

Thurrock Schools' Forum

17 November 2022, 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	Mr K Sadler
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)	Mrs V Reid
Vine Schools Trust	Mrs E Wigmore
Christus Catholic Trust	Mrs J Seymour
Secondary Voluntary-Aided School	Name
Grays Convent	Mrs P Johnson
Standalone Academy Trusts	Name
Woodside Academy	Mr E Caines
Giffards Primary	Mrs N Haslam-Davis
Infrastructure Groups	Name
TASS	Mr S Bell
TPHA	Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes
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	Mr S Bowak

Thurrock Schools' Forum

Number	Item	Time guide
Introductory items		
1.	Welcome from Chair	10am
2.	Apologies for absence	10:02am
3.	Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'any other business'	10:03am
Items for decision		
4.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair and membership update presented by Sarah Williams	10:05am
5.	1. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 2. DSG Management Plan 2022/23 3. Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/34 presented by David May	10:10am
Items for information		
6.	Free Schools verbal update presented by Sarah Williams	11:25am
7.	Schools' Forum Forward Plan presented by Sarah Williams	11:30am
Closing items		
8.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2022	11:35am
9.	Action log	11:40am
10.	Matters arising	11:45am
11.	Any other business	11:50am
12.	Next meeting 17 January 2023 – virtual meeting	

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	17 November 2022
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 Chair, Mr T Parfett continues in 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.

3.2 There have been the following changes to membership:

- The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC) – representative Mrs V Reid
- 11-19 Representative – representative Mr S Bowak
- TPHA (Thurrock Primary Heads Association) – representative Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes
- ORTU Trust – interim CEO – representative Mr K Sadler

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	To be confirmed
CEO ORTU Federation Ltd (Stanford & Corringham Trust)	Mr K Sadler	Interim 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)	Mrs V Reid	CEO

CEO Vine Schools Trust	Miss E Wigmore	CEO
CEO Christus Catholic Trust	Mrs J Seymour	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	Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes	Chair of TPHA
<i>Alternative Provision</i>	Name	Role
Olive AP	Mr M Vickers	CEO
<i>Special Schools</i>	Name	Role
Treetops Academy	Mr J Brewer	Headteacher
Beacon Hill Academy	Ms S 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 A Jones	
11-19 Representative	Mr S Bowak	

4.0 CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

NAME: Sarah Williams
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THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	17 November 2022
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23
REPORT OF:	David May
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG projected outturn position for 2022/23 is a break-even position, which will maintain the deficit at £1.705m.
- 1.2 The significant areas of financial risk are:
- Continued increase in demand for EHCP's; and
 - Sufficiency of local offer to prevent high-cost external placements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of the report and offer support and challenge.
- b) Agree to receive regular updates on the 2022/23 projected outturn position.

3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 To inform members of the Schools Forum of the projected outturn position in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2022/23, in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2022/23

- 4.1 The current projected outturn is a break-even position as shown below:

DSG 2022/23	Funding Settlement	Academy Recoupment	Funding Block Transfer	Final DSG	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	146.520	(140.961)	(0.700)	4.858	4.388	(0.470)
Central Services	1.688	0.000	0.000	1.688	1.646	(0.042)
High Needs	33.274	(6.500)	0.700	27.474	27.986	0.512
Early Years	12.880	0.000	0.000	12.880	12.880	0.000
Total	194.361	(147.461)	0.000	46.900	46.900	(0.000)

4.2 The outturn position reflects the following key areas:

- Schools Block – Pupil Growth, in line with projections, has an underspend of £0.470m.
- Central Services Block – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding.
- High Needs Block – An overspend of £0.512m. The overspend relates to post-16 funding and Out of Authority specialist placements.
- Early Year Block – As part of finalising the accounts an additional £0.625m funding has been calculated based on termly census data returns made to the ESFA in 2021/22. The final additional value of funding to be received has been confirmed by ESFA as £0.518m, a shortfall of £0.107m. It is expected this shortfall will be recovered through 2022/23 allocations.

Appendix A provides further detail in the key areas of expenditure.

5. DSG Reserve

- 5.1 The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.705m into 2022/23. No change to this is currently forecasted in 2022/23.
- 5.2 As a result of having a DSG deficit, a DSG management plan is required to be submitted to the ESFA that outlines actions to be taken to contain expenditure within the funding envelope provided. Thurrock is also part of the delivering better value in SEND programme, further information is provided below, with engagement in the programme likely to start in Spring 2023.

6. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 6.1 The information contained in this report and supporting documentation is being used to update the DSG Management Plan for 2022/23. A presentation will be made at the meeting on current and future years data and projections.

7. THE DELIVERING BETTER VALUE IN SEND (DBV) PROGRAMME

- 7.1 This new programme aims to support local authorities to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable. The programme will provide dedicated support and funding to 55 local authorities with less severe deficits than those in the Safety Valve programme.
- 7.2 Newton works as a transformation and improvement partner to local authorities and CIPFA is the local government accounting standard setter in the UK. Between them, they have worked with hundreds of public sector organisations, particularly local authorities, they have a comprehensive understanding of children's services and the SEND agenda, and have set out an approach that is:

- **Outcomes-focussed.** Both organisations have worked extensively alongside local authorities to transform how services are delivered. Their focus is always on improving resident outcomes and ways of working, and consequently sustainably improving financial performance.
- **Evidence-based,** data-driven and delivery-focussed. Newton and CIPFA take a partnership approach to working with local authorities to create robust plans which will have a measurable and sustainable difference, and as delivery partners understand the challenges associated with implementing change.
- **Rooted in co-production:** The organisations believe any programme of work needs to be co-produced, bespoke, and based on detailed evidence of each local area – balancing visibility and assurance with local autonomy to genuinely add value to existing work.

7.3 They will bring experience of working with local authorities to improve social care, alongside project management, change management, and analytical financial modelling capacity. With SEND practice advisers, they will support local authorities to engage with key stakeholders and conduct a comprehensive diagnostic process to identify the opportunities to reform their high needs systems. Alongside SEND advisers, they will also support local systems to create a local delivery plan to realise these opportunities to improve. The department will then work with local authorities to determine which identified reforms to fund and will provide small grants directly to local authorities to implement and embed these reforms.

