

Schools Forum

Date: Thursday 29 September 2022
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams

Items on the agenda:

1. Apologies

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 2. Voting and Actions from the Last Meeting | 5 - 10 |
| 3. De-delegation 2023-24 (Kamaljit Kaur) | 11 - 16 |
| 4. 2023-24 National Funding Formula (Brian Smith) | 17 - 20 |

Matters for Information/Comment

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 5. DSG 2022-23 Forecast (Brian Smith) | 21 - 30 |
| 6. DSG Recovery Plan Update (Ross Caws) | 31 - 36 |
| 7. Academy Update (Dalbir Kaur) | 37 - 40 |
| 8. Early Years & Childcare Place Sufficiency (Mandy Latham) | 41 - 44 |
| 9. Forward Plan and Dates of Future Meetings (Dalbir Kaur) | 45 - 46 |
| 10. Chair's Business | Verbal Report |
| 11. Any Other Business – Cost of Energy Discussion (Stephanie Ferries) | Verbal Report |

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 10 November 2022, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (virtual meeting via Teams).

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
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Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

WARWICKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**Voting and Actions of the meeting held on 23rd June 2022****Microsoft Teams meeting 14:00 – 16:00 pm****SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERS**

Alison Davies	The Avon Valley School (Maintained)
Alison Ramsay	Nicholas Chamberlaine School (Academy)
Amy Woodward	North Leamington School (Academy)
Andy Mason	Stratford Upon Avon School (Academy)
Emma Rose	Representative from a Teacher's Union
Carrie Clare	Park Lane Primary & Race Leys Junior (Academy)
Colin Atkins	Shipston High School (Academy)
Faye Padfield	Abbots Farm Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Jane Burrows	Myton School Maintained Nursery Schools
Joss Andrews	Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery (Maintained)
Mary Anne Burrows	PVI - Burrow Nursery
Michael Cowland	The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust
Nick Evans	Evergreen School (Special Maintained)
Philip Johnson	Whitestone Infant School (Maintained Governor)
Rebecca Harrison	Park Hill Thorns Federation (Maintained)
Ricky Emms	The Priors School (Academy)
Siobhan Roberson	Harris Church of England School
Stephanie Ferries	Bridgetown Primary School (Maintained)
Sybil Hanson	Coventry Church of England Diocese Representative

OFFICERS/OBSERVERS

Andrew Felton	Assistant Director - Finance
Brian Smith	Education, Children and Families Technical Specialist
Colin Hagreen	Senior Accountant (Team Lead) Children & Education
Councillor Kam Kaur	Portfolio Holder for Education
Chris Baird	Assistant Director - Education Services
Dalbir Kaur	Accountant - Children & Education - Clerk to Schools Forum
Kamaljit Kaur	Senior Accountant (Team Lead) Children & Education
Purnima Sherwood	Service Manager for Finance
Ross Caws	Lead Commissioner - Strategy and Commissioning

1. Apologies (Started 2:20, Ended 3:00)

Please note: the start and the end time is the recording time of the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following members:

Duane Chappell	Strategy & Commissioning Manager (SEND and Inclusion)
Hilary Ward	Central England Academy Trust (Special Academy Governor)
Nicci Burton	Atherstone and Bedworth Heath Nursery Schools (Maintained)
Peter Husband	16-19 Partnership Sector
Paul Gillett	Representative from a Teacher's Union
Rose Gunn	Arden Forest Infant School (Maintained)
Sarah Bromley	PVI - Castle Nursery
Stephanie Phillips	Senior Accountant (Team Lead) - Children & Education

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

Catherine Crisp	Hillmorton Primary School Rugby (Maintained)
Ian Budd	Assistant Director - Education Services

Matters for decision:

2. Introduction of Forum Members and elections of Chair and Vice Chair (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 3:20, Ended 6:10)

Purnima Sherwood:

- Welcomed new and returning School Forum members and confirmed that we successfully filled 24 seats out of 27 seats.
- The term as member of Schools Forum will run for two years, will take you through till March 2015.
- Chair and Vice Chair for the same term as well to keep that alignment.
- Provided the Teams Meeting etiquette
- Members to note that the Chair does need to be a Schools Forum member cannot be a Council Officer or a Councillor for Warwickshire County Council.
- Explained the role of the Chair.
- Asked for a volunteer to be Chair, Phil Johnson came forward to Chair's role.

No other member came forward for the Chair role.

Voting: 12 members agreed

Purnima Sherwood:

- Asked for a volunteer to be Vice Chair, and introduced Nicci Burton: unfortunately, can't make to this meeting today has said she would be happy to put herself forward as Vice Chair. Asked If there is anybody else would also be interested in Vice Chair role.

No other member came forward for the Vice Chair role.

Phil Johnson nominated Nicci.

Voting: 14 members agreed

3. Voting and Actions from the Last Meeting (Phil Johnson) (Started 6:30, Ended 6:50)

Agree as a true record

4. Matters Arising (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 6:52, Ended 9:58)

Recommendation:

Approve: Section 48 Update – Scheme for Financing Schools - Maintained school members only

Purnima Sherwood:

- Gave overview of the paper and the process for updating the paper
- This item relates to maintained schools only and looking for votes and approval from maintained school members

Phil Johnson: Recommended that paper is easy to read and explains a lot about school finance.

Voting: 7 members approved

Actions: Refresh and Update the scheme as and when DfE update their guidance.

5. De-delegation and Disapplication Consultation Timetable (Brian Smith) (Started 10:01, Ended 16:00)

Recommendation:

a. Approve the timetable for de-delegation for 2023-24

Actions: Consultation ends in September. We provide the information to Schools Forum in next meeting and Schools Forum vote on that.

b. Approve the reasons for not changing the Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

Actions: There are no further amendments to Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

c. Approve the estimated timetable for any potential need to consult with schools on the National Funding Formula and any potential 0.5% disapplication.

Note: Timetable is estimated – subject to change

Voting: 16 members approved

Actions: Provide information to schools forum in next meeting

Matters for Information/Comment

6. Overview of Schools Forum for new members (Purnima Sherwood) (Started 16:09, Ended 18:40)

Recommendations:

Phil Johnson: encouraged members to ask if they don't understand something on agendas.

