

## **Schools Forum**

**MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 AT 2.30PM  
AT OLDBURY COUNCIL HOUSE, COMMITTEE ROOM 2**

### **Agenda**

*(Open to Public and Press)*

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Members to declare any interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
4. The allocation of LAC Pupil Premium
5. Focus Provision report
6. School Budget 2019/20 Consultation - Responses
7. AOB

**Next Meeting:**

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2019; Oldbury Council House, Committee Room 2**

**Schools Forum Distribution to Members:**

**Head Teachers Advisory Forum - Primary Schools (6)**

Mr R Kentish, Mr P Jones, Ms K Bickley, Ms L Gillam, Ms C Walsh,  
Mr G Linford

**Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Secondary Schools (4)**

Mr P Shone, Mr A Burns, Mr D Irish, M Arnall

**Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Special School (1)**

Mr N Toplass

**School Governors (4)**

Mr B Patel, Ms. C. Gallant, Mr J Smallman, Ms L Howard, Ms A  
Cysewski

**Trade Union (1)**

Mr. D Barton

**Early Years Partnership (1)**

Ms A Sahota

**14-19 Provider (1)**

D Holden

**Pupil Referral Unit (1)**

K Morgan

Contact Officer: Shane  
Parkes Democratic Services  
Unit 0121 569 3190  
E-mail: [shane\\_parkes@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:shane_parkes@sandwell.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the Schools Forum**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 2.30pm  
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Members Present: P Jones (Chair), P Shone (Vice Chair),  
K Bickley, A Burns, L Howard, J Smallman,  
R Fisher, N Toplass,**

**Officers Present: R Kerr, A Timmins, J Gill, C Ward.**

**Apologies: R Kentish, B Patel, A Sahota.**

**13/18 Agenda Item 1 – Apologies**

As above

**14/18 Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interest**

None

**15/18 Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Resolved** that the minutes for the forum held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be confirmed as agreed subject to e mail from J Smallman being attached as an appendix for clarity (Minute No. 12/18).

**Minute No. 7/18** – Review of early closedown for schools 2017/18- it was proposed that R Kerr would circulate proposal to Schools Forum.  
**Minute No. 10/18** - Feedback – Annual Consultation on arrangements for SEN Pupils, Early Years and Financial issues – it was proposed that a breakdown of Focus Provision data would be brought back to the next meeting along with the model for LAC pupil premium allocation.

## **Schools Forum – 12 November, 2018**

### **16/18 Agenda Item 4 – De-delegated and Historic Commitments outturn 2017/18**

The Schools Forum received a report regarding the use of de delegated and centrally retained budgets.

The report outlined where budges had been fully utilised and where underspends had occurred as follows:

- Pupil Number Growth Contingency – underspend £140,578;
- Health and Safety underspend £13,864;
- Union Facilities £8,215
- School Forum £2,208

The total underspend funding available was £164,865 and it was recommended that this balance be utilised to reduce any overspend in De-delegated or Education functions in 2018/19.

Members requested that they be consulted on the use of the funding before any funds were allocated

### **17/18 School Revenue Funding 2019/20 Consultation**

Schools Forum would need to consider the impact of the National Funding Formula from its proposed implementation in 2021/22 and steps to prepare for future changes were outlined.

In July 2018, further guidance had been announced in respect of schools funding arrangements for 2019/20.

Local authorities continued to have responsibility to set a local formula to distribute funding allocated to them to schools until 2020/21

The Dedicated Schools Grant consists of four blocks; schools, high needs, early years and the new central schools service block and each of the blocks had been determined by separate national funding formula.

The authority had resubmitted an updated business case to the DfE regarding BSF schools requesting equal treatment with schools with the PFI premises factor.

## **Schools Forum – 12 November, 2018**

There was discussion regarding BSF FM indexation for special school and that R Kerr felt there was no basis that we could speak to the DfE and ask them to reflect this in the authority's High Needs Block funding.

The DfE had responded stating that they would not change the funding rates for Sandwell for 2019/20, however they offered to meet with Council Officer to discuss concerns. A date for this meeting had not been arranged as yet.

Members were concerned that BSF meetings had been postponed and these would need to recommence.

The consultation on the formula funding for schools for 2019/20 included proposals on the following:

- Three funding formula options;
- Pupil number growth contingency fund;
- Central schools services block;
- Education Functions;
- De-delegation proposals;
- Minimum funding guarantee and capping of gains.

Three funding formula options 2019/20 were presented to the Schools Forum, however after discussion it was considered that another option model be developed with a Primary- Secondary ratio 1:1.25 and a minimum funding guarantee of -1.5%.

The deadline for stakeholders to respond to the consultation was 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

18/18

### **High Need Block Monitoring – Period 6**

The High Needs Block Monitoring report was tabled to the Schools Forum providing the monitoring position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 projected to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

The High Needs Block Grant for 2018/19 was £37.609m. There was an anticipated in year surplus of £125k.

The main variances were as follows:

- Place Funding £394K – an additional 24 places were required in special schools, 12 of which were at The Meadows School

## Schools Forum – 12 November, 2018

following the agreed expansion. Changes in the Focus Provision funding by the DfE had required additional places to be funded for pupils who were admitted after the October census date. This equated to £154K.

- Alternative Provision £417 – the anticipated overspend was for pupils missing education, International new arrivals and hard to place pupils. This had been raised as an issue in the outturn report presented to Forum in June 18 and work was being undertaken to look at the sudden increase in the pupils accessing this provision. A separate report would follow in due course. There was an expectation that this expenditure may increase and any variations would be included in the report.
- SEN Developments currently funds staff salaries nearing the end of their contracts agreed by JEG in 2014/15 equating to £21K, costs for independent appeals and reports of £20K, additional HNB funding from the DfE of £77K and the transfer in of £265K agreed by the Behaviour and Attendance Management Group.

Table 1 within the report illustrated the High Needs Budget 2018/19 Budget Allocations which demonstrated an anticipated surplus of £125k at the end of the year.

C Ward stated that a decision in respect about the next 2% step reduction to Special School bands would need to be considered.

Further report in respect of alternative provision and focused provision would be circulated to the Schools Forum once completed rather than waiting for the next meeting.

(Meeting ended at 3.55pm)

Contact Officer: Shane Parkes Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3190
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**Schools Forum**

**17th December 2018**

**The Allocation of Looked After Children Pupil Premium**

**This report is for information**

**1. Recommendations:**

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Information on the Pupil Premium Plus for looked after children

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 To update Schools Forum about the use of the Virtual School Pupil Premium Plus

**3. Report Details**

- 3.1 The Virtual School receives Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) for each eligible child looked after by the local authority.
- 3.2 Funding is allocated at £2,300 for those children in care for at least one day aged 4-15.
- 3.3 In 2017-18 approximately 86% (over £700,000) of the funding was sent to the schools that our children attend and was spent on the following:

Tuition	41%
Booster classes	12%
IT and resources	13%
Interventions	16%
Extra Curricular	14%
External agencies	4%

- 3.4 The funding held back by the Virtual schools is used to support a wider educational and aspirational programme for all looked after children. Interventions such as our Aspire to University programme, tuition and enrichment both in and out of school, along with bespoke programmes for some pupils.

VS funding went towards –

1. Training - Social Workers, Designated Teachers and Carers – Trauma Attachment & Resilience Training (DESTY for Carers)
  2. A2University Costs - 45 Sandwell children on the programme (80% still on track) - £30,000
  3. Holiday revision (KS2 and KS4)
  4. Additional Tuition - £57,000
  5. Cultural Education programme (musical instrument, membership to leisure centres, National Trust membership) - £20,000
  6. Summer Transition Year 6
- 3.5 The Virtual School policy on PP+ is attached.(Appendix 1)

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That Schools Forum accept this report for information.

