



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A hybrid Meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** will be held in **DAVID HICKS 1 - CIVIC OFFICES, SHUTE END, WOKINGHAM RG40 1BN ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022 AT 10.00 AM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 8 March 2022

**Note:** This will be a hybrid meeting, with Forum Members and members of the public being entitled to attend in person or via Microsoft Teams. Space is still limited, please contact Democratic Services if you wish to attend in person. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/7yEqfGBAmIA>



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Our Vision

***A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business***

### Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

### Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

### A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

### Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

### Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

### Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

<b>Schools Representatives</b>	
<b>Maintained Schools</b>	
Carol Simpson	School Business Manager - Colleton Primary
Emma Clarke	Primary Head - Farley Hill Primary
Corrina Gillard	Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant
Brian Prebble	Primary Head - Rivermead Primary - Vice Chairman
Luke Henderson	Primary Academy Head - Sonning C of E Primary
Liz Woodards	School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary
Amanda Woodfin	Headteacher - Bulmershe School
<b>Academies</b>	
Ali Brown	Primary Head - Nine Mile Ride Primary
Julia Mead	School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary
Ben Godber	Academy Head - Bohunt School
Derren Gray	Academy Head - Piggott School
Ginny Rhodes	Academy Head - St Crispins School
Paul Miller	Trustee - The Circle Trust - Chairman
Shirley Austin	Academy Head - Forest School
Sian Lehrter	School Business Director - The Holt School
Vacancy	Academy
<b>Special Schools</b>	
Sara Attra	Special School Head - Addington School
<b>PRU</b>	
Iain Thomas	Pupil Referral Unit Deputy Headteacher - Foundry College
<b>Non-School Representatives</b>	
<b>Early Years</b>	
Kerrie Clifford	Maintained Nursery Head - Ambleside Centre
Ian Morgan	Early Years Representative
<b>Wokingham Borough Council</b>	
Rebecca Margetts	WBC Councillor
Heather Tomlinson	Interim Assistant Director for Learning and Partnerships
<b>Post 16 Education</b>	
Paul Gibson	Headteacher - Maiden Erlegh School

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
27		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
28		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2022.	5 - 14
28.1		Matters arising	<b>Verbal Report</b>
29		<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
30	None Specific	<b>2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING</b> To receive and consider the 2021/22 Revenue Monitoring report.	15 - 30
31	None Specific	<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE</b> To receive and consider the High Needs Block update report.	31 - 54
32	None Specific	<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET 2022/23</b> To receive and consider the High Needs Block Budget 2022/23 report.	55 - 66
33	None Specific	<b>EARLY YEARS BLOCK BUDGET 2022/23</b> To receive and consider the Early Years Block Budget 2022/23 report.	67 - 74
34		<b>FORWARD PROGRAMME</b> To consider the Forum's work programme for the remainder of the academic year.	75 - 76

**Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent**

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOLS FORUM  
HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2022 FROM 10.00 AM TO 12.00 PM**

## **Schools Representatives**

Carol Simpson	School Business Manager - Colleton Primary
Emma Clarke	Primary Head - Farley Hill Primary
Corrina Gillard	Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant
Brian Prebble	Primary Head - Rivermead Primary - Vice Chairman
Ali Brown	Primary Head - Nine Mile Ride Primary
Julia Mead	School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary
Ben Godber	Academy Head - Bohunt School
Derren Gray	Academy Head - Piggott School
Ginny Rhodes	Academy Head - St Crispins School
Paul Miller	Trustee - The Circle Trust - Chairman
Shirley Austin	Academy Head - Forest School
Sian Lehrter	School Business Director - The Holt School
Sara Attra	Special School Head - Addington School
Liz Woodards	School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary
Amanda Woodfin	Headteacher - Bulmershe School

## **Non School Representatives**

Ian Morgan, Early Years representative  
Heather Tomlinson, Consultant Learning Achievement and Partnerships

## **Also Present**

Luciane Bowker, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist  
Piers Brunning, Senior Specialist Strategy and Commissioning (People and Place)  
Hayley Rees, Category Manager, Strategy and Commissioning  
Lynne Samuel, Senior Finance Specialist  
Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager  
Helen Watson, Interim Director of Children's Services

## **Others in attendance**

Councillor Graham Howe

## **23 APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Rebecca Margetts.

## **24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

### **24.1 Matters Arising Update**

The matters arising update was presented by Lynne Samuel, Senior Finance Specialist.

Lynne Samuel asked to provide the requested explanation on the calculation of the new funding formula (how it differs for academy and maintained schools) at the next meeting.

The confirmation of level of Early Years reserves for the current financial year was as stated in the Revenue Monitoring report, under section 6. This would be discussed in the March meeting.

Heather Tomlinson, Consultant Learning Achievement and Partnerships explained that not sending out SEN consultation was contrary to legal advice. Daniel Robinson, SEN Consultant had spoken with the headteachers who had made the request and an agreement had been reached.

Shirley Austin stated that the SEN consultations were sent out during the school holidays, although it was clarified that school days would not count. She strongly requested that these consultations should not be sent out at the end of the term or during school holidays, as this was impacting on the staff's mental health, which was more important than legal deadlines. Heather Tomlinson agreed to pass this on to Daniel Robinson.

Derren Gray clarified that the first preferences for Piggott did not include children from Charvil, so there were another 30 preferences to be included.

The Chairman advised that the other outstanding items would be discussed during the meeting or under Any Other Business.

## **25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **26 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING**

Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager presented the 2021/22 Revenue Monitoring report.

Katherine Vernon informed that:

- The financial position was similar to the one presented at the last meeting in December. There was positive movement of £84k in the High Needs Block (HNB) due to income from out of Borough placements at Chiltern Way Special Academy;
- There had been no applications in the current financial year in respect of the de-delegated contingency fund, the £55k would remain held in reserves;
- The Early Years provider reserve fund of £146,500 was set aside as part of the 2021/22 Budget setting. A Task and Finish Group had been set up to discuss the 2022/23 Budget and deployment of these reserves;
- There had been no calls on the Growth Fund, however this could potentially be required before the end of the financial year.

During the discussion of the item the following comments were made:

- Katherine Vernon confirmed that it was unlikely that the £200k held in the Growth Fund would be required by the end of this financial year;
- Lynne Samuel pointed out that due to the timescales for the publication of the Agenda and the Christmas holidays, there had been limited time to reflect and update the reports;
- The Chairman asked that future reports include a heading indicating which month the forecast was for, rather than using 'A' and 'B', to make it clearer;
- There was consensus that the quality of the reports was much improved;

- The Chairman asked what was the financial impact of the changes in numbers (page 31 of the Agenda). Katherine Vernon stated that the changes in IMS had been reflected in the last report in December so there were not many changes. She added that the reports incorporated the numbers that were anticipated;
- It was requested that a line be added to future reports advising if there were any significant movements and highlighting where these were.

Lynne Samuel stated that any feedback on the reports format was welcome, as Officers wanted the reports to be useful.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) Feedback on reports could be sent directly to Lynne Samuel and Katherine Vernon.

## **27 FINAL 2022/23 SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET**

Katherine Vernon presented the Final 2022/23 Schools Block Budget report.

During the presentation Katherine Vernon made the following comments:

- The final allocation was received just before Christmas. The allocation was only £15k different from that which had been anticipated;
- The model now included all the pupil's characteristics;
- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) had not yet made a decision on the request for disapplication of half percent from the Schools Block. Therefore, the report contained two models: one with the half percent and one without it;
- If half percent was taken out 54 schools would see an increase in their budgets, without viring the half percent 58 schools would see an increase in their budgets. A decrease in pupil numbers was the reason that a small number of schools would not see an increase in their budget allocations if the half percent was taken out;
- There was an additional grant, in respect of the Health and Social Care Levy, that had been announced which would positively affect the Schools Block and the HNB. The final amount would be announced in the spring. This grant would be passported straight back to schools.

The Chairman explained a vote was required in order to instruct Officers on the Budget submission to the DfE. However, the outcome of the decision by the ESFA in relation to the request for disapplication was not yet known.

After discussions, it was decided that a recorded vote would take place on whether to approve the attached Budget, with the understanding that the vote was on the model (model A or model B would be submitted depending on the approval or not of the request for disapplication).

Lynne Samuel clarified that the mechanics of both models were the same.

Upon being put to the vote, 18 Members voted in favour of approving the Budget and one Member abstained.

Lynne Samuel stated that Schools Forum would be informed of the ESFA's decision in relation to the disapplication request as soon as possible.

Ben Godber believed that if the disapplication was approved, some schools would receive allocations which would be below the national funding agreement for Age Weighted Pupil Funding (AWPU). In response Katherine Vernon stated that the AWPU for primary was £3,217, for KS2 it was £4,536 and for KS5 it was £5,112. The model allocations are higher than these AWPU figures.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel explained that the EFA was provided with lots of information and evidence as part of the disapplication process, such as Schools Forum minutes, the results of consultations with schools and links to Schools Forum recordings.

There was a discussion about the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for secondary school pupils. Katherine Vernon agreed to check and report back to Schools Forum.

**RESOLVED** That Schools Forum approves the Final 2022/23 Schools Block Budget for submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

*Subsequently Schools Forum was informed that the ESFA did not approve the request for the disapplication.*

## **28 2022/23 PROPOSED DE-DELEGATED BUDGET**

Katherine Vernon presented the 2022/23 Proposed De-delegated Budget report.

The Task and Finish Group had met and proposed that only the Staff Costs Supply Cover would be funded from the de-delegated Budget. This fund was to cover maternity/paternity pay, union duties and jury service cover. This fund was for maintained schools only, and the cost was £27.06 per pupil.

The Task and Finish Group recommended not to continue with Contingencies, but to carry forward the £55K in reserves in case this was needed. This would be reviewed every year.

The Licenses and Subscriptions would be completely funded by the Schools Central Block.

The Behaviour Support Services was no longer going to be funded through de-delegation. Discussions were ongoing about the funding mechanism for those services. It was likely that they would be funded from the HNB.

The Support to Underperforming Ethnic Groups and Bilingual Learners was likely to become a traded service.

Emma Clarke pointed out that there was a big increase in the cost for the service, in particular for small schools.

A recorded vote on the proposal to de-delegate Staff Costs Supply Cover was taken, with the following results:

- Five primary maintained school members were in favour
- The sole secondary school member was in favour



A recorded vote was taken on the proposal to not de-delegate Contingencies, Licensing and Subscriptions, Behaviour Services and Support to Underperforming Ethnic Groups and Bilingual Learners with the following results:

- Five primary maintained school members were in favour
- The sole secondary school member was in favour

Members asked that the information about the costs of the traded services be provided to schools as soon as possible. Lynne Samuel agreed to provide communication as early as possible.

Corrina Gillard thanked Officers for their work in setting up the working groups and coming up with the proposals.

Lynne Samuel wished it to be recorded that this had been a very useful exercise.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The proposal to de-delegate Staff Costs Supply Cover be approved;
- 2) The remaining £55K Contingencies from the previous year will be carried forward as a reserve and be reviewed in future years; and
- 3) Contingencies, Licensing and Subscriptions, Behaviour Support Services and Support to Underperforming Ethnic Groups and Bilingual Learners no longer be funded from the de-delegated Budget to maintained schools.

## **29 2022/23 CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET**

Lynne Samuel presented the 2022/23 Central School Services Block Budget report.

During her presentation the following comments were made:

- The allocation for the 2022/23 Central Schools Services Block was £995K, this represented an increase of £50K from this year's allocation;
- This Block provided a contribution to the Council's costs of delivering statutory duties, and the operational guidance allowed for a number of headings;
- £145K was top sliced for government arranged licences and there was no local control over the figure;
- Schools Forum was asked to agree to £448K for the delivery of statutory regulatory duties as follows:
  - £117K for Education Welfare
  - £49K for Asset Management
  - £236K for other ongoing duties
- The appendixes provided a breakdown of the figures. The breakdown was broadly the same as this year's, the only significant difference was the increase in supporting system and information costs which was previously part funded by maintained schools through de-delegation;
- The overall cost to the Council of delivering statutory duties was much higher, at around 2 million, this Block budget was a contribution towards the total cost;
- The School Improvement Service had historically been funded by a separate grant. However, the government had indicated that this arrangement would change so that this service would be funded by the Schools Block. At this stage there was no further detail about this proposal.

Amanda Woodfin asked if the allocated amount for Education Welfare allowed for improvement of the provision. Lynne Samuel stated that it did not, as this was not the total cost of the service, it was only a contribution towards it. Where there was a need to further invest in services, the Council funded additional costs.

Amanda Woodfin pointed out that the demand for Education Welfare services had significantly increased recently due to the pandemic. Lynne Samuel stated that this could be reflected upon in future discussions at Task and Finish Groups, especially in view of the potential changes to the funding of Schools Improvement.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have a further discussion in Schools Forum about the funding of Education Welfare services, with a report to include information about the total cost of the service to the Council.

Brian Prebble asked how the changes in senior leadership in the Council affected the costs on the Central Schools Services Block. Lynne Samuel explained that the Central Schools Services Block provided a contribution only to the total costs of services, when there were fluctuations, they did not affect the overall amount available from this Block.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel stated that a full review of traded services would take place during the year, and schools would be consulted.

It was agreed that timeline for the traded services review work be presented to the March meeting of Schools Forum.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel explained that references to the cost of the IT system referred to the Capita system used by the Council and not IT systems at schools.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel agreed to include a percentage as well as the total number of the allocation for the Central School Services Block. She explained that the DfE had used historical commitments to calculate the formula when the four blocks were created. Wokingham had never benefited from historical commitments prior to the four blocks being put in place and therefore was in a better position than other local authorities in terms of feeling the impact of the new funding formula.

A recorded vote took place and Schools Forum unanimously approved, with 19 votes in favour, the 2022/23 Central School Services Block Budget.

