

Agenda Schools Forum

**Monday, 20 March 2023 at 2.30 pm
in the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

1 Minute Silence

Schools Forum to observe a minute silence in respect of Schools Forum Governor representative Bob Patel.

2 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

3 Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

4 Minutes

11 - 24

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 as a correct record.

5 School Budgets 2023/24 (including Early Years & High Needs)

25 - 46

Schools Forum to note the School Budget Information 2023/24.



- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 6 | HNB Budgets 2023/24 | 47 - 56 |
| | Schools Forum to note the contents of the report in relation to the 2023/24 HNB Grant Budget. | |
| 7 | High Needs Block P11 Monitoring | 57 - 62 |
| | Schools Forum to note the contents of the report in relation to the 2022/23 HNB Grant budget monitoring for the period 1 April – 28 February 2023. | |
| 8 | Fair Funding Scheme Updates | 63 - 64 |
| | Schools Forum to consider and approve the update to the Scheme for the Financing of Schools. | |
| 9 | Forward Plan 2023/24 | 65 - 66 |
| | Schools Forum to note the Forward Plan for 2023/24. | |
| 10 | AOB | |
| | To consider the membership of the ongoing Working Groups and the appointment of substitute members. | |

Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

N Toplass (Chair)
M Arnull, J Barry, S Baker, J Bailey, D Barton, E Benbow, K Berdesha,
L Bray, D Broadbent, C Handy, D Irish, W Lawrence, S Mistry, D Steen,
J Topham and Union

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Schools Forum Distribution to Members:

Body / Number of positions on Forum	Nominated Member	Nominated Substitute
Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Maintained Primary Schools (5)	Ms S Baker Mr J Barry Ms W Lawrence Vacancy Mrs S Mistry	L Paino A Connop S Penny Nomination awaited K Duff
School Governors – Maintained Primary Schools (3)	Mrs D Steen Mrs E Benbow Vacancy	Nomination awaited Nomination awaited Nomination awaited
Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Maintained Secondary Schools (1)	Christina Handy-Rivett	M Smith
School Governors – Maintained Secondary Schools (2)	Mrs D Broadbent Vacancy	Nomination awaited Nomination awaited
Academies (4)	Ms L Bray Mr D Irish Mr M Arnull Mr J Topham	Nomination awaited Nomination awaited Nomination awaited Nomination awaited
Head Teachers Advisory Forum – Special School (1)	Mr N Toplass (Chair)	Nomination awaited
Trade Union (1)	Mr. D Barton	Phil Jones
Early Years Partnership (1)	Vacancy	Nomination awaited
14-19 Provider (1)	Ms J Bailey	M Salter
Pupil Referral Unit (1)	Ms K Berdesha	Ms K Hazelwood

Schools Forum: Voting Blocks (Who can vote and on what?)

Secondary Maintained Block	Voting
	Can vote on all business except primary school de-delegation.
Headteachers	
J Christina Handy-Rivett	
Governors	
Mrs D Broadbent	
Vacant	

Primary Maintained Block	Voting
	Can vote on all business except secondary school de-delegation.
Headteachers	
Sally Baker	
Jamie Barry	
Vacancy	
Wendy Lawrence	
Seema Mistry	
Governors	
Ms L Howard	
Mrs E Benbow	
Vacancy	

Special Block	Voting
Neil Toplass	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and education functions.

Academies Block	Voting
James Topham (Secondary)	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and education functions.
Dave Irish (Secondary)	
Mark Arnall School Appeal Panel Member Training N(Secondary)	
Lucy Bray (Primary)	

Schools Forum: Voting Blocks (Who can vote and on what?)

Continued...

Pupil Referral Unit	Voting
Kuldip Berdesha	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and education functions.

NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS

Early Years Partnership	Voting
Vacancy	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and education functions.

Trade Union	Voting
Darren Barton NUT	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and school funding formula.

16-19 Provider	Voting
Jane Bailey	Can vote on all business except primary and secondary school de-delegation and school funding formula.

- (a) A meeting will only be quorate if 40% of the total active membership is present (Voting Members Only). Where a nominated substitute member is in attendance on behalf of a duly appointed member, he/she shall be included in the number of persons present for the purposes of determining if a quorum has been achieved.

- (b) If the meeting is inquorate, it will be able to proceed but cannot legally take decisions (E.g. Election of a Chairperson, or a decision relating to funding conferred by the funding regulations). An inquorate meeting can respond to authority consultation and give views to the authority. The authority can take account of such views

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Minutes of Schools Forum

Monday 16 January at 2.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: N Toplass (Chair)
M Arnall, S Baker, J Barry, K Bradesha, L Bray, D Broadbent,
W Lawrence, S Mistry, M Salter and J Topman,

Officers: Elaine Taylor, Abi Asimolowo, Moira Talents, Julie Gill, Julie
Andrews and Connor Robinson

1/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from J Bailey, E Benbow,
C Handy-Rivett, D Irish, E Pate, B Patel and D Steen

2/23 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

3/23 **Minutes**

In respect of Schools Funding Consultation 2023-24 – Response
Results (minute no. 64/22) noting *Question 2 “Please indicate the
option you prefer to use for calculating pupil number growth fund?”*
It was requested that it be noted, that schools had been raising the
issue of falling rolls for over a year and their concerns had not
been appropriately addressed.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12
December 2022 be approved as a correct record.



4/23 **Named Substitution Appointment**

Schools Forum noted the appointment of M Salter as the named substitute for J Bailey.

5/23 **Dedicated School Grant Allocations and Draft School Budgets 2023/24**

Schools Forum considered the funding allocations for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the draft school budget information for 2023/24.

The report allowed school governing bodies and academy boards to start their financial planning for 2023/24 and to make appropriate structural and educational adjustments to meet the needs of young people within the constraints of the resource allocations.

The Department for Education (DfE) had announced the DSG allocations for 2023/24 and had detailed the allocations by block:

DSG Block	Allocation prior to Adjustments	Adjustments	Allocation after adjustments
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	325.898	(2.716)	323.182
Central School Services	2.306	0	2.306
High Needs	71.519	(3.782)	67.737
Early Years	25.823	0	25.823
Total	425.546	(6.498)	419.048



In addition to the main DSG, the government had also announced additional DSG allocation of £11.021m (called Mainstream Schools Additional Grant - MSAG) payable to mainstream schools. This replaced the School Supplementary Grant paid to schools in 2022/23. The distribution methodology and schools level allocation Forum noted would be announced in May 2023.

DSG Block (After Adjustments)	2022/23	2023/24
Schools Block allocation	£305.502m	£323.182
Pupil Numbers	56,025	56,462
Central Schools Services Block	£2.249m	£2.306m
High Needs Block allocation	£58.137m	£67.737
Pupil Numbers in special school	832	884
Early Years Block allocation	£23.387m	£25.823m
3 & 4 Year old Universal PTE	5,524	5,517
3 & 4 Year old – Additional 15 Hours PTE	1,592	1,667
2 Year old PTE	1,168	1,331
Early Years Pupil Premium (This funding is included within the “Early Years Allocation above”)	£0.308m	£0.339m

The 2023/24 Early Years Block allocations were indicative, and based on Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2022. The final allocations for each of the funding streams would be based on five-twelfths of the January 2023 census numbers plus seven-twelfths of the January 2024 census numbers.

The High needs block allocations were provisional figures and would be updated in the year. The import/export adjustment would be updated in the summer term 2023 to reflect the latest data from the January 2023 schools census and the RO6 of the 2022 to 2023 Individual Learner Record (ILR). The DfE would make further adjustments in April 2023 to the place funding deductions for the academic year 2023 to 2024 to reflect the outcome of the 2023 to



2024 place change notifications process and to reflect further academy conversions.