Date: 11/12/2018

Contact Officer: Ballwant Bains; Head of LACE Virtual School

Tel No: 0121 569 2770



**November 2018**

## **Pupil Premium for Looked After Children**

### **Introduction**

Since April 2014 all looked after children (Reception to Year 11) have benefitted from a Pupil Premium Plus allowance (PP+). For the financial year 2018-19 the amount allocated to the Virtual School for each eligible child is £2,300.

It remains the responsibility of the Virtual School Head to manage the PP+ for all children who are in care to its local authority regardless of where they go to school.

### **Sandwell Virtual School Expenditure**

Due to the range of needs and the high degree of mobility for children in care, they often require additional support with their placement and in particular around transition. The Virtual School therefore retains a portion of each PP+ to ensure that we can offer specific intervention, respond to the needs of the child and ensure that designated teachers and other stakeholders have the skills to support looked after children appropriately through regular training.

In some circumstances, the Virtual School will withhold all of the funding if it is deemed that the provision is already well funded. This mainly applies to pupils attending independent and non-mainstream provision.

It is our intention to distribute the funding on the basis of a thoroughly completed Personal Education Plan (PEP) with appropriate SMART targets. A payment of £600 will be authorised on a termly basis for the 2018-19 financial year.

### **The PEP**

As part of the local authority's duty to improve the educational outcomes for looked after children, we are required to have in place a current PEP to support the statutory LAC review.

In order to ensure that the use of PP+ remains appropriate and that it is used for the improvement in educational outcomes for the pupil, PEPs will be reviewed on a termly basis. As a minimum each meeting will:

1. Be attended (or have comments) by the designated teacher, social worker, carer and young person.
2. Set, review and evaluate SMART targets.
3. Provide details of how the PP+ is being used to close the gap to peers, taking into consideration how they relate to the targets.

## **Attracting the funding**

In order to attract the funding, schools will have completed an electronic PEP each term.

The two following principles apply to the release of funding for the majority of local authorities within the West Midlands:

- a) There will be a current electronic PEP in place, including evidence of progress made from using the PP+.
- b) The school will have provided details of how their PP+ has been spent for the child; particularly in terms of maximising potential in literacy, numeracy and overall progress.

Points to note:

1. Looked after children are eligible for PP+ from the first day of care.
2. The PP+ for looked after children is managed by the Virtual School Head and will be paid as outlined above.
3. Schools will receive £600 per term. Those schools offering tuition through the use of a Teacher in school may claim an additional £100 in this financial year. This additional funding will no longer be available from 31st March 2019.
4. Designated Teachers can discuss individual cases with the Virtual School if additional funding is required.
5. The Virtual School Head is entitled to withhold future payments if it is considered that the use of the PP+ falls below that expected for all looked after children.\*\*
6. For children in non-mainstream or independent settings PP+ will only be distributed if considered appropriate and they will be required to provide supporting evidence demonstrating that PP+ is having an additional impact on progress and attainment.
7. Once PP+ has been distributed to a school, it will not be clawed back if the child moves on.
8. Children educated in Sandwell but looked after by another local authority, will receive their pupil premium from their 'home' authority.
9. If the child leaves care the PP+ will be paid up to the term in which they leave as long as the appropriate documentation has been provided.
10. The list of the different types of use (many previously used by schools) are provided below.
11. The Virtual School will offer advice and guidance for children who leave care through adoption or a special guardianship order, however we do not manage PP+ for these pupils. The responsibility is on the school to claim the funding once clarification is sought from the carer.

\*\* The Virtual School will review looked after data to compare the progress of all looked after children.

Pupil Premium Plus uses

**Teaching Approaches which Close the Gap**

The Sutton Trust has created a toolkit which summarises the research evidence on improving learning and attainment to support schools in making informed choices about how to support pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Below is a summary of the evidence on teaching children 5 to 16. The complete toolkit can be downloaded from :

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/toolkit-a-z/>

	Low/Very low or no cost	Moderate Cost	High/Very High cost
High Impact	<p><b>Metacognition and self-regulation</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Reading comprehension strategies</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Feedback</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p>		
Moderate Impact	<p><b>Collaborative learning</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Homework (Secondary)</b> - based on limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Individualised Instruction</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p> <p><b>Mastery learning</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p> <p><b>Oral language interventions</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Peer tutoring</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Phonics</b> - based on very extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Within-class attainment grouping</b> - based on limited evidence.</p>	<p><b>Behaviour interventions</b> - based on extensive evidence</p> <p><b>Digital technology</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Outdoor adventure learning</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p> <p><b>Parental engagement</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p> <p><b>Small group tuition</b> - based on limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Social and emotional learning</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p>	<p><b>Early years interventions</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>One to one tuition</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Reducing class size</b> - based on moderate evidence</p>
Very low/ Low or no Impact	<p><b>Arts participation</b> - based on moderate evidence</p> <p><b>Block scheduling</b> - based on limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Built environment</b> - based on very limited evidence</p> <p><b>Learning styles</b> - based on limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Performance pay</b> - based on limited evidence.</p> <p><b>School uniform</b> - based on very limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Homework (Primary)</b> - based on limited evidence.</p>	<p><b>Mentoring</b> - based on extensive evidence.</p> <p><b>Extending school time</b> - based on moderate evidence.</p> <p><b>Aspiration interventions</b> - based on very limited evidence.</p> <p><b>Sports participation</b> - based on limited evidence</p>	
	Low or no cost	Moderate Cost	High cost

## Interventions that Sandwell will agree:

A) One to One support	B) Booster Classes	C) IT and Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:1 additional learning</li> <li>• Support worker (emotion/behaviour)</li> <li>• Extra tuition</li> <li>• Learning mentors</li> <li>• Focussed in class support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early years intervention</li> <li>• Literacy intervention</li> <li>• Reading support programmes in year 7 and 8</li> <li>• Additional staffing</li> <li>• Pupil Premium group tuition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision guides</li> <li>• Digital Technology (subject to carer contract)</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Speaking and listening equipment</li> </ul>
D) Interventions	E) Extra Curricular	F) External Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurture groups</li> <li>• Social and Communication activities</li> <li>• Play Therapy</li> <li>• Social and Emotional Learning</li> <li>• Behaviour Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After school club</li> <li>• Drum lessons</li> <li>• Singing lessons</li> <li>• Drama and theatre</li> <li>• Enrichment activities</li> <li>• Music Therapy</li> <li>• Summer Schools</li> <li>• Sports participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• Volunteer Readers</li> <li>• Specialist support and training</li> <li>• Parent/Carer Workshops</li> </ul>

NB: Pupil Premium Plus expenditure has to reflect how it is narrowing the gap and the school will need to demonstrate that it has had an impact, not only in reporting it to us, but in response to its own Ofsted inspection.

## Sandwell will not agree funding for:

- Reducing class sizes
- Repeating a year
- School Uniform
- Teaching Assistants – general for the whole class
- Equipment that should be provided by the carer
- Trips (that are open to the whole class)
- Prom Dresses
- School equipment such as pens and pencils etc
- Bus passes
- Anything else that school, carers and social workers should provide

*The question you should ask is “How is this activity being funded for non-looked after children?”*

## Early Years Pupil Premium

Early years education settings receive £300 pupil premium per school year for each looked after child when they take up their free childcare entitlement. They become

eligible in the term after their third birthday and the table below provides details of when this applies.

<b>Child's birthday</b>	<b>When you can claim</b>
1 January to 31 March	the beginning of term on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	the beginning of term on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	the beginning of term on or after 1 January

Early years providers are any organisation that offers education for children aged under 5, including nurseries and childminders.

For children looked after by Sandwell the funding will be sent to the schools/settings:

- Based on a quality Early Years PEP being completed each term.
- In three instalments - £100 per term.

