

**Total Membership 25**  
**The Forum is quorate if at least 40% (10) of the members are present**



**London Borough of Waltham Forest**  
**SCHOOLS FORUM**

Day/Date/Time	Venue
Wednesday 18 October 2023, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
<b>Contact:</b>	
<b>Clerk to Schools Forum</b>	<a href="mailto:Dennese.White@walthamforest.gov.uk">Dennese.White@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>
<b>Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)</b>	
Claire Nairn	Handsworth
Lindsey Lampard	Chingford C of E Primary
Rosie McGlynn	Our Lady and St George
Tracey Griffiths	Barn Croft Primary School
Zakia Khatun	Whitehall Primary School
<b>Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
Laura Hewer	Lime Trust (Larkwood, Hornbeam)
Anne Powell	Griffin Trust (Riverley, Willow Brook, Lammas)
Maureen Okoye ( <b>Chair</b> )	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
Iram Malik	Genesis Trust (St Marys and St Saviours)
<b>Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (1)</b>	
Aktar Beg	Edinburgh Primary
<b>Nursery School Representative (1)</b>	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
<b>Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)</b>	
Rebecca Linden	Willowfield School
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer School
<b>Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
Wayne Barnett	Chingford Trust (North Chingford and South Chingford)
John Hernandez ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Rob Pittard	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Tracey Penfold	Highams Park Trust
<b>Maintained Secondary Governor Representative (1)</b>	
Shona Ramsey	Leytonstone School
<b>Maintained Special School Representative (1)</b>	
Bruce Roberts	Belmont Park School
<b>Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)</b>	
Kirstie Fulthorpe	Flourish Learning Trust (Joseph Clark, Whitefield)
<b>PRU (1)</b>	
Liz Rattue	Hawkswood Group
<b>Non School Members (4)</b>	
Anuta Dunca (First Stepping Stones Nursery)	Early Years Providers

## Total Membership 25

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Janet Gardner (Waltham Forest College)	16-19 Providers
Paul Phillips (NEU)	Trade Unions
Carolyn Laws (Holy Family)	Diocesan

### AGENDA

Agenda Item	Report Name	Report Authors
1	Welcome all and Apologies.  <i>Welcome new members:</i>	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	All
3	Minutes of meeting 20 September 2023	Chair
3a	Decision Sheet from 20 September 2023	For the record
4	Report back from Alternative Provision Task & Finish group	Anne-Marie Koroma
5	Report back from Resource Ladder Task & Finish group	Duncan James-Pike
6	Update on Early Years SENIF	Eve McLoughlin
7	High Needs Block update	Duncan James-Pike
	<b>Date of Next Meetings:</b>  Wednesdays, 5:30pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 November 2023</li> </ul>	Local Funding Formula 2024-25  Early Years Block Planning 2024-25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 December 2023</li> </ul>	Central School Services block  Growth Fund  Services to Maintained

### Total Membership 25

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		Schools School Improvement Budget 2024-25 High Needs Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 January 2024</li> </ul>	TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07 February 2024</li> </ul>	Schools Block Indicative allocations  High Needs Block Indicative allocations  Early Years Block Indicative allocations

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 20 September 2023

Day/Date/Time	Venue
Weds 20 September 2023, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
<b>Contact:</b>	
<b>Clerk to Schools Forum</b>	<a href="mailto:Dennese.white@walthamforest.gov.uk">Dennese.white@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>
<b>Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)</b>	
Lindsey Lampard	Chingford C of E Primary
Rosie McGlynn	Our Lady and St George
Zakia Khatun	Whitehall Primary School
<b>Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
Maureen Okoye (Chair)	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
<b>Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (1)</b>	
<b>Nursery School Representative (1)</b>	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
<b>Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)</b>	
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer
<b>Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)</b>	
John Hernandez (Vice Chair)	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Rob Pittard	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Tracey Penfold	Highams Park Trust
<b>Maintained Secondary Governor Representative (1)</b>	
Rebecca Linden	Willowfield School
<b>Maintained Special School Representative (1)</b>	
<b>Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)</b>	
Paul Lawson on behalf of Kirstie Fulthorpe	Flourish Learning Trust (Joseph Clark, Whitefield)
<b>PRU (1)</b>	
<b>Non School Members (4)</b>	

Anuta Dunca	Early Years Provider (First Steppingstones Nursery)
<b>Officers</b>	
Anne-Marie Koroma	Assistant Director for Youth and Family Resilience Service
Dennese White	Principal Accountant
Duncan James-Pike	Strategic Finance Advisor
Eve McLoughlin	Head of Early Years, Childcare and Business Development
Gurpreet Kataora	Head of School Business Support
Hiran Perera	Principal Accountant
Jamel Mason	Senior Accountant
Lauren Ovenden	Director of Education
Lindsay Jackson	Assistant Director Post 16 & Operations
Lucinda Lord	Senior Accountant
Sergio Dimech	Head of Education Finance
Umut Yeter	Principal Accountant
Vira Yurchenko	Finance Officer Early Years, Childcare & Business Development
<b>Observers</b>	
Fiona Judge	The Winns Primary School
Natalie Fitzgerald	Hawkswood Group
Rosette Doxon	Leytonstone School
Sakeenah Maudarbocus	Gwyn Jones School
SB External	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Abena Rodman-Tay (Waltham Forest College)	16-19 Providers
Claire Nairn	Handsworth
Heather Flinders	Strategic Director, People DCS/DASS
Liz Rattue	Hawkswood Group
Shona Ramsey	Leytonstone School

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 Welcome new member: Jessica Mcquaid
- 1.2 Apologies from Claire Nairn, Shona Ramsey, Heather Flinders, Liz Rattue, Abena Rodman-Tay

## 2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 No Declaration of Interests highlighted.

### **3. Minutes of 20 September 2023 Schools Forum meeting**

3.1 Minutes were agreed.

3.2 Matters Arising: None

#### **3a. Decision Sheet from September 2023**

Noted for the record.

### **4 Schools Forum membership and powers**

4.1 This report reviews the representation of maintained schools and academies / free schools at Schools Forum following the October 2022 census

4.2 **Schools Forum to agree:** That the current balance of School Representation is appropriate to continue for the 2023-24 session.

4.2.1 **To Vote:** Agree – 11, Disagree – 0

4.3 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

### **5 Dedicated School Grant Outturn 2022-23**

5.1 This report updates School Forum on the 2022-23 final outturn for the Dedicated School Grant; the balances held for each block at the end of March 2023; and the forecast balances for March 2024

#### **5.2 Schools Forum to note:**

5.2.1 The cumulative brought forward DSG balance from 2021-22 of a **£2.76 million deficit** became a **£2.33 million deficit** at the end of **2022-23** due to High Needs, Early Years and Schools block surplus balances in 2022-23. The DSG Deficit Balance for 2023-24 is expected to be **£2.18 million** subject to the High Needs outturn.

5.2.2 The final settlement of DSG allocation to the Local Authority (LA) for 2022-23, after academy recoupment was **£176.55 million**.

5.2.3 The accounting practice to record DSG deficits in the Local Authority accounts has been extended by 3 years to end in 2025-26. The DSG deficit does not need to be offset by balances in the LAs revenue accounts from 2020-21 to 2025-26 but have been recorded as **Un-useable Reserves**.

5.2.4 The High Needs (HN) underspend in 2022-23 was **£0.17 million** leading to a cumulative carry forward deficit on the HN block of **£4.51 million**. This cumulative HN deficit was offset by surplus balances in the Early Years, Growth Fund and Schools Blocks.

5.3 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

## **6 Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 & update on School Funding Announcement for 2024-25**

6.1 This report updates School Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) ESFA allocations for 2023-24 and the July 2023 announcement by the Department for Education (DfE) on the provisional allocations for Schools, High Needs and Central Services blocks for 2024-25.

6.2 Schools Forum noted the contents of this report.

### **6.3 Question**

Is there any indication of what the additional Teachers Pensions Grant will be for Special Schools?

### **6.4 Question**

Is there any indication of what the additional Teachers Pensions Grant will be for Alternative Provision?

### **6.5 Response**

There will be a special announcement regarding Special Schools and Alternative provisions teachers' pension additional grant.

There is also an earmarked amount in High needs for these schools.

