

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM
Draft Minutes

18 June 2026 at 10:00 - 12:00
Virtual Meeting - Microsoft Teams

Multi Academy Trusts

The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)
Catalyst Academies Trust
South West Essex Community Education Trust
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust
Mossbourne Federation
Christus Catholic Trust
Harris Federation

Name

Mrs V Reid (Chair)
Mr T Parfett (Vice Chair)
Mr S Munday
Ms S Jenner
Ms Claire Lane-Craig
Mrs J Seymour
Mr G McMillan

Secondary Voluntary Aided School

Grays Convent High School

Name

Mrs P Johnson

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Name

Mr S Proctor
Mr J Arnold

Infrastructure Groups

TPHA
TASS

Name

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes
Mrs S Dyer

Special Schools

Treetops Academy
Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mr J Brewer
Mrs Sue Hewitt

Alternative Provision Name

Olive AP Academy
Olive AP Academy

Name

Mr P Atkinson
Mrs A Timms

Non-school members

0-11 Representative
0-5 EYFS Representative
Diocese of Brentwood
Diocese of Chelmsford

Name

Ms A Jones
Mr A Melbourne
Ms G Corry
Mrs D Bradley

Also in attendance

Head of Strategic Finance
Head of Service, Education Support Services
Head of Service, Specialist Provision & Principal
Educational Psychologist
Minutes

Name

Mr D May
Ms S Williams
Mr M W Taylor

Ms S Hardy

1. Welcome from Chair

The Chair opened the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from: Mrs M Lucas, Mrs A Winstone, Mr S Bowak, Mrs N Haslam-Davis (represented by Mr J Arnold), Mr S Bell, Mr M Vickers (represented by Mr P Atkinson).

3. Introductions

Introductions were made.

4. For information and forum feedback

Dedicated Schools Grant 2025-26 Outturn Report

Mr D May shared report.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked, where it says, Thurrock is contributing 10%, where does that money come from?

Mr D May advised that the expectation is that it will come from council funds, further to discussions the commissioner is having on the council's behalf.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked re 4.3, it says minimum per pupil guarantee for resource bases?

Mr D May advised; When it is an exclusion, the Local Authority receives the income from the school into the High Needs Block. This is the paid to the new school when the child is subsequently placed, so the money follows the child.

When it is an AP primary base and the child is not on roll, their formula is dependent upon them receiving that income and, therefore, we need to top that up, and it may not be one and the same as what the excluded pupil is – so we keep the two transactions separate.

Mr A Melbourne asked what the £177k reserved for early years is?

Mr D May advised that it is a grant received from government that is the entitlement for the wraparound care expansion for the early years team.

5. For information and forum feedback

SEND Reform Plan

Mr M W Taylor represented Mrs A Winstone.

Mr M W Taylor shared sections of the document and advised that this document has input from multiple partners, i.e. MATs, Thurrock Council, the Integrated Care Board and others who work across the local area to implement the White Paper reforms.

This document was sent to the DfE for initial feedback, and a final submission will be made tomorrow, having been signed off by senior officers in the council and the ICB.

If the plan is approved, 90% will be written off of the DSG high needs deficit. It is a 10-year programme of significant change, to rebalance the system, look at investment opportunities, ensure both capital and income spending is properly allocated and that we are prioritising children's needs. In the longer term, looking to a reduced reliance on EHCPs. There will be an expectation of higher integration of children with more complex needs within mainstream settings; a far greater inclusion offer within mainstream schools; improve the capacity and capability of mainstream and specialist workforce; improve the confidence of children, families and stakeholders. As part of this, there is a government initiative called Experts at Hand, which is having support available from e.g. EPs, OTs or Speech and Language therapists to support the inclusion offer in the mainstream settings. EHCPs will remain, however in the longer term the idea is that we

