

Minutes of Schools Forum

**Monday 14th March 2022 at 2.30pm
On-line Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

Present: J Barry (Vice-Chair in the Chair)

J Bailey, S Baker, K Berdesha, L Bray, D Broadbent, D Irish, P Jones (substitute for D Barton), W Lawrence, S Mistry, B Patel and J Topham.

Officers: J Gill, R Kerr, M Tallents, A Timmins, S Baber and F Hancock

10/22 Apologies:

Apologies were received from M Arnull, E Benbow, C Handy-Rivett, E Pate and N Topless.

11/22 Declarations of Interest

None received.

12/22 Minutes

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022 be approved as a correct record.



13/22 To confirm A Connop as the named Substitute Member for J Barry

Agreed that A Connop be appointed as the named substitute Member for J Barry with their term of office reflecting J Barry's.

14/22 Scheme for Financing of Schools: Updates

The Forum received a report which sought approval to the updates to the scheme for the Financing of Schools, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Local authorities were required by the Department for Education (DfE) to publish schemes of financing setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintained.

The consultation had launched on Friday 11th February and remained open until Monday 28th February 2022 providing two weeks for any comments or responses to be sent to the Schools Financial Team.

The consultation period was extended to the 4th March 2022 as one week of the original consultation period had covered the February half term holidays.

No comments had been received within the consultation period.

The Vice-Chair sought clarification on whether or not if a school who had had a service outsourced would need to notify the Local Authority (LA) if they changed the outsourced service to another provider. Or would it be the case that it would only need to be notified if outsourcing a particular service for the first time. R Kerr advised that she would need to check if that was a requirement, or not, but stated it would be good practice to notify the LA in any case. She would confirm at the next meeting.

The Vice-Chair recommended that, whatever the response on the above issue, it would be useful to include this information in Appendix 1 for clarity.



Agreed (10 voting in favour and 1 abstention) that the updates to the Scheme for the Funding of Schools, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to the above recommendation.

15/22 School Budgets Information 2022/23

The Forum received a report for information which informed Members of the final school budget for the financial year 2022/23.

The Schools Block funding, which had been distributed through the main funding formula, was £304,201,538. This had been calculated as follows: -

Description	£
Schools Block DSG	308,463,025
Less 2022/23 NFF NNDR	(2,961,487)
DSG Schools Block after NFF NNDR deduction	305,501,538
Less Pupil Number Growth Contingency	(1,300,000)
Schools Block DSG Available to Distribute	304,201,538

The school funding model had finally been approved by the DfE in the second week of February 2022 and the Schools block element of funding was issued to schools on Thursday 17th February 2022. This included notification of the funding entitlement based on the agreed authority formula, minimum funding guarantee and adjustments for de-delegations and education functions for maintained schools.

The Schools Budget Information 2022/23, which included Early Years, Focus and non-focus Provision, and illustrative Pupil Premium Grants funding, had been released to schools on Monday 28th February 2022, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.



The table, below, listed the factor rates for the local authority formula to be applied to school's budgets for 2022/23.

Item	Primary	Secondary
Primary : Secondary Ratio	1	1.29
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	£3,512	£4,977
FSM	£176	£176
FSM Ever 6	£161	£372
IDACI Band E	£77	£350
IDACI Band D	£485	£676
IDACI Band C	£551	£771
IDACI Band B	£602	£855
IDACI Band A	£630	£900
Prior Attainment (Low Cost, High Incidence SEN)	£1,225	£1,776
EAL (2 years)	£846	£1,227
Lump Sum	£129,057	£129,057
Split Site	£129,057	£129,057
Rates	Actual	Actual



PFI	Actual	Actual
MFG	2.00%	2.00%
MFG Ceiling	No Ceiling	No Ceiling

The Vice-Chair enquired if school leaders could be sent more detailed information in the future to help schools plan their 3 year budgets whilst ensuring, as far as was practicable, that their reserves were set within the required parameters.

