

Thurrock Schools' Forum

16 September 2021, 10am to midday
Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams

Agenda

Multi Academy Trusts	Name
Catalyst Academies Trust	Mr T Parfett
Harris Federation	Mrs N Graham
Ormiston Park	To be advised
ORTU Federation	Dr Sophina Asong
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust	Mr Griffiths
REAch2 Academy Trust	Mr E Samuel
South West Essex Community Education Trust	Mr S Munday
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)	Mr K Sadler
Vine Schools Trust	Mrs E Wigmore
Christus Catholic Trust	Mrs N Cashell
Secondary Voluntary-Aided School	Name
Grays Convent	Mrs M Miller
Standalone Academy Trusts	Name
Woodside Academy	Mr E Caines
Giffards Primary	Mrs N Haslam-Davis
Infrastructure Groups	Name
TASS	Mr S Bell
TPHA	Mr R Latham
Alternative Provision	Name
Olive AP	Mr M Vickers
Special Schools	Name
Treetops Academy	Mr J Brewer
Beacon Hill Academy	Mrs Sue Hewitt
Non-school members	Name
Diocese of Chelmsford	Miss S Jones
Diocese of Brentwood	Mrs M Shepherd
0-5 EYFS Representative	Mr A Melbourne
0-11 Representative	Ms Alison Jones
11-19 Representative	Dr J Revell

Thurrock Schools' Forum

Number	Item	Time guide
Introductory items		
1.	Welcome from Chair	1 minute
2.	Apologies for absence	1 minute
3.	Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'Any Other Business'	2 minutes
Items for decision		
4.	Schools Forum membership update and election of Chair and Vice Chair presented by Sarah Williams	5 minutes
5.	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 presented by David May	20 minutes
6.	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 presented by David May	20 minutes
7.	ESFA Consultations presented by David May	35 minutes
Items for discussion		
8.	Code of Practice Early Education and Childcare 2021 presented by Alison Picknell	5 minutes
9.	Outcomes of Disadvantaged Children – Oral Update presented by Michele Lucas	10 minutes
10.	Schools' Forum Forward Plan presented by Sarah Williams	5 minutes
Closing items		
11.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 June 2021	5 minutes
12.	Matters arising	1 minute
13.	Any other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid meeting venues • Mobile cameras 	10 minutes
Next meeting	18 November 2021 – Hybrid meeting – Venue Dilkes Academy	

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 September 2021
SUBJECT:	Election of Chair and Vice Chair and Membership Update
REPORT OF:	Sarah Williams
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks for the Schools Forum to agree the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the academic year. To note changes to the membership structure.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Forum members to agree that the current Vice Chair, Mr T Parfett take the position of the Chair and for members to agree a new Vice Chair.

3.0 MAIN BODY OF REPORT

3.1 Each year the Schools Forum membership is reviewed and updated. Due to the changes to the Chair for both TASS and TPHA, these changes are now reflected in the Schools Forum membership structure. The previous TPHA chair Mrs Sawtell-Haynes has now been replaced by the new TPHA chair, Mr Latham. The previous TASS chair, Mrs P Johnson has been replaced by Mr S Bell.

The previous Governor representative Mrs M Miller has been replaced by Mrs P Johnson.

3.2 *Revised school forum membership structure*

Name of Multi Academy Trust - 10 members	Name	Role
CEO – Catalyst Academies Trust	Mr T Parfett	CEO
Harris Federation	Mrs N Graham	Assistant Director
CEO Ormiston Park	To be advised	
CEO ORTU Federation Ltd (Stanford & Corringham Trust)	Dr S Asong	CEO
CEO Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust	Mr P Griffiths	CEO
CEO REAch2 Academy Trust	Mr E Samuel	Headteacher Purfleet Primary
CEO South West Essex Community Education Trust (SWECET)	Mr S Munday	CEO

CEO The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)	Mr Sadler	CEO
CEO Vine Schools Trust	Miss E Wigmore	CEO
CEO Christus Catholic Trust	Ms N Cashell	CEO
<i>Secondary Voluntary Aided School</i>	Name	Role
Grays Convent	Mrs P Johnson	Headteacher
<i>Standalone Academy Trusts</i>	Name	Role
Woodside Academy	Mr E Caines	Principal
Giffards Primary	Mrs N Haslam	Headteacher
<i>Infrastructure Groups</i>	Name	Role
TASS	Mr S Bell	Chair of TASS
TPHA	Mr R Latham	Chair of TPHA
<i>Alternative Provision</i>	Name	Role
Olive AP	Mr Mark Vickers	CEO
<i>Special Schools</i>	Name	Role
Treetops Academy	Mr J Brewer	Headteacher
Beacon Hill Academy	Ms Sue Hewitt	Headteacher
<i>Non-school members</i>	Name	Role
Diocese of Chelmsford	Miss S Jones	
Diocese of Brentwood	Mrs M Shepherd	
0-5 EYFS Representative	Mr A Melborne	
0-11 Representative	Ms Alison Jones	
11-19 Representative	Dr J Revell	

4.0 CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

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THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 September 2021
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
REPORT OF:	David May
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG 2021/22 is currently forecasting a break-even position.
- 1.2 The DSG reserve outturn position would therefore remain as a deficit of £1.883m.
- 1.3 Officers have revised the budget to reflect the 2020/21 outturn position and projected costs in 2021/22. The High Needs Block remains the area of significant financial risk, especially with the continuous increase in EHCP's and the additional costs of out of borough placements.
- 1.4 A risk remains in Early Years with funding in 2021/22 to be based on a termly census whilst Thurrock local formula was developed using pre-Covid annual data. Officers will continue to monitor and evaluate the termly data to understand any financial impact.
- 1.5 A meeting was held with the ESFA on 13 July 21 to discuss the DSG Management plan and specifically the High Needs Block. We would like to take the opportunity of recognising the partnership work and the ESFA acknowledge the good practice of Thurrock through its open and transparent communication with Schools Forum, Schools and SENCO's. The focus on the Notional SEN funding and holding to schools to account on its use, this will remain a key theme over the next academic year. We also discussed current demand and future projections that informed data and costs within the management plan. It was acknowledged that Thurrock is in an inclusive borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
 - a) Note the contents of the report and offer support and challenge.
 - b) Agree the financial position for 2021/22.
 - c) Agree to receive regular updates on the 2021/22 projected outturn position.

3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

3.1 To inform members of the Schools Forum projected outturn position in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2021/22, in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2021/22

4.1 Appendix A shows the 2021/22 projected outturn position alongside the 2021/22 budget. The key area remains the High Needs Block.

4.2 The current projected outturn for 2021/22 is shown below with a break even position forecasted.

DSG 2021/22	Funding Settlement	Academy Recoupment	Funding Block Transfer	Final DSG	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	140.936	(135.074)	(0.673)	5.189	4.705	(0.484)
Central Services	1.783	0.000	(0.200)	1.583	1.553	(0.030)
High Needs	28.092	(5.606)	0.873	23.359	23.873	0.514
Early Years	12.877	0.000	0.000	12.877	12.877	0.000
Total	183.688	(140.680)	0.000	43.008	43.008	0.000

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 £0.484m.

4.4 Central Services Block

A projected underspend of £0.030m through a combination of salary slippage within School Admissions and savings in venue hire for Schools Forum meetings.

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. The budget has been increased / realigned to reflect the expected cost in 2021/22 as quantified within the DSG Management Plan. This increase in budget of £0.554m currently allows the position to be reported as breakeven.
- The Post-16 budget has been reduced by £0.675m to reflect the year-end position. A more accurate position will be available, to report, at the November meeting once placements from September are known.
- Residential and Non-Residential Non-Maintained and Independent placements forecast an overspend of £0.350m.
- Increase in supplying tuition packages for pupils not in School, costing £0.391m, a £0.091m overspend.

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 position is forecasted based on the latest information available. Officers are currently working through the detail to reconcile the ESFA census data with the final payments made in the Summer Term. This is important as in 2021/22 Thurrock will be funded based on the termly census. Thurrock's early years funding formula was developed using historic, pre-Covid, full year data and recognised the change in numbers each term.

5. DSG Reserve

- 5.1 The DSG has a projected carried forward deficit of £1.883m into 2022/23, as reflected in the table below:

DSG Deficit - Summary	£m	Deficit % of DSG
Deficit @ 31/03/2020	(1.978)	1.26%
DSG 2020/21	0.095	
Deficit @ 31/03/2021	(1.883)	1.13%
DSG 2021/22	0.000	
Projected Deficit @ 31/03/22	(1.883)	1.03%

- 5.2 As a result of having a DSG deficit, a DSG management plan is required to be submitted to the ESFA that outlines the reason the deficit has occurred and actions to be taken to contain expenditure within the funding envelope provided.
- 5.3 The 2020/21 provisional outturn position demonstrates that expenditure has been contained within the resource available, although each funding block has its own storey to tell. The ongoing problem is how to recover the deficit position whilst continuing to meet increased demand and cost within the High Needs Block.
- 5.4 The final Dedicated Schools Grant for 2020/21 is still awaited from the ESFA. This has been complicated by the Early Years Funding and the impact of Covid. Local Authorities are guaranteed a minimum of 85% of their provisional funding allocation. Discussions have been held with the ESFA and it is now expected that Thurrock will receive more funding than included in the 2020/21 outturn position. This will improve the DSG deficit position.
- 5.5 The position in Thurrock reflects that being experienced by a significant number of Local Authorities. Information gathered by the Local Government Association found that in 2019/20, 97% of Local Authorities expected their HNB to be in deficit. In June 2021, the County Councils Network and the Society of County Treasurers claimed top-tier councils' SEND deficits were set to balloon to an "unmanageable" £1.3bn by 2022-23.

- 5.6 A meeting was held with the ESFA on 13 July 21 to discuss the DSG Management plan and specifically the High Needs Block. We would like to take the opportunity of recognising the partnership work and the ESFA acknowledge the good practice of Thurrock through its open and transparent communication with Schools Forum, Schools and SENCO's. The focus on the Notional SEN funding and holding to schools to account on its use, this will remain a key theme over the next academic year. We also discussed current demand and future projections that informed data and costs within the management plan. It was acknowledged that Thurrock is in an inclusive borough.
- 5.7 Key Points of ESFA discussion 13-07-21
- HNB better than expected at Outturn
 - Recognised the benefits from the Plan but acknowledged we have need to increase local capacity. To address this we have recently contacted all our primary schools to consider working in partnership around further primary autism places – this application process will close in October. We are also working with our secondary heads to consider how we offer more SEMH places for young people with complex needs.
 - Acknowledged system wide approach, engagement of Academies and Sencos
 - Notional SEN discussed – we confirmed this will remain a key focus for this academic year with the principles set in our 'Plan Do Assess' model.
 - Home to School Transport discussed and acknowledged with no solution. This is an area of significant challenge we are looking at travel training for post 16 young people and area currently reviewing all routes deemed unsafe to undertake a risk assessments re historical decisions.
- 5.8 The ESFA have published case studies demonstrating examples of particular methods for reaching sustainability. You can view the commentary at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-sustainable-high-needs-systems>
- Thurrock has 2 case studies out of the 12 published:
- 10. Culture change and work with school leaders – Thurrock
 - 12. Appropriate and thorough provision mapping – Thurrock

6. DSG Management Plan 2021/22

- 6.1 The DSG conditions of grant requires that any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG account, 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.
- 6.2 Management plans should reflect the most current forecast DSG position and be signed off by the relevant leads in finance and special educational needs (SEN) areas.
- 6.3 The plan is currently being updated to reflect changes at the start of the 2021/22 academic year. This will be an agenda item at the November meeting to support informed discussion in considering the 2022/23 budget.

7. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- School Forum meeting 17-06-21 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21 and 2021/22

8. 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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Appendix A

<u>Dedicated Schools Grant</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Outturn</u>	<u>£m</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
Schools Block	125.484	140.263	140.263	139.779	(0.484)
Central Services Block	1.675	1.583	1.583	1.553	(0.030)
High Needs Block	26.285	29.139	28.965	29.479	0.514
Early Years Block	12.724	12.877	12.877	12.877	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Settlement	166.168	183.862	183.688	183.688	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant Received	(41.651)	(42.921)	(43.008)	(43.008)	0.000
Less Academy Recoupment	(124.612)	(140.941)	(140.680)	(140.680)	0.000
(Under) / Overspend	(0.095)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Maintained Schools Budgets	5.392	3.787	3.787	3.787	0.000
Business Rates	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
School Licences	0.126	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.000
Growth Fund	0.676	1.082	1.271	0.787	(0.484)
Statutory and Regulatory duties - Education	0.336	0.379	0.379	0.379	0.000
Statutory and Regulatory duties - Finance	0.122	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000
School Place planning	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.000
Admissions	0.206	0.280	0.280	0.252	(0.028)
Schools Forum	0.006	0.010	0.010	0.008	(0.002)
SACRE	0.007	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.000
Contribution to Combined budgets	0.970	0.745	0.745	0.745	0.000
Place Funding	0.054	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.000
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	2.864	2.846	3.400	3.400	0.000
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.650	3.143	3.143	3.143	0.000
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	4.103	5.457	5.457	5.457	0.000
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.529	1.503	1.503	1.503	0.000
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.072	1.150	1.150	1.198	0.048
Top Up Funding - Post 16	1.212	2.175	1.500	1.500	0.000
Pupils not in School	0.504	0.300	0.300	0.391	0.091
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.305	2.040	1.800	1.687	(0.113)
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.540	1.288	1.479	1.942	0.463
Commissioned Services	1.149	1.129	1.129	1.129	0.000
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.205	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000
Home Hospital Education Services	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.027
Travellers Team	0.042	0.055	0.045	0.043	(0.002)
Home to School Transport	1.787	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000
High Needs Central Team	0.940	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.000
3&4 Year old	10.694	10.542	10.572	10.609	0.037
2 year olds	1.525	1.787	1.787	1.787	0.000
Early Years Central Team	0.505	0.548	0.518	0.481	(0.037)
Dedicated Schools Grant	41.556	42.921	43.008	43.008	0.000

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 September 2021
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23
REPORT OF:	David May
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

- 1.1 The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 19 July announced provisional funding allocations for 2022/23 through the schools, high needs and central school services funding blocks.
- 1.2 The Dedicated Schools Grant in 2022/23 will increase by an extra £2.3bn; £780m of this is being directed to the High Needs Block. This is the final year of the £7.1bn three-year school funding settlement for 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 1.3 The ESFA has updated the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2022/23 with new factor values, and made some technical changes. Key changes are:
 - The core factors in the NFF (such as basic per-pupil funding, and funding for additional needs such as deprivation) will increase by 3%.
 - The funding floor will ensure that every school is allocated at least 2% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its 2021-22 NFF allocation.
 - The minimum per pupil funding levels will increase by 2%, compared to 2021/22. This will mean that, next year, every primary school will receive at least £4,265 per pupil and every secondary school at least £5,525.
 - Sparsity factor value will increase from £42 million in 2021-22 to £95 million in 2022-23.
- 1.4 In 2022/23, each local authority will continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. In parallel with the changes being implemented for 2022-23, the Government is in the process of consulting on how we complete our reforms to the schools NFF in the longer term – whereby funding allocations for individual schools are determined by one single national formula, rather than 150 separate, different, local authority formulae.
- 1.5 The ESFA have recently issues an early modelling version of the authority proforma tool (APT) to help decision-making and consultation with schools. Officers are currently working through the detail.
- 1.6 Final DSG allocations will be published in December 2021. The final allocation will be updated to reflect the outcome of the Oct-21 school census return.