**RESOLVED** That:

- 1) The 2022/23 Central School Services Block Budget be approved;
- 2) A report containing information about the Education Welfare Service will be brought to Schools Forum; and
- 3) A timeline for the traded services review work would be brought to the March meeting of Schools Forum.

### **30 2022/23 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET**

Lynne Samuel presented the 2022/23 High Needs Block (HNB) Budget report.

During her presentation the following comments were made:

- The report contained an update on the progress of activities around building the HNB Budget for the 2022/23 financial year. There was an additional funding of around £2.2 million through the funding formula. However, due to the increase in the numbers of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), a deficit of around £3 million was anticipated;
- The Budget setting process took into account:
  - The continued increase in the number of children and young people with an EHCP
  - A review of inflationary increases on top-up bandings across settings;
  - The review of Foundry College
  - Recommendations from the Sufficiency Strategy
- There was a supplementary funding of £965K for which more detail would be received later in the year. This was not included in the funding formula, so it was unclear what this meant for future years beyond 2023/24;
- Sessions explaining how HNB formula was calculated would be offered to those interested before the next meeting in March.

In response to comments Lynne Samuel confirmed that based on the current figures and predictions, there would be a cumulative deficit of around £14 million in the HNB in 2023. She added that the impact of mitigating measures such as the Sufficiency Strategy and others would not be seen in this financial year as they were long term strategies.

The Chairman asked that the information around the strategy for future funding of Foundry College and the potential for it to become a traded service be shared with Schools Forum at the next meeting in March. He pointed out that this could have an impact on schools' budgets.

The Chairman asked what assumptions were being taken in relation to the 30% of the Budget that was being spent on Out of Borough placements. Lynne Samuel stated that this was part of the SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme, around sufficiency of places. However, she pointed out that the demand was increasing so much that a lot of the work was in slowing down growth.

In response to a question Lynne Samuel stated that there were considerations on the number of children moving out and the number of children moving in (in relation to Out of Borough placements) when anticipating the figures during the Budget setting process.

The Chairman asked that the increase in costs per placements also be considered during the Budget setting process.

**RESOLVED** That the progress on the 2022/23 High Needs Block Budget setting process be noted.

### **31 FORWARD PROGRAMME**

The Forum considered and noted the Forward Programme of work and dates of future meetings as set out on Agenda page 59.

The following items were added to the next meeting:

- Update on the Wokingham Educational Partnership (with potential election of representatives)
- Education Welfare Service
- Traded Services Review timeline
- Support to schools with fall in rolls

- School Admissions Task and Finish Group update

After discussions it was agreed that the next meeting in March would be a hybrid meeting, if possible in David Hicks 1. Luciane Bowker explained that there was a limit in numbers due to the current pandemic, so members would be asked in advance to confirm if they were attending in person or via Teams.

**RESOLVED** That the Forward Programme be noted.

## **32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Helen Watson, Interim Director of Children's Services was welcomed to the meeting.

### Commissioning services

Hayley Rees, Strategy and Commissioning Manager explained that the Council currently had a contract with Berkshire Health Foundation Trust (BHFT) to deliver therapy services. This contract included speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. This was a stand alone contract with BHFT, however there was a project looking to commission these services with West Berkshire and Reading, and bids would be put to the open market.

Hayley Rees asked if there were any members of Schools Forum who would be interested in taking part in the evaluation panel. The evaluation process was lengthy and a substantial amount of time was required in February. West Berkshire and Reading would also have representatives in the evaluation panel.

Hayley Rees informed that a survey had gone out about these services, she also pointed out that these services were funded by the HNB. Anyone requiring more information about this project could contact Hayley Rees directly. [Hayley.rees@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Hayley.rees@wokingham.gov.uk)

### Election of three Schools Forum representative to join the Wokingham Education Partnership

Heather Tomlison informed that she now had the names for primary and secondary schools representatives. She explained that the terms of reference of the Partnership were still under review, and the total number of representatives could change. She suggested that Schools Forum probably already had sufficient representation given the names that had been put forward from the headteachers' association.

Heather Tomlison stated that the intention was for the Partnership to tackle difficult strategy issues, and not to duplicate the work of Schools Forum. However, it was understood that those decisions made by the Partnership would influence the decisions made by Schools Forum.

In response to a comment, Heather Tomlinson stated that the group wanted to include representation from the Early Years and Post 16 phases.

Paul Gibson pointed out that most of the provision for Post 16 in the Borough was in the form of sixth forms within schools, so his representation in the group could cover that section (given that he was the Post 16 representative in Schools Forum).

Brian Prebble informed that of the four representatives from primary schools, one had a nursery attached to their school.

Ian Morgan stated that the Early Years private providers section was very large in Wokingham, with only one maintained nursery school in the Borough. He suggested that if a representative from the Early Years private providers was needed this could be arranged.

Heather Tomlison suggested having a further discussion with Schools Forum about the membership on the Partnership, once potential gaps were identified, after its first meeting. She added that it was important to have the right representation in the group, not necessarily representation from every section.

The Chairman asked that Heather Tomlinson liaises with Luciane Bowker, Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist about the need or not to undertake the elections of Schools Forum representatives to the Partnership.

In response to comments, Heather Tomlison agreed that the length of service for individual representatives on the Partnership would be reviewed when the terms of reference were discussed. It was agreed that a one year term was likely too short a service period.

#### Falling rolls fund

Schools Forum wished to consider how to support schools who had been suffering with falling rolls though no fault of their own, but due to demographics. The formal Council's policy on this issue was contained in the matters arising document.

The Chairman suggested having a discussion about this issue at the March meeting. Brian Prebble stated that this would be a good time to discuss it, as it fitted in with the work of the School Admissions Task and Finish Group reviewing boundaries and catchment areas.

Ginny Rhodes suggested that going forward this issue should be considered by the Partnership.

There was consensus that this issue should be considered.

#### The mechanism behind contingency funding

The need to plan for school places in the Borough meant that contingency funds had to be allocated. However, the contingency planning historically had not matched what actually happened on 1 September and 1 January. There was a desire to understand the mechanics of contingency planning and possibly design different models.

Heather Tomlinson agreed to reflect on this with colleagues and get back to Schools Forum on this.

## **Matters arising**

1. Explanation on the calculation of the new funding formula (how it differs for academy and maintained schools).
2. Request that SEN consultations not be sent to secondary schools immediately or prior to school holidays.
3. That future reports include a heading indicating which month the forecast was of, rather than using 'A' and 'B' to make it clearer.
4. That reports include a heading indicating if there was significant movement or not and highlighting where the movement is.
5. To ascertain what the MFG is for secondary school pupils.
6. To ascertain how many schools would be affected should the disapplication be approved.
7. It was requested that information in regards to the cost of traded services be provided to schools as soon as possible.
8. A report to be brought to Schools Forum with information about the Education Welfare service and its total cost to the Council.
9. A timeline for the traded services review work will be presented to the March meeting.
10. To include a percentage with the value of the Central School Services Block Budget.
11. HNB formula explanation sessions would be offered before the meeting in March.
12. Information on the future funding of Foundry College – and the possibility of it becoming a traded service.
13. Heather Tomlison to liaise with Luciane Bowker about the potential need to elect Schools Forum representatives to the Wokingham Education Partnership.
14. A falling rolls item be added to the March meeting agenda.
15. An update on School Admissions Task and Finish Group would be included in the March meeting agenda.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2021/22 Revenue Monitoring Report</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Schools Forum on 16 March 2022
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of the report and the forecast position for the 2021/22 financial year.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the 2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast, as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

An in-year deficit of £3.8m is projected, with the budget pressure continuing to be within the High Needs Block. Taken with the brought forward deficit of £6.5m, a forecast cumulative deficit of £10.3m is now projected to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The current in-year forecast represents an increase of £933k on that reported to Schools Forum in January, reflecting updated information within the High Needs Block, and an updated position of the Growth Fund in the Schools Block.

## 2021/22 Revenue Monitoring Report

### 01. Purpose of the Report

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) revenue budget forecast for the 2021/22 financial year, as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### 02. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report, and the forecast position for the 2021/22 financial year.

### 03. Background

This report forms part of the regular updates to Schools Forum on the anticipated outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), with explanation for significant variances.

At the January 2022 meeting of Schools Forum a forecast deficit of £2.8m was reported for the 2021/22 financial year, due to continued pressure within the High Needs Block.

### 04. DSG Forecast as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

As at 28<sup>th</sup> February, the DSG forecast for the 2021/22 financial year now reports an in-year deficit of £3.8m. Against the £2.8m previously reported, this represents a negative movement of £933k.

### 05. Movement on January forecast

The movement of £933k on that reported previously to Schools Forum relates to the following change in forecast.

#### Schools Block – Growth Fund

Reduction on forecast of £146k. See “Update under Contingencies Held” item below.

#### High Needs Block

The in-year deficit on the HNB is now forecast at £4.17m, an increase of £1,079k on that reported previously. The increase reflects the continued increase in the number of EHCPs and the difficulty in securing appropriate specialist placements.



The main changes, which are reflected in the increases shown in the activity data appendices, are:

- £169k mainstream – both in and out of borough
- £115k special schools – out of borough
- £515k independent & non-maintained special schools
- £143k education other than at school

## 06. Update on Contingencies Held

### Schools Block – De-delegated Contingency

There have been no applications nor allocations made in the current financial year in respect of the de-delegated allocation. £55k remains held in reserves.

### Early Years – Provider Reserve Fund

For financial year 2020-21, we set aside £206,500 in the Provider Reserve Fund. £122,500 was used to fund new settings in 2020-21, namely 2 new nursery classes in primary academy schools, and the number of registered childminders increased from 80 to 120. We held the remainder as we were expecting a clawback of circa £84k. Final clawback was confirmed as £90k by the DfE in November 2021.

A reserve fund of £146,500 was set aside as part of 2021/22 budget setting, we are anticipating an underspend of around £300k this financial year. We are still working through the Spring headcount data and will have an informed decision at year end as to what our year-end position will be. We will know whether there will be anything left to distribute to settings once we have been advised of any recoument by the DfE in July 2022.

### Schools Block - Growth Fund

As reported to Schools Forum in December, £89k was being held for primary and £77k was being held for secondary contingency. So far these additional mid-phase classes haven't been agreed, although discussions are still ongoing as there is a need for additional year 7, year 6 and year 5 places. Therefore, we will be carrying forward £406k into the new financial year to supplement the £1,589k we set aside from our 2022-23 Schools Block budget allocation.

## 07. Finance Summary

The attached appendices provide further detail across each of the four DSG blocks.

Appendix A – Summary of 2021/22 School Revenue Monitoring

Appendix B – Breakdown of each Block

Appendix C – Activity Updates

Appendix D – Growth Fund

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INCOME

Description	A	B	D	E	F	G	H
	Budget 2021 - 22	Forecast Mar 2021-22	Forecast Sep 2021-22	Forecast Nov 2021-22	Forecast Dec 2021-22	Forecast Feb 2021-22	Variance (G - F)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>SCHOOL BLOCK BUDGET</b>							
Brought Forward Deficit		63	63	63	63	63	-
Brought Forward Balances		(530)	(530)	(530)	(530)	(530)	-
<b>School Block Budget</b> is the allocation to school based in the number of children in the school, the areas the children live i.e. rate of deprivation, children on free school meals, school academic achievement etc. This produces a unit cost per child per school and that unit cost is times by the number of children in that school.	(123,079)	(123,079)	(123,079)	(123,079)	(123,079)	(123,079)	-
Transfer to High Needs Block	588	588	588	588	588	588	-
Academy Allocated budget	68,947	68,947	73,438	73,344	73,344	73,772	428
School allocated budget excluding 6th form funding	51,971	51,971	47,479	47,573	47,573	47,146	(428)
School block budget - De-delegated items from maintained schools to council for central services like insurance for school, staff cover for maternity in schools etc.	773	828	828	828	828	828	-
Centrally retained activities - Growth fund.	800	1,275	1,254	1,016	1,016	869	(146)
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS\DEFICIT</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>(196)</b>	<b>(196)</b>	<b>(343)</b>	<b>(146)</b>
<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK</b>							
Brought Forward Deficit\Surplus		6,472	6,472	6,472	6,472	6,472	-
<b>High needs Block</b> funding is for funding Special needs children in all our education establishments this includes commissioned services from other boroughs and independent schools.	(22,802)	(22,802)	(22,796)	(22,790)	(22,790)	(22,790)	-
Transfer from School Block	(588)	(588)	(588)	(588)	(588)	(588)	-
High need grant allocated budget	23,390	25,926	26,490	26,550	26,466	27,546	1,079
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS\DEFICIT</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,008</b>	<b>9,578</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>9,560</b>	<b>10,639</b>	<b>1,079</b>
<b>EARLY YEARS BLOCK</b>							
<b>Early Years Block</b> Allocation including funding for Education of Children under 5s in Private/voluntary/independent settings as well as nursery provision and Primary schools with nursery provision.	(11,302)	(11,302)	(11,302)	(11,204)	(11,204)	(11,204)	-
Early year including EY PP grant	10,640	10,640	10,640	10,542	10,542	10,542	-
Centrally retained activities for Early years statutory duties.	662	662	662	662	662	662	-
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS\DEFICIT</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CENTRALLY RETAINED BLOCK</b>							
<b>Centrally Retained Block</b> - Contribution to pay for the council's statutory duties.	(945)	(945)	(945)	(945)	(945)	(945)	-
Centrally retained activities for both Academies and Maintained schools like school improvement, council statutory duties etc. School admissions, School Forum costs, ESG and Growth fund. Support	945	945	945	945	945	945	-
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS\DEFICIT</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Government specific grant the the LA pass to maintained schools on behalf of DFE</b>							
PE grant	(249)	(249)	(249)	(847)	(847)	(847)	-
UIFSM	(817)	(817)	(1,342)	(1,342)	(1,342)	(1,342)	-
Pupil Premium	(1,796)	(1,796)	(1,669)	(1,669)	(1,669)	(1,669)	-
<b>6th form funding</b> from EFA for Secondary school with a 6th form	(967)	(967)	(967)	(967)	(967)	(967)	-
Grant allocation to schools	3,828	3,828	4,227	4,825	4,825	4,825	-
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS\DEFICIT</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FORECAST</b>	<b>162,544</b>	<b>172,145</b>	<b>173,087</b>	<b>173,408</b>	<b>173,324</b>	<b>174,257</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME FORECAST</b>	<b>(162,545)</b>	<b>(163,075)</b>	<b>(163,468)</b>	<b>(163,961)</b>	<b>(163,961)</b>	<b>(163,961)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total In-year (Surplus) Deficit</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>3,761</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>Brought Forward Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Surplus () Deficit +</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>9,070</b>	<b>9,619</b>	<b>9,447</b>	<b>9,363</b>	<b>10,296</b>	<b>933</b>