R Kerr advised that the LA only had the information made available to it by the DfE which was generally released on a phased basis. Most of the information was based on the estimated direction of travel. In view of this, the best the LA could do was to model various likely scenarios for information.

The Vice-Chair requested that Officers feedback to the DfE that providing more detailed information would enable schools to better prepare their 3 year budgets whilst managing their reserves more effectively and efficiently.

The Forum noted the contents of this report.

16/22 **Special Educational Needs High Block 2021/22 January 2022 Monitoring Report**

The Forum received a report for information in relation to the High Needs Block (HNB) monitoring position as at 31st January 2022, projected to 31st March 2022.

The HNB grant for 2021/22 reported to Schools Forum on 13th December 2021 was £53.555m.

The anticipated in year surplus previously reported to Forum in January 2022 was £1.735m. This had now been revised to an in-year surplus of £2.389m.



There had been a positive movement of £0.654m in the in-year surplus from the figures reported in January 2022 to those reported today. An explanation of the movement was shown in Table 1 below.

The balance brought forward as at 1st April 2021 was £0.597m surplus.

Appendix 1, to the report, showed the 2021/22 High Needs Block budget allocation, the actual expenditure as at 31st January 2022 and the variance from budget together with a short explanation of the variance.

Table 1, below, showed the movement in the in-year surplus.

Movement	£000s
1. Following phase transfer there has been an increase in funding for pupils in other, LA maintained and academy mainstream and special schools both pre and Post 16 of:	176
2. Following an increase in the assessments for EHCPs there has been an increase in funding for pupils in Sandwell schools over the original budget of:	212
3. There has been an increase in the recoupmnt for pupils in Sandwell schools that are the responsibility of other LAs of:	-628
4. Following Phase transfers, there is an element 3 Top up saving for students in mainstream colleges and independent specialist providers in post 16 of:	-278
5. Slippage in staff turnover and other related staff costs have increased the saving on these budget areas of:	-65
6. Other small cumulative movements including slippage in staff vacancies, mediation and hospital education have moved by:	-71
TOTAL MOVEMENT	-654



The in-year anticipated surplus would be added to the brought forward from 2020/21 to give an estimated amount to carry forward into 2022/2023 of £2.986m.

This does not indicate that the HNB going forward was in a stable position. It meant that the anticipated deficit in future years would slip back but not be eradicated.

More forecasting would be provided when the final budgets for 2022/2023 had been finalised and cash flows could be produced.

Appendix 2, to the report, showed the Focus Provision and Special School commissioned places for the period 1/4/21 - 31/3/22 together with the average occupancy for the period 1/4/21-31/1/22 together with the funding for additional places over the financial year based on an annual average. It also showed the number of other LAs using Sandwell provisions. A provision for the in-year adjustment for place was already built into the original budget figures so had not resulted in a pressure.

The delegation to schools for 2021/2022 had been closed mid-February 2022 to amendments. Any changes between then and the end of the financial year would be made in 2022/23. Three of the four Special schools went over initial funded commissioned places and had been funded for the additional pupil places.

The under occupancy as at 31st January 2022 was 3% in Focus Provisions. Primary Focus Provision were predominately full whilst Secondary Focus Provisions were running at 7%. The percentage discrepancy was due to some primary FPs being over commissioned places.

There was a separate report on the PRUs so data had not been covered in this part of the monitoring report. The separate report was requested by Schools Forum on 13th December 2021.

In relation to the information contained within Appendix 2 to the report, Members queried if the 78 out of Borough children within Sandwell Special Schools, but were the responsibility of other LA's, was a higher number than previous years.



M Tallents advised that the number was slightly higher than previous years which she believed was as a result of LA's competition to get specialist places. With Academy Schools, LA's could go direct to Academies to seek places due to Academies being their own Admission Authority.

Members understood the reasons for doing so, but raised their concerns when Sandwell children could not be allocated a place at one of Sandwell's special Schools for this very reason.

Members queried why the carry-forward of £2.986m had increased and if this in any way tied into the SEN consultation previously undertaken and if this issue was no longer of concern.