1.7 The provisional settlement for Thurrock is shown below:

	Funding Settlement 2020/21	Funding Settlement 2021/22	Provisional Settlement 2022/23	Provisional Increase 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m	
Schools	127.474	140.936	142.906	1.970
Central Services	1.850	1.783	1.673	(0.110)
High Needs	25.468	28.266	31.382	3.116
Total	154.792	170.985	175.962	4.976
SB - Excludes Growth Fund - £1.758m in 2021/22.				
SB - Potential Increase of £3.728m (£1.970m + £1.758m)				
CSSB - Includes 20% reduction to Historic Commitments (£0.164m)				
EY - No information released at this stage				

- 1.8 The funding allocations are consistent with the national methodology used in 2021/22. No significant additional funding had been allocated to the High Needs Block to address funding gaps being experienced by the majority of Local Authorities. This is necessary if a hard National Funding Formula is to be adopted.
- 1.9 The High Needs Block increase in 2022/23 of £3.116m is welcome and reflects the change in methodology consulted on earlier in the year that was favourable to Thurrock. However, the number and complexity of EHCP's continue to increase and future budgets will need to reflect the associated increase in costs.
- 1.10 In 2020/21 Thurrock introduced the National Funding Formula in full, therefore changes for 2022/23 will involve using updated data sets provided by ESFA and new factor values as outlined in the National Funding Formula.
- 1.11 Officers will continue to work through the detail and a presentation will be made at the meeting on options available to Thurrock.
- 1.12 This information will be discussed at the Headteachers Briefing to be held on 23 September.
- 1.13 A final report will be presented to Thurrock Cabinet in December or January for decision.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- Note the contents of the report.
 - Consider options available, to be presented at the meeting, on the formula to be applied in 2022/23.

3. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

ESFA publication: [national funding formulae for schools and high needs 2022-23](#)

4. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

David May, Strategic Lead, Corporate Finance. E-Mail: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 16 September 2021

SUBJECT: ESFA Consultations

REPORT OF: David May

THE REPORT IS: For Decision

1. INFORMATION RELEASED

1.1 The Government has released the following over the summer period:

- School Business Rates - Changes to the payment process of schools' business rates - Government consultation response - August 2021
- Fair School Funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula - Government consultation - Launch date 8 July 2021 - Respond by 30 September 2021.

1.2 The Schools Business rates is covered in Section 2 of this report.

1.3 A summary of the Fair School Funding for all and consultation questions is included in Section 3 of this report. Officers will continue to work through the detail and a presentation will be made at the meeting on the consultation and Thurrock's response.

1.4 This information is to be discussed at the Headteachers Briefing to be held on 23 September.

1.5 In line with previous consultations it is hoped a combined response from Thurrock, Thurrock's Schools Forum and Thurrock's schools can be submitted by 30 September 2021.

2. SCHOOL BUSINESS RATES

2.1 The business rates payment system for schools will be centralised from April 2022 onwards, the government has confirmed.

2.2 At the moment, schools receive funding for their business rates bill in their annual budgets via the National Funding Formula (NFF) which the government uses to calculate core funding allocations for state-funded schools, and pay their business rates to councils themselves.

2.3 But from April 2022, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will instead pay billing authorities directly on behalf of state-funded schools.

- 2.4 The change was confirmed in the Department for Education's recent response to a consultation it conducted between March and May. The government claims that the new system will "reduce administrative burdens for schools and simplify the existing process".
- 2.5 However, while a significant majority of respondents to the government's consultation (86%) agreed that the direct payment of schools' business rates via ESFA to councils is preferable to the current system, many local authorities had reservations about this proposal. Of the 54 councils that responded, 52% were in favour, with 26% unsure and 22% opposed to the move.
- 2.6 Maintained schools and academy respondents were strongly supportive of the changes, with 94% agreeing that the new system would be an "improvement to the current circular and resource-intensive process for paying business rates".
- 2.7 Meanwhile 86% of local authority maintained schools agreed with the proposals, citing the potential time and cost savings and reduced administrative burden.
- 2.8 While some councils expressed concern that their software may not be able to support the upload of schools' bill data, the government claims the new portal will undergo rigorous testing to ensure it interacts as "smoothly as possible" with existing billing authority software.
- 2.9 In addition, some councils highlighted that it would be preferable for payments to be made earlier to allow them to be reflected in their performance reports. As a result, the ESFA has pledged to pay each school's rates bill in early June each year so that it can be allocated by councils by 30 June. Any reconciliation payments to reflect subsequent changes to bills will be made by the agency in February.
- 2.10 Furthermore, schools and local authorities will have access to the government's online business rates portal so they can access their data, after some respondents asked for a more transparent system.
- 2.11 Some respondents raised concerns around schools having to pay penalty charges for any late payments when payment timings would be outside of their control. DfE expects such cases to be rare, but acknowledged that this would be "unfair".
- 2.12 Therefore, while there will not be any changes to schools' formal liability for ensuring business rates are paid, ESFA will pay any penalty charges for missed or late payments that are due to ESFA error.
- 2.13 The Local Government Association, in its own response to the consultation, said it agreed that the current system for the payment of schools' business rates could be rationalised, pointing out that a similar approach is currently used in some unitary authorities for maintained schools

Next steps

- 2.14 The new business rates payment process for schools will come into force next financial year, with the online business rates portal due to open on 1 April 2022. Billing authorities will have until 31 May 2022 to upload bill data for all of the schools within their area, with the first payment to billing authorities due to be paid in June 2022.
- 2.15 The online billing portal will reopen in June 2022 to allow billing authorities to upload any adjustments to billing amounts, which arise, or come to their knowledge, after the first instalment has been paid. The upload facility to record adjustments will remain open until February 2023, with a reconciliation payment made to billing authorities in February 2023.
- 2.16 If they have not already done so, ESFA strongly encourage schools with multi-use sites to register buildings, which are not used to deliver education for pupils at the school as a separate entity on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) rating list. This will ensure that two individual bills are generated - one for the school (which will be paid by the ESFA) and one for any other buildings which are not used to deliver education for pupils at the school, which can then be settled by the appropriate ratepayer. Bill data which pertains only to the parts of a school site used to deliver education and excludes any other bodies can then be uploaded by billing authorities. When the new system comes into force, ESFA will not be funding rates associated with buildings that are not being used to deliver education.
- 2.17 From 1 April 2022 the functionality for academies to submit historic claims for previously unclaimed years will be removed. Academies have until the end of March 2022 to submit any outstanding historic claims relating to the 2015/16 financial year onwards via the NNDR portal. From 1 April 2022, ESFA will no longer accept, process or reimburse academies for historic claims relating to unclaimed years. We would strongly encourage academies to submit any historic NNDR claims for unclaimed years as soon as practicable, so that ESFA can meet such claims promptly.

3. FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING FOR ALL

- 3.1 In 2018/19 the Government introduced the schools National Funding Formula (NFF), with the long-term intention that schools' budgets should be set on the basis of a single, national formula (a 'hard' formula), completed centrally by ESFA.
- 3.2 This consultation is seeking views on the approach to moving to a direct, "hard" NFF and how we most effectively transition towards this completed NFF in the years ahead. This is the first stage of ESFA consultation on a hard NFF: ESFA plan to publish a second stage consultation with more detailed proposals, following feedback to this first consultation.
- 3.3 The ESFA appreciate this may cause significant change and want to move in a planned and smooth way with protections in place to ensure no school receives a reduction in its per pupil funding.

- 3.4 This consultation sets out proposals for how we move towards a hard NFF, and embed the principles of Fairness; Simple and Transparent; and Efficient and Predictable into the funding system. It does so by setting out both proposals for what a fully delivered hard NFF should look like and for the next steps to be taken to ensure a smooth transition towards this. At this stage no fixed target date set by which the hard NFF will be fully in place.
- 3.5 The consultation sets out proposals for:
- The scope of the direct NFF
 - Developing the schools NFF to support the direct NFF
 - Approach to funding for schools experiencing significant growth in pupil numbers
 - Smooth transition for schools to the direct NFF
 - Multi-Academy Trusts' (MATs) ability to pool their funding
 - Funding for central school services
 - How hard NFF supports effective SEND provision
 - Need to continue local and national consultation in decision making
 - Potential value of moving to a consistent funding year
- 3.6 The 16 consultation questions being asked as part of the Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula are shown at Appendix A.
- 3.7 Officers will continue to work through the detail and a presentation will be made at the meeting to formulate a combined response to the consultation.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of the report.
 - b) Consider and agree appropriate response based on the presentation to be made at the meeting.

5. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

ESFA publication: [national funding formulae for schools and high needs 2022-23](#)

6. 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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Appendix A

Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula

Government consultation

Launch date 8 July 2021

Respond by 30 September 2021

1. Question 1: Do you agree that our aim should be that the directly applied NFF should include all pupil-led and school-led funding factors and that all funding distributed by the NFF should be allocated to schools on the basis of the hard formula, without further local adjustment through local formulae?
2. Question 2: Do you have any comments on how we could reform premises funding during the transition to the directly applied NFF?
3. Question 3: Do you agree with our proposal to use national, standardised criteria to allocate all aspects of growth and falling rolls funding?
4. Question 4: Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to growth and falling rolls funding?
5. Question 5: Do you agree that, in 2023-24, each LA should be required to use each of the NFF factors (with the exception of any significantly reformed factors) in its local formulae?
6. Question 6: Do you agree that all LA formulae, except those that already 'mirroring' the NFF, should be required to move closer to the NFF from 2023-24, in order to smooth the transition to the hard NFF for schools?
7. Question 7: Do you agree that LA formulae factor values should move 10% closer to the NFF, compared with their distance from the NFF in 2022-23? If you do not agree, can you please explain why?
8. Question 8: As we would not require LAs to move closer to the NFF if their local formulae were already very close to the NFF, do you have any comments on the appropriate threshold level?
9. Question 9: Do you agree that the additional flexibility for LAs in the EAL factor, relating to how many years a pupil has been in the school system, should be removed from 2023-24?
10. Question 10: Do you agree that the additional flexibilities relating to the sparsity factor should remain in place for 2023-24?
11. Question 11: are there any comments you wish to make on the proposals we have made regarding ongoing central school services, including on whether in the future central school services funding could move to LGFS?

12. Question 12: Do you agree with the proposal for a legacy grant to replace funding for unavoidable termination of employment and prudential borrowing costs?
13. Question 13: How strongly do you feel that we should further investigate the possibility of moving maintained schools to being funded on an academic year basis?
14. Question 14: Are there any advantages or drawbacks to moving maintained schools to being funded on an academic year basis that you feel we should be aware of?
15. Question 15: Please provide any information that you consider we should take into account in assessing the equalities impact of the proposals for change.
16. Question 16: Are there any further comments that you wish to make about our proposed move to complete the reforms to the NFF?

Thurrock Council

**Code of Practice for the Delivery of Early Education
and Childcare for Two, Three and Four Year olds**

(September 2021)

Contents

Terms & Conditions	2
Introduction.....	4
Key local authority responsibilities	5
Key provider responsibilities	5
Safeguarding	5
Eligibility	6
The Grace Period	7
Flexibility	8
Partnership working.....	8
Special educational needs and disabilities.....	9
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	9
Social mobility and disadvantage.....	9
Quality	10
New Providers	11
Business planning	12
Charging.....	13
Funding	14
Compliance	15
Termination and withdrawal of funding	16
Appeals process.....	17
Stage 1.....	17
Stage 2.....	17
Stage 3.....	17
After Stage 2	17
Complaints process	17
Annex 1: Legal Annex and other relevant information.....	19
Annex 2a: Registration for Early Years funded Places	28
Annex 2b: Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 2018	32
Annex 3: Thurrock Early Education Audit Requirements.....	34
Annex 4: Thurrock Funding Withdrawal Policy.....	35
Annex 4a: Requires Improvement Ofsted Judgement.....	36
Annex 4b: Process for Inadequate Ofsted Judgement.....	37
Annex 5: Portal timetable.....	38
Annex 6: Disability Access Fund (DAF).....	39
Early Years Inclusion Fund	40

Terms & Conditions

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE THURROCK AGREEMENT BETWEEN A PROVIDER AND THE COUNCIL

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this Agreement, the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

“Administration Charge”	means the administration charge of £30 which is the sum calculated as the assessment of the cost of administration time and expenses to the Council in dealing with the defaults of the Provider referred to in clause 63;
“Agreement”	means this agreement, the Code of Practice for the Delivery of Early Education and Childcare for, Two Three and Four Year olds (September 2021);
“Authorised Officer”	means the Council’s Strategic Lead for School Improvement or his/her authorised representative;
“Child”	means the child intending to receive, or receiving, the services;
“Code of Practice”	means this Code which all providers must sign and comply with in order to be able to provide Government funded early education and childcare;
“Early Years Pupil Premium”	means additional funding for providers where children meet certain criterion as set out by the Department for Education;
“EYFS Statutory Framework”	means the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage dated September 2021 and subsequent revisions. This framework sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old, which schools and Ofsted registered providers must follow the EYFS Framework;
“Funding Period”	means the period for which the provider is provided with funds for 570 or 1140 hours over 38 weeks of the year or equivalent in accordance with the Code of Practice;
“Headcount (or Census) Day”	means the Headcount or Census day in each school term used to determine the funding as set out in the Code of Practice;
“Intellectual Property Rights”	means all copyright, patents or patent rights registers and Unregistered design rights, trademarks, service marks, database rights, inventions, know- how and all other intellectual property rights whatsoever in the world enforceable;
“Parent Agreement”	means the agreement entered into between the parent of the child and the provider which reflects the rules of the setting;

“Parent Declaration”	means the form parents complete to ‘register’ for funded early years and childcare provision with Thurrock Council;
“Provider”	means the party to this agreement who is a provider of the services and who is included in the Thurrock list of approved providers;
“Provider Working Day”	means any day specified by the provider as not a usual working day for that provider;
“Provision”	means the provision of early education and childcare for which eligible children for a period of up to 15 hours each week for a minimum of 38 weeks in a year (570 hours) or for eligible children for a period of up to 30 hours each week for a minimum of 38 weeks in a year (1140 hours) , during the period of this agreement at all times in accordance with this agreement and the Code of Practice, the Statutory Guidance and the EYFS Statutory Framework, the Parent Agreement and any additional instructions from time to time given by the Council;
“PVI”	means private, voluntary and independent early education and childcare providers;
“Statutory Guidance”	means the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance

Introduction

This agreement sets out the expectations of Thurrock Council (also referred to as the Local Authority) and early education and childcare providers, and refers to funded early years provision (sections 7 and 7a of the Childcare Act 2006) and funded childcare (section 2 of the Childcare Act 2016) as the funded entitlement(s) or 'funded hours' or a 'funded place'.