will reduce the number of them and preferably be able to support children with complex needs without the need for an EHCP. We will also have a strengthened programme of EHCPs, quality and timeliness of EP reports. There is also a specific focus on those young people who are NEET, including those with SEND to ensure that children with SEND have access to appropriate education, employment and training. We have allocated funding to increase the EP workforce and other areas. We are particularly working with our ICB colleagues and ensuring we have those speech and language therapists in place too. Clearly still seeing a significant increase in requests for EHCPs. It is a long-term programme, however, will gradually see the reduction in the demands for EHCPs and other services develop. Financial stability and value for money, we are going to achieve that by an ongoing process of reducing our usage of independent and out of borough placements and focusing on home to school transport pressures as it is a large cost pressure. *Regarding out of borough placements*, we have already seen significant improvements partly tied in with the developments with Beacon Hill and their expertise with children with highly complex needs, meaning that we have not had to place those children in schools out of the borough in recent years. Clearly it is the same with Treetops, that we are placing far fewer of children with those types of needs outside of the borough. Also most recently, the development of Olive Academy North View, which was specifically set up to support two types of groups – one was children who have high levels of anxiety or found great difficulty in accessing mainstream schools, and this has been very successful. The other group were children who might otherwise, at secondary school age, have had to look at day SEMH schools, and again Olive Academy North View has been highly successful in holding onto those children and offering them a different local placement, so they have a genuine set of local opportunities. The other area is the developments both within Olive AP, as an organisation, and Osborne in terms of our primary inclusion panels which has led to significant impact in terms of our low rates of permanent exclusions, and the outreach and in reach services that both of these MATs have been able to offer is making a real difference to the opportunities to hold on to some of those children in our local schools. This plan also incorporates and sits alongside the Family Hubs and the Families First Programme; these fit well together with the SEND reforms and the localisation of those services.

Mr S Proctor asked re current state of tribunal appeals, how many have there been this year in Thurrock, how many have been lost, and how much does it cost per appeal?

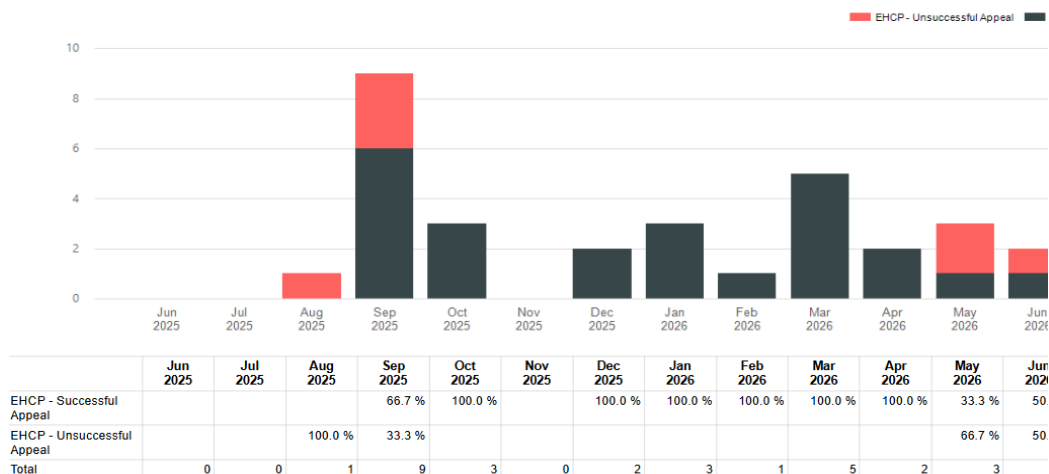
Mr M W Taylor said that we can pick that information up from our data dashboard and share it.

- **Action:** Mr M W Taylor will ask colleagues who oversee the data dashboard to advise of how many tribunal appeals there have been this year; how many were lost; how much they cost per appeal. **Closed – information copied below.**

Information for above action provided by Louise Hunt & Joyce Sao - see below:

Completed EHCP Appeals by Outcome

The chart below shows the number of EHCP Appeals by Outcome within each month.



At present, we do not hold readily accessible data on the financial cost of individual SEND Tribunal appeals. In order to provide an accurate figure, we would need to undertake a detailed cost analysis of each case. This would need to take account of a range of factors, including any solicitor and/or counsel costs incurred, where applicable, as well as officer time and any commissioned professional assessments or expert reports obtained in support of the appeal.

