

LEEDS SCHOOL FORUM

Meeting to be held on
Thursday, 23rd February, 2023 at 4.30 pm

MEMBERSHIP

Bradley Taylor, A, Primary Governors - Kirkstall Valley Primary
Kate Burton, E. Academy Reps – Alder Tree Primary
Rebecca White, B. Primary Heads, Sharp Lane Primary
Victoria McWalker, A. Primary Governors, St Margaret's Horsforth C of E
Stratis Koutsoukos, B. Primary Governors, St Nicholas Catholic Primary
Nick Tones, J. Non Schools, Schools JCC
Christopher Thornton, J. Non Schools 16-19 Providers
Simon Prinsep, E. Academy Reps, Abbey Grange CofE
Peter McQuillen Strong, J. Leeds Catholic Diocese
Maria Williams, E. Academy Reps - Brigshaw High School
Gavin Hosford, E. Academy Reps - Green Meadows
Rachel Colbourn, E. Academy Reps - Bramhope Primary
Jatinder Ubhi, A. Primary Governor - Swarcliffe Primary
Dave Kagai, A. Primary Governors - St Nicholas Primary
Sarah Talbot, E. Academy Reps - East Ardsley Primary
John Garvani (LSF), A. Primary Governors - Broadgate Primary School
John Hutchinson, B. Primary Heads - St Theresa's Catholic Primary
Peter Harris, B. Primary Heads - Farsley Farfield Primary
Julie Harkness, B. Primary Heads - Carr Manor Community school - Primary Phase
Emma Wraight, B. Primary Heads - Fieldhead Carr Primary
David Webster, C. Secondary Governors - Pudsey Grammar
Delia Martin, D. Secondary Heads - Benton Park
David Gurney, E. Academy Reps - Cockburn School
Rob Dixon, E. Academy Rep, Pudsey Waterloo Primary
Neil Miley, E. Academy Reps - Dixons Academy
John Thorne, E. Academy Reps - St Mary's Academy Menston
Joe Barton, E. Academy Reps - Woodkirk Academy
Russell Trigg, F. Governor East SILC
Mary Ruggles, H. Academy Specialist Provision - Springwell Academy
Diane Reynard, I. Special School Principal - East / NW SILC - SILC Principals
Angela Hynes, J. Non School PVI - Nursery Provider
Dan Cohen (Leeds School Forum), J. Jewish Faith Schools

A G E N D A

Item No	Title	Lead	Time	Purpose
1.	APOLOGIES	Chair		
2.	SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP	Chair	16:35	For information
3.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING <i>3 - 8</i>	Chair	16:40	For decision
4.	MATTERS ARISING	Chair	16:50	For information
5.	DSG BUDGET MONITORING 2022-23 <i>9 - 16</i>	Lucie McAulay	16:55	For information
6.	HIGH NEEDS BUDGET 2023/24 <i>17 - 22</i>	Lucie McAulay	17:20	For information
7.	FREE EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT RATES AND CENTRALLY RETAINED FUNDING 2023/24 <i>23 - 32</i>	Chris Sutton	17:50	For decision
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Chair	18:15	For information
9.	MEETING DATES FOR 2023-24 AND FORWARD PLAN <i>33 - 34</i>	Chair	18:25	For information
10.	CLOSE		18:30	

Leeds Schools Forum

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Thursday 17 January 2023 at 16:30

Membership (Apologies in Italics)	
GOVERNORS	HEADTEACHERS
Primary (6 seats)	Primary (6 seats)
David Kagai St Nicholas	John Hutchinson St Theresa's
<i>John Garvani Broadgate</i>	Peter Harris Farsley Farfield
<i>Jatinder Ubhi Swarcliffe</i>	Julie Harkness Carr Manor Community School
<i>Victoria McWalker St Margaret's Horsforth</i>	<i>Emma Wraight Fieldhead Carr</i>
Stratis Koutsoukos St Nicholas	Rebecca White Sharp Lane
Bradley Taylor Kirkstall Valley	<i>One vacancy</i>
Secondary (1 seat)	Secondary (1 seat)
<i>David Webster Pudsey Grammar</i>	Delia Martin Benton Park
Special (1 seat)	Special (1 seat)
<i>Russell Trigg East SILC, John Jamieson</i>	Diane Reynard East SILC
Non School	Academies – Mainstream (11 seats)
Angela Hynes PVI Providers	David Gurney Cockburn School
Vacancy PVI Providers	Neil Miley Dixons Academy
Nick Tones Schools JCC	John Thorne St Mary's Academy Menston
Christopher Thornton 16-19 Providers	Joe Barton Woodkirk Academy
<i>Dan Cohen Jewish Faith Schools</i>	Rob Dixon Cockburn School
Peter McQuillen-Strong Catholic Diocese	Gavin Hosford Green Meadow
	<i>Rachel Colbourn Bramhope Primary</i>
	Sarah Talbot East Ardsley
	<i>Maria Williams Brighshaw High</i>
	<i>Kate Burton Alder Tree Primary</i>
	<i>Simon Princep Abbey Grange CofE</i>
Officers	
<i>Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Strategy & Resources</i>	Academy – Special School (1 seat)
<i>Louise Hornsey, Head of Service, Finance</i>	<i>Mary Ruggles Springwell Leeds North</i>
<i>Shaheen Myers, Deputy Director Learning</i>	
Lucie McAulay, Head of Service, Finance	Academy – Alternative Provision (1 seat)
Val Waite, Chief Officer Learning Inclusion	<i>Vacancy</i>
Dave Clark, Chief Officer Learning Improvement	
Elizabeth Jackson, Finance	
Rebecca McCormack, Vulnerable Learners Lead	
Shirley Maidens, Finance	

Item	Title	Actions
1.0	Welcome and Apologies	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted and introductions made.	
2.0	Schools Forum Membership	
2.1	Primary Governor vacancy - Bradley Taylor, Kirkstall Valley Primary School has joined the Forum PVI Nursery Provider vacancy – the vacancy was advertised but no-one applied. Alternative Academy vacancy – remains vacant despite numerous attempts to fill it Primary Headteacher vacancy – remains vacant.	
3.0	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
3.1	The minutes were agreed.	
4.0	Matters Arising	
4.1	<i>Page Two, Item 4.1 – supplementary funding:</i> A meeting has taken place with SILC principles to talk through the funding arrangements and another one is planned in the next couple of weeks.	
4.2	<i>Page Two, Item 4.2 growth funding:</i> A comprehensive spreadsheet has been produced looking at all primary schools in the city and surplus places. These are being mapped against criteria such as resource provision. This has also been raised at family of schools meetings and Headteacher forums.	
4.3	<i>Page Two, Item 4.3 Schools in financial difficulty (SIFD) fund:</i> A decision has been made to claw back excess balances from five schools which equated to £500+k. Once the clawback has been finalised details will be circulated to the schools in financial difficulty panel. Last year the amount of excess balances was reduced from 15% to 8% and schools who are at risk of tipping over the 8% are being informed in advance. Schools at the other end of the scale are being supported. Several bids have come through and these will be considered at the next SIFD panel.	
4.4	<i>Page Five, item six – equality monitoring:</i> Eight responses have been received to date. A request was made for members who have not completed the form to do so if possible.	
5.0	Schools Funding Arrangements 2023-24	
5.1	ESFA regulations dictate that Schools Forum should be consulted and where necessary make decisions on the use of DSG funds.	
5.2	<u>Schools Block</u>	
5.2.1	Results of the consultation were presented to Schools Forum in November and the results demonstrated a preference for option two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduced minimum funding guarantee of 0% and an increased cap on gains of 2.22%. All other factors are in line with the national funding formula. 	
5.2.2	The final schools block funding has now been confirmed as £668m, an increase of £43m on last year.	