## **7 Early Years Funding Update – Supplementary Grant September 2023 – March 2024**

7.1 This report sets out the following financial information in relation to the provision of free education for 2, 3 & 4 year olds:

- The DfE's Supplementary grant funding from 1 September 2023 until 31 March 2024;
- The potential impact on providers of the supplementary grant and consultation; and
- The DfE's Consultation on the 2024-25 Early Years DSG and funding formula

7.2 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

7.2.1 The DfE's Supplementary grant funding from 1 September 2023 until 31 March 2024

7.2.2 The potential impact on providers of the supplementary grant and consultation

7.2.3 The DfE's Consultation on the 2024-25 Early Years DSG and funding formula

## **8 AOB**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 18 October 2023 @ 17.30 via Microsoft Teams Link



## Schools Forum, 20 September 2023

### Summary of Decisions

#### Item 4      Schools Forum membership and powers

##### Schools Forum agreed:

- 4.1 That the current balance of school representation is appropriate to continue for the 2023-24 session.

#### Item 5      Dedicated School Grant Outturn 2022-23

##### Schools Forum noted:

- 5.2.1 The cumulative brought forward DSG balance from 2021-22 of a **£2.76 million deficit** became a **£2.33 million deficit** at the end of **2022-23** due to High Needs, Early Years and Schools block surplus balances in 2022-23. The DSG Deficit Balance for 2023-24 is expected to be **£2.18 million** subject to the High Needs outturn.
- 5.2.2 The final settlement of DSG allocation to the Local Authority (LA) for 2022-23, after academy recoupment was **£176.55 million**.
- 5.2.3 The accounting practice to record DSG deficits in the Local Authority accounts has been extended by 3 years to end in 2025-26. The DSG deficit does not need to be offset by balances in the LAs revenue accounts from 2020-21 to 2025-26 but have been recorded as **Un-useable Reserves**.
- 5.2.4 The High Needs (HN) underspend in 2022-23 was **£0.17 million** leading to a cumulative carry forward deficit on the HN block of **£4.51 million**. This cumulative HN deficit was offset by surplus balances in the Early Years, Growth Fund and Schools Blocks.

#### Item 6      Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 & update on School Funding Announcement for 2024-25

##### Schools Forum noted:

- 2.1 The contents of this report.

#### Item 7      Early Years Funding Update – Supplementary Grant September 2023 – March 2024

##### Schools Forum noted:

- 7.2.1 The DfE's Supplementary grant funding from 1 September 2023 until 31 March 2024
- 7.2.2 The potential impact on providers of the supplementary grant and consultation
- 7.2.3 The DfE's Consultation on the 2024-25 Early Years DSG and funding formula

Meeting / Date	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM 18 October 2023</b>	Agenda Item	<b>4</b>
Report Title	<b>Funding Agreement of commissioned Alternative Provision places 2024-25</b>		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision by all		
Report Author/ Contact details	Anne-Marie Koroma, AD Youth and Family Resilience Service  Lindsay Jackson, AD Post 16 & School Operations		
Appendix	Appendix A: School contributions Financial Year 2024-25 Primary Appendix B: School contributions Financial Year 2024-25 Secondary		

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report feeds back from the Task and Finish group set up to review and provide recommendations on the three-year agreement to cover 2024-25 to 2026-27 for mainstream school contributions to commissioned Alternative Provision places.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2.1 Schools Forum to agree:

- 2.1.1 That the current three-year agreement is extended by an additional year, for 2024-25, and that the next three-year agreement will be agreed by Schools Forum in Autumn 2024 to cover the period 2025-26 to 2027-28.

### 2.2 Schools Forum to note:

- 2.2.1 No school can be forced to sign up to contribute to the additional year of this 3-year agreement. However, Schools Forum are asked to note that, unlike mainstream schools, PRUs only receive funding via commissioned places and the associated mainstream school contributions. Schools who choose not to opt-in to a mainstream school agreement leave the PRU's financial sustainability – and the delivery of the agreed Alternative Provision framework – vulnerable.
- 2.2.2 Whilst there can be an agreed higher charge for schools who do not choose to opt in but need to access places later in the year, this forces the Hawkswood Group to reduce their core expenditure and core staffing costs impacting on the service that can be provided to all pupils. To ensure the Group can strategically plan and retain quality, it is strongly advised that schools agree that an opt-in model is expected for all schools.

2.2.3 Hawkswood Primary, Hawkswood Secondary, and Belmont Park are also commissioned to deliver SEND places, these places are managed by the SEND Service via the panel and so are not included in this funding agreement.

### **3. REASON**

3.1 The Task and Finish Group members have made the recommendation to extend the current 3-year agreement by an additional year to allow for further reviews of the Alternative Provision Strategy arising from the significant impact of the COVID pandemic on the needs of young people.

3.2 Due to the interlinked challenges, the Task and Finish Group members also wish to ensure that the commissioning of Alternative Provision places works in collaboration with the new WF SEND Strategy, which is due in Autumn 2023.

3.3 It is therefore recommended that one additional year is added to the current funding agreement.

3.4 It is recommended that the Task and Finish Group continues the current review over Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 and brings recommendations for a 3-year funding agreement to Schools Forum in Autumn 2024.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 Principles of the current 3-year agreement cycle:

4.1.1 In February 2021, Schools Forum agreed to move to a three-year funding cycle to support the implementation of the Waltham Forest Alternative Provision framework, developed with headteachers and approved by Cabinet in January 2020.

4.1.2 The Alternative Provision framework aims to keep children within mainstream schools through trauma-informed school-based interventions – tiers 1 to 3 – which reduce the numbers of children and young people being excluded and progressing through to tiers 4, 5 and 6.

4.1.3 The current 3-year agreement for Alternative Provision commissioned places is based on mainstream schools contributing to places which fall into tiers 5 and 6 delivered by Burnside PRU, Hawkswood Primary PRU, Hawkswood Secondary therapeutic PRU and Belmont Park Special School.

4.1.4 After a benchmarking exercise looking at Local Authority and mainstream school contributions to Alternative Provision places it was highlighted that Waltham Forest mainstream school's contribution was significantly under the London average, this was especially evident in the secondary phase. Therefore, any increases in mainstream school budgets would be reflected in increased contributions.

4.1.5 The current funding model looked to provide a phased approach to resolve historic issues with the funding of Alternative Provision by:

- Bringing full transparency into the contributions of schools and the LA by bringing the funding agreement back into Schools Forum for scrutiny and agreement;
- Providing the stability of the PRU schools and mainstream schools by moving away from annual agreements for commissioned numbers and funding to a three-year agreement for both, and by supporting mainstream secondary schools manage the significant increase in their contributions via a decreasing subsidy supported through the clawback of excluded students and underwritten by the High Needs Block (please see 5.3 for more details);
- Promoting fairness within the funding model to ensure that financial risk is spread equally across the system; and
- Committing to the communal protection of vulnerable children through a pooled agreement and the delivery of high-quality education and interventions that aims to successfully enable young people to return to mainstream provision.

## 5. Current funding agreement

5.1 Commissioned places:

5.1.1 Waltham Forest has commissioned the following number of Alternative Provision places which are processed and monitored via FAP:

School	Phase	Commissioned places
Hawkswood Primary PRU	KS1 and KS2	20 places
<b>Total Primary AP places</b>		<b>20 places</b>
Hawkswood Secondary	KS3 and KS4	20 places*
Burnside PRU	KS3 and KS4	46 places
Belmont Park Special School	Non-Assessment (children with EHCPs)	20 places
	Assessment (children being assessed for EHCPs)	10 places
<b>Total Secondary AP places</b>		<b>96 places</b>
<b>Total places</b>		<b>116 places</b>

5.1.2 Within the current three-year agreement signed off in February 2021, Primary schools contribute to a total of 20 places.

5.1.3 Within the current three-year agreement signed off in February 2021, secondary schools contribute to a total of 91 places. The additional 5 places are currently paid in full from the High Needs Block for full period of the three-year agreement (a total of £351,980 over the three-year agreement). This was agreed as the number of commissioned places at Hawkswood Secondary was increased from 15 to 20 places after the Schools Funding Agreement was signed off by Schools Forum in February 2021. The full funding of these additional 5 places at Hawkswood Secondary from the High Needs Block was intended to cease at the end of this three-year agreement and be funded in line with the other 15 places at Hawkswood Secondary.

