



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Schools Forum

Date: Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Time: 1.45 pm

Place: Remote via Zoom & livestreamed – <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

Members are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Clerk to the Forum: Mark Leavesley

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4302

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1 Apologies for absence	
2 Declarations of interests	
3 Minutes Last meeting held on 05 December 2023 (for confirmation)	3 - 18
4 Schools Budget 2024/25 Joint report of Corporate Directors for People / Finance and Resources	19 - 50
5 Additional capacity at Hospital Home Education Joint report of Corporate Director for People / Director of Education Services	51 - 60

If you need any advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Clerk to the Forum shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting

Members are reminded that this meeting will be livestreamed, recorded and subsequently available to view on You Tube, in accordance with the Council's policy on Recording and Reporting on Public Meetings, which is available at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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Nottingham City Council

Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at Remote - To be held remotely via Zoom - <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 5 December 2023 from 1.47 pm - 3.22 pm

Membership

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Kerrie Fox (Chair) | - PRUs |
| ✓ David Tungay (Vice Chair) | - Secondary Academies |
| Kerrie Henton | - AP Academies and Free Schools |
| ✓ Debbie Simon | - Early Years PVI |
| ✓ Judith Kemplay |) |
| ✓ Terry Smith |) Maintained Primary Head Teachers |
| ✓ Alison Tones |) |
| ✓ Patricia Lewis | - Maintained Special Schools |
| Laura Patel | - The Nottingham Nursery |
| Meeta Dave |) |
| Tim Jeffs |) Primary Academies |
| ✓ Rob Perkins |) |
| Emma Howard |) |
| ✓ Andy Smith |) Secondary Academies |
| ✓ Sandra Stapleton |) |
| ✓ Andrew Gilbert |) |
| ✓ Phil Willott | - Special Academies |
| ✓ Sheena Wheatley | - Trade Unions |
| Adam Beazley | - 14-19 Education |

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Trevor Bone | - Head of Building Services and Facilities Management |
| Kathryn Bouchlaghem | - Early Years Manager |
| Collins Elechi | - Senior Commercial Business Partner (Finance) |
| Jennifer Hardy | - Interim Head of Access to Learning |
| Julia Holmes | - Senior Commercial Business Partner (Childrens and Education) |
| Lucy Juby | - School Organisation and Place Planning Manager |
| James Lavender | - Governance Officer |
| Nick Lee | - Director of Education Services |
| Terry Shaw | - Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner (Childrens and Education) |
| Janine Walker | - Head of SEND and Vulnerable Pupils |
| Sheena Yadav-Staples | - HR Consultant (Employee Relations) |

11 Membership Change

Andrew Gilbert has been appointed as one of the Secondary Representatives for the Forum.

12 Apologies for Absence

Adam Beazeley
Meeta Dave
Kerrie Henton
Tim Jeffs

13 Declarations of Interest

Phil Willott and Robert Perkins declared interests in Item 5 (Minute 17) and therefore did not participate in this item.

14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

15 Update on Section 114 Notice

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, updated the Forum on the status of the agenda items in light of the issuing of the S114 notice by the Chief Financial Officer on Wednesday 29 November 2023. The Council has entered a twenty-one-day prohibition period on any new spending. Delegations to Officers has been suspended, so any spending must be approved will have to go through an internal Spending Review Board. Following advice from the Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer, all the items on the agenda can proceed for decision. The three categories of reports include the passporting of ring-fenced grant funding, such as DSG and Early Years; the agreement of ring-fenced formula funding, such as the pupil growth funding; and the funding of council services such as the health and safety school building inspections which are subject to the internal approval process.

16 De-delegation of funding for Trade Union time off for Senior Representatives for 2024/25

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the report, stating that this decision involves the Council refunding schools and academies for time-off taken by Trade Union representatives to undertake their duties. Whilst this is a funding formula decision and is classed as allowable spend, HR colleagues may have to get internal permission to release the funding.

Sheena Yadav-Staples, HR Consultant (Employee Relations), delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) the purpose of this report is to outline the proposed funding arrangements for trade union facility time for senior trade union representatives from schools to

attend negotiations and consultation meetings and to represent their members in schools from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025;

- (b) under the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2023, maintained schools can agree to de-delegate funding for trade union facility time. This has been done by maintained schools since the financial year 2013/14. To reduce the cost on maintained schools, the arrangement is also offered to academies;
- (c) the income generated pays for the salaries of the senior trade union representatives whilst carrying out trade union facility time duties;
- (d) maintained schools and academies are reimbursed the salaries of the trade union representatives who are employed by them. This is done so that no school loses out as a consequence of a member of their staff carrying out trade union duties;
- (e) new approval is required for de-delegation from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 72 schools/academies have bought into the arrangement. Oakfield School and Nethergate Academy have bought back into the arrangement and this is reflected in 2023/24 and 2024/25 figures;
- (f) the allowance allocated for 2024/25 will remain the same as the last three years at 3.7 which equates to 18.5 days per week for trade union facility time;
- (g) the funding for senior trade union representatives will be at a rate of £1.77 per pupil and a lump sum of £1,746 per school. These charges will generate a £0.180m projected income based upon 72 maintained schools and academies buying into the scheme. The projected income from maintained primary schools, buy-back income of £0.180m and the underspend of £0.015m from the financial year 2022/23 are projected to generate sufficient income to achieve a breakeven position;

During the discussion and in response from questions from the Forum, the following points were raised:

- (h) the trade union representative on the Forum produced a report into the additional value of trade union contributions within schools and academies, and this will be circulated to the rest of the Forum after the meeting.

Resolved to:

- (1) approve the de-delegation of funding for senior trade union representatives at a rate of £1.77 per pupil and a lump sum of £1,746 per school;**
- (2) to note the total funding de-delegated by maintained mainstream primary schools is £0.068m;**
- (3) to note that the final decision will be subject to approval by the Council's Spending Control Board.**

17 Proposed approach to DSG budget setting 2024/25 by block

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the report which proposes to transfer Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding from the High Needs Block to the Central Schools Service Block and the distribution of additional funding to primary and secondary schools through the local funding formula in 2024/25. This decision will be regarding the passporting of ring-fenced grant funding, so subject to Department for Education grant conditions which must be considered as part of the internal council process relating to the S114 notice.

Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner (Childrens and Education) and Collins Elechi, Senior Commercial Business Partner (Finance), delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) for the financial year 2024/25, the Local Authority (LA) proposes to continue to move away from the standard budget setting approach of balancing block budgets to the DSG income received for each specific block as it did in the financial year 2023/24;
- (b) at the December 2022 Schools Forum meeting, permission was granted to transfer from the High Needs Block (HNB) £0.458m to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) and up to £2m to the School Block (SB). This year, permission is being sought to transfer HNB funding of £0.508m to the CSSB to allow for the additional cost of the Education Welfare Team which was approved by Schools Forum last year. This is an allowable cost under the DSG;
- (c) permission is also being sought for the distribution of additional funding to primary and secondary above the schools' national funding formula for 2024/25;
- (d) in the financial year 2023/24, primary and secondary schools were given an additional £85 per pupil through the basic entitlement factor. To enable the additional funding to be passed onto all schools including maintained schools and academies on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), permission was granted to the Secretary of State to make a one-off technical adjustment to ensure that schools on the MFG would receive the additional £85 per pupil;
- (e) the LA is concerned that some schools may not be able to set a balanced budget in 2024/25 due to cost pressures. Since the Schools Forum meeting on 10 October 2023, the LA has been looking into options to pass on additional funding to maintained schools and academies. The ESFA have been contacted to see what options are available. The only other option available is to leave in the additional funding that was given last year in the 2023/24 baseline funding. This proposal has been modelled and this would generate additional funding of £1.988m for mainstream maintained schools and academies in the FY 2024/25. 90 of the 94 schools would get the additional funding. The remaining four schools attract additional funding next year through a one of these factors: split site factor, exceptional premises factor (Building Schools for the Future) or the Private Finance Initiative funding factor;

- (f) the level of additional funding per school is calculated on the make-up of pupils and factors they attract. On average, primary schools will receive £18,500 per school and secondary schools will receive £30,000 per school. The October 2022 School Census data has been used in the calculations. Once the October 2023 census data will be received, the figures will be revised and will be checked to see if the additional funding is still affordable;
- (g) it is forecast that there should be sufficient funding in the Schools Block to provide the additional funding. If once the December 2023 funding settlement has been received and there is not sufficient funding within the Schools Block to fund this proposal the Local Authority propose to draw down up to £1.493m funding from the Statutory School Reserve (DSG Reserve). The £1.493m was included in the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant - Outturn report on 27 June 2023. This funding is made up of pupil growth funding that could not be allocated through the national funding formula and was allocated to the pupil growth contingency fund and actual underspends on the pupil growth contingency fund between the financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23. Permission is being sought from Schools Forum to use the £1.493m within the reserve in the event of a shortfall in the additional funding to primary and secondary schools;
- (h) the consultation with Schools Forum and all schools has begun for two weeks until 19 December. All headteachers were sent the consultation this morning and information about it is included in the weekly Council email to all schools;
- (i) there has been a year-on-year increase in high needs funding from £33.7m to £61m between 2019 to 2025. The block transfer from the HNB to the CSSB would be to support the Education Welfare Team. In December 2022, Schools Forum granted a transfer of £0.458m from the HNB to the CSSB. Due to the national increase in local government pay scales by £1,925 in 2022/23 and in 2023/24 and the introduction of the LA's new pay scale in 2023/24, the amount of the block transfer requested has increased to £0.508m for 2024/25;
- (j) as the 2023/24 high needs budget is not fully allocated and has an anticipated £3m under-spent, coupled with the £2.835m additional funding for 2024/25, there will be £5.8m in high needs funding to prioritise for high needs developments and national pressures;
- (k) in September, the Executive Board approved a range of specialist provision under the SEN Sufficiency project, and these developments which are in early design stage include:
- expansion of Rosehill Special school - 80 places;
 - enhanced resource provision at Fernwood Secondary School – 20 places;
 - enhanced resource provision at Nottingham Girl's Academy – 8/10 places;
 - enhanced resource provision at Gladehill School – 8 places;
 - enhanced resource provision at Milford Academy – 8 places;

- (l) it is expected the financial impact for these projects will start in 2025/26, with a potential £2.883m in the first year and £4.841m and £5.600m in 2026/27 and 2027/28 when the full capacity has been utilised;

During the discussion and in response from questions to the Forum, the following points were raised:

- (m) concerns about moving funds from the HNB to CSSB are recognised, however, this investment in the Education Welfare Team will assist with early intervention for pupils with SEN and reduce higher impact costs further along the process of providing support to those pupils;
- (n) there is a huge national demand for funding to help schools support pupils with SEN. The LA is doing well to deliver a SEN provision within the constraints of a national funding model set nationally;
- (o) there will not be any announcements in high needs capital investment until February 2024, at which point the plans for Phase 2 of the Inclusion Strategy.

Resolved to:

- (1) agree to the proposal to leave in the additional funding given to mainstream primary and secondary schools in 2023/24 in the 2023/24 Minimum Funding Guarantee unit values in the 2024/25 local funding formula.**
- (2) approve the allocation of up to £1.493m ring-fenced within the Statutory School Reserve for pupil growth to fund the proposal to give mainstream maintained schools and academies additional funding in 2024/25 if there is insufficient funding within the Schools Block once the DSG settlement is received in December 2023;**
- (3) agree to a block transfer for 2024/25 from the High Needs Block to the Central Schools Services Block of £0.508m.**

18 Proposed high needs place changes 2024/25 academic year

Nick Lee, Director for Education Services, introduced a presentation into the proposals for high needs place changes for 2024/25. The presentation is for noting. Approvals for funding requirements are subject to grant conditions and approval from the ESFA.

