



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

Date:

**Committee:
Schools Forum**

Date: Thursday, 19 June 2025
Time: 8.30 am
Venue: MS Teams

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

Tim Collard
Service 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:

Samantha Bradley Performance & Integration Manager, Learning and Skills

Tel: 01743 256411

Email: Samantha.Bradley@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Minutes and Matters Arising - 20 March 2025** (Pages 1 - 6)

Paper A attached.
- 3 **Updated Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2025-26 (Collins Elechi)**
(Pages 7 - 10)

Paper B attached.
- 4 **Schools Balances as at March 2025 (Stephen Waters (Jo Morris))**

Presentation.
- 5 **Growth Fund Allocations 2024-25 and 2025-26 (Andy Nicholls)**

Presentation.
- 6 **Early Years Block Allocation 2025-26 (Andy Nicholls)** (Pages 11 - 18)

Paper C attached.
- 7 **Dedicated School Grant Monitoring 2024-2025 Outturn (Stephen Waters)**

Paper D attached.
- 8 **Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund (John Rowe)** (Pages 19 - 24)

Carried forward from March 2025 agenda.

Presentation.
- 9 **Communication**
- 10 **Future meeting dates**

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

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Schools Forum

Date: 19 June 2025

Time: 08.30 to 10.30

Venue: MS Teams

Paper

A

Public

MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 20 MARCH 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 received from Alison Ashley, Sandra Holloway, Rachel Williams, Marilyn Hunt, Shelley Hurdley and John Hitchings	
2	Minutes and Matters Arising	
	The minutes <u>were</u> / <u>were not</u> accepted as a true record	tbc
3	Email from Schools Forum Member – Sandra Holloway	WD
	<p>Bill read an email from Marilyn expressing questions about whether the meeting minutes were sufficiently detailed. She emphasized that the minutes should reflect the debate and challenges presented by the members, not just the officers' recommendations and votes.</p> <p>Automated Minutes: David explained the council's transition to a more automated and efficient way of recording minutes using Co-pilot and video recordings. This approach aims to capture the entirety of the discussions and make the recordings publicly available.</p> <p>Member Feedback: David suggested that forum members flag any inaccuracies or points that need expansion ahead of the meeting. This proactive approach would help ensure that the minutes accurately reflect the discussions, debate and challenge presented.</p> <p>Recording of Meetings: David explained that the council records meetings and we should share the recordings publicly on YouTube. He encouraged forum members to review the recordings and flag any inaccuracies or points that need expansion. He also mentioned that the minutes are covered in each agenda point, and any concerns should be sent to Sam.</p> <p>Challenge in Governing Body Meetings: Mark highlighted the importance of recording challenges in governing body meetings, as Ofsted frequently asks for examples of such challenges. He expressed concern that the current minutes might not meet the standards required by Ofsted and suggested including a note at the bottom of the minutes referring to the full</p>	



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	<p>audio recording. He stressed the importance of recording these challenges to meet Ofsted's standards. He emphasized the need for the minutes to reflect the challenges presented during the meetings. He suggested including a note at the bottom of the minutes referring to the full audio recording. This would provide a comprehensive record of the discussions and challenges presented.</p> <p>Feedback from ESFA: David mentioned that the ESFA had previously attended a Schools Forum meeting and provided positive feedback on the meeting's appropriateness and challenge. He agreed that including a note at the bottom of the minutes referring to the full audio recording addressing any concerns about the minutes would be beneficial.</p>	
4	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Monitoring 2024-25</p> <p>Stephen presented the DSG monitoring paper, reporting an in-year deficit of £11.473 million, which, when added to the previous year's deficit, results in a cumulative deficit of £14.178 million. He explained the reasons for the overspend in the early years block and high needs block, highlighting the increase in demand and cost for independent providers.</p> <p>In-Year Deficit: Stephen reported an in-year deficit of £11.473 million for the DSG. When added to the previous year's deficit, this results in a cumulative deficit of £14.178 million.</p> <p>Early Years Block: Stephen explained the reasons for the overspend in the early years block, including the introduction of new entitlements and the time lag in funding allocations based on updated census data.</p> <p>High Needs Block: Stephen highlighted the overspend in the high needs block, attributing it to increased demand for top-up funding in mainstream and special schools, as well as rising costs for independent providers.</p> <p>Independent Providers: Stephen emphasized the significant increase in demand and cost for independent providers, which has contributed to the high needs block overspend, although this had reduced significantly compared to the previous year.</p> <p>High Needs Block Overspend: Stephen detailed the overspend in the high needs block, attributing it to increased demand for top-up funding in mainstream and special schools, as well as the rising costs of independent providers. He emphasized the need for a multi-year forecast to address the deficit and mentioned an upcoming meeting with the DfE to discuss the DSG deficit and financial management plan.</p>	SW

