

# Thurrock Schools' Forum

16 March 2023, 10am to midday  
Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams

## Agenda

<b>Multi Academy Trusts</b>	<b>Name</b>
Catalyst Academies Trust	Mr T Parfett (Chair)
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 (Vice-chair)
Vine Schools Trust	Mrs E Wigmore
Christus Catholic Trust	Mrs J Seymour
<b>Secondary Voluntary-Aided School</b>	<b>Name</b>
Grays Convent	Mrs P Johnson
<b>Standalone Academy Trusts</b>	<b>Name</b>
Woodside Academy	Mr S Proctor
Giffards Primary	Mrs N Haslam-Davis
<b>Infrastructure Groups</b>	<b>Name</b>
TASS	Mr S Bell
TPHA	Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes
<b>Alternative Provision</b>	<b>Name</b>
Olive AP	Mr M Vickers
<b>Special Schools</b>	<b>Name</b>
Treetops Academy	Mr J Brewer
Beacon Hill Academy	Mrs Sue Hewitt
<b>Non-school members</b>	<b>Name</b>
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
<b>Introductory items</b>		
1.	<b>Welcome from Chair</b>	10am
2.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	10:02am
3.	<b>Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'any other business'</b>	10:03am
<b>Items for decision</b>		
4.	<b>Permanent Exclusion Policy</b> presented by Michele Lucas	10:05am
5.	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant – outturn and management plan 2022/23</b> presented by David May	10:15am
<b>Items for information</b>		
6.	<b>Thurrock Budget</b> presented by David May	10:45am
7.	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities subgroup feedback</b> verbal update by Tony Parfett	11am
8.	<b>Tuition Policy</b> presented by Andrea Winstone	11:10am
9.	<b>Equipment Policy</b> presented by Andrea Winstone	11:20am
10.	<b>Schools' Forum Forward Plan</b> presented by Sarah Williams	11:30am
<b>Closing items</b>		
11.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 January 2023</b>	11:35am
12.	<b>Action log</b>	11:40am
13.	<b>Matters arising</b>	11:45am
14.	<b>Any other business</b>	11:50am
15.	<b>Next meeting</b> Thursday 22 June 2023	

**THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT**

DATE: 16 March 2023  
SUBJECT: Proposed funding arrangements for permanent exclusions  
REPORT OF: Michele Lucas  
THE REPORT IS: For Decision

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update relating to the contribution to the education of permanently excluded children which was agreed by Schools Forum in March 2021.
- 1.2 To update the financial contribution, we will seek from schools from September 2023 to support children and young people who have been permanently excluded.
- 1.3 To continue on the principal of funding following the child or young person.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Schools' Forum members are asked to approve the increase in the financial contribution from Schools from September 2023 as shown in Appendix A.

**3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 To seek agreement from Schools Forum to update the financial for pupils permanently excluded from mainstream schools and academies.

**4. BACKGROUND –NUMBER OF PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Table 1 details the number of permanent exclusions by academic year since 2016/17.

**Table 1 Number of Permanent Exclusions by Academic Year**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	4	19	<b>23</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	16	27	<b>43</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	9	35	<b>44</b>
<b>2019/20</b>	2	29	<b>31</b>
<b>2020/21</b>	1	25	<b>26</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	2	35	<b>37</b>
<b>2022/23 To Date</b>	0	17	<b>17</b>

- 4.2 The lower level of permanent exclusions has offered some support to the High Needs Block, however the continued pressure on the high needs expenditure remains unsustainable.
- 4.3 The LA buys places for excluded pupils upfront from Alternative Providers or Specialist Resource bases to ensure that permanently excluded pupils have access to education (6-day provision). There is a finite amount of DSG budget that the LA can use to do this with and if the number of places is exceeded then additional budget will need to be found to spot purchase places. The contributions received from schools has supported with some of the DSG overspend in high needs funding.

## **5. MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS EXCLUSION CHARGES**

- 5.1 The methodology for the calculation of exclusion charges for mainstream pupils is set out within the School Finance Regulations.
- 5.2 The purpose of the charge is to provide a contribution to the cost of alternative school provision as part of the arrangements for pupils educated out of school and if the pupil is admitted to another mainstream school within the funding period, the admitting school's will receive the budget share in accordance with the complete weeks remaining in the funding period during which the pupil is a pupil at the admitting school
- 5.3 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations states that, where a child is permanently excluded, the Local Authority must re-determine an excluding school's budget share.

## **6. CURRENT METHOD USED IN THURROCK**

- 6.1 For excluded pupils, the charges will be as per the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. This means that when a pupil is permanently excluded, the authority will re-determine the excluding school's budget share. The excluding school's budget share will be reduced by the per pupil rate at individual school level, as shown in Appendix A, and any pupil premium attributable to the child. This will be pro-rated based on the weeks remaining in the funding period.
- 6.2 The funding period is the academic year.
- 6.3 At the date of the permanent exclusion the financial information available will be used to determine the funding to be withdrawn or provided. No retrospective adjustment will be made.
- 6.4 The charge to be calculated will be the full funding period.
- 6.5 In a small number of cases, a school will agree to admit a pupil outside of the October census date, in these cases an individual discussion will be held on the funding to be withdrawn unique to the individual circumstances surrounding the child.

## **7. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS**

- 7.1 School Forum Report 23 June 2022 - Funding arrangements for permanent exclusions 2022/23
- 7.2 School Forum Report 18 March 2021 - Funding arrangements for permanent exclusions 2021/22
- 7.3 School Forum Report 12 March 2020 - Funding arrangements for permanent exclusions 2020/21

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR**

**NAME:** Michele Lucas  
**ROLE:** Assistant Director, Education and Skills  
**E-MAIL:** [mlucas@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mlucas@thurrock.gov.uk)  
**PHONE:** 01375 652092

**Thurrock School Funding Formula - Individual School Level Values**

**Appendix A**

LAESTAB	Phase	School Name	Per Pupil Value 2022/23	Per Pupil Value 2023/24
8833822	Primary	Abbots Hall Primary School	£4,316.43	£4,535.76
8832439	Primary	Arthur Bugler Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,419.63
8832014	Primary	Aveley Primary School	£4,631.48	£4,825.33
8832542	Primary	Belmont Castle Academy	£4,285.64	£4,572.77
8832003	Primary	Benyon Primary School	£4,665.41	£4,936.48
8832722	Primary	Bonnygate Primary School	£4,502.69	£4,790.53
8832013	Primary	Bulphan Church of England Academy	£5,540.14	£6,757.93
8832011	Primary	Chadwell St Mary Primary School	£5,094.30	£5,352.44
8832462	Primary	Deneholm Primary School	£4,350.72	£4,629.53
8832622	Primary	Dilkes Academy	£4,441.06	£4,662.68
8832824	Primary	East Tilbury Primary School	£4,321.69	£4,615.73
8832942	Primary	Giffards Primary School	£4,347.56	£4,613.48
8832137	Primary	Graham James Primary Academy	£4,265.00	£4,468.89
8830124	Primary	Harrier Primary Academy	£0.00	tbc
8832987	Primary	Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	£4,265.00	£4,449.09
8832008	Primary	Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	£4,265.00	£4,420.95
8832644	Primary	Herringham Primary Academy	£4,756.96	£5,134.18
8833605	Primary	Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	£4,679.01	£5,047.15
8835281	Primary	Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	£4,360.74	£4,619.85
8835266	Primary	Kenningtons Primary Academy	£4,433.04	£4,720.76
8832000	Primary	Lansdowne Primary Academy	£4,943.04	£5,348.01
8832015	Primary	Little Thurrock Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,432.27
8833502	Primary	Orsett Church of England Primary School	£4,392.71	£4,560.58
8832006	Primary	Ortu Corringham Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,439.00
8832002	Primary	Purfleet Primary Academy	£4,621.73	£4,977.07
8832005	Primary	Quarry Hill Academy	£4,526.13	£4,810.16
8832985	Primary	Shaw Primary Academy	£4,542.00	£4,828.70
8832429	Primary	Somers Heath Primary School	£4,584.08	£4,831.82
8833512	Primary	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	£4,547.14	£4,849.69
8833522	Primary	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	£4,995.61	£5,351.49
8833603	Primary	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,431.86
8832004	Primary	Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	£4,351.87	£4,625.34
8832009	Primary	Stifford Clays Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,507.28
8832001	Primary	Thameside Primary School	£4,675.70	£4,911.76
8832024	Primary	The Gateway Primary Free School	£4,973.00	£5,328.37
8832007	Primary	Tilbury Pioneer Academy	£4,864.72	£5,199.87
8832984	Primary	Tudor Court Primary School	£4,268.73	£4,443.45
8832078	Primary	Warren Primary School	£4,265.00	£4,432.11
8832592	Primary	West Thurrock Academy	£4,380.33	£4,673.54
8832472	Primary	Woodside Academy	£4,265.00	£4,438.24