Collins Elechi, Interim Senior Commercial Partner (Schools) delivered the presentation which outlined the following information:

- (a) the proposed high needs place changes for 2024/25 was previously reported to Schools Forum in October, but now Officers have full details about the place changes;

- (b) the place changes have been submitted to the ESFA and have been accepted by them. There have been no queries from the ESFA regarding the figures submitted;
- (c) prior to the submission of the place changes, consultation took place with the education settings who agreed with the figures;
- (d) the change to high needs places for 2024/25 includes six extra places each at Westbury and Djanogly Strelley Academies, eight extra places each at Woodlands and Denewood Academies and a reduction of four places Bulwell Academy. The overall additional cost to the high needs place changes in 2024-25 will be £0.564m;
- (e) Djanogly Strelley Academy's focus provision will go online sooner than believed in September 2024. The LA will fund the provision from the high needs block for one term before it opens to allow for the building to be set up and staffing to be recruited and trained. The funding for the summer term 2024 this entails full year of £0.143m;
- (f) Milford Academy focus provision may open during the 2024/25 academic year. Council Officers are consulting Schools Forum on ringfencing funding from the high needs block to fund any in-year provision should the building works be completed during this period. The expected costs are £0.095m (£0.071m in Top Ups and £0.024m in Place Funding);
- (g) the eight extra places at Denewood Academy will cost around £0.080m for the 2024/25 financial year. There will be an additional £0.161m budget requirement for Westbury special schools for 2024/25 arising from £0.060m in place number changes for the academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25, and £0.101m in top ups;
- (h) the place cost element of eight places at Woodlands Academy would be £0.181m in a full year, made up of £0.080m Place element in financial year 2024-25 and £0.101m in Top Ups;
- (i) £0.095m in savings will arise from Bulwell Academy as the place number changes from six to two;
- (j) A range of specialist provision has been agreed and is moving to early design works (see Minute 17k).

Resolved to note the presentation.

19 Early Years Central Expenditure 2024/25

Nick Lee, Director for Education Services, introduced the report which sought to approve £1.025m in Early Years Central Expenditure for 2024/25. This decision will be the passporting of ring-fenced grant funding, so it will be subject to Department for Education grant conditions which must be considered as part of the internal council process relating to the S114 notice.

Collins Elechi, Interim Senior Commercial Partner (Schools) and Kathryn Bouchlaghem, Early Years Manager, delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) there has been no change to the national Early Years (EY) funding formula since April 2017. With this level of central expenditure, the LA should comfortably meet the 95% pass-through regulation;
- (b) the potential base rate for two-year olds for 2024/25 will be confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE) in December. Officers have been working to the current rate which came into force in September;
- (c) in the breakdown of the Central Expenditure Budget seen in Table 1 of the report, £0.878m will be spend on staffing and £0.147m will be spend on rent, insurance and other non-pay costs to support the activity of the team;
- (d) Table 2 breaks down the costs of each staff post from the Central Expenditure Budget;
- (e) the EY settlement will be received in December and a full report will be presented to Schools Forum in January 2024;
- (f) the supplementary rate will feature an uplift of 1%, from £4.96 to £5.01 an increase of £0.05 for three- and four-year olds, and 31.8% from £5.66 to £7.46 increased by £1.80 for two-year olds;
- (g) The proposed central expenditure budget is based on a contribution of £0.960m from the three- and four-year old funding and £0.065m from two-year-old funding. Based on the expected hourly funding increases, the projected three- and four-year old funding allocation for 2024/25 will be £16.363m and our projected two-year old funding allocation will be £4.464m;
- (h) the consultation on the base rate for two-, three- and four-year olds will begin from now until January 2024;
- (i) Agreement Trialling has been an integral part of support for providers to raise outcomes for the youngest children in the City of Nottingham. This forum has addressed the trends identified from the Early Years Foundation Stage Project (EYFSP) data and have provided targeted support around understanding, resourcing and moderating the weakest areas of attainment;
- (j) in the academic year 2022/23, face-to-face training resumed, in addition to continuing with some online sessions, thus offering a blended approach. Sessions were accessed by 259 practitioners from 82 settings (16 PVI settings and 66 schools) and representatives from 10 of the 12 Academy Trusts within the city;
- (k) all LAs are ranked in terms of EY development. Last year, Nottingham City Council (NCC) was ranked 138 out of 152. This year, it was ranked 135 out of 152. The LA has made great progress in addressing EY development in a city which was disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolved to approve the Early Years Central Expenditure of £1.025m for 2024/25.

20 Central Expenditure Budget 2024/25 – Historic Commitments

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the report which requested the approval of the historic commitments within the CSSB for the financial year 2024/25. If approved, there will be requirement for individual services in receipt of this funding to go through the additional internal approvals.

Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner (Childrens and Education), delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) this report is bought annually to Schools Forum for approval;
- (b) in keeping with the DfE's commitment to reduce historic commitment funding, Nottingham City's historic commitments funding has been cut by a further 20% in 2024/25 which also happened in each of the financial years 2020/21 to 2023/24. Next financial year, if the DfE were to cut historic commitments funding by a further 20%, this would take the historic commitments funding below the budget for the termination of employment costs and prudential borrowing (£1.663m). Therefore, the LA will need to submit evidence to the DfE to request that the LA is funded at the same level as was budgeted in 2024/25 for termination of employment costs and prudential borrowing;
- (c) the LA will be receiving £1.859m in historic commitments funding for 2024/25, which is a reduction of £0.465m from the previous year. Since 2021, there has been year-on-year cuts of £3.7m to the historic commitments budget;
- (d) the historic commitments have been reviewed and cuts have been made to budgets to make-up the shortfall;
- (e) integrated placements contributions have been removed which has an annual value of £0.247m;
- (f) the Virtual School budget has been reduced by 19%;
- (g) the Capital Expenditure in revenue accounts has been removed which has an annual value of £0.173m;
- (h) the termination of employment costs and the prudential borrowing payments will remain the same;
- (i) SEN Transport budget is a historic commitment, hence it needs approval from Schools Forum;
- (j) supporting information relating to the Virtual School and SEN transport budgets are outlined in Appendices A and B of this report.

Resolved to approve the historic commitments totalling £2.859m for the financial year 2024/25, subject to final approval from the Spending Control Board.

21 Central Expenditure Budget 2024/25 – On Going Commitments

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the report which requested the approval of the ongoing commitments within the CSSB for the financial year 2024/25. If approved, there will be requirement for individual services in receipt of this funding to go through the additional internal approvals.

Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner (Childrens and Education), delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) approval is sought for ongoing budget commitments of £2.275m, the details of which are set out in Appendix A of the report. This is proposed to be funded from the estimated allocation for ongoing commitments of £1.767m from the ESFA for the financial year 2024/25 and subject to approval from Schools Forum £0.508m from a High Needs to Central Schools Services Block transfer as outlined in agenda item 4 – ‘Proposed approach to DSG budget setting 2024/25 by block’ - Recommendation 2;
- (b) the estimated cost of Copyright Licences totalling £0.264m does not require approval as the licences are managed and procured by central government. The final figure will be updated and built into the Schools Budget report for the January Schools Forum meeting;
- (c) the indicative funding allocation is based on the October 2022 pupil numbers, but the final budgets will be based on the October 2023 pupil numbers once they have been received. Any additional funding as a result of increased pupil numbers is proposed to be allocated towards the costs of retained duties as there is a forecast shortfall in funding on this budget;
- (d) the services funded through ongoing commitments include the Admissions Team, copyright licences, administrative support for the Schools Forum, retained statutory duties and the Teachers Pay and Pension Contribution for centrally retained teachers;
- (e) from 2018/19 onwards, funding for LA’s ongoing responsibilities is calculated through a formula which is distributed on 90% per-pupil basic factor and 10% based on the deprivation factor. However, in the financial year 2024/25 a third factor has been introduced, a copyright licences per pupil factor to fund the additional costs of copyright licences that local authorities faced in 2023/24;
- (f) the total national budget for ongoing responsibilities in 2024/25 is around £304m. This includes £5.5m to cover the increased cost of copyright licences that LA’s faced in 2023/24. 90% of this (c.£274m) forms the budget to be allocated to LA’s through the basic per-pupil factor (the remaining 10% (c.£30m) will be allocated through the deprivation factor;

- (g) LA's continue to be protected so that the maximum per-pupil year-on-year reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities is -2.5%, while the year-on-year gains cap will be set at the highest affordable rate of 5.51%. In 2024/25 Nottingham City will receive a 3.2% increase in the CSSB unit rate;
- (h) Table 2 highlights the CSSB unit rates of funding and total funding for ongoing responsibilities from 2019/20 to 2024/25. The rate for 2024/25 will be £40.88, which is a rise of £1.26 compared to the previous year. This figure includes an additional £0.67 per pupil for increased cost copyright licences costs faced by LA's in 2023/24. The total allocation for ongoing commitments is £1.768m. This will change once the pupil numbers for October 2023 are known. If there is an increase in the number of pupils in city schools, then the budgets will need to be adjusted and there will be less for retained duties;
- (i) the estimated cost for statutory retained duties for 2024/25 is £1.358m however, to keep within the funding envelope of £2.275m (subject to approval from SF for the High Needs Block transfer to the Central Schools Services Block of £0.508) the LA has used the statutory retained duties budget to balance the funding available for ongoing commitments. This is why the amount requested for approval by SF is £1.291m as shown in Table 3;
- (j) any budgets not approved will provide issues for the DSG. In this case, a consultation with stakeholders will need to take place and there will be an impact on the delivery of statutory requirements.

Resolved to:

- (1) approve the ongoing commitments budgets set out in Table 3 totalling £2.275m, noting the additional historical detail set out in Appendix A. £0.508m of this total is subject to the approval of the High Needs to the Central Schools Services Block transfer outlined in agenda item 4 – 'Proposed approach to DSG budget setting 2024/25 by block' - Recommendation 2 which was approved at this meeting;**
- (2) note that the estimated cost of Copyright Licences totalling £0.264m does not require approval as the licences are managed and procured by central government;**
- (3) note that where values are based on estimated pupil numbers, this report has used the latest October 2022 census however; once the October 2023 census and final allocations are issued from the DfE these figures will be updated and represented in the final budget report;**
- (4) approve that should any additional funding for ongoing commitments be received from the Education & Skills Funding Agency above the £1.768m that it is allocated to the LA to cover the cost of retained duties;**
- (5) note that the final decision will be subject to the Spending Control Board.**

22 Proposed pupil growth allocation for 2024/25

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the report which outlined the proposed requirements of the Pupil Growth Contingency Fund (PGCF) for 2024/25 and seeks Schools Forum's approval to allocate £0.909m for this purpose. The funding will be used to fund pupil growth in both maintained schools and academies. As this is a report into the setting of formula for the ESFA, it will be subject to grant conditions which must be considered as part of the internal council process relating to the S114 notice.

Lucy Juby, School Organisation and Place Planning Manager, delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) new DfE guidance has been issued regarding the pupil growth allocation. LA's are still responsible for managing pupil growth locally;
- (b) there will be a reimbursed by EFSA to the DSG relating to academy funding for April to August 2024 period;
- (c) all previous funding commitments have been factored in. The PGCF is not currently required for primary growth payments as all previous commitments have been met, but there are still significant pressures on secondary school places. The LA has a statutory duty to deliver sufficient school places, supporting those schools to meet basic need, and address any funding lag for increasing pupil numbers;
- (d) funding will continue to be allocated to schools, where they have agreed with the LA to admit an extra class (or more) to meet Basic Need in the area, either on a temporary basis or as an ongoing commitment or formal expansion;
- (e) the new requirement for the 2024/25 criteria is that an extra class will be funded regardless of whether it is within or over the Published Admission Numbers (PAN). Whereas previously, only increases over PAN have been funded through the PGCF;
- (f) the forecast expenditure for 2024/25 has been costed on the basis of the current and anticipated level of growth at the secondary phase. This figure includes both existing/known commitments for secondary growth, as well as an estimated contingency figure based on expected additional capacity needs for the September 2024 academic year;
- (g) a further sum £0.348m has been set aside to allow for contingency, to support other schools accommodating additional pupils. This year's contingency has been calculated on the basis of an estimated six additional classes required in September 2024, which includes extra capacity for Year 7 entry as well as some additional capacity for in-year admissions across other year groups;
- (h) as a minimum local authorities will have to provide funding to a level which is compliant with the following formula:

- Primary and secondary growth factor value (£1,550) x number of pupils x Area Cost Adjustment (ACA);

Based on the values allocated in both the primary and secondary phases for a class of 30 pupils, the pupil growth criteria for NCC exceeds the minimum value per pupil of £1,550 per pupil;

- (i) for the first time in 2024 to 2025 the ESFA will be allocating funding based on both growth and falling rolls. In the next financial year, LAs will continue to have discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund. The LA does not anticipate that it will receive any falling rolls funding in 2024/25 as it is anticipated that the falling rolls will not meet the 10% threshold reduction of primary number on toll across the LA, between the October 2022 and 2023 censuses.