5.2.3	<p>At the last Forum it was agreed to transfer 0.5% to the High Needs Block and this equates to £3.38m. As a result, £664.15m remains to be allocated to mainstream schools. The revised formula provides £4,405 for primary and £5,715 for secondary schools. It allows the authority to remain 0.5%, in line with the national funding formula and the cap on gains of 5.39%. A school by school allocation is included in the report. The allocation is subject to final verification by the ESFA and approval by the Director of Children and Families. Academies will be issued funding statements from the ESFA as per usual.</p>
5.2.4	<p>In December notification was received that an additional grant for mainstream schools would be made for 2023/24 only. In 2024-25 it will be rolled into the core budget. Leeds allocation of the grant is £22m. The school level allocation will be published in the spring by the DfE. An estimation of what this looks like for individual schools is included in the breakdown. This comes with a caveat that it is an estimate only and may differ when the final allocations are received.</p>
5.2.5	<p>Taking into consideration the formula funding for mainstream schools and the additional grant, funding stands at £690m. This equates to an average per pupil increase of 5.7%, slightly higher than the national average of 5.6%.</p>
5.2.6	<p>In addition to the mainstream grant, Leeds has been allocated £5.16m for additional high needs funding. A condition of the grant is that all special schools, APs and hospital schools must receive an increase 3.4% (£2.5-£3m) compared to the average per pupil funding in 2022-23. Schools will be notified of the final allocation towards the end of February. Schools forecasting significant deficits for 2023-24 will be revisited in line with this. Finance officers will contact schools to provide any support required.</p>
5.3	<p><u>Growth Fund</u></p>
5.3.1	<p>Funding is allocated as part of the Schools Block. It funds pupil number variations through the funding formula of the new schools. There is also a separate growth fund to support new and extended schools to meet basic needs. The allocation is based on the October Census. For 2023-24 the allocation for Leeds is £4.9m, a slight increase from £4.4m in 2022-23. The total growth fund will be £980k: £538k primary and £442k for secondary.</p>
5.3.2	<p>Primary schools will be eligible for growth funding where a permanent expansion has occurred following an increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) to meet basic need. Growth funding for secondary schools will continue to be paid in the first year only. Schools are eligible for growth funding where a temporary bulge has been agreed to meet basic needs and will be for that year only. Existing schools will see an increased allocation from £100 to £150 per pupil and for new presumption free schools the increase will be from £200 to £250.</p>
5.3.3	<p>The difference in funding for primary and secondary schools was agreed at a previous Schools Forum and relates to cost pressures which are slightly different for secondary schools. Every local authority has its own scheme. Leeds funds on the number of PAN regardless of whether the children are there or not. Any changes would have to be considered by the Children and Families Directorate.</p>
5.3.4	<p>Specialist settings are dealt with differently because the funding comes from the High Needs Block.</p>
5.3.5	<p>It is expected that the growth fund will meet requirements in 2023-24. The amount of funding asked for is £980k compared to £1.9m in the previous year.</p>

5.3.6	<p><i>Free School Presumptions:</i> There is currently a school sponsored by Coop that has not been opened yet. Negotiations are in place with the DfE around opening times and funding. Other free school presumptions are being looked at, but at this moment there is no information from the DfE whether these have been successful or not. Funding for the Coop Brierley school is from a separate grant through the ESFA; the local authority is not involved in this at all.</p>														
5.3.7	<p>In line with ESFA requirements to support pre and post start-up costs for academies it is proposed to retain the criteria for leadership costs over a four-year period and on a sliding scale.</p>														
5.3.8	<p>The £2m remaining for other costs will be considered when the High Needs Block budget is brought back to the next meeting.</p>														
5.4	<p><u>Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)</u></p>														
5.4.1	<p>This Block funds local authorities for ongoing central functions and for funding historic commitments. Total allocation for Leeds is £5.1m, a slight reduction of £32k on the previous year. Schools Forum will be asked to approve each element of expenditure.</p>														
5.4.2	<p><i>Retained Duties element of the Education Services Grant:</i> this funding contributes to the costs incurred by the Council to fund central functions. The CSSB contributes to these functions but it is not sufficient to cover all of the costs which are covered by the Council. Funding of £2.19m is requested which is a decrease of £95.4k compared to 2022-23.</p>														
5.4.3	<p><i>Centrally employed teachers' pension costs:</i> In 2020-21 a separate grant was received to cover these costs. This is now added to the ongoing responsibilities of the CSSB. The request is for £216k to cover this.</p>														
5.4.4	<p><i>Historic commitments:</i> From 2020-21 it has not been possible to increase the costs or add any additional expenditure. For 23-24 the ask is for £515k to cover prudential costs to support ongoing debt repayments. The Headteachers support and school support staff training are now part of the school Improvement fund</p>														
5.4.5	<p><i>Ongoing central functions:</i> This includes the Admissions Service and it is proposed for 2023-24 to increase funding to £1.469m. The increase is to cover the pay award and other inflationary increases in the Service. The ongoing functions also includes the servicing of Schools Forum. The ESFA has agreed a single national licence for all state-funded schools. The cost of this Costs of this £630k for 2023-24, an increase of £76k from the previous year.</p>														
5.5	<p><u>High Needs Block</u></p>														
	<p>Ongoing work is taking place to finalise the budget and it will be brought back to the February Forum.</p>														
5.6	<p><u>Schools Forum Voting Results (% = approved)</u></p>														
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6.0	DE-DELEGATION OF FUNDING FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS 2023-24	
6.1	Consultation has taken place with all maintained mainstream primary schools for 2023-24. Based on the results it is the local authority's recommendation to continue to de-delegate services listed in the consultation.	
6.2	For 2023-24 the proposal is to de-delegate funding of £5.53m, an increase of £543k. To ease pressure on school budget it is proposed to use £500k of clawed back surplus balances to fund an element of the contingency budget. It will reduce the per pupil rate of that budget from £11.84 to £4.05.	
6.3	Responses were received from 53 primary and seven secondary schools, the majority of which wish to de-delegate funding for all services.	
6.4	It is estimated that schools will pay between 1.16% and 1.94% of their formula funding for de-delegated services. This is based on the figures consulted on in November.	
6.5	<u>Contingency and support for schools in financial difficulty</u> This fund is retained central for maintained schools and only used in a limited range of circumstances. Funding will be de-delegated at £4.05 per pupil. This is estimated to provide £249,306. If the de-delegation does not continue there will be no funding available. Results of the consultation: 93% in favour.	
6.6	<u>Maternity and other cover</u> The total budget proposed is £2.6m which is a £124k increase on the previous year. Results of the consultation: 100% in favour.	
6.7	<u>Suspended staff cover</u> Funds in this budget provide support for schools when employees are suspended, after the first three months. An increase of £25k is proposed, bringing the budget to £125k. Results of the consultation: 98% in favour	
6.8	<u>Trade Union Facilities</u> The proposed budget for 2023-24 is £370k, the same as the previous year. However, the amount per pupil has increased to £6.14 which reflects lower pupil numbers and academisation. Results of the consultation: 93% in favour	
6.9	<u>Schools library service (primary schools only)</u> This provides a range of resources to underpin the curriculum. An amount of £6.80 per pupil is proposed to be de-delegated, giving a budget of £320k. Results of the consultation: 96% in favour	
6.10	<u>Free school meals eligibility</u> The budget covers admin costs for carrying out eligibility assessments and is provided to all Leeds schools. Academies are charged separately should they wish to use the service. Funding is proposed to be de-delegated at £1.67 per pupil and £3.74 per pupil in receipt of free school meals in the past six years. Results of the consultation: 98% in favour	
6.11	<u>Behaviour support services</u> The budget comes under the remit of SENIT and is for the inclusion support team. The total budget is £1.44m, £108k of which is funded through de-delegation. The remainder of the budget comes from the High Needs Block. The proposal is that the funding will be de-delegated at £0.97 per pupil and £3 for pupils in receipt of free school meals in the last six years. A decision taken by the DfE in 2013-14 states that funding for this part of schools'	

