, the school census information from October 2024, and based on the number of academies as at 05 March 2025, has been used to assess the impact on representation. The table below summarises the revised representation (noting that 19 school places are apportioned by excluding special and PRU members).

	Oct-24	Apportionment	
	Total NOR*	%	No.
Maintained Primary Schools	8,304	22.7%	4
Maintained Secondary Schools	525	1.4%	1
Academies (as at 05 March 2025)	27,787	75.9%	14
	36,616	100.0%	19
<i>*excluding pupils in special schools and PRUs</i>			

6. The analysis indicates that from April 2025, membership should be amended and terms of office updated. Remove vacancies in Primary Governors with two additional representatives sought from Academies. The numbers of pupils in one maintained secondary school remains at a very low level (when taken as a percentage of the overall pupil population), however it is proposed that they continue to retain a place in the structure. The proposed membership, as at 01 April 2025, is attached as appendix 1 as part of the updated Constitution, which will operate from this date.

7. The academy pupil numbers are split, 43.1% primary and 56.9% secondary, which breaks down as 5 primary academy representatives and 7 secondary academy representatives across the 12 places available. However, it is noted that the majority of academies are in mixed phase multi-academy trusts (MATs) and so the phase representation is not particularly relevant, though consideration might be given to drawing increased membership from MATs operating mainly in the primary phase.



8. The ESFA guidelines stipulate that the academy representation can be drawn from free schools in the local authority area. Equally consideration will need to be given to the balance of headteacher and governor representation in each of the constituent groups. The current membership indicates there are 4 vacancies for academy representatives from April 2025.



This page is intentionally left blank

Schools Forum

Date: 20 March 2025

Time: 8:30 to 10.30

Venue: Via Microsoft
(MS) Teams

Paper

C

Public

SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP – March 2025

APPENDIX A

Member Category	Name	School/Trust/Organisation	Term to
Schools representation (21 members – 75%)			
Primary Headteachers (3 members)	Mark Rogers Marilyn Hunt Stephen Matthews	Oxon Kinnerley St Laurence	31/03/27 31/03/25 31/03/26
Secondary Headteachers (1 member)	Reuben Thorley	Community College	31/12/23
Primary Governors (1 member)	Sandra Holloway	Meole Brace Primary	31/08/24
Special Schools (1 member)	Alison Ashley	Learning Community Trust	11/01/27
Academies (14 members)	Georgia Moss Mark Cooper Bill Dowell Carla Whelan Sue Lovecy Sarah North Sarah Finch Lisa Henshall Rachel Williams Sarah Godden Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy	Diocese of Hereford MAT The 3-18 ET TrustEd Schools Empower Trust 3-18 Education Trust Empower Trust Marches Academy Trust St Barts Multi Academy Trust Collective Vision Trust TrustEd Schools	31/12/23 31/08/24 27/01/25 17/03/25 17/03/25 30/11/27 11/01/27 11/01/27 14/03/27 11/01/27
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 Shelly Hurdley Mark Davis Sian Lines Vacancy	Little Explorers Lichfield Hereford Shrewsbury	
Association of Secretaries 16-19 Education Sector	John Boken Andrew Smith	National Education Union Derwen College	



This page is intentionally left blank