

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 20 September 2023, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
Contact:	
Clerk to Schools Forum	Dennese.White@walthamforest.gov.uk
Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)	
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
Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
Laura Hewer	Lime Trust (Larkwood, Hornbeam)
Anne Powell	Griffin Trust (Riverley, Willow Brook, Lammas)
Maureen Okoye (Chair)	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
Iram Malik	Genesis Trust (St Marys and St Saviours)
Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (1)	
Aktar Beg	Edinburgh Primary
Nursery School Representative (1)	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)	
VACANT	
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer School
Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
Wayne Barnett	Chingford Trust (North Chingford and South Chingford)
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
Maintained Secondary Governor Representative (1)	
Shona Ramsey	Leytonstone School
Maintained Special School Representative (1)	
Bruce Roberts	Belmont Park School
Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)	
Kirstie Fulthorpe	Whitefield Trust (Joseph Clark, Whitefield)
PRU (1)	
Liz Rattue	Hawkswood Group
Non School Members (4)	
Anuta Dunca (First Stepping Stones Nursery)	Early Years Providers

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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 8 February 2023	Chair
3a	Decision Sheet from 8 February 2023	For the record
4	Schools Forum Membership and Powers	Duncan James-Pike
5	DSG Outturn 2022-23	Hiran Perera
6	Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 & update on School Funding Announcement for 2024-25	Sergio Dimech
7	EY Funding Update – Supplementary Grant September 2023 – March 2024	Eve McLoughlin
	Date of Next Meetings: Wednesdays, 5:30pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 October 2023 	High Needs Update 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 November 2023 	Local Funding Formula 2024-25 Early Years Block Planning 2024-25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 December 2023 	Central School

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		Services block Growth Fund Services to Maintained Schools School Improvement Budget 2024-25 High Needs Update 3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 January 2024 	TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 February 2024 	Schools Block Indicative allocations High Needs Block Indicative allocations Early Years Block Indicative allocations



MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 8 February 2023

Day/Date/Time	Venue
Weds 8 February 2023, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
Contact:	
Clerk to Schools Forum	dennese.white@walthamforest.gov.uk
Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)	
Claire Nairn	Handsworth
Lindsey Lampard	Chingford C of E Primary
Rosie McGlynn	Our Lady and St George
Tracey Griffiths	Barn Croft Primary School
Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (1)	
Nursery School Representative (1)	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)	
Clive Rosewell	Willowfield School
Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
John Hernandez (Vice Chair)	Exceptional Education Trust (Norlington School and Sixth Form)
Tracey Penfold	Highams Park Trust
Maintained Secondary Governor Representative (1)	
Maintained Special School Representative (1)	
Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)	
Kirstie Fulthorpe	Whitefield Trust (Joseph Clark, Whitefield)
PRU (1)	
Liz Rattue	Hawkswood Group
Non School Members (4)	
Anuta Dunca	Early Years Provider (First Steppingstones Nursery)

Officers	
Lauren Ovenden	Director of Education
Duncan James-Pike	Strategic Finance Advisor
Jamel Mason	Senior Accountant
Eve McLoughlin	Head of Early Years, Childcare and Business Development
Lucinda Lord	Senior Accountant
Lindsay Jackson	Assistant Director Post 16 & Operations
Gurpreet Kataora	Head of School Business Support
Sergio Dimech	Head of Education Finance
Kashif Nawaz	Assistant Director of SEND
Dennese White	Principal Accountant
Observers	
Tanya Henry	George Tomlinson School
John Ashwell	Greenleaf Primary School
Mike Thomas	Willowfield Secondary School
Shermaine Lewis	Frederick Bremer School
SB External	
Sohana Qureshi	Greenleaf Primary School
Apologies	
Maureen Okoye (Chair)	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
Shona Ramsey	Leytonstone School
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 Welcome

1.2 Apologies from Maureen Okoye, Shona Ramsey, and Jenny Smith

1.3 Vacancy: Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representative.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 No Declaration of Interests highlighted.

3. Minutes of 8 February 2023 Schools Forum meeting

3.1 Minutes were agreed.

3.2 Matters Arising: None

3a. Decision Sheet from February 2023

Noted for the record.

4 Mainstream School Additional Grant 2023-24

4.1 This report sets out indicative allocations for the new Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) to assist with budget planning.

4.2 Question

When is the (MSAG) going to come through? And on what mechanism?

4.3 Response

Summer 2023-24 with a 3% of Top up / place funding over 2022-23 figures

4.4 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

5 Local Funding Formula 2023-24: Indicative Budget Shares

5.1 In November 2022 Schools Forum agreed that when the Local Authority set the 2023-24 School Budgets:

- The Local Funding Formula will continue to use National Funding Formula (NFF) factors and rates.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) would be +0.5%.
- Any additional funding available after running the formula would be used to increase Basic Entitlement (AWPU).

5.2 This report and its appendices show the indicative school budget shares for 2023-24. It details the funding factors used, the basic pupil count and pupil characteristics and the changes in these compared to 2022-23. Subject to validation by the ESFA, officers expect the figures in this report to be the budget shares for 2023-24.

5.3 Question

Is this trend going to continue?