**Thurrock School Funding Formula - Individual School Level Values**

**Appendix A**

LAESTAB	Phase	School Name	Per Pupil Value 2022/23	Per Pupil Value 2023/24
8834733	Secondary	Grays Convent High School	£5,950.74	£6,261.36
8834394	Secondary	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	£5,528.13	£5,851.00
8834003	Secondary	Harris Academy Ockendon	£6,090.69	£6,401.34
8834002	Secondary	Harris Academy Riverside	£5,988.39	£6,342.42
8836906	Secondary	Ormiston Park Academy	£6,499.48	£6,820.57
8834004	Secondary	Orsett Heath Academy	£6,047.15	£6,229.51
8835439	Secondary	Ortu Gable Hall School	£5,881.67	£6,203.11
8834001	Secondary	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	£6,294.93	£6,639.75
8835440	Secondary	St Clere's School	£5,939.39	£6,274.71
8834005	Secondary	Thames Park Secondary School	£6,150.10	£6,410.99
8836905	Secondary	The Gateway Academy	£6,652.54	£7,129.28
8834000	Secondary	The Hathaway Academy	£6,343.56	£6,681.16
8835438	Secondary	William Edwards School	£5,715.62	£6,006.89

## THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 16 March 2023  
SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23  
REPORT OF: David May  
THE REPORT IS: For Decision

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG projected outturn position for 2022/23 is an underspend of £0.560m, which will decrease the deficit to £1.145m.
- 1.2 Once the 2023/23 Outturn position is finalised, A review of the 2023/24 budget position will be undertaken to determine appropriateness of the current budget and opportunities for virements within the resources available. This will be reported at the June meeting.
- 1.3 The significant areas of financial risk are:
  - Continued increase in demand for EHCP's; and
  - Sufficiency of local offer to prevent high-cost external placements.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
  - a) Note the contents of the report and offer support and challenge.
  - b) Agree to the use of one-off saving to reduce the historic deficit.
  - c) Agree to receive a final report in June on the finalised 2022/23 outturn position.



### 3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

### 4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2022/23

- 4.1 The current projected outturn is an underspend of £0.560m 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	4.130	(0.728)
Central Services	1.688	0.000	0.000	1.688	1.613	(0.075)
High Needs	32.662	(6.500)	0.700	26.862	26.806	(0.056)
Early Years	12.880	0.000	0.000	12.880	13.179	0.299
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.750</b>	<b>(147.461)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>46.288</b>	<b>45.728</b>	<b>(0.560)</b>

- 4.2 The outturn position reflects the following key areas:

- Schools Block – Pupil Growth, has an underspend of £0.728m. The change from previously reported reflects delayed growth expansion that is now due to commence April 2023.

In 2023/24 insufficient budget is available to cover expected growth, current projections show a shortfall of £0.250m.

- Central Services Block – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding. This is a non-recurrent saving; the full staffing compliment will be recruited to provide sufficient capacity with the continued growth in pupil numbers.
- High Needs Block – An underspend of £0.056m. The change in forecast is due to the following reasons:
  - Resource Base – Delay in the opening of the new Secondary SEMH base, due to identification of appropriate premises. The SEMH base is now due to open in September 2023. This delay has created a one-off saving of £0.150m.
  - Special Schools – A movement of £0.200m. Previous projections included growth in pupil numbers from September, that occurred from January 2023. An increase in the number of Other Local Authority Children has reduced the cost to Thurrock
  - Post 16 – Invoices received from providers for the autumn term show a reduction in costs to that what was forecasted. This has reduced the projected overspend by £0.150m.

- Residential Non-Maintained and Independent – A movement of £0.365m. Previous forecasts have included provision for the placement of a further 16 out of borough placements. These have not been secured and therefore present a one-off saving in 2022/23.

The one-off savings a 2022/23 will be utilised to repay the historic DSG deficit.

- Early Year Block – Current projections show an overspend of £0.299m. The outcome of the January census is awaited to understand the value of grant to be received in 2022/23. As part of finalising the accounts the Local Authority will make an estimation of the change in grant with final confirmation to be received from the ESFA in July 2023.

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

## **5. DSG Reserve**

- 5.1 The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £1.705m into 2022/23. The current project surplus of £0.560m will reduce the deficit to £1.145m.
- 5.2 As a result of having a DSG deficit, a DSG management plan is required to be submitted to the ESFA that outlines actions to be taken to contain expenditure within the funding envelope provided. Thurrock is also part of the delivering better value in SEND programme, further information is provided below, with engagement in the programme likely to start in Summer 2023.

## **6. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

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

- 7.1 This new programme aims to support local authorities to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable. The programme will provide dedicated support and funding to 55 local authorities with less severe deficits than those in the Safety Valve programme.
- 7.2 Newton works as a transformation and improvement partner to local authorities and CIPFA is the local government accounting standard setter in the UK. Between them, they have worked with hundreds of public sector organisations, particularly local authorities, they have a comprehensive understanding of children's services and the SEND agenda, and have set out an approach that is:
- **Outcomes-focussed.** Both organisations have worked extensively alongside local authorities to transform how services are delivered. Their focus is always on improving resident outcomes and ways of working, and consequently sustainably improving financial performance.

- **Evidence-based**, data-driven and delivery-focussed. Newton and CIPFA take a partnership approach to working with local authorities to create robust plans which will have a measurable and sustainable difference, and as delivery partners understand the challenges associated with implementing change.
- **Rooted in co-production:** The organisations believe any programme of work needs to be co-produced, bespoke, and based on detailed evidence of each local area – balancing visibility and assurance with local autonomy to genuinely add value to existing work.

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

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

## 8. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- School Forum Meeting 17-01-23 – DSG 2022/23
- School Forum Meeting 17-11-22 – DSG 2022/23
- School Forum Report 22-09-22 – DSG 2022-23
- School Forum Meeting 23-06-22 – DSG 2021/22 and 2022/23

## 9. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

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

Name: David May  
Role: Strategic Lead, Corporate Finance  
E-Mail: [dmay@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:dmay@thurrock.gov.uk)

**Appendix A**

<b><u>Dedicated Schools Grant</u></b>		<b><u>2021/22</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b>
		<b><u>Outturn</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Projected</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
		<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>Outturn</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>
SB	Schools Block	139.593	145.819	145.091	(0.728)	156.091
CSSB	Central Services Block	1.504	1.688	1.613	(0.075)	1.632
HNB	High Needs Block	29.536	33.362	33.306	(0.056)	37.456
EYB	Early Years Block	12.745	12.880	13.179	0.299	13.679
Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Settlement		183.379	193.749	193.189	(0.560)	208.858
Less Academy Recoupment		(140.680)	(147.461)	(147.461)	0.000	(157.601)
Dedicated Schools Grant Received		(42.877)	(46.288)	(46.288)	0.000	(51.257)
<b>(Under) / Overspend</b>		<b>(0.178)</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>(0.559)</b>	<b>(0.560)</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>
SB	Maintained Schools Budgets	3.787	3.814	3.814	0.000	4.018
SB	Growth Fund	0.601	1.044	0.316	(0.728)	1.176
CSSB	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	(0.075)	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
HNB	Place Funding	0.000	(0.000)	0.000	0.000	0.602
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	3.206	3.449	3.390	(0.059)	3.600
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.788	3.596	(0.193)	4.948
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.279	6.447	0.168	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	1.416	0.116	1.448
HNB	Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.237	2.590	2.602	0.012	3.193
HNB	Pupils not in School	0.422	0.400	0.481	0.081	0.500
HNB	Medical Tuition	0.224	0.200	0.205	0.005	0.000
HNB	Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.400	0.996	(0.404)	0.990
HNB	Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.000	2.085	0.085	1.454
HNB	Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.123	0.000	1.185
HNB	Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.300	0.465	0.165	0.400
HNB	Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.050	0.023	(0.027)	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
EYB	3&4 Year old	10.531	10.724	11.020	0.296	11.475
EYB	2 year olds	1.696	1.697	1.711	0.014	1.714
EYB	Early Years Central Team	0.516	0.460	0.448	(0.012)	0.490
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>		<b>42.699</b>	<b>46.288</b>	<b>45.728</b>	<b>(0.560)</b>	<b>51.257</b>

# DSG Management Plan

David May

Email: [dmay@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:dmay@thurrock.gov.uk)

March 2023

# DSG Management Plan

- The DSG conditions of grant require that any LA with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the financial year must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.
- Management plans should reflect the most current forecast DSG position and be signed off by the relevant leads in finance and special educational needs (SEN) areas.
- Thurrock is also part of Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) 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. The delivery partners are Newton and CIPFA, expected to start Summer 2023.
- This presentation updates the DSG management plan for 2022/23

# DSG Projected Outturn 2022/23

- The DSG 2022/23 is currently forecasting an underspend of £0.559m.
- DSG deficit has reduced from £4.046m in 2017/28 to £1.145m in 2022/23.
- The HNB remains the area of significant financial risk. The key area is the continued increase in the number of EHCP's, Post-16 and Out of Authority specialist placements. One-Off in year savings have significantly contributed to the 2022/23 outturn position.

