



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **SCHOOLS FORUM** will be held virtually
ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 10.00 AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 5 March 2024

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services:
democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

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<https://youtube.com/live/K0A3-B-cBU?feature=share>

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Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent 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 enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, 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, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and 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 in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, 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.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Schools Representatives	
Maintained Schools	
Carol Simpson	School Business Manager - Colleton Primary
Liz Woodards	School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary
Nicky Taylor Dickens	Headteacher – Willow Bank Infant
Vacancy	
Academies	
Julia Mead	School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary (The Keys Academy Trust)
Phil Sherwood	Primary Academy Head - Sonning Cof E Primary (The Keys Academy Trust)
Brian Prebble - Chair	Primary Academy Head – Rivermead Primary (Bellevue Place Education Trust)
Corrina Gillard	Primary Academy Head – Emmbrook Infant (The Circle Trust)
Derren Gray	Academy Head - The Piggott School (The Agape Multi-Academy Trust)
Andy Hinchliff	Academy Head - St Crispin's School (The Circle Trust)
Jenny Comber	Academy Head - Bohunt School (Bohunt Education Trust)
Shirley Austin	Academy Head - The Forest School (The Forest School Academy Trust)
Debra Briault – Vice-Chair	Secondary Academy School Representative (The Circle Trust)
Vacancy (x3)	Academy Primary School
Special Schools	
Sara Attra	Special School Head – Addington School
Iain Thomas	PRU Head – Foundry College
Early Years	
Kerrie Clifford	Nursery Head - Ambleside Centre (Maintained)
Ian Morgan	Early Years Representative
Wokingham Borough Council	
Ian Pittock	Wokingham Borough Council
Ming Zhang	Assistant Director for Education and SEND
Post 16 Education	
Paul Gibson	Headteacher - Maiden Erlegh School

Schools Forum Task and Finish Groups Membership

Schools Block

Derren Gray - Head Piggott School (Chair)

Brian Prebble - Head Rivermead Primary

Corrina Gillard - Head Emmbrook Infant

Chris Coniam – School Business Manager Bulmershe School

Carol Simpson - School Business Manager Colleton Primary

Julia Mead – Chief Finance Officer Keys Academy Trust

Margaret Lucey – School Business Manager All Saints Primary

High Needs Block

Corrina Gillard - Head Emmbrook Infant

Sara Attra - Head Addington Special School

Raj Arava - School Business Manager Foundry College

Debra Briault – Chief Operating Officer Circle Trust

Early Years

Ian Morgan - Director Little Ducklings Day Nursery

Kerrie Clifford - Head Ambleside Nursery

Karen Edwards - Manager Acorns Day Nursery

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
35		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
36		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2024.	7 - 16
37		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
38	None Specific	2023/24 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT MARCH 2024 To receive and consider a report containing details of the schools' current financial position.	17 - 20
39	None Specific	FINAL 2024/25 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET To receive and consider the Final 2024/25 High Needs Block Budget report.	21 - 28
40	None Specific	DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN / SAFETY VALVE UPDATE To receive a verbal update on the development of the DSG Management Plan and the Safety Valve Programme.	Verbal Report
41	None Specific	2024/25 FINAL EARLY YEARS BLOCK BUDGET To receive and consider the 2024/25 Early Years Block Budget report.	29 - 38
42		FORWARD PROGRAMME To consider the Forums work programme for the remainder of the academic year.	39 - 40

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.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOLS FORUM
HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2024 FROM 10.05 AM TO 11.40 AM**

Schools Representatives

Carol Simpson	School Business Manager - Colleton Primary (Maintained)
Corrina Gillard	Primary Head - Emmbrook Infant (The Circle Trust)
Liz Woodards	School Business Manager - Hawkedon Primary (Maintained)
Julia Mead	School Business Manager - St Sebastian's CE Primary (The Keys Academy Trust)
Derren Gray	Academy Head - The Piggott School (The Agape Multi-Academy Trust)
Andy Hinchliff	Academy Head - St Crispin's School (The Circle Trust)
Jenny Comber	Academy Head - Bohunt School (Bohunt Education Trust)
Debra Briault (Vice-Chair in the Chair)	Secondary Academy School Representative (The Circle Trust)
Nicky Taylor-Dickens	Primary Headteacher - Willow Bank Infant (Maintained)
Sara Attra	Special School Head - Addington School

Non School Representatives

Ian Pittock	Wokingham Borough Council
Ming Zhang	Assistant Director for Education and SEND

Also Present

Luciane Bowker, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist
Graham Cadle, Assistant Director, Finance
Ian Gough, Energy Manager
Sarah Morgan, Assistant Director, Commercial Property
Emma Shrimpton, Finance Business Partner, Children's Services
Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager
Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve / SEND Consultant

27 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from the Chairman, Brian Prebble and Jamie Conran, Head of SEND.

28 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record, and would be signed by the Chair at a later date.

Matters arising

Early Years Task and Finish Group – this had now been set up and a meeting date agreed.

Growth Fund error – this had now been amended in the report.

Communication with schools and parents regarding SEND – a Communication Plan was being developed. Schools Forum would be kept informed on its development.

29 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest was submitted.

30 2023-24 REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

The 2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report was presented by Katherine Vernon, Schools Finance Manager.

There had been no major changes since the last report. There was a small variance in the Growth Fund due to the reflection on the full year expected usage. It was anticipated that £150k would be left in the Growth Fund if not called upon before the end of this financial year. Therefore there would be less need to draw down from the Schools Block funding.

There was still £19.7 million cumulative deficit in the year.

The appendices had been missed from the agenda and would be circulated to Schools Forum members as soon as possible.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) The appendices to the report would be circulated to Schools Forum members.