The agreement applies to the 15 hour entitlements for the most disadvantaged two-year-olds, the 15 hour entitlement for parents of three-and four-year-olds (the universal entitlement) and the 30 hours entitlement for working parents of three and four-year-olds (the extended entitlement).

The agreement is between:

- Thurrock Council
- Early years providers who are referred to as 'providers' and include:
 - Early years providers and childminders registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register;
 - Childminders registered with a childminder agency that is registered with Ofsted;
 - Schools and academies taking children age two and over and which are exempt from registration with Ofsted as an early years provider

The parent declaration at Annex 2a is for:

- Early years providers as set out above;
- Parents

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on Local Authorities in England to secure sufficient childcare for working parents; to secure early years provision which is funded and also to provide information, advice and training to childcare providers. The Childcare Act 2016 increased that duty to include a duty to secure the equivalent of 30 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks (or equivalent) for qualifying children. In Thurrock we work closely with all providers to ensure the very youngest children have the opportunity to access the highest quality of provision from a range of providers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all providers for engaging with the Thurrock Early Years Team. The team will support all providers in Thurrock with guidance, advice and support to enhance provision and to ensure a successful Ofsted outcome.

We will strive to ensure that all children who meet the prescribed criteria are able to take a funded place benefitting their social, physical and cognitive development and outcomes and helping to prepare them for school. Evidence shows that attending high quality early education has a lasting impact on social and behavioural outcomes. Our Childcare Sufficiency Officer and Two Year Entitlement Officer work closely with providers and parents to ensure there are sufficient places across the borough allowing for parental choice. This is an ongoing task and we would ask all providers to engage with the advice, help and support provided to ensure the very youngest children in the borough are able access their full entitlement.

The Education Funding Team will ensure payments are made in a timely and accurate fashion. Thurrock Council reserves the right to change the agreed payment dates in exceptional circumstances (e.g. COVID-19). Providers are requested to ensure the information they supply to the team is also timely and accurate. The Childcare Act 2006 also places a duty on Thurrock Council to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents. Please direct parents to the Family Information Service: ☎01375 652801 option 2 or www.askthurrock.org.uk

Key local authority responsibilities Local Offer Guidance for Local Authorities

1. Local authorities must secure a funded entitlement place for every eligible child in their area. Please see Annex 1
2. The local authority should work in partnership with providers to agree how to deliver funded entitlement places.
3. The local authority should be clear about their role and the support on offer locally to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) as well as their expectations of providers.
4. The local authority must contribute to the safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and young people in their area.

Key provider responsibilities

5. The provider must comply with all relevant legislation and insurance requirements, and be registered with Thurrock Council and Ofsted, or in some cases a registered childminder agency. This includes General Data Protection Requirements (UK GDPR), such as only sharing children's personal details through secure encrypted channels.
6. All providers must adhere to the requirements within this document.
7. The provider should deliver the funded entitlements consistently to all parents, whether in receipt of 15 or 30 hours and regardless of whether they opt to pay for optional services or consumables. This means that the provider should be clear and communicate to parents details about the days and times that they offer funded places, along with their services and charges. Those children accessing the funded entitlements should receive the same quality and access to provision.
8. The provider must follow the [EYFS](#) and have clear safeguarding policies and procedures in place that link to the [LSCP SET Procedures](#) guidance for recognising, responding, reporting and recording suspected or actual abuse.
9. The provider must have arrangements in place to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These arrangements should include a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND. Providers in Thurrock should also utilise the Three Step Checklist from the School Effectiveness Team for identification of need and avenues of support. Providers should utilise the SEN Inclusion Fund (Annex 7) and Disability Access Fund (Annex 6) to deliver effective support, whilst making information available about their SEND offer to parents.

Safeguarding

10. Thurrock Council has overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area. They have a number of statutory functions under the 1989 and 2004 Children Acts which make this clear, and the ['Working together to safeguard children'](#) 2018 guidance sets these out in detail.
11. The provider must follow the [EYFS](#) and have clear safeguarding policies and procedures in place that are in line with [LSCP SET Procedures](#) for responding to and reporting suspected or actual abuse and neglect. A lead practitioner must take responsibility for safeguarding and all staff must have training to identify signs of abuse and neglect. The provider must have regard to ['Working together to safeguard children'](#) 2018 guidance.
12. The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) is mandatory for all early years'

providers. It applies to all schools, including maintained nursery schools that have early years provision. Maintained nursery schools, like the other schools listed under 'About this guidance', must have regard to [Keeping children safe in education](#) when carrying out duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (by virtue of section 175(2) of the Education Act 2002 – see footnote 19 for further detail on this requirement)

Eligibility

13. The provider should check original copies of documentation to confirm a child has reached the eligible age on initial registration for all funded entitlements. For two year old funded children this will include ensuring that they access their placement before the 'use by' date of the offer expires. The provider must retain paper or digital copies of documentation to enable Thurrock Council to carry out audits and fraud investigations. Where a provider retains a copy of documentation this must be stored securely and deleted when there is no longer a good reason to keep the data. Please refer to the data privacy guidance set out in Annex 2b.

Born between	Eligible from
1 January and 31 March	Summer term (after the Easter holidays)
1 April and 31 August	Autumn term (September)
1 September and 31 December	Spring term (January)

14. The provider should offer places to eligible two-year-olds on the understanding that the child remains eligible until they become eligible for the universal entitlement for three- and four-year-olds. For more information on the two year entitlement, please see the [Thurrock two year entitlement information](#) published on the [Thurrock Traded Services \(SLA\)](#) website.
15. Thurrock Council must ensure that a child has a funded entitlement place no later than the beginning of the term following the child and the parent meeting the eligibility criteria for the funded entitlements. For more details on places, please see the Thurrock [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment](#)
16. Alongside the 30 hours eligibility code, which is the child's unique 11-digit number, and original copies of documentation (see Point 12), a provider must acquire written consent from, or on behalf of, the parent to be able to receive confirmation and future notifications from Thurrock Family Information Service of the validity of the parent's 30 hours eligibility code. The provider will record this consent on the parent declaration form, which can be found in Annex 2a.
17. Once a provider has received written consent from the parent, they should verify the 30 hours eligibility code with the Family Information Service.
18. Foster carers are eligible to apply for 30 hours however they will need to apply through their supervising social worker and FIS will provide the code, not the online HMRC 'Childcare Choices' portal.

19. The Family Information Service will confirm the validity of 30 hours eligibility codes to allow providers to offer 30 hours places for eligible three- and four-year-olds. They will provide a validity checking service to providers to enable them to verify the 30 hours eligibility code through the Provider Portal. The Eligibility Checking Service (ECS) allows the Family Information Service to make instant checks for code validity. Providers will do this through the Provider Portal.
20. Thereafter, the Family Information Service will complete audit checks to review the validity of eligibility codes for children who qualify for 30 hours funded childcare at 6 fixed points in the year, both at half-term and at the end of term across the year (in line with the dates as listed at table A page 7). It is their responsibility to notify a provider where a parent has fallen out of eligibility and inform them of the grace period end date, which is done via the Provider Portal.

Table A: Date parent receives ineligible decision on reconfirmation:	Thurrock audit date:	Grace period end date:
1 Jan – 10 Feb	11 February	31 March
11 Feb – 31 March	1 April	31 August
1 April – 26 May	27 May	31 August
27 May – 31 August	1 September	31 December
1 September – 21 October	22 October	31 December
22 October – 31 December	1 January	31 March

The Grace Period

21. A child will enter the grace period when the child's parents cease to meet the eligibility criteria set out in the [Childcare \(Early Years Provision Free of Charge\) \(Extended Entitlement\) Regulations 2016](#), as determined by HMRC or a First Tier Tribunal in the case of an appeal.
22. The Family Information Service will be able to access information about whether a child has ceased to meet the eligibility criteria and entered the grace period via the Eligibility Checking Service. The grace period end date will automatically be applied to eligibility codes.
23. We should continue to fund a place for a child who enters the grace period as set out in the [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities 2018](#). The child must be accessing some or all of the 30 hours before going into their grace period.
24. We will audit the 30 hours entitlement children on the audit dates shown in table A. If these dates fall on a non-working day, we will audit the eligibility on the next working day. Providers must log onto the [Provider Portal](#) after 4pm on these dates to check to see if any parent has fallen out of eligibility and is now in a grace period.

Flexibility

25. Provision must be offered within the national parameters on flexibility as set out in Section A2 of [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities 2018](#).
26. The provider must work with Thurrock Council and share information about the times and periods at which they are able to offer funded entitlements to support us to secure sufficient stretched and flexible places to meet parental demand in the local authority. The provider should also make information about their offer and admissions criteria available to parents at the point the child first accesses provision at their setting.
27. A parent will only be able to access a maximum of three providers over two sites per day. All providers must ensure that the parent is aware of this, and that they fully complete the parent declaration forms (see Annex 2a). If a parent is eligible for 30 hours and are splitting their funding, providers must also ensure that the parent indicates on the parent declaration forms if they are taking the universal hours or the additional hours with the setting. Providers will need to ensure they update the [Provider Portal](#) with the relevant information if funding is being split. Providers must ensure that they record if a child is accessing more than one setting on their contracts. If a child attends more than one early education provider in a term, the funding will be split proportionally.
28. Parents may use Early Years registered Out of School providers, school run breakfast clubs, after school and holiday clubs, where their Ofsted registration covers the Early Years, for childcare provision within the 30 hours entitlement. We recommend a minimum of a 30 minute session or multiples of for the purpose of claiming funding. However, if a child is attending a school reception class, they are not entitled to the funding as it is deemed by the Government that they are accessing their full entitlement for that term in the reception class. This also applies to children starting their reception place after the term has started.

Partnership working

29. Partnerships should be supported by Thurrock Council on four levels between:
 - i. Thurrock Council and providers
 - ii. Providers working with other providers, including childminders, schools and organisations
 - iii. Providers and parents
 - iv. Thurrock Council and parents
29. Thurrock Council should promote partnership working between different types of providers, including childminders, across all sectors and encourage more providers to offer flexible provision, alongside other providers.
30. The provider should work in partnership with parents, carers and other providers to improve provision and outcomes for children in their setting. An [interactive toolkit](#) has been developed to help providers set up or join a partnership, maximise the benefits of working together and tackle the challenges joint working can bring.
31. The provider should discuss and work closely with parents to agree how a child's overall care will work in practice when their funded entitlement is split across different providers, such as at a maintained setting and childminder, to ensure a smooth transition for the child.

Special educational needs and disabilities

32. Thurrock Council must strategically plan support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to meet the needs of all children in their local area as per the [Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years \(January 2015\)](#).
33. The provider must ensure owners and all staff members are aware of their duties in relation to the [SEND Code of Practice](#) and the [Equality Act 2010](#).
34. Thurrock Council must be clear and transparent about the support on offer in their area, through their [Local Offer](#), so parents and providers can access that support.
35. The provider should be clear and transparent about the SEND support on offer at their setting and make information available about their offer to support parents to choose the right setting for their child with SEND. Providers will also need to ensure they updated their information on the [Local Offer](#), utilising the parent and carer questions, and that they complete the RAG in partnership with the School Effectiveness Team for audit purposes.
36. Providers must ensure equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and ensure that every child is included and not disadvantaged because of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning disabilities or difficulties, gender or ability as stated in the Thurrock RAG document. All providers are encouraged to attend training to support their statutory equalities duties.
37. Providers should monitor the take-up of places and achievements of different groups of children, including the disadvantaged and children whom attract the Early Years Pupil Premium.
38. Providers must maintain knowledge and understanding of the child's development linked to the provision as well as achievements made at home. Support and guidance to develop this knowledge and understanding is available from Early Education Improvement Officers at Thurrock Council.
39. Thurrock Council will set up a local inclusion fund to support providers to secure better outcomes for children with low level or emerging SEN (annex 6). Additional guidance and information can be found on the Thurrock [Local Offer](#).

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

40. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is to support children with disabilities or SEN. The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting). For further information see Annex 6.

Social mobility and disadvantage

41. Thurrock Council will promote equality and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged families, looked after children and children in need by removing barriers of access to funded places and working with parents to give each child support to fulfil their potential.
42. The provider should ensure that they have identified the disadvantaged children in their setting as part of the process for checking EYPP eligibility. They will also use EYPP and any locally available funding streams or support to improve outcomes for this group.
43. Eligible foster carers can apply for 30 hours funding through their supervising social worker

Quality

44. Evidence shows that higher quality provision has greater benefits on children's development, particularly for the most disadvantaged children. The evidence also shows that high quality early education at two brings benefits to children's development.
45. The [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#) is mandatory for all schools and providers that provide early year's provision and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England. The EYFS sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.
46. Providers must ensure that staff are appropriately qualified and should continue to access training for early years in addition to EYFS training requirements to develop the quality of provision where judged by Ofsted as less than good. Accessing information, advice and training is essential for providers judged by Ofsted as requires improvement or inadequate. Support and advice on training is available from the Thurrock Early Years Team and training can be booked via www.thurrocktradedservices.co.uk.
47. Ofsted are the sole arbiter of quality for all funded entitlements and Ofsted and inspectorates of independent schools have regard to the EYFS in carrying out inspections and report on the quality and standards of provision.
48. For a provider to offer three and four-year-old early education and childcare, a provider may be judged by Ofsted to be 'requires improvement', 'good' or 'outstanding'.
49. For two-year-old early education and childcare, a provider must be judged as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Thurrock Council will only fund a provider rated as 'requires improvement', where there is insufficient supply of accessible provision judged to be 'good' or better and where clear progression towards a 'good' judgement by Ofsted is evidenced. Any decisions on whether to fund a provider judged to be 'requires improvement' is at the discretion of Thurrock Council. (Please see Annex 4a)
50. Following publication of an Ofsted 'requires improvement' report, no new funded 2 year old children will be permitted to start at a provision with immediate effect. Funding for 3 and 4 year old children will continue without change.
51. Thurrock Council will inform the provider in writing within 5 working days of the publication of their 'requires improvement' Ofsted Inspection report whether they will be permitted to offer any further funded placements for two year olds and whether two year olds currently in placement will continue to be funded. This decision will be based on current childcare sufficiency needs and the content of the Ofsted report.
52. Following publication of an Ofsted 'inadequate' report, no new funded children will be permitted to start at a provision with immediate effect. Thurrock Council may withdraw early years funding as soon as is practical, and secure alternative provision for 2, 3 & 4 year olds receiving the entitlement. Thurrock Council will inform the provider in writing if funding is to be withdrawn within 5 working days of the publication of the 'inadequate' inspection report.
53. Where a provider has received an 'inadequate' Ofsted judgement, any decision for existing children to remain at the setting will be subject to regular review. If no progress is identified by Ofsted at the monitoring visit then the Settings Causing Concern Group will reconsider whether (where relevant) early education entitlement funding should be withdrawn. The provider will be informed in writing if funding is to be withdrawn.
54. It is an expectation that any provider whose Ofsted judgement is reduced to 'requires improvement', 'inadequate' or has received a welfare requirements notice from Ofsted will fully engage with the Thurrock Council School Effectiveness Team to improve the quality of the

provision through the development of a Focused Improvement Plan (FIP). The FIP will identify the actions needed to meet the required improvements identified by Ofsted, and include a timeline for completion. Progress will be monitored by the Settings Causing Concern Group who will also review any previous decision not to secure alternative provision for existing children.