Schools Budgets 2023/24

The Schools Block funding that had been distributed through the main funding formula was £321,063,416. This had been calculated as follows:

Description	£
Schools Block DSG	325,898,910
Less NNDR	(2,716,494)
Less Pupil Number Growth Contingency	(1,664,000)
Less Transfer from Schools Block to Central Schools Services Block	(455,000)
Schools Block DSG Available to Distribute	321,063,416

Schools Forum was advised that the school funding model would be submitted to meet the DfE deadline of 20 January 2023 for review and final confirmation of the budgets.

Proposed Formula

During the consultation there had been perceived issue regarding the EAL factor and clarification was sought from the DfE. Their response was as follows:

“In addition to having to move 10% closer to the NFF you are also required to use each of the factors used in the NFF. This includes EAL3. As you used EAL2 last year we adjust the per pupil rate to 2/3 of the amount used before applying the 10% tightening. This is to reflect the additional pupils that will be funded as a result of moving from EAL2 to EAL3. This is covered in chapter 10 of the operational guide.”



As a result of this Schools Forum was advised that from a school's perspective they would funding eligible pupils at a lower rate but funding more eligible pupils.

Schools Forum were provided with the factor rates for the local authority formula to be applied to school's budgets for 2023/24. Those rates presented were subject to decisions by the DfE and or the Cabinet meeting to be held on 18 January 2023:

Factor	2023-24
Primary basic entitlement	3,661.82
KS3 basic entitlement	5,184.44
KS4 basic entitlement	5,274.34
Primary FSM	216.20
Secondary FSM	216.20
Primary FSM6	319.49
Secondary FSM6	587.35
Primary IDACI F	32.11
Primary IDACI E	106.43
Primary IDACI D	498.71
Primary IDACI C	562.12
Primary IDACI B	611.03
Primary IDACI A	661.32
Secondary IDACI F	47.16
Secondary IDACI E	377.71
Secondary IDACI D	693.19
Secondary IDACI C	789.22
Secondary IDACI B	869.84
Secondary IDACI A	939.44
Primary EAL3	579.34
Secondary EAL3	924.84
Primary LPA	1,240.97
Secondary LPA	1,810.11
Primary mobility	112.88
Secondary mobility	163.55
Primary lump sum	135,044.95
Secondary lump sum	135,044.95

Officers introduced the notion of Capping and Scaling to Sandwell. The DfE it was noted allowed overall gains for individual schools to be capped as well as scaled back to ensure that local formulae are



affordable. This methodology Schools Forum noted, new to Sandwell as schools move closer to the NFF and it was found that Sandwell local formula was unaffordable and so capping and scaling needed to be applied.

Schools Forums as part of formula modelling, was required to determine how to limit gains. The level remained a local decision and two affordable scenarios had been modelled for Schools Forum decision. There was potential variation to this, where considering the higher the level of capping, the more the number of schools, would gain but the more severe the level of scaling to ensure the Schools Block was affordable.

Schools Forum was presented with three possible scenarios:

- Scenario 1 – cap school gains at 1.41% and scale at 49.5%
- Scenario 2 – cap school gains at 1.51% and scale at 53%
- Scenario 3 – any other mixture of Capping & Scaling that delivers an affordable Schools Budget.

Forum members questioned the limits of the parameters within capping and scaling in terms of the affordability and the extent to which the cap could be raised. It was recognised that the level of capping and scaling would determine the number of schools impacted. The lower the cap the more schools would gain, but the spread of the gain would be wider, the higher the cap, the greater the gain but for a lower number of schools.

Schools Forum noted that the principal of the cap and scale would be applied equally across schools. Members questioned the ability to make a decision on the information provided.

It was explained to Schools Forum that the move towards capping and scaling was in line with the national funding formula.

The tools used to indicate the impact of capping and scaling across the different schools was demonstrated however Forum members did not want to base a decision of information that was not anonymised.

Forum members indicated that the preferred model would be the one that had the most positive gains across the most schools.



Schools Forum moved to a vote on Scenario 1 – cap school gains at 1.41% and scale at 49.5% and it was agreed.

Resolved that:-

Scenario 1 – cap school gains at 1.41% and scale at 49.5% be approved for the Capping and Scaling limits to deliver an affordable Schools Block budget.

6/23

Pupil Number Growth Funding and Pupil Number Growth - Additional Needs Funding - Up to March 2023

Schools Forum noted the allocation of pupil number growth funding and considered the additional needs funding to schools experiencing pupil growth.

The updated budget position for Pupil Number Growth Funding for 2022/23 was shared with Schools Forum along with the implications for 2023/24:

Description	Amount
2021/22 underspend B/F into 2022/23	(336,000.00)
2022/23 Budget	(1,300,000.00)
Total available funding	(1,636,000.00)
Already Paid	854,318.00
Prim to pay (see 4.2 below)	174,317.33
Sec to pay (see 4.2 below)	846,506.15
Add Needs (see 4.3 below)	233,466.31
	2,108,607.79
2022-23 overspent	472,607.79
2023-24 Budget	(1,664,000.00)
2023-24 Revised Budget	(1,191,392.22)



Based on the growth numbers agreed with schools as part of the September 2022 intake, the following amounts were due to the schools listed below:

School	Increase in PAN	Amount to be paid
Lightwoods Primary	30	£58,105.78
St Matthew's C.E. Primary	30	£58,105.78
The Priory Primary	30	£58,105.78
TOTAL PRIMARY		£174,317.33
Bristnall Hall Academy	30	£81,919.95
George Salter Academy	50	£136,533.25
Holly Lodge High	10	£27,306.65
Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	30	£81,919.95
Q3 Academy Langley	60	£163,839.90
Shireland BioMedical	120	£327,679.80
West Bromwich Collegiate Academy	6	£16,383.99
Wood Green Academy	4	£10,922.66
TOTAL SECONDARY		£846,506.15
TOTAL		£1,020,823.48

Sandwell had traditionally paid growth fund to schools identified as having unusually high number of pupils requiring additional needs. This was based on the increases in IDACI and EAL numbers when compared with previous year's October census. Based on this methodology, the following schools would be entitled to "Additional Needs" growth funding:

School	IDACI Funding (£)	EAL Funding (£)	Total (£)
Lightwoods Primary Academy	4,637.84	2,365.64	7,003.48
Shireland Technology Primary School	7,037.44	14,869.73	21,907.17
St Matthew's C of E Primary School	11,311.06	7,096.92	18,407.98
TOTAL PRIMARY	22,986.34	24,332.29	47,318.63



George Salter Academy	5,447.78	19,938.95	25,386.73
Shireland BioMedical	5,333.18	12,166.14	17,499.32
Q3 Academy Langley	14,552.91	15,207.68	29,760.59
Shireland Collegiate Academy	0	17,911.26	17,911.26
West Bromwich Collegiate Academy	33,050.65	56,106.96	89,157.61
Wodensborough Ormiston Academy	6,432.17	0	6,432.17
TOTAL SECONDARY	64,816.69	121,330.99	186,147.68
TOTAL	87,803.03	145,663.28	233,466.31

Schools Forum was informed that Additional Needs growth funding had been made when there was enough pot of money in the Schools Budget including the growth fund to accommodate such initiative. Schools Forum understood from information provided that the growth fund would overspend this year which would impact on next year's available budget.

Schools Forum was informed on the lack of the necessary funds to support the Additional Needs growth funding, and if it was agreed the impact it would have on the overspend.

Forum members questioned the implication of the decision to decline the Additional Needs growth funding and questioned why the decision was necessary at this time, highlighting the lack of certainty for schools.

Schools Forum moved to the vote and it was determined that Additional Needs growth funding be rejected.

Resolved that:-

The Additional Needs Funding for 2022-23 be rejected.

7/23

Schools Closedown 2022/23 Timetable

Schools Forum was advised of the closedown deadlines for maintained schools for the 2022/23 annual accounts. The Government deadline for local authorities to publish their audited



accounts was July 2023. Whilst it was acknowledged that the schools Budget/Finance Officer may complete some of the tasks on the schools' behalf it was the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure all tasks are completed and that deadlines for submissions are adhered to.