31 SOLAR ENERGY REPORT

Sarah Morgan, Assistant Director for Commercial Property shared a presentation and highlighted the following points:

- WBC's Capital investment in renewable energy at schools started in 2012;
- This strategy was reinforced by the Climate Emergency declaration in 2019, which aimed to encourage the development of renewable energy and engagement with young people and promoting sustainable schools;
- Over £4 million was invested in 55 school sites since 2012;
- WBC considered these projects as 'invest to save', there was an expectation that the capital investment would be paid over a period of 25 years;
- The change that was being proposed was driven by the context of raise in cost of energy prices;
- WBC's electricity's contract had gone up by 47% over five years;
- The change aimed to mitigate the circumstances of raising costs to schools and the Council, by retailing the solar energy produced by solar panels in a different way;
- The values that would be charged would be the same for maintained and academy schools, but the processes used for charging would be different;
- In the current arrangements, 90% of the energy produced by solar panels is sold back to the grid and an income is generated. The remaining 10% of energy is utilised on site. The 10% used by the school is at nil cost, but it is a small proportion of the energy needed, the remaining energy that is needed is currently bought at £0.25pence per kilowatt hour (kWh);
- The proposal is to retain 90% of the solar energy produced by the schools' solar panels and retail 10% back to the grid. It was proposed that the energy that was free before, be initially charged at £0.17pence kWh – significantly less than £0.25pence kWh;
- Whilst the solar energy cost was going up, the school would utilise much more of the energy they produced and pay significantly less per kWh;

- If schools did not agree to the new proposed charging arrangements, the current arrangements would continue with the existing contracts. All schools had slightly different contracts, depending on when they were agreed since 2012;
- Schools were encouraged to change to the new contract as it was believed that this would be beneficial to both schools and the Council;
- Schools that did not have any renewable energy sources in their sites would continue to purchase energy at £0.25pence kWh and this was likely to go up in the next few years. Those schools were encouraged to contact the Council about investing in renewable energy;
- Some schools had already signed up to the new contract. Schools that hadn't were encouraged to contact Ian Gough, Energy Manager and his team to discuss individual circumstances;
- In relation to the fee paid to the Council's energy team. Schools paid a fee of 2%, the energy team who provided procurement of energy supplies, with access to lower energy rates. The fee provided around £80k per annum, which was used to help with staffing costs, but was also re-invested in schemes;
- Schools could opt out of using the energy team from the Council, but would then have to use someone else to undertake the procurement function.

Some of the questions and comments made during the discussion of the item are listed below:

- Councillor Pittock was of the opinion that as well as looking at the cost of energy, consideration should be given to the insulation of buildings and minimising the loss of energy. He asked if this was being done?
- Ian Gough confirmed that the team looked at every project that could help with energy reduction. The team worked closely with the property team to optimize opportunities to insulate buildings;
- Councillor Pittock asked if there was support for schools to change cold roofs to warm roofs?
- Ian Gough stated that the Council was ready to work with schools in energy reduction projects with an invest to save approach, with a view to recover the capital investment in a period of time;
- Carol Simpson stated that her school had had very good support from the Council over the years, for example with lighting replacement and heat pumps for the swimming pool. However, she still felt very confused about the solar energy charges which were being proposed;
- Carol Simpson stated that the contract they had stated that they fully utilised the energy produced by the school's solar panels. The information being presented contradicted the statements in the contract, she wondered if schools had been overcharged since 2012?
- Carol Simpson expressed frustration that she had been asking for an example of the implications of this change to her school since January 2023, and many colleagues had been doing the same, without a response being given. Schools were going to have to submit their P9 budget monitoring soon, and this charge would go back to April 2023, there was still no clarity for budget forecasting;
- Ian Gough stated that all the schools forecasting was ready to go out, unfortunately this would go out with the bill. Sadly, it had taken a long time to work out the information for each individual school due to the fact that there were nuances for each individual school;
- Sarah Morgan asked Ian Gough to meet with individual schools, without delay, to discuss their position;

- Andy Hinchliff agreed that it was important to have the detail before signing a new contract. He asked if £0.17pence kWh was an actual amount or an amount because of a percentage reduction from the overall charge that a school could expect? Could there be a variation from £0.17pence kWh?
- Ian Gough explained that £0.17pence kWh was 30% reduction on the charged rate of import. The Council would look to maintain the cost at 30% lower than the market rate, but the £0.17pence kWh could change;
- Liz Woodards stated that it would have been helpful to have seen an example of a school scenario before the new contracts were proposed. She asked how would it work in terms of getting a bill after the forecast was done for last year?
- Ian Gough explained that conversations about this had started over a year ago. The team would like to have sent the bills in October 2023, but it was now ready to go;
- In response to a comment, Ian Gough confirmed that schools would get a bill from April 2023, after the schools forecast was done;
- Sarah Morgan asked to re-consider the issue of timing of bills outside of the meeting;
- Liz Woodards expressed frustration that schools business managers had been asking for more information for a year, with no response from the energy team;
- Debra Briault stated that more detailed information was needed in the contracts, including charging points and credits. If schools had been overpaying since April, would they be refunded? Also, multi-academy trusts needed this information as they were the ones who would sign the contract on behalf of their schools;
- Ian Morgan asked if there was an opportunity for the Early Years sector to benefit from the Energy Team procurement service?
- Ian Gough agreed to work with Ian Morgan about options for the Early Years sector;
- Chris Connian asked for clarification in regard to the bill. Ian Gough explained that the bills had been worked out on the basis of charging £0.17pence kWh. Sarah Morgan clarified that bills would be different depending on schools having signed the contract or not;
- Carol Simpson stated that her school had not received an energy bill since October. Ian Gough agreed to investigate.

Councillor Bray suggested that the Energy Team work together with Debra Briault to ensure that the new contract contained the right information for schools.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The presentation would be circulated to Schools Forum members; and
- 2) New contracts would include more details, including different scenarios to make it clearer for each individual school.

