

Schools Forum

Date: Thursday 14 January 2021
Time: 1.00 pm
Venue: Online

Membership

Items on the agenda: -

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** 3 - 4
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7. **DSG Monitoring Report 2020-21** 33 - 40
8. **Assistant Directors Update** Verbal Report
9. **Forward Plan** 41 - 42
10. **Chair's Business** Verbal Report
11. **Date of Next Meeting**
Thursday 18th March 2021, 2:00pm to 4:00 pm
Virtual Teams via Microsoft Teams

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web

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Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

CommitteeName

MeetingDate

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

StrictMembersPresentRolesRows

Officers

OfficerInAttendanceTitleRows

Others Present

GuestInattendanceRepresentingRows

The meeting rose at xxx

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Chair

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WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**Voting and actions of the meeting held on 3rd December 2020****Microsoft Teams meeting 14:00 – 17:00****SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS**

Alison Davies	The Avon Valley School (Maintained)
Amy Woodward	North Leamington School (Academy)
Angela Fox	Welcombe Hills School (Special Schools representative)
Faye Padfield	Abbots Farm Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Fergus Durrant	Campion School (Academy Governor)
Jane Burrows	Myton School (Academy)
Joss Andrews	Abbots Farm Junior School (Maintained)
Kevin Griffiths	Coten End Primary School (Maintained Governor)
Larry Granelly	Wellesbourne and Tysoe Federation (Maintained Governor)
Martin Davies	Telford Junior School (Maintained Governor)
Mary Anne Burrows	PVI Representative
Matthew Bown	St. Paul's Church of England Primary School (Maintained)
Nicci Burton (Vice Chair)	Atherstone and Bedworth Heath Nursery Schools (Maintained)
Nick Evans	Evergreen School (Special Schools Representative)
Philip Johnson (Chair)	Whitestone Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Rebecca Harrison	Park Hill Thorns Federation (Maintained)
Sarah Bromley	PVI Representative
Seán Taylor	Representative from a Teacher's Union
Sybil Hanson	Coventry Church of England Diocese Representative

OFFICERS/OBSERVERS

Councillor Colin Hayfield	Portfolio Holder – Education & Learning
Andrew Felton	Assistant Director - Finance
Ian Budd	Assistant Director - Education Services
Purnima Sherwood	Service Manager for Finance
Neill Butler	School Funding & Strategy Manager (Clerk to Forum)
Bern Timings	Education Capital, Sufficiency and Admissions Lead Commissioner
Duane Chappell	Strategy & Commissioning Manager (SEND and Inclusion)
Brian Smith	Finance Portfolio Lead - Technical Specialist, Education, Children & Families

1. APOLOGIES

Neill Butler:

- introduced himself and welcomed the new School Forum members
- provided the Teams Meeting etiquette
- asked everyone to introduce themselves when they speak

Apologies were received from the following members:

Anthony Dix	Paddox Primary School (Maintained Governor)
Clive Sentence	Alcester Grammar School (Academy)
Michael Morran	Rugby High School (Academy Governor)
Rose Gunn	Arden Forest Infant School (Maintained)

The following members did not attend and did not give their apologies:

Adam Hardy	Catholic Church Archdiocese
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MATTERS FOR DECISION:

2. Minutes of the last meeting (Started 3:33, Ended 5:18)

Agree as a true record.

It was also agreed that future minutes would have actions and voting outcomes for each agenda item together with the start time and end time of each agenda item. This will mean detailed notes of future meeting will not be taken. A link to the public broadcast will be included on the minutes.

3. 2021-22 Pupil Growth Fund (Bern Timings) (Started 5:18, Ended 11:05)

Action: Bern to bring back to schools forum an update on spending against the fund and projected balances. (Date to be confirmed).

Action: Neill to bring a paper to schools forum in January 2021 to discuss time driven events that need decision from schools forum and the timing of meeting. This will now be brought to schools forum in March 2021.

Voting: No objections to the recommendations so confirmed as approved.

4. 2021-22 De-delegation (Neill Butler) (Started 11:05, Ended 23:20)

Voting:

The secondary school representatives agreed to the de-delegation of all three services.

Primary schools voted as follows:

Free Schools Meals – All seven representative eligible to vote were in favour.

English as an Additional Language – 4 in favour and 3 against

Trade Union Facility Time – all 7 in favour

School Improvement – 5 in favour and 2 against

Gypsy and Romany Travelers – 6 in favour and 1 against

Behaviour Support – 6 in favour and 1 against

Employee Medical Referrals – all 7 in favour

5. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme Update (Duane Chappell) (Started 23:20, Ended 50:00)

Action: Duane to include analysis of the number of children attending early years settings in future update reports.

6. Central Schools Services Funding Overview (Neill Butler) (Started 50:00, Ended 51:10)

No actions.

7. Assistant Directors Update (Ian Budd) (Started 51:10, Ended 1:00:40)

No actions.

8. Forward Plan (Neill Butler) (Started 1:00:40, Ended 1:01:09)

There were no actions from this agenda item.

9. Chair's Business (Started 1:01:09, Ended 1:06:53)

Pears Centre – a verbal report was presented by Duane Chappell regarding the funding of the development of this fund from within Local Authority Funding. This has no impact on the any of the 4 DSG blocks but is being brought to schools forum for information and to get a consensus that they support this development.

Vote: Schools forum were in consensus to this recommendation.

If you would like to listen to the full meeting please click [here](#)

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Item 3

Schools Forum

14 January 2021

Early Years National Funding Formula 2021/22

This report relates to all early years providers and is for decision by all school and PVI members of Schools Forum

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is asked to approve the universal base rate of £4.15 for 2021/22 as recommended in paragraph 3.3 and table 1.

