

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

19 January 2021 at 10am to midday
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Agenda

Multi Academy Trusts

Catalyst Academies Trust
Harris Federation
Ormiston Park
ORTU Federation
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust
REAch2 Academy Trust
South West Essex Community Education Trust
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)
Vine Schools Trust
Christus Catholic Trust

Name

Mr T Parfett
Mrs N Graham
to be advised
Dr Sophina Asong
Mr Griffiths
Mr E Samuel
Mr S Munday
Mr K Sadler
Mrs E Wigmore
Mrs N Cashell

Secondary Voluntary Aided School

Grays Convent

Name

Mrs M Miller

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Name

Mr E Caines
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Infrastructure Groups

TASS
TPHA

Name

Mrs P Johnson
Mrs J Sawtell-Haines

Alternative Provision

Olive AP

Name

Mr M Vickers

Special Schools

Treetops Academy
Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mr J Brewer
Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members

Diocese of Chelmsford
Diocese of Brentwood
0-5 EYFS Representative
0-11 Representative
11-19 Representative

Name

Miss S Jones
Mrs M Shepherd
Mr A Melbourne
Ms Alison Jones
Dr J Revell

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

Introductory Items		
Item	Item	Time guide
1.	Welcome from Chair	1 min
2.	Apologies for Absence	2 mins
3.	Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'Any Other Business'	2 mins
Items for Decision		
4.	DSG 2020/21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by David May 	30 mins
5.	DSG 2021/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by David May 	30 mins
6.	Growth Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Sarah Williams/David May 	15 mins
Items for Information		
7.	Schools' Forum Forward Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider and agree any urgent additions to the forward plan, presented by Sarah Williams 	5 mins
Closing Items		
8.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 November 2020	5 mins

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

9.	Matters Arising	5 mins
10.	Any Other Business	5 mins
11.	Date of next meeting – 18 March 2021	

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 19 January 2021
 SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21
 REPORT OF: David May
 THE REPORT IS: For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG 2020/21 projected outturn position is a deficit of £1.617m, as a result of continued demand within the High Needs Block that exceeds the budget available.

2020/21	<u>Funding Settlement</u>	<u>Academy Recoupment</u>	<u>Final DSG</u>	<u>Outturn</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	126.839	(119.290)	7.549	6.650	(0.899)
Central Services	1.850	0.000	1.850	1.804	(0.046)
High Needs	26.021	(5.376)	20.645	23.207	2.562
Early Years	12.699	0.000	12.699	12.699	0.000
Total	167.409	(124.666)	42.742	45.208	1.617

- 1.2 The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.978m into 2020/21. The 2020/21 projected in year position will increase the deficit to £3.595m.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- a) Agree the financial position for 2020/21 and offer comments on action taken or that could be considered.
 - b) Agree to receive regular updates on the 2020/21 projected outturn position.

3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 To inform members of the Schools Forum of the projected outturn position in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2020/21, in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2020/21

- 4.1 Appendix A shows the projected outturn position for 2020/21. The key area remains the High Needs Block.
- 4.2 The current projected outturn for 2020/21 is an overspend of £1.617m.

2020/21	<u>Funding Settlement</u>	<u>Academy Recoupment</u>	<u>Final DSG</u>	<u>Outturn</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	126.839	(119.290)	7.549	6.650	(0.899)
Central Services	1.850	0.000	1.850	1.804	(0.046)
High Needs	26.021	(5.376)	20.645	23.207	2.562
Early Years	12.699	0.000	12.699	12.699	0.000
Total	167.409	(124.666)	42.742	45.208	1.617

4.3 Schools Block

The growth fund allows officers to ensure sufficiency of places within Thurrock schools for all children of school age. Based on current commitments and historic level of spend it is currently forecasted an underspend of £0.899m.

4.4 Central Services Block

A projected underspend of £0.046m through a combination of a delays in recruitment within School Admissions to December 2020 and savings in venue hire, as Schools Forum meetings are to be held through Microsoft Teams in 2020/21.

4.5 High Needs Block

This is the significant area of financial risk and can be broken down into four areas:

- The continued increase in the number of EHCP. Additional costs of £0.734m are forecasted in maintaining pupils within Thurrock schools or other Local Authority mainstream schools and academies.
- Post 16 – Increased pupil numbers are forecasted with additional cost of £0.400m.
- Residential and Non-Residential Non-Maintained and Independent placements forecast an overspend of £1.128m.
- Increase in supplying tuition packages for pupils not in School, costing additional £0.300m.

A review of the local offer and commissioned places available in Thurrock continues. The need to challenge schools on the use of the Notional SEN budget and the requirement to progress to an EHCP remains.

4.6 Early Years Block

A breakeven forecast based on the latest information available.

In order to protect settings, Thurrock has agreed the following approach for the spring term:

- Where a child registers to take up a place and does not attend any other setting, payment will be made to the setting holding the place.
- Minimum funding guarantee, for each setting, equal to the value paid in spring 2020.
- If a setting chooses not to open, no payment will be made.
- The Local Authority will continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to close, due to public health reasons.

This is consistent with what has been guaranteed for each term in 2020/21.

Officers have been considering options to support settings further but until updated guidance is received from the ESFA on arrangements for the January 2021 census and payment guarantees, this is not possible. The use of the January 2021 census places a significant risk on the spring funding to be received.

Officers are aware of increased operating costs to early year's settings during the pandemic from new guidance requirements to deliver safe operating procedures. These include increased costs for PPE, cleaning services, impact on practice for practitioners as part of their work each day during their day whilst with children.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

4.7 DSG Reserve

The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.978m into 2020/21. The 2020/21 projected in year position will increase the deficit to £3.595m.

DSG Deficit - Summary	£m	Deficit % of DSG
Historic Deficit 2018/19	(2.656)	
DSG 2019/20	0.678	
Deficit @ 31/03/20	(1.978)	1.26%
DSG 2020/21	(1.617)	
Projected Deficit @ 31/03/21	(3.595)	2.15%
> Requirement to complete DSG Management Plan		
> Need to deliver a balance budget position		
> Continued annual increase in EHCP's		
> Ongoing discussions with ESFA		

5. DSG Management Plan 2020/21

- 5.1 The DSG conditions of grant 2020/21 requires that any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.
- 5.2 Management plans should reflect the most current forecast DSG position and be published on the LA local offer website as set out in the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Relevant leads in the finance and special educational needs (SEN) areas should sign off each version of the management plan (with sign off to be at least at assistant director level).
- 5.3 The plan is currently being populated and will be discussed elsewhere on today's agenda with a detailed report being prepared for discussion at the schools forum meeting in March. This will allow informed discussion in considering the 2020/21 budget.

6. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- School Forum Report 19 November 2020 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21

7. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

If you have any queries or comments in advance of the Schools Forum meeting about this report, please contact

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Role: Strategic Lead, Corporate Finance
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Appendix A

Dedicated Schools Grant 2019/20 and 2020/21		2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
		Outturn	Budget	Outturn	Variance
		£m	£m	£m	£m
	Schools Block	8.470	7.549	6.650	(0.899)
	Central Services Block	1.890	1.850	1.804	(0.046)
	High Needs Block	20.183	20.699	23.261	2.562
	Early Years Block	12.179	12.699	12.699	(0.000)
	Dedicated Schools Grant	42.722	42.796	44.414	1.617
SB	Maintained Schools Budgets	7.278	5.942	5.942	0.000
SB	Business Rates	(0.034)	0.000	0.000	0.000
SB	School Licences	0.122	0.126	0.126	0.000
SB	Growth Fund	0.917	1.480	0.582	(0.899)
SB	Deficit Recovery	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.000
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Education	0.336	0.379	0.379	0.000
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Finance	0.082	0.140	0.140	0.000
CSSB	School Place planning	0.053	0.029	0.029	0.000
CSSB	Admissions	0.188	0.260	0.218	(0.042)
CSSB	Schools Forum	0.008	0.010	0.006	(0.004)
CSSB	SACRE	0.008	0.010	0.010	0.000
CSSB	Contribution to Combined budgets	1.215	1.022	1.022	0.000
HNB	Place Funding	0.139	0.397	0.397	0.000
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	2.684	2.779	3.048	0.269
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.195	2.593	2.700	0.107
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	3.654	4.156	4.195	0.039
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.268	1.445	1.535	0.090
HNB	Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	0.968	1.043	1.265	0.222
HNB	Top Up Funding - Post 16	1.780	1.787	2.175	0.388
HNB	Pupils not in School	0.362	0.161	0.450	0.289
HNB	Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.270	1.100	2.040	0.940
HNB	Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.585	1.100	1.288	0.188
HNB	Commissioned Services	1.230	1.149	1.149	(0.000)
HNB	Additional High Needs Targeted	0.369	0.200	0.234	0.034
HNB	Home Hospital Education Services	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000
HNB	Travellers Team	0.043	0.052	0.053	0.001
HNB	Home to School Transport	1.787	1.787	1.787	0.000
HNB	High Needs Central Team	0.832	0.950	0.946	(0.003)
EYB	3&4 Year old	10.020	10.345	10.345	(0.000)
EYB	2 year olds	1.690	1.836	1.836	0.000
EYB	Early Years Central Team	0.469	0.517	0.517	0.000
	Dedicated Schools Grant	42.722	42.796	44.414	1.617

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	19 January 2021
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
REPORT OF:	David May
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 17 December, the Secretary of State for Education announced the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2021/22, updated to reflect the October 2020 census data. The funding to be received has increased from £11.371m to £16.430m. The primary reason for the change, to that discussed in November, is the increase in pupil numbers of 469 from October 2019 to October 2020.
- 1.2 Thurrock Cabinet at its meeting on 9 December 2020 approved that the National Funding Formula would be implemented in full in 2021/22. This paper provides an update to the formula to be submitted to the ESFA by 21st January. The final formula 2021/22 will be distributed at the meeting.
- 1.3 The High Needs Block continues to experience significant increase in demand and costs. It is proposed to transfer funding from the Schools Block £0.673m and the Central Services School Block £0.200m, subject to Schools Forum approval, to support the HNB budget.
- 1.4 The report informs of the challenges faced in Early Years as a result of the impact of Covid and the return to the use of the January 2021 census data. Officers are awaiting updated guidance and further information will be presented at the meeting.
- 1.5 At the Schools Forum meeting on the 19 January a detail presentation will be made with key decisions required. This will build on the information discussed and agreed at the meeting in November.
- 1.6 At the Headteachers meeting on the 3 February an update will be provided to all Headteachers to inform them of their provisional funding allocation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 This report provides the overall context and background information to 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant. Schools' Forum members are asked to consider the attached report prior to the meeting.

