

# Thurrock Schools' Forum

13 December 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>Core items</b>		
4.	<i>For decision:</i> <b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24</b> presented by David May	10:05am
5.	<i>For information:</i> <b>Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan / DVB SEND Programme 2023/24</b> presented by David May	10:20am
6.	<i>For decision:</i> <b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25</b> presented by David May	10:45am
7.	<i>Presentation:</i> <b>ESFA Consultations – Early Years response to consultation and information released</b> presented by David May	11:15am
8.	<i>For information and decision:</i> <b>Schools' Forum Forward Plan</b> presented by Sarah Williams	11:25am
<b>Closing items</b>		
9.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 September 2023</b>	11:35am
10.	<b>Action log</b>	11:40am
11.	<b>Matters arising</b>	11:45am
12.	<b>Any other business</b>	11:50am
13.	<b>Next meeting</b> Tuesday 16 January 2024	

## THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 13 December 2023  
SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24  
REPORT OF: David May  
THE REPORT IS: For Decision

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DSG is currently projecting a breakeven position that would maintain the deficit at £0.534m.
- 1.2 There continues to be significant risk within the High Needs Block:
  - Continued increase in demand for EHCP's; and
  - Sufficiency of local offer to prevent high-cost external placements.
- 1.3 Further work has been undertaken on the Teachers pay additional grant. A decision is required on how this funding is allocated to Special and AP academies. This is outlined in section 6 of the report.
- 1.4 A new Early Years Teachers pay additional grant is available. Need to determine how to be distributed. This is outlined in Section 7 of the report.
- 1.5 Work on the SEND Delivering Better Value programme is progressing. This is a separate agenda item.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is invited to:
  - a) Note and seek clarity on the contents of the report.
  - b) Agree the method of distribution to Special and AP Academies of the Teacher pay additional grant as outlined in Section 6.
    - Option A – Table 1: Funding allocations as provided by ESFA.
    - Option B – Table 2: The inclusion of a lump sum element
    - Option C – Table 3: Teacher numbers
  - c) Agree to the distribution of the Early years teachers' pay additional grant as outlined in Section 7.
    - A 4p per hour increase is paid to all 3&4-year-old providers for the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 terms in recognition of the workforce cost

pressures that all providers are facing and to be consistent with decisions made in January 2023.

### 3. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 To inform members of the Schools Forum of recent announcements and the projected outturn position in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2023/24, in accordance with the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

### 4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2023/24

- 4.1 The current projected outturn for 2023/24 is a breakeven position as shown below: Appendix A provides further detail on the key areas of expenditure.

DSG 2023/24	Funding Settlement	Funding Block Transfer	Academy Recoupment	DSG Received	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	156.834	(0.743)	(150.641)	5.450	5.227	(0.223)
Central Services	1.632			1.632	1.622	(0.010)
High Needs	37.356	0.743	(7.026)	31.073	30.981	(0.092)
Early Years	13.599			13.599	13.924	0.325
<b>Total</b>	<b>209.421</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(157.667)</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>

- 4.2 The outturn position reflects the following key areas:

- Schools Block – Pupil Growth, has an underspend of £0.223m.
- Central Services – Staffing underspends and maximisation of external funding.
- High Needs Block – One off savings contributing to an underspend of £0.092m.
  - Out of Borough Placements – Budget realigned, and placements updated to reflect academic year changes. Current overspend of £0.406m linked to current and future placements. Includes contingency for 8 placements.
  - Resource Base – Savings of £0.916m. Forecasts include provision for bases originally scheduled to open in Sept-23 that are delayed to April-24.
  - Top up Funding Academies – Overspend £0.249m. The demand for EHCPs continues, average of 32 new EHCPs a month.
- Early Years Block – Budget based on January 2022 census. Overspend relates to an increase in funded hours paid and demand for top up funding to support children with additional needs in 2023/24.

The 2023/24 budget and funding rates are based on the previous 12-month (Spring, Summer, Autumn 2022) data.

The following variances have materialised:

- January 2023 data was 30,000 units less than January 2022.
- Summer 2023 payments were 30,000 more than Summer 2022.

In summary, the funding received through the DSG which is based on January Census was less than expected but the summer term payments made were

more than predicted. This will need to be considered as part of the 2024/25 budget process and may impact on the rates to be paid to providers.

## 5. DSG RESERVE

- 5.1 The DSG has a carried forward deficit of £0.534m into 2023/24. The history and movement is reflected in the table below:

<b>DSG Deficit - Summary</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>Deficit % DSG</b>
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2018	(4.046)	2.78%
DSG 2018/19	1.390	
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2019	(2.656)	1.74%
DSG 2019-20	0.678	
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2020	(1.978)	1.26%
DSG 2020/21	0.095	
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2021	(1.883)	1.12%
DSG 2021/22	0.178	
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2022	(1.705)	0.93%
DSG 2022/23	1.171	
<b>DSG Unfunded 31/03/2023</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>0.19%</b>

- 5.2 As a result of having a DSG deficit, a DSG management plan is required to be submitted to the ESFA that outlines the reason the deficit has occurred and actions to be taken to contain expenditure within the funding envelope provided.
- 5.3 The 2022/23 outturn position demonstrates that expenditure has been contained within the resource available, although each funding block has its own story to tell. The realisation of one-off savings has significantly contributed to the reduction of the historic deficit position whilst continuing to meet increased demand and cost within the High Needs Block.
- 5.4 Thurrock, as previously discussed, is part of tranche 3 of the Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme. This 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. Thurrock is engaged in Wave 8 of the DBV programme, with an expected grant application to be made January 2024, for additional one-off funding to be received for the financial year 2024/25.

## 6. TEACHERS PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT 2023/24

- 6.1 The Teachers pay additional grant (TPAG) allocates funding for special and AP schools in 2023/24 was subject to discussion at the September meeting.
- 6.2 Local authorities will have flexibility in how they pass on the funding allocations for special schools and AP schools to individual providers.

### 6.3 Special schools and AP schools Funding rates 2023/24

The funding rate for 2023/24 financial year is £260 per place. An Area cost adjustment (ACA) is added to all the rates shown above. The table below shows the funding to be received in October 2023.

**Table 1: Funding allocations as provided by ESFA.**

School Name	ACA	PLACES	VALUE	TOTAL
Beacon Hill Academy	1.047175	75	£260	£20,420
Olive AP Academy - Thurrock	1.047175	85	£260	£23,143
Treetops Free School	1.047175	147	£260	£40,023
Treetops School	1.047175	318	£260	£86,580
<b>Total - Value of Grant</b>		<b>625</b>		<b>£170,166</b>

The decision to be made is if this funding methodology should be used or a local variant that would include a lump sum consistent with how the HNB Additional grant formula was allocated. This is shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Lump Sum plus £229 per place**

School Name	Lump Sum	ACA	PLACES	VALUE	TOTAL
Beacon Hill Academy	£5,000	1.047175	75	£229	£23,020
Olive AP Academy - Thurrock	£5,000	1.047175	85	£229	£25,422
Treetops Free School	£5,000	1.047175	147	£229	£40,319
Treetops School	£5,000	1.047175	318	£229	£81,405
<b>Total - Value of Grant</b>			<b>625</b>		<b>£170,166</b>

At the last meeting of the schools forum, asked to consider allocation via teachers numbers, as shown in the table below.