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APPENDIX B - High Needs Block Budget 2021/22 DETAIL

Category	Description	Initial 2021/22 Forecast £,000	2021/22 initial projected variance £,000	A Previous 2021/22 Forecast December £,000	B Current 2021/22 Forecast February £,000	B - A 2021/22 movement on forecast £,000	
Mainstream	Wokingham	Place Funding - Post-16	162	-	162	-	
		Top-up Funding	2,695	-	2,838	95	
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	114	-	149	74	
Resource Bases	Wokingham	Place Funding	618	-	618	5	
		Empty Place Funding	144	-	133	-	
		Top-up Funding	970	-	869	36	
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	337	-	340	44	
Special Schools	Wokingham - Addington	Place Funding	2,488	-	2,501	-	
		Top-up funding	4,029	-	4,245	9	
	Wokingham - Chiltern Way	Place Funding	690	-	690	-	
		Top-up funding	1,085	-	617	13	
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	893	-	1,081	115	
	Independent & Non-Maintained	Placements	7,600	2,536	8,362	515	
Pupil Referral Unit	Wokingham	Foundry College	1,080	-	1,080	-	
		Foundry College New Operating Model	400	-	-	-	
Post-16: FE & Colleges	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	696	-	806	25	
Hospital Education		Willow House Hospital Education	225	-	182	13	
		Willow House Service Redesign	40	-	20	(20)	
		Independent Hospital Education	20	-	14	29	
Other		Therapies	720	-	784	37	
		Support for inclusion	325	-	325	-	
		Targeted Education (eg tutors, Personal Budgets)	100	-	200	143	
		Inclusion Group Funding	150	-	150	(52)	
		SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme	300	-	300	-	
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>			<b>25,926</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>26,466</b>	<b>27,546</b>	<b>1,079</b>
DSG Allocation			21,798	-	21,776	21,776	-
Academy Place Funding for Recoup			1,004	-	1,013	1,013	-
Transfer from Schools Block			588	-	588	588	-
<b>TOTAL Income</b>			<b>23,390</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,378</b>	<b>23,378</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit</b>			<b>2,536</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>3,088</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>1,079</b>
Deficit Brought Forward			6,227		6,472	6,472	
<b>Year End Forecast Cumulative Deficit</b>			<b>8,763</b>		<b>9,560</b>	<b>10,639</b>	

Schools Block Budget 2021/22

Category	Description	Budget 2021-22 £,000	Brought forward from 20-21 £,000	Revised Budget 2021/22 £,000	Jan-22	Feb-22	B - A 2021/22 movement on forecast £,000
					A Previous 2021/22 Forecast £,000	B Current 2021/22 Forecast £,000	
Individual Schools Budget	Maintained Schools	51,971	-	51,971	47,573	47,146	(428)
	Academies	68,947	-	68,947	73,344	73,772	428
De-Delegation	Contingencies	-	55	55	55	55	-
	Behaviour support services	229		229	229	229	-
	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	85		85	85	85	-
	Licences/subscriptions - Capita Contract	59		59	59	59	-
	Staff costs – supply cover (maternity)	400		400	400	400	-
	Brought forward						
	Growth Fund	800	475	1,275	1,016	869	(146)
	Transfer to High Needs Block	588	-	588	588	588	-
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>		<b>123,079</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>123,609</b>	<b>123,350</b>	<b>123,203</b>	<b>(146)</b>
22	DSG Allocation	123,079	-	123,079	123,079	123,079	-
	Brought forward Income		530	530	530	530	-
<b>TOTAL Income</b>		<b>123,079</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>123,609</b>	<b>123,609</b>	<b>123,609</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit</b>		<b>(0)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(259)</b>	<b>(406)</b>	<b>(146)</b>
<b>Deficit Brought Forward</b>		<b>63</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Year End Forecast Cumulative Deficit</b>		<b>63</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>(196)</b>	<b>(343)</b>	<b>(146)</b>

Central School Services Block Budget 2021/22

		A	2021/22	B	B - A
Category	Description	Initial 2021/22 Forecast £,000	initial projected variance £,000	Current 2021/22 Forecast £,000	2021/22 movement on forecast £,000
Strategic and Regulation function	Inspection Workshop Equipment Secondary - Health & safty school trips	12	-	12	-
	Finance	117	-	117	-
	Contribution to the Children Director Services	204	-	204	-
Other	Capita Contracts	61	-	61	-
	SACRE	7	-	7	-
	Servicing of schools forums	4	-	4	-
	Schools Admissions services	232	-	232	-
	School Asset Management	49	-	49	-
	Education welfare service	117	-	117	-
	Licences for Maintained and academies	142	-	142	-
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>		<b>945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>-</b>
DSG Allocation		945	-	945	-
<b>TOTAL Income</b>		<b>945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>-</b>
Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit		(0)	-	(0)	-
Deficit Brought Forward		0		0	
Year End Forecast Cumulative Deficit		(0)		(0)	

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Early Years Block Budget 2021/22

		A		B	C	C - B
Category	Description	Initial 2021/22 Forecast £,000	2021/22 initial projected variance £,000	Previous 2021/22 Forecast January £,000	Current 2021/22 Forecast February £,000	2021/22 movement on forecast £,000
Early Years Funding Formula	2 year olds	305	-	305	317	12
	3-4 year olds including Provider reserve fund	9,760	-	9,662	9,243	(419)
	Maintained Nursery School	510	-	510	510	-
Grants	EYPP	40	-	40	49	10
	Disability Access Fund	26	-	26	26	-
Centrally retained	Centrally retained (2 yr olds)	19	-	19	19	-
	Centrally retained (3 & 4 yr olds incl EY Inclusion Service contribution)	543	-	543	543	-
	Centrally retained (Early Years Inclusion Funding) for individual pupils	100	-	100	100	-
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>		<b>11,302</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,204</b>	<b>10,807</b>	<b>(397)</b>
DSG Allocation		11,302	-	11,204	10,807	(397)
<b>TOTAL Income</b>		<b>11,302</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,204</b>	<b>10,807</b>	<b>(397)</b>
Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit		(0)	-	(0)	(0)	0
Deficit Brought Forward		0		0	0	
Year End Forecast Cumulative Deficit		(0)		(0)	(0)	

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## 2021/22 High Needs Block - Budget Setting Activity: Place Funding WBC

<b>Mainstream - Post 16</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Maiden Erlegh	6	6
St Crispin's	5	5
The Forest School	3	3
The Holt	1	1
The Piggott	6	6
Waingels	6	6
<b>TOTAL Mainstream Post-16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>Resource Base</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
All Saints Primary	14	14
Emmbrook Hearing Impaired Unit	8	8
Highwood Primary	24	24
Lambs Lane Primary	10	10
Wescott Infant	8	8
Westende Junior	14	14
The Oaks	25	20
New Secondary	0	5
<b>TOTAL Resource Base</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>103</b>

<b>Special Schools</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Addington	240	255
Chiltern Way *	36	48
<b>TOTAL Special Schools</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>303</b>

\* based on planned places set out in Service Level Agreement  
academy place funding currently recouped by ESFA based on 69 places

2021/22 High Needs Block - Budget Setting Activity: Top-ups WBC

Mainstream	April	June	September Forecast	September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
Early Years	4	9	5	12	17	29
Primary	235	259	271	284	264	293
Secondary	137	142	158	175	171	191
Post-16	12	10	14	10	3	3
<b>TOTAL WBC Mainstream</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>516</b>
% change each reporting period		8%		15%	-5%	13%

Funded Hours Analysis at April		
20-25	26-30	31+
0	2	2
99	115	21
76	48	13
6	3	3
<b>181</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>39</b>
47%	43%	10%

Funded Hours Analysis at June		
20-25	26-30	31+
2	5	2
107	130	22
80	50	12
5	2	3
<b>194</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>39</b>
46%	45%	9%

Funded Hours Analysis at September		
20-25	26-30	31+
3	9	0
112	147	25
102	60	13
5	2	3
<b>222</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>41</b>
46%	45%	9%

Funded Hours Analysis at November		
20-25	26-30	31+
0	17	0
114	134	16
96	66	9
2	1	0
<b>212</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>25</b>
47%	48%	5%

Funded Hours Analysis at February		
20-25	26-30	31+
0	29	0
135	142	16
103	73	15
2	1	0
<b>240</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>31</b>
47%	47%	6%

Movement November to February		
20-25	26-30	31+
0	12	0
21	8	0
7	7	6
0	0	0
<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>
72%	69%	15%

Resource Base	April Band	Sept Band	Band Value	April	June	September Forecast	September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
Primary	ASD1	Band 5	£15,550.00	0	0	3	0	0	0
	ASD2	Band 5	£15,550.00	6	6	6	1	1	2
	ASD3	Band 6	£20,645.00	6	6	10	8	8	9
	HI2	Band 5	£15,550.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HI3	Band 6	£20,645.00	2	2	2	2	2	3
	PD1	Band 3	£4,838.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PD2	Band 4	£9,523.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PD3	Band 4	£9,523.00	6	6	6	6	6	6
	SL1	Band 2	£0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SL2	Band 3	£4,838.00	1	1	1	0	0	0
Secondary	SL3	Band 4	£9,523.00	11	11	14	10	10	11
				20	20	25	22	24	24
<b>TOTAL WBC Resource Base</b>				<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>
% change each reporting period					0%		-6%	4%	8%

September Forecast	Wokingham	OLA	Empty	
All Saints	2	2	0	12
Emmbrook	8	2	6	0
Highwood	11	10	1	13
Lamb's Lark	5	3	2	5
Wescott Hill	1	0	1	7
Westende	9	9	0	5
St Crispin	20	19	0	1
Maiden Erle	5	5	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>

September Actual	Wokingham	OLA	Empty
2	2	0	12
8	2	6	0
11	10	1	13
6	4	2	4
1	0	1	7
9	9	0	5
19	19	0	1
3	3	0	0
<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>

November Actual	Wokingham	OLA	Empty
2	2	0	12
8	2	6	0
11	10	1	13
6	4	2	4
1	0	1	7
9	9	0	5
19	19	0	1
5	5	0	0
<b>61</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>

February Actual	Wokingham	OLA	Empty
2	2	0	12
8	3	5	0
12	11	1	12
6	4	2	4
1	1	0	7
10	10	0	4
19	19	0	1
5	5	0	0
<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>

Special School - Addington	Band Value	Assumption	June	September Forecast	September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
Band 1	£14,392.00	123	114	128	126	126	125
Band 2	£25,000.00	51	56	54	57	57	57
Band 3	£37,779.00	19	22	19	22	22	21
<b>TOTAL WBC Special - Addington</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>203</b>	

Special School - Chiltern Way	Band Value	April	May	September Forecast	September Actual	Wokingham	November Actual	Wokingham	February Actual	Wokingham
As per SLA	£22,272.00	36	36	48	49	28	49	28	49	28
<b>TOTAL WBC Special - Chiltern Way</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>28</b>	

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Mainstream	September Forecast			September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
	April	June	September			
Primary	7	7	7	8	8	19
Secondary	11	11	11	18	17	22
Post-16	3	3	3	2	6	8
<b>TOTAL OOB Mainstream</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>49</b>
% change each reporting period		0%		33%	11%	58%

Resource Base	September Forecast			September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
	April	June	September			
Primary	3	4	3	4	3	7
Secondary	7	9	7	12	10	11
Post-16	3	2	4	2	3	4
<b>TOTAL OOB Resource Base</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>
% change each reporting period		15%		20%	-11%	38%

Special School	September Forecast			September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
	April	June	September			
Primary	19	20	19	25	18	21
Secondary	31	31	31	41	39	46
Post-16	6	6	6	7	11	19
<b>TOTAL OOB Special School</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>86</b>
% change each reporting period		2%		28%	-7%	26%

INMSS	September Forecast			September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
	April	June	September			
Primary	29	29	29	44	41	47
Secondary	62	62	62	70	72	81
Post-16	34	34	34	27	41	36
<b>TOTAL INMSS</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>164</b>
% change each reporting period		0%		13%	9%	6%

Post-16 / FE & Colleges	September Forecast			September Actual	November Actual	February Actual
	April	June	September			
Post-16 / FE & Colleges	76	76	86	89	102	106
<b>TOTAL FE &amp; Colleges</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>106</b>
% change each reporting period		0%		17%	15%	4%

APRIL

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
5	1	1
9	0	2
2	0	1
<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

JUNE

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
5	1	1
9	2	0
2	0	1
<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

SEPT

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
6	1	1
9	7	0
4	0	0
<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

NOV

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
6	1	1
17	0	0
5	1	0
<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

FEB

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
15	2	2
17	5	0
6	2	0
<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>

Movement November to February

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £10,000	£10,001+
9	1	1
0	5	0
1	1	0
<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

APRIL

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
3	0	0
0	0	7
0	0	3
<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

JUNE

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
4	0	0
0	0	9
0	0	2
<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