Resolved to:

(1) approve the allocation of £0.909m to support pupil growth in 2024/25;

(2) to note:

(a) the requirement to allocate funding to academies for the period April 2024 to August 2024 as guided by the ESFA; but which will be reimbursed to the LA's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);

(b) the amount to be allocated (and reimbursed) is £0.302m;

(c) the total amount of academies individual school budget shares will be netted off against the pupil growth given out for this period and the Authority's Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25 will be adjusted accordingly.

23 De-delegation request for maintained schools for school improvement and brokerage grant 2024/25

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, delivered the report which sought permission from Schools Forum to de-delegate funding to mitigate the reduction in the School Improvement, monitoring and brokerage grant received by Nottingham City Council to fund the Nottingham Schools Trust. As the Council is in a contractual agreement with the Nottingham Schools Trust until the end of 2024/25, the funding, if approved, forms part of an existing contractual commitment which will continue to be honoured as per the provisions of the S114 legislation. The following information was highlighted:

- (a) this grant was previously brought to Schools Forum in 2021 and 2022. The grant was used to provide school improvements and brokerage for intervention for maintained primary schools. The Nottingham Schools Trust was commissioned by the LA to provide this service;
- (b) the grant reduced by 50% and then fully withdrawn last year;

- (c) the amount requested of Schools Forum last year was £10.49 per head. This year, the cost will be £10.69 per head.

Resolved to:

- (1) approve the de-delegation of funding to mitigate the reduction in the School Improvement, monitoring and brokerage grant received by Nottingham City Council at a rate of £10.69 per pupil. This will ensure that Nottingham Schools Trust can maintain the agreed level of school improvement support established through its current grant agreement;**
- (2) note that the total funding requested to be de-delegated by maintained mainstream primary schools is £0.116m;**
- (3) note that the final approval of this decision will be subject to the Council's Spending Control Board.**

24 De-delegation of 2024/25 Health and Safety Building Inspection Funding

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, introduced the annual report which sought permission to de-delegate funding to the LA to provide statutory and legislative health and safety responsibilities, including maintenance and testing to all maintained school properties in the City. If approved, spending decisions by the service will be subject to the Council's internal approval processes.

Trevor Bone, Head of Building Services and Facilities Management, delivered the report which outlined the following information:

- (a) Since 2019, the health and safety building inspections in maintained schools has been conducted by the LA's Building Services. Duties include assessing gas safety, electric inspections, asbestos management, gates, and air conditioning;
- (b) Since the issue of the S114 notice, Building Services can undertake the minimum amount of work under national statutory requirements;

During the discussion and in response from questions from the Forum, the following points were raised:

- (c) senior directors within the LA understand the implications if statutory requirements for health and safety in maintained schools' buildings are not met. Health and safety considerations and grant funding is an allowable spend criteria in the current spending environment;
- (d) the DfE have development conditions applied to S114 authorities to guarantee the security of funding for schools.

Resolved that:

- (1) the statutory and legislative health and safety responsibilities of the LA in relation to building maintenance of maintained primary and secondary**

schools and the type of costs that the requested funding will be used to fund, as detailed in paragraph 1.2, be noted;

(2) approve maintained mainstream primary schools to approve the de-delegation of health and safety building inspection funding for 2024/25 based on a rate of £8.33 per pupil, with a total estimated funding requirement for mainstream maintained primary schools, maintained special schools, maintained pupil referral unit and maintained nursery of £0.094m. This is made up of £0.091m from maintained primary schools and £0.003m from buy-back income;

(3) the final decision will be subject to approval by the Spending Control Board.

Schools Forum thanked Councillors and the Director of Education Services for the hard work they have undertaken for schools during these difficult financial circumstances for the Council.

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Schools Forum - 16 January 2024

Title of paper:	Schools Budget 2024/25
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Summary

This report presents the proposed Schools Budget for the financial year (FY) 2024/25. The Schools' Budget has been prepared in line with the parameters agreed at Schools Forum (SF) and with the financial regulations issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

As outlined in the report to the 5 December 2023 SF, for 2024/25 the LA has continued to move away from the standard approach of setting a schools budget that balances the budgets by block to the DSG income received as was the approach in 2023/24.

Indicative individual school budgets, Early Years (EY) and High Needs (HN) funding allocations along with guidance notes will be issued by 28 February 2024.

Where applicable, the Local Authority's (LA's) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) incorporates the impact from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Recommendations:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | <p>DSG</p> <p>a) To note the overall indicative 2024/25 Schools Budget to be spent incorporating the Schools, Central Schools Services (CSS), EY's and HN's blocks is £376.155m.</p> <p>b) To note this is funded by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. £374.246m the provisional 2024/25 DSG allocation; ii. reimbursement of £0.302m funding paid to academies for pupil growth for April to August 2024; and iii. £1.493m from DSG reserves to support the additional one-off distribution to mainstream schools, from the balance earmarked for distribution in the DSG reserve for pupil growth. SF approved the allocation of up to £1.493m on the 'Proposed approach to DSG budget setting 2024/25 by block on 5 December 2023 (agenda item 4); iv. £0.104m from the DSG reserve to fund the shortfall in funding in the Schools |
|----------|--|

	<p>Block in 2024/25 if approved by SF. (see paragraph 2.6.1 and recommendation 2).</p> <p>c) To note that the budget will be updated in year to reflect subsequent adjustments made by the ESFA to our 2024/25 DSG allocation as described in the report.</p> <p>d) To note that any balance remaining will be allocated to the Statutory School reserve (SSR). This includes the £2.669m balance of the provisional DSG allocation, which represents a proportion of the additional High Needs funding announced in the Autumn Statement. If any new HN budget requirements arise in year, over and above those planned from the HN budget outlined in this report then separate in-year approval will be sought.</p> <p>e) To note the impact to schools' budgets of the indicative allocation as set out in section 2.5, table 5.</p>
2	To approve the allocation of £0.104m from the DSG reserve to fund the shortfall in funding in the Schools Block in 2024/25. See paragraph 2.6.1
3	<p><u>Additional one-off DSG distribution to mainstream schools</u></p> <p>To note that the budget presented in this report includes the distribution of one-off additional funding to mainstream schools by leaving in the additional £85 per pupil allocated in the financial year 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baselines in 2024/25 which amounts to £1.748m.</p>
4	<p><u>DSG block transfers</u></p> <p>To note that this budget incorporates the £0.508m HN to Central School Services Block transfer approved at SF on 5 December 2023.</p>
5	<p><u>Early Years</u></p> <p>To note that total planned early years central expenditure aligns to the £1.025m approved at SF on the 5 December 2023.</p>
6	<p><u>Pupil Premium (PP)</u></p> <p>To note the allocation of PP funding will be allocated to schools in accordance with the grant conditions.</p>

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 To ensure an understanding of how and on what basis different DfE grants are allocated to the LA and how they are then allocated to individual schools forming their annual budget allocations.
- 1.2 To provide SF with a summary budget position based on the approvals gained in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.
- 1.3 To update SF on the impact of any new legislation on the Schools budgets and the financial implications of those changes.

1.4 To ensure transparency over the methodology and approach for the 2024/25 Schools Budget, which incorporates funding from DSG reserves in order to respond to the current level of financial pressures in schools and settings.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

2.1 **2024/25 Funding Settlement and overall approach to budget setting**

2024/25 is the seventh year of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools, HN's and CSS which has been used to calculate the block values allocated to LA's. The Early Year's NFF (EYNFF) was introduced one year earlier in 2017/18.

On 17 July 2023 the ESFA released the indicative schools NFF allocations for the financial year 2024/25. However, LA's were then notified on 6 October 2023 that there was an error in the calculation of the schools NFF due to a technical error. The technical error was due to the incorrect processing of pupil numbers in the initial calculations. This error meant that the overall cost of the schools NFF was underestimated, also that incorrect factor values were published in July 2023.

To correct this error the core factors such as the basic entitlement, additional needs and the school lump sum were only increased by 1.4% in 2024/25 instead of the 2.4% quoted in July 2023. The minimum per pupil levels (MPPL) were also reduced to £4,610 from £4,655 per primary aged pupil in 2024/25 and to £5,995 from £6,050 per secondary aged pupil, this meant that they would now increase by 1.4 % not the 2.4% originally quoted.

As outlined at the last meeting on 5 December 2023, the LA are concerned that a significant proportion of schools will struggle to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. This is the reason why the LA proposed to leave in the additional £85 per pupil allocated above the NFF basic entitlement rates in the financial year 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baselines in 2024/25. This was estimated to cost around £1.988m based on pupils recorded on the October 2022 school census. This was the only option available to the LA as the ESFA had confirmed that approval from the Secretary of State would not be given to allocate additional funding in 2024/25 as was done last year as we had stated that the additional funding was a one-off and that other LA's who had tried to allocate additional funding a second time had been rejected.

Schools Forum were consulted on the above proposal on 5 December 2023 – Proposed approach to DSG budget setting 2024/25 by block – Recommendation 1. SF were in support of this approach. All mainstream schools were also consulted between 5-19 December 2023 and the outcome of the consultation is shown in Appendix A. The responses show unanimous support for the proposal to distribute additional funding by leaving in the additional funding given in 2023/24 in the 2023/25 MFG unit value for 2024/25. This is the approach that the LA has taken when setting the 2024/25 school budgets. This has enabled an additional £1.748m to be allocated to mainstream schools above the schools NFF.

In addition, the 2023/24 Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) has been rolled into the NFF for 2024/25.

The standard approach followed by the LA in setting the Schools Budget is to set budgets by block which mirror the DSG income received and to mirror the NFF in setting budgets for schools. However, as agreed at the 5 December 2023 meeting, for 2024/25 the LA is responding to pressures both within the Schools Block (SB) and

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) with the allocation of funding from the DSG reserve to the Schools Block and a block transfer from the High Needs block (HNB) to the CSSB where there is a short-term surplus.

The DSG settlement published on 19 December confirmed £418m in additional funding for high needs linked to the Autumn Statement. This provides Nottingham City with a further £2.926m for High Needs in 2024/25 and means that there will now be a surplus on the HNB for 2023/24 even after the block transfer.

This report builds on the approvals gained at SF at previous meetings as summarised in **Table 1** in paragraph 2.2.

Table 2 in paragraph 2.3 then shows the DSG received into the LA for each DSG block, and summarises the planned DSG spend by block indicating the block transfers and planned use of DSG reserves.

The report then goes on to provide detailed supporting information for each DSG block:

- Section 2.4 of the report provides further detail of the methodology for the DSG income received for each block.
- Section 2.5 shows the year-on-year movements.
- Section 2.6 outlines planned spend or onward distribution to settings from each DSG block.

2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a 2024/25 summary budget position for Schools; this report is a continuation of budget reports presented to SF during the 2024/25 budget setting process in accordance with the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.

These approvals are set out in **Table 1** below:

TABLE 1: ANALYSIS OF APPROVALS		
	Status	Date
De-delegated budgets		
Trade union representative cover	Approved	5 Dec 2023
Schools health and safety tests and inspections	Approved	5 Dec 2023
Block Transfer proposals		
High Needs to CSSB block transfer	Approved	5 Dec 2023
Central budgets		
Schools	Approved	5 Dec 2023
SEN Transport	Approved	5 Dec 2023
Early Years	Approved	5 Dec 2023
Copyright licensing Agreement/Music Publishing Association licences	Education Skills Funding Agency – Top-sliced from the DSG	
Pupil Growth Contingency Fund (PGCF)	Approved	5 Dec 2023

2.3 **Table 2** summarises the DSG income received by DSG block and the total planned spend. Information to support this summary is provided in the subsequent sections of this report.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF 2024/25 DSG BUDGET BY BLOCK £m						
	DSG Block	DSG income	Block transfer	DSG reserves	ESFA reimb.	2024/25 Budget
1	Schools	277.855	0.000	1.597	0.302	279.754
2	Central Schools	3.654	0.508	0.000	0.000	4.162
3	Early Years	31.538	0.000	0.000	0.000	31.538
4	High Needs	61.208	-0.508	0.000	0.000	60.700
5	TOTAL	374.256	0.000	1.597	0.302	376.155

2.4.1 Schools Block DSG Allocation

The school block allocation is based on 3 elements:

a) **Pupil-led and School-led funding**

This is based on a Primary unit of funding (PUF) and secondary unit of funding (SUF).