J Gill advised that the SEN consultation issue had not gone away. £0.5m of this carry-forward figure had been brought forward from 2021. This increase would be taken into account when the next forecast was due to be calculated.

Another Member queried if there was a process in place to try and ensure, as far as was practicable, that Sandwell referrals to Special School places were made ahead of referrals from outside of Sandwell. The result of not getting Sandwell's referrals made before external ones, being the effect on the High Needs Block if Sandwell children needed to be placed out of Borough.

M Tallents advised that all Special Schools in Sandwell should now have received the consultation on this matter, which was the process by which it was identified what places were required. This would be discussed and agreed upon in the near future. The other factor to be taken into account on this matter, was that a child's EHCP could be finalised at any point throughout the year and available places would have to be assessed at that point.

Another Member queried how many of the total available places at Sandwell Special schools had been allocated to out of Borough placements.

M Tallents advised that there were a total of 95 spaces available between Shenstone and Brades and that 33 places had been filled with out of Borough placements at Shenstone and 7 at Brades.



J Gill advised that other LA's did have the power to direct placements as well.

The Forum noted the contents of the report. In addition, the Forum also noted the increased surplus on future years and recognised that further forecasting would be produced in the future to help the Forum understand this matter in more detail.

17/22 Special Educational Needs High Needs Block 2021/22 Pupil Referral Unit Overview Report

The Forum received a report with information on commissioned places, occupancy and funding for Primrose, Sandwell Community School (SCS) and Albright. In addition, average occupancy figures were as up to date as possible, at the time of compiling the report.

Primrose PRU

The Local Authority had commissions 25 places per year at £10K per place plus, Element 3 top up for 20 places at £11,920 per place for primary permanently excluded pupils. The additional 5 places were preventative places and top up was chargeable to schools who used the service.

Table 1, below, showed the funding for the Primrose Centre for 2021/22 funded through the HNB.

Primrose Centre Funding 2021/22	No of Places	Cost per place £	Total 2021/22 £
Commissioned places	25	10,000	250,000
Top up for Permanent Exclusion	20	11,920	238,400
Top up for Preventative Places	5	0	0
Teachers P & P G			26,400
Total Funding for 2021/22 from the HNB			514,800



Table 2, below, showed the average occupancy for the period summer term 21, autumn term 21 and spring term 22 to date.

	Commissioned Places 1/4/21-31/3/22	No of Pupils Foot Fall	Average No of Pupils on roll
Average Occupancy PX Places	20	8	4
Average Occupancy No School Place- SEN	0	3	2
Average Occupancy No School Place – No SEN	0	1	0
Average Occupancy Preventative Places	5	36	14
Total	25	48	20

The number of permanently excluded places funded through the HNB for element 3 top up was reducing and pupils on preventative places were filling the vacancies.

Primrose charged schools £95 per day for a preventative place. At the time of this report Primrose had 17 pupils on roll.

Sandwell Community School (SCS)

The Local Authority had commissions 180 places per year at £10K per place plus Element 3 Top up for 80 places at £7,346 per place for Secondary permanently excluded pupils. The additional 100 places were preventative places and top up was chargeable to schools who used the service.

Table 3, below, showed the funding for Sandwell Community School for 2021/22 funded through the HNB.

Sandwell Community School funding 2021/22	No of Places	Cost per place £	Total 2021/22 £
Commissioned places	180	10,000	1,800,000
Top up for Permanent Exclusion	80	7,346	587,700
Top up for Preventative Places	100	0	0



Less Building Adjustment for Tipton Site			-78,200
Teachers P & P G			118,800
Total Funding for 2021/22 from the HNB			2,428,300

Table 4, below, showed the Average occupancy for the period, summer term 21, autumn term 21 and spring term 22 to date.