Purnima Sherwood:

Overview of Schools forums Powers and Responsibilities paper.

Note: The Roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority, schools forum and where necessary DfE as well

No questions or comments received from members.

This paper and the next two papers were done to help the new members to schools forum to gain understanding of the things that we'll be talking about especially the financially related items.

7. DSG – Quick Guide (Brian Smith) (Started 18:44, Ended 24:33)

Two items for New Schools Forum information.

- a. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)- The Dedicated Schools Grant allocated by formula to WCC by the DfE by four blocks
- b. Early Years Funding Overview- There are four distinct providers of early years provision

Action 1: Inform Early Years Working Group of the outcome - Early Years supplementary funding review

Action 2: Update item 7. DSG Quick Guide - June 2024 meeting

8. DSG 2021-22 Outturn (Brian Smith) (Started 24:36, Ended 33:50)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- The DSG financial outturn position for 2021/22.

Action: Brian to report back to Phil Johnson on overspend on rates

9. Early Years Block-Use of reserves (Brian Smith) (Started 34:04, Ended 40:54)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- The proposed use of DSG Reserves for Early Years.

Action: Brian to check – if use of reserves is for Early Years in Primary schools as well

10. DSG Recovery Plan Update (Ross Caws) (Started 41:00, Ended 1:00:04)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to comment:

- Upon progress of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

Action: No Action

11. School Top Up Funding Project (Ross Caws) (Started 1:00:10, Ended 1:08:03)

Recommendations:

All Schools Forum members are asked to comment:

- On the Schools Top-Up Funding Project prior to decision by the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme Board on the next steps.

Action: No Action

12. Forward Plan (Dalbir Kaur) (Started 1:08:05, Ended 1:08:51)

All Schools Forum members are asked to note:

- Next meeting is on 29th September 2022 via Microsoft Teams

Question from Jane Burrows: on implementation of the Direct National Funding Formula Consultation (Started 1:08:53, Ended 1:16:12)

Jane Burrows:

- Whether the schools Forum are going to be compiling a response to be in by 9 September? It was done in the past.
- Does the schools forum wants to do schools forum response or just going to relay on Local Authority's and local schools?
- Could Local Authority's response be shared with the schools forum? It has happed in the past.

Action: Purnima Sherwood to check and get back –

Update on this action following the meeting: Purnima can confirm that the LA response can and will be shared with Schools Forum prior to the 9th September consultation deadline. Although we will ideally provide this prior to the start of the summer holidays, based on work commitments and annual leave of those involved in compiling and approving the response – this may not be feasible – in which case Schools Forum members will receive a copy of the Local Authority response prior to the start of the Autumn Term.

13. Chair's Business (Phil Johnson) (Started 1:16:15, Ended 1:16:44)

Phil Johnson: thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded that the next meeting is on 29th September 2022.

Note: All voting took place via Hands up function on teams.

Meeting concludes (at 15:17)

Next Meeting on Thursday 29th September 2022, 2:00pm to 4:00 pm.
If you would like to listen to the full meeting, please click [here](#)

DRAFT

Schools Forum

29 September 2022

De-Delegation of Schools Block Budgets for 2023-24

This report relates to representatives of maintained schools only and is for decision

Recommendations

1. The representatives of maintained primary schools on the schools Forum are asked to decide whether to support the continued de-delegation of the following services in 2023-24:
 - Free School Meal Eligibility
 - English as an Additional Language
 - Trade Union Facility Time Funding
 - School Improvement
 - Gypsy and Romany Travellers
 - Behaviour Support Services
 - Medical Referrals for Employees

2. The representative of the maintained secondary school on the Schools Forum is asked to decide whether to support the continued de-delegation of the following services in 2023-24:
 - Free School Meal eligibility
 - English as an additional language
 - Trade Union facility time funding

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. De-delegation is an option that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally and the funding to do so be retained by the local authority. If de-delegation stops then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or charge for the service. The purpose of the report is for the Forum to agree whether to continue the de-delegation of a range of services for 2023-24.

- 1.2. De-delegation is a series of decisions which the schools Forum is required to take on an annual basis.
- 1.3. A consultation with maintained schools seeking their views on the continuation of the de-delegation of funding has been undertaken to provide supporting evidence to the Forum in coming to a decision. The report also provides feedback on the results of the consultation.
- 1.4. Representatives from maintained schools need to consider the views of schools who responded to the consultation when voting.

2. Consultation

- 2.1. The consultation on de-delegation was sent to all maintained schools on Monday 4 July 2022, with a closing date of Friday 16 September 2022
- 2.2. As of 1 September 2022, Warwickshire has 115 Maintained Primary Schools and 1 Maintained Secondary School.
- 2.3. Responses have been received from 47 maintained primary schools and the 1 maintained secondary school. This represents 38.5% of maintained primary schools.
- 2.4. The one maintained secondary school responded to the consultation and voted to support continued de-delegation across all 3 relevant categories.
- 2.5. The following sections take each of the service areas in turn, providing a brief summary of the service provided and the results from primary schools of the consultation for that particular service.

3. Free School Meals Eligibility - £0.63 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	100.0%	0.0%

This funds the administration process of free school meals. Services are also traded through Warwickshire Education Services.

If schools did not support continued de-delegation, as with academy schools where Warwickshire's service is not purchased, schools will need to develop their own systems for receiving applications and checking eligibility. Schools will need to check eligibility on

a regular basis and respond to any queries or complaints from parents. Parents will no longer be able to apply for Free School Meals via Warwickshire County Council's Customer Service Centre or website and schools will not have access to real-time eligibility data or the dedicated Department for Work and Pensions helpline (only available to Local Authorities). Should funding not be de-delegated the Local Authority will offer no guidance or support on Free School Meals eligibility.

4. English as an Additional Language (EAL) - £4.35 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	71.7%	28.3%

Support involves capacity building training to skill up key practitioners in schools to carry out EAL assessments, identify learning targets, classroom strategies and provide effective inductions for EAL newly arrived learners from overseas. All assessment resources are provided as part of the training and ongoing advice and guidance for trained schools is available.

Schools with trained practitioners in place can refer EAL learners deemed as complex cases for EAL-SEND assessment, support with EHCPs, multi-agency work (e.g. Early Help), home-school liaison, etc.