In 2024/25 this equates to:

- £5,447.53 per primary pupil and
- £7,232.42 per secondary pupil.

These rates are calculated on the level of funding the LA would receive through the 2024/25 NFF which is based on the October 2022 census data.

The Schools Block allocation for 2024/25 is based on:

- The number of primary pupils in Reception to Year 6 on the October 2023 school census plus
- Pupils aged 4 to 10 not assigned to a year group on the October 2023 school census multiplied by the PUF plus
- The number of secondary pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 on the October 2023 school census plus
- Pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group on the October 2023 school census multiplied by the SUF.

Pupils in special units and resource provisions are included in the pupil counts above. Reception pupils are counted as one full time equivalent (FTE) irrespective of the hours they attend. No reception uplift has been applied to pupil numbers.

- The 2023/24 MSAG has been rolled into the NFF by:
 - adding an amount representing what schools receive through the grant into their baselines;

- adding the value of the lump sum, basic per pupil rates and free school meals Ever 6 (FMS6) parts of the grant onto the respective factors in the NFF;
 - uplifting the minimum per pupil values by the MSAG's basic per pupil values, and an additional amount which represents the average amount of funding schools receive from the FSM6 and lump sum parts of the grants
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of 0.5% has been applied to the allocation of funding given to LA's for schools not fully on the NFF.

Within the regulations LA's can set the MFG between plus 0% and plus 0.5% per pupil. The maximum level has been set for maintained schools and academies to ensure as much of the funding is allocated as possible and to mitigate any significant budget variations that may arise as budgets move towards the NFF.

- As stated in 2.1 the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPL's) have been increased by 1.4% in the FY 2024/25 and increased to take account of the MSAG funding which has been rolled into the NFF in 2024/25. **Table 3** shows the MPPL values for the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25:

Table 3: Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels					
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Primary	£3,750	£4,180*	£4,265	£4,405	£4,610
Key Stage 3	£4,800	£5,215**	£5,321	£5,503	£5,771
Key Stage 4	£5,300	£5,715**	£5,831	£6,033	£6,331
Secondary with all 5 year groups	£5,000	£5,415**	£5,525	£5,715	£5,995

* From 2021/22 rate includes £180 per primary pupil for the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG), Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG) and the Supplementary fund see below;

** From 2021/22 rate includes £265 per secondary pupil for the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG), Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG) and the Supplementary fund see below.

- In addition to the amounts that have been added for the MSAG the NFF factor values have been increased by:
 - 1.6% to the free school meals factor
 - 1.4% to the basic entitlement, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6) and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), low prior attainment (LPA), FSM, English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and the lump sum factors.
 - 0% on premises factors except for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which has increased by 10.4% for the year to April 2023.
- Following the cancellation or incompleteness of both EYFSP and KS2 assessments in summer 2020 and summer 2021 due to coronavirus (COVID-19), local authorities will not be able to use assessment data from these years in the low prior attainment factor in their local funding formulae. Instead, local authorities will use 2019 attainment data as a proxy for the missing assessments in 2020 and 2022 attainment data as a proxy for the missing assessments in 2021. This is a change from 2023 to 2024 when 2019 attainment data was used as a proxy for the missing assessments in both 2020 and 2021.

- The Education and Skills funding Agency (ESFA) will continue to pay business rates directly to billing authorities on behalf of all state funded schools in 2024 to 2025.
- **The gains cap was removed in the financial year 2020/21.** Therefore LA's will continue to receive all the funding that schools attract under the NFF. LA's will continue to be able to use a cap if they wish to do so. In line with the NFF the LA will continue to not apply a gains cap.

The total funding allocated based on the primary and secondary units of funding totalled £270.667m.

b) Premises

This funding is allocated to LA's based on:

- the new split sites eligibility criteria;
- historic costs in 2023/24 on the exceptional premises factor (Building Schools For the Future costs), with the exception of PFI funding which has been uplifted by the RPIX from April 2022 to April 2023 (10.4%);
- Estimated cost of schools and academies business rates by the LA for 2024/25 which was included on the 2023/24 Authority Pro-forma Tool.

Total funding allocated for premises totalled £5.211m.

a) Growth funding

In 2019/20 the DfE introduced a formulaic approach to funding pupil growth. The total funding received for growth in 2023/24 was £1.911m.

Actual pupil growth allocations have been based on the movement in pupils between the October 2022 and October 2023 school census data in Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA).

In 2024/25 the DfE increased the rates applied to the growth in primary and secondary pupils by 2%. The primary rate in 2023/24 was £1,520 and is £1,550 in 2024/25. The secondary rate in 2023/24 was £2,275 and is £2,320 in 2024/25.

Additional new requirements have been introduced from the financial year 2024/25:

- For the first time local authorities will be required to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment). Funding, either through the growth fund, or by adjusting pupil numbers in the APT, growth funding will need to be provided regardless of whether the additional class is within or outside of the PAN.
- As a minimum local authorities will have to provide funding to a level which is compliant with the following formula: Primary and secondary growth factor value (£1,550) x number of pupils x Area Cost Adjustment ACA

Based on the values allocated in both the primary and secondary phases for a class of 30 pupils, the pupil growth criteria Nottingham City exceeds the minimum value per pupil of £1,550 per pupil.

Total funding allocated for growth in 2024/25 totalled £1.977m.

2.4.2 Central Schools Services DSG Allocation

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is made up of two categories of funding:

- Historic commitments and
- Ongoing commitments

Table 4 below shows the categorisation of budgets within the CSSB.

Commitment	Classification	2024/25 Allocation approved by SF £m
Prudential borrowing	Historic commitment	0.054
Termination of employment costs	Historic commitment	1.609
Contribution to combined budgets	Historic commitment	0.196
Admissions	Ongoing commitment	0.585
Copyright licences	Ongoing commitment	0.264
Schools Forum	Ongoing commitment	0.039
Retained duties	Ongoing commitment	1.320
TPG and TPECG for centrally employed teachers	Ongoing commitment	0.096
Total CSSB		4.162

As stated in the LA's report to SF on 5 December 2023 in the Central Expenditure Budget 2023/24 – Historic Commitments report on 17 July 2023, the ESFA published each LA's 2024/25 illustrative DSG allocations, including those for the CSSB.

In keeping with the DfE's commitment to reduce historic commitment funding, Nottingham City's funding **has been cut by a further 20% in 2024/25** in addition to the reductions to date applied up to 2023/24 of £3.275m.

The 2024/25 reduction is a further £0.465m taking the **total funding reduction to date to £3.740m.**

The ESFA have stated that this funding will be cut year on year until LA's only have the value of the termination of employment and prudential borrowing remaining budgets, for those LA's who have commitments for these costs. This has created a budget pressure for Nottingham City Council.

In the Schools operational guide: 2024 to 2025 the ESFA it is stated in section 34:

"In 2024 to 2025, for those local authorities that receive it, historic commitments funding has been reduced by 20%.

The department has protected any local authority from having a reduction that takes their total historic commitments funding below the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind.”

Nationally funding for historic commitments in the FY 2024/25 has been cut by £10.662m.

In 2023/24 the LA received £2.324m for historic commitments.

Total allocation for historic commitments in 2024/25 is £1.859m.

LA's are funded for ongoing commitments based on a national formula which distributes 90% of funding according to a per-pupil factor and 10% of funding according to a deprivation factor. However, in the financial year 2024/25 a third factor has been introduced, a copyright licences per pupil factor to fund the additional costs of copyright licences that local authorities faced in 2023/24.

Both elements have been adjusted for area costs. LA's due to receive reductions in their per-pupil funding for ongoing functions compared to their 2023/24 baseline will be protected against large losses year on year. **The maximum per-pupil reduction in funding is -2.5%**. This has been afforded by placing a gains cap on the amount that LA's can gain under the formula. In 2024/25 LAs will be able to gain a maximum of 5.51%. **Nationally, in 2024/25 the funding for ongoing commitments that LA's have for all schools is £305m, and includes an increase of 3.7% compared to 2023/24.**

In 2023/24 the CSSB unit of funding for Nottingham City for ongoing commitments was £39.62 per pupil. In 2024/25 this has increased to £40.88 per pupil. This equates to a rise of 3.2% per pupil and includes the additional £0.67 per pupil for increased copyright licences costs faced by LA's in 2023/24.

In 2023/24 the LA received £1.697m for ongoing commitments.

In 2024/25 NCC has been allocated £1.795m for ongoing commitments.

The DfE have stated that they will be reviewing central school services, to see which services best sit within:

- LA's ongoing responsibilities for all schools;
- De-delegated central functions for schools that local authorities (for maintained schools) and MATs (for academies) are responsible for;
- Optional traded services for all schools.

They wish to review if there is any scope to set out a clearer list of services to be funded centrally, alongside a greater move towards de-delegated and traded services. There is to be a more technical consultation on this on the future of central schools services.

2.4.3 Early Years Block DSG Allocation

The LA's EY block allocation is based on the EYNFF which was introduced in April 2017. The EYNFF dictates the hourly rate that each LA receives for 3 & 4-year-olds.

Over Summer 2023 the government consulted on proposals for the extension of entitlements to 2Y, this was reported to SF in October as well as EY supplementary grant in Autumn. The changes, which have now been implemented, put the LA above the funding floor as the increase to the LA's funding rates for 2,3 & 4-year-olds is only 4.4% for 2024/25. This represents a £0.24/hour increase for 3 & 4-year-olds and a £1.80/hour increase for 2-year-olds from 2023/24 initial budget allocation.

In addition, from 2023 to 2024 the separate teachers' pay grant and teachers' pensions employer contribution grants are no longer being paid directly to school-based nurseries, and instead this funding has been rolled into the overall quantum of 3- and 4-year-old entitlement funding. The exception to this is the element relating to allocations for maintained nursery schools which has instead been merged into the maintained nursery supplement. This has added £0.15/hour to the LA's hourly rate for 3 & 4-year-olds.

The LA is being funded for 3 & 4-year-olds in 2024/25 at **£5.72 per hour, £8.36 per hour** for 2-year-olds and £11.43 for under 2s from Sep 2024.

The national funding rate for EY pupil premium has been increased by another 2 pence per eligible child per hour taking the rate to 68 pence.

The national funding rate for disability access fund has been increased by £29 per eligible child per year taking the rate to £910 this includes the £53 autumn increase from the EY Supplementary grant.

The LA's provisional EY block allocation, as published on 19 December 2023, is £31.538m.

Within this provisional allocation there is funding for:

- a) 3 & 4-year-old universal entitlement (£14.547m)
- b) 3 & 4-year-old extended entitlement (£4.345m)
- c) 2-year-old funding universal entitlement (£4.576m) and
- d) 2 year old funding working parent entitlement (£4.084m)
- e) Under 2s funding from Sep 2024 (£2.829m) based on 38 weeks
- f) EY Pupil Premium (EYPP) (£0.717m)
- g) Early Years disability access fund (£0.237m)
- h) Maintained Nursery Supplementary (MNS) funding (£0.202m)

Provisional allocations are based on January 2023 pupil numbers.

Final allocations will be based on 5/12ths x January 2024 pupil numbers and 7/12ths x January 2025 pupil numbers.

2.4.4 High Needs Block DSG Allocation

The LA's HN's block allocation is based on the HN National Funding Formula (HN NFF) which was implemented in April 2018.

Based on the indicative 2024/25 DSG settlement published in July 2023, Nottingham City was due to receive a **5% increase** per head of 2-18 population. This was the maximum allowable gain, with LA's receiving increases of between 3% and 5% per head of population.

The 2024/25 allocation is based upon the latest mid-2023 ONS population estimate for Nottingham City of 68,159. This is 0.6% higher than last year's mid-2022 (67,754) population estimate.

The LA's provisional 2024/25 HN block allocation before recoupment is £61.208m.

This represents a **£2.926m increase compared to the latest published 2023/24 allocation of £58.282m.**

The ESFA will make a recoupment deduction from this allocation for direct funding of HN's places.

