

Schools Forum Agenda

Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 2.00 pm

This meeting is being held remotely

To observe this meeting please contact: david.abbott@lbhf.gov.uk

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Date issued: 23 March 2021

Agenda Item 1

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Schools Forum Minutes

Tuesday 12 January 2021

Present

Voting members	Non-voting members
<p>Primary School Heads Kathleen Williams, Holy Cross Primary Wendy Aldridge, Sullivan Primary Michelle Barrett, Randolph Beresford and Vanessa Nursery Karen Cunningham, St John XXIII Catholic Primary School Jo Brown, Old Oak Primary School Sam Naismith, Flora Gardens Primary School</p> <p>Academies and Free Schools Gary Kynaston, Hammersmith Academy (Chair) Clare Wagner, West London Free School Daniel Upfield, Ark Swift Primary Academy</p>	<p>Observers Aidan Smith, LA Governor at Jack Tizard</p> <p>Chantelle Thomas-Payne, St John's Walham Green School (School Business Manager)</p>

H&F Officers

Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services
Jan Parnell, Director of Education
Tony Burton, Head of Finance, Children's Services & Education
Jill Lecznar, Head of Finance (Corporate)
Caroline Baxter, Strategic Finance Manager
David Abbott, Head of Governance
Satwinder Saraon, Strategic Lead Education Transformation
Phil Tomsett, Head of Early Years

NOTE: This meeting was held remotely

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Welcome and introduction

The Chair, Gary Kynaston from Hammersmith Academy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting as a correct record of the proceedings and any amendments arising will be recorded in the minutes of that subsequent meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tim Scott.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair asked for an update on the H&F teaching commission Jan Parnell, Director of Education, said the commission had recently been launched and would focus on retention and recruitment of teachers in the borough. A schedule of open meetings will be published soon.

RESOLVED

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2020 were agreed by the Forum.

2. APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOLS FORUM

RESOLVED

The Forum agreed the appointment of the following members:-

- Karen Cunningham, St John XXIII Catholic Primary School
- Jo Brown, Old Oak Primary School
- Sam Naismith, Flora Gardens Primary School

3. SCHOOLS BLOCK BUDGET 2021/22 - FINAL PROPOSED AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL

Tony Burton, Head of Finance – Children’s Services & Education, presented the report that provided a briefing on the final Schools Block allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2021/22, following the receipt of final funding allocations and Authority Proforma Tool on 18 December 2020.

The Chair requested an item at the next meeting that showed the difference between the current budget position and the projected budget if the national funding formula changes continued to 2023.

Tony Burton noted that there was a slight budget allocation uplift of 0.45% in H&F but with the cost pressures schools faced this represented a real terms cut. He said officers expected to see similarly constrained funding increases in future which would continue to be challenging for schools to manage.

A forum member asked for clarification about which schools were covered by the de-delegation referenced in recommendation 4. Tony Burton said only maintained mainstream schools would be able to draw on those funds. Officers said they would share detailed information on the charges per school.

ACTION: Tony Burton / Jill Lecznar

RESOLVED

1. It was agreed that the APT for the January 2021 recommended model is submitted to ESFA for 2021/22 school budget shares, with revised NFF rates for local factors in appendix 1 and with an MFG value of 0.5% per pupil positive.
2. Schools Forum agreed a proposal to continue to transfer 0.5% of the total Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22. This equates to £0.528m based on the final allocation.
3. Schools Forum agreed a proposal to top-slice the 2021/22 Schools Block to the value of £0.200m or 0.18% of the total for the Falling Rolls protection fund in 2021/22.
4. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum agreed to the proposed de-delegated budgets proposed for 2021/22 in Table 3 totalling £695,800.
5. Maintained school representatives on Schools Forum agreed to the proposed Education Functions budgets proposed for 2021/22 in Table 4 totalling £273,400.
6. Schools Forum agreed the proposed 2021/22 allocation of the Central Services Schools Block totalling £3.313m per table 5.