	responsibilities should be kept in the Schools Block and not funded through the High Needs Block. Results of the consultation: 83% in favour																			
6.12	<p><u>Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners</u></p> <p>In addition to what is outlined in the consultation document work takes place with supplementary schools for the provision of specific grants and projects. The total budget proposed is £290k, the same as 2022-23. It is proposed to de-delegate at a rate of £1.52 per free school meal pupil and £35.85 per English as an additional language (EAL) pupil in primary schools. For secondary schools £1.61 per FSM pupil and £203.12 per EAL pupil Results of the consultation: 78% in favour.</p>																			
6.13	<p><u>School improvement</u></p> <p>In 2022-23 the DfE reduced the amount of the school improvement and brokerage grant to the local authority. Schools Forum agreed to fund the gap of £435k through de-delegation. In 2023-24 the grant was fully removed, and this equates to £726k. Two other services affected by the removal of the grant are Headteacher support and support staff training at £54k. The overall total proposed to be de-delegated is £799k. The rate per pupil is £13.25. Results of the consultation: 88% in favour.</p>																			
6.14	<p><u>Schools Forum Voting Results (% = approved)</u></p> <table> <tr> <td>Contingency and support for schools in financial difficulty</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maternity and other cover</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suspended staff cover</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trade Union facilities</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Free School Meals eligibility</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behaviour Support Service</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Improvement</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Library Service (PRIMARY ONLY)</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </table>	Contingency and support for schools in financial difficulty	100%	Maternity and other cover	90%	Suspended staff cover	90%	Trade Union facilities	100%	Free School Meals eligibility	90%	Behaviour Support Service	80%	Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners	80%	School Improvement	90%	School Library Service (PRIMARY ONLY)	100%	
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7.0	Any Other Business																			
	None.																			
8.0	Meeting Dates for 22-23 and Forward Plan																			
8.1	The next meeting will take place via MS Teams on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 1630-1830.																			



Report of the Director of Children and Families Services

Report to the Leeds Schools Forum

Subject: Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 – Budget Monitoring Month 10

Report authors: Lucie McAulay
Head of Finance –Children and Families

Contact number: 0113 3788766

Shirley Maidens
Senior Financial Business Partner

Contact number: 0113 3788532

1 Summary of main issues

- 1.1 This report is to inform members of Schools Forum of the latest 2022/23 budget monitoring position on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as at the end of January 2023.
- 1.2 This report projects an in year underspend of £2,351k. This is largely made up of underspends in the high needs block with minor variations in the other blocks. This underspend represents 0.48% of the net DSG funding received by Leeds City Council and 0.29% of the full DSG allocations before deductions for academies funding.
- 1.3 Schools Forum agreed to a transfer of £3.127m from the schools block to the high needs block in 2022/23.
- 1.4 Overall, the variation on general DSG is analysed as follows:

	Estimated Funding £000	Projected Expenditure £000	Variance £000
Schools Block	(323,757)	323,490	(267)
Early Years Block	(58,547)	58,349	(198)
High Needs Block	(104,032)	102,148	(1,884)
Central Schools Services Block	(5,138)	5,136	(2)
Total In Year Overspend	(491,474)	489,123	(2,351)
Deficit b/fwd from 2021/22			979
Projected surplus at 31/3/23			(1,372)

2 Schools Block

- 2.1 The majority of the Schools Block is allocated to primary and secondary schools (ISB), with smaller amounts for de-delegated services and the growth fund. These budgets are subject to fluctuations in expenditure throughout the year. The projected costs and variances are summarised below:

	Budget £000	Projection £000	Variance £000
DSG Income Due	(324,960)	(323,103)	1,857
Funding From Reserves	(229)	0	229
Individual Schools Budget	318,127	316,032	(2,095)
Growth Fund	1,910	1,652	(258)
	<u>(5,152)</u>	<u>(5,419)</u>	<u>(267)</u>
De-delegated budgets	5,152	5,196	44

(note: a bracketed figure is an underspend and a positive figure an overspend)

- 2.2 When a school becomes an academy, funding payments are made directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). For Leeds City Council this means that there is a reduction in grant income which is largely matched by reduced expenditure. There is no longer a benefit to local authorities on NNDR in respect of schools which have converted to academies during 2022/23.
- 2.3 As reported in the 2021/22 outturn report in June, it was expected that there would be a technical funding adjustment by the ESFA which was added to the funding available to schools in 2022/23. That adjustment was delayed and has now been received in 2022/23.
- 2.4 Overall, de-delegated services budgets are currently projected to be overspent by £44k. There is a projected overspend of £269k on maternity and suspended employees pay which is offset by a projected underspend of £249k on the contingency. There are minor variances on other budgets which total £20k.
- 2.5 Current projections on growth fund show an underspend of £258k compared to the budget set in January 2022.

