

Schools Forum, 7 February 2024

Summary of Decisions

Item 4 **Early Years Block Indicative allocations**

Schools Forum Noted:

- 2.1.1 The Department for Education/Education and Skills Funding Agency (DfE/EFSA) Control total for Early Years Funding for under 2s, 2, 3 & 4 year olds 2024-25 as set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.1.2 The Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) per pupil rates for 2024-25 for under 2s, 2, 3 & 4 year olds as set out in **Appendix B and C** (with a comparison with previous years).
- 2.1.3 The breakdown of the Deprivation supplement paid in respect of 3 & 4 year olds for 2024-25 in **Appendix D**.
- 2.1.4 The indicative budget shares for 2, 3 & 4 year olds as set out in **Appendices E, F and G** that will form the basis of monthly allocations to all Early Years providers in 2024-25.
- 2.1.5 The SEND Inclusion Fund (SENIF) budget of £1,747,528 as set out in **Appendix A** and details of how the SENIF budget will be spent as set out in **Appendix H**.
- 2.1.6 The 2024-25 FEEE providers funding consultation and information set out in **Appendix H** and the consultation responses set out in point 9 of this report.
- 2.1.7 That final outturn expenditure figures for the 2023-24 Early Years Block (EYB) funding are not yet available currently. Final DfE/ESFA EYB 2023-24 allocations are also not available and are due to be published by the DfE/ESFA in July 2024.

Item 5 **School Block Indicative allocations**

Schools Forum Noted:

- 2.1.1 The contents of this report.

Item 6 **High Needs Block Indicative allocations**

Schools Forum Noted:

- 2.1 The gross HNB allocation to Waltham Forest including Additional High Needs Grant for 2024-25 is £58.233 million, an increase of £1.714 million (3.03%) on the funding of £56.518 million in 2023-24.

- 2.2 The first draft of the HNB budget for 2024-25 which sets out the high-level allocations of that £58.233 million is shown in Appendix A.
- 2.3 The indicative allocation of £14.484 million of top-up funding to Waltham Forest mainstream schools in Appendix B.
- 2.4 The indicative allocation to special schools of £7.5 million for place funding, £10.102 million top-up funding and £0.690 special school additional funding in Appendix C.
- 2.5 The indicative allocation to special resource provisions of £1.196 million for place funding and £2.155 million top-up funding in Appendix D.
- 2.6 The indicative allocation to Alternative Provision including the PRUs of £2.518 million for place funding, £0.134 million top-up funding and £0.038 PRU HN additional funding in Appendix E.
- 2.7 The indicative allocation to Post 16 colleges of £1.608 million for place funding in Appendix F.

Item 7 Task & Finish Group: High Needs Management Plan

Schools Forum Noted:

- 2.1.1 The contents of this report.

Schools Forum agreed:

- 2.2.1 To establish a Task and Finish Group to have detailed discussions with officers prior to the draft plan being brought to Schools Forum in March 2024.
- 2.2.2 The Task and Finish Group to comprise the following representatives: 3 primary; 3 secondary; 1 early years maintained; 1 early years PVI; and 1 special.
- 2.2.3 The Task and Finish Group to be chaired by the Vice Chair of Schools Forum.
- 2.2.4 The Task and Finish Group to meet face to face at Norlington School at 11.00 to 12.30 on Tuesday 27 February.



DRAFT MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Day/Date/Time	Venue
Weds 7 February 2024, 5.30 pm	VIA TEAMS
Contact:	
Clerk to Schools Forum	Dennese.white@walthamforest.gov.uk
Maintained Primary Headteacher Representatives (5)	
Lindsey Lampard	Chingford C of E Primary
Rosie McGlynn	Our Lady and St George
Katie Jennings	Barn Croft Primary School
Zakia Khatun	Whitehall Primary School
Primary Academies and Primary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
Maureen Okoye (Chair)	Arbor Trust (Davies Lane, Selwyn, Woodford Green, Acacia Nursery)
Maintained Primary Governor Representatives (1)	
Nursery School Representative (1)	
Helen Currie	Forest Alliance Nursery Schools (Church Hill, Low Hall)
Maintained Secondary Headteacher Representatives (2)	
Rebecca Linden	Willowfield School
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer
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)	
Shona Ramsey	Leytonstone
Maintained Special School Representative (1)	
Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)	
Kirstie Fulthorpe	Flourish Learning Trust (Joseph Clark, Whitefield)
PRU (1)	
Non School Members (4)	
Anuta Dunca	Early Years Provider (First Steppingstones Nursery)