5.4 Response

Something to keep in mind when planning in the future.

5.5 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

6 High Needs Indicative Allocations 2023-24

6.1 This report provides an overview of High Needs Block (HNB) for 2023-24 and sets out the indicative 2023-24 allocations from the HNB for place-led and top-up funding.

6.2 Schools Forum noted the contents of this report.

7 Early years funding formula for the provision of free early education entitlement (FEEE) places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds for 2023-24.

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

- Total funding available for allocation to providers in 2023-24 via the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF);
- Final per pupil hourly rates for 2023-24;
- Indicative budget shares for providers in 2023-24; and
- Proposed method for collecting pupil data and making payments to providers in 2023-24.

7.2 School Forum noted the contents of this report.

7.2.1 The DfE/ESFA Early Years Block budget control total for 2023-24 as set out in **Appendix A**

7.2.2 The hourly funding rates for 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds as set out in **Appendix B and C** (with a comparison with the previous year)

7.2.3 The breakdown of the Deprivation supplement for 2023-24 in **Appendix D**

7.2.4 The indicative budget shares as set out in **Appendices E, F and G** that will form the basis of monthly allocations to all Early Years providers in 2023-24.

7.2.5 That the Local Authority (LA) is compliant with the DfE 95% pass through rate as outlined in the compliance tool as set out in **Appendix H**.

7.2.6 The Early Years System Support budget of **£60,000** as set out in 9.6 from the Early Years Reserve.

7.2.7 The SEND Inclusion Fund budget of **£940,670** as set out in 9.8.

7.2.8 That final outturn expenditure figures for the 2022-23 Early Years Block (EYB) funding are not yet available currently. Final DfE/ESFA EYB 2022-23 allocations are also not available and are due to be published by the DfE/ESFA in July 2023.

8 Task & Finish Group: High Needs Resource Ladder

8.1 This report requests that Schools Forum establish a Task and Finish Group to review the issue of moving to the new Resource Ladder those pupils on the old Resource Ladder.

8.2 **Question**

When is the Task and Finish Group likely to start and how can we contribute?

8.3 Response

In the summer term - volunteers for the group:4

8.4 Question

Can we be given clarification on the Teaching Assistant and the uplift?

8.5 Response

To be confirmed.

8.6 Schools Forum agreed to the recommendations.

9 Task and Finish Group for Funding of PRU and AP Assessment Places

9.1 This report outlines the current funding agreement in place for PRU and AP assessment places agreed by Schools Forum in Feb 2021 to be in place for the financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24

As per the current three year agreement it is proposed to set up a Task and Finish group to run over the oncoming financial year in order to review and provide recommendations to Schools Forum on school contributions to PRU and AP assessment places upon which to agree a three-year contribution agreement for 2024-25 to 2026-27.

9.2 Question

Should we setup a Task & Finish Group

9.3 Response

Yes – volunteers to the group - 6

9.4 Schools Forum agreed to the recommendations and noted the other points in the report.

10 AOB

10.1 Question

Would there be a delay to receiving the budgets 2023-24, due to the APT not been signed off?

10.2 Response

No.

11 Chair's concluding remarks

- 11.1 Enjoy summer break and thanks to officers and colleagues for their questions, curiosity, and comments.

Date of Next Meetings

Wednesdays, 5:30pm

- 20 September 2023
- 18 October 2023
- 15 November 2023
- 13 December 2023
- 17 January 2024
- 7 February 2024

Schools Forum, 8 February 2023

Summary of Decisions

Item 4 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant 2023-24

Schools Forum noted:

2.1.1 The contents of this report.

Item 5 Local Funding Formula 2023-24: Indicative Budget Shares

Schools Forum noted:

1.1 In November 2022 Schools Forum agreed that when the Local Authority set the 2023-24 School Budgets:

- The Local Funding Formula will continue to use National Funding Formula (NFF) factors and rates.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) would be +0.5%.
- Any additional funding available after running the formula would be used to increase Basic Entitlement (AWPU).

Item 6 High Needs Indicative Allocations 2023-24

Schools Forum noted:

2.1 The gross HNB allocation to Waltham Forest including Additional High Needs Grant for 2022-23 is £56.701 million, an increase of £5.241 million (10%) on the funding of £51.460 million in 2023-24.

2.2 The first draft of the HNB budget for 2023-24 which sets out the high-level allocations of that £56.701 million in Appendix A and that if growth in EHCPs continues at 13% this would consume any resources for investment and / or inflation.

2.3 The indicative allocation of £11.961 million of top-up funding to Waltham Forest mainstream schools in Appendix B.

- 2.4 The indicative allocation to special schools and academies of £8.011 million for place funding, £10.013 million top-up funding, £0.497 special school minimum funding and £0.691 special school additional funding in Appendix C.
- 2.5 The indicative allocation to special resource provisions of £1.206 million for place funding and £2.385 million top-up funding in Appendix D.
- 2.6 The indicative allocation to Alternative Provision including the PRUs of £3.485 million for place funding, £0.153 million top-up funding and £0.038 PRU HN additional funding in Appendix E.
- 2.7 The indicative allocation to Post 16 colleges of £1.516 million for place funding in Appendix F.