1. Introduction

1.1. The ESFA announced in December 2020 early years allocations for 2021-22. These allocations cover the following areas:

- 2 year olds
- 3 and 4 year olds
- Early Years Per Pupil Premium
- Disability Access Fund
- Supplementary Funding for Maintained Nursery Schools

1.2. The Early Years Working Group met on Wednesday 6 January 2021 to discuss the allocation of funding for 3 and 4 year olds and to make a recommendation to schools forum.

2. Allocations for 2 year olds

- 2.1. The hourly allocation for 2 year olds has increased by 8p per hour from £5.37 per hour in 2020-21 to £5.45 per hour in 2021-22. This represents a 1.49% increase above the 2020-21 funding allocation.
- 2.2. Funding rules requires the whole of this funding is passported to all early years providers offering places for 2 year olds.

3. Allocations for 3 and 4 year olds

- 3.1. The hourly allocation for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by 6p per hour from £4.36 per hour in 2020-21 to £4.44 per hour in 2021-22. This represents a 1.37% increase above the 2020-21 funding allocation.
- 3.2. As schools forum are aware up to 5% of the allocation for 3 and 4 year olds can be retained by the Local Authority to fund central services which support all early years providers. For 2021-22 the Local Authority has decided that the whole 6p of funding will be passported to early years providers.
- 3.3. The main issue for the Early Years Working Group is how the remaining funding is allocated to providers through the universal rate and mandatory deprivation rate. The deprivation rate currently mirrors the Early Years Per Pupil Premium which is 53p per hour in 2020-21. The ESFA have announced that this rate will be the same in 2021-22. Therefore the Early Years Working Group would recommend that schools forum approve the additional 6p is allocated against the universal rate in 2021-22.

Table 1 – 3 and 4 year olds allocations 2020-21 and 2021-22

Factor	2020/21 Allocation Per Hour £	2021/22 Allocation Per Hour £
Total for 3 and 4 Year Olds	4.38	4.44
Universal rate allocated to all providers	4.09	4.15
Deprivation Supplement *	0.07	0.07
Central Provided Services (5%)	0.22	0.22

*Note: it is estimated that 13% of children are eligible for the deprivation supplement so when apportioning the 53p per hour it equates to 7p per hour (53p * 13%)

4. Early Years Per Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund

- 4.1. As already outlined in this report the Early Years Per Pupil Premium rate of 53 p per hour will be the same in 2021-22 as it was in 2020-21.
- 4.2. Additionally the Disability Access Fund will also be the same in 2021-22 as it was in 2020-21. Providers will continue to receive up to £615 per year for each eligible child.

5. Supplementary Funding for Maintained Nursery School (MNS)

- 5.1. Local authorities with MNS will continue to receive supplementary funding for the 2021 to 2022 financial year.
- 5.2. For 2021 to 2022, part of the supplementary funding allocations are published as indicative, and part as conditional.
- 5.3. The allocations for April 2021 to August 2021 are indicative and will be updated, on the same basis as the universal entitlements, once January 2021 census data is published.
- 5.4. However, the MNS supplementary funding allocations for September 2021 to March 2022 are conditional: they may be subject to change and local authorities should therefore treat them as unconfirmed.
- 5.5. The ESFA have indicated that they will provide a further update on the MNS Supplementary Funding later in the spring. This will then be shared with schools forum once available.

6. Early Years Block Reserve

- 6.1. There is currently a surplus of £1.848 million in a ring-fenced early years block reserve and this was reported to schools forum on 4 June 2020 within the DSG outturn report for 2019-20.
- 6.2. The report recommended that the reserve would be held against the increase in the Early Years Universal rate that was unanimously approved at schools forum in January 2020.

- 6.3. Due to continued uncertainty around future funding for all early years providers this reserve will continue to be held against maintaining the increase in universal rates in 2021-22.
- 6.4. Any future allocation of the Early Years Block Reserve will be allocated to all providers on the same basis. The reserve will not be used, for example, to support any potential loss in supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools as outlined in section 5.

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Item 4

Schools Forum

14 January 2021

Schools National Funding Formula 2021-22

This report relates to both academy and maintained mainstream schools and is for decision by all school and PVI members of Schools Forum.

Recommendations

1. Schools Forum agree a consensus on its advice to Cabinet regarding the continuation of moving to the 'hard' National Funding Formula in 2021-22.
2. Schools Forum agree a consensus on its advice to cabinet to support the extension of sparsity funding to all our small schools.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. Inform Schools Forum of the Schools Block DSG Allocation for 2021-22 and how it will be allocated to schools using the 'hard' National Funding Formula (NFF).
- 1.2. The report also considers the funding impact of the options agreed by schools forum at its meeting on 18 November 2020.

2. National Funding Formula 2021-22

- 2.1. The schools block DSG allocation for 2021-22 is £381.6 million and is an increase of £31.9 million (9.12%) from the 2020/21 allocation and is due to several reasons.

- 2.2. Firstly, total Number on Roll for 2021-22 has increased by 576 pupils (0.75%) above 2020-21 pupil numbers. Table 1 shows the Number on Roll changes by phase.