## 5.2 Per place funding

5.2.1 The place funding of the Alternative Provision commissioned places is made up of two elements: the 'core' funding of £10,000 per place from the Local Authority, paid for via the High Needs Block and the mainstream school contribution outlined in this paper.

5.2.2 As per the current 3-year agreement, the mainstream school's contribution has increased each year to reflect increases in mainstream funding. This has seen the following increases to the total per place funding received by Hawkswood Primary PRU, Hawkswood Secondary, Burnside PRU and Belmont Park Special school:

	<b>Mainstream school contribution per place</b>	<b>LA core place funding per place</b>	<b>Total per commissioned place funding</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Year 1 2021-22</b>	£13,000	£10,000	£23,000	
<b>Year 2 2022-23</b>	£13,390	£10,000	£23,390	3% uplift
<b>Year 3 2023-24</b>	£14,006	£10,000	£24,006	4.6% uplift

### **5.3 Secondary subsidy:**

- 5.3.1 A core aim of the current funding agreement was to realign mainstream school contributions, which had fallen significantly under true cost in the previous period, especially in the secondary phase.
- 5.3.2 Due to the significant rise in cost to secondary schools it was agreed to provide a subsidy by a reducing amount over the three-year agreement at which point the intention was to remove the subsidy.
- 5.3.3 The subsidy being provided to support the secondary contributions is funded through the clawback from excluded pupils, and those who leave school for any other reason who are receiving education funded by the LA by another (non-school) provider. The clawback of this funding from schools, includes AWPU and any deprivation funding (FSM, FSM ever 6, IDACI) and AEN funding (Mobility, EAL3, Low Prior Attainment).
- 5.3.4 In February 2021, the analysis into the last 'normal' full academic year was for 2018/19, and showed there had been 85 permanent exclusions which would have generated £223k clawback funding from schools (£14k of which was primary). It was also estimated that approximately £300k clawback would be generated each year from schools where students move to college placements.
- 5.3.3 It was therefore agreed to use the estimated clawbacks to subsidise secondary contributions by: £500k in the first year of the agreement (financial year 2021-22), £300k in the second year of the agreement (financial year 2022-23), and £200k in the third year of the agreement (financial year 2023-24), with the understanding that by the end of the 3-year agreement secondary contributions would no longer be subsidised.
- 5.3.4 The subsidy within this 3-year agreement was underwritten by the High Needs Block. So far this subsidy has resulted in the High Needs Block 'topping up' the subsidy supporting secondary school contributions by a total of £321,289 (2021-22 £227,518; and 2022-23 £93,771)
- 5.3.5 Following the current agreement plan the use of clawback from excluded pupils and the commitment within the High Needs Block to underwrite any further secondary subsidy is due to cease in March 2024.

### **6. Proposals for the extension of the current agreement**

- 6.1 As outlined above, it is proposed that the current agreement is extended by an additional year but with the following minor adjustments:
- 6.1.1 Secondary school contributions will be based on 96 places rather than 91.

6.1.2 The school contribution element will increase in line increases in mainstream funding:

	<b>Mainstream school contribution per place</b>	<b>LA core place funding per place</b>	<b>Total per commissioned place funding</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Year 4 2024-25</b>	£14,650	£10,000	£24,650	Further 4.6% on the assumption school funding will increase by 4.6% for 2024-25

6.1.3 In agreement with the AP Task and Finish Group it was agreed that the subsidy would continue at the current level of £200,000 for FY24-25. This will continue to be paid for via the clawback from permanently excluded students and any shortfall will be held within the Alternative Provision programme budget which is an allocation from the High Needs Budget, further allocations on top of this from the High Needs Budget will not be provided. Mitigations against the risks arising from this have been written into the AP programme.

## **7. INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS 2024-25**

7.1 The recommendation to continue the current three-year agreement by an additional year is based on the number of commissioned numbers as outlined in 5.1.1.

7.2 Appendix A provides the estimated contributions per school for April 2024 based on NOR from the October 2022 census and commissioned numbers for 2024-25 PRU and AP assessment places (as outlined in 5.1). Calculations are based on the school 'top-up' contribution per place to be £14,650 which in keeping with the current agreement includes assumed uplift.

7.2.1 **Individual primary school 'top-up' contribution:** Based on the current commissioned numbers of 20 primary PRU places this would equate to a total primary school contribution of £293,055. Divided by the 23,351 primary pupils this equates to £12.55 per pupil for the financial year starting 1 April 2024.

7.2.2 **Individual secondary school "top-up" contributions:** Based on the current commissioned numbers of 96 secondary PRU and AP Assessment places and inclusion of a subsidy of £200,000 from the clawback from permanently excluded students this would equate to a total secondary school contribution of £1,206,400. Divided by the 14,435 secondary students this equates to a per pupil contribution of £83.57 for the financial year starting 1 April 2024.



## APPENDIX A

## Funding of PRU &amp; AP Assessment places - Individual School contributions - Primary

	Places	Top Up	Total Top-Up	NOR
2021-22	20	£13,000	£260,000	23,853
2022-23 (includes 3% inflation)	20	£13,390	£267,800	23,464
2023-24 (includes 4.6% increase)	20	£14,006	£280,119	23,351
2024-25 (includes 4.6% increase)	20	£14,650	£293,004	23,351

School Name	Contribution 2022-23	NOR October 2022	2023-24 £11.94 per pupil NOR
Chase Lane Primary School	£7,110	617	£7,042
Whitehall Primary School	£4,691	422	£4,816
Downsell Primary School	£4,531	374	£4,269
Newport School	£8,628	764	£8,720
Chapel End Infant School and Early Years Centre		209	£2,495
Edinburgh Primary School	£4,120	294	£3,355
Greenleaf Primary School	£4,702	414	£4,725
Handsworth Primary School	£4,748	416	£4,748
Thorpe Hall Primary School	£4,166	340	£3,880
The Winns Primary School	£6,403	578	£6,597
Oakhill Primary School	£2,089	185	£2,111
Henry Maynard Primary School	£9,028	752	£8,583
South Grove Primary School	£4,794	421	£4,805
Dawlish Primary School	£2,009	177	£2,020
Gwyn Jones Primary School	£4,611	400	£4,565
George Tomlinson Primary School	£4,896	433	£4,942
Mission Grove Primary School	£7,784	715	£8,160
Coppermill Primary School	£2,499	213	£2,431
Stoneydown Park School	£6,163	547	£6,243
Parkside Primary School	£6,973	620	£7,076
The Jenny Hammond Primary School	£4,565	410	£4,679
Ainslie Wood Primary School	£4,577	403	£4,600
Barn Croft Primary School	£2,191	196	£2,237
Chingford CoFE Primary School	£4,679	417	£4,759
St Mary's Catholic Primary School		213	£2,543
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	£1,815	141	£1,609
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School	£1,484	126	£1,438
Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School	£3,960	326	£3,721
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	£4,189	372	£4,246
Buxton Primary	£5,125	406	£4,634
Lime Academy Larkwood	£6,654	589	£6,722
Yardley Primary School	£4,759	422	£4,816
Davies Lane Primary School	£9,347	834	£9,519
Hillyfield Primary Academy	£14,107	1174	£13,399
Emmanuel Community School	£2,123	183	£2,089
Willow Brook Primary School Academy	£6,483	586	£6,688
The Woodside Primary Academy	£11,972	1046	£11,938
Chapel End Junior Academy	£3,321	281	£3,207
Riverley Primary School	£4,622	409	£4,668
Sybourn Primary School	£5,433	495	£5,650
Thomas Gamuel Primary School	£3,401	339	£3,869
Walthamstow Primary Academy	£2,146	178	£2,032
Roger Ascham Primary School	£4,463	397	£4,531
Longshaw Primary Academy	£3,230	230	£2,625
Salisbury Manor Primary School	£3,355	301	£3,435
Woodford Green Primary School	£2,226	193	£2,203
Whittingham Primary Academy	£4,406	379	£4,326
Mayville Primary School	£3,938	326	£3,721
St Saviour's Church of England Primary School	£3,744	329	£3,755
St Mary's CoFE Primary School	£6,175	566	£6,460
Barclay Primary School	£13,525	1215	£13,867
Selwyn Primary School	£6,814	594	£6,779
George Mitchell School	£4,086	384	£4,383
<b>PRIMARY TOTAL</b>	<b>£262,858</b>	<b>23,351</b>	<b>£266,732</b>