7.4 Local stakeholder engagement will be vital to ensure everyone has fed into the plan and has bought into the outcomes the local area wants to achieve together. The DfE expect that local schools forums and Parent Carer Forums (PCFs) will be consulted as part of the Diagnostic phase.

8. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- School Forum meeting June 2022 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 and 2022/23
- School Forum Report 22-09-22 – DSG 2022-23

9. 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

Name: David May
Role: Strategic Lead, Corporate Finance
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Appendix A

<u>Dedicated Schools Grant</u>		<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
		<u>Outturn</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Variance</u>
		<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>Outturn</u>	<u>£m</u>
SB	Schools Block	139.593	145.819	145.350	(0.470)
CSSB	Central Services Block	1.504	1.688	1.646	(0.042)
HNB	High Needs Block	29.536	33.974	34.486	0.512
EYB	Early Years Block	12.745	12.880	12.880	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Settlement		183.379	194.361	194.361	(0.000)
Less Academy Recoupment		(140.680)	(147.461)	(147.461)	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant Received		(42.877)	(46.900)	(46.900)	0.000
(Under) / Overspend		(0.178)	(0.000)	0.001	(0.000)
SB	Maintained Schools Budgets	3.787	3.814	3.814	0.000
SB	Growth Fund	0.601	1.044	0.574	(0.470)
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Education	0.379	0.444	0.444	0.000
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Finance	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000
CSSB	School Place planning	0.029	0.027	0.027	0.000
CSSB	Admissions	0.190	0.280	0.238	(0.042)
CSSB	Schools Forum	0.006	0.010	0.010	0.000
CSSB	SACRE	0.017	0.010	0.010	0.000
CSSB	School Licences	0.131	0.137	0.137	0.000
CSSB	Contribution to Combined budgets	0.745	0.640	0.640	0.000
HNB	Place Funding	0.000	0.237	0.237	0.000
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	3.206	3.614	3.505	(0.109)
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.788	3.801	0.012
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.489	6.641	0.152
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.526	1.658	1.658	0.000
HNB	Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.103	1.300	1.359	0.059
HNB	Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.237	2.590	2.897	0.307
HNB	Pupils not in School	0.422	0.400	0.385	(0.015)
HNB	Medical Tuition	0.224	0.200	0.166	(0.034)
HNB	Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.400	1.400	0.000
HNB	Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.000	2.112	0.112
HNB	Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.123	0.000
HNB	Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.300	0.353	0.053
HNB	Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.050	0.030	(0.020)
HNB	Travellers Team	0.042	0.050	0.043	(0.007)
HNB	Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000
HNB	High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.000
EYB	3&4 Year old	10.531	10.724	10.736	0.012
EYB	2 year olds	1.696	1.697	1.697	0.000
EYB	Early Years Central Team	0.516	0.460	0.448	(0.012)
Dedicated Schools Grant		42.699	46.900	46.900	(0.000)

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 17 November 2022
SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24
REPORT OF: David May
THE REPORT IS: For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG 2022/23 is currently forecasting a break-even position.
- 1.2 The DSG deficit position would remain at £1.705m.
- 1.3 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. Officers have produced a High Needs Block Budget for 2023/24 reflecting the most up to date information available.
- 1.4 The report provides options, on School funding allocations to be considered alongside High Needs Block projections for 2023/24. It is a Schools Forum decision to determine if a contribution of up to 0.5% is to be made from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.
- 1.5 At the meeting a presentation will be made to work through the information contained in this report and to consider options available.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
 - a) Note the contents of the report and offer support and challenge.
 - b) Consider the 2023/24 information provided on both the Schools and High Needs Block financial position.
 - c) Agree to the increase in Band Values of 5% to be applied from September 2023.
 - d) Consider and approve if a transfer should be made from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2023/24.
 - e) Agree to receive finalised information based on decision made today at the January Schools Forum meeting.

3. FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

- 3.1 The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 20th July announced provisional funding allocations for 2023/24 through the schools, high needs and central school services funding blocks.
- 3.2 The Dedicated Schools Grant in 2023/24 will increase by an extra £1.5bn; on top of the £4billion increase in 2022/23.
- 3.3 The ESFA has updated the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2023/24 with new factor values and made some technical changes. Key changes are:
- Rolling the 2022/23 schools supplementary grant in the NFF by:
 - adding an amount representing what schools receive through the grant into their baselines
 - adding the value of the lump sum, basic per pupil rates and FSM6 parts of the grant onto the respective factors in the NFF
 - uplifting the minimum per pupil values by the supplementary grant's basic per-pupil values, and an additional amount which represents the average amount of funding schools receive from the FSM6 and lump sum parts of the grants
 - Increasing NFF factor values (on top of the amounts we have added for the schools supplementary grant) by:
 - 4.3% to FSM6 and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)
 - 2.4% to the basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), FSM, English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and sparsity factors, and the lump sum.
 - 0.5% to the floor and the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL). This will mean that, next year, every primary school will be allocated at least £4,405 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,715.
 - 0% on the premises factors, except for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which has increased by Retail Prices Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX) which is 11.2% for the year to April 2022
- 3.4 This means that the schools NFF is targeting a greater proportion of funding towards deprived pupils; 9.8% of the schools NFF will be allocated according to deprivation in 2023/24. In 2023/24, schools in the highest quartile of deprivation (measured by the percentage of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals over the past 6 years) will, on average, attract larger per-pupil funding increases than less deprived schools.
- 3.5 In 2023/24, each local authority will continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. The ESFA have confirmed, 2023/24 will also be the first year of transition to the "direct" schools NFF. The NFF policy document published sets out the requirements on local authorities to move their formulae closer to the NFF:
- In 2023/24 LAs will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae and must use all NFF factors.

- LAs will also be required to move their local formula factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2022/23, unless local formula is classed as mirroring the NFF.