Item 7 Early years funding formula for the provision of free early education entitlement (FEEE) places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for 2023-24

Schools Forum noted:

- 2.1.1 The DfE/ESFA Early Years Block budget control total for 2023-24 as set out in **Appendix A**
- 2.1.2 The hourly funding rates for 2, 3 & 4 year olds as set out in **Appendix B and C** (with a comparison with the previous year)
- 2.1.3 The breakdown of the Deprivation supplement for 2023-24 in **Appendix D**
- 2.1.4 The indicative budget shares as set out in **Appendices E, F and G** that will form the basis of monthly allocations to all Early Years providers in 2023-24.
- 2.1.5 That the Local Authority (LA) is compliant with the DfE 95% pass through rate as outlined in the compliance tool as set out in **Appendix H**.
- 2.1.6 The Early Years System Support budget of **£60,000** as set out in 9.6 from the Early Years Reserve.
- 2.1.7 The SEND Inclusion Fund budget of **£940,670** as set out in 9.8.
- 2.1.8 That final outturn expenditure figures for the 2022-23 Early Years Block (EYB) funding are not yet available currently. Final DfE/ESFA EYB 2022-23

allocations are also not available and are due to be published by the DfE/ESFA in July 2023.

Item 8 Task & Finish Group: High Needs Resource Ladder

Schools Forum agreed:

- 2.1.1 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.

Item 9 Task and Finish Group for Funding of PRU and AP Assessment Places

Schools Forum agreed:

- 2.1.1 To set up a Task and Finish Group to review: the current provision of PRU and AP places, the appropriate division of responsibilities between the LA and schools; forecast need of numbers of places, and the contributions schools' make via their top-up funding.
- 2.1.2. That this Task and Finish Group runs over the Summer and Autumn term in order to bring a paper of recommendations to Schools Forum to enable the next three-year agreement to be in place by February 2024.

School Forum noted:

- 2.2.1 At the Schools Forum meeting on 10th February 2021 it was agreed that schools' top-up funding contributions are agreed for three years periods starting in April 2021, with reviews undertaken via Schools Forum at the beginning of the third year.
- 2.2.2 No school can be forced to contribute to the PRU; however, Schools Forum are asked to note that, unlike mainstream schools, PRUs only receive funding via commissioned places and the associated 'top-ups'. Schools who choose not to opt-in to the school's contribution leave the PRU's financial sustainability - and the delivery of the agreed AP 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 Hawkswood 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 Both Hawkswood Primary and Secondary and Belmont Park Special School are also commissioned to deliver SEND places, these places were not included in the PRU and AP funding agreements.

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 20 September 2023	Agenda Item	4
Report Title	Schools Forum membership and powers		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision		
Report Author/ Contact details	Duncan James-Pike, Strategic Finance Advisor duncan.james-pike@walthamforest.gov.uk		
Appendix A	Schools Forum powers and responsibilities		

1. SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Schools Forum to agree:

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

3. REASON

- 3.1 The balance of representation at Schools Forum should be broadly proportionate to the number of pupils in each group of schools.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Schools Forum guidance

- 4.1.1 The Schools Forums Regulations provide a framework for the appointment of members but allow a considerable degree of discretion to accommodate local priorities and practice.

- 4.1.2 Schools Forum powers and responsibilities are included as Appendix A to this report and can be found with the Schools Forum Operational and good practice guide, March 2021:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971711/2021_Schools_forums_powers_and_responsibilities.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971710/Schools_forum_operational_and_good_practice_guide_amended_March_2021.pdf

4.1.3 In 2015 Schools Forum adopted the following principles to be applied to its funding decisions: transparency; fairness; stability; and support for vulnerable students.

4.2 Represented Groups

4.2.1 Schools members and academies members must comprise at least 2/3rds of the Schools Forum membership.

4.2.2 Maintained primary schools; maintained secondary schools; and academies and free schools must be broadly proportionately represented on Schools Forum, based on the total number of pupils registered at them.

4.3 Maintained Schools members

4.3.1 Where the LA maintains the following types of school, they must be represented on the Schools Forum: Primary Schools; Secondary Schools; Special Schools; Nursery Schools; and PRUs.

4.3.2 Within each of the five groups above there could be the following types of member: Headteachers (or their representative); and Governors.

4.3.3 In overall terms there must be at least one headteacher (or their representative) and one governor.

4.3.4 The relevant sub-group of the relevant type of school elects their representatives e.g., primary school governor representatives are elected by the governors of primary schools, secondary school headteacher representatives are elected by the headteachers of secondary schools.

4.3.5 LA appointment of members may occur only if no election takes place by the agreed date or in the event of a tie.

4.4 Academy and free school members

4.4.1 At least one academies member must be a representative of mainstream academies, which includes free schools, UTCs and Studio Schools.

4.4.2 In addition, there must be one member for each of the following groups (if such exist in the LA area): Special academies, including free schools; and Alternative Provision academies, including free schools.

4.4.3 The relevant proprietors of academies elect for their group, e.g. mainstream academies, special academies, and alternative provision academies.

