

Thurrock Schools' Forum

17 January 2023, 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 S Proctor
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 A 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 Vice Chair verbal update by Sarah Williams	10:05am
5.	Dedicated Schools Grant – finance report and presentation presented by David May	10:10am
6.	Growth fund 2023/24 presented by Sarah Williams and David May	11:10am
7.	Childcare Sufficiency presented by Andrea Winstone	11:15am
Items for information		
8.	Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds presented by Andrea Winstone	11:25am
9.	Schools' Forum Forward Plan presented by Sarah Williams	11:30am
Closing items		
10.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 November 2022	11:35am
11.	Action log	11:40am
12.	Matters arising	11:45am
13.	Any other business	11:50am
12.	Next meeting Thursday 16 March 2023 – virtual meeting	

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 17 January 2023

SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 and 2023/24

REPORT OF: David May

THE REPORT IS: For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG 2022/23 current forecast is a break-even position, which will maintain the deficit at £1.705m.
- 1.2 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 are finalising a High Needs Block Budget for 2023/24 reflecting the most up to date information available.
- 1.3 The report provides details of the settlement information for 2023/24 released by Department for Education on 16 December 2022.
- 1.4 Officers continue to work through the detail. At the meeting a presentation will be made on all key issues and decisions required to finalise the 2023/24 DSG budget

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, High Needs Block and Early Years financial position.
 - c) Make decisions at the meeting based on information presented.

3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2022/23 PROJECTED OUTTURN

3.1 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	4.181	(0.677)
Central Services	1.688	0.000	0.000	1.688	1.613	(0.075)
High Needs	32.662	(6.500)	0.700	26.862	27.614	0.752
Early Years	12.880	0.000	0.000	12.880	12.880	0.000
Total	193.750	(147.461)	0.000	46.288	46.288	0.000

3.2 The outturn position reflects the following key areas:

- Schools Block – Pupil Growth, in line with projections, has an underspend of £0.677m.
- Central Services Block – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding.
- High Needs Block – An overspend of £0.752m. The overspend relates to increased demand for EHCP's, Specialist and Post-16 placements.

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

4. DSG Reserve

4.1 The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.705m. No change is currently forecasted in 2022/23.

4.2 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.

4.3 Thurrock is also part of the delivering better value in SEND programme, that aims to support LA's 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. Thurrock is in Wave 3 with an expected start in Summer 2023.

5. DSG Management Plan 2022/23

5.1 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.

5.2 The DSG Management Plan 2022/23 was discussed at the School Forum November meeting, an updated version will be presented at the March meeting.

6. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2023/24

6.1 On 16 December, the Secretary of State for Education announced details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2023/24, as shown in the table below:

Dedicated Schools Grant	Funding Settlement 2022/23	Funding Settlement 2023/24	Funding Increase 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	146.520	156.834	10.314
Central School Services Block	1.688	1.633	(0.055)
High Needs Block	32.662	36.714	4.052
Early Years Block	12.880	13.679	0.799
Total	193.750	208.859	15.109

6.2 The ESFA has updated the Schools, 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).

6.3 The High Needs Block increase in 2023/24 of £4.052m 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.

6.4 The increase to the Early Years Block reflects the increase in numbers following return to pre-covid levels. The funding allocation for 2023/24 will be based on Jan-23 Census (5/12) and Jan-24 Census (7/12). An increase in census will increase the funding to be received.

7. MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS ADDITIONAL GRANT 2023/24

- 7.1 The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023/24 financial year, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021.
- 7.2 In the 2023/24 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) 2023 to 2024. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula. Thurrock's indicative allocation is £5.399m. This will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2024/25.
- 7.3 School-level allocations will be published in May 2023 and will show the total funding allocated for the 2023/24 financial year. Conditions of grant will be published alongside the school-level allocations. Payments will be made in June 2023 and October 2023.
- 7.4 Schools will have the flexibility to prioritise their spending of the MSAG to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures.
- 7.5 The funding rates consist of the following 3 elements, which are based on factors already in the schools national funding formula:
- a basic per-pupil rate (with different rates for primary, KS3 and KS4)
 - a lump sum paid to all schools, regardless of pupil numbers
 - a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils
 - Area cost adjustment (ACA) will be applied
- 7.6 The base funding rates will be:
- a basic per-pupil rate of £119 for primary pupils, including pupils in reception
 - a basic per-pupil rate of £168 for key stage 3 pupils
 - a basic per-pupil rate of £190 for key stage 4 pupils
 - a lump sum of £4,510
 - an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £104 per eligible primary pupil
 - an FSM6 per-pupil rate of £152 per eligible secondary pupil
 - Thurrock's ACA is 1.03845 which will be applied to the above rates

High Needs

- 7.7 In addition to the MSAG, local authorities have been allocated £400 million additional high needs funding for 2023/24, on top of their high needs national funding formula allocations. This is included in the HNB allocation of £36.714m.
- 7.8 In the 2023/24 financial year, local authorities must allocate 3.4% per place for mainstream Special schools and AP academies. Consistent with previous years this will be added to band values for the academic year 2023/24 with a one-off grant paid for the period April to August 2023.

8. Schools Block

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The Schools Forum at its meeting held on the 17 November 2022 agreed to the transfer of up to 0.5% (up to £0.780m), the maximum amount allowed, from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans. The transfer also reflects, that during the 2021/22 academic year, 82 children who were included in the Schools Block autumn 2021 census moved to be funded from the High Needs Block without any transfer of funds.
- 8.3 The Growth Fund received by Thurrock is £1.336m, a decrease of £0.063m from that received in 2022/23. Officers have calculated that the following growth fund is required in 2023/24:

Pupil Growth 2023/24	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2023/24	Funding Per Pupil 2023/34	Total Cost 2023/24
Primary - Central Area	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	120.0	£3,436	£412,320
Primary - Tilbury Planning Area	120	Yr 1,3,4,5	70.0	£3,436	£240,520
Primary - Aveley/Ockendon/Purfleet	60	R, Yr2	47.5	£3,436	£163,210
Secondary	144	Yr 7	84.0	£4,845	£406,980
	444		322		£1,223,030
				Growth Fund - Agreed 2022/23 Summer Term	£167,046
				Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,390,076
				ESFA Growth Fund Allocation	£1,336,258

- 8.4 The final APT and Schools budgets 2023/24 are still being compiled. This detailed information will be presented at the meeting.

9. Central School Services Block

- 9.1 Officers continue to work through the detail of the 2023/24 budget and the impact of the 20% reduction in funding of historic commitments. Detailed information will be presented at the meeting.

10. High Needs Block

10.1 In 2023/24 the High Needs Block funding allocation is £36.714m, an increase of £4.052m. This section of the report identifies the financial implications for the financial year 2023/24.

10.2 The return made to the ESFA increased commissioned numbers for the 2023/24 academic year to 801. The budget information however is based on 894 commissioned places reflecting an increased local offer in primary autism, and secondary SEMH provision as shown in the table below:

Thurrock Commissioned Places	2022/23 ESFA	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 ESFA	2023/24 Budget
Nursery - Chafford Hundred	0	3	0	3
Nursery – Stanford-le-hope	0	3	0	3
Primary - Lansdowne - LD & SLCN	8	10	10	10
Primary - Stanford-le-Hope - VI	5	5	5	5
Primary - ORTU Corringham - Sp & Lang	20	20	20	20
Primary - Dilkes Primary - SEMH	10	10	10	10
Primary – Quarry Hill - SEMH	10	10	10	10
Primary – Warren - HI	18	18	18	18
Primary – Stifford Clays - Autism	0	10	10	10
Primary - Aveley - Autism	0	10	10	10
Primary – East Tilbury - Inclusion Base	10	10	10	10
Primary – Thameside - Inclusion Base	6	6	6	6
Primary - New Autism provision	0	0	0	20
Secondary - Harris Chafford Hundred - SLCN & Autism	20	20	20	20
Secondary – St Clere’s - HI & VI	17	17	17	17
Secondary – Ormiston Park - SEMH	30	30	30	30
Secondary - New SEMH provision	0	30	0	30
Secondary - New Autism provision	0	0	0	0
RESOURCE BASES	154	212	176	232
Special - Treetops	318	318	318	318
Special - Treetops Free	100	147	147	147
Special - Beacon Hill	75	75	75	75
Special - Increase - September	0	16	0	36
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	493	556	540	576
Alternative Provision - Olive	85	85	85	85
THURROCK	732	853	801	893

10.3 In 2023/24 the proposal is to increase all Top Up values and the EHCP hourly rate by 5%.

10.4 In addition, for the 2023/24 financial year, local authorities must allocate 3.4% per place to Special and AP academies. In the financial year 2023/24 this will be paid as grant to be paid in 2 instalments, April to August 2023, to be paid in June 2023 and September to March 2024, to be paid in October 2023.

10.5 The band values to be paid, academic year 2023/24, are shown in Appendix B.

10.6 The grant to be paid for the financial year 2023/24 is shown below:

Institution Name	Total	Jun-23	Oct-23
TREETOPS SCHOOL - Special Academy	£216,185	£90,077	£126,108
TREETOPS FREE SCHOOL - Special Academy	£107,249	£44,687	£62,562
BEACON HILL ACADEMY - Special Academy	£88,634	£36,931	£51,703
OLIVE AP ACADEMY - THURROCK - Alternative	£82,297	£34,291	£48,007
Total	£494,365	£205,985	£288,379

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

Commissioned Places	2022/23	2023/24
Resource Base	212	232
Special	556	576
AP	85	85
Total	853	893

Cost Implication	2022/23	2023/24
Resource Base	£4,872,735	£6,204,220
Special	£11,030,821	£13,837,504
AP	£2,476,610	£2,665,111
	£18,380,166	£22,706,834
Increase		£4,326,668

This is an increase of £4.327m further explained in the table below:

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		£1,494,668
Total		£4,326,668

10.8 A 5% uplift is also proposed for the High Needs Block Outreach services for 2023/24, consistent with the increase in top up values. The table below shows the values to be paid in the Academic Year:

Commissioned Services		4.25%	5%
<u>Academy</u>	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Osbourne Trust - HI/VI - Outreach	£350,200	£365,000	£383,250
Treetops - Portage	£259,200	£270,000	£283,500
Treetops - Outreach	£309,000	£322,000	£338,100
Beacon Hill - Outreach	£185,400	£180,000	£189,000
School Wellbeing Service	£50,000	£50,000	£0
Total Commissioned Services	£1,153,800	£1,187,000	£1,193,850
Academic Year Impact - Increase applied from September each year			

10.9 Out of Borough Placements

The following tables consolidates all Out of Area Placements.

FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	4-16 years		Over 16		Totals	
	No.	Cost 2022/23	No.	Cost 2022/23	No.	Cost 2022/23
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Day	96	1,078,630	36	552,048	132	1,630,678
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Residential	5	319,408	0	0	5	319,408
Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	15	1,215,312	10	479,705	25	1,695,017
Non-Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	41	2,378,716	10	883,408	51	3,262,124
Total	157	4,992,067	56	1,915,161	213	6,907,228
2021/22 Financial Implications	143	3,931,728	92	2,033,876	235	5,965,604

This has a significant cost implication and demonstrates that the long-term strategy of increasing the local offer will achieve increased value for money and sustainability. The table below shows the change in numbers and cost for the financial year 2022/23:

FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	4-16 years		Over 16		Totals	
	No.	Cost 2022/23	No.	Cost 2022/23	No.	Cost 2022/23
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Day	1	11,144	(36)	13,906	(35)	25,050
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Residential	3	156,138	0	0	3	156,138
Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	(1)	185,327	(2)	(583,761)	(3)	(398,434)
Non-Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	11	707,728	2	451,140	13	1,158,868
Total	14	1,060,338	(36)	(118,715)	(22)	941,623

10.10 Officers continue to work through the detail of the 2023/24 High Needs Block budget. Detailed information will be presented at the meeting of the School Forum for approval.

11. Early Years Block

11.1 In addition to the previously announced £180m for the early years entitlements in 2023/24, the DfE has made available an additional £20m funding.

11.2 Local authorities will receive average funding increases of 3.4% for the 3-and 4-year-old free childcare entitlements and 4% for the 2-year-old entitlement, compared to their 2022-23 rates. In line with the protections policy set out in the Government response document, all local authorities will benefit from at least a 1% increase in their funding rates in 2023-24, with increases for some up to 4.9% for 3- and 4-year-olds, and up to 10% for 2-year-olds.

11.3 The following information has been received from the ESFA for 2023/24.

Early Years Block 2023/24	Numbers	(£ Hr)	£m	£m
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	2,946	£5.10	8.563	
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	1,118	£5.10	3.251	
2 year old entitlement funding	494	£6.09	1.714	13.527
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.068	0.068
Disability Access Fund			0.084	0.084
Total Early Years Block			13.679	13.679

11.4 This reflects an increase in the hourly rate for 2-year-olds of 6p per hour (a 1% increase) and 3- and 4-year-olds of 24p per hour (a 5% increase). Officers are working through the detail and considering options that will be presented at the meeting.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 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.
- c) Make decisions at the meeting based on information presented.

13. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

ESFA publication: [National funding formula for schools and high needs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs)

14. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

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

THURROCK BAND VALUES 2023/24

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2022/23	Place Funding	TPG and TPEG	Top Up Funding 2023/24	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				£10.50

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 19 January
SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24
REPORT OF: Strategic Lead Finance
THE REPORT IS: For Information

1. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2023/24

1.1 A presentation was made to the Schools Forum on Tuesday 17th January on the Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24. Details can be found at: [Thurrock Schools' Forum](#)

Growth Fund

1.2 At the meeting Mr P Griffiths commented on the Growth Fund and the number of pupils at each school. He advised that the number of pupils intended to be admitted to Thames Park School should be 180 not 120 from September 2023.

1.3 Officers have considered the impact of this on both the APT to be submitted to the ESFA by 20 January 2023 and on the retained Schools Block retained Growth Fund.

APT Impact

1.4 Inclusion of the additional 60 pupils at Thames Park from September 2023 has a cost implication of £213,876. There are no other Schools or Academies impacted by this change.

1.5 Within the Schools Block the following decisions are agreed and therefore fixed:

- The APT implements the formula agreed by Cabinet in December
- The transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block has been agreed and is required to deliver a balanced High Needs budget.

1.6 The only option available to balance within the funding available, is to reduce the retained growth fund value of £1,390,076.

Retained Growth Fund

1.7 The School Forum agreed a retained growth fund for 2023/24 as shown below:

Pupil Growth 2023/24	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2023/24	2023/24 MFG Per Pupil	Total Cost 2023/24
Central Area	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	120.0	£3,436	£412,320
Tilbury Pioneer / Gateway	120	Yr 1,3,4,5	70.0	£3,436	£240,520
Harrier Free School	30	R	17.5	£3,436	£60,130
Bonnygate / Sommers Heath Secondary	30		30.0	£3,436	£103,080
	<u>144</u>	Yr 7	<u>84.0</u>	£4,845	<u>£406,980</u>
	444		322		£1,223,030
					Growth Fund - Agreed 2022/23 Summer Term £167,046
					Growth Fund Retained by LA £1,390,076
					ESFA Growth Fund Allocation £1,336,258

1.8 The new reduced Growth Fund for 2023/24 is £1,176,200.

1.9 Officers will continue to review the growth fund requirements and the 2022/23 outturn position to consider how the gap of £213,876 can be funded or mitigated.

2. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

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

Appendix A

Dedicated Schools Grant		2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24
		Outturn	Budget	Outturn	Variance	Budget
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
SB	Schools Block	139.593	145.819	145.143	(0.677)	156.091
SB	Central Services Block	1.504	1.688	1.613	(0.074)	1.632
CSSB	High Needs Block	29.536	33.362	34.113	0.751	37.456
HNB	Early Years Block	12.745	12.880	12.880	0.000	13.679
EYB	Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Settlement	183.379	193.749	193.749	0.000	208.858
	Less Academy Recoupment	(140.680)	(147.461)	(147.461)	0.000	(157.387)
	Dedicated Schools Grant Received	(42.877)	(46.288)	(46.288)	0.000	(51.471)
	(Under) / Overspend	(0.178)	(0.000)	(0.000)	0.000	0.000
	Maintained Schools Budgets	3.787	3.814	3.814	0.000	4.018
SB	Growth Fund	0.601	1.044	0.367	(0.677)	1.390
SB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Education	0.379	0.444	0.444	0.000	0.473
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Finance	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.176
CSSB	School Place planning	0.029	0.027	0.027	0.000	0.027
CSSB	Admissions	0.190	0.280	0.205	(0.074)	0.300
CSSB	Schools Forum	0.006	0.010	0.010	0.000	0.010
CSSB	SACRE	0.017	0.010	0.010	0.000	0.015
CSSB	School Licences	0.131	0.137	0.137	0.000	0.154
CSSB	Contribution to Combined budgets	0.745	0.640	0.640	0.000	0.477
CSSB	Place Funding	0.000	(0.000)	0.000	0.000	0.602
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	3.206	3.449	3.438	(0.012)	3.600
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.788	3.745	(0.044)	4.948
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.279	6.532	0.254	8.261
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.526	1.658	1.658	0.000	1.815
HNB	Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.103	1.300	1.415	0.115	1.448
HNB	Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.237	2.590	2.779	0.189	3.193
HNB	Pupils not in School	0.422	0.400	0.441	0.041	0.500
HNB	Medical Tuition	0.224	0.200	0.195	(0.005)	0.000
HNB	Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.400	1.400	0.000	0.990
HNB	Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.000	2.121	0.121	1.454
HNB	Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.123	0.000	1.185
HNB	Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.300	0.419	0.119	0.400
HNB	Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.050	0.030	(0.020)	0.030
HNB	Travellers Team	0.042	0.050	0.043	(0.007)	0.050
HNB	Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	0.000	1.600
HNB	High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.000	0.675
HNB	3&4 Year old	10.531	10.724	10.724	0.000	11.475
EYB	2 year olds	1.696	1.697	1.709	0.012	1.714
EYB	Early Years Central Team	0.516	0.460	0.448	(0.012)	0.490
EYB	Dedicated Schools Grant	42.699	46.288	46.288	0.000	51.471

THURROCK BAND VALUES 2023/24

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2022/23	Place Funding	TPG and TPECG	Top Up Funding 2023/24	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				£10.50

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

LA Name:

Thurrock

 LA Number:

883

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level	Disapplication number where alternative MPPF values are used
£4,405.00	£5,503.00	£6,033.00	£5,715.00	

Pupil Led Factors

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00						
	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,436.39		17,492.50		£60,111,052	£117,641,289	38.87%	2.50%		
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,844.76		6,830.00		£33,089,711		21.40%	2.50%		
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£5,460.35		4,476.00		£24,440,527		15.80%	2.50%		
2) Deprivation	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)	
	FSM	£498.46	£498.46	3,953.53	2,583.95	£3,258,648	£16,583,385	10.72%	0.00%	0.00%	
	FSM6	£732.11	£1,069.60	4,330.37	3,075.40	£6,459,750			100.00%	100.00%	
	IDACI Band F	£238.84	£347.88	3,645.22	2,383.18	£1,699,699			25.00%	25.00%	
	IDACI Band E	£290.77	£462.11	2,635.62	1,526.52	£1,471,769			25.00%	25.00%	
	IDACI Band D	£456.92	£643.84	1,710.28	1,086.70	£1,481,119			25.00%	25.00%	
	IDACI Band C	£498.46	£706.15	943.21	505.18	£826,875			25.00%	25.00%	
	IDACI Band B	£529.61	£758.07	942.22	649.55	£991,411			25.00%	25.00%	
	IDACI Band A	£695.76	£965.76	309.70	184.97	£394,113			25.00%	25.00%	
						Total			Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£602.30		2,406.82		£1,449,628	£2,118,387	1.17%	0.00%		
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,625.17		220.43	£358,245			0.00%	0.00%	
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£981.34	£1,412.29	210.37	73.69	£310,514		0.20%	0.00%	0.00%	
6) Low prior attainment	Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)	
	Primary low prior attainment		£1,199.41	26.20%	4,582.34	£5,496,106	£9,691,608	6.27%	100.00%		
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	54.47%		21.03%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	64.53%		19.83%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	64.53%	£1,817.29	19.82%	2,308.66	£4,195,502					100.00%
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	64.53%		19.32%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)	63.59%		22.20%							

Other Factors

Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	
7) Lump Sum	£132,921.60	£132,921.60			£7,044,845	4.56%	0.00%	0.00%
8) Sparsity factor	£58,464.74	£85,049.06	£85,049.06	£85,049.06	£58,465	0.04%	25.00%	25.00%

Rows 45 to 48 are populated with the NFF methodology, please leave this as is if you wish to follow the NFF. As per the Operational Guidance, the distance thresholds can be increased or the year group size thresholds decreased and the distance threshold taper is optional. An alternative method of allocation to the NFF's average year group size taper can be chosen: the continuous taper (Tapered) or fixed sum (Fixed). Examples of each are provided in the Operational Guidance.

Primary distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Primary pupil number average year group threshold	21.40	Apply primary distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity primary lump sum?	NFF	
Secondary distance threshold (miles)	3.00	Secondary pupil number average year group threshold	120.00	Apply secondary distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity secondary lump sum?	NFF	
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Middle school pupil number average year group threshold	69.20	Apply middle school distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity middle school lump sum?	NFF	
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	All-through pupil number average year group threshold	62.50	Apply all-through distance taper	Yes	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity all-through lump sum?	NFF	
9) Fringe Payments							£0	0.00%
10) Split Sites							£0	0.00%
11) Rates							£754,174	0.49%
12) PFI funding							£0	0.00%

13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)

Circumstance	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)	
Exceptional Circumstance	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total) £153,892,153 99.51%

14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level £760,613 0.49% 100.00%

Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)	£154,652,766	100.00%	
15) Minimum Funding Guarantee	0.50%	£48,422	
	Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)	Notional SEN (%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)	£48,422	0.03%	0.00%
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£154,701,188		£21,583,866
Additional funding from the high needs budget	£0.00		
Growth fund (if applicable)	£1,390,076.00		
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)	£0.00		
Other Adjustment to 22-23 Budget Shares	£0		
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)	£156,091,264		
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement	76.07%		
% Pupil Led Funding	94.43%		
Primary: Secondary Ratio	1 :	1.35	
23-24 NFF NNDR allocation	£754,174		
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding) after deduction of 23-24 NFF NNDR allocation	£155,337,090		

Schools Indicative funding allocations 2023/24									
School Name	NOR Oct-21	NOR Oct-22 (+ APT Growth)	NOR change	Budget 2022/23	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Change	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget	
Total	28,424	28,799	375	£144,196,253	£153,947,014	£9,750,761	5.68%	£21,583,866	
Abbots Hall Primary School	306	336	30	£1,320,827	£1,519,850	£199,022	15.07%	£172,510	
Arthur Bugler Primary School	421	419	(2)	£1,795,565	£1,846,836	£51,271	2.86%	£246,217	
Aveley Primary School	430	412	(18)	£1,991,537	£1,980,458	(£11,079)	(0.56%)	£314,638	
Belmont Castle Academy	648	652	4	£2,777,092	£2,968,338	£191,247	6.89%	£413,535	
Benyon Primary School	327	368	41	£1,525,589	£1,812,981	£287,392	18.84%	£266,559	
Bonnygate Primary School	408	408	0	£1,837,099	£1,946,500	£109,400	5.96%	£265,588	
Bulphan Church of England Academy	76	66	(10)	£421,051	£444,103	£23,052	5.47%	£34,969	
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	209	206	(3)	£1,064,709	£1,099,210	£34,501	3.24%	£171,410	
Deneholm Primary School	414	416	2	£1,801,199	£1,920,098	£118,898	6.60%	£268,365	
Dilkes Academy	449	478	29	£1,994,036	£2,218,879	£224,844	11.28%	£308,937	
East Tilbury Primary School	666	679	13	£2,878,245	£3,118,414	£240,169	8.34%	£427,477	
Giffards Primary School	438	407	(31)	£1,904,231	£1,870,981	(£33,250)	(1.75%)	£272,212	
Graham James Primary Academy	415	423	8	£1,769,975	£1,883,326	£113,351	6.40%	£244,016	
Harrier Primary Free School	0	18	18	£0	£202,881	£202,881		£5,456	
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	628	627	(1)	£2,678,420	£2,761,935	£83,515	3.12%	£401,720	
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	926	989	63	£3,949,390	£4,356,545	£407,155	10.31%	£619,778	
Herringham Primary Academy	402	403	1	£1,912,296	£2,062,265	£149,969	7.84%	£345,665	
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	204	203	(1)	£954,518	£1,018,786	£64,268	6.73%	£118,535	
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	200	201	1	£872,149	£925,171	£53,022	6.08%	£94,948	
Kenningtons Primary Academy	399	376	(23)	£1,768,784	£1,766,812	(£1,972)	(0.11%)	£240,559	
Lansdowne Primary Academy	610	619	9	£3,015,254	£3,297,416	£282,162	9.36%	£646,766	
Little Thurrock Primary School	618	603	(15)	£2,635,770	£2,660,473	£24,703	0.94%	£342,530	
Orsett Church of England Primary School	205	205	0	£900,505	£930,877	£30,371	3.37%	£88,529	
Ortu Corringham Primary School	420	409	(11)	£1,791,300	£1,806,592	£15,292	0.85%	£234,284	
Purfleet Primary Academy	552	558	6	£2,551,198	£2,764,302	£213,105	8.35%	£431,862	
Quarry Hill Academy	420	422	2	£1,900,973	£2,020,056	£119,082	6.26%	£299,821	
Shaw Primary Academy	406	411	5	£1,844,050	£1,977,326	£133,276	7.23%	£265,302	

Schools Indicative funding allocations 2023/24									
School Name	NOR Oct-21	NOR Oct-22 (+ APT Growth)	NOR change	Budget 2022/23	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Change	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget	
Total	28,424	28,799	375	£144,196,253	£153,947,014	£9,750,761	5.68%	£21,583,866	
Somers Heath Primary School	416	397	(19)	£1,906,976	£1,910,553	£3,576	0.19%	£282,026	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	203	199	(4)	£923,069	£959,200	£36,131	3.91%	£116,498	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	210	206	(4)	£1,049,079	£1,096,057	£46,979	4.48%	£130,566	
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	615	603	(12)	£2,622,975	£2,660,839	£37,864	1.44%	£328,104	
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	396	391	(5)	£1,723,342	£1,799,751	£76,410	4.43%	£247,126	
Stifford Clays Primary School	598	597	(1)	£2,550,470	£2,680,604	£130,134	5.10%	£407,126	
Thameside Primary School	789	802	13	£3,689,127	£3,922,133	£233,005	6.32%	£686,502	
The Gateway Primary Free School	414	401	(13)	£2,058,823	£2,122,443	£63,620	3.09%	£391,814	
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	432	431	(1)	£2,101,559	£2,234,408	£132,849	6.32%	£375,020	
Tudor Court Primary School	738	701	(37)	£3,150,321	£3,095,196	(£55,125)	(1.75%)	£471,871	
Warren Primary School	411	408	(3)	£1,752,915	£1,797,240	£44,325	2.53%	£239,061	
West Thurrock Academy	401	415	14	£1,756,514	£1,924,771	£168,257	9.58%	£251,322	
Woodside Academy	631	628	(3)	£2,691,215	£2,777,281	£86,066	3.20%	£375,949	
Grays Convent High School	641	643	2	£3,814,422	£4,017,763	£203,341	5.33%	£451,627	
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	994	1,008	14	£5,494,960	£5,848,659	£353,698	6.44%	£571,856	
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,181	1,191	10	£7,193,108	£7,586,368	£393,260	5.47%	£1,030,094	
Harris Academy Riverside	801	887	86	£4,796,702	£5,594,498	£797,797	16.63%	£748,524	
Ormiston Park Academy	656	686	30	£4,263,659	£4,651,775	£388,116	9.10%	£740,006	
Orsett Heath Academy	309	350	41	£1,868,568	£2,174,239	£305,671	16.36%	£268,602	
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,130	1,121	(9)	£6,646,287	£6,911,704	£265,417	3.99%	£886,041	
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	573	620	47	£3,606,995	£4,098,622	£491,627	13.63%	£617,972	
St Clere's School	1,361	1,358	(3)	£8,083,509	£8,480,098	£396,589	4.91%	£1,146,461	
Thames Park Secondary School	306	432	126	£1,881,931	£2,780,057	£898,126	47.72%	£381,529	
The Gateway Academy	1,072	1,069	(3)	£7,131,523	£7,550,547	£419,023	5.88%	£1,328,156	
The Hathaway Academy	705	716	11	£4,472,212	£4,764,866	£292,653	6.54%	£711,858	
William Edwards School	1,244	1,225	(19)	£7,110,228	£7,325,933	£215,705	3.03%	£855,965	

Schools Forum January 2023

David May

Email: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24

Aims of Presentation

- Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23
- Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24
- Schools Block & Thurrock Funding Formula
- Central Services Block
- High Needs Block
- Early Years
- Next Steps

DSG Projected Outturn 2022/23

- The DSG 2022/23 is currently forecasting a breakeven position.
- Appendix A, within papers circulated, provides further detail
- The DSG deficit would remain at £1.705m
- The HNB remains the area of significant financial risk with an projected overspend of £0.752m. The key area is the continued increase in the number of EHCP's, Specialist and Post-16 placements.

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	4.181	(0.677)
Central Services	1.688	0.000	0.000	1.688	1.613	(0.075)
High Needs	32.662	(6.500)	0.700	26.862	27.614	0.752
Early Years	12.880	0.000	0.000	12.880	12.880	0.000
Total	193.750	(147.461)	0.000	46.288	46.288	0.000
Total number of EHCPs by provision type						
Jan	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Mainstream schools or academies	619	670	798	821	876	824
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	86	95	109	105	116	212
Maintained special schools or special academies	361	291	373	382	440	576
NMSS or independent schools	28	29	37	42	56	74
Hospital schools or Alternative Provision	4	5	10	9	6	8
Post 16	192	390	210	228	220	242
Other	41	58	124	174	164	164
Total number of EHCPs by placement type	1,331	1,538	1,661	1,761	1,878	2,100
% Annual Increase		16%	8%	6%	7%	12%

DSG Projected Outturn 2022/23

- **DECISION**
- The Schools Forum is recommended to:
 - a) Note the outturn position and offer support and challenge.
 - b) Agree the financial position for 2022/23.
 - c) Agree to receive regular updates on the 2022/23 projected outturn position.

DSG 2023/24

Dedicated Schools Grant Funding 2023/24

- On 16 December, the Secretary of State for Education announced details of the DSG allocations for 2023/24:

Dedicated Schools Grant	Funding Settlement 2022/23	Funding Settlement 2023/24	Funding Increase 2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	146.520	156.834	10.314
Central School Services Block	1.688	1.633	(0.055)
High Needs Block	32.662	36.714	4.052
Early Years Block	12.880	13.679	0.799
Total	193.750	208.859	15.109

- Schools Block includes 2022/23 Supplementary Grant
- High Needs Block includes additional funding 2023/24 to reflect inflationary pressures
- Early Years Block received minimum increase with no additional funding received

Schools Block

Schools Block Funding Change 2023/24

Schools Block			2023/24	2022/23
Schools Block (Previous Year)			146.520	140.936
School Supplementary Grant 2022/23		4.382		
Increase in Funding 2023/24		3.402		
Increase in Premises factor 2023/24		<u>0.018</u>	7.802	3.728
Increase in Pupil Numbers	2023/24	28,621		
	2022/23	<u>28,224</u>		
		<u>397</u>	2.575	2.214
Decrease in Growth Fund	2023/24	1.336		
	2022/23	1.399	(0.063)	10.314
Schools Block			156.834	146.520

Key changes in 2023/24

The ESFA has updated the Schools, National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2023/24 with new factor values and made some technical changes.

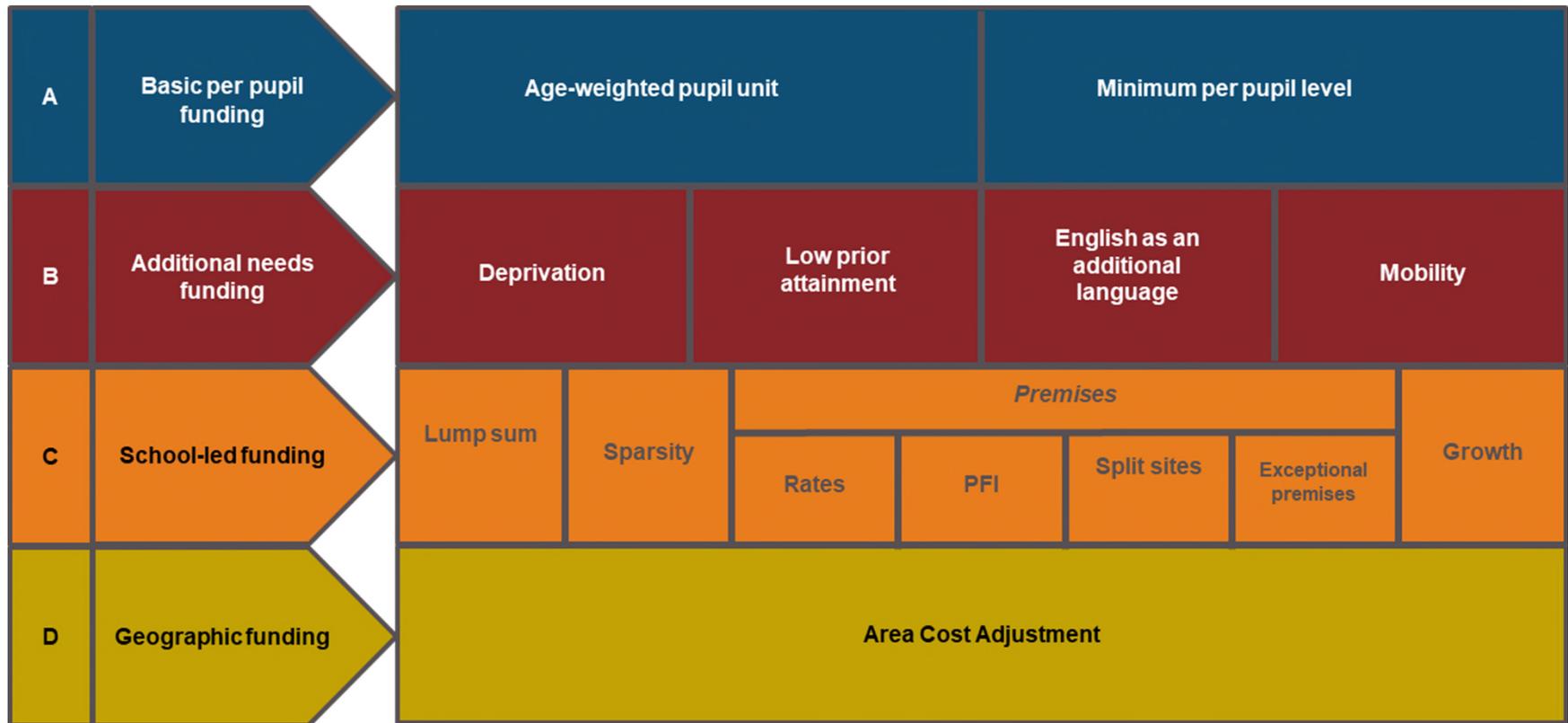
Key changes are:

- Rolling the 2022/23 schools supplementary grant in the NFF
- NFF factor values have increased 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.