- 3.6 The ESFA issued an early modelling version of the authority proforma tool (APT) to help decision-making and consultation with schools. This information has been presented to Schools in October and an update will be provided at the meeting.
- 3.7 Final DSG allocations will be published in December 2022. The final allocation will be updated to reflect the outcome of the October 2022 school census return.
- 3.8 The provisional settlement for Thurrock is shown below:

Dedicated Schools Grant	Funding Settlement 2022/23	Provisional Settlement 2023/24	Provisional Increase 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	146.520	154.321	7.801
Central School Services Block	1.688	1.617	(0.070)
High Needs Block	33.274	35.285	2.011
Early Years Block	12.880	12.880	0.000
Total	194.362	204.103	9.742
SB Growth Fund 2022/23 = £1.399m included in 2023/24 figure.			
SB Increase 5.32%			
CSSB - Includes 20% reduction to Historic Commitments (£0.130m)			
Early Years - No information released at this stage			

- 3.9 The High Needs Block increase in 2023/24 of £2.011m is welcome. However, the number and complexity of EHCP's continue to increase and future budgets will need to reflect the associated increase in costs.

4. Schools Block

- 4.1 In 2023/24, each local authority will continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. Thurrock's funding formula will implement the following principles:
- National Funding Formula including Area Cost Adjustment values to be applied.
 - Where this is unaffordable the Basic Entitlement value included, will be reduced to contain within the funding available. The reduction to be applied will be weighted, consistent with the distribution of funding between Primary and Secondary.
 - Growth fund to be retained to support sufficiency of school places.

These principles are consistent with those discussed with Schools in October and will be recommended for approval to Thurrock Cabinet in December 2022.

- 4.2 Included elsewhere in this report is the High Needs Block and key funding issues to be faced in 2022/23. In addition, in the last academic year, 82 children were included in the Schools Block autumn 2021 census moved to be funded from the High Needs Block without any transfer of funds.

- 4.3 It is the Schools Forum decision to transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans. This needs to be considered in both the context of the Schools Block, High Needs Block and the historic DSG deficit.

5. Central School Services Block

- 5.1 Officers continue to work through the detail of the 2022/23 budget and the impact of the 20% reduction in funding of historic commitments. Detailed information will be presented to the January meeting for School Forum approval.

6. High Needs Block

- 6.1 In 2023/24 High Needs Block funding has a provisional allocation of £35.285m, an increase of £2.011m. This section of the report identifies the financial implications for the financial year 2023/24.

- 6.2 The return to be made to the ESFA will increase commissioned numbers for the 2023/24 academic year to 801. The budget information however is based on 893 commissioned places reflecting an increased local offer in primary autism, and secondary SEMH provision as shown in the table below:

Institution Name	Institution Type	2021/22 Updated	2022/23 ESFA	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 ESFA	2023/24 Budget
LANSDOWNE PRIMARY ACADEMY	LD & SLCN	8	8	10	10	10
STANFORD-LE-HOPE PRIMARY SCHOOL	VI	5	5	5	5	5
ORTU CORRINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	Speech & Language	20	20	20	20	20
DILKES ACADEMY	SEMH	10	10	10	10	10
HARRIS ACADEMY CHAFFORD HUNDRED	SLCN & Autism	20	20	20	20	20
ST CLERE'S SCHOOL	HI / VI	17	17	17	17	17
ORMISTON PARK ACADEMY	SEMH	30	30	30	30	30
EAST TILBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL	Inclusion Base	10	10	10	10	10
THAMESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Inclusion Base	6	6	6	6	6
QUARRY HILL	SEMH	10	10	10	10	10
WARREN PRIMARY	HI	18	18	18	18	18
STIFFORD CLAYS	Autism	0	0	10	10	10
AVELEY	Autism	0	0	10	10	10
OLIVE AP ACADEMY - THURROCK	Alternative Provision	85	85	85	85	85
TREETOPS SCHOOL	Special Academy	318	318	318	318	318
TREETOPS FREE SCHOOL	Special Academy	60	100	147	147	147
BEACON HILL ACADEMY	Special Academy	75	75	75	75	75
ACADEMY	TOTAL	692	732	801	801	801
CHAFFORD HUNDRED PRIMARY	Nursery	3	3	3	3	3
STANFORD-LE-HOPE SCHOOL	Nursery	3	3	3	3	3
NEW SEMH PROVISION	Secondary	0	0	30	0	30
NEW AUTISM PROVISION	Primary	0	0	0	0	20
INCREASE TO PROVISION	Special	0	0	16	0	36
THURROCK	TOTAL	698	738	853	807	893

- 6.3 In 2023/24 it is proposed to increase the band values to be paid by 5% the maximum increase that can be afforded from the increase in funding received. Appendix A shows the proposed Band Values.

6.4 It is acknowledged that a further review of band values is required. However, this review needs to link with any outcomes from the Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme and further detail on the change to be implemented as part of the SEND and Alternative Provision Green paper.

6.5 The financial implications of both the increase in commissioned places and band values is shown in the table below:

Cost Implication	2022/23	2023/24
Resource Base	£4,872,735	£6,136,491
Special	£11,030,821	£13,425,437
AP	£2,476,610	£2,582,813
Commissioned Services	£1,123,167	£1,170,163
	£19,503,332	£23,314,903
Increase		£3,811,571

Change	2023/24	2023/24
New SEMH - Secondary	£900,000	
New Autism - Primary	£600,000	
Increase to Provision - Special	£1,332,000	£2,832,000
Increase to Band Values		£979,571
Total		£3,811,571

6.6 Out of Area Placements

The following tables consolidates all Out of Area Placements. Currently 222 pupils are placed outside of Thurrock, however 144 are in OLA maintained schools and academies. The remaining 88 are the main cost driver at an average of £63,000 per place.

FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	4-16 years		Over 16		Totals	
	No.	Cost	No.	Cost	No.	Cost
	2022/23		2022/23		2022/23	
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Day	109	1,243,931	35	543,585	144	1,787,516
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Residential	5	319,408	0	0	5	319,408
Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	14	1,167,953	10	528,720	24	1,696,673
Non-Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	39	2,297,389	10	574,861	49	2,872,250
Total	167	5,028,681	55	1,647,166	222	6,675,847

This has a significant cost implication and demonstrates that the long-term strategy of increasing the local offer with more resources bases and special school places is correct.