	Total
Primary	26
Secondary	475
All-through	75
Total	576

Table 1: Distribution of increased NOR 2021-22

- 2.3. Secondly, Minimum pupil funding for Primary Schools has increased to £4,000 in 2021-22 from £3,750 in 2020-21. Minimum pupil funding for secondary schools is to remain at £5,000.
- 2.4. Thirdly, all funding formula factors were increased by at least 2.2% above 2020-21 funding levels and the Minimum Funding Guarantee has been set at +2.00%.
- 2.5. Lastly, and most significantly, funding for teachers pay increases for September 2018 and 2019 along with Employers Teachers Pension Increases from September 2019 are now included within the NFF from 1 April 2021. Previously these had been paid to schools as direct grant and these payments will now end in 2020-21. In order to fund these additional burdens on schools the minimum pupil funding in 2021-22 has been increased to £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools.
- 2.6. The DSG allocation for 2021-22 has allowed the Local Authority to continue to apply the 'hard' NFF in 2021-22 as follows:
- Set the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) rate in line with the 'hard' NFF.
 - Use all Deprivation rates (Free Schools Meals and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) in line with the 'hard' NFF.
 - Allocate funding for English as an additional language for the maximum 3 eligible years in line with the 'hard' NFF.
 - Prior attainment set at 100% in line with the 'hard' NFF.
 - All schools are allocated a lump sum of £117,800, in line with the 'hard' NFF. an increase of £3,400 (3%) above 2020-21 funding.
 - Split sites allocated £38,500 per site and this is a local factor.
 - Business Rates are fully funded and this is mandatory.
 - Funding to meet minimum per pupil funding (£4,180 for primary school pupils and £5,415 for secondary school pupils) in line with the 'hard' NFF.
 - Set the Minimum Funding Guarantee at +2.00% in line with the 'hard' NFF.

- Allocate £2.423 million to the Growth Fund as agreed by Schools Forum in December 2020.

2.7. Once all funding is allocated in line with the 'hard' NFF this leaves £2.698 million unallocated. A breakdown of funding by factors together with a comparison with 2020-21 funding is included in the Appendix.

3. Additional Allocations 2021-22

3.1. Schools Forum on 19 November 2020 agreed several funding proposals above the NFF, subject to affordability. These were:

- Transfer of 0.5% to the High Needs Block
- Extending sparsity funding to all small schools
- Increasing the lump sum for all schools

3.2. Since that report census data for October 2020 saw an increased uptake of 26.11% for Free School Meal eligibility above October 2019 census data. This has meant an additional £1.2 million has been allocated through this factor and so has reduced the overall funds available for additional allocations in 2021-22. This is offset by a slight increase in surplus DSG for 2021-22 once the 'hard' national formula is implemented. The overall potential surplus currently stands at £3.5 million, including the £2.5 million unallocated schools block DSG in 2020-21.

3.3. It can now be confirmed that the Local Authority proposes to fund the following from within the schools block DSG surplus allocation in 2021-22.

Transfer 0.5% to the High Needs Block (£1.824 million)

3.4. Schools forum approved the transfer of 0.5% of the school block DSG to the high needs block DSG in 2021-22. This is a one-off transfer and any future year transfers will have to follow the same process of consultation with mainstream schools and approval of schools forum.

3.5. The 0.5% transfer is calculated after deducting the additional funding for pay and pension costs within the NFF for 2021-22. Therefore the monetary value of the transfer is £1.824 million.

Sparsity (£0.315 million)

- 3.6. A meeting was held at 3:00 pm on Friday 8 January 2021 with the ESFA. At that meeting the Local Authority was informed that our disapplication to change the sparsity distance from 2 miles (as the crow flies) to zero miles had been rejected as it would mean a policy change.
- 3.7. Following discussion with the ESFA it was agreed that we could use the road distance between schools. Analysis of the road distances for our 30 small schools has been undertaken and 7 schools have their next nearest school over 2 miles away by road. Therefore these 7 schools will attract £45,000 sparsity funding in 2021-22.

Lump Sums (£2.576 million)

- 3.8. The lump sum is currently set at £118,800 per school in line with the NFF. Local Authorities can increase this to a maximum of £175,000, subject to affordability. The Local Authority is proposing that the lump sum for 2021-22 is increased to £130,000 for all mainstream schools and academies. As a consequence of increasing lump sums some schools may not see an overall increase in funding this will be off-set by decreases in minimum per pupil funding and the minimum funding guarantee. In total this will mean these factors will decrease by approximately £1.345 million meaning an additional £1.231 million is actually allocated to schools through this factor.

Contingency (£0.094 million)

- 3.9. After the application of the NFF, transfer of funding to the High Needs Block, applying sparsity based on road distances and increasing lump sums there remains a surplus of £0.094 million. As in previous years this will be held within the Growth Fund as a contingency against any future pressures against this funding. This will be in addition to the £2.423 million allocated to the Growth Fund in 2021-22 as agreed by Schools Forum in December 2020.

Neill Butler

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Comparison of NFF allocations 2020-21 and 2021-22

Factor	2020-21 £m	2021-22 £m	Difference £m	Difference %	Reason for Change
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	261.4	288.2	+26.8	+10.25	Pupil led factor + Increase to reflect cost of pay and pension increases
Deprivation	20.4	21.8	+1.4	+6.86	Pupil led factor + increase uptake of 26.11% for Free Schools Meals due to impact of Covid-19
English as an Additional Language	2.4	2.3	-0.1	-4.17	Pupil led factor + 5% drop in eligible children in 2021-22
Prior Attainment	24.0	24.4	+0.4	+1.67	Pupil led factor
Lump Sum	26.3	29.9	+3.6	+13.69	Increase lump sums to £130,000
Split Sites	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.00	
Sparsity	0.3	0.9	+0.6	+200.00	Increased rate and more schools eligible
Rates	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.00	Actual costs of rate bills are fully funded
Minimum Pupil Funding	5.8	7.7	+1.9	+32.76	Changes in allocations for 201-22. (£4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools)
Minimum Funding Guarantee	1.0	0.6	-0.4	-40.00	All schools get +2.00% increase (+1.84% in 2020-21) so fewer schools receive MFG
Growth Fund	1.9	2.4	+0.5	+26.32	More growing schools
Unallocated	2.4	0.1	-2.3	-95.83	Use of schools block surplus
Total (subject to roundings)	349.7	382.1	+32.4	+9.27	

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Item 5

Schools Forum**14 January 2021****SEND & Inclusion Change Programme****Recommendations**

- That the Forum comments upon progress of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme
- That members of the Forum consider being part of the School Top-Up Funding project

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides an update on activity on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion Change Programme since the previous report to School Forum in December 2020.

2. SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

- 2.1 The vision for SEND in Warwickshire is that all our children and young people lead a fulfilling life and are part of their community.
- 2.2 Through the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme we will work together to:
 - Improve outcomes for our children and young people with SEND
 - Take decisions in a clear, fair and transparent way
 - Ensure that systems are sustainable, so that we are working within our allocated funding
- 2.3 Of the 31 projects, seven of projects have targets to help close the gap between funding allocation and expenditure. Financial updates are to be provided in January following the next forecast. Three existing items have savings attached for 2020/21, three more expect reductions in spend in 2021/22.

3. Programme Level update

- 3.1 The full programme team is now in place, with staff seconded from SENDAR, Educational Psychology Service and Specialist Teaching Service to support the work of the programme from 4 January 2021.
- 3.2 In addition, the Elected Members Task and Finish Group has met twice, and is scheduled to meet a further three times prior to reporting back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2021.

4. Project level update

- 4.1 The project approach adopted by Warwickshire County Council is:
- a) Project have initial approval of a Planning Preparation Document (PPD)
 - b) A business case is then developed including mapping of the 'as-is' position and 'to-be' position, along with the plan to move from one to the other and confirmation of the benefits
 - c) Projects go live for implementation
- 4.2 Currently, four projects are now live, ten are developing full business case and plan.
- 4.3 The most significant change is the re-prioritisation of three projects. The Changing the Conversation project has been deferred. This project would have required piloting new ways of working. In light of the pressures on schools as a consequence of Covid-19, this was not considered good timing.
- 4.4 In the meantime, the projects on Ready Reckoner and Review of the Special School Matrix have been brought forward and combined into one project: School Top-up Funding. The project will look at current systems for allocating resources (eg. Bands C and D, the special school matrix) and explore whether other methods would be more appropriate and support the strategic aim to release resources into mainstream schools earlier.
- 4.5 The project group on top-funding will have head teacher representation and members of the Schools Forum are asked to consider whether they wish to be a part of this.
- 4.6 The full list of projects and the timeline for phase 1 is attached at Appendix 1.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 The programme team will continue to progress the roll-out of projects within the phase 1 of the programme.

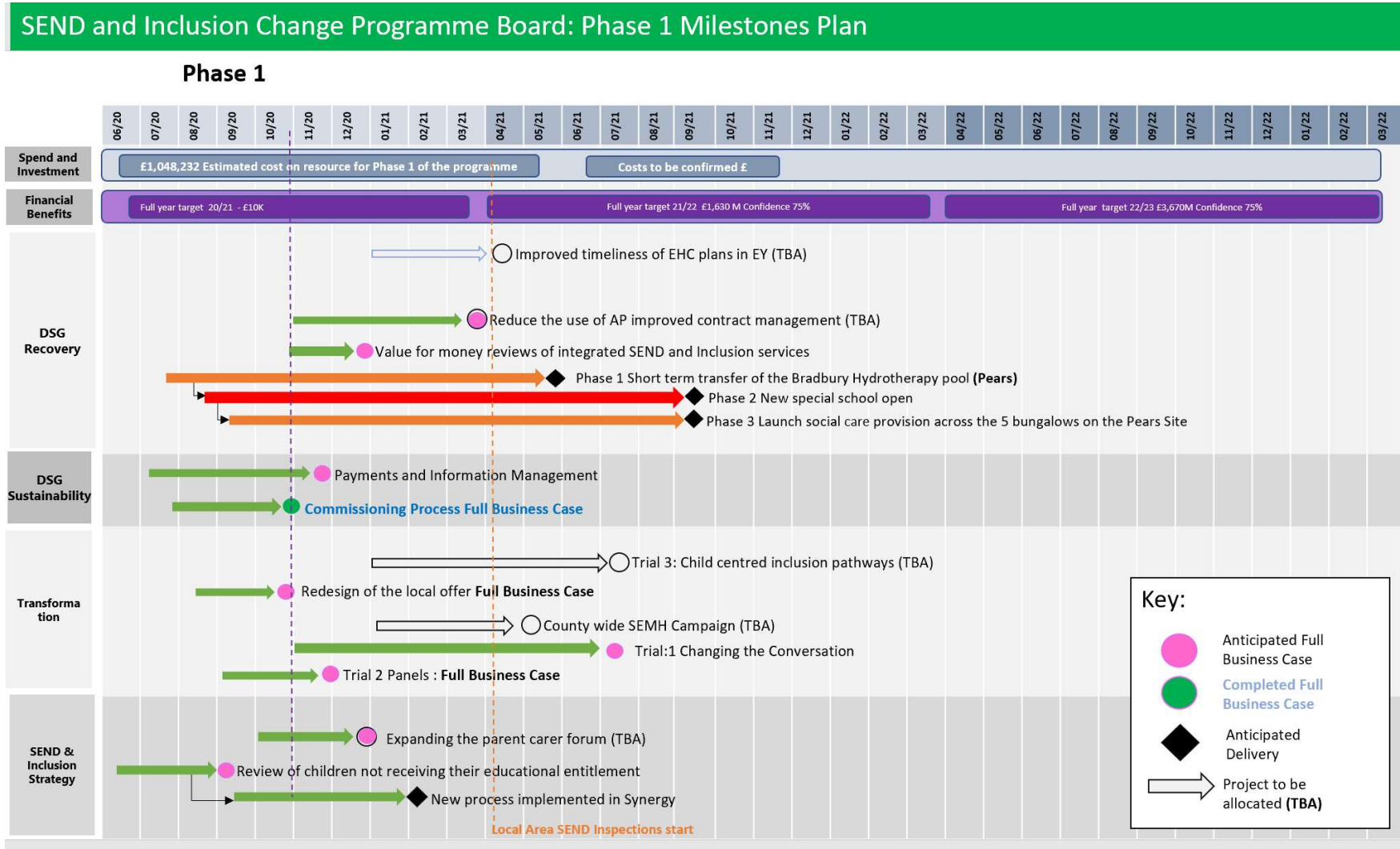
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Appendix 1: Update on active projects & Phase 1 timeline