SEPT

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
4	0	0
1	3	10
0	0	0
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

NOV

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
3	0	0
0	3	7
0	0	3
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

FEB

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
7	0	0
1	2	8
1	0	3
<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

Movement November to February

£0 - £10,000	£10,001 - £20,000	£20,001+
4	0	0
1	-1	1
1	0	0
<b>6</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1</b>

APRIL

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
2	12	5
22	7	2
4	1	1
<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>

JUNE

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
2	13	5
22	7	2
4	1	1
<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>

SEPT

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
0	1	24
13	4	24
3	3	1
<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49</b>

NOV

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
5	9	4
25	9	5
7	3	1
<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>

FEB

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
8	9	4
29	11	6
13	4	2
<b>50</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>

Movement November to February

£0 - £15,000	£15,001 - £25,000	£25,001+
3	0	0
4	2	1
6	1	1
<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

September Forecast

£0 - £25,000	£25,001 - £35,000	£35,001 - £75,000	£75,001 - £100,000	£100,001 +
3	4	15	5	2
6	9	37	6	4
5	3	14	2	10
<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>

September Actual

£0 - £25,000	£25,001 - £35,000	£35,001 - £75,000	£75,001 - £100,000	£100,001 +
6	4	22	10	2
4	12	39	10	5
3	2	12	2	8
<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>

November Actual

£0 - £25,000	£25,001 - £35,000	£35,001 - £75,000	£75,001 - £100,000	£100,001 +
4	5	20	9	3
4	10	45	10	3
5	6	20	5	5
<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>

February Actual

£0 - £25,000	£25,001 - £35,000	£35,001 - £75,000	£75,001 - £100,000	£100,001 +
5	7	20	13	2
10	7	49	13	2
3	5	18	4	6
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>

Movement November to February

£0 - £25,000	£25,001 - £35,000	£35,001 - £75,000	£75,001 - £100,000	£100,001 +
1	2	0	4	-1
6	-3	4	3	-1
-2	-1	-2	-1	1
<b>5</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-1</b>

September Forecast

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £15,000	£15,001+
29	33	14
33	39	17
29	33	14

September Actual

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £15,000	£15,001+
33	39	17
60	21	21
59	24	23

November Actual

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £15,000	£15,001+
60	21	21
59	24	23
-1	3	2

February Actual

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £15,000	£15,001+
59	24	23
59	24	23
-1	3	2

Movement November to February

£0 - £5,000	£5,001 - £15,000	£15,001+
-1	3	2
-1	3	2
-1	3	2

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**Appendix D**  
**2021-2022 Growth Fund**  
**Estimate for February 2022**

	MPPL 2021/22	2021/22 Funded Number of Places	December Forecast 2021/22	December Actuals 2021/22	Variance
<b>Schools - New classes</b>					
<b>Pre-existing secondary commitments from 2021/22</b>					
Emmbrook Secondary	5400	45	134,663	134,663	0
Piggott School	5400	25	74,813	74,813	0
Bulmershe	5400	15	44,888	44,888	0
Waingels	5400	21	47,880	62,843	14,963
		<u>106</u>	<u>302,243</u>	<u>317,205</u>	<u>14,963</u>
<b>Secondary Contingency 2021/22</b>					
Additional secondary places (Y8) for 2021/22 - contingency	5400	30	38,475		-38,475
Additional secondary places (Y9) for 2021/22 - contingency	5400	30	38,475		-38,475
<b>Secondary subtotal</b>			<b>379,193</b>	<b>317,205</b>	<b>-61,988</b>
<b>Primary sector places 2021/22</b>					
Highwood (from 01/06/2021 - Y5)	3,975	30	93,005	94,413	1,408
Montague Park (From 01/06/2021 - Year 4 now Year 5)	3,700	30	87,885	87,885	0
Montague Park (from 01/09/2021 - Y6)	3,700	30	61,520	61,520	0
<b>Pre-existing primary commitments 2021/22</b>					
Loddon - reception class 2021	3,916	30	65,109	65,109	0
Highwood - reception class 2021	3,975	30	66,156	66,089	-67
<b>2021/22 Contingency for primary bulge classes</b>					
Additional Primary class - TBC	3,916	30	27,902		-27,902
Additional Y5 (from January 2022)	3,916	30	27,902		-27,902
Keep Hatch Y6 (from October 2021)	3,700	30	52,731	52,731	0
<b>Primary subtotal</b>			<b>482,209</b>	<b>427,748</b>	<b>-54,461</b>
<b>Primary plus Secondary Growth total</b>			<b>861,401</b>	<b>744,953</b>	<b>-116,449</b>
<b>Basic Need: New and recently new (growing schools)</b>					
Montague Park			42,000	42,000	0
Alder Grove Primary			82,500	82,500	0
Matthews Green Primary Pre Opening Grant (St Cecilia's)			30,000		-30,000
			<u>154,500</u>	<u>124,500</u>	<u>-30,000</u>
<b>Estimated expenditure as at November 2021</b>			<b>1,015,901</b>	<b>869,453</b>	<b>-146,449</b>
<b>In year Growth Funding from DSG</b>			800,000	800,000	0
<b>Funding carried forward from previous year</b>			475,000	475,000	0
<b>Total funding available</b>			<b>1,275,000</b>	<b>1,275,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Estimated expenditure as at November 2021</b>			<b>1,015,901</b>	<b>869,453</b>	<b>-146,449</b>
<b>Variance Surplus (+) Deficit (-)</b>	475,000		259,099	405,547	146,449

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Update on HNB &amp; SEND Innovation &amp; Improvement Programme</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Schools Forum on 16 March 2022
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director of Children's Services - Helen Watson

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Schools Forum is asked to note the update on key programme actions and the Safety Valve Programme.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report provides Schools Forum with an update on the High Needs Block, SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme and associated deficit management plan.

### **Update on the High Needs Block & SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme**

#### **.01 Purpose of the Report**

To provide Schools Forum with an update on the High Needs Block, SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme and deficit management plan.

#### **.02 Recommendation**

Schools Forum is asked to note the update on key programme actions and the Safety Valve Programme.

#### **.03 Background**

As with many other local authorities, Wokingham continues to face significant challenges in balancing available High Needs Block resources with meeting the needs of local children and young people with SEN.

An in-year deficit of £4.1m is forecast for the 2021/22 financial year, with a cumulative deficit of £10.6m forecast by the end of March 2022.

Under the governance of the SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme the local authority seeks to work in partnership with schools, families and a range of stakeholders to identify and deliver a sustainable approach to SEND within the borough.

This report provides an update on the significant programme of work ongoing, the focus of the SEND Improvement Board over the coming months, and Wokingham's participation in the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme from September 2022.

#### **.04 Children & Young People with SEND in Wokingham**

As previously reported the number of children and young people in Wokingham with an EHCP has risen significantly over recent years with the rate of increase yet to slow.

Projections for the coming years through to 2025 show a continued rise in numbers, particularly within key primary need categories, providing significant challenge to ensuring sufficient good quality, local provision.



Modelling undertaken in the autumn projected 1,466 funded EHCPs in 2022. Actual data shows that this calendar year started with 1,488. While growth and demand continues, benchmarking indicates that Wokingham remains below the national picture.

Further information is available in Appendix A & B.

## .05 **Update on Key Programme Actions**

### **SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme**

1. **SEND Service (ADMIN)** see Appendix C for SEND team performance data.
2. **Ordinarily Available** see Appendix D.
3. **Sufficiency, Resource Base and Local Area Need**
  - The sufficiency work, resource base review, and local area need data being looked at under the governance of the IIP are being pulled into one paper with several proposals.
  - The work has highlighted several issues historically around data, lack of SLA's and clarity and provision in the local area.
  - The paper will cover the current landscape and need focused on resource base provision, possible SEND Units, Specialist Provision and pressures and recommendations to be taken to Children's Leadership Team and the Borough Education Partnership to agree steps forward.
4. **Transport (SEND)** SEND Transport Panel is in action and all processes are now in place following transport review and need.

#### **Actions already taken:**

1. Commissioning capacity to start SLA process with all specialist provision, starting with Foundry College.
2. Support Service proposal to focus on K coded children with all mainstream settings
3. Ordinarily Available roll out
4. Annual Review and PFA / Transitions Process and changes
5. Projection and Provision investment (at business case stage)
6. SFA / DFE joint working on HNB

### **Education Other Than At School**

A significant rise in EOTAS packages has been seen, along with an increase in the complexity of children requiring those packages, linked to individual needs.

Historically the number of EOTAS has been very low however this has now risen to 14 with a cumulative cost of £400,000 + to the HNB.

Increase due to lack of provision.

## **Foundry Review**

Review approach in partnership with Foundry College has been progressing well with stage 1 now completed. Through the IIP, with support from commissioning and Foundry a one-year SLA will be in place by early summer. This will then further develop into a new SLA with ongoing work to develop a five-year strategic plan and budget setting around need based on the four key deliverables.

Permanently Excluded, Medically Vulnerable, Alternative Provision, and Outreach.

### **.06 Safety Valve Programme**

In 2020/21, the Department for Education introduced the 'safety valve' intervention programme for those local authorities with the very highest percentage DSG deficits, recognising that help would be needed for these authorities to turn things around in a short space of time.

The programme required those local authorities to develop substantial plans for reform to their high needs systems and associated spending, with support and challenge from the department, to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing.

*Above extract taken from [‘Sustainable high needs systems: learning from the ‘safety valve’ intervention programme’](#).*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-sustainable-high-needs-systems/sustainable-high-needs-systems-learning-from-the-safety-valve-intervention-programme#:~:text=In%202020%2D21%2C%20the%20Department,a%20short%20space%20of%20time>.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the DfE wrote to Wokingham Borough Council to confirm that the LA will shortly be invited to take part in the 'safety valve' intervention programme during the 2022/23 financial year. The aim of the programme is to agree a package of reform to the high needs system that will bring the DSG deficit under control.

The DfE will run two rounds of the programme over the coming 12 months with Wokingham taking part in the second round from September 2022.

Delivery of the programme to date has focussed on two principal goals, viewed as critical for local authorities' to reach financial sustainability:

- appropriately managing demand for EHCPs, including assessment processes that are fit for purpose;
- use of appropriate and cost-effective provision. This includes ensuring mainstream schools are equipped and encouraged to meet needs where possible, whilst maintaining high standards for all pupils.

Learning from previous safety valve interventions challenges across 5 key headings in meeting the above goals:

- Early Intervention Focus
- Increased SEN Support Offer
- Review EHCP assessment process and thresholds

- Culture change and work with school leaders
- Appropriate and thorough provision mapping, with potential development of more local provision

In preparation for the programme starting in September work will continue to refresh the local DSG Management Plan, assessing local circumstances and progress through the SEND IIP against the goals and key areas above.

A copy of the letter is provided in Appendix E, and Schools Forum will be kept fully updated as further information becomes available.

## .07 **Summary**

As with many other local authorities, Wokingham continues to face significant challenges in balancing available High Needs Block resources with meeting the needs of local children and young people with SEN.

An in-year deficit of £4.1m is forecast for the 2021/22 financial year, with a cumulative deficit of £10.6m forecast by the end of March 2022.

While good progress continues to be made through the governance of the SEND IIP, the number of local children & young people with an EHCP continues to rise. It remains clear that a significant increase in local specialist provision provides the longer term solution to financial sustainability.

The local authority has recently been informed of its participation in the DfE's safety valve programme from September 2022, providing an opportunity for local reforms to be supported and challenged by the Department's expert team.

<b>Contact:</b>	Daniel Robinson – Operational Lead Improvement and Innovation
<b>Email:</b>	daniel.robinson@wokingham.gov.uk

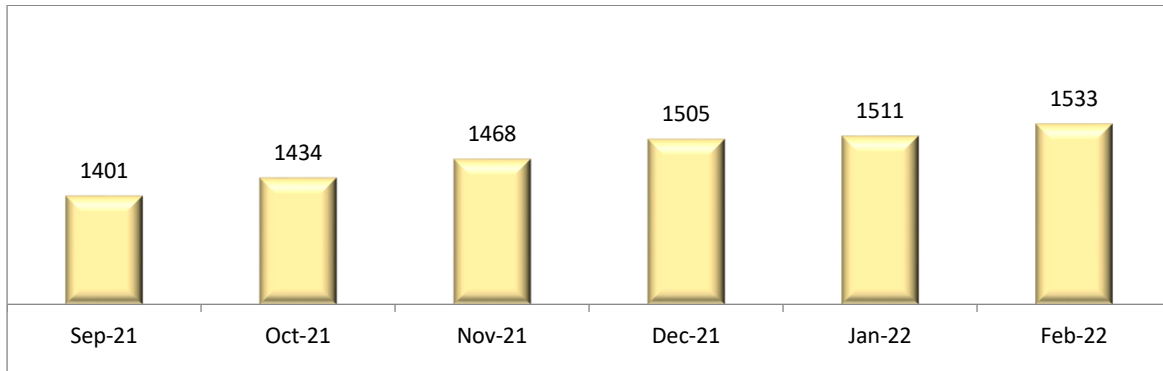
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## National Comparison

### Maintained Plans

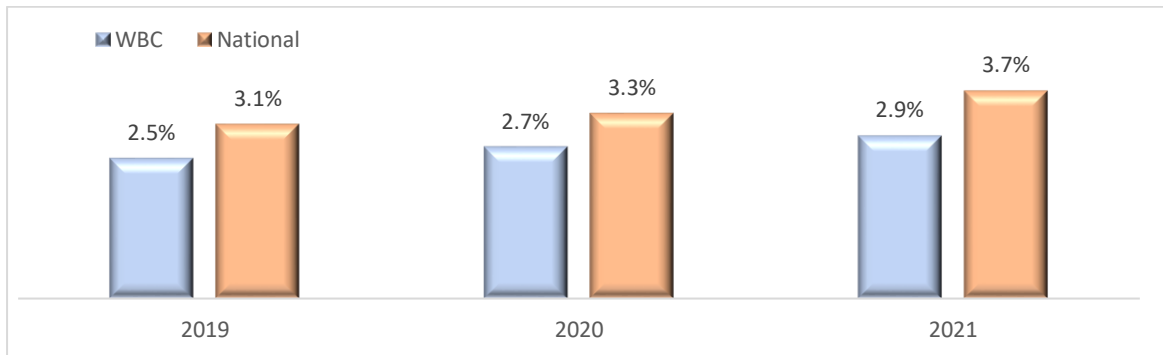
Daniel Robinson will talk through the narrative of the data sets below.