6.7 Movement into the High Needs Block

The table below shows the in-year movement between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block. DSG funding was provided through the Schools Block with no transfer to the High Needs Block. The minimum per pupil value has been used to determine the cost implication to the HNB. However, HNB placements will be significant more than the total shown.

In Year Movement	No	Cost	No	Cost	No	Total
Minimum Per Pupil Value		£4,405		£5,715		
Mainstream to Resource base	18	£79,290	7	£40,005	25	£119,295
Mainstream to Treetops	24	£105,720	24	£137,160	48	£242,880
Mainstream to Independent Special	2	£8,810	5	£28,575	7	£37,385
Mainstream to EHE	0	£0	2	£11,430	2	£11,430
Total	44	£193,820	38	£217,170	82	£410,990

- 6.8 The total implication for the High Needs Block Budget 2023/24 is shown in the table below:

Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	£m	£m	£m	£m
High Needs Block	28.092	33.274	33.274	35.285
Funding Block Transfer	0.873	0.700	0.700	0.000
Funding Settlement	28.965	33.974	33.974	35.285
Place Funding	0.000	0.237	0.237	0.000
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	5.606	6.500	6.500	7.306
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	3.206	3.614	3.505	2.818
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.788	3.801	5.080
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.489	6.641	8.025
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.526	1.658	1.658	1.733
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.143	1.300	1.359	1.300
Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.262	2.590	2.897	2.729
Pupils not in School	0.581	0.600	0.552	0.600
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.400	1.400	1.200
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.000	2.112	1.800
Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.123	1.170
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.300	0.353	0.300
Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.050	0.030	0.000
Travellers Team	0.042	0.050	0.043	0.050
Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600
High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.675
Contribution to DSG Deficit	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant	29.537	33.974	34.486	36.387
(Surplus) / Deficit	0.572	0.000	0.512	1.102

- 6.9 The table at this stage shows no transfer of funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. The School Forum are asked to consider any potential support to the High Needs Block.
- 6.10 The information presented shows expenditure exceeding budget available by £1.1million. Officers will continue to work through the detail and any changes will be included in the presentation to the Schools Forum.
- 6.11 At the meeting of the Schools Forum a presentation will be made showing the impact on the DSG management Plan in 2023/24 and beyond.

7. Early Years Block

- 7.1 Early Years funding is released as part of the final allocation of funding from the ESFA in December. This will be updated in Summer 2023 to reflect the January 2023 census.
- 7.2 Included in the 2021 budget and spending review was additional funding worth £160m in 2022/23, £180m in 2023/24 and £170m in 2024/25. This is for local authorities to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government's free childcare entitlement offers and reflects the costs of inflation and national living wage increases.
- 7.3 DfE will confirm the 2023-24 hourly funding rates for individual local authorities in due course, followed by the initial allocations in December.
- 7.4 It is expected that information will be presented for discussion at the January meeting of the Schools Forum. Following this briefing will be held with Early Year Providers.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of the report.
 - b) Consider options available, to be presented at the meeting, on the formula to be applied in 2023/24.
 - c) Agree to the increase in Band Values of 5% to be applied from September 2023.
 - d) Consider what support can be provided to the High Needs Block and if a transfer from the Schools Block is an option for 2023/24.

9. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

ESFA publication: [Pre-16 schools funding: local authority guidance for 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2023-to-2024)

10. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

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

Appendix A

THURROCK BAND VALUES 2023/24						
Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2022/23	Place Funding	TPG and TPECG	Top Up Funding	Band Value 2023/24
Special Schools & Academies	Special Band 1	£12,915	£10,000	£660	£2,368	£13,028
	Special Band 2	£14,606	£10,000	£660	£4,143	£14,803
	Special Band 3	£15,411	£10,000	£660	£4,988	£15,648
	Special Band 4	£35,464	£10,000	£660	£26,044	£36,704
	Special Band 5	£37,303	£10,000	£660	£27,975	£38,635
AP	AP Band 1	£29,827	£10,000	£660	£20,125	£30,785
Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2022/23	Place Funding	MPPG	Top Up Funding	Band Value 2023/24
Mainstream Schools & Academies with Specialist / Resource Provisions	Mainstream - Primary Band 1	£14,829	£6,000	£4,405	£4,792	£15,197
	Mainstream - Primary Band 2	£19,392	£6,000	£4,405	£9,583	£19,988
	Mainstream - Primary Band 3	£26,640	£6,000	£4,405	£17,194	£27,599
	Mainstream - Primary Band 4	£28,788	£6,000	£4,405	£19,449	£29,854
	Mainstream - Primary Band 5	£30,398	£6,000	£4,405	£21,140	£31,545
	Mainstream - Primary Band 6	£32,009	£6,000	£4,405	£22,831	£33,236
	Mainstream - Primary Band 7	£38,452	£6,000	£4,405	£29,596	£40,001
	Mainstream - Primary Band 8	£42,747	£6,000	£4,405	£34,106	£44,511
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 1	£14,746	£6,000	£5,715	£3,382	£15,097
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 2	£19,365	£6,000	£5,715	£8,232	£19,947
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 3	£26,558	£6,000	£5,715	£15,784	£27,499
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 4	£28,705	£6,000	£5,715	£18,039	£29,754
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 5	£30,316	£6,000	£5,715	£19,731	£31,446
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 6	£31,927	£6,000	£5,715	£21,422	£33,137
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 7	£38,369	£6,000	£5,715	£28,187	£39,902
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 8	£42,664	£6,000	£5,715	£32,696	£44,411
	Mainstream - Nursery	£34,360	£0	£0	£36,078	£36,078
Education Health and Care Plans Hourly Rate		£10				£10

Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2022 – 2023

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 17 January 2023</p>	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report & Presentation
	Growth Fund 2023/24
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Childcare Sufficiency
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23 - Standing
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 16 March 2023</p>	Thurrock Budget – Children’s Services
	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan – Decision
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Pupil Place Planning Review - Standing
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23 - Standing
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 22 June 2023</p>	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan - Decision
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Union Facility Time Annual Review
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23 - Standing

Schools Forum
Draft Minutes of Meeting held 23 July 2022 at 10am
Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Multi Academy Trusts

Catalyst Academies Trust

Harris Federation

ORTU Federation

Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust

The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)

Name

Mr T Parfett (Chair)

Mrs N Graham

Dr S Asong

Mr P Griffiths

Ms V Read

Secondary Voluntary Aided School

Grays Convent

Name

Mr P O'Hanlon

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy

Giffards Primary

Name

Mr E Caines

Mrs N Haslam-Davies

Infrastructure Groups

TASS

Name

Mr S Bell

Alternative Provision

Olive AP

Name

Ms Jo Gillman

Special Schools

Treetops Academy

Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mr J Brewer

Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members

0-5 EYFS Representative

11-19 Representative

Name

Mr A Melbourne

Miss C White

Also in Attendance:

Mrs Michelle Lucas

Mr Malcolm Taylor

Mr David May

Miss Sarah Williams

Miss Teresa Lydon

Assistant Director, Education Skills

Strategic Lead – Specialist

Provision/PEP

Strategic Lead – DSG and Schools

Service Manager, Education Support

Service

Clerk

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from Mr E Samuels, Mr M Vickers and Mr K Sadler who advised that Ms V Reid is attending in his place. Mr J Revell has left UPS and will be replaced by Miss C White. Mrs M Lucas advised she will be late joining the meeting as had to attend to an urgent matter.

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

i) The Forum agreed the agenda and time guide.

ii) Any Other Business – None

4. Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 and 2022/23

Mr D May advised that DSG reserve outturn position is a deficit of £1.705m. This is an overall improvement of £0.178m achieved through an improved in year position.

The significant areas of financial risk are:

- Continued increase in demand for EHCP's
- Sufficiency of local offer to prevent high-cost external placements; and
- Costs incurred in providing education for pupils not in school.

He advised that the Schools Block – Pupil Growth, in line with projections, has an underspend of £0.670m.

The Central Services Block – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding

The High Needs Block has an overspend of £0.571m, a reduction of £0.600m from that previously reported. This change relates to Post 16 funding, with the place funding element not being paid by Thurrock.

Mr D May advised that the final 2021/22 Early Year funding allocation will not be confirmed by ESFA until November 2022. He advised that as part of finalising the accounts an additional £0.625m funding has been calculated based on termly census data returns.

Mr D May presented a table showing the number of EHCP which he advised is forecast to increase. The projections are a linear forecast continuing the current increase in numbers.

The DSG has a carry forward deficit of £1.705m into 2022/23. As a result of this 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. In Spring 2023 the LA has been advised it will be Delivering Better

Value in SEND (DBV) programme and subject to external scrutiny and challenge on its use of the DSG-HNB.

Mr A Melbourne asked who the independent body is who will come and review the DSG. Mr D May advised that the EFSA have been out to tender to find a partner who will visit the Local Authority and scrutinise the High Needs Block to see if there are any options to help reduce this budget, who this will be is unknown at this stage. A meeting is expected with the ESFA to discuss the DSG management plan and HNB position within Thurrock.

As part of the Statement of Accounts the Local Authority is required to include a note within its accounts, which sets out how the DSG has been deployed in accordance with the regulations. The note sets out the position included in this report and will be included in returns to be made to ESFA on the use of the DSG and use of reserves.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members noted contents of the report and offered support and challenge
- b) All Forum members agreed the financial position for 2021/22 that will be included in returns to be made to the EFSA.
- c) All Forum members agreed to receive updates on 2022/23 projected outturn position.

5. Permanent Exclusions

Mrs M Lucas provided an update relating to the contribution to the education of permanently excluded children which was agreed by School Forum in March 2021. The report circulated also included the number of permanent exclusions in this academic year and an outline of the proposed contribution from each school for the 2022/23.

Mrs M Lucas commented that currently there is a significant overspend in home to school transport and asked the forum members to be mindful when situations arise where school transport is needed for these children. She commented that School Transport will be an item to discuss at a future meeting.

The Chair remarked that it is only the AWPU that follows the child when they are permanently excluded. Mr P Griffith commented that we should get some more information from Essex as they are changing their policy for permanent exclusions. He advised that the additional charge they have in place may not be the same in the future. The Chair commented it is useful to note what other LAs are doing. Dr Asong asked if Mr P Griffiths could give more information on this. Mr P Griffiths advised that they have paid a lot of money at their school in Brentwood when a child has been permanently excluded. The Chair advised it would be useful to get more information from other LAs.

Mr M Taylor advised that the number of children being moved to primary resource bases instead of being permanent excluded has kept the number of permanent exclusions low and because of this they do not have to pay the AWPU. The Inclusion panels also works to reduce the permanent exclusions using managed moves to avoid this.

Mr D May advised this is just a continuation of what is already in place but advised that Pupil Premium would also follow the child.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members approved the increase in the financial contribution from Schools from September 2022.

6. Union Facility Time

Mrs M Lucas advised that the attached report provides an annual update to the forum on the administration of Union Facility Time. The Forum requested for the administration of this service to be reviewed on an annual basis so that a decision could be made by members on whether they wished Thurrock Council to continue with the administration.

Mrs M Lucas advised that as we are in the same position as last year with £15,196.68, we do not need to ask for further contributions this year.

Thurrock Council administrates the Union Facility Time budget on behalf of all schools in Thurrock. The administration duties cover:

- design and management of claim forms along with guidance notes,
- managing and monitoring of the budget,
- reviewing claims for legitimacy,
- recording and raising debtors requests to charge all schools that have signed up to facility time,
- recording and raising creditor payments for claims received,
- reviewing and monitoring any changes to ACAS code of practice in relation to facility time
- updating documentation if and when required
- providing a reconciliation of the account to the Forum on an annual basis.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members agreed that the Local Authority continue to administer this scheme.
- b) All Forum members agreed that based on current surplus, no contributions were required for 2022/23.