A summary of the critical deadlines had been shared with Schools Forum noting that deadlines were 1pm on:

- 10 February 2023 - Leasing returns
- 10 March 2023 – Timetable of Closedown Templates
- 3 April 2023 – Copy of Bank Statement
- 14 April 2023 – Year End Excel Closedown Template.

Due to an early Easter it was questioned if there was any leeway on the submission dates. It was however stated that the dates were fixed.

Schools Forum noted the report.

8/23

Special Educational Needs High Needs Block 2022/23 November 2022 Monitoring Report

Schools Forum heard that the High Needs Block budget for 2022/23 reported to Schools Forum on 26 September was £60.808M, net of deductions. The balance brought forward as at 1 April 2022 was £3.930M surplus.

It was anticipated that in year surplus as at 31 August 2022 projected to 31 March 2023 based on the updated Grant that was previously reported to Schools Forums was £1.040M. The current position as at 30 November 2022 projected to 31 March 2023 was now an in-year deficit of £1.266M.

Officers reported on the variations to the High Needs Block and Schools Forum noted:

Variation 1 – Independent Schools

Out of borough placements, showed a budget pressure of £2.310M. This was an increase of £1.851M on previously reported figures following more pupils being placed in independent special



and independent mainstream schools, due to a lack of provision available within Borough. The Placement and Provision Panel had been placing 2-3 pupils per week. Any agreed placements had been included in the forecast figures together with a contingency of £500K for additional SEN placements and £200K for tri-part funded placements agreed with Sandwell Social Care Trust for any placements during the Spring Term.

Variation 2 – Mainstream Schools

There had been an increase in both EHCP assessments and the funding of early years pupils which had resulted in a pressure of £683k in delegated funding to school for individual pupil support.

Variation 3 – Focus Provision Schools

There had been an increase in EHCP assessments which had resulted in a projected overspend of £175K on the delegated funding provided to Focus Provisions.

Variation 4 – SEN Special Unit

A new Special Unit had been agreed at Uplands Primary School.

Variation 5 – High Point Special School

There are more pupils on roll at High Point from 1 September 2022 than was anticipated when the budget was prepared. Therefore, there was a pressure of £186K.

Variation 6 – Early Years

An amount of £480k from the Early Years Grant was used to offset the early support for pupils in private provider settings and those in mainstream early years settings. Predicted costs in private provider settings has increased from £660K previously reported to £710K. The support for EYS pupils in mainstream schools was set against the schools' delegation and not shown separately. The £480k would be insufficient to cover the full costs of meeting the needs of the pupils in the early years settings. There was a pressure of £230K against private providers alone.

Variation 7 – Recoupment

The Element 3 top up costs of pupils placed in Sandwell schools that are the responsibility of a neighbouring LA are funded by Sandwell for all pupils in the special schools and LAC pupils placed in mainstream schools. This was recouped from the



relevant authority. There had been an increase in pupils being placed which had resulted in an increase in recoupment income, with Shenstone being the highest importer of pupils due mainly to the location of the school.

Variation 8 – Albright Education Centre

A small number of pupils had been placed temporarily at Albright Education Centre pending a permanent placement being agreed. These had been funded E3 Top up for the period of occupancy.

Variation 9 – SEN and Support for Inclusion Services

The total variances equated to a saving of £347K across 10 service areas. These were mainly due to staff turnover, maternity leave, opting out of the LA superannuation scheme and full time budgeted posts covered by staff on reduced hours and the inclusion of 2022/23 pay awards. The savings within these areas would increase during the year following slippage in staff appointments.

Variation 10 SEN

SEN Developments was showing an underspend of £1.3M – This budget head currently covers independent appeals and reports. It also holds the HNB surplus balancing figure of £630K, which was the difference between the calculated budgets as at 1 April 2022 and the HNB Grant initial settlement 2022/23 as well as the additional grant received in July 2022.

Schools Forum noted the continued increasing pressures on the High Needs Block both stemming from the increase in children and young people accessing the service and the span of the service now reaching to 25 years. The number of children and young people requiring an EHCP was not stabilising and continued to increase.

Compared to regional neighbours Schools Forum was informed that the figures were positive, however, it was understood that if the deficit continued to increase DfE intervention may be implemented.

Schools Forum noted the report.



Schools Forum noted the 2022/23 DSG Allocations.

2022/23 DSG Allocations						
DSG Block	Provisional Allocation (Dec'2021)			Latest Allocation (Nov'2022)		
	Prior to Adjustments	Adjustments	After adjustments	Prior to Adjustments	Adjustments	After adjustments
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	308.463	-2.961	305.502	308.463	-158.997	149.466
Central School Services Block	2.283	0	2.283	2.283	0.000	2.283
High Needs Block	61.267	-3.13	58.137	64.215	-3.418	60.797
Early Years Block	23.387	0.000	23.387	24.114	0.000	24.114
Total	395.4	-6.091	389.309	399.074	-162.415	236.660

Schools Forum heard that there was no major announcements with regards to the Fair Funding Formula, if any change was being considered, it was noted that if a change was being considered schools would be consulted.

Schools Forum extended its thanks to Moira Talents who had announced she was leaving Sandwell Council, and wished her all the best for the future.

Meeting ended at 4.17pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



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Schools Forum

20th March 2023

School Budget Information 2023/24

This report is for information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To inform Schools Forum members of the final school budget information for the financial year 2023/24.

3. Links to School Improvement Priorities

- 3.1 The report allows school governing bodies and academy boards to start their financial planning for 2023/24 and to make appropriate structural and educational adjustments to meet the needs of young people within the constraints of their resource allocations.

4. Report Details

- 4.1 The Schools Block funding which has been distributed through the main funding formula is set out below:

Description	£
Schools Block DSG	325,898,910
Less 2023/24 NNDR (Rates)	(2,716,494)
DSG Schools Block after NFF NNDR deduction	323,182,415
Less Contribution from Schools Block to Central School Services Block	(455,000)

Less Pupil Number Growth Contingency (see 4.5 below)	(1,671,000)
Schools Block DSG Available to Distribute	321,056,416

4.2 The APT model submitted to Schools Forum for approval in January was cleansed/revised by the DFE as follows:

- The column reflecting “growing schools” was updated. This resulted in a shortfall within the APT funding model of £712,000 as schools that opened in the last 7 years were exempt from the capping and scaling exercise.
- The PFI calculations within the APT funding model had to meet the DFE minimum 7% uplift requirement (originally 4%). This was not known at the time and resulted in a further shortfall of £60,000.
- The rates for two schools recently converting to academy were adjusted resulting in an additional shortfall of £20,000.

4.3 The above updates resulted in a revision to the capping and scaling percentages as follows:

	Capping	Scaling
APT January Schools Forum	1.41%	49.7%
APT Final DFE Approved	0.31%	40.07%

As a reminder, this means gains up to 0.31% were kept by schools, and any gains above 0.31% were scaled back by 40.07%

If it helps by way of an explanation/example:

a 10% cap and 100% scaling means all gains above 10% are removed and

a 0% cap and 70% scaling means all gains are scaled back by 70%

4.4 The capping and scaling was reflected in the 2023-24 schools funding tables as a negative MFG.

- 4.5 A final late revision made by the DFE to remove Shireland Biomedical UTC as a growing school resulted in £7,000 additional funding within the APT funding model. The DFE advised that due to the tiny amount and the late time frame to add this £7,000 to the growth fund (see table above). Total Growth Fund has therefore increased from £1,664,000 to £1,671,000.
- 4.6 The school funding model was finally approved by the DfE late on Friday 24th February 2023 and the tables to support the Schools Block element of funding was issued to schools late on Tuesday 28th February 2023.
- 4.7 These tables were revised 3 working days later on Monday 6th March 2023 as there was an error on the presentation on Table A. This revision concerned the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and adversely affected 64% of schools. A correction was sent out with an apology and a full explanation.
- 4.8 A full worked example for MFG for each school was included with the revised budget tables to demonstrate exactly how the capping and scaling was calculated.