4. EARLY YEARS BLOCK BUDGET UPDATE 2021/22

Tony Burton, Head of Finance – Children’s Services & Education, presented the report that updated the forum on the Initial Allocation of Early Years Block funding for 2021/22 based on January 2020 census numbers and explained the impact of this on the participation model for all providers.

Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children’s Services, noted that officers were aware of concerns around funding being allocated based on the census and said she was working with colleagues across London to lobby for funding to be based on capacity.

RESOLVED

1. Schools Forum agreed the draft 2021/22 Early Year budget including an increase to the base rate from £6.20 to £6.26 and proposed hourly rates for deprivation detailed in Appendix 1 subject to consultation. Detailed work will be done with the Maintained Nursery Schools to set up Service Level Agreements in order to commission work to provide training, build networks and disseminate best practice to the early years sector. This will also include work to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability.
2. Schools Forum noted that the uncertainty of the numbers in January 2021 means that there is a potential to overspend in 2020/21 and this would need to be met from the 2020/21 allocation, contingency budget or carried forward to 2021/22 as a deficit.
3. Schools Forum noted the proposed timescales for Budget Consultation to Maintained Nursery Schools, Primary Schools with Nurseries, PVI

providers and Childminders and the approval of final budget for Early Years Block set out in table 6 of the report.

5. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE

Tony Burton, Head of Finance – Children’s Services & Education, presented the report that updated on the allocation of the FY 2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs block (HNB) funding formula and factor distributions.

The Chair asked officers to expand on the EHCP top-up reduction and what was expected from the SEN sufficiency review.

Tony Burton said the budget reflected the funding allocation from the DfE. Jan Parnell added that officers were looking at support services and alternate provision. Sufficiency work was ongoing, and the Council was working on a number of workstreams that would come to Headteacher consultation forums over the spring term. She said Headteachers would be a key part of shaping services – the Council wanted a partnership approach.

Jacqui McShannon noted that the DfE was working closely with the Council on the High Needs Block recovery plan and feedback had been positive.

RESOLVED

1. To note the place funding commissioning proposals to increase commissioned numbers for FY 2021/22 and the associated increase in HNB block expenditure.
2. To note the forecast overspend for FY 2021/22 and forecast accumulated deficit balance at the end of FY 2021/22.
3. To note the requirements of the DSG management plan and the discussions being held with the DfE.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.


Meeting started: 2.00 pm
Meeting ended: 3.00 pm

Chair

Contact officer: David Abbott
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Agenda Item 2

Agenda Item 2

	<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 23rd March 2021</p>
Update: Schools Block and Central Services Schools Block Budget 2021/22	
Open	
Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment	
Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: (All Wards); All	
Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services	
Report Authors: Tony Burton, Head of Finance for Children's Services and Education	
Purpose of the report This report confirms the funding allocations proposed and agreed by Schools Forum in January 2021 have now been agreed by local authority cabinet decision and confirmed by the ESFA. This report also proposes the allocation of the available falling rolls funding agreed by Schools Forum for the 2021/22 budget in addition to the remaining allocated falling rolls funding available from the 2020/21 budget.	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Following Schools Forum approval of the 2021/22 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) in January 2021, the budget proposals were agreed by Hammersmith and Fulham cabinet on 1st February 2021 and subsequently agreed by the ESFA.
- 1.2. All mainstream schools had their delegated budgets for 2021/22 financial year confirmed in week commencing 22nd February.

- 1.3. Academies and Free Schools were also informed of their APT budget shares for the April 2021 to March 2022 period which is subject to recoument by the ESFA.
- 1.4. This paper also sets out the proposed allocations of falling rolls funding yet to be distributed to mainstream schools from the agreed 2020/21 and 2021/22 budgets.

