

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 September 2024, 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
Katie Jennings	Mission Grove 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)	
Rebecca Linden	Willowfield School
Jenny Smith	Frederick Bremer School
Secondary Academies and Secondary Free Schools Representatives (4)	
Rob Mammen	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 Ramsay	Leytonstone School
Maintained Special School Representative (1)	
Bruce Roberts	Belmont Park School
Special School and Special Academies Representative (1)	
Jo Conduit	Flourish Learning 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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Abena Rodman-Tay (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> <i>Jo Conduit (replacement for Kirstie Fulthorpe)</i> <i>Rob Mammen (replacement for Wayne Barnett)</i>	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	All
3	Minutes of meeting 7 February 2024	Chair
3a	Decision Sheet from 7 February 2024	For the record
4	Schools Forum Membership and Powers	Sheilender Pathak
5	DSG Outturn 2023-24	Hiran Perera
	Date of Next Meetings: Wednesdays, 5:30pm	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 October 2024 	High Needs Block update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 November 2024 	Local Funding Formula 2025-26 Report back from Alternative provision Task & Finish Group Maintained Nursery Schools Business Rates

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		<p>Early Years Task and Finish group report</p> <p>High Needs Consultation on Inter block Transfer</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 December 2024 	<p>Services to Maintained Schools 2025-26</p> <p>Central Schools Services block 2025-26</p> <p>Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund</p> <p>Inter Block Transfer: Schools Block to High Needs Block</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January 2025 	TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 February 2025 	<p>Early Years Block Indicative allocations</p> <p>Update on Early Years SENIF</p> <p>Schools Block Indicative allocations</p> <p>High Needs Block Indicative allocations</p> <p>Task & Finish Group: High Needs Management Plan</p>

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 Ramsay	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

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.

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 18 September 2024	Agenda Item	4
Report Title	Schools Forum membership and powers		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Decision		
Report Author/ Contact details	Sheilender Pathak, Strategic Finance Advisor Sheilender.Pathak@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 2023 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 2024-25 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 Members are also reminded of the 4 principles previously agreed at school's forum and that the Council will continue to engage with schools based on the following principles:

- Transparency
- Stability
- Fairness
- Protection of the vulnerable

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 members: 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 2023

- 4.7.1 Following the October 2023 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 2023	11,810	7,615	19,121
Members*	6	3	8
Members per pupil	2,000	2,500	2,400

*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 September 2024	Agenda Item	5
Report Title	Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2023-24		
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 2023-24 Appendix B: 2023-24 High Needs Expenditure		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates School Forum on the 2023-24 final outturn for the Dedicated School Grant and the balances held for each block at the end of March 2024.

2. DSG Outturn 2023-24

Schools Forum to note:

- 2.1 The cumulative brought forward DSG balance from 2022-23 of **£2.33 million** deficit became a **£0.93 million** deficit by the end of 2023-24. This represents an in-year surplus of **£1.40 million** during 2023-24. The main reasons for this in-year surplus were a **£1.89 million** in-year surplus on the Early Years block partly offset by a **£0.53 million** in-year deficit on the High Needs block. However, it should be noted that a significant amount of this Early Years Block surplus will be “clawed back” by the DfE in 2024-25, following calculation of the final census data for 2023-24.
- 2.2 The High Needs block (HN) overspend in 2023-24 of **£0.53 million** led to a cumulative carry forward deficit on the HN block of **£5.05 million**. This cumulative HN deficit is offset by a cumulative surplus balances on the Early Years Block (**£3.10 million**), the Growth Fund (**£0.43 million**) and Schools Block (**£0.52 million**) to give an overall cumulative DSG deficit of **£0.93 million** at the end of 2023-24.
- 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 final settlement of DSG allocation to the Local Authority (LA) for 2023-24, after academy recoupment was **£188.34 million**.
- 2.5 In July 2023 the DfE announced one-off additional funding for spend in 2023/24 to support individual schools finding themselves in particular financial difficulties. Of the £20m allocated to Local Authorities to support maintained schools, Waltham Forest was allocated £343,459.83 for targeted support to its maintained schools. Local Authorities were provided with flexibility about how to use this funding and so Waltham Forest used this funding to support the work of the maintained Schools Facing Financial Difficulty programme, which has had significant impact on the financial sustainability of our maintained schools. The DfE has advised there are no plans for similar additional funding in 2024/25.

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 2024-25 DSG budget cycle, discussions are required on the current trajectory of the DSG balances and the management of the HN deficit.

4. DSG OUTTURN 2023-24 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 2023-24.

Table 1 DSG Gross to Net Allocations 2023-24

2023-24	ESFA Gross Allocation	Less Academy Recoupment	DSG Net Academy Recoupment	EY Adjustment	Net DSG Paid to LA
Dedicated Schools Grant	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	227.63	113.38	114.25		114.25
Growth Fund	1.28		1.28		1.28
Total Schools Block	228.91	113.38	115.53		115.53
High Needs	56.52	9.58	46.94		46.94
Central Services	1.57		1.57		1.57
Early Years	24.22		24.22	0.08	24.3
Dedicated Schools Grant	311.22	122.96	188.26	0.08	188.34

- 4.2 The final 2023-24 DSG allocated to the Local Authority (LA) after adjusting for academy recoupment and the EY adjustment was **£188.34 million**.