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

The schools national funding formula

- The schools NFF comprises of 14 factors



Formula Factor Values

	Thurrock 2022/23		NFF +ACA 2023/24		2023/24 APT Min		Thurrock 2023/24	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Minimum Per Pupil	£4,264	£5,525	£4,405	£5,715	£4,405	£5,715	£4,405	£5,715
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 3		£5,321		£5,503		£5,503		£5,503
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 4		£5,831		£6,033		£6,033		£6,033
Primary *	£3,326		£3,524		£3,436		£3,436	
KS 3*		£4,690		£4,969		£4,845		£4,845
KS 4*		£5,286		£5,600		£5,460		£5,460
FSM	£470	£470	£498	£498	£482	£482	£498	£498
FSM6	£590	£865	£732	£1,070	£712	£1,040	£732	£1,070
IDACI Band F	£220	£320	£239	£348	£231	£337	£239	£348
IDACI Band E	£270	£425	£291	£462	£282	£448	£291	£462
IDACI Band D	£420	£595	£457	£644	£443	£624	£457	£644
IDACI Band C	£460	£650	£498	£706	£483	£684	£498	£706
IDACI Band B	£490	£700	£530	£758	£513	£734	£530	£758
IDACI Band A	£640	£890	£696	£966	£674	£935	£696	£966
EAL	£565	£1,530	£602	£1,625	£583	£1,625	£602	£1,625
Prior Attainment	£1,130	£1,710	£1,199	£1,817	£1,161	£1,817	£1,199	£1,817
Mobility	£925	£1,330	£981	£1,412	£950	£1,412	£981	£1,412
Lump Sum	£121,300	£121,300	£132,922	£132,922	£128,774	£132,922	£132,922	£132,922
Sparsity	£0	£0	£58,465	£85,049	£7,084	£10,314	£58,465	£85,049
Area Cost Adjustment	1.034		1.03845		1.03845		1.03845	
Notional SEN Allocation	£19,392,395						£21,583,866	
DSG Schools Block			£156,833,736		£156,833,736		£156,833,736	
NNDR			(£754,174)		(£754,174)		(£754,174)	
Transfer to HNB			(£750,000)		(£750,000)		(£742,472)	
Growth Fund			(£1,395,501)		(£1,395,501)		(£1,390,076)	
Budget Available			£153,934,061		£153,934,061		£153,947,014	
Cost implication			£155,534,966		£152,909,566		£153,947,014	
Variance			£1,600,905		(£1,024,495)		(£0)	

- Growth fund included in the Funding Formula**

APT Growth 2023/24		Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth Cfwd. 2022/23	Growth New 2023/24	Total 2023/24	Estimated Cost 2023/24
P	Harrier	30	R	0	17.5	17.5	£77,088
P	Abbotts Hall	30	R	12.5	17.5	30	£132,150
P	Benyon	30	R	12.5	17.5	30	£132,150
P	Dilkes	30	Yr 1	12.5	17.5	30	£132,150
S	Thames Park	120	Yr 7	50	70	120	£685,800
Total		240		87.5	140	227.5	£1,159,338

- Growth Fund required 2023/24**

Pupil Growth 2023/24	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2023/24	Funding Per Pupil 2023/34	Total Cost 2023/24
Primary - Central	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	120.0	£3,436	£412,320
Primary - Tilbury Plan	120	Yr 1,3,4,5	70.0	£3,436	£240,520
Primary - Aveley/Ocke	60	R, Yr2	47.5	£3,436	£163,210
Secondary	144	Yr 7	84.0	£4,845	£406,980
	<u>444</u>		<u>322</u>		<u>£1,223,030</u>
				Growth Fund - Agreed 2022/23 Summer Term	£167,046
				Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,390,076
				ESFA Growth Fund Allocation	£1,336,258

Transfer from Schools to High Need Block

- SF Nov-22 approved the transfer to HNB of £0.742m; 0.47% of the 2023/24 Schools Block allocation.
- Used to support increased demand for specialist placements and Education, Health and Care Plans.
- Ongoing discussions required on both the level of funding required to support the HNB and actions that can be taken to reduce demand.
- The Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme – Summer 23 will support options available

Thurrock - Schools Funding Formula 2022/23

- NFF including ACA values have been applied except for the Basic Entitlement values
- Basic Entitlement values have been increased by the minimum increase required.
- Confirmed growth included in formula
- Retained growth £1.390m
- HNB contribution of £0.742m (0.47%)
- Notional SEN %ages (next slide) consistent with 2022/23

Schools Block – Notional SEN 2023/24

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Basic Entitlement	2.5%	2.5%
FSM	0%	0%
FSM6	100%	100%
IDACI Band A - F	25%	25%
EAL	0%	0%
Mobility	0%	0%
Low Attainment - Primary	100%	100%
Low Attainment - Secondary	100%	100%
Sparsity	n/a	25%
Additional to meet minimum per pupil funding	100%	100%
Notional SEN Value	£19,392,395	£21,583,866
Schools Block Formula	£144,932,539	£153,947,014
% Notional SEN / Schools Block Formula	13.38%	14.02%

Thurrock Funding Formula - Summary

- Next Slides (2) – School Level detail
- Provisional 2023/24 funding allocations
- Funding Formula to be returned to ESFA by 20 January
- ESFA approval before funding allocations can be confirmed as final.
- Schools will need to consider careful known change in pupil numbers and impact on funding to be received.
- Key principle is that funding follows the child with no protection afforded to reduction in pupil numbers.

Schools Indicative funding allocations 2023/24

School Name	NOR Oct-21	NOR Oct-22 (+ APT Growth)	NOR change	Budget 2022/23	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Change	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
Total	28,424	28,799	375	£144,196,253	£153,947,014	£9,750,761	5.68%	£21,583,866
Abbots Hall Primary School	306	336	30	£1,320,827	£1,519,850	£199,022	15.07%	£172,510
Arthur Bugler Primary School	421	419	(2)	£1,795,565	£1,846,836	£51,271	2.86%	£246,217
Aveley Primary School	430	412	(18)	£1,991,537	£1,980,458	(£11,079)	(0.56%)	£314,638
Belmont Castle Academy	648	652	4	£2,777,092	£2,968,338	£191,247	6.89%	£413,535
Benyon Primary School	327	368	41	£1,525,589	£1,812,981	£287,392	18.84%	£266,559
Bonnygate Primary School	408	408	0	£1,837,099	£1,946,500	£109,400	5.96%	£265,588
Bulphan Church of England Academy	76	66	(10)	£421,051	£444,103	£23,052	5.47%	£34,969
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	209	206	(3)	£1,064,709	£1,099,210	£34,501	3.24%	£171,410
Deneholm Primary School	414	416	2	£1,801,199	£1,920,098	£118,898	6.60%	£268,365
Dilkes Academy	449	478	29	£1,994,036	£2,218,879	£224,844	11.28%	£308,937
East Tilbury Primary School	666	679	13	£2,878,245	£3,118,414	£240,169	8.34%	£427,477
Giffards Primary School	438	407	(31)	£1,904,231	£1,870,981	(£33,250)	(1.75%)	£272,212
Graham James Primary Academy	415	423	8	£1,769,975	£1,883,326	£113,351	6.40%	£244,016
Harrier Primary Free School	0	18	18	£0	£202,881	£202,881		£5,456
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	628	627	(1)	£2,678,420	£2,761,935	£83,515	3.12%	£401,720
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	926	989	63	£3,949,390	£4,356,545	£407,155	10.31%	£619,778
Herringham Primary Academy	402	403	1	£1,912,296	£2,062,265	£149,969	7.84%	£345,665
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	204	203	(1)	£954,518	£1,018,786	£64,268	6.73%	£118,535
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	200	201	1	£872,149	£925,171	£53,022	6.08%	£94,948
Kenningtons Primary Academy	399	376	(23)	£1,768,784	£1,766,812	(£1,972)	(0.11%)	£240,559
Lansdowne Primary Academy	610	619	9	£3,015,254	£3,297,416	£282,162	9.36%	£646,766
Little Thurrock Primary School	618	603	(15)	£2,635,770	£2,660,473	£24,703	0.94%	£342,530
Orsett Church of England Primary School	205	205	0	£900,505	£930,877	£30,371	3.37%	£88,529
Ortu Corringham Primary School	420	409	(11)	£1,791,300	£1,806,592	£15,292	0.85%	£234,284
Purfleet Primary Academy	552	558	6	£2,551,198	£2,764,302	£213,105	8.35%	£431,862
Quarry Hill Academy	420	422	2	£1,900,973	£2,020,056	£119,082	6.26%	£299,821

Schools Indicative funding allocations 2023/24

School Name	NOR	NOR Oct-22 (+ APT Growth)	NOR	Budget 2022/23	Indicative Budget 2023/24	Change	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
Total	28,424	28,799	375	£144,196,253	£153,947,014	£9,750,761	5.68%	£21,583,866
Shaw Primary Academy	406	411	5	£1,844,050	£1,977,326	£133,276	7.23%	£265,302
Somers Heath Primary School	416	397	(19)	£1,906,976	£1,910,553	£3,576	0.19%	£282,026
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	203	199	(4)	£923,069	£959,200	£36,131	3.91%	£116,498
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	210	206	(4)	£1,049,079	£1,096,057	£46,979	4.48%	£130,566
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	615	603	(12)	£2,622,975	£2,660,839	£37,864	1.44%	£328,104
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	396	391	(5)	£1,723,342	£1,799,751	£76,410	4.43%	£247,126
Stifford Clays Primary School	598	597	(1)	£2,550,470	£2,680,604	£130,134	5.10%	£407,126
Thameside Primary School	789	802	13	£3,689,127	£3,922,133	£233,005	6.32%	£686,502
The Gateway Primary Free School	414	401	(13)	£2,058,823	£2,122,443	£63,620	3.09%	£391,814
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	432	431	(1)	£2,101,559	£2,234,408	£132,849	6.32%	£375,020
Tudor Court Primary School	738	701	(37)	£3,150,321	£3,095,196	(£55,125)	(1.75%)	£471,871
Warren Primary School	411	408	(3)	£1,752,915	£1,797,240	£44,325	2.53%	£239,061
West Thurrock Academy	401	415	14	£1,756,514	£1,924,771	£168,257	9.58%	£251,322
Woodside Academy	631	628	(3)	£2,691,215	£2,777,281	£86,066	3.20%	£375,949
Grays Convent High School	641	643	2	£3,814,422	£4,017,763	£203,341	5.33%	£451,627
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	994	1,008	14	£5,494,960	£5,848,659	£353,698	6.44%	£571,856
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,181	1,191	10	£7,193,108	£7,586,368	£393,260	5.47%	£1,030,094
Harris Academy Riverside	801	887	86	£4,796,702	£5,594,498	£797,797	16.63%	£748,524
Ormiston Park Academy	656	686	30	£4,263,659	£4,651,775	£388,116	9.10%	£740,006
Orsett Heath Academy	309	350	41	£1,868,568	£2,174,239	£305,671	16.36%	£268,602
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,130	1,121	(9)	£6,646,287	£6,911,704	£265,417	3.99%	£886,041
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	573	620	47	£3,606,995	£4,098,622	£491,627	13.63%	£617,972
St Clere's School	1,361	1,358	(3)	£8,083,509	£8,480,098	£396,589	4.91%	£1,146,461
Thames Park Secondary School	306	432	126	£1,881,931	£2,780,057	£898,126	47.72%	£381,529
The Gateway Academy	1,072	1,069	(3)	£7,131,523	£7,550,547	£419,023	5.88%	£1,328,156
The Hathaway Academy	705	716	11	£4,472,212	£4,764,866	£292,653	6.54%	£711,858
William Edwards School	1,244	1,225	(19)	£7,110,228	£7,325,933	£215,705	3.03%	£855,965

Schools Additional Grant 2023/24

- The autumn 2022 spending review confirmed £2 billion additional funding for schools and high needs, for the 2023/24 financial year.
- School-level allocations will be published in May 2023 and will show the total funding allocated for the 2023/24 financial year.
- Conditions of grant will be published alongside the school-level allocations.
- Payments will be made in June 2023 and October 2023.

Thurrock Indicative Additional Grant 2023/24	
2023/24 School Additional Grant - Indicative Allocation	£5.399m
The following base funding rates will be paid:	
Primary: Basic per-pupil rate, including pupils in reception	£119
KS3: Basic per-pupil rate	£168
KS4: Basic per-pupil rate	£190
Lump Sum	£4,510
Primary - FSM6 per eligible pupil	£104
Secondary - FSM6 per eligible pupil	£152
Area Cost Adjustment will be applied to the above rates	1.03845

Grants 2023/24

- Pupil Premium
 - Eligible Pupils determined by October 22 Census

Pupil eligibility criteria	Primary 2022-23	Secondary 2022-23	Primary 2023-24	Secondary 2023-24
Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years (including eligible children of families with no recourse to public funds)	£1,385	£985	£1,455	£1,035
Pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care	£2,410	£2,410	£2,530	£2,530
Children who are looked after by the local authority	£2,410	£2,410	£2,530	£2,530

- No announcements on any other specific grants for 2023/24

School Block – Decision Required

- To confirm agreement to the transfer of 0.47% £0.742m from the Schools Block to High Need Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and EHCP's in 2023/24.
- To confirm agreement to the retention of £1.390m to fund in year growth in 2023/24.

Central Schools Services Block

Central School Services Block

- The central school services block (CSSB) was created from the DSG funding that was held centrally by the local authority.
- Statutory and Regulatory duties include: Planning for the education service, S151 Officer's responsibilities, Formulation and review of schools funding formula, Admissions, and Schools Forum.
- Historic Commitments relate to Historic Pension Costs and contribution to combined budgets. A 20% year on year reduction has been applied from 2020/21 – 2023/24 a reduction of £0.135m.

Central School Services Block	2023/24
CSSB Unit of Funding	£38.76
CSSB Pupil Count	28,620.50
Funding for Historic commitments	£523,469
Total Central School Services Block	£1,632,800

Central School Services Block

Central School Services Block	Budget 2022/23 £m	Budget 2023/24 £m
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Education <i>Including: Director of children's services; Planning for the education service as a whole; Function in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools; School Attendance; Excluded Pupils; Responsibilities regarding the employment of children</i>	£0.444	£0.473
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Finance <i>Including: Revenue budget preparation, information and external audit relating to education; Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula; Administration of grants; Task related to LA Section 151 responsibilities under LGA 1972</i>	£0.140	£0.176
School Place Planning	£0.027	£0.027
School Admissions	£0.280	£0.300
Servicing of Schools forum	£0.010	£0.010
SACRE	£0.010	£0.015
School Licensing	£0.137	£0.155
Contribution to Combined budgets	£0.640	£0.477
Total DSG - Central Services Block	£1.688	£1.633

Central School Services Block Decision Required

- To agree the use of the Central School Services Block budget of £1.633m in 2023/24.