2. Falling Rolls Allocations Proposed

- 2.1. There is a remaining Falling Rolls Fund of £0.223m from the 2020/21 budget and with respect to roll falls between October 2018 and 2019 census dates.
- 2.2. There is also a fund of £0.200m from the 2021/22 budget with respect to roll falls between October 2019 and 2020 census dates approved at the January 2021 Schools Forum.
- 2.3. ESFA guidance states that the local authority may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls where local planning data shows that surplus places will be needed within the next three years.
- 2.4. The ESFA advise that the allocation of falling rolls funding should contain clear objective trigger points for qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.
- 2.5. The criteria agreed for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 falling rolls funds are detailed below:
 - Key trigger point is reached for falling rolls support. The fall in roll is more than 3% year on year.
 - An Ofsted category of Good or Outstanding (Mandatory per the regulations)

Plus any of the following where the school can evidence the impact on the School and the actions taken to adjust to a lower role or clear plan to recover the roll based on clear planning data agreed by the LA:

- surplus capacity exceeds a minimum number of pupils, or a percentage of the published admission number
- local planning data shows a requirement for a minimum percentage of the surplus places within the next three years
- formula funding available to the school will not support provision of an appropriate curriculum for the existing cohort
- the school will need to make redundancies in order to contain spending within its formula budget

- 2.6. Schools were asked for applications for falling rolls funding as part of the November schools budget consultation. The following schools applied and meet the first 2 criteria in paragraph 1.5.

SCHOOL	2018 to 2019 falling rolls	2019 to 2020 falling rolls
	£	£
ADDISON PRIMARY SCHOOL		19,495
Ark Bentworth Primary Academy	9,643	
Ark Swift Primary Academy	36,810	24,902
BRACKENBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL		11,472
Flora Gardens School		5,199
Fulham Cross Academy	11,454	
Fulham Primary School	453	
John Betts Primary School	30,943	
Kenmont Primary School		3,305
Miles Coverdale Primary School		5,792
Normand Croft		674
Old Oak Primary School	56,222	40,722
Queen's Manor School and Special Needs Unit	9,690	
Sir John Lillie		10,638
St Johns Walham Green		5,134
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	281	2,182
St Paul's CofE Primary School	47	17,986
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	36,764	31,272
Sullivan Primary School	2,091	
Wormholt Park Primary School	28,603	21,227
	223,000	200,000

- 2.7. The detailed calculations are attached as Appendix 1. The method used fully allocates the 2 separate funds on standard amount per pupil lost above 3% of the roll. The amount for 2018 to 2019 is £1,560.42 per pupil and for 2019 to 2020 is £1,604.49 per pupil above the 3% threshold.
- 2.8. A subgroup of the Schools forum was convened on 15th March 2021 to review and agree the proposals for the allocation of falling rolls funding across all eligible schools. Following review at the subgroup, the proposals are recommended for approval.
- 2.9. **Schools Forum are asked to agree the proposed allocations and agree immediate payment of the allocations proposed.**

Report End


Calculation of Falling Rolls funding - 2018 to 2019

data from APT submission for 2019-20 (Sep 18 census)	01/09/18	data from APT submission for 2020-21 (Sep 19 census)	01/09/19	reduction	%age over 3%	to cover	no of children	amount	
				in roll		%age			
Old Oak Primary School	299.00	Old Oak Primary School	254.00	-45.00	-15.05	yes	-12.05	-36.03	56,222
Ark Swift Primary Academy	247.00	Ark Swift Primary Academy	216.00	-31.00	-12.55	yes	-9.55	-23.59	36,810
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	248.00	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	217.00	-31.00	-12.50	yes	-9.50	-23.56	36,764
John Betts Primary School	239.00	John Betts Primary School	212.00	-27.00	-11.30	yes	-8.30	-19.83	30,943
Wormholt Park Primary School	389.00	Wormholt Park Primary School	359.00	-30.00	-7.71	yes	-4.71	-18.33	28,603
Fulham Cross Academy	322.00	Fulham Cross Academy	305.00	-17.00	-5.28	yes	-2.28	-7.34	11,454
Queen's Manor School and Special Needs Unit	193.00	Queen's Manor School and Special Needs Unit	181.00	-12.00	-6.22	yes	-3.22	-6.21	9,690
Ark Bentworth Primary Academy	194.00	Ark Bentworth Primary Academy	182.00	-12.00	-6.19	yes	-3.19	-6.18	9,643
Sullivan Primary School	222.00	Sullivan Primary School	214.00	-8.00	-3.60	yes	-0.60	-1.34	2,091
Fulham Primary School	257.00	Fulham Primary School	249.00	-8.00	-3.11	yes	-0.11	-0.29	453
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	194.00	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	188.00	-6.00	-3.09	yes	-0.09	-0.18	281
St Paul's CofE Primary School	199.00	St Paul's CofE Primary School	193.00	-6.00	-3.02	yes	-0.02	-0.03	47
								-142.91	223,000
								amount per pupil	1,560.42