- 2.5 Overall DSG funding has **increased since 2023/24 indicative budgets by £29.437m** (£374.256 - £344.819m). This increase is due to the reasons set out in **Table 5** below:

Table 5: 2024/25 Budget Increase Analysis	
2024/25	£m
Schools – Increased pupil numbers and the impact of the changes to the NFF in 2024/25 (43,244 in 2023/24 to 43,915 in 2024/25)	16.877
Premises funding	0.511
National non-domestic rates	0.245
Pupil growth contingency fund	0.067
Historic commitments allocation	(0.465)
Ongoing commitments allocation – effect of increase in rate and increase in pupil numbers	0.082
EY – Impact of the EYNFF 1.8% drop in numbers but fully off-set by 29p/hour increase on 3 & 4 YO funding	0.490
EY – Impact of the EYNFF 29p/hour increase & 3.9% intake on 3 & 4 YO funding	0.394
EY - Indicative funding allocation for 2-year -old working parent entitlement - New funding	4.084
EY - Indicative funding allocation for under 2s entitlement - New funding	2.829
EY – Impact of the EYNFF 13% drop in numbers but fully off-set by £2.70p/hour increase on 3 & 4 YO funding	0.962
EY – Increase in Disability Access Fund 3 – 4-year-olds	0.032
EY – Indicative Disability Access Fund 2-year-olds	0.050
EY – Indicative Disability Access Fund under 2-year-olds	0.020
EY – Increase in Early Years Pupil Premium 3 – 4-year-olds	0.063
EY – Indicative Early Years Pupil Premium 2-year-olds	0.252

EY – Indicative Early Years Pupil Premium Under 2-year-olds	0.013
EY – Increase in supplementary funding allocation for maintained nursery school	0.062
HN – NFF 5% per head funding increase per head of population	2.810
HN – Basic entitlement factor for special school pupils	0.047
HN – Import/Export adjustment change	(0.057)
HN – 2.7% Hospital education funding uplift	0.070
TOTAL ALLOCATION INCREASE	29.437

Overview of DSG Funding Distribution

Table 6 (i) below provides a breakdown of the Schools budget for 2024/25 by block and category of spend and **Table 6 (ii)** shows the 2024/25 allocations compared to preceding years.

TABLE 6 (i) Schools budget for the financial year 2024/25 by block and category of spend

Elements	Schools Block £m	Central Schools Services Block £m	Early Years Block £m	High Needs Block £m	Total DSG £m
Educational settings	278.568	-	30.513	52.401	361.482
Pupil Growth	0.909	-	-	-	0.909
Central Expenditure	-	4.162	1.025	4.997	10.194
De-delegated	0.277	-	-	-	0.277
High Needs Contingency	-	-	-	0.633	0.633
BLOCK TOTAL	279.754	4.162	31.538	58.041	373.495
2024/25 DSG Settlement	-277.855	-3.654	-31.538	-61.208	-374.255
DSG Reserve Funding	-1.597	-	-	2.669	1.062
Reimbursement from ESFA 2024/25	-0.302	-	-	-	-0.302
TOTAL FUNDING	-279.754	-3.654	-31.538	-58.549	-373.495
VARIANCE	0.000	0.508	0.000	-0.508	0.000

TABLE 6 (ii) Comparison of DSG allocations 2020/21 to 2024/25

Elements	Schools Block £m	Central Schools Services Block £m	Early Years Block £m	High Needs Block £m	Total DSG £m
2024/25 Indicative	277.855	3.654	31.538	61.208	374.256
2023/24 as at 16 Nov 23	260.157	4.037	21.811	58.282	344.287
2022/23	246.254	4.570	21.250	52.141	324.214
2021/22	237.015	5.218	20.606	45.001	307.840
2020/21	219.853	6.007	22.219	39.470	287.549

2.6 Distribution of DSG Funding To Settings

The following paragraphs outline in detail how funding is distributed in each block.

2.6.1 Distribution of Schools Block Funding

This block currently totals £279.754m. This is funded by:

- DSG £277.855m (as per **Table 2, 6 (i) & (ii)**);
- Reimbursement of costs from academies of £0.302m
- Reserve drawdown of £1.597m which is made up of the balance earmarked within the DSG reserve for pupil growth £1.493m (approved by SF 5 December 2023) and £0.104m (pending SF approval, see below) from the DSG reserve which is to meet the shortfall in the Schools Block as a result of allocating additional funding to mainstream schools.

On 5 December 2023 the LA outlined in 'Proposed approach to DSG Budget Setting by block 2024/25' report its intention in the financial year 2024/25 to continue to move away from the standard budget setting process of balancing each block budget to the DSG income received for each block. The proposed approach involved:

- passing onto primary and secondary schools additional funding by leaving in the 2023/24 baselines the additional £85 per pupil allocated above the national funding formula rates through the Primary, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Age Weighted Pupil Units in the financial year 2023/24. **This is one-off funding for the financial year 2024/25 only.**
- Drawing down £1.493m of ring-fenced funding in the SSR.
- Fully fund the Education Welfare Team which is funded through the CSSB. In the past the CSSB has supported £0.156m of costs of the Education Welfare Team but the full cost is £0.508m higher.
- Actioning a HN Block of £0.508m to the CSSB.

Upon calculating all schools 2024/25 budgets based on the October 2023 school census data and leaving in the additional £85 per pupil funding allocated in 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baselines an additional £1.748m has been allocated to mainstream primary and secondary schools above the schools national funding formula.

However, by doing this it has created a shortfall in funding in the Schools Block of -£0.104m. To offset this shortfall the LA proposes to use the forecast underspend on the Pupil Growth Contingency Fund in the financial year 2023/24 of £0.090m, this will be credited to the DSG at the end of the financial year 2023/24. The remaining shortfall balance of £0.014m is also proposed to be funded from the DSG reserve. See recommendation 2 of this report.

It must be noted that in the financial year 2025/26 the LA will need to review the formula once the illustrative funding allocations for 2025/26 have been released by the ESFA to see if there is sufficient funding available in the Schools Block to set a balanced budget.

Under the finance regulations LA's are required to include on the APT estimated pupil numbers for any new schools or schools that have opened in the last 7 years that do not yet have pupils in every year group. Funding for new schools is recouped from the LA the same as any other academy or free school. In the financial year 2024/25 the LA has included estimated pupils numbers for the following schools:

- Bluecoat Trent Academy - In the financial years 2021/22, to 2024/25 the LA has funded through the local funding formula (which mirrors the schools NFF) the new free school Bluecoat Trent Academy which opened in September 2021.

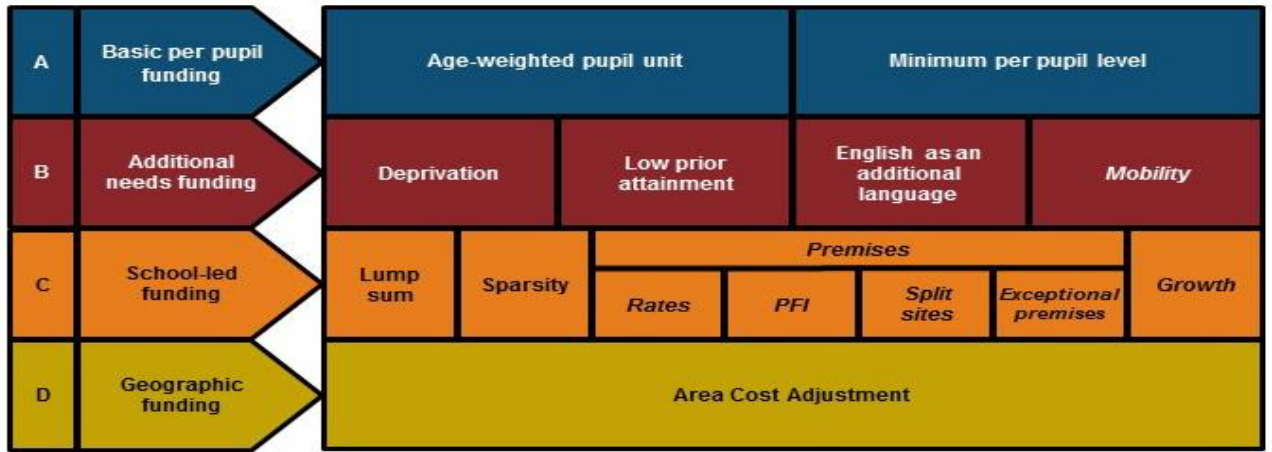
As at the October 2023 school census there were 240 pupils in each of the years 7 and 8 and 180 pupils in year 9, making a total of 660 pupils. From September 2024 a further 8 forms of entry are going to be admitted. Therefore, the LA has funded the new free school for the 660 pupils that were included on the October 2023 school census plus 7/12ths of 240 pupils which are forecasted to be admitted in September 2024. The total number of pupils funded in 2024/25 is 800 pupils.

- Waterside Primary Academy - In September 2024 a new free school named Waterside Primary Academy is due to open. The academy will be a 210 place primary school with a 30 FTE nursery and will open with 30 pupils in reception year and grow year on year until full. As the APT is based on the financial year and the schools budget is based on an academic year so the academy will be funded for 7/12ths of 30 pupils with equates to 17.5 pupils in the financial year 2024/25.

Split site funding has been allocated based on the new national split site criteria and the allocations match the funding received for split site schools.

After applying the +0.5% MFG per pupil within the local funding formula (this is the maximum MFG that can be applied within the formula in 2024/25, and leaving in the additional funding of £85 per pupil allocated through each AWPU in 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baselines in 2024/25 this has created expenditure of £279.754m in the Schools Block. This leaves a deficit balance of -£1.597m on the Schools Block. This is to be funded from the drawdown of £1.493m from the DSG reserve agreed at SF on 5 December 2023 and if approved by SF an additional £0.104m from the DSG reserve as per recommendation 2 in this report.

Figure 2 below illustrates the factors that have been included when calculating schools budgets for 2024/25 based on the NFF.



In 2024/25 the age weighted pupil units (AWPU) have increased by 5% compared to 2023/24 as set out in **Table 7** below:

Table 7: Movement on Age Weighted Pupil Units and the							
	2018/19 & 2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Increase/ (Decrease) 2023/24 to 2024/25
Primary	£2,754.43	£2,864.88	£3,131.62*	£3,249.26	£3,403.40***	£3,572.22****	£168.82
Key Stage 3	£3,873.12	£4,029.09	£4,416.16**	£4,581.49	£4,798.25***	£5,036.41****	£238.16
Key Stage 4	£4,397.70	£4,573.59	£4,976.70**	£5,163.26	£5,407.94***	£5,677.25****	£269.31
Total MFG protection	£9.546m – 2018/19 £11.233m 2019/20	£7.815m	£7.645m	£5.444m	£2.340m	£3.147m	£1.687m - 2019/20 (£3.418m) - 2020/21 (£0.170m) - 2021/22 (£2.201m) - 2022/23 (£3.104m - 2023/24 £0.807m - 2024/25

* First financial year includes £180 per primary pupil for the TPG and TPECG;

** First financial year includes £265 per secondary pupil for the TPG and TPECG.

*** Excludes additional funding of £85 per pupil given in 2023/24, and includes the additional funding passed onto schools for the Supplementary Grant.

**** Excludes the addition funding given to mainstream school in 2024/25 by leaving the additional funding allocated in 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baselines in 2024/25, and includes the additional funding passed onto schools for the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant.

However, in reality due to the MSAG being added into the 2024/25 AWPU rates, the rates have not increased by the 5% they have increased by 1.4%.

The level of MFG protection has risen from £2.340m in 2023/24 to £3.147m in 2024/25. This is mainly due to the inclusion of the additional funding allocated in 2023/24 through the basic entitlement factors not being removed from the 2023/24 baseline funding in 2024/25.

In the financial year 2024/25 LA's are required to:

- Use all the 12 compulsory NFF factors - This means that LA's have to use the basic entitlement factor, all 3 deprivation factors (FSM, FSM6 and IDACI), the MPPL, LPA, EAL, mobility, sparsity, London fringe, split sites and the lump sum factors;
- Apply the national split sites eligibility criteria and factor values;
- move their factor values 10% closer to the NFF factor values.

The above is not an issue for NCC as it already mirrors the NFF factors and factor values.