Approved Formula

- 4.9 The table below lists the factor rates for the local authority formula applied to school's budgets for 2023/24.

Factor	2023-24
Primary basic entitlement	3,661.82
KS3 basic entitlement	5,184.44
KS4 basic entitlement	5,274.34
Primary FSM	216.20
Secondary FSM	216.20
Primary FSM6	319.49
Secondary FSM6	587.35
Primary IDACI F	32.11
Primary IDACI E	106.43
Primary IDACI D	498.71
Primary IDACI C	562.12
Primary IDACI B	611.03
Primary IDACI A	661.32
Secondary IDACI F	47.16
Secondary IDACI E	377.71

Secondary IDACI D	693.19
Secondary IDACI C	789.22
Secondary IDACI B	869.84
Secondary IDACI A	939.44
Primary EAL3	579.34
Secondary EAL3	924.84
Primary LPA	1,240.97
Secondary LPA	1,810.11
Primary mobility	112.88
Secondary mobility	163.55
Primary lump sum	135,044.95
Secondary lump sum	135,044.95

5. **Recommendations**

That Schools Forum members

- 5.1 Note the content of the final school budgets for the financial year 2023/24.

Elaine Taylor – Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services

Date: 13/03/2023

Schools Budget Information 2023-2024

Children's Services

Email: schools_financialservices@sandwell.gov.uk
www.sandwell.gov.uk



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Table E	Calculation of Early Years Single Funding Formula 2023-24
Table F	De-Delegated & Education Functions Schools Block Budgets 2023-24
Table G	Pupil Growth Contingency Criteria and Template

SECTION 1: SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2023-24

1. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

- 1.1 The Government announced its commitment to levelling up opportunities for all children and young people with the biggest funding boost for schools in a decade. As announced at the spending review last year, the total core school budget is increasing to £56.8 billion by 2024-25; a £7 billion cash increase compared with 2021-22
- 1.2 This is the second year of a three-year funding settlement. Overall, core schools funding (including funding for mainstream schools and high needs) is increasing by £1.5 billion in 2023-24 compared to the previous year, on top of the £4 billion increase in 2022-23.
- 1.3 The school funding settlement announcement by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 2022 confirmed the 2023-24 DSG which is set out in 4 blocks: a schools block, a high needs block, an early years block and central schools services block. This funding will be distributed to local authorities using the Schools and High Needs National Funding Formulae (NFF).
- 1.4 2023-24 will also be the first year of transition to the direct schools NFF. The end point being a system in which every mainstream school in England will be funded through the same national formula without adjustment through local funding formulae.
- 1.5 Local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae, and must use all NFF factors, except any locally determined premises factors. Local authorities will also be required to move their local formulae factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2022-23
- 1.6 Through the minimum per pupil funding levels, every primary school will receive at least £4,405 per pupil and every secondary school at least £5,715.
- 1.7 From 2023-24 the School Supplementary Grant (SSG) has been rolled into the schools NFF ensuring that this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets. The school block continues to include funding for Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employer Contribution.

1.8 The early years block consists of funding for 15 hours entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, the additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year-old children of eligible working parents; funding for 2 year olds; the early years pupil premium and the Disability Access Fund.

1.9 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding is broken down into four blocks:

Block	Description	Based on
Schools	This funds the main school funding formula for mainstream	October 2022 census
High Needs	This funds high needs pupils (those that cost above approximately £10k) in mainstream schools, Special Schools, Alternative Provision and PRUs.	The high needs national funding formula consisting of basic entitlement, historic spend, proxy factors, hospital education funding and import/export adjustment
Early Years	This will fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 15 hours free entitlement for pupils in maintained and PVI nursery provision • The additional 15 hours for pupils with eligible working parents • funding for 15 hours for disadvantaged two years olds • Early years pupil premium • Early years disability access fund 	January 2022 census was used and the basis for updating will be reviewed in spring 2023 and spring 2024 census when available
Central School Services	This funds local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies. It includes historic commitments and funding for ongoing responsibilities.	A basic per-pupil rate plus actual historic commitment cost.

1.10 The EFA have confirmed the 2023-24 allocations for each of the blocks for Sandwell MBC as: -

DSG Block	Allocation
	£m
Schools Block	325.898
Central School Services	2.306
High Needs	71.519
Early Years	25.823
Total	425.546

The following adjustments will be made to these block allocations: -

- Schools block will be adjusted for academy conversions during the year
- Early Years Block will be adjusted for participation at each census
- High Needs Block will be adjusted for place funding with academies and import/export of pupils.

The Schools Block funding that has been distributed through the main funding formula is as follows: -

Description	£
Schools Block DSG	325,898,910
Less NNDR	(2,716,494)
Less Pupil Number Growth Contingency	(1,664,000)
Less Transfer from Schools Block to Central Schools Services Block	(455,000)
Schools Block DSG Available to Distribute	321,063,416

Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

- 1.11 The minimum funding guarantee will continue, but local authorities had the flexibility to set a local MFG between plus +0.0% and plus +0.50% per pupil. MFG of 0.0% has been set for schools in 2023/24

Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

- 1.12 The ESFA base pupil premium funding on the October census for mainstream and special schools. There will be no change to the allocations process for alternative provision, pupil referral units and hospital schools. These establishments will continue to be funded based on the January census as before. The PPG allocations are for illustrative purposes only and are based on either the October 2022 or the January census data. Actual 2023/24 allocations will include pupils on the October 2022 School Census known to have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in any of the previous six years, as well as those first known to be eligible at October 2022. From 1st April 2023 PPG will be allocated for: -

- **Primary** FSM6 eligible pupils at a rate of **£1,455**
- **Secondary** FSM6 eligible pupils at a rate of **£1,035**
- Children who have been looked after for 1 day or more at a rate of **£2,530**. This rate is also applicable to children who have ceased to be looked after by the local authority because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangement order or a residence order.

The allocation must be managed by the designated Virtual School Head in the authority who decides on the amounts to be allocated to schools and is responsible for ensuring arrangements are in place to discuss how the child will benefit from any PPG.

- Each Service Child at a rate of **£335**

The PPG is not ring fenced at school level and there is guidance issued by the DfE which states that: -

“Schools must produce and a strategy statement about how they use their funding and the impact it has on the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.” A template can be found on the government website.

Devolved Formula Capital & Post 16 Funding

- 1.13 The rates for DFC and Post 16 funding have not yet been published by the DfE and so allocations have not been included in Table A.

SECTION 2: SCHOOLS FORUM DECISIONS – SCHOOL BUDGET CONSULTATION

The following decisions have been made by Schools Forum with regard to the school funding formula and de-delegated budgets for 2023/24.

2. New School Funding Formula

2.1 Schools Forum agreed the unit values for the following factors in the formula as shown below: -

Factor	2023-24
Primary basic entitlement	3,661.82
KS3 basic entitlement	5,184.44
KS4 basic entitlement	5,274.34
Primary FSM	216.20
Secondary FSM	216.20
Primary FSM6	319.49
Secondary FSM6	587.35
Primary IDACI F	32.11
Primary IDACI E	106.43
Primary IDACI D	498.71
Primary IDACI C	562.12
Primary IDACI B	611.03
Primary IDACI A	661.32
Secondary IDACI F	47.16
Secondary IDACI E	377.71
Secondary IDACI D	693.19
Secondary IDACI C	789.22
Secondary IDACI B	869.84
Secondary IDACI A	939.44
Primary EAL3	579.34
Secondary EAL3	924.84
Primary LPA	1,240.97
Secondary LPA	1,810.11
Primary mobility	112.88
Secondary mobility	163.55
Primary lump sum	135,044.95
Secondary lump sum	135,044.95

Capping & Scaling (C&S)

- 2.2 The DfE allows overall gains for individual schools to be capped as well as scaled back to ensure that local formulae are affordable. This methodology is new to Sandwell as we move closer to the NFF and it was found that our local formula was unaffordable and so capping and scaling needs to be applied.