**Fig 1.1 EHCPS Including non-cost plans**



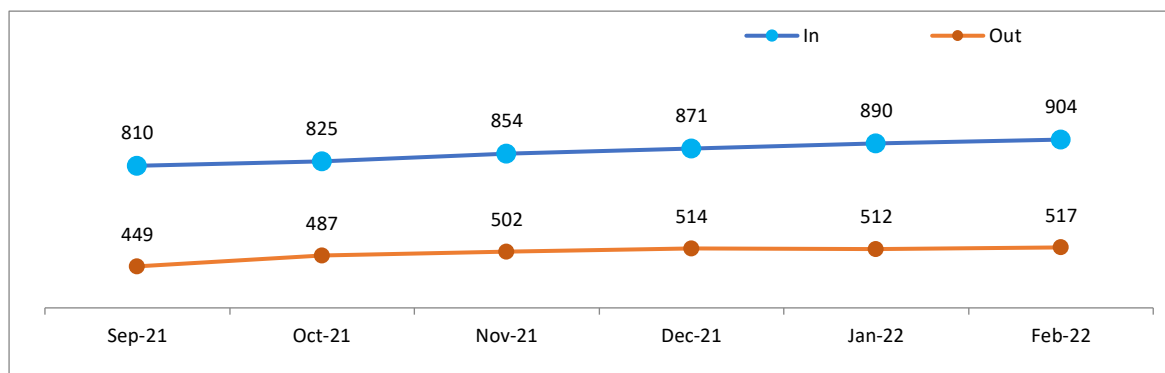
EHCP growth is steady in line with predictions from the IIP and finance / data work.

**FIG 1.2 National Comparison**



EHCP Growth as a percentage is below the national average.

**FIG 1.3 In and Out**



Out of Borough is a significant metric, not national comparison is available.

**FIG 1.4 Needs**

	Pre-School	EYFS	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	Post 16	Total
<b>Communication</b>	9	43	82	185	156	92	183	750
<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	5	4	13	68	61	40	93	284
<b>Sensory and Physical</b>	4	2	13	17	18	10	33	97
<b>SEMH</b>	0	3	9	74	62	62	101	311
<b>Other</b>	3	0	2	12	8	4	12	41
<b>Not recorded</b>	10	8	8	9	9	0	6	50
<b>Total</b>	31	60	127	365	314	208	428	1533

Primary Need	Pre-School	EYFS	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	Post 16	Total
Speech,Lang or Comm Diff	3	34	48	40	17	8	16	166
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	6	9	34	145	139	84	167	584
Spfc Learning Difficulty	1	2	0	2	5	6	7	23
Moderate Learning Difficulty	1	2	6	36	29	18	41	133
Severe Learning Difficulty	2	0	7	24	13	11	36	93
Profound and Multi Learn Diff	1	0	0	6	14	5	9	35
Hearing Impairment	0	1	4	2	5	5	10	27
Vision Impairment	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	7
Physical Disability	4	0	8	13	10	5	21	61
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2

ASD, Speech and Language, MLD, SEMH are the local area needs.  
Under 5s is a huge growth area due early work and identification and need is something being put into the forward plan for provision.

**Funded Plans and percentage Growth.**

**FIG 1.5 Funded plans by age**

<b>Funded EHCP WBC</b>	
<i>Under age 5</i>	72
<i>Aged 5 to 10</i>	480
<i>Aged 11 to 15</i>	507
<i>Aged 16 to 19</i>	288
<i>Aged 20 to 25</i>	141
	<b>1488</b>

Narrative to be discussed and linked to work with the IIP and Education Partnership with LAP Re-Structure.

**FIG 1.6 Age and Growth**

	<b>EHCPs by age group (with estimated future projections)</b>								
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Jan</b>									
<b>Under 5</b>	26	27	36	46	72				
<b>Age 5 to 10</b>	264	277	341	418	480				
<b>Age 11 to 15</b>	317	342	372	412	507				
<b>Age 16 to 19</b>	225	238	253	278	288				
<b>Age 20 to 25</b>	35	50	76	116	141				
<b>Total number by Age Gro</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1488</b>				

**1.7 % Changes**

<b>% Changes</b>				<b>% Projections</b>			
<b>18-29</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>end of 2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
0.038	0.333	0.278	0.57				
0.049	0.231	0.226	0.15				
0.079	0.088	0.108	0.23				
0.058	0.063	0.099	0.04				
0.429	0.52	0.526	0.22				
<b>0.077</b>	<b>0.154</b>	<b>0.178</b>	<b>0.172</b>				

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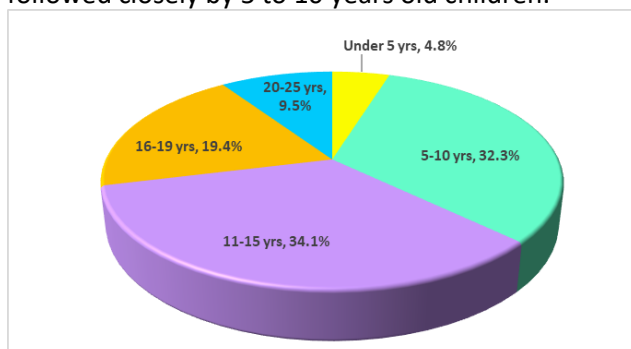


## SEND Headline figures:

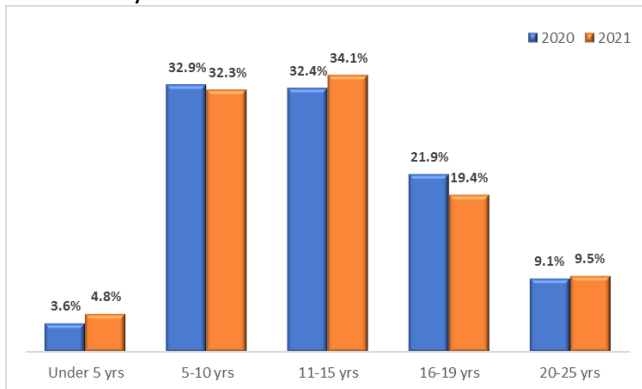
- Wokingham maintained EHC plans for 1488 children and young people, an increase of 17% compared to last year.
- In terms of placements on the school census day,
  - 57.1% were placed in Wokingham schools (mainstream, special schools, AP/PRU)
  - 34.3% were placed in out of Borough schools, colleges and alternative providers
  - 4.4% were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
  - 1.7% had other arrangements made by their parents and/or LA
  - 1.6% were awaiting placements
  - 0.7% were in early years settings
  - 8 were Electively Home Educated, compared to 11 in previous year.
- Autistic Spectrum Order (39%) was the highest percentage of primary need of the children - followed by Social, Emotional and Mental Health (21%) –. Compared to January 2020, ASD and SEMH have been 2% and 1% lower than 2021.
- During the 2021 calendar year
  - 81% EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks from the initial requests, a rise of 21% from 2020.  
The performance in 2021 is significantly higher than 2020 national (55.6%), south east (47.8%), statistical neighbours (57.4%) figures.
  - 324 initial requests were made for assessment for an EHC plan – again an increase of 21% from 2020.
  - 46 initial requests for assessment for EHC plan were refused – a 19% decrease from 2020.
  - 9 mediation cases were held, 3 of them being followed by appeals to tribunals – compared to 11 mediation cases and 4 of them followed by appeals to tribunals in 2020.

## Age groups

The following chart shows the distribution of plans by age group. 11-15 years is the largest cohort followed closely by 5 to 10 years old children.



Comparing with 2020, we see the highest increase in EHCPs was in the 11-15 years age group, followed by under 5s.

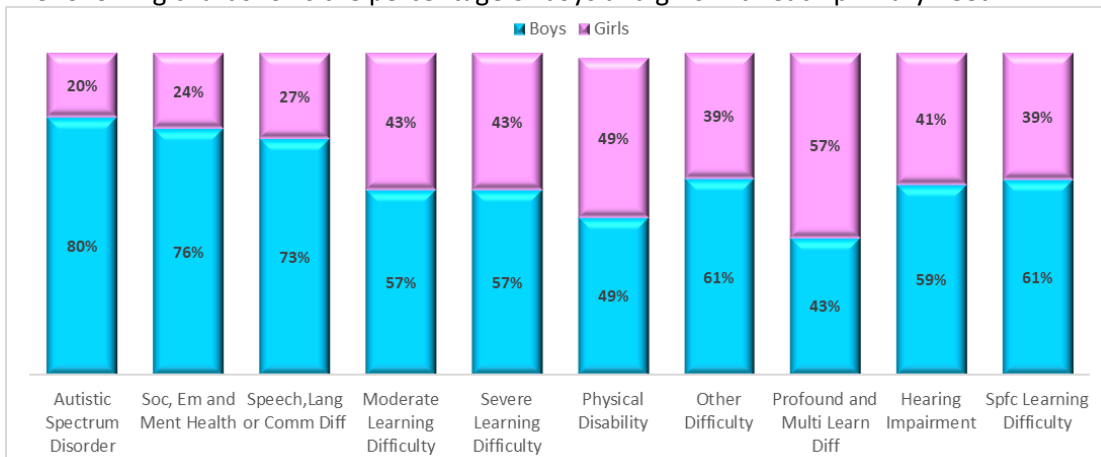


**Primary need by gender**

The following chart shows the percentage of each need by gender.

- Of children with ASD 80% are boys, followed by SEMH (76%) and communication difficulties (73%)
- The only need where the majority are girls is for profound and multiple learning difficulties (20 girls and 15 boys)

The following chart shows the percentage of boys and girls with each primary need:



## Primary Need by Age

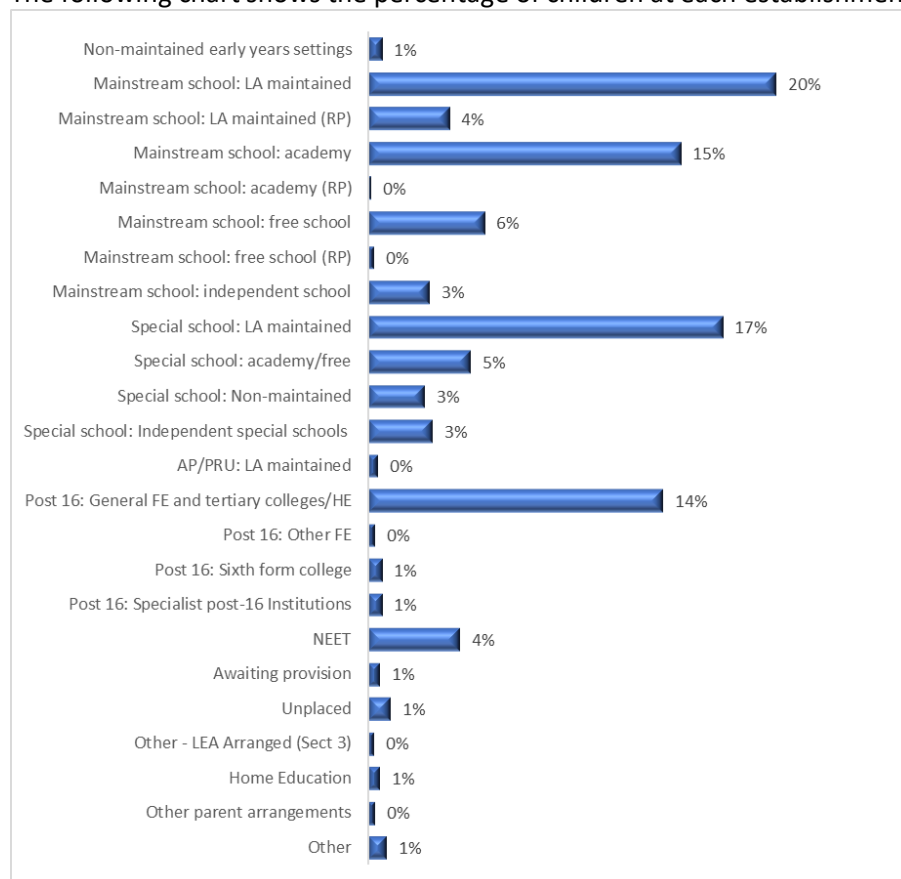
The age groups 5-10 and 11-15 has a mix of high percentages of the primary needs. The table below is a breakdown by age and primary need. The colour scale is defined for each primary need – the dark RED in each primary need row denotes the age group with highest percentage of the need.

DfE Primary Need Code	Under 5	5 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 25
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	2.4%	30.4%	37.5%	18.0%	11.6%
Soc, Em and Ment Health	1.3%	27.0%	38.2%	27.0%	6.6%
Speech, Lang or Comm Diff	18.2%	55.8%	15.6%	6.5%	3.9%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	2.2%	32.1%	35.1%	20.1%	10.4%
Severe Learning Difficulty	3.2%	33.0%	25.5%	24.5%	13.8%
Physical Disability	1.6%	36.1%	26.2%	23.0%	13.1%
Other Difficulty	26.8%	41.5%	19.5%	12.2%	0.0%
Profound and Multi Learn Diff	2.9%	17.1%	54.3%	11.4%	14.3%
Hearing Impairment	3.7%	22.2%	37.0%	29.6%	7.4%
Spfc Learning Difficulty	13.0%	8.7%	47.8%	13.0%	17.4%
Vision Impairment	14.3%	42.9%	14.3%	28.6%	0.0%

## Establishment type

The highest cohort is in LA maintained mainstream schools.