2.2 Decisions required will be included within the presentation to be made at the meeting.

3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2021/22

3.1 In December, the Secretary of State for Education announced details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2021/22. The table below shows the funding to be received in Thurrock:

Table 1: Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Allocation

Dedicated Schools Grant	2020/21	2021/22	Increase
	£m	£m	£m
Schools	127.474	140.936	13.462
Central Services	1.850	1.783	(0.067)
High Needs	25.410	28.266	2.856
Early Years	12.699	12.877	0.179
Total	167.433	183.862	16.430

Schools Block

3.2 The increase in funding of £13.462m is as a result of grants transferring into the Dedicated Schools Grant of £6.269m; increase to funding rates of £4.192m; increase of 468 pupils, realising additional funding of £2.629m and an increase in the growth fund by £0.372m, as shown in the table below:

Table 2: Change to the School Block funding allocation

Schools Block			£m	£m
2020/21				127.474
Protected funding for the pay and pensions grants transferred into the Dedicated Schools Grant			6.269	
Increase in Funding			4.163	
Increase in Premises value			0.029	4.192
Increase in Pupil Numbers	2021/22	27,835		
	2020/21	27,367		
		468		2.629
Increase in Growth Fund	2021/22	1.758		
	2020/21	1.386	0.372	13.462
Schools Block 2021/22				140.936

3.3 In 2021/22, this funding will continue to be distributed using the Schools National Funding Formulae (NFF). The key aspects of the formula are:

- The incorporation of the 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), ensuring that the deprivation funding through the NFF continues to target schools most likely to need additional funding;
- Funding previously received through the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG), has been added to schools' baselines; by increasing the basic per pupil funding;
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will increase from £3,750 to £4,180 for primary schools and £5,000 to £5,415 for secondary schools. This increase reflects the transfer of grant into the DSG and increase to funding rates;

It remains the government's intention to move to a 'hard' NFF, where budgets will be set on the basis of a single, national formula.

- 3.4 In 2021/22 local authorities continue to have discretion over their local schools funding formulae. Cabinet agreed on 9th December 2020 that Thurrock's funding formula in 2021/22 would implement the following principles:
- National Funding Formula values to be applied;
 - Any unallocated funding will be applied to the Basic Entitlement values;
 - Growth fund of £1.758m, to be retained to support sufficiency of places.
 - Schools Forum have agreed to transfer up to 0.5% (£0.673m) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans.

Central Services Block

- 3.5 In 2021/22, historic commitments funding to be received will be reduced again by 20%. For Thurrock this is an annual reduction of £0.256m.

High Needs Block

- 3.6 The High Needs NFF for 2021/22 remains unchanged. However, with over £730 million of additional funding, the formula will ensure that every local authority will receive an increase of at least 8%.
- 3.7 Thurrock is to receive an increase of £2.856m or 11%. Whilst the increase is welcome, Thurrock continues to experience high level of demand for Specialist places and Education, Health and Care Plans. The 2020/21 projected outturn is an overspend of £2.6m.
- 3.8 Officers continue to work on the development of DSG Management Plan. Key data and context is included in Section 9 of the report. A

summary will also be included in the presentation to be made to the Schools Forum at the meeting to inform the 2021/22 budget, with a detailed report to be presented to the March meeting.

- 3.9 The annual meeting with the ESFA, expected to be held in March 2021, will discuss the DSG Management Plan, current EHCP trends and options to address the historic DSG deficit.

Early Years Block

- 3.10 The Early Years funding allocation has increased by £44 million in 2021/22. The rate paid to Thurrock will increase by 8p per hour for the two-year-old entitlement and by 6p per hour for the three-and-four-year-old entitlements.
- 3.11 The Early Years Block will return to being funded based on the January census. The January 2021 census will be used to fund the spring and summer terms. The January 2022 census will be used to fund the autumn 2021 and spring 2022.
- 3.12 The impact of Covid on the spring 2021 census will need to be considered, especially if demand in the summer term returns to pre-Covid levels. At the time of writing this report no change to existing arrangements have been received from the ESFA. The impact of the use of the Spring 21 census in Thurrock is significant given the impact Covid is having on take up in January.
- 3.13 The presentation to the Schools forum will discuss all options with associated risks.

Conditions of Grant

- 3.14 The Dedicated Schools Grant conditions of grant changed in 2020/21 to clarify that councils are not expected to use their general reserves to fund deficits in the DSG but must carry forward overspends. The aim is to stop Local Authorities from reducing funding for other services to cover deficits, which are mostly due to high needs pressures. The Department for Education wants DSG deficits to be covered from DSG income over time. No timescale has been set for the length of this process.

4. THURROCK SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA

- 4.1 In considering the local formula for schools in 2021/22, officers engaged with Thurrock's Schools Forum and held briefing sessions with schools and academies during the autumn term.
- 4.2 Following discussions with Thurrock's Schools Forum and Schools in November the following approach was agreed:
- National Funding Formula values, without the Area Cost Adjustment to be applied in full.
 - Confirmed pupil growth commitments for the 2020/21 to be included and funded through the local funding formula.
 - A transfer of up to 0.5% to be made from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans.
 - Any unallocated funding will be applied to the Basic Entitlement value.

This was agreed by Thurrock Cabinet on 9th December 2020

- 4.3 The transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22 of £0.673m (0.05%) has been actioned. Within the minutes of this meeting it will need to be confirmed that the 0.5% value of £0.673m has been formally agreed by the school forum.
- 4.4 The funding formula will be updated to reflect change in pupil numbers and funding allocations and the finalisation of 2021/22 rateable values.
- 4.5 The final formula and the detailed school funding allocations to be implemented in 2021/22 and submitted to the ESFA by 21st January will be distributed at the meeting.
- 4.6 Schools will need to consider carefully the change in pupil numbers and funding to be received. The key principle with the schools funding system is that the funding follows the child, with no protection afforded to reduction in pupil numbers.

5. CENTRAL SERVICES SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 5.1 The table below shows the confirmed funding allocation for 2021/22.

Table 3: Central Services Schools Block

			<u>Funding</u> <u>£m</u>
Actual CSSB unit of funding for ongoing functions			
Pupil Numbers	27,835		
Unit Value	<u>£34.68</u>		0.965
Actual funding for historic commitments			0.818
NFF 2021/22 CSSB funding			1.783

- 5.2 Historic Commitment funding in 2021/22 has reduced by 20%. For Thurrock this is a £0.256m reduction and will be incurred for the next 5 years until the historic commitments is removed. This has been included in Thurrock's Medium Term Financial Plan, as it is not possible to reduce the service provided.
- 5.3 The Central Services School Block budget allocation is shown in the table below. The majority of budget allocations for 2021/22 are a fixed contribution to statutory regulatory duties. An unallocated budget of £0.200m has been identified and it is proposed that this is transferred to the High Needs Block. The local authority is required to seek approval from the Schools Forum to the funding to be allocated within the Central School Services Block of the DSG.

Table 4: Central Services Schools Block Budget 2021/22

	Budget 2020/21 £m	Budget 2021/22 £m
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Education <i>Including: Director of children's services; Planning for the education service as a whole; Function in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools; School Attendance; Excluded Pupils; Responsibilities regarding the employment of children</i>	£0.376	£0.379
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Finance <i>Including: Revenue budget preparation, information and external audit relating to education; Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula; Administration of grants; Task related to LA Section 151 responsibilities under LGA 1972</i>	£0.140	£0.130
School Place Planning	£0.029	£0.029
School Admissions	£0.260	£0.280
Servicing of Schools forum	£0.010	£0.010
SACRE	£0.010	£0.010
Contribution to High Needs Block	£0.003	£0.200
Contribution to Combined budgets	£1.022	£0.745
Total DSG - Central Services Block	£1.850	£1.783

6. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 6.1 Thurrock's allocation for 2021/22 has been confirmed as £28.266m, an increase from the 2020/21 allocation of £2.856m or 11%.
- 6.2 The table below includes the proposed transfers from other funding blocks that increases the budget available to £26.122m.

Table 5: High Needs Block Funding Change

High Needs Block	2021/22 £m
National Funding Formula 2021/22	26.627
Import / Export Adjustments	(0.492)
	26.135
Basic Entitlement (422Pupils @ £4,873.44)	2.057
Teachers pay/pension and supplementary	0.062
Additional funding Special Free School	0.012
Funding Settlement 2021/22	28.266
Transfer from Schools Block	0.673
Transfer from Central Schools Services Block	0.200
High Needs Block Budget 2020/21	29.139
Less Academy Recoupment	(5.594)

HNB Retained Budget 2020/21	23.545
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6.3 A very challenging and stretching balanced budget is proposed but the following key risks needs to be acknowledged and closely monitored throughout the year:

- Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.650m;
- Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16) - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.150m;
- Top Up Funding - Post 16 - Budget to equal the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.125m;
- Pupils not in School - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.150m;
- Residential - Non Maintained and Independent – Budget to equal 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.500m;
- Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent – Budget to equal 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.200m;
- Additional High Needs Targeted – Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.125m;
- Total Potential Financial Risk £1.9m.

Table 6: High Needs Block Budget 2021/22

High Needs Block	2020/21 Budget £m	2020/21 Outturn £m	2021/22 Budget £m
High Needs Block	25.830	25.830	28.746
Import / export adjustments	(0.492)	(0.492)	(0.492)
HNB Free School Adjustment	0.048	0.048	0.012
	25.386	25.386	28.266
Schools Block transfer	0.635	0.635	0.673
Transfer from Central Services Schools Block	0.000	0.000	0.200
Funding Settlement	26.021	26.021	29.139
Place Funding	0.397	0.343	0.000
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	5.322	5.376	5.678
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	2.779	3.153	2.846
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.593	2.700	3.143
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	4.156	4.195	5.457
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.445	1.535	1.503
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.043	1.265	1.150
Top Up Funding - Post 16	1.787	2.175	2.175
Pupils not in School	0.161	0.450	0.300
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.100	2.040	2.040
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.100	1.288	1.288
Commissioned Services	1.149	1.149	1.129
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.200	0.234	0.100

Travellers Team	0.052	0.053	0.055
Home to School Transport	1.787	1.787	1.475
High Needs Central Team	0.950	0.946	0.800
High Needs Block Budget / Projected Outturn	26.021	28.689	29.139
Surplus / Deficit	0.000	2.668	0.000

- 6.4 It is hoped that some of the risk in Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools and Other Local Authorities; and Non Maintained and Independent nonresidential can be mitigated by the opening of Treetops Free School in September 2021.
- 6.5 Officers continue to work on the development of DSG Management Plan. A summary of data and context is included in section 9 of this report and will be included in the presentation to be made to the Schools Forum to inform the 2021/22 budget, with a detailed report to be presented to the March meeting.