**Table 3: Distribution based on Teachers employed as a percentage of overall Special AP Teachers.**

School Name	Places	Teachers	Teachers	Total	Change
Beacon Hill Academy	75	13	16%	£26,912	£6,492
Olive AP Academy	85	16	20%	£33,536	£10,394
Treetops Free School	147	20	24%	£41,403	£1,380
Treetops School	318	33	40%	£68,315	(£18,266)
<b>Total - Value of Grant</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£170,166</b>	<b>£0</b>

6.4 Of the options presented and the future inclusion in the High Needs Block, the easiest and simplest is Option 1 – to apply ESFA funding allocation.

## 7. **EARLY YEARS TEACHERS' PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT 2023/24**

7.1 For the 2023/24 financial year, £12.5m of funding will be provided to local authorities to support early years providers delivering the government's early years entitlements with increased teacher workforce costs from September 2023. This funding will be distributed via the early years teachers' pay additional grant (EY TPAG).

7.2 For the 2024/25 financial year, £22.5m funding for teachers pay in early years will be incorporated into DSG core funding arrangements, through the early years funding block, rather than through a separate teachers' pay grant.

7.3 It is for local authorities to determine the most appropriate way of allocating EY TPAG funding locally. As with the roll-in of historic teacher pay and pensions funding in 2023 to 2024, we encourage local authorities to consider the purpose for which this additional funding has been provided (to address increases in teacher pay from 1 September 2023) and consider how they could target this funding to take account of the additional workforce pressures that some providers will face.

7.4 The ESFA are aware that to date different local authorities have taken a range of approaches to managing funding for teachers' pay and pensions in their local areas.

- Some local authorities have distributed additional funding universally, to all providers locally, in recognition of the workforce cost pressures that providers are facing.
- Other authorities have targeted additional funding to providers who have a greater proportion of qualified teaching staff, and who will more directly experience pressures as a result of increasing teacher pay and pension contributions.

Local authorities are best placed to determine the needs amongst providers in their local areas and are encouraged to distribute this funding in a way that reflects their local circumstances.

7.5 Local authorities must pass on the funding in a clear and transparent way, so that providers can understand how allocations have been determined locally.

7.6 Thurrock has received £54,327 allocation for September 2023 to March 2024. This is the equivalent of a 4p per hour increase for 3-and-4-year-old funding.

7.7 In recognition of the workforce cost pressures that all providers are facing and to be consistent with decisions made in January 2023 it is proposed that the 4p increase is paid to all 3&4-year-old providers for the Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 terms.

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

- School Forum meeting 14-09-23 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24
- School Forum meeting 22-06-23 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 and 2023/24

**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>2022/23</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b>	<b><u>2023/24</u></b>
		<b><u>Outturn</u></b>	<b><u>Revised</u></b>	<b><u>Projected</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
		<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>	<b><u>£m</u></b>
SB	Schools Block	145.100	156.091	155.868	(0.223)
CSSB	Central Services Block	1.619	1.633	1.622	(0.011)
HNB	High Needs Block	33.170	38.099	38.006	(0.092)
EYB	Early Years Block	12.526	13.598552	13.924	0.325
Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Settlement		192.415	209.421	209.421	(0.000)
Less Academy Recoupment		(147.461)	(157.667)	(157.667)	0.000
Dedicated Schools Grant Received		(46.125)	(51.754)	(51.754)	0.000
<b>(Under) / Overspend</b>		<b>(1.171)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>
SB	Maintained Schools Budgets	3.814	4.018	4.018	0.000
SB	Growth Fund	0.324	1.432	1.209	(0.223)
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Education	0.444	0.473	0.473	(0.000)
CSSB	Statutory and Regulatory duties - Finance	0.142	0.176	0.165	(0.011)
CSSB	School Place planning	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.000
CSSB	Admissions	0.213	0.301	0.301	0.000
CSSB	Schools Forum	0.006	0.010	0.010	0.000
CSSB	SACRE	0.010	0.015	0.015	0.000
CSSB	School Licences	0.137	0.154	0.154	0.000
CSSB	Contribution to Combined budgets	0.640	0.477	0.477	0.000
HNB	Place Funding	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.000
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Academies	3.386	3.600	3.849	0.249
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	3.596	5.008	4.092	(0.916)
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	6.501	7.811	7.524	(0.287)
HNB	Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.728	1.815	2.015	0.200
HNB	Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.401	1.448	1.611	0.163
HNB	Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.275	2.500	2.595	0.095
HNB	Pupils not in School	0.461	0.500	0.486	(0.014)
HNB	Medical Tuition	0.211	0.225	0.277	0.052
HNB	Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.041	1.863	2.078	0.214
HNB	Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	2.098	2.141	2.171	0.029
HNB	Commissioned Services	1.123	1.185	1.185	0.000
HNB	Additional High Needs Targeted	0.507	0.400	0.527	0.127
HNB	Home Hospital Education Services	0.023	0.030	0.028	(0.002)
HNB	Travellers Team	0.046	0.050	0.049	(0.001)
HNB	Home to School Transport	1.600	1.540	1.540	0.000
HNB	High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.000
EYB	3&4 Year old	10.534	11.395	11.404	0.009
EYB	2 year olds	1.563	1.714	2.060	0.346
EYB	Early Years Central Team	0.429	0.490	0.461	(0.029)
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>		<b>44.954</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>

# DBV SEND Programme

**Michele Lucas**  
**Assistant Director Education & Skills**  
[mlucas@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mlucas@thurrock.gov.uk)  
**13 December 2023**

# Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24

DSG 2023/24	Funding Settlement	Academy Recoupment	Funding Block Transfer	Early Years Adjust	Final DSG	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools	156.834	(150.641)	(0.742)	0.000	5.450	5.227	(0.223)
Central Services	1.633	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.633	1.622	(0.011)
High Needs	37.356	(7.026)	0.742	0.000	31.073	30.980	(0.092)
Early Years	13.599	0.000	0.000	0.000	13.599	13.924	0.325
<b>Total</b>	<b>209.421</b>	<b>(157.667)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>51.754</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>

Variance	2023/24
Schools	(0.223) * Growth Fund
Central Services	(0.011) * Admissions
High Needs	(0.916) * Resource Bases
High Needs	0.249 Top Up Funding
High Needs	0.448 INMSS
High Needs	0.127 Tuition Services
Early Years	0.355 Providers
Early Years	(0.029) Central Team
	<b>(0.000)</b>
* One-Off =	<b>(1.150)</b>

DSG Deficit - Summary	£m	% of DSG
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2018	(4.046)	2.78%
DSG 2018/19	1.390	
DSG Unfunded 31-03-2019	(2.656)	1.74%
DSG 2019-20	0.678	
DSG Unfunded 31-03-2020	(1.978)	1.28%
DSG 2020/21	0.095	
DSG Unfunded 31-03-2021	(1.883)	1.12%
DSG 2021/22	0.178	
DSG Unfunded 31-03-2022	(1.705)	0.93%
DSG 2022/23	1.171	
<b>DSG Unfunded 31/03/2023</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>0.25%</b>

# Thurrock Unmitigated Expenditure

<b>Table 3a LB UNMITIGATED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Mainstream schools or academies	1,340	1,434	1,534	1,642	1,756
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	183	183	183	183	183
Maintained special schools or special academies	540	540	540	540	540
NMSS or independent schools	63	67	87	107	126
Medical/Home Tuition	145	145	145	145	145
Post 16	268	284	292	301	310
AP (EHCP)	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Total number of EHC plans by placement type</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>3,067</b>
AP Placement no EHCP	78	78	78	78	78
<b>Total number of placements funded under the HNB</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>2,866</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,145</b>