The Education Endowment Foundation has worked in partnership with the Sutton Trust to produce an Early Years Toolkit for The Early years Pupil premium. They have looked at a variety of interventions with the top use in terms of low cost high impact being: Communication and Language approaches, self-regulation approaches, early literacy/numeracy approaches.

Our advice for delivering intervention in this way would be:-

1. To have someone the child knows to deliver extra sessions.
2. To assign a TA/HLTA (who would be paid extra) to deliver 8 - 1/2 hour sessions or 4 - 1 hour sessions to the child and carer after their school session ends (straight after dinner or after school) at a rate of £20-£25 per hour (including preparation).
  - This means that the TA/HLTA can work directly in collaboration with the setting teacher.
  - There is continuity for the child and they build up trust with the member of staff.
  - Progress will be noticeable and easily tracked.

The EYFS PEP enables settings to record progress against these measures. There are also established tracking methods familiar to most settings, therefore this can be incorporated into our established PEP if appropriate.

## **Additional Information**

### **PUPIL PREMIUM: Conditions of Grant 2018-19**

DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2,300 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2017 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2016. DfE will update and finalise this allocation in December 2018 based on the number of children looked after for at least one day during the year ending March 2018, as recorded in the March 2018 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2017. This update may have an impact on some schools' allocations as set out in Conditions of Grant para 7.

### **Use of the LAC premium**

The LAC premium must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the looked-after child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.

The VSH should ensure there are arrangements in place to discuss how the child will benefit from pupil premium funding with the designated teacher or another member of staff in the child's education setting who best understands their needs. Processes for allocating funds to a child's education setting should be as simple as possible to avoid delay.

Local authorities may not carry forward funding held centrally into the financial year 2018 to 2019. Centrally-held LAC premium that has not been spent, or allocated to the child's education setting, by 31 March 2019 will be recovered.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2018-to-2019/pupil-premium-2018-to-2019-conditions-of-grant>

### **Early Years Pupil Premium**

VSHs are responsible for managing the [early years pupil premium \(EYPP\)](#). They'll be in charge of giving the premium to the early years providers that educate looked-after children (children in local-authority care) who are taking up the [free early education entitlement for 3- or 4-year-olds](#).

You can find more information here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/682452/Early\\_years\\_entitlements-Operational\\_guide\\_2018\\_to\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682452/Early_years_entitlements-Operational_guide_2018_to_2019.pdf)

**Schools Forum**

**17 December 2018**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FOCUS PROVISIONS, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, ALTERNATIVE PROVISION AND PUPILS IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

**This report is for Information**

**1. Recommendations:**

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report
- 1.2 It was requested at the Schools Forum meeting on 12 November 2018 that a report was circulated to members prior to the next meeting to include Focus Provisions, Alternative Provision and Pupils educated in Independent schools both in and out of borough.
- 1.3 Special school data has also been included in this report for information and context.
- 1.4 Information on the population of pupils with SEND in Sandwell schools has also been included.

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 To provide Schools Forum with information relating to the Focus Provisions, Special Schools, Alternative Provisions and pupils placed in Independent Special Schools both in and out of the borough funded from the High Needs Block (HNB) Grant.

**3. Focus Provisions**

- 3.1 Focus Provisions (FPs) are funded on a place element of £10,000 per purchased place plus top up. Top up is pro rata to occupancy depending on the FP need category.
- 3.2 From 1 April 2018, pupils occupying a FP place at the date of the October Census were funded for Element 1 through the school's formula. The HNB funded the £6,000 place element plus the

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associated top up. Any vacancies were funded at £10,000 per place through the HNB.

- 3.3** As Element 1 for Primary schools was less than the stipulated £4,000 these schools received an additional £1,000 per commissioned place to bring the place funding to £10,000 per place.
- 3.4** Table 1 shows the top up allocated to each pupil based on category of need.

**Table 1**

Category of Need	£
Social Emotional & Mental Health	12,210
Complex Communication Disorders	12,210
Moderate Learning Difficulties plus	8,742
Speech Language & Communication Needs	4,691
Physical Disabilities	11,718
Hearing Impaired	9,486

**4. Current Vacancies**

- 4.1** As at December 2018, there were 23 vacancies out of the 186 places commissioned equating 12% vacancies overall. There are 9 pupils within the 23 vacancies that are on the reserved list pending a start date and the issue of their final EHCP.
- 4.2** When the reserved places are occupied this will reduce the vacancies to 14 which will equate to 7% unoccupied places.
- 4.3** The attached shows the vacancy breakdown by school and by month from April 2018 to date together with any relevant notes.



**5. Special Schools**

- 5.1** Special Schools are funded at £10,000 per commissioned place plus top up pro rata to occupancy.
- 5.2** Table 2 shows the top up as at 1 April 2018 allocated to pupils on roll in each special school.

**Table 2**

Special School	£
The Orchard School	13,803
The Meadows School	13,863
The Westminster School	13,132
Shenstone / Brades - Day	24,242
Shenstone / Brades – Residential	58,359

- 5.3** On 1 April 2018, 565 places were commissioned across the 4 special schools. The attached spreadsheet shows the monthly occupancy rate by special school.
- 5.4** All schools are over occupancy, with the exception of Shenstone/Brades Lodge who as at December 2018 have 3 vacancies. An additional 1 pupil is awaiting a start date which will reduce the vacancies to 2. The school has also been consulted on an additional 4 pupils for which a response is pending.
- 5.5** Where Special Schools are over their commissioned numbers over the financial year additional in year places are funded.
- 5.6** Shenstone/Brades are under occupancy. The school is based on two sites; the secondary site, Brades Lodge, is full and some secondary pupils are still being accommodated on the Shenstone Lodge site.
- 6. Alternative Provision**
- 6.1** The Alternative Provision Data is still being collated and analysed and a separate report will follow as soon as the full details are available.

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- 6.2 The annual budget in 2017/18 was £160K and the actual outturn was £349K resulting in an overspend in 2017/18 of £189K.
- 6.3 The budget of £160K was based on the placement of 18 pupils at £10K per place offset against Pupil Premium grant of £20K. The overspend was raised at schools' forum in June 18.
- 6.4 The annual budget was held at £160K for 2018/19 pending analysis of the alternative provision data. To date the spend is predicted to reach £600K less Pupil Premium Grant of £23K which will result in an overspend of £417K
- 6.5 Table 3 shows the data collected so far. Meetings are currently taking place within the authority from which an additional report will be generated.

**Table 3**

	<b>Estimated Places</b>	<b>Numbers of pupils dealt with</b>	<b>Actual / Estimated cost £</b>
2016/17	18 WTE	62	136,195
2017/18	18 WTE	94	349,251
2018/19 Est	18 WTE	119 to date	577,000

- 6.5 From 1 April 2018 to date 119 pupils have been placed with alternative providers and approximately 50 more are waiting to be placed. These appear to be international new arrivals and pupils that would have been excluded who are now being placed in alternative provision establishments.
- 6.6 Table 4 shows a breakdown of the actual spend against providers as at 31 October 2018

**Table 4**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Spend as at 31/10/18 £</b>
NACRO	17,038
Walsall College	10,624
Blackwater Academy	241,500
Work N Learn	32,026
ENVIROHORT Ltd	2,520
Every Child Matters	4,452
Future First	957
IMPACT	114,226
Sandwell Valley School	14,679
NOVA	50,504
Sandwell Community School	4,538
<b>Total as at 31/10/18</b>	<b>493,061</b>

## **7. Independent Special Schools (In and Out of Borough)**

- 7.1** The total budget for pupils placed in independent special schools in 2018/19 is £1,663K and the estimated outturn as at 31 October 2018 was £1,554K. The anticipated underspend is £109K.
- 7.2** Table 5 shows the anticipated outturn by provider, and number of WTE pupils at each establishment.