	Commissioned Places 1/4/21-31/3/22	No of Pupils Foot Fall	Average No of Pupils on roll
1 Average Occupancy PX Places Funded through the HNB	80	102	64
2 Average Occupancy No School Place - SEN Funded through the HNB	0	3	2
3 Average Occupancy Alternative Provision Panel funded through the HNB	0	2	1
4 Average Occupancy Preventative Places Funded by Schools	100	80	30
5 Average Occupancy Fair Access Panel funded through the FAP funding	0	9	6
6 No funding agreed (very short occupancy)	0	15	3
7 Queries	0	31	21
Total	180	242	127

The LA had provided element 3 top up for 80 places earmarked for permanently excluded pupils. Items 1, 2 and 3 in the above table had been funded from the HNB and would be counted against the 80 funded places. The average occupancy for these categories was 67.

Item 4 would be funded by the Schools who commissioned the preventative places. The average was 30.



SCS had charged schools between £50 - £125 per day depending on the age and needs of the student.

The Fair Access Panel had agreed to fund item 5 in the table.

Item 6 were those pupils that would not be funded. There were some pupils who appeared on the roll at SCS for a very short period of time that would not attract any additional top up and some where they were the responsibility of another LA.

Item 7 were the pupils on roll that the agreement to fund had not been reached. Discussions around this funding were continuing.

The majority of the pupils in query had come through the Fair Access Panel route.

Overall there would be an average of 53 unoccupied funded places at £10k per place in SCS during 2021/2022.

At the time of this report SCS had 127 pupils on roll.

Albright Education Centre

Albright was Sandwell's hospital and home education provision in addition to educating pupils on site. It was funded differently from the other 2 PRUs.

As Albright Education Centre was a PRU, the DfE have stated they cannot be treated as a post 16 establishment and receive additional funding from the ESFA.

The Local Authority had originally commissioned 40 places per year. In 2020 / 2021 this had increased by 10 places to provide Albright Education Centre with 50 commissioned at £10K per place. They did not receive any element 3 top up per pupil, but received a lump sum, determined by the DFE in the funding formula designated for the home and hospital tuition.

Table 5, below, showed the funding for Albright Education Centre for 2021/22 funded through the HNB.



Albright Education Centre Funding 2021/22	No of Places	Cost per place £	Total 2021/22 £
Original Commissioned places	40	10,000	400,000
Additional Agreed Commissioned places	10	10,000	100,000
Lump Sum for Home and Hospital Tuition			759,200
Teacher P & P G			38,500
Total Funding for 2021/22 from the HNB			1,297,700

Table 6, below, showed the average occupancy for the period summer term 21, autumn term 21 and spring term 22 to date. The pupil numbers only included the hospital tuition data if they were actually on roll at the point of requesting the data. The length of time that pupils access hospital tuition varied but was usually short term.

The pupils accessing hospital education would include both Sandwell residents and non-Sandwell residents.

The funding for hospital education had changed with the introduction of the HNB and funding had been adjusted to eliminate the need for funding recoupment between Local Authorities.

	Commissioned Places 1/4/21- 31/3/22	No of Pupils Foot Fall	Average No of Pupils on roll
Average occupancy Full Time	50	62	22
Average occupancy Part time		30	9



Average Occupancy Post 16		5	2
Hospital Tuition		4	0
TOTAL	50	101	33

At the time of the report, Albright had 55 pupils on roll of which 3 were full time post 16 students and 15 were part time students

A Member referred to the funded places at Primrose where 20 places had been funded, but only had 8 children in for that allocated funding of 20 places.

J Gill advised that, in view of the fact that Primrose was such a small PRU, it had to be managed carefully. Whilst 20 places had been funded for permanently excluded pupils via top-up, only 8 permanent placements had been made within the current financial year.

The Member followed up by querying if the funding for these placements / capacity had been utilised for alternative placements and if additional charges had been made for such alternative placements.

J Gill advised that she could not comment on what income Primrose had charged as she only had access to the High Needs Block side of the ledger. She did, however, know that the charge was for £95 per day.

The Member requested clarification on this matter as he felt that it was of the utmost importance. He felt it was essential that the Forum were able to understand what was happening to the allocated funding which had been taken up by preventative placements rather than permanent exclusion placements, as commissioned placements should be available as / when required.