4.4.4 LA appointment of members may occur only if no election takes place by the agreed date or in the event of a tie.

4.5 Non-school members

4.5.1 There are four non-school members: Early Years Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) providers; 16-19 providers; Trade Unions; and a diocesan representative.

4.5.2 Before considering other groups, the LA must consider diocesan representation.

4.6 Practice in Waltham Forest

4.6.1 Membership has been uncontested recently and it has been the practice for groups to co-opt new members or for the LA to appoint members rather than hold elections.

4.7 October 2022

4.7.1 Following the October 2022 school census, it appears that the balance of representation at Schools Forum remains broadly proportionate to the number of pupils in each group of schools, see Table below.

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Academy and Free
Number on Roll October 2022	12,652	7440	18372
Members*	6	3	8
Members per pupil	2,200	2,300	2,300

*Maintained Primary and Secondary Members include 1 Governor in each group

4.72 The full Membership will comprise:

FULL MEMBERSHIP		
Academies and Free Schools	8	
Maintained Primary Schools	6 *	
Maintained Secondary Schools	3 *	
Maintained Nursery Schools	1	
Maintained PRU	1	
Maintained Special School	1	
Special Academies	1	
SCHOOL MEMBERS	21	
Early Years Private, Voluntary & Independent providers	1	
Post 16 providers	1	
Diocesan representative	1	
Trade Unions representative	1	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	25	
*Must include 1 Governor		



Schools forum powers and responsibilities

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Financial issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding • arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding • arrangements for early years provision • administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants 	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval to application for exclusions

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
De-delegation for mainstream maintained schools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contingencies administration of free school meals insurance licences/subscriptions staff costs – supply cover support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups behaviour support services library and museum services School improvement 	Proposes	Maintained primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
General Duties for maintained schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools (please see operational guide for more information) 	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early years block provision • funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement • back-pay for equal pay claims • remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies • places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • admissions • servicing of schools forum • Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged • contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a 	Proposes up to the value committed in the previous financial year and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<p>contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	<p>Read establishing local authority DSG baselines for more information.</p>		
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high needs block provision central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None, but good practice to inform forum</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Scheme of financial management changes</p>	<p>Proposes and consults the governing body and Head of every school</p>	<p>Approves (schools members only)</p>	<p>Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal</p>
<p>Membership: length of office of members</p>	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None (but good practice would suggest that they gave a view)</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Determine voting procedures</p>	<p>None</p>

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects (may not be an elected member of the Council or officer)	None

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 20 September 2023	Agenda Item	5
Report Title	Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2022-23		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information		
Report Author/ Contact details	Hiran Perera, Principal Accountant hiran.perera@walthamforest.gov.uk		
Appendices	Appendix A: Use of DSG Balances 2022-23 & proposed use of Reserves in 2023-24 Appendix B: 2022-23 High Needs Expenditure		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 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.

2. DSG Outturn 2022-23 and Projection for 2023-24

Schools Forum to note:

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

3. REASON

- 3.1 The LA provides Schools Forum with updates on the DSG final settlement allocation and Outturn position for the previous financial year as submitted to the Department for Education.
- 3.2 As part of the 2023-24 DSG budget cycle, discussions are required on the current trajectory of the DSG balances and the management of the HN deficit.

4. DSG OUTTURN 2022-23 EFSA ALLOCATION & BALANCES

- 4.1 The DSG comprises four funding blocks: The Schools, Early Years, High Needs and Central School Services blocks. **Table 1** sets out the DSG allocations received for 2022-23.

Table 1 DSG Gross to Net Allocations 2022-23

2022-23	ESFA Gross Allocation	Less Academy Recoupment	DSG Net Academy Recoupment	EY Adjustment	Net DSG Paid to LA
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Dedicated Schools Grant					
Schools Block	217.79	108.49	109.3		109.30
Growth Fund	0.64		0.64		0.64
Total Schools Block	218.43	108.49	109.94		109.94
High Needs	51.46	9.35	42.11		42.11
Central Services	1.53		1.53		1.53
Early Years	22.97		22.97	0.28	23.25
Dedicated Schools Grant	294.39	117.84	176.55	0.28	176.83

- 4.2 The final 2022-23 DSG allocated to the Local Authority (LA) after adjusting for academy recoupment and the EY adjustment was **£176.83 million.**
- 4.3 The historic DSG balances reported over each block are summarised in **Table 2.** The opening 2022-23 deficit balance of **£2.76 million was decreased by £0.42 million, closing with a deficit balance of £2.34 million.** The deficit decrease was mainly due to in year under spends by the Early Years & High Needs blocks and the Early Years adjustment for 2021-22.