<b>Table 3a</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Total Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	9.189	10.008	10.650	11.346	12.089
Resources	5.151	5.038	5.156	5.278	5.403
Special Schools	13.271	12.823	13.064	13.293	13.529
NMSS or Independent	5.253	5.866	7.845	9.939	12.054
Medical or Home Tuition	2.392	2.464	2.538	2.614	2.692
Post-16 or FE	3.756	4.113	4.321	4.549	4.787
AP	2.745	2.670	2.725	2.781	2.839
	<b>41.758</b>	<b>42.982</b>	<b>46.299</b>	<b>49.799</b>	<b>53.395</b>
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.258</b>	<b>44.482</b>	<b>47.799</b>	<b>51.299</b>	<b>54.895</b>
<b>DSG Assumed</b>	<b>38.958</b>	<b>40.127</b>	<b>41.331</b>	<b>42.571</b>	<b>43.848</b>
<b>In Year Position</b>	<b>(4.299)</b>	<b>(4.355)</b>	<b>(6.468)</b>	<b>(8.728)</b>	<b>(11.046)</b>
<b>DSG (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>(4.833)</b>	<b>(9.188)</b>	<b>(15.656)</b>	<b>(24.385)</b>
<b>Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(4.833)</b>	<b>(9.188)</b>	<b>(15.656)</b>	<b>(24.385)</b>	<b>(35.431)</b>

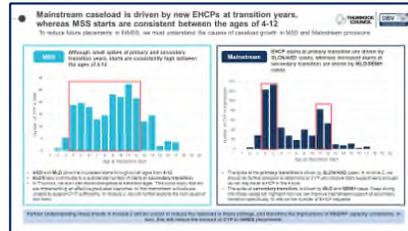
# Our first focus area explores how we can support more children in SEN support as opposed to through EHCPs

## Focus 1: Supporting CYP on SEN Support Without a Need for an EHCP

## Focus 2: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

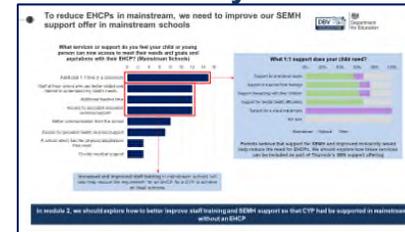
## Focus 3: Reducing INMSS Unit Cost

### High impact analysis...



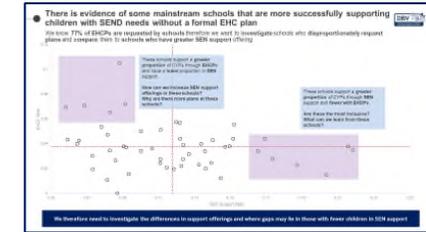
...showed the majority of EHCPs in mainstream start at the transition years

### Case reviews and surveys...



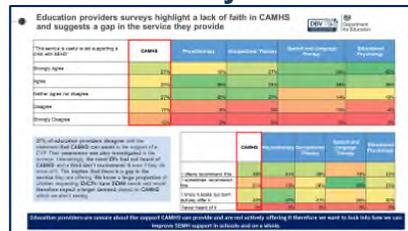
...showed us 63% of mainstream EHCPs were regarded as non-ideal with an emphasis on MH support and access to specialist services as a drivers

### Variational analysis...



...showed us that there is a variation in schools providing more SEN support vs EHCPs. We want to learn best practise from those with a larger SEN support.

### Education provider surveys...



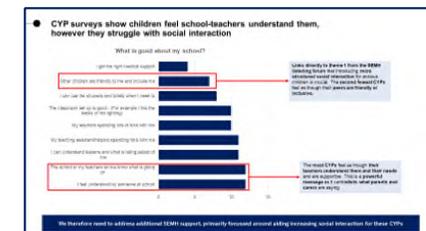
...showed us their lower confidence in Mental Health services than services such as Speech & Language Therapy, OT, PT.

### Listening forum with SEND practitioners...



...showed us what would be required to improve SEMH support. Key themes included strengthening family relationships and nurturing social interactions

### CYP survey output...

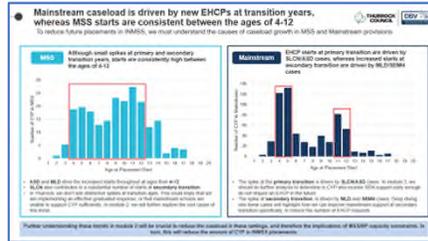


...indicated that children are struggling the most with social interaction, with the lowest level of positive responses to a question about peer inclusivity

# Our second focus area explores how we can support more children in Mainstream rather than specialist provisions

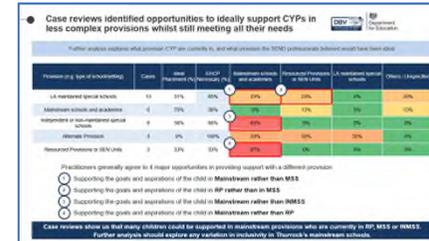
Focus 1: Supporting CYP on SEN Support Without a Need for an EHCP

## High Impact Analysis...



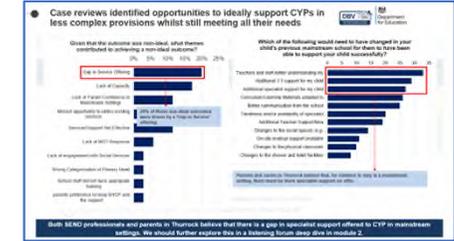
...identifies MSS caseload is putting pressure on HNB expenditure

## Case Reviews...



...show us some CYP who are currently in specialist settings could be supported in mainstream

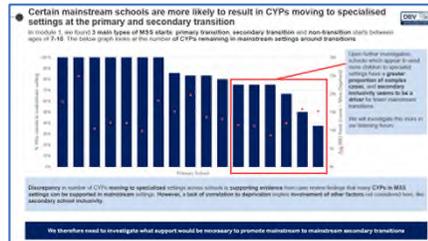
## Case reviews and surveys...



...show us a gap in service offering was the most common theme from case reviews. Parents perception is this is driven by 1-2-1 and specialist support availability

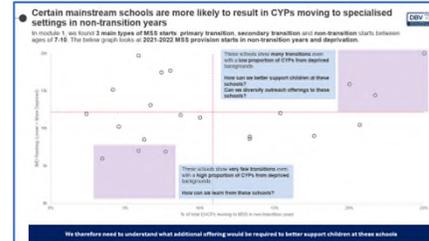
Focus 2: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

## Variation analysis...



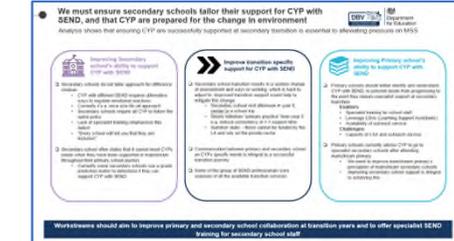
...show us that there is variation between mainstream schools in the proportion of CYP moving to MSS at secondary transition

## Variation analysis...



...show us that there are some mainstream schools are more equipped to support CYP with SEND throughout primary

## Listening forums...



...showed us that mainstream schools should adapt support for different SEN needs and improve communication with secondary schools

Focus 3: Reducing INMSS Unit Cost

We should include workstreams on improving transition support for CYP with an EHCP, and working to improve primary and secondary school inclusivity

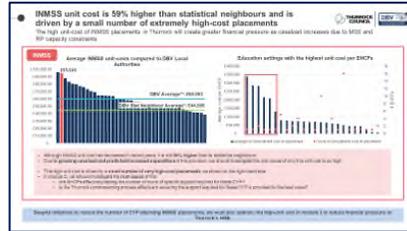
# Our third focus area explores INMSS unit cost and how we can bring it down