Mr S Proctor asked Mr D May where the cost for appeals is being covered?

Mr D May advised the cost is from the council's budget.

Mr S Proctor said so the cost of an appeal is not costing us as a collective in any way?

Mr D May said no.

Ms S Jenner advised that from speaking with a colleague from Essex CC, their SEND reform plan was similar in some ways, but different and asked if there was a joined-up approach, as there are schools across both areas and potentially will be working with schools across Basildon in that way.

Mr M W Taylor advised that he would assume that, as we progress into LGR, we would bring those plans together, adjust and adapt as we are all working towards the same broad agenda.

Mrs V Reid took the opportunity to thank Mr M W Taylor, as it was his last Schools' Forum meeting, for his contribution to this meeting and also for his passion and care for the children and families in Thurrock, and that he will be massively missed. Wished Mr M W Taylor the very best for the future on behalf of the Schools' Forum.

Mr M W Taylor thanked Mrs V Reid, said that he had enjoyed the debate of this meeting over the years.

Mr A Melbourne also thanked Mr M W Taylor for all he has done for early years.

**6. For information and forum feedback
Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan**

Mr D May shared report from 3.1.

Advised that the purpose of this report is to bring more detail together than normally shown on the DSG management plan. This contains the information that is going to be included in the SEND Reform Plan, and the aim is to update this report twice per year and bring it back to the Schools' Forum.

Mr S Proctor said re table 5, the investment in local offer and commissioned places, the forecasts are from the current 2025/26, resource bases will increase by 20 by end of 2028/29 and special will increase by 110. Do we have a breakdown around primary and secondary percentages of those places?

Mr D May advised that the 20 resource bases increase is just primary, that we have included in the SEND reform plan, plus 40 is for secondary autism - we are looking to create two autism resource bases for secondary. Special schools is the expansion of Treetops Free School 110.

Mr M W Taylor advised that the primary base has not been finalized yet, the secondary was at an early stage and still mapping that out. Re Treetops, likely to be more secondary spaces. Feedback from TPHA is that they would like to see an increase in the primary offer. Depending on the development of the primary needs, it is something we can look at in terms of the free school to see whether we can increase some primary capacity too. All options are on the table, it is just going out for the procurement process for the planning of the Treetops Free School expansion, however, would be open to having a discussion with colleagues to look at the overall need to see if we can put some primary spaces there. Asked Mr J Brewer if he had anything to add.

Mr J Brewer said we can be flexible depending on need, but as mentioned the pressure is year 7s, and there are more and more coming in for KS1. As we all know, the more we can help them when they are younger, there is more chance of independence and self-help skills that we can help them with.

Mr S Proctor said some of the work the subgroup has done is to look at the children with high level of need, moving forward would be useful to see the numbers of children who are 20 hours plus in each year group from reception to year 14, as that is important for the forum when we are thinking about commissioned places where that funding is going. Said that some of the biggest need is in secondary, asked is that because of our capacity to meet need or is that because of numbers, as think they are two different things?

Mr M W Taylor advised that it is the latter, it is the capacity to meet need.

- **Action:** Mr M W Taylor / Mrs A Winstone to provide the breakdown of numbers of children who are 20 hours plus in each year group from reception to year 14 to share with the Schools' Forum, and the Subgroup. **Closed – please see below graph provided by Mrs A Winstone:**

School	Year Group	Funded Hrs	Banding of hours
Mossbourne Herd Lane	N2	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	R	35	35 to 39
Arthur Bugler Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	R	30	30 to 34
Arthur Bugler Primary School	R	25	25 to 29
Arthur Bugler Primary School	R	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	R	30	30 to 34
Aveley Primary School	R	30	30 to 34
Aveley Primary School	R	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	R	30	30 to 34
Benyon Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	R	32.5	30 to 34
Bulphan CofE Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Bulphan CofE Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Dilkes Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Dilkes Academy	R	20	20 to 24