Band Values

- 6.6 In 2019/20 a full review was undertaken of the costs of running resource bases, special and AP academies, within Thurrock. The outcome was that new band values and rates were introduced from September 2020.
- 6.7 The key principle is that all providers will be fully funded based on agreed staffing ratios and support. It is not expected that within the resource provisions that the mainstream School would subsidise the cost of the base.
- 6.8 A review meeting is held annually with each provision to discuss both finance, performance and outcomes. The financial aspect involves:
- reviewing the staffing structure in place, in line with national guidelines as appropriate;
 - discussion on all other expenditure items for appropriateness;
 - changes from the previous year's expenditure
 - transparency on all income and expenditure is made available by all settings.
- The band value assigned to each provision reflects the costs to be incurred in 2021/22.
- 6.9 Bespoke partnership and performance agreements are currently being finalised with each of Thurrock's specialist provisions.
- 6.10 In 2021/22 it is proposed the following changes will be implemented to maintain parity with the increase to school funding and maintaining the principle of full cost recovery:
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will increase to £4,180 for primary schools and to £5,415 for secondary schools. This increase reflects the transfer of grant into the DSG and increase to funding rates;
 - Special and AP academies - A new payment will be included to replace the specific grants for Teachers Pay and Teacher Pension Employee Contribution. The ESFA have calculated this at £660pp.
 - A 3% inflationary uplift has been applied to the Top up Value

6.11 The budget has been developed based on the updated Band Values for 2021/22 to be applied from September 2021, as shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Band Values 2020/21 and 2021/22

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2020/21	Place Funding	MPPG	Top Up Funding	Band Value 2021/22
Special School Academies	Special Band 1	£12,000	£10,000	£660	£2,060	£12,720
	Special Band 2	£13,500	£10,000	£660	£3,605	£14,265
	Special Band 3	£32,000	£10,000	£660	£22,660	£33,320
AP	AP Band 1	£27,000	£10,000	£660	£17,510	£28,170
Maintained Academies with Specialist / Resource Provisions	Primary Band 1	£14,000	£6,000	£4,180	£4,378	£14,558
	Primary Band 2	£18,250	£6,000	£4,180	£8,755	£18,935
	Primary Band 3	£25,000	£6,000	£4,180	£15,708	£25,888
	Primary Band 4	£27,000	£6,000	£4,180	£17,768	£27,948
	Primary Band 5	£28,500	£6,000	£4,180	£19,313	£29,493
	Primary Band 6	£30,000	£6,000	£4,180	£20,858	£31,038
	Primary Band 7	£36,000	£6,000	£4,180	£27,038	£37,218
	Primary Band 8	£40,000	£6,000	£4,180	£31,158	£41,338
	Secondary Band 1	£14,000	£6,000	£5,415	£3,090	£14,505
	Secondary Band 2	£18,250	£6,000	£5,415	£7,520	£18,935
	Secondary Band 3	£25,000	£6,000	£5,415	£14,420	£25,835
	Secondary Band 4	£27,000	£6,000	£5,415	£16,480	£27,895
	Secondary Band 5	£28,500	£6,000	£5,415	£18,025	£29,440
	Secondary Band 6	£30,000	£6,000	£5,415	£19,570	£30,985
	Secondary Band 7	£36,000	£6,000	£5,415	£25,750	£37,165
	Secondary Band 8	£40,000	£6,000	£5,415	£29,870	£41,285
	Nursery	£32,000	£0	£0	£32,960	£32,960

6.12 When the Band values are linked to the commissioned numbers, the following budgets are confirmed for the financial year 2021/22. All provisions are made aware of both the financial and academic year budgets for 2021/22. This is shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8: Commissioned Place Numbers and Budget 2021/22

Institution Name	Band Value 2020/21	Band Value 2021/22	Places 2021/22	Total 2021/22
LANSDOWNE PRIMARY ACADEMY	£25,000	£25,888	8	£172,137
STANFORD-LE-HOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL	£40,000	£41,338	5	£183,898
ORTU CORRINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	£18,250	£18,935	20	£292,975
DILKES ACADEMY	£30,000	£31,038	10	£266,047
HARRIS ACADEMY CHAFFORD HUNDRED	£18,250	£18,935	20	£268,150
ST CLERE'S SCHOOL HI	£36,000	£37,165	10	£314,375
ST CLERE'S SCHOOL VI	£40,000	£41,285	7	£248,553
ORMISTON PARK ACADEMY	£27,000	£27,895	30	£668,400
EAST TILBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL	£28,500	£29,493	10	£250,784
THAMESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	£28,500	£29,493	6	£150,471
QUARRY HILL	£30,000	£31,038	10	£266,047
WARREN PRIMARY	£27,000	£29,493	18	£440,162
OLIVE AP ACADEMY - THURROCK	£27,000	£28,170	85	£2,353,013
TREETOPS SCHOOL	£10,000	£10,660	13	£135,005
TREETOPS SCHOOL	£12,000	£12,720	94	£1,167,480
TREETOPS SCHOOL	£13,500	£14,265	108	£1,506,195
TREETOPS SCHOOL	£32,000	£33,320	102	£3,342,540
BEACON HILL ACADEMY	£32,000	£33,320	75	£2,457,750
CHAFFORD HUNDRED PRIMARY	£32,000	£32,960	3	£97,680
STANFORD-LE-HOPE SCHOOL	£32,000	£32,960	3	£97,680
NEW SECONDARY SEMH PROVISION		£30,000	20	£350,000
TREETOPS FREE SCHOOL - Jan-21	£32,000	£33,320	20	£655,400
TREETOPS FREE SCHOOL - Sept-21	£32,000	£33,320	23	£447,043
THURROCK			700	£16,131,784

6.13 A review of the High Needs Block Outreach services and costs was undertaken to inform 2020/21 budget process. The table below shows the Outreach provision and cost that is available within Thurrock. A 3% uplift is proposed, to be consistent with the inflationary increase applied through the National Funding Formula.

Table 9: Commissioned Services

Academy		2020/21 AY	2021/22 AY	2021/22 FY	Funding Block
Osbourne Trust	HI / VI	£340,000	£350,200	£345,950	HNB
Treetops	Portage	£240,000	£247,200	£244,200	HNB
Treetops	Outreach	£300,000	£309,000	£305,250	HNB
Beacon Hill	Outreach	£180,000	£185,400	£183,150	HNB

School Wellbeing Service	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000	HNB
	£1,110,000	£1,141,800	£1,128,550	

Specialist Equipment

- 6.14 Officers have considered changes to the thresholds for equipment to support the High Needs Budget. The option is to increase the threshold for schools to purchase equipment to £2,000 from the current value of £500, realising an annual saving of £52,000. This reflects both the increase in funding being received by schools, reflected in increased Notional SEN budgets and the time lapse since the last review. This supports the reduction in Additional High Needs Targeted (Paragraph 6.3)

7. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

- 7.1 The early years block comprises funding for the free early education entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds and disadvantaged 2 year olds.
- 7.2 A provisional allocation is received within the DSG settlement announced in late December. This allocation is based on lagged January Census data. The final allocation for a financial year is not received until the July following the year end in March.

Example

- Provisional 2021/22 allocation based on January 2020 Census data.
 - Final 2021/22 allocation is based on five twelfths January 2021 census data and seven twelfths January 2022 census data.
- 7.3 The Early Years funding allocation has increased by £44 million in 2021/22. The rate paid to Thurrock will increase by 8p per hour for the two-year-old entitlement and by 6p per hour for the three-and-four-year-old entitlements.
- 7.4 The provisional allocation for 2021/22 is shown in the table below:

Table 10: Provisional Early Years Block Funding 2021/22

Early Years Block 2021/22	Numbers	(£ / hr)	£m
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	3,174	£4.60	8.322
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	1,007	£4.60	2.640
2 year old entitlement funding	539	£5.82	1.787
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.073
Disability Access Fund			0.055
Total Early Years Block			12.878

- 7.5 The Early Years Block will return to using the January 2021 census. The January 2021 census will be used to fund the spring and summer terms. The January 2022 census will be used to fund the autumn 2021 and spring 2022.

In 2020/21 the January 2020 census has been used to fund Spring 20; Summer 20 and Autumn 20 in recognition of the impact of Covid.

- 7.6 The impact of Covid on the spring 2021 census will need to be considered, especially if demand in the summer term returns to pre-Covid levels. Updated guidance is expected from the ESFA on the Early Years census. The guidance will significantly influence what is possible in 2021/22.
- 7.7 Officers continue to work on the development of options with the intention to passport the maximum funding to providers, whilst retaining sufficient funding for termly fluctuations in numbers. Options will be included in the presentation, informed by latest ESFA guidance, to be made to the Schools Forum at the meeting to inform the 2021/22 budget.
- 7.8 The current funding rates for 2020/21, approved by Schools Forum on 12th March 2020 are shown below:
- Hourly rate paid to 2YO providers £5.15 per hour.
 - Hourly rate paid to 3/4YO providers £4.28 per hour.
 - Deprivation quantum, based on the postcode of the child, not the setting, for 3 and 4 year olds increased to £0.285m.

8. PUPIL PREMIUM

- 8.1 The DfE has announced that the rates for Pupil Premium grants remain unchanged for 2021/22. But in an unexpected change, from April 2021, allocations will be calculated based on the number of eligible pupils recorded by schools in their census in October 2020 rather than January 2021 as would normally be the case.

Table 11: Pupil Premium Values

Pupil Premium Rates	2020/21	2021/22
Primary	£1,345	£1,345
Secondary	£955	£955
Looked after Children	£2,345	£2,345
Service Children	£310	£310

9. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020/21

- 9.1 The DSG conditions of grant 2020/21 requires that any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.
- 9.2 To support LA's, the ESFA have released a DSG management plan template to assist:
- compliance with the DSG: conditions of grant 2020/21
 - monitor how DSG funding is being spent
 - compare data on high needs spend between LAs
 - highlight areas where LAs may wish to review spending
 - form evidence-based and strategic future plans for the provision of children and young people with SEND
 - present complex funding information simply to schools forums and other external stakeholders
 - provide a consistent reporting format to help LAs share best practice and initiatives
- 9.3 Management plans should reflect the most current forecast DSG position and be published on the LA local offer website as set out in the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Relevant leads in the finance and special educational needs (SEN) areas should sign off each version of the management plan (with sign off to be at least at assistant director level).
- 9.4 The plan is currently being populated and will be presented to schools forum meeting in March. However in order to inform budget discussion for the High Needs Block 2021/22 budget the following extracts are provided:
- 9.5 Thurrock is faced with the following key financial issues:
- Projected DSG deficit in 2020/21 of £1.617m; with a forecasted High Needs Block overspend of £2.562m, this is after the in-year transfer of £0.635m from Schools Block to High Needs Block.
 - Cumulative projected deficit in 2020/21 of £3.595m.
 - Identified financial risks of £1.9m for 2021/22 (Paragraph 6.3)
 - The need to develop an in year solution and balanced budget position. No plans in place to reduce the deficit further in 2021/22.
 - HNB information released is only for 2021/22, no announcement at this stage from the ESFA on the long term solution to the national problem of shortfall in High Needs funding.

- 9.6 In completing the management plan the Local Authority is asked to provide specific narrative to explain Thurrock's context, key risks and strategies in place or being developed. A summary under each of the headings is shown below:

Key Risks:

- Continued increase in demand for EHCPs.
- Rising costs of High Needs Out of Borough Placements, Independent Special School and transport costs
- Increased demand from schools for additional funding from HNB in order to deliver provision in EHCPs.
- Increased demand for special school and base places within Thurrock.

Mitigation:

- Deep dive has been commissioned into EHCPs to understand reasons for increase in demand,
- A review of the local offer and commissioned places available in Thurrock continues.
- The need to challenge schools on the use of the Notional SEN budget and the requirement to progress to an EHCP remains.
- Seeking to reduce the number of requests for special school places by ensuring more needs can be met within mainstream schools through CPD of SENCOs, Teachers and support staff in how to meet the additional needs of children through awareness and understanding of the needs. We are working with parents and families to increase their confidence in mainstream schools' abilities to meet the needs of children with SEN.

Management Plan Support

- Support from all stakeholders in understanding the need to deliver the recovery plan and the consequences of not doing so.
- Support from Schools Forum to approve decisions on funding / support from schools to understand the pressure on the HNB and the need to ensure notional budgets are used / alternative solutions sought before requesting top up funding.

Overall EHCP data and projected trends

- Since 2016 the proportion of children and young people (YR-Y11) in Thurrock schools with an EHCP has increased on average by 12% per year. This is in the context of an average school age population growth in the region of 2% per year.
- This rise in population growth is expected to continue in 2021/22 academic year as 2015-16 saw a peak in birth data in Thurrock before slightly decreasing in 2016-17 and 2018-19.
- The latest SEN2 return (Jan 2020) showed that Thurrock maintained 1,677 plans across the 0-25 age range, an increase in every age category.