Calculation of Falling Rolls funding - 2019 to 2020

data from APT submission for 2020-21 (Sep 19 census)	01/09/19	Sep 20 census	01/09/20	movement	%age	over 3%	to cover	no of children	amount
Old Oak Primary School	254	Old Oak Primary School	221	-33.00	-12.99	yes	-9.99	-25.38	40,722
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	217	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	191	-26.00	-11.98	yes	-8.98	-19.49	31,272
Ark Swift Primary Academy	216	Ark Swift Primary Academy*	194	-22.00	-10.19	yes	-7.19	-15.52	24,902
Wormholt Park Primary School	359	Wormholt Park Primary School	335	-24.00	-6.69	yes	-3.69	-13.23	21,227
Addison Primary School	295	Addison Primary School	274	-21.00	-7.12	yes	-4.12	-12.15	19,495
St Paul's CofE Primary School	193	St Paul's CE Primary School	176	-17.00	-8.81	yes	-5.81	-11.21	17,986
Brackenbury Primary School	395	Brackenbury Primary School	376	-19.00	-4.81	yes	-1.81	-7.15	11,472
Sir John Lillie Primary School	279	Sir John Lillie	264	-15.00	-5.38	yes	-2.38	-6.63	10,638
Miles Coverdale Primary School	213	Miles Coverdale Primary School	203	-10.00	-4.69	yes	-1.69	-3.61	5,792
Flora Gardens Primary School	192	Flora Gardens School	183	-9.00	-4.69	yes	-1.69	-3.24	5,199
S. Johns Walham Green CE	360	S. Johns Walham Green CE	346	-14.00	-3.89	yes	-0.89	-3.20	5,134
Kenmont Primary School	198	Kenmont Primary School	190	-8.00	-4.04	yes	-1.04	-2.06	3,305
St Marys Primary School	188	St Marys Primary School	181	-7.00	-3.72	yes	-0.72	-1.36	2,182
Normand Croft Community School	186	Normand Croft Community School	180	-6.00	-3.23	yes	-0.23	-0.42	674
								-124.65	200,000
								amount per pupil	1,604.49

Agenda Item 3

	<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p>Tuesday, 23rd March 2021</p>
<p>EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2021/22</p>	
<p>Open</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: (All Wards); All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Jacqui Mc Shannon, Director of Children’s Services</p>	
<p>Report Authors: Jan Parnell Director of Education</p> <p>Tony Burton Head of Finance for Children’s and Education</p>	<p>Contact Details: E-mail: jan.parnell@lbhf.gov.uk Tony.burton@lbhf.gov.uk</p>
<p>Purpose of the report</p> <p>This report updates forum on the results of the consultation on the 3 and 4 year olds Draft Budget for 2021/22 and proposes the 2021/22 Final Budget model for approval.</p>	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Schools Forum on 12th January 2021 approved the 2021/22 3 and 4 year old budget subject to the required consultation with Early Years providers in the borough.
- 1.2. On 26.01.21 a provider reference group meeting was held virtually; the meeting was open to all LBHF providers. Providers were positive about the proposals for further training, requesting additional training if possible. Providers felt that a catch-up group for children would be beneficial and welcomed closer links with children centre staff. An additional one-off spring term 2021 payment and proposed 6p increase in the deprivation supplement was well received. The increase in the SENIF was also well received and providers welcomed mid-term applications to the fund. The decrease to CIN nursery placement funding due to low numbers of applications and a proposal to retain a smaller contingency was considered appropriate.