32 INCLUSION FUNDING

Jonathan Wilding, Safety Valve / SEND Consultant presented the Inclusion Funding report and the Safety Valve update. The following points were highlighted:

- The fund was used to support children who did not quite reach the threshold for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- £150k was allocated to this fund by WBC and approved by Schools Forum each year;
- Most of this fund (£110k) in the past few years had been passported to Addington School to support their outreach programme;
- £40k had been under-utilised every year;

- The feedback received from schools was that the requirements of the fund or terms of reference were not clear;
- There was consensus that the process and impact needed reviewing;
- The panel had renamed itself the Inclusion Group and there had been a change of chair;
- It had been agreed in principle that WBC would take responsibility for commissioning outreach support;
- A block of the funding was going to be retained to support children who were waiting to have their EHCP assessment through the High Needs Innovation Fund;
- One of the priorities was to create Inclusion Provision, this could be achieved with Nurture Bases at schools to help children access education;
- The proposed budget was:
 - £15k for newly arrived pupils – historically the spend on this had never been more than £13k
 - £45k for priority themes 2024/25 – with an indicative £15k per project
 - £50k for High Needs Innovation Capital Funding – with an indicative £5k for minor refurbishment and fixed equipment to create school Inclusion Bases /Nurture-based provision. (this would be approved as part of the new SEND Capital Programme within the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 and 2025/26)
- The proposal aimed to create a more impactful system by facilitating collaboration between schools and unlocking schools' creativity to innovate to address key challenges facing the system;
- It was not possible to facilitate this offer for Wokingham pupils attending schools outside of the area. The Panel agreed that non-Wokingham pupils living in Wokingham would be offered this support, and it was agreed that this was fair;
- Schools Forum endorsement was being sought, the fund was ready to be launched in February.

Ming Zhang stated that much work had been undertaken with schools to develop this innovative plan. It was more effective to develop support at schools that could benefit more pupils, rather than supporting individual pupils on a one to one basis. There was much support from schools for this model.

Schools Forum were in support of this model of work.

Jonathan Wilding shared a Safety Valve update presentation and highlighted the following points:

- The programme had been running for nine months, and there had been much development in terms of early intervention and demand management;
- The Vulnerable Learners Panel led to the development of the Inclusion Group;
- The newly appointed Area SENCO was starting this week. Three SENCOs would be recruited to work in this team one day a week;
- The slides contained a list of the developments and activities undertaken in the year;
- The DfE had given a lot of weight to Schools Forum's decision to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the HNB;
- There was a movement in the right direction in relation to achieving a balanced budget;
- There had been a 15% reduction in the requests for assessments. Most request submitted by schools were being approved, most requests submitted by parents were being refused because it was believed that more help could be offered at early stages;

- The process of scrutinising the cessation of EHCPs when a young person finished education was being strengthened to ensure that the EHCP ceased at the appropriate time;
- Of note was the fact that now 51% of pupils with EHCPs were being supported in mainstream schools;
- The number of EHCPs was now in line with the target;
- The verbal DfE feedback had been positive, and it was anticipated that the DfE payments would continue to be received in accordance with the plan;
- One of the challenges, was the fact that the DfE had not yet responded to WBC's request to run the capital project for the two new free schools. It was believed that WBC was best placed to run this project and ensure timeliness;
- Another challenge was parental anxiety. There was an increase in the number of mediation meetings and tribunals. More work to enhance communication with parents was needed to change parental perception about the Safety Valve programme;
- Work was being undertaken to ensure that more contribution from Health was received;
- It was acknowledged that some waiting lists for Health services were very long, work was being undertaken with Health colleagues to address this issue.

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

- Councillor Pittock asked for more information about the challenges in relation to unlocking the financial help from Health;
- Jonathan Wilding explained that historically Wokingham had never received a high level of funding for the most complex cases. Much work was being undertaken with Health colleagues to address this issue, and there were some signs of progress;
- Debra Briault expressed concern that 97% of tribunals found in favour of parents. Jonathan Wilding explained that this was a national figure. It was preferable to avoid tribunals. There was an unbalanced view in favour of parental preference at tribunals, sometimes going against professional advice. However, there was an increase in the number of cases going to tribunals;
- Ming Zhang stated that great effort was being made to avoid tribunals and use mediation meetings instead. Mediation meetings (prior to tribunals) would become a legal requirement from September 2024;
- Sara Attra pointed out that not all mediation meetings could resolve the challenges. Many parents from outside Wokingham requested places at Addington, some of which through tribunal routes, and the school was full. Those cases would not be resolved through mediation meetings and there was a risk in relation to sufficient school places for Wokingham;
- Ming Zhang acknowledged that not all cases would be solved at mediation meetings, but there was an effort to minimise cases going to tribunals.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) Schools Forum endorsed the implementation of the Inclusion Fund; and
- 2) Schools Forum would continue to receive regular updates on the progress of the Safety Valve programme, in particular the risks.

33 2023-24 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET UPDATE

The 2023/24 High Needs Block (HNB) Budget Update was presented by Katherine Vernon.

Some of the detail was still being worked on, however it was positive to report that the allocation was £1.1 million more than last year. That would help to mitigate the shortfall created by the 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block (the projections had been made using 1% transfer).

The HNB Task and Finish Group would meet in a couple of weeks to discuss the detail: the allocation, the DfE guidance and projected number of EHCPs. The Task and Finish Group would then make a recommendation for the March meeting of Schools Forum.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

34 2024-25 PROPOSED SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET SUBMISSION

Katherine Vernon presented the 2024/25 Proposed Schools Block Budget Submission.

The final allocation was confirmed just before the Christmas break, so the team had worked very hard in a short space of time. The figures were generally in line with what had been anticipated. There was some variation in pupil numbers, but only £77k less than what had been anticipated.

The following points were highlighted:

- The report showed that there was a reduction in the amount set aside for the Growth Fund;
- A consultation had taken place with schools, and there had been no major comments;
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was set at 0.5%;
- The dis-application for the all-through school had been agreed and it was factored into the budget;
- Pupil Premium rates were increasing;
- Schools would still get the Teachers Pay Grant to cover the increase in teachers' pay and pensions;
- The report contained the detail of each school allocation. Some schools had received a reduction in funding due to a drop in pupil numbers. Those schools affected had asked for a reduction in their Published Admission Number (PAN), which would help;
- The report also showed each school's contribution to the 0.5% transfer. Those on the MFG were not contributing and secondary schools were contributing more.

Upon being put to the vote, Schools Forum voted unanimously in favour of the proposed budget.

RESOLVED that Schools Forum approves the 2024/25 proposed Schools Block Budget submission as presented in the report.

35 2024-25 FINAL CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)

Katherine Vernon presented the 2024/25 Final Central School Services Block.

The final allocation for licences had not yet been received. The table showed that 3% had been allocated for licences, and when the final figure was received this would be adjusted.

This fund consisted of a contribution towards the services that were provided centrally to schools.

Upon being put to the vote Schools Forum voted in favour of the proposed 2024/25 Central School Services Block Budget. Schools Forum would be informed of the final allocation at the next meeting.