- The demand for EHCPs continues to increase year on year as shown in the following tables:

Table 12: Number of EHCPs by placement type:
Data source: SEN2

Number of EHCPs by placement type	31/3/16	31/3/17	31/3/18	31/3/19	31/3/20
Mainstream schools or academies	623	618	624	679	830
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	23	104	87	101	113
Maintained special schools or special academies	346	347	341	383	361
NMSS or independent schools	32	35	32	33	36
Hospital schools or Alternative Provision	11	5	4	6	12
Post 16	15	28	169	235	213
Other	17	114	84	101	112
Total number of EHCPs by placement type	1,067	1,251	1,341	1,538	1,677
% Annual Increase		17%	7%	15%	9%

Table 13: Number of EHCP's by Age Group
Data Source: SEN2 - Age at 31/08 each year

Number of EHCPs by Age Group	31/3/16	31/3/17	31/3/18	31/3/19	31/3/20
Under 5 years of age	21	48	58	72	80
Aged 5-10	424	470	482	548	629
Aged 11-15	439	458	474	521	582
Aged 16-19	183	271	290	344	302
Aged 20-25	0	2	27	53	84
Total number of EHCPs by Age Group	1,067	1,249	1,331	1,538	1,677

- The next 10 years will see Thurrock transform as the result of a massive growth and regeneration programme. A £6.6billion investment will create an estimated 14,000 new homes and 31,450 jobs across a number of locations.

Strategy and approach to workforce

- Thurrock School Effectiveness and SEND are in the process of becoming a hub for the Autism Education Trust (AET). This is a DfE supported programme that is designed to raise autism awareness and improve practice for mainstream early years' settings, schools and post 16 institutions.
- The AET will assist us to reduce the demand for and costs of specialist autism services by helping the Council to support schools to meet the needs of autistic children and young people.
- Over the coming months a range of sessions will be held with Headteachers, Governors, Parents and Carers, SENCOs and School Business managers to clarify the SEN system and the expectation and requirements at each stage of the process.
- A wide range of training and CPD opportunities are being developed to ensure that school and setting staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to meet the needs of a wide range of special educational needs. This will include Speech & Language, Communication, behaviour, Autism, HI, VI

etc. The SEND team is developing a new guidance document to support schools with provision for SEN Support and to identify what should be in place, provided for different needs before an EHCP needs assessment is requested.

Strategy and approach to EHCP rates

- We have robust initiation and case management panels which carefully consider allocations based on the presenting needs. These panels are multi-disciplinary and ensure that requests are scrutinised and thresholds are met before allocation of services are agreed.
- We are developing even more robust procedures around what schools must have in place before requesting an EHCP and or additional funding.
- We are ensuring staff in schools are better equipped to meet the needs of children with additional needs through a comprehensive training package offered at no cost to schools and settings.
- Schools will need to evidence attendance at training as well as the impact of the training as part of their request for additional top up funding once this has been embedded.

Managing demand pressures

- As agreed by Schools Forum, Officers will consider the data to understand the reasons why Thurrock EHCP's are greater than statistical neighbours through deep dive of EHCPs by an external consultant. Assessment thresholds, provision, tuition referrals and spend will be examined and is due to be reported by the end of this financial year.
- Officers are working with the data to understand the reasons why Thurrock EHCP's are greater than statistical neighbours.
- Officers are considering options to increase the local offer based on future projected levels of demand. This will be with a view to meeting new demand and seeking where possible to reduce the number of out of borough placements.

10. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- Thurrock Cabinet Report 9th December 2020 – Finance Update Quarter 2 2020/21
- School Forum meeting 19th November 2019 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
- Schools Forum meeting 17th September 2020 - High Needs Block 2020/21

11. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

If you have any queries or comments in advance of the Schools Forum meeting about this report, please contact

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Schools January 2021

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Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22

Aims of Presentation

- Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
- Schools Block & Thurrock Funding Formula
- Central Services Block
- High Needs Block
- Early Years
- DSG Management Plan & Deficit
- Next Steps

Schools Funding - Background

- Education / Schools funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is a ring fenced grant governed by the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations.
- Each of the 4 funding blocks has a separate formula to determine the funding allocation
 - Schools Block
 - Central Schools Services Block
 - High Needs Block
 - Early Years Block
- Brings together all responsibilities the Local Authority has for all Schools and Academies.
- Decision making is between the LA and its Schools Forum.

DSG Funding 2021/22

	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	Increase	Increase
	Nov-20	Oct-20	Dec-20	Oct-20	Dec-20
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	127.474	136.550	140.936	9.075	13.462
Central Services	1.850	1.699	1.783	(0.151)	(0.067)
High Needs	25.410	28.074	28.266	2.664	2.856
Early Years	12.699	12.481	12.877	(0.218)	0.179
Total	167.433	178.804	183.862	11.371	16.430

Schools Block

Schools Block Funding Change 2021/22

Schools Block			£m	£m	£m
				2021/22	2020/21
2020/21				127.474	119.434
Protected funding for the pay and pension			6.269		0.000
Increase in Funding	4.163				
Increase in Premises value	<u>0.029</u>		4.192		5.435
Increase in Pupil N	2021/22	27,835			
	2020/21	<u>27,367</u>			
		<u>468</u>	2.629		2.968
Increase in Growth	2021/22	1.758			
	2020/21	1.386	0.372	13.462	(0.362)
Schools Block 2021/22				140.936	127.475

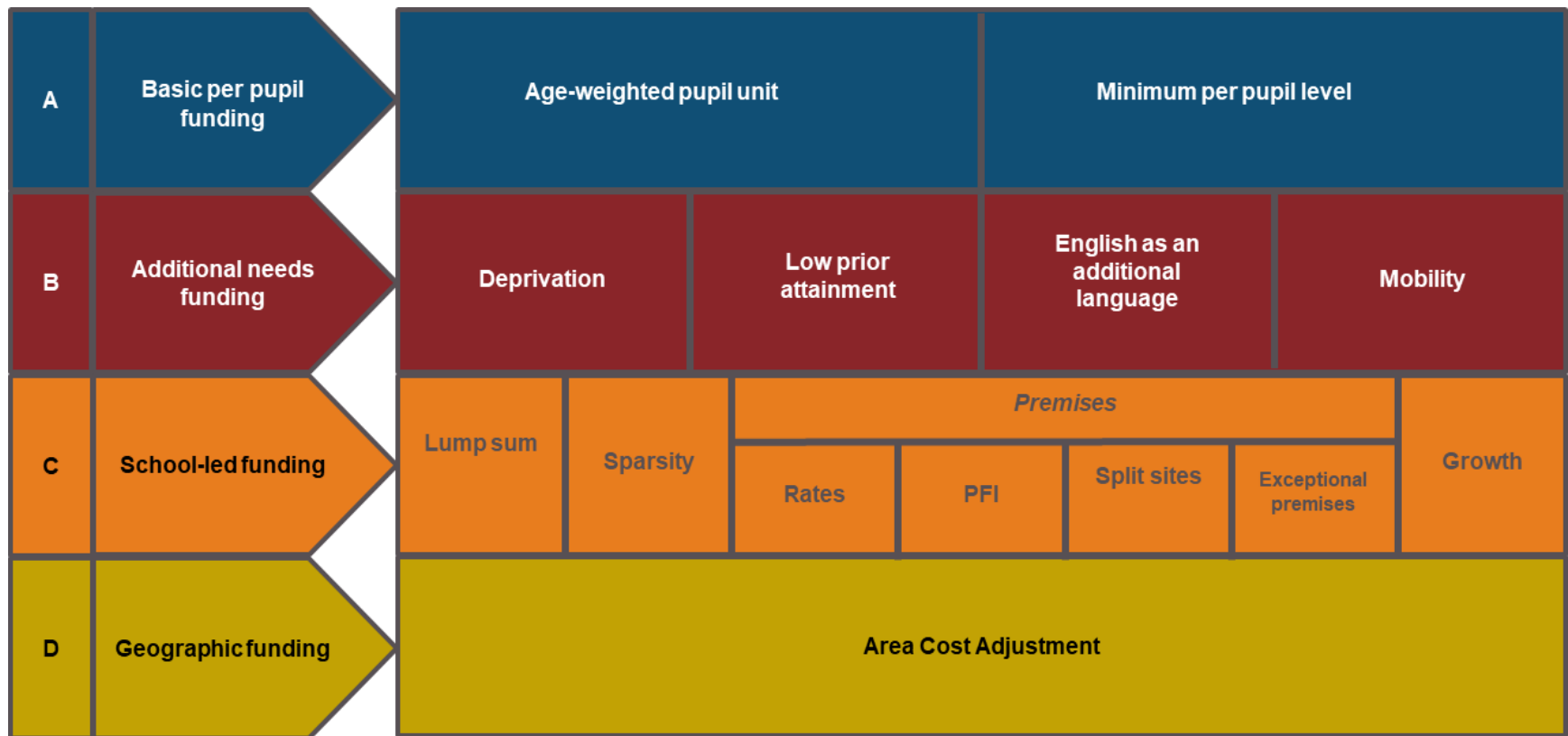
Key aspects of the NFF for 2021/22

- The incorporation of the 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), ensuring that the deprivation funding through the NFF continues to target schools most likely to need additional funding;
- Funding previously received through the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG), has been added to schools' baselines; by increasing the basic per pupil funding;
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools.

It remains the government's intention to move to a 'hard' NFF, where budgets will be set on the basis of a single, national formula

The schools national funding formula

- The schools NFF comprises of 14 factors



Formula Factor Values

	Thurrock 2020/21		NFF 2021/22		Thurrock 2021/22	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Primary *	£2,918		£3,123		£3,225	
KS 3*		£4,103		£4,404		£4,547
KS 4*		£4,658		£4,963		£5,125
Minimum Per Pupil	£3,750	£5,000	£4,180	£5,415	£4,180	£5,415
FSM	£450	£450	£460	£460	£460	£460
FSM6	£560	£815	£575	£840	£575	£840
IDACI Band F	£210	£300	£215	£310	£215	£310
IDACI Band E	£250	£405	£260	£415	£260	£415
IDACI Band D	£375	£535	£410	£580	£410	£580
IDACI Band C	£405	£580	£445	£630	£445	£630
IDACI Band B	£435	£625	£475	£680	£475	£680
IDACI Band A	£600	£840	£620	£865	£620	£865
Looked after Children	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EAL	£535	£1,440	£550	£1,485	£550	£1,485
Mobility	£875	£1,250	£900	£1,290	£900	£1,290
Prior Attainment	£1,065	£1,610	£1,095	£1,660	£1,095	£1,660
Lump Sum	£114,400	£114,400	£117,800	£117,800	£117,800	£117,800
	* Thurrock ACA applied = 1.02125		ACA = 1.03757		ACA applied = 1.03257	

Schools Funding Formula 2021/22

Thurrock	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	£m	%	£m	%
Basic Entitlement	£95.313	75%	£107.285	76%
FSM	£6.387	5%	£6.935	5%
IDACI	£5.648	4%	£5.966	4%
EAL	£1.438	1%	£1.470	1%
Mobility	£0.259	0%	£0.066	0%
Prior Attainment	£8.542	7%	£8.592	6%
Lump Sum	£5.853	5%	£6.126	4%
Premises	£0.791	1%	£0.736	1%
Add funding minimum per pupil level	£1.056	1%	£1.620	1%
MFG	£0.160	0%	£0.253	0%
Schools Block Formula	£125.446	98%	£139.050	99%
Growth/Falling Rolls	£1.393	1%	£1.213	1%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£126.839	99.5%	£140.263	99.5%
Transfer to High Needs	£0.635	0.5%	£0.673	0.5%
Schools Block Funding Allocation	£127.474	100%	£140.936	100%