3 Early Years Block

- 3.1 There is a high degree of uncertainty on the Early Years block for 2022/23, with projected costs and variances within the Early Years block are summarised below:

	Budget £000	Projection £000	Variance £000
DSG Income Due	(58,187)	(58,547)	(360)
FEEE 3 & 4 Year Olds	47,608	47,894	286
FEEE 2 Year Olds	7,450	7,104	(346)
SEN Inclusion Fund	487	868	381
Early Years Pupil Premium	618	611	(7)
Disability Access Fund	254	102	(152)
Early Years Centrally Retained	1,770	1,770	0
	0	(198)	(198)

(note: a bracketed figure is an underspend and a positive figure an overspend)

- 3.2 Early Years funding for 2021/22 was based on termly censuses. The final funding in relation to 2021/22 has now been confirmed and has resulted in an additional £60k in 2022/23.
- 3.3 For 2022/23, funding has reverted to being based on the January 2022 and January 2023 censuses. The January 2023 census has only recent been completed and information from this is not yet available. However the falling birth rates in Leeds suggests that this census is likely to be approximately 4.5% less for 3 and 4 year olds and 5% less for 2 year olds than the previous year. The impact of these falling numbers has been reflected in the table above.
- 3.4 The hourly rate received in 2022/23 increased by 8p per hour for 2 year olds and 6p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds. The full increase for 2 year olds was passed onto providers. However for 3 and 4 year olds, the base rate has been increased to £4.78 per hour from £4.46 per hour in 2021/22. This means that £5.20 per hour is being utilised even though the funding received by the council is only £5.12 per hour.
- 3.5 The unfunded hourly rate was increased as a result of the consistent underspend on the early years block in previous years. It was estimated that this approach would reduce the underspend on this block by approximately £800k. The above projected underspend is actually £1.2m less than the 2021/22 underspend. The main reason for the difference is an increase in the overspend on the SEN Inclusion Fund due to an increase in children eligible for this funding.
- 3.6 The overall projection is an underspend of £198k. However the impact of reducing numbers is still to be confirmed, so these projections may change.

4 High Needs Block

- 4.1 The projected costs and variances within the High Needs Block are summarised in the table below:

	Budget £000	Projection £000	Variance £000
DSG Income Due	(103,981)	(104,032)	(51)
Funding From Reserves	0	0	0
Funding Passported to Institutions			
- SILC and Resource Provision Places	13,738	13,906	168
- Out of Area and residential placements	13,360	13,829	469
- Alternative Provision (including AIP's)	5,056	5,056	0
- SEN Top-ups to Institutions	56,127	58,262	2,135
- Mainstream additional places (£6k blocks)	3,231	3,330	99
- Increase in Special School places	2,647	0	(2,647)
- Education provision for mental health beds	100	50	(50)
- Supplementary expenditure	947	0	(947)
Commissioned Services			
- Hospital & Home Tuition	2,441	2,442	1
- PD & Medical Service	97	97	0
Children's Services			
- Autism support (STARS)	507	379	(128)
- Children missing out on education	468	468	0
- Management of high needs services	234	234	0
- SEN adaptations	229	229	0
- SEN Inclusion Team	1,337	1,255	(82)
- Sensory Service	2,304	2,011	(293)
- Invest to Save budget	600	42	(558)
Other items			
- Prudential borrowing for SEMH provision	558	558	0
	0	(1,884)	(1,884)

(note: a bracketed figure is an underspend and a positive figure an overspend)

- 4.2 As detailed in the table above, there is a projected underspend of £1,884k on the High Needs Block. The budget and projection figures above are after the utilisation of the supplementary high needs funding reported to Schools Forum in July. These projections are also following the transfer of £3,127k from the schools block to the high needs block. If this had not been agreed, the high needs block would have been £1,243k overspent.
- 4.3 DSG income due is £51k more than budgeted following minor changes in the import / export element of the funding calculation.
- 4.4 Since 2016 SENSAP have seen the number of EHCPs increase by 118%. This rise has been seen nationally, with predictions of the rise in requests for EHC needs assessment ranging between 7% and 14%. In Leeds there are currently over 5,117 young people with EHC plans, and approximately a further 800 who request an assessment each year. This continued rise in requests and resulting plans is expected to continue with 6,757 plans projected by 2027. In 2022 alone

the rise in requests for EHC assessments was close to 30% from the preceding year.

- 4.5 DFE national data shows that at the present time the capacity of LA SEND teams across the country remains stretched, with case work high, and expected to rise, both in terms of requests for new assessments and re-assessment of need. This is due to the fact that many children are returning to school with even greater difficulties and gaps in learning or presenting with significant social, emotional and mental health needs requiring support.
- 4.6 National statistics indicate that around 50% of learners with an EHCP then move into specialist provision. At the present time we are working to develop specialist resourced bases in mainstream schools for specific areas of identified need alongside the creation of a new generic special school. In addition we have also increased the capacity in our existing SILCs across the city to meet this demand. It must also be noted that even though we have a planned programme of developing additional provision across the city there will still remain the need to commission out of authority places for those learners with highly complex and individual needs that require a bespoke package.
- 4.7 Out of area and residential placements is currently projected to be £469k overspent. However this may change as there has been a delay in processing invoices.
- 4.8 SEN top-ups to institutions is projected to be overspent by £2,135k. Within this, the largest increase is in top-ups paid to mainstream schools. This is largely due to more high needs pupils remaining in mainstream school due to a lack of suitable special school places available and an increase in need as described above. Added to this is the EHCP recovery plan will likely identify a further cohort of children that require top-up, 50% of which may result in a specialist place. The impact of this on 2022/23 will be minimal but will be a factor in 2023/24. There is also a significant increase in early years Funding for Inclusion. Funding for early years pupils in all settings has increased by 43% compared to 2021/22. This picture is consistent with the overspend reported on the SEN Inclusion Fund in the early years block.
- 4.9 Another impact of the increase in SEN top-ups to mainstream schools is that the budget for the additional £6k blocks paid to schools who have a higher number of SEN pupils than their notional SEN budget covers, is expected to be £99k overspent due to an increased number of SEN pupils within schools meeting the criteria for additional £6k blocks. Overall, this means that mainstream schools are projected to receive £5,357k more than in 2021/22.
- 4.10 There is expected to be a combined underspend in the services provided by Children and Families of £1,061k. This is a combination of vacant posts and delays in recruitment, especially on the newly created Invest to Save budget as the recruitment process was unsuccessful. However, a temporary appointment is in place to start this work.
- 4.11 At the start of the year, it was expected that there would be a need for extra specialist placements from September 2022. These costs are now shown within

the overspends above particularly mainstream, out of area recoupment and personal budgets.

4.12 As reported to Schools Forum in July, £947k of the 2022/23 high need supplementary funding has not been utilised.

5 Central School Services Block

5.1 This block provides funding for LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in state-funded maintained schools and academies in England. CSSB is split into funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing responsibilities.

5.2 The projected costs on this block are:

	Budget £000	Projection £000	Variance £000
DSG Income Due	(5,138)	(5,138)	0
Historic Commitments	588	588	0
Ongoing Responsibilities	4,334	4,332	(2)
Centrally Employed Teachers Pension funding	216	216	0
	0	(2)	(2)

(note: a bracketed figure is an underspend and a positive figure an overspend)

5.3 The minor underspend is due to savings in the Admissions Service as a result of vacancies and delayed recruitment.

6 2022/23 Reserves

6.1 The table below shows the expected position as at 31st March 2023 as a result of all the variances detailed above.

	General £000	De-delegated £000	Total £000
Balance b/fwd from 2021/22	979	(1,098)	(119)
2022/23 Variances			
- Schools Block	(267)	44	(223)
- Early Years Block	(198)		(198)
- High Needs Block	(1,884)		(1,884)
- Central Schools Services Block	(2)		(2)
Balance c/fwd to 2023/24	(1,372)	(1,054)	(2,426)

The projected surplus on general DSG represents 0.28% of the net DSG funding received by Leeds City Council and 0.17% of the full DSG allocations before deductions for academies funding.