7. EFSA Consultation – Implementing the Direct national Funding Formula (NFF)

Mr D May advised that the Government on the 7 June released Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula with responses required by 9 September 2022.

He advised that a summary of the Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula and consultation questions was included in his report. 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 9 September 2022.

He advised that in 2021 the Government held the first-stage consultation on the direct national funding formula (NFF) for schools: Fair school funding for all: completing reforms to the National Funding Formula. Following the feedback to that consultation, in March

2022 the Government published its response, which confirmed its commitment to introduce the direct NFF.

The first consultation on the direct NFF focused on the principle of moving to a direct formula, and proposals on how to transition towards this end point. Following the consultation, the Government have confirmed that they will begin moving towards the direct NFF from the 2023-24 funding year.

The consultation sets out proposals for:

- Interaction between direct NFF and high needs funding
- Determination of notional SEN budgets
- System for funding growth and falling rolls
- How the Minimum funding guarantee and funding floor will operate
- How the funding cycle should operate in the direct NFF

Mr D May advised that the Government expect to have moved to the direct NFF within the next five years and no later than the 2027-28 funding year.

Mr D May went through the 25 consultation questions as part of the Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula to agree his response with the Forum members.

Consultation Question 1:

Do you agree that local authorities' applications for transfers from mainstream schools to local education budgets should identify their preferred form of adjustment to NFF allocations, from a standard short menu of options?

Do you have any other comments on the proposals for the operation of transfers of funding from mainstream schools to high needs?

Response to Question 1:

The proposals are consistent with the current arrangements, made for transfer of funding between funding blocks above 0.5%.

Therefore, with a NFF understand why this is necessary for all transfers.

Business case required for justification and approval by Secretary of State.

Helpful to have short drop-down menu of options in the application process for consistency and transparency.

Mr Caines commented that we are making an agreement in the long term to take funding from schools to transfer to the High Needs Block. Mr D May advised this would allow us to make an application to the SoS to move funds. Mr E Caines advised this is what we have been doing for the last 5 years. On a moral level it is wrong that all school in a disadvantaged LA are having to pay out for the fact we have more special need needs in our area. Mr D May advised that anything above 0.5% currently needs SoS approval. Mr D May advised we need the mechanism to be able to move funds.

Mr M Taylor advised that part of the green paper talks about the SEND partnership changes which bring schools into the overall provision planning.

Consultation Question 2

Do you agree that the direct NFF should include an indicative SEND budget, set nationally rather than locally?

Response to Question 2:

For a number of years, in meetings with the ESFA, we have asked for a national notional SEND formula, to provide clarity and consistency throughout the country.

The proposals are consistent with the SEND and AP green paper and allow appropriate further consultation as required.

Consultation Question 3:

Do you have any comments on the proposals to place further requirements on how local authorities can operate their growth and falling rolls funding?

Response to Question 3:

This approach considers the feedback received and provides a workable solution. Criteria is currently set and agreed with the Schools Forum annually to provide transparency, agree transparency nationally is consistent with the direct NFF. Current policy follows the detail provided

in Schools revenue funding 2022/23 Operational guide

Consultation Question 4:

Do you believe that the restriction that falling rolls funding can only be provided to schools judged "Good" or "Outstanding" by Ofsted should be removed?

Response to Question 4:

The LA requires the ability to use all resources available to it to secure sufficiency of placements. This represents VFM for the school estate. If places are required in the future in the area, then all schools require access to falling rolls funding.

Consultation Question 5

Do you have any comments on how we propose to allocate growth and falling rolls funding to local authorities?

Response to Question 5:

- By updating the funding to be allocated from 2018/19 to 2023/24 spend and redistributing this nationally will penalise those LA's that need growth fund whilst still providing funding to those LA's who do not need it.
- In addition, by including new falling rolls criteria, this may further reduce the value to be received. What protection will be afforded to LA's who lose funding as a result of this change.

Consultation Question 6

Do you agree that the use of growth and falling rolls funding should be expanded to supporting local authorities in repurposing and removing space?

Response to Question 6:

Difficult to understand what would be possible as the Growth and Falling Rolls fund is planned to reduce in value. This will increase LA revenue responsibility whilst at the same time reducing the value of funding to be received.

Consultation question 7

Do you agree that the Government should favour a local, flexible approach over the national, standardised system for allocating growth and falling rolls funding; and that we should implement the changes for 2024-25?

Response to Question 7:

A local flexible approach is required to manage the increase in pupil growth. Clawback arrangements when faced with significant in year growth would create significant challenges to LA in fulfilling its statutory duty of sufficiency of school place. Changes can be implemented from 2024-25 with appropriate timeframe to consider and implement final policy to be applied.

Mr P Griffiths commented that although we may object to the clawback arrangement it will happen. They don't take the money from the school they just would not include it in your next budget.

Mr D May commented that the ESFA preferred option for growth is Option 1 with No clawback.

Consultation Question 8:

Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to popular growth?

Response to Question 8:

Application process needs to be extended and available to all schools, this is necessary to be consistent with the values and principles of the NFF.

Consultation Question 9: Do you agree we should allocate split site funding on the basis of both a schools' 'basic eligibility' and 'distance eligibility'?

Consultation Question 10: Do you agree with our proposed criteria for split site 'basic eligibility'?

Consultation Question 11: Do you agree with our proposed split site distance criterion of 500m?

Consultation Question 12: Do you agree with total available split sites funding being 60% of the NFF lump sum factor?

Consultation Question 13: Do you agree that distance eligibility should be funded at twice the rate of basic eligibility?

Consultation Question 14: Do you agree with our proposed approach to data collection on split sites?

Consultation Question 15: Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to split sites funding?

Response to Question 9 to 15:

Agree that the direct NFF requires a formulaic approach.

Existing arrangements will differ from LA to LA due to the uniqueness of each LFF, with a direct NFF this need to change.

The proposal is fair and transparent consistent with principles of NFF.

Agree that more weighting should be attributed to distance as this will reflect an increase in additional costs.