Commented [DS1]: @Samantha Bradley this should be an action Sam.

Commented [SB2R1]: Hi David, I have noted in point 10 follow up tasks and added point 12 for the link to sit, but awaiting confirmation from web services. Thank you Sam



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	<p>Top-Up Funding: Stephen detailed the increased demand for top-up funding in mainstream and special schools, which has significantly contributed to the high needs block overspend.</p> <p>Independent Costs: Stephen highlighted the rising costs of independent providers as another major factor in the high needs block overspend. These costs have been driven by increased demand and price inflationary pressures.</p> <p>DfE Meeting: Stephen mentioned an upcoming meeting with the DfE to discuss the DSG deficit and financial management plan. This meeting aims to seek support and share best practices for addressing the financial challenges.</p> <p>Benchmarking and National Comparison: David acknowledged the importance of benchmarking and national comparison to understand the wider picture of SEND funding. He mentioned that Collins has done some comparative work and suggested bringing it to the next forum meeting to provide context and inform discussions.</p> <p>Future Discussions: David suggested bringing the comparative work to the next forum meeting. This would provide context and inform discussions on SEN funding and related challenges.</p>	
5	<p>Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution</p> <p>Sam advised that due to recent Academy conversions, the membership needs to be reapportioned. The new composition should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 primary head teachers ○ 1 secondary head teacher ○ 14 Academy places ○ 1 special school place ○ 1 PRU plac <p>Changes to representation: Sam advised that Sandra Holloway, previously a primary governor, requested to attend as an Academy representative following Meil Brace Academy conversion. This would leave 3 vacancies for Academy representatives.</p> <p>Terms of office: Sam advised several terms of office has expired and these would need to be extended.</p>	SB

Commented [DS3]: @Samantha Bradley this should be an action. I've also shared some comparative benchmarks from f40 for Collins to include in the next Forum meeting.

Commented [SB4R3]: Hi David, this has been added in point 10. Thank you Sam

Commented [DS5]: @Samantha Bradley this is an action.

Commented [SB6R5]: Hi David, the new listing was circulated after the Schools Forum meeting in March, but have added to point 10, so can put as action completed for June minutes. Thank you Sam