- 4.3 The historic DSG balances reported over each block are summarised in **Table 2**. The opening 2023-24 deficit balance of **£2.34 million** was **decreased by £1.41 million, closing with a deficit balance of £0.93 million**. The deficit decrease was due to an in year under spend on the Early Years block.

Table 2 sets out the DSG balances for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24

	31 March 2020	31 March 2021	31 March 2022	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	0.54	0.47	0.54	0.56	0.52
Growth Fund	1.14	0.93	0.34	0.33	0.43
Total Schools Block	1.68	1.40	0.88	0.89	0.95
High Needs	(4.53)	(5.01)	(4.69)	(4.51)	(5.04)
Early years	3.43	2.67	1	1.22	3.1
Central Services	0	0	0.04	0.06	0.06
Total DSG	0.58	(0.94)	(2.76)	(2.34)	(0.93)

- 4.4 The Finance Regulations 2020 amended the treatment of DSG deficits. This amendment was initially valid for 3 years and have now been extended by another 3 years to end in March 2026, it meant that deficits do not need to 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 in 2023-24 is set out in **Appendix A**.
- 4.6 The DSG balances held for Growth Fund as of March 2024 was **£0.43 million**.
- 4.7 In 2023-24 the HN block overspent by **£0.53 million**. The cumulative HN Block deficit as at 31 March 2024 stands at **£5.05 million**. Appendix B sets out the 2023-24 summary of HN income and expenditure.
- 4.8 The Early Years Block cumulative surplus as at 31 March 2024 is **£3.10 million** due to an in year surplus of **£1.89 million**.

5. DSG DEFICIT BALANCES ESFA GUIDANCE & EXPECTATIONS

- 5.1 The Schools Revenue Funding 2024 to 2025 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.

September School Forum 2024 DSG Outturn Report Appendix A Details use of DSG reserves 2023-24

	Schools Block Contingency	School Improvement	Schools Facing Financial Challenges	Universal Offer	Growth Fund	Schools Block Total	Central Services	Early Years	SENIF in Reception	Early Years Block Total	High Needs Block Total	Total
Balance at 31 March 2023	315,754	80,000	100,000	65,827	331,964	893,545	61,751	1,224,038	0	1,224,039	(4,517,662)	(2,338,327)

2023-24 Actuals												
Needed for Growth Fund						0				0		0
Previously Unidentified (Covid)						0				0		0
Drawn Down(NNDR)	-35,856					(35,856)				0		(35,856)
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				0		0
Premises & Place Development						0				0		0
Top Up of 2 year old hourly rate						0				0		0
SENIF in Reception (SB top sliced 350K)						0			279,480	279,480		279,480
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)					93,969	93,969		1,517,174		1,517,174	(530,654)	1,080,489
Balance at 31 March 2024	279,898	80,000	100,000	65,827	425,933	951,657	61,751	2,830,018	279,480	3,109,498	(5,048,316)	(925,409)

SUMMARY OF HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2023-24 OUTTURN

Description	Outturn 2023-24
	£
INCOME	
High Needs Gross allocation	56,518,791
Academy Special School Recoupment - Places	- 7,592,169
Academy Special Resource provision Recoupment - Places	- 579,334
Post 16 College Recoupment	- 1,408,000
	46,939,288
EXPENDITURE	
Place Funding - Belmont Park	570,000
Special Schools Top-up	10,057,768
Spot Purchases	34,667
Special Schools Minimum Funding Guarantee 3%	598,841
Special Schools Additional HN Funding 3.4%	690,650
Special Schools Pay and Pension funding	731,605
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	12,683,530
Place Funding - Maintained Schools	524,000
Special Resource Provisions Top-up	2,162,604
SPECIAL RESOURCE PROVISIONS	2,686,604
MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS TOP UP	14,716,074
POST 16 PROVISION TOP UP, SPOT PURCHASES AND OTHER COSTS	3,159,872
Hawkswood PRUs Place led funding	1,000,000
Additional funding for PRU places	77,641
PRU Additional HN Funding 3.4%	43,026
Hawkswood PRUs Top up	155,920
PRUs	1,276,587
AP College placements	1,110,314
Family Resilience	121,358
Heathcote and Holy Family Provision	270,000
Assessment Places (Belmont Park) & Other	300,000
ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	1,801,672
Independent School Fees & Non Maintained Special Schools	3,409,172
Other LA Schools Top Up	2,870,976
Alternative and Education Contributions (Tuitions, Transition/LAC)	1,951,035
INDEPENDENT & NON MAINTAINED SPECIAL SCHOOLS	8,231,183
Speech and Language Therapy Service	172,798
Home Hospital contract	238,750
Outreach Support Services	678,000
Early Years Home Visitors/EY SEND Success	191,000
Contribution to Disability Enablement Service Team	277,776
Contribution to BACME (Social Inclusion)	324,000
FAP payment to Schools for admitting excluded pupils	72,000
Early years top up (Pre Reception)	900,096
Contribution to High Needs Finance Team	60,000
SUPPORT SERVICES	2,914,420
HIGH NEEDS TOTAL SPEND	47,469,942
2023-24 Net Overspend on High Needs	-530,654
Deficit brought forward to 2023-24	-4,517,662
Deficit carried forward to 2024-25	-5,048,316