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	4.130	(0.728)
Central Services	1.688	0.000	0.000	1.688	1.613	(0.075)
High Needs	32.662	(6.500)	0.700	26.862	26.807	(0.055)
Early Years	12.880	0.000	0.000	12.880	13.179	0.299
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.750</b>	<b>(147.461)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>46.288</b>	<b>45.729</b>	<b>(0.559)</b>
<b>Total number of EHCPs by provision type</b>						
<b>Jan</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
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
<b>Total number of EHCPs by placement type</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>% Annual Increase</b>		<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>

# SEND Strategy

- 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
- This will be achieved by:
  - Maintaining and supporting pupils in mainstream provision
  - Funded outreach support available from Osborne, Treetops and Beacon Hill Academies
  - Resource Provisions attached to Mainstream School
  - Special School / Academy Provision
  - Out of Borough



# SEND Strategy

		Number of EHCPS Mar-23
	Out of Borough / Specialist Provision	74
	Special School / Academy Provision	584
	Resource Provisions attached to Mainstream School	232
	Funded outreach support available from Osborne, Treetops and Beacon Hill Academies	
	Maintain and support pupils in mainstream provision	827
	Post - 16	383
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,100</b>

# Thurrock Commissioned Places – Year on Year Increase

<b>Thurrock Commissioned Places</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Nursery - Chafford Hundred	3	3	3	3	3	3
Nursery – Stanford-le-hope	3	3	3	3	3	3
Primary - Lansdowne - LD & SLCN	8	8	10	10	10	10
Primary - Stanford-le-Hope - VI	5	5	5	5	5	5
Primary - ORTU Corringham - Sp & Lang	20	20	20	20	20	20
Primary - Dilkes Primary - SEMH	10	10	10	10	10	10
Primary – Quarry Hill - SEMH	10	10	10	10	10	10
Primary – Warren - HI	18	18	18	18	18	18
Primary – Stifford Clays - Autism	0	10	11	11	11	11
Primary - Aveley - Autism	0	10	10	10	10	10
Primary – East Tilbury - Inclusion Base	10	10	10	10	10	10
Primary – Thameside - Inclusion Base	6	6	6	6	6	6
Primary - New Autism provision	0	0	0	20	20	20
Secondary - Harris Chafford Hundred - SLCN & Autism	20	20	20	20	20	20
Secondary – St Clere’s - HI & VI	17	17	17	17	17	17
Secondary – Ormiston Park - SEMH	30	30	30	30	30	30
Secondary - New SEMH provision	0	0	30	30	30	30
Secondary - New Autism provision	0	0	0	0	10	20
<b>RESOURCE BASES</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>253</b>
Special - Treetops	328	316	318	318	318	318
Special - Treetops Free	0	60	147	147	147	147
Special - Beacon Hill	75	75	75	75	75	75
Special - Increase - September	0	0	16	36	56	76
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>616</b>
<b>Alternative Provision - Olive</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>THURROCK</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>954</b>

# High Needs Block – Thurrock - Key Areas

1. Education Health & Care Plans
2. Increased demand for Specialist places
3. Financial Impact

# 1. Education Health & Care Plans

- EHCP Data
- Know current position but consider future projections to inform local provision both in the short and medium term.
- Next set of slides show the projected data based on known and expected changes

# Projected Data

## Number of EHCP's by Placement Type

Jan	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Mainstream schools or academies	821	876	824	863	890	927
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	105	116	212	212	212	212
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
<b>Total number of EHCPs by placement type</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>% Annual Increase</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>

# Projected Data

## Number of EHCP's by Age Group

Jan	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Under 5	92	111	117	121	125	128
Age 5 to 10	609	693	765	789	810	813
Age 11 to 15	641	677	768	786	799	821
Age 16 to 19	318	321	371	401	420	448
Age 20 to 25	101	76	79	82	86	89
<b>Total number of EHCPs by Age Group</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,300</b>

# Projected Data

## Number of EHCPs by Primary Need

Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	478	531	607	637	657	677	28%
Hearing Impairment	36	35	39	35	35	35	0%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	323	330	347	364	375	387	17%
Multi- Sensory Impairment	3	4	3	4	4	4	8%
Physical Disability	106	105	121	114	114	114	8%
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	14	17	19	18	18	18	8%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	332	343	362	380	392	404	18%
Speech, Language and Communications needs	358	411	494	518	535	551	34%
Severe Learning Difficulty	34	31	39	34	34	34	8%
Specific Learning Difficulty	23	19	20	21	21	21	8%
Visual Impairment	21	20	20	22	22	22	8%
Other Difficulty/Disability	33	32	29	34	34	34	5%
SEN support but no specialist assessment of need	0	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total number of EHCPs by primary need</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>22%</b>

# Education Health & Care Plans - Summary

- Thurrock is an inclusive borough but there is still more to do
- Need to further increase 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. Need to develop a pathway to learning to start reintegration back into school. Partnership with schools and outdoor education.

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



## 2. Increased demand for Specialist Places

### Out of Borough Placements

- Low number but high cost

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	100	1,028,124	36	569,645	136	1,597,768
OLA Maintained Schools and Academies - Residential	5	319,348	0	0	5	319,348
Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	16	1,234,432	8	400,195	24	1,634,627
Non-Residential NMSS and Independent Specialist Placements	39	2,275,560	10	883,408	49	3,158,968
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>4,857,464</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,853,247</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>6,710,712</b>

- Next slide shows by primary need
- Need to consider further development of local offer to minimise out of borough placements

# Out of Borough Placements by Primary Need

<b>Primary Need</b>	<b>Total</b>
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	61
Hearing Impairment	10
Moderate Learning Difficulty	32
Multi- Sensory Impairment	1
Other Difficulty / Disability	5
Physical Disability	4
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	2
Severe Learning Difficulty	3
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	58
Specific Learning Difficulty	3
Speech, Language and Communications needs	24
Visual Impairment	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>
Unknown	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>214</b>

# 3. Financial Impact

## High Needs Block 2021/22 to 2023/24

<b>Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
High Needs Block	28.092	32.662	32.662	36.714
Funding Block Transfer	0.873	0.700	0.700	0.742
<b>Funding Settlement</b>	<b>28.965</b>	<b>33.362</b>	<b>33.362</b>	<b>37.456</b>
Place Funding	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.602
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	5.606	6.500	6.500	6.704
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	3.206	3.449	3.390	3.600
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.788	3.596	4.948
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.279	6.447	8.261
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.526	1.658	1.658	1.815
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.143	1.300	1.416	1.448
Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.262	2.590	2.602	3.193
Pupils not in School	0.581	0.600	0.686	0.500
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.400	0.996	0.990
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.000	2.085	1.454
Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.123	1.185
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.300	0.465	0.400
Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.050	0.023	0.030
Travellers Team	0.042	0.050	0.043	0.050
Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600
High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.675
Contribution to DSG Deficit	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	<b>29.537</b>	<b>33.362</b>	<b>33.306</b>	<b>37.456</b>
(Surplus) / Deficit	0.572	0.000	(0.056)	0.000

### 3. DSG Management Plan – Financial Impact

Total Expenditure	Outturn	Total Projected Mitigated Expenditure				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	7.086	7.798	8.460	7.179	7.276	7.409
Resources	3.903	4.520	5.872	6.718	7.158	7.158
Special Schools	8.990	11.173	13.191	14.486	15.532	15.532
NMSS or Independent	3.295	3.082	2.444	3.744	3.071	3.071
Hospital School or AP	2.400	2.531	2.695	2.677	2.729	2.729
Post-16 or FE	2.262	2.602	3.193	3.256	3.443	3.630
Other H2S Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.536</b>	<b>33.306</b>	<b>37.456</b>	<b>39.659</b>	<b>40.810</b>	<b>41.130</b>
HNB Net in-year position	0.571	(0.056)	0.000	1.844	1.860	2.180
<b>Projected DSG deficit position</b>	<b>1.705</b>	<b>1.145</b>	<b>1.145</b>	<b>2.989</b>	<b>4.849</b>	<b>7.030</b>

# Referrals list for Specialist Placement

- The table below shows the numbers in each year group who are on Treetops learning referrals list as at 13-03-23