M Tallents agreed to investigate further in relation to all PRUs and feedback to the next meeting on this very matter.

A Member, in referring to SCS commissioned places, suggested that SCS should be informed by the LA of which placements were



to be made to help alleviate pressure from Fair Access (FAP) and the High Needs Block. At the moment, he had the impression that it was SCS who was deciding on placements rather than the LA. He felt that it should be up to the FAP and / or the Inclusion Support to dictate which children go into the spaces which had been commissioned and funded via Inclusion Support.

M Tallents advised that it should be FAP or Inclusion support who would determine how that allocated funding would be allocated / used. She would however, investigate further on this matter and report back to the next meeting with an update.

In relation to SCS, another Member queried if commissioned places were not being fully utilised at present and if commissioned places for the new financial year would remain the same or be reduced accordingly.

M Tallents advised that, at present, commissioned places for permanent exclusions would remain the same. However, the LA would most likely need to look at the funding allocated to PRUs to ensure that they could still operate efficiently and effectively whilst reviewing the commissioned places allocated. Whilst there weren't many permanent exclusions at primary level, and the number historically was low, the secondary exclusion rate had risen over recent years. Such places were monitored and could be recommissioned each year.

In relation to Albright, the Vice-Chair queried why an additional 10 places had been commissioned when the average number of pupils on roll was 33.

M Tallents advised that those places had been commissioned around 2 years ago to enable Albright to support children in Key Stage 2, taking into account the impact of the Pandemic and the anticipated impact upon mental health.

The Forum noted the contents of the report. Updates to the queries identified above would be provided at the next meeting.



Early Year Provider Rates 2022/23

The Forum received a report which informed Members of the outcome of the consultation on the increase to the hourly rates for two year olds; and three and four old for the financial year 2022/23.

On 27th October 2021, the Chancellor had announced that the Government would invest additional funding for the early years entitlements for two, three and four year olds worth £160m in 2022 2023, £180m in 2023 - 2024 and £170m in 2024 - 2025, compared to the current year. This was for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to early years providers for the Government's free childcare entitlement offers and reflected cost pressures, as well as anticipated changes in the number of eligible children. On the 25th November 2021 individual local authority rates had been published by the DfE

The Education and Skills Agency (ESFA) issued in December 2021 the "Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers – Operational guide 2022 to 2023"

The guide had been issued to help local authorities follow the rules and principles when funding providers to deliver the early years entitlements in the financial year 2022 to 2023 as well as describing the basis of funding to local authorities.

Local authorities were required to consult providers on annual changes to their local formula.

The early years national funding formula hourly rates had increased by £0.21 per hour for two year olds and £0.17 per hour for three and four year olds.

On 1st February 2022 the Quality Early Years and Child Care Team had sent out the following consultation via email to 90 Day Care Providers and 99 Child Minders as they were providers who delivered the Two Year Old funding and the Nursery Education Funding in Sandwell's Private Voluntary and Independent child care sector. The survey had also been sent to all Primary and Infant Schools.



On 27th October 2021, the Chancellor had announced that the Government would invest additional funding for the early years entitlements for two, three and four year olds worth £160m in 2022 - 2023, £180m in 2023 - 2024 and £170m in 2024 - 2025, compared to the current year. This was for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to early years providers for the Government's free childcare entitlement offers and reflects cost pressures, as well as anticipated changes in the number of eligible children. On the 25th November 2021 individual local authority rates had been published by the DfE.

The Council was now consulting on the proposed funding increase for the financial year 2022 - 2023. To enable all providers who delivered on the early years entitlements to benefit from the increased funding, Sandwell MBC was proposing to use all of the additional funding to increase the basic hourly rate of pay for two-year olds and three and four-year olds and keep the additional payments of the single funding formula at the same rate as 2021 - 2022.