**Table 5**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Anticipated Outturn £</b>	<b>Pupils Currently on roll</b>
ARC	17,700	0
Archway	7,900	0
Bow Street	14,200	0
Higford	148,500	2
City United	130,900	5
Future First	44,100	2
Bloomfield/Woodbury	950,000	28
Longdon Hall	58,000	2
Maple Hayes	19,700	1
St Georges	16,700	1
Sunfield	113,700	1
Values Academy	25,600	1
Sandwell Valley School	7,000	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,554,000</b>	<b>44</b>

- 7.3** The pupils placed in the above settings have been refused by Sandwell Schools following the consultation process. The responses are either that they cannot meet the pupil's needs or because of physical capacity issues within the schools prohibits the admittance of further pupils.

## **8. Population of pupils with SEND in Sandwell Schools**

- 8.1** Table 6 shows the total population of pupils with SEND within Sandwell schools taken from census data 2018. It includes pupils at SEN Support level of intervention as well as pupils with Education, Health and Care plans. The table shows only the pupil's primary need as inputted by schools for Census, many pupils will have other needs as well as their primary needs.
- 8.2** The data shows a decrease in the total SEND population, this is due to work following the Local Area SEND inspection on reducing over-identification of SEND at the SEN Support level, with a focus on defining MLD.
- 8.3** The largest increases in the primary sector have been in ASD (90 pupils), SEMH (134 pupils) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (149 pupils). Within the secondary sector the largest increases have been in ASD (43 pupils), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (41 pupils) and Specific Learning Difficulties (40 pupils). Both primary and secondary schools are recording more pupils as having no specialist assessment type of need. This category should only be used on a temporary basis at SEN Support, when schools are providing additional intervention and referring pupils for external assessment for specific needs (e.g. SpLD, ASD, SLCN)
- 8.4** Table 7 shows the population of pupils receiving SEN Support and additional funded support through an EHCP in Sandwell schools (taken from census data, 2018). The number of pupils with EHCPs continues to rise by 0.1% of the total school population each year. These figures are based on the school population and do not include pre-school and post-16 / post-19 children and young people. Currently Sandwell has over 2000 children and young people within the 0 – 25 year age range receiving support through an EHCP.

**Table 6**

Primary Need	Primary Mainstream			Secondary Mainstream		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	93	156	183	108	103	151
Hearing Impairment	89	100	92	72	74	83
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1930	1984	1260	1673	1651	1137
Multi-Sensory Impairment	5	4	4	4	4	6
No Specialist Assessment of Type of Need	207	264	373	96	99	198
Other Difficulty / Disability	132	126	133	435	255	228
Physical Disability	121	124	121	73	91	91
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	9	9	9	4	2	1
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	703	813	837	823	782	707
Speech, Language and Comm Needs	1547	1637	1696	252	265	293
Severe Learning Difficulty	32	34	18	12	10	6
Specific Learning Difficulty	132	162	168	229	194	262
Visual Impairment	66	63	59	52	53	55
<b>Total with Primary Needs</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>5,476</b>	<b>4,953</b>	<b>3,737</b>	<b>3,484</b>	<b>3,218</b>
				Special		
Primary Need	2016	2017	2018			
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	59	63	68			
Hearing Impairment	1	0	1			
Moderate Learning Difficulty	68	73	76			
Multi-Sensory Impairment	2	3	3			
No Specialist Assessment of Type of Need	0	0	0			
Other Difficulty / Disability	5	5	3			
Physical Disability	5	7	6			
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	59	59	64			
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	85	86	77			
Speech, Language and Comm Needs	32	45	39			
Severe Learning Difficulty	186	190	213			
Specific Learning Difficulty	5	4	3			
Visual Impairment	0	0	0			
<b>Total with Primary Needs</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>553</b>			

**Table 7**

	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total pupils</b>	57,181	58,833	59,806
<b>Pupils with statement/EHCP</b>	1352 2.4%	1478 2.5%	1555 2.6%

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<b>SEN Support</b>	8228	8343	7389
	14.4%	14.2%	12.4%

**9. Recommendation**

- 9.1** It is recommended that Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

Date: 6/12/2018  
Contact Officer: Moira Tallents  
Tel No: 0121-569-8375

**FOCUS PROVISION AVERAGE OCCUPANCY  
TABLE 2018/19**

		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	Places Available	Notes	Vacant Places @
		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March			December
Christ Church C.E. Primary	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	8		1
Crocketts Lane Primary	PD	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	75%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	83%	12	2 places are reserved pending finalisation of EHCPs & start dates	2
Devonshire Infant Academy	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	5		0
Devonshire Junior Academy	CCD	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	5		0
Ferndale Primary	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	10		0
Galton Valley Primary	MLD	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	10	1 place is reserved pending finalisation of an EHCP & start date	1
Grace Mary Primary	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	8		0
Great Bridge Primary	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	8		0
Hargate Primary	HI	76%	76%	76%	76%	76%	71%	71%	71%	76%	76%	76%	76%	17		4
Hargate Primary	SEMH	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	20%	20%	20%	5	New Provision wef 1/9/18 Evolve I pupil in the provision from November 2018	4
Ocker Hill Academy	CCD	30%	40%	40%	40%	40%	50%	50%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	10	2 places are reserved pending finalisation of EHCPs & start dates	4
Springfield Primary	CCD	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	8	Provision is being ceased. No pupils will be admitted and places commissioned will be reduced to match occupancy	2
St Martin's CE Primary	SEMH	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	5	2 places are reserved pending finalisation of EHCPs & start dates	2
Uplands Manor Primary	SLCN	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	50%	63%	63%	63%	63%	63%	63%	8	2 places are reserved pending finalisation of EHCPs & start dates	3
Bristnall Hall High	CCD	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	25		1
St Michaels C.E High	PD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	20		1
St Michaels C.E High	CCD	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	5		0
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	HI	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	5		1
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	CCD	92%	83%	83%	92%	92%	125%	125%	125%	125%	125%	125%	125%	12	Occupancy greater than commissioned places. Additional places to be commissioned	-3
<b>Total Occupancy</b>		<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>186</b>		<b>23</b>
<b>Total Vacancies</b>		<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>			

**Academy Schools**

Occupied places is between 80% - 100%

Occupied places less than 80%

Occupied places over 100%



ATTACHMENT 2

SPECIAL PROVISION AVERAGE OCCUPANCY TABLE

All figures are representative as at the first of the month

	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	Places Available	Notes	Vacant Places @	%
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March			December	Vacant
Meadows	99%	99%	100%	99%	99%	109%	109%	109%	109%	109%	109%	109%	151		14 Places Over	0%
Orchard	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	145		1 Place Over	0%
Shenstone	90%	94%	95%	95%	96%	84%	88%	89%	96%	96%	96%	96%	80		3	4%
Westminster	103%	103%	103%	103%	103%	106%	106%	106%	106%	106%	106%	106%	189		11 Places Over	0%
Total Occupancy	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	102%	103%	103%	104%	104%	104%	104%	565		3	1%
Total Vacancies	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				

Occupancy is between 90% & 100%  
 Occupancy is less than 90%  
 Occupancy is greater than 100%

Vacancies are less than 5%  
 Vacancies are greater than 5%

**Schools Forum**

**17th December 2018**

**Funding Formula Review 2019-20 – Results of the Consultation**

**This report is for decision**

**1. Recommendation**

1.1 That Schools Forum makes a recommendation on the following consultation proposals:

- The preferred option to use for calculating the school funding formula for 2019/20.
- Implementation of an MFG of +0.5% if modelling proves this is achievable within the funding given or an MFG of up to - 1.5% if it proves necessary and cap gains to ensure that the MFG is cost neutral.

1.2 That Schools Forum makes a decision on the following consultation proposals:

- The level at which to set the Pupil Number Growth Contingency Fund.
- De-delegation budget proposals.
- The Education Functions budget proposals.
- The Central Schools Services Block proposals.