Focus 1: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

Focus 2: Supporting CYP on SEN Support Without a Need for an EHCP

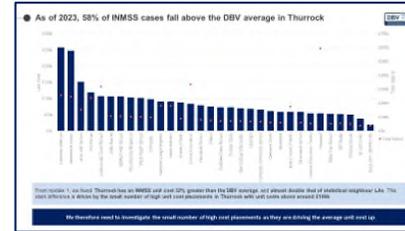
Focus 3: Reducing INMSS Unit Cost

## High impact analysis...



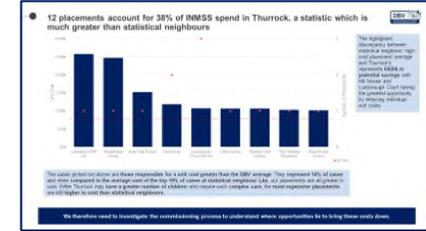
...showed Thurrock has an **INMSS unit cost 50% greater than the DBV average** and considerably higher than stat. neighbours

## Unit cost deep dive...



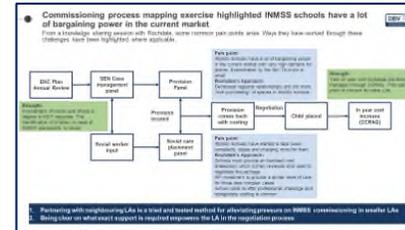
...showed Thurrock's INMSS unit cost is **driven up by a small number of high-cost placements**

## Unit cost deep dive...



...**benchmarking top 20% of cases against stat. neighbour LAs**, these high cost placements are **disproportionately high**

## Commissioning process mapping...

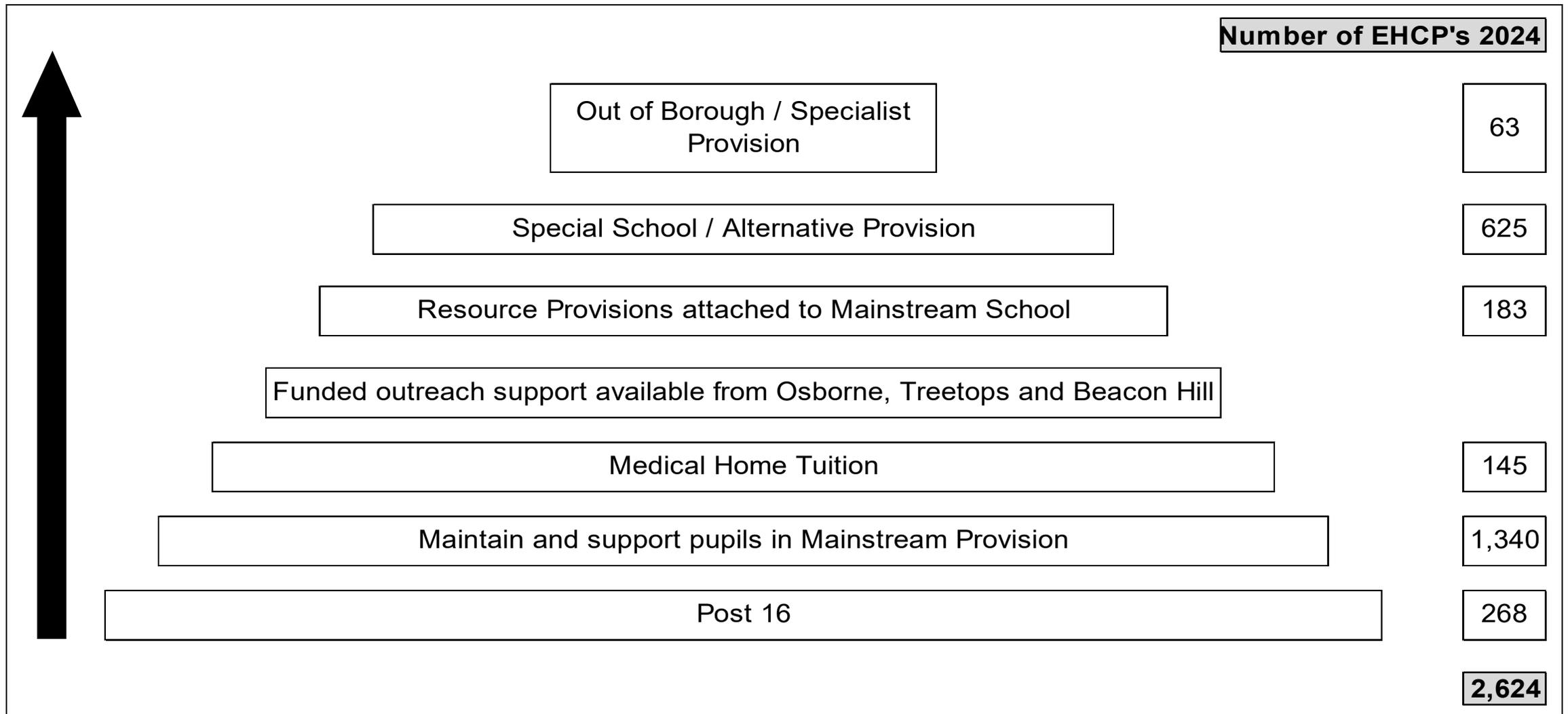


...identified **bargaining power and lack of selectivity** as key challenges. These have been **addressed in a knowledge sharing session with Rochdale**.

# Thurrock SEND Strategy

- The long-term strategy is to:
  - build confidence and skills to reduce the need for an EHCP
  - 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
  - Resource Provisions attached to Mainstream School
  - Special School / Academy Provision
  - Out of Borough

# Thurrock SEND Strategy



# Education Health & Care Plans - Summary

- Thurrock is an inclusive borough but there is still more to do
- Need to further increase local offer – SEMH, Autism and Outreach
- 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

### **3 workstreams:**

#### **Workstream 1- Improving mainstream capacity and ability to meet needs of children and young people at SEND Support and with EHCPs.**

- a) developing professionals' confidence in the mainstream system through continuing professional development for education staff
- b) thereby reducing the need for EHCPs as well as improved outcomes for CYP with SEND.
- c) Improving transitions at each stage of education so that more children and young people with SEND remain in mainstream provision and there is a reduction in the need for EHCPs
- d) Resulting in improved professionals' and parents' confidence in mainstream ability to meet need and reduce need for MSS

## Workstream 2

**Improving the mainstream capacity and ability to meet the needs of children and young people at SEND Support and with EHCPs through an improved and strengthened SEND and Alternative Provision outreach offer.**

- a) Review of current outreach offer
- b) Needs assessment of outreach offer
- c) Commissioned outreach offer to meet needs
- d) More CYP remain in mainstream schools and a reduction in EHCPs
- e) Professionals have confidence to teach children with SEND
- f) Parents have confidence in mainstream