C&S Background

- 2.3 Local authorities can cap any gains schools receive through the 2023 to 2024 local formula and will be applied on the same basis to all schools.
- 2.4 The DfE applies caps and scales to academy budgets on the same basis as for maintained schools, although the values may differ from those shown in the APT since the actual baseline position for the academy may not be the same as that shown in the APT dataset.
- 2.5 C&S factors must not be applied to schools that have opened in the last 7 years and have not reached their full number of year groups. This definition of new and growing schools does not include existing schools that are extending to include a new phase and have empty year groups in the new phase.
- 2.6 C&S cannot take a school below the Minimum Per Pupil Levels (MPPLs). Should local authorities elect to apply a gains cap in 2023/24, the cap must be set at least as high as the MFG threshold. This ensures all schools retain any gains up to the MFG threshold even where a cap is applied.
- 2.7 Schools Forum were given 2 scenarios's and chose to cap school gains at 1.41% and scale at 49.5%. After this decision was made the DfE instructed us to increase the PFI budgets by 7% resulting in an additional £68,000 being required so the scaling percentage was therefore increased to 51.1%.
- 2.8 The overall principle is that the higher the level of capping, the more the number of schools that will gain but the more severe the level of scaling to ensure the Schools Block is affordable.
- 2.9 Subsequent to the Schools Forum decision, and as a result of data cleansing by the DfE on the APT, C&S for 2023/24 has been reset at 0.31% cap and 40.07%scale. The Growth Fund was increased by £7,000 on DfE advice.

De-delegated, Education Functions and CSSB

2.10 For maintained schools only, all De-Delegated and Education Function budget proposals contained in the consultation document were approved as follows:

REF	De-Delegated Budgets 2023-24	LEAD OFFICER	Amount	Primary	PP	Secondary	PP
			Pupil No	24,074		4,291	
			FSM	7,692		1,490	
	<u>Licences/Subscriptions</u>						
DD1	Health & Safety Licences and Subscriptions	Julie Andrews	5,990	5,080	0.21	910	0.21
DD2	EVOLVE Annual Licence Fee	Chris Davies	6,300	5,200	0.22	1,100	0.26
	Total Licences/Subscriptions		12,290	10,280		2,010	
	<u>Staff Costs Supply Cover</u>						
DD3	Union Facilities Time	Julie Andrews	159,000	132,750	5.51	26,250	6.12
	<u>School Improvement</u>	Julie Andrews					
DD4	School Improvement Services		150,000	127,300	5.29	22,700	5.29
	<u>Contingencies</u>						
DD5	Schools in financial difficulty	Julie Andrews	100,000	84,900	3.53	15,100	3.52
	TOTAL DE-DELEGATED - MAINTAINED SCHOOLS		421,290	355,230		66,060	

REF	Education Functions 2023-24	LEAD OFFICER	Amount
		Pupil No	28,365
EF1	Education Benefits Team	Sue Moore	£134,000.00
EF2	Children's Clothing Support Allowance	Sue Moore	£33,000.00
EF3	Safeguarding & Attendance (moved to CSSB)	Ramsey Richards	£0.00
	TOTAL EDUCATION FUNCTIONS - MAINTAINED SCHOOLS		£167,000

2.11 The DfE continue to agree to purchase a single national licence for all state funded schools for the following licences: -

- Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA);
- Education Recording Agency (ERA);
- The Motion Picture Licensing Company licence (MPLC);

- Public Video Screening Licence – Filmbank Distribution Ltd. (PVSL)
- Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS);
- Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA);
- Performing Rights Society (PRS);
- Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL), and
- Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML).

2.12 The funding for these will be retained centrally by the Department for Education and schools will not need to purchase individual licenses for these purposes.

2.13 A summary of the de-delegated budgets can be found in **Table F**.

2.14 Approval was given to transfer £455,000 from the school's block Education Functions to the Central School Services Block to fund the attendance service.

Pupil Number Growth Contingency

2.15 It was agreed that a contingency to the value of £1,664,000 be held back to support schools that are facing a significant growth in pupil numbers. The criteria for allocating funding from this contingency can be found in **Table G** along with a template that schools should complete to request funding. Schools that are expanding because of a local authority request will automatically receive funding.

Rates

2.16 Rates will continue to be paid by the ESFA directly to billing authorities on behalf of all maintained schools and academies.

2.17 All adjustments should now be submitted by billing authorities using the ESFA portal, with reconciliation payments made directly to billing authorities in year.

2.18 All state funded schools will retain liability for their own business rates except for community and voluntary controlled schools for which liability will continue to rest with the local authority.

SECTION 3: EARLY YEARS FUNDING

3. Early Years National Funding Formula: Funding for 3 and 4 Year Olds Basic Hourly Rate

3.1 The basic hourly rate for each type of provider is as follows: -

Type of Provider	Basic Hourly Rate
Maintained Nursery Classes	£4.44
Private	£4.44
Voluntary	£4.44
Childminders	£4.44

Flexibility

3.2 Settings that offer the 15 hours free entitlement in a flexible way will be entitled to an additional £0.30 per hour. The following table shows the patterns of provision that are classed as “high” and “low”: -

High Flexibility	Low Flexibility
3 sessions x 5 hours	5 sessions x 3 hours
6 hrs + 3 hrs + 3 hrs + 3 hrs	5 sessions x 2 ½ hours (not offering 15 hours)
6 hrs + 6 hrs + 3 hrs	

Deprivation

3.3 The deprivation factor is based on the percentage of pupils whose postcodes fall within the 15% of Lower Super Output Areas (using the Index of Multiple Deprivation). The following table shows the additional funding per hour that each setting will receive: -

Percentage in 15% lowest SOAs	Funding per hour
10%-30%	£0.05
31%-70%	£0.10
71%-90%	£0.20
Above 90%	£0.25

Funding Adjustments

- 3.4 Funding adjustments will be calculated for each term based on the May, October and January census. The actual funding adjustment will be processed in February or March which will cover all adjustments for the financial year.

Funding for Two Year Olds

- 3.5 Funding for two year olds will be based on take up in 2023/24. Provisional allocation will be made based on participation numbers from the January 2022 schools, early years and alternative provision censuses and will be updated for the January 2023 census.
- 3.6 The basic hourly rate for provider will be £5.81 for 2023/24.
- 3.7 The local authority will issue and adjust school allocations in line with the EFA announcements.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

- 3.8 The national rate for early years pupil premium is £0.62 per hour per eligible pupil. This means for the financial year 2023/24, providers would receive £353.40 for each eligible child who takes up the full 570 hours of state funded education. The authority will be given a provisional allocation for the early years pupil premium (EYPP).
- 3.9 Provisional allocations for EYPP were announced in December 2022. The allocations were based on the number of children eligible for the EYPP as recorded in the January 2022 early years' census and school census.
- 3.10 The basis for updating the allocations will be reviewed in spring 2023.

Early Years Disability Access Fund (DAF)

- 3.11 The DAF was introduced to support disabled children's access to the entitlements for 3 and 4-year olds. The funds can be used, for example, to

support providers in making reasonable adjustments to the settings and/or helping with building capacity, be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children attending the setting.

- 3.12 Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education that they are entitled to in order to receive the DAF.
- 3.13 Four-year-olds in primary school reception classes are not eligible for DAF funding.
- 3.14 Allocations for 2023/2024 are calculated based on Disability Living Allowance data from February 2022. These allocations will not change and should be considered final for 2023/24.
- 3.15 The national rate for DAF is £828 per eligible child per year.