Table 2 sets out the DSG balances for the period 2018-19 to 2022-23

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020	31 March 2021	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£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
Total Schools Block	0.88	1.68	1.40	0.88	0.89
High Needs	(1.74)	(4.53)	(5.01)	(4.69)	(4.51)
Early years	2.87	3.43	2.67	1	1.22
Central Services	0	0	0	0.04	0.06
Total DSG	2.01	0.58	(0.94)	(2.76)	(2.34)

- 4.4 The Finance Regulations 2020 amended the treatment of DSG deficits. This amendment was initially valid for 3 years and has now been extended by another 3 years to end in March 2026. It means that deficits should not be offset by balances in the LAs revenue accounts and had to be recorded as Un-useable Reserves.
- 4.5 The detailed use of DSG balances for 2022-23 and planned uses for 2023-24 are set out in **Appendix A**. The overall cumulative DSG balance is projected to reduce to **£2.18 million** by March 2024.
- 4.6 The DSG balances held for the Growth Fund address the reducing annual allocations from the ESFA. **£0.01 million** was used in 2022-23 and in 2023-24 the LA forecast to have an in-year underspend of **£0.16 million** with **£0.5 million** to be carried into 2024-25. DSG Growth fund balances are expected to be used in 2024-25 to support primary and secondary bulge classes starting in Sep 2024.
- 4.7 In 2022-23 the HN block underspend by **£0.17 million**. The cumulative HN Block deficit as of 31 March 2023 stands at **£4.51 million**. Appendix B sets out the 2022-23 summary of HN income and expenditure.
- 4.8 The Early Years Block has a surplus of **£1.22 million for 2023-24** which is forecast to increase to **£1.25 million** by 31 March 2024.

5. DSG DEFICIT BALANCES ESFA GUIDANCE & EXPECTATIONS

- 5.1 The Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024 operational guidance requires the DSG deficit management plans to be discussed with Schools Forum setting out the local authority's plans for bringing the DSG spend back into balance in a timely manner.
- 5.2 As part of this process the LA will update School's Forum on HN funding, in year pressures and outcomes of new strategies as part of the School Budget Planning cycle.

	Schools Block Contingency	School Improvement	Schools Facing Financial Challenges	Universal Offer	Growth Fund	Schools Block Total	Central Services	Early Years	SENIF	Early Years Block Total	High Needs Block Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£
Balances at 31 March 2022	294,361	80,000	100,000	65,827	344,779	884,967	42,944	997,746	0	997,746	(4,689,142)	(2,763,485)

2022-23 Actuals												
Needed for Growth Fund					(12,815)	(12,815)						(12,815)
Previously Unidentified (Covid)	783					783						783
Assume Drawn Down												0
Children and Families Centres contract										0		0
Outstanding payments from previous financial year										0		0
Speech & Language Therapy contract								(71,917)		(71,917)		(71,917)
Workforce Development								(41,667)		(41,667)		(41,667)
Premises & Place Development								(5,600)		(5,600)		(5,600)
Top Up of 2 year old hourly rate										0		0
SENIF										0		0
Cenytally /Retained										0		0
System Leadership										0		0
ESFA 2021-22 Adjustment								281,838		281,838		281,838
In year Surplus / (Deficit)	20,610					20,610	18,807	63,638		63,638	171,480	274,535
Balance at 31 March 2023	315,754	80,000	100,000	65,827	331,964	893,545	61,751	1,224,038	0	1,224,038	(4,517,662)	(2,338,327)

2023-24 Forecast												
Needed for Growth Fund						0				0		0
Previously Unidentified (Covid)						0				0		0
Assume Drawn Down						0				0		0
Children and Families Centres contract						0				0		0
Outstanding payments from previous financial year						0				0		0
Speech & Language Therapy contract						0				0		0
Workforce Development						0		(60,000)		(60,000)		(60,000)
Premises & Place Development						0				0		0
Top Up of 2 year old hourly rate						0				0		0
SENIF						0				0		0
Cenytally /Retained						0				0		0
System Leadership						0				0		0
ESFA 2022-23 Adjustment						0		88,805		88,805		88,805
In year Surplus / (Deficit)					131,065	131,065				0		131,065
Forecasted Balance at 31 March 2024	315,754	80,000	100,000	65,827	463,029	1,024,610	61,751	1,252,843	0	1,252,844	(4,517,662)	(2,178,457)

ACTUAL MOVEMENT IN DSG RESERVES 2022-23						8,578	18,807			226,293	171,480	425,157
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FORECAST MOVEMENT IN DSG RESERVES 2023-24						131,065	0			28,805	0	159,870
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SUMMARY OF HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2022-23 OUTTURN