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>MLD</b>	<b>VB</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nursery 2	0	13	13
Reception	1	16	17
Year 1	3	23	26
Year 2	3	19	22
Year 3	2	10	12
Year 4	3	7	10
Year 5	6	6	12
Year 6	4	4	8
Year 7	2	0	2
Year 8	5	1	6
Year 9	0	0	0
Year 10	1	3	4
Year 11	1	0	1
Year 12	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>135</b>

# Options Implemented 2023/24

- Value of transfer from SB to HNB
  - SF agreed maximum transfer up to 0.5% around £0.742m
  - Approval is for 1 year only need to consider long term implication
- Increase in Resource Base Autism provision – Sept -23
- Increase to Top up Values in Band Values
  - A 5% increase, cost implication of £3.812m
- Increase to Hourly rate paid to EHCPs
  - An increase of 5% to £10.50, cost implication of £0.1m in 2023/24, full year impact £0.160m
- Additional Grant paid to Special and AP (£0.494m)
- Need to consider impact of 2022/23 outturn on 2023/24 budget

# For Discussions & Next Steps

- Management of EHCP's
  - Use of Notional SEN within schools
  - Closure of Plans as appropriate
- Need to develop long term options to support increased demand and the local offer
- Partnership Approach to support children not in school. Need to develop a pathway to learning to start reintegration back into school. Partnership with schools and outdoor education.
- Next Steps
  - Wider consultation with Partners
  - Sharing of Mgmt. Plan and data with SENd DBV Review

# Schools Forum

## March 2023

David May

Children Services 2022/23 and 2023/24

Email: [dmay@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:dmay@thurrock.gov.uk)



# Children Services 2022/23

Key Risks – Placements, Legal Proceedings and Transport

2022/23 Reduction Plans Achieved

S114 Notice - Essential Spend Only – Statutory - Minimum

Service	Revised Budget	Month 10 Forecast	Month 10 Variance	Month 09 Variance	Movement Period 9 to 10
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children and Family Services	32.210	34.291	2.081	1.899	0.182
Education & Skills	4.381	4.228	(0.153)	(0.141)	(0.012)
Head Start Housing Service	0.943	0.835	(0.108)	(0.106)	(0.002)
School Transport	3.291	3.709	0.418	0.380	0.038
<b>Total Operational Budgets</b>	<b>40.825</b>	<b>43.063</b>	<b>2.238</b>	<b>2.032</b>	<b>0.206</b>
Children's reserve	0	(0.600)	(0.600)	(0.600)	0.000
Other grants	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Transformation funding	0	(0.184)	(0.195)	(0.195)	0.000
<b>Total non-recurrent funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.784)</b>	<b>(0.795)</b>	<b>(0.795)</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Projected Outturn position</b>	<b>40.825</b>	<b>42.279</b>	<b>1.443</b>	<b>1.237</b>	<b>0.206</b>

# Thurrock 2023-24 Summary

- Budget has only been set with confirmation that the Secretary of State is 'minded to' grant Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).
- This is in addition to the granting of flexibility on Council Tax (CT) which means Thurrock could raise this by up to 9.99% (incl. a 2% ASC precept).
- The EFS and CT then provide the funds to meet the projected gap in the 2023/24 budget of £180m.
- The funding gap relates predominantly to the issues arising from the impacts relating to the investment strategy.
- The budget has also been set on the assumption that further work is undertaken to consider wider options to mitigate the funding gap – this includes further work on savings, fees and charges and the capital programme. This will continue throughout 2023/24.
- Alongside this, the Council is operating under the requirements of the s114 notice which requires the Council to limit spend to essential services only (statutory/protecting the vulnerable/health and safety for example)
- More broadly the Council is delivering an improvement and recovery plan as part of the intervention process.

# Children's 2023/24

- Approved Budget 2023/24

Children & Education Portfolio	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Specific Government Grants (DSG) £'000	Specific Government Grants (excl. DSG) £'000	2023/24 Indicative Budget
Children and Family Services	42,593	(253)	0	(7,874)	34,466
Dedicated Schools Budget	51,282	(24)	(51,258)	0	0
Education and Skills	12,984	(5,062)	0	(2,737)	5,185
Head Start Housing Service	990	(35)	0	0	955
School Transport	4,545	0	0	0	4,545
<b>Children &amp; Education Total</b>	<b>112,394</b>	<b>(5,374)</b>	<b>(51,258)</b>	<b>(10,611)</b>	<b>45,151</b>

- Growth of £4.325 provided through MTFS – Pay Award, Placements, Legal Proceedings, Transport, reflecting 2022/23 Risks
- Reduction proposals of £1.415m need to be delivered before Apr-24
- Expectation that as a minimum, a balanced budget is achieved
- Further reductions will be required in 2023/24
- Review of everything including statutory services and what is the minimum level that can be provided

# Children's 2023/24

- Reduction Plans

<b>Children and Education Portfolio</b>	<b>Savings Narrative</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total</b>
Children and Family Services	Out of Duty Team - revised model of operation (November 2022)	255,000		255,000
Education & Skills	Cessation of Council provided Nursery Provision (August 2022)	46,000		46,000
Children and Family Services	Review of children with Continuing Health Care to secure appropriate Health contribution	200,000	100,000	300,000
Education & Skills	Review of Employability and Skills to realign skills agenda and related work to Economic Development and to review non statutory youth provision.	126,000	378,000	504,000
Children and Family Services	Review of Children's Social Care operating model. This will focus on management structures and an increase in management spans of control across the service which provide the savings.	77,500	233,000	310,500
<b>Children &amp; Education Total</b>		<b>704,500</b>	<b>711,000</b>	<b>1,415,500</b>

## THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 March 2023
SUBJECT:	Tuition Policy March 2023
REPORT OF:	Andrea Winstone
THE REPORT IS:	For Information

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thurrock Council has a statutory duty to provide education for children of compulsory school age when a child cannot attend due to illness, exclusion from school or otherwise. Otherwise includes when no school place is available. On occasions this education is provided in the form of tuition. The SEND Service has drafted a tuition policy that sets out our arrangements for tuition in these circumstances for the purposes of transparency and fairness.

The policy also includes the parent/carer agreement we expect to be signed before tuition can commence.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note the contents of the policies and comment before they are published and shared more widely.

### 3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Parents have a duty to ensure their children receive a suitable, full-time education. Most do this by sending their children to school. (**Education Act 1996, section 7**)

However, councils must “*make arrangements for the provision of **suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.***” (**Education Act 1996, section 19(1)**)

Suitable education means efficient education suitable to a child's age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have. (**Education Act 1996, section 19(6)**)

The education provided by the council must be full-time unless the council determines that full-time education would not be in the child's best interests for reasons of the child's physical or mental health. (**Education Act 1996, section 3A and 3AA**)

Full-time education ranges from 21 hours per week at Key Stage 1 to 25 hours a week at Key Stage 4. If councils provide one-to-one tuition, the hours of face-to-face provision could be fewer as the provision is more concentrated.

If a child is unable to attend school because of illness, the council must make alternative arrangements once the child has been absent for 15 days, either consecutively or cumulatively. The council must consider the individual circumstances of each child and take account of any medical evidence or advice when deciding what arrangements to make.

If a child has been permanently excluded from school, the council must arrange alternative education from the sixth school day following the exclusion, although it may start sooner.

“Otherwise” is a broad category which covers circumstances other than illness or exclusion in which it is not reasonably possible for a child to take advantage of any existing suitable schooling.

In all cases, councils must consider the individual circumstances of each particular child and be able to demonstrate how they made their decisions. They must take account of all available evidence, and record the reasons for their decisions. They may need to make decisions in cases where they do not have all the evidence they would like.

#### **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

#### **5. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR**

**NAME:** Andrea Winstone

**ROLE:** Strategic Lead School Effectiveness & SEND

**EMAIL:** [awinstone@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:awinstone@thurrock.gov.uk)

# Thurrock Council Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities Tuition Policy

Reviewed March 2023

This policy identifies the duties and local procedures for children with Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities who do not yet have a school place or who are unable to attend a mainstream or special school because of their health.

Legislation & statutory Guidance:

- 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend school because of health needs'. (DfE statutory guidance) in January 2013
- 'Supporting Students at School with Medical Needs' (DfE statutory guidance) Dec 2015 • Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010

Thurrock Council takes its responsibilities to all children and young people very seriously. We do our very best to ensure that every child has access to a good quality school that is able to meet their needs, including children with additional needs or Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities (SEND) so that they are able to fulfil their aspirations.

When a child or young person with SEND moves into Thurrock or requires a change of school, we will endeavour to work with the parents to identify and consult with appropriate schools that can meet the needs of their child.