High Needs Block

High Needs Block 2023/24

High Needs Block	2023/24 £m
National Funding Formula 2023/24	33.165
Import / Export Adjustments	(1.254)
	<hr/>
	31.911
Basic Entitlement (542 Pupils @ £4,879.84)	2.645
Additional Funding Special Free School	0.573
Teachers pay/pension and Supplementary funding	0.062
	<hr/>
	35.191
Additional High Needs Allocation @ 4.59%	1.523
Total High Need Block before deductions	36.714

High Needs Block 2023/24

- Thurrock has received an increase of £4.052m.
- Key areas:
 - Projected Outturn 2022/23 is a deficit of £0.752m.
 - Continued Year on Year Increase in EHCP's
 - Significant increase in Commissioned Numbers
 - Increase in Band Values from Sept-23
 - Requirement to pay Additional Grant to Special and AP providers
- DSG Management Plan 2022/23 – Discussed Nov-22 and to be updated for Mar-23 meeting
- School Forum March-23
 - Update the Schools Exclusion policy, for 2023/24 funding values.
 - Consider the current Equipment Policy
 - Home Tuition Costs and options
 - Split placements and funding implications
 - Consider alternative placement costs

HNB 2023/24 - Increase to EHCP's

Number of EHCP's by Placement Type

Jan	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Mainstream schools or academies	821	876	804	833	850	887
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	105	116	232	242	252	252
Maintained special schools or special academies	382	440	576	596	616	616
NMSS or independent schools	42	56	74	72	62	62
Hospital schools or Alternative Provision	9	6	8	8	8	8
Post 16	228	220	242	265	288	311
Other	174	164	164	164	164	164
Total number of EHCPs by placement type	1,761	1,878	2,100	2,180	2,240	2,300
% Annual Increase	6%	7%	12%	4%	3%	3%

Projected Data

Number of EHCPs by Primary Need

Jan	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change %
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	478	531	626	653	673	690	30%
Hearing Impairment	36	35	35	35	35	35	0%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	323	330	364	383	399	413	25%
Multi- Sensory Impairment	3	4	4	4	4	4	0%
Physical Disability	106	105	105	105	105	105	0%
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	14	17	17	17	17	17	0%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	332	343	387	401	407	420	23%
Speech, Language and Communications needs	358	411	453	474	491	507	23%
Severe Learning Difficulty	34	31	31	31	31	31	0%
Specific Learning Difficulty	23	19	19	19	19	19	0%
Visual Impairment	21	20	20	20	20	20	0%
Other Difficulty/Disability	33	32	39	39	39	39	22%
SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total number of EHCPs by primary need	1,761	1,878	2,100	2,180	2,240	2,300	22%

DSG HNB – Commissioned Places 2023/24

- The long term strategy is to:
 - increase the local offer and reduce the number of out of area placements.
 - deliver improved outcome for young people
 - deliver improved value for money
- In 2022/23 Thurrock commissioned 732 places for pupils in special schools and specialist settings.
- In 2023/24 the commissioned numbers with the ESFA will increase to 801, this reflects known confirmed growth.
- The 2023/24 budget figure is higher at 893 reflecting further developments needed to increase the local offer.

Thurrock Commissioned Places 2021-22 to 2023/24

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

Thurrock Band Values 2023/24 – Sept-23

A 5% uplift has been applied to Top Up funding.

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2022/23	Place Funding	TPG and TPECG	Top Up Funding 2023/24	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				£10.50

Projected increase in cost of Resource Bases, Special Schools and AP Provision 2023/24

Cost Implication	2022/23	2023/24
Resource Base	£4,872,735	£6,204,220
Special	£11,030,821	£13,837,504
AP	£2,476,610	£2,665,111
	£18,380,166	£22,706,834
Increase		£4,326,668

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		£1,494,668
Total		£4,326,668

HNB Additional Grant to Special and AP Providers

- In 2023/24 financial year, local authorities must allocate 3.4% per place to Special and AP academies, based on the place funding of £10,000 per place plus the average top-up funding they pay for a pupil placement in financial year 2022/23, using the total number of places being funded in academic year 2022/23.
- In the financial year 2023/24 this will be paid as grant to be paid in 2 instalments, April to August 2023, to be paid in June 2023 and September to March 2024, to be paid in October 2023.

Institution Name	Total	Jun-23	Oct-23
TREETOPS SCHOOL - Special Academy	£216,185	£90,077	£126,108
TREETOPS FREE SCHOOL - Special Academy	£107,249	£44,687	£62,562
BEACON HILL ACADEMY - Special Academy	£88,634	£36,931	£51,703
OLIVE AP ACADEMY - THURROCK - Alternative	£82,297	£34,291	£48,007
Total	£494,365	£205,985	£288,379

Draft High Needs Block Budget 2023/24

Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Budget
	£m	£m
High Needs Block	32.662	36.714
Funding Block Transfer	0.700	0.742
Funding Settlement	33.362	37.456
Place Funding	0.000	0.602
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	6.500	6.704
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	3.438	3.600
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	3.745	4.948
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	6.532	8.261
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.658	1.815
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.415	1.448
Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.779	3.193
Pupils not in School	0.636	0.500
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.400	0.990
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	2.121	1.454
Commissioned Services	1.123	1.185
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.419	0.400
Home Hospital Education Services	0.030	0.030
Travellers Team	0.043	0.050
Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600
High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675
Contribution to DSG Deficit	0.000	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant	34.113	37.456
(Surplus) / Deficit	0.751	(0.000)

High Needs Block Decision Required

- To agree the increase in band values for 2023/24 to be applied from September 2023
 - Top Up Values increased by 5%
 - Hourly Rate increased by 5%
- To agree the High Needs Block Budget of £37.456m in 2023/24.

Early Years Block

Early Years 2023/24

Dedicated schools grant: Indicative 2023 to 2024 Early years block allocations	2023/24	%	2023/24
Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from EYNFF 2022/23			£4.77
Maintained Schools Teachers Pay and Pension Grants	£0.09		
Change per Hour	£0.24	5.03%	£0.33
Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from EYNFF 2023/24			£5.10
Number for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)			2,945.72
Indicative funding allocation for universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds			£8,563,209
Number for 3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents			1,118.21
Indicative funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible			£3,250,637
Hourly rate for 2 year olds from EYNFF 2022/23			£6.03
Change per hour	£0.06	1.00%	£0.06
Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)			£6.09
Number for 2 year old entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)			493.64
Indicative funding allocation for 2 year old entitlement			£1,713,573
Indicative funding allocation for early years pupil premium			£67,652
Funding allocation for disability access fund			£83,628
Total early years block			£13,678,699

Key Changes for 2023-24

- Update the data underpinning Early Years funding formulae
 - Mainstream the early years element of the teachers' pay and pensions grants into the 3 and 4- year-old entitlement funding and MNS supplementary funding.
This funding is currently provided as a separate grant;
 - Apply new year-to-year protections to local authority funding rates for 2023-24, to help local markets manage the changes caused by this, and future updates;
 - Create a fairer distribution of maintained nursery school supplementary funding across all authorities.
- The key impact within Thurrock are:
- ✓ Minimal increases to hourly funding rates
 - ✓ Implication from mainstreaming the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant

Teachers Pay and Pension Grant

- Local Authorities indicative 2022/23 teachers pay and pension grant funding has been included within the DSG EY allocation 2023/24.
- No element of this funding is ring-fenced. Two options available:
 1. Continue to target the funding to Schools and Academies by introducing a Quality factor at 25p per hour. This would reduce the hourly rate increase that could be applied to all providers.
 2. Roll the TPPG into the base rate paid to all 3&4 year old providers. This would simplify the formula and maintain current practice where all providers are paid the same hourly rate.
- If Option 2 was chosen potential cost implication for a class of 30 3&4 year olds to Schools and Academies of £2,736.
- However, given increases to School Budgets, is this something Academies would consider to support the Early Years sector

Energy Support Announcement

HMT announced a new business energy scheme – the Energy Bills Discount Scheme (EBDS) – which succeeds the current EBRS scheme from April 2023 - March 2024.

All Early Years providers will continue to be eligible as they are now (childminders continue to get domestic energy support).

EBRS Scheme:

- Unit costs of energy **capped** at £211 per MWh for electricity, and £75 per MWh for gas

EBDS Scheme:

- Unit costs of energy **discounted** by:
 - £19.61 per MWh for electricity if wholesale costs exceed £302 per MWh
 - £6.07 per MWh for gas if wholesale costs exceed £107 per MWh
 - Overall level of govt support capped at £5.5bn (EBRS Cost £18bn)

Key Points:

- HMT have said the aim is to strike a balance between supporting businesses and limiting taxpayers exposure
- Wholesale gas prices have fallen to levels just before the invasion of Ukraine, and half the levels of when the scheme was announced

Early Years – Complex – Relationship and timing of Census & Funding information

- 2020/21 - Deficit £0.455m
 - Significant Covid Support Provided
 - Guaranteed payments to providers based on historic census data £1m
 - Additional One off Payment for Covid related costs £0.235m
- 2021/22 – Deficit of £0.174m
 - Maximum support, full hourly increase, passported to providers
 - 39 weeks in financial year, only 38 weeks received from ESFA.
 - Increased demand for SEN Support
- 2022/23 – Outcome of Jan-23 census will determine outturn position
 - Maximum amount passported to providers
 - Significant increase in SEN payments
 - Confirmed funding not received until July 2023
- 2023/24 – Limited increase in funding received
 - Seek to passport maximum increase to providers

Early Years 2023/24

(Central Team to be funded from 3&4 YO funding allocation up to a maximum of 5%)

Early Years Block 2023/24	Numbers	(£ / hr)	£m
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	2,946	£5.100	£8.563
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	1,118	£5.100	£3.251
2 year old entitlement funding	494	£6.090	£1.714
Early Years Pupil Premium			£0.067
Disability Access Fund			£0.084
Total Early Years Block			£13.678

Early Years Block	2023/24	2022/23
3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding	£8.208	£7.676
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	£3.116	£2.913
2 year old entitlement funding	£1.714	£1.697
Early Years Pupil Premium	£0.067	£0.065
Disability Access Fund	£0.084	£0.069
Early Years Central Team	£0.490	£0.460
Total Early Years Block	13.678	12.880

Deprivation and SEN Support Requirement to Increase funding allocated

Deprivation Analysis 3 and 4 Year Olds	2023/24 Annual Rate	2023/24 Rate per hour	2022/23 Annual Rate	2022/23 Rate per hour
Band G - IDACI SCORE < 0.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Band F - IDACI SCORE 0.20 - 0.25	£200.00	£0.35	£125.00	£0.22
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£200.00	£0.35	£125.00	£0.22
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£250.00	£0.44	£175.00	£0.31
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£350.00	£0.61	£275.00	£0.48
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£450.00	£0.79	£375.00	£0.66
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50	£600.00	£1.05	£500.00	£0.88
Budget	£332,789		£227,717	
Increase to Budget	£105,072			

SEN Support	
Budget 2022/23	£200,000
Summer	£155,530
Autumn	£120,880
Spring	£116,810
Total 2022/23	£393,220
Projected Overspend	(£193,220)
Budget 2023/24	£400,000
Increase to Budget	£200,000

Early Years Funding Formula – Option 1

Early Years Funding Formula 2023/24		
The hourly rates to be paid to all providers from April 2023 will be:		
2 Year Olds	£5.50	An increase of 6p hour
3 and 4 Year Olds	£4.70	An increase of 22p per hour
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	£200.00	£0.35
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£200.00	£0.35
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£250.00	£0.44
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£350.00	£0.61
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£450.00	£0.79
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50	£600.00	£1.05
IDACI Postcode Score can be download from:		
http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019		
QUALITY FACTOR (Schools only)	£142.50	£0.25
EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM	£353.00	£0.62
DISABILITY ACCESS FUND	£828.00	

Early Years Funding Formula – Option 2

Early Years Funding Formula 2023/24		
The hourly rates to be paid to all providers from April 2023 will be:		
2 Year Olds	£5.50	An increase of 6p hour
3 and 4 Year Olds	£4.79	An increase of 31p per hour
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	£200.00	£0.35
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£200.00	£0.35
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£250.00	£0.44
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£350.00	£0.61
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£450.00	£0.79
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50	£600.00	£1.05
IDACI Postcode Score can be download from:		
http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019		
QUALITY FACTOR (Schools only)	£0.00	£0.00
EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM	£353.00	£0.62
DISABILITY ACCESS FUND	£828.00	

Early Years Block

Decision Required

- Consider the preferred option for the EYFF
 - Option 1 - Quality factor for Academies only and an hourly rate of £4.70, an increase of 22p per hour
 - Option 2 – No quality factor, and an hourly rate of £4.79, an increase of 31p per hour
 - 2 Year Old 2023/24 hourly rate = £5.50
- Agree to increase deprivation rates in 2023/24.
- Agree to the increase in SEN Budget in 2023/24
- Agree the Early Years Central Team budget of £0.490m, for 2023/24.

Next Steps

- Schools Funding Formula to be submitted to ESFA by 21st January
- ESFA approval to the formula is required before the budgets can be confirmed as final.
- Headteachers Briefing 27th January
- Schools Forum meeting Thursday 17th March:
 - DSG Management Plan 2021/22
- ESFA Meeting – March 2022 ?

- Teams Meeting for School Finance staff can be arranged if required ?



Any Questions ?

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	17 January 2023
SUBJECT:	Growth and Falling Rolls Fund 2023/24
REPORT OF:	Sarah Williams
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the proposed criteria for schools and academies accessing funding allocated for growth for the academic year 2023/24.
- 2.2 To agree to the change to age weighted pupil unit value for the academic year 2023/24.
- 2.3 To agree a Growth Fund budget for the financial year 2023/24 of £1,390,076.
- 2.4 To keep under review the need to establish a Falling Rolls Policy

3. GROWTH FUND

- 3.1 Following the annual review of Pupil Place Plan and school places across Thurrock the Strategic Lead for Education Support Services and Strategic Lead Finance have worked together to present the forecasted growth budget for 2023/24
- 3.2 The local authority continues to work with schools and academies to ensure that there is a sufficiency of school places to meet local demand across the borough. In certain circumstances this may involve increasing the published admission number (PANS) in those schools and academies where existing places are deemed insufficient to meet projected local demand. Currently the local authority, through basic need funding, supports the capital cost of any required expansion and bulge classes, if that expansion or bulge class has been agreed as part of the pupil place planning process.

Growth Criteria

- 3.3 The Schools Operational Guide 2023/24 published by the ESFA outlines the principles for a growth fund. Local authorities may centrally retain funding within the schools block in order to create a growth fund to support schools and academies which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including pre-opening.

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

- where a school or academy has agreed with the authority to provide additional places (30 places) to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or on-going commitment).
- support where a schools and academy has increased its PAN in agreement with the local authority to meet basic need in the area.
- Funding will be for a full class of 30 children, funded for one year only. For example from September to the following August. There will then be an annual review of the numbers in the bulge class using the summer census. Funding in the second year will be based on the difference in actual numbers of children on roll between the summer and October census. No funding will be provided in year 3.

3.5 Growth funding will not apply in the following circumstances:

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

Funding Requirements 2023/24

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

3.7 In previous years the Minimum per pupil value for Primary £4,265 and Secondary KS3 £5,321 have been applied to the number of additional pupils not funded within the budget share up to the agreed PAN, which has been derived as a consequence of basic need in the area.

3.8 Within the operational guide 2023/24 the common methodology used is the age weighted pupil unit. The AWPU value to be paid for the academic year 2023/24 would be Primary £3,436 and Secondary £4,845 per pupil. These values have been updated and reflect the Basic Entitlement to be used in funding formula.

3.9 For the academic year 2023/24 a growth class of 30 would receive, Primary £103,080 and Secondary £145,350.

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

Table 1: Thurrock DSG Schools Block Growth Fund Allocation 2023/24

Thurrock Growth Fund Allocation 2023/24	Eligible Pupil Growth	Eligible Pupil Value	Area Cost Adjustment	Total
Primary	192.5	£1,520	1.038	£303,852
Secondary	437.0	£2,275	1.038	£1,032,406
Number of New Schools	0.0	£74,700	1.038	£0
Total growth allocation	629.5			£1,336,258
<hr/>				
Growth Fund 2022/23	677.0			£1,399,401

- 3.11 Thurrock has experienced significant growth in the area for a number of years. The table below shows existing commitments for summer 2023 and the areas currently identified where additional places will be required in 2023/24:

Table 2: Thurrock Growth Fund 2023/24

Pupil Growth 2023/24	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2023/24	Funding Per Pupil 2023/34	Total Cost 2023/24
Primary - Central Area	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	120.0	£3,436	£412,320
Primary - Tilbury Planning Area	120	Yr 1,3,4,5	70.0	£3,436	£240,520
Primary - Aveley/Ockendon/Purfleet	60	R, Yr2	47.5	£3,436	£163,210
Secondary	144	Yr 7	84.0	£4,845	£406,980
	<u>444</u>		<u>322</u>		<u>£1,223,030</u>
				Growth Fund - Agreed 2022/23 Summer Term	£167,046
				Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,390,076
				ESFA Growth Fund Allocation	£1,336,258

- 3.12 To support existing commitments and an additional 444 places during the academic year 2023/24, a retained growth fund of £1.390,076 is required. This is more than the funding allocation provided; the difference between the growth allocation and the amount required of £0.054m will be prioritised from the Schools Block funding allocation.