Included in the offer are three EAL Network meetings delivered once a term.

5. Trade Union Facility Time - £2.67 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	84.8%	15.2%

The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 creates a statutory right for Union Representatives of recognised unions to reasonable paid time off from employment to carry out trade union duties and to undertake trade union training. The County Council recognises the following Unions: NASUWT, NUE, ASCL, NAHT, VOICE, GMB, Unison and Unite.

In order to comply with these Regulations, WCC operates a county wide "pool" arrangement covering all maintained schools, whereby appointed union representative(s) of each of the recognised unions attend consultative meetings (e.g., policy implementation) on a county basis and are also called upon to represent members in individual schools. This pool arrangement avoids schools needing to establish individual bargaining arrangements for each school.

Where appointed representatives are absent from the classroom to attend to their union duties, the school where they are employed are reimbursed from this centrally held budget, for the cost of a supply/cover teacher.

The implications of this budget being delegated to schools would be that there would be no further reimbursement of supply cover arrangements which would have a disproportionate effect on the schools that employ union representatives leaving these schools financially disadvantaged.

Additionally, if a maintained school were not entering in the pooled facilities funding arrangements it is possible that trades unions might choose not to recognise the consultation undertaken centrally on policies as being applicable for a school that does not de-delegate. This would potentially need an individual school to consult on each employment related policy with the regional officials of the various unions at school level before it can implement thus avoiding unnecessary misunderstandings and disputes. Currently the de-delegated funding ensures this is all undertaken centrally on behalf of those schools.

In summary schools need to be aware of the following if they chose not to de-delegate:

- School-based representatives would be required to be trained to the same level as current county-level union officials in order to be accredited and indemnified from their respective organisations for casework and in order to be mandated to consult and negotiate on pay and conditions of service matters.
- School-based representatives would be required to attend regular update training, requiring time-off.
- School-based representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off to carry out their duties.
- Although the training is currently provided free of charge, the estimated overall release time costs to a school for fully trained representatives for the three major teaching unions alone working to the required standard is in the region of £7,500 to £10,000. This estimate excludes any time a school representative would need to meet with County or Regional Officials and Health and Safety training or refresher courses. If appropriately trained school-based representatives are not available:
- Case work would need to be managed by regional officials. Regional officials do not have local knowledge nor local working relationships. Such knowledge and relationships can often be helpful in managing a case to a successful resolution. It should also be noted that the involvement of a full-time regional officer prematurely can have the effect of escalating the situation in an unhelpful way.
- The resolution of low-level issues requiring negotiation is likely to be prolonged due to the need to wait for availability of a regional officer.

- Regional officials cover the whole of the West Midlands region, and their availability will be limited. There may be delays in holding hearings and meetings.

6. School Improvement - £6.55 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	87.0%	13.0%

This funding buys in support from system leaders for schools where some intervention or assistance may be required. It does not support staffing but without the funding, the staff employed by the LA to carry out statutory intervention work would have no resources to offer practical support to schools, such as training and development, support for maintained school inspections or ad hoc advice and assistance.

Whilst there is a risk to vulnerable schools if this funding is delegated, the LA would still be able to carry out its statutory functions.

7. Gypsy and Romany Travellers - £3.63 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	76.1%	23.9%

This service provides three locally based, experienced GRT education support officers who work in partnership with schools, families and services to improve outcomes for children from Traveller communities. Nationally, these pupils have the lowest attainment of all ethnic groups. If this service was not provided centrally, then schools may well see an increase in costs with these children attending less and having lower attainment. Someone from the school would need to contact/visit these families to get the pupil back into school or trace their whereabouts. The service also delivers cultural awareness training that schools would need to provide or source themselves.

8. Specialist SEND Support Services - £1.04 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	95.7%	4.3%

This money is paid directly to primary schools for pupils at SEN Support without an Education, Health & Care Plan, who meet the criteria for additional support at the point of transition from Early Years' settings into Reception or following assessment by Specialist Teaching Service as needing additional support.

Often the pupils concerned are unexpected arrivals with complex home circumstances and it is crucial to ensure the child, school and family receive appropriate support rapidly.

Not having this facility would introduce a detrimental delay that could see placement breakdown at home and school.

9. Medical Referral of Employees - £0.45 per pupil

Phase	Yes	No
Primary	95.7%	4.3%

WCC manages a contract for the provision Occupational Health Services. Schools access this service, and a budget is held centrally to which the costs of the medical referral of school-based staff are charged. This relates to both the costs of pre-employment medical checks and the referral for medical advice in the management of short term and long term medically related absences from the workplace. The referral process is accessed by all school-based staff.

Should the budget be delegated then schools would be invoiced separately for their usage of the service.

Kamaljit Kaur

Finance Portfolio Lead for Education, Children & Families

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Schools Forum

29 September 2022

2023-24 National Funding Formula and Budget Setting Timetable

This report relates to all members of schools' forum and is for information and comment.

Recommendations

Schools' forum is asked to:

- Note the timetable for agreeing allocations for DSG funded services for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix A.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to outline for the schools forum the planned timetable for approving the use of Dedicated Schools Grant in Warwickshire for 2023-24. In noting the timetable, the forum should note that this is based on a 'steady state' approach given the significant move towards the implementation of the hard National Funding Formula made in 2018-19.
- 1.2. If any information is released which suggests a revised approach is needed prior to the January meeting of the schools forum a note and revised timetable will be circulated to forum members.

2. NFF Consultations

2021 Consultation

- 2.1. During the summer of 2021, the ESFA conducted a consultation on "Fair schools funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula". This focused on the principles of moving to a direct formula and following consultation feedback the government published its response which confirmed their commitment to the direct NFF and encouraged Local Authorities to move to the 'hard' National Funding Formula as quickly as possible.

- 2.2. Schools forum members will be aware that schools forum and Warwickshire County Council both agreed to move to the 'hard' National Formula Funding in January 2018, subject to affordability within the school block DSG.