55. If Ofsted again judge the provision as inadequate at the next inspection, Thurrock Council will withdraw funding (if they have not already). Thurrock Council will inform the provider in writing within 5 working days of the publication of the inspection report. A time frame for removal of funding will be detailed in the letter.
56. Where Ofsted issue a welfare notice as part of an inspection visit or a regulatory (compliance) visit Thurrock Council will inform the provider of the action they intend to take within 5 working days of publication of the welfare notice. This will be dependent on the nature of the concerns raised.
57. The provider must inform the local authority of the inadequate judgment immediately after their inspection. They should also inform a member of the School Effectiveness Team by telephone that the monitoring visit is taking place. This should be when informed by Ofsted or on their arrival for an unplanned visit in order that there can be representation at the feedback.
58. It is a statutory duty that a setting inform parents of their inspection. It is a requirement that childcare providers distribute letters from a Thurrock Council template regarding any changes to early years funding
59. Following publication of a less than good the Ofsted judgement the required contractual notice for parents taking up additional hours would automatically activate from this date should a parent wish to withdraw their child from the setting where entitlement funding ends.
60. There are no Local Authority maintained primary schools in Thurrock. If an academy receives an 'Inadequate' judgement from Ofsted, the school will be offered a package of support from the School Effectiveness Team to improve the quality of provision. In any case, Thurrock Council will not fund any provider who:
 - Is not meeting independent school standard in relation to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
 - Is not actively promoting fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs; or
 - Is promoting a fact, views or theories which are contrary to established scientific or historical evidence and explanations
61. Thurrock Council has a legal duty to provide information, advice and training on meeting the requirements of the EYFS, meeting the needs of children with SEND and on effective Safeguarding and child protection for providers who are rated less than 'Good' by Ofsted or newly registered providers.
62. Provision must be offered in accordance with the national parameters on quality as set out in Section A3 of [Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance](#) for Local Authorities and the [EYFS statutory framework](#).

New Providers

63. Thurrock Council will fund a new provider registered with Ofsted for 3 & 4 year olds until their first full inspection judgement is published, or a childminder registered with an agency until the agency's first full Ofsted report is published – on condition that the provider accepts the contents of this document and signs the appropriate agreements.

64. Newly registered childminders must receive a funded 'two-year-old assessment' visit from one of Thurrock's Welfare Requirements Development Officer to determine quality of the provision before they can offer two-year entitlement places.
65. In order to support the delivery of two-year-old entitlement places, it is highly recommended that any new provider works with their dedicated 0-3 Learning and Development Officer to ensure high quality provision by meeting the individual needs of 2 year olds.
66. Thurrock Council will take into account information published by Ofsted about a provider or childminder agency, either in relation to the registered address used or a named person/member of staff. Where there are concerns regarding a previous registration, this will be made clear to the provider and Thurrock Council may, at their discretion, withhold addition to Thurrock Council's childcare directory until after a provider's first inspection report is published. The Thurrock Provider Directory that is maintained by Thurrock Council: this is a local directory of providers eligible to deliver the funded Early Years entitlement.
67. The funded entitlement will be monitored through appropriate support/ RAG and audit visits by Officers from Thurrock Council, to ensure the provision is being delivered in accordance with the contents of this document.
68. In line with EYFS, providers should create the framework for partnership working between parents/carers and professionals, and between all of the settings that the child attends; working on curriculum planning, information sharing, communication between providers, transferring children between settings and where relevant, assessments.

Business planning

69. Thurrock Council clearly set out the documentation it needs to receive from providers to support payment and delivery of funded entitlements and the timetable which providers should follow when submitting their documentation, this includes setting out the importance of timely and accurate census returns. This information is available on the [Thurrock Traded Services \(SLA\)](#) website for providers to download.
70. Thurrock Council will not charge providers disproportionate penalties for providing late or incomplete information leading to additional administration in the processing of funded entitlements. Any charges should be reasonable and proportionate to the inconvenience or costs incurred to us as a result of the lateness and Thurrock Council will ensure charges are clearly communicated to providers. There are Post and Final Headcount terms on the Provider Portal for providers to apply for any funding after the Headcount date has passed.
71. Thurrock Council will not carry out audit regimes which are disproportionate or are unnecessarily burdensome to providers. Please see Annex 3 for more information.
72. The provider must ensure they submit timely and accurate information, including, but not limited to, Early Years Census, Sufficiency Provider Audit forms, headcount data, Family Information Service data and parental declarations and invoices, as per our financial deadlines. Failure to do so may result in inaccurate, delayed or suspended funding. The FIS Team are able to assist with the completion of all forms and can be contacted on 07895 208709 or at FIS@thurrock.gov.uk
73. Early Years Census forms must be completed to ensure that full funding is received to Thurrock from the Government to be passed onto Providers. Failure to do this could lead to a reduced funding rate for all providers.
74. The provider should maintain accurate financial and non-financial records relating to funded

entitlement places and should give Thurrock Council access on reasonable notice to all financial and non-financial records relating to funded entitlement places funded under the provider agreement, subject to confidentiality restrictions.

75. It is recommended that providers access business support offered by the Council. This information is available on the [Thurrock Traded Services \(SLA\)](#) website for providers.

Charging

76. Government funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week (or equivalent) of funded, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, consumables, additional hours or additional services.

77. The provider can charge for meals and snacks as part of a funded entitlement place and they can also charge for consumables such as nappies or sun cream and for services such as trips and yoga. These charges must be voluntary for the parent. Where parents are unable or unwilling to pay for meals and consumables, providers who choose to offer the funded entitlements are responsible for setting their own policy on how to respond, with options including waiving or reducing the cost of meals and snacks or allowing parents to supply their own meals. Any increases should not be implemented until a minimum of 4 weeks' notice is given to the parents. Providers can use EYPP to fund meals for eligible disadvantaged children, where the parent is unable to.

78. The provider should deliver the funded entitlements consistently so that all children accessing any of the funded entitlements will receive the same quality and access to provision, regardless of whether they opt to pay for optional hours, services, meals or consumables. Providers must be transparent at time of contract being signed of any additional fees/charges.

79. Thurrock Council will not intervene where parents choose to purchase additional hours of provision or additional services, providing that this does not affect the parent's ability to take up their child's funded place. The provider should be completely transparent about any additional charges.

80. The provider should publish their admissions criteria and ensure parents understand which hours/sessions can be taken as funded provision. Not all providers will be able to offer fully flexible places, but providers should work with parents to ensure that as far as possible the pattern of hours is convenient for parents' working hours.

81. The provider can charge parents a small deposit to secure their child's funded place but should refund the deposit in full to parents within a reasonable time scale. In order to ensure charging a deposit will not prevent take-up for disadvantaged families, it is recommended that the deposit is no more £20. Providers must ensure they separately retain and then refund the deposit on completion of parental contracts.

82. Providers must not charge a deposit in lieu of notice.

83. The provider cannot charge parents "top-up" fees (the difference between a provider's usual fee and the funding they receive from the local authority to deliver funded places) or require parents to pay a registration fee as a condition of taking up their child's funded place.

84. The provider should ensure parents understand any additional costs or alternative arrangements they are signing up to when accessing entitlement only sessions. For example, with snack/meal financial contributions, providers should offer the option for the parent to supply the provider with a suitable healthy alternative for their child, if they are not in a position to pay the additional charge if this occurs during an entitlement session. This should be discussed and explained to

the parent in detail, prior to the parents signing any contract or declaration with the provider and evidenced in writing that this has taken place, or a copy of admissions policy/charging policy that explains full cost breakdown, signed by the parent to cover both parties. Providers would be expected to give a detailed breakdown of the additional charges to the parents, incurred when accessing an entitlement only place.

85. The provider must ensure their invoices and receipts are clear, transparent and itemised, allowing parents to see that they have received their funded entitlement completely free of charge and understand fees paid for additional hours. The provider will also ensure that receipts contain their full details so that they can be identified as coming from a specific provider. Providers may choose to have a separate agreement for those parents who also choose to pay for additional hours, meals and/or optional activities.

Funding

86. Thurrock Council will pay all providers who have requested monthly payments. Providers may opt back into the termly payments if requested, after submitting a term's notice to Thurrock Council.

87. The provider must accurately and fully complete, including the ethnicity and the special educational needs stage, and submit the Headcount and other necessary data returns by the agreed date to support Thurrock Council to make payment. Providers will be audited to review this data, for example the numbers of 'refused' ethnicities they submit.

88. Providers will need to follow the instructions below to ensure that they receiving funding:

- i. All funding will need to be claimed by the provider through the [Provider Portal](#). All user guides and instructions can be found on the [Thurrock Traded Services \(SLA\)](#) website.
- ii. Providers must ensure that parents have completed and signed the parent declaration form (Annex 2) before they add the child to the [Provider Portal](#).
- iii. Providers will need to submit all funding within the timeframes shown in table B (Annex 5) and within the correct headcount term type.
- iv. Providers will need to add 30 hours entitled children and two year old funded children onto the [Provider Portal](#) as soon as possible, to confirm the child's entitlement.
- v. Providers will need to ensure they submit the data accurately onto the [Provider Portal](#). This includes adding the Thurrock 2 year old entitlement reference number into Notes. Any inaccuracies can lead to payment being delayed.
- vi. Providers must delete or amend any rolled over children on the [Provider Portal](#) to ensure that they claim the correct funding for that child.
- vii. For stretched offer: If the child attends for 15 or more hours per week providers should claim the maximum entitlement for the term (the same as the non-stretched offer). providers will then need to demonstrate how the funding was accessed when audited. Any other combination should be entered as stretched ensuring that the maximum entitlement is not exceeded. The [Provider Portal](#) is set up for a stretched offer of 52 week. If providers are not open for the full year they must delete the appropriate weeks from their claim.
- viii. Early years funding will be paid for children accessing an entitlement place in Thurrock, i.e. if a parent/guardian/carer from another borough places their child in a Thurrock early education provision Thurrock Council will fund the child.

90. Thurrock's Sufficiency duty includes collecting data for funded and non-funded children, some of which we collect by two separate Provider Audit Form's via the Provider Portal. This must be

completed, alongside any additional information requested (such as the Provider Audit), within the specified timeframes. We send one to childminders and different one to other providers.

91. The funding will follow the child, therefore if a child moves partway through the term the funding will be split proportionally between the providers. Thurrock Council will not fund any notice periods included in a providers parental contract that parents do not adhere to. Parents are liable therefore providers must seek payment from them. It is recommended that this is made clear in the contract at the outset together with what action the provider will take if they fail to pay. Providers must not charge a deposit in lieu of notice. A leaver's form should be sent promptly via forms on the Provider Portal if funding has been claimed and the headcount day for that term has past. Where Thurrock Council is the corporate parent, the provider should inform the relevant funding officer when a child is moved from the setting.
- i. If a child leaves a setting and moves to another provider, the provider would need to inform Thurrock Council immediately of the child's end date via the [Provider Portal](#). This should be done either by amending the child's record in Actuals before headcount closes, or completing a post-headcount leaver's form if the headcount has already closed. The new setting will not be paid until the previous setting has actioned this on the [Provider Portal](#), therefore this needs to be completed as soon as possible. Thurrock Council will not mediate disputes between settings.
 - ii. All queries on duplicate claims must be resolved between settings before payments can be released. Providers must ensure that all parents sign a clear declaration form informing them of their funded entitlement and how they wish to use that entitlement. The provider must be clear with the parent about the maximum number of hours they can claim and how they wish to apportion their funding if using more than one provider. Every individual headcount claim is checked to ensure that claims do not exceed entitlement. Thurrock Council will not mediate disputes between settings.
 - iii. If, for some reason, during a term a provider ceases to be able to offer funded two, three and four year old places, they will be required to return to Thurrock Council the portion of the funding applicable to remaining sessions not delivered in that term.
 - iv. If a provider opens part-way through the term, a headcount date will be agreed between the Thurrock Council's Early Years Team and the new provider and eligible claims for funding will need to be checked for double funding prior to payment.
 - v. Providers must inform parents by letter if they are withdrawing from offering 2, 3 and 4 year old funding, giving at least a term's notice so that parents can make alternative arrangements and provide the parents with contact details of the Family Information Service. The provider must inform Thurrock Council in writing as soon as the decision is made to withdraw.
 - vi. As part of the eligibility for inclusion in the directory of providers, Thurrock Council has enhanced the provider agreements to reflect the standards and principles outlined in this code. This will include a statement request from providers on their delivery options.

Compliance

92. Thurrock Council can carry out checks and/or audits on providers to ensure compliance with the requirements of delivering the funded entitlements.
93. Auditing Early Years providers (see Annex 3):
- I. Early education providers must allow Thurrock Council to audit if required, with a minimum of two weeks' notice given.
 - II. Early Years providers must maintain and retain all attendance, signed parental declarations

and finance records for a period of six years.

- III. When requested, early education providers must provide Thurrock Council with copies of: -
 - a. Children's attendance
 - b. Parental declarations
 - c. Invoices or charges to parents
 - d. Records of Income and Expenditure each term
 - e. Copies of accounts
 - f. Proposed budget for the year
 - g. Any other evidence that can be reasonably requested
- IV. The individual staff member who takes the register for the early education provision, must NOT be the person who undertakes the headcount procedure (childminders are exempt).
- V. Early education providers must maintain a specific, non-personal bank account, which is dual signatory unless a sole-trader.
- VI. Any change of circumstance or organisation, including name, address, bank account details must be reported promptly to Thurrock Council, as this may result in a change of funding.
- VII. Any other change of circumstances which affects the provider's ability to provide their funded places, i.e. Financial, Ofsted related, Personnel, child protection issues, venue issues must be reported to the authority immediately.
- VIII. Early education providers must contact Thurrock Council's Nursery Education Funding Officer, upon receipt of any payment for the funded entitlement, for children who are not eligible, in order that a repayment can be made.

Termination and withdrawal of funding

Suspension of registration by Ofsted or a breach of statutory requirements or safeguarding issues will result in the termination of the arrangement and withdrawal of funding.