APPENDIX B

Funding of PRU & AP Assessment places - Individual School contributions - Secondary

	*Places	Top Up	Total Top Up	Less contribution from recoupment or HNB	NOR	Top Up per pupil
2021-22	91	£13,000	£1,183,000	-£500,000	14,062	£48.57
2022-23 (includes 3% inflation)	91	£13,390	£1,218,490	-£300,000	14,146	£64.93
2023-24 (includes 4.6% increase)	91	£14,006	£1,274,541	-£200,000	14,435	£73.13
2024-25 (includes 4.6% increase)	96	£14,650	£1,406,420	£0	14,435	£97.43
2024-25 (includes 4.6% increase)	96	£14,650	£1,406,420	-£100,000	14,435	£90.50
2024-25 (includes 4.6% increase)	96	£14,650	£1,406,420	-£150,000	14,435	£87.04
2024-25 (includes 4.6% increase)	96	£14,650	£1,406,400	-£200,000	14,435	£83.57

\*Places

Hawkswood (Secondary)	20
Burnside Secondary PRU	46
Belmont Park Assessment Places	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>

\*\* From Feb 2023 Schools Forum

LA contribution	Total cost of places	Per place cost
£910,000	£2,093,000	£23,000
£910,000	£2,128,490	£23,390
£910,000	£2,184,541	£24,006
£960,000	£2,366,420	£24,650
£960,000	£2,366,420	£24,650
£960,000	£2,366,420	£24,650
£960,000	£2,366,400	£24,650

£115,000  
£116,950  
£120,030

School Name	Contribution 2022-23
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Frederick Bremer School	£56,878
Heathcote School & Science College	£57,527
Willowfield School	£58,566
Leytonstone School	£62,917
Walthamstow School for Girls	£58,112
Kelmscott School	£56,748
Holy Family Catholic School	£64,540
Buxton Secondary	£47,983
South Chingford Foundation School	£33,504
Eden Girls' School Waltham Forest	£39,607
Connaught School for Girls	£40,061
Norlington School and 6th Form	£44,866
Lammas School and Sixth Form	£43,373
Highams Park School	£76,292
Chingford Foundation School	£81,746
Walthamstow Academy	£57,657
George Mitchell School	£38,114

<b>SECONDARY TOTAL</b>	<b>£918,490</b>
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NOR October 2022	2023-24 £73.13 per pupil NOR
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894	£65,375
887	£64,863
938	£68,592
1,002	£73,272
898	£65,667
969	£70,859
975	£71,298
784	£57,331
550	£40,219
613	£44,826
620	£45,338
737	£53,894
660	£48,263
1,198	£87,605
1,231	£90,018
887	£64,863
592	£43,291

<b>14,435</b>	<b>£1,055,572</b>
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Year 4 No Contribution	Year 4 100K Contribution	Year 4 150K Contribution	Year 4 200K Contribution
2024-25 £97.43 per pupil NOR	2024-25 £90.5 per pupil NOR	2024-25 £87.04 per pupil NOR	2024-25 £83.57 per pupil NOR
£87,102	£80,907	£77,814	£74,712
£86,420	£80,274	£77,204	£74,127
£91,389	£84,889	£81,644	£78,389
£97,625	£90,681	£87,214	£83,737
£87,492	£81,269	£78,162	£75,046
£94,410	£87,695	£84,342	£80,979
£94,994	£88,238	£84,864	£81,481
£76,385	£70,952	£68,239	£65,519
£53,587	£49,775	£47,872	£45,964
£59,725	£55,477	£53,356	£51,228
£60,407	£56,110	£53,965	£51,813
£71,806	£66,699	£64,148	£61,591
£64,304	£59,730	£57,446	£55,156
£116,721	£108,419	£104,274	£100,117
£119,936	£111,406	£107,146	£102,875
£86,420	£80,274	£77,204	£74,127
£57,679	£53,576	£51,528	£49,473
<b>£1,406,402</b>	<b>£1,306,368</b>	<b>£1,256,422</b>	<b>£1,206,333</b>

Rate increase based on SB 23-24 funding increase of 4.6%. NOR based on Oct 2022 Census

£97.43      £90.50      £87.04      £83.57

Meeting / Date	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM 18 October 2023</b>	Agenda Item	<b>5</b>
Report Title	<b>Resource Ladder Task &amp; Finish Group</b>		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion		
Report Author/ Contact details	<b>Duncan James-Pike</b>  <b>Strategic Finance Advisor</b>		
Appendices	Papers from the T&F Group		

## 1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report details the papers and discussions from the Task and Finish Group on the Resource Ladder.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2.1 Schools Forum to note:

2.1.1 The contents of this report.

## 3. REASON

3.1 Schools Forum 8 February 2023 agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to review the issue of moving to the new Resource Ladder those pupils on the old Resource Ladder.

## 4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The first meeting was on 21 June 2023 via Teams with 13 members confirming attendance, although at the meeting in attendance were 3 school reps and the Designated Clinical Officer

### 4.2 Papers presented (see Appendix)

4.2.1 Schools Forum report, February 2023 which set the remit and terms of reference for the group: To consider whether the existing position (of old and new Resource Ladders) has the correct balance between the principles of fairness, transparency, stability and protecting vulnerable students, and to consider options to address moving to the new Resource Ladder those pupils on the old Resource Ladder.

4.2.2 The new Resource Ladder doc v5 May 22

#### 4.2.3 The Old Resource Ladder

4.2.4 Distribution of pupils on old and new Ladders (Feb 23) this shows that while 50% of mainstream schools EHCPs are on the new Resource Ladder, while for special schools the figure was 11%, plus tables demonstrating the long “tail” across year groups showing full implementation of the new Resource Ladder would take several years.

4.2.5 Overlay of old ladder rates to new

4.2.6 Effective rates of special school top-up rates including the additional 3.4% funding.

### **4.3 The actions and comments from the first meeting**

4.3.1 All pupils on the old ladder to move onto the new ladder, as it is much fairer and more equitable.

4.3.2 How do we protect the sustainability of the special Schools? If we do not, we will ultimately end up placing children in the Independent special School sector with these high needs and would cost more.

4.3.3 What are the benefits of moving pupils on the old ladder to the new ladder? There have been no uplifts on the new ladder since it has been introduced, there are escalating costs and there will be a gap between the pupils on the old ladder and pupils on the new ladder.

4.3.4 There are no uplifts on the old ladder, how do you justify to the parents the reason between the two ladders.

4.3.5 Any plans to do a group of Schools to see the impact?

4.3.6 Professional leads to attend the next meeting, so they can give opinion on what the practicalities of moving from the old ladder to the new ladder.

4.3.7 Suggestion to take the current EHCP to panel or provide a few pupils - to see what the proportionate move or shift will be.

4.3.8 We need to agree a mechanism to move pupils from the old ladder to the new ladder. For example, for the inclusive primary schools, could we use a certain percentage, to find out how much it will cost to move those pupils across onto the new ladder.

4.3.9 Not receiving enough income to fund SEND pupils and school that have a deficit have been asked to put through a recovery plan by the LA, this must be included as part of the discussion, how do we reduce the deficit, when main part of the deficit is because they are not receiving enough income to fund SEND pupils.

4.4 The second meeting was on 5 July 2023 via Teams. In attendance: 2 school reps, the Designated Clinical Officer and the Assistant Director for SEND (Interim).

#### **4.5 Comments in the second meeting**

4.5.1 Suggestion to use the AD's model, to work on a way for larger providers.

4.5.2 A benchmark called KRAIG, which is used against SEND placement. WF is not signed up to this benchmark. WF to look into this benchmark.

4.5.3 We need to prioritize annual reviews (shift in provision and new strategy coming in September).

4.5.4 Can training and support be provided to address the lag we have in the system.

4.5.5 How are we trialling the mainstream EHCP's?

4.5.6 What is the notional loss of a special school?

4.5.7 Can we not identify 5 young people within the provision and consider a business case and allow for deep dives into the business case.