RESOLVED That:

- 1) The 2024/25 Central School Services Block, as presented in the report, be approved; and
- 2) Schools Forum would be informed of the final allocation including licences.

36 2024-25 DRAFT EARLY YEARS BUDGET

Katherine Vernon presented the 2024/25 Draft Early Years Budget report.

The Early Years Task and Finish Group would meet next week to work through the different models with the funding for the next year.

The table in the report contained the allocations, including the funding for 9 months to 2 year olds allocation for working parents and disadvantaged 2 year olds. Because of this new funding the DfE required a head count every term to understand the take up.

There was a requirement to passport 95% of the funding to providers, and approval would be sought to keep 5% to fund services given to providers at the March meeting.

Ian Morgan informed that providers were requesting a unified rate for 2 year old working parents and disadvantaged parents, in order to make it easier for them to administrate it. There was agreement that unifying the rate was beneficial.

Ming Zhang stated that the increase in funding for 2 years old was a significant development. It was important to encourage parental take up and provide sufficiency of places, and this work required some added capacity.

Kerrie Clifford expressed concern that disadvantaged parents would not be as well informed as working parents about the funding, and may end up taking up all the places available before the disadvantaged parents found out about their entitlement. She wondered if there was merit in considering paying more for disadvantaged 2 year olds in order to encourage setting to hold places for them.

Ian Morgan stated that with the changes in funding, most of the funding received would be from the government and not from the private sector - he considered this to be a risk. There would be a significant increase in administrative work load for settings.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

37 FORWARD PROGRAMME

The Forum considered and noted the Forward Programme of work and dates of future meetings as set out on Agenda page 41.

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Schools Forum was informed that this was Katherine Vernon's last meeting as she was leaving the Council.

Members of Schools Forum expressed their gratitude to Katherine Vernon for her work over the years and wished her well in the future.

Actions following Schools Forum 10 January 2024

- The Energy Team to re-consider the timing of bills for schools.
- Ian Gough to work with Ian Morgan in relation to procurement opportunities for the Early Years sector.
- Schools Forum to be updated on the Safety Valve risks

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TITLE	2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Schools Forum on 13 th March 2024
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	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 that with the exception of the Growth Fund Forecast there is no change to the forecast position for the 2023/24 financial year.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast, as at 31st December 2023.

An in-year deficit of £12.1m is projected, with the budget pressure continuing to be within the High Needs Block. Taken with the brought forward deficit of £9.2m, and expected Safety Valve funding received in-year, a forecast cumulative deficit of £19.6m is now projected to 31st March 2024.

2023/24 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 2023/24 financial year, as at 31st January 2024.

02. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note that with the exception of the Growth Fund Forecast there is no change to the forecast position for the 2023/24 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 2024 meeting of Schools Forum a forecast deficit of £12.5m was reported for the 2023/24 financial year budget, largely due to continued pressure within the High Needs Block.

04. DSG Forecast as at 31st January 2024

As at 31st January, the DSG forecast for the 2023/24 financial year reports an in-year deficit of £12.1m.

05. Key Variances

Schools Block

Growth Fund

Small variance in forecast due to updated Growth Fund to reflect full year expected usage. Expect an opportunity of £200k if this isn't called upon before the end of the financial year. This means that less will need to be drawn down from the Schools Block funding for growth in 2024-25. See Appendix B.

De-delegation - Contingency

£55k brought forward and held on behalf of maintained schools for contingency purposes remains in reserve, with no commitments to date. Expect an opportunity of £55k if this isn't called upon before the end of the financial year. This means that this fund will still be available for next financial year. Whilst no additional

provision has been agreed for 2024-25, Schools Forum will be asked to consider a proposal to support schools in deficit in due course.

Early Years Block

No variance or significant risks identified at this time.

Early Years – Provider Reserve Fund

Contingency of £173k was set aside as part of 2023/24 budget setting, to allow for changes in activity during the year and protect against over allocation on set rates and therefore no variance is reported.

Early Years – Hardship Fund

£50k has been set aside from 2022/23 to fund any settings that wish to make an application to the Early Years Hardship Fund. To date the Early Years Team have received no applications for this fund.

Central Schools Services Block

No variance or significant risks identified at this time.

06. **Key Drivers to Outturn vs Budget**

High Needs Block

The in-year deficit on the HNB is still forecast at £4m higher than budget.

Increased demand in mainstream has led to a £1.6m deficit (£0.3m relating to AP).

We have a higher number of children in special schools which accounts for £1.1m of the deficit.

Higher cost of holding children in Alternative Provision and increased costs of places at Independent and Non-maintained Special schools (INMSS). Demand lead cost price increases continue to dominate the INMSS sector. INMSS makes up 28% of our cost base and accounts for £2.1m of the overspend vs budget of which £0.8m of Health income not yet received is expected to offset this (INMSS £1.3m overspend).

07. **Summary**

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

Appendix A – 2023/24 DSG Revenue Monitoring by Block

Appendix B – Growth Fund Forecast 2023-24 and 2024-25 projection

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Appendix A - DSG Forecast Summary 2023/24

					A	B	C	C - B
Description		2023/24 Budget £,000	Budget Changes £,000	Revised Budget £,000	November Forecast £,000	February Forecast £,000	Variance Current Forecast to Previous Forecast £,000	
Schools Block	TOTAL Income	(138,780)	-	(138,780)	(138,780)	(138,780)	-	
	TOTAL Expenditure	138,780	-	138,780	139,072	138,749	(323)	
	TOTAL Schools Block Net Expenditure	(0)	-	(0)	292	(31)	(323)	
High Needs Block	TOTAL Income	(28,430)	-	(28,430)	(28,160)	(28,160)	-	
	TOTAL Expenditure	36,584	-	36,584	40,336	40,336	(0)	
	TOTAL High Needs Block Net Expenditure	8,154	-	8,154	12,176	12,176	(0)	
Early Years Block	TOTAL Income	(12,615)	-	(12,615)	(13,261)	(13,261)	-	
	TOTAL Expenditure	12,615	-	12,615	13,261	13,261	-	
	TOTAL Early Years Block Net Expenditure	0	-	0	(0)	(0)	-	
Central School Services Block	TOTAL Income	(1,039)	-	(1,039)	(1,039)	(1,039)	-	
	TOTAL Expenditure	1,039	-	1,039	1,039	1,039	-	
	TOTAL Central School Services Block Net Expenditure	(0)	-	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	
Total DSG	TOTAL Income	(180,864)	-	(180,864)	(181,240)	(181,240)	-	
	TOTAL Expenditure	189,018	-	189,018	193,708	193,385	(323)	
	TOTAL 2023/24 Net Expenditure Deficit	8,154	-	8,154	12,468	12,145	(323)	
Deficit Brought Forward					9,166	9,166		
Expected Safety Valve Agreement Funding from DfE					(1,720)	(1,720)		
Cumulative Net Expenditure Deficit					19,914	19,591		