# Outreach Services 2023/24

## Review existing provision – Consider New - Communication & Access

ACADEMY / SCHOOL (TRUST)	TYPE	SUPPORT OFFERED	AGE
Beacon Hill Academy	Physical Difficulties, Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties	Support mainstream early years, primary and secondary schools meet the needs of pupils with physical difficulties and severe and complex learning difficulties. It will help to promote inclusive practice across the borough and support the integration and reintegration of pupils into mainstream setting.	0-25
East Tilbury Primary- The Annex and Thameside Primary – Stepping Stones (Osborne Trust)	Alternative Provision Primary	Support for children at risk from exclusion	4-11
Thurrock Sensory Service St Clere's School, Warren Primary (Osborne Trust)	Deaf Children and their families	Qualified Teachers of the Deaf, Family Support Workers, BSL Interpreters, Deaf Role Models and Tutors of Sign Language	0-25
Thurrock Sensory Service ST Clere's School (Osborne Trust)	Vision Impaired Young People	Advisory Teachers and Habilitation Specialist are able to assess, support, advise and supply information to individuals, their families, schools and associated professionals.	0-25
Treetops Special School	Autism and Learning Difficulties	Advice for schools with children with Autism and Learning Difficulties, Interventions, Applied Behaviour Analysis, Verbal Behaviour	0-25
Olive Alternative Provision Academy (Olive Trust)	Secondary Alternative Education Provis	6 <sup>th</sup> Day Provision - Thurrock also accepts complex needs referrals for pupils who may need tuition in small groups.	11-16

## Workstream 3

- **Reducing the high INMSS placement costs**
- Through improved commissioning practices learning from the Rochdale DBV work.
- Working with larger LA/ and Thurrock to improve commissioning strength and drive down INMSS placement costs

# Grant Application

Workstream & Area	Impact (Opportunities Supported)	Total Financial Cost	Spend 2024/25 (Financial Year)
<b>Inclusion</b>			
Improving mainstream capacity and ability to meet needs of children and young people at SEND Support and with EHCPs.	Release of Staff, Training and Venue Hire	<b>£550,000</b>	£550,000
Improving mainstream capacity and ability to meet needs of children and young people at SEND Support and with EHCPs.	Increased Outreach Offer	<b>£300,000</b>	£300,000
<b>Performance &amp; Digital Development</b>			
Review of Outreach services to prioritise and mainstream year 1 investment	SEND specialist engaged to review and prioritise outreach offer.	<b>£75,000</b>	£75,000
Reducing the high INMSS placement costs	Increase to commissioning capacity to ensure VFM being secured.	<b>£75,000</b>	£75,000
		<b>£1,000,000</b>	<b>£1,000,000</b>

# Thurrock Unmitigated Expenditure

<b>Table 3a LB UNMITIGATED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Mainstream schools or academies	1,340	1,434	1,534	1,642	1,756
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	183	183	183	183	183
Maintained special schools or special academies	540	540	540	540	540
NMSS or independent schools	63	67	87	107	126
Medical/Home Tuition	145	145	145	145	145
Post 16	268	284	292	301	310
AP (EHCP)	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Total number of EHC plans by placement type</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>3,067</b>
AP Placement no EHCP	78	78	78	78	78
<b>Total number of placements funded under the HNB</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>2,866</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,145</b>

<b>Table 3a</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Total Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	9.189	10.008	10.650	11.346	12.089
Resources	5.151	5.038	5.156	5.278	5.403
Special Schools	13.271	12.823	13.064	13.293	13.529
NMSS or Independent	5.253	5.866	7.845	9.939	12.054
Medical or Home Tuition	2.392	2.464	2.538	2.614	2.692
Post-16 or FE	3.756	4.113	4.321	4.549	4.787
AP	2.745	2.670	2.725	2.781	2.839
	<b>41.758</b>	<b>42.982</b>	<b>46.299</b>	<b>49.799</b>	<b>53.395</b>
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.258</b>	<b>44.482</b>	<b>47.799</b>	<b>51.299</b>	<b>54.895</b>
<b>DSG Assumed</b>	<b>38.958</b>	<b>40.127</b>	<b>41.331</b>	<b>42.571</b>	<b>43.848</b>
<b>In Year Position</b>	<b>(4.299)</b>	<b>(4.355)</b>	<b>(6.468)</b>	<b>(8.728)</b>	<b>(11.046)</b>
<b>DSG (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>(4.833)</b>	<b>(9.188)</b>	<b>(15.656)</b>	<b>(24.385)</b>
<b>Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(4.833)</b>	<b>(9.188)</b>	<b>(15.656)</b>	<b>(24.385)</b>	<b>(35.431)</b>

# Thurrock Mitigated Expenditure

<b>Table 3b LA MITIGATED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Mainstream schools or academies	1,271	1,360	1,442	1,514	1,589
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	232	252	262	272	272
Maintained special schools or special academies	560	560	560	560	560
NMSS or independent schools	63	59	59	55	50
Medical/Home Tuition	45	46	48	49	51
Post 16	167	172	177	182	188
AP (EHCP)	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Total number of EHC plans by placement type</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>2,456</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>2,717</b>
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
<b>Total number of placements funded under the HNB</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,825</b>

<b>Table 3b</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Total Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	8.928	9.716	10.278	10.817	11.385
Resources	6.346	6.885	7.446	7.921	8.211
Special Schools	13.727	13.616	13.874	14.122	14.377
NMSS or Independent	5.253	5.166	5.321	5.109	4.784
Medical or Home Tuition	0.763	0.809	0.857	0.908	0.962
Post-16 or FE	2.515	2.642	2.776	2.918	3.067
AP	2.745	3.350	3.687	3.763	3.841
	<b>40.277</b>	<b>42.183</b>	<b>44.239</b>	<b>45.558</b>	<b>46.627</b>
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.777</b>	<b>43.683</b>	<b>45.739</b>	<b>47.058</b>	<b>48.127</b>
<b>DSG Assumed</b>	<b>38.958</b>	<b>40.127</b>	<b>41.331</b>	<b>42.571</b>	<b>43.848</b>
<b>In Year Position</b>	<b>(2.819)</b>	<b>(3.556)</b>	<b>(4.408)</b>	<b>(4.487)</b>	<b>(4.279)</b>
<b>DSG (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.908)</b>	<b>(11.316)</b>	<b>(15.803)</b>
<b>Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.908)</b>	<b>(11.316)</b>	<b>(15.803)</b>	<b>(20.082)</b>

# Thurrock and DBV Mitigated Expenditure

<b>Table 3c LA + DBV MITIGATED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Mainstream schools or academies	1,271	1,309	1,322	1,335	1,349
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	232	252	262	272	272
Maintained special schools or special academies	560	560	560	560	560
NMSS or independent schools	63	59	59	55	50
Medical/Home Tuition	45	46	48	49	51
Post 16	167	172	177	182	188
AP (EHCP)	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Total number of EHC plans by placement type</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>2,405</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,476</b>
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
<b>Total number of placements funded under the HNB</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>2,584</b>

<b>Table 3c</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Total Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	8.928	9.514	9.692	9.974	10.263
Resources	6.346	6.885	7.446	7.921	8.211
Special Schools	13.727	13.616	13.874	14.122	14.377
NMSS or Independent	5.253	5.166	5.321	5.109	4.784
Medical or Home Tuition	0.763	0.809	0.857	0.908	0.962
Post-16 or FE	2.515	2.642	2.776	2.918	3.067
AP	2.745	3.350	3.687	3.763	3.841
	<b>40.277</b>	<b>41.981</b>	<b>43.653</b>	<b>44.715</b>	<b>45.505</b>
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.777</b>	<b>43.481</b>	<b>45.153</b>	<b>46.215</b>	<b>47.005</b>
<b>DSG Assumed</b>	<b>38.958</b>	<b>40.127</b>	<b>41.331</b>	<b>42.571</b>	<b>43.848</b>
<b>In Year Position</b>	<b>(2.819)</b>	<b>(3.354)</b>	<b>(3.822)</b>	<b>(3.644)</b>	<b>(3.157)</b>
<b>DSG (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.707)</b>	<b>(10.529)</b>	<b>(14.173)</b>
<b>Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.707)</b>	<b>(10.529)</b>	<b>(14.173)</b>	<b>(17.329)</b>

## Next Steps

- Grant application to be submitted 14 December, with the sign off from the DCS and S151 Officer
- Feedback from the Grant application 5 January
- Resubmission of the Grant application 12 January
- Grant Complete 19 January
  
- Validation of DSG Management Plan – CIPFA – January / February
  
- Programme Board meets 29 February to consider Grant application and DSG Management Plan.

## THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE: 13 December 2023  
 SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25  
 REPORT OF: David May  
 THE REPORT IS: For Decision

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report introduces information received in July 2023 and subsequently updated by the ESFA in October 2023 on the provisional allocation for 2024/25.
- 1.2 A presentation will be made at the meeting on the key updated information and decisions required to enable a budget to be set at the January 2024 meeting.

### 2. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

- 2.1 In July, the Secretary of State for Education announced details of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2024/25. These have subsequently been revised with updated information received in October. The change was made when the Department for Education uncovered an error made by DfE officials during the initial calculations of the NFF. Specifically, there was an error processing forecast pupil numbers, which means that the overall cost of the core schools budget would be 0.62% greater than allocated. The department, therefore issued new NFF allocations to correct that error while continuing to deliver, in full, the £59.6 billion core schools budget that has been promised.

The table below shows the provisional information received, excludes the 2023/24 allocation for the Schools Block Growth fund and the Early Years Block to enable a like for like comparison. These amounts along with the final DSG allocations, updated to reflect the Oct-23 School census, will be published in December 2023. The shaded italic area shows the information released in July.

Dedicated Schools Grant	Funding Allocation 2023/24	Indicative Settlement 2024/25	Funding Increase 2024/25	Indicative Settlement 2024/25	Funding Increase 2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	155.497	165.811	10.314	164.268	8.771
Central School Services Block	1.633	1.599	(0.034)	1.599	(0.034)
High Needs Block	37.356	38.958	1.602	38.958	1.602
<b>Total</b>	<b>194.486</b>	<b>206.369</b>	<b>11.882</b>	<b>204.825</b>	<b>10.339</b>

### **Schools Block**

- 2.2 The key changes made by the ESFA to the National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2024/25 are:
- The mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24 has been rolled into 2024/25 funding formula baselines. In Thurrock this accounts for £5.438m of the £8.770m increase. The true increase for schools is 2.58%.
  - Increasing NFF factor values (on top of the amounts added for the schools supplementary grant) by:
    - 1.4% to the following factors: basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), FSM6, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and sparsity factors, and the lump sum.
    - 1.4% to the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL). This will mean that, next year, every primary school will be allocated at least £4,610 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,771.
    - 1.6 to the free school meal (FSM) factor value.
    - 0.5% to the floor and
    - 0% on premises factors.
  - Introducing for the first time, a methodology for calculating and allocating funding for falling rolls.
- 2.3 In 2024/25, each local authority will continue to set a local schools funding formula, in consultation with local schools. Local authorities were required to bring their own formulae closer to the schools NFF from 2023/24. This transition will continue in 2024/25. In particular local authorities must:
- move their local formula factors at least 10% closer to the NFF values, except where local formula is classed as mirroring the NFF. Thurrock is deemed to be mirroring the NFF.
  - follow the requirements for growth and falling rolls funding.
- 2.4 Thurrock's funding formula will implement the following principles consistent with the decision made by Cabinet from 2020/21:
- National Funding Formula including Area Cost Adjustment values to be applied.
  - Where this is unaffordable the Basic Entitlement value, to be included, will be reduced to contain within the funding available. The reduction to be applied will be weighted, consistent with the distribution of funding between Primary and Secondary.
  - Growth fund to be retained to support sufficiency of school places.
- 2.5 Appendix A to this report updates the school information presented in September to reflect changes notified by ESFA in October. It shows revised funding allocations for 2024/25. This information is a like for like comparison using October 2022 census data.

**High Needs Block**

- 2.6 The High Needs Block continues to experience significant increase in demand for EHCP's and the challenge of aligning the local offer to prevent high-cost placements. Detailed information will be presented at the meeting reflect the updated DSG Management Plan as part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme, provisional budget and projected funding pressures.

**Early Years Block**

- 2.7 The ESFA are to hold a series of webinars week commencing 4 December. A presentation will be made at the meeting on the latest information available.

**3. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS**

- School Forum meeting 14-09-23 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

**4. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR**

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

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

**ESFA Correction October 2023**

School Indicative Budget Information 2024/25										
School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	Indicative Budget 2024/25 SEPTEMBER 2023	Indicative Budget 2024/25 <b>UPDATED</b> OCTOBER 2023	<b>UPDATED</b> Change 2024/25	% Increase	Mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24	<b>UPDATED</b> Increase 2024/25 (excluding Additional Grant)	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>£154,105,506</b>	<b>£165,057,598</b>	<b>£163,513,261</b>	<b>£9,407,755</b>		<b>£5,438,354</b>	<b>£3,969,401</b>	2.58%	<b>£22,789,826</b>
Abbots Hall Primary School	336	£1,519,850	£1,631,253	£1,615,847	£95,997	6.32%	£54,269	£41,728	2.75%	£184,519
Arthur Bugler Primary School	419	£1,846,836	£1,950,445	£1,931,590	£84,754	4.59%	£62,618	£22,136	1.20%	£229,815
Aveley Primary School	412	£1,980,458	£2,120,804	£2,101,153	£120,695	6.09%	£67,477	£53,218	2.69%	£332,822
Belmont Castle Academy	652	£2,968,338	£3,180,622	£3,150,731	£182,392	6.14%	£100,807	£81,585	2.75%	£437,822
Benyon Primary School	368	£1,812,981	£1,941,205	£1,922,994	£110,014	6.07%	£62,036	£47,978	2.65%	£283,835
Bonnygate Primary School	408	£1,946,500	£2,082,432	£2,063,441	£116,942	6.01%	£64,498	£52,443	2.69%	£280,588
Bulphan Church of England Academy	66	£444,103	£472,819	£468,322	£24,219	5.45%	£13,919	£10,300	2.32%	£22,028
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	206	£1,099,210	£1,177,866	£1,166,975	£67,765	6.16%	£39,644	£28,121	2.56%	£184,262
Deneholm Primary School	416	£1,920,098	£2,059,279	£2,039,641	£119,544	6.23%	£67,539	£52,005	2.71%	£285,384
Dilkes Academy	478	£2,218,879	£2,376,352	£2,354,504	£135,624	6.11%	£75,045	£60,579	2.73%	£326,792
East Tilbury Primary School	679	£3,118,414	£3,343,711	£3,313,546	£195,132	6.26%	£109,327	£85,805	2.75%	£457,470
Giffards Primary School	407	£1,870,981	£2,007,573	£1,988,481	£117,500	6.28%	£66,535	£50,965	2.72%	£289,401
Graham James Primary Academy	423	£1,883,326	£2,020,040	£2,000,858	£117,532	6.24%	£65,488	£52,044	2.76%	£257,842
Harrier Primary Academy	18	£147,497	£157,497	£161,394	£13,898	9.42%	£0	£13,898	9.42%	£11,441
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	627	£2,761,935	£2,918,685	£2,890,470	£128,535	4.65%	£91,238	£37,297	1.35%	£379,794
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	989	£4,356,545	£4,603,795	£4,559,290	£202,745	4.65%	£144,288	£58,457	1.34%	£587,424
Herringham Primary Academy	403	£2,062,265	£2,211,481	£2,190,817	£128,552	6.23%	£74,896	£53,655	2.60%	£372,754
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	203	£1,018,786	£1,089,733	£1,079,673	£60,887	5.98%	£34,089	£26,797	2.63%	£125,450
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	201	£925,171	£991,971	£982,553	£57,382	6.20%	£32,222	£25,160	2.72%	£99,874
Kenningtons Primary Academy	376	£1,766,812	£1,892,114	£1,874,661	£107,849	6.10%	£59,788	£48,061	2.72%	£254,338
Lansdowne Primary Academy	619	£3,297,416	£3,532,107	£3,498,880	£201,464	6.11%	£117,789	£83,676	2.54%	£695,079
Little Thurrock Primary School	603	£2,660,473	£2,806,965	£2,779,830	£119,357	4.49%	£89,136	£30,221	1.14%	£320,691
Orsett Church of England Primary School	205	£930,877	£996,688	£987,157	£56,280	6.05%	£31,961	£24,320	2.61%	£92,609
Ortu Corringham Primary School and Nursery	409	£1,806,592	£1,927,528	£1,909,130	£102,539	5.68%	£63,434	£39,105	2.16%	£241,657
Purfleet Primary Academy	558	£2,764,302	£2,961,256	£2,932,973	£168,671	6.10%	£95,995	£72,676	2.63%	£462,697
Quarry Hill Academy	422	£2,020,056	£2,165,398	£2,145,110	£125,055	6.19%	£70,764	£54,290	2.69%	£319,884
Shaw Primary Academy	411	£1,977,326	£2,118,529	£2,099,103	£121,777	6.16%	£68,757	£53,020	2.68%	£284,208
Somers Heath Primary School	397	£1,910,553	£2,048,082	£2,029,399	£118,846	6.22%	£67,459	£51,387	2.69%	£301,570
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	199	£959,200	£1,028,758	£1,019,076	£59,876	6.24%	£34,243	£25,633	2.67%	£124,016
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	206	£1,096,057	£1,170,198	£1,159,252	£63,195	5.77%	£35,324	£27,871	2.54%	£138,466
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	603	£2,660,839	£2,850,131	£2,823,181	£162,342	6.10%	£88,596	£73,746	2.77%	£344,742
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	391	£1,799,751	£1,929,064	£1,911,117	£111,365	6.19%	£62,074	£49,292	2.74%	£261,473
Stifford Clays Primary School	597	£2,680,604	£2,873,314	£2,845,907	£165,302	6.17%	£91,526	£73,776	2.75%	£428,487
Thameside Primary School	802	£3,922,133	£4,196,565	£4,156,840	£234,707	5.98%	£130,683	£104,024	2.65%	£726,469
The Gateway Primary Free School	401	£2,122,443	£2,270,724	£2,249,116	£126,673	5.97%	£72,705	£53,968	2.54%	£417,469
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	431	£2,234,408	£2,392,417	£2,369,761	£135,353	6.06%	£78,033	£57,320	2.57%	£402,224