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	Recommendation: School forum was asked to approve proposed membership changes to apply from April 2025 and extension of terms of service. These were approved by the Schools Forum.	
6	<p>Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund Jan 24 – Jan 25</p> <p>John presented the impact of the AP Development Fund, highlighting a 38% reduction in permanent exclusions in secondary schools. He emphasized the importance of providing assurances to schools about the continuity of funding and the need to develop a primary AP model to support inclusive practice.</p> <p>Reduction in Exclusions: John highlighted a 38% reduction in permanent exclusions in secondary schools, attributing this positive outcome to the impact of the AP Development Fund.</p> <p>Funding Continuity: John emphasized the importance of providing assurances to schools about the continuity of funding. This stability is crucial for schools to plan and implement effective inclusive practices.</p> <p>Primary AP Model: John discussed the need to develop a primary AP model to support inclusive practice. This model would extend the benefits of the AP Development Fund to primary schools, promoting inclusion from an early age.</p>	JR
7	<p>GSP, EYIAF and EHCP Top Up Funding</p> <p>Graduated Support Pathway (GSP): John explained the changes to the GSP, emphasizing the importance of providing the right funding at the right time for schools. He mentioned the introduction of a panel to review GSP requests and the involvement of education quality advisors to provide advice and guidance to schools.</p> <p>Early Years Inclusion and Advice Fund: John discussed the early years inclusion and advice fund, which aims to support nurseries and early years settings with specific resources and advice. He highlighted the importance of providing swift intervention and support for children in early years settings.</p> <p>EHCP Top-Up Funding and Hub Funding: John provided an update on the development of EHCP top-up funding and hub funding, emphasizing the need for transparency, fairness, and support for inclusion. He mentioned the use of a banding matrix to ensure clarity and fairness in funding allocations.</p>	LT/JR

Commented [DS7]: @Samantha Bradley Any update reports should have a general action for all Forum members to note the update and share with the groups/organisations they represent.



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	SEND Capital Funds: John and Andy discussed the development of SEND capital funds to support schools in creating inclusive spaces and adapting their environments to meet the needs of children with SEND. They emphasized the importance of providing resource to schools to develop inclusive spaces and support children effectively.	
8	Council Senior Leadership Team Changes David informed the forum about the changes to the council's senior leadership team structure, including his appointment as the new DCS from July. He assured the forum of consistency in reporting lines and key contacts during the transition period and mentioned the ongoing recruitment and induction of new staff.	DS
9	Communication Bill and David discussed the holding of the letter that has been drafted to send to Government regarding the ongoing funding of Shropshire schools and early years given that elections are due to take place in May.	
10	Follow Up Tasks Meeting Minutes Accuracy: Ensure that the video recordings of the school forum meetings are publicly available on the YouTube channel and circulate the link to forum members. . Meeting Minutes Accuracy: Add a note at the bottom of the minutes referring to the availability of the full audio recording of the meeting on YouTube. . Meeting Minutes Accuracy: Circulate the minutes earlier than before the next meeting to allow members to review and flag any inaccuracies or points that need expansion. Terms of Office: Circulate updated list (<i>actioned 20 March 2025</i>) EHCP Funding: Provide the percentage of the 15.9 million spent on high needs that is allocated to post-16 placements. Benchmarking and National Comparison of SEND funding: CE to bring paper to June 2025 Schools Forum	SB SB SB SB SW CE JR/CE

Commented [DS8]: @Samantha Bradley action here to review the letter with the new administration following the elections in May.



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	<p>Development of Primary AP fund and Secondary fund: model the development of the Primary AP fund and continuation of the secondary fund in the multi-year forecast to confirm affordability</p> <p>Communication: Review drafted letter to send to Government regarding the ongoing funding of Shropshire Schools and Early Years once elections have taken place in May, to include new Members signatures</p> <p>Communication: Share the presentation slides and SLT key contacts with Schools Forum members. <i>(actioned 20 March 2025)</i></p>	<p>WD/DS</p> <p>SB</p>
11	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>Thursday 19 June 2025 Thursday 11 September 2025 (tbc) Thursday 13 November 2025 (tbc)</p>	
12	<p>Link to recording of Schools Forum Meeting – 20 March 2025</p> <p>Following email from Web Services, a SharePoint is being set up for ALL to have access to Schools Forum Documentation and Meeting Recordings.</p>	SB



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Schools Forum

Date: 19 June 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: MS Teams
Meeting

Paper

B

Public

Updated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2025-26

Responsible Officer Collins Elechie-mail: Collins.Elechi@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 254343

Summary

The Department for Education (DfE) announced provisional 2025-26 local authority Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations in December 2024. In March 2025 the DfE announced an update to the DSG allocation for the 2025-26 financial year. A further update will be published in July 2025.