East Tilbury Primary School	R	25	25 to 29
Giffards Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Giffards Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	R	35	35 to 39
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	R	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	R	35	35 to 39
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	R	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	R	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	R	40	40+
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	R	25	25 to 29
Kenningtons Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	R	30	30 to 34
Quarry Hill Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Shaw Primary Academy	R	20	20 to 24
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	35	35 to 39
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	35	35 to 39
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	R	20	20 to 24
Stifford Clays Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Stifford Clays Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Thameside Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Thameside Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
The Gateway Primary Free School	R	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Tudor Court Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Tudor Court Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Tudor Court Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Tudor Court Primary	R	25	25 to 29
Warren Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
Warren Primary School	R	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	R	55	40+

Woodside Academy	R	20	20 to 24
Woodside Academy	R	25	25 to 29
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	1	30	30 to 34
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	35	35 to 39
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	25	25 to 29
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	40	40+
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	30	30 to 34
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	35	35 to 39
Arthur Bugler Primary School	1	30	30 to 34
Aveley Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Aveley Primary School	1	30	30 to 34
Aveley Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Aveley Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Belmont Castle Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	1	20.0	20 to 24
East Tilbury Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	1	40	40+
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	1	30	30 to 34
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	30	30 to 34
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	1	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	1	30	30 to 34
Lansdowne Primary Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	30	30 to 34
Little Thurrock Primary School	1	25	25 to 29

Purfleet Primary Academy	1	25	25 to 29
Somers Heath Primary	1	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	25	25 to 29
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	1	25	25 to 29
The Gateway Primary Free School	1	20	20 to 24
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	1	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	1	20	20 to 24
Warren Primary School	1	30	30 to 34
Warren Primary School	1	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	1	25	25 to 29
West Thurrock Academy	1	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	1	25	25 to 29
West Thurrock Academy	1	25	25 to 29
West Thurrock Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Woodside Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Woodside Academy	1	20	20 to 24
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	2	30	30 to 34
Arthur Bugler Primary School	2	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	2	30	30 to 34
Dilkes Academy	2	35	35 to 39
East Tilbury Primary School	2	35	35 to 39
East Tilbury Primary School	2	25	25 to 29
Giffards Primary School	2	25	25 to 29
Giffards Primary School	2	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	2	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	2	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	2	30	30 to 34
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	2	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	2	35	35 to 39
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	2	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	2	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	2	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	2	20	20 to 24

Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Kenningtons Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	22.5	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	25	25 to 29
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	2	30	30 to 34
Little Thurrock Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	2	30	30 to 34
Quarry Hill Academy	2	30	30 to 34
Quarry Hill Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	2	35	35 to 39
Quarry Hill Academy	2	30	30 to 34
Somers Heath Primary	2	45	40+
Somers Heath Primary	2	20	20 to 24
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	2	20	20 to 24
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	2	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	2	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	2	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	2	20	20 to 24
Stifford Clays Primary School	2	30	30 to 34
Thameside Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	2	25	25 to 29
Tudor Court Primary	2	20	20 to 24
Warren Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
Warren Primary School	2	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	2	55	40+
West Thurrock Academy	2	25	25 to 29
West Thurrock Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Woodside Academy	2	20	20 to 24
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	3	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Aveley Primary School	3	30	30 to 34

Aveley Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Dilkes Academy	3	35	35 to 39
Giffards Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Giffards Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Giffards Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Giffards Primary School	3	30	30 to 34
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	3	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	3	35	35 to 39
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	3	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	3	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	3	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	3	25	25 to 29
Lansdowne Primary Academy	3	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	3	25	25 to 29
Somers Heath Primary	3	20	20 to 24
Somers Heath Primary	3	20	20 to 24
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	3	20	20 to 24
Stifford Clays Primary School	3	30	30 to 34
Thameside Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
Thameside Primary School	3	20	20 to 24
The Gateway Primary Free School	3	25	25 to 29
The Gateway Primary Free School	3	20	20 to 24
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	3	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	3	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	3	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	3	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	3	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	3	25	25 to 29
West Thurrock Academy	3	25	25 to 29
Arthur Bugler Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	4	25	25 to 29
Arthur Bugler Primary School	4	45	40+
Arthur Bugler Primary School	4	49	40+
Aveley Primary School	4	35	35 to 39
Belmont Castle Academy	4	32.5	30 to 34
Benyon Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	4	30	30 to 34
Dilkes Academy	4	25	25 to 29
Giffards Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	4	30	30 to 34

Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	4	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	4	40	40+
Herringham Primary	4	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Lansdowne Primary Academy	4	30	30 to 34
Little Thurrock Primary School	4	30	30 to 34
Little Thurrock Primary School	4	30	30 to 34
Little Thurrock Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	4	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	4	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	4	20	20 to 24
Quarry Hill Academy	4	30	30 to 34
Somers Heath Primary	4	20	20 to 24
Somers Heath Primary	4	30	30 to 34
Stanford Le Hope Primary	4	25	25 to 29
Stanford Le Hope Primary	4	25	25 to 29
Stanford Le Hope Primary	4	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	4	25	25 to 29
Thameside Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	4	20	20 to 24
Warren Primary School	4	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	4	20	20 to 24
Abbots Hall Primary Academy	5	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	5	20	20 to 24
Arthur Bugler Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Aveley Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Bonnygate Primary School	5	25	25 to 29
Bonnygate Primary School	5	20	20 to 24
Dilkes Academy	5	35	35 to 39
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	5	40	40+
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	5	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	5	35.5	35 to 39
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	5	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	5	20	20 to 24
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	5	20	20 to 24
Little Thurrock Primary School	5	40	40+
Quarry Hill Academy	5	30	30 to 34
Somers Heath Primary	5	20	20 to 24
Somers Heath Primary	5	20	20 to 24
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	5	40	40+
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	5	20	20 to 24

Tudor Court Primary	5	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	5	20	20 to 24
Tudor Court Primary	5	20	20 to 24
West Thurrock Academy	5	20	20 to 24
Bonnygate Primary School	6	20	20 to 24
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	6	25	25 to 29
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	6	35.5	35 to 39
Little Thurrock Primary School	6	35	35 to 39
Little Thurrock Primary School	6	40	40+
Mossbourne Herd Lane	6	32.5	30 to 34
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	6	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	6	20	20 to 24
Stanford Le Hope Primary	6	37.5	35 to 39
Stanford Le Hope Primary	6	20	20 to 24
Thameside Primary School	6	25	25 to 29
Thameside Primary School	6	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	7	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	7	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Ockendon	7	20	20 to 24
Ormiston Park Academy	7	25	25 to 29
St Clere's School	7	30	30 to 34
St Clere's School	7	25	25 to 29
Thames Park Secondary School	7	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	8	35	35 to 39
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	8	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Riverside	8	35	35 to 39
Harris Academy Riverside	8	25	25 to 29
Ormiston Park Academy	8	20	20 to 24
St Clere's School	8	24	20 to 24
The Gateway Academy	8	20	20 to 24
Thames Park Secondary School	9	20	20 to 24
Thames Park Secondary School	9	20	20 to 24
Thames Park Secondary School	9	25	25 to 29
Thames Park Secondary School	9	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	10	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Ockendon	10	25	25 to 29
Harris Academy Ockendon	10	25	25 to 29
Harris Academy Ockendon	10	20	20 to 24
Thames Park Secondary School	10	20	20 to 24
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	11	25	25 to 29
Orsett Heath Academy	11	28	25 to 29

7. *For Decision*

EHCP – Hourly Rate – Academic Year 2026-27

Mr D May shared report.

Two options were presented for consideration:

- Option 4 – A universal hourly rate of £11.75 to be applied
- Option 5 – A varied hourly rate of £8.50 (0-10 Hours): £11.30 (10.5-19.5 Hours): and £14.00 (20+ Hours).

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes said this was discussed at TPHA, and she had also done a brief survey, and 78% responded saying they agreed with option 5. There was concern from people who do not have children on the 20 hours plus about how fair that system is in terms of getting those additional hours. TPHA's view was that it was the correct thing to do, a staggered approach, however the concern was how fair that is in terms of the children's need being noted accurately.