The proposed funding structure was as set out below: -

	Rate 2021/2022	Rate 2022/2023	Increase per hour
Two Year Olds Rate= per hour per child	£5.38	£5.59	£0.21
Three and Four Year Olds Rate= per hour per child	£4.06	£4.23	£0.17
Flexibility per hour per child	£0.30	£0.30	N/A
Deprivation Based on % of children and <u>their</u> postcode	Up to 10% = 0 11% to 30% =£0.05 31% to 70% = £0.10	Up to 10% = 0 11% to 30% =£0.05 31% to 70% = £0.10	N/A



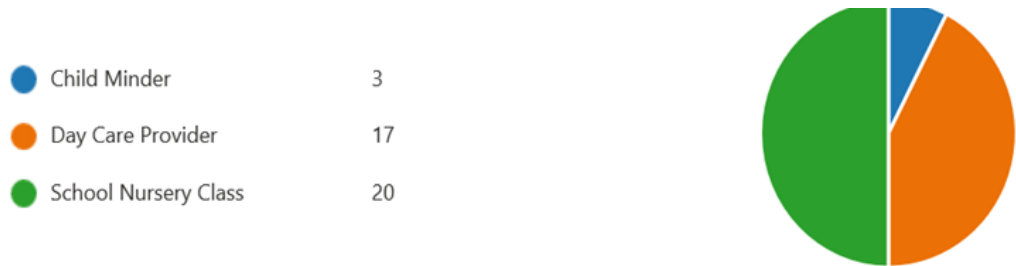
	70% to 90% = £0.20	70% to 90% = £0.20	
	90% plus = £0.25	90% plus = £0.25	

The following question was consulted on:

“Do you agree that Sandwell Council should use the additional Early Years funding to increase the basic rate of funding for two-year olds and three and four year olds?”

The results of the survey were as follows:

Total responses = 40.



The response to the 2 central questions:

5. Do you agree that Sandwell Council should use the additional Early Years funding to increase the basic rate of funding for Two Year Olds from £5.38 to £5.59

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6. Do you agree that Sandwell MBC should increase the basic rate of funding for Three and Four Year olds by the full increase given by the DFE of 17p per hour? This will increase the basic rate of funding from £4.06 -£4.23 per hour

[More Details](#)

● Yes	40
● No	0



The 1 response of 'No' had come from:

- 1 Child Minder who had left no further comment.

The survey had also invited suggestions, comments or any questions providers might have with regards to the increase in Early Years funding. The following responses were from providers who had voted 'yes' in the consultation, but also commented;

- Hopefully more face to face training sessions – Day care Provider
- It is essential for our nursery's survival that the hourly rate for funded children increases. We are really struggling and with the living wage increasing each April we are not sure how much longer we will be able to continue. Since the introduction of ELT and 30 hours we hardly have any paid places so are relying on being provided with a realistic hourly rate in relation to inflation and living wage increases to survive. – Day Care Provider
- This increase in hourly rate will really help towards the rising costs of providing nursery education. Day Care Provider
- What would the additional money be spent on if it wasn't used to increase the basic rate? School. Response provided by email.
- Is this on top of the annual increase we would have received anyway? School. Response and clarification sent via email.
- "If there were any grants available for capital projects, we would be very interested in this. We would like to revamp the play areas for our nursery children but simply do not have the funds because we only really break even (at best) due to the cost of staffing. The increase to hourly rate will support with



this but at the same time, we are anticipating a big hike in cost of staffing due to NI increase and proposed increase to public sector pay.

- Further to this, we are under great pressure in terms of our 2 year old setting. Numbers are low and staffing costs are increasing. We really want to continue offering 2 year old places but any support (either financial or otherwise) in this area would be very welcome." School. Response provided by email.
- Welcomed! If we get it right at the start, less should be needed further down the line! School

Agreed (unanimously amongst School Members on the Forum) that: -

1. the increase of the Two-Year-old hourly rate from £5.38 to £5.59 be approved;
2. the increase of the Three and Four-year-old hourly rate from £4.06 to £4.23 be approved.