Description	Outturn 2022-23
	£
INCOME	
High Needs Gross allocation	51,460,481
Academy Special School Recoupment - Places	- 7,524,167
Academy Special Resource provision Recoupment - Places	- 573,334
Post 16 College Recoupment	- 1,252,000
	42,110,980
EXPENDITURE	
Place Funding - Belmont Park	570,000
Special Schools Top-up	10,067,872
Spot Purchases	27,500
HNB supplementary funding 2% to special settings	363,848
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	11,029,220
Place Funding - Maintained Schools	537,000
Special Resource Provisions Top-up	2,414,340
Spot Purchases	45,500
SPECIAL RESOURCE PROVISIONS	2,996,840
MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS TOP UP	11,917,820
POST 16 PROVISION TOP UP, SPOT PURCHASES AND OTHER COSTS	2,933,743
Hawkswood PRUs Place led funding	1,003,654
Additional funding for PRU places	278,501
Hawkswood PRUs Top up	153,010
PRUs	1,435,166
AP College placements	1,227,976
Family Resilience	245,699
Heathcote and Holy Family Provision	270,000
Assessment Places (Belmont Park) & Other	300,000
ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	2,043,675
Independent School Fees & Non Maintained Special Schools	2,416,003
Other LA Schools Top Up	1,729,610
Alternative and Education Contributions (Tuitions, Transition/LAC)	932,374
INDEPENDENT & NON MAINTAINED SPECIAL SCHOOLS	5,077,987
Speech and Language Therapy Service	57,000
Home Hospital contract	258,692
Outreach Support Services	674,667
Early Years Home Visitors/EY SEND Success	191,000
SEND Service	995,486
Contribution to BACME (Social Inclusion)	324,100
FAP payment to Schools for admitting excluded pupils	71,600
Contributions to Direct payments	224,000
Pay and Pension funding to Special Settings	735,495
Early years top up (Pre Reception)	913,009
Contribution to High Needs Finance Team	60,000
SUPPORT SERVICES	4,505,049
HIGH NEEDS TOTAL SPEND	41,939,499
2022-23 Net Underspend on High Needs	171,481
Deficit brought forward to 2022-23	-4,689,142
Deficit carried forward to 2023-24	-4,517,661

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 20 September 2023	Agenda Item	6
Report Title	Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 & update on School Funding Announcement for 2024-25		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information		
Report Author/ Contact details	Sergio Dimech, Head of Education Finance Sergio.dimech@walthamforest.gov.uk 0208 496 3700 Hiran Perera, Principal Accountant hiran.perera@walthamforest.gov.uk 0208 496 3442		
Appendices	Appendix A: Teacher's Pay Addiitonal Grant allocations		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools Forum to note:

- 2.1 The revised DSG allocations for 2023-24 as set out in Table 1 and below.

3. REASON

- 3.1 The LA provides Schools Forum with updates on school funding settlements advised during the year. This assists with the Budget Setting cycle for the next financial year.
- 3.2 The Department for Education (DfE) recently published the 2024-25 National Funding Formulae (NFF) for the schools, high needs and central school services blocks of the DSG. The technical guidance sets out the detail on the funding formulae as well as any changes since last year's funding formulae, and the data tables provide notional allocations to local authorities and schools.

3.3 This report summaries the impact of the indicative 2024-25 allocations to the DSG. Further reports on the impact at individual school level will be brought to Schools Forum as the budget setting progresses.

4. DSG ALLOCATIONS 2023-24

4.1 The total 2023-24 Gross DSG allocation before academy recoupment is **£311.22 million**. The Early years Block increased by **£0.17 million** and the High Needs block decreased by a sum of **£0.18 million** from that reported to February 2023 Schools Forum.

4.2 The total 2023-24 Net DSG for the LA after academy recoupment and deductions of £122.95 million is **£188.26 million**.

4.3 The Schools block net allocation is **£115.53 million**.

4.4 The Central School services block remains unchanged from that reported in February 2023.

4.5 The High Needs block net allocation decreased by **£0.33 million** to **£46.94 million** after Academy recoupment. The High Needs block decrease is due to the decrease in the Import and Export adjustment figure for 2023-24 and higher number of post 16 places. The Early Years block net allocation increased by **£0.17 million** to **£24.21 million** and the increase is due to ESFA using January 2023 census data in place of January 2022 data.

Table 1 2023-24 updated DfE Allocations

DSG Funding Blocks	Net Amount Feb 23	Updated Net Amount	Net Increase / (Decrease)
	£m	£m	£m
Schools	115.53	115.53	0
High Needs	47.27	46.94	(0.33)
Early Years	24.05	24.22	0.17
Central Services	1.57	1.57	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	188.42	188.26	(0.16)

5. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JULY ANNOUNCEMENT ON 2024-25 FUNDING

5.1 Schools Block funding is expected to increase by 3.30%; High Needs block funding is expected to increase by 2.64%; and the Central Services block is expected to increase by 2.55%.

5.2 In July the DfE published notional allocations for the School, High Needs and Central School Services blocks for 2024-25. Details of the 2024-25 National Funding Formulae were also published.

5.3 Final allocations for 2024-25 will change based on the October 2023 census for the Schools Block.

5.4 Table 2 report the headline changes to Waltham Forest

Table 2 2024-25 Provisional DfE Allocations

DSG Funding Blocks	2024-25 Allocation Excluding Growth fund	2023-24 Allocation	% Increase
	£m	£m	
Schools	235.19	227.67	4.29%
Teacher Pay Additional Grant	2.25		
HN	58.01	56.52	2.64%
Early years*			
CSSB	1.61	1.57	2.55%
Total Allocation	297.06	285.76	3.95%

*to be published

- 5.5 The Gross School Block excluding growth fund is expected to increase by 3.30% from the 2023-24 allocation: **£7.52 million**.
- 5.6 High needs supplementary grant has been rolled into High Needs block allocation.
- 5.7 The growth in the HNB Gross allocation is expected to be 2.64% from the 2023-24 allocation: **£1.49 million**. This includes pay and pension element estimated at **£0.73 million** for Special Schools and PRU.
- 5.8 Increase in funding will need to address growth in demand and cumulative deficit position of **£4.5 million**.
- 5.9 In July the DfE announced additional grant funding to support the teacher's pay award. Waltham Forest Mainstream schools will receive an additional **£2.2 million** as Teacher Pay Additional Grant. Additional funding to support Special schools and AP will be published in September.
- 5.10 Despite these increases, individual school funding continues to be challenging. Schools are experiencing increasing pressure from the rise in pupils with EHCPs and with SEND more generally; a funding gap between the actual costs of pay and general inflation and increases in per-pupil funding; and, for some schools, needing to manage falling rolls with the associated drop in income.