Providers must ensure the Thurrock Code of Practice Entitlement Formal Agreement is signed and returned in **no more than 30 days** from date sent by the Early Years Team. Failure to return the signed agreement, and other relevant documentation if requested, will lead to funding being withheld until this is received. Providers who have signed the Thurrock Code of Practice will be included in the Thurrock Provider Directory that is maintained by Thurrock Council: this is a local directory of providers eligible to deliver the funded Early Years entitlement. Suspension of registration by Ofsted or a breach of statutory requirements or safeguarding issues will lead to your setting being removed. Please see Annex 4, 4a & 4bm for more information.

Failure by the provider to provide the funded entitlement as it is set out in this document, will lead to a withdrawal of funding. Where a provider is rated as "Inadequate", Thurrock Council are likely to secure alternative provision and withdraw funding, as soon as is practical, for children who are receiving their funded early years' entitlement with that provider. As part of this process Thurrock Council will take into account the continuity of care for children who are already receiving their funded entitlement at that provider or agency registered childminder and Ofsted monitoring information about the provider or agency. In such a case where a provider is informed that funding may be withdrawn, this will be done on an individual basis and Thurrock Council will do its best to agree, with the provider, a timeframe for the withdrawal of funding. Annex 4, 4a and 4b show a typical timescale, however this will be followed on an individual basis.

If a provider fails to adhere to any aspect of this Thurrock Code of Practice or fails to adhere to any other rules or procedures that it must abide by (for example Ofsted standards), funding may be withdrawn. However, Thurrock Council seeks to work with early education providers to ensure they

have appropriate support and guidance required to deliver on the necessary commitments, at all times, and to ensure that any likely breach is resolved as soon as and as appropriately as possible. Any change of circumstances which affects the provider's ability to provide their funded places, i.e. Financial, Ofsted related, Personnel, child protection issues, venue issues must be reported to the authority immediately

Appeals process

94. A provider may be denied approval to offer the funded entitlements or have their funding withdrawn as set out above. The provider can appeal against that decision.
95. The provider should first aim to reach agreement with Early Years Officers within the School Effectiveness Team through further discussion. Where agreement cannot be reached the owner/manager should follow the Council's [complaints procedure](#).
96. Our complaints process has 2 stages. Complaints about council employees are entered at stage 1. In the descriptions below, 'working days' are Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

Stage 1

Your complaint will be investigated within 10 working days by a member of staff from the service you complained about. Our complaints team will track your complaint.

If you are not happy with the response, you may ask that it be escalated to stage 2. You must ask for this no later than 28 calendar days from our initial reply.

Stage 2

When you ask for your complaint to be escalated you must explain why. The response at stage 1 will tell you how to do this.

A senior officer in our complaints team will review your complaint and, if an investigation is needed, this will be completed within 20 working days.

After Stage 2

If you are still not satisfied after your complaint has been through all stages of our complaints procedure, you can refer it to the [Local Government Ombudsman](#).

Complaints process

98. Where an early education provider's application is rejected, Thurrock Council will give the provider a written explanation of the decision and ensure that all paperwork is retained. Providers rejected for inclusion to the Directory may appeal, in writing setting out the grounds for appeal, to Thurrock Council by contacting:

a. complaints@thurrock.gov.uk

b. 0800 021 3016

C. Complaints Team, Thurrock Council, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, RM17 6SL Please refer to [Thurrock Council complaints procedure](#) for further information

99. The complaints procedure for parents who are not able to resolve their concern directly with the provider where the parent is not satisfied that their child has received their funded entitlement in accordance with the legislation or as set out in this agreement and in Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for Local Authorities. Parents should use the [Thurrock Council complaints procedure](#).

100. The provider should ensure they have a complaints procedure in place that is published and accessible for parents who are not satisfied their child has received their funded entitlement in the correct way, as set out in this agreement and in Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for Local Authorities.

101. If a parent or provider is not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been dealt with by the local authority or believes the local authority has acted unreasonably, they can make a complaint to the Local Authority Ombudsman. Such complaints will only be considered when the local complaints procedures have been exhausted. <http://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint>

Annex 1: Legal Annex and other relevant information
(As detailed in *Early Education and Childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities:*
June 2018

Summary of the key provisions in the Childcare Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”) relating to the entitlement to funded early education

Sections 1-5 require local authorities and their partners to improve the outcomes of all children under 5 and reduce inequalities.

Section 6 requires local authorities to secure sufficient childcare.

Section 7 places a duty on local authorities to secure funded early years provision of the prescribed description for each young child in their area who is under compulsory school age and is of the prescribed description.

Section 7A allows regulations to be made about how local authorities should discharge their duty under section 7.

Section 8 enables local authorities to assist others to provide childcare (including funded early years provision) including giving them financial assistance but says that local authorities should only provide childcare themselves if no other provider is willing to.

Section 9 gives local authorities the power to attach Requirements to the arrangements they make with providers (other than the governing body of a maintained school) to deliver childcare including funded early year’s provision.

Section 9A allows regulations to be made which prescribe the requirements local authorities may or may not impose when they make arrangements.

Section 12 places a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents about childcare in the area.

Section 13 places a duty on local authorities to secure the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers and childcare workers.

Section 13A makes provision for information relating to tax credits and social security information to be supplied to the Secretary of State, and to local authorities, for use for the purpose of determining eligibility for free of charge early years provision. Section 13B deals with the unauthorised disclosure of this information.

Section 20 defines early year’s provision as the provision of childcare for a young child and section 18 defines the meaning of childcare.

Sections 39-48 establish the early years foundation stage (EYFS).

Sections 31-38 and 49-98G set out the childcare and early year’s regulation framework.

Section 99 allows for the collection of information about young children.

The 2006 Act provides that local authorities must have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State, when discharging their duties under:

- The duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents – section 6(3);
- The duty to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge – section 7(3);
- The duty to establish and maintain a service providing information, advice and assistance – section 1297); and
- The duty to secure the provision of information, advice and training to childcare providers – section 13(5).

Section 7 – duty to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge

Section 7(1) of the 2006 Act places a duty on local authorities in England to secure funded early years provision of the prescribed description for each young child in their area who is under compulsory school age and is of the prescribed description.

Regulations made under section 7

Local Authority (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/2147) (“the 2014 Regulations”) are made under section 7 of the 2006 Act

These 2014 Regulations prescribe the early years provision which must be made available by an English local authority free of charge, the description of the children for whom the provision must be made available and how local authorities must discharge their duty under section 7.

These regulations came into force on 8th September 2014. They revoked the Local Authority (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) Regulations 2013 and the Local Authority (Duty to Secure Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Type of free provision

Local authorities **must** secure that the prescribed amount of funded early years provision is available for each child in their area of the prescribed description from prescribed early year’s providers.

Early years providers prescribed in the 2014 Regulations are providers to whom section 40 of the 2006 Act applies. Section 40 applies to early year’s providers, providing early years provision in respect of which they are required by the 2006 Act to be registered with Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills. These providers are either a) registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register (as required by section 34(1) of the 2006 act or b) are schools which are exempt from registration on the Ofsted Early years Register (pursuant to section 34(2) of the 2006 Act). Section 34(2) covers maintained schools, approved non- maintained special schools and independent schools.

Prescribed provision **includes** provision from providers who are exempt from delivering the EYFS Learning and Development requirements because of a direction made by the Secretary of State under regulations made under section 46 (1) of the 2006 Act, or because a provider has made a determination in relation to a young child under regulations made under section 46 of the 2006 Act. The relevant regulations are the Early Years Foundation Stage (Exemptions from Learning and Development Requirements) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1743, as amended by SI 2012/2463)

Prescribed provision **excludes** provision where it is provided by:

- an independent school (other than an Academy) which does not meet the independent school standard in relation to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school; or
- a provider in relations to whom the local authority has grounds to believe:
 - does not actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs; or
 - promotes views or theories as evidence-based which are contrary to established scientific or historical evidence or explanations.

Children to benefit from funded provision

Three-year-olds (and two-year-olds who meet the eligibility criteria below) are entitled to funded early education from the start of the term beginning on or following the date set out below:

- Children born in the period 1st January to 31st March: 1st April following the child's third birthday, or second birthday, as applicable
- Children born in the period 1st April to 31st August: 1st September following the child's third birthday, or second birthday, as applicable
- Children born in the period 1st September to 31st December: 1st January following the child's third birthday, or second birthday, as applicable

These dates are consistent with those used for determining the start of compulsory education.

Two-year-olds are eligible for funded early education if their family are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and their household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- tax credits, and a household income of £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run-on – the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

A child can also get funded early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- has an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- gets Disability Living Allowance
- is looked after by the council
- has left care under an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order

Where a parent is not an [European Economic Area \(EEA\) citizen](#) and cannot claim benefits but gets support through the Immigration and Asylum Act, they may also be eligible if they have either:

- claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision – known as 'Part 6'
- been refused asylum in the UK – known as 'Section 4'

If they are the carer of a 2 year-old child, they may be eligible if their household income after tax is £15,400 a year or less, and have either:

- leave to remain in the UK with 'no recourse to public funds' on family or private life grounds under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- 'no recourse to public funds' because of their immigration status – or lack of immigration status – and get support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989
- the right to live in the UK because they are the main carer of a British citizen – known as a Zambrano Carer

The Department for Education's eligibility checking service provides a mechanism for local authorities to verify whether children meet the financial qualifying criteria for two year funding. Proof may be requested for families applying for two year funding.

Amount of funded provision

Local authorities **must** secure availability of at least 570 hours of funded provision over **at least 38 weeks** for each child in each 12 month period from the date at which the entitlement starts until the child reaches compulsory school age. (This works out at 15 hours per week if spread over 38 weeks.)

Local authorities **must not** condense the funded early education entitlement into less than 38 weeks.

Childminders

Early Years provision is defined in section 20 of the 2006 Act as the provision of childcare. "Childcare", as defined in section 18 of the 2006 Act, specifically excludes care provided for a child by a parent, step-parent, foster parent (or other relative) or by a person who fosters the child privately or has parental responsibility for the child. Early years provision by a childminder (either independently registered with Ofsted or registered with a childminder agency) by the childminder (for the related child) does not count as childcare in legal terms. Early education funding cannot be claimed by, or spent on, childminders providing childcare for their own child or a related child, even if they are claiming for other children. However, a local authority can choose to fund the parent providing childcare for their child but this would have to be from other local authority funds.

Special Educational Needs

Local authorities must ensure that all providers in the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors that they fund to deliver funded early education places are aware of the requirement on them to have regard to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 – 25 which gives guidance on supporting children with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities.

Early Years Single Funding Formula

The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 set out how local authorities must operate their early year's single funding formula (EYSSF).

The Regulations require that a local authority must consult their schools forum and providers about changes to the EYSSF.

The formula to apply in 2021/22 is as detailed below:

- Universal Base Rate – A single rate to be paid to all providers at £4.36 per hour
- Deprivation – A variable rate linked to the child's IDACI score.

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is an index of deprivation used in the United Kingdom. The index is calculated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and measures in a local area the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in low income households. The local areas for which the index is calculated are super output areas.

The table below shows the rates to be applied, based on the postal address of each individual child:

DEPRIVATION ANALYSIS FOR 3&4 YO	Annual Rate	Rate Per Hour
Band G - IDACI SCORE < 0.20	£0.00	£0.00
Band F - IDACI SCORE 0.20 - 0.25	£75.00	£0.13
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£75.00	£0.13
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£150.00	£0.26
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£250.00	£0.44
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£350.00	£0.61
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50	£500.00	£0.88

The Early Years Pupil Premium remains distinct from the early year's national funding formula and will continue as a separate funding stream provided to Local Authorities in order to support disadvantaged pupils. The funding will continue to be paid within the DSG and there are no funding changes proposed for 2021/22, with the full 15 hour entitlement remaining at £302.10 (or £0.53 per hour).

The funding rate for the most disadvantaged 2 Year Olds in 20121/22 is £5.23 per hour.

Funding for Child Specific Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The Equality Act 2010 ensures that Local Authorities and settings must not discriminate, harass or victimise disabled children, and must make reasonable adjustments. Local authorities must ensure that disabled children entitled to a place are found suitable provision. Two measures are available which were introduced in 2017/18 to support children with disabilities or SEN:

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

SEN Inclusion Fund

The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and / or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting).

3 and 4 Year Olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

the child is in receipt of child disability living allowance and the child receives funded early education.

If eligible, the settings will receive a payment of £615 per year with payment only made to one provider, which is not recouped if the child leaves that setting. Local authorities must issue DAF payments to providers as soon as possible when the child takes up the universal 15 hours entitlement for three and four year olds, following receipt and verification of the relevant application.

All local authorities are required to establish an inclusion fund in their local funding systems for 3 and 4 Year Olds with SEN taking the funded entitlement. The purpose of the fund is to support Local Authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN.

Local authorities should target the fund at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG.

Compulsory School Age

Compulsory school age is set out in section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998 (SI 1998/1607).

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his fifth birthday (or on his fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

Equality

The Equality Act 2010 offers protection against discrimination, harassment and victimisation and applies to statutory and non-statutory early year's organisations and provision of early years services. It applies to a number of "protected characteristics" including sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Local authorities and other listed public authorities (which include local authority maintained schools and Academies) must comply with the public sector equality duty (found in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) which sets out the three "equality needs" that they must have due regard to when making decisions;

- to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Local authorities and other listed public authorities must also comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010(Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 which places a duty on them to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the public sector equality duty and to prepare and publish one or more specific and measurable equality objective every four years.

While private, voluntary and independent settings are not bound by the public sector equality duty which applies to public authorities, the principles of equity and justice underpinning the law should be applied as good practice. Where provision is overseen, coordinated or advised by the local authority or a partnership with local authority membership, the local authority will have responsibility to ensure the duties are fulfilled.

School Admissions

School admissions authorities and local authorities must comply with the School Admissions Code.

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

Admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. The authority must make it clear in their arrangements that, where they have offered a child a place at a school:

- A. that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;
- B. the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and
- C. where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Published admission arrangements must make clear to parents that a separate application must be made for any transfer from nursery to primary school and from infant to junior school.

Children Looked After

Children who are provided with accommodation by a local authority for more than 24 hours on a voluntary basis or who are under a care order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential home or with parents or other relatives. A child who is "looked after" is defined in section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

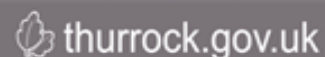
Education, Health and Care Plans

Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 contains provisions which set out the statutory framework for identifying and assessing the needs of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) that require support beyond that which is usually available. Statements made under section 324 of the Education Act 1996 and Learning Difficulty Assessments made under section 139A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 are being replaced over a transitional period by new 0 – 25 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) for both children and young people.