2. 3- & 4-YO Offer 2021/22 final budget model

2.1. The 2021/22 final budget model is detailed in Table 1 below. This model assumes a base rate of £6.26 per hour and deprivation rates as detailed in Table 2

Table 1: 2021/22 Early Years Budget – 3- & 4-YO Universal and Extended Offer

	20/21 Budget Revised	21/22 Budget	Change year on year
	£000	£000	£000
Participation based on estimated hours - base rate	11,431	11,542	111
Participation based on estimated hours – deprivation.	1,302	1,302	0
Central services expenditure - 5% maximum allowed	737	743	6
SEN Inclusion Fund	300	500	200
Provision for Vulnerable & Additional Needs Children	600	550	-50
Best Practice, Training and Network Building	0	150	150
Contingency	379	73	-306
TOTAL SPEND	14,749	14,860	111
DSG EY funding	-14,749	-14,860	-111
NET POSITION	nil	nil	nil

Table 2: 2021/22 Deprivation Hourly Rates

IDACI BAND	Hourly Rate 2020/21	Hourly Rate 2021/22
1	£1.25	£1.30
2	£1.15	£1.20
3	£1.05	£1.10
4	£0.85	£1.00
5	£0.50	£0.90
6	£0.40	£0.70
7	£0.30	£0.50
8	£0.25	£0.30
9	£0.15	£0.10
10	£0.00	£0.00

2.2 The breakdown of the hourly funding rate of £8.06 is shown in the table 3 below.

Table 3: Factors and Hourly Rates Applied (see paragraph 3.1 for full detail)

Factors	Rate per hour £	Rate per hour %
A. Basic hourly rate per child	£6.26	77.7%
B. Deprivation hourly rate (average)	£0.71	8.8%
C. SEN Inclusion Fund	£0.27	3.3%
D. Vulnerable & Additional Needs	£0.30	3.7%
E. Contingency	£0.04	0.5%
F. Central Support Expenditure	£0.40	5.0%
G. Best Practice Training and Networks	£0.08	1.0%
Total	£8.06	100.0%

3. Details of Proposed Early Years Central Budget

Table 4: Final Early Years Central Services Budget 2021/22

Item of Central Expenditure	Budget 2020/21 Revised £000s	Budget 2021/22 £000s	Change year on year £000s
i. Early Years Strategy and oversight, Business Support, SEN Support, Advice and Curriculum Support Support to drive take-up of funded hours	400	391	-9
ii. Children's Centres outreach, early identification and family support	187	187	0
iii. Vulnerable & Additional Needs spot purchases non maintained nursery schools	70	70	0
iv. Finance Team	80	86	6
v. Business Intelligence for the termly census, EY Census and EYFS Assessments	0	9	9
Total Central Spend from Early Years DSG	737	743	6

3.1. Note that: all the figures for 2021/22 are subject to further discussion. Changes in the arrangements for early years funding officer and development officer mean that funding allocated to family support services is now required within the local authority:


- item iii. provides allowance within the central budget for Vulnerable & Additional Needs provision outside of the maintained nursery sector in order to comply with grant funding regulations and per current levels of expenditure.

4. Recommendations and to note

- 4.1. Schools Forum to agree final 2021/22 Early Year budget including an increase to the base rate from £6.20 to £6.26 and proposed hourly rates for deprivation detailed above in Table 1 and Table 2.
- 4.2. Schools Forum to agree final Early Years Central Services Budget for 2021/22 as detailed above in Table 4.
- 4.3. Schools Forum are asked to note the risk to 2021/22 Early Years budget due to the ESFA intention to fund Spring and Summer terms 2021 based on January 2021 census. If Summer term census returns significant increases in the uptake of funded hours versus Spring, there is potential for the Early Years budget to overspend. Any overspend will need to be recovered from within the early years DSG budget from the new academic year 2021/22. The budget will be closely monitored in the coming months with Schools Forum and providers briefed at the earliest opportunity and regularly through the 2021/22 academic year.