2.6.2 Distribution of CSSB Funding

The CSSB funding has been allocated as per **Table 4**.

The only revisions that have been made to the CSSB allocations since they were approved by SF 5 December 2023 is to the retained duties funding, which has been increased by £0.027m. The illustrative funding allocation for ongoing commitments was £1.768m. The final allocation for ongoing commitments is £1.795m.

The copyright licences budget has not been adjusted as in previous financial years due to the DfE still being in negotiations with some copyright management organisations for new agreements which will stretch into the new year. Once the final cost is known the copyright licences budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual cost and the adjustment will be netted off the retained duties budget.

This principle was approved by SF.

2.6.3 Distribution of Early Years Block Funding

Table 8 provides an indicative breakdown of the 2024/25 EY block budget:

TABLE 8: EY INDICATIVE BUDGET BREAKDOWN (£m)					
ELEMENT	3 & 4 YO	2 YO	Under 2 YO	DLA	EYPP
<i>Base rate/hour</i>	£5.01	£7.46	£9.72		£0.68
<i>Base rate total</i>	£16.750	£7.522	£2.829		
<i>Supplements</i>					
<i>-Deprivation/hour</i>	£1.00			£910	
<i>-Flexibility/hour</i>	£0.10				
<i>DLA/annum</i>					
<i>Supplements total</i>	£0.766				
<i>MNS lump sum</i>	£0.202				
<i>SEN inclusion fund</i>	£0.283	£0.010			
<i>Contingency</i>	£0.365	£0.832			
TOTAL PROVIDERS	£18.365	£8.364	£2.829	0.237	0.717
Central Expenditure	0.960	0.065			
TOTAL	19.325	8.429	2.829	0.237	0.717

3 & 4-Year-Old Funding

There are no changes to the entitlement of 3 and 4-year-olds, the age group is still funded on the same basis for both universal 15 hours entitlement and the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parent. As stated in 2023 to 2024 budget report, the separate teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grants are no longer being paid directly to school-based nurseries, and instead this funding has been rolled into the overall quantum of 3- and 4-year-old entitlement funding, this has also been factored in 2024-25 funding allocation.

The Early Years Entitlements: LA funding operational guidance 2024/25 encourages LAs to use the discretionary quality supplement to distribute this funding via their local EYFF e.g. to target the funding to take account of additional pressures that some providers might face, from, for example, the need to pay employer contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

In Nottingham City, we do not currently have a quality supplement in our EYFF. Introducing a quality supplement would represent a change to our EYFF which would require consultation with all early years providers. Such a proposal is likely to be divisive. The EYFF introduced a requirement for a single base rate across both sectors (Schools and PVI) and was supposed to create a level playing field. The government consultation report acknowledges that some respondents, particularly PVIs, questioned the purpose of the TPPG grant more generally, suggesting the grant itself creates inequality between provider types.

The LA is funded at £5.72 and instead of introducing a new funding rates, the LA is proposing to use the £5.01/hour Autumn Early years Supplementary grant in 2024-25 as reported to SF in December, however, if there is need to change the rate in-year we may need to seek approval from the secretary of state. The

funding rates for both 3 and 4-year-old entitlement and the additional 15 hours working parents remain the same as LA should any funding factors equally to both entitlements.

2 Year-old Funding

This year will see the introduction of new working parent entitlements for 2-year-old from April 2024 and extension to aged 9 months and up to 2 years from September 2024, the funding rate by ESFA is £8.36/hour and the LA has also allocated £7.46/hour based on Early year supplementary grant from autumn 2023, an increase of £1.80/hour from 2023-24 initial allocation of £5.66. Raising 2-year-old participation is a target in the Council plan. Some of our “families in need” access places requiring extra involvement in multi-agency meetings from staff in settings. This is key to supporting the Children’s Services improvement journey, keeping children safe and getting them school ready.

The guidelines allowed the LA to ensure funding for deprivation is reflected in the funding for the entitlements, however, LA are not mandated to include this where they choose to have separate formulae for 2-year-old entitlement and working parent, in this context, the LA is proposing to use the same rate for both entitlements as we don’t have a comprehensive working parent data to estimate a full year cost.

9 months and up to 2-year-old entitlement

This is one of the new funding entitlements announced last summer and reported to SF in October, by government directives this will be implemented from autumn 2024 and LA has been allocated £2.829m, funded at £11.43/hour, and by my calculations, the amount allocated to Nottingham City is based on 38 weeks which is a full year cost as against part allocation from Sep-Mar 2025. We have sought clarification from ESFA to confirm if we need to pro-rata this allocation, however, at the time of this report, we have not had any response from ESFA besides acknowledgment of our enquiry. We will be liaising with the settings to for potential take up of these entitlements as well as consult with them to determine local funding rates.

SEN Inclusion Fund

From April 2022, the LA introduced new allocation criteria for the SEN Inclusion Fund as outlined in a paper presented to SF on 25 January 2022.

This new set of criteria included 3 strands of support; child-level, setting-level and universal. The setting-level support is designed to provide additional financial support to settings with high proportions of high needs children. This strand pays £3000 per child attracting HLN over a certain threshold of 1-3 HLN part-time equivalent children according to setting size. This covers the cost of the first £3000 (or £6000 for a full-time child) of additional needs that would otherwise have to be met from their core 3 & 4-year-old funding. There is no change from 2023/24 allocation.

The LA is proposing to maintain the existing SEN IF criteria and funding level. This is seen as an important priority given significantly rising demands experienced by schools and settings in supporting the additional needs that children are currently presenting with in this age group.

2.6.4 Distribution of High Needs Block Funding

Table 9 provides a provisional breakdown of the 2024/25 HN budget, with latest comparative budget figures for 2023/24.

Table 9: Provisional HN Budget Breakdown			
Budget	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Change £m
Mainstream High Level Needs (HLN) including Additional Inclusion Allowance	11.294	11.552	0.258
Special Education Needs (SEN) resource unit top-up funding	0.865	1.059	0.194
SEN resource unit places (via recoupment)	0.246	0.270	0.024
Special School top-up & maintained places	13.132	13.808	0.676
Special academy places (via recoupment)	3.578	3.760	0.182
Net cross border top-ups	0.357	0.375	0.018
Post-16 HLN funding	1.968	2.066	0.098
Further Education places (via recoupment)	0.920	0.960	0.040
Independent/Non Maintained Special School (INMSS)	1.632	1.714	0.082
Hospital & Home Education (HHE) including NEST & HHE contingency	2.587	2.771	0.184
Behaviour PRUs/Devolved Alternative Provisions (AP)	7.373	9.201	1.828
PRU academy places (via recoupment)	1.520	1.600	0.080
AP free schools (via recoupment)	0.039	0.039	0.000
Fair access - allocations for schools	0.300	0.315	0.015
Outreach services delivered from Westbury/Oakfield	0.271	0.264	-0.007
Contribution to residential placements	1.554	1.632	0.078
High Needs settings TPG/TPECG	0.091	0.095	0.004
AP Free schools additional grant	0.113	0.117	0.004
Total Provision	47.841	51.598	3.757
SEN team	0.375	0.394	0.019
SEN specialist equipment	0.066	0.054	-0.012
SEN transport contribution	1.000	1.000	0.000
Disability access	0.200	0.200	0.000
Inclusive education services – Sensory, Learning Support & Autism teams	2.020	2.106	0.086
Intensive Support Team (IST)	0.470	0.581	0.111
Other LA staff supporting inclusion including fair access & teenage parents	0.588	0.580	-0.008
Sensory Occupational Therapy services	0.080	0.084	0.004
Total Central Services	4.800	4.997	0.197
High Needs In-year Contingency	1.350	1.446	0.096
Grand Total	53.991	58.042	4.051

The figures in **Table 9** are provisional and there will be amendments resulting from the detailed calculation of indicative budgets for settings prior to the end of February and the finalisation of 2024/25 service budgets.

The provisional budget figures are underpinned by the following assumptions and principles:

- Incorporates planned high needs place changes for the 2024/25 academic year as submitted to the ESFA in November 2023 and associated top-up funding for special schools and special resource units.
- A base level 0.5% increase in PRU funding levels in line with the level of increase applied to mainstream schools through the MFG.
- A 5% assumed increase in the daily cost of external AP commissioned via the PRU. Top-up funding provided to cover the actual cost of external AP will be adjusted to reflect the extra funding being provided through the separate additional high needs funding allocation.
- Projections of excluded pupils requiring provision funded by the high needs budget underpinned by assumption that permanent exclusions of City Secondary pupils in the academic years 22/23 and 23/24 remain at the same level as 21/22 and participation of all schools in the inclusion model. The assumption on exclusion of City pupils from City primary and County schools has been doubled (from 16 to 32) as permanent exclusions in Autumn term 2022 already total those made in the whole of academic year 2021/22. It also indicates an increase in exclusions in current year and providers requested and increase to make it worth their while, we had increase the exclusion rates by 25% from £11,000 to £13,750 to incentivise them, and this will cost the LA additional £0.610m
- There are plans to increase the total places for pupils at risk of exclusion funded through the 2024/25 devolved funding Inclusion model in line with the overall increase in Secondary aged pupils between October 2022 and October 2023, we will be looking at data from Office of National Statistics (ONS) to determine the national average and compare with NCC.
- A 19% increase to special resource unit (SRU) funding levels due to additional place funding from the 2024/25 place change request
- There is an increase in special school funding levels plus further specific top-up increases where the special school funding review highlighted changes in the pupil cohorts with impacts on staffing requirements.
- Ring-fencing the 5% uplift received for Hospital Education funding for the Hospital & Home Education (HHE) Learning Centre budget/HHE contingency and £0.174m in contingency to cover additional HHE places
- A 5% increase in the post-16 budget to meet rising demand. This budget is demand led and numbers of young people aged 16-25 with EHC plans has risen by over a third in the last 4 years, largely in the extended age range from 19-25.
- A £0.607m increase in the mainstream HLN budget for 2024/25. This is an estimated requirement intended to cover;
 - An uplift to HLN bandings to reflect staffing cost increases from April 2024.
 - The rollout of the revised HLN/Targeted funding system above notional SEN for Secondary aged pupils, however further work needs to be done.
 - The demand pressure arising from increasing numbers of pupils qualifying for HLN funding.

- Implications of a post-implementation review on the HLN roll out in the early years and primary stages.
- In line with 2023/24 introduction of a high needs in-year contingency budget, there is (£1.446m) allocated in year to support a number of potential development areas which are under consideration, but which are not yet in a position to be confirmed or costed:
 - Up to support HHE additional new places 10
 - Current Alternative Provision (AP) commissioning review

The assumption is for 2024/25 the high needs contingency budget has been set at a level that should adequately cover all known plans. As there is a potential £3m underspend in current year and increase of £2.926m HN funding in 2024/25 we estimated a £2.7m balance from HN budget allocation and will show this element as going straight to reserves for use in future years.

Should there be any unforeseen HN budget requirements for 2024/25 that cannot be met from the high needs contingency budget, then appropriate approvals will be sought in-year to fund these from the DSG reserve.

2.7 Pupil Premium Grant (PP)

The total PP allocated to schools is made up of 3 of elements, funding for free school meal pupils (Ever6), service children and post looked after children. Each element has a different pupil criteria.

- **Pupil Premium** – In 2024/25 funding will be allocated to schools based on the October 2023 school census data. The only exceptions to this include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census.

The ESFA have confirmed the PP rates for each element of the grant for 2024/25.

Table 10: Pupil Premium Comparison				
	FSM Ever6			
	Primary	Secondary	Service Children	Post Looked after Child*
	£	£	£	£
2024/25	1,480	1,050	340	2,570
2023/24	1,455	1,035	335	2,530
2022/23	1,385	985	320	2,410
2020/21 & 2021/22	1,345	955	310	2,345
2018/19, 2019/20	1,320	935	300	2,300
2015/16, 2016/17 & 2017/18	1,320	935	300	1,900

*From 1 April 2023 pupil premium eligibility for pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care will include children adopted from outside of England and Wales.

2.8 Pupil Premium Plus Grant – As per 2.7 the rate for pupil premium plus for looked after children will be £2,570 in the financial year 2024/25.

Detailed guidance on the pupil premium is available at:

[Pupil premium - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium)

The pupil premium allocations and conditions of grant for 2024/25 will be published in Spring 2024.