Child Arrangements Orders

Part 2 of the Children and Families Act 2014 makes the changes to the operation of the Family Justice system, as recommended by the Independent Family Justice Review and accepted by the Government in its response published on 6 February 2012. The Act contains provisions to introduce a 'Child Arrangements Order', replacing residence and contact orders from 22 April 2014.

Annex 2a: Registration for Early Years funded Places (Entitlement) for Two, Three and Four Year Olds



REGISTRATION FOR EARLY YEARS FUNDED PLACES (ENTITLEMENT) FOR TWO, THREE AND
FOUR YEAR OLDS

To be completed by parent/person(s) with legal parental responsibility for the child

(TO BE RETAINED WITH THE PROVIDERS CHILD REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS)

Name of Setting								
Child's Forename				Child's Surname				
Child's Middle Name(s)				Child's Preferred Surname				
Date of Birth				Gender				
Child's Address								
Child's Ethnic Group (Please tick one)								
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	White - British	White - English	<input type="checkbox"/>	White	Albanian	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>		White - Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bosnian - Herzegovinian	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>		White - Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>		Croatian	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any Other Asian Background	<input type="checkbox"/>		White - Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>		White Eastern European	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black or Black British	Black – African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/Dual background	Other White British	<input type="checkbox"/>		Greek/ Greek Cypriot	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>		White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>		Traveller of Irish Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Any Other Black Background	<input type="checkbox"/>		White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>		Kosovan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Other Ethnic Group			Chinese	White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>		Gypsy / Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Afghan	<input type="checkbox"/>		White and any other ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>		Serbian	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/>		Other mixed background	<input type="checkbox"/>		Turkish/ Turkish Cypriot	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Thai	<input type="checkbox"/>		Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>		White Western European	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refused				White and any other ethnic group	<input type="checkbox"/>		White Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Hong Kong Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

Information Not Yet Obtained			Other Chinese		
Disability (please tick one of the boxes below)					
Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)			SEN Support		
Statement of SEND			No Special Educational Need		
Is your child eligible and in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)?				Yes	No
Three- and four-year old children who are in receipt of child DLA and are receiving the free entitlement are eligible for the Disability Access Fund (DAF)					
For parents to complete for EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium):					
Please complete the details below if you are currently in receipt of any benefits, as this may mean that your child's setting will be entitled to extra funding to use towards the education of your child. Eligibility is checked termly					
For Parents to complete for 30 Hours Childcare:					
Please complete your details below if you have applied for and have been awarded 30 hours free childcare					

Parent 1 Details		Parent 2 Details			
First name		First name			
Surname		Surname			
Date of Birth		Date of Birth			
NI/NASS no.		NI/NASS no.			
30 hours eligibility code		30 hours eligibility code			
Applying for 30 hours		Applying for EYPP			
Is this provider using the universal 15 hours of entitlement, if the 30 hours funding is split between providers? Please tick			Yes		No
Signature		Signature			

Take up of free entitlement Setting Name(s)	Total number of hours per week	Number of weeks per year (e.g. 38, 45, 51)	Nominated for DAF (if applicable)
Total weekly hours attended			

DECLARATION FORM

I confirm that the above setting may claim the Early Years funding for my child as agreed between myself and the setting. This will be claimed for each term my child attends the setting. I agree that the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) & 30 Hour information overleaf may be used on a regular basis to establish eligibility. I understand that I may withdraw my consent to this at any time by advising the setting.

If my child is using part of the Entitlement at another setting I will ensure both are informed and I will advise both settings immediately of any changes.

I undertake to provide proof of my child's date of birth, and evidence of eligibility (Two Year Old Funding, DAF & 30 Hours if applicable)

I confirm that the information I have given on this form is complete and accurate. I will inform my provider immediately if any of these details change.

Should I wish to move my child to a new provider after the term has started I undertake to make both my current and new settings fully aware of the situation BEFORE any move is made, including the agreed termination date with the current provider and the start date with the new provider. I undertake to abide by the conditions set out in the provider's parental contract and also give my permission for both settings to discuss the allocation of funding between themselves

I confirm that my child will not exceed the maximum entitlement as published by the Government.

I also agree that the information I have provided can be shared with the local authority and Department for Education, who will access information from other government departments to confirm your child's eligibility and enable this provider to claim Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), 30 Hours Funding or Disability Access Fund (DAF) on behalf of my child.

Declaration and Submission: I understand that if I have given any false information on this declaration I may be asked to reimburse the Local Authority under the requirements of the early education entitlement funding by the Department for Education.

We will use your information to provide the service requested. We may share your personal data between our services and with partner organisations, such as government bodies and the police. We will do so when it is of benefit to you, or required by law, or to prevent or detect fraud. To find out more, go to thurrock.gov.uk/privacy. Get free internet access at libraries and community hubs.

Signature:		Print Surname:	
Date:		Relationship to Child:	

Provider Use only:

Evidence seen: *(please tick)*

Birth certificate or other document..... or Statement from officer of the Council attached

DLA letter seen for DAF

Two Year Old Funding eligibility letter seen (if applicable)

Date of Letter----- EY Voucher Nos/ 2YE Reference Nos. -----

30 Hours funding information from Provider Portal (if applicable)

Date check on Provider Portal_____ Eligible? Yes No

Start Date_____

Annex 2b: Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 2018

The early years setting your child attends is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. The setting collects information from you, and may receive information about your child from a previous school or setting. The setting holds this personal data and uses it to:

- ensure that the early years setting receives appropriate funding
- provide appropriate pastoral care
- support the child's teaching and learning;
- monitor and report on your child's progress;

This information includes your child's contact details, characteristics such as ethnicity, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

The law requires the setting to pass some information to the Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE). The setting will not give information about your child to anyone else outside the setting without your consent, unless required by law.

If you want to see a copy of any information held about you or your child by the setting, then please contact your setting.

Each term a declaration form is completed by the setting, and the parent or guardian of each child attending the setting. Once this form has been completed the setting will pass the information securely and confidentially via a secure online portal to the Local Authority, Thurrock Council. The setting will not submit this information to the Local Authority unless parental consent has been collected. Forms will be stored securely by the setting and will be audited by the Local Authority on an ad hoc basis.

What the Local Authority does with data on children attending early years settings

Thurrock Council holds this personal data and uses it to:

- ensure that the early years setting receives appropriate funding
- meet funding requirements for early years places in Thurrock
- ensure there are sufficient early years places in the borough
- support the child's teaching and learning;
- assess how well the early years setting is doing
- enable the Local Authority (Inclusive of Thurrock Children's Centre's) to carry out other specific functions for which it is responsible, such as school admissions, and the assessment of any special educational needs the child may have.

Thurrock Council will use the information supplied to us provide an appropriate, timely and effective service. The council may share the personal information you provide us between our services. This will be undertaken when sharing of this nature benefits individuals.

For more information, see our privacy notice on: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/privacy>

If you require more information about how the DfE store and use this data please go to the following website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/datatdatam/b00212337/datause>

If you do not have access to the internet please contact the Family Information Service on 01375 652801 **option 2** who will be able to provide a hard copies.


If you require further information please refer to the relevant contact details below:

To make a general enquiry or request to see personal data held about you / your child by the LA please contact the Council via our customer contact centre on 01375 652652 who will direct your call to the appropriate team.

Thurrock Council  01375 652652

Children's Services  01375 652947

(for enquiries about Data Collections)

Information Manager (for general Data Protection enquiries)  01375 652500

Email: information.matters@thurrock.gov.uk


Thurrock Council
Civic Offices
New Road
Grays
Essex
RM17 6SL

Department for Education

website: www.education.gov.uk

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

e-mail link: [Contact the Department for Education \(DfE\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

 0370 000 2288.

Annex 3: Thurrock Early Education Audit Requirements

THURROCK EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT FUNDING AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Thurrock Council will put into place appropriate auditing and accounting procedures to ensure that early education funding is paid in respect of funded places and administered appropriately.

In line with the Thurrock Code of Practice and agreement early education providers are required to:

- Make copies of their accounts available to Thurrock Council upon request, including invoices or charges to parents.
- Keep parental declarations for the access of entitlement
- Keep records of attendance of all children for whom they provide funded places including monitoring of take up of various groups that will reflect the communities they serve.
- Keep records of Income and Expenditure each term.
- Have a proposed budget for the year.

Early education providers should maintain a specific bank account for their setting. This account should be dual signatory, unless an early education provider is a sole practitioner. Thurrock Council will only pay funding into that account.

Early education providers should satisfy themselves that claims made for individual children do not exceed the maximum entitlement. Where a provider is notified by parents or otherwise discovers that a child is attending another provision, which is also in receipt of funding, they should immediately inform Thurrock Council in order that the funding may be paid correctly in respect of that child. If a child claiming the funded entitlement leaves/joins an early education provision after headcount day, the early education provider should inform Thurrock Council via the Provider Portal.

Early education providers should make sure that all fees and billing procedures are presented clearly to parents and that parents' are made aware of all charges made for any additional services allowable. Local authorities should support providers to ensure parents' bills are set out clearly so that parents can easily recognise and understand what hours they have accessed in relation to the funded entitlement.

Thurrock Council will contact you and set out clear processes for when an audit visits are required, with two weeks' notice given.

Annex 4: Thurrock Funding Withdrawal Policy

THURROCK EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT FUNDING WITHDRAWAL from THURROCK DIRECTORY of PROVIDERS POLICY

Thurrock Code of Practice is effective from 1st September 2021 and replaces all previous guidance on the delivery of the funded entitlement.

The funded entitlement may be delivered by early years providers who deliver the full early years foundation stage (EYFS) and are either registered with Ofsted as early years providers, or are schools taking children age three and over and therefore exempt from registration with Ofsted as early years providers.

Thurrock Council can also fund providers who have exemptions from the EYFS Learning & Development requirements.

Parents of all three year olds are able to access the maximum of funded entitlement for up to two years and eligible two year olds, up to 3 years before they reach compulsory school age. Parents can access as little or as much of the entitlement as they choose within the Statutory Guidance guidelines, and may take up their funded entitlement at one or two providers.

Thurrock Council will fund maintained and PVI sector providers delivering the funded entitlement fairly, transparently and equitably. Ofsted inspectors judge the quality of early education provisions' using a four-point grading scale. The four grades are as follows:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate

Where a provider is rated as "Inadequate", Thurrock Council may secure alternative provision and withdraw funding, as soon as is practical, for children who are receiving their early year's entitlement with that provider.

In such a case where a provider is informed that funding will be withdrawn, this will be done on an individual basis and the Council will do its best to agree, with the provider, a timescale for withdrawal of funding.

Readmission to Thurrock Directory of Providers:

Where an early education provider is removed from the Thurrock Directory of Providers as a consequence of an Ofsted inspection judgement of "Inadequate", they should not be readmitted until the provider is re-inspected and receives a rating above Inadequate.

Requires Improvement Ofsted Judgement

Ofsted inform Thurrock Council of a requires improvement judgement.

Ofsted identify what steps the provider must take to improve further, and the date by which this must be completed.

Ofsted normally re-inspect within 12 months of the date of the last inspection.

A provider who has been judged as “requires improvement” at two consecutive inspections and is still not “good” at its third inspection is likely to be judged inadequate.

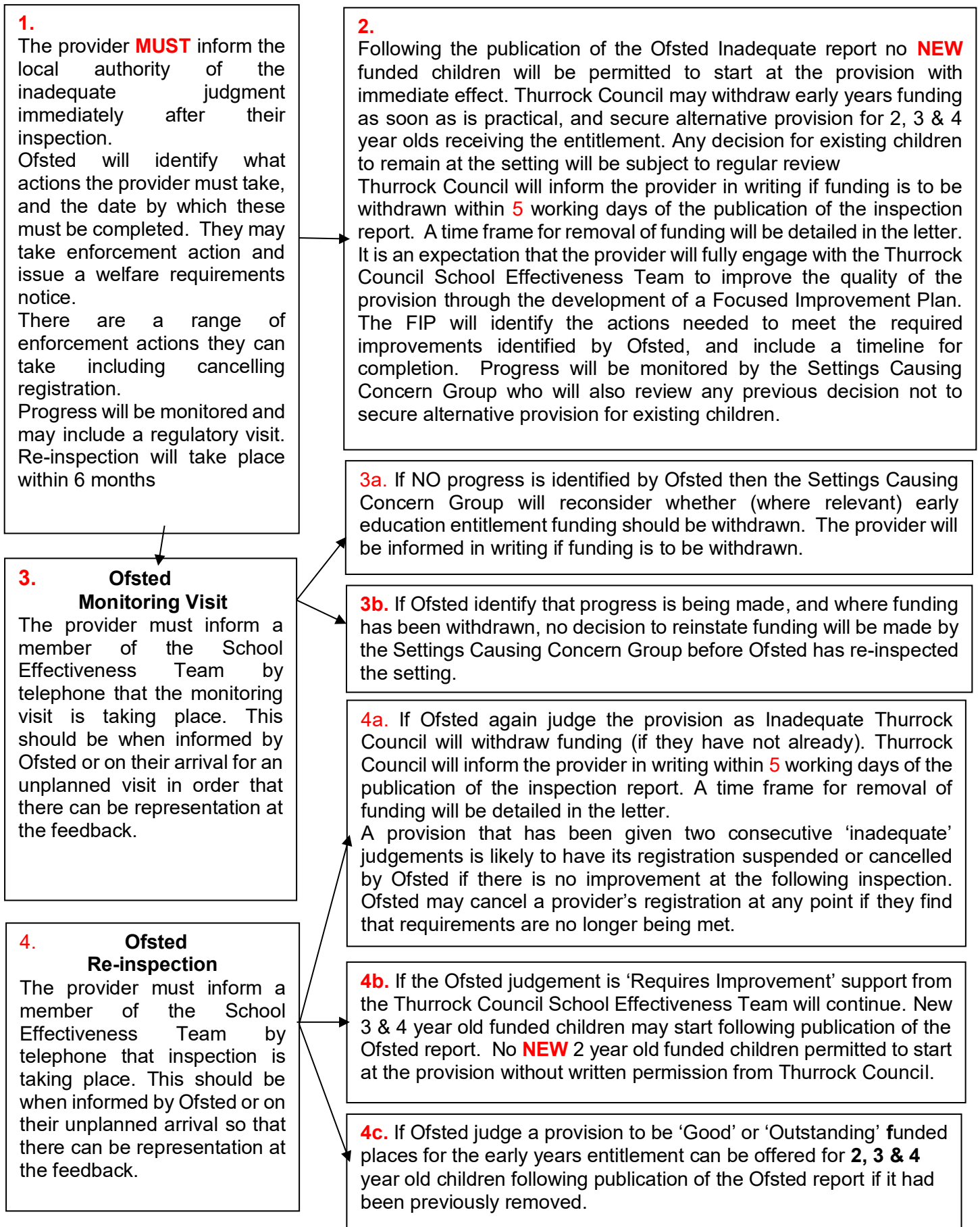
Please refer to the flow chart in Annex 4b for the process for an Inadequate Judgement

Following the publication of the Ofsted ‘Requires Improvement’ report no **NEW** funded 2 year old children will be permitted to start the provision with immediate effect. Funding for 3 and 4 year old children will continue without change.