4.5.8 We need to establish the most legitimate and fairer way of transferring all pupils on the old ladder onto the new ladder

#### **5. OUTCOMES**

5.1 The LA is looking at collaborating with special schools as the priority as this is where the highest pressures are located and where the highest degree of specialism is required.

5.2 Mainstream schools will be engaged with following a review of the outcomes of the conversion process.

5.3 As it is impossible to review hundreds of plans simultaneously, the reviews will be done in batches.

5.4 The special schools will identify priorities for review, such as the most vulnerable pupils; transition year groups; or where advice is 2-3 years out of date.

5.5 Schools will work with an identified officer from the SEND Service, supported as and when required by a SEND Team Leader or another extra resource.

5.6 Revised provision maps will be reviewed jointly by the SEND service and the schools and then be taken to SEND panel for approval with the outcome of resources being allocated via the new Resource Ladder.

- 5.7 Any financial uplift request will be supported by a provision map and go to panel for decision.
- 5.8 The Director of Education and Assistant Director for SEND will have oversight of the process & ensure the appropriate lines of reporting & authorisation through the Council's scheme of delegation for the costings involved.

## **Schools Forum Resource Ladder Task & Finish Group**

### **Meeting 1: Weds 21 June 2023, 4-5pm via Teams**

Members confirming attendance:

1. Alison Money
2. Dennese White
3. Duncan James-Pike
4. Helen Currie
5. Hiran Perera
6. Jonathan Ashwell
7. Julie Vazquez
8. Kirstie Fulthorpe
9. Lindsey Lampard
10. Ria Mills
11. Sergio Dimech
12. Tracey Griffiths
13. Vikki Monk-Meyer

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for participating in the Task & Finish Group

The agenda for the meeting is for officers to talk through the attached documents and following discussion take away any actions, modelling, etc. agreed by the group for the next meeting.

Chatham House rules will apply.

Please see attached documents

#1 Schools Forum report, February 2023

<https://thehub-beta.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-forum>

This sets the remit and terms of reference for the group:

To consider whether the existing position (of old and new Resource Ladders) has the correct balance between the principles of fairness, transparency, stability and protecting vulnerable students, and to consider options to address moving to the new Resource Ladder those pupils on the old Resource Ladder.

#2 The new Resource Ladder doc v5 May 22

[https://thehub-beta.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/ResourceLadder\\_May\\_2022.pdf](https://thehub-beta.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/ResourceLadder_May_2022.pdf)

#3 The Old Resource Ladder

#4 Distribution of pupils on old and new Ladders (Feb 23)

#5 Overlay of old ladder rates to new

#6 Effective rates of special school top-up rates including the additional 3.4%

**Item 3 Old Resource Ladder**

	TOP-UP RATES BEFORE 1ST SEP 2020				
	E	F	G	H	I
Belmont Park Special School	£12,000	£18,750	£21,500	£25,250	£47,000
Joseph Clarke and Hornbeam Special Schools, PRUs and Special Resource Provisions	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000
Special Resource Provisions	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000
All Mainstream Primary Schools	£8,427	£15,177	£17,927	£21,677	£43,427
Chingford Foundation, Holy Family, Kelmscott and South Chingford Mainstream Secondary Schools	£8,137	£14,887	£17,637	£21,387	£43,137
Whitefield Special School	£8,000	£14,750	£17,500	£21,250	£43,000
All Other Mainstream Secondary Schools and All-Through Mainstream Schools	£7,137	£13,887	£16,637	£20,387	£42,137

	TOP-UP RATES FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2020				
	E	F	G	H	I
* Belmont Park Special School	£12,000	£18,750	£21,500	£25,250	£47,000
* Joseph Clarke and Hornbeam Special Schools, PRUs	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000
Special Resource Provisions	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000
All Mainstream Primary Schools	£7,584	£13,659	£17,927	£21,677	£43,427
Chingford Foundation, Holy Family, Kelmscott and South Chingford Mainstream Secondary Schools	£7,323	£13,398	£17,637	£21,387	£43,137
* Whitefield Special School	£8,000	£14,750	£17,500	£21,250	£43,000
All Other Mainstream Secondary Schools and All-Through Mainstream Schools	£6,423	£12,498	£16,637	£20,387	£42,137

\* Note Special Schools are protected by a minimum funding guarantee and may receive additional payments at the end of the financial year



**Item 4 Distribution of pupils on old and new Ladders Feb 23**

New Resource Ladder
Old Resource Ladder
<b>TOTAL</b>

Mainstream	
589	50%
592	50%
<b>1181</b>	

Special	
72	11%
582	89%
<b>654</b>	

SRP	
30	18%
136	82%
<b>166</b>	

TOTAL	
691	35%
1310	65%
<b>2001</b>	

Nursery & Reception	3 to 5	EYFS
Y1 & 2	5 to 7	KS1
Y3 to Y6	7 to 11	KS2
Y7 to Y9	11 to 14	KS3
Y10 & Y11	14 to 16	KS4
Y12 to Y14		Post 16
		Other

1	0%
42	7%
<b>306</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>24%</b>
83	14%
17	3%
3	1%
<b>592</b>	<b>100%</b>

1	0%
49	8%
<b>131</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>166</b>	<b>29%</b>
100	17%
135	23%
	0%
<b>582</b>	<b>100%</b>

	0%
16	12%
<b>50</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>29%</b>
29	21%
1	1%
	0%
<b>136</b>	<b>100%</b>

2	0%
107	8%
<b>487</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>346</b>	<b>26%</b>
212	16%
153	12%
3	0%
<b>1310</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>KS2 &amp; KS3</b>
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<b>446</b>	<b>75%</b>
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<b>297</b>	<b>51%</b>
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<b>90</b>	<b>66%</b>
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<b>833</b>	<b>64%</b>
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Mainstream Children with EHCP Feb 2023				
Funding Rate	Level	pupils	Annual Cost per level	Percentage of pupils
£3,100	1	22	£68,200	3.7%
£5,500	2	99	£544,500	16.8%
£8,700	3	223	£1,940,100	37.9%
£10,900	4	169	£1,842,100	28.7%
£16,800	5	71	£1,192,800	12.1%
£19,400	6	4	£77,600	0.7%
Above £19,400	7	1	£22,000	0.2%
<b>New Resource Ladder</b>		<b>589</b>	<b>£5,687,300</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
£3,000	2b	0	£0	0.00%
£3,500	2C	1	£3,500	0.15%
£4,000	2D	1	£4,000	0.15%
£4,500	3A	1	£4,500	0.15%
£0	D	3	£0	0.51%
Primary E £7,584	E	246	£1,715,895	41.55%
Secondary E £6,423				
Primary F £13,659	F	324	£4,302,450	54.73%
Secondary F £12,498				
Primary G £17,927	G	16	£282,962	2.70%
Secondary G £16,637				
<b>Old Banding System</b>		<b>592</b>	<b>£6,313,307</b>	<b>99.93%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,181</b>	<b>£12,000,607</b>	

AY	Recep	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Other															3
D											1	1		1	3
E	1	1	12	19	26	24	34	16	24	31	23	27	5	3	246
F		5	23	42	47	50	52	19	16	33	14	15	1	7	324
G		1		3	2	3	4			1	1	1			16
	1	7	35	64	75	77	90	35	40	65	39	44	6	11	592

Special School Children with EHCP Feb 2023					
Funding Rate	Level	pupils	costs	percentage	
£5,500	2	1	£5,500	1%	
£8,700	3	5	£43,500	7%	
£10,900	4	15	£163,500	21%	
£16,800	5	35	£588,000	49%	
£19,400	6	16	£310,400	22%	
<b>New Resource Ladder</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>£1,110,900</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Bottom	£3,500	D	0		0.0%
Mid	£4,500				
Top	£7,500				
Bottom	£7,200	E	56	£495,000	9.6%
Mid	£8,100				
Top	£10,800				
Bottom	£13,275	F	414	£6,319,500	71.1%
Mid	£14,175				
Top	£16,875				
Bottom	£17,500	G	76	£1,359,000	13.1%
Mid	£18,500				
Top	£21,500				
Bottom	£21,250	H	31	£677,750	5.3%
Mid	£22,250				
Top	£25,250				
Bottom	£43,000	I	4	£175,000	0.7%
Mid	£44,000				
Top	£47,000				
	£15,000	Other	1	£15,000	0.2%
<b>Old Banding System</b>		<b>582</b>	<b>£9,041,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
		<b>654</b>	<b>£10,152,150</b>		