2.9 Other Grants

2.9.1 Teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG) for 2024/25

In July 2023 the ESFA announced £525m in 2023/24 and £900m in 2024/25 to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award. This funding is to be split between mainstream schools, special schools, alternative provision, early years and 16-19 provision.

In 2024/25 the TPAG will cover the whole financial year. Therefore, allocations for 2024/25 will be calculated twelve-sevenths of the funding rates in 2023/24.

Mainstream academies will also receive an additional allocation to cover April to August 2025 because their funding cycle follows the academic year – this will represent five-twelfths of academies' 2024/25 allocations.

The TPAG will not continue as a separate grant in 2024/25 for early years since that funding has been rolled into the core early years funding instead.

Details of post-16 for academic year 2024/25 will be announced in due course.

The ESFA will pay funding direct to mainstream academies.

Local authorities and academies will receive their payments for 2024 to 2025 in 2 tranches. Payments will be made in May 2024 for local authorities, and June 2024 for academies, to cover April 2024 to August 2024; and in October 2024 for local authorities, and November 2024 for academies, to cover September 2024 to March 2025.

The funding will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2025 to 2026. For primary, secondary and all-through schools, this will mean the funding being rolled into the schools national funding formula for 2025/26.

In recognition of the funding cycle for academies, which follows the academic year (rather than the financial year used for local authority maintained schools), academies will receive an additional allocation of the TPAG to cover April to August 2025. This is the period in advance of the funding being rolled into academies' core budget allocations through the national funding formula. This will be allocated using the same rates and pupil numbers as the 2024 to 2025 grant and will, therefore, represent five-twelfths of their 2024 to 2025 allocations.

Local authorities will receive 2 payments for their special schools and AP schools in 2024/25.

The ESFA will confirm local authorities' first allocations of TPAG funding for special schools and AP schools in May 2024. This allocation will be based on place numbers as reported to ESFA by April 2024. The allocation will also specify an amount of funding specifically for maintained hospital schools (and the equivalent academies). This first payment will be made to local authorities in June 2024.

Local authorities will receive a second allocation of TPAG funding for special schools and AP schools in March 2025, using updated place number data as set out in the [allocations](#) section. This allocation will also specify an amount of funding specifically for hospital schools (and the equivalent academies).

The ESFA will allocate funding for local authorities to pass onto individual schools as listed in the [eligibility for the grant](#) section, except for NMSS who will be funded directly by ESFA.

2.9.2 Teachers Pensions grant for 2024/25

There will be an additional grant for 2024/25 to reflect the additional costs of the increase to the employer contribution rates to the Teachers Pensions' Scheme from April 2024. Further details will be announced in due course.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 No other options are available as the recommendations align to the financial regulations issued by the DfE in relation to the allocation of DSG and pupil premium.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

- 4.1 To allocate budgets to schools on a fair and transparent basis before 31 March 2024 in accordance with The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.

5. Consideration of Risk

The risk associated with this grant will be captured in the 2023/24 outturn report once all grant updates have been received.

6. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 6.1 Financial implications are contained throughout this report.

The financial allocations set out in this report are in line with the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2023. All the required approvals from SF have been ascertained for the financial year 2024/25 as stated in **Table 1** except for £0.104m which is to meet the shortfall in the School Block as result of leaving in the additional funding given to mainstream schools in the financial year 2023/24 in the 2023/24 baseline funding in 2024/25. See paragraph 2.6.1 and recommendation 2 in this report.

In addition, the approval to transfer £0.508m from the HN Block to the CSS Block was approved by SF on 5 December 2023.

7. Legal colleague comments

- 7.1 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023 make provision for local authorities' financial arrangements in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of funded early years provision in England. The Council must ensure that it complies with its obligations in accordance with these Regulations and the DSG Conditions of Grant. Financial advice and compliance confirmation in that respect is given in 6.1 above and in the main body of the report.
- 7.2 The Recommendations appear to be within the Forum's powers and in accordance with its constitution.

Ann Barrett, Team Leader, Legal Services – 8 January 2024.

8. Other relevant comments

- 8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications as part of this report.

It should be noted that there are a number of teams and posts that are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. As the council manages its own financial challenges, caution should be applied to ensure that the funding behind services/posts is fully understood before any proposals are formulated, equality impact assessments are developed as part of any proposals, and best value is demonstrated.

- 8.2 Where funding is time limited or where service reductions are proposed within the Council's Central Education and Children's workforce, or wider within the schools' workforce; this may result in potential staffing implications for the workforce. In the event of any such implications, genuine and meaningful consultation processes will commence with Education and Schools Trade Unions and affected staff, in line with policies and procedures, supported by HR. All financial implications arising from any staffing changes must comply with the Council's spending controls at the time of their application.

Carol McCrone, Senior HR Consultant (Schools) - 8 January 2024

9. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

- 9.1 Not applicable

10. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

- 10.1 Not applicable

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 11.1 An EIA is not required because the report does not contain new proposals or strategies.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

- 12.1 A DPIA is not required.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 DfE – The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023

15.2 DfE Policy document - National funding formulae for schools and high needs 2024-25

15.3 SF – Proposed approach to DSG Budget Setting 2024/25 by block – 5 December 2023

15.4 SF – Central Expenditure Budget 2024/25 – Historic Commitments – 5 December 2023

15.5 SF – Central Expenditure Budget 2024/25 – Ongoing Commitments – 5 December 2023

15.6 SF - De-delegation of funding for trade union time off for senior representatives for 2024/25 – 5 December 2023

15.7 SF – De-delegation request for maintained schools for school improvement and brokerage grant 2024/25 – 5 December 2023

15.8 SF - Early Years Central Expenditure 2024/25 – 5 December 2023

15.9 SF – Proposed pupil growth allocation for 2024/25 – 5 December 2023

15.10 SF – De-delegation of 2024/25 Health and Safety Building Inspection Funding – 5 December 2023

APPENDIX A

Nottingham City School Funding Consultation 2024/25

Overall Summary

A total of 27 responses were received. This included responses from the following schools/setting types:

- 1 Maintained nursery school
- 4 Secondary academies
- 17 Maintained primary schools
- 5 Primary academies

It needs to be noted that two maintained primary schools submitted 2 separate responses from the Head and Business/Office Manager. For the purposes of statistical analysis of responses to Q1 and Q2, only one response has been counted for these schools so that their view is not over represented compared to other maintained schools. Responses show unanimous support for the proposal to distribute additional funding by leaving in the additional funding given in 2023/24 in the 2023/25 MFG unit value for 2024/25. The maintained nursery school response indicated their support but only if they were included in the funding distribution. Unfortunately, it is not possible to fund Nottingham Nursery through this proposal as they are funded separately through the Early Years funding formula. An analysis of each question and summary of responses is provided below.

Consultation results by question

Q1) Do you support the proposal to leave in the additional funding given in 2023/24 in the 2023/24 MFG unit value for 2024/25 for mainstream schools?

Response	Number	%
Yes	25	100
No	-	-
Not Sure	-	-
Total	25	100

The following sample of comments reflect the reasons given by schools for their support:

- The additional funding would enable us to bridge the gap between the rising cost of living and easing some pressure on a very restrictive budget.
- Any additional funding to support our critical budget will be gratefully received and I believe that the current money should be used to support our current cohort of children.
- Schools are facing deficit budgets and it will only get worse. Any extra funding will help towards bringing budgets out of the red and back into the black.
- There should be more funding to support Good schools with higher staffing salaries. Retention is key but the funds need to support this more.

- We have a very stable workforce, we do not have a teacher retention problem. However, this means that we have highly paid teaching staff. We would appreciate more funding to recognise our staff retention as this comes with a cost.
- I support anything that is going to give schools more money but always remain cautious about the wider impact this could have. SEND provision and support is waning and ensuring this vulnerable group receives what they need has to be a priority. Would their high needs block be impacted? What are the other far-reaching consequences? Would we be expected to 'manage' with what we have been given here despite having very real budget cuts from the DfE anyway - especially in light of their financial misadministration.
- We have a deficit budget and this money will help us maintain current staffing levels and reduce the risk of redundancies.
- School Budgets continue to be under increasing pressure and need to increase in order to meet the ever-increasing needs of our pupils.
- Schools are struggling at the moment and it makes sense to equitably divide to help all schools and children.
- All additional funding is welcomed due to current financial pressures.
- We are in desperate need of additional funding so wherever it can be taken from legitimately, it needs to be done. school budget pressures are at their worst and with old buildings and laughable capital funding for maintained schools we need every bit of financial support we can get.
- I am very much in support of this consultation - thank you.
- Rising running costs of schools, rising number on pupils with special educational needs overall, insufficient funding provided to meet the specific needs of high level needs SEND pupils and a decreasing budget is having a significant impact on pupil provision and staff and pupil well-being. Really difficult time to be a head and teacher in a mainstream school in Nottingham City.
- With the financial pressures schools are facing, retaining the additional £85 over and above the Age weighted pupil unit rates will assist us in supporting our students needs.

Q2) Do you agree with the approach of allocating up to £1.493m from the DSG reserve to meet any shortfall in the schools NFF in 2024/25?

Response	Number	%
Yes	24	96
No	-	-
Not Sure	1	4
Total	25	100

All schools except one were in support of allocating up to £1.493m from the DSG to meet the shortfall in the schools NFF in 2024/25 as they felt they needed clarity on how schools would be means tested. Page 48

Schools will not be means tested to attract the additional funding in 2024/25. The additional funding that each school receives is dependent upon the make-up pupils within each school (which factor funding they attract). The allocations to each school will therefore vary.

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Title of paper:	Additional capacity at Hospital Home Education
Corporate Director: Director:	Catherine Underwood - Corporate Director for People Nicholas Lee - Director of Education Services
Report author and contact details:	Jennifer Hardy - Interim Head of Access to Learning Jennifer.hardy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Collins Elechi – Interim Senior Commercial Business Partner Ann Barrett - Team Leader, Legal Services
Summary	
This paper outlines a series of proposals relating to Hospital Home Education Learning Centre, covering primary alternative provision places and an outreach programme to support vulnerable pupils deemed clinically unable to attend school.	
Recommendations:	
1	To approve a proposal to allocate £137,376 of High Needs funding for 10 primary alternative provision places at Hospital Home Education Learning Centre for a period of two years.
2	To approve a proposal to establish an outreach programme for children with profound needs who have not been attending school, allocating £36,742 of High Needs funding per year.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Rates of permanent exclusion for primary school aged pupils has grown significantly in recent years.
- 1.2 However, there is no Alternative Provision (AP) for Key Stage 1 children in Nottingham and a handful of AP places for Key Stage 2 pupils. The places at Hospital Home Education Learning Centre (HHELC) will offer therapeutic support for primary pupils to prevent a child from being permanently excluded and support their reintegration back to their mainstream school.
- 1.3 When a primary aged pupil is permanently excluded from school, the full cost of their education will be funded by the High Needs Block until they are reintegrated back in to mainstream education. Preventing permanent exclusion wherever possible is often the best outcome for a young person and their family, and also reduces pressures on High Needs funding.
- 1.4 Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties and medical needs already face significant barriers to access education when compared to their non-disabled peers. Pupils with complex medical needs can face lengthy stays in hospital when picking up relatively minor infections, and on occasions, the complexity of their needs mean that picking up infections and bugs, can also pose a risk to life.
- 1.5 Establishing a resource for outreach support for this vulnerable cohort will ensure they continue to receive an education during these extenuating situations.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Rates of permanent exclusion in primary school have risen in recent years:

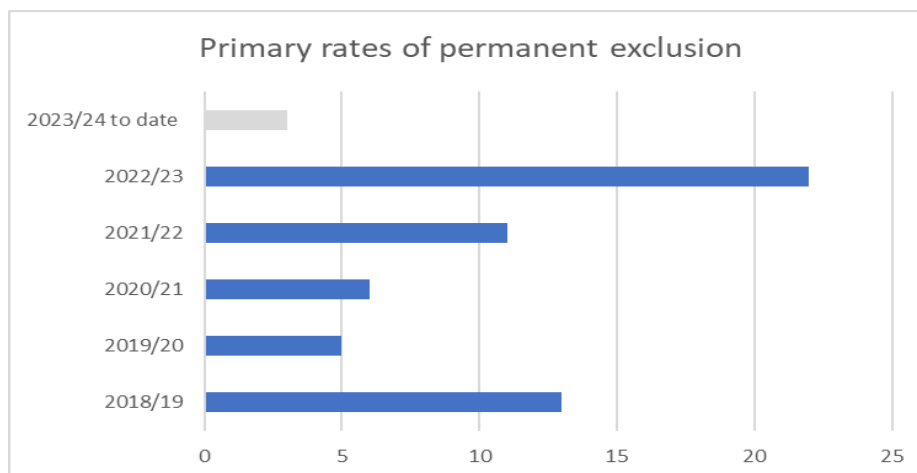


Chart shows rates of primary permanent exclusion over the last six academic years.