2022 Consultation

- 2.3. During the summer of 2022, the ESFA has conducted a further consultation on: "Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula". This focused further on the detail of the implementation of the direct NFF, and also sets out proposals to continue to have flexibility within the funding system to transfer funding from the school block to the high needs block, subject to appropriate approvals.
- 2.4. The consultation proposed a short list of options on how adjustments could be made to school budgets to enable a transfer:
- A percentage reduction in all mainstream schools' NFF allocation.
 - A percentage reduction in the NFF funding that mainstream schools attract through the basic entitlement factor (rather than additional needs factors) – this would be of relative benefit to schools with high proportions of pupils with additional needs.
 - A percentage reduction in the NFF funding that schools attract through additional needs factors.
- 2.5. It should be noted that the outcome of the 2022 consultation has not yet been shared, but provisional modelling based on October 2021 census data and our estimated funding of Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUFS and SUFs) suggest that we should be able to replicate the 'hard' National Funding Formula in 2023-24.
- 2.6. However, unlike 2022-23 and 2021-22, we do not currently anticipate either reserve balances or a school block surplus to be available to fund a transfer of up to 0.5% from the school block DSG to the high needs block, although this will be subject to the financial implications of the October 2022 census data. Therefore, if approved, it is likely that a transfer of up to 0.5% would have an impact on 2022-23 school budgets. There is another report on today's agenda which provides an update to the DSG Recovery Plan and how previous 0.5% transfers have been utilised and the impact they have had.

Brian Smith

Portfolio Lead for Children & Families and Education Services

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2023-24 National Funding Formula and Budget Setting Timetable

Note that, as the DfE have still not issued the outcome of their recent consultation on the NFF or confirmed their deadlines for the disapplication process, this timetable is still subject to change.

Date	Responsibility	Process
2022		
7 October	School	Schools Census date.
10 October	WCC SEND and Inclusion	Send out consultation to schools on movement of 0.5% from the school block DSG to the high needs DSG. Consultation will run for 5 weeks.
3 November		Final day for census data sent to the ESFA of numbers on roll in individual schools.
7 November	WCC SEND and Inclusion	Return deadline for consultation on 0.5% disapplication.
10 November	School forum	Provisional date to discuss and agree/disagree 0.5% disapplication.
19 November	WCC Finance	Deadline for submitting any disapplication to the ESFA to move up to 0.5% of funding from the school block DSG to the high needs block DSG. Schools forum supported a disapplication in 2022-23.
Mid December	ESFA	Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) is sent to Local Authorities with October 2021 census data and indicative schools block DSG. At this point WCC Finance models the funding for individual schools.
2023		
12 January	School forum	Takes decisions needed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-24 Schools Funding Formula • 2023-24 Formula Proposal from the Early Years Working Group
16 January (To be confirmed)	WCC Finance	APT is sent back to ESFA outlining our proposed funding formula for 2023-24.
27 January	WCC Cabinet	Approves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023-24 Schools Funding Formula • 2023-24 Early Years Funding Formula
End January	ESFA	Confirm our funding formula meets ESFA validation checks.
16 February	WCC Council	Agree the County Council's budget for 2023-24
Early February	WCC Finance	Send out individual mainstream school budgets for 2023-24 together with indicative budget allocations for 2024-25 and 2025-26
23 March	School forum	Agree detail of Central Services Block DSG allocations for 2023-24

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Schools Forum**29th September 2022****2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant Financial Monitoring Report**

This report relates to both maintained and academy schools and all members of the schools forum and is for information and comment.

Recommendation

Schools Forum is recommended to:

- Note the DSG forecast financial outturn position for 2022/23, as at Period 5.
- Note the forecasted position of the DSG reserve at financial outturn position for 2022/23.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the 2022/23 forecast outturn position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2. The total 2022/23 DSG allocation for Warwickshire, reported to schools forum in March 2022, was £500.571m (shown in the original allocation column in Table 1 below).
- 1.3. Since then, the DSG allocation has been updated to reflect the Academy/High Needs recoupment and an increase in the high needs funding for imports/exports and growing special free schools as well as increased Early Years funding. Table 1 and Appendix A shows the latest allocations to reflect these changes.

Table 1

2022/23 Revised DSG Allocations	Original Allocation	Change	Latest Allocation	Reason for Change
	£m	£m	£m	
Schools Block	397.752			Academy Recoupment
Less: National Non-Domestic Rates[1]	(3.624)			
	394.128	(254.120)	140.008	
<i>Total High Needs</i>	82.482	3.639	86.121	<i>£3m additional HN funding and £0.6m import export adjustment</i>
<i>Less: recoupment</i>	(14.564)	(0.922)	(15.486)	<i>High Needs recoupment</i>
High Needs Block	67.918	2.717	70.635	
Early Years Block	34.396	1.346	35.742	EY funding adjustment based on Jan 22 census data
Central School Services Block	4.129		4.129	
Total DSG Allocation	500.571	(250.057)	250.514	-

2. 2022/22 Forecasts

2.1. Table 2 summarises the 2022/23 forecast position by DSG Block, as at 31st August 2022 (Period 5), and Appendix A provides a detailed breakdown:

Table 2: 2022/23 Forecasts	Latest Allocation	Forecast @ 31st Aug. 22	Drawdown from Reserves	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	140.008	141.112	1.070	0.034
High Needs Block	70.635	73.052		2.418
Early Years Block	35.742	35.736		(0.006)
Central School Services Block	4.129	4.145		0.016
Total DSG Allocation	250.514	254.045	1.070	2.462

2.2. It should be noted that historically the DfE have required all local authorities to complete a recovery plan should the expenditure variance on the DSG exceed 1%. The forecast position of £2.462m equates to a 0.47% overspend, which is within the

DfE threshold.¹ Due to exceeding the 1% threshold in previous years, WCC does have a recovery plan – on which regular updates are provided to schools forum.

- 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 Schools Forum/Secretary of State approval (disapplication process); so the key financial risk to be highlighted in Table 2 is the £2.418m overspend in the High Needs Block.

3. Reserve position

- 3.1. Table 3 below shows the opening position of the DSG reserve as at the 1st April 2022, the subsequent drawn down from reserves noted in table 2 and the forecasted effect of outturn that informs the forecasted closing balance of the reserve.