**2. Purpose**

2.1 To gain approval from Schools Forum members for the basis for the school funding formula for 2019/20 following consultation with schools.

2.2 To make a decision on which de-delegated proposals are approved for 2019/20.

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- 2.3 To make a decision on which Education Function proposals are approved for 2019/20.
- 2.4 To make a decision on which Central Schools Services Block proposals are approved for 2019/20.

### **3. Links to School Improvement Priorities**

- 3.1 The decisions of the Forum define the budget setting processes for all schools and academies within the borough for the next financial year. Given national government announcements on future funding for schools, this process will assist schools in preparing strategic plans for the next three years, ensuring schools are able to create viable budget, staffing and curriculum plans. All decisions will affect the amount available to be delegated directly with schools and focus on what funding is centrally retained to protect services and schools with falling rolls.

### **4. Report Details**

- 4.1 The Schools Budget Consultation was issued to schools on 13th November after approval with some amendments at the Schools Forum meeting on 12th November 2018.
- 4.2 The document was issued to all schools on 13th November 2018; with a deadline of noon 5th December 2018 to respond.
- 4.3 A summary of responses to this consultation can be found in **Appendix (1), (2), (3) and (4)**.

Consultation with the following stakeholders were held:

- Association Sandwell Governing Bodies – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018
  - Joint Executive Group – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018
  - Secondary Partnership – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018
  - Primary Partnership – 29th November 2018
  - Joint Union Panel – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018
- 4.4 A total of 76 responses were received (compared with 60 last year), with 57 from maintained schools and 19 from academies.

## **Consultation Responses**

4.5 The consultation on the formula funding for schools included proposals on the following:

- The funding formula to use for allocating schools budgets;  
Option 1 – LA Formula, with primary secondary ratio 1: 1.23

Option 2 – LA Formula with an increase to primary: secondary ratio; 1:1.25 and a positive MFG and;

Option 3 – National Funding Formula values.

Option 4 - LA Formula with an increase to primary: secondary ratio; 1:1.25 and a MFG of -1.5%.

- Pupil Number Growth Contingency Fund.
- De-delegation proposals.
- Education Functions.
- Minimum funding guarantee and capping of gains.
- Central Schools Services Block

## **4.6 Funding Formula Options**

The authority modelled 4 funding options for calculating the schools' revenue budget for 2019/20. There were some general changes which applied to all options which are as follows:

- The Shireland High Technical Primary is scheduled to open in September 2019 with a PAN of 60 for Reception and this has been reflected in the "Schools funding model" as required by the Department for Education (DfE).
- The West Bromwich Collegiate Academy is also scheduled to open in September 2019 with a PAN of 150 for each year group. The school has agreed to accept 175 Year 7 pupils for 2019/20 to meet the anticipated needs for the Smethwick area.

4.7 The funding formula options are as follows:

## **Option 1: The 2018/19 Local authority model**

4.8 This model uses the same factor values as applied for 2018/19 local authority funding formula, with the continuation of the primary: secondary ratio set at 1:1.23. The following factors have been updated to reflect the changes detailed above in section 4.6:

- Basic Entitlement for Primary, KS3 and KS4 pupils
- MFG so as to remain within the total funding available.

## **Option 2: The 2018/19 local authority model – Increase of the Primary: Secondary Ratio to 1.25.**

4.9 This model uses the same factor values as applied for 2018/19 local authority. The spreadsheet shows the change in funding for the primary: secondary ratio move to 1:1.25.

4.10 The DfE have issued an “analysis of local authorities’ schools block funding formulae” for 2018/19. As part of this analysis, local authorities’ schools block funding formulae have been used to calculate the relative differences in per-pupil funding allocated to secondary pupils compared to primary pupils. A ratio of 1:1.24, for instance, indicates that secondary-age pupils in a local authority receive, on average, 24% more funding per head than primary-age pupils.

4.11 The overall ratio nationally across all local authorities is 1: 1.296, a slight increase from the 2017/18 formulae where it was 1:1.289. The average local authority ratio is 1:1.311, a slight increase on the ratio of 1:1.304 in 2017/18 formulae.

4.12 The following table is a comparison of the primary : secondary ratio for our statistical neighbours for the financial year 2018/19. Sandwell’s ratio has remained unchanged at 1:1.23 for several years.

**Statistical Neighbour Comparison of Primary: Secondary Ratio 2017/18 and 2018/19**

Rank (1 = closest)	Local Authority	Closeness in ranking	ID	Primary: Secondary Ratio 2017/18	Primary: Secondary Ratio 2018/19	Change in ration from 2017/18 to 2018/19
1	Wolverhampton	Very Close	336	1.34	1.34	0.00
2	Walsall	Very Close	335	1.25	1.24	0.00
3	Derby	Close	831	1.30	1.35	0.05
4	Birmingham	Close	330	1.30	1.31	0.02
5	Coventry	Close	331	1.31	1.32	0.01
6	Peterborough	Close	874	1.36	1.33	-0.03
7	Nottingham	Close	892	1.35	1.35	0.00
8	Stoke -on Trent	Close	861	1.27	1.29	0.02
9	Luton	Close	821	1.32	1.32	0.00
10	Blackburn with Darwen	Close	889	1.39	1.35	-0.04
	Sandwell		333	1.23	1.23	0.00
	Dudley		332	1.22	1.33	0.11

**Option 3: Adoption of the National Funding Formula Values**

4.13 This model uses, to a large extent, the factor values used in the National Funding Formula. The DfE have advised that it may not be possible to reflect fully the national funding formula.

**Option 4: The 2018/19 local authority model – Primary: Secondary Ratio increase to 1.25 with an MFG of -1.5%**

4.14 This model uses the same factor values as applied for 2018/19 local authority. The spreadsheet shows the change in funding for the primary: secondary ratio move to 1:1.25 with an Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of -1.5%

**Modelling – Financial Health Warning**

4.15 The modelling, and the resultant individual school and factor value information, were intended to illustrate the impact of the LA’s proposals. However, the factor values implied by the modelling

cannot be guaranteed for 2019-20 at this stage. All of the modelling was based on the data used to determine schools' 2018-19 budget shares. The actual budgets and factor values for next year will be affected by:

- (a) The actual Schools Block quantum for 2019-20 including the impact of demographic data changes, over and above pupil numbers, that are not reflected (funded) in the Schools Block e.g. increases in free school meals entitlement, changes in school rates valuations, changes in prior attainment data etc.;
- (b) The impact of unfunded cost pressures, such as any increase in the National Non Domestic Rating multiplier which determines schools' rates costs, and for which no increase in funding will be received;
- (c) The impact of the government's growth fund proposals; and
- (d) Any changes arising from the responses to this consultation.

#### **4.16 Funding Options – Consultation responses**

4.17 The Director for Education, Skills and Employment has received a letter from the secondary school head teachers (Appendix 6) voicing concerns about the consultation process and the funding options that have been put forward for consultation.

4.18 The Headteachers further state that based on these concerns they feel they have “no alternative but to abstain from the 2019/20 ratio vote”

4.19 One secondary school has voted in favour of option 4, but comment in the letter that they have already sent in their response otherwise they would have supported the letter.

4.20 The Director for Education, Skills and Employment has responded to the secondary school head teachers concerns. (Appendix 7).

4.21 The majority of primary school respondents agreed with Option 1.

- Option 1 – 57 Agreed
- Option 2 - 1 Agreed
- Option 3 – 0 Agreed
- Option 4 – 0 Agreed

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## 4.22 Pupil Number Growth Fund

4.23 Local authorities may topslice the DSG to create a growth fund. The growth fund is ring-fenced so that it is only used for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need, to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation and to meet the costs of necessary new schools. These will include the lead-in costs, post start-up costs and any diseconomy of scale costs

4.24 Local authorities are responsible for funding these growth needs for all schools in their area, for new and existing maintained schools and academies.