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TITLE	2024/25 Final High Needs Block Budget
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Schools Forum on 13 th March 2024
WARD	(None Specific);
LEAD OFFICER	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 work undertaken to date by the HNB Task & Finish Group
- note and comment on the planned increase on funding rates for Wokingham settings, from 1st April 2024, of:
 - holding mainstream hourly rate
 - holding resource base bandings
 - holding special school bandings
 - holding core funding for our PRUs
 - INMSS inflation will follow our uplift governance process
- Holding rates until new banding implementation in September 2024

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2024/25 High Needs Block Budget setting and funding rates for Wokingham settings from 1st April 2024.

The financial outlook for High Needs in Wokingham remains a significantly challenging position. However, the DSG Management Plan set out as part of the Safety Valve submission provides a road map to financial sustainability over a 6 year timeframe. 2024/25 will take us into the second year of the Safety Valve Programme.

Against income of £30.6m, spend of £40.8m is anticipated for the 2024/25 financial year, driving a £10.2m in-year deficit. While the deficit continues to be high, the planned Safety Valve programme brings the position back to balance by 2028/29.

The current Safety Valve budget expenditure profile will continue to be challenging to execute as the planned changes and developments are adopted.

2023/24 Final High Needs Block Budget March 2023

.01 Purpose of the Report

To update Schools Forum on the approach to the 2023/24 High Needs Block Budget setting and increased funding rates for Wokingham settings from 1st April 2024.

.02 Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to:

- note the work undertaken to date by the HNB Task & Finish Group
- note the proposed implementation of the new banding framework in September 2024
- note and comment on the planned funding rates for Wokingham settings, from 1st April 2024, of:
 - Holding mainstream hourly rate
 - Holding resource base bandings
 - Holding Special School bandings
 - IMSS Inflation to follow governance process

.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 31st March 2023 stood at £15.3m, and is projected to increase to £20.5m by the end of the current financial year.

Modelling on the longer term financial outlook has been undertaken and discussed with the DfE, as part of Safety Valve proposals, setting out delivery of a

management plan to deliver in-year balance by 2028/29. Detailed budget setting decisions for the 2024/25 HNB have therefore been taken in the context of that longer term financial plan, and planned financial envelope for the coming 12 months.

.04 2023/24 High Needs Block Funding

Nationally, High Needs Block funding is increasing by £440m, or 4.3%, in 2024/25.

The National Funding Formula ensures that every local authority receives an increase of at least 3% per head of population compared to the current financial year.

The budget allocation notified to Wokingham in December is £29.5m, an increase of £1.1m on 2023/24 levels.

The autumn statement requires additional grant of 3.4% passed on to special, PRU and hospital school settings.

.05 High Needs Block Task & Finish Group

Members of the High Needs Block Task & Finish Group are as below, with support provided by relevant Council Officers:

- Corrina Gillard – Head Teacher, Emmbrook Infant School
- Debra Briault – Chief Operating Officer, The Circle Trust
- Raj Arava – School Business Manager, Foundry College
- Sara Attra – Head Teacher, Addington School

- Ming Zhang – Interim Assistant Director, Learning Achievement & Partnerships
- Jamie Conran – Head of SEND

The group has met once, with additional email correspondence thereafter to discuss in more detail the HNB model and outlook underpinning the DSG Management Plan, and the impact of the Safety Valve Programme.

Inflation provided the key focus for the Group at this time, given rising cost pressures on all settings significantly outstrip the resources available in the context of a 6-year balanced budget position.

.06 High Needs Block Budget Profile 2024/25

The financial outlook set out within the DSG management Plan and Safety Valve submission recognises the need for investment to ensure real change is delivered to provide longer term financial sustainability. This, taken with the expected timing of delivery of benefits from various aspects of the programme, meant that an increased pressure is anticipated for the 2024/25 financial year.

Against income of £30.6m, spend of £40.8m is anticipated for the 2024/25 financial year, driving a £10.2m in-year deficit. While this represents a significant expected

deficit profile, it is planned for within the overall programme that brings the position back to balance by 2028/29.

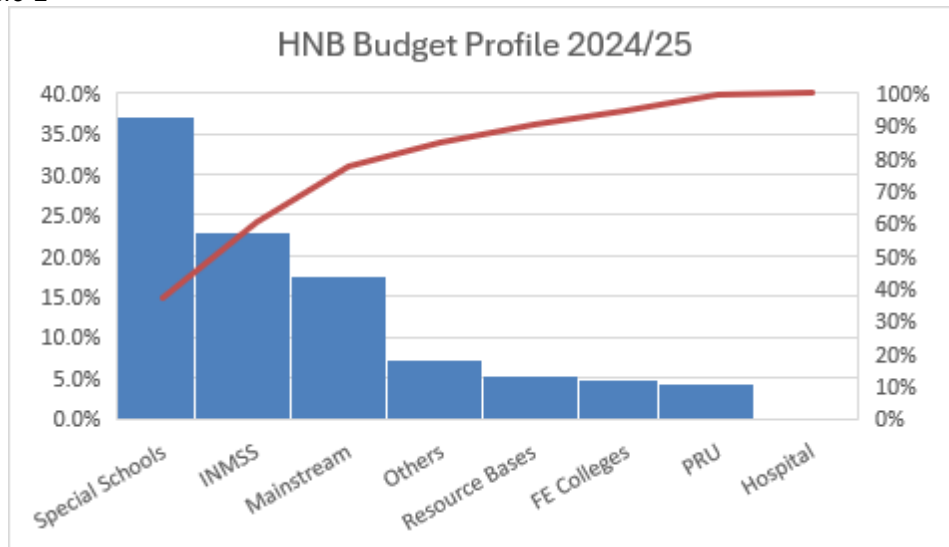
Table 1

High Needs Block:	Year 2
	2024-25
Total Mitigated HNB Projected Spend	40,789,821
Projected HNB income	-30,591,589
HNB In-Year Deficit	10,198,232

The financial profile within the Management Plan takes account of the impact of the programme, and therefore the ‘mitigated’ projection informs the budget plan. While much of the impact of the programme will be felt beyond 2024/25, traction of expected benefits will be monitored closely from the outset.