Table 3: 2022/23 Reserves (Funded from)	Opening Balance 01/04/2022	In Year Drawdowns	Effect of outturn	Forecast Closing Balance as at 31/03/2023
Schools Block DSG	1.461	(1.070)	0.034	0.357
High Needs Block DSG	(15.980)		(2.418)	(18.397)
Early Years Block DSG	2.932		0.006	2.939
Central Services Block DSG	0.489		0.016	0.473
DSG Total Reserve	(11.0971)	(1.070)	(2.462)	(14.629)

4. 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 (£0.034m overspend)

- 4.1. There are minor net overspends £0.034m on the Schools Block.

High Needs Block (£2.418m overspend)

- 4.2. The main area of continued concern is the High Needs Block with the forecast overspends totals £2.418m. This forecasted net overspend consists of several significant budgets which are subject to interventions by the SEND & Inclusion **Change programme** (SICP). The over-arching aim over the long term (as funding for SEND is a national issue) is to reduce high costs volumes while increasing lower cost areas of service. For example, reducing the reliance of Independent Specialist

Provision and increasing "SEND Top-ups" to mainstream and special schools. A decision taken at the inception of the SICP to set budgets for individual services as they might be after several years of the change programme (i.e., aspirational) does lead to several large over/underspends because budget is set for the future while the forecasted costs are for the present. Therefore, a holistic view is best taken

However, what should be noted is that excluding "future years SICP planned savings" of £2.245m would mean the HNB is forecasting just £0.175m over-spend in year, although this is net of the £1.908m contribution from the SB to HNB which is subject to annual agreement by the schools forum,

4.3. Areas of overspend include:

- Budgeted planned over allocations of budget for future years savings (SICP) of £2.245m.
- An overspend of £4.117m on Independent Schools Provision, with minor increased demand as unit cost increases. It is possible that there may have been optimism bias in the timing and the number of young people we could divert to other (less costly) placement types (LA mainstream and Special Schools) and therefore, we have a larger current base number than anticipated in the Independent Schools Places budget.
- Top ups of supplemental & Teacher's pension payments for special schools £1.685m (this also includes some minor commissioning contracts)
- There are also a triangulation of data and data quality issues that continue to make this area of forecasting complex and liable to large movements. The SICP needs to re-energise the transfer of data from manual workings to Synergy in order that the service can get a better grasp and overall picture of the issues. The T3 service manager has also organised a full day to review all budgeting and forecasting principles prior to P6.

4.4. The forecast overspends are partly offset by the following underspends: -

- Top ups and Resourced provision £1.507m due to lower demand
- Post 16 Provision - £0.701m - due to lower take up, although it should be noted the numbers of places to be funded between P6 and P12 is very volatile at the start of the Academic year
- Alternative provision £1.286m with a large drop in demand but increased unit costs.
- Approved additional contribution from the Schools Block £1.908m
- Slight overall net underspend of £0.227m for some support services.

Early Years Block (£0.006m underspend)

- 4.5. The Early Years block is similarly forecasting a small under-spend, £0.006m net position. There are under-spends due to £0.324m extra funding due to the 2021/22 final EY block adjustment by DSG and £1.150m underspend on 3-4 years funding and £0.142m overspend on 2 years old. The revised funding has been issued in August by ESFA and there is an increase of £1.2m budget for 3-4 years old. A More accurate position will be available in October/November once the new term has started. Any over or under budget will be adjusted by ESFA in November/December revised allocations. This position is offset by planned one off expenditure of £1.143m, with the release of a package of Covid recovery related grants available to all EY providers and mainstream nurseries.
- 4.6. Schools forum are asked to note that the Early Years forecast variance will change this year to reflect the updated allocation following the release of the October 2022 and January 2022 census data. (We are anticipating the release of the October 2022 Census data and updated allocation in February 2023.)

Central Schools Services Block- CSSB (£0. 0.016m overspend)

- 4.7. The Central School Services Block is forecasting a £0.017m overspend but with some further in-year mitigation this will possibly achieve a zero variance.

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Schools Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 31st Aug 22	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Mainstream Individual School Budgets	136.10	136.10	0.00
Growth Fund (exceptional pupil numbers)	2.33	2.33	0.00
Schools Block Contingency	1.86	1.91	0.05
De-delegated budgets			
School Performance	0.19	0.19	0.00
STS SEND Support (Previously "EIS")	0.03	0.03	0.00
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service	0.24	0.23	(0.012)
Free School Meals	0.02	0.02	0.00
Teaching Union Cover	0.07	0.07	0.00
Non-Teaching Union Cover	0.02	0.02	0.00
Occupational Health	0.01	0.01	0.00
Central Establishment Charges	0.04	0.04	0.00
Education Functions - DBS	0.17	0.16	(0.005)
Total Schools Allocations	141.08	141.11	0.034

High Needs Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 31st Aug 22	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
SEN – Place Funding for Maintained Mainstream, Special and Resourced Provision	6.147	6.147	0.000
SEN Top up – Mainstream Schools & Academies	12.343	12.405	0.062
SEN Top up – WCC Special Schools & Academies	20.07	18.71	(1.357)
SEN Top up – Independent & OLA Special Schools	14.502	18.618	4.117
Tier 4 Hospital Education	0.180	0.280	0.100
Resourced Provision – SEN Support	1.76	1.55	(0.211)
SEND Speech & Language	0.00	0.00	0.00
Post 16 Funding	8.671	7.969	(0.701)
SEND Commissions	0.453	2.138	1.685
SEND Integrated Services (Low incidence SEND)	1.080	1.114	0.034
SEND Integrated Services (Flexible Learning)	0.771	0.752	(0.019)
Area Behaviour Partnerships (Primary and Secondary Exclusions)	2.76	2.15	(0.614)
Contribution to Early Intervention Behaviour Panels	0.064	0.064	0.00
Alternative Provision	0.922	0.250	(0.672)
SEND Integrated Services (Specialist Teaching Service)	1.055	0.910	(0.145)
Integrated Disability Service SEN Inclusion Grant (EY)	0.385	0.385	0.00
High Needs Contingency/ (Shortfall)	(1.957)	(1.818)	0.139
Central Establishment Charges	1.428	1.428	0.000
High Needs Allocations	70.634	73.052	2.418