Officers	
Anne-Marie Koroma	Assistant Director for Youth and Family Resilience Service
Dennese White	Principal Accountant
Eva Gunkova	Assistant Director
Gurpreet Kataora	Head of School Business Support
Hiran Perera	Principal Accountant
Jamel Mason	Senior Accountant
Lindsay Jackson	Assistant Director Post 16 & Operations
Lucinda Lord	Senior Accountant
Paige Heirs	Education Business Project Officer
Umut Yeter	Principal Accountant
Observers	
Fiona Judge	The Winns School
Janice Chaplin	Chapel End Infant School and Early Years
Michele Brown	Opossum Federation
Mike Thomas	Willowfield School
Pauline Smith	
Natalie Fitzgerald	Hawkswood Group
Sean Egan	Lime Trust
Sharon Teasdale-Mellid	Ainslie Wood Primary School
Shermaine Lewis	Frederick Bremer School
Sohana Qureshi	Greenleaf Primary School
Sonia Close	Heathcote Secondary School
Yvonne	
Abena Rodman-Tay	Waltham Forest College
Aktar Beg	Edinburgh Primary
Apologies	
Duncan James-Pike	Strategic Finance Advisor

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 Welcome:
- 1.2 Apologies: Duncan James-Pike

2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 No Declaration of Interests highlighted.

3. Minutes of 7 February 2024 Schools Forum meeting

- 3.1 Minutes were agreed.

3.2 Matters Arising: None

3a. **Decision Sheet from February 2024**

Noted for the record.

4 Early Years Block Indicative allocations

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

- Total funding available for allocation to providers in 2024-25 via the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF);
- Final per pupil hourly rates for 2024-25;
- Indicative budget shares for providers in 2024-25; and
- Proposed method for collecting pupil data and making payments to providers in 2024-25.

4.2. **Comment**

School Forum to note recommendations in section 2 of the report. Thank you to Vira for her hard work on the appendices.

4.3 **Question**

Has the capacity of professionals available been scoped?

4.4 **Response**

We already provide free speech and language support in early years, that has been secured and posts are in place to deliver this. The main support will come from additional qualified teachers and SEN coordinators and a small amount of EP's. AET programme also in place.

5 School Block Indicative allocations

5.1 In November 2023 Schools Forum agreed that when the Local Authority set the 2024-25 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 **Question**

Is the minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% to be carried over to the High Needs portion of funding?

5.3 **Response**

Minimum funding guaranteed for special schools is set at 0%.

5.4 **Question**

What is the rationale behind High Needs being 0% and school block fund as 0.5%?

5.5 **Response**

This is the amount set up by the ESFA.

6 **High Needs Block Indicative allocations**

6.1 This report provides an overview of High Needs Block (HNB) for 2023-24 and sets out the indicative 2024-25 allocations from the HNB for place-led and top-up funding.

6.2 **Question**

Does the percentage for inflation in the commentary mean providers will expect an inflationary amount?

6.3 **Response**

There is no percentage for inflation. We are left with 1.7 million to support growth in EHCP's as well as inflationary pressures.

6.4 **Question**

Where are the inflationary pressures from?

6.5 **Response**

Some providers will have increase in fees. This will support that as well as EHCP Growth.

6.6 **Question**

What is the decision for how High Needs allocation will be paid out?

6.7 **Response**

This will remain the same.

6.8 Question

How has the 1.5% set aside for growth been worked out, is it based on trend?

6.9 Response

This is not based on growth; it is based on affordability. If trends indicate growth, this will be monitored and discussed. High Needs management plan will look at how to manage this and projections for the future.

7 Task & Finish Group: High Needs Management Plan

7.1 This report provides an update on the development of the High Needs Management Plan for the Local Area and requests that a Task and Finish Group is set up for detailed discussions with officers prior to the draft plan being brought to Schools Forum in March 2024.

7.2 Comment

Noted importance of representation for schools with SRP's.

7.3 Question

What is the balance for representation? What is the process for ensuring the balance.

7.4 Response

There is until the 27th for the meeting to commence, and anyone who should be part of it should be represented.

7.5 To vote 2.2, 2.2.2: Agree - 16, Disagree - 0

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 5:30pm

Face to Face at Norlington School