4. FALLING ROLLS FUND

- 4.1 The guidance issued allows local authorities to top-slice from the schools block to create a small fund to support good or outstanding schools and academies with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years.
- 4.2 The guidance requires such funds to set out clear criteria containing objective trigger points for eligibility or qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.
- 4.3 The only mandatory requirement is that financial support provided via the falling rolls fund is available only to schools and academies judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection.
- 4.4 The key principles that drive the need to maintain a falling rolls fund are to ensure that places are secured that will be required in the following two to three years (based on the latest demographic information available) and that neither the local authority, or schools/academies incur unnecessary costs in relation to short-term temporary losses in pupil numbers.
- 4.5 In consideration of the data available it is not considered that this would be appropriate as the conditions outline above would not be met within Thurrock in 2023/24. Officers will annually consider if circumstances require the development of a policy.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Schools Forum Report 18th January 2022 - Growth and Falling Rolls Fund

6. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

NAME: Sarah Williams

ROLE: Strategic Lead Education Support Services

EMAIL: sjwilliams@thurrock.gov.uk

NAME: David May

ROLE: Strategic Lead Finance

EMAIL: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	17 January 2023
SUBJECT:	Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022
REPORT OF:	Andrea Winstone
THE REPORT IS:	For decision

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is part of the statutory duty as set out in the Childcare Act 2006 which states Local Authorities need to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of early years entitlement with due regard to planning and growth across the Local Authority.
- 1.2 This report outlines Thurrock's Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021.
- 1.3 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide access to two-, three- and four-year-old places for early education and childcare.
- 1.4 It recognises the regeneration opportunities locally, and the need for councillor support to provide additional early years entitlement places and childcare for working parents, where appropriate, to ensure prosperity of all residents according to their needs.
- 1.5 Statutory guidance was revised by the Department for Education in September 2014, which outlines changes in regard to; the provision for two year olds from lower income families, quality expectations, a change in role for Local Authorities and an emphasis on outcomes.
- 1.6 The existing Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021 reflects the changes in statutory guidance and updates in data. A parental survey was undertaken, and the results of the survey were taken into account when producing this report. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022 is presented to Schools' Forum for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To support further early years & childcare development in the next 5 years in the wards of the borough identified in the report as having a deficit of childcare places. Recognise the importance of creating childcare places where large residential developments are planned.
- 2.2 That more schools and academies consider out of school provision particularly in line with the "Right to Request legislation". That schools and academies work in continued partnership with the Local Authority in regard

to the future move from 15 hours entitlement to 30 hours for eligible working parents of their three- & four-year-old pupils.

2.3 The draft version of the *Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022* is adopted.

3.0 MAIN BODY OF REPORT

4.0 There are currently 202 early years providers offering 3938 registered early education and childcare places for children 0 –5 years old. There are an additional 24 childminders who only offer childcare for children 5 and above offering an additional 144 places. We have seen a decrease in the number of childminders in the borough this is due to various reasons including, personal circumstances, deregistering from the early years register to look after children solely over 5 and not having enough children to make the business profitable.

With the increase in housing developments in the borough and the lack of suitable premises for private providers the number of wards with a deficit of places has increased, with 60% of wards showing a deficit.

A number of new providers are in the process of opening early years settings this will create approximately 60 places which will relieve the pressure of the lack of provision in some parts of the borough.

However, these figures do not take into account how providers offer places as they are private business out of our control. The number of places can fluctuate daily according to demand. Fee paying places are difficult to predict as they are business decisions made by providers, but they have an impact on the analysis of the sufficiency of early education places.

4.1 Schools and academies can be an obvious choice for development of early education due to lack of premises available for Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) provision development, however, with the two-year-old early education there is a need for the most disadvantaged children to access Good or Outstanding provision (as with all early years providers).

4.2 Thurrock's take up of three- and four-year-old early education entitlement is 87% compared to a 92 % national take up. Take-up of early years entitlements is not compulsory and not all parents will choose to take up some or all of their entitled hours. This adds a further layer of complexity to estimating demand. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents. Increasing demand for places will follow from Thurrock's continued promotion of, the benefits of early education to parents.

The provision for two-year-olds who are eligible through strictly applied criteria, has added to the requirement to meet the demand for early education places. Our take up 2-year-old funding is in line with national average. By the end of summer term 2022 we achieved 76.33% of eligible 2-year-olds attending early education. This is the highest level since 2015.

The increase, to 30hrs of early education and childcare for working parents, proposed by the government in 2017 has steadily had an impact on demand. Our data shows that there is a need to increase 30 hour funded places. There has been an increase in the number of schools offering breakfast and after school's clubs. Parental feedback does not show that parents find it difficult to access before school, after school and holiday provision. However, parents of SEND children do find it difficult to access suitable early years education and out of school provision.

4.0 FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021 will not have any impact on the budget.

5.0 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: Andrea Winstone
ROLE: Strategic Lead School Effectiveness and SEND
E-MAIL: AWinstone@thurrock.gov.uk
PHONE: 01375 652744 | 07827 823614

Thurrock Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

August 2022



Report produced by

Sue Lamkin,
Business Support and Sufficiency Officer,
School Effectiveness Team
Children's Services.

Copyright

Report published by Thurrock Council, September 2022

Other formats and languages

For a large print, braille, disc, sign language or audio-tape version of this document, please contact us at the address below.

Thurrock Council
Civic Offices
New Road
Grays
RM17 6SL

Phone 01375 652 744

www.thurrock.gov.uk

You will need to supply your name, your postal address and state the format and title of the publication you require.

If you would like a summary of this document in your language, please phone the number or contact us at the address above.

Contents

Overall assessment and summary	5
Overall sufficiency in our area	5
Quality of childcare	6
Level of provision	6
Our plans for childcare	8
The Recruitment and Retention Concerns for Thurrock	9
Demand for early education and childcare	11
Population of early year's children – data taken from ONS 2020	11
Population of school age children	12
Changes to population of children in our area	12
Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities	12
Supply of early education and childcare	14
Number of early year's providers and places	14
Early years vacancies	14
Early years atypical hours	15
Number of school age providers and places	15
Take up of funded early education	17
3- and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications	17
Prices of early school years childcare	17
Prices of school age	18
Childcare sufficiency ward data – summer term 2022	18
Quality of Provision	18
Aveley and Uplands	19
Belhus	20
Chadwell St Mary	21
Chafford and North Stifford	22
Corringham and Fobbing	23
East Tilbury	24

Grays Riverside	25
Grays Thurrock	25
Little Thurrock Blackshots	26
Little Thurrock Rectory	27
Ockendon.....	28
Orsett	29
South Chafford.....	30
Stanford East and Corringham Town.....	31
Stanford-le-Hope West	32
Stifford Clays.....	33
The Homesteads.....	34
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park.....	35
Tilbury St Chads	36
West Thurrock and South Stifford	36
Quality of childcare in our area	38
Ofsted inspection grades	38
Parents views of sufficiency in our local area.....	38
Parent survey.....	38
FIS enquiry data.....	38
Economic regeneration and new housing	39
Methodology.....	40

Overall assessment and summary

The council is required by law to report annually to the elected council members on how we are meeting our duty to secure sufficient childcare in our borough, as set out in the Childcare Act 2006. This report is available and accessible to parents. We have prepared this report in order to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to the age of 14, and to children with disabilities. Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority.

In this report, we have assessed sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, and feedback from local parents about how easy or difficult it has been for them to find suitable childcare.

We use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

The Childcare Sufficiency Report also:

- sets out the principles and planning guidelines on early years both nationally and locally
- provides demographic and contextual picture of the early year's provision in Thurrock
- provides information on the demand of childcare in Thurrock including data in relation to children with special educational needs and or disability (SEND), school-age children and the take up funded early education places
- provides an indication of the supply, quality and affordability of childcare across the borough
- provides childcare sufficiency data, population of 2, 3 and 4 years-old and number of childcare providers by wards
- provides details of the take-up of 30 hours of free childcare
- provides details of future planning and developments and population increases/decreases
- details how we plan to support childcare sufficiency in the borough

Overall sufficiency in our area

To ensure overall childcare sufficiency we continue to work with providers to offer sustainable, yet affordable childcare. We work with providers to ensure our prices are similar to our geographical neighbours.

Recruitment was identified as an issue in the CSA 2021. This is still a concern both locally and nationally. Please see our plan to support recruitment under point 3 – Our plans for childcare.

- **Government Funded early education for 2 years olds** – Our take of 2-year-old funding is in line with national average. West Thurrock and South Stifford have the largest number of parents eligible for 2 year old funding. There is only one nursery in the Purfleet on Thames area, as result there is a lack of parental choice. This means that parents and children need to travel to other parts of the borough, which isn't an option for all parents. Some families are accessing childminders for 2-year-old provision but there are few in the Purfleet area.
- **Universal (15 hour) funded early education and childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds** –We have not received any parental feedback that parents cannot gain a place for their child's

universal entitlement. There are parents who do not choose to access early years childcare.

- **Early years childcare outside the funded entitlements** – Our data is suggesting that there is a need to increase the 30 hours funded places.
- **Childcare before and after school** – There has been an increase in the number of schools offering before and after school provision, along with activity-based clubs.
- **Childcare during the holidays** – We have not received parental feedback that parents cannot access holiday provision. Many childminders offer wrap around during the holidays. Thurrock access the government funded Holiday Activity Funding (HAF) which offer free holiday activities to children in receipt of free school meals. Details of our offer are commented on page 16 of this report.
- **Childcare for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)** – Parents find it difficult to access suitable childcare for SEND children. There is a need to create more places. As above HAF is available to children with SEND – see details on page 16 of this report.
- **Childcare during atypical hours (outside 8am and 6pm on weekdays)** – There is the demand to create more childcare places during atypical hours to support parents who work shift patterns and weekends.

Quality of childcare

We continue to work with our providers to ensure good quality provision and expect all our providers to achieve a good or outstanding Ofsted. We have a team of officers who work closely with providers at risk of not meeting this standard to improve practice to ensure good outcomes for our youngest children.

Under the guidance of the Early Years officers, all private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers in Thurrock undertake a safeguarding and welfare audit at least once a year. PVIs are supported by Learning and Development Officers to ensure good quality early years education.

Level of provision

Thurrock Council Officers work with providers to ensure good quality early education and childcare is available to those parents who wish to access early education and childcare places.

We closely monitor our settings and offer educational, welfare and financial advice.

The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the number of children accessing the Two-Year Entitlement. However, since autumn 2021 we started to see an upturn in take up, and by the end of summer term 2022 we achieved 76.33% of eligible 2 year old children attending early education and childcare, which was the highest figure for this period since 2015. The % is calculated against the number of families shown as eligible for the Two-Year Entitlement (2YE) based on information provided by the Department of Work and Pensions. It relates to families who meet the financial eligibility criteria for 2YE or whose children are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. It does not include children outside of these criteria e.g., eligible due to their immigration status. To calculate the % for the summer term we use the number of families on the DWP list for March 2022. Although the % take up has increased the number of families identified as eligible for the funding has decreased.

For various reasons including financial sustainability several PVI setting have closed since August 2021. We are working with several potential new providers to support the opening of new settings to ensure the number of registered places increases in the next academic year 2022/2023.

The number of schools offering nursery places has increased so this has reduced the impact of the reduction in the number of PVI settings.

We have had a decrease of 28 childminders which has reduced the number of registered places on offer. We offer childminder induction training termly to ensure potential new childminders have received training to ensure they can run a successful business thus maintaining /increasing childminder registered places.

As of summer 2022, 3478 children have accessed the additional 15 hours of funded entitlement for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds. This is a decrease of 712 children on the previous summer. This maybe a reflection of parental working patterns due to the Covid pandemic where more parents are working from home and the closure of three large nurseries in Thurrock.

As of summer 2022, the number of children accessing 30 hours entitlement is 1,418. This is an increase of 157 on the previous year. Potentially this could be due to settings offering a more flexible 30-hour offer.

Parents can access wraparound care, this includes holiday, before and after school care. 69% of our childminders and full day care settings offer wraparound care. This supports parents to find or stay in full time work supporting children in a home-to-home environment.

A third of day care providers offer breakfast and after school provision serving local schools along with over 68% of our childminders. This ensures parental choice.

In addition, 72% of our schools offer breakfast club for children attending their school, promoting school attendance and a healthy start to the day and supporting working parents.

Thurrock has one independent provider who offers solely wraparound care serving three local schools in the Grays area of Thurrock plus one school offering holiday scheme.

A large number of childminders also offer holiday provision and full day care for 5 years+

We have a number of providers who offer atypical hours of childcare in Thurrock.

Although entitlement places exist for all children, those parents of children with SEND can find that some providers are limited by their financial sustainability to admit all SEND children requiring places beyond the 15 hours if they require additional support. Additional support is available to settings via Early Years Inclusion Fund and Disability Access Fund (DAF) and settings can claim high needs funding to support children's special educational needs. The lack of places causes a barrier to working parents of SEND children who require full time wrap around care and holiday care for their children. Should a child with SEND require full time early education and childcare, the additional hours of support outside of the 15- or 30-hours entitlement has to be met by the childcare provider. This can put the provider's sustainability into question.

Our Early Years Area SENCO is working closely with settings to ensure that there are suitable childcare places available to all parents regardless of need. We are proactively marketing the take up Early Years Inclusion Fund and DAF funding, ensuring the grants are being used by settings to support early year's children with SEND. Our officers run regular training and forums to further improve the quality of SEND provision.

The Sunshine Centre based in Tilbury is for children aged up to 18 years with a whole range of both behavioural and physical disability. The centre offers holiday and respite care.

There are gaps in childcare in 60% of our wards including the Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary area and Grays Riverside, the west, central and some wards in the east.

Our plans for childcare

We plan to:

- continue encouraging providers including schools to participate in 30 hours entitlement offer to enable more working parents to access their full entitlement
- sustain the take up of 2-year-old offer
- support providers to offer or access wrap around care for working parents
- provide training, mentoring and inclusion support for childcare providers to raise standards
- continue to provide business and financial advice to childcare providers
- support settings with recruitment and retention of good quality staff
- provide dedicated officers to work closely with new providers to offer support and advice. Supporting with market research, business planning, identifying suitable premises, planning applications, staff recruitments and staffing ratios.
- support further early years education and childcare development across the borough where re-generation and new housing is taking place
- support new settings ensuring welfare requirements and learning and development are delivered at a good standard from opening
- undertake safeguarding and welfare RAG audits of settings to monitor the quality of provision to ensure all settings are aiming for a good or better Ofsted judgement
- consider early education future needs before decisions are taken in relation to capital assets across the local authority
- increase the take up of Early Years Inclusion Funding by streamlining our application process and to continue to engage with settings via SENCO forums, early years training and officer's support.
- review the outcomes of the parental survey to ensure good quality childcare is available to all parents including parents of SEND children.
- to continue to work with Essex County Council to ensure flexible childcare is available for emergency services colleagues across the two boroughs
- Increase the % of children eligible to take up 15 hours funding
- targeted approach to work with new and existing providers to increase the number of places in wards with a deficit.

The Recruitment and Retention Concerns for Thurrock

With growing concerns around the recruitment and retention of EY staff in Thurrock, we have been working with other LA's locally and nationally to develop a strategy that recognises the problems the sector faces, and to identify some possible solutions and actions we can take to try to improve the recruitment and retention of the Early Years workforce in Thurrock.

Purnima Tanuku OBE, chief executive of National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) said: 'We agree that the pandemic has pushed the early education sector into a deeper crisis. Our own research throughout the pandemic has shown how closures increased, especially in areas of deprivation. We have also seen a workforce crisis that existed before the pandemic, made a lot worse. 'Evidence overwhelmingly shows how important early years are for a child's development, learning and educational outcomes. Therefore, any recovery has to start with getting it right in early education and care.'

Recent reporting across 2021 and 2022 from professional bodies including the NDNA, Early Years Alliance, the Sutton Trust and the DfE has evidenced that:

- 77% reported serious issues with employing Level 3 staff and 24% said they struggled to even recruit unqualified staff, made more significant by low levels of retention
- Employers point to a shortage of qualified staff as the main barrier to recruitment.
- Employers are reporting that it's harder to recruit staff at every level of qualification.
- Turnover of staff is 24%, compared to the UK average of 15 – 18%.
- An average nursery has 1.6 vacancies leaving 7.6% of roles vacant across the sector, equivalent of 19,200 vacancies based on the DfE's latest estimate of 252,800 total staff.
- In terms of applications per vacancy, providers reported receiving more applications for each vacancy before the start of the pandemic. Before COVID-19, providers had an average of 4 applications for current vacancies, compared with 2 applications for current vacancies
- The three most common reasons for staff leaving the sector were for better pay (47%), better and more suitable working hours (43%) and a better work-life balance/ less stressful job (43%).
- Only 52% of the early year's workforce is now qualified at Level 3 or above with a further 17% qualified at Level 2. In 2015/16 the NDNA survey showed 83% of the workforce were trained to Level 3 so this is a significant reduction which could affect quality of provision.
- 26% of the workforce is made up of unqualified assistants, trainees or apprentices which is an increase of 16% on last year – employers are taking on more apprentices to alleviate funding pressures.
- Government underfunding is changing how nurseries operate resulting in 14% employing fewer graduates/teachers, 16% employing fewer Level 3 staff and 18% taking on more apprentices.
- Men working with children make up less than 1% of the workforce among smaller providers – this rose within larger nursery groups.
- 37% of practitioners said they were unsure how long they would remain in the sector and 24% said they would probably leave within one to five years.
- Covid-19 has exacerbated many of the pre-existing challenges for nursery practitioners, and data collected reveal a workforce overworked, neglected in policy terms and increasingly likely to leave the profession.
- Morale is extremely low and there has been a net loss of workers in the sector during the pandemic, leading to an intensified recruitment and retention crisis.

Without a clear and cohesive strategy of investment in the early years workforce, the sector will continue to miss out on the many opportunities to 'Level Up' early years education for babies, children and families.

Now is the time to support the sector, and those who work within it, in order to build upon the current high levels of quality, increase the availability of provision and future-proof this vital sector.