Early Years Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 31st Aug 22	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Nursery schools (Universal Hours)	1.664	1.664	0
Nursery Funding 3&4 year olds (Universal funding - Independent Providers & Nursery Classes)	19.887	19.136	(0.751)
Nursery Funding 3&4 year Olds (Additional 15 hours)	8.553	9.032	0.4792
Maintained Nursery Supplement	0.703	0.703	0
DSG Pupil Premium	0.220	0.481	0.261
Funded 2 year olds	3.032	3.174	0.143
Disability Access Fund	0.165	0.165	0
IDS TL Early Years	0.866	0.722	(0.144)
Early Years - Sufficiency & Business Support	0.249	0.250	0.000
Early Years Quality & Development	0.089	0.094	0.005
EYB Central Establishment Charges	0.314	0.314	0
Early Years Allocations	35.742	35.736	(0.006)

Central Schools Services Block	Latest Budget	Latest Forecast @ 31st Aug 22	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Children's Mental health	0.150	0.000	(0.150)
Admissions	0.673	0.673	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	0.559	0.466	(0.093)
Employers Liability Insurance	0.045	0.045	0.000
Teachers Pensions Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG)	0.484	0.4239	(0.060)
Schools Central Services (DSG) Budget Balance	(0.320)	0	0.320
Education functions for all schools:			
Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)	0.378	0.378	0
Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)	0.047	0.047	0
School attendance (Sch 2, 16)	0.377	0.377	0
Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)	0.069	0.069	0
Admissions (Sch 2, 9)	0.086	0.086	0
Cost of support services for Education Functions	0.56	0.56	0
Central Schools Services Allocations	4.129	4.146	0.017

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

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Schools Forum

29th September 2022

SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

Recommendations

- That the Forum comments upon progress of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

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 and in particular an update on the long-term financial forecast.

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
 - Secure education, employment and training for our young people with SEND (age 16-25)
- 2.3 The programme itself is funded by Warwickshire County Council. Funding to continue the programme into 2022/23 has been agreed through the Council budget process.

3. Consultation and case studies

- 3.1 As noted at the June meeting, the Council intend to go out to consultation this term on transferring up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
- 3.2 At the September meeting, the SEND & Inclusion team will describe two case studies to illustrate the needs of children and young people, practice and decision-making process that continues to put financial pressure on the local system.

4. Summary update on Programme and Projects

4.1 The project approach adopted by Warwickshire County Council is:

- a) Project to have initial approval of a Project Proposal Document (PPD)
- b) A full business case (FBC) 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
- d) Project closed and lessons learnt report

4.2 Projects were separated into three phases. Phase 2 projects are now underway. The overall status report is below:

OCT 20	NOV 20	DEC 20	JAN 21	FEB 21	MAR 21	APR 21	MAY 21	JUNE 21	JULY 21	Aug 21	Sept 21	Oct 21	Nov 2021	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
				Compromised	At risk of compromise	On Target	Transferred	Completed	Paused	Total													
PPD																			2				2
FBC				1				4		1													6
LIVE				1						3													4
Closed															9								9
Transferred													2										2
Total				2				4		4			2		9				2				23

4.3 The following projects are highlighted:

- a) The Warwickshire Academy (a new special school) is now fully open with year groups 5,6,7 and 8.
- b) The SEND Capital Strategy project is in place recommending further resourced provision and expansion of special schools in areas of population growth. Two new resourced provisions have been approved for opening in the Autumn term (one primary, one secondary).
- c) The Inclusion Framework trial, seeking to intervene earlier and avoid barriers created through traded services, is underway with 20 schools taking part.
- d) The Workforce Development project has transferred to the Written Statement of Action workstream.
- e) The EHC Plan Annual Reviews, Transitions Guidance and Resolving Disagreement projects are now underway.
- f) The Schools Top-Up Funding project is progressing to the next stage of issuing new EHC plans with new levels of funding, subject to a final check of the banding levels.

5. Overall financial impact so far

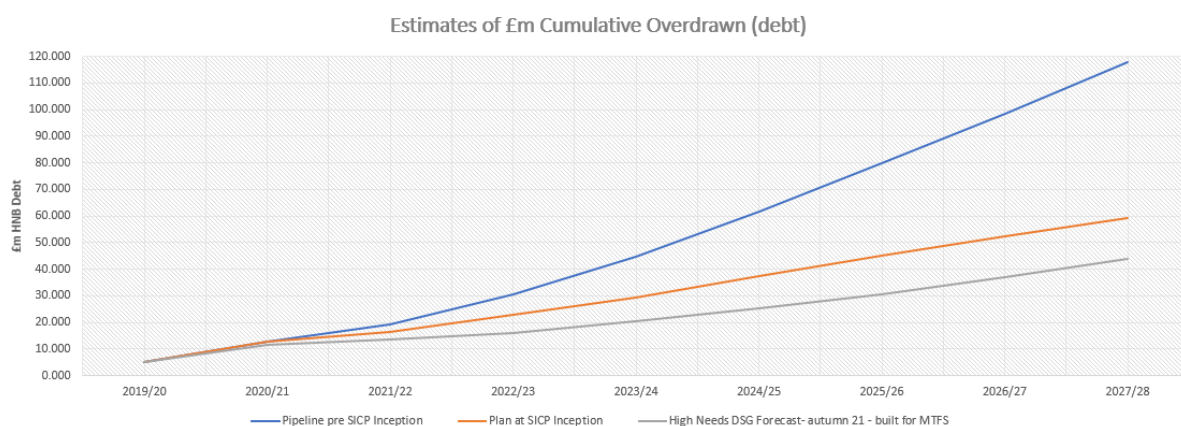
5.1 The information below was also shared in June.

5.2 Quality and performance measures are reported to the SEND Partnership and the SEND & inclusion Change Programme Board. This report focuses on financial impact under the objective to achieve financial sustainability.

5.3 High Needs Block outturn overspent by £2.130m in 2021/22. This was less than the forecast £11.352m forecast at the inception of SEND Change Programme and indeed less than 2020/21 (Outturn £8.610m). However, it is still an overspend and significant financial pressure remains in this area. The detail on areas of overspend against budget is set out in the DSG monitoring report.

5.4 Being precise on cause and effect remains a barrier until all financial information is stored in the Synergy system alongside activity and profile data. Additional funding through the High Needs Block and the 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block have clearly been significant factors, along with the Change Programme, in reducing spend against the forecast.