Confirmed growth included in the formula

Pupil Growth 2021/22 APT	Pupil	Year	Growth	Total	21-22	Total Cost
School Name	Growth	Group	New 2021/22	2021/22	MFG Per pupil	2021/22
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	60	R	35.0	35.0	£4,180	146,300
Harris Academy Riverside	180	Yr7	105.0	105.0	£5,415	568,575
Orsett Heath Academy	120	Yr7	70.0	70.0	£5,415	379,050
Thames Park	120	Yr7	70.0	70.0	£5,415	379,050
Abbotts Hall	30	R	17.5	17.5	£4,180	73,150
	<u>510</u>		<u>298</u>	<u>298</u>		<u>1,546,125</u>

Growth Fund 2021/22 - Retained

Pupil Growth 2021/22	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth Sept-21	Total	MPPV	Total Cost
Primary:						
Tilbury Area	270	R	157.5	157.5	£4,180	£658,350
Corringham and Stanford	120	R	70.0	70.0	£4,180	£292,600
Rural	30	R	17.5	17.5	£4,180	£73,150
Total	420		245	245		£1,024,100
						Growth fund - Agreed 2020/21 Summer Term £187,500
						Unallocated £1,737
						Growth Fund Retained by LA £1,213,337
						Available for Schools Block £544,830
						ESFA Growth Fund Allocation £1,758,167

Transfer from Schools to High Need Block

- Transfer to HNB of £0.673m; 0.5% of Schools Block allocation.
- Used to support increased demand for specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans.
- Ongoing discussions required on both the level of funding required to support the HNB and actions that can be taken to reduce demand.
- Annual discussion held with ESFA - March 21?

Thurrock - Schools Funding Formula 2021/22

- NFF values have been applied
- Unallocated funding has allowed an inflationary increase of 1.03257 to be applied to Basic Entitlement values (ACA = 1.03757).
- Confirmed growth included in formula
- Retained growth £1.213m
- HNB contribution of £0.673m (0.5%)
- Notional SEN %ages as shown on next slide, consistent with 2020/21

Schools Block – Notional SEN 2020/21

	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
Basic Entitlement	2.5%	2.5%
FSM	0%	0%
FSM6	100%	100%
IDACI Band A - F	25%	25%
EAL	0%	0%
Mobility	0%	0%
Low Attainment - Primary	100%	100%
Low Attainment - Secondary	100%	100%
Additional to meet minimum per pupil funding	100%	100%
Notional SEN Value	£18,020,904	£19,691,234
Schools Block Formula	£125,453,644	£135,864,361
% Notional SEN / Schools Block Formula	14.36%	14.49%

Thurrock Funding Formula - Summary

- Hand-out A – School Level detail
- Provisional 2021/22 funding allocations
- Funding Formula to be returned to ESFA by 21st January
- ESFA approval need to confirm funding allocations

Distribute and discuss

- Schools will need to consider careful known change in pupil numbers and impact on funding to be received.
- Key principle is that funding follows the child with no protection afforded to reduction in pupil numbers.

Grants 2020/21

- Pupil Premium
 - No changes to the Rates in 2021/22
 - Eligible Pupils determined by October 20 Census

Pupil Premium Rates	2020/21	2021/22
Primary	£1,345	£1,345
Secondary	£955	£955
Looked after Children	£2,345	£2,345
Service Children	£310	£310

- No announcements on any other specific grants for 2021/22

School Block – Decision Required

- To confirm agreement to the transfer of 0.5% £0.673m from the Schools Block to High Need Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and EHCP's in 2021/22.
- To confirm agreement to the retention of £1.213m to fund in year growth in 2021/22.

Central Schools Services Block

Central School Services Block

- The central school services block (CSSB) was created from the DSG funding that was held centrally by the local authority for central services.
- Statutory and Regulatory duties include: Planning for the education service, S151 Officer's responsibilities, Formulation and review of schools funding formula, Admissions, and Schools Forum.
- Historic Commitments relate to Historic Pension Costs and contribution to combined budgets. A 20% year on year reduction is to be applied from 2020/21 – a reduction of £0.256m.

			<u>Funding £m</u>
Actual CSSB unit of funding for ongoing functions			
	Pupil Numbers	27,835	
	Unit Value	<u>£34.68</u>	0.965
Actual funding for historic commitments			<u>0.818</u>
NFF 2021/22 CSSB funding			1.783

Central School Services Block

	Budget 2020/21 £m	Budget 2021/22 £m
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Education <i>Including: Director of children's services; Planning for the education service as a whole; Function in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools; School Attendance; Excluded Pupils; Responsibilities regarding the employment of children</i>	£0.376	£0.379
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Finance <i>Including: Revenue budget preparation, information and external audit relating to education; Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula; Administration of grants; Task related to LA Section 151 responsibilities under LGA 1972</i>	£0.140	£0.130
School Place Planning	£0.029	£0.029
School Admissions	£0.260	£0.280
Servicing of Schools forum	£0.010	£0.010
SACRE	£0.010	£0.010
Contribution to High Needs Block	£0.003	£0.200
Contribution to Combined budgets	£1.022	£0.745
Total DSG - Central Services Block	£1.850	£1.783

Central School Services Block Decision Required

- To agree the use of the Central School Services Block budget of £1.783m in 2021/22.

High Needs Block

High Needs Block 2021/22

High Needs Block	2021/22
	£m
National Funding Formula 2021/22	26.627
Import / Export Adjustments	(0.492)
	<hr/>
	26.135
Basic Entitlement (422Pupils @ £4,873.44)	2.057
Teachers pay/pension and supplementary	0.062
Additional funding Special Free School	0.012
	<hr/>
Funding Settlement 2021/22 (+ 11%)	28.266
Transfer from Schools Block	0.673
Transfer from Central Schools Services Block	0.200
	<hr/>
High Needs Block Budget 2021/22	29.139

High Needs Block 2021/22

- Thurrock has received an increase of £2.856m or 11%.
- Key areas:
 - Projected Outturn 2019/20 is a deficit of £2.562m.
 - Continued Year on Year Increase in EHCP's +12% against a population growth of +2%
 - Commissioned Numbers 2021/22 + 63 places
 - Treetops Free School Opens Sept-21 and
 - New Secondary SEMH Provision Sept-21
- SF Report provides further detail on HNB Budget
- SF Report provides extract from DSG Management Plan 2020/21 – Detail report to be presented at March meeting

High Needs Block Budget 2021/22

High Needs Block	2020/21 Budget £m	2020/21 Outturn £m	2021/22 Budget £m
High Needs Block	25.830	25.830	28.746
Import / export adjustments	(0.492)	(0.492)	(0.492)
HNB Free School Adjustment	0.048	0.048	0.012
	25.386	25.386	28.266
Schools Block transfer	0.635	0.635	0.673
Transfer from Central Services Schools Block	0.000	0.000	0.200
Funding Settlement	26.021	26.021	29.139
Place Funding	0.397	0.343	0.000
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	5.322	5.376	5.678
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	2.779	3.153	2.846
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.593	2.700	3.143
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	4.156	4.195	5.457
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.445	1.535	1.503
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.043	1.265	1.150
Top Up Funding - Post 16	1.787	2.175	2.175
Pupils not in School	0.161	0.450	0.300
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.100	2.040	2.040
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.100	1.288	1.288
Commissioned Services	1.149	1.149	1.129
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.200	0.234	0.100
Travellers Team	0.052	0.053	0.055
Home to School Transport	1.787	1.787	1.475
High Needs Central Team	0.950	0.946	0.800
High Needs Block Budget / Projected Outturn	26.021	28.689	29.139
Surplus / Deficit	0.000	2.668	0.000

High Needs Block Budget 2021/22 – Key Risks £1.9m

- Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.650m;
- Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16) - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.150m;
- Top Up Funding - Post 16 - Budget to equal the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.125m;
- Pupils not in School - Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.150m;
- Residential - Non Maintained and Independent – Budget to equal 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.500m;
- Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent – Budget to equal 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.200m;
- Additional High Needs Targeted – Budget less than the 2020/21 forecasted outturn. Potential financial Risk £0.125m;

High Needs Block Decision Required

- To agree the High Needs Block Budget of £29.139m in 2021/22 with the associated risks identified.

Early Years Block

Early Years 2020/21

- The ESFA have confirmed the use of the Spring Census on funding in both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Thurrock has agreed the following approach for the spring term:
 - Provisional lists, census information and payment profile to follow the guidelines issued
 - Where a child registers to take up a place and does not attend any other setting, payment will be made to the setting holding the place.
 - If a setting chooses not to open, no payment will be made.
 - The Local Authority will continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option to close, due to public health reasons.
 - Minimum funding guarantee, for each setting, equal to the value paid in spring 2020.
- This is consistent with arrangements implemented for Summer and Autumn Terms

Impact of Covid and Spring 21 Census

		3&4 YO	2YO	Total
A	DSG Early Years Funding Allocation	10,935,826	1,762,814	12,698,640
B	Guaranteed April to December = 9 months	8,201,870	1,322,111	9,523,980
C	Total Payments April to December	7,338,961	995,526	8,334,487
D	Unallocated at 31st December 2020	862,909	326,584	1,189,493
E	Spring Term - ESFA	2,690,430	423,369	3,113,799
F	Potential Payments - Spring 2020	3,176,629	491,224	3,667,853
G	Retained	217,450	0	217,450
H	Spring Net Financial Implication	(703,649)	(67,855)	(771,504)
I	Unallocated at 31st March 2021	159,260	258,729	417,989

Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) 2021/22

- The funding announcement included investment of £44m in early years. This will be realised through an increase in the hourly rate to be paid of 8p for 2YO and 6p for 3&4YO.
- EYFF for 2021/22 is based on Jan21 census for 5/12 of the funding and the Jan22 census for 7/12 of the funding.
- Current funding allocation, reflects updated hourly rates and is based on the Jan20 census only.
- In Jul21, the ESFA will confirm the final 2020/21 funding allocation.
- In Jul22, the ESFA will confirm the final 2021/22 funding allocation.
- The budget for early years is shown in the table below:

Early Years Block 2021/22	Numbers	(£ / hr)	£m
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	3,174	£4.60	8.322
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	1,007	£4.60	2.640
2 year old entitlement funding	539	£5.82	1.787
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.073
Disability Access Fund			0.055
Total Early Years Block			12.878

Early Years

- The priority is to provide settings with the maximum increase to funding; whilst managing the financial risk of using the Spring 2021 census.
- The rates to providers will be increased by 8p per hour
- The following rates to providers will be paid in 2021/22:

	2020/21	2021/22
2 Year Old	£5.15	£5.23
3 & 4 Year Old	£4.28	£4.36

Impact of Covid and Spring 21 Census

		3&4 YO	2YO	Total
I	Unallocated at 31st March 2021	159,260	258,729	417,989
J	Summer Term - ESFA	2,973,803	468,295	3,442,098
K	Potential Payments - Summer 2021	3,515,127	416,402	3,931,528
L	Retained	173,053		173,053
M	Net Impact on Spring 21 Census	(714,376)	51,893	(662,483)
N	Net Impact after funds c/fwd	(555,117)	310,623	(244,494)
O	Variance between Spring and Autumn			250,602
P	Potential Funding Unallocated 31/03/21			6,108

Early Years 2021/22 – Budget

Early Years Budget 2021/22	£m
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	7.906
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	2.508
2 year old entitlement funding	1.787
Early Years Pupil Premium	0.073
Disability Access Fund	0.055
Early Years Central Team	0.548
Total Early Years Block	12.878

Covid Support

- The LA has been aware of additional costs being incurred by settings in the delivery of the early years offer as a result of Covid.
- It was hopefully that the DSG would have been able to provide a one-off payment as a contribution towards the additional costs. However earlier slides demonstrate this is not possible.
- The LA has approved the following request to support settings:
 - A one-off payment as a contribution for Covid related costs to be paid in the spring term. This will be based on the autumn numbers with each provider to receive a fixed amount of £500, with a variable rate of £50 per child.