The following chart shows the percentage of children at each establishment as named in the plan.:

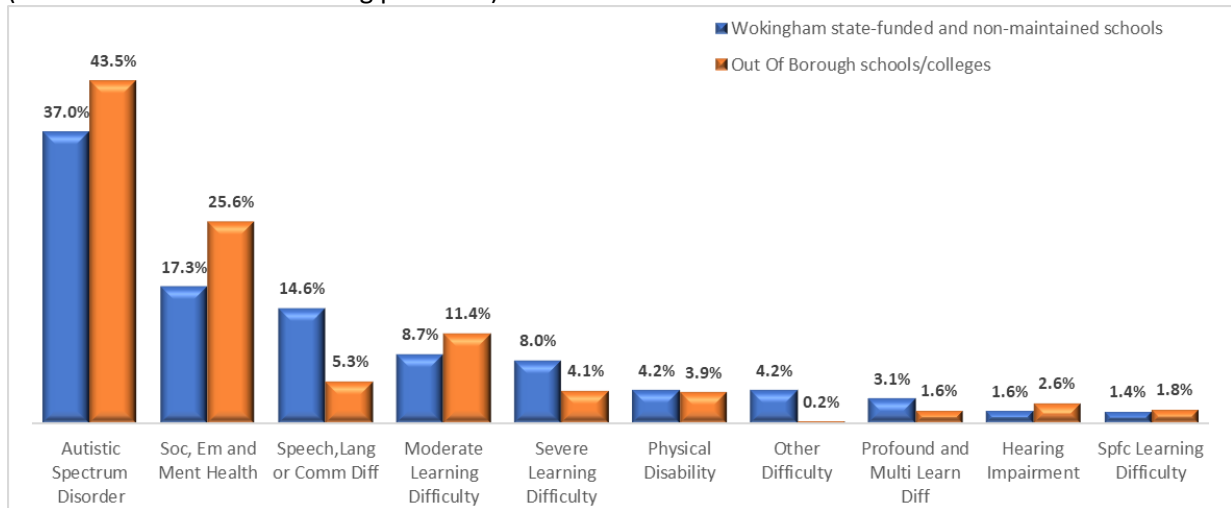


### Primary needs by establishment

Out of the 531 children placed in an establishment with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, 310 are in Wokingham schools, 221 are out of borough. Five are being electively home educated.

Out of the 275 children placed in an establishment with Social, emotional or mental health issues, 145 are in Wokingham schools, 130 are out of borough. One is being electively home educated.

The following chart shows primary need as a percentage comparing Wokingham and out-of-borough (which includes those awaiting provision):



## SEND Service (IIP)

1. Structure is settled and with some capacity issues is moving to an above national average position for assessments.
2. Annual Review Team has now been in place for 6 months and we are 4 months away from producing performance data.
3. Team is moving past 50% permanent and on track for 80% permanent team by Christmas 2022
4. System to support need is being procured in line with admissions, EWO and LAP service.
5. Development of SIB Dashboard is giving greater ability to evaluate performance and need.

### Performance:

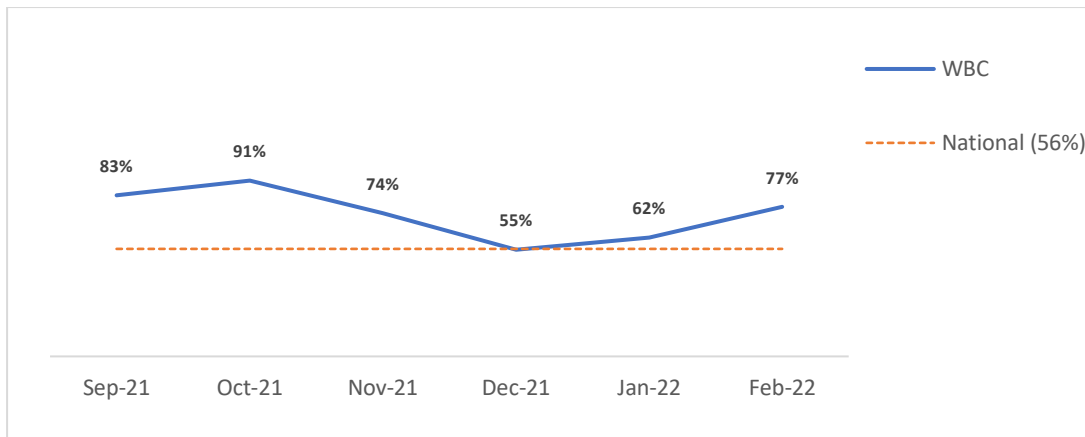
#### Fig 1.1 Average assessment performance:

- 2020 60%
- 2021 81%
- 2022 90% (Target) risk factors to be highlighted. Health and EP pressures.

Month	Requests	Response within 6 wks				
		Total completed	Within timescale	% Within timescale	Yes to assess	No to assess
Sep-21	15	18	6	33.3%	18	0
Oct-21	28	12	10	83.3%	12	0
Nov-21	26	26	14	53.8%	26	0
Dec-21	34	24	12	50.0%	24	0
Jan-22	26	36	22	61.1%	36	0
Feb-22	3	25	20	80.0%	24	1

#### Fig 1.2 Plans issued

Final plans issued						
	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
20 wks	83%	91%	74%	55%	62%	77%
30 wks	17%	9%	26%	45%	31%	14%
40 wks	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	9%
50 wks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Over 50 wks	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



**Fig 1.3 Benchmarking Data**

20 weeks timescale Benchmarking 2020:	
National	56%
Statistical Neighbours	57%
South East	48%
Reading	84%
W Berks	78%
Bracknell	20%

**Fig 1.4 Health Data Sets**

BHFT: EHCPs completed with 6 weeks of referral (12 rolling months):													
	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Total
Total No. of EHCP's due to be completed	9	5	5	2	5	5	12	19	27	44	45	15	193
No. Of EHCP Breaches (completed after 6 weeks or form not completed)	1	1	1	0	2	1	5	14	17	29	37	9	117
% Of EHCP Breach (completed after 6 weeks or form not completed)	11%	20%	20%	0%	40%	20%	42%	74%	63%	66%	82%	60%	61%
% Of EHCP completed within 6 weeks	89%	80%	80%	100%	60%	80%	58%	26%	37%	34%	18%	40%	39%



**ORDINARILY AVAILABLE**

# STAGES

01

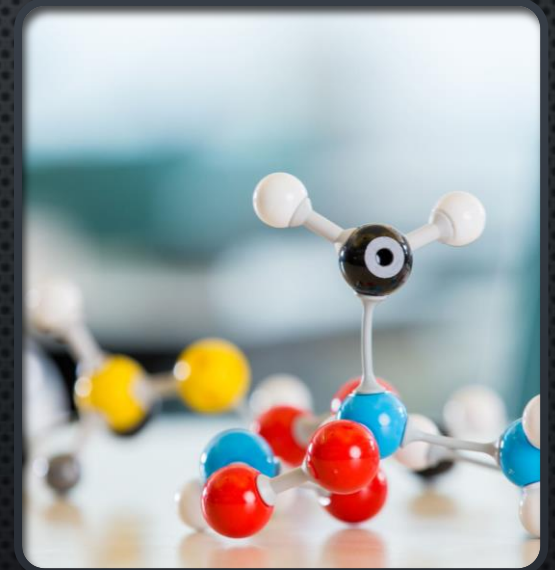
Development  
of New  
Ordinarily  
Available

02

Provision and  
understanding  
need, risks and  
future  
pressures

03

Roll Out and  
what next?





Element 2 (Secondary underfunded)	Evidence work needed	Cannot access OT without an EHCP	LA not supporting with K coded children	LA pushing "high tariff" children in mainstream
Recruitment of Support Staff 49	Specialist Provision under a special school above a mainstream school	EP Capacity and recruitment	SEND Support Service	Structure
Communication	Family's and School not understanding role of SEND Admin Service	LA need to provide specific services for Vulnerable Learners	Provision	DFE expectations Plan Support

# FEEDBACK AND INFORMATION

Collation of work around children with a K code, cost, need and resources	Information and 2/3-hour meeting with the IIP	SENDCO training for PFA / chunking Graduated Response via the IIP	System Support and work with Primary Feeders and Secondary	Restructure aligned to need
Proposed SEND Support Service	Increased provision going through approval	Education Partnership established	Communication on SEND tripled with schools	Multiple Panel Reps
		Complex Case Panel		

50

**WORK DONE**

**Proposals to discuss –  
S&LT with academies**

**EP Lobbying**

**Specialist Support staff to  
be recruited**

**Funding Discussion SFA**

**School Provision**

**With the education  
partnership. “what  
schools and the LA can  
co fund for all to access.”**

**WORK ONGOING**



**THANK  
YOU**



Department  
for Education

Date: 17 February 2022

By email: [susan.parsonage@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:susan.parsonage@wokingham.gov.uk)

Cc: [graham.ebers@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:graham.ebers@wokingham.gov.uk) [helen.watson@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:helen.watson@wokingham.gov.uk)

Dear Susan Parsonage,

## **'SAFETY VALVE' INTERVENTION PROGRAMME 2022-23 FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITH LAR**

### **GE DSG DEFICITS**

I am writing to notify your authority that you will shortly be invited to take part in the 'safety valve' intervention programme with the DfE in 2022-23 financial year. The aim of the programme is to agree a package of reform to your high needs system that will bring your dedicated schools grant (DSG) deficit under control.

#### **Context**

We are aware that, over recent years, pressures on high needs budgets have contributed to many local authorities accruing deficits on their DSG. The right response to tackling this is a multi-faceted approach which looks to the heart of the issues, taking in the significant increases in high needs funding that have been provided nationally; reform from the upcoming cross government SEND review; and targeted intervention for the local authorities who have struggled the most.

As a result of the 2021 Spending Review, nationally the core schools' budget will be increasing by £7 billion by 2024-25, compared to 2021-22, including a total £4 billion increase for schools and high needs next year. As a result, we announced on 16 December that high needs funding for children and young people with complex needs is increasing in the next financial year by £1 billion, to over £9.1 billion in total.

This unprecedented increase of 13% comes on top of the £1.5 billion increase over the last two years. Nonetheless, we know that in some areas the additional high needs funding will not, on its own, be enough to eliminate DSG deficits and enable authorities to manage themselves sustainably.

We began the safety valve intervention programme in 2020-21 and have continued with further authorities in 2021-22, targeting the local authorities with the highest DSG deficits. The programme requires local authorities to

develop substantial plans for reform to their high needs systems, with support and challenge from the department's expert team, to rapidly place them on a sustainable footing. If a local authority can demonstrate sufficiently that their DSG management plan creates lasting sustainability, including reaching an in-year balance as quickly as possible, then the department will enter into an agreement with the authority (subject to Ministerial approval).

Through that agreement, the local authority is held to account for the delivery of their reforms and savings targets via regular reporting to the department. Contingent on delivery of the reforms set out in the agreement, the department will help the local authority with additional funding over time to contribute to eliminating the historic deficit.

## **Participation**

We are expanding the programme in 2022-23 to work with a larger cohort of local authorities. Wokingham has been selected as one of the local authorities to take part in the programme in 2022-23, as it has one of the highest percentage DSG deficits in the country.

We will run two rounds of the intervention programme in 2022-23. Your authority has been selected to take part in the second round of the intervention programme, which will begin in September. We will write to you with a formal invitation and further detail about the programme and timelines in the spring. In the meantime, we expect you to prioritise the development of your DSG management plan. The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will be in touch to request your latest DSG management plan for review in the coming months. This review will support and prepare your authority for the subsequent safety valve intervention programme, and we request that you prioritise working with the ESFA on your plan.

Alongside this expansion to the safety valve programme, the department will also be introducing a new support programme called Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND. This will provide £85m over 3 years to support a wider cohort of local authorities. It will provide dedicated support and funding to help these local authorities reform their high needs systems, addressing the underlying issues that lead to increased pressure and putting them on a more sustainable footing. The safety valve programme will target the local authorities with the highest DSG deficits, including your local authority, whilst the DBV programme will target LAs with substantial but less severe deficit issues. You will therefore not receive an invitation to the DBV programme.

We will be in touch with further detail about the safety valve programme and timelines in due course. In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any questions at [Safetyvalve.PROGRAMME@education.gov.uk](mailto:Safetyvalve.PROGRAMME@education.gov.uk).

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2022/23 High Needs Block Budget</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Schools Forum on 16 March 2022
<b>WARD</b>	(None Specific);
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director of Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on the 2022/23 High Needs Block Budget detail presented.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To consult with Schools Forum on the 2022/23 High Needs Block Budget, and to provide activity and unit cost information in support of financial planning assumptions.

Additional resources of around £2.4m are available to the High Needs Block for 2022/23 in comparison to the current financial year, however this is set against a context of significantly increasing demand in supporting local children and young people with SEND.

The proposed budget recognises that longer term financial sustainability will not be delivered without targeted additional investment in the short term, supporting local settings and increasing inclusion.

Increases on top-up funding rates for Wokingham schools are proposed as follows:

- 4% on Mainstream current hourly rate from April 2022
- 4% on Resource Base bandings from April 2022

A deficit of £3.86m is set within the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

### **2022/23 High Needs Block Budget March 2022**

#### **.01 Purpose of the Report**

To consult with Schools Forum on the 2022/23 High Needs Block Budget, and to provide activity and unit cost information in support of financial planning assumptions.

#### **.02 Recommendation**

Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on the 2022/23 High Needs Block budget detail presented.