Occasionally it may not be possible to secure a school place immediately, leaving a child or young person without any access to education temporarily. On these occasions, whilst we are still working to secure an appropriate school place, we will arrange for tuition at home to ensure the child or young person does not miss out on their right to an education.

Suitable full-time education is the aim (or part time when appropriate according to the student's needs). Although full-time is not defined in law, children with SEND should have provision which is equivalent to the education they would normally receive in school. However, if the child is receiving individual tuition, the hours are likely to be fewer as the provision is more concentrated. For example, primary aged pupils are offered up to a maximum of 5 sessions per week and this can be up to 2 hours per session. This is very intensive and in many instances, young children with SEND cannot access sessions of this length and intensity. The number, frequency and length of sessions will be determined at the panel and reviewed thereafter at termly reviews.

- Tuition will only be provided when agreed by the multi-agency Case-Management Panel which sits weekly and will be ratified by Strategic Leads at Provisions Panel which meets the following day.
- We aim to arrange tuition within 15 working days of the child or young person being out of education
- The child will usually be recorded as a Child Missing Education (CME) for reporting purposes unless they are on the roll of a school and medical tuition is required.
- Parents/ carers will be advised by the SEND Service that tuition is being arranged and gain agreement from them before tuition is commissioned.
- Parents must sign the tuition agreement form before tuition is commissioned.

- The tuition provided will meet the age and stage of the child or young person.
- Ordinarily tuition will consist of 40 minutes each per day of English, Maths and Science during term time only. No tuition will be provided during the typical school holiday periods. On occasions a more bespoke tuition package will be negotiated dependent on the needs of the individual.
- Tuition will be provided within the home and an appropriate adult family member must be present for the duration of the sessions.
- Where tuition cannot be provided in a face-to-face environment, then tuition will be provided virtually.
- Where tuition is provided virtually the Council may provide an electronic device if one is not already available.
- Tutors will be fully qualified to teach children or young people.
- All tuition sessions will be evaluated by the tuition provider and reports sent to parents and SEND service monthly.
- Tuition will only be provided by one of three tuition providers commissioned through a competitive tendering process until such time as a new provider is commissioned.
- There may be other circumstances where a child or young person with SEND is unable to attend school and it is agreed that tuition will be provided. e.g. Periods of either physical or mental ill-health.

## **Tuition Agreement**



# Thurrock Council Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities Parent /Carer Tuition Agreement

## Thurrock Council

The Council will commission suitable tuition typically between the hours of 9-5pm, dependent upon availability of the tutor.

The tuition will be provided by a suitably qualified tutor.

The council will request monthly tuition reports from the tuition provider.

The Council will respect, value and understand the individual needs of the children and young people and hold high expectations of young people and help them achieve realistic targets.

Ordinarily tuition will consist of 40 minutes each per day of English, Maths and Science during term time only, dependent on child's needs. No tuition will be provided during the typical school holiday periods.

Tuition providers will give parents notice adequate notice if they are unable to provide a tutor due to illness etc.

## Parent/s or guardians:

Maintain regular communication with the tuition provider.

Ensure their child is awake, dressed appropriately and prepared for their tuition sessions.

Encourages their child to show respect towards the tutor demonstrates polite behaviour

Be home when tuition is delivered in the home and within earshot of the tuition.

Provide a suitable, quiet space for their child to work free from distractions with basic resources (pad, pens, pencils, ruler)

Inform the tuition provider of any appointments that will impact on tuition times at least 24 hours prior to the affected session.

Understand that If 3 sessions are cancelled without due notice by the parent/ carer, tuition will be reduced or even cancelled until a meeting can be arranged to discuss the next steps.

Support the tuition and any reintegration back to school plans.

Attend all review meetings.

## The Child or Young Person

Must be willing and ready to engage with their tutor.

Mobile phone should not be used during tuition unless directed by the tutor.

Demonstrate respect and polite behaviour towards the tutor

Student's Name

Student's Year Group

Parent's Name

Hours per week of tuition/ subjects

Signed

Tuition can be withdrawn at the discretion of Thurrock Council if this agreement is not adhered to.

# Thurrock Council Special Educational Needs/ Disabilities Parent /Carer Tuition Agreement

## Thurrock Council

The Council will commission suitable tuition typically between the hours of 9-5pm, dependent upon availability of the tutor.

The tuition will be provided by a suitably qualified tutor.

The council will request monthly tuition reports from the tuition provider.

The Council will respect, value and understand the individual needs of the children and young people and hold high expectations of young people and help them achieve realistic targets.

Ordinarily tuition will consist of 40 minutes each per day of English, Maths and Science during term time only, dependent on child's needs. No tuition will be provided during the typical school holiday periods.

Tuition providers will give parents notice adequate notice if they are unable to provide a tutor due to illness etc.

## Parent/s or guardians:

Maintain regular communication with the tuition provider.

Ensure their child is awake, dressed appropriately and prepared for their tuition sessions.

Encourages their child to show respect towards the tutor demonstrates polite behaviour

Be home when tuition is delivered in the home and within earshot of the tuition.

Provide a suitable, quiet space for their child to work free from distractions with basic resources (pad, pens, pencils, ruler)

Inform the tuition provider of any appointments that will impact on tuition times at least 24 hours prior to the affected session.

Understand that If 3 sessions are cancelled without due notice by the parent/ carer, tuition will be reduced or even cancelled until a meeting can be arranged to discuss the next steps.

Support the tuition and any reintegration back to school plans.

Attend all review meetings.

## The Child or Young Person

Must be willing and ready to engage with their tutor.

Mobile phone should not be used during tuition unless directed by the tutor.

Demonstrate respect and polite behaviour towards the tutor

Student's Name

Student's Year Group

Parent's Name

Hours per week of tuition/ subjects

Signed

Tuition can be withdrawn at the discretion of Thurrock Council if this agreement is not adhered to.

## THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 March 2023
SUBJECT:	Equipment Policy
REPORT OF:	Andrea Winstone
THE REPORT IS:	For Information

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We have recently been asked to draft an equipment policy so that schools and settings are informed and aware of the arrangements made and agreed in Thurrock. The policy reflects the £2,000 agreed contribution made by the schools towards equipment per child per year.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note the contents of the policies and comment before they are published and shared more widely.

### 3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

All children and young people are entitled to an education, which enables them to:

- Reach their full potential and achieve the best possible education and outcomes
- Become confident children, young people, leading fulfilling lives with the ability to express their own views, and make a successful transition into adult life

The Children and Families Act (2014), SEN Code of Practice (2014) and Equality Act (2010) is clear that children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) are included in this entitlement, however they often need additional and different support and provision in place in order to achieve these outcomes. Early years settings and schools should use their best endeavours to ensure that effective provision is in place to support this. This means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN.

The Equality Act 2010 provides people with legal protection from discrimination in a variety of circumstances. Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Act [addresses education specifically and talks about the protections offered to children in schools](#)

The Special Educational Needs – Code of practice 0 to 25 years 2015

States: “Some children and young people (CYP) require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many CYP with Vision Impairment (VI), hearing loss or deafness or a

Multi-Sensory Impairment will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation” (section 6.34). “Some CYP with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers” (section 6.35).

This policy is designed to:

- Ensure children and young people (CYP) **0 to 25 years** have the necessary equipment provided to enable them to access all aspects of home and school life; achieving their potential and to maintain their health and independence.
- Clarify the responsibilities for the provision of equipment between Thurrock Council, Integrated Care Board and NELFT, Thurrock Children’s Social Care and Educational establishments including; early years settings, school or college (further education)
- Provide guidance on when/which equipment may, or may not be provided to CYP in early years settings, school or college (further education)
- Promote understanding between managers of Thurrock Council SEND, ICB and NELFT, Thurrock Children’s Social Care and Educational establishments and other parties involved in the provision of equipment to children. Thereby promoting a collaborative multi agency approach to ensure the CYP receive the right support at the right time

## 5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## 6. **CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR**

**NAME:** Andrea Winstone

**ROLE:** Strategic Lead School Effectiveness & SEND

**EMAIL:** [awinstone@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:awinstone@thurrock.gov.uk)

# Thurrock Council Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Equipment Policy for Educational Establishments

## April 2023

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### 1.0 Introduction

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This policy is designed to:

- Ensure children and young people (CYP) **0 to 25 years** have the necessary equipment provided to enable them to access all aspects of home and school life; achieving their potential and to maintain their health and independence.
- Clarify the responsibilities for the provision of equipment between Thurrock Council, Integrated Care Board and NELFT, Thurrock Children's Social Care and Educational establishments including; early years settings, school or college (further education)
- Provide guidance on when/which equipment may, or may not be provided to CYP in early years settings, school or college (further education)
- Promote understanding between managers of Thurrock Council SEND, ICB and NELFT, Thurrock Children's Social Care and Educational establishments and other parties involved in the provision of equipment to children. Thereby promoting a collaborative multi agency approach to ensure the CYP receive the right support at the right time

## **2.0 Eligibility**

To be eligible for the provision of specialised equipment for educational purposes, the following requirements need to be met:

- 1) There is an assessed need for specialist equipment to enable a CYP (0 to 25 years) to access the environment, for educational purposes including curriculum and life of the early years setting/school/home and/or health and safety.