AY as of Sep 22	Recep	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
D																0
E		2	5	1	1	1	1	5	5	4	6	8	6	5	6	56
F	1	9	25	25	23	34	27	45	43	35	35	31	36	25	20	414
G		2	6	4	6	1	2	6	5	8	7	3	8	11	7	76
H				1	1	1	1	1	6	2	5	3	6	2	2	31
I								1				2			1	4
(blank)					1											1
	1	13	36	31	32	37	31	58	59	49	53	47	56	43	36	<b>582</b>

SRP Children with EHCP Feb 2023					
Funding Rate	Level	pupils	costs	percentage	
£5,500	2	2	£11,000	6.7%	
£8,700	3	11	£95,700	36.7%	
£10,900	4	6	£65,400	20.0%	
£16,800	5	11	£184,800	36.7%	
<b>New Resource Ladder</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>£356,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
Mid	E	28	£252,000	20.6%	
Mid	F	106	£1,669,500	77.9%	
Mid	G	2	£57,000	1.5%	
<b>Old Banding System</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>£1,978,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
		<b>166</b>	<b>£2,335,400</b>		

AY as of Sep 22	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	Total
E		1		1	3	3	2	1	5	4	7	1	28
F	4	11	10	9	10	14	9	14	7	11	7		106
G							1		1				2
	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>136</b>

**Item 5 Overlay of old ladder rates to new**

Notional Support Hours are costed at the full hourly rate of a term time only Teaching Assistant on SCP11.

£25,128	SCP 11 Pay including 2021-22 pay award
£2,412	National Insurance: 8.9% + 1.5% h & care levy
£7,061	Superannuation at 28.1%
£34,601	Total Cost including oncost
£27,058	Pro Rata Term Time Only at 78.2%
£589.88	Weekly Rate at 45.87 weeks
£18.43	Full Hourly Rate at 32 hours per week

£845.56	One hour per week for 45.87 weeks
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Level	Setting	Notional Support Hours	Round to nearest £100	Additional Support	Total
1	ALL	6	£5,100	£4,000	£9,100
2	ALL	10	£8,500	£3,000	£11,500
E	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	14.7			£12,423
E	C'FORD, S. CH'FORD, H. FAMILY, KELMSCOT	15.8			£13,323
E	PRIMARY	16.1			£13,584
E	WHITEFIELD	16.6			£14,000
3	ALL	15.0	£12,700	£2,000	£14,700
E	J.CLARK, HORNBEAM, SRPs PRUs	17.7			£15,000
4	ALL	20.0	£16,900		£16,900
E	BELMONT PARK	21.3			£18,000
F	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	21.9			£18,498
F	PRIMARY	23.3			£19,659
F	WHITEFIELD	24.5			£20,750
F	J.CLARK, HORNBEAM, SRPs PRUs	25.7			£21,750
G	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	26.8			£22,637
5	ALL	27.0	£22,800		£22,800
G	WHITEFIELD	27.8			£23,500
G	C'FORD, S. CH'FORD, H. FAMILY, KELMSCOT	28.0			£23,637
G	PRIMARY	28.3			£23,927
G	J.CLARK, HORNBEAM, SRPs PRUs	29.0			£24,500
F	BELMONT PARK	29.3			£24,750
6	ALL	30.0	£25,400		£25,400
7	ALL				Above £25,400
G	BELMONT PARK	32.5			£27,500

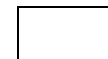
Element 2 from School	Element 3 Top Up from High Needs Block
£6,000	£3,100
£6,000	£5,500
£6,000	£6,423.30
£6,000	£7,323.30
£6,000	£7,584.30
£6,000	£8,000.00
£6,000	£8,700.00
£6,000	£9,000.00
£6,000	£10,900.00
£6,000	£12,000.00
£6,000	£12,498.30
£6,000	£13,659.30
£6,000	£14,750.00
£6,000	£15,750.00
£6,000	£16,637.00
£6,000	£16,800.00
£6,000	£17,500.00
£6,000	£17,637.00
£6,000	£17,927.00
£6,000	£18,500.00
£6,000	£18,750.00
£6,000	£19,400.00
£6,000	Above £19,400
£6,000	£21,500.00

OLD Element 3
£6,423
£7,323
£7,584
£8,000
£9,000
£12,000
£12,498
£13,659
£14,750
£15,750
£16,637
£17,500
£17,637
£17,927
£18,500
£18,750
£21,500

Level	Setting	2020-21 BASE LINE	SPECIALS PROTECTION 10% E&F	SPECIALS INCL PROTECTION 10% E&F	SPECIALS UPLIFT 2023-24	SPECIALS UPLIFT 2023-24	ABOVE BASE?	ABOVE BASE?	NEW LADDER FROM APR 2021	ABOVE BASE	ABOVE BASE
1	ALL	£3,000							£3,100	£100	3%
2	ALL	£5,000							£5,500	£500	10%
E	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	£6,423									
E	C'FORD, S. CH'FORD, H. FAMILY, KELMSCOT	£7,323									
E	PRIMARY	£7,584									
E	WHITEFIELD	£7,200	£800	£8,000	£456	£8,456	£1,256	17%			
3	ALL	£8,000							£8,700.00	£700	9%
E	J.CLARK	£8,100	£900	£9,000	£424	£9,424	£1,324	16%			
E	HORNBEAM	£8,100	£900	£9,000	£520	£9,520	£1,420	18%			
E	SRPs PRUs	£8,100									
4	ALL	£9,000							£10,900.00	£1,900	21%
E	BELMONT PARK	£10,800	£120	£10,920	£1,772	£12,692	£1,892	18%			
F	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	£12,498									
F	PRIMARY	£13,659									
F	WHITEFIELD	£13,275	£1,475	£14,750	£842	£15,592	£2,317	17%			
F	J.CLARK	£14,175	£1,575	£15,750	£742	£16,492	£2,317	16%			
F	HORNBEAM	£14,175	£1,575	£15,750	£910	£16,660	£2,485	18%			
F	SRPs PRUs	£14,175									
G	ALL-THROUGH & ALL OTHER SECONDARY	£16,637									
5	ALL	£15,000							£16,800.00	£1,800	12%
G	WHITEFIELD	£17,500		£17,500	£999	£18,499	£999	6%			
G	C'FORD, S. CH'FORD, H. FAMILY, KELMSCOT	£17,637									
G	PRIMARY	£17,927									
G	J.CLARK	£18,500		£18,500	£872	£19,372	£872	5%			
G	HORNBEAM	£18,500		£18,500	£1,069	£19,569	£1,069	6%			
G	SRPs PRUs	£18,500									
F	BELMONT PARK	£18,750		£18,750	£1,082	£19,832	£1,082	6%			
6	ALL	£17,000							£19,400.00	£2,400	14%
7	ALL	Above £17,000							Above £19,400	Above £19,400	Above £19,400
G	BELMONT PARK	£0		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0			

**Item 6 Effective rates of special school top-up rates including the additional 3.4%**

	TOP-UP RATES				
	E	F	G	H	I
Belmont Park Special School	£12,000	£18,750	£21,500	£25,250	£47,000
Joseph Clarke and Hornbeam Special Schools, PRUs and Special Resource Provisions	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000
All Mainstream Primary Schools	£7,584	£13,659	£17,927	£21,677	£43,427
Chingford Foundation, Holy Family, Kelmscott and South Chingford Mainstream Secondary Schools	£7,323	£13,398	£17,637	£21,387	£43,137
Whitefield Special School	£8,000	£14,750	£17,500	£21,250	£43,000
All Other Mainstream Secondary Schools and All-Through Mainstream Schools	£6,423	£12,498	£16,637	£20,387	£42,137