This report provides a summary of Shropshire's latest updated 2025-26 DSG allocation comparing it with Shropshire's previous provisional DSG allocation as reported to Schools Forum in Jan 2025.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

1. In January 2025 Schools Forum members received a report summarising the funding blocks making up Shropshire's 2025-26 provisional DSG allocation and listing the key financial headlines for each of the blocks.
2. Shropshire's 2025-26 provisional DSG allocation was updated in March 2025 to include recoupment academies and deductions for high needs places funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) at that point.
3. A further update will be published in July 2025 including adjustments to academy recoupment in relation to the early years' provisional allocation and the high needs import/export adjustment.



4. A summary of the provisional 2025-26 DSG (as presented to Schools Forum in January 2025), is shown in the table below but excludes July 2025 update which will be reported in October Schools Forum.

5.

	Provisional DSG (as at Dec 24) £m	Recoupment / Deductions for HN places (as at March 25) £m	Provisional DSG (as at March 25) £m	Recoupment / Early Years Adjustment / HN Import/Export Adjustment (as at July 25) £m	Latest DSG (as at March 25) £m
Schools Block	224.161	169.840	54.321		54.321
Early Years Block (Provisional)	42.638	0	42.638		42.638
High Needs Block	46.113	8.029	38.084		38.084
Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)	2.358	0	2.568		2.568
Total DSG	315.269	177.868	137.611	0.000	137.611

6. The latest (March 2025) Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) allocation shows an increase of £210k, this is due to increase in funding for historic commitments.
7. In line with the schools operational guidance, redetermination of school budget shares to enable the reallocation of funding for permanently excluded pupils will take place for both maintained schools and academies. The following maximum pupil level rates, for pupils without an EHCP, will apply for the academic year commencing 1st September 2025. Where additional top-up funding is provided through the EHCP this may be deducted, depending on the timing of the exclusion and payment of the top-up funding.

School Budget Share formula factors 25-26	Primary (£)	Secondary KS3 (£)	Secondary KS4 (£)
Basic Entitlement	3,799	5,254	6,037
FSM	495	495	495
FSM6	1060	1,555	1,555
IDACI (Highest Band A)	685	950	950
EAL	595	1,595	1,595
Low Prior Attainment	1,175	1,785	1,785
Mobility	965	1,385	1,385
Maximum Potential annual deduction	8,774	13,019	13,802



8. The early intervention and prevention programme through AP/Inclusion Development Fund initiatives in Autumn 2023 has shown significant reduction of 43% of permanent exclusions, and a budget of £0.600m was allocated this year to consolidate the achievements made last year.
9. There is no change in the Early Years Block allocation from the updated census data from January 2024. This is still provisional at this stage and will be further updated after the census data collected in January 2025.
10. The latest High Needs Block adjustment relates to the following elements:
 - an update to our import/export adjustment is being reviewed. The import/export adjustment reflects the net place funding costs of other local authority pupils placed in our high needs settings and Shropshire high needs pupils placed in other local authority settings. Shropshire is a net exporter of high needs pupils, and our 2025-26 import/export adjustment shows an adjustment of £0.936m to be deducted from High Needs Block funding but this is subject to the outcome of the exercise in collaboration with other LAs.
 - An increase in the deductions for high needs places relating to our Special Schools, FE institutions, Specialist Post 16 and other Settings, but this will be finalised in July and full impact will be reported in the next School Forum.
11. Shropshire's latest remaining DSG for 2025-26, after recoupment for academies and deductions for direct funding of high needs places by ESFA, equates to £137.611m.
12. The National Insurance Contributions (NICs) grant for mainstream schools sits outside the DSG allocation and will be rolled into the schools block of the schools national funding formula (NFF) for 2026 to 2027. The NICs funding for Special schools including AP is being allocated through Core Schools Budget Grant in 2025-26.
13. The latest DfE update in May confirmed a further allocation will be paid to Schools in October for 2025 pay award.
 - The conditions of grant and allocations for mainstream schools will be published in the autumn.
 - The allocation for Shropshire special schools & AP is £0.265m, based on £339 per place this will be paid to the LA for passing onto schools within the guidelines provided.