SECTION 4: FUNDING FOR PUPILS WITH HIGH NEEDS

4. High Needs Pupils excluding Focus Provision

4.1 Funding for pupils with high needs will be made up of the following elements:

Element 1	Core education funding	Unit of per pupil funding e.g. AWPU
Element 2	Additional support funding	A clearly identified budget to provide additional support for high needs pupils or students with additional needs up to an agreed level. DfE recommendation is that school's contribution is set at £6,000 .
Element 3	Top up funding	Funding above elements 1 and 2 to meet the total cost of education provision.

4.2 Mainstream schools will be expected to contribute element 1 and 2 towards the educational cost of a high needs pupil. This equates to the following amounts: -

	Element 1 AWPU (£)	Element 2	Total Contribution (£)
Primary	£3,662	£6,000	£9,662
Secondary	£5,184	£6,000	£11,184

- 4.3 Element 3 funding (for pupils that cost above £9,662 for Primary schools and £11,184 for Secondary schools) will be allocated from the High Needs Block.
- 4.4 Element 3 funding has to follow the pupil. Funding adjustments will continue to be made on a termly basis as currently for this funding.

Focus Provision

- 4.5 Focus provision centers are treated as special units. Mainstream schools that have focus provision units will receive:
- **£6,000** per place, where the place was occupied on the October 2022 census day plus element 3 funding based on the educational cost of each pupil in the unit.
 - **£10,000** per place, where the place was unoccupied on the October 2022 census day.

SECTION 5: ACADEMY FUNDING

5. Academy Funding

- 5.1 The published tables DO NOT show the total budget that academies will receive. Academies will receive their budgets from the ESFA on an academic year basis.
- 5.2 The local authority is only responsible for paying certain funding streams to academies. These are: -
 - a. Early Years Funding
 - b. High Needs Funding
- 5.3 The Element 1 and 2 (place funding of either £6k – for occupied places or £10k for unoccupied places) for academies with Focus Provision units will be paid by the ESFA and not the local authority.
- 5.4 Academies that were maintained schools at the time the collective equal pay agreement was concluded continue to be liable for their contribution to this (column Q – Table A). Invoices will be raised for these amounts as it is no longer possible for the local authority to deduct this from academy funding directly.

SECTION 6: SUBMISSION OF BUDGET PLANS

- 6.1 Copies of your budget plans should be submitted to Children's Finance by the deadline date of 12th May 2023. Appendix F of the Fair Funding Scheme details what is required as part of this.
- 6.2 Please submit budget plans electronically by email to schools_financialservices@sandwell.gov.uk.
- 6.3 Please also refer to Appendix H of the Fair Funding Scheme which requires you to apply to the local authority for a licensed deficit should you not be able to set a balanced budget.
- 6.3 If you have any queries please contact at schools_financialservices@sandwell.gov.uk

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Schools Forum

20 March 2023

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2023/24 BUDGET

This report is for Information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report in relation to the 2023/24 HNB Grant Budget.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide schools forum with the HNB 2023/24 Budget Information.

3. HNB Budget 2023/24

- 3.1 The HNB Provisional Grant for 2023/24 is £71.519M. After deductions of £3.782m the grant available for distribution equates to £67,737M
- 3.2 Table 1 shows the deductions of £3.782M which are made at source to the HNB and paid directly to the various educational establishments.
- 3.3 The deductions are revised during the year and notified to the LA if applicable. A further deduction is anticipated for the agreed increased in commissioned places at Shenstone Lodge/ Brades equating to £250K and Sandwell College £70K. Both of these items have been accounted for in the budgeted figures for 2023/24.
- 3.4 Discussions are still ongoing in respect of Teachers Pay and Teachers Pensions Grant and the Special Schools Additional Grant, therefore, both have been shown separately at this time. These will be allocated to budget heads once agreed.

Table 1 – 2023/24 Deductions

	£000
Pre 16 Focus Provision Academy place deductions	432
Special school Academy and Free school Place deductions	1,880
Post 16 SEN mainstream maintained and academy deductions	54
Post 16 Further Education College Deductions	1,416
Total Deductions 2023/24	3,782

4. **HNB 2023/24 Budget Allocations**

4.1 Table 2 shows the analysis of the 2023/24 HNB Allocation

Table 2 - HNB 2023/24 Budget Allocations

Budget Heading	Budget 2023/24 £000	%
1) Independent Schools	10,371	15.31%
2) Other LA Maintained and Academy Mainstream and Special Schools pupil support	1,823	2.69%
3) Support for pupils awaiting Placement (NTAS, KRUNCH, Targeted Support Etc)	380	0.56%
4) Top up and Place funding delegated top Maintained & Academy Special &	46,708	68.95%

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Mainstream Schools, Free School and PRUS		
5) Support Services for Inclusion ad SEN	5,677	8.38%
6) SEN Developments	2,021	2.98%
7) Other SEN & IS Costs	757	1.12%
Total HNB Grant 2023/24	67,737	100.00%

4.2 A more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 1

4.3 Appendix 2 shows a more detailed breakdown of item 6 & 7 in Table 2 above.

5. Budgeted Specialist places

5.1 The HNB has budgeted for 1335 WTE Specialist Places in Sandwell Provisions across Special Schools, Mainstream Focus Provisions and PRUs.

5.2 This is an increase of 68 additional places from the 2022/23 budget that was reported to Schools Forum in March 2022.

5.3 Table 3 Shows the places commissioned for the financial year 2023/24. These are whole time equivalents (WTE) where places are commissioned from 1 September 2023.

Table 3 Commissioned Specialist Places & PRU Places

SPECIAL SCHOOLS		Places
The Orchard		147
The Meadows		215
The Westminster School		241
Shenstone Lodge and Brades		120
High Point (Commissioned places is 90 but anticipate 92 on roll)		92

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Elm Tree from 1/9/22 (WTE 1/4/23-31/3/24) Actual Commissioned places as at 1/9/23 is 54)		40
Westminster SPI		10
Additional places budgeted for in year across all Special Schools for potential over occupancy from 1/9/23 WTE		10
TOTAL		875

FOCUS PROVISIONS & SPECIAL UNIT		
Primary Schools	ASD	58
	PD	12
	MLD	10
	HI	12
	SEMH	22
	SLCN	1
	SLD	20
Primary Total		135

Secondary Schools	ASD	45
	PD	20
	HI	5
Secondary Total		70

TOTAL FOCUS PROVISION & SPECIAL UNIT PLACES		205
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PRUs		
Primrose PRU (Primary)		25
Sandwell Community School (Secondary)		180
Albright		50
TOTAL PRU PLACES		255

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Schools Forum note the contents of the report in relation to the HNB Grant Budget 2023/24.

Date: 10/3/2023 Contact Officer: Michael Jarrett Tel No: 0121-569-8204
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APPENDIX 1

HNB BUDGET 2023/24

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET SUMMARY		BUDGET 2023/24	
Out of Borough Placements	Non Maintained & Independent Schools	10,371,000	Pupils placed in Independent or Non Maintained Special & Mainstream Schools following lack of Provision in borough.
Maintained OOB Schools	Maintained OOB Schools	1,823,000	Top up for Sandwell pupils placed in other Local Authority Maintained & Academy Special & Mainstream schools
Other OOB Expenses KRUNCH	Other OOB Expenses KRUNCH	40,000	Alternative Provision KRUNCH Contract
Other OOB Expenses Room Hire	Other OOB Expenses Room Hire	40,000	Room Hire for NTAS Students
Other OOB Expenses NTAS	Other OOB Expenses NTAS	300,000	NTAS support for pupils awaiting placement
		2,203,000	
Other SEN and IS Costs		756,500	See Appendix 2
SEN Developments		2,021,400	See Appendix 2