Report Ends

Agenda Item 4

	<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p>23rd March 2021</p>
<p>DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING QUARTER 3 2020/21</p>	
<p>Open</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: (All Wards); All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children Services</p>	
<p>Report Authors: Tony Burton Head of Finance for Children’s Services and Education</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 07909 004 710 E-mail: tony.burton@lbhf.gov.uk</p>
<p>Purpose of the report</p> <p>This report updates forum on the 2020/21 quarter 3 budget monitoring position. It also includes the forecast accumulated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) carry forward deficit position in 2020/21.</p>	

1. Introduction

1.1. This paper sets out:

- Carry forward balances at 1st April 2020
- Forecast variances in each of the blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2020/21
- Projected closing balances at 31st March 2021
- Proposed use of £0.382m de-delegated funds brought forward (maintained primary schools only) to provide additional support around transformation costs in schools who experienced a significant fall in roll between October 2019 and October 2020.

2. Summary Position

2.1. Table 1 below shows the high-level position for 2020/21 financial year at quarter 3.

Table 1 – Accumulated Adjusted DSG Carry Forward from 2019/20 (balances at 31/03/20 and forecast balances at 31/03/21)

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Balances by Block			
Figures in red and brackets represent surplus	Balance 31/03/20	2020/21 Forecast Variance	Forecast Balance 31/03/21
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	(0.605)	(0.200)	(0.200)
Central Services Schools Block	0	0	0
High Needs Block	19.790	3.074	22.864
Early Years Block	(0.066)	0.015	0.015
TOTAL DSG	19.119	2.874	22.679

- 2.2. The Schools Block surplus carry forward at 31/03/20 comprises:
- £0.223m for falling rolls protection – detailed allocation of this funding is detailed in item 2 on the agenda for 23/03/21.
 - £0.382m underspend on the maintained schools de-delegated budgets. Surplus retained for future requests from maintained primary schools in financial difficulty and contingency. A proposal for the use of retained balances will be made in consultation with maintained primary schools. Details of this proposal are included in section 7 of this report.
- 2.3. The High Needs Block is forecast to overspend by £3.48m in 2020/21 which represents:
- an improvement versus the £5.83m overspend on High Needs in 2019/20.
 - A favourable movement of £0.41m versus the Qtr2 reported position. The change is as a result of detailed review of placement costs following the start of the new academic year.
 - The retained HNB deficit at 31/03/20 was £19.79m, rising to forecast £23.27m at 31/03/21.
- 2.4. Early years DSG closed with a retained surplus in 2019/20 of £0.066m. This has now been increased to £0.588m due to the retrospective adjustments for 2019-20 notified by ESFA in July 2020. Proposals to utilise this retained carry forward are include in agenda item 3.

3. Schools Block and Maintained De-delegation 2020/2021

- 3.1. Projected underspends and use of retained balances in the 2020/21 schools block are indicated in Table 2 below. Underspends on the schools' block will be carried forward to 2021/22 as school funds per the conditions of grant.

Table 2 - Schools Block Forecast 2020/21

	£m	£m	£m
	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 Forecast	2020/21 Variance
Schools Block delegated (after academy recoupment)	37.544	37.544	0
Falling Rolls Fund	0.098	0.098	0
Maintained schools de-delegated Budget	0.709	0.509	(0.200)
Maintained schools Education Functions	0.323	0.323	0
Transfer to High Needs Block	0.526	0.526	0
Total Schools Block received by LBHF. (underspend to c/f)	39.200	39.000	(0.200)

- 3.2. All remaining delegated schools block funding for 2020/21 financial year will be paid to maintained primary schools by the first week of March 2021.
- 3.3. Schools Forum agreed in January 2020 to set up a panel to allocate the balance of the 2019/20 falling rolls fund to schools in 2020/21. The proposed allocation of this fund has been covered in Item 1 – Schools Block Update 2021/22, following applications from schools to access this fund in addition to the fund agreed from the 2021/22 budget now agreed.
- 3.4. The balance of the de-delegated budget brought forward from 2019/20 is £0.382m. A proposal to allocate this resource to maintained primary schools to support falling rolls is detailed in section 7 for this report.
- 3.5. The current 2020/21 maintained schools de-delegated budget is forecast to underspend by £0.2m and is proposed to be carried forward to 2021/22 to support requests from maintained schools in the future. This underspend is as a result of the gatekeeping of the dedelegated contingency fund by officers combined with school forum agreement to financial support agreed since 2018/19 financial year.