Live projects

Project	Description	Objectives	Outputs / KPIs	Comments
New special school (The Warwickshire Academy) <i>DSG Recovery Plan</i>	This project will focus on preparing the Pears Site for use, creating a New 80 place Special School for SEMH/ ASD; <i>(in addition full utilisation of Evergreen and Venture Academy special schools)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new Special school for SEMH/ ASD 2. Cost avoidance through lower placement and transport costs 	Opening of new special school in Sept 2021; cost avoidance from 2021/22 (£1.7m per year by 2023/24)	School still on track to open in September 2021. Further CIF bid to be submitted for additional capital works. Disapplication submitted for initial cohort of high needs places from Council funding.
Redesign of the Local Offer website <i>Transformation</i>	A campaign to deliver key messages to schools' families and young people on social, emotional and mental (SEMH) needs and the importance of early identification and intervention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure web pages are more interactive and easier to navigate. 2. Wealth of resources and self-help advice is available. 3. To consult and co-produce with parents and carers, professionals and young people to build a Local Offer that meets the needs of the SEND community 4. To provide an interactive and easy to navigate 'one stop shop' for SEND services 5. To ensure that Web content reflects service models and pathways 	Website to mirror service pathways; % of users who found Local Offer helpful. (Baseline 35%)	Approved business case in November. Events taking place in December to engage with stakeholders.

<p>Review of children not receiving their educational entitlement SEND & Inclusion Strategy</p>	<p>This is focussed on reducing the number of children out of school and ensuring we have procedures in place to monitor children with SEND not attending school. To ensure that all Warwickshire children are on a school roll and/or in an appropriate educational setting.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual children and young people receive education packages in a timely manner in order to achieve their best potential outcomes 2. Equitable service for all children and young people 3. Clear procedures and escalation processes 4. Clear governance structure and accountability 5. Sustainable process maximising automation and digitisation 6. Meeting statutory requirements 7. Enabling more efficient use of financial resources, and supporting the SEND Programme 	<p>New processes and protocols; reduction of children not on a school roll (Baseline 26 with EHC plans)</p>	<p>Approved business case in December.</p> <p>New procedures drafted in anticipation.</p>
<p>Quality Assurance Framework (EHC Plans) SEND & Inclusion Strategy</p>	<p>This work seeks to bring quality standards on professional advice. A draft framework has been developed and the project group (including health and social care) is looking to take this forward to implementation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a consistent QA framework 2. Embedding of new framework standards and processes across stakeholders 3. Completion of consultation activity within development of framework 4. Using Framework to deliver continuous improvement within the statutory process 	<p>% of parent/carers that felt the draft EHC plan was easy to understand and reflected their child's needs (Baseline 56%)</p>	<p>Approved business case in December.</p> <p>Multi-agency project. Fundamental for ensuring good quality plans and any move to further develop the use of individual costed plans.</p>

		<p>5. Improved diversity of feedback including families and children / young people</p> <p>6. Inclusive provision should increase as a result of having quality assured plans and advice in place</p>		
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Projects at developing full business case

Project	Description	Objectives	Outputs / KPIs	Comments
<p>Value for money reviews</p> <p><i>DSG Recovery Plan</i></p>	<p>For reviews to be carried out on the current operating model and value for money of SEND & Inclusion area. These will be conducted by external subject specialists.</p>	<p>Following review, recommendations and initial implementation plans on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring that learners achieve good or better outcomes and positive destinations 2. More CYP to be supported in mainstream settings 3. New service operating models 4. A robust reviewing cycle in place 5. Criteria and policies relating to each service 6. The appropriate commissioning of services to ensure financial incentives are in the right place 	<p>Recommendations on service models and value for money</p>	<p>Flex Learning is first team to be reviewed started in October 2020. As-is mapping still in progress.</p>

		<p>7. Assurance that the LA is providing value for money services from DSG funding</p> <p>8. Meeting Statutory duties</p>		
<p>Expanding representation on the Parent Carer Forum <i>SEND & Inclusion Strategy</i></p>	<p>This project aims to work with the organisation called 'Contact' to expand the Parent/Carer Forum to ensure parents across a range of age groups and settings are represented.</p>	<p>1. A positive working relationship with an independent and representative SEND Parent Carer Forum</p>	<p>To reconstitute the Parent Carer Forum</p>	<p>Contact (lead organisation) hosted workshops in November to invite new parent reps. Interim Group to be formed prior to new forum launching by March 2021.</p>
<p>Trial 2: Needs-focused panels Transformation / DSG Recovery Plan</p>	<p>To review panel processes to increase effective decision-making in WCC Education panels. This involves ensuring decisions are always grounded in the needs of the child or young person, and action is enabled as early as possible</p>	<p>1. Clear, fair and transparent decision-making processes in accordance with the SEND code of practice</p> <p>2. Clear guidance to educational settings on their accountabilities and responsibilities</p>	<p>New decision-making procedures and guidance to schools; cost avoidance in 2021/22 through reduced growth rate in EHC plans (Baseline 11.7%)</p>	<p>Multi-agency project. As-is mapping still in progress.</p>