2.2 Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the number of permanent exclusions for primary aged pupils doubled.

2.3 If a primary aged child is permanently excluded from school, if they are in Key Stage 2 they will go on roll with Denewood Academy. Despite adding 8 additional places to Denewood this academic year, Denewood is already at capacity and the school is not able to offer support for children to prevent permanent exclusion.

2.4 An application has been submitted to the DfE for an AP Free School by Raleigh Education Trust and, if successful, this would provide 100 places for KS1 - 3 for children who have been excluded from school or who are at risk of being permanently excluded. If this is approved, it will still be several years before this provision is fully up and running and able to be accessed by city schools.

2.5 This paper proposes a 10-place provision at HHELC for a two year period initially, from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2026.

2.6 HHELC will be able to support 10 primary aged children identified as at risk of permanent exclusion. Placements will be a combination of full time and part time placements and where the children attend part time, they will be supported by HHELC in their school whilst they are there. This arrangement is already being trialled successfully with one primary school in the city.

2.7 The provision will be in HHELC's Sherwood site and will be an interim, early intervention model that aims to support schools to allow the child to be reintegrated back to their mainstream school. The cost of staffing provision for a full year is £137,377.16.

Description	FTE	Basic pay	NI	Supn	Amount
Teacher	1	47,388.26	5,282.45	11,221.54	63,892.26
Level 3 TA	2	27,854.91	2,588.18	6,299.37	73,484
Level 3 TA (for outreach)	1	27,854.91	2,588.18	6,299.37	36,742
Total:					£174,118

- 2.8 The cost per placement for this provision is £12,987 per year per child, which is significantly cheaper than the annual cost per year of a child when they have been permanently excluded from school. Schools will be asked to fund £85 per week per placement in addition to the above staffing costs. This is the current rate HHELC charge primary schools to cover additional interventions such as ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support) and trauma informed practitioners.
- 2.9 This model is an early intervention model and will need to be delivered in partnership between HHELC and the children's mainstream schools. Referrals for places will come through the usual HHELC weekly admission panel.
- 2.10 Appendix 1 outlines case studies from HHELC.
- 2.11 Oak Field school have identified a cohort of their pupils who, due to their complex medical needs, have not attended school for more than 3 years.
- 2.12 An outreach programme will be set up to provide tuition within students' homes, enabling access to a sensory based curriculum, in an environment less likely to transmit infection. Access to this service will be provided to pupils deemed unable to attend school to their complex health needs, and clearance must be provided by a medical professional. This provision comes from feedback from parent/carers, who express genuine concern that choosing to send their child to school, is choosing to put their health and wellbeing at significant risk

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 None.

4. Outcomes/deliverables

- 4.1 Reduction in rates of permanent exclusion for primary aged pupils and support in place for vulnerable SEN pupils.

5. Consideration of Risk

- 5.1 No risks arising from the proposals in the report.

6. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 6.1 The Estimated cost will be funded through High Needs allocation, and we expect that this will be covered by overall High Need underspend and year-on-year High Needs settlement figure. The sum of £174,118 has been factored in 2024/25 High Needs budget allocation.

Collins Elechi, Interim Senior Commercial Business Partner – 08 January 2024

7. Legal colleague comments

- 7.1 The Council has a duty to provide suitable full-time alternative education for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them. The proposals relate to that duty and the power to consider the proposals is within the Forum's remit.

Ann Barrett, Team Leader Legal Services - 07 December 2023

8. Other relevant comments

8.1 None.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

9.1 N/A

10. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

10.1 N/A

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 An EIA is not required.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 A DPIA is not required.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A DPIA is not required.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 None.

Appendix 1

Kindness Empathy Respect Responsibility Honesty Resilience



Primary Case Study

Year 1 Pupil

Background information
<p>R is a pupil with Autism and social and emotional needs. He had significant behaviour needs at his previous school, resulting in exclusion. R has an EHCP. R has had significant gaps in his school experience due to Covid and exclusion. This has impacted on his learning and he was initially working within EYFS objectives and levels. His learning profile is quite spiky as a consequence of these factors.</p> <p>He found communication difficult at times with limited vocabulary. He is a visual and hands on learner and loves to be making and creating. This is when his imagination comes to life.</p> <p>R loves exploring and finding things out, especially outside. He likes to share what he has found with adults and ask questions to take his learning further. He finds phonics and reading tricky. He is, at times, reluctant to participate in these activities and needs much encouragement. However, with that encouragement, he will engage.</p>
Staffing
Initially 1:1
Attendance
Through discussions with parents based around length of time R had been out of school, and ability to sustain it was agreed 2 mornings would be the initial expectation. Attendance was increased to 4 mornings Spring Term 1 (this was based around staff capacity, parental choice and R's levels of resilience and sustainability) R's attendance was excellent throughout at 96%.
Curriculum Offer
Initially when R joined HHE we planned a low demand, free flow classroom offer (using EYFS objectives) with the aim to build a secure and positive relationship, identify individual need and begin to make early assessments of both his learning abilities, and style. This provided the opportunity to identify some of his particular needs and triggers, including a dislike of being cold or wet, a need for free flow access to hand washing and identifying that describing tasks as "boring" was his way to communicate that he doesn't understand or is finding something difficult, simple instructions, use of 'Now – Next' visual timetable to support anxiety about

what was coming next.

He was able to progress to a more structured approach quite quickly, planning was generated from the EYFS objectives and themed around a key text. Learning behaviours were taught through games (turn taking, following rules, accepting losing), appropriately match phonics and maths sessions (task time being increased slowly, at the table expectations, lots of praise and reward, building on success, clear routine)

Individual learning Progression – the curriculum objectives being taught were progressed alongside R's needs and with a growing level of appropriate challenge to ensure academic progress was being made, whilst maintaining a safe, positive learning environment for R and consistent opportunities to experience success.

During his time with HHE R successfully began to work within the Year 1 objectives for maths, was reading simple phonics-based texts (Phase 2/3) writing sentences (spellings aided) that included a capital letter and full stop. He was able to engage for sessions up to 40 mins. He acquired a much larger vocabulary, including ways to express basic emotional needs. He also gained a real love of books and listening to stories.

Additional experiences were also built into our curriculum offer to both enhance learning, engage R and continue to provide support for social learning. This included a visit to the shops, and the Orchard.

Behaviour Support

A clear focus was placed on building a positive safe relationship with R that was developed through using some of his own likes e.g. choosing 'Supertato' as a text fitting with his love for super hero characters, taking time to listen to R, creating opportunities for 'fun' through games and creative activities, calm consistent approach / environment.

Identifying triggers and providing appropriate solutions e.g. free access to hand washing, individual timetable incorporating appropriate breaks and a snack time. Repetitive opportunities provided to model, prompt, practise and experience appropriate social behaviours and responses through the activities chosen.

Clear calm boundaries – expectations were shared, consistent, repeated, modelled, and discussed regularly.

Working with Parents

Consistent communication with parents' daily feedback at pick up times, meetings to discuss and review IEP's and progress, parents encouraged to communicate any relevant information from home (which was done successfully).

Shared all key findings related to learning behaviours and abilities. Developed open, safe lines of communication through lots of positive feedback, ensuring parents were always aware of next steps, regular time to discuss.

Partnership Working with New School

Accompanying visits with parents when identifying possible new school. Clear lines of communication were established with the chosen school.

Agreed with school and parents a timetable for transition, building over a half term, fully supported by HHE teacher. Sharing of academic and social information to provide full picture to new class teacher, SENCO and Head teacher.

Visits to the building across 6 weeks from 1 morning to 4 mornings, supported in class fully by HHE teacher to begin with, withdrawing this (whilst remaining on site) over time to build confidence of R to be in class independently. HHE teacher giving constant commentary, reassurance and explanation to R whilst in class.

Support from HHE teacher during non-structured time (playtimes) to help foster some early friendships, support appropriate play and give reassurance.

All appropriate paper work completed and sent. Supporting links with parents, meeting with new school staff and parents. Open lines of communication maintained following full transition for both new school and parents (check in emails shared weekly so far).

Working with Other Agencies

Worked alongside City SEND case worker identifying new school and transition. Supported / advised mum with regards to paediatrician and SaLT referrals.

Reintegration

Following transition work R is fully transitioned at new mainstream setting, early feedback is positive. Current attendance of mornings only agreed with parents – building to full time by Spring term.



Primary Case Study

Year 5 Pupil

Background information
<p>J is a looked after pupil who is currently living in a residential setting. This placement follows a break down with foster parents. He was referred to HHE from Home School following a fixed term exclusion due to aggressive behaviours, hurting another pupil and leaving the classroom / school site. Due to continued behaviours, they felt J was at risk of permanent exclusion.</p> <p>He has a younger sibling still attending Home School living with Step father, older sibling attending secondary school currently in foster care. J has contact with step father, grandparents and siblings. Mum has failed to attend supervised contact – J wants increased contact and talks daily about wanting to see mum.</p> <p>He is a capable pupil comfortably functioning within the Year 4 curriculum expectations independently, and able to achieve Year 5 expectations for Maths and English when engaged with minimal support. He struggles to remain regulated and quite frequently becomes disengaged, leading to aggressive behaviour, bad language and attempts to leave the HHE site.</p>
Staffing
Initially 1:1
Attendance
Through discussions with Home School and carers J began with 2 mornings at HHE and 1 morning at home school. Attendance was increased to 4 mornings at HHE in agreement with home school and carers) J's attendance was good at 92% after initially refusing to come in.
Curriculum Offer
Initially when J joined HHE we planned sessions based around requests he made in relation to interest – including work about the plague, and space. Activities were planned at a level that J could access quite easily to help build confidence and develop positive experiences and relationships. He also enjoyed engaging with some creative tasks. Planning was based on appropriate KS2 Year 4 and 5 learning objectives focussing on English, Maths Science and Art.
J made some progress achieving assessed outcomes at Year 5 level for Reading

and Maths by the end of the school year, with some progress in writing assessments. His engagement in learning improved at times but remained inconsistent based around mood. Communication was maintained with home school – with J completing some work based on what his class were working on e.g. MacBeth / Francis.

Behaviour Support

A clear focus was placed on building a positive safe relationship with J, including using his interests to guide learning choices, calm interactions, praise and rewards, close communication with carers and home school. Repetitive opportunities provided to model, prompt, practise and experience appropriate social behaviours and responses through learning and break sessions.

Clear calm boundaries – expectations were shared, consistent, repeated, modelled, and discussed regularly. An appropriate environment provided for calming when dysregulated. He was supported with maintaining school friendships through writing letters. Visual timetable with some choice about the order of activities.

Working with Carers

Consistent communication with carers daily feedback at pick up times, meetings to discuss and review progress alongside social worker, virtual school and Home School. Carers generally updated us with any issues information from the 'home'. Shared all key findings related to learning behaviours and abilities. Developed open, safe lines of communication. HHE staff supported carer when J refused to come onto site. Some lessons initially took place in the carer's car parked outside of school.

Partnership Working with New School

Following a multi-agency meeting at the end of the summer term it was agreed by all parties that J would attend the on-site school associated with the residential care home in September. J's assessment information was shared and an offer made for a meeting between new teacher and HHE.

Working with Other Agencies

HHE staff attended all meetings with Virtual School, Social care, residential setting and home school. We were able to provide the home school with support and evidence in relation to J's needs academic, emotional and provision needs. Space was provided on-site space for J to meet with new social worker. Staff worked very closely with the residential care home regarding behaviour and attendance.

Reintegration

During the summer term supported transition visits to the Home School one morning a week with a view to increased sessions, Teacher stayed in class for sessions and supported at playtimes.

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