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<p style="text-align: right;">Agenda Item 6</p> <p>Schools Forum</p> <p>Date: Thursday 19th June 2025</p> <p>Time: 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Venue: Via Microsoft (MS) Teams</p>	<p>Paper</p> <p style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">C</p> <p>Public</p>
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EY Block Allocations 2025/26

Responsible Officer Andy Nicholls
email: Andy.Nicholls@shropshire.gov.uk

Summary

This paper details the allocation of the Early Years block for the financial year 25/26.

REPORT

1 Background

The early years block funds all factors relating to three and four year-olds and disadvantaged two-year-olds in nurseries, private, voluntary and independent settings, and maintained schools. Following the announcements in the Spring budget 2023 the block will also now include funding for the new free entitlement for children from working families aged 2 years from April 24 and aged 9 months from Sept 24 – expanding to 30 hours for all children of working parents from 9 months+ from September 2025.

2 Summary of the entitlements covered by this Funding:

The free entitlements (FE) covered by this funding are as follows:

1. The universal annual FE of 570 hours of early years education and childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds from the start of the term after their third birthday
2. The extended annual FE of an additional 570 hours of early years education and childcare for 3 and 4 year olds from 'working families' from the start of the term after their third birthday.
3. The FE of 570 hours of early years education and childcare for 2 year olds from 'disadvantaged families' from the start of the term after their second birthday.

4. The expanded annual FE 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.
5. 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.
6. **NEW:** From Sept 2025 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.

Summary of the indicative Early Years block funding for 25/26

Historically overall 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 (A) and again based on census in the following January (B) with the final figure received being based 5/12ths on January A and 7/12ths on January B census.

e.g. EY block allocation for 2024/25:

- Indicative allocation received in January 2024 based on January 2023 EY census. □ Adjustment made based on January 2024 and January 2025 EY census □ Final allocation confirmed in July 2025.

The new financial year will see the introduction of the new expanded childcare entitlements. The DfE will continue to use the historic model for the allocation funding for the three existing offers. For the new offers they will use calculated figures of 'expected' take up and ask LAs to complete a termly census, using this information to adjust actual allocations based on the termly take up of places.

e.g EY block allocation for 2025/26:

- Indicative allocation based on January 2024 EY census and DfE expected take up calculations.



- Adjustment based on January 2025 EY census
- Adjustment based on Summer term 2025 actual take up data submission
- Adjustment based on Autumn term 2025 actual take up data submission
- Final adjustment based on January 2026 census

For 25/26 the following per hour per child funding rates have been announced:

Funding for the universal and extended three- and four-year-old entitlements:

	Hourly rate used to determine funding
April 2025	£5.71 phpc

Funding for the disadvantaged and expanded two-year-old entitlements:

	Hourly rate used to determine funding
April 2024	£7.55 phpc

Funding for the 9-month-old entitlement

	Hourly rate used to determine funding
April 2024	£10.23 phpc

Using the combination of January 24 known census data for the existing entitlements, and expected take up of the new entitlements, this will result in the following initial indicative overall funding within the Early Years block:

	25/26	24/25	Difference
Universal 3- and 4-year-old entitlement	£11,981,755	£11,724,988	+£256,767
Extended 3- and 4-year-old entitlement	£6,433,924	£6,203,593	+£230,331
2-year-old entitlements	£10,811,771	£7,810,978	+£3,000,793
9-month-old entitlement	£2,866,044	£3,456,511	-£590,467
Expanded 9-month-old entitlement	£10,065,237	-	+£10,065,237
Total	£42,158,731	£29,196,070	+£12,962,661



How the EY Block is spent

The EY block is used to fund the following factors:

1. Payment to providers to fund the provision of the free entitlements set out above and the following supplements. It also proposed this year (for the first time) to include a nominal SEND allowance in the funded entitlements for all 3 and 4 year olds.
2. Provision of the EY SEND fund to provide additional resources to support children accessing their free EY entitlements who have high levels of SEND. All LAs are required to allow for this element of funding although it down to individual LAs to decide upon the nature of the support provided and the funding used to provide it.
3. Provision of a disadvantaged fund to provide additional resources to settings with high levels of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The provision of this fund is a requirement set out by the DfE although it is down to individual LAs to determine the amount of funding used for this purpose and the basis on which it is allocated.
4. Provision of a sustainability fund to ensure we can continue to offer provision in those areas of the county where numbers of children alone will not generate sufficient funding to cover basic costs for providers. There is requirement for LAs to hold such a fund and, whilst many do, some do not. In a rural county such as ours this has always been considered a necessary element of EY expenditure.
5. Meeting the LA costs for the on-going requirement for the provision of information, support and guidance to EY providers. This element of the block is retained by the LA 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 4% (previously 5%) of the EY block can be retained by LAs – the remainder must all be passported to providers either through the hourly rate funding or the supplements set out above. The DfE have announced that they plan to reduce the 4% retention threshold to 3% although no deadline has been set for this as yet.

Calculating the proposed hourly rate of funding to providers

When calculating the overall spending of the EY block our aim is to ensure we can:

- cover the required supplementary costs set out above
- remain within the 4% ceiling for retained costs and;
- ensure the hourly rates of funding to providers remain as reflective as possible of the costs of provision of high quality, affordable and accessible early learning and childcare



A. EY SEND fund:

£1,250,000

Spend in this area has been increasing year on year. This is reflective of the following factors:

- a. Increasing numbers of children presenting at settings with SEND
- b. Increasing complexity of need of those children
- c. Better and earlier identification of individual children's needs
- d. Growing waiting lists for referral into other professional services increasing the work which is required at setting level

For 25/26 we are budgeting for a 10% increase on our 24/25 anticipated spend

B. Provision of the disadvantaged supplement:

£300,000

The overall spend on this element of the block has remained at £300k since it was introduced around five years ago. In order to ensure we can offer the highest possible hourly rate of funding to all providers it is proposed that we retain the funding at this level for 25/26

C. Sustainability funding

£300,000

Overall spend in this area has increased in recent years mainly due to increases in employment costs. It is envisaged that the introduction of the new entitlements will lead to providers generating more income from the provision of new places as we go forward. We have therefore left the 25/26 budget figure at the same level as the 24/25 allocation.

The overall EY block available for distribution to EY providers through the hourly rate will therefore be reduced by a total of £1,850,000 to cover the costs of the SEND, disadvantaged and sustainability supplements.

This amounts to 4.38% of the overall allocation

D. Central retained costs

£1,050,000

We are budgeting for an increase of our central retained costs for 25/26. Apart from the day to day management of the Early Years central team function, we also intend to recruit new EY SEND Advisory Officers into the service. The role of these new posts will be to provide targeted information, advice and support to providers to support with meeting the needs of our SEND children. It is intended that these officers will work directly with children and providers offering expertise advice and support, with the long term vision of reducing the pressure on the above SEND fund (A). Following discussions with providers, it is also the intention to enhance the centralised training function, offering greater 'free at point of delivery' high quality CPD available to all providers / settings. A small proportion of these retained costs will also be used to enhance and upskill centrally retained colleagues.



The overall EY block available for distribution to EY providers through the hourly rate will therefore be reduced by a total of £1,050,000 to cover the retained costs set out above.

This amounts to 2.40% of the overall allocation, well within the 4% ceiling set out by the DfE and satisfying the 3% target ceiling which will come into effect in the future.