Recommendations by professional bodies include:

- **Changing Perceptions of the Early Years career path-** An awareness campaign should focus on the critical importance of early childhood education on a child’s development and life chances and portray the crucial role early years professionals play in supporting this. It should emphasise that this is a skilled role, equivalent to teaching in other phases of education.
- **Changing the Narrative** - There must be a shift away from the ‘childcare’ terminology so frequently used to ‘early childhood education’, in order to position the sector as a phase within the education journey rather than only a means of enabling parents to work.
- **Training** - There should be an urgent exploration and extension of accessible and flexibly offered CPD, with online and face to face options, coupled with more high-quality workplace placements and action research projects, with mentoring support across the sector.
- **Fair pay, recruitment and retention** - Early Years staff must be recognised and rewarded with a level of pay that reflects their essential role, and which allows them to focus their time and energy into just one job, rather than two or more to make ends meet, as so many who work in the early years have reported having to do.

Thurrock has developed a working programme to support Early Years providers with the recruitment and retention of staff. Our action plan below sets out some of the strategies we are working on.

Problem	Solution	Action
Early entry of students into the childcare sector	Increase the promotion of Childcare based GCSEs across secondary schools. Work with DfE to influence more research and action on this. Promote Early years as work experience opportunities.	Work with Inspire team and form partnerships with secondary schools to deliver EY career options and information through open days, presentations etc. Lobby DfE to support sector through meetings Attend HT meetings or provide information for HT briefings
Recruiting qualified staff at level 2 and 3	Find ways to access students completing childcare qualifications at FE providers	Develop partnerships with SEC, TACC, USP colleges. Team and providers to attend recruitment fairs, presentations, events to promote vacancies and recruitment opportunities
Encouraging qualified staff back into the sector	Finding ways to work with the employment sector to reach and attract staff who may wish to return	Working with DWP and FE colleges to run recruitment events and to advise and offer CPD training to refresh knowledge and confidence to return to the sector

Encouraging take up of Childcare introductory courses	Work with FE providers and DWP to promote the sector and attract people into qualifications Target over 50's market	Work with DWP & SEC on the sector-based work programme "ilearn childcare. Promote this through forums and newsletters to providers. Encourage providers to attend the recruitment events.
Support providers with advertising vacancies and attracting people into the sector	Use council resources to promote vacancies and attract people into the sector through advertising and website	Linking with Comms team for a social media campaign and setting up a vacancy page on Ask Thurrock and linking to main council website
Increase people entering apprenticeships and raise the profile.	Promote Childcare apprenticeships at level 2, 3,4,5	Working with TACC, SEC, USP and other apprenticeship providers to promote training and qualifications in Early Years
Increasing access to CPD for practitioners	Work with local providers to offer CPD courses free or at a reduced cost and making them accessible for professional and personal development opportunities	Links with DWP, SEC and TACC who can offer CPD courses to providers and practitioners.
Encouraging parents to volunteer in settings as an introduction to childcare	Set up a promoting parent as volunteers campaign	Set up a working party of providers and FE partners, DWP and the LA comms team to put a "promoting parents as volunteers" campaign together for social media and advertising in settings. Refer interested parents to the Ilearn childcare programme

Demand for early education and childcare

Population of early year's children – data taken from ONS 2020

In total, there are 13,104 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early year's education and childcare. This is a small decrease of 1.34% from 2021.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	2,453
Age 1	2,529
Age 2	2,643
Age 3	2,700
Age 4*	2,779

* Some 4-year-olds will have started reception.

Population of school age children

In total there are 18,492 children aged 5-11, and 7,364 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	2,790
Age 6	2,616
Age 7	2,686
Age 8	2,740
Age 9	2,698
Age 10	2,470
Age 11	2,492
Age 12	2,625
Age 13	2,421
Age 14	2,318

Changes to population of children in our area

Our population has increased from 2019 by 0.4%. The population of early year's children has decreased by 1.34%. The birth rate has mainly stayed the same with a slight decrease of 1.44% since 2019.

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (or 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The funding is there to help providers deliver extra support to children who are displaying emerging additional needs. The extra funding could be used by providers to pay for things such as additional equipment or staff training to support the child.

The numbers of children with an education, health, and care plan (EHCP) in our local authority is below.

Age	Number of children summer 2022	Number of children summer 2021
Birth to school age	70	76
Primary school (reception to year six)	857	775

Age	Number of children summer 2022	Number of children summer 2021
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	902	838

There has been an increase of 7.14% of EHCP agreed from July 2021 to July 2022.

Children aged 3 and 4 who have low level or emerging special education needs or disability are entitled to early years inclusion funding.

Number of children accessing Early Years Inclusion funding from summer term 2021 to summer term 2022,	47
Number of children accessing Early Years Inclusion funding from summer term 2020 to summer term 2021	83

This is a decrease from the previous year of 56.63%. Uptake is reduced due to the recruitment crisis settings are experiencing. Staff are struggling to engage with additional work because of having to prioritise staff ratios to meet Ofsted requirements ensuring their businesses are operational.

Early years providers can access the Disability Access Fund. The fund is to support settings make reasonable adjustments to their settings if they have identified special education needs or disabilities children within their setting.

Number of settings accessing DAF funding summer term 2022	Number of children being supported.
20	33

Figures correct as of 31 July 2022.

High needs funding is available for SEND children from early years up to 25 years. The funding supports provision for their educational needs.

Number of early years children accessing high needs funding 2022	Number of early years children accessing high needs funding 2021
26	6

This is an increase of 33.3%

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in early education and childcare or school, and it can take some time from concerns being identified to an EHCP being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate.

Some children have SEND but do not have the need for an EHCP. This is why the number of EHCPs for early year's children is low.

In order for an EHCP to be agreed, two specific criteria must be met:

- *whether the child or young person has or may have special educational needs*
- *whether they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHCP*

Supply of early education and childcare

Number of early year's providers and places

In total, there are 202 early years childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 3938 early years' childcare places:

Type of provision	Number of providers 2022	Number of registered places 2022	Number of providers 2021	Number of registered places 2021
Childminders*	125	835	153	981
Nursery classes in schools	30	986	28	841
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	47	2117	52	2182

The data in this table was correct as of August 2022. There is a number of new settings that we expect to open within the next few months, this will increase the number of registered places in the PVI sector by at least 60.

There has been a decrease in the number of childminders in the borough, this is due to various reasons, including a change of personal circumstances, deregistering from the early years register to solely care for children over the age of 5, not having enough children to make the business profitable and the price which parents are able to afford to pay for childcare making the business unsustainable.

There are an additional 24 childminders who only offer childcare for children 5 and above offering an additional 144 places to the number of places in the table above.

We have 28 Ofsted registered home carers in Thurrock. Home carers look after children in the family home. 35% of the home carers look after children at Thurrock addresses. The remaining 65% offer services outside of the borough.

Early years vacancies

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement.

We ask providers to report vacancies on the ASK Thurrock website and to keep this information up to date. Not all chose to do this. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school. We have commented on vacancies within the ward data from the information that has been provided to us for expected vacancies rates in September 2022.

Early years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is below.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Available before 8am weekday	Available after 6pm weekday	Available weekends	Available overnight	Available school holidays
Childminders	125	70	41	10	2	83
School's nurseries	30	9	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Private, voluntary, and independent nurseries	47	20	20	0	0	28

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 226 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 135 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. Of the total number, 149 childminders may provide care for school age children during term time.

Although Thurrock secondary schools do not offer breakfast and after school childcare clubs, all Thurrock secondary schools offer extra curriculum activities before and after school.

Many Thurrock primary schools also offer before and after school activities. The list below is the number of provisions that offer childcare places rather than activity-based programmes.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Breakfast club – Primary school	28	840
Breakfast club – Secondary school	0	0
Breakfast care – Childminders*	85	543 for under 8s.
Breakfast club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	11	584
Total breakfast care	124	1,967
After-school club – Primary school	15	450
After-school club – Secondary school	0	0
After School care – Childminders*	93	699 for under 8s.
After school club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	10	300

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Total after school care	118	1,449
Holiday club – Primary school	2	60
Holiday club – Secondary school	0	0
Holiday care – Childminders*	105	510
Holiday club – Private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers	11	503
Total holiday care	118	1073

* Childminder data is difficult to break down in to specific places for breakfast, afterschool due to lack of meaningful response numbers from this group of providers to Provider Audit requests. We can assume that if a childminder only offers term time care, this will reduce the number of holiday care places offered and is shown as such.

Holiday Activity Fund and Food Programme (HAF)

The HAF programme provides free holiday provision including healthy eating and enriching activities for children from reception to year 11 who receive benefit related free schools’ meals.

Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

Our HAF programme is a response to this issue, with evidence showing that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people, and that they work best when they:

- provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities
- cover more than just breakfast or lunch
- involve children (and parents) in food preparation
- use local partnerships and connections, particularly with the voluntary and community organisation sector



active essex.pdf

Data for summer 2022 is not yet available, data below for summer term 2021

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority at Summer Term 2022. The fall in numbers for the take up of 15 hours funding is likely due the impact of the Covid-19 and the uncertainty on providers and parents followed by the reversal as the uncertainty eased.

Age	% of eligible children taking up places 2022	% of eligible children taking up places 2021	% of eligible children taking up places nationally 2022
Age 2	76.33%	71%	72%
Age 3 and 4	87%	88%	92%

3- and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the government's Childcare Support website.

The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both.

If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Applying for 30 hours funding	Number of families, summer term 2021
New applications for a place	485
Eligible for a place	1,961
Accessing a place	1,261

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in summer term 2022.

Prices of early school years childcare

For early year's childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings. There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups.

There may be additional payments for additional services – for example, lunch and other meals that are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
----------------	--	---	--------------

0- and 1-year olds	£6.10	N/A	£4.42
2-year-olds	£5.13	£4.33	£4.40
3- and 4-year-olds	£5.85	£4.49	£4.40

Prices of school age

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£3.96
After-school club per day	£12.50
School age childminder per hour	£4.56
Holiday club per week	£137.50

Childcare sufficiency ward data – summer term 2022

Two-year-old Entitlement

The number of families shown as eligible for the Two-Year Entitlement are based on information provided by the Department of Work and Pensions and relates to families who meet the financial eligibility criteria or whose children are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. It does not include children outside of these criteria e.g., eligible due to their immigration status. The figures used are taken from the March 2022 DWP list.

Quality of Provision

Once a provider is registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register as a “**new provider**”, Ofsted will carry out the provisions first inspection within **30 months**, during this time the provision does **not** have an Ofsted quality judgement. Subsequent inspections take place at least once every 6 years after that.

The Ofsted inspections evaluate the overall quality and standards of its early years provision in line with the principles and requirements of the ‘Statutory framework for the EYFS’.

Inspectors use a 4-point scale to make all judgements.

- grade 1: outstanding
- grade 2: good
- grade 3: requires improvement
- grade 4: inadequate

Where there are no early year’s children on roll or present, no grades will be given against the 4 key judgements. A judgement is made only on the ‘Overall quality and standards of the early years provision’, with one of 3 possible outcomes:

Met	No actions, possible suggestions to improve practice
Not met with actions	The provider does not meet one or more of the learning and development requirements and/or safeguarding and welfare requirements actions Compulsory actions to be completed by the provider.
Not met with enforcement	Significant areas where the provider does not meet one or more of the learning and development requirements and/or safeguarding and welfare requirements. Ofsted will use their regulatory powers to enforce compliance with the law and to improve the quality of services.

Based on the following formula, the sufficiency need in each ward has been calculated.

Childcare sufficiency is based on the number of Ofsted registered places excluding reception in school.

Total number of children in ward – 20% (parental choice not to access childcare, chosen childcare outside of ward or borough) = number of children in ward likely to take up childcare.

It is expected 90% of 4-year-olds will be accessing a place in a reception class in school from September. The total number of children expected to access childcare is indicated in bold. (10% of totals 4-year-olds in ward)

There are no maintained nurseries in Thurrock.

Several providers have reported their vacancies/waiting list for each ward. This has been considered when commenting on the need to create places.

This data is considering vacancies and children starting school in September 2022.

Aveley and Uplands

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	170
Number of 3 years olds in the ward	168
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	204
10% of 4-year-olds requiring childcare	20
Total of age groups who may require childcare provision	358
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	224
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120
Total number of Ofsted registered places	344

Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	293
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	4
Number of primary schools	4
Number of childminders	2
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	100% awaiting inspection
primary schools	50% good or better -50% waiting inspection
childminders	100% good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	289
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes - A large proportion of places are within schools who do not offer holiday care. Full day care/holiday care is required

Chadwell St Mary

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	167
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	168
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	162
10% of 4 year old requiring childcare	17
Total of age groups who may require childcare	352
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	211
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	301
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	67
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	44
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	228
Number of day nurseries	3
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	0
Number of primary schools	2
Number of childminders	6

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good or better
pre schools	66% good or better – 33% wating inspection
primary schools	100% good or better
childminders	34% Good or better – 66% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	282
Vacancies	A new full day care has recently opened which has a small number of vacancies
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Chafford and North Stifford

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	113
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	129
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	120
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	12
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	254
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	282
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Ofsted registered places	372
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	24
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	11
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	191
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	13

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good' or better
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	77% Good or better – 15% waiting inspection – 8% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	203
Vacancies	Childminders is this ward have vacancies
Do we have sufficient early childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Corringham and Fobbing

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	37
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	67
Number of 4 years olds in the ward	47
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	5
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	109
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	84
**Ofsted registered school reception places	60
Total Ofsted registered places	144
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	9
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	10
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	85
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	2
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Waiting inspection
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	87

Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

East Tilbury

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	116
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	106
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	115
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	6
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	228
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	148
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120
Total Ofsted registered places	268
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	31
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	33
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	132
Number of day nurseries	1
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	0
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	4
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	25% Good or better -75% waiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	182
Vacancies	Full day care setting has vacancies in this ward along with 50% of childminders
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No – The number of vacancies is not sufficient to allow all parents to access childcare
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Grays Riverside

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	294
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	287
Number 4 year olds in the ward	287
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	29
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	610
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	338
**Ofsted registered school reception places	90
Total Ofsted registered places	428
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	81
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	48
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	263
Number of day nurseries	4
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	4
Quality of provision – day nurseries	75% Good or better – 25% waiting inspection
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% Good or better
childminders	100% Good or better
**Total number of children likely to take up places	488
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Grays Thurrock

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	125
Number of 3 in the ward	128
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	135
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	13

Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	1
Number of childminders	5
Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	100% awaiting inspection
childminders	80% Good or better 20% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	168
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

Ockendon

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	193
Number of 3 year-olds in the ward	182
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	184
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	18
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	393
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	248
**Ofsted registered school reception places	120 – plus special needs places
Total Ofsted registered places	368
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	49
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	33
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	177
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	3 – includes one special school
Number of primary schools	3 – includes one special school
Number of special schools Beacon Hill Academy	1 - This provision provides nursery and reception places according to need. The places are not included in the figures above.
Number of childminders	9

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% Good or better
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	66% Good or better – 34% awaiting inspection
childminders	67% Good or better – 22% awaiting inspection – 11% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	314
Vacancies	Full day care settings have waiting lists
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes – need for full day care places

Orsett

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	66
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	56
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	58
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	6
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	128
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	85
**Ofsted registered school reception places	72
Total Ofsted registered places	157
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	7
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	6
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	65
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	1
Number of school nurseries	1
Number of primary schools	3
Number of childminders	4

Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	33% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection – 33% Requirements improvement.
childminders	75% Good or better – 25% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	102
Vacancies	Childminders in this ward are reporting vacancies
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	No
Is there a need to create places?	Yes

South Chafford

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	115
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	122
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	120
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	12
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	249
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	311
Ofsted registered school reception places	300
Total Ofsted registered places	611
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	16
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	14
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	248
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of school nurseries	3
Number of primary schools	3
Number of childminders	12

Quality of provision – day nurseries	100% 'Good' or better
pre schools	No pre schools
primary schools	75% Good or better -25% awaiting inspection
childminders	75% Good or better – 25% Met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	199
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes
Is there a need to create places?	No

Stanford East and Corringham Town

Number of 2 year-olds in the ward	111
Number of 3 year olds in the ward	107
Number of 4 year olds in the ward	109
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	11
	229
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	236
**Ofsted registered school reception places	240
Total Ofsted registered places	476
Number of families eligible for 2 year-old entitlement	25
Number of accessing 2 year-old funding	21
Number of 3 and 4 year-olds accessing funding	285
Number of day nurseries	0
Number of pre-schools	3
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	4
Number of childminders	6
Quality of provision – day nurseries	No day nurseries
pre schools	100% Good or better
primary schools	75% Good or better – 25% awaiting inspection
childminders	67% Good or better – 33% awaiting inspection
**Total number of children likely to take up places	183
Do we have sufficient childcare places in this ward?	Yes

Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park

Number of 2-year-olds in the ward	141
Number of 3-year-olds in the ward	145
Number of 4-year-olds in the ward	174
10% of 4-year-old requiring childcare	17
Total of both age groups who may require childcare	303
Ofsted registered places excluding school reception classes	183
**Ofsted registered school reception places	300
**Total Ofsted registered places	483
Number of families eligible for 2-year-old entitlement	53
Number of accessing 2-year-old funding	52
Number of 3- and 4-year-olds accessing funding	175
Number of day nurseries	2
Number of pre-schools	0
Number of specialist provision Sunshine Centre	1 – This provision can take up to 52 early years children for selected sessions. The places are not included in the figures above
Number of school nurseries	2
Number of primary schools	0
Number of childminders	4
Break out special needs centre	1
Quality of provision – day nurseries	50% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
pre schools	100% Met
primary schools	50% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection
childminders	25% Good or better – 50% awaiting inspection – 25% Met
Break out special needs centre	100% met
**Total number of children likely to take up places	242

Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

Type of provision	Total number of providers 2022	% Achieving good or outstanding 2022	Total number of providers 2021	% Achieving good or outstanding 2021
Childminders on EY Register	125	99%	134	98 %
Nursery classes in schools *	30	100%	28	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	47	99%	52	96%

School percentages are for schools who have an Ofsted judgement.