Thurrock Council will inform the provider in writing within **5** working days of the publication of the Ofsted Inspection report whether they will be permitted to offer any further funded placements for two year olds. Thurrock Council may remove funding for two year olds currently in placement based on childcare sufficiency needs and if this is felt to be in their best interest.

It is an expectation that the provider will fully engage with the Thurrock Council School Effectiveness Team to improve the quality of the provision through the development of a Focused Improvement Plan. The FIP will identify the steps needed to meet the required improvements identified by Ofsted, and include a timeline for completion. Progress will be monitored by the Settings Causing Concern Group.

Annex 4b: Process for Inadequate Ofsted Judgement



Annex 5: Portal timetable - Thurrock Council reserves the right to change the agreed payment dates in exceptional circumstances (e.g. COVID-19).

Table B: timetable	Estimates	Headcount	Post headcount	Final Headcount
Autumn – 14 funded weeks (18 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	26 th July 2021	15 th October 2021	19 th November 2021	23 rd December 2021
Payment by	7 th September 2021	19 th November 2021	10 th December 2021	14 th January 2022
Spring – 12 funded weeks (15 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	26 th November 2021	27 st January 2022	7 th March 2022	1 st April 2022
Payment by	7 th January 2022	4 th March 2022	29 th March 2022	22 nd April 2022
Summer – 13 funded weeks (20 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	26 th March 2022	27 th May 2022	24 th June 2022	28 th July 2022
Payment by	22 nd April 2022	8 th July 2022	19 th July 2022	12 th August 2022

Annex 6: Disability Access Fund (DAF) Eligibility for

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The setting which a 3- and 4-year old attends will be eligible for the DAF if the child meet the following criteria:

- the child is in receipt of child disability living allowance (DLA) and;
- the child receives funded early education.

Note: Four-year olds in primary school reception classes are NOT eligible for DAF funding. Children become eligible for funded early education at different points in the year depending on when they turn 3.

Entitlement

The settings of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the DAF will be entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year. The DAF is not based on an hourly rate and is an additional entitlement.

Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education they are entitled to in order to receive the DAF. Children in receipt of the DAF will be eligible where they take-up any period of funded entitlement.

Identifying eligible children

Parents are responsible for identifying eligible children through the completion of the Registration for Early Years Funded Places (funded entitlement) for two, three and four year olds. (Annex 2a). Parents of children qualifying for Disability Living Allowance will be required to provide documented evidence of being in receipt of DLA to the provider. The provider will claim for the funding through the Provider Portal. The provider will need to upload a copy of the DLA letter onto the Provider Portal.

How early years providers will receive DAF funding

Thurrock will fund all early years' settings providing a place for each child eligible for the DAF in their area at the fixed annual rate of £615 per eligible child. The DAF will not be offset against any other funding which Thurrock may ordinarily be providing for children eligible for the DAF.

The DAF is payable as a lump sum once a year per eligible child. If a child eligible for the DAF is splitting their funded entitlement across two or more providers, Thurrock will ask parents to nominate the main setting. This setting will be where Thurrock will pay the DAF for the child.

If a child receiving DAF moves from one setting to another within a financial year, the new setting is not eligible to receive DAF funding for this child within the same financial year. DAF funding received by the original setting will not be recouped by Thurrock Council.

Where a child lives in one authority area but attends a provider in a different local authority, the provider's local authority is responsible for funding the DAF for the child and eligibility checking. All early years providers who are eligible to receive funding for the 3- and 4-year-old early entitlement education are also eligible to receive the DAF.

Annex 7: Early Years Inclusion Fund

The Early Years Inclusion Fund has been set up for providers to help them support the needs of children aged 3-4 years, with **lower level or emerging SEND**, who are accessing early education funding. Children receiving the two year old entitlement funding are also eligible for this if they fit the **emerging SEND** criteria.

Low-level and emerging SEND includes children with EAL/S&L or any other children working below age-related expectations linked to the four broad areas of need as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2015. This is not limited to, but includes, cognition and learning needs, communication and interaction needs, physical and sensory and social, emotional and mental health needs.

Our vision in Thurrock is to ensure inclusive, supportive education for all, ensuring every child is able to make progress and reach their full potential. The Early Years Inclusion Fund should be used to support early intervention and prevention in order to ensure provision meets the needs of all children at the earliest stage possible. The fund should be used as a contribution towards providing additional resources, training and support, and is not expected to cover full costs. Resources/training applied for using the fund should be considered carefully to ensure sustainability of provision within the early years setting with the child/group at the centre.

There is a set £200,000 limit to the amount of funding available within Thurrock, and this is limited to £500 per year for each child or group of children. Providers will get a one off payment for the year, and this is paid directly to the childcare provider.

Who is the inclusion grant for?

The grant has been created to ensure the inclusion of children with low level or emerging additional needs within early education. 'Additional needs' could be:

Children with special educational needs as described within the four broad areas of need identified within the [special educational needs and disability code of practice](#)

- Children with English as an additional language
- Children with medical needs
- Children in Need

The setting has followed at least two cycles of assess, plan, do, review process – this is the equivalent of two SEND support plan reviews (please refer to the Thurrock 3 step checklist). The child may or may not have other outside agency/professional input. Once the child is at a stage where an application for interim funding is being considered EYIF would not be suitable as the child will be showing a higher level of need.

The children may or may not be on the Social Services Disability Register AND may or may not be considered as needing support through the Department of Education code of practice for the identification and assessment of Special Education Needs.

Settings will be **unable** to claim this funding if they already get other SEN additional funding for the child.

What is the purpose of the Early Years Inclusion Fund?

The purpose for the funding could be:

- A setting may have a higher than usual number of children with SEND attending their setting or within one of their setting groupings/rooms
- A setting may want to provide small group interventions for children with similar needs requiring a higher staff ratio at certain times, e.g. attention and listening small group activities
- Support maybe needed to include a new child into the setting sessions where their level of need is still emerging including during transition times, e.g. a child who has previously received portage home visiting, a child who has moved into the borough

- Purchasing of equipment to meet specific needs within the group, which are different from or additional to the usual resources, e.g. sensory resources for older age groups

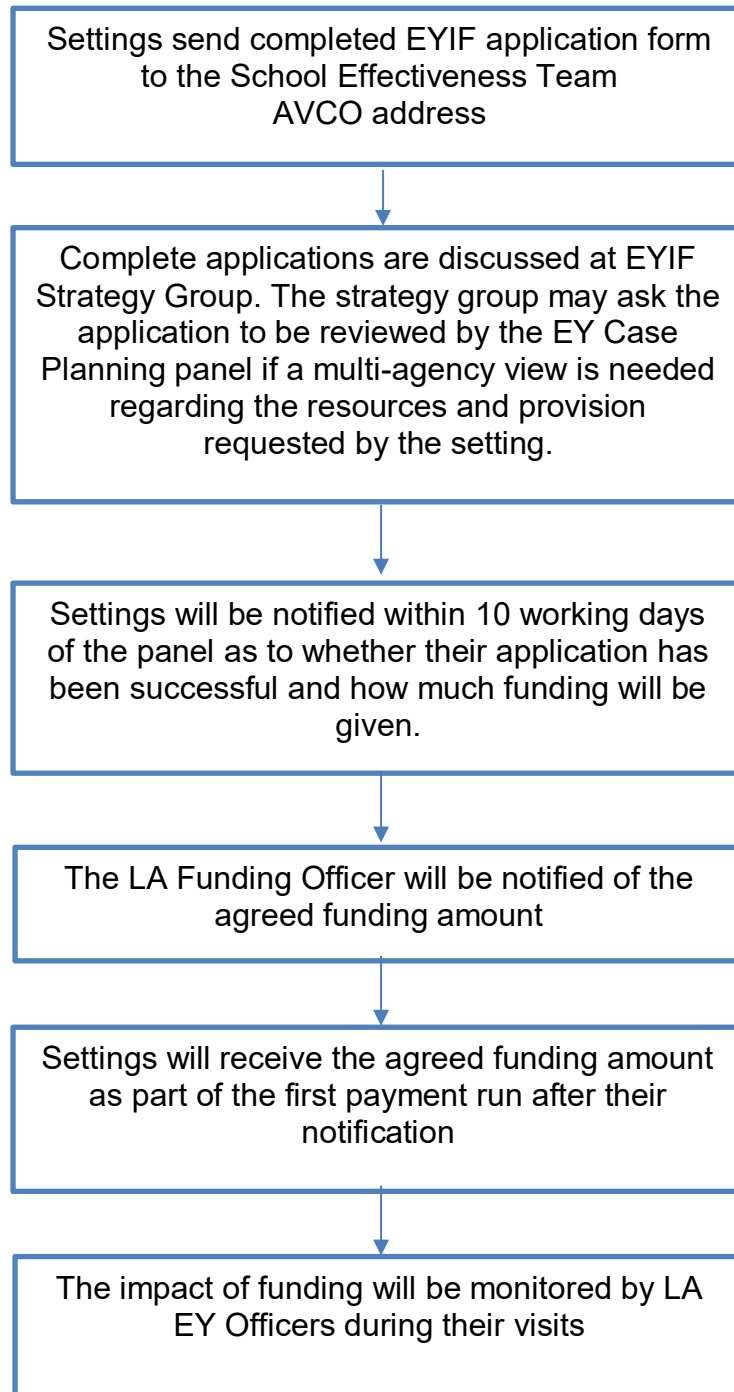
The Early Years Inclusion Fund will be used primarily to support groups of children.

How to claim the Early Years Inclusion Fund

To claim the funding, settings will need to do the following:

- Complete the Early Years Inclusion Fund form for each eligible child, even if you are applying for a group of children
- Applications will then be submitted to the Early Years Inclusion Fund Strategy Group for decision. The Strategy Group may ask the application to be reviewed by the EY Case Planning panel if a multi-agency view is needed regarding the resources and provision requested by the setting
- If successful, the grant will be processed by the Early Years Funding team.

EYIF Application Process



Below is the Early Years Inclusion Fund Application Form:



EYIF Application
Form.docx

Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting held 17th June 2021 at 10.00a.m Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Multi Academy Trusts

Catalyst Academies Trust
Harris Federation
ORTU Federation
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust
South West Essex Community Education Trust
The Vine School Trust
The Vine School Trust

Name

Mr T Parfett (Vice Chair)
Mrs N Graham
Dr Sophina Asong
Mrs Louise Coates
Mr S Munday
Mrs E Wigmore
Mr S Santhaguru

Secondary Voluntary Aided School

Grays Convent

Name

Mrs M Miller

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Name

Mr E Caines
Mrs N Haslam

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 S Hewitt

Non-school members

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

Name

Mrs M Shepherd
Ms A Jones
Dr J Revell
Mr A Melbourne

Also in Attendance

Mr Malcolm Taylor
Ms Michelle Lucas
Mr David May
Ms Sarah Williams
Ms Andrea Winstone

Strategic Lead – Specialist Provision/PEP
Assistant Director, Education Skills
Strategic Lead – DSG and Schools
Strategic Lead, Education Support Service
Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness and
SEND I Children's Services

Ms Gwen Trapp

Special Educational Needs Provision
Manager | Children's Services
Clerk

Miss Teresa Lydon

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. He 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. He also advised that this meeting was not being recorded.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from Mrs N Cashnell, Mr P Griffiths (Chair) and Mr K Sadler.

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

- i) The Forum agreed the agenda and time guide. Mr D May asked that Item 7 was moved after Item 8 and 9.
- ii) Any Other Business – no items were put forward before the meeting

4. Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2020-21 and 2021/22

Mr D May summarised the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2020-21 report sent to all forum members before the meeting. He advised there was a provisional deficit of £1,883m. This is an overall improvement of £0.095m surplus.

The significant areas of financial risk are:

- Continued increase in demand for EHCP;
- Additional costs of out of borough placements; and
- Costs incurred in providing education for pupils not in school

He advised that within the Early Years Block the updated Jan-21 census data would realise an overspend of £0.140m that was anticipated. However, the full census data has not been uploaded to the ESFA; this has a financial implication of £0.450m. They are in discussion with the EFSA to understand what options are available to rectify.

He advised that the provisional outturn position reflects the following in year pressures that have been reported throughout the year:

- Schools Block – Pupil Growth, in line with projections, has an underspend of £0.804m.
- Central Services Block – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding.
- High Needs Block – An overspend of £0.294m. This is less than the projected outturn previously reported by £1.800m. This is a significant change and the impact will be investigated further over the summer to consider the impact on 2021/22.
 - EHCP – The impact of COVID on school attendance and the delay in the start date of new commissioned placements has seen a reduction in forecast to outturn of £0.600m.
 - Post 16 – Discussions with Colleges and neighbouring Authorities has resulted in the place funding element not being paid by Thurrock, resulting in a reduction of £1m for that previously forecasted. Officers will continue to monitor and consider the impact on the import export adjustment applied to the HNB funding allocation.
 - External Residential – As part of maximisation of external funding some forecasted costs have been eligible for COVID funding that has resulted in a saving of £0.2m

Mr D May advised that a meeting was scheduled with the ESFA in July to discuss the DSG Management plan and the High Needs Block position.

Mrs L Coates asked Mr D May to clarify the saving on EHCPs during COVID. He advised that during COVID not as many EHCPs had been finalised. Mrs L Coates commented that potentially the financial impact will be in the next financial year. Mr D May advised that this should already be included in the budget.

Ms A Winstone clarified that there were not any late plans. She has advised that the children were not in school so some of the money had not been released to schools. Mr D May advised where a new plan was approved the funding was giving to the schools when the schools were open. The Chair added that this has helped the deficit but not the schools. Dr S Asong asked MS A Winstone to check and see if the money had now been given to the schools. Mr D May advised that any EHCPs that were approved the money has been given to the schools. Dr S Asong asked why COVID made a difference then. Mr D May commented that the projections for EHCP's were not as high as projected in the earlier outturn position and therefore the final overspend was reduced. Mr M Taylor advised that parents are now asking for more support for their children that they feel they missed out on during COVID and feels that this may affect the budget in the future. Mrs J Sawtell-Haines commented that services have been limited during COVID and this may be another reason for the savings during this time. Mrs S Hewitt also advised that younger children who needed to be assessed for EHCPs had missed out during COVID as home assessments could not be carried out by the relevant services. Mr D May advised that the EHCP budget is overspent just the level of overspend is not as great as projected and is only a saving on the deficit.

Mrs A Winstone advised that paperwork for new EHCPs that was delayed during COVID is starting to come in. They have about 160 plans in process now of which 45 are nursery children.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members noted the contents of the report and offered support and challenge.
- b) All Forum members agreed the financial position for 2020/21 that will be included in returns to be made to the EFSA.
- c) All Forum members agreed to receive updates on the 2021/22 projected outturn position

5. Union Facility Time

Ms A Winstone advised that Thurrock Council currently administer the Union Facility Time on behalf of the schools in Thurrock. She advised that the proposed annual service charge for 2021/2022 is set at £500.