And

- 2) The CYP (0 to 25 years) must be attending one of the following eligibility setting/s:
  - Pupils/residents attending early years settings, educational setting, school or college (further education) in Thurrock for whom Thurrock Maintains their EHCP
  - Pupils attending early years setting, educational setting, school or college (further education) with a Thurrock address
  - For pupils with a Thurrock address who attend early years settings, educational setting, school or college (further education) in another LA – the setting would apply to Thurrock for funding for equipment

Pupils with an out of borough address who attend an early years setting, educational setting, school or college (further education) in Blackpool - the setting should apply to their LA for funding for equipment.

Students attending university (Higher Education) equipment needs will be assessed and provided for by the University via the Disabled Students Allowance and not by Thurrock Local Authority.

## **3.0 Standard equipment and reasonable adjustments**

Early years settings, schools, colleges and Universities are responsible for undertaking day to day maintenance checks, safety and repair of all equipment (Standard or Specialised) within their education setting.

### **3.1 Standard equipment**

It is expected that the educational settings will provide a range of standard equipment for CYP to enable them to access education long and short term, for example:

- Disabled toilets
- Over the toilet wheeled commode chair

### 3.2 Reasonable adjustments

Schools will also be required to provide the following as stated in the Reasonable Adjustment for Disabled Children 2015:

- Assistance from a sign language interpreter, lip-speaker or deaf-blind communicator
- Extra staff assistance including support for personal care
- An electronic or manual note taking service
- Induction loop or infrared broadcast system
- Videophones
- Personal care items, including slings for hoists
- Audio-visual fire alarms
- Readers for people with visual impairments
- Assistance with guiding
- An adapted keyboard
- Specialised computer software
- Items which could be used for several CYP e.g., hoist

## 4.0 Specialist Equipment

### 4.1 Specialist equipment

Specialist equipment is defined as needed by a pupil with special educational needs within a private, voluntary, or independent early years settings, maintained early years settings and schools, and post 16 settings in order to facilitate better access to the provision/curriculum provided in the setting/school/home. It is defined as the type of equipment which would not ordinarily be available in the home, school or setting. This will typically include items such as:

- Specialist seating and standing equipment
- Specialist communication aids
- Specialist positioning equipment
- Toilet aids specific to that particular CYP needs, hoists, slings, freestanding height adjustable changing tables
- Sensory equipment such as radio aids or portable sound field systems and Perkins or electronic Braille notes

A laptop / notebook, iPad or equivalent computers are common-place, standard equipment in all schools and is **not** considered to be "specialist equipment" under the above definition.

### 4.2 Sensory – FM systems

The National Deaf Children's Society Quality Standards states: "Every Child with a Hearing Loss should be considered as a potential candidate for a Radio Aid". In line with this recommendation, all CYP in Thurrock with a hearing loss will be considered for a FM System.

The teacher of the deaf (TOD) will make recommendations for schools to purchase the equipment and where it can be purchased from.

The TOD, working with audiology, will identify suitable candidates for provision with a personal FM system as part of their amplification package and taking into account the child's and parent/carers'

views, The TOD may recommend FM system use using audiology records and professional judgement to identify that the following criteria have been met:

The CYP:

- Has a permanent bilateral, moderate, severe or profound hearing loss
- Is a reliable hearing aid/cochlear implant user
- Has a record of good attendance at Audiology appointments (this is required because the hearing aids must be in good working order and matched to an up-to-date audiogram before a radio aid can be effective).

The setting:

- Agrees to use the equipment as advised by the teacher of the deaf
- Allows the child to use the equipment at home as long as the parent/s have signed an home usage agreement, agrees to take responsibility for the care of the equipment and the equipment is covered by the home contents insurance policy

#### 4.3 Sensory – Low vision aids

Some CYP with a visual impairment require access to low vision aids and/or modified work. The Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI) will assess a CYP's need and advise on the appropriate font size for the CYP. When appropriate a Low Vision Aid will be suggested and where possible a demonstration of the equipment will be organised. The decision to consider a Low Vision Aid is dependent on font size, the reading ability of the CYP – if a CYP needs to access large amounts of text and enlarged books are not manageable. Following this a decision will be made as to whether the equipment is appropriate for the CYP.

The equipment belongs to the CYP whilst they are in education and should follow the child through their education, as long as it continues to be fit for purpose. Young people may take the equipment into post 16 provision.

As the CYP may need the equipment for homework and access to everyday life they may take the equipment home as long as parents agree and sign to say that they will take responsible care of the equipment. This will include an assurance from the parents that it will be covered on their household insurance.

Please Note: It is likely to be unlawful for a school to charge a pupil (or his parents) for making a reasonable adjustment in any circumstances, whatever the financial cost to the school and however the school is funded. The Equality Act duty applies to all schools in England and Wales irrespective of how they are funded. This includes Independent Schools and academies.

## 5.0 Funding thresholds

### Mainstream schools

Thurrock Council expects mainstream schools to provide equipment and software to CYP with SEND up to the threshold which will be reviewed each year and published for schools to view.

The contribution to costs of new equipment for children with EHC plans equipment will need to be listed as provision in the child's EHC plan and the setting is required to contribute towards the cost of such equipment. The contribution is per child per year and may include the total contribution for multiple pieces of equipment.

For items of equipment over the agreed threshold mainstream schools will fund the first part and the LA will fund the remaining costs from the high needs budget.

The funding thresholds are reviewed annually.



The following thresholds apply from 1 April 2023:

- The SEND equipment threshold is set at £2,000 per child per academic year
- Equipment under £2,000 per child per academic year will be sourced and funded by schools
- Equipment over £2,000 per child, per academic year (including accessories and servicing) will be sourced and funded by Thurrock Council

Where the child attends an education setting and does not have an EHC plan the setting is required under the Equality Act to provide the equipment the child needs, the above thresholds will also apply.

For mainstream schools, with a child or young person with complex needs, who requires a large amount of specialist equipment, the panel will expect that equipment to be included in the child's EHC plan and where the cost is significant the LA will work with the school to agree a contribution towards that equipment.

### **Early years (EY)**

For pupils in EY settings there will be no expectation of financial support from the setting. The equipment costs will be covered by the Inclusion fund for EYs.

### **Special schools**

For schools, with CYP with complex needs, who require a large amount of specialist equipment, the panel will expect that equipment to be included in the child's EHC plan and where the cost is significant the LA will work with the school to agree a contribution towards that equipment.

Therapist equipment requests

All Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy (NELFT) equipment requests are sent to SEN and SEN Finance ([SEN@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:SEN@thurrock.gov.uk) [SENFinance@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:SENFinance@thurrock.gov.uk)) from the secure NHS e-mail account (NHS.net) with name of school in title and child's initials.

Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities are responsible for undertaking day to day safety and maintenance checks of all equipment (standard or specialised) within their education setting. Therefore, schools/other settings may find it helpful to maintain a log of equipment ordered/delivered so they can include this in their equipment maintenance schedule.

OT/PT Equipment is ordered by therapists via ECL Uniquis and remains the property of ECL Uniquis.

## **6.0 Repairs, transfers and returns**

### **6.1 Repairs**

If any equipment develops a fault or is identified as needing a repair, it should be immediately taken out of use and clearly labelled, cleaned down. The school/setting should immediately inform ECL Uniquis of any concerns about damaged or broken equipment and arrange repairs. Email to: [ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org](mailto:ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org) or Telephone: 0330 135438

## 6.2 Transfers of equipment

**Important** - All planned transfers of equipment to other schools/settings (inside or outside) of Thurrock **must** be promptly notified prior to a transfer taking place. N.B. The School/setting is responsible for informing ECL Uniques by email to: [ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org](mailto:ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org) as early as possible. This is so that:

- Equipment asset registers and essential servicing and maintenance schedules can be updated to reflect the new location of the equipment
- Equipment may be collected, cleansed, decontaminated and checked/serviced prior to delivery to the new school
- Contracted suppliers of hired equipment can be contacted to arrange the return or relocation under a new hire agreement for the equipment.

## 6.3 Transfer to schools/Settings in Thurrock

When a child moves to a school/setting within Thurrock, then the equipment prescribed for that child will normally move to the new school/setting with them.