Data collection responsibility of LA working closely with its schools.

Consultation Questions 16: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the exceptional circumstances factor?

Consultation Question 17: Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to exceptional circumstances?

Response to Question 16 and 17: Agree with a more transparent and restricted process.

Consultation Question 18: Do you agree that we should use local formulae baselines (actual GAG allocations, for academies) for the minimum funding guarantee in the year that we transition to the direct NFF?

Response to Question 18: Yes, this approach would protect all schools and provide stability of funding when the direct NFF is implemented

Consultation Question 19: Do you agree that we should move to using a simplified pupil-led funding protection for the MFG under the direct NFF?

Consultation Question 20: Do you have any comments on our proposals for the operation of the minimum funding guarantee under the direct NFF?

Response to Question 19 and 20: Agree with proposals and simplification of MFG under the direct NFF.

Consultation Question 21: What do you think would be most useful for schools to plan their budgets before they receive confirmation of their final allocations: (i) notional allocations, or (ii) a calculator tool?

Consultation Question 22: Do you have any comments on our proposals for the funding cycle in the direct NFF, including how we could provide early information to schools to help their budget planning?

Mr D May asked which approach would be easier for all schools to follow so they have an idea what their budget would be.

Response to Question 21 and 22:

The Chair asked which one would be more accurate. Mr D May commented that they would also need to take into account the schools ability to be able to calculate their budget. Mr D May advised this is easier for MATs but do smaller schools have the expertise to do this.

The Chair asked for members to vote.

Option 1: No forum members voted for this.

Option 2: 11 members voted for this option and this will be put forward as the response

Mrs N Haslam-Davies commented that this this question should be asked of their business managers and feels they might have a view. She asked if they could have both. Mr D May intends to put this as part of his response. She asked if the idea of having a tool was to take this away from the Local Authority. Mr D May advised that the Local Authority would not be able to have any involvement in the future. Mr May advised that the schools would use this tool in the September after the children start as the schools would then know their numbers therefore would not have to wait until December after census.

Mr M Taylor asked from the LAs capacity would the LA be able to allocate funding for children going into schools the following year. They take into account the notional funding

at the moment. Mr D May advised they would receive this information in March. Mr P Griffith commented that this is a move back to grant maintained schools and as they are looking at this within the next ten years would this mean the school forum would no longer be needed. Mr D May advised that the role of the forum would change and reduce to the Growth Fund, High Needs and Early Years funding.

Question 23:

Do you have any comments on the two options presented for data collections in regard to school reorganisations and pupil numbers? When would this information be available to local authorities to submit to DfE?

Response to Question 23:

Option 2 would be preferred with data from October census available. The deadline of the first full week in January is achievable.

Question 24:

Regarding de-delegation, would you prefer the Department to undertake one single data collection in March covering all local authorities, or several smaller bespoke data collections for mid-year converters?

Response to Question 24:

No preference as N/A

Question 25:

Do you have any other comments on our proposals regarding the timing and nature of data collections to be carried out under a direct NFF?

Response to Question 25:

The only area of concern would be pupil growth, and this is dependent upon the outcomes of the consultation.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members notes the content of the presentation
- b) All Forum members considered and agreed appropriate response based on the presentation

8. Meeting dates for academic year 2022-2023

Ms S Williams proposed future meeting dates for the academic year provided below. All meetings are proposed to take place 10:00 to 12:00 on a Thursday except for the meeting in January which will take place on a Tuesday.

1. Thursday 22 September 2022
2. Thursday 17 November 2022
3. Tuesday 17 January 2023
4. Thursday 16 March 2023
5. Thursday 22 June 2023

AGREED

- a) All Forum members agreed the new proposed meeting dates/times for the next academic year 2022-23.

9. Education Skills National Drivers update

Mrs M Lucas advised that as part of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda there has been a significant number of announcements made in recent months. This paper is to provide an overview of these announcements to school's forum.

These national drivers are in the form of a White Paper, Green Paper, Act of Parliament, Policy Paper or guidance.

- Schools White Paper: Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child (28/03/2022)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Green Paper: Right support, right place, right time. (29/03/2022)
- The Skills and Post 16 Education Act (28/04/2022)
- Working together to improve school attendance guidance (06/05/2022)

Mrs M Lucas advised they are putting together a response. She is taking a lead role for the region in SEND. She would like some time at the Headteachers briefing in Sept as there are major changes coming for attendance.

Mrs M Lucas has taken these papers to Overview and Scrutiny. She has identified around the green paper that home to school transport is a real challenge. Mrs M Lucas asked all forum members to familiarise themselves with the content of these papers.

Action: Miss S Williams to distribute the papers to all members.

Introduction and Background:

Schools White Paper: Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child (28/03/2022)

Schools will identify children who need help, provide targeted support via a range of proven methods such as small group tuition, and keep parents informed about their child's progress.

The Schools White Paper sets out a series of new measures to support the delivery of these ambitions, including:

- Schools will offer a minimum school week of 32.5 hours by September 2023
- Ofsted will inspect every school by 2025, including the backlog of 'outstanding' schools that haven't been inspected for many years
- By 2030 all children will benefit from being taught in a school in, or in the process of joining, a strong multi-academy trust, which will help transform underperforming schools and deliver the best possible outcomes for children

- At least £100m to put the Education Endowment Foundation on a long-term footing so they can continue to evaluate and spread best practice in education across the country

SEND and AP Green Paper: Right support, right place, right time. (29/03/2022)

On March 29th 2022 the government launched their much anticipated SEND and Alternative Provision Review Green paper.