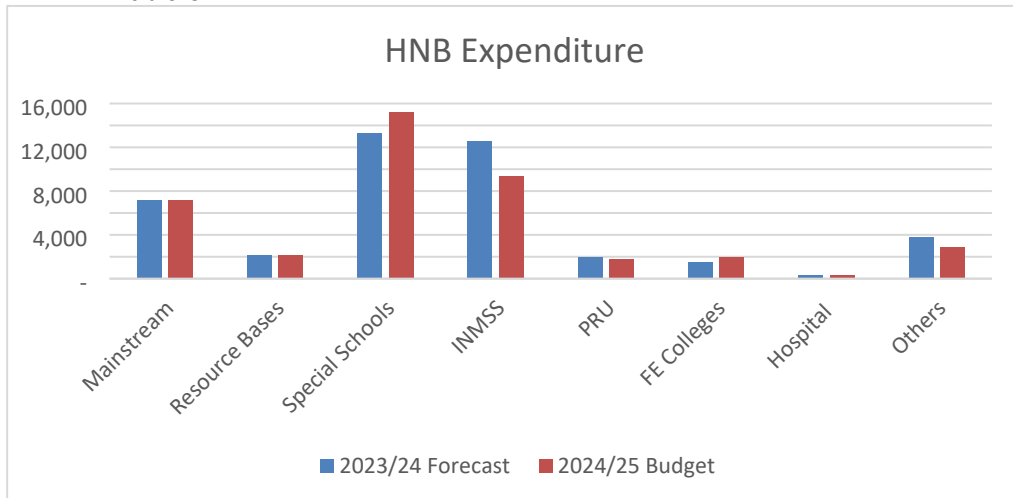
In summary, the planned expenditure profile within the HNB is as follows:

Table 2



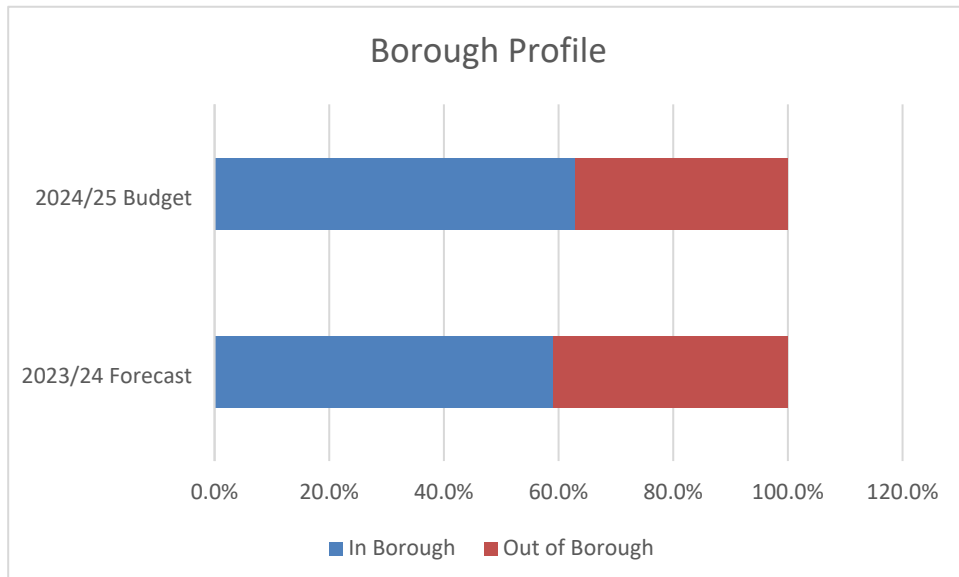
Against the 2023/24 forecast, this shows the start of the expected impact of additional special school places in borough that will increase over time.

Table 3



The 2024/25 budget plan also shows the start of that expected impact on spend in-borough compared to that beyond Wokingham.

Table 4



The full budget profile is provided in Appendix A.

Special Schools

Budget plans include cost profile as indicated at this time associated with the opening of Oak Tree and the new satellite site for Addington School.

Work remains ongoing with Addington on the detailed mechanism for passing over funding, however the expected cost envelope for the provision, including start-up and diseconomies of scale costs, has been agreed and planned for within budget figures.

Support for Inclusion / SEND Support

As set out above, it is recognised that investment is required to support delivery of the system changes necessary to deliver on SEND ambitions for Wokingham. Provision has therefore been made in the budget to support the programme in this area, building on previous amounts made available for the Inclusion Group etc.

In the interest of making informed decisions around the model of SEND support that is best for Wokingham children, families and settings, various models of SEND support are being investigated and evaluated. It is intended that stakeholders will have opportunities to contribute and plans will be shared and consulted on where appropriate over the coming months.

.07 Uplifts on Rates for 2024/25

Work undertaken in conjunction with the HNB Task & Finish Group, has sought to balance the cost inflation pressures faced by settings, with the funding requirements of the HNB Operational Guidance and the financial profile set out in the DSG Management Plan.

In summary, the approach taken was:

1. Calculate the 'what must we do':
 - a. MFG; 0 – 0.5% in 2024/25 for local special schools
 - b. additional grant – 3.4% on 2024/25 average top-up per place for special schools, PRU & Hospital School
2. Review overall affordability within management plan model

The outcome of that work is therefore that from the 1st April 2023:

- Hold mainstream hourly rate
- Hold resource base bandings
- Hold Special School bandings

Inflation on INMSS Placements

As part of the South West & South Central framework, Wokingham applies an annual inflationary cap to requests from INMSS providers, with this being set at 2.5% for the 2024/25 financial year. This cap applies to all placements whether made through the framework or not.