- 6.2 The conditions of grant for the Dedicated Schools Grant requires that any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of 2021/22 financial year must be able to present a plan to the DfE for managing their future DSG spend. However as the DSG is currently projected to be in surplus, this is not currently required.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Schools Forum is requested to note the projected underspend on General DSG of £2,351k which will be added to the deficit on General DSG brought forward from 2021/22. This will make the current projected cumulative surplus of £1,372k with projected de-delegated surplus balances standing at £1,054k. The general DSG surplus of £1,372k represents 0.28% of the net DSG funding received by Leeds City Council and 0.17% of the full DSG allocations before deductions for academies funding.

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Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to the Leeds Schools Forum

Date: 23rd February 2023

Subject: High Needs Budget 2023-24

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Families

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Shirley Maidens
Senior Financial Business Partner

Summary of main issues

- 1 The budget for the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant is approved in February each year at the Full Council meeting. This report provides details of the 2023/24 High Needs budget submitted for approval to the Full Council meeting held on 22nd February 2023.
- 2 The High Needs budget for 2023/24 proposes £117.04m of funding and £117.04m of spend, resulting in a balanced budget for the year.

Recommendations

- 3 Schools Forum is asked to note the High Needs budget for 2023/24 and the proposals for continued monitoring and identification of options to improve this position moving forward.

1 Background information

- 1.1 The High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools grant provides funding for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes places and top-up funding in special schools, resourced provision in mainstream schools and alternative provision; top-up funding for early years, primary, secondary, post-16 and out of authority provision; central SEND support and hospital & home education.

- 1.2 In line with the national picture, Leeds has experienced an increase in SEN demand and complexity in recent years, with this trend expected to continue.
- 1.3 Leeds has historically been underfunded in comparison to some other local authorities, and although the National Funding Formula is moving towards funding local authorities based on need, the funding increases are currently capped during the transitional period. Between 2018/19 and 2022/23 this has resulted in Leeds receiving £24.61m less for High Needs than would have been due under the full National Funding Formula.

2 Main issues

- 2.1 In line with the national picture, Leeds has experienced an increase in SEND demand and complexity in recent years, with this trend expected to continue. In recognition of this trend, the national High Needs allocation has increased by approximately £970m or 10.6% for 2023/24.
- 2.2 The High Needs grant allocation for 2023/24 (before deductions) was issued by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 2022, though adjustments to this figure are expected up until July 2023. For Leeds the current allocation is an increase of £13.05m for 2023/24, this allocation includes a new £5.17m supplementary grant.
- 2.3 Supplementary funding announced for 2022/23 has been rolled into the base funding for 2023/24 and a further supplementary allocation of £5.17m supplementary grant was announced for 2023/24. The increased funding was announced with a requirement to increase the funding paid to special school and alternative provision mainstream schools, academies and free schools by 3.4% compared to 2022/23 funding. The exact amounts cannot be confirmed until the 2022/23 financial year is complete, but the estimated impact has been included in these budgets.
- 2.4 A further requirement within the high needs operational guide is a minimum funding guarantee to increase funding to special maintained schools, academies and free schools by 3% compared to 2021/22 funding baselines which covers all place and top up funding. As the place funding element is set by the ESFA and remains at £10,000 for 2023/24 and as a result only top up rates can be increase. Therefore in order to meet this requirement, it is proposed that the Funding for Inclusion unit rate for these settings be increased by £24 (from £708 to £732 per unit).
- 2.5 To support inclusion of Leeds' high needs pupils within mainstream, it is proposed that we increase the unit value for all other placements by £24. This is in line with Leeds' Everyone included: SEND and inclusion strategy and the SEND Green paper review.
- 2.6 In line with the national picture, Leeds has experienced an increase in SEND demand and complexity in recent years, with this trend expected to continue. Although funding has increased for Leeds, there is currently a cap on gains which means that the Leeds allocation for 2023/24 will be £1.86m less than the full National Funding Formula. Leeds has historically been underfunded in comparison to some other local authorities, and although the National Funding Formula is moving towards funding local authorities based on need, the funding increases are currently capped during the transitional period.

Between 2018/19 and 2023/24 this has resulted in Leeds receiving £24.61m less for High Needs than would have been due under the full National Funding Formula.

- 2.7 The anticipated increase in special school places and pupils eligible for additional top-up funding means that there is expected to be on going funding pressures for the High Needs Block and there is a risk that costs exceed the budgeted assumptions as a result of the increasing demand.
- 2.8 The EHCP recovery plan will likely identify a further cohort of children that require top-up, 50% of which may result in a specialist place. This will create an extra pressure on the high needs block.
- 2.9 A key issue is that local authorities have a statutory duty to meet the special educational needs of children which are identified through an education, health and care plan (EHCP), and these needs are increasing in the city. Leeds operates a funding system (Funding for Inclusion, FFI) which provides additional funding for high level needs without the need for a statutory EHCP. This reduces the numbers and costs of undertaking and maintaining EHCPs compared to statistical neighbours and supports inclusion within mainstream schools. Leeds still has statistically lower numbers of EHCPs than comparators, however the city has seen increases in the numbers and complexity of needs of pupils in line with the national picture.
- 2.10 Budgets which are passported to institutions have increased by £12.41m. This is in line with increased demand in the settings concerned.
- 2.11 The budget for commissioned services has increased by £0.16m. This increase is in line with the additional funding received in respect of hospital and home tuition.
- 2.12 Services directly managed by Children and Families have increased budgets of £0.48m. The majority of this increase is the £400k increase in the Invest to Save budget. The remainder is largely as a result of unavoidable inflation increases.
- 2.13 In November 2022, Schools Forum has agreed to transfer £3.338m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, following consultation with schools.
- 2.14 In addition, the 2023/24 High Needs budget assumes an Invest to Save budget of £1m. There were delays in recruitment for the SEND Early Help Lead which has now gone out to national advert. The successful service leader will then recruit to the team to support the implementation of the Everyone's included: SEND and Inclusion strategy which is a core strategy for the city and will underpin the forthcoming Area SEND inspection. This key role and the newly created team will support schools and settings in Early support through SEND practice framework delivery and graduated approach as detailed in the SEND code of practice. This approach has been highly praised and seen as good practice by the DfE.
- 2.15 A budget has been set within the funding available, however there is a risk that demand will rise further. During 2022, the ESFA issued guidance on assumptions to be made on grant increases in future years. The position on the High Needs Block will therefore be closely monitored.