This outlines the changes they are proposing to improve the lives of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The review focuses on SEND alongside alternative provision and outlines some suggested key changes. These include:

- A desire to increase early intervention for children with SEND and introduce a single system combining SEND and alternative education provision.
- The creation of new national standards across education, health and care to build for a higher performing SEND system.
- A national framework for councils for banding and tariffs of high needs support to offer clarity on the level of support expected and try to put the system on a financially sustainable footing in the future.
- A legal duty on councils to introduce “local inclusion plans” across early years, schools and post-16 education with health and care services in a bid to provide greater clarity over which agency has responsibility for services.
- The creation of a “local inclusion dashboard” which will set out the role and responsibilities of partners offering provision for children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25.
- An updated Local Area SEND Inspection Framework from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will be used to hold local authorities to account over failures to create inclusion plans.
- Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP) to be moved online, to make them more flexible, reducing bureaucracy and supporting parents to make informed choices via a list of appropriate placements tailored to their child’s needs, meaning less time spent researching the right school.
- Plans to “streamline” the redress process which will mean tribunals will only be used for the most challenging cases.
- The green paper also puts forward a raft of proposals to improve mainstream provision for pupils with SEND based on plans highlighted in the recent schools white paper including a duty on all schools to part of a multi-academy trust by 2030 and plans to increase total investment in core schools budgets by £7bn by 2024/25. (CYP Now, 2022)

5.0 The Skills and Post 16 Education Act (28/04/2022)

The government’s purpose of the Bill

- To legislate for reforms that the government say will transform post-16 education and training, boost skills and get more people into work as set out in the government’s Skills for Jobs white paper.

- To deliver on the ambition to bring closer together the further and higher education systems.
- To support the Prime Minister's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, as part of the blueprint for a post-16 education system that will ensure everyone, no matter where they live or their background, can gain the skills they need to progress in work at any stage of their lives.
- To increase productivity, support growth industries and give individuals opportunities to progress in their careers.
- To put beyond doubt the Office for Students' ability to regulate in relation to minimum requirements for quality.

Working together to improve school attendance guidance (06/05/2022)

This is guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). This guidance is non-statutory, and has been produced to help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance. Following public consultation earlier this year, and subject to Parliament, the Secretary of State has committed to this guidance becoming statutory when parliamentary time allows (this will be no sooner than September 2023).

All local authorities are expected to:

- Rigorously track local attendance data to devise a strategic approach to attendance that prioritises the pupils, pupil cohorts and schools on which to provide support and focus its efforts on to unblock area wide barriers to attendance.
- Have a School Attendance Support Team which provides the following core functions free of charge to all schools (regardless of type):
- Communication and advice: regularly bring schools together to communicate messages, provide advice and share best practice between schools and trusts within the area.
- Targeting Support Meetings: hold termly conversations with schools, using their attendance data to identify pupils and cohorts at risk of poor attendance and agree targeted actions and access to services for those pupils.
- Multi-disciplinary support for families: provide access to early help support workers to work intensively with families to provide practical whole-family support where needed to tackle the causes of absenteeism and unblock the barriers to attendance.
- Legal intervention: take forward attendance legal intervention (using the full range of parental responsibility measures) where voluntary support has not been successful or engaged with.
- Monitor and improve the attendance of children with a social worker through their Virtual School.

Conclusion

As outlined in the paper we have a number of significant changes to the national education landscape. Thurrock has continued to develop its partnership approach with schools. The LA will continue to work in partnership to ensure that children and young people access high quality educational opportunities that give them the skills to move into careers pathways.

AGREED

- a) All Forum members recognised the amount of change and amendments to education over the next few years and the potential impact on budgets.

10. Free Schools Update

Miss S Williams advised that the Harrier free school to be situated in Aveley, Love Lane has been approved and will open in September 2023 with one reception class initially.

She advised that Orsett Heath has been delayed as original contractor went into administration. There are no definite timescales and currently they are using temporary accommodation.

Thames Park is all on track to open in September 2022. Mr P Griffiths advised that they should have handover in middle of August. Mr P Griffiths would like noted that the support from the Local Authority in getting the temporary accommodation behind South Essex College has been outstanding.

Mr J Brewer advised that the Treetop Free School should be finished on 27th July and will be ready for September.

11. Schools' Forum Forward Plan

Miss S Williams shared the forward plan. All forum members were happy with this plan.

12. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th March 2022

The Chair went through the minutes of the previous meeting for accuracy. All governors were happy with the content.

Miss S Williams asked that they review the Action log in the next academic year.

13. Matters Arising –

Actions outstanding:

Action 1: Mrs A Winstone to look at where children with EHCPs are moving in from and look at any trends.

Action 2: Miss S Williams to send out to all members a copy of the principals for expansion.

Action 3: Mrs A Winstone to share with Miss S Williams where children with EHCPs move to after Year 11

Action 4: Mr M Taylor to discuss changes to the wording in previous minutes with Mr T Parfett

Action 5: Mr D May and Mr M Taylor to review the Band values in 2022/23

Action 6: Miss S Williams to look at Post 16 Data

Action 7: Miss S Williams to discuss with Mrs A Winstone figures on children with disabilities

Action 8: Miss S Williams to speak to Mrs A Winstone about figures for children being educated at home

Action 9: Miss S Williams to keep outcomes for disadvantaged children as an agenda item

Action 10: Miss S Williams to add discussed items at the meeting to the forward plan

14. Any Other Business

None

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday 22 September 2022 at 10am – Virtual via MS Teams

AGENDA ITEM: 9Thurrock Borough Council
Schools Forum 17th November 2022

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action details	Action Owner	Action or Decision	Action Status	Update
17th March 2022	Item 4 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/22 and 2022/23	Mr D May and Mr M Taylor to review the Band values in 2022/23	D May and M Taylor	Action	Open	Information included in reports presented to forum on 17th November 2022
17th March 2022	Item 9 - Pupil Place Planning Review	Miss S Williams to look at Post 16 Data	Sarah Williams	Action	Open	To be included as part of future PPP review
17th March 2022	Item 9 - Pupil Place Planning Review	Miss S Williams to discuss with Mrs A Winstone figures on children with disabilities	Sarah Williams	Action	Open	There are 115 children where Physical disability is named as their category of need on their EHCP. There is also a category of 'Other' disability and there are 28 children in that category.
17th March 2022	Item 9 - Pupil Place Planning Review	Miss S Williams to speak to Mrs A Winstone about figures for children being educated at home	Sarah Williams	Action	Open	There are currently 304 children on the EHE list