**ESFA Correction October 2023**

School Indicative Budget Information 2024/25										
School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	Indicative Budget 2024/25 SEPTEMBER 2023	Indicative Budget 2024/25 <b>UPDATED</b> OCTOBER 2023	<b>UPDATED</b> Change 2024/25	% Increase	Mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24	<b>UPDATED</b> Increase 2024/25 (excluding Additional Grant)	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>£154,105,506</b>	<b>£165,057,598</b>	<b>£163,513,261</b>	<b>£9,407,755</b>		<b>£5,438,354</b>	<b>£3,969,401</b>	2.58%	<b>£22,789,826</b>
Tudor Court Primary School	701	£3,095,196	£3,263,155	£3,231,610	£136,414	4.41%	£100,706	£35,708	1.15%	£448,405
Warren Primary School	408	£1,797,240	£1,899,240	£1,880,880	£83,640	4.65%	£58,666	£24,974	1.39%	£222,947
West Thurrock Academy	415	£1,924,771	£2,065,535	£2,046,179	£121,408	6.31%	£68,927	£52,480	2.73%	£269,711
Woodside Academy	628	£2,777,281	£2,979,235	£2,951,091	£173,810	6.26%	£96,869	£76,941	2.77%	£398,579
Grays Convent High School	643	£4,017,763	£4,319,503	£4,278,900	£261,137	6.50%	£146,752	£114,385	2.85%	£486,557
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	1,008	£5,848,659	£6,292,174	£6,232,769	£384,110	6.57%	£211,959	£172,151	2.94%	£609,333
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,191	£7,586,368	£8,153,105	£8,076,714	£490,346	6.46%	£276,939	£213,407	2.81%	£1,107,367
Harris Academy Riverside	887	£5,594,498	£6,017,382	£5,961,521	£367,022	6.56%	£208,569	£158,453	2.83%	£807,832
Ormiston Park Academy	686	£4,651,775	£5,003,120	£4,956,642	£304,867	6.55%	£176,787	£128,080	2.75%	£801,873
Orsett Heath Academy	350	£2,174,239	£2,304,352	£2,282,813	£108,573	4.99%	£78,214	£30,359	1.40%	£287,383
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,121	£6,911,704	£7,430,253	£7,361,014	£449,311	6.50%	£250,843	£198,468	2.87%	£946,357
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	620	£4,098,622	£4,405,635	£4,364,851	£266,230	6.50%	£152,514	£113,716	2.77%	£666,044
St Clere's School	1,358	£8,480,098	£9,110,847	£9,024,988	£544,890	6.43%	£303,295	£241,594	2.85%	£1,220,696
Thames Park Secondary School	467	£2,993,932	£3,219,402	£3,189,386	£195,454	6.53%	£112,395	£83,059	2.77%	£449,341
The Gateway Academy	1,069	£7,550,547	£8,100,981	£8,026,290	£475,743	6.30%	£272,019	£203,724	2.70%	£1,426,248
The Hathaway Academy	716	£4,764,866	£5,119,261	£5,071,678	£306,812	6.44%	£174,305	£132,507	2.78%	£764,240
William Edwards School	1,225	£7,325,933	£7,877,017	£7,803,161	£477,228	6.51%	£264,391	£212,837	2.91%	£911,519

# Schools Forum

## Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

David May

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Head of Financial Management  
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13 December 2023

# To Consider

- Provisional Allocations 2024/25
- High Needs Block
  - Commissioned Places 2024/25
  - Band Values 2024/25
  - DSG Mgmt. Plan 2024/25 – Updated
- Schools Block
  - Key Changes
  - Thurrock Funding Formula
- CSSB and Early Years
- Summary / Next Steps

# DSG 2024/25 - Provisional Allocations

- Overall core schools funding (Including Schools and high needs) is increasing by £1.8 billion in 2024/25 compared with the previous year, on top of the £3.9 billion increase provided in 2023/24.
- The table below shows Thurrock's provisional allocation (October 2023):

Dedicated Schools Grant	Funding Allocation 2023/24	Indicative Settlement 2024/25	To be Confirmed	Indicative Settlement 2024/25	Provisional Increase 2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	156.834	164.268	1.336	165.604	8.771
Central School Services Block	1.633	1.599	0.000	1.599	(0.034)
High Needs Block	37.356	38.958	0.000	38.958	1.602
Early Years Block	13.599		13.599	13.599	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>209.421</b>	<b>204.825</b>	<b>14.935</b>	<b>219.761</b>	<b>10.340</b>

- These allocations are based on updated funding values with pupil data unchanged (October 2022 census data).
- ESFA notified LAs in October 2023 of errors in the funding values and calculation of pupil numbers. This resulted in a decrease to the SB of £1.543m.
- SB Growth and Early Years funding allocations have not yet been confirmed.