4. Central Services Schools block 2020/21

- 4.1. The CSSB block is forecast to outturn to budget. The improvement versus the quarter 2 position is as a result of government covid-19 funding available to cover the shortfall in income general at the PDC.

5. High Needs block 2020/21

- 5.1. The High Needs block is forecast to overspend by £3.074m, as set out in Table 3 below. This would result in a cumulative deficit on the High Needs Block of £22.864m at 31st March 2021.

- 5.2. The 2020/21 High Needs budget has been supported by a transfer of £0.526m from the Schools Block and £0.286m planned transfer from the Central Services Block.

Table 3 – High Needs 2020/21

	2020/21 Forecast £m
Place funding	4.7
Top-up funding and placement costs	16.1
Alternative provision	1.4
Commissioned Services (incl. OT, Speech and Language, Hospital Education, Hospital Education, Home Tuition and Outreach Services)	2.8
SEN service	1.5
Other (incl. LAC Belongings and discretionary equip)	0.3
Total expenditure	26.8
HNB (net) allocation	
In-year allocation	-22.9
Transfer from SB	-0.5
Transfer from CSSB	-0.3
Total income	-23.7
FORECAST OUTTURN (overspend)	3.1

6. Early Years Block 2020/21

- 6.1. The Early Years block is forecast to broadly spend to budget in 2020/21 based on Q3 data available. The revised budget reflects the revised allocation notified by the DfE in July 2020 and is based on the January 2020 census returns.

7. Proposed use of retained maintained primary contingency to support falling rolls transition in 2021/22

- 7.1. A further proposal to allocate the prior year underspend on maintained primary contingency of £0.382m to support maintained primary schools with transitional support around their falling rolls is shown in table 4 below.
- 7.2. The purpose of this support would be to ensure maintained primaries receive additional funding from within their dedelegated resources to support budget planning to achieve a sustainable medium term budget position and to mitigate the income impact of roll reduction above the 3% level .
- 7.3. Funding from this pot would be proposed on the basis of total of £1,392.09 per place lost above 3% between October 2019 and 2020, after allowing for allocations from the SF agreed falling rolls fund of £200k across all eligible schools.

- 7.4. Payment would be made upon receipt by local authority finance officers of a balanced budget plan for the 2021/22 to 23/24 period as agreed by school governing bodies.

Table 4 – Proposed allocations of contingency funding to maintained schools to support budget actions to mitigate falling rolls

SCHOOL	proposed Amount
	£
Addison Primary School	16,701
Brackenbury Primary school	9,828
Flora Gardens School	4,454
Kenmont Primary School	2,832
Miles Coverdale Primary School	4,962
Normand Croft	1,869
Old Oak Primary School	34,887
Sir John Lillie	9,113
St Johns Walham Green	4,399
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	1,869
St Paul's CofE Primary School	15,409
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	26,791
Wormholt Park Primary School	18,186
Melcombe Primary School	230,700
TOTAL	382,000

- 7.5. Allocation of £1,374.58 per pupil reduction over 3% for all schools plus an additional £1,604.49 per pupil for Melcombe School who were unable to access falling rolls funds agreed through the Authority Proforma Tool due to their current Ofsted classification.


8. Recommendations and Decisions

- 8.1. Schools Forum are asked to agree the allocation of delegated contingency balances to maintained primary per table 4 above.
- 8.2. Funding will be released following receipt of an agreed medium term budget plan for 2021/22 to 2023/24 to ensure maintained schools remain financially sustainable within expected future funding available.