Autumn Term Providers all	148	£500	£74,000
Children All	3,225	£50	£161,250
			£235,250

Early Years Block Decision Required

- To agree the Early Years Budget for 2021/22.

DSG Management Plan & Deficit

DSG Deficit

DSG Deficit - Summary	£m	Deficit % of DSG
Historic Deficit 2018/19	(2.656)	
DSG 2019/20	0.678	
Deficit @ 31/03/20	(1.978)	1.26%
DSG 2020/21	(1.617)	
Projected Deficit @ 31/03/21	(3.595)	2.15%
> Requirement to complete DSG Management Plan		
> Need to deliver a balance budget position		
> Continued annual increase in EHCP's		
> Ongoing discussions with ESFA		

Next Steps

- Schools Funding Formula was submitted to ESFA on 21st January
- ESFA approval to the formula is required before the budgets can be confirmed as final.
- Headteachers Briefing 3rd February
- ESFA Meeting – March 2021 ?
- Schools Forum meeting Thursday 18th March:
 - DSG Management Plan 2020/21



Any Questions ?

School Name	NOR 2020/21	NOR 2021/22	Change	Schools Budget 2020/21	Schools Budget 2021/22	Increase	% Increase	Minimum per pupil funding or MFG Adjust 2021/22	Per Pupil Value 2020/21	Per Pupil Value 2021/22	Notional SEN Budget 2020/21	Notional SEN Budget 2021/22
Total	27,702	28,137	435	£125,446,407	£139,049,817	£13,603,410		£1,872,629			£17,881,394	£18,928,214
Abbots Hall Primary School	248.00	269.50	21.50	£999,552	£1,148,459	£148,907	15%	£0	£4,030.45	£4,261.44	£115,240	£118,005
Arthur Bugler Primary School	418.00	424.00	6.00	£1,572,675	£1,777,310	£204,635	13%	£127,450	£3,762.38	£4,191.77	£223,469	£272,776
Aveley Primary School	436.00	446.00	10.00	£1,785,624	£1,965,305	£179,681	10%	£0	£4,095.47	£4,406.51	£289,033	£295,197
Belmont Castle Academy	632.00	647.00	15.00	£2,464,050	£2,717,567	£253,517	10%	£32,008	£3,898.81	£4,200.26	£334,058	£359,353
Benyon Primary School	230.00	268.00	38.00	£1,004,402	£1,239,896	£235,494	23%	£0	£4,366.97	£4,626.48	£148,936	£167,212
Bonnygate Primary School	412.00	402.00	(10.00)	£1,668,158	£1,770,516	£102,358	6%	£0	£4,048.93	£4,404.27	£231,759	£223,874
Bulphan Church of England Academy	82.00	78.00	(4.00)	£415,651	£424,828	£9,177	2%	£12,505	£5,068.92	£5,446.51	£35,634	£36,574
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	208.00	208.00	0.00	£988,598	£1,045,178	£56,580	6%	£20,675	£4,752.88	£5,024.90	£151,255	£160,442
Deneholm Primary School	406.00	409.00	3.00	£1,536,263	£1,715,406	£179,143	12%	£8,209	£3,783.90	£4,194.15	£184,217	£206,405
Dilkes Academy	421.00	451.00	30.00	£1,669,289	£1,955,868	£286,578	17%	£0	£3,965.06	£4,336.74	£224,198	£256,720
East Tilbury Primary School	664.00	657.00	(7.00)	£2,561,672	£2,770,592	£208,920	8%	£0	£3,857.94	£4,217.04	£330,593	£340,959
Giffards Primary School	441.00	438.00	(3.00)	£1,688,631	£1,839,682	£151,051	9%	£0	£3,829.10	£4,200.19	£236,790	£246,855
Graham James Primary Academy	417.00	419.00	2.00	£1,587,071	£1,758,434	£171,363	11%	£57,466	£3,805.93	£4,196.74	£204,640	£248,196
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	618.00	621.00	3.00	£2,330,730	£2,623,428	£292,698	13%	£237,222	£3,771.41	£4,224.52	£351,855	£415,960
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	799.50	906.00	106.50	£3,025,773	£3,802,850	£777,077	26%	£276,603	£3,784.58	£4,197.41	£391,925	£575,046
Herringham Primary Academy	411.00	413.00	2.00	£1,712,191	£1,880,178	£167,987	10%	£0	£4,165.91	£4,552.49	£255,880	£270,872
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	220.00	208.00	(12.00)	£935,715	£952,687	£16,971	2%	£0	£4,253.25	£4,580.23	£116,636	£108,808
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	193.00	198.00	5.00	£779,343	£846,935	£67,592	9%	£4,182	£4,038.05	£4,277.45	£79,517	£81,190
Kenningtons Primary Academy	421.00	415.00	(6.00)	£1,646,123	£1,789,247	£143,124	9%	£0	£3,910.03	£4,311.44	£244,060	£241,066
Lansdowne Primary Academy	619.00	613.00	(6.00)	£2,732,780	£2,925,801	£193,021	7%	£0	£4,414.83	£4,772.92	£504,238	£513,924
Little Thurrock Primary School	618.00	614.00	(4.00)	£2,329,686	£2,578,706	£249,020	11%	£164,503	£3,769.72	£4,199.85	£346,527	£406,817
Orsett Church of England Primary School	215.00	208.00	(7.00)	£846,335	£885,598	£39,263	5%	£0	£3,936.44	£4,257.68	£84,934	£88,007
Ortu Corringham Primary School	430.00	408.00	(22.00)	£1,620,385	£1,713,325	£92,940	6%	£70,280	£3,768.34	£4,199.33	£231,065	£256,348
Purfleet Primary Academy	559.00	561.00	2.00	£2,310,150	£2,472,298	£162,147	7%	£0	£4,132.65	£4,406.95	£338,739	£339,081
Quarry Hill Academy	438.00	421.00	(17.00)	£1,807,098	£1,862,493	£55,395	3%	£0	£4,125.80	£4,423.97	£268,349	£256,720
Shaw Primary Academy	405.00	409.00	4.00	£1,679,221	£1,805,809	£126,588	8%	£1,933	£4,146.22	£4,415.18	£251,684	£235,278
Somers Heath Primary School	384.00	380.00	(4.00)	£1,580,707	£1,696,798	£116,091	7%	£0	£4,116.43	£4,465.26	£240,280	£247,803
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	225.00	210.00	(15.00)	£919,730	£928,995	£9,265	1%	£0	£4,087.69	£4,423.79	£112,149	£104,081
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	211.00	210.00	(1.00)	£930,661	£1,024,846	£94,185	10%	£0	£4,410.72	£4,880.22	£114,461	£123,072
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	612.00	606.00	(6.00)	£2,306,571	£2,544,651	£238,080	10%	£117,698	£3,768.91	£4,199.09	£302,133	£371,333
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	403.00	394.00	(9.00)	£1,584,815	£1,677,283	£92,468	6%	£0	£3,932.54	£4,257.06	£214,534	£213,693
Stifford Clays Primary School	630.00	606.00	(24.00)	£2,371,580	£2,543,320	£171,740	7%	£102,093	£3,764.41	£4,196.90	£361,136	£404,299
Thameside Primary School	743.00	773.00	30.00	£3,177,763	£3,510,072	£332,309	10%	£2,230	£4,276.94	£4,540.84	£568,583	£593,477
The Gateway Primary Free School	401.00	408.00	7.00	£1,790,455	£1,967,067	£176,612	10%	£0	£4,464.98	£4,821.24	£323,115	£328,891
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	429.00	432.00	3.00	£1,882,525	£2,034,269	£151,744	8%	£0	£4,388.17	£4,708.96	£307,000	£302,190
Tudor Court Primary School	799.00	777.00	(22.00)	£3,016,134	£3,267,521	£251,387	8%	£266,118	£3,774.89	£4,205.30	£519,902	£567,271
Warren Primary School	422.00	412.00	(10.00)	£1,637,796	£1,733,219	£95,423	6%	£93,044	£3,881.03	£4,206.84	£230,840	£263,756
West Thurrock Academy	432.00	397.00	(35.00)	£1,750,341	£1,723,206	(£27,135)	-2%	£52,133	£4,051.72	£4,340.57	£228,224	£193,551
Woodside Academy	631.00	630.00	(1.00)	£2,376,183	£2,643,333	£267,150	11%	£61,195	£3,765.74	£4,195.77	£313,293	£375,520

School Name	NOR 2020/21	NOR 2021/22	Change	Schools Budget 2020/21	Schools Budget 2021/22	Increase	% Increase	Minimum per pupil funding or MFG Adjust 2021/22	Per Pupil Value 2020/21	Per Pupil Value 2021/22	Notional SEN Budget 2020/21	Notional SEN Budget 2021/22
Total	27,702	28,137	435	£125,446,407	£139,049,817	£13,603,410		£1,872,629			£17,881,394	£18,928,214
Grays Convent High School	645.00	660.00	15.00	£3,431,042	£3,787,829	£356,787	10%	£0	£5,319.45	£5,739.13	£397,951	£399,302
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	989.00	992.00	3.00	£4,999,152	£5,420,832	£421,680	8%	£3,096	£5,054.75	£5,464.55	£569,003	£529,400
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,156.00	1,182.00	26.00	£6,342,277	£7,020,461	£678,184	11%	£0	£5,486.40	£5,939.48	£924,301	£938,803
Harris Academy Riverside	549.00	739.00	190.00	£2,940,454	£4,271,122	£1,330,668	45%	£0	£5,356.02	£5,779.60	£351,683	£495,872
Ormiston Park Academy	635.00	660.00	25.00	£3,709,161	£4,168,793	£459,632	12%	£36,093	£5,841.20	£6,316.35	£610,559	£636,548
Orsett Heath Academy	70.00	191.00	121.00	£417,692	£1,180,150	£762,458	183%	£80,296	£5,967.02	£6,178.79	£51,443	£96,081
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,279.00	1,194.00	(85.00)	£6,650,108	£6,825,495	£175,387	3%	£0	£5,199.46	£5,716.50	£855,511	£822,400
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	515.00	531.00	16.00	£2,980,697	£3,285,796	£305,099	10%	£12,475	£5,787.76	£6,187.94	£476,138	£479,340
St Clere's School	1,321.00	1,355.00	34.00	£6,927,601	£7,783,989	£856,387	12%	£0	£5,244.21	£5,744.64	£935,190	£1,017,177
Thames Park Secondary School	70.00	181.00	111.00	£417,692	£1,124,529	£706,838	169%	£33,123	£5,967.02	£6,212.87	£51,443	£105,252
The Gateway Academy	1,048.00	1,054.00	6.00	£6,270,259	£6,829,760	£559,500	9%	£0	£5,983.07	£6,479.85	£1,155,165	£1,147,240
The Hathaway Academy	873.00	782.00	(91.00)	£4,965,332	£4,776,512	(£188,820)	-4%	£0	£5,687.67	£6,108.07	£749,485	£668,655
William Edwards School	1,268.00	1,269.00	1.00	£6,372,512	£7,011,573	£639,061	10%	£0	£5,025.64	£5,525.27	£742,639	£781,523

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	19 January 2021
SUBJECT:	Growth and Falling Rolls Fund 2021/22
REPORT OF:	Sarah Williams
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks for the Schools Forum to agree to the process for the allocation of growth funding for schools who take bulge classes or expanding schools whereby schools increase their published admission number at the request of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the proposed criteria for schools and academies accessing funding allocated for growth for the academic year 2021/22.
- 2.2 To agree a Growth Fund budget for 2021/22 of £1,213,337.
- 2.3 To keep under review the need to establish a Falling Rolls Policy

3. GROWTH FUND

- 3.1 Following the annual review of Pupil Place Plan and school places across Thurrock the Specialist Education Service Manager and Strategic Lead DSG and Schools have worked together to present the forecasted growth budget for 2021/22
- 3.2 The local authority continues to work with schools to ensure that there is a sufficiency of school places to meet local demand across the borough. In certain circumstances this may involve increasing the published admission number (PANS) in those schools where existing places are deemed insufficient to meet projected local demand. Currently the local authority, through basic need funding, supports the capital cost of any required expansion and bulge classes, if that expansion or bulge class has been agreed as part of the pupil place planning process.