While framework negotiations remain ongoing, it is clear that the level of requests being received by LAs is far beyond what is affordable within available resources. SEND Commissioners within Wokingham remain part of those framework discussions, however it is clear that the risks in this area will require to be carefully managed.

.09 Financial Summary

The financial outlook for High Needs in Wokingham remains a significantly challenging position. However, the DSG Management Plan set out as part of the Safety Valve submission provides a road map to financial sustainability over a 6 year timeframe.

Against income of £30.6m, spend of £40.8m is anticipated for the 2024/25 financial year, driving a £10.2m in-year deficit. While this represents a significant expected deficit profile, it is planned for within the overall programme that brings the position back to balance by 2028/29.

Review work by the HNB Task & Finish Group, and proposals taken on planned banding reviews for the 2024/25 seek to balance pressures faced by settings from current inflation levels with the financial profile set out in the Management Plan.

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TITLE 2024/25 Early Years Block Budget

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Schools Forum on 13th March 2024

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 2024/25 Early Years Budget which will be used to fund the associated statutory duties of the Local Authority and contribute towards SEN top-ups for Early Years children. The amount being requested is £877,762 which is 4.75%;
- note the proposals to the following rates:
 - Base rate for disadvantaged and the new working parent 2-year-olds increase by £2.28 per hour
 - Additional 50p per hour for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
 - Base rate for 3-and 4-year-olds increase by 67p per hour
 - New base rate for under 2-year-olds of £11.36 per hour
 - Maintained Nursery Supplement increase by £10,000
 - Early Years Inclusion Fund by £65,000

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report provides an analysis of the initial 2024/25 budget allocation for Early Years announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2023. The block allocations are based upon the Early Years census from January 2023 and will in due course be updated to reflect the January 2024 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 disadvantaged and the new working parent 2 year olds, of £2.28 per hour, an additional 50p per hour for disadvantaged 2 year olds, and for 3 and 4 year olds of 67p per hour. We have a new rate of £11.36 per hour for 9 months to 2 year olds that commences in September 2024. They will also allow for an increase to the Maintained Nursery Supplement of £10,000 and an increase to the Early Years Inclusion Fund of £65,000.

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 31st March 2023.

2024/25 Early Years Budget March 2024

.01 Purpose of the Report

This report provides the Schools Forum with details of the 2024/25 Early Years Budget, and the proposed level of the centrally retained element used to fund the Local Authority's statutory duties and SEN top-ups for Early Years children.

.02 Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- approve the centrally retained element of the 2024/25 Early Years Budget, which will be used to fund the associated statutory duties of the Authority, and contribute towards the SEN top-ups for Early Years children. The amount being requested is £877,762 which is 4.75%, which is below the 5% allowable.
- note the proposals to the following rates:
 - Base rate for disadvantaged and the new working parent 2-year-olds increase by £2.28 per hour
 - Additional 50p per hour for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
 - Base rate for 3-and 4-year-olds increase by 67p per hour
 - New base rate for under 2-year-olds of £11.36 per hour
 - Maintained Nursery Supplement increase by £10,000
 - Early Years Inclusion Fund by £65,000

.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 2024/25 Budget Setting

The national hourly funding rates for 2024/25 have been increased as follows:

- 2 year old funding rates for disadvantaged and the new working parent have increased from £6.72 to £9.05 per hour
- An additional 50p per hour for disadvantaged 2 year olds
- 3 & 4 year old funding rates have increased from £5.59 to £6.31 per hour
- The Early Years Supplementary Grant available in 2023/24 has been rolled into the base rates above
- A new rate for 9 months to 2 year olds of £12.27 per hour
- The Early Years Pupil Premium Grant has increase from 62p to 68p per hour
- Disability Access Funding has increased from £828 to £910 per child

For Wokingham, the initial allocation for the Early Years Block in 2024/25 is £19,239,254 which is based on the January 2023 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 2024 census is taken into account, we are proposing retaining 4.75% of our initial allocation less 4.75% of the amount we are anticipating will be recouped in July 2024.

For 2024/25 this amount is £877,762 (was £580,263 in 2023/24) as set out in Table A and B. Table A also provides a detailed analysis of the December 2023 allocation.

Finance staff, the Assistant Director for Education and SEND and Early Years colleagues have met with the Early Years Task and Finish Group to discuss the proposals for 2024/25 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 67p per hour, and those supporting disadvantaged and working parent 2 year olds by £2.28 per hour.

We will also be able to increase the hourly rate for disadvantaged 2 year olds by an additional 50p per hour.

The rate for the new entitlement for 9 month to 2 year olds from September will be £11.36 per hour.

We have also increased the maintained nursery supplement by £10,000. This is to reflect the additional income the LA has received in respect of our maintained nursery.

We have also increased the total amount available in the Early Years Inclusion Fund (EYIF) by £65,000, to reflect the increase of requests in this area and the extension of the free entitlement down to 9 months.

The Provider Reserve Fund has been set at £159,102 (£173,052 in 2023/24). 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 2 year old and under headcount will be taken termly, therefore minimising any financial impact.

The element of funding retained by the LA provides a contribution to Early Years Services. In particular, the Early Years Team (which is an amalgamation of the Early

Years and Child Care Team and the Early Years Inclusion Service) which 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 (2018)
- Support to settings to ensure sufficiency of places in the Borough
- Training to providers
- Support to settings to ensure inclusive provision for all children
- 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, including DAF and EYPP
- SEN Early Years inclusion
- Delivery of Early Years Inclusion Fund

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.

Following the departure of the Early Years' Service lead in April 2022 the Early Years and Child Care Team and the Early Years Inclusion Service have been brought together. This has created increased opportunities for joint working with the aim of providing a continuum of support to Early years providers.

The reconfigured service consists of four Early Years Advisors, Early Years SENCo, Early Years Inclusion teacher and two recently appointed Portage Workers. We are currently commissioning support from a specialist Locum Educational Psychologist. Team supervision is provided by a specialist EP.

New for 2024-25 is the element of funding retained by LA is to support the increasing number of EY SEND children with EHCPs in place. These plans were funded from High Needs Block – which is in deficit due to overall increasing numbers of EHCPs and children with SEN support we needed to put in place. In 2023-24 financial year the EY EHCPs represented: 86 places – 260K. Therefore, it has been proposed and agreed that £332,685 will be moved from EY block to HN Block to supplement the EHCP for EY. This move has been approved by EY T&F group at January 2024 meeting, LA does not need to request it via disapplication process. Please see Table A and B details.