Top up and Place funding Delegated to Schools			
Top up and Place funding - All schools and PRUs		39,609,000	This is the top up funding for all maintained & academy Sandwell Schools. Special, mainstream, focus provisions, special units & PRUS
Other Top up		205,000	Independent top ups following tribunal rulings
Alternative Provision Support Following AP Panel		270,000	Pupils in AP settings where support is agreed following presentation at the Alternative Provision Panel
Recoupment		-1,564,800	Recoupment for other Local Authority pupils in Sandwell schools
Top up funding - Colleges and ISPs		3,078,700	Top ups for Colleges and ISP post 16
Albrighth Education Centre & Hospital Support		1,414,500	
High Cost Equipment		40,000	Funding for High Cost Equipment for individual pupils. Schools have to apply. Any pupils that are not in receipt of top up funding will be required to use the £6K notional SEN funding already in schools as part of the formula. Mainstream schools only
Teachers Pay & Pension Grant		789,400	To be allocated out to Special School & PRUS
Special Schools Additional Grant		2,866,600	To be allocated out to Special School & PRUS
Total Allocated to Schools		46,708,400	

Support for Inclusion & SEN			
Lace		419,000	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
SEN Admin		519,000	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Inclusion Support Team		1,182,500	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Sensory Support Team		974,600	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Complex Communications Team		544,500	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Early Years Admin Team		765,600	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Preventing Primary Exclusions		237,500	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Social Emotional & Mental Health Team		696,900	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Reintegration Offices Team		164,400	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
Exclusions Team		172,900	Includes Salaries and running costs for central service
SB0015		5,676,900	

TOTAL HNB BUDGET 2023/24		67,737,200	
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APPENDIX 2

6) SEN DEVELOPMENTS		£
Primrose PRU additional support	Anticipated to be less but left	100,000
Westminster additional support Post 16	Anticipated to be less but left	78,200
Westminster SPI 1/9/21 Pilot Scheme	10 Places cost anticipated	234,000
Brades Expansion 1/4/23	Additional DFE Deduction expected	250,000
Sandwell College	Additional DFE Deduction expected	70,000
Albright Education Centre	Planned Expansion	58,300
Independent Review Panels		10,000
Anticipated in year surplus as at 1/4/23		1,220,900
Total Budget 2023/24		2,021,400

7) OTHER SEN & IS EXPENSES		£
Internal Recharges	Below the line recharges calculated by Finance to cover Finance Human resources, Office Accomodation etc	508,500
Occupational & Physiotherapy SLA	SLA agreed annually to support Focus Provisions	73,100
Equal Pay Other Special Schools 2023/24 is year 13 of 15 Years and ends in 2025/26	It was originally paid through the SS contingency which ceased in April 2013 with the implementation of the national funding formula. ENDS 2025/26	50,400
Hospital Recoupment	Pupils placed by CCG in Private hospitals. The resident LA is responsible for the hospital tuition.	30,000
Medical Malpractice Insurance	Was previously top sliced from schools but now it is a blanket policy and covers all schools	15,000
Mediation	SEN EHCP mediation Service	30,000
2 Part Time Independent Travel Trainers	Agreed as part of service expansion by Schools Forum	25,000
Joint Commissioning of Occupational Therapy	Grant agreed as part of service expansion £94187 over two years funded HNB and OT so £48500 in 21/22 & 22/23, Possibility to continue	24,500
Total Budget 2023/24		756,500

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Schools Forum

20 March 2023

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2022/23 FEBRUARY 2023 MONITORING REPORT

This report is for Information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report in relation to the 2022/23 HNB Grant budget monitoring for the period 1 April – 28 February 2023.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide Schools Forum with the HNB monitoring position as at 28 February 2023 projected to 31 March 2023.

3. HNB Budget 2022/23

- 3.1 The HNB budget for 2022/23 reported to Schools Forum on 26 September was £60.808M, net of deductions.
- 3.2 The balance brought forward as at 1 April 2022 is £3.930M surplus.
- 3.3 The anticipated in year deficit as at 30 November 2022 projected to 31 March 2023 that was previously reported to Schools Forums was £1.266M.
- 3.4 The current position as at 28 February 2023 projected to 31 March 2023 is now an in-year surplus of £0.197M
- 3.5 Appendix 1 shows the 2022/23 High Needs Block Budget Allocation, the actual expenditure as at 28 February 2023 the projected outturn as at 31 March 2023 and the variance from budget.
- 3.6 A column has also been added that shows the previously reported in year deficit of £1.266M

3.7 The Variances are explained below;

Variation 1 – Independent Schools

Out of borough placements, show a budget pressure of £1.427M. This is less than the previously reported figures of £2.039M due to slippage in the dates when pupils were expected to take up places and a reduction in the anticipated tri part funded places following a meeting in January 2023 with Sandwell Social Care Trust. A contingency sum had been included for new placements equating to £700K which has now been removed as these placements will not occur in this financial year. However, they will impact next year.

The Placement and Provision Panel were placing 2-3 pupils per week in the Autumn term and this appears to have slowed down slightly so far this year, although an upturn is expected September 2023 following 2022 phased transfers exercise.

Variation 2 – Mainstream Schools

There has been an increase in both EHCP assessments and the funding of early years pupils which has resulted in a pressure of £730K in delegated funding to school for individual pupil support which is an increase from previously reported figures following closure of the delegation. Previously reported was £683K

Variation 3 – Focus Provision Schools

There has been an increase in EHCP assessments which has resulted in a projected overspend of £175K on the delegated funding provided to Focus Provisions. On closing down the delegation this is now a pressure of £173K, so there is very little movement here.

Variation 4 – SEN Special Unit

A new Special Unit has been agreed at Uplands Primary School. It was previously budgeted for within the SEN Developments cost centre when the budgets for 2022/23 were finalised as discussions were still underway with the school at that point. More Pupils have been placed in the provision than was expected in November 2022 therefore funding increased from £186K to £214K.

Variation 5 – High Point Special School

There are more pupils on roll at High Point from 1 September 2022 than was anticipated when the budget was prepared. Therefore, there was a pressure of £186K, however, now the delegation is closed the pressure is £156K

Variation 6 – Early Years

An amount of £480k from the Early Years Grant is used to offset the early support for pupils in private provider settings and those in mainstream early years settings. Predicted costs in private provider settings has increased from £710K previously reported to £850K as more and more support for early years is being requested. The support for EYS pupils in mainstream schools is set against the schools' delegation and not shown separately. The £480k will be insufficient to cover the full costs of meeting the needs of the pupils in the early years settings. There is a pressure of £300K against private providers alone.

Variation 7 – Recoupment

The Element 3 top up for pupils placed in Sandwell schools that are the responsibility of a neighbouring LA are funded by Sandwell for all pupils in the special schools and LAC pupils placed in mainstream schools. This is recouped from the relevant authority. There has been an increase in pupils being placed which has resulted in an increase in recoupment income, with Shenstone being the highest importer of pupils due mainly to the location of the school. This has resulted in an additional £140K more recoupment than originally expected.

Variation 8 – Albright Education Centre

A small number of pupils have been placed temporarily at Albright Education Centre pending a permanent placement being agreed. These have been funded E3 Top up for the period of occupancy.

Variation 9 – SEN and Support for Inclusion Services

The total variances equate to a saving of £484K across 10 service areas. These are mainly due to staff turnover, maternity leave, opting out of the LA superannuation scheme and full time budgeted posts covered by staff on reduced hours and the inclusion of

2022/23 pay awards. The savings within these areas will increase during the year following slippage in staff appointments.