5.5 In light of the latest figures, the high level cumulative overspend forecast has been updated. This is demonstrated in the graph below. The blue line represents the cumulative overspend forecast in May 2020 had there been no intervention. The orange line shows the predicted overspend based upon SEND & Inclusion Change Programme interventions, again set at May 2020. The grey line shows the latest forecast.



5.6 The latest forecast shows that a better outlook compared to May 2020, although still a cumulative overspend of over £40m by 2027/28.

- 5.7 Based on latest data available, there remains a clear direction of travel on key factors affecting spend:
- a) **More children and young people with SEND are being supported in mainstream settings.** 1,571 children were supported in mainstream settings in January 2022 compared to 1,430 the year before. This is also higher than the 2017 level (1,475) and higher than the number placed in state-funded special schools. New guidance to schools on the graduated approach was launched in October 2021.
 - b) **More children are supported in state-funded specialist settings.** This was expected due to population growth, increased complexity of need and less use of independent specialist provision (ISP). 1,563 children are supported in state-funded specialist setting in January 2022 compared to 1,544 in 2021.
 - c) **The numbers of children and young people attending independent specialist provision (ISP) has reduced slightly** from 253 in January 2021 to 250 in January 2022. Comparative benchmarking for 2022 shows that Warwickshire is now in line with the national average at 5.2% and below statistical neighbours (5.3%). Warwickshire was at 10.6% in 2015. It has been Warwickshire's aim to reduce the proportion of learners in ISP to be in line with national levels. This has been achieved in 2022. However, there is concern that since January, this number has increased again with 262 children and young people attending ISP in September 2022.
 - d) **The number of children attending specialist resourced provision is increasing.** Two new resourced provisions have opened in September 2022. The County now has 18 resourced provisions and partnerships since 2015, creating 160 places across the County. Utilisation is up to 120. These provisions allow for specialist provision in mainstream settings delivering positive outcomes, value for money and freeing up places in specialist settings.
 - e) **The number of new EHC plans issued has reduced.** The number of new EHC plans issued in the calendar year 2021 was 492 compared with 583 the previous year. This trend is contrary to national and statistical neighbours. However, the number of requests has gone up from 734 January-August 2021 to 911 January August 2022.
 - f) **The number of EHC plans in pre-school years is increasing.** The project is working to identify the appropriate time for requesting a EHC needs assessment in early years as a form of early intervention. In February 2022, 14 children had an EHC plan issued prior to school age. At present, 18 children prior to school age have an EHC plan issued, with a further 42 EHC plans expected to be in place by February 2022.
 - g) **The unit price of residential placements has reduced but the number of placements has increased.**

- h) **New cost centres have been created to monitor spend on alternative provision.**
This allows for better monitoring of spend in this area from April 2021. New guidance has been developed limiting the use of alternative provision to 10 weeks. Costs in this area have significantly reduced.
- i) **The number of supported internships has significantly reduced as a result of Covid-19 to 26 in 2021/22.** This has had a significant impact on the financial forecast.

6. Other pressures on the High Needs Block

- 6.1 Special schools have not received additional funding that mainstream schools have received through the Schools Supplementary Grant. Applying the same formula that mainstream schools have received additional funding for would add approximately £688k to the current forecast. The SEND & Inclusion Change Programme Board is still considering this proposal. A further £578k has been allocated to special schools for the Teachers' Pension Employee Contribution Grant (TPECG) - again mainstream schools has received this funding from a separate source.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Forum comments upon progress of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme

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Schools Forum

29 September 2022

Academy Update

This report relates to maintained and academy schools and is for information and comment.

Recommendation

Schools' forum is recommended to:

1. Note the number of maintained schools, academy schools and new conversions

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The school's forum receives update reports on the number of maintained schools, academy schools and any new or expected conversions when conversions take place.

2. The current position

- 2.1 The table below details the current profile of Warwickshire Schools.

Table 1: Current school breakdown in Warwickshire.

School Type	Maintained	Academies	Free Schools	Total (All schools)
Primary	115	73	7	195
Secondary	1	33	2	36
All-through	0	1	1	2
All-through Special	2	7	0	9
Primary Special	0	1	0	1
Secondary Special	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	118	116	10	244

Note that Maintained Nursery Schools are not permitted to convert to Academy status

- 2.2 This now means that 47.54% of Warwickshire maintained schools have converted to academy status excluding the free schools.
- 2.3 There have been 8 schools converting to academy status since the last school forum report in September 2021.

Table 2: Schools converted to Academy Status.

School Name	Date
Camp Hill Primary School	01/03/2022
Kineton C.Of E. (Voluntary Aided) Primary School	01/07/2023
Harbury C.Of E. Primary School	01/09/2022
English Martyrs Catholic Primary School	01/09/2022
Our Lady & St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School	01/09/2022
St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School	01/09/2022
St. Marie's Catholic Primary School and Nursery	01/09/2022
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Studley	01/09/2022

- Camp Hill Primary School joined The Futures Trust
 - Harbury C.Of E. Primary School joined Arden Forest C of E Multi Academy Trust
 - Kineton C.Of E. (Voluntary Aided) Primary School joined The Stour Federation
 - The following 5 schools joined Our Lady of the Magnificat Multi Academy Trust
 - English Martyrs Catholic Primary School
 - Our Lady & St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School
 - St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School
 - St. Marie's Catholic Primary School and Nursery
 - St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Studley
- 2.4 The following table details the schools actively in process of converting and the anticipated date of conversion.

Table 3: Expected conversions.

School Name	Anticipated Conversion Date
Newbold And Tredington C.Of E. Primary School	01/11/2022
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Princethorpe	01/03/2023
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Leamington	01/03/2023
St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Warwick	01/03/2023
St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School	01/03/2023
St. Peter's Catholic Primary School	01/03/2023
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Leamington	01/09/2023
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Southam	01/09/2023
Moreton Morrell C.Of E. Primary School	TBC
Provost Williams C of E Primary School	TBC
Telford Junior School	TBC

- 2.5 There are currently 115 maintained schools in the primary phase in Warwickshire, comprising 19 infant schools, 13 Junior schools and 83 primary schools. There is only 1 maintained secondary school and 2 maintained All-through special schools in Warwickshire.