05. **Financial Summary**

A summary of the Early Years Budget Proposals for 2024/25 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 96.5% of funding based on the DfE methodology has been “passed through” to Providers. The pass-through rate was 96.5% in 2023/24.

06. Members of the Task and Finish Group

Ian Morgan	Little Ducklings Day Care - EY Rep - Schools Forum
Kerrie Clifford	Ambleside Nursery - EY Rep - Schools Forum
Karen Edwards	Acorns Day Nursery

Angela Blogg
Schools Finance Manager
March 2024

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Table A
2024-25 Early Years budget table - December 2023
Estimated income using January 2023 census

Will be updated in July 2024

DESCRIPTION	Estimated Numbers (PTE)	PTE hours	No. of weeks	Total number of hours	Rate	Allocation breakdown	Total allocation
2 year old funding	114.82	15	38	65,447	9.05	592,298.97	
2 year old funding working parent	637.99	15	38	363,654	9.05	3,291,072.42	
	752.81					3,883,371.39	3,883,371
3 & 4 funding	2,658.80	15	38	1,515,516	6.31	9,562,905.96	
3 & 4 funding working parent	1,044.68	15	38	595,468	6.31	3,757,400.56	
	3,703.48			2,110,984		13,320,306.52	13,320,307
Under 2 year old funding	323.24	15	38	184,247	12.27	2,260,709.24	2,260,709
			26			1,546,801.06	
Maintained Nursery supplement	120.40	15	38	68,628	4.64	318,433.92	318,434
Total Funding							19,782,821
Other funding to EY Providers							
EY Pupil Premium (3-4YO)	155.15	15	38	88,436	0.68	60,136.14	
EY Pupil Premium (2YO)	80.72	15	38	46,010	0.68	31,287.07	
EY Pupil Premium (under 2YO)	4.04	15	38	2,303	0.68	1,565.90	
						92,989.12	92,989
DAF (3-4YO)	66				910	60,060.00	
DAF (2YO)	14				910	12,740.00	
DAF (under2YO) from September 2024!	5				910	4,550.00	
						77,350.00	77,350
Total Allocation							19,953,162

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Table B

2024-25 Early Years budget table - using January 2023 census

DESCRIPTION	Estimated Numbers (PTE)	PTE hours	No. of weeks	Total number of hours	Rate	Allocation	4.75% centrally retained
2 year old funding	756	15	38	430,920	8.68	3,740,386	
Central Retained funds from 2 year olds income						184,460	184,460
						3,924,846	
3 & 4 funding including working parent	3,583	15	38	2,042,310	5.73	11,702,436	
Central Retained funds from 3 and 4 year old income						632,715	632,715
						12,335,151	
UNDER 2YO (9month to 2Y) from Sep	323.24	15	26	126,064	11.36	1,432,082	
Central Retained funds from under 2 income						73,473	73,473
						1,505,556	
Maximum amount to Providers after Providers reserves_ 3-4Yo	20	15	38	11,400	5.73	65,322	
Maximum amount to Providers after Providers reserves_ Under2Yo	10	15	26	3,900	11.36	44,304	
Maximum amount to Providers after Providers reserves_ 2Yo	10	15	38	5,700	8.68	49,476	
						159,102	
Quality supplement For 3 and 4 year olds	2,257	15	38	1,286,655	0.30	385,997	
Deprivation supplement 3-4YO				2,042,310	0.03	54,699	
Deprivation supplement 2YO disadvantaged				67,220	0.50	33,610	
Maintained Nursery supplement					0.09	180,000	
Early year inclusion (EYIF)					0.11	215,000	
						869,306	
Other funding to EY Providers							
EY Pupil Premium					0.05	92,989	
Disability Living Allowance					0.04	77,350	
						170,339	
Est. Expected "recoupment" July 2024							
2 year old variance	-3	15	38	-1,818	9.05	-16,456	
3&4 year olds	80	15	38	45,600	6.31	287,736	
Total expected recoupment - DfE						271,280	12,886
Total Allocation						19,235,580	
Actual allocation as per DfE						19,239,252	
Variance						-3,672	

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Total value of Top slice at 4.75%	877,762
EY Service Cost	545,077
Contribution to HNB	332,685

TABLE C - Shows Compliance with pass-through requirements

2024-25 Early years budget

Checklist on funding for 3 and 4 year olds

Line no.	Description	Amount
1	Anticipated budget for base rate (including funding to MNS) for 3-4 year olds	11,702,436
2	Anticipated budget for MNS lump sums for 3 and 4 year olds	180,000
3	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Deprivation (including funding to MNS)	59,993
4	Anticipated budget for supplements for 3 and 4 year olds: Quality (including funding to MNS)	385,997
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)	215,000
9	Anticipated budget for 3 and 4 year old contingency	65,322
	SUB TOTAL	12,608,748
10	DfE initial quantum allocation to local authority of MNS supplementary funding	318,434
11	Planned total base rate hours for universal 15 and additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds	2,042,310
12	Equivalent average rate to providers for entitlement hours for 3 and 4 year olds	6.02
13	LA EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds (published alongside this document, or in DSG tables in future)	6.31
14	Test of meeting requirement	95.37%
	Minimum amount	95.00%
	Positive (compliant) and Negative (non compliant)	0.37%

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Schools Forum Forward Plan 2024/25

10th July 2024	I	2022/23 Revenue Outturn Report
	I	2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report
	I	DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update
	I	2024/25 DSG Budget Update
	I	2024/25 Consultation Arrangements

6th November 2024	I	2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report
	I	DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update
	I	2024/25 DSG Budget Update

15th January 2025	I	2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report
	I	DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update
	D	2024/25 Proposed Schools Block Budget submission
	C	2024/25 Final High Needs Block Budget
	D	2024/25 Draft Early Years Budget
	D	2024/25 Final Central Schools Services Block Budget

12th March 2025	I	2023/24 Revenue Monitoring Report
	I	DSG Management Plan / Safety Valve Update
	D	2024/25 Final Early Years Budget

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