For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

Parents views of sufficiency in our local area

Parent survey

An online parent survey took place from April 2022 to May 2022. Parents were asked a variety of questions on how easy it is to access suitable childcare and the affordable ability of childcare. The results of the survey have been analysed below:

From the number of parents who responded to the survey the main reason for accessing childcare is to enable parents to work.

Most parents stated they find it very easy or easy to find suitable childcare although 53% stated the cost was prohibitive.

65% of parents are satisfied with the childcare they receive,.69% stated the staff and settings were welcoming, 66% stated the children had enough access to outside space and 66% felt they were kept well informed of their child's progress.

75% of parents who responded were aware of access to free childcare.

FIS enquiry data

- FIS are continuing to develop Thurrock's Local Offer Website. FIS have completed a project with our Providers to encourage them to advertise their childcare on our website. We have had a huge number either add a listing or amend their current one which has been a success.

- FIS have created a Childcare Vacancy page for our providers to list their vacancies. Although it has only recently been created it has already had quite a few providers use this platform and a lot of providers registering their interest. This is a cost-free way of our providers being able to advertise for staff.

Economic regeneration and new housing

Economic regeneration and new housing developments will increase the demand for childcare.

It is imperative that new housing developments are taken into account when planning any new early education and childcare places.

The table below gives details of ongoing and potential developments of more than 20 units per development by ward.

The Childcare Sufficiency Officer is consulted on all developments to ensure childcare is considered at the planning application stage.

The figures below include developments which may have started but still have yield.

Potential development of more than 20 units, yield 0 to 11 years

Ward	Planning Permission or ongoing development already started and producing yield.	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary	Further proposed units as at August 2022	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary
Aveley and Uplands	0	0	0	0
Belhus	33	12	173	33
Chadwell St Mary	207	52	61	7
Chafford and North Stifford	0	0	0	0
Corringham and Fobbing	220	67	0	0
East Tilbury	18	7	230	106
Grays Riverside	102	22	81	5
Grays Thurrock	73	18	87	17
Little Thurrock Blackshots	0	0	0	0
Little Thurrock Rectory	75	23	0	0
Ockendon	92	8	27	10
Orsett	80	29	750	279
South Chafford	0	0	2,500	195

Ward	Planning Permission or ongoing development already started and producing yield.	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary	Further proposed units as at August 2022	Possible yield 2022 to 2027 for early years and primary
Stanford East and Corringham Town	34	3	95	6
Stanford le Hope West	279	105	92	11
Stifford Clays	0	0	0	0
The Homesteads	0	0	0	0
Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	98	7	0	0
Tilbury St Chads	0	0	52	3
West Thurrock and South Stifford	3300	513	0	0

Data correct as of 17th August 2022.

Methodology

Source materials:

- number of children – based on population projections from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2019based>
Figure 6: Population age structure by single year of age and sex for local authorities, counties, regions and England as a whole, mid-2016 to mid-2041
- children with EHC plans – based on data held by Thurrock Council
- supply of childcare – based on data provided to us by Ofsted who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision, and Thurrock Council data – in some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted
- Ofsted registered places data – calculated on how many children can attend a setting in any one time
- childcare for parents working atypical hours – data held by Thurrock Council
- funded early education – data on take-up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection Education provision: children under five years of aged
- data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year-olds – provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and local authority data

- price of childcare – collected by Provider Audit Spring Term 2022 and data held by Thurrock Council
- quality of childcare – data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted
- data from parents – data held by Thurrock Council from parent survey.

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	17 January 2023
SUBJECT:	Code of Practice Early Education and Childcare 2022 List of Changes
REPORT OF:	Alison Picknell
THE REPORT IS:	For Information

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the code of practice is reviewed and updated. This report provides forum members with the new code of practice for 2022 and provides a list of the changes that have been made.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Forum members to note the list of changes to the code of practice for early education and childcare 2022.

3.0 MAIN BODY OF REPORT

List of changes to the code of practice document 2022 vs 2021 are set out below:

Page 5	Point 6 has been amended – further clarity regarding the expectation that providers will engage with LA EY team if they ‘fall short’ of the CoP expectations
Page 9	Point 35 has been amended – further clarity regarding ‘full and detailed information’ required for the Local Offer to support parents of SEND children to choose the right setting for their child
Page 9	Point 36 has been amended – specifically names the Thurrock Welfare RAG document, not just ‘RAG’ document
Page 10	Point 46 has been amended – reworded re: training
Page 10	Point 48 has been amended – ‘inadequate’ term has been removed
Page 11	Point 54 has been amended – reworded statement
Page 11	Point 60 has been amended – the wording ‘which must be accepted’ has been added to the statement regarding offering less than good academies, a support package for EY.
Page 12	New paragraph added before point 63– a new paragraph has been inserted, regarding the expectation that new settings will engage and work with the SET through the new settings processes.
Page 12	Point 64 has been added – ‘In order to register as a funding provider a setting must provide the documentation requested by the authority. Providers will also be the subject of a credit check to establish if they have any underlying debts’.
Page 12	Point 66 has been amended – rather than ‘highly recommended’ the term ‘should’ has been used regarding new providers wishing to deliver two-year-old entitlement places engaging with 0-3 LDO

	officers.
Page 12	Point 68 has been amended – additional clarity regarding the funded entitlement being monitored through appropriate support and visits by LA officers.
Page 12	Point 71 has been amended – additional clarity regarding late or incomplete information submitted by providers
Page 13	Point 74 has been amended – further clarity regarding the timely and accurate completion of the Early Years Census forms
Page 13	Point 78 on has been amended – examples have been given regarding options for parents unwilling or unable to pay for meals and consumables
Page 14	Point 88 has been amended – further clarity regarding submitting incomplete or late Headcount information.
Page 15	Point 89 ix has been added - As a private business it is the providers responsibility to submit their returns on time (and not rely on the Local Authority to remind and chase). It is also the providers responsibility have the appropriate equipment to do this (i.e. a working laptop and internet connection).
Page 24	The Early Years Single Funding Formula on has been amended
Page 25	Deprivation Analysis figures in table have been amended
Page 26	The Early Years Pupil Premium figures have been amended
Annex 4:	Date has been amended
Annex 5:	Portal timetable has been amended

4.0 CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

NAME: Alison Picknell
ROLE: School Effectiveness and Early Years Manager
E-MAIL: apicknell@thurrock.gov.uk
PHONE: 01375 652744

Thurrock Council

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

(September 2022)

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. Should a provider fall short of the expectations of this document they must engage with Local Authority officers to meet the requirements.
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 full and detailed 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 meet the amber / green criteria of the annual welfare 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 welfare 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. Providers are expected to engage with this to bring their settings back up to the required standard. (Please see annex 4a and 4b for further guidance on the process of when providers are judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'.)
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 'inadequate', '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 or must 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 which must be accepted. 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

It is expected that new providers will engage and work with the School Effectiveness Team through the new settings process. The expectation is that the Welfare Requirements Development Officer, Early Education Improvement Officer and the 0-3 Development Officer will make termly visits to provide support, information and advice on delivering “good practice” and ensure the setting is meeting the Statutory Requirements of the EYFS.

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. In order to register as a funding provider a setting must provide the documentation requested by the authority. Providers will also be the subject of a credit check to establish if they have any underlying debts.
65. 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.
66. In order to support the delivery of two-year-old entitlement places any new provider should work with their dedicated 0-3 Learning and Development Officer. This is to ensure high quality provision by meeting the individual needs of 2 year olds.
67. 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.
68. 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. Providers must allow access to officers in this respect.
69. 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

70. 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.
71. Thurrock Council will not charge providers disproportionate penalties for providing late or incomplete information leading to additional administration in the processing of funded entitlements. However such submissions may not be accepted and the expectation would be that providers would cover the cost of the funded place themselves in such cases. 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 for children who genuinely start with them after the Headcount date has passed.

72. Thurrock Council will not carry out audit regimes which are disproportionate or are unnecessarily burdensome to providers. Please see Annex 3 for more information.
73. 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
74. 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. The amount we receive from the government for Early Years funding is calculated via your Early Years Census returns. It is vital that these returns are accurate and on time. If they are not, we will not receive the correct allocation and in the current climate we will not have the extra funding to cover any omissions. Providers will not be able to claim for omissions post headcount and the expectation will be that they cover the cost of the place themselves. Children who genuinely start post headcount will be funded in the usual way.
75. 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.
76. 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

77. 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.
78. 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 parents, providers must offer alternative options for parents. 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. *This could include, for example, allowing a parent to bring in their own consumables, snacks or a packed lunch, where the meal offered is not suitable for children with specific dietary needs or the parent prefers a lower cost option.* 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.
79. 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.
80. 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.

81. 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.
82. 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.
83. Providers must not charge a deposit in lieu of notice.
84. 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.
85. 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.
86. 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

87. 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.
88. 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. Failure to do this may result in rejected claims which cannot be reclaimed for post headcount. Providers will be audited to review this data, for example the numbers of 'refused' ethnicities they submit. FIS will be monitoring this termly and will be contacting those of you who are non-compliant.
89. 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.
 - ix. As a private business it is the providers responsibility to submit their returns on time (and not rely on the Local Authority to remind and chase). It is also the providers responsibility have the appropriate equipment to do this (i.e. a working laptop and internet connection).
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 2022/23 is as detailed below:

- Universal Base Rate – A single rate to be paid to all providers at £4.48 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	£125.00	£0.22
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£125.00	£0.22
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£175.00	£0.31
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£275.00	£0.48
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£375.00	£0.66
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 has been an increase agreed for 2022/23, with the full 15 hour entitlement now at £342.00 (or £0.60 per hour).

The funding rate for the most disadvantaged 2 Year Olds in 2022/23 is £5.44 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	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>		White Western European	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hong Kong Chinese		<input type="checkbox"/>	White Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Refused		<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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

 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 2022 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.

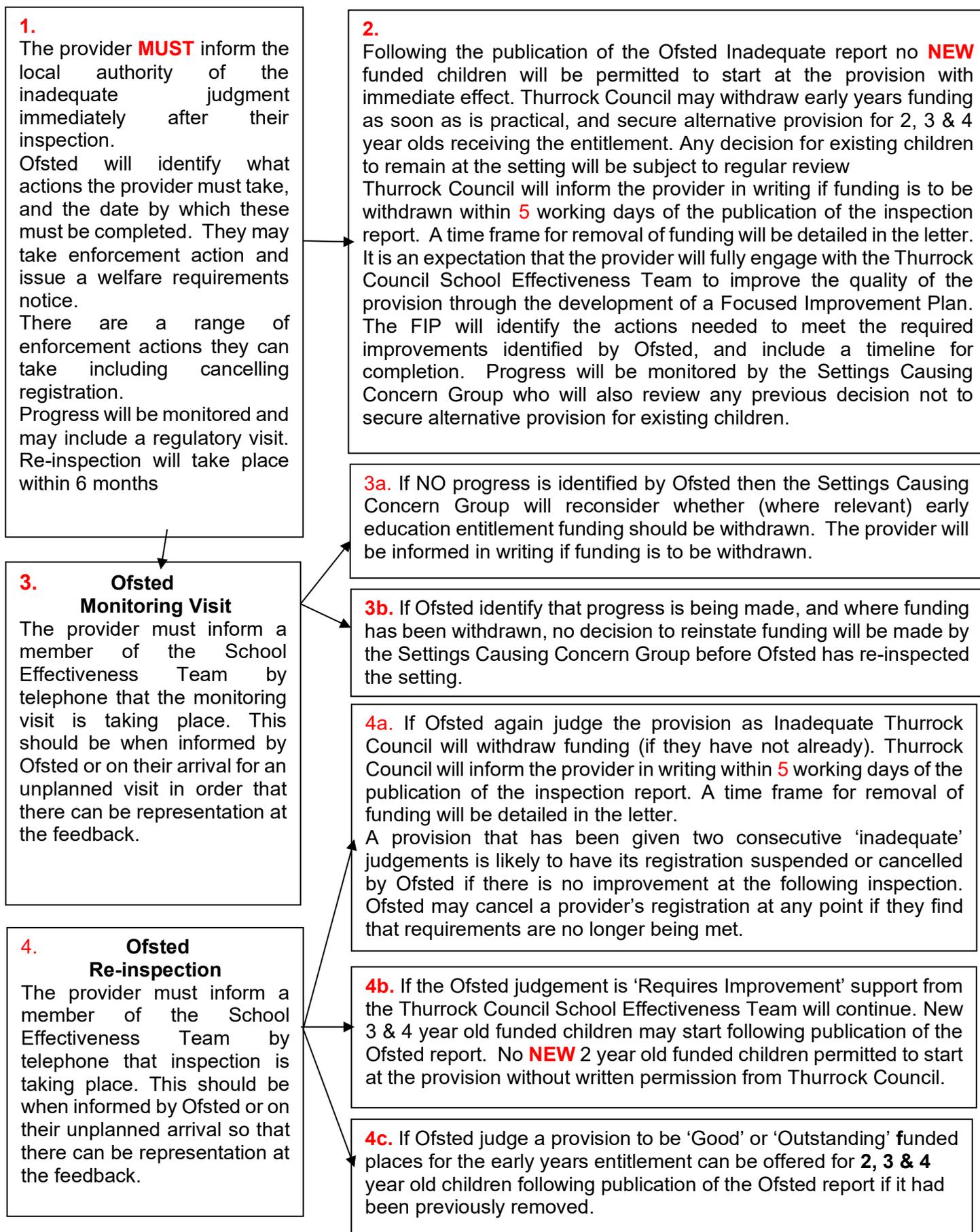
Please refer to the flow chart in Annex 4b for the process for an Inadequate Judgement

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). THOSE ON THE MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEME WILL BE ADVISED OF THEIR PAYMENT DATES INDIVIDUALLY EACH TERM.

Table B: timetable	Estimates	Headcount	Post headcount	Final Headcount
Autumn – 14 funded weeks (18 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	25 th July 2022	14 th October 2022	17 th November 2022	22 nd December 2022
Payment by	7 th September 2022	18 th November 2022	9 th December 2022	16 th January 2022
Spring – 11 funded weeks (15 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	25 th November 2022	26 th January 2023	3 rd March 2023	31 st March 2023
Payment by	11 th January 2023	3 rd March 2023	29 th March 2023	21 st April 2023
Summer – 12 funded weeks (19 Stretched)				
Provider Portal deadline	2 nd March 2022	26 th May 2022	27 th June 2022	29 th July 2022
Payment by	22 nd April 2022	6 th July 2022	18 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

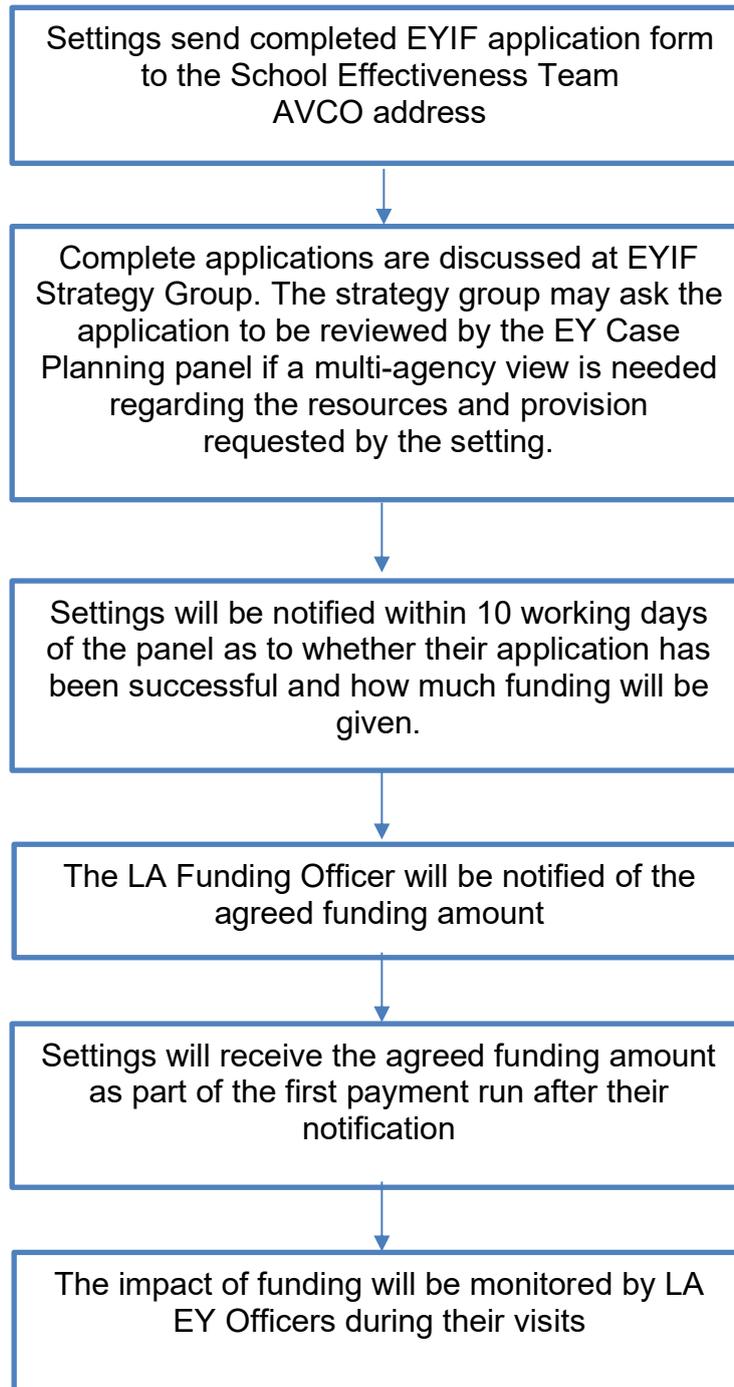
The Early Years Inclusion Fund will be used primarily to support groups of children.