Report ends

Agenda Item 5

Agenda Item 5

	<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCHOOLS FORUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 23rd March 2021</p>
Update: High Needs Block 2020/21	
Open	
Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment	
Key Decision: No	
Wards Affected: (All Wards): All	
Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services	
Report Authors: Joe Gunning Commissioning and Transformation Lead, Children's Services	
Purpose of the report This report provides an update on the High Needs Block, pressures and forthcoming programmes of work.	

Introduction

1. The High Needs Block is a defined block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the provision of education services to children with SEND. The High Needs Block in H&F, as is the case nationally, remains under pressure.
2. Hammersmith and Fulham is forecasting an overspend of £1.2m in 21/22 with a cumulative deficit of £24m.
3. This report sets out the historical context, significant programmes of work to date and the next phases of transformation to bring the HNB spend to within our annual allocation.

Context

4. Nationally High Needs Block (HNB) budgets are under significant pressure due to rapid increases in, and complexity of demand, however the effects in H&F are particularly acute because of historic funding allocation methodologies.
5. The funding formula is in part based on historic planned spend allocations and recent movement away from that element has benefitted Hammersmith & Fulham, as have recent import and export formula adjustments as the

borough has a significant number of children and young people with SEND placed from other boroughs.

6. H&F's initial deficit position built up during a period where no import/export formula compensated for significant number of children and young people with SEND placed from other boroughs as well as legacy arrangements including no recharge arrangements to placing authorities for services such as Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy.
7. In 2018/19 the overspend was the equivalent of 32% of our annual allocation. The cumulative deficit at 21/22 is forecasted to be £24m.
8. There has been significant effort and focus on the High Needs Block (HNB) overspend since 2018/19 and we have established a comprehensive programme of efficiencies to seek to regularise spend against annual allocations. A programme approach was undertaken with phases one and two now completed, delivering savings with a cumulative effect to 21/22 of £9.3m with no reductions in service delivery.
9. After the successful completion of phases one and two the Council is now proceeding with phase three including transformation projects to ensure the continued provision of high-quality services to our children and young people.

Phase 3 transformation

10. Officers have engaged schools and parent's representatives to develop a programme of whole system reform which aims to deliver improved early identification and support for children with special educational needs whilst maintaining high quality services for those with EHCPs. This programme of works is being monitored by the DfE in line with the statutory requirement to deliver within the funding allocation in the medium to longer term.
11. Phase 3 of the transformation programme, is a reform workstream, ensuring children and young people receive the support they need at the earliest point in their educational journey through a continued focus on early identification and intervention through integration of early years and SEND pathways.
12. In this phase, we will continue to develop a robust local and ordinarily available offer that is focused on early intervention to meet needs at SEN Support. Mainstream settings will be supported in meeting needs at all stages through access to an extension of hybrid model of traded and centrally supported interventions.
13. A comprehensive review of the local provision will also be undertaken to inform medium to long-term needs and the future shape of local provision, whilst working to improve our data quality to support service redesign, commissioning and strategic priorities.

14. Throughout we will work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners to understand regional commissioning needs. Coproduction with our children, young people and their families will also be at the heart of this transformation.
15. In returning to a balanced position, it is important that we continue to review and invest in services to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people, moving to a point where disapplication requests are no longer required to balance the budget and these funds can be released back to schools.
16. Officers have identified opportunities and in parallel there is also significant investment profiled to continue to develop services and target early intervention. Pace will be essential to enable these reforms to be delivered in 21/22 financial year to mitigate the current forecasted overspend.
17. These opportunities will be brought to Head Teacher workshops shortly and a report will subsequently be brought to Schools Forum for approval.
- 18. Schools Forum are asked to note the current position of the High Needs Block (HNB) and forthcoming transformation programmes**

Report End

Item 6 - Schools Forum 23rd March 2021 – Draft Work Programme 2021/22

Note: Dates and items to be confirmed

Tuesday 15th June 2pm (Lilla Huset)

- Schools Budget 2020/21 Outturn
- Budget Update 2021/22
- High Needs Update
- Annual Audit Update
- Scheme for Financing Schools Revisions

Tuesday 12th October 2pm (Lilla Huset)

Tuesday 7th December 2pm (Lilla Huset)