Mrs S Dyer said it was discussed at the previous TASS and the general consensus was that TASS agreed, taking into account that no one raised any concerns when she advised that from her work with the forum and subgroup, she would be advocating option 5. Worth noting that not every school/trust is represented at TASS, however they did receive the minutes and she had not received any feedback to the contrary.

Mr A Melbourne asked Mr M W Taylor if he had noticed any trends in the amount of hours taken up in the various settings, which would lead him into better understanding the applicability of the variable option?

Mr M W Taylor advised re children who do receive plans (primary and secondary), who have complex high needs, probably would increase their funding too. Did not have the early years information on this to hand, but happy to look into more detail on that.

- **Action:** Mr M W Taylor will find out detail re early years information re any trends in the amount of hours taken up in the various settings, which would lead him into better understanding the applicability of the variable option. **Closed.**
Information below – provided by Mrs A Winstone:

In Nursery 1 and nursery 2, in both schools and settings, we have 72 EHCPs:

23 had between 0-10 hours element 3 or interim funding

31 had between 11 and 20 hours element 3 or interim funding

15 had over 21 hours

3 had full placement costs at specialist or resource bases

No real trends – 20 children out of 72 attended school based nurseries

Ms A Jones said she had already discussed this with Mr D May from an early year's view. They have a lot of high needs children, and even with plans, they all receive the funding through interim funding rather than through the plan so it does not affect them in that way.

Mr D May confirmed that, early years are funded through the SEN Inclusion Fund and would be paid a constant assistant hourly rate.

Mr S Proctor asked what the early years rate was?

Mr D May advised it is £11.30 and the proposal would take it up to £11.75, it is just inclusion and not linked to an EHCP.

Mr T Parfett said this has not been an easy process and there had been a lot of discussion. This will also help people get used to the banding process once it is phased in over the following years, which is the next step of this process.

Vote (20 members voting)

Option 4 – A universal hourly rate of £11.75 to be applied

Agree: 3

Option 5 – A varied hourly rate of £8.50 (0-10 Hours): £11.30 (10.5-19.5 Hours): and £14.00 (20+ Hours).

Agree: 15

Disagree/abstain: 2

Option 5 carried.

**8. For information
Inclusive Early Years Funding 2026-27**

Mr D May shared report.

The Government is proposing that each setting should receive a minimum of £1,000 but only if they meet the criteria. It is currently provisional, awaiting confirmation of final allocation shortly. Will make payment in September when receive money from DfE.

145 providers – 65 will receive funding and 80 will not receive funding. It is to make a difference to the setting rather than to the children.

Mr A Melbourne asked which settings are chosen to receive the money, and which don't?

Mr D May advised it shows in the appendix (*shared appendix*) which settings will receive the funding. We looked at the allocations that each setting received in January. We have only £167,000 to distribute, therefore had to do 25% of that based on deprivation. Worked through a formula, listed every setting. Then when they become less than 1000, we exclude them from the calculation and then we redistribute the money to those that are above 1000. *Implemented as per Government directive.*

**9. For decision
Meeting dates for the academic year 2026-27**

Ms S Williams shared report and proposed meeting dates.
Agreed.

**10. Standing item - for information
Review of Forward Plan 2025/26**

Ms S Williams shared document.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes said that in the previous meeting, Mrs A Winstone said that she would provide a report on the Mastodon C commissioned work.

- **Action:** Ms S Williams will ensure that the report from Mrs A Winstone re Mastodon C is tabled at the next meeting in the new academic year. **Closed.**
Mrs A Winstone provided the report which was circulated along with the papers pack for the Oct meeting.

11. *Standing item - for information*
LGR/Greater Essex Devolution *(if any information to share)*

Mr D May said there was no further updates re LGR that he knew of, however advised that there might be an added complication with a new authority as we would be relying upon a new DSG allocation from central government that we would not be able to calculate ourselves.

12. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 2026**
Agreed.

13. **Action Log**
Previous meetings actions closed.

14. **AOB**
None.

Date of next meeting: 1 October 2026

DRAFT