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

Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2023-2024

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 16 March 2023</p>	Thurrock Budget – Children’s Services
	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	High Needs Block and Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan – Decision
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Pupil Place Planning Review - Standing
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23 - Standing
	Sub-group update SEND provision
<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
<p style="text-align: center;">September 2023</p>	Forum Membership Review and Election of Chair and Vice Chair
	ESFA Consultations - Standing
	Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds - Standing

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

**Draft Minutes
17 November 2022 at 10am to midday
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 Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)

Mr T Parfett
Mrs N Graham
Mr D Shillingford
Mr P Griffiths
Mr S Munday
Mrs V Reid

Standalone Academy Trusts

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Mr E Caines
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Infrastructure Groups

TASS
TPHA

Mr S Bell
Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes

Alternative Provision

Olive AP

Ms Jo Gillman

Special Schools

Treetops Academy
Beacon Hill Academy

Mr J Brewer
Mrs S Hewitt

Non-school members

0-5 EYFS Representative
0-11 Representative
11-19 Representative

Mr A Melbourne
Ms A Jones
Mr S Bowak

Also in Attendance:

Assistant Director, Education Skills
Strategic Lead – DSG and Schools
Strategic Lead - Education Support Service
Strategic Lead – Specialist Provision/PEP
Clerk

Mrs M Lucas
Mr D May
Miss S Williams
Mr M Taylor
Miss T Lydon

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

1. Welcome from Chair

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr M Vickers, Mrs M Shepard, Mrs E Wigmore, Mrs A Winstone, Mr K Sadler and Mrs P Johnson. Mr D Shillingford joined to represent Ortu and Miss J Gillman joined to represent The Olive Academy.

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves to the new members Mr S Bowak and Mr D Shillingford.

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 – Mr E Caines would like Climate Change added to any other business and Mrs S Hewitt asked to add charges to mainstream schools for equipment to be discussed.

4. Forum Membership Review and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Miss S Williams asked forum members to agree that the current Chair, Mr T Parfett continues in the position and to agree a new Vice Chair. All Forum members agreed for Mr T Parfett to remain as The Chair. Miss S Williams asked if anyone was interested in taking over as the Vice Chair. There were no takers. The Chair commented that they will need to go to THPA and TASS to get a representative.

Miss S Williams went through the School Forum membership which is reviewed and updated yearly and noted the following changes:

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

Agreed

- a) All forum members present agreed Mr T Parfett to remain as The Chair.
- b) All forum members agreed to go to THPA and TASS to fill the Vice Chair position.

5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022-23

Mr D May advised that The DSG projected outturn position for 2022/23 is a break-even position, which will maintain the DSG deficit at £1.705m. Mr D May went through a presentation to discuss DSG 2022/23.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

He advised that the High Needs Block remains the area of significant financial risk, with an overspend of £0.512m, linked to the continuous increase in EHCP's, Post-16 and the additional costs of out of borough placements.

Mr D May advised that Thurrock with a DSG deficit of £1.705m is part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme which aims to support LA's to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable. This programme provides support and funding to 55 local authorities.

Agreed

- a) 15 forum members noted the contents of the report and offered support and challenge
- b) 15 forum members agreed to receive regular updates on the 2022/23 projected outturn position.

Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24

Mr D May advised that 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.

HNB Commissioned Places - The long-term strategy is to:

- increase the local offer and reduce the number of out of area placements.
- deliver improved outcome for young people
- deliver improved value for money

In 2022/23 the commissioned numbers with the ESFA are 732, this reflects the opened and planned expansion at Treetops Free School. In 2023/24 the commissioned numbers returned to the ESFA will be 801, reflecting the final year expansion of Treetops Free Schools and the 2 new Primary Autism provisions.

The budget for 2023/24 will be based on 893 places reflecting further expansion of Primary Autism and Secondary SEMH. Mr D May outlined the financial impact of the increase in provision as £2.83m.

Mrs N Haslem-Davies asked if the numbers reflect the children who have EHCPs in a mainstream school looking for specialist placement. Mr D May commented yes. Mrs N Haslem-Davies advised that the number of places on offer does not reflect the number of children in primary schools in need of a specialist placement. If they don't know the figures, then they are not actually meeting their needs. Her understanding is that it is nearer 200 in primary who are putting down a special school. She would like to know how many children with a current EHCP are seeking a place at a specialist provision.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

Mr S Munday advised that the numbers should be available. The Chair advised that the numbers are available, but Miss A Winstone and Mr M Taylor are not present at the meeting. Mr D May advised that the numbers could be brought to a future meeting. Mrs N Haslem-Davies asked if the information could be quality assured at THPA and TASS to make sure the numbers are the same.

Action: Mr D May and Mr M Taylor to confirm number of children with an EHCP seeking specialist provision

Mr J Brewer advised the figures changed continually. They are averaging about 10 consultations a week for places at Treetops. Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked about the new Autism Primary which has 20 places costing £30,000 per place. She commented that at her school she gets on average of £8,000 per child. She feels that if she was given extra money, she would be able to offer a better provision to these children who maybe moved to a resource base. She advised that some parents want their children to remain in mainstream schools and feel that now they cannot support them but would be able to with a little more money which in turn would save money which is going to be invested in resources bases.

The Chair commented that the Autism bases are for severely autistic children. Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes replied that she had a child this extreme at her school although this child has moved out of borough now.

Mr E Caines advised that everything is about improving and expanding the service. He feels it will not save money it will cost more. He feels that more children could go to mainstream schools instead of specialist provision and mainstream schools can support them. Are the panels making the right decision? He asked if the Educational Psychologist making the right decision or are we just agreeing with parents.

Mr P Griffiths added that their Trust has a base in Warren Primary. Childrens needs are so complex, and this needs a review to see if enhancing some of the mainstream primaries with a little more money would save money on the resource bases. They need further discussion on this.

Mr M Taylor welcomes all the comments particularly related to autism. They have several children that are nonverbal and need the resource base environment. It is because of that they opened the base at Aveley Primary and Stifford Clays Primary. They are very successful in supporting these children's needs and more specialist provision is needed in primary schools. These are children who are nonverbal with highly complex needs. He advised they are also very aware that they will need more provision at secondary. The

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

reason for this is moving them from one class to another will not meet their needs. They will need specific support and their own learning environment delivering a very different curriculum. He also commented that there are very robust decisions made at the SEN panel, but they also have tribunals from parents who do not agree with their decisions.

Mr A Melbourne commented on the rising numbers of early years children with high needs (many still struggling to achieve EHCPs) and there is the widespread parallel challenge of finance to support them, not least whilst the sector is so severely over-stretched with its own SENCo workforce in settings.

Miss A Jones advises that they have many children with severe needs, and that they have to apply for funding on a termly basis. They are overloaded and she feels it is a big problem the resource implication of termly applications. This is not sustainable.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes advised Mr M Taylor that if they had more money in mainstream schools i.e., around £5,000 per pupil she could employ another teacher to help these children and keep them out of specialist provision. She also feels that the hourly rate funding for EHCPs should be increased but this is currently not the case. She worries that these children do not have enough access to a teacher due to lack of funding.

Mr M Taylor advised they always want to work with schools to keep children in mainstream and use EHCP funding for this. He advised that if she has children who need this funding, he is happy to look into this further. Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes thinks this should be a strategic approach. Mr M Taylor advised that the base funding has been designed with the school. He asked Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes to speak to him direct if she feels alternative and improved arrangements could be possible.

Mrs N Haslett-Davis is very confused with the numbers as she feels there is not enough places now or in the future. She feels that they need to get together and have a look at the reality of the situation and discuss need going forward. Mr M Taylor advised they always have a high number of referrals. The two new primary bases are to pick up the need of known children, but he is aware there will be short fall in secondary and therefore they do project forward regarding resource bases etc. He is very open to keeping children at mainstream schools. The Chair commented that they have a group SEND planning who meet to map out the provision. He feels it would be a good place for Mrs N Haslett-Davis and other members to join to help with these discussions.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

Mr J Brewer advised that there is currently 80 Nonverbal ASC students (SLD) and around 20 MLD on their referral list.

The Chair advised that a SEND planning group has been created to discuss mapping out the provision and what is needed within Thurrock. Asked that a meeting be arranged at the earliest opportunity.

Mr D May commented that the questions being asked, support the DSG Management Plan and ensure the correct local offer is in place for Thurrock children now and in the future. He advised that the figures to be returned to ESFA were for current commissioned places. For new places a budget is retained by the LA for in year expansion subject to School forum discussion.

Agreed

- 15 School Forum members present support the commissioned numbers for 2023/24 that are required to be submitted to ESFA by 18-11-2022. 1 member abstained.
- The school forum members present support the Budget provision for 893 placed to reflect the continued expansion of the local offer – 16 members agreed. 1 abstained.

Band Values

Mr D May spoke about the proposed increase to the top up funding by 5%. He advised that it is recognised 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. The cost implication of the proposed increase in band values is £0.920m in 2023/24

Mr J Brewer advised that the wage increase in the schools is around 8% so the top up funding of 5% does not come close. Mr D May agreed but confirmed no further funding is available to support a higher increase. Mr J Brewer advised they will not be able to support in full the needs identified in the EHCPs.

Mrs S Hewitt commented that she agreed with Mr J Brewer and that the £10,000 place funding is not to be increased and therefore Special Schools are not receiving a 5% increase. Mr P Griffiths also supports Mrs S Hewitt and Mr J Brewer. He also commented that £10,000 base funding has not increased for an extended amount of time and 5% will not support the resource bases and cannot be maintained over time. He feels that the LA is expecting the schools to support the EHCP with their funding.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked if the EHCP hourly funding rate was up for discussion. Mr D May advised this can be revisited and he can bring back further papers on the EHCPs rate. Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes commented that if they are voting today then surely, they will not have enough money to discuss the hourly rate of EHCPs. Mr D May advised they have the expansion of the offer funding available. A review would need to consider, the impact of an increase in funding to the budget position and how the hourly EHCP rates compares to other LAs. Mrs N Haslam-Davies advised that each of the mainstream schools have increased amounts of children with EHCPs and not enough money to meet their needs. She advised they are being asked to make a very difficult decision as they are looking to increase some provision but not others without a discussion about an alternative. She feels that there needs to be a greater understand across the LA about the pressures and number of children in their schools waiting for EHCPs and the fact they don't have enough staff to support them. Mr D May advised that any decisions could wait until January.

Mr P Griffiths proposed that they defer until January to make the decision. He commented that they need to support all the children as best we can.

Mr D May will prepare a paper for discussion at the January meeting.

Mr D May went through the DSG Management Plan. In summary he advised that:

- Thurrock is an inclusive borough but there is still more to do
- Need to further increase the local offer – SEMH and Autism
- Early Years and Post 16 are areas of significant growth
- Increase in number of children being education not in school.
- Deep Dive Report 2021 explained Thurrock context and stated that reducing health inequalities will have an impact in the long term on the need for SEND provision

Partnership approach, schools need to:

- continue to be fully inclusive and to admit children with EHCPs by making reasonable adjustments.
- ensure use of notional SEND budget before making requests for additional funding.
- ensure 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

Schools Block 2023/24

Mr D May spoke about key changes in the School's Block which include

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

- Schools NFF funding is increasing by 1.9% per pupil in 2023/24, compared to this year. Taken together with funding increases seen in 2022/23, funding will be 7.9% higher per pupil in 2023/24, compared to 2021/22.
- Schools supplementary grant 2022/23 has been rolled into the Schools NFF
- After the SSG has been added the Individual schools NFF factor values have increased as follows:
 - 4.3% to free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6) and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)
 - 2.4% to basic entitlement, lower prior attainment (LPA), free school meals (FSM), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, sparsity factors and the lump sum.
 - 0.5% to the floor and the minimum per pupil levels (MPPLs)
 - 0% on the premises factors, except for PFI which has increased by RPIX.
 - LA's must now use all NFF factors and definitions in their local funding formulae and factor values should be moved at least 10% closer to the NFF, except where Local factors are within 2.5% of the NFF values.
 - Thurrock is within 2.5% of NFF values and deemed to be mirroring the NFF.

Mr D May advised that Thurrock was well positioned moving forward as a result of decisions made 3-to-4-years-ago to align with National Funding Formula and values. Options with the NFF values & ACC were unaffordable, so a reduction to Basic entitlement values is to be recommended to cabinet for approval. The scenario presented should a reduction to Primary of £40 and Secondary £55. If the School Forum agree to a £0.700m transfer from SB to HNB the Basic entitlement values would reduce by Primary £68 and Secondary £92

Mr E Caines spoke about the amount they get in school for EHCPs and the fact that they are now saying the High Needs Block needs more money could the EHCPs rate be looked at with the High needs Block as schools that are struggling. Mr D May asked if approval was given to transfer money from SB to HNB then the option could be to take it up to 0.5% which could then be targeted to the EHCP hourly rate. However, today agreement is needed to the 0.5% transfer to the HNB to allow Officers to work on the final formula to be discussed in January. Mr E Caines supports this approach.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes commented they did not get this information until just before the meeting. She is a school forum member as the TPHA Chair and feels that she has not had the information to make the decision. Mr D May advised that the report outlined information to be discussed at the meeting.

Agreed

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

- a) All forum members considered the 2023/24 information provided on both the Schools and High Needs Block financial position
- b) The increase in Band Values of 5% to be applied from Sept 2023 was deferred until January
- c) 15 members considered a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2023/24 of up to 0.5%, 1 member disagreed and 1 abstained.
- d) All school forum members agreed to receive finalised information based on decision made today at the January Schools forum meeting.

Mr D May went on to discuss Early years

He advised that the Early Years funding is released as part of the final allocation of funding from the ESFA in December. The DfE will confirm the 2023-24 hourly funding rates for individual local authorities that will determine the increase that can be made to the current hourly rates. It is expected that information will be presented for discussion at the January meeting of the School's Forum. Following this, briefings will be held with Early Year Providers.

Mr D May provided an update of pressures being face by the Local Authority around Home to School Transport and Children Social Care Placements.

He commented that there is significant Pressures in the whole system with no current long-term solution to pressures in HNB.

Mr D May asked if there were any questions.

Mr A Melbourne commented that he appreciates that they all have difficulties but across the board early years is really struggling for financial support. The Government always find some support for schools but very little for early years. He would like them to consider support for early years.

6. Free Schools Update

Miss S Williams advised that Thames Park Secondary is completed and opened in September 2022. She advised that Treetops has also opened. Mr S Munday spoke about Orsett Heath Academy and advised that the main contactor for this new school went into administration and therefore this caused the delays. Works are now underway. This will be more visible in the New Year. Miss S Williams advised that the Harrier Primary is in the pipeline for delivery in 2023.

7. Schools' Forum Forward Plan

Miss S Williams presented the forward plan and noted items from this meeting.

8. Minutes of previous meeting held on 23rd June 2022

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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

9. Action Log

Miss S Williams advised that she has sent out the action log along with the other paperwork.

10. 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 – discussed and will be discussed in January
- 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 add discussed items at the meeting to the forward plan

11. Any Other Business

Mrs S Hewitt asked for a review of the £2,000 threshold that schools have to pay for equipment. She feels that now children are being discriminated against as schools cannot afford the equipment. Mr D May advised he will bring a report to next meeting outlining numbers of children affected, options and the financial implications.

Action: Mr D May to bring a report to the January meeting to consider options

Letter from Mrs S Murphy - Director of Children's Services - Mrs M Lucas advised that Mrs S Murphy was keen to keep partners updated and informed. They are currently in the middle of a best value review inspection. She advised that Local Authorities up and down the country are struggling to keep within budget. She also commented that schools will be kept informed throughout the process.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

Climate Change – Mr E Caines commented that this is something they manage themselves in their schools but feels this is not going away and has become very urgent. He listed ways that everyone can help:

- Turn down your thermostat
- Take beef and lamb off the menu
- Separate waste
- Let school land go wild and plant trees
- Try and get people to walk rather than drive
- If there is money invest in solar power.

The Chair thanked Mr E Caines for his input.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes commented that the impact on schools from protestors is going to continue. She feels that this will impact on children getting to school and the employment of staff for schools near the bridge.

12. Date of meeting

Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 10am