#### **.03 Background**

As one of four blocks of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE), the High Needs Block (HNB) is allocated to Local Authorities through a national formula and is intended to fund support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25. High Needs Funding is also intended to support good quality Alternative Provision (AP) for pre-16 pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream or special schools.

While significant increases in HNB funding has been provided nationally in recent years, in Wokingham, as with many other LAs, the cost and demand of support for vulnerable children and young people has outstripped available resources.

Locally, the cumulative deficit on the HNB as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 stood at £6.5m, and is projected to increase to £10.6m by the end of the current financial year.

In addition to the financial challenges faced, significant improvement work has been underway across the SEND system in Wokingham under the governance of the SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme. There is no doubt that the complexity of aligning strategic priorities and available resources, while responding to a significant ongoing increase in the number of children and young people with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP), requires systems wide commitment.

#### **.04 2022/23 High Needs Block Funding**

Nationally, High Needs Block funding is increasing by £1 billion, or 13%, in 2022/23. The National Funding Formula ensures that every local authority receives an increase of at least 8% per head of population compared to the current financial year.



The budget allocation for Wokingham is £24.8m, an increase of 8.9% on 2021/22 levels. In addition, Supplementary Grant funding is being made available to Wokingham of £965k for 2022/23.

While the net increase in funding to the HNB of around £2.4m is welcome news, significant challenge remains to deliver a sustainable financial position for SEND in Wokingham, particularly against the backdrop of an in-year deficit of £4.2m and where the full year impact of increases for the 2022/23 academic year have not yet been felt.

Appendix A provides further detail on the movement on factors underlying the HNB formula increase.

## .05 **Approach to Budget Setting**

Budget allocations for the coming financial year have been arrived at taking account of funding arrangements and commitments associated with the current profile of EHCPs, along with estimations of changes in activity for the 2022/23 academic year.

The proposed budget also recognises that longer term financial sustainability will not be delivered without targeted additional investment in the short term, supporting local settings and increasing inclusion.

Figures show that necessary expenditure is in excess of available resources and therefore a deficit budget is being set for the 2022/23 financial year.

Key considerations and proposed changes for settings are set out below, with further information provided in appendices:

- Appendix B – Summary 2022/23 Draft Budget
- Appendix C – Detail of 2022/23 Draft Budget
- Appendix D – Activity – Place Funding
- Appendix E – Activity – Top-ups in local settings
- Appendix F – Activity – Top-ups Out of Borough & INMSS

## .06 **Top-up Funding: Mainstream**

For Wokingham mainstream schools, top-up funding is calculated based on the number of hours agreed for the child or young person, funded at a set annual rate, currently £433.50. This is then adjusted for the Notional SEN allocation.

$$\text{£ Annual Top-Up Funding} = (\text{number of hours} \times \text{£433.55}) - \text{£6,000}$$

Where agreed hours are 20 hours or less per week then no top-up is payable under the current funding model as this is deemed to be covered by element 1 & 2 funding.

Previous benchmarking information indicated that the Wokingham rate set for 2021/22 was in line with average rates across the South East.

It is proposed to increase the top-up rate by 4% to £461.24 for the 2022/23 financial year.

### Post-16 Place Funding

Currently 27 post-16 places are funded from the High Needs Block in Wokingham mainstream schools, with this having remained the same for a number of years. A review of this area will be undertaken as part of wider post-16 planning work underway to ensure resources remain suitably aligned, allowing consultation with schools should any potential change be identified. Should an amendment to current arrangements be deemed appropriate then this will be actioned through the DfE's High Needs Place Notification Process in November, for implementation in the 2023/24 academic year.

## **.07 Top-up Funding Resource Bases**

For Wokingham Resource Bases, top-up funding is provided through a needs led banding system. It is proposed to increase the banding rates by 4% for the 2022/23 financial year, giving changes as provided below.

<b>Band</b>	<b>2022/23 Proposed</b>
ASD1	£16,172
ASD2	£16,172
ASD3	£21,471
HI2	£16,172
HI3	£21,471
PD1	£5,032
PD2	£9,904
PD3	£9,904
SL1	£0
SL2	£5,032
SL3	£9,904

The exception to the banding system is The Oaks at St Crispins, which remains under a custom and practice arrangement from the original SLA.

## **.08 Top-up Funding Special Schools**

### Addington

Following the roll-out of revised banding arrangements for Addington during the 2020/21 financial year, and an inflationary uplift provided for the current year, a further review has been undertaken to inform rates for 2022/23.

The banding system implemented has proved successful and has allowed significant stabilisation on the financial position for Addington. Reserves held by the school have grown since the current banding system was introduced and, along with sound financial performance, have informed the decision not to apply any inflationary uplift for the 2022/23 financial year. Further work will be undertaken to review multi-year financial planning in partnership with the school with further information brought back to Forum at a later date.

### Chiltern Way

Funding arrangements with Chiltern Way are set out in a service level agreement and recognise the investment in improvement activity needed to ensure the future of the school as a key part of overall local strategic delivery.

### Independent & Non-Maintained Special Schools

Representing 32% of forecast spend in the 2021/22 financial year, the level of INMSS placements remains the single biggest challenge to a balanced financial position for the High Needs Block in Wokingham. Figures in the budget plan are informed by information available at the time of budget setting, and recognise that in the short term the number of such placements is likely to rise.

Sufficiency work under the improvement programme continues to focus on options to drive down the number in the longer term, ensuring effective and efficient commissioning arrangements where placements are required, and ensuring that social care and health needs are funded appropriately. It is however recognised that this will take time to deliver as those children and young people currently educated in INMSS settings move through the system.

## **.09 Post 16 Colleges & FE**

As previously reported to Schools Forum, the number of young people with EHCPs attending FE / post-16 college settings has risen significantly in recent years, largely reflecting the extension of SEND regulations to those aged 25 as part of the 2014 reforms.

Figures provided are current estimates based on information available at the time of budget setting.

## **.10 Pupil Referral Unit – Foundry College**

As previously reported to Schools Forum, previous capital investment from the local authority in Foundry College has provided for expanded and improved facilities. However annual revenue funding for the school, provided from the High Needs Block, has not been reviewed for a number of years, with minimal inflationary uplifts provided.

A review of Foundry which aims to ensure strategy and delivery model are aligned with financial planning remains ongoing, and this will fully inform a revised funding model for the 2023/24 financial year. Work undertaken to date in partnership with Foundry has sought to better understand the current cost base and activity drivers of the school, how this delivers outcomes for local children and young people, and where strategically this can sit within the wider SEND agenda in Wokingham.

Initial financial projections for the 2021/22 financial year by Foundry indicated a significant deficit, however management in-year reduced the impact of this on school reserves. Budget setting for 2022/23 allows for the school to set a realistic budget for the coming year, while the next phase of the strategic review is underway.

As Forum is aware, following the review of de-delegated services, the Outreach service offered by Foundry to primary schools is not being de-delegated to maintained schools for the 2022/23 financial year. The HNB budget envelope set for Foundry for this coming year assumes that previous income levels are maintained through direct charging to schools. The deliverability of that is unclear at this time and therefore will be kept under regular review. The local authority will continue to work in partnership with Foundry in the development and monitoring of their financial arrangements.

#### **.11 Children & Young People Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)**

Procurement for the new contract to start in September 2022 remains ongoing, and therefore budget figures are based on existing contract information. Any decrease or increase in cost will be reported to Forum once the new contract has been awarded.

#### **.12 Financial Summary**

While resources available to the High Needs Block for 2022/23 see a £2.4m increase on the current year, significant challenge remains to bringing the cost of meeting the needs for local children and young people with SEN in line with those resources.

Significant increases in the number of children and young people with an EHCP in Wokingham means that expenditure continues to outstrip available resources, and therefore a deficit budget is being set for 2022/23.

Budgets have been set taking account of the current profile of EHCPs and a level of assumed increase in activity as the financial year progresses. Based on this, a deficit of £3.86m is set through the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

Indicative spend profile and assumptions undertaken in the autumn projected a £3.5m deficit for the 2022/23 financial year. Recent changes in in-year forecast figures and further information available from the Foundry Review have further informed the position, and therefore an increased deficit for the coming year.

Additional investment in-borough drives the main areas of change year on year and reflects the ambition to support more children and young people in local settings, delivering financial savings to the High Needs Block in the longer term.

**Lynne Samuel**  
**Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services**  
**February 2022**

**APPENDIX A - High Needs Block Funding 2022/23**

High Needs Allocation	2022/23 Provisional £'000	2021/22 Final £'000	2020/21 Final £'000		2021/22 Increase £'000	2021/22 Increase %	2021/22 Increase £'000	2021/22 Increase %
Basic Entitlement	1,626	1,625	1,319				1	0.09%
Historical Factors	9,446	8,421	8,421				1,025	12.17%
Proxy Factors								
Population	8,633	7,610	6,272		1,023	13.4%		
Free School Meals	620	539	437		81	15.1%		
IDACI	84	76	77		8	10.4%		
Bad Health	515	457	388		58	12.7%		
Disability	890	762	652		127	16.7%		
Low Attainment - Primary	867	741	603		126	17.0%		
Low Attainment - Secondary	622	514	429		108	20.9%		
	12,230	10,699	8,858				1,531	14.31%
Hospital Education	385	365	240				21	5.69%
	<u>23,687</u>	<u>21,108</u>	<u>18,838</u>				<u>2,578</u>	<u>12.21%</u>
Funding Floor	1,709	2,269	2,260				-560	-24.69%
	<u>25,396</u>	<u>23,378</u>	<u>21,098</u>				<u>2,018</u>	<u>8.63%</u>
Import/Export Adjustment	-582	-588	-576				6	-1.02%
	<b>24,814</b>	<b>22,790</b>	<b>20,522</b>				<b>2,268</b>	<b>11.05%</b>

**APPENDIX B - 2022/23 High Needs Block - Budget Setting Activity: Place Funding WBC**

<b>Mainstream - Post 16</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Maiden Erlegh	6	6
St Crispin's	5	5
The Forest School	3	3
The Holt	1	1
The Piggott	6	6
Waingels	6	6
<b>TOTAL Mainstream Post-16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>Resource Base - Primary</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
All Saints Primary	14	14
Emmbrook Hearing Impaired Unit	8	8
Highwood Primary	24	24
Lambs Lane Primary	10	10
Wescott Infant	8	8
Westende Junior	14	14
<b>TOTAL Resource Base - Primary</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>

<b>Resource Base - Secondary</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
The Oaks - St Crispins	20	15
Indigo - Maiden Erlegh	5	10
<b>TOTAL Resource Base - Secondary</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>Special Schools</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Addington	255	255
Chiltern Way	48	54
<b>TOTAL Special Schools</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>309</b>

**APPENDIX C - 2022/23 High Needs Block - Budget Setting Activity: Top-ups WBC**

<b>Mainstream</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Early Years	4	5
Primary	235	271
Secondary	137	158
Post-16	12	14
<b>TOTAL WBC Mainstream</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>448</b>

<b>Funded Hours Analysis at April</b>		
<b>20-25</b>	<b>26-30</b>	<b>31+</b>
0	2	2
99	115	21
76	48	13
6	3	3
<b>181</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>47%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>10%</b>

<b>Resource Base</b>		<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Primary	ASD1	0	0
	ASD2	2	2
	ASD3	9	9
	HI2	0	0
	HI3	3	3
	PD1	0	0
	PD2	0	0
	PD3	6	6
	SL1	0	0
	SL2	0	0
	SL3	11	11
Secondary		24	24
<b>TOTAL WBC Resource Base</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>

<b>Special School - Addington</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Band 1	134	134
Band 2	53	53
Band 3	18	18
<b>TOTAL WBC Special - Addington</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>205</b>

<b>Special School - Chiltern Way</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
As per SLA	28	32
<b>TOTAL WBC Special - Chiltern Way</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>

APPENDIX D - 2022/23 High Needs Block - Budget Setting Activity: OOB Funding

<b>Mainstream</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Primary	14	15
Secondary	20	22
Post-16	5	5
<b>TOTAL OOB Mainstream</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>£5,001 -</b>		
<b>£0 - £5,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£10,001+</b>
12	2	1
18	4	0
4	1	0
<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>Resource Base</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Primary	4	5
Secondary	11	12
Post-16	3	3
<b>TOTAL OOB Resource Base</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>£0 - £10,000</b>	<b>£10,001 - £20,000</b>	<b>£20,001+</b>
5	0	0
1	2	9
0	0	3
<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Special School</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Primary	20	21
Secondary	42	43
Post-16	10	11
<b>TOTAL OOB Special School</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>

<b>£0 - £15,000</b>	<b>£15,001 - £25,000</b>	<b>£25,001+</b>
7	10	4
26	12	5
5	5	1
<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>INMSS</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Primary	47	55
Secondary	81	94
Post-16	36	42
<b>TOTAL INMSS</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>191</b>

<b>£0 - £25,000</b>	<b>£25,001 - £35,000</b>	<b>£35,001 - £75,000</b>	<b>£75,001 - £100,000</b>	<b>£100,001+</b>
5	7	20	13	2
10	7	49	13	2
3	5	18	4	6
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Post-16 / FE &amp; Colleges</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>September</b>
Post-16 / FE & Colleges	106	112
<b>TOTAL FE &amp; Colleges</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>112</b>

<b>£5,001 -</b>		
<b>£0 - £5,000</b>	<b>£15,000</b>	<b>£15,001+</b>
62	26	24
<b>62</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>