Variation 10 SEN

SEN Developments is showing an underspend of £1.6M – This budget head currently covers independent appeals and reports. It also holds the HNB surplus balancing figure of £630K, which is the difference between the calculated budgets as at 1 April 2022 and the HNB Grant initial settlement 2022/23 as well as the additional grant received in July 2022. The funding for the Special Unit was held here and is now accounted for in variance 4 Above

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

Date: 10/3/23

Contact Officer: Michael Jarrett

Tel No: 0121-569-8204

APPENDIX 1
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

	BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/23 £	SPEND as at 28/2/23 £	PREDICTED END OF YEAR OUTTURN £	VARIANCE FROM BUDGET £	VARIANC E REF	NOTES	Previously reported in year deficit
1 Out of Borough Placements							
Independent schools	5,976,700	5,716,013	7,403,873	1,427,173	1	Lack of Provision in Borough has meant more Independent Placements are being made at approx 3 per week with slippage.	2,309,173
OLA Maintained & Academy Schools	1,823,000	-118,039	1,823,000	0		OOB placements in OLA maintained and academy mainstream and special schools now reflects Phase transfers	0
Alternative Providers	240,000	222,212	280,000	40,000		This is for Pupils with EHCPs that attend NTAS and Trageted Provision which are tuition services	40,000
Other associated costs	40,000	0	40,000	0		Room hire for the support of Students receiving NTAS support while awaiting a school placement	0
	8,079,700	5,820,187	9,546,873	1,467,173			2,349,173
2 Pupil Top up & Place							
Mainstream Schools	11,093,600	9,333,564	11,824,217	730,617	2		683,610
Focus Provisions	3,105,200	3,104,053	3,278,545	173,345	3	Assumes full occupancy	174,800
Special Schools	17,672,000	16,124,721	17,492,974	-179,026			0
Uplands SEN Unit		0	214,040	214,040	4	This is a new provision which was previously accounted for within the SEN Ddevelopments Line below as it was not allocated to a named school at the time of formulating the annual budgets.	186,000
Primary PRU	516,400	516,400	516,400	0			0
Secondary PRU	2,435,500	2,435,500	2,435,500	0			0
High Point Free Special School	670,000	0	825,599	155,599	5	Increase in pupil numbers from Sept 2022	186,500
Elm Tree Free Special School	281,400	0	253,070	-28,330			0
Early Years Private Providers	550,000	751,479	850,000	300,000	6	This is offset by support from EYS funding	160,000
Early Years Grant	-480,000	0.00	-480,000	0			0
Other Support	200,000	154,035.72	176,500	-23,500			0
Post 16 Colleges & Specialist Providers	3,078,700	1,117,222	3,078,700	0			0
Alternative AWPU Prov	410,000	32,527	170,000	-240,000			-240,000
Schools Suplementry Grant	2,300,500	2,250,309	2,181,687	-118,813			0
Recoupment	-697,000	140,159	-1,164,441	-467,441	7	This is recoupment of top up for OLA pupils placed in Sandwell Schools. The increase is due to an increase in OLA pupils placed in Sandwell schools.	-607,600
	41,136,300	35,959,970	41,652,791	516,491			543,310
3 Albright Education Centre	1,593,200	1,593,200	1,541,513	-51,687	8		30,000
4 SEN Support Services	1,461,200	1,149,806	1,283,400	-177,800	9	Maternity Leave, staff turnover and reduced hours and other associated expenditure following COVID	-129,200
5 Support for Inclusion							
Lace	388,400	350,929	380,000	-8,400	9	Full time Budgeted post but post holder reduced hours	-3,300
Inclusion Support	1,102,400	960,853	1,053,390	-49,010	9	Staff turnover	-41,270
Sensory Support Team	904,900	840,892	924,600	19,700	9		19,350
CCD Team	506,000	470,732	484,500	-21,500	9	1 Vacancy	-21,600
Early Years Admin	706,400	566,538	678,100	-28,300	9	Materniy Leave and 0.5 vacancy	2,000
Preventing Primary Exclusions team	224,500	164,776	178,500	-46,000	9	Staff turnover	-32,700
SEMH Team	641,700	546,103	593,400	-48,300	9	Full time Budgeted posts but post holders reduced hours	-28,100
Fair Access Reintegration Officers	164,400	102,561	113,600	-50,800	9	Vacant post	-40,400
	4,638,700	4,003,385	4,406,090	-232,610			-146,020
6 SEN Developments	2,126,300	238,673	481,545	-1,644,755	10	Initial Surplus on calculation of budgets was £630K and additional grant received of £370K	-1,308,855
7 Other SEN Funding							
Central Recharges	508,500	0	508,500	0			0
SALT SLA	7,600	25,015	7,600	0			0
OT & Physio SLA	64,600	0	64,600	0			0
Equal Pay other SS	50,400	0	50,400	0			0
Mediation	30,000	5,960	30,000	0			0
Hospital Recoupment	30,000	31,198	30,000	0			0
Medical Malpractice	15,000	0	15,000	0			0
Non SEN Statutory	838,100	0	838,100	0			0
JTT Staff Contribution	23,000	0	23,000	0			0
Joint Commissioning	48,500	61,189	48,500	0			0
SENDIASS	0	0	0	0			0
Sensory Pilot	0	0	0	0			0
	1,615,700	123,363	1,615,700	0			0
8 Exclusions & Reintegration	156,900	55,970	83,000	-73,900	9	Vacant post	-72,200
TOTAL	60,808,000	48,944,553	60,610,911	-197,089			1,266,208
	60,808,000	48,944,553	60,610,911				
	0	0	0				

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Schools Forum

20 March 2023

Scheme for Financing of LA Maintained Schools: Update

This report is for decision.

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Approve the update to the Scheme for the Financing of Schools outlined below.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This report is to approve the update to be made to the Scheme for the Financing of Schools.

3. Report Details

- 3.1 A small change to the Fair Funding Scheme has been identified in respect of the approval of Direct Debit / Standing Order transactions.

- 3.2 Appendix A of the Fair Funding Scheme (School Bank Account Scheme) reference 1.12 (page 20) stipulates:

“Direct Debits, standing orders (other than those for Sandwell MBC charges or traded services) BACS or other electronic means of payment must not be applied to the account, without obtaining the written authorisation of the Chief Finance Officer.”

- 3.3 The change concerns the written authorisation. It is proposed that this change is from the Chief Financial Officer to the Finance Business Partner.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That Schools Forum members approve the update to the Scheme for the Financing of Schools.

Elaine Taylor – Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services

Date: 13/03/2023

Agenda Item 9

Schools Forum 2023-24 Forward Plan

Black writing = Finance Team

Red writing = SEN Team

Blue writing = Governance Team

Green writing = Early Years Team

Meeting Date	Proposed Agenda Items (Core Business)	Agenda Meetings	Publish Agenda & Reports on Virtual Office & CMIS & Circulate to Members	Publish Minutes on Virtual Office & CMIS
25th September 2023	Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair School Forum Constitution Review and Update Membership & Attendance High Needs Block Latest Monitoring (P4) Consultation - Fair Funding Scheme (if applicable) School Funding Update - Operational Guide Latest News 2024-25 De-delegated Budgets 2022-23 Outturn & Impact Analysis	11th September 2023	18th September 2023	2nd October 2023
6th November 2023	Arrangements for Early Years Provision 2024-25 School Budget Consultation Proposals High Needs Block Latest Monitoring (P6)	23rd October 2023	30th October 2023	13th November 2023
11th December 2023	2024-25 School Budget Consultation Responses (and approval of disapplications if applicable) Confirmation of 202-24 DSG Allocation Fair Funding Scheme Updates (if applicable)	27th November 2023	4th December 2023	18th December 2023
15th January 2024	2024-25 Schools Draft Budgets (December APT) Pupil Number Growth Funding - October census Schools Closedown - Draft Timetable	2nd January 2024	9th January 2024	22nd January 2024
18th March 2024	2024-25 Final School Budgets 2024-25 High Needs Block Budgets High Needs Block Latest Monitoring (P10) Forward Plan 2024-25	4th March 2024	11th March 2024	25th March 2024
17th June 2024	School Balances 2023-24 & Budget Plans 2024-25 High Needs Block Outturn 2023-24 S251 - Budget	3rd June 2024	10th June 2024	24th June 2024

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