- Local authorities must fund all schools on the same criteria.
- Where growth occurs in academies that are funded by ESFA on estimates, the ESFA will use the pupil number adjustment process to ensure the academy is only funded for the growth once.

4.25 The Authority has estimated the costs for authority led expansions of schools to cater for the increase in birth rates, pre-opening and diseconomy of scale costs for West Bromwich Collegiate Academy and it has also estimated mid- year admissions costs. The total estimated growth fund required is £2,269,000

4.26 The majority of respondents agreed with a Pupil Number growth fund set at £2,269,000. (44 agreed; 22 against).

### **DFE Growth fund – New formulaic method**

4.27 Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block NFF allocations. For 2019/20, growth funding will be allocated to local authorities using a new formulaic method based on lagged growth data. The change in the method of funding to local authorities has not changed the way in which authorities can allocate funding locally.

For each local authority, the growth factor will allocate:

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- £1,370 for each primary “growth” pupil,
- £2,050 for each secondary “growth” pupil
- £65,000 for each brand new school that opened in the previous year (that is, any school not appearing on the October 2017 census but appearing on the October 2018 census).

4.28 The authority will not know the full financial implication of this change in funding until the DSG allocations are announced in December 2018.

### De-delegation Proposals

4.29 There were 7 de-delegation proposals and the details are set out in the table below.

<b>De-delegation Budget Proposals 2019/20</b>				
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Primary Phase Cost</b>	<b>Secondary Phase Cost</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
1	Behaviour Support Team	414,300	352,200	62,100
2	Preventing Primary Exclusions Team	152,500	152,500	0
3	Health & Safety Licenses	13,000	10,685	2,315
4	Evolve Annual Licence	6,100	5,002	1,098
5	Union Facilities Time	252,000	202,000	50,000
6	School Improvement Service	100,000	82,189	17,811
7	School in financial difficulty	250,000	212,527	37,473
	<b>Total De-delegation proposals</b>	<b>1,187,900</b>	<b>1,017,103</b>	<b>170,797</b>

4.30 Schools Forum maintained school members are asked to make a decision on these budgets taking into consideration the responses from schools.(Refer to appendix 2).

## Education Functions Proposals for maintained schools

- 4.31 Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
- 4.32 The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary and secondary), should agree the amount the local authority will retain.
- 4.33 Sandwell, in line with guidance, intend to set a single rate per 5 to 16 year old pupil for all mainstream maintained schools, both primary and secondary. The rate of £13.68 per pupil is based on October 2016 census data, this will be updated to be based on October 2017 census data.
- 4.34 If the local authority and schools forum are unable to reach a consensus on the amount to be retained by the local authority, the matter can be referred to the Secretary of State.
- 4.35 There are 3 education function proposals and the details are set out in the table below.

<b>Education Functions Budget Proposals 2019/20</b>		
<b>Service</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Amount per pupil</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Education Benefits Team	172,000	5.28
Children's Clothing Support Allowance	30,000	0.92
Safeguarding & Attendance	244,000	7.49
<b>Total Education Functions</b>	<b>446,000</b>	<b>13.68</b>

- 4.36 Schools Forum maintained school members are asked to make a decision on these budgets taking into consideration the responses from schools. (Refer to appendix 3).

## Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 4.37 The Secretary of State confirmed in July that the national funding formula will provide for at least a 0.5% per-pupil increase in respect of each school in 2019 to 2020.
- 4.38 Local authorities continue to have the ability to set a pre-16 minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in their local formulae, to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes.
- 4.39 The DfE have introduced greater flexibility for the MFG in 2018/19; local authorities are now able to set an MFG between plus 0.5% and minus 1.5% per pupil. Setting the MFG between these rates gives the authority the flexibility to make local decisions about the distribution of funding, and enables the authority to manage any changes in pupil characteristics when characteristics data is updated in December.
- 4.40 The majority of respondents agreed an MFG of +0.5% if modelling proved this was achievable within the funding given (62 agreed, 2 against).
- 4.41 The majority of respondents agreed with an MFG of up to -1.5% if it proves necessary and that gains are capped in order to ensure the MFG is cost neutral. (56 agreed, 7 against)
- 4.42 **Central School Service Block**
- 4.43 The Central Schools Service Block (CSSB) was introduced in 2018/19, to fund local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools, and academies. The CSSB brings together:
- funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).
  - funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions and schools forum costs, previously top-sliced from the schools block.
  - residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block; in this case pensions administration.
- 4.44 A number of the services that are covered by funding are subject to a limitation of no new commitments or increase in expenditure from

2018/19. This limit no longer applies to Admissions or the servicing of schools forums.

- 4.45 Funding for historic commitments is based on the actual cost of the commitment. The DfE have stated they expect these commitments to reduce and cease over time and there will be no protection for historic commitments in the CSSB.
- 4.46 Schools Forum approval is required each year to confirm the amounts on each line for central school services the detail of which is included in the table below. In the event that schools forum does not agree with the authority CSSB proposal as detailed below, the authority can ask the DfE to adjudicate.

<b>Central School Services Budget Proposals 2019/20</b>	
<b>Service</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>
Statutory & Regulatory, Education Welfare and Asset Management	1,259,000
Schools Forum	3,000
Admission Service	452,600
Pensions Administration	264,400
<b>Total Central School Services</b>	<b>1,979,000</b>

- 4.47 The majority of respondents agreed with each service element detailed in the table. Schools Forum members are asked to make a decision on these budgets taking into consideration the responses from schools. (Refer to appendix 4).

### **Schools Response**

- 4.48 The anonymised comments from schools in relation to the consultation are included in Appendix 5.

### **Trade Union Response**

- 4.49 The authority has consulted with the Joint Union Panel, however no response has been received to date.

### **Proposed Schools Funding Formula 2019/20**

- 4.50 The views of all stakeholders will be taken into consideration in relation to the consultation on the schools funding formula for

2019/20. The authority will consider the recommendation of School forum, but ultimately it is a local authority decision.

Contact Officer: Rosemarie Kerr, Principal Schools Accountant  
Tel No: 0121 569 8318

Date: 11/12/2018

Consultation Response Summary

Question	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Please indicate the option you prefer to use for calculating school funding for 2019/20 (Tick one option only)						
a) Option 1 – The Local authority formula used for 2018/19; with a primary: secondary Ratio of 1 : 1.23	57		Abstain		<b>57</b>	
b) Option 2 – The local authority formula with an increase to the primary: secondary ratio 1:1.25 and a positive MFG.	1		Abstain		<b>1</b>	
c) Option 3 – National Funding Formula factor values.	0		Abstain		<b>0</b>	
d) Option 4 – The Local authority formula used for 2018/19; with a primary: secondary ratio of 1:1.25 and a MFG of -1.5%.	0		Majority Abstain (with 1 Voting		<b>0</b>	
2. Do you agree that we should set the pupil Number Growth Fund for 2019/20 of £2,269,000	40	18	4	4	<b>44</b>	22
3. Which of the De-delegated budget proposals do you agree with (see Appendix 2)	See Appendix (2)					
4. Which of the Education Function budget proposals do you agree with (see Appendix 3)	See Appendix (3)					

5. Please indicate whether you agree with: a). MFG of +0.5% if modelling proves this achievable with the funding given.	55	2	7	0	62	2
b) If an MFG of up to -1.5% proves necessary, then gains are capped in order for the MFG to be cost neutral.	54	3	2	4	56	7
6. Do you agree for the authority to provide for the responsibilities it holds for all schools from the “Central School Services Block” funding. The provisional 2019/20 allocation is £1,979,000.	See Appendix (4)					