Reduce the use of alternative provision DSG Recovery Plan	This review is of the commissioning of alternative provision to ensure commissioning is appropriate and consistent for children and children and young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have an efficient and effective operating model that is used across the council for Alternative Provision 2. To establish a common commissioning framework for Alternative Provision and Independent Special Provision 3. Ensures Statutory compliance 	New AP framework contract; fewer learners in AP settings leading to cost avoidance in 2021/22	As-is mapping underway.
Implementation of the SEND finance module in Synergy DSG Sustainability Plan	This project is looking to use the existing finance module available in the Synergy system to improve processes relating to SEND finances which will provide a more efficient process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a more streamlined process for processing payments in relation to SEND payments, which will provide improved information and support a more robust finance mechanism for payments and budgeting. 2. To agree a timetable and responsibility for commissioning high needs places 	Financial module populated on Synergy; improved forecasting.	<p>Full business case to be presented in January 2021.</p> <p>Commissioning process already signed off as a separate business case in October 2020.</p>
Trial 1: Changing the conversation <i>Transformation</i>	Culture change in working with schools. KPIs to be agreed.	As-is mapping underway. However, agreement to delay launch of this project due to pressures on schools as a result of Covid-19.	Trial 1: Changing the conversation <i>Transformation</i>	Culture change in working with schools. KPIs to be agreed.
Expanding and Improving Access to Early Intervention in Early Years (0 to 5) DSG Recovery Plan	Increased children aged 0-3 with EHC plans; less children than forecast in special schools in reception year by 2022/23	The project is signed off at 'Planning Preparation Document'. Development of full business case will start in 2021.	Expanding and Improving Access to Early Intervention in Early Years (0 to 5) <i>DSG Recovery Plan</i>	Increased children aged 0-3 with EHC plans; less children than forecast in special schools in reception year by 2022/23

Trial 3: Child-centred inclusion pathways <i>Transformation</i>	Pathways established for routine reviews of provision that will ensure support is consistently appropriate to need and facilitates progress towards outcomes	The project is signed off at 'Planning Preparation Document'. Development of full business case will start in 2021.	Trial 3: Child-centred inclusion pathways <i>Transformation</i>	Pathways established for routine reviews of provision that will ensure support is consistently appropriate to need and facilitates progress towards outcomes
Countywide SEMH Campaign <i>Transformation</i>	Publicity campaign delivered to develop awareness of SEMH needs as educational needs.	The project is signed off at 'Planning Preparation Document'. Development of full business case will start in 2021.	Countywide SEMH Campaign <i>Transformation</i>	Publicity campaign delivered to develop awareness of SEMH needs as educational needs.
School Top-up Funding (combining Ready Reckoner and Review of Special School Matrix) DSG Recovery Plan	Options appraisal on new ways to calculate funding on an EHC plan to ensure that settings have the appropriate funding to deliver provision as stated in the EHC plan	Approved to bring this project forward, to speed up mechanisms to release resources into mainstream settings. Planning Preparation Document in development.	School Top-up Funding (combining Ready Reckoner and Review of Special School Matrix) DSG Recovery Plan	Options appraisal on new ways to calculate funding on an EHC plan to ensure that settings have the appropriate funding to deliver provision as stated in the EHC plan

Appendix 2: SEND & Inclusion Performance Data

30th November 2020

(NB: ↑ getting better; ↓ getting worse)

Description	Measure	Measure Notes	SN Av	Nat Av	Historical data	WCC rating
No. of EHC plans	4560	Nov 20 School age (SA) 2900			4270 Nov19 (2697 SA)	
% school age population with EHC plans	3.4%	2020	tbc	3.3%	3.2% Warks, 3.2% SN, 3.1% National	
% of new EHC plans issued within 20 weeks, including exceptions (KPI)	100%	Nov 20	89% since January	66%	60%	85% Apr20 87% Jan20 ↑
No. of new requests for EHC plans	67	Nov 20	796 since January			942 2019
% of 'Decision not to Proceed with EHC Needs Assessment'	42%	Nov 20	36% since January			30% 2019

% of learners educated in independent specialist provision – school age (KPI)	7.2%	Nov 20	209 of 2900	4.8% SA (2019)	5.0% SA (2019)	8.62% Jan20	↑
% of learners with EHC plans educated in mainstream provision at school age	43%	Nov 20	All - 1242 of 2900 Prim 51%, Sec 35%	Pri - 717 of 1416 Sec - 525 of 1484		41% Nov19 (46% Prim & 36% Sec)	↑
% of learners with EHC plans educated in state funded specialist provision at school age	45%	Nov 20	All - 1318 of 2900 Prim 42%, Sec 49%	Pri - 593 of 1416 Sec - 725 of 1484		47% Nov19 (43% Prim & 50% Sec)	↔
Description	Measure	Measure Period	Notes	SN Av	Nat Av	Historical data	WCC Rating
No. of school age learners with EHC plans awaiting provision	19	Nov 20				16 - Oct 20 26 - May 20 21 - Jan 20 12 - Oct 19	↑

% of SEN pupils with a statement or EHC plan achieving a 'good level of development' at foundation stage	3%	2018/19	5%	2017/18 Warks 1%	↑
Attainment 8 score (pupils with SEN Support)	35.8	2018/19	32.2	2017/18 Warks 37.1	↓
Attainment 8 score (pupils with EHC plan)	16.3	2018/19	13.5	2017/18 Warks 14.6	↑
Progress 8 score (pupils with SEN Support)	-0.40	2018/19	-0.43	2017/18 Warks -0.25	↓
Progress 8 score (pupils with EHC plan)	-1.12	2018/19	-1.09	2017/18 Warks -1.02	↓

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Schools Forum

14 January 2021

2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant Financial Monitoring Report

This report relates to both maintained and academy schools and all members of the Schools Forum.

Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

1. Note the DSG forecast financial outturn position for 2020/21.
2. Note the remaining Schools Block contingency underspend and the recommendation that it is retained within the Growth Fund for now.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the 2020/21 forecast outturn position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2. The total 2020/21 DSG allocation for Warwickshire, reported to Schools Forum in March 2020, was £442.156m, split across the funding blocks as follows:

Table 1: 2020/21 DSG Allocations	2020/21
	£m
Schools Block	349.680
<i>Total High Needs</i>	<i>68.073</i>
<i>Less: recoupment</i>	<i>(12.770)</i>
High Needs Block	55.303
Early Years Block	33.112
Central School Services Block	4.061
Total DSG Allocation	442.156

- 1.3. Since then the DSG allocation has been updated to reflect the Academy/High Needs recouplement, Early years adjustments and special school growth and imports/exports adjustments. Table 2 and Appendix A show the latest allocations to reflect these changes.

Table 2: 2020/21 Revised DSG Allocations	Original Allocation	Change	Latest Allocation	Reason for Change
	£m	£m	£m	
Schools Block	349.680	(207.401)	142.279	Academy recouplement
<i>Total High Needs</i>	<i>68.073</i>	<i>0.414</i>	<i>68.487</i>	<i>Special school growth and import/exports adjustments High Needs recouplement</i>
<i>Less: recouplement</i>	<i>(12.770)</i>	<i>(0.565)</i>	<i>(13.335)</i>	
High Needs Block	55.303	(0.151)	55.152	
Early Years Block	33.112	0.557	33.669	Adjustment for EY Census data
Central School Services Block	4.061		4.061	
Total DSG Allocation	442.156	-206.994	235.162	

2. 2020/21 Forecasts

- 2.1. Table 3 summarises the 2020/21 forecast position by Block, as at 7th September 2020, and Appendix A provides a detailed breakdown:

Table 3: 2020/21 Forecasts	Latest Allocation	Forecast @ 7-Dec-20	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	142.279	139.827	(2.452)
High Needs Block	55.152	65.868	10.716
Early Years Block	33.669	33.086	(0.583)
Central School Services Block	4.061	4.028	(0.034)
Total DSG Allocation	235.162	242.809	7.648

- 2.2. It should be noted that the ESFA has indicated that any local authorities overspending their DSG by more than 1% in 2020/21 is expected to have a recovery plan that they may request a copy of. At present, Warwickshire is forecasting an overspend of 1.73%¹. If the schools block contingency is fully allocated, and forecast to be fully spent, the overall DSG overspend would increase to £10.1m (2.28%).
- 2.3. Although the Total DSG position of the four blocks is used to calculate whether the DSG overspend is above the 1% threshold, in reality, we are not able to move funding between blocks without secretary of state approval (disapplication process); so the key financial risk to be highlighted in Table 3 is the £10.716m overspend in the High Needs Block.

¹ Calculation of overspend is based on DSG allocation of £443.128m, i.e. the allocation prior to recouplements.

3. Explanations for Variances

The sections below explain the main reasons for the variances across the blocks. A detailed breakdown of variances is shown in Appendix A.

Schools Block (£2.452 million underspend)

3.1. There is an underspend of £2.452 million on the Schools block which comprises:

- Schools Block Contingency of £2.344 million (after the sparsity allocation has been made)
- An overspend on School Performance of £0.010 million.
- Underspends on Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service of £0.026 million, Early Intervention of £0.011m and DBS checks of £0.082m.

High Needs Block (£10.716 million overspend)

3.2. High Needs is forecasting an overspend of £10.716 million. This overspend excludes the £5.240 million deficit from 2019/20 that, as per DFE guidance, has been carried forward to 2020/21 and held on the council's balance sheet.

3.3. The overspend is made up as follows:

- £0.069 million on Mainstream top ups
- £8.412 million on top ups in Independent and OLA Special Schools.
- £0.077 million on resourced provision
- £0.530 million on Post 16 funding
- £0.165 million on flexible learning
- £0.223 million for Alternative provision
- £2.281 million shortfall in budget for which work is progressing to identify new saving/interventions to bridge the gap identified through the DSG recovery plan.
- Of the overspends on the High Needs Block detailed above, £7.843 million has savings/interventions identified in future years as part of the DSG recovery plan.

Offsetting some of these overspends are underspends in the following areas:

- £0.817 million for Mainstream top ups
- £0.158 million for SEND Integrated services (Low incidence and Specialist teaching services)
- £0.066 million for Integrated Disability

3.4. Proposals for closing the overspend are being developed as part of the DSG recovery plan and the SEND change programme.

Early Years Block (£0.583 million underspend)

3.5. Overall, Early Years is forecasting to underspend by £0.583 million.

- Universal funding for 3 & 4 year olds is forecasting an underspend of £0.028 million
- Additional 15 hours for 3 & 4 year olds is forecasting an underspend of £0.732million
- Funding for 2 year olds is forecasting an overspend of £0.207 million
- IDS TL Early Years if forecasting an overspend of £0.139 million
- Early Years - Sufficiency & Business Support is forecasting an underspend of £0.083 million which is due to staffing vacancies that were due to be filled from September.
- £0.083 million underspend due to contingency budget held that is not required.

Schools Forum are asked to note that the Early Years forecast variance will change to reflect the updated allocation following the January 2021 census data.