# High Needs Block 2024/25

# High Needs Block 2024/25

High Needs Block	2023/24	2024/25	Change	%
National Funding Formula	£33,165,412	£36,291,916	£3,126,504	
Additional High Needs allocation	£1,522,739	£0	(£1,522,739)	
<b>National Funding Formula - Adjusted</b>	<b>£34,688,151</b>	<b>£36,291,916</b>	<b>£1,603,765</b>	<b>4.62%</b>
Basic Entitlement (to be Updated)	£2,644,874	£2,643,433	(£1,441)	
Teachers Pay/pension supplement	£62,312	£62,311	(£1)	
Additional funding Special Free School	£716,764	£716,764	£0	
Import/Export Adjustments	(£756,000)	(£756,000)	£0	
<b>Total High Needs Funding</b>	<b>£37,356,101</b>	<b>£38,958,424</b>	<b>£1,602,323</b>	<b>4.29%</b>
Transfer from Schools Block	£742,000	£0	(£742,000)	
<b>High Needs Block Budget</b>	<b>£38,098,101</b>	<b>£38,958,424</b>	<b>£860,323</b>	<b>2.26%</b>

- HNB Increase £1.6m or 4.29%, or 2.26% with no transfer from SB.
- Is this sufficient to enable a balance budget to be set with Increase to EHCP's, Out of Area Placements, Increase to Commissioned Places, Increased Band Values, Impact on DSG Management Plan and DBV SEND Implications

# Thurrock Commissioned Places 2022-23 to 2024/25

Thurrock Commissioned Places	2022/23	2023/24 Updated	2024/25 ESFA	2024/25 LA
Nursery - Chafford Hundred	3	4	0	4
Nursery – Stanford-le-hope	3	3	0	3
Primary - Lansdowne - LD & SLCN	10	10	10	10
Primary - Stanford-le-Hope - VI	5	5	5	5
Primary - ORTU Corringham - Sp & Lang	20	20	20	20
Primary - Dilkes Primary - SEMH	10	10	10	10
Primary – Quarry Hill - SEMH	10	10	10	10
Primary – Warren - HI	18	18	18	18
Primary – Stifford Clays - Autism	11	10	10	10
Primary - Aveley - Autism	10	10	10	10
Primary – East Tilbury - Inclusion Base	10	10	10	10
Primary – Thameside - Inclusion Base	6	6	6	10
Primary - Arthur Buler - Autism	0	10	0	10
Primary - Deneholm - Autism	0	10	0	10
Primary - Autism	0	0	0	10
Secondary - Harris Chafford Hundred - SLCN & Autism	20	20	20	20
Secondary – St Clere’s - HI & VI	17	17	17	17
Secondary – Ormiston Park - SEMH	30	30	30	30
Secondary - New SEMH provision	30	30	0	30
Secondary - New Autism provision	0	0	0	20
<b>RESOURCE BASES</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>267</b>
Special - Treetops	318	318	318	318
Special - Treetops Free	147	147	147	147
Special - Beacon Hill	75	75	75	75
Special - Increase - September	16	36	0	20
<b>SPECIAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>560</b>
<b>Alternative Provision - Olive</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>THURROCK</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>912</b>

# Thurrock Band Values 2024/25

- In 2024/25 it is proposed the following changes will be implemented:
  - Resource Bases - Increase to Basic Per Pupil Values
    - Primary      2023/24 = £4,405    2024/25 = £4,610
    - Secondary    2023/24 = £5,715    2024/25 = £5,995
  - Band Values a 3% uplift to be applied. This being the maximum increase that can be afforded from the funding received.
  - It is also proposed to expand the range of Special Band values.
  - Increase to the hourly rate from £10.50 to £11 (5% increase).
  - It is recognised that a further review of band values is required. However, this review needs to link with the changes to be implemented as part of the SEND and AP Green paper.
- The cost implication of the increase in band values is £0.400m
- Proposed Band Values 2024/25 → Next Slide

# THURROCK BAND VALUES 2024/25

Increased in Band values to be applied from Sept-24

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2023/24	Place Funding	TPG and TPECG	Top Up Funding	Band Value 2024/25
Special Schools & Academies	Special Band 1	£13,028	£10,000	£660	£4,587	£15,247
	Special Band 2	£14,803	£10,000	£660	£5,457	£16,117
	Special Band 3	£15,648	£10,000	£660	£17,457	£28,117
	Special Band 4	£36,704	£10,000	£660	£27,145	£37,805
	Special Band 5	£38,635	£10,000	£660	£29,134	£39,794
	Special Band 6	£44,635	£10,000	£660	£35,134	£45,794
	Special Band 7	£50,635	£10,000	£660	£41,134	£51,794
	Special Band 8	£56,635	£10,000	£660	£47,134	£57,794
	Special Band 9	£62,635	£10,000	£660	£53,134	£63,794
AP	AP Band 1	£30,785	£10,000	£660	£21,049	£31,709

# THURROCK BAND VALUES 2024/25

Increased in Band values to be applied from Sept-24

Type of Provider	Band Descriptor	Band Value 2023/24	Place Funding	MPPG	Top Up Funding	Band Value 2024/25	
Mainstream Schools & Academies with Specialist / Resource Provisions	Mainstream - Primary Band 1	£15,197	£6,000	£4,610	£5,043	£15,653	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 2	£19,988	£6,000	£4,610	£9,978	£20,588	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 3	£27,599	£6,000	£4,610	£17,817	£28,427	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 4	£29,854	£6,000	£4,610	£20,140	£30,750	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 5	£31,545	£6,000	£4,610	£21,881	£32,491	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 6	£33,236	£6,000	£4,610	£23,623	£34,233	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 7	£40,001	£6,000	£4,610	£30,591	£41,201	
	Mainstream - Primary Band 8	£44,511	£6,000	£4,610	£35,236	£45,846	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 1	£15,097	£6,000	£5,995	£3,555	£15,550	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 2	£19,947	£6,000	£5,995	£8,550	£20,545	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 3	£27,499	£6,000	£5,995	£16,329	£28,324	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 4	£29,754	£6,000	£5,995	£18,652	£30,647	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 5	£31,446	£6,000	£5,995	£20,394	£32,389	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 6	£33,137	£6,000	£5,995	£22,136	£34,131	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 7	£39,902	£6,000	£5,995	£29,104	£41,099	
	Mainstream - Secondary Band 8	£44,411	£6,000	£5,995	£33,749	£45,744	
	Mainstream - Nursery	£36,078	£0	£0	£37,160	£37,160	
Education Health and Care Plans Hourly Rate		£10.50				£11.00	

# Thurrock Band Values 2024/25

## DECISION

- Approve the increase and expansion of band values for 2024/25 to be applied from September 2024, as shown.

# Thurrock Outreach Services 2023/24

- The cost of the High Needs Block Outreach services for 2023/24 are shown in the table below. A 3% uplift is proposed for 2024/25, consistent with the increase in top up values.

<b>Academic Year Impact - Increase applied from Sept-24</b>		
<b>Commissioned Services</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Academy</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Osborne Trust - HI/VI - Outreach	£383,250	£394,748
Treetops - Portage	£283,500	£292,005
Treetops - Outreach	£338,100	£348,243
Beacon Hill - Outreach	£189,000	£194,670
PATT Contract	£15,000	£15,000
<b>Total Commissioned Services</b>	<b>£1,208,850</b>	<b>£1,244,666</b>

- The cost implication is £0.036m.

## DECISION

- Approve the increase in the funding to support Outreach services from September 2024.

# Thurrock and DBV Mitigated Expenditure

<b>Table