APPENDIX E - High Needs Block Budget 2022/23 SUMMARY

	Category	2021/22 Forecast £,000	2022/23 Budget £,000	Variance	% increase
Wokingham	Mainstream	3,095	3,601	507	16%
	Resource Bases	1,661	1,658	(3)	0%
	Special Schools	8,075	8,155	80	1%
	Pupil Referral Unit	1,080	1,763	683	63%
<b>TOTAL Expenditure on Wokingham Schools</b>		<b>13,911</b>	<b>15,177</b>	<b>1,267</b>	
65 Out of Borough	Mainstream	223	224	1	0%
	Resource Bases	384	423	39	10%
	Special Schools	1,196	1,260	64	5%
	INMSS	8,877	9,600	723	8%
	Post-16: Further Education & Colleges	831	1,014	183	22%
<b>TOTAL Expenditure on OOB &amp; INMSS</b>		<b>11,511</b>	<b>12,521</b>	<b>1,010</b>	
Other	Hospital Education	238	264	26	11%
	Therapies	820	401	(419)	-51%
	Sensory Consortium	-	275	275	
	Support for Inclusion	325	354	29	9%
	Targeted Education (eg tutors, personal budgets)	343	500	158	46%
	Inclusion Group Funding	98	150	52	53%
	SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme	300	-	(300)	
<b>TOTAL Expenditure on Other</b>		<b>2,124</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>(180)</b>	
<b>TOTAL HNB Expenditure</b>		<b>27,545</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>2,097</b>	

APPENDIX F - High Needs Block Budget 2022/23 DETAIL

			A	B	C	[B] - [C]	[B] - [A]
Category		Description	2021/22 Forecast £,000	2022/23 Final Budget £,000	MTFP Indicative 2022/23 Budget £,000	Movement on Indicative Budget £,000	Movement on 2021/22 Forecast £,000
Mainstream	Wokingham	Place Funding - Post-16	162	162	162	-	-
		Top-up Funding	2,933	3,439	3,303	136	507
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	223	224	150	74	1
Resource Bases	Wokingham	Place Funding	623	618	618	-	(5)
		Empty Place Funding	133	121	133	(12)	(12)
		Top-up Funding	905	919	1,007	(88)	14
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	384	423	317	106	39
Special Schools	Wokingham - Addington	Place Funding	2,501	2,550	2,550	-	49
		Top-up funding	4,254	4,161	4,070	91	(93)
	Wokingham - Chiltern Way	Place Funding	690	690	690	-	-
		Top-up funding	630	754	836	(82)	124
	Oak Tree	Place Funding	-	-	146	(146)	-
		Top-up funding	-	-	295	(295)	-
	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	1,196	1,260	1,260	-	64
	Independent & Non-Maintained	Placements	8,877	9,600	8,955	645	723
Pupil Referral Unit	Wokingham	Foundry College	1,080	1,763	1,300	463	683
		Foundry College New Operating Model	-	-	-	-	-
Post-16 FE & Colleges	Out of Borough	Top-up Funding	831	1,014	800	214	183
Hospital Education	Willow House Hospital Education		195	244	243	1	49
	Independent Hospital Education		43	20	20	-	(23)
Other	CYPIT		820	401	800	(399)	(419)
	Sensory Consortium			275	-	275	275
	Support for Inclusion		325	354	350	4	29
	Targeted Education (eg tutors, personal budgets)		343	500	200	300	158
	Inclusion Group Funding		98	150	150	-	52
	SEND Innovation & Improvement Programme		300	-	-	-	(300)
<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>			<b>27,545</b>	<b>29,642</b>	<b>28,355</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>2,097</b>
DSG Allocation (including Academy Place Funding Recoup)			22,790	24,814	24,814	-	2,024
Transfer from Schools Block			588	-	-	-	(588)
Supplementary Grant Funding			-	965	-	965	965
<b>TOTAL Income</b>			<b>23,378</b>	<b>25,779</b>	<b>24,814</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>2,401</b>
<b>Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit</b>			<b>4,167</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>3,541</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>(304)</b>
Deficit Brought Forward			6,472	10,639	9,578		
<b>Year End Forecast Cumulative Deficit</b>			<b>10,639</b>	<b>14,502</b>	<b>13,119</b>		

**TITLE** 2022/23 Early Years Block Budget

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Schools Forum on 16 March 2022

**WARD** None Specific;

**DIRECTOR** Director of Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Schools Forum is asked to:

- approve the centrally retained element of the 2022/23 Early Years Budget which will be used to fund the associated statutory duties of the Local Authority;
- note the proposals to increase the current hourly rates paid to all providers by 21p per hour for 2 year olds, and 17p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report provides an analysis of the initial 2022/23 budget allocation for Early Years announced by the Department for Education (DfE) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The block allocations are based upon the Early Years census from January 2021 and will in due course be updated to reflect the January 2022 census data.

From the census data and budget information currently available, discussions have taken place with the Early Years Task and Finish Group and the proposals put forward will allow for an increase in funding for all providers supporting provision for 2 year olds, of 21p per hour, and for 3 and 4 year olds of 17p per hour.

Confirmation of the rates for schools with Early Years provision will be notified as soon as possible and for other Early Years providers no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## 2022/23 Early Years Budget March 2022

### .01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides the Schools Forum with details of the 2022/23 Early Years' Budget, and the proposed level of the centrally retained element used to fund the Local Authority's statutory duties.

### .02 Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- approve the centrally retained element of the 2022/23 Early Years Budget, which will be used to fund the associated statutory duties of the Authority;
- note the proposals to increase the current hourly rates paid to all providers by 21p per hour for 2 year olds, and 17p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds.

### .03 Background

Since its introduction in April 2017, the Early Years' National Funding Formula (EYNFF) has set the hourly funding rates that each local authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional free entitlements for three and four year olds.

Local authorities are required **to pass 95%** of their three and four year old funding from Central Government onto Early Years' providers. This pass-through requirement ensures that the vast majority of Government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the free entitlements.

### .04 2022/23 Budget Setting

The national hourly funding rates for 2022/23 have been increased as follows:

- 2 year old funding rates have increased from £5.90 to £6.11 per hour
- 3 & 4 year old funding rates have increased from £5.11 to £5.28 per hour

For Wokingham, the initial allocation for the Early Years Block in 2022/23 is £11,289,225 which is based on the January 2021 census.

The Authority is permitted to retain 5% of the allocation to meet its statutory duties. Taking into account that our allocation will change once the January 2022 census is taken into account, we are proposing retaining 5% of our initial allocation less 5% of the amount we are anticipating to be recouped in July 2022.

For 2022/23 this amount is £549,938 as set in Table A and B. Table A also provides a detailed analysis of the December 2021 allocation.

Finance staff and Early Years colleagues have met with the Early Years Task and Finish Group to discuss the proposals for 2022/23 and the consensus view is that we will be able to increase the rates payable to all providers supporting 3 and 4 year olds by 17p per hour, and those supporting 2 year olds by 21p per hour.

The Provider Reserve Fund has been set at £162,792 (£146,500 in 2021/22) which is the same PTE as 2021/22. Setting the reserve at this level aims to strike a balance between allowing for changes in activity in-year while ensuring rates paid to settings are maximised from the outset.

The element of funding retained by the LA provides a contribution to Early Years Services. In particular, the Early Years Team provides the following services:

- Provider Agreement with Terms and Condition to all Early Years providers which includes PVIs, Schools with Nursery provision, Childminders and maintained nursery.
- Direct work with settings, to support quality - ensuring that the Council meets its statutory obligations under the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance document (2017)
- Training to providers
- Support to settings to ensure inclusive provision for all children
- Moderation of EYFSP data, in line with the STA's requirements
- Cluster groups to support Early Years' providers
- Presentation and briefing at Early Years' Forum
- Monitoring the termly adjustments and verifying census information from providers to enable the correct funding to go to providers
- Financial management of supplements and free entitlement
- SEN Early Years inclusion.

Some of the other support to the Early Years' Team which is required for the delivery of the service include:

- Leadership support;
- Data and performance analysis;
- Finance, I.T., HR, Legal and other support costs;
- Property services etc.

Early Years is part of the Learning, Achievement & Partnership Service (LAP) within Children's Services. A strategic review of LAP is currently being undertaken as part of ongoing development and improvement work within the local authority. Forum members may be aware of the recent unexpected departure of the EY service lead, and therefore the opportunity is being taken to consider the leadership structure of LAP as part of the strategic review.

This review is set in the context of services seeking to meet increasing demand against a challenging financial landscape. The Early Years Task & Finish Group will be kept informed should any opportunities for cost efficiencies in this area be identified.

05. **Financial Summary**

A summary of the Early Years Budget Proposals for 2022/23 is set out in the Tables attached.

Table A provides details of the Early Years Indicative Allocation to the Local Authority.

Table B provides a breakdown of the proposed allocation of the Early Years Budget to providers.

Table C shows the compliance funding for 3 and 4 year olds demonstrating that 96.2% of funding based on the DfE methodology has been “passed through” to Providers.

06. **Members of the Task and Finish Group**

Ian Morgan	Early Years Representative - Schools Forum
Kerrie Clifford	Early Years Representative - Schools Forum

**Katherine Vernon**  
**Schools Finance Manager**  
**March 2022**

Table A

2022-23 Early Years budget table - December 2021  
Estimated income using January 2021 census

Will be updated in July 2022

DESCRIPTION	Estimated Numbers (PTE)	PTE hours	No. of weeks	Total number of hours	Rate	Allocation	Centrally retained element (5%)
<b>2 year old funding</b>	100	15	38	56,943	6.11	347,922	17,396
<b>Early year National funding formula (EYNFF)</b>							
3 & 4 funding	2,671	15	38	1,522,436	5.28	8,038,462	401,923
3 & 4 funding working parent	931	15	38	530,784	5.28	2,802,540	140,127
	<b>3,702</b>					<b>11,188,924</b>	
<b>Other funding to EY Providers</b>							
EY Pupil Premium						55,883	
Disability Living Allowance						42,400	
Maintained Nursery supplement						2,018	
<b>Total Allocation</b>						<b>11,289,225</b>	
<b>5% of Estimated income</b>							<b>559,446</b>

Table B

2022-23 Early Years budget table - using January 2022 census

	2021-22 rates	Increase	2022-23 rates
2 year olds	5.69	0.21	5.9
3-4 year olds	4.59	0.17	4.76

DESCRIPTION	Estimated Numbers (PTE)	PTE hours	No. of weeks	Total number of hours	Rate	Allocation	Centrally retained element (5%)
<b>2 year old funding</b>	122	15	38	69,562	5.90	<b>410,417</b>	
<b>Support to fund Early years team relates to 2 years old</b>						<b>17,396</b>	
<b>Support SEN inclusion service - 2 years</b>						<b>25,000</b>	
						<b>452,813</b>	
<b>Early year National funding formula (EYNFF)</b>							
3 & 4 funding including working parent	3,451	15	38	1,967,236	4.76	<b>9,364,045</b>	
Maximum amount to Providers after Providers reserves	60	15	38	34,200	4.76	<b>162,792</b>	
Teacher supplement	2,174	15	38	1,239,359	0.25	309,840	
Deprivation supplement				1,967,236	0.02	43,775	
Maintained Nursery supplement					0.02	40,000	
Early year inclusion (EYIF)					0.05	100,000	
						<b>493,615</b>	
<b>Other funding to EY Providers</b>							
EY Pupil Premium					0.03	55,883	
Disability Living Allowance					0.02	42,400	
						<b>98,283</b>	
<b>Support to fund Early years team relates to 3&amp;4 years old</b>						<b>442,050</b>	
<b>Support EY SEN inclusion service</b>						<b>75,000</b>	
						<b>517,050</b>	
Est. Expected "recoupment" July 2022							
2 year old variance	-22	15	38	-12,619	5.90	-74,453	
3&4 year olds	91	15	38	51,783	5.11	264,614	
Total expected recoupment - DfE						<b>190,161</b>	9,508
<b>Total Allocation</b>						<b>11,278,758</b>	
Actual allocation as per DfE						11,289,225	
Variance						-10,467	
<b>WBC request for centrally retained funding to support statutory duties in relation to Early Years</b>							<b>549,938</b>

5% topslice taking into account possible recoupment.

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TABLE C - Shows Compliance with pass-through requirements

**2022-23 Early years budget**

**Checklist on funding for 3 and 4 year olds**

<b>Line no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for 3 and 4 year olds	9,364,045
2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for 3 and 4 year olds	40,000
3	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	43,775
4	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Quality (including funding to MNS)	309,840
5	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Flexibility (including funding to MNS)	
6	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Rurality (including funding to MNS)	
7	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: EAL (including funding to MNS)	
8	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old SEN inclusion fund (top up grant element)	75,000
9	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old contingency	<u>162,792</u>
	SUB TOTAL	9,995,452
10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	2,018
11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	1,967,236
12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds	5.08
13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	5.28
14	Test of meeting requirement	96.2%
	Minimum amount	95%
	<b>Positive (compliant) and Negative (non compliant)</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

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## Schools Forum Forward Plan 2022/23

<b>6 July 2022</b>	<b>I</b>	2021/22 Revenue Outturn
	<b>I</b>	2022/23 Revenue Monitoring incl Contingencies Update
	<b>I</b>	2022/23 High Needs Block Update
	<b>I</b>	Education Welfare Service
<b>12 October 2022</b>	<b>I</b>	2022/23 Revenue Monitoring incl Contingencies Update
	<b>I</b>	2022/23 High Needs Block Update
	<b>I</b>	2023/24 DSG Budget Update
<b>7 December 2022</b>	<b>I</b>	2022/23 Revenue Monitoring incl Contingencies Update
	<b>I</b>	2022/23 High Needs Block Update
	<b>D</b>	2023/24 Draft Schools Block Budget
	<b>D</b>	2023/24 Proposed De-delegated Budget
<b>11 January 2023</b>	<b>I</b>	2022/23 Revenue Monitoring incl Contingencies Update
	<b>I</b>	2022/23 High Needs Block Update
	<b>D</b>	2023/24 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission
<b>15 March 2023</b>	<b>I</b>	2022/23 Revenue Monitoring incl Contingencies Update
	<b>C</b>	2023/24 High Needs Block Budget
	<b>D</b>	2023/24 Early Years Block Budget
	<b>D</b>	2023/24 Central School Services Block Budget

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