Growth Criteria

- 3.3 The Schools Revenue Funding 2021/22 Operational Guide Arrangements published by the ESFA outlines the principles for a growth fund. Local authorities may centrally retain funding within the schools block in order to create a growth fund to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including pre-opening.

3.4 The growth fund may not be used to support schools in financial difficulty. Growth funding in Thurrock will be applied in the following circumstances:

- where a school or academy has agreed with the authority to provide additional places (30 places) to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or on-going commitment).
- support where a school has increased its PAN in agreement with the local authority to meet basic need in the area.
- Funding will be for a full class of 30 children, funded for one year only. For example from September to the following August. There will then be an annual review of the numbers in the bulge class using the summer census. Funding in the second year will be based on the difference in actual numbers of children on roll between the summer and October census.

3.5 Growth funding will not apply in the following circumstances:

- For any PAN increases which are not agreed with the local authority as part of the place planning process to meet basic need in the area.
- Where pupils are admitted above a schools PAN as a consequence of appeal, infant class size regulation exceptions or error in the school admissions process.
- The fund will not be applied retrospectively and will only apply to increases in class size agreed with the council.
- Funding will not be provided following the October census whereby the class is not full to capacity.

Funding Requirements 2021/22

3.6 The local authority is required to publish the methodology used to provide additional growth funding to schools and academies and it must be applied in the same way regardless of the type of school.

3.7 The Minimum per pupil value for Primary £4,180 and Secondary KS3 £5,215 will be applied to the number of additional pupils not funded within the budget share up to the agreed PAN, which has been derived as a consequence of basic need in the area.

- 3.8 The Local Authority has received within the DSG Schools Block funding allocation the following growth fund:

Table 1: Thurrock DSG Schools Block Growth Fund Allocation 2021/22

Thurrock Growth Fund Allocation 2021/22	Eligible Pupil Growth	Eligible Pupil Value	Area Cost Adjustment	Total
Primary	252.5	£1,455	1.038	£381,188
Secondary	547.0	£2,175	1.038	£1,234,417
Number of new schools	2	£68,700	1.038	£142,561
Total growth allocation	801.5			£1,758,167
2020/21 growth allocation	717.5			£1,385,624
2019/20 schools block				£127,474,073
Change in growth funding as % of 2020/21 SB DSG				0.29%

- 3.9 Thurrock has experienced significant growth in the area for a number of years. The table below shows existing commitments for summer 2021 and the areas currently identified within the Primary sector where additional places will be required from September 2021:

Table 2: Thurrock Growth Fund 2021/22

Pupil Growth 2021/22	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth Sept-21	Total	MPPV	Total Cost
Primary:						
Tilbury Area	270	R	157.5	157.5	£4,180	£658,350
Corringham and Stanford	120	R	70.0	70.0	£4,180	£292,600
Rural	30	R	17.5	17.5	£4,180	£73,150
Total	420		245	245		£1,024,100
					Growth fund - Agreed 2020/21 Summer Term	£187,500
					Unallocated	£1,737
					Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,213,337

- 3.10 To support existing commitments and an additional 420 primary places from September 2021, a retained growth fund of £1.213m in 2021/22 is proposed. This is less than the funding allocation provided; the difference between the growth allocation and the amount required of £0.545m (Allocation = £1.758m: Required = £1.213m) will be allocated to schools through the funding formula.

4. FALLING ROLLS FUND

- 4.1 The guidance issued allows local authorities to top-slice from the schools block to create a small fund to support good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years.
- 4.2 The guidance requires such funds to set out clear criteria containing objective trigger points for eligibility or qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.
- 4.3 The only mandatory requirement is that financial support provided via the falling rolls fund is available only to schools and academies judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection.
- 4.4 The key principles that drive the need to maintain a falling rolls fund are to ensure that places are secured that will be required in the following two to three years (based on the latest demographic information available) and that neither the local authority, or schools/academies incur unnecessary costs in relation to short-term temporary losses in pupil numbers.
- 4.5 In consideration of the data available it is not considered that this would be appropriate as the conditions outline above would not be met within Thurrock in 2021/22. Officers will annually consider if circumstances require the development of a policy.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Schools Forum Report 17th January 2020 - Growth Funding Arrangements

6. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

NAME: Sarah Williams

ROLE: Education Specialist Service Manager

EMAIL: sjwilliams@thurrock.gov.uk

NAME: David May

ROLE: Strategic Lead Finance

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Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2020 – 2021

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
12 March 2021 9am to 11am Virtual Meeting	Thurrock Budget 2021/22 – Children’s Services
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21 – Projected Outturn
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 – Early Years Funding Formula
	Pupil Place Planning Review
	Outcomes for disadvantaged and unrepresented student and young people in Thurrock
	Free Schools Update – Standing
	Funding arrangement for Permanent Exclusions
17 June 2021 9am to 11am Virtual Meeting Venue to be confirmed	Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21 – Outturn
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan 2021/22
	Union Facility Time Annual Review – Standing
	Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds – Standing
	Schools Forum Membership Review 2021/22
	Review of Forward Plan 2021/22
	Academies and Free Schools Update – Standing

Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held 19 November 2020 at 10am Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Multi Academy Trusts

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

Name

Mr T Parfett (Vice Chair)
Dr Sophina Asong
Mrs Louise Coates)
Mr S Munday
Mr K Sadler
Mrs N Graham

Secondary Voluntary Aided School

Grays Convent

Name

Mrs M Miller

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Name

Mr E Caines
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Infrastructure Groups

TASS
TPHA

Name

Mrs P Johnson
Mrs J Sawtell-Haines

Alternative Provision

Olive AP

Name

Mr M Vickers

Special Schools

Treetops Academy
Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mr J Brewer
Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members

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

Name

Mrs M Shepherd
Mr A Melbourne
Ms Alison Jones

Also in Attendance

Mr Malcolm Taylor

Ms Michelle Lucas
Mr David May
Ms Sarah Williams

Mrs Alison Picknell

Ms Teresa Lydon

Strategic Lead – Specialist
Provision/PEP

Assistant Director, Education Skills
Strategic Lead – DSG and Schools
Service Manager, Education Support
Service

School Effectiveness and Early Years
Manager

Clerk

1. Welcome from the Chair

Mr T Parfett advised that Mr P Griffiths (Chair) had sent his apologies and as Vice Chair he would chair this meeting. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. The Chair asked all members to click the mute button until they wanted to speak this was to address the feedback that can take place on Microsoft Teams.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Mr P Griffiths, Ms A Winstone and Mr J Revell sent their apologies for the meeting.

3. Agreement of Agenda, Time-Guide and Notification of Any Other Business

- i) The Forum agreed the agenda and time guide.
- ii) Mr D May asked to present Item 5 before presenting Item 4. Revised paperwork was sent out for Item 7 Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020. Mrs A Picknell in the absence of Ms A Winstone will present this report.
- iii) COVID winter Grant.
- iv) Outcomes of children from different social groups to be presented by Dr S Asong.

4. Dedicated School Grant 2020-21

Mr D May summarised the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2020-21 report which was sent out to all forum members prior to the meeting.

He advised that the DSG 2020/21 projected outturn position is a deficit of £1.617m, as a result of continued demand within the High Needs Block that exceeds the budget available. The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.978m into 2020/21. The 2020/21 projected in year position will increase the deficit to £3.595m.

The Schools Block growth fund allows officers to ensure there are places available with Thurrock schools for all children of school age. It is currently forecast an underspend of £0.833m.

The Central Services block has a projected underspend of £0.046m.

The High Needs Block is the significant area of financial risk and is broken down into the four following areas:

- The continued increase in the number of EHCP. Additional costs of £0.696m are forecasted in maintaining pupils within Thurrock schools or other Local Authority mainstream schools and academies.
- Post 16 – Increased pupil numbers are forecasted with additional cost of £0.400m.
- Residential and Non-Residential Non-Maintained and Independent placements forecast an overspend of £1.100m.

- Increase in supplying tuition packages for pupils not in School, costing additional £0.300m

They are continuing to review the local offer and commissioned places available within Thurrock.

The Early Years Block has a breakeven forecast based on the latest information available. It will be reviewed once the final autumn term payments have been made.

To support LAs, the ESFA have released a DSG management plan template to assist:

- compliance with the DSG: conditions of grant 2020/21
- monitor how DSG funding is being spent
- compare data on high needs spend between LAs
- highlight areas where LAs may wish to review spending
- form evidence-based and strategic future plans for the provision of children and young people with SEND
- present complex funding information simply to schools forums and other external stakeholders
- provide a consistent reporting format to help LAs share best practice and initiatives

This template will be populated on a termly basis and presented to the Schools Forum. The EFSA are recommending that this plan should be brought to the School Forum before the next budget is set. It will also form the basis of any future discussions with the EFSA.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members agreed the financial position for 2020-21 and offered comments on action taken or that could be considered.
- b) All Forum members agreed to receive regular updates on 202-21 projected outturn position.

5. Dedicated School Grant 2021-22

Mr D May went through the presentation which summarised the Dedicated Schools Grant 201-22 report which was sent out to all forum members.

Mr D May advised that the 20th July the EFSA announced provisional funding allocations for 2021/22 through the schools, high needs and central school services funding blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

He advised that in 2021/22 the DSG will increase by an extra £2.2bn; £730m of this is being directed to the High Needs Block.

The ESFA has updated the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2021/22 with new factor values, and made some technical changes. Key changes are:

- The 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated through the formulae is based on the latest data.
- Funding previously received through the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grants (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, to mainstream schools for pupils from reception to year will be allocated through the schools NFF; by increasing the basic per pupil funding; and by increasing the minimum per pupil funding.
- School funding is increasing by 4% overall. The Minimum per Pupil Funding Levels are £4,180 per primary pupil, £5,215 per KS3 pupil and £5,715 per KS4 pupil, all including the pay and pensions grant amounts.

Final DSG allocations will be published in December 2020. October 2020 census data will be used for this allocation.