6. CHANGES TO SPLIT-SITE FUNDING FOR 2024-25

- 6.1 The ESFA is changing the eligibility for split site funding from 2024-25. The LA reviewed the criteria and, with the help of the business intelligence team, submitted an appeal on behalf of 4 schools who were to lose out. The ESFA accepted the appeal, resulting in protecting the funding for the 4 schools.

**Teachers' pay additional grant indicative allocations for
mainstream schools 2023 to 2024**

Establishment Name	Total Indicative Allocation
Chase Lane Primary School	£ 30,048.00
Lime Academy Larkwood	£ 29,929.00
Whitehall Primary School	£ 21,182.00
Yardley Primary School	£ 20,307.00
Davies Lane Primary School	£ 39,369.00
Downsell Primary School	£ 20,518.00
Hillyfield Primary Academy	£ 55,483.00
Emmanuel Community School	£ 10,967.00
Newport School	£ 36,129.00
Chapel End Infant School and Early Years Centre	£ 11,411.00
Willow Brook Primary School Academy	£ 30,048.00
Edinburgh Primary School	£ 15,978.00
Greenleaf Primary School	£ 19,894.00
The Woodside Primary Academy	£ 55,226.00
Chapel End Junior Academy	£ 15,941.00
Riverley Primary School	£ 21,011.00
Sybourn Primary School	£ 26,963.00
Thomas Gamuel Primary School	£ 18,847.00
Walthamstow Primary Academy	£ 10,940.00
Roger Ascham Primary School	£ 20,845.00
Longshaw Primary Academy	£ 13,073.00
Handsworth Primary School	£ 19,635.00
Salisbury Manor Primary School	£ 16,891.00
Thorpe Hall Primary School	£ 17,978.00
The Winns Primary School	£ 28,524.00
Woodford Green Primary School	£ 10,180.00
Oakhill Primary School	£ 9,969.00
Henry Maynard Primary School	£ 34,550.00
South Grove Primary School	£ 21,850.00
Dawlish Primary School	£ 10,093.00
Gwyn Jones Primary School	£ 19,347.00
George Tomlinson Primary School	£ 21,208.00
Mission Grove Primary School	£ 36,873.00
Coppermill Primary School	£ 11,063.00
Stoneydown Park School	£ 25,394.00
Parkside Primary School	£ 30,939.00
The Jenny Hammond Primary School	£ 20,915.00
Whittingham Primary Academy	£ 19,838.00
Ainslie Wood Primary School	£ 19,699.00
Barn Croft Primary School	£ 10,365.00
Mayville Primary School	£ 17,733.00
Chingford CofE Primary School	£ 19,910.00
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	£ 10,154.00

St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	£	8,316.00
St Saviour's Church of England Primary School	£	16,101.00
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School	£	7,124.00
St Mary's CofE Primary School	£	26,137.00
Barclay Primary School	£	60,350.00
Selwyn Primary School	£	29,519.00
Our Lady and St George's Catholic Primary School	£	18,406.00
Buxton School	£	82,573.00
South Chingford Foundation School	£	43,249.00
Eden Girls' School, Waltham Forest	£	47,857.00
Frederick Bremer School	£	66,223.00
Connaught School for Girls	£	46,828.00
George Mitchell School	£	65,405.00
Heathcote School & Science College	£	65,744.00
Norlington School and 6th Form	£	54,196.00
Willowfield School	£	69,445.00
Leytonstone School	£	69,969.00
Walthamstow School for Girls	£	63,239.00
Kelmscott School	£	72,958.00
Lammas School and Sixth Form	£	53,215.00
Holy Family Catholic School	£	72,364.00
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	£	18,488.00
Highams Park School	£	85,989.00
Chingford Foundation School	£	86,398.00
Walthamstow Academy	£	70,444.00

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 8 February 2023	Agenda Item	7
Report Title	Additional early years supplementary grant funding for the provision of free early education entitlement (FEEE) places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds for September 2023 to March 2024		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Noting		
Report Author/ Contact details	Eve McLoughlin, Head of Early Years, Childcare and Business Development Tel - 020 8496 3576 eve.mcloughlin@walthamforest.gov.uk		

1. SUMMARY

1.1 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

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Schools Forum notes:

2.1.1 The DfE’s Supplementary grant funding from 1 September 2023 until 31 March 2024

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

2.1.3 The DfE’s Consultation on the 2024-25 Early Years DSG and funding formula

3. REASON

3.1 The Local Authority is required to consult with Schools Forum on arrangements for Early Years provision.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Government announced in its Spring Budget that the free early education entitlement for some 2 year olds and all 3 & 4 year olds will be extended in phases to all children between 9 months old and 4 year old between April 2024 and September 2025

4.2 All 3& 4 years olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free childcare.

4.3 Some disadvantaged 2 year olds are entitled to 15 hours a week of free childcare, which equates to approx. 100 children in Waltham Forest.