Belmont Park Special School	E	F	G	H	I	2	3	4	5	6	7
Top up based on Old and New ladder	£12,000	£18,750		£25,250	£47,000		£8,700	£10,900	£16,800	£19,400	£48,250
As above with Additional Funding 3.4%	£12,692	£19,832		£26,707	£49,713		£9,202	£11,529	£17,770	£20,520	£51,035

Joseph Clarke	D	E	F	G	H	I	2	3	4	5	6
Top up based on Old and New ladder	£4,500	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000				£16,800	£19,400
As above with Additional Funding 3.4%	£4,712	£9,424	£16,492	£19,372	£23,299	£46,074				£17,592	£20,314

Hornbeam	E	F	G	H	I	2	3	4	5	6	7
Top up based on Old and New ladder	£9,000	£15,750	£18,500	£22,250	£44,000	£5,500	£8,700	£10,900	£16,800	£19,400	
As above with Additional Funding 3.4%	£9,520	£16,660	£19,569	£23,536	£46,543	£5,817	£9,202	£11,530	£17,771	£20,521	

Whitefield	E	F	G	H	I	2	3	4	5	6	7
Top up based on Old and New ladder	£8,000	£14,750	£17,500	£21,250	£43,000			£10,900	£16,800	£19,400	
As above with Additional Funding 3.4%	£8,456	£15,592	£18,499	£22,463	£45,455			£11,522	£17,759	£20,507	

## LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b> <b>18 October 2023</b>	Agenda Item	<b>6</b>
Report Title	<b>SENIF in Reception</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information and Decision		
Report Author/ Contact details	Eve Mc Loughlin Head of Early Years Childcare and Business development <a href="mailto:eve.mcloughlin@walthamforest.gov.uk">eve.mcloughlin@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>		
Appendices	Appendix A: Letter		

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Schools Forum on the SENIF in Reception project and requests that the funding covers two academic years.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

#### 2.1 Schools Forum to note:

- 2.1.1 The anticipated cost of the SENIF in Reception pilot in academic year 2023/24 is £250k.
- 2.1.2 The total cost of the pilot across academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25 is anticipated to be £500k.
- 2.1.3 Schools Forum approved a Schools Block transfer of £350k in December 2022.
- 2.1.4 The anticipated spend for financial year 2023-24 is £250k which would result in an underspend of £100k.

#### 2.2 Schools Forum to agree:

- 2.2.1 To carry forward the 2023-24 underspend (estimated at £100k) to financial year 2024-25 and to agree a transfer of £150k of Schools Block funding in financial year 2024-25 to continue the pilot in academic year 2024/25.
- 2.2.2 The anticipated benefits that the success of the SENIF in Reception pilot will be measured against.



### **3. REASON**

- 3.1 In December 2022 Schools Forum agreed to transfer £350k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to set up a SENIF budget for Reception age children. This report provides an update on progress so far in developing and implementing this pilot.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 There were 105 children who transitioned to Reception Classes in September 2023 who had an EHCP in place at the time of transition. The school where the child is taking up their Reception place will receive EHCP payments for these children. These children do not therefore form part of the SENIF in Reception pilot programme.
- 4.2 The following children meet the criteria for SENIF in Reception Funding:
- 4.2.1 25 children who transitioned to Reception Classes in September 2023 who had been in receipt of SENIF level 3 funding or above in their nursery provision but did not have a request for an EHCP in place at the time of transition as they had lower-level needs and/or more time was required to undertake a thorough assessment of their needs.
- 4.2.2 23 children who transitioned to Reception Classes in September 2023 where the LA's SEND panel had agreed to carry out an EHCP assessment, but at the point of transition no decision had been made by the SEND panel as to whether to issue an EHCP or not.
- 4.2.3 There were 9 children who transitioned to Reception Classes in September 2023 where the LA's SEND panel had agreed to issue an EHCP assessment, but at the point of transition the EHCP had not been finalised, therefore no EHCP payments could be made.
- 4.3 All schools that have children in their Reception Class that meet the criteria for SENIF in Reception funding have been written to provide them details of the funding. A copy of the letter is set out at Appendix A.
- 4.4 The anticipated cost of the pilot in academic year 2023/24 is £250k.
- 4.5 The estimated cost of the pilot across academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25 is £500k.
- 4.6 In December 2022 Schools Forum approved a transfer of £350k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to fund the SENIF in Reception pilot. The anticipated spend for academic year 2023/24 is 250k which would result in an underspend of £100k.
- 4.7 Approval is being sought from Schools Forum to carry forward the 2023-24 underspend (estimated at £100k) to 2024-25 and to agree a transfer of £150k of Schools Block funding in 2024-25 to continue the pilot in academic year 2024/25, in order to support the last cohort of Reception age children who would have been born during the COVID-19 lockdown period (Mar 2020 to July 2021).

## 5. ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

### 5.1 Anticipated benefits for schools

- Less time spent on funding applications and more time for school to establish and support child's short term and longer-term support needs without the need for an EHCP.
- Additional funding to access support from specialist teachers, educational psychologists etc.
- Reduction in school staff time dealing with concerns/complaints from parents/carers regarding perceived lack of support for their child/ren.
- More equal distribution of children with learning and developmental delay across all schools, and more children taking up their reception place in a local school.
- Less Reception age children deferring their places beyond the Autumn Term Census which would result in child being included in the schools funding formula and prevention of loss of funding for the child. (Only children on roll and taking their place up on the Autumn Census are included in schools funding formula)

### 5.2 Anticipated benefit for the parent/carer and child

- Appropriate support and interventions in place to meet the child's need throughout their Reception year.
- Access to support from specialist teachers, educational psychologists etc.
- Reduction in requests from school to ask parents/carers to assist with self-care or collect their child/ren from school early as a result of being on a reduced timetable.

### 5.3 Anticipated benefit for the Local Authority/High Needs Block budget

- Reduction in the number higher level EHCP's as children's longer terms self-care needs have reduced during the EYFS phase.
- A reduction in the number of children who are in receipt of SENIF who go on to have an EHCP.
- Reduction in Officer time dealing with concerns/complaints from parents/carers regarding perceived lack of support for their child/ren
- More robust assessments obtained during Reception Year to inform any ongoing requests for support e.g. requests for an EHCP assessment should this be required.
- Less Reception age children deferring their places beyond the Autumn Term Census which would result in child being included in schools funding formula and prevention of loss of funding for the child. (Only children on roll and taking their place up on the Autumn Census are included in schools funding formula).

## Appendix A

Dear Headteacher/SENCO,

### **Re: SENIF in Reception Funding Pilot for academic year 2023/24**

We are writing to introduce you to the SENIF in Reception Funding Pilot, that was agreed at Schools Forum in December 2022.

SENIF in Reception Funding Pilot will allow schools to offer additional support to children in Reception (September 2023) who had been in receipt of SENIF level 3 funding in preschools and nurseries across Waltham Forest and are not in receipt of an EHCP.

### **Rationale and purpose of funding**

A delay in learning and development in the early years may or may not indicate that a child has SEN, that is, that they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision. The level of self-care needs for a child in Reception may not always be an indicator of the level of self-care support that they may need in the longer term.

‘SENIF in Reception’ funding will be paid where a child has been identified as having a lower level learning and developmental delay, which is likely to require additional support in their Reception year.

This funding can be used by the school to gain a full understanding of the child’s particular strengths and needs and how best address them in a classroom environment, using well-evidenced interventions targeted at areas of difficulty and, where necessary, specialist equipment or software in order to overcome barriers to learning and participation.

It will also allow the school to test out interventions as part of this process, both to judge their effectiveness for the child and to provide further information about the precise nature of their needs.

This funding should also allow schools to involve appropriate specialists, for example, health visitors, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists or specialist teachers, who may be able to identify effective strategies, equipment, programmes or other interventions to enable the child to make progress towards the desired learning and development outcomes.

Where, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the learning and development needs of the child (as set out above), the child has not made expected progress during their Reception Year, the school should consider requesting higher level ‘SENIF in Reception’ funding in the first instance via SENIF in Reception Review Form.

SENIF in Reception funding will help schools to build a clear picture of the child longer terms needs which could be met through ordinarily available practice and schools notional SEND budget or may support an EHCP assessment request in the future should it be required.