19/22 DSG Allocation Update 2021/22

The Forum received a report which provide Members with information on the latest Dedicated schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2021/22.

The table, below, sets out the authority's latest indicative DSG allocations for 2021/22, as at January 2022.

DSG Allocation 2021/22	Indicative DSG Allocation at December 2020 £m	Indicative Allocation at January 2022 £m	Change in Allocation since December 2020 £m
Schools Block	297.545	297.545	0
Central Schools Service Block	2.249	2.249	0
High Needs Block	55.738	56.077	0.339



Early Years Block	24.877	22.715	(2.162)
Total DSG	380.409	378.587	(1.822)

The 2021/22 initial Indicative DSG allocation which had been presented to Schools Forum in January 2021 had changed as follows:

The deduction of academy recoupment by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) £146.496m from the Schools Block.

The overall increase of £0.339m to the High Needs Block before recoupment was made up of the following:

- Change in the Import/Export Adjustment from -£0.204m in December 2020 to +£0.141m; a movement of +£0.345m
- Additional funding for Special Free Schools; a movement of -£0.006m

The December 2020 allocation notified of a recoupment amounting to £2.072m. A further increase of £0.450m resulting in a total recoupment of £2.522m for ESFA directly funded places notified in January 2022 was broken down as follows

- Decrease of 6 Pre-16 Focus provision places funded at £6,000 amounting to £0.021m in Mainstream Academies from September 2021.
- Increase of 6 Pre-16 Focus provision places funded at £10,000 amounting to £0.035m in Mainstream Academies from September 2021.
- Increase of 109 places from September 2021 in Further Education and Independent Learning Providers (£0.436m)

The overall decrease of £2.162m to the Early Years Block allocation; the change in funding consisted of the following:

- A reduction in the number funded 3 and 4-year-olds universal entitlement 614 PTE amounting to £1.601m
- A reduction of the number of funded 3 and 4-year-old additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents; 95 PTE amounting to £0.248m
- A reduction in the number of funded 2-year-old entitlement 111 PTE amounting to £0.343m



- An increase in the indicative funding for early years pupil premium amounting to £0.030m

The Forum noted the contents of the report.

20/22 Special Educational Needs High Needs Block 2022/23 Budget

The Forum received a report which provided Members with the HNB 2022/23 Budget Information.

HNB Budget 2022/23

The HNB Provisional Grant for 2022/23 was £61.267m. After deductions of £3.130m, the grant available for distribution equated to £58.137m

Table 1, below, showed the deductions of £3.130m which were made at source to the HNB and paid directly to the various educational establishments.

The deductions were revised during the year and notified to the LA if applicable. A further deduction was anticipated for High Point free school and would be met from the budgeted surplus.

	£000
Pre 16 Focus Provision Academy place deductions	480
Special school Academy and Free school Place deductions	1,330
Post 16 SEN mainstream maintained and academy deductions	66
Post 16 Further Education College Deductions	1,254
Total Deductions	3,130



HNB 2022/23 Budget Allocations

Table 2, below, showed the analysis of the 2022/23 HNB Allocation.

Budget Heading	Budget 2022/23 £000	%
1) Independent Schools	5,977	10.3
2) Other LA maintained and Academy mainstream and Special Schools	1,823	3.1
3) Pupil Funding delegated to Schools, PRUS and Post 16	38,426	66.1
4) Other SEN AP Provision	280	0.5
5) Hospital PRU	1,593	2.7
6) SEN Support Services	1,461	2.5
7) Support for Inclusion	4,639	8.0
8) Alternative Provision	410	0.7
9) SEN Developments	1,756	3.0
10) Other High Needs Expenditure	1,616	2.8
11) Exclusions & Reintegration	156	0.3
Total HNB Grant 2022/23	58,137	

A more detailed breakdown could be found in Appendix 1 to the report. In addition, Appendix 2 to the report presented a more detailed breakdown of items 9 and 10 in Table 2.

Budgeted Specialist places



The HNB had budgeted for 1267 WTE Specialist Places in Sandwell Provisions across Special Schools, Mainstream Focus Provisions and PRUs.