Central Schools Services Block- CSSB (£0.034 million underspend)

3.6. There is a small forecast underspend of £0.034 million, due to forecast underspends in Child Protection.

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Appendix A

Schools Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 7th Dec	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Mainstream Individual School Budgets	136.693	136.693	0.000
Rates Adjustments	0.000	0.000	0.000
Rates Benefit from Academy Conversions	0.000	0.000	0.000
Loss on Delegation from Conversions	0.000	0.000	0.000
Growth Fund (exceptional pupil numbers)	2.149	2.149	0.000
Schools Block Contingency	2.631	0.288	(2.344)
De-delegated budgets			
School Performance	0.195	0.205	0.010
Early Intervention Service	0.031	0.020	(0.011)
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service	0.245	0.219	(0.026)
Free School Meals	0.020	0.020	0.000
Teaching Union Cover	0.065	0.066	0.000
Non-Teaching Union Cover	0.016	0.016	0.000
HR – Occupational Health (Primary Only)	0.013	0.013	0.000
Central Establishment Charges	0.039	0.039	0.000
Education Functions - DBS	0.182	0.100	(0.082)
Total Schools Allocations	142.279	139.827	(2.452)

High Needs Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 7th Dec	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
SEN – Place Funding for Maintained Mainstream, Special and Resourced Provision	5.920	5.920	0.000
SEN Top up – Mainstream Schools & Academies	10.351	9.533	(0.817)
SEN Top up – WCC Special Schools & Academies	15.876	15.945	0.069
SEN Top up – Independent & OLA Special Schools	9.079	17.491	8.412
Tier 4 Hospital Education	0.180	0.180	0.000
Resourced Provision – SEN Support	2.510	2.587	0.077
SEND Speech & Language	0.191	0.191	0.000
Post 16 Funding	6.531	7.061	0.530
SEND Commissions	0.067	0.067	0.000
SEND Integrated Services (Low incidence SEND)	1.303	1.242	(0.061)
SEND Integrated Services (Flexible Learning)	0.332	0.497	0.165
Area Behaviour Partnerships (Primary and Secondary Exclusions)	2.366	2.588	0.223
Contribution to Early Intervention Behaviour Panels	0.063	0.063	0.000
SEND Integrated Services (Specialist Teaching Service)	0.784	0.687	(0.097)
Integrated Disability Service SEN Inclusion Grant (EY)	0.452	0.386	(0.066)
Special Nurseries (Universal Hours)	0.000	0.000	0.000
High Needs Contingency/ (Shortfall)	(2.281)	0.000	2.281
Central Establishment Charges	1.428	1.428	0.000
High Needs Allocations	55.152	65.868	10.716

Early Years Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 7th Dec	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Nursery schools (Universal Hours)	1.586	1.586	0.000
Special nurseries (Universal Hours)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Nursery Funding 3&4 year olds (Universal funding - Independent Providers & Nursery Classes)	18.430	18.402	(0.028)
Nursery Funding 3&4 year Olds (Additional 15 hours)	8.226	7.494	(0.732)
Maintained Nursery Supplement	0.627	0.627	0.000
DSG Pupil Premium	0.162	0.160	(0.001)
Funded 2 year olds	2.981	3.188	0.207
Disability Access Fund	0.119	0.119	0.000
IDS TL Early Years	0.830	0.969	0.139
Early Years - Sufficiency & Business Support	0.271	0.186	(0.085)
Early Years Quality & Development	0.040	0.040	0.000
Early Years Contingency/ (Shortfall)	0.083	0.000	(0.083)
EYB Central Establishment Charges	0.314	0.314	0.000
Early Years Allocations	33.669	33.086	(0.583)

Central Schools Services Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 7th Dec	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Taking Care	0.000	0.000	0.000
Child Protection	0.175	0.141	(0.034)
Children's Mental health	0.150	0.150	0.000
Admissions	0.718	0.718	0.000
Heads Termly / SACRE	0.018	0.018	0.000
DSG SF Allocation - Historic Pension Contribution	0.737	0.737	0.000
DSG SF Allocation - North Leamington School Prudential Borrowing	0.266	0.266	0.000
DSG SF Allocation - Copyright Licences	0.435	0.435	0.000
Employers Liability Insurance	0.045	0.045	0.000
CSSB Central Establishment Charges	0.727	0.727	0.000
Education functions for all schools:			
Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)	0.262	0.262	0.000
Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)	0.033	0.033	0.000
School attendance (Sch 2, 16)	0.261	0.261	0.000
Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)	0.048	0.048	0.000
Admissions (Sch 2, 9)	0.060	0.060	0.000
Contribution to Services funded corporately by WCC	0.127	0.127	0.000
Central Schools Services Allocations	4.061	4.028	(0.034)
2019/20 DSG Total	235.162	242.809	7.647

* Note that there may be rounding differences between the figures presented in this Appendix compared to the Tables in the body of the report.

Item 8

Schools Forum – Forward Plan 2020-21

The table below contains provisional items for the Schools Forum for the next year. This table will be updated and reported to each meeting of the Forum.

Date	For Decision	For Information / Comment
Thursday 18th March 2021 2pm to 5pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/22 DSG Budget proposal - Brian • Schools Sufficiency Strategy - Bern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2020/21 Forecast – Stephanie/Brian • DSG Recover Plan Monitoring - Ross • Contracts – Neill/Stephanie • New Free Schools – Bern • Update on Early Years 30 hours free entitlement to sufficiency of places – Mandy • Future forum dates - Neill • Admissions - Bern
Thursday 10th June 2021 2pm to 5pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools • New DSG Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2020/21 Outturn • DSG 2021/22 Forecast • Future Consultations
Thursday 30th September 2021 2pm to 5pm Venue to be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022/23 National Funding Formula (year 5) Timetable and consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2021/22 Forecast • DSG Recover Plan Monitoring
Items where a date is still to be confirmed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of pupils eligible for free school meals – requires a policy change and will be bought back on a date to be confirmed.

Note: Officers are meeting on Monday 30 November 2020 to discuss future items and a revised update will be circulated to forum members before the next meeting.

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