## 6.4 Transfer to schools/Settings outside of Thurrock

When a child moves to a school/setting outside of Thurrock, then the equipment prescribed for that child will normally move to the new school/setting with them with the exception of hired equipment, which **must** be returned to the supplier unless a new hire agreement for the equipment has been agreed.

In some cases it may be appropriate to contact the head teacher to negotiate a contribution to the costs of the equipment of up to 50% of the original school expense and the full costs of the recycling and decontamination process. For further information please contact ECL uniques.

## 6.5 Return of equipment

Equipment should be returned to the recycle store when the individual child it was prescribed for no longer needs it. When a piece of equipment is no longer in use, the setting/school must promptly contact ECL Uniques to arrange for the equipment to be removed from the setting/school. Email to: [ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org](mailto:ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org)

## **7.0 Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The setting/school**

The setting/school/college/home will:

- Ensure equipment is kept clean and is stored in a safe place
- Carry out daily safety checks and liaise with ECL Uniquis to arrange regular servicing (as required) in line with manufacturers recommendations
- Promptly report any damaged or lost equipment to the Blackpool Equipment Service. Email: [ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org](mailto:ECL.contactcentre@essexcares.org) removing damaged equipment from use until fully repaired
- Arrange for return of equipment to the recycling store when no longer in use by the child
- Track servicing and maintenance checks for all equipment within the setting/school/home
- Track any loan applications and agreements, including insurance evidence from academy settings
- Approve and pay the invoice for the proportion of equipment cost in line with the LAs agreed charging policy. The LAs SEND Team will administer the charging policy and liaise with the school/setting about invoicing arrangements and financial contributions where appropriate.

### **7.2 Local authority**

The LA will:

- The LAs SEND team will administer the charging policy and liaise with the school/setting about invoicing arrangements and financial contributions where appropriate.

### **7.3 Local authority, health providers and commissioners**

Partner organisations will work together to:

- Monitor and review this policy and guidance on an annual basis
- Audit the process and service at least annually, provide feedback to inform continuous improvements

## **8.0 Policy review**

The policy and associated procedures will be reviewed annually and shared with Schools' Forum.

## Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2022 – 2023

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
<b>Thursday 22 June 2023</b>	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan - Decision
	ESFA Consultations - <b>Standing</b>
	School Forum meeting cycle 2023-24
	Union Facility Time Annual Review
	Review of Forward Plan 2022/23 - <b>Standing</b>

**THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM**

**Draft Minutes  
17 January 2023 at 10am to midday  
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams**

**In attendance**

**Multi Academy Trusts**

Catalyst Academies Trust  
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust  
Southwest Essex Community Education Trust  
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)  
Vine Schools Trust  
Christus Catholic Trust

**Name**

Mr T Parfett  
Mr Griffiths  
Mr S Munday  
Mrs V Reid  
Mrs E Wigmore  
Mrs J Seymour

**Standalone Academy Trusts**

West Thurrock Academy  
Giffards Primary

**Name**

Mr S Proctor  
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

**Infrastructure Groups**

TASS  
TPHA

**Name**

Mr S Bell  
Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes

**Alternative Provision**

Olive AP

**Name**

Ms Jo Gillman

**Special Schools**

Treetops Academy  
Beacon Hill Academy

**Name**

Mr J Brewer  
Mrs Sue Hewitt

**Non-school members**

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

**Name**

Mrs M Shepherd  
Mr A Melbourne  
Ms Alison 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  
Strategic Lead for School Effectiveness and SEND  
Clerk

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

### **Welcome from Chair**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and advised that Mr S Proctor from West Thurrock was replacing Mr E Caines as the standalone academy rep.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Mr M Vickers. Ms J Gillman attended the meeting representing Olive AP. Apologies also received from Mrs N Graham and Mrs E Wigmore.

#### **2. Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'Any Other Business'**

- a) The Forum agreed the agenda and time guide.
- b) Any Other Business – There was no other business

#### **3. Election Vice Chair**

The Chair commented that at the last meeting they had not been able to elect a Chair. It was agreed that this would be discussed at THPA. Miss S Williams advised that there was some interest and it had been agreed to elect Mrs V Reid as the Vice Chair. All school Forum members ratified this.

#### **4. Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report & Presentation**

##### **Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23**

Mr D May advised that The DSG 2022/23 current forecast is a break-even position, which will maintain the deficit at £1.705m. The High Needs Block remains the area of significant financial risk with a projected overspend of £0.752m especially with the continuous increase in EHCP's and the additional costs of out of borough placements. Mr D May went through papers circulated providing further detail.

Mr D May commented that the outturn position reflects the following key areas:

- The School 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. This overspend relates to increased demand for EHCP's, Specialist and Post-16 placements.

##### **Agreed**

- a) All forum members noted the 2022/23 outturn position.

##### **Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24**

Mr D May advised that the 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools' budget will increase by £2 billion in the 2023/24 financial year.

Thurrock's DSG allocation for 2023/24 will increase by £15.1m. With increases to the Schools Block (£10.3m), High Needs Block (£4.1m), Early Years Block (£0.8m) and a decrease to the Central Services Block (£0.055m).

He advised that in 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. He commented that 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.

Mr A Melbourne asked about additional grant to schools. What was this intended for. Mr D May advised that this figure of £5.399m is for schools to reflect their inflationary rates. Mr A Melbourne asked if the schools blocks decision to transfer money would impact on Early Years. Mr D May advised that they have proposals for the Early Years in this report. The School Block is ring fenced and only can be moved to the High Needs Block. Mr A Melbourne asked if there was any room to move some retention fund. Mr D May advised this can only be used for the Schools Block. Mr A Melbourne asked if the ring fencing is this put in place by the DfE. Mr D May advised yes this is the case.

### **Schools Block**

Mr D May provided detail on the change in funding, increase in pupil numbers and the impact on Thurrock's local funding formula in 2023/24. He advised that Thurrock's funding formula would implement the following principles consistent with those discussed with the Schools Forum in November and agreed by Cabinet in December 2022:

- National Funding Formula including Area Cost Adjustment values to be applied.
- The Basic Entitlement value to be applied will be equal to the minimum value increase allowed to ensure the formula can be contained within the resource available.

Growth Fund - He also advised that the Growth Fund to be received by Thurrock is £1.336m, a decrease of £0.063m from that received in 2022/23. The presentation showed a growth requirement of £1.390m in 2023/24, more than that provided by ESFA. In addition, a further increase of 227.5 had been included in the APT local funding formula.

Mr P Griffiths commented on the Growth Fund papers and the number of pupils at each school. He advised that the number intended to admit at Thames Park School should be 180 not 120.

Mr D May commented that 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.

Detailed funding at individual school level was provided and discussed.

### **Agreed**

- a) Agreed the transfer of 0.47% £0.742m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support increase demand for Specialist placements and EHCPs in 2023/24.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- b) Agreed to the retention of £1,390m to fund in year growth in 2023/24  
13 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.

### **Central School Services Block**

Mr D May advised that the Central School Services Block (CSSB) was created from the DSG funding that was held centrally by the local authority. He advised that a 20% year on year reduction has been applied from 2020/21 – 2023/24 a reduction of £0.135m.

Mr P Griffiths asked what are the longer-term arrangements for LAs when they are not getting enough money in the central blocks. Mr D May advised that funding being reduced is for historic commitments made in 2013/14 that should diminish over time. In the short term the Local Authority is currently protecting services from the year-on-year reduction but that this would need to be kept under review.

Miss M Shepard asked why the SACRE money has gone up. Mr D May advised that once every four years there is a review which has an additional cost.

The detailed budget was presented.

### **Agreed**

- a) The Central School Services Block budget of £1.633m in 2023/24  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.

### **High Needs Block**

Mr D May advised that in 2023/24 the High Needs Block funding allocation will be £36.714m, an increase of £4.052m.

The key areas are:

- The projected outturn for 2022/23 is a deficit of £0.752m.
- The continued Year on Year increase in EHCP's
- There is also a significant increase in Commissioned Numbers



- Increase in Band Values from Sept-23
- Requirement to pay Additional Grant to Special and AP providers

At the March School Forum meeting the following will be included on the agenda for discussion

- Updated DSG Management Plan 2022/23
- Updated 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

Mr D May provided background from the DSG Management Plan on the increase in EHCPs and the projections. He advised that the long-term strategy includes:

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

Commissioned numbers are increasing with a budget figure of 893 included in the information presented Mr D May advised that both top up values and the hourly rate are to be increased by 5% from September 2023. The cost implication of both the increase in numbers and 5% uplift will be £4.3m in 2023/24.