In addition, SENIF in Reception funding will also be paid in relation to children who were in receipt of level 3 SENIF funding in their nursery provision where the SEND panel have approved an EHCP assessment or have agreed to issue an EHCP.

The Table below sets out the period of funding and funding levels for each of the scenarios above.

<b>Eligibility Criteria for SENIF in Reception Funding</b>	<b>Duration of SENIF in Reception Funding</b>
<p><b>Scenario 1:</b> Children who were in receipt of level 3 SENIF in pre-school /Nursery where a decision to issue an EHCP has been agreed and is still in process.</p>	<p>SENIF funding would be paid at level 3 (£7 p/h) up until the EHCP has been finalised and EHCP payments commence.</p>
<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> Children who were in receipt of SENIF level 3 in pre-school / Nursery where a EHCP request to assess has been agreed, but a decision as to whether to issue has not yet been made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a decision to issue an EHCP is agreed SENIF funding will be paid at level 3 (£7 p/h) up until the EHCP has been finalised and EHCP payments commence</li> <li>• If following the EHCP assessment there is a decision <b>not</b> to issue an EHCP, then SENIF funding will be paid at level 3 up until the date of the decision <b>not</b> to issue.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario 3:</b> Children who were in receipt of SENIF level 3 in pre-school /Nursery where their ongoing learning and development needs are expected to be met by Ordinarily Available Practice.</p>	<p>SENIF funding will be paid at SENIF level 3 (£7 p/h) to support transition up until the end of Autumn Term: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023</p>
<p><b>Scenario 4:</b> Children who have started in Reception and have learning and developmental delay and have not been in receipt of SENIF</p>	<p>A referral to SENIF in Reception can be made via a SENIF in Reception application Form.</p>

The Early Years, Childcare and Business Development Team and the SEND Team have identified the children who will be eligible for this funding.

Please see attached the information regarding the child/children in Reception at your school who meet the criteria for SENIF in Reception Funding.

SENIF in Reception funding will be backdated to Monday 4th September 2023

Schools will receive SENIF in Reception funding as part of the schools monthly FEEE payment.

No further action will be required from the school at this point.

As part of this pilot, we will be reviewing the effectiveness and impact of the SENIF in Reception funding with regards to the transition process for both the child and their family and the school. We will be in touch with more information regarding this later in the Autumn term.

We look forward to working with you – please feel free to contact [FEEEprovision@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:FEEEprovision@walthamforest.gov.uk) if you have any additional questions regarding the SENIF in Reception funding arrangements.

If you have any queries regarding any of the child's EHCP arrangements, please contact your schools named SEND case officer.

Yours faithfully

Eve Mc Loughlin

Head of Early Years, Childcare and Business Development

Meeting / Date	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM 18 October 2023</b>	Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report Title	<b>High Needs Update</b>		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision		
Report Author/ Contact details	Duncan James-Pike  Strategic Finance Advisor		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the current position of the DSG deficit and the High Needs budget, together with the DfE intervention programmes and the treatment of DSG deficits in Local Authority accounts.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **2.1 Schools Forum to note:**

- 2.1.1 The contents of this report.

### **2.2 Schools Forum to agree:**

- 2.2.1 To establish a Task and Finish Group to consider options for moving funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and to report back to Schools Forum in November.

## **3. REASON**

- 3.1 To provide an update to Schools Forum of the current pressures on High Needs and the DSG and to ask Schools Forum to establish a Task and Finish Group to consider options to mitigate those pressures by a transfer of funding from the Schools Block.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The DfE has set-up the following programmes:

- The DSG Safety Valve programme
- Delivering Best Value in SEND (DBV) programme

- 4.2 Under the DSG Safety Vale Programme the LAs with the highest dedicated school grant deficits agree a set of High Needs reforms and savings targets with the DfE. The first 'Safety Valve' agreements were signed for the financial year 2021-22. To date 33 LAs are under the Safety Vale programme.

4.3 The Delivering Better Value in SEND programme supports local authorities to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable. Newton Europe, in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), is working with the Department to deliver the programme which is currently providing dedicated support and funding to 55 local authorities.

## 5 Position at Waltham Forest

5.1 Waltham Forest is not currently in either programme as the DSG deficit is relatively small and has been relatively stable over the last two years. However, DFE officers have met with LA officers to keep the position under review and to check on the LA's management of the DSG.

5.2 One of the reasons for this stability has been the revision to the old Resource Ladder in April 2020 and the introduction of the new Resource Ladder from September 2020 following a widespread consultation. The revision to the old Resource Ladder included a reduction of 10% to the funding bands Level E and Level F for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in mainstream schools, while the new Resource Ladder provided greater flexibility and refreshed a needs-led rather than finance-led approach.

5.3 The five-year DSG balances reported over each block are summarised in the table below. The opening 2022-23 deficit balance of £2.76 million decreased by £0.42 million, closing the financial year with a deficit balance of £2.34 million. The deficit decrease was mainly due to in year under spends in the Early Years and High Needs Blocks and the Early Years prior year adjustment for 2021-22.

	31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	31-Mar-23
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	0.46	0.54	0.47	0.54	0.56
Growth Fund	0.41	1.14	0.93	0.34	0.33
<b>Total Schools Block</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>0.89</b>
High Needs	(1.74)	(4.53)	(5.01)	(4.69)	(4.51)
Early years	2.87	3.43	2.67	1.00	1.22
Central Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.06
<b>Total DSG</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>(0.94)</b>	<b>(2.76)</b>	<b>(2.34)</b>

5.4 Mid-year forecasts for the High Needs Block 2023-24 are being finalised but current expectations are that there will be an in-year deficit driven mostly by the continued increase in Education Health and Care Plans and the costs of out-borough provision, together with the anticipated costs of migrating EHCPs issued before September 2020.

- 5.5 The number of EHCPs have increased over the last twelve months and have increased as a proportion of numbers on roll also.

	October 2022 census	October 2023 estimate
Number on Roll	37,786	37,932
EHCP	2,812	3,134
EHCP as % of NOR	7.44%	8.26%

- 5.6 The indicative High Needs Block for 2024-25 is £58.02 million, only £1.31 million (2.6%) higher than the £56.70 million in 2023-24. Even without continued growth, it seems likely that a further in-year deficit may occur in 2024-25.

- 5.7 In contrast, the indicative increase for mainstream schools 2024-25 is 4.6%.

<b>Provisional DSG Allocations 2024-25</b>			
<b>DSG Funding Block</b>	<b>2024-25 Allocation Excluding Growth Fund</b>	<b>2023-24 Allocation Excluding Growth Fund</b>	<b>Increase</b>
	£m	£m	%
Schools Block	238.09	227.66	4.6%
High Needs Block	58.01	56.52	2.6%
Early Years*			
Central Schools Services Block	1.61	1.57	2.5%
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>297.71</b>	<b>285.75</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
* To be published			

## 6. Statutory Override

- 6.1 In 2020, the government introduced a statutory override which separates local authorities' DSG deficits from their wider financial position and does not allow an authority to charge any such deficit to its revenue account. The statutory override was put in place for a period of three years, up to March 2023, and meant that local authorities' DSG deficits could be separated from their wider accounts and placed in an "unusable reserve".
- 6.2 The government has extended the statutory override until March 2026 but there is an expectation that authorities need to plan for the end of these arrangements and consider their position.

## 7. Inter Block Transfer

- 7.1 The Schools Block is ring-fenced in 2024-2025 in line with the DSG conditions of grant, however local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools



Block funding into another block, following a consultation with maintained schools and academies and with the approval of their Schools Forum. For Waltham Forest, one half of one percent (0.5%) of the Schools Block is approximately £1 million or £26.50 per pupil.

- 7.2 Most proposals by local authorities to move funding from their Schools Block arise because of pressures on their high needs budgets and the local authority must provide details of how the transfer from the Schools Block will decrease the pressure on the high needs block.
- 7.3 Given the current pressures on the High Needs Block and the wider pressures arising from the DSG deficit, the LA requests that Schools Forum establish a Task and Finish Group to consider options for moving funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to reduce the financial pressure, (in general or by specific investments), and the accompanying risks of intervention or other actions in anticipation of the ending of the statutory override.