Mr D May handed out a Thurrock funding formula slide at school Level to all forum members.

He advised that there is increase of between 6 and 11% for individual schools.

Thurrock's High Needs Block in 2021/22 provisional increase is £2.670m or 10.31%.

The key areas for consideration are:

- The High Needs Block 2020/21 projected outturn position is a deficit of £2.58m, after the transfer of £0.630m from Schools Block.
- continued increase in demand for EHCP's
- Commissioned Numbers 2021/22 – All forum members received a report
- Uplift to Band Values to ensure funding provided covers costs incurred.
- Treetops Free School to open 2021/22
- Thurrock Management Plan 2020/21 and Detailed budget 2021/22 to be presented January meeting

He advised that the EFSA were happy with everything that has been done but as an Authority we need more money.

Mr D May commented that COVID has had a significant impact on Early Years. ~We are awaiting further details from the EFSA.

Mr D May advised that the decision for the Forum was to agree that the funding can be moved from Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

Mr A Melborne asked when they will get the final decision from the EFSA regarding Early Years. Mr D May advised he is looking into this. Mr A Melborne asked what else they could do to protect the Early Years. Mr D May is looking to guarantee setting what they received in Spring 2020 to be match for Spring 2021.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members noted the contents of the report.
- b) All forum members considered the information presented at the meeting on the formula to be applied and the impact at school level in 2021-22.
- c) All forum members agreed to continue to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

6. High Needs Block Commissioning Intentions, Band Values and Services Partnership Agreements for 2021-22

Mr D May advised that the report issued to all forum members was based on a return that was made to the EFSA the previous week. The report provides information to School Forum members in relation to the commissioning and funding arrangements for high needs places in specialist provisions from September 2021.

Mr D May advised that recent guidance, published in September 2020, sets out that local authorities must:

- ensure place numbers reflect both recent agreed commissioning activity and strategic planning to secure suitable SEND provision and AP in line with local authorities' and schools' statutory responsibilities;
- consult with their maintained schools, local academies and FE institutions to determine funded 2021/22 high needs place numbers;
- ensure that an institution's funded place numbers include places agreed and commissioned by other local authorities, and their plans for increasing or reducing future placements;
- the high needs national funding formula and adjustments reflect the funding distribution in those local authorities where the academies and FE institutions in their area have a significant number of pupils or students who live in other local authority areas;
- return a place number for the institutions in their area that reflects the commissioning by both their authority and all other local authorities;
- the band values to be paid to special and AP academies in 2021/22 must include additional funding at least equal to the amounts of Teachers Pension Grant (TPG) and Teachers Pension Employees Contribution Grant (TPECG) paid in 2020/21;
- submit changes to 2021/22 high needs place numbers in academies and FE institutions to ESFA by 13 November 2020

Thurrock proposed commissioned places remains unchanged for Thurrock for 2021/22.

Mr M Taylor advised that they are expecting to put another 20 place next term into Treetops and another 20 from September 2021.

In 2021/22 it is proposed the following changes will be implemented to maintain parity with the increase to school funding and maintaining the principle of full cost recovery:
Resource Bases - Increase to Basic Per Pupil Values

- Primary 2020/21 = £3,750 2021/22 = £4,180
- Secondary 2020/21 = £5,000 2021/22 = £5,415

These values include the specific grants for Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Employee Contribution (Primary = £180pp and Secondary = £265). For Special and AP academies a new payment will be included to replace the specific grants for Teachers Pay and Teacher Pension Employee Contribution. The ESFA have calculated this at £660pp.

The additional proposal was to top up funding a 3% uplift to be applied, consistent with the inflationary increase applied through the National Funding Formula.

The Local Authority continues to look to place pupils seeking specialist placements in local provision in the first instance and only place in Independent or non-maintained schools where there is no other local option available that could meet the needs of these pupils. Schools Forum needs to be aware that of the current commissioned places a small number of places are currently taken up by pupils from other local authorities; however, currently 86 pupils are placed in schools in neighbouring local authorities.

As a local area, at the 31st March 2020, there were 74 pupils in independent specialist schools and non-maintained specialist settings.

The Chair asked for Appendix 1 to be explained. Mr D May advised this is the proposed Band Values to be applied from Sept 2021. They include a 3% uplift to top up funding, consistent with the inflationary increase applied through the National Funding Formula. The Band values are then used to fund individual Resource bases, based on the level of need, agreed staffing structure and the principle of full cost recovery.

Dr S Asong asked what drives the banding. Mr M Taylor commented that the mainstream costs were worked out based on the actual costs discussed with the resource bases. They were then put in different banding levels. This also depended on what services was being delivered. Dr S Asong asked if this could be broken down so all School Forum members could understand. She would like to understand the threshold. She also asked if there was any documentation that could explain these thresholds. Mr M Taylor commented that this is a different process as they are looking at the costs to run the resource bases. He also advised that the academies do not need to share these costs but they are very transparent. Mr T Parfett advised that their base is purely based on staff costs. He also commented that their main cost is staffing. Mr M Taylor commented they would need agreement with all resource bases to share this information.

Action: MT to discuss with resources regarding sharing the framework that was used to choose the bandings for each resource base and the costs

Mr D May advised that he would bring to the next meeting the budget they are paying to each resource base.

Mr E Caines would like to know how many children would normally be in each band so they could compare costs and account for the money they are spending depending on need. Mr T Parfett advised that all their children are on the same band. Mr E Caines would like to know a typical amount. Mr M Taylor commented they can show the banding for each base. One of the lowest is the Speech and Language base. Mr D May

commented that the MPPG is the AWPU. Mr M Taylor advised they can bring to the next meeting costs for out of borough placements.

Action: MT to put together costs for out of borough placements for next meeting

Dr S Asong commented that the total cost of the provision determines the banding. Mr M Taylor advised that the costs they have identified has come from a discussion about the needs of the pupil. Mrs L Coates commented that she runs two alternative provisions and they are both on a Band 5. She also advised that they will be in a deficit from next year onwards.

Dr S Asong advised that the question was simple all she wanted was a list of criteria that identifies the Band in which the provisions are put in to. Mr M Taylor advised we want to make sure that the budget is spent in the best way possible. Mr T Parfett advised that Dr S Asong would like to know how these figures came to be and Mr M Taylor advised they will be able to go back to bases and discuss with them.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haines commented that if all schools sets their budgets they would want more money. There is a big different between a UPS teacher and a MP teacher. How do you determine which staff are needed in these provisions. Mr M Taylor commented that they have challenged around costs and have set a level of staffing with a few caveats. He also advised they have also pushed back on costs including staffing costs. These bases are a more affordable option than out of borough provisions. They do re-negotiate if the bases need more money.

Action: Mr D May to include numbers at each resource base to the January meeting

AGREED

- a) All forum members noted and commented on the contents of the report.
- b) All forum members support the commissioned numbers for 2021/22 that were required to be submitted to ESFA on 13th November 2019
- c) All forum members approve the increase in band values to be applied from September 2021 but wanted clarity on what band values were applied to each setting.
- d) All forum members approve the increase in the funding to support Outreach services from September 2021.

7. Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020

Mrs A Picknell summarised the report sent to all School Forum members.

She advised that there are currently 196 providers in Thurrock offering 3,614 full time equivalent early education and childcare places for 0-5 year olds. Across Thurrock, 117 childminders are signed up to deliver 411 early years funded places. There are an additional 58 childminders registered to deliver 110 places who are not currently signed up to deliver early years funded places.

Take-up of early years entitlements is not compulsory and not all parents will choose to take up some or all of their entitled hours. This adds a further layer of complexity to estimating demand. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents.

The increase, to 30hrs of early education and childcare for working parents, proposed by the government in 2017 has steadily had an impact on demand. However, 3&4 year old entitlement places are still meeting this demand.

AGREED

a) All forum members noted the contents of the report.

8. Academies and Free Schools Update and Forward Plan for 2021

Ms Williams advised that Warren primary converted to academy status on 1st November and Bonnygate primary is scheduled to convert on 1st December 2020. All school are now academies with the exception of Grays Convent School.

Ms S Williams shared the Forward Plan with all forum members.

Mrs S Hewitt commented on the date for the next meeting. This should be the 19th of January.

Action: Ms S Williams to update date of next meeting.

AGREED

All forum members noted this report.

9. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 17th September 202

All governors were happy with the content.

10. Matters Arising

Action: A Winstone will send around the figures for the number of EHCPs at each schools.

Action: Miss S Williams to add Transport to the January agenda

11. Any Other Business

Mrs M Lucas discussed the COVID Winter fund. She advised that the Government are giving the Local Authorities money to ensure that all children receiving free school meals get food vouchers over Christmas week and the February half term. There is also funding available for disadvantaged children i.e. care leavers, no recourse to public funds etc. Mrs M Lucas would like schools to support them for the two weeks during Christmas and the February half term by re-engaging with the voucher companies and giving out vouchers to these families. All schools used Edenred over the summer. Mr T Parfett advised he did some research and the accounts have closed down but can be re-opened. Mr M Lucas will be sending out an email to all schools regarding this.

Mrs L Coates advised this took hours of staff time trying to get the vouchers out. Parents really struggled to access them. She is not sure how the Heads will respond.

Mr K Sadler advised they used Tesco's and will support the voucher system but needs to know the value of the voucher. Mr M Lucas commented it will be £15.00. Mrs M Lucas will email all Head Teachers today to see how they can get this started.

Mrs S Williams commented that the Local Authority will have to report this back to the DFE. Edenred are now sending the parents a gift card. Mr K Sadler commented that one of the difficulties was what parents were spending the money on and Tesco's limited this to food.

Mrs Jo Sawtell-Haines asked if they could just upload the information to the Local Authority and then this would be uploaded to Edenred. Mr M Lucas will look at what is the best way forward and will email all Head Teachers to find the best way and the logistics of this.

Nicky commented that one of the issues was that every school try to book vouchers at the same time. Schools were closed at that time. Second issue the Edem Red voucher went into their Junk box and some parent advising that they had not received it but they had and had spent it.

Dr S Asong spoke about the schools forum sub group set up to examine outcomes for disadvantaged and unrepresented student and young peoples in Thurrock. To give an account of the progress so far they have included a client list to be reported on (Looked After Children, SEND EHCP, SEND K, Teenage Pregnancy, Traveller Children, Black and Minority Ethnic, White Working Class Boys and children whose parents earn less than 26,500 per annum.). She advised that the second meeting discussed membership of the sub group so that it was more representative of the services that children and young people benefit from in Thurrock. So far the membership is Mrs M Lucas (Chair) Dr S Asong (schools) Ms Teresa Salami-Oru (Health) and Mr M Vickers from The Olive Academy and Mr J Revell from Post 16. The sub group would like at least two more member who bring another prospective i.e. someone from primary or any other services to join the group. Mrs M Miller would like Young Carers added to this client list. Dr S Asong has done this. At the third and most recent meeting the group attempted a definition of what outcome might look like. They noted attainment, attendance, exclusion (inclusion), health outcomes and wellbeing outcomes (yet undetermined), cross phase progression i.e. primary to secondary, secondary to post 16. Mr T Parfett asked the group to prepare a position paper for next meeting to be held in January 2021. An action

that emerged was for the Forum to calendarise regular and continued dates to look at outcomes of these groups compared to others.

Action: Ms S Williams to add Outcomes for disadvantaged and unrepresented student and young peoples in Thurrock to the forward plan.

The Chair thanked all forum members.

12. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting is 19 January 2021