During the year 2020/21 there were six claims received, processed and reimbursed. The total amount claimed was £2,112.96 with two further claims in April 2021 totalling £1,758.33. The balance on the 3rd June 2021 is £16,652.67.

Ms A Winstone spoke about the charge of 10p per pupil that was agreed for the 2018/19 academic year. She feels that based on the surplus no contributions were required for 2021/22.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members agreed that Thurrock Council continue to administer the Union Facility Time.
- b) All Forum members agreed that no contribution rate would be taken this year.

6. Meeting format and dates for academic year 2021-2022

Ms S Williams proposed the following meeting dates for the next academic year 2021-2022 to take place 10:00 to 12:00 in a virtual environment.

1. Thursday 16th September 2021
2. Thursday 18th November 2021
3. Thursday 13th January 2022
4. Thursday 17th March 2022
5. Thursday 23rd June 2022

Mr J Revell advised that 10am does not work for him and would like to have some meetings at a different time so that all members attended at least two meetings during the year.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haines advised that she does not like virtual meetings as she feels that more in depth discussions take place face to face. She would like to see more hybrid meetings. Mr A Melbourne agreed with Mr J Revell and Mrs J Sawtell-Haines. Mrs S Hewitt commented that maybe they should help look at having some meetings virtual and some face to face when more in-depth conversation needs to take place. Mr M Vickers agreed with this. Mr D May commented that the September meeting would be the meeting that he feels would be better face to face to discuss strategy for the months ahead. He advised that this year is a full spending review. His concern is that the information will not be released in time. Mr M Taylor commented that the face to face is important and feels that we need more face to face meetings. The Chair summarised that the majority of members would like more face to face meetings. Mrs S Hewitt commented that they would need to make sure that we are following the current guidelines. Mrs S Williams felt that due to recent changes the September meeting would have to be virtual.

Action: Ms S Williams to discuss with the Chair meeting times and how and where these meetings will take place

AGREED

- a) All forum members agreed that the September meeting would be virtual and Mrs S Williams to look into tabling some face to face and online according to agenda items.
- b) The majority of members agreed that they were happy for meetings to be held in a virtual environment.

7. DSG Management Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25

Mr D May went through a presentation on the DSG Management Plan. Mr D May advised that they must be able to present a plan to the Department of Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.

He advised that to inform discussions with the EFSA in July 2021 they are presenting reports on Education, Health & Care Plans Deep Dive Data Analysis and DSG High Needs Specialist Placements

The DSG management plan will assist in:

- compliance with the DSG conditions of grant
- monitor how DSG funding is being spent
- compare data on high needs spend
- 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

Mr D May advised that the deficit has reduced from £4.046m in 2018 to the projected deficit at 31/03/21 of £1.883m. During discussions in Item 8 and 9 they had covered EHCP Deep Dive Data Analysis, the key highlights and how the Schools Forum could help.

Mr D May spoke about the High Needs Block and the 5 key areas.

1. EHCPs and the continued year on year increase and how the notional SEN budget is being utilised to support pupils in schools using breakdown reports.
2. Data – As an authority we need to know our current position but consider future projections to inform local provision both short and medium term. Mr D May went through the projected data based on known and expected change in data. This data shows an increase in the number of children being educated but not in school. We need to develop a pathway to learning to start reintegration back into school.
3. Funding - The data has been used to project costs up until 2024/25. Treetops Free School to open new places in September 2021.
4. Out of borough placements – Mr D May advised there is a low number but at a high cost as detailed in Item 9. The long term solution is to develop a local offer
5. Training and development needed with the SEND team and school SENCOs. We need to ensure that schools access all available training provided to ensure staff are aware of and trained in different aspects of SEND. SENCO to attend the SENCO forums to access new processes and approaches. Ensuring the graduated Assess-plan-do- review processes are undertaken and the Provision Guidance (Publish date Sep 21) is used to inform next steps before requests for EHCPs take place

Mrs M Lucas advised that she has done some QA work looking at some plans and commented on the fantastic work that had been done to get children to their age related area and beyond. She went on to say that at this stage she would like to see more plans being closed if there was a census that a plan was no longer needed. The Chair advised the mechanism for closing plans he feels is that the LAs responsibility and should be looked at in their annual reviews. Mr M Taylor advised that there is a question in the review meeting asking if the child still needs the support of a Plan. Parents want to hold onto the plan as protection to make sure their child's needs are met within the schools. Mrs L Coates commented that a pupil in Year 5 or 6 who has made progress and it may be time to look at closing the EHCP they need to take in to account the move to secondary school and what support may be needed. They need to look at the secondary provision if the pupil does not have a plan. We do not want to set these children up to fail. The Chair asked what number of children have come off plans. Mr M Taylor advised that this is relatively low. Ms A Winstone advised that they closed about 200 plans during the last academic year but mainly post 16. There were none in Primary. Mrs M Lucas commented that where appropriate it is one of the things that she feels should be considered.

Mr M Lucas also felt that putting in more resources and provision at the EYFS stage would make a huge difference to children who needed this support early on. Mrs A Jones advised that at her settings they are tending to get the more severe children. She feels the most difficult part is getting places in reception and the support which is needed. Speech and Language is a deteriorating gap. When they have specific needs it is very hard to get the support needed. Mr A Melbourne advised that they experience less high SEN needs at their settings. He feels that the early years settings are getting better as identifiers and putting support in place for these children and adjusting the provision. He advised they are also getting better at identifying more children that may need EHCPs. Mr E Caines commented they have an early years setting and have a lot of children in

reception this year who are needing one to one all day and he feels should be in special school. He cannot see how earlier contact with LA would have made huge changes, the main problems for them is waiting for place at Treetops which has not enough primary places. He advised we need more specialist provision for primary. Mrs M Lucas also commented that all reports indicate we need to do more in primaries. Mrs J Sawtell-Haines advised they used to have a Speech Therapist at their school but budgets do not allow this now. She cannot not remember the last time they saw a Community Therapist at their school. Mr M Taylor advised that sometimes Speech and Language can be a first indicator of Autism which they are aware of.

Mrs M Lucas advised it is about the partnership approach to support children not in school. Ms A Winstone commented that they are looking at support for the number of children who are Children Missing Education with tuition. Because this tuition is not in a school setting it is very difficult to get them back into school as they suffer from anxiety. She would like to look at schools both secondary and primary helping provide this provision at the schools. Mrs L Coates asked that a proper costed plan is put together showing what is being spent at the moment on tuition, what they are getting for their money and the saving that would be made but not to the detriment of the main stream school.

Mr M Taylor advised that in terms of a tuition service it is much better if it comes from a school with all the provision and the school curriculum. The Chair asked that they put in the expression of interest to include the number of pupils and costings etc.

Action: Ms A Winstone to send an expression of interest out to all schools regarding tuition for children missing education taking place in a school environment together with a costed plan

8. Education, Health & Care Plans(EHCP) Deep Dive Data Analysis Summary

Mrs A Winstone advised the forum that they commissioned a Deep Dive Report by the Assistant Director Public Health and Mrs M Lucas. This report will inform the joint commissioning decisions made for children and young people with EHCPs which will in turn be reflected in the services commissioned and set out in the Local Offer.

She advised that the outcomes of the reports were very positive.

Key highlights were:

- Thurrock is an inclusive borough but there is still more do to
- More SEMH, Speech and Language and ASD provision will be required to meet increasing demands
- Reducing health inequalities will have an impact in the long term on the need for SEND provision

The Schools Forum can help by:

- Continue to encourage schools to be fully inclusive and to admit children with EHCPs by making reasonable adjustments.
- Ensure that schools use their notional SEND budget when making provision for children identified as having SEND before making requests for additional funding.
- Ensuring the graduated Assess-plan-do- review processes are undertaken and the Provision Guidance (Publish date Sep 21) is used to inform next steps before requests for EHCPs take place.
- Continue to encourage schools to be mindful of the high number of requests for EHCPs and the impact this has on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block budget.
- Ensure schools access the AET Hub training and other free training provided by Thurrock/ Nasen/ Whole School SEND and others providers to ensure staff are aware of and trained in different aspects of SEND.

- Ensure that all SENCO attend the SENCO forums where new processes and approaches will be introduced.
- Consider how schools might support the need for additional provision within the borough.

The Chair commented that his understanding was that schools were unable to refuse pupils with an EHCP but feels that some schools have a higher proportion of these pupils on their roll. He advised that one of their schools Aveley Primary currently has 29 children with EHCPs. Ms A Winstone advised that they are getting more schools refusing to take. Dr S Asong asked what is the mechanism for refusing? **(this question has not been answered)** Ms A Winstone commented that they are taking a stronger stance on schools refusing as they cannot afford to send children out of borough for provision. Dr S Asong commented that all schools should have to take children with EHCPs. Mrs L Coates commented that they have had families advise them that other schools have told the parent that their schools can provide better provision. She feels they need to be honest about this. Her concern is the number nursery children coming in to Reception and schools do not have the funding to support. Bonnygate primary has taken 6 children in to Reception 2021 and feels they will not be able to cope with this as they do not have the funding. Ms A Winstone advised that the request for EHCPs has increased drastically. Mrs N Graham advised that Harris Academy Chafford has a confirmed number of 16 EHCPs for Year 7s starting in September 2021 and feels that other schools are not taking their fair share. She is happy to carry on taking these pupils but the funding is not enough.

The Chair interjected that Ms A Winstone had sent out a report that showed how many EHCPs there were at each school in Thurrock. Ms A Winstone did advise that the school chosen is a parental request. Mr D May advised that we have a rapid growing population and when they meet with the EFSA in July they will discuss about funding and the two year lag on funding. Mrs N Haslett commented that some schools do not have the provision for all children with EHCPs. Also she has increasing found that parents are more and more deferring their children for a reception place and keeping them in EYFS. She feels that financially this needs to be looked into because of the potential impact in the future. Some of her parents have commented that they do not feel they have much choice within the authority for specialist provision. Mr M Taylor commented that they are working very hard with Treetops about the specialist places for children with autism including primary aged children. They are also looking at another resource bases at schools in Thurrock.

AGREED

All forum members agreed there was a need to **reduce health inequalities** in the area by investing in early intervention and prevention services.

9. DSG High Needs Specialist Placements

Ms G Trapp talked about the High Needs Specialist Placements including the budgets associated with the cost of Out of Borough placements. Also included in this report is the number of children and young people currently placed outside Thurrock in a specialist placement along with a summary of the primary special education needs the children and young people have and the costs of these placements.

43 children and young people in Other Local Authority Special Schools in Essex, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and Waltham Forest Local Authority Maintained Schools and Academies at a total cost commitment of £613,528.49 for the financial year 2021-2022

There are currently 22 children and young people in Residential Non-Maintained and Independent Schools outside Thurrock Local Authority including 14 children under the age of 16 in 52 week residential specialist placements. These children have complex special educational needs that

cannot be met in other settings. There are a further 5 children under the age of 16 in 39 week residential school placement. A further 3 young people over the age of 16 are in residential placements. It is therefore anticipated that in total Thurrock Council will be paying £1,938,936.91 this financial year for residential placements outside Thurrock.

There are and 35 children and young people in day placements in non-maintained and independent schools outside Thurrock Local Authority. The total commitment this financial year for specialist out of borough placements is £1,806,072.46.

Ms G Trapp advised that a total of 100 children and young people with an Education and Health Plan are in specialist placements outside Thurrock and gave a breakdown of the category of needs.

She advised that there are a number of factors that can influence future demand, including the increasing number of Education, Health and Care Plans and the movement of families in to and out of the Thurrock. The opening of Treetops Free School will help to stop the growth of the need for external day placements for children and young people, for example with Moderate Learning Difficulties and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Mrs S Hewitt asked if they would try and bring back to Thurrock the pupils that are currently in day placements. Mr M Taylor commented that they are looking into this. He advised they are a smaller number of placements but at a higher cost. Mr M Vickers asked if there is any developments on SEMH primary placements. Mr M Taylor advised that they are looking at the type of resources that would be needed but needs very careful planning because of the complex needs of the pupils.

Mrs S Hewitt asked if the day placements include transport costs. Ms G Trapp advised the transport cost is not included in these figures. Mr M Taylor advised these placements would only be approved if they have no other options and they always look at transport costs.

The Chair asked if there was a time line for discussions on more resources bases in schools in Thurrock. Mr M Taylor advised they will be looking at this and an expressions of interest would be sent out this term to all schools for local specialist provision for ASD in Primary SEMH in Secondary is more complex and they will be looking at this in the Autumn Term.

Action: Mr M Taylor to send out an expression of interest to all schools this term for more ASD resource basis in primary schools and a further consultation about a Secondary SEMH base in Thurrock

AGREED

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

10. School's Forum Forward Plan

All forum members were happy with the School's Forum forward plan. Miss S Williams advised that the next meeting will be held on Teams. Ms S Williams advised members to contact her should they have any items for the forward plan.

11. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 18th March 2021

The Chair went through the Minutes of the previous meeting for accuracy.

Mrs S Hewitt asked that on page 3 under action c: that it read "*All Forum members agree to the increase in thresholds for mainstream schools for specialist equipment to £2,000.*"

All forum members were happy with the content.

12. Matters Arising

Mrs J Sawtell-Haines advised that Paul mentioned something about fringe funding that schools do not get at the last meeting but this did not seem to have been minuted. Mr D May advised he will include in his presentation in September.

Sarah to ask Paul if he can remember his comment for the minutes.

SW advised that we need to look at deep dives in other areas including for disadvantaged children who do not have an EHCP. Mrs M Lucas commented that they will be doing a deep dive on other areas one area could be attendance on disadvantaged children and this will be brought back to the September meeting. The challenge as a Forum is to discuss what we can do to support the sub groups.

Action: Mrs M Lucas and the sub group to do a deep dive for disadvantaged children and bring back a report to the next meeting.

13. Any Other Business

No other business

14. Date of next meeting

Mrs S Williams advised that she will discuss dates of next meetings with The Chair.

Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2021 – 2022

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
September 2021	Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3&4 year olds - Standing
	Outcomes of children from different social groups
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 - Report
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 – Report and Presentation
	ESFA Consultations – Report and Presentation
	Free Schools Update
	Forum Membership Review and Election of Chair and Vice Chair
November 2021	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22
	High Needs Block 2021/22 – Commissioned Places
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan 2021/22
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Childcare Sufficiency - Standing
	Free Schools Update - Standing
January 2022	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 – Projected Outturn
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	High Needs Block
	Growth Fund
March 2022	Thurrock Budget – Children’s Services
	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 – Projected Outturn
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan 2021/22
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Pupil Place Planning Review
	Free Schools Update - Standing
June 2022	Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 - Outturn
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan 2021/22
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Union Facility Time Annual Review - Standing
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23
	Free Schools Update - Standing