Miss S Hewitt commented that the additional grant for special schools will be coming through as a separate fund.

Mr M Taylor advised that in 2020/21 the spend per head 2-18 population per 100 agreed 2-18 years on NMISS shows that Thurrock is on £67 per head which is lower than many other LAs.

Miss J Sawtell-Haynes asked about the amount being transferred into the High Needs Block and the increase in the hourly rate did they add up to the same amount.

Mr D May advised that the transfer from the SB was to support increase demand for Specialist placements, Education, Health and Care Plans and the 82 children, who in the 2021/22 academic year, were included in the Schools Block autumn 2021 census but moved to be funded from the High Needs Block without any transfer of funds. increase in hourly rate does not add up to the amount being transferred to the High Needs Block.

Miss J Sawtell-Haynes would like a breakdown in the amounts.

**Action: Mr D May will bring back figures to the next meeting regarding the increase the hourly rate and the transfer to the High Needs Block.**

Miss J Sawtell-Haynes advised the THFA's view was that they did not want resource bases to be the only strategy. Some parents want their children to remain in mainstream schools. Mr M Taylor advised that position is complicated but the LA can provide additional funded hours for children to remain in a mainstream school.

**Agreed**

- a) Top Up Values and the hourly rate to increase by 5% from September 2023.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- b) Agree the presented High Needs Block Budget of £37.456m for 2023/24  
14 School Forum members agreed. There were no abstentions

**Early Year Block**

Mr D May advised that in addition to the previously announced £180m for the Early Years entitlements in 2023/24, the DfE has made available an additional £20m funding.

Local authorities will receive an average funding increase 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.

Mr D May shared a slide showing the increase in hourly rates. He advised that key changes include:

- 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.

Mr D May advised that the key impact within Thurrock was minimal increases to hourly funding rates and implication from mainstreaming the Teachers Pay and Pension Grant (TPPG). He commented that 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.

Mr D May advised there are two options available:

Option 1 - Continue to target the TPPG 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.

Option 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

Mr D May advised that there is not enough money going into the Early Years sector. It is about how we can seek to support the whole sector.

Mr M Taylor advised that they have seen unpredicted increase in high complex needs and additional SEN needs due to no access during the COVID. The impact coming into primary school is huge. Mrs A Winstone commented that the child sufficiency report shows that they have insufficient childcare places. They need to increase the number of providers in the borough. Mr A Melborne commented that the financial system is not the same or as robust as School and Academies. He welcomed Option 2 and hopes the School Forum will support.

Miss J Sawtell-Haynes commented she feels option 2 is the better option. The Chair advised he feels the same.

The Chair asked all members to vote on Option 2 first.

### **Agreed**

- a) Option 2 – 3-&-4-year-olds - No quality factor, and an hourly rate for 2023/24 of £4.79, an increase of 31p per hour.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- b) A 2-Year-Old hourly rate for 2023/24 of £5.50  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- c) To increase deprivation rates as outlined in 2023/24.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- d) To the increase in SEN Budget in 2023/24  
13 school forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.  
One member had been disconnected from the virtual meeting.
- e) The Early Years Central Team budget of £0.490m, for 2023/24.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.

### **Next Steps**

The APT for the Schools Funding Formula to be submitted to ESFA by 21<sup>st</sup> January. ESFA approval to the formula is required before the budgets can be confirmed as final. An update will be provided to all Headteachers on 27<sup>th</sup> January

## 5. **Growth Fund 2023/24**

Miss S Williams asked the school forum to agree the process for the allocation of growth funding for schools and academies who take bulge classes or where there are expansion of schools and academies whereby schools and academies increase their published admissions number at the request of the Council.

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 to create a growth fund to support schools and academies which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the authority, including preopening.

The AWPU value to be paid for the academic year 2023/24 would be Primary £3,436 and Secondary £4,845 per pupil. This is a decrease from the Minimum per Pupil Guarantee but reflects the most common funding value provided within the ESFA guidance.

Miss J Sawtell-Hayes asked if the deprivation factor is included. Mr D May advised that this is provided after the children are on roll. Mr P Griffiths asked how they will take money from the School Block. Mr D May has advised that this has already been included in the figures presented in the DSG 2023/24 report.

### **Agreed**

- a) The proposed criteria for schools and academies accessing funding allocated for growth for the academic year 2023/24.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- b) To change to age weighted pupil unit value for the academic year 2023/24.  
13 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- c) To agree a Growth Fund budget for the financial year 2023/24 of £1,395,501.  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.
- d) To keep under review the need to establish a Falling Rolls Policy  
14 School forum members agreed. There were no abstentions.

## 6. **Thurrock Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022**

Mrs A Winstone advised that the Child Sufficiency Assessment is statutory document that needs to be agreed at this meeting. The assessment shows there are currently 202 early years providers offering 3,938 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.

Miss A Jones commented that although in some areas there is a shortage of spaces some areas have settings which have opened and are causing other settings to struggle with getting the numbers. She feels that the settings should be encouraged to open in areas of need. Mrs A Winstone commented they do work with providers and advise them of areas that need more places but cannot force them to do this.

Mr A Melbourne remarked on the disparity across the borough of places. The difficulty for settings is that the business model is so challenging. The way government runs funding and how funding is set it is a difficult business to sustain and make money. He advised that we need to somehow develop growth in early years. He would like a working group to be setup. Mrs M Lucas commented that this is a national problem. She commented that she is waiting to speak to a senior member of the DfE. She asked the Chair to put together a letter formally to Ministers around this area.

**Action: The Chair to put a letter together to be sent to the DfE regarding Early Years**

Miss J Sawtell-Haynes commented that in addition to funding it is capital funds they need to open extra places in nursery. A question for DfE would be around capital. Mrs A Winstone advised that the only way they would get capital funding is part of new developments in the way of S106 which is very rare to get. Miss S Williams advised she will work with Mrs A Winstone on this to ensure nursery provision requirements are included on the infrastructure requirement list.

**Action: Miss S Williams and Mrs A Winstone to discuss the possibility of S106 funding from new developments for nursery capital.**

Mrs A Winstone advised that the report also talks about issues around recruitment and retention.

**Agreed**

- a) All school forums members agreed 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.

- b) All school forum members agreed 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.
- c) All school forum members agreed the draft version of the *Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022* is adopted.

**7. Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3&4 year olds**

Mrs A Winstone advised that 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 to this document. Mrs A Winstone went through the changes in this document.

**Agreed**

- a) 13 forum members noted the list of changes to the code of practice for early education and childcare 2022. No abstentions.

**8. Schools' Forum Forward Plan**

Miss S Williams presented the forward plan and noted items from this meeting. Mrs J Sawtell-Hayes asked about feedback from the SEND subgroup. Mrs M Lucas asked this to be added to the March meeting.

**Action: Miss S Williams to add feedback from SEND subgroup to the Forward Plan**

**9. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Chair went through the minutes of the previous meeting for accuracy. There were no changes. All members were happy with the content.

**10. Action Log**

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

**11. 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.** Mrs A Winstone advised that 65% of children moving in to attend Treetops were from London. Most common boroughs are Newham, Essex, and Tower Hamlets.

**Action 2: Mrs A Winstone to share with Miss S Williams where children with EHCPs move to after Year 11.** Mrs A Winstone provided a list of destinations:

Apprenticeships/ work-based trainees	10
Employment/ ceasing	9

College	245
Mainstream School	16
Specialist school /post 16	71
NEET	65
Reengagement Inspire	12
EHE/EOTAS/tuition	5
University / ceasing	1

**Action 3: Mr M Taylor to discuss changes to wording in previous minutes with Mr T Parfett:** This action is now closed.

**Date of next meeting**

Thursday 16 March 2023 – Virtual Meeting

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action details	Action Owner	Action or Decision	Relevant Timescales	Action Status	Additional information
17th November 2022	Item 11 - Any other business	Review of the £2,000 threshold that schools have to pay for equipment. Report to next meeting outlining numbers of children affected, options and the financial implications	D May	Action			Deferred and to be included within the HNB report for March 2023
17th January 2023	Item 5 - Dedicated School Grant	Mr D May will bring back figures to the next meeting regarding the increase in the hourly rate and the transfer to the High Needs Block	D May	Action			
17th January 2023	Item 7 - Child Sufficiency Assessment	The Chair to put a letter together to be send to the DfE regarding Early Years	The Chair	Action			
17th January 2023	Item 7 - Child Sufficiency Assessment	Miss S Williams and Mrs A Winstone to discuss the possibility of S106 funding from new developments for nursery capital	Sarah Williams and Andrea Winstone	Action			
17th January 2023	Item 9 - School Forum Forward Plan	Miss S William to add feedback from SEND sub group to the Forward Plan	Sarah Williams	Action			