## De-delegated Budgets Consultation Responses

Ref	Name	Lead Officer	Primary		Secondary	
			Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Behaviour Support Team	Behaviour support Manager	48	4	5	0
2	Preventing Primary Exclusions Team	Behaviour support Manager	49	3	N/A	N/A
3	Health & Safety Licences & Subscriptions	Group Head – Learning Improvement	50	2	5	0
4	Evolve Annual Licence	Residential Manager	51	1	5	0
5	Union Facilities Time	Group Head – Learning Improvement	38	13	0	4
6	School Improvement Services	Group Head – Learning Improvement	43	9	5	0
7	Schools in financial difficulties	Director – Education, Skills and Employment	28	24	2	3



**Education Functions Budgets Consultation Responses**

Ref	Name	Lead Officer	Maintained Schools	
			Yes	No
7	Education Functions	Sue Moore/Joy Djukic	56	2
8	Children's Clothing Allowance Support	Sue Moore/Joy Djukic	52	5
9	Safeguarding and Attendance	Ramsey Richards	55	2

## Central Schools Services Block Budgets Consultation Responses

Service	£m	Yes	No
<b>Provisional Allocation 2019/20</b>	<b>1.979</b>		
<b>Expenditure Items:</b>			
Statutory & Regulatory, Education Welfare and Asset Management	1.259	<b>62</b>	4
Schools Forum	0.003	<b>63</b>	3
Admissions Service	0.453	<b>62</b>	4
Historical Commitment – Pensions Administration.	0.264	<b>59</b>	7
<b>Total Central Schools Services Block</b>	<b>1.979</b>		

**COMMENTS ON SCHOOL FUNDING 2019/20 CONSULTATION**

<p><b>Question 1 - Please Indicate Your Preferred Option To Calculate School Funding for 2019/20</b></p>
<p>Abstaining from vote - see letter</p>
<p><b>Question 2 - Do you agree that we should set the Pupil Number Growth fund for 2019/20 at £2,269,000</b></p>
<p>School would like to see a list of the already agreed amounts and schools and therefore how much would be left on contingency for the year</p>
<p>I would like to see a listy of the already agreed amounts and schools and therefore how much money would be left in the contingency for the year. Without this information an informed decision cannot be made</p>
<p>More information is needed here to help the school make a more informed decision</p>
<p>Money should be available for schools who experience a high intake of pupils after census especially if they arrive and have significant need.</p>
<p>School would like to see a list of the already agreed amounts and schools and therefore how much would be left in contingency for the year</p>
<p></p>

## General Comments

It is essential for primary schools that the funding ratio stays at 1:1:23, as such a significant loss of money from the primary sector would lead to a significant decline in standards. Sandwell is not national average - early intervention is vital and pays dividends in the long run. Data provided regarding statistical neighbours does not show any impact of the shift of funding to secondary. School Improvement: As budgets get tighter, The School may have to lose staff, perhaps the School Improvement Team could operate on a slimmed down model - maybe not all schools need a termly visit - perhaps two a year would be sufficient. Schools in Financial Difficulties: You are asking for this money now, prior to a working party being set up to decide the criteria. Until the criteria are transparent, it seems inappropriate to agree to this. Pupil Growth Fund: We know that money is needed for pupil growth fund, but there is not enough detail to justify this exact amount.

Governors were pleased this year to see the comprehensive information related to union facilities time

Admissions - This service needs to talk to schools more and collate more information about children that are being placed before placing them. Attendance and Prosecution Service needs to improve and be more consistent with information they are asking for from schools.

The Governors of XXXXXXX believe that to support our very youngest children who come into school at a very low baseline to make the maximum amount of progress through their school journey the Primary/Secondary Ratio should remain at 1:1:23 for 2019-20

I remain concerned that union facility time paid by primary sector whereas secondary opted out yet secondary colleagues are supported by this facility time fund. This is not fair or equitable. I still do not feel that headteachers have a clear and transparent view of this very expensive top slice.

With so many schools reaching 'crisis' point in the near future, it is more imperative now than ever before that the LA does not compound our projected deficits further by topslicing any more than is absolutely necessary and to provide only the very essential services. Maybe it is time to look at schools who are sitting on huge reserves and also those that are actively wasting money for fear of losing funding because of their reserves.

School have not responded to question 1, please see formal joint letter from Secondary Headteachers. The consultation document states that the DfE have seen significant progress across the system in moving towards the national funding formula in its first year and in light of this they have confirmed that the local authorities will continue to determine local formula in 2020/21. Based on this I do not believe that Sandwell have moved towards the national recommended funding ratio

of primary/secondary, even though they have consulted on this for a number of years. The decision from schools forum and cabinet has always been to protect primary schools in favour of secondaries. All neighbouring local authorities are closer to the national funding formula. Dudley for instance have moved from 1:22 to 1:33. In the previous consultation options given was a three year stepped increase of 1:1.25/1:1.27/1:1.29, however, schools forums decision was not to move towards this in that year. Secondaries have therefore lost out one year of funding growth and as you are proposing the 1:1.25 yet again we have lost out on another year of additional growth.

While school acknowledge that the number of schools in financial difficulty is likely to increase in the next few years, the figure quoted would simply be a drop in the ocean, whilst at the same time reducing the amount of money that all other schools receive. A lot more needs to be done by the LA and the Government to help solve this massive funding crisis schools face. School also want it on record that the ratio needs to change, they believe that the LA recognises this, so why is it consulted on every year. More needs to be done to get this change actioned.

Please see attached letter forwarded to Chris Ward: We refuse to respond on the consultation of the allocation of primary/secondary funding on the grounds that we find it derisory to the secondary sector.

Q6: This is part a council's statutory obligation therefore schools need a detailed explanantion why this funded from a school's budget.



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

Dear Mr Ward,

In preparation for the introduction of the National Funding Formula and to avoid an abrupt depletion of funds within the primary sector, most local authorities have chosen to move their primary:secondary ratio towards the national average which, in 2016-17 was 1:1.29. Our statistical secondary neighbours all enjoy higher funding than us; moving significantly beyond Sandwell's 1:1.23 ratio, with half of them (alongside our physical neighbour, Dudley) adopting a 1:1.33 ratio or above.

Secondary Headteachers in the Sandwell Borough have been campaigning to receive a fairer funding ratio for many years. We are fighting to improve academic and social outcomes for our students: raising aspirations in one of the most deprived areas in the country. Simultaneously, in an attempt to balance budgets, we have to make redundancies; we are not able to replace teachers and support staff who leave; we have to inflict larger class sizes on dwindling numbers of staff; we have to reduce the breadth and scope of our curricula; we have to expurgate our resources budget to a minimum and we have to stop carrying out essential building works.

Our local authority representatives tell us that they understand we are underfunded, yet no-one acts to stem the unacceptable drain on our human and physical resources.

The most recent "Schools Funding Consultation" document- presented as four 'options' - is clearly derisive to the secondary sector: presenting Options 1 (1:1.23) and 2 (1:1.25) as genuine alternatives is disingenuous and misleading. This year's change to the Minimum Funding Grant (MFG) formula for Option 2 (1:1.25) to 0.14% has resulted in every Primary school **retaining its funding**, whilst Secondary schools have gained nothing. Effectively, voting for an 'uplift' to 1:1.25 +0.14 MFG has no impact on primary or secondary schools. Consequently, primary headteachers can vote for Option 2 and both they and the local authority appear to be benevolent whilst secondary schools remain in the mire of under-funding.

Regarding the National Funding Formula (NFF) Option 3: the local authority has changed the MFG for this option to -0.65 in 2018. Whilst raising the MFG for secondary schools by £1,631,110 from 2017-2018, it has - more significantly - resulted in a £5,824,991 increase for primaries. This has meant that the difference in extra funding allocated to secondary schools for the NFF option fell by nearly £1,000,000 between 2017 and 2018. Consequently, compared to last year's formula, 95% of secondary schools would have gained funding through the NFF Option (3) in 2017. This year, only 79% would gain funding, with nearly one third of schools losing over £96,000 compared to 2017. Whilst fluctuating numbers may explain small changes within the funding, this cannot account for the colossal reductions for secondary schools from one year to the next: a travesty for the secondary sector.