It is worth noting that maintained schools can no longer convert as a stand-alone academy.

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Schools Forum - Autumn 2022

Early Years & Childcare - 30 Hours Entitlements Place Sufficiency Update

This report relates to all school forum members and is for information and comment

Overview

The 30 hours extended entitlement offer was introduced for eligible 3 and 4 year old children in 2017. This added to the existing universal 15 hour offer for all 3 and 4 year old children and both entitlements can be accessed from the term following the child's 3rd birthday. Sufficiency of these entitlements are statutory duty functions for LA's alongside the sufficiency of places for eligible funded 2 year olds and childcare for working parents and are defined in the Childcare Acts 2006 & 2016.

To access the 30 hours extended entitlement the parents/carers must meet a specific eligibility criteria, apply for a 30 code via HMRC and where approved, use this code at a registered early years provider to access the additional 15 hours alongside their 15 hours of universal entitlement.

The entitlement is in place to support working families and to make re-joining the workforce more financially viable for none or part time working parents/carers.

Engagement

The 30 hours entitlement continues to see positive take up from families in Warwickshire and below gives the take up rates for the last four years for the summer term. It is noted that there is a substantial increase in take in the 2022 reporting which supports return to normal take up post pandemic and an increased return to the work place for families following the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Build out of housing also adds to the increases supported by the reported increase in child population within Warwickshire.

	Total Hours*	Children*
Summer Term 2019 – Pre Pandemic	743,823	4477
Summer Term 2020 - Pandemic	716,483	4334
Summer Term 2021 – Post lockdown 3	795,802	4704
Summer Term 2022 Post Pandemic	849,284	5,068

*Based on actual take up

Although the above numbers and hours show a reduced access in Summer 2020 this is specifically linked to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown requirements rather than reducing demand for 30 places or place availability. From the Summer 2021 figures we can see again a pattern of growth in take up of both hours and children accessing a place.

Place Delivery

Warwickshire Early Education Funding directory of providers operates with an annual number of 500 + funded providers delivering the 2, 3 and 4 year old entitlements with around 85% of these settings offering the 30 hours extended entitlement.

30 hour places are offered by all types of Ofsted registered provision – nurseries, childminders, preschools and out of school clubs and providers exempt from registration in the form of maintained nursery classes, maintained nursery schools and schools delivering school run early years provision. The varied offer ensures choice for parents / carers.

Challenges

Warwickshire must consider a wide range of factors when monitoring place sufficiency requiring a flexible process and interpretation to monitor need and guide planning.

Key considerations:

- Five districts and boroughs - substantial differentiation in demographics
- Varied economic impact and work drivers based on district / borough
- Key employment sites in e.g. hospitals and food business distribution
- Financial impact for providers based on location e.g. early education funding rates are standard for all however running costs differ substantially between districts
- Take up of each entitlement varies based on demographics
- Increasing demand for places

Risks

Although the direct impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are not at the forefront of considerations the longer standing challenges may continue to add risk to place sufficiency. In Autumn Term 2021 the LA undertook an Autumn Audit with all providers to inform a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. This is currently being analysed for publication by the end of the Autumn Term 2022.

Early analysis indicates that Warwickshire currently remains sufficient for places, however there is an increase in areas seeing high occupancy levels during the summer term periods which is the term that will see highest occupation within early years settings. This indicates that spare capacity is now reducing and must be monitored closely.

There has been a small number of nursery closures during the last year however all have been replaced with new provision. We are seeing a higher than usual number of small business sales to medium sized chain provision with places remaining stable at these sites with some potential expansion options being investigated.

For monitoring:

- Recruitment – increasing national pressure, increasing numbers of providers are reporting this as a significant issue and for some a barrier to offering their full places
- Increasing take up of funded 2 year old places is a key priority for Warwickshire seeing take up grow from 63% to 72%. This could impact on place availability for the 3 and 4 year old entitlements

- Increasing demand for Universal and Extended Entitlement 3 and 4 year old hours – more families returning to the workforce due to financial pressures and increased population due to housing build out
- Closure of settings – figures not currently supporting this. Long term impact of Covid-19 on place sufficiency is unknown
- Current impact of the energy crisis on delivery costs and then increase to session charges for parents / carers
- Early Education Funded Entitlement rates
- Decline in childminder numbers since the pandemic

Place Creation

To ensure a continued sufficiency of places in response to increased demand by housing, especially in the areas where occupancy levels remain high, joint working is undertaken with School Place Planning to ensure new school provision is being developed with early years premises on site.

The team continues to receive enquiries from new providers wishing to open provision across Warwickshire and regular registrations of new childminders.

Evaluation

At the current time the available information indicates a relatively stable market with sufficient availability of 30 hours entitlements places and in the main meets demand other than small areas of mild pressure in parts of Leamington Spa, Stratford upon Avon and Rugby. It is essential to now monitor the situation closely if the ongoing growth of child population continues

Early Years and childcare place sufficiency for all entitlements continues to be monitored closely, with process and actions adapted on a term-by-term basis as required where information identifies a specific area of concern.

Report Author: Mandy Latham, 9th September 2022

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Item 9

Schools Forum – Forward Plan 2022-23

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
10 November 2022 Extraordinary Meeting (date date is subject to change) Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5% transfer (if required) 	
12 January 2023 2pm to 4pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023-24 National Funding Formula 2023-24 Early Years Funding Formula 2023-24 Pupil Growth Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSG 2022-23 Forecast DSG Recovery Plan Update
23 March 2023 2pm to 4pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSG 2023-24 Budget Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (subject to any ESFA guidance changes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSG 2022-23 Forecast DSG Recovery Plan Update
June 2023 (TBC) 2pm to 4pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-delegation & Disapplication Consultation Timetable 2024-25 Section 48 – Scheme for Financing Schools (subject to any ESFA guidance changes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSG 2022-23 Outturn DSG Recovery Plan Update
September 2022 (TBC) 2pm to 4pm Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023-24 National Funding Formula (year 6) Timetable and consultation De-delegation 2023-24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSG 2022-23 Forecast DSG Recovery Plan Update Academy Update Early Years & Childcare Place Sufficiency

Further meetings will be set up once dates for Cabinet have been set so as to avoid any meeting conflicts.

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