2.16 The proposed budget for 2023/24 taking into account the known and estimated changes compared to the 2022/23 original budget is as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
High Needs Block DSG Income			
High Needs Block baseline	109,725	122,294	12,569
Places funded directly by the ESFA	(13,018)	(13,763)	(745)
Transferred from Schools Block	3,127	3,338	211
Supplementary Funding	4,147	5,166	1,019
Total High Needs Grant	103,981	117,035	13,054
High Needs Block Expenditure			
Funding Passported To Institutions			
- SILC and Resource Provision Places	13,738	14,610	872
- Out of area and residential placements	11,860	14,821	2,961
- Alternative provision (including AIP's)	5,056	5,228	172
- SEN top ups to Institutions	54,427	67,631	13,204
- Mainstream additional places (£6k blocks)	3,231	3,962	731
- Increase in special school places	2,647	1,263	(1,384)
- Education provision for mental health beds	100	100	0
Supplementary expenditure	4,147		(4,147)
Commissioned Services			
- Hospital & Home Tuition	2,441	2,603	162
- PD & Medical Service	97	98	1
Directly Managed By Children & Families			
- Autism support (STARS)	507	482	(25)
- Children missing out on education	468	482	14
- Management of high needs services	234	234	0
- SEN adaptations	229	229	0
- SEN Inclusion Team	1,337	1,470	133
- Sensory Service	2,304	2,264	(40)
- Invest to Save budget	600	1,000	400
Other Items			
- Prudential borrowing for SEMH provision	558	558	0
Total High Needs Expenditure	103,981	117,035	13,054

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the High Needs budget for 2023/24 and the proposals for continued monitoring and identification of options to improve this position moving forward.

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Report of: Lead Officer for Admissions and Family Information Service (FIS)

Report to Schools Forum February 2023

Subject: 2023/24 DSG Early Years Block

Summary of main issues

1. Local authorities will continue to receive funding via the DSG Early Years Block in the financial year 2023/24 to fund the Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds.
2. The rate of funding Leeds City Council receives from the Department for Education is increasing for the 2023/24 financial year by £0.30 for 2-year-olds per eligible hour and £0.16 for 3&4-year-olds per eligible hour (£0.11 former TPPG* + £0.05 general uplift to base rate). **Following the DfE's funding formulae consultation, the decision has been taken by the DfE to 'mainstream the funding previously distributed through the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPPG)'. More details of this can be found later in this document.*
3. The local authority is consulting with providers and Schools Forum on the proposed rates for 2023/24. The formula for allocating the DSG Early Years Block will be determined by the Local Authority following the conclusion of the consultation with providers and School Forum.
4. Schools Forum is required to agree the proposed allocation of the **centrally retained** element of the 3 & 4-year-old DSG Early Years Block funding stream (see 4.5 of the Main Issues section of this report).

Background information

1. The Dedicated Schools Grant includes an Early Years Block made up of the funded early education entitlement for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds. This funding is paid out to childcare providers (PVI nurseries, childminders and schools) where they deliver FEEE places.
2. A consultation on the proposed local funding formula commenced for providers on 13th January 2023. The consultation was sent to all registered childcare providers in Leeds setting out proposals for the FEEE rates that would come into force from April 2023. The consultation closed on 10th February 2023. The responses are reviewed and considered prior to determination of the funding arrangements, which is a decision taken by the Director of Children and Families.
3. This paper sets out the proposals for the Early Years Block of DSG, and Forum feedback is requested to inform final determination. It is a requirement that Schools Forum is consulted on changes to local early years funding formulae by 28th February, and all responses will be considered by the Local Authority.
4. The Early Years (EY) DSG allocation for Leeds is calculated by the DfE under the EY National Funding Formula. In 2023/24 Leeds will receive an £0.30 increase on per pupil

funding allocation for 2YOs. In total, the increase on per pupil funding allocation for 3 & 4-year-old FEEE compared to the 2022/23 is £0.16. This includes a £0.05 general uplift in addition to rolling in the £0.11 early years element of the former teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution (TPPG). The former TPPG has historically only been paid to mainstream schools by the DfE scheme of grant and not to private settings.

5. Providers indicated in their feedback that they would prefer the most amount possible to be paid via the base rate, as this is used as their assured minimum funding and has the greatest influence on their business planning. The recommended rates reflect this.

Main Issues

1. Method of allocation

- 1.1 The annual DSG Early Years Block allocation is based on the early years' census taken in January each year. The number of hours claimed that week in January is multiplied 38 weeks, and then by the rate set by the DfE, which for Leeds in 2023/24 will be £5.87 per hour for 2-year-olds and £5.28 per hour for 3&4-year-olds.
- 1.2 Funding is allocated using a lagged model – January 2023 census generates the allocation for Autumn 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer 2023, with January 2024 generating the allocation for Spring 2024.
- 1.3 3 & 4-year-old funding is not claimed equally across the year by providers, despite the funding methodology calculating income on this basis. The number of hours claimed in autumn is the lowest in any year, increasing until the highest claims are seen in the summer term. The autumn term is often the longest term which leads to a surplus in funding when the lagged effect is adjusted for in the June/July the following year.
- 1.4 The expected DSG income for 2023/24 is projected based on previous allocations and census returns, patterns of take-up and population projections and is subject to change.
- 1.5 Providers will continue to receive monthly payments from the LA. During 2020/21, schools transitioned over to use the provider portal (Synergy) for claiming FEEE funding. As with all other providers, where schools choose to input estimates into the provider portal in advance of the term, they will receive monthly payments. Where they only provide data at the headcount point, they receive the single termly payment at the end of the term.
- 1.6 All settings are invited to provide an **estimate** of the number of funded hours they expect to provide over the following term. This generates a monthly payment throughout the term of the 'base rate' hourly funding.
- 1.7 Providers are required to confirm child level data which includes all relevant eligibility information at three fixed points in the year (once per term). This '**headcount**' data generates the balancing payment in the final month of the term to ensure the settings have been funded for the number of children attending and the number of hours eligible for funding for that term.

1.8 The supplement payments (SENDIF and Deprivation Uplift) are paid in one payment to providers at the end of the term based on the child level data returned on 'headcount'.

1.9 Disability Access Fund (DAF) payments are made to providers based on headcount claims where providers identify that a child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The DAF allocation for 2023/24 will be £828 per eligible child per year (Up from £800 in 2022/23). The payment is made in the first term that the child is recorded as being in receipt of DLA and covers 3 terms, regardless of the number of hours the child claims.

1.10 All providers will receive the same funding rates, as identified by the formulae set out in this paper.

2. Funding for two-year-olds

2.1 The 2-year-old FEEE funding rate paid to Leeds City Council (the LA) by the DfE has increased from £5.57 to £5.87 for each eligible hour of entitlement.

2.2 In line with the decision in previous years to pass through the full 2-year-olds FEEE funding to providers, the funding rate paid to providers for 2023/24 is proposed to increase to £5.87 per hour up to a maximum of £3,245.90 per child per annum for 15 hours x 38 weeks of early education.

2.3 Although providers continue to share their concerns that the DfE is under-funding the early years entitlement, responses from childcare providers have been in favour of the proposed increase to their 2-year-old FEEE rate.

3. Funding for three and four-year-olds

3.1 The 3 and 4-year-olds FEEE funding rate paid to Leeds City Council by the DfE has increased from £5.12 per eligible hour to £5.28 (including the £0.11 rolled in former TPPG).

3.2 Leeds has been able to increase the funding allocated to providers through the base rate year on year, by reflecting on our local formula including the amounts claimed in previous years and the amount of centrally retained funding for contingency.