Regarding Options 3 (the NFF) and 4 (1:1.25 with -1.5 MFG):

- 63% of schools in the secondary sector would benefit more from Option 3 than Option 4.
- However, Option 3 would be much more of a financial strain on primary schools than Option 4.
- 81% of schools in the primary sector would experience greater financial benefit from Option 4
- However, only 37% of secondary schools would have a better financial outcome with Option 4.


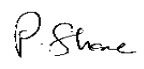
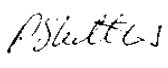




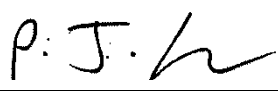
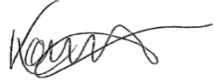


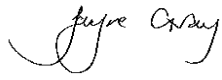


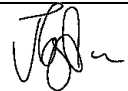
The resultant split within the secondary vote is not helpful, for obvious reasons.

In short: in financial terms, the 1:1.25 +0.14% MFG funding option (2) is **identical** to the current 1:1.23 option (1). **We request that Option 2 be removed from the ballot.** The NFF option (3) has resulted in significantly reduced funding for 79% of secondary schools and whilst Option 4 (1:1.25 -1.5 MFG) is less financially draining for primary schools, the majority of secondary schools would gain more funding through Option 3. This has created an impasse, which is exacerbated by the farcical imbalance within the voting system in which the 95 primary headteachers hold 83% of the vote despite the fact that the ratio of pupils in each phase should result in a circa 50:50 split.

We are aware that the DfE has stated that local authorities will continue to have "flexibility to set a local MFG between -1.5 and +0.5" but the options presented to us contain three different MFGs, ranging from -1.5 to +0.14. We believe that manipulating the MFG to raise the ratio whilst retaining the financial status quo is not in the spirit of the DfE guidance.

Unfortunately, the undersigned Sandwell secondary headteachers feel that they have been left with no alternative but to abstain from the 2019/20 ratio vote. This makes clear our exasperation with the way the MFG has been used to manipulate primary:secondary ratios and the consequential financial outcomes. We understand that this action is futile because the majority primary sector representation will always dictate both the agenda and the outcome of any result. Consequently, as well as removing Option 2 from the ballot, we ask that the voting system be made more equitable: for example, by implementing a weighted vote, accounting for pupil ratios in each sector. We would welcome a discussion on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

School	Headteacher	Signature / Comment
Bristnall Hall	Vince Green	"Whilst sharing many of your sentiments here, our trust will respond on our behalf".
George Salter Academy	Adrian Price	
Holly Lodge Foundation High School	Paul Shone	
Oldbury Academy	Philip Shackleton	
Ormiston Forge Academy	Andrew Burns	
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	Marie McMahon	
Perryfields High School	Ian Barton	"Unfortunately we have already sent ours back otherwise we would have supported the letter"
Phoenix Collegiate	Michael Smith	
Q3 Academy Great Barr	Mark Arnull	
Q3 Academy Langley	Peter Lee	
Q3 Academy Tipton	Keziah Featherstone	
RSA Academy	Patricia Hammond	
Shireland Collegiate Academy	David Irish	
St Michael's CofE High School	Jayne Gray	
Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School	Jeremy Harris	
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	Leigh Moore	
Wood Green Academy	James Topham	

Secondary Head Teachers &  
Academy Principals

My Ref: CW/DC  
Tel: 0121 569 8335  
Please ask for: Chris Ward

Date: 10 December 2018

Dear Secondary Headteachers and Academy Principals

The finance unit have forwarded your letter regarding the schools formula funding consultation to me for review. I felt it best to respond to you prior to the next Schools Forum to some of the issues you have raised.

Firstly, you are right to say that we believe that, not only are all schools underfunded, but recent changes to school employment liabilities have added additional pressures to budget management above and beyond the issues caused by austerity measures.

When the draft consultation documents were presented at Schools Forum they contained the same 3 options as in previous years. They were not fixed options but were presented for discussion. The additional 4<sup>th</sup> option was suggested by secondary members of Forum and accepted by Forum. Any of the options could have been removed and other more favourable options could have been presented as different choices.

The issue around MFG (Minimum Funding Guarantee) limits was actually raised by me in the meeting as I pointed out at the time that ratio change would only be effective if MFG was set to -1.5%. This, if held over time along with NFF (National Funding Formula) ratio average, had the potential to move the school ratio if accepted by Forum and/or approved by Council.

[IL1: PROTECT]

Chris Ward, Director of Education, Skills and Employment  
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT DIRECTORATE  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, The Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

Telephone: 0121 569 8335  
Email: [chris\\_ward@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:chris_ward@sandwell.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)



I think there are a number of misconceptions around the working of Schools Forum which I need to address to help with your overall understanding of financial governance.

Voting on the consultation gives Schools Forum an indication from each of the sectors on their preferences. It will always be the case that the consultation will receive more responses from Primary schools. However, this higher response is not reflected in the voting and decision mechanisms operated by Schools Forum.

Schools Forum, as defined in the Financial Regulations, should be representative of the numbers of pupils in each part of the system. It should also include Church School representatives, Early Years, Post 16, Special/PRUs and can include Union representation. Two years ago we realigned our Schools Forum to ensure it met with these regulations. As a result, the shape of Forum changed and the proportion of Secondary school representation increased.

This proportion of Secondary school representation will continue to be reviewed as more pupils move in to the Secondary sector. In short:

- Currently there are 56,456 pupils in our schools
- 22,090 in Secondary Y7-Y14 representing 39% of pupils
- 33,678 in Primary YR-Y6 representing 60% of pupils
- 688 in PRU and special education representing 1% of pupils

The current make up of Schools Forum shows 20 voting members of which:

- Headteacher/Principals - 6 Primary: 4 Secondary
- Governors – 3 Primary: 2 Secondary
- 1 Special school – Primary/Secondary
- 1 PRU – Secondary
- 1 Early Years – independent pre school
- 1 Post 16 provider
- 1 Union representative

*\*NB The Union representative and Post 16 provider are not eligible to vote on the ratio question*

[IL1: PROTECT]

**Chris Ward, Director of Education, Skills and Employment  
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT DIRECTORATE**

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, The Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

Telephone: 0121 569 8335  
Email: [chris\\_ward@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:chris_ward@sandwell.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk)

As you can see from the information above a 'weighted voting system' is already in operation and the LA (Local Authority) has complied with a 60:40 ratio for Primary/Secondary in line with the pupil ratio. You should also see that the non-mainstream members actually have the ability to swing the vote one way or another. This was not the case before the revisions to membership were made; however, it would require all of the eligible non-mainstream members to vote in favour of an option which you felt supported your preferred option.


In terms of the consultation there is no reason why, acting as a group, you could not suggest your preferred option to Schools Forum which would take in to account the maximum amount that can be moved through the ratio taking in to account MFG. Through the consultation you have made it clear that the current options do not meet your needs so I recommend that the Secondary sector indicate what they would wish to be considered.

I can assure you that the letter you have provided will be considered at Schools Forum and they will be directed to take it in to account when voting. Equally, you know the final decision regarding the ratio will be made by Cabinet and, as previously agreed at Secondary Partnership meeting, Cllr Hackett has already set a date for this to happen before Cabinet meets.

I appreciate you writing to me as a group on this matter and I hope my response has gone some way towards helping your understanding of the Schools Forum process.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chris Ward

**Director of Education, Skills and Employment**

[IL1: PROTECT]

Chris Ward, Director of Education, Skills and Employment  
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT DIRECTORATE

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, The Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

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