Hourly Rates of Funding for 25/26

The following hourly rates of funding to providers is to support the provision of the free entitlements:

Entitlement	25/26
3&4 YO – both universal and extended	£5.42
2YO – both disadvantaged and expanded	£7.15
9 Month old	£9.25

Based on the methodology used for the allocation of the indicative budget this will result in the following overall spend of the EY block:

Entitlement	Hourly rate spend	Total available
3&4YO	£17,480,381	£18,415,679
2YO	£10,095,758	£10,811,771
9 Month old	£11,683,860	£12,931,281
Centrally held SEND	£1,250,000	
Sustainability	£300,000	
Disadvantaged	£300,000	
Total Allocation	£40,983,731	
Central Retained Costs (Max 4%)	£1,050,000	
Total	£42,158,731	£42,158,731

Other factors within the overall EY block

There are two other elements of the overall Early Years block. These are:

A. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

EYPP is paid as an additional amount to any child accessing their free early years entitlements who also meets the eligibility for Free School meals. The hourly rate at which the LA is funded for EYPP will be £1 phpc. The expectation is that this rate is passed on in full to



eligible children based on a termly headcount. The overall funding allocated through this element of the block is **£287,435**

B. Disability Access Fund (DAF)

DAF is paid to any child who accesses their free early years entitlements who are also eligible for Disability Living Allowance. The annual rate of funding for DAF is to £938 per child in 2025/26. The overall funding allocated through this element of the block is **£192,290**



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Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund (John Rowe)

Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund 2024-25

Secondary schools were provided with a total of £600,000 in 2024/25 (this included £94,000 of reallocated funding from PExs in 23/24)

Page 20 In 2023/24, there were a total of **65** permanent exclusions in schools across the year with 60 Permanent Exclusions by June 2024.

So far in 2024/25 there have been **34** permanent exclusions.

This is a **reduction of 43%** in the same period from September to June 2024 (60 permanent exclusions).

Inclusion Development Fund

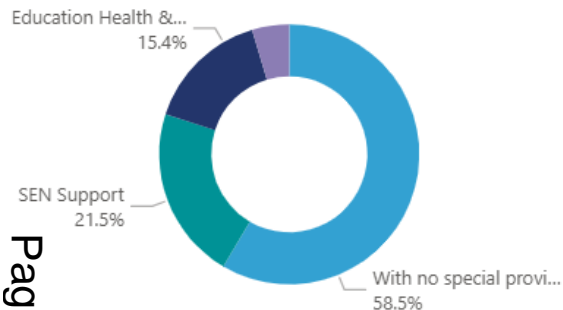
- As promised, this project will continue
- Aim of reducing exclusions and suspensions
- 44% reduction in all exclusions in this year compared to last.
- Funding linked to October census
 - *Should funding be based on previous year (and issued in September)?*
 - *Should funding be based on current Census (and issued in January following an estimate in September)*
 - *Should schools/trusts receive half this funding in September, with the balance following when census figures are confirmed?*



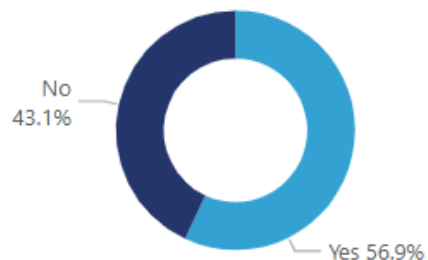
Profile of PEx

Permanent Exclusions (2023-24)