3.3 It was proposed in the consultation that the base rate be increased by £0.14 from £4.78 in 2022/23 to £4.92 in 2023/24.

3.4 The table below provides the calculations and rationale for arriving at the rate of £4.92:

<i>3&4s</i>	<i>Total DfE Hourly allocation to LA</i>	<i>Centrally Retained</i>	<i>Deprivation Supplement</i>	<i>SEN Inclusion Fund (SENDIF)</i>	<i>£0.08 Uplift</i>	<i>Base Funding</i>
<i>22/23</i>	<i>£5.12</i>	<i>£0.18</i>	<i>£0.19</i>	<i>£0.05</i>	<i>£0.08</i>	<i>£4.78</i>
<i>23/24 (proposed)</i>	<i>£5.28</i>	<i>£0.20</i>	<i>£0.19</i>	<i>£0.05</i>	<i>£0.08</i>	<i>£4.92</i>

- 3.5 **Centrally retained** - For the past three years, the local authority has sought to maintain centrally retained services by absorbing increases, such as pay awards, without increasing the costs to the Early Years Block. As a result of unavoidable inflationary increases, for 2023/24 the proposal is to increase the amount centrally retained by £0.02, an increase from £0.18 to £0.20. Further information can be found in point 4 of this paper.
- 3.6 **Deprivation supplement** - Listening to the views of providers, it is proposed that the status quo of £0.19 is maintained for 2023/24.
- 3.7 **SENDIF** - No changes are proposed to the £0.05 per hour per child supplement for the SEND Inclusion Fund (SENDIF). Providers access the SENDIF by applying to the funding for inclusion team, as per the current arrangements, and are paid termly – a maximum of £1,800 per year for a child attending 15 hours and £3,600 for a child attending 30 hours.
- 3.8 **£0.08 Uplift** - Following the review of expenditure on the Early Years Block in previous years, in 2022/23 the local authority included an additional £0.08 in the base rate to all providers, to maximise the Early Years Block funding paid out and to minimise the potential for any overall grant surplus at year end. It is proposed that this £0.08 uplift is maintained for 2023/24.

3.9 **Former Teachers' Pay and Pensions Grant (TPPG)**

- 3.9.1 The DfE's total hourly allocation increase to the local authority of £0.16 includes a £0.05 general uplift in addition to rolling in the £0.11 early years element of the former teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution (TPPG). The former TPPG has historically only been paid to mainstream schools by the DfE scheme of grant and not to private settings.
- 3.9.2 Between 4 July 2022 and 16 September 2022, the DfE held a consultation on reforms to the early years funding formulae. As part of the consultation, they proposed "to mainstream the early years element of the funding currently distributed through the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPPGs) by rolling it into the overall quantum of the 3 and 4-year-old entitlements funding, for consistency with other formulae and simplicity".
- 3.9.3 The DfE advised that "local authorities may choose different approaches to implementing the change locally depending on their provider make-up and local circumstances".
- 3.9.4 The consultation proposed that we encompass the former TPPG through the base rate and distributing to all providers. This considered the cost and sustainability pressures in the early years sector. The £0.05 general uplift is only a slight rise of 1% to support settings with their increased costs. Incorporating the £0.11 former TPPG enables the local authority to pass through the maximum amount via the base rate across the sector. Whilst acknowledged that mainstream schools will see a slight decrease in funding, it is felt that this is the fairest distribution of the overall grant in supporting the sector.

3.9.5 Respondents to the consultation agreed with the recommendation to encompass the former TPPG through the base rate, with the exception of one.

- 3.10 Although providers are not able to charge a top up (the difference between their daily rate and the amount of funding they receive from the DfE) many settings do charge for extras that they offer over and above the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) requirements to ensure the sustainability of provision.
- 3.11 Providers continue to report that the base rate is the most important element of the funding and that this influences their business models, budgeting, planning, and charging policies as this is the amount they can rely on each term as it is not affected by individual children's eligibility in the way that EYPP, Deprivation Uplift, SENDIF and DAF are.
- 3.12 In response to this feedback, and in recognition of the ongoing expectation of surplus income, it is recommended that the formula also continues to commit the £0.08 uplift agreed in 2022 into the base rate.
- 3.13 The view of the majority of respondents to the consultation is summed up in one response "the level of the increased DfE funding does not feel linked to the increases in costs faced by schools and other providers in terms of staff and other operational costs".

4. 3&4 YO Centrally retained funding

- 4.1 The Local Authority is permitted to retain centrally up to 5% of the £5.28 (£0.26 per pupil per hour) allocation for 3 and 4-year-olds, to support the provision of central services or services in-kind.
- 4.2 In Leeds we have not sought to retain the maximum funding and for over three years we have managed to maintain central services without increasing the contribution from the Early Years Block. As a result of unavoidable inflationary increases, for 2023/24 the proposal is to increase the amount centrally retained by £0.02, an increase from £0.18 to £0.20.
- 4.3 The increase will see the percentage centrally retained rise from 3.5% to just below 3.8%.
- 4.4 The final Early Years Block funding remains unconfirmed until after the end of the relevant financial year. Despite this, LA's do not adjust the centrally retained budget. This means that where there are fluctuations in the number of children on the January census, there is some risk of the centrally retained element being either under or overstated.

4.5 Proposed commitments for the centrally retained element of the Early Years block:

		22/23 central retention £0.18	23/24 central retention £0.20
1	Special Educational Needs Inclusion Team (SENIT)	£460,000	£478,000
2	Commissioned Service - Portage	£140,000	£140,000
3	Sensory Services	£160,000	£166,000
4	Education Psychology	£70,000	£73,000
5	Early Years Funding for Inclusion team. 3&4 YO Assessments.	£30,000	£31,000
6	Family Information Service	£110,000	£114,000
7	Family Services	£500,000	£520,000
8	Sufficiency	£40,000	£42,000
9	Commissioned Services - Northpoint Wellbeing (Leeds Counselling)	£60,000	£60,000
10	Learning Improvement	£200,000	£208,000
	Total	£1,770,000	£1,832,000

- 4.6 **SENIT £478k** EY SENIT comprises Early Years Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (EY SENCoS (special educational needs coordinators)) and the EY inclusion workers. This is a city level offer to all educational settings (school nurseries, children' centres, PVI's (Private, Voluntary, and Independent), childminders) for 3 and 4-years olds to support children with special educational needs. SENCoS offer high support and challenge to EY settings to develop their capacity in promoting equality and inclusion, the early identification of need, assessment, securing appropriate provision and improving outcomes. Inclusion Officers play a crucial role in supporting the planning of children transitioning from their EY setting to school. This is a contribution towards the overall cost of this service.
- 4.7 **Portage £140k** This is a contribution towards the commissioned service for parents and families of children with identified SEN (Special Educational Needs) delivering home visits, information, and support. This service is currently commissioned to Barnardo's by the Early Help service.
- 4.8 **Sensory Services £166k** The Sensory Services support settings and families to meet the additional educational and developmental needs of children with visual and/or hearing impairment. This is a contribution towards the overall cost of the service. The support offered depends on the needs of the child and family, it could include support by a teacher of the deaf/visually impaired to advise the family around educational support for the child, or staff in a setting. A city-wide training offer is also in place.
- 4.9 **Education Psychology £73k** Supporting Educational Psychology consultations and input to EHC (Education, Health, and Care) assessments for Early Years children. The team offer a city-wide consultation service to support early intervention for children with

complex needs. This is a contribution towards the cost of the EP (Education Psychology) support offered.