This was an increase of 109 additional places from the 2021/22 budget that was reported to Schools Forum in June 2021.

Table 3, below, showed the places commissioned for the financial year 2022/23. These were whole time equivalents (WTE) where places had been commissioned from 1 September 2022.

Discussions were still taking place for specialist SEMH places and a nominal figure had been built into the budget to be prudent.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS		Places
The Orchard		147
The Meadows		215
The Westminster School		241
Shenstone Lodge and Brades		95
High Point		50
Elm Tree from 1/9/22 WTE		21
Westminster SPI		12
Additional places budgeted for in year across all Special Schools for potential over occupancy from 1/9/21 WTE		20
Additional Places at SLS to be agreed		
TOTAL		801

FOCUS PROVISIONS		
Primary Schools	ASD	63



	PD	12
	MLD	10
	HI	12
	SEMH	25
	SLCN	2
New FP From 1/9/22 20 places	SLD	11
Primary Total		135

Secondary Schools	ASD	45
	PD	20
	HI	5
New FP from 1/9/22 10 places	SEMH	6
Secondary Total		76
TOTAL FOCUS PROVISION PLACES		211

PRUs		
Primrose PRU (Primary)		25
Sandwell Community School (Secondary)		180
Albright		50
TOTAL PRU PLACES		255

The Vice-Chair queried if the focussed provision being planned for September had already been allocated, or not, or if schools would be asked to bid for / express an interest in.



M Tallents advised that the SLD focussed provision had already been allocated. The SEMH allocation for secondary education was yet to be made. If any schools wished to express an interest in this, they should contact Officers.

The Forum noted the contents of the report.

21/22 Schools Forum Member Training Verbal Update

The Clerk advised that Officers had now met and drawn up a training schedule / allocated who would be writing which element. Once drafted, the training material would be shared with the Chair and Vice-Chair in the first instance as a 'sense-check'.

Once finalised, a date, or dates, would be agreed outside of the Forum business meetings to hold the training. The training material would also serve as an induction for new Members.

22/22 Substitute Members on Schools Forum

The Clerk advised that there were a number of outstanding positions as named Substitute Members on the Forum. The idea behind named Substitutes was that should a substantive Member need to submit their apology to a meeting, their named substitute would then be eligible to attend in their place and would hold the same voting rights. This would also reduce the likelihood of future meetings not being able to proceed where the quorum had not been achieved.

The Clerk advised that he would email all Members after the meeting with a briefing note on the process to get nominations for named Substitutes to be appointed to the Forum.

23/22 Nominations to Union Facilities Time Working Group

A Timmins sought nominations from amongst the following groups to sit on a Working Group to look at Union Facilities Time: -



- 1 x nomination from Primary Academy;
- 1 x nomination from Secondary Academy;
- 1 x nomination from Primary Maintained;
- 1 x nomination from Secondary Maintained;

Meetings were yet to be arranged and A Timmins would consult the appointed Members and advise on the agreed dates / times in due course.

Agreed that the following Members be appointed to the Working Group: -

- 1) J Barry (Primary Maintained)
- 2) L Bray (Primary Academy)
- 3) That the Secondary Maintained and Academy Members be contacted by A Timmins to determine who will be appointed to the remaining vacancies.

24/22 AOB

The Clerk reported that the Terms of Office of both D Irish and M Arnall had been recommended by their respective Groups for another 4 year term. The Chair, therefore, sought authorisation from the Forum to approve the extension to the Terms of Office for both individuals.

Agreed (unanimously) that the Terms of Office of both D Irish and M Arnall be granted for a 4 year extension, effective from November 2021.

N.B. D Irish had left the meeting before this vote had occurred and therefore, did not take part in this vote.

The dates of future Forum meetings were noted, as set out below:-

4 July 2022



The Next Meeting of Schools Forum: 20th June 2022 @ 2.30pm.

Location: TBC.

Meeting ended at 3.57pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