4.4 Eligible working parents of three- and four-year-olds already get 30 hours a week of free childcare.

4.5 These entitlements will remain in place, and in addition:

4.6 From April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare.

4.7 From September 2024, 15 hours of free childcare will be extended down to the age of nine months for working parents.

4.9 From September 2025, working parents of children aged nine months and upwards will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week right up to their child starting school.

4.10 As a first phase of preparation for the expansion of these free childcare entitlements the Government also announced that during the 2023 to 2024 financial year, they would provide £204 million of supplementary funding to local authorities through a new early years supplementary grant (EYSG). This will be used to increase the hourly amounts paid to local authorities, so that they can increase the amount of funding their early years childcare providers receive for delivering the entitlements for the period September 2023 to March 2024.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-supplementary-grant-2023-to-2024/early-years-supplementary-grant-2023-to-2024-methodology>.

4.11 For the 2024 to 2025 financial year, an additional £288 million will be allocated to local authorities through the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The DfE will publish final local authority hourly funding rates for the 2024 to 2025 financial year in autumn 2023 in the normal way.

4.12 The DfE have also undertaken a consultation on the factors that would inform the EYDSG budget and early years funding formula for 2024/25. This consultation ran from 21 July 2023 until 8 September 2023.

5. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON EARLY YEARS FUNDING RATES AS A RESULT OF THE ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT AND CONSULTATION ON THE 2024/25 FUNDING FORMULA

- 5.1 The DfE have stated that all of the additional supplementary grant funding from 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2024 to must be passported to providers. The numbers of children that the LA will be funded for at this new rate will remain unchanged and will be based on 7/12th of an annual budget allocation based on the numbers of children recorded in the January 2024 census.
- 5.2 Under the normal EYDSG procedures, the LA can top-slice up to 5% to cover central costs and we must also action a top-slice of 3&4 year old budget to create a SENIF budget.
- 5.3 The DfE are consulting on whether a SENIF budget should be created for under 2's and for 2-year-olds from 24/25, which it appears a number of LA's are in favour of (including Waltham Forest, as we have previously created a budget for SEND by top-slicing the 3&4 year old rate, following consultation with providers). If a 5% LA top-slice and a 4% SENIF top-slice were implemented in 24/25 this would reduce the hourly rate for 2-year-olds from £8.26 to £8.09 per hour. The DfE are also consulting on whether a deprivation factor should be introduced for 2 year olds rather than a flat rate, as is currently the case. If this were introduced that is would affect hourly rates further and result in providers being paid different hourly rates based on the levels of deprivation of the 2 year olds that they offer an FEEE place
- 5.4 Table 1 sets out the potential funding rates to providers from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025

Table 1

Funding Descriptor	Current 2023/24 Rates (as agreed at Schools Forum Feb 2023)	Additional supplement 1 Sep 2023 to 31 Mar 2024	Revised hourly rate from 1 Sept 2023 to 31 Mar 2024 as a result of additional supplementary grant	Indicative hourly rate from 1 Apr 2024 to 31 Mar 2025 (based on indicative allocations provided by DfE as part of consultation)
3&4 year old base rate*	£5.33 p/h (average)	0.06p p/h	£5.39 p/h (average)	£5.35 (average)
2 yr old base rate	£6.15 p/h	£2.11 p/h	£8.26 p/h	£8.09
MNS supplement	£3.80 p/h	0.21p p/h	£4.01 p/h	
EYPP Funding	£0.62 p/h	0.04p p/h	£0.66 p/h	

DAF Funding	£828 p/a	£53.00 p/a	£881 p/a**	
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5.5 In order to ensure that providers are aware of this and undertaking appropriate longer term planning, all providers will be e-mailed the following information at the beginning of Autumn Term.

‘As a result of a recent in-year additional supplementary grant paid by the DfE **the hourly rate payable for 2 year old FEEE places from 1st September 2023 until 31st March 2024 will be £8.26** per hour. The DfE are however currently consulting on the early years funding formula for rates that will be payable from 1st April 2024.

Early indications suggest that these rates may not be as high as the rate payable between 1st September 2023 until 31st March 2024.

We would therefore strongly advise you not to use the hourly rate of £8.26 in your longer term budget planning.

Instead, we suggest that a figure between £8.00 and £8.10 per hour would be more prudent until you have the final confirmation of your hourly rate from 1st April 2024, which will be available in February 2024. The suggested range between £8.00 - £8.10 per hour still represents a significant increase from the rate payable between 1st April 23 and 31st August 23 of £6.15 per hour.’

6. THE DfE’s CONSULTATION ON THE 2024/25 FUNDING FORMULA

6.1 The DfE have also undertaken a consultation on the factors that would inform the EYDSG budget and early years funding formula for 2024/25. This consultation ran from 21 July 2023 until 8 September 2023.