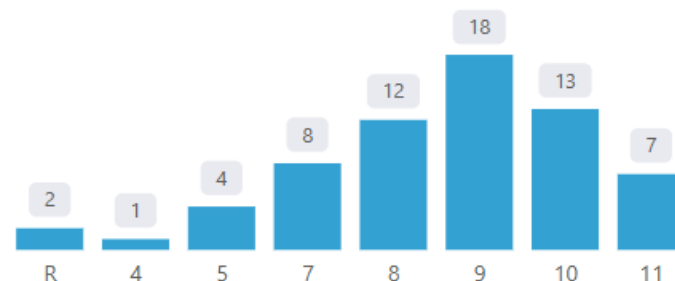
SEND Status



FSM

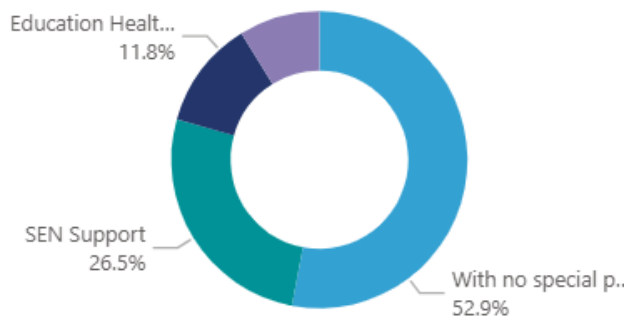


Year Group

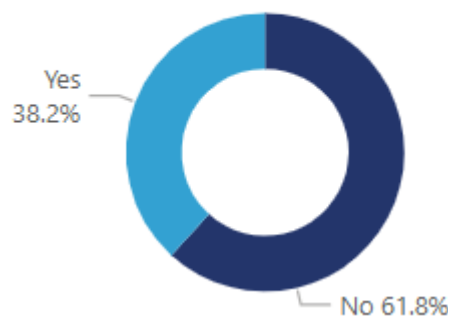


Permanent Exclusions (2024-25)

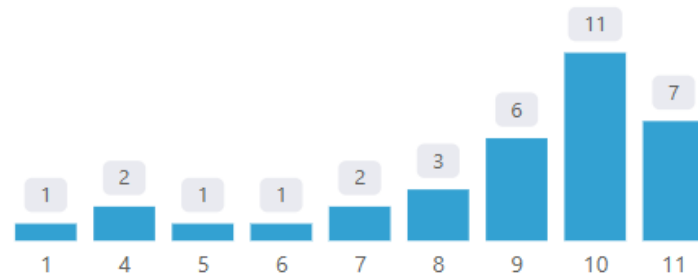
SEND Status



FSM



Year Group



Primary AP Development Fund

Objectives:

- To reduce the number of permanent exclusions and suspensions in Shropshire Primary Schools. (507 lost days due to suspensions in 2024-25)
- To reduce the number of pupils in receipt of reduced timetables (RTTs) in school
- To improve attendance
- To create inclusive learning environments that support the diverse needs of all students.
- To build capacity and expertise in schools.
- To promote collaboration and sharing of best practice among schools, trusts, and federations.

Primary AP Development Fund

Principles:

1. **Invitation for Bids:** Individual schools, trusts, federations and networks of schools are invited to submit proposals for funding. Each proposal should outline the planned initiatives to promote inclusion and reduce exclusions.
2. **In house solutions:** Projects should be focused on the development of in-school alternative provision. This focuses on providing early intervention and targeted support for pupils. Schools could use this resource to provide a shared resource for other schools.
3. **Funding Allocation:** £200k allocated from High Needs Block per year, supplemented by HNCA and where necessary to support specific pupils GSP.
4. **Business Case Requirement:** Schools must provide a business case to cover revenue costs associated with their proposed initiatives. This may include additional funding from the High Needs Capital Allocation to create inclusive spaces that support students with additional needs.
5. **Provision Duration:** The funding will be provided for a period of two years. This will provide sufficient time to enable the project to be developed and evaluated.
6. **Quality Assurance:** The proposals will be assessed, monitored and evaluated by Education Quality Advisers (EQAs) to ensure effectiveness and adherence to best practices.
7. **Good Practice:** Schools are encouraged to draw on good practices from other successful schools, such as Invictus and Perryfields, and implement evidence-based solutions. Where this is built into approached to develop inclusive practice more broadly, (e.g. through the Inclusive Practice Mark) this will be judged favourably.