- 4.10 **Early Support & Inclusion £31k** This is a contribution towards the Early Years Funding for Inclusion Team who manage the EY FFI and SENDIF processes.
- 4.11 **Family Information Service £114k** This contributes to the costs of eligibility checks, advice and support to all childcare providers and their families, promotion of the 2, 3 & 4-year-olds offer and audit checks by the Family Information Service for all providers.
- 4.12 **Family Services £520k** Contribution towards the costs of family outreach workers who promote the take up of FEEE for all settings, improving readiness for learning at 4 & 5 years old. Family Outreach Workers also work intensively with targeted families. Additionally, there is a city-wide play and stay offer for 3&4-year-olds where families bring children to play learn and communicate together and develop skills for school readiness.
- 4.13 **Sufficiency £42k** A contribution towards the cost of the Sufficiency and Participation team, who are responsible for ensuring the sufficiency of Early Years places on a citywide level, including 3 & 4-year-old provision. The work involves supporting providers, monitoring places, and forecasting future demand, tracking take up of FEEE and assessing the sufficiency of places across a range of provision, which is accessible for families. Advice and support are available to school nurseries and other providers on improving their FEEE offer to ensure it meets the needs of their local families. Some limited business advice is also available to improve take up and in turn income, ensuring a more sustainable business model can be achieved.
- 4.14 **Northpoint Wellbeing Counselling £60k** A contribution towards the cost of a citywide parents' counselling service. The service delivers an individual counselling service to parents and carers of children aged 0-5 years which is an early intervention responsive service preventing unnecessary escalation to more targeted services. The contract has been in place since 1/7/2014 and is managed by the Early Help Service.
- 4.15 **Learning Improvement £208k** A contribution towards the cost of the Early Years Learning Improvement Team and the support they offer to settings in relation to improving outcomes for children. This work includes delivering training, running networks, and working directly in settings with children and offering generic leadership support across all types of settings. The team provide post-Ofsted support to Requires Improvement and Inadequate settings and childminders.
- 4.16 No comments were received from providers relating to the centrally retained funding.
- 4.17 Providers continue to share their concerns that the increase offered by the DfE is insufficient to meet the increasing costs of delivering a quality early learning provision, in light of increased energy bills, national minimum living wage increases, food costs and other expenses.

4.18 **Supplements**

4.19 There are some discretionary supplements permitted within the funding guidance, however, in Leeds we have only previously used the mandatory supplements in order to ensure that all providers receive as much funding through the base rate as possible.

4.20 **Deprivation**

4.21 There is a mandatory requirement for a supplement over the base rate for deprivation. Under the proposal the allocation from the £5.28 per hour per child to the deprivation budget is £0.19 and no change from 2022/23.

4.22 The supplement retained for deprivation is paid out to providers where they have children attending who are claiming FEEE and live in an identified area of deprivation. Deprivation uplift payments are paid termly in the balancing payment for the term as child level information is needed to be able to determine how much deprivation uplift is to be allocated.

4.23 We have heard from providers that although the deprivation uplift is welcomed, the majority of settings focus on the base rate paid, rather than the base rate + deprivation uplift, due to the mix of different children attracting different amounts of funding.

4.24 In order to pass through the maximum possible amount via the base rate, it was proposed for 2022/23 that the deduction from the DfE rate deprivation element be reduced from a deduction on the DfE rate per child of £0.26 to £0.19. This reduced the amount available to be paid out to providers as deprivation uplift.

4.25 Listening to the views of providers, it is proposed that the status quo of £0.19 is maintained for 2023/24.

4.26 Deprivation uplift has been historically paid as an hourly supplement with those in the most deprived postcodes (IDACI A) receiving the highest uplift per hour, with a sliding reduction in uplift down to IDACI F, with IDACI bands G and H receiving no uplift payment.

4.27 **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Inclusion Fund (SENDIF)**

4.28 No changes are proposed to the £0.05 per hour per child supplement for the SEND Inclusion Fund (SENDIF). Providers access the SENDIF by applying to the funding for inclusion team, as per the current arrangements, and are paid termly – a maximum of £1,800 per year for a child attending 15 hours and £3,600 for a child attending 30 hours.

4.29 None of the providers responding to the consultation made reference to this element of the funding.

4.30 **Other**

4.31 **The Disability Access Fund** is a fixed amount allocated by the DfE which is paid in accordance with national regulations to those children in receipt of Disability Living

Allowance. The amount allocated by the DfE has increased from £800 per annum to £828 per annum. This is funded by the DfE based on DWP data and providers claim this funding when a parent identifies and can evidence that they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for their child.

4.32 **Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)** is paid to all providers where the child is eligible for pupil premium as outlined by the DfE. The rate paid is determined by the DfE and in 2023/24 will be £0.62 per hour (increased from £0.60 in 2022/23).

Recommendations

Members of Schools Forum are asked to:

1. Comment on the funding proposals for the Early Years Funding formula.
2. Approve items 1 to 10 of the centrally retained funding identified in 4.5 within the Main Issues section of this paper.
3. Note that the Director of Children and Families will determine the Early Years Block Funding Formula and the rates to be paid to providers in 2023/24 by 24 March 2023.

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Schools Forum forward plan 2023/24

Schools Forum date	Driver for date	Agenda items	Purpose	Responsible officer	Comments
Thursday 22/06/2023	No external requirements	School balances 2022/23 outturn	Information	Lucie McAulay/Liz Jackson	
		DSG 2022/23 outturn	Information	Lucie McAulay/Shirley Maidens	
Thursday 05/10/2023	Get views from SF before consultation	DSG budget monitoring 2023/24	Information	Lucie McAulay/Shirley Maidens	
		School funding update 2024/25, including consultation plans	Information	Lucie McAulay	
		DSG Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29	Information	Lucie McAulay	
Thursday 16/11/2023	Assume consultation the week before and after half term then need time to clear reports before SF. Disapplication deadline usually 20th November, SF	School funding formula arrangements 2024/25, including any transfers of funding between the DSG blocks	Decision and consultation	Liz Jackson	
Tuesday 16/01/2024	APT deadline usually 21st Jan, SF needs to be before this. Final funding figures received from ESFA at end of Dec. Need as much time as possible at start of Jan to do modelling before SF meeting.	Final school funding arrangements 2024/25	Information	Lucie McAulay	
		De-delegation 2024/25 decision	Decision	Liz Jackson	
Thursday 22/02/2024	Approval of EY funding by SF before end of Feb. Can't hold SF meeting during half term.	Free Early Education Entitlement rates and centrally retained funding 2024/25	Decision and consultation	Chris Sutton	
		High Needs Budget 2024/25	Information	Lucie McAulay / Shirely Maidens	
		DSG budget monitoring 2023/24	Information	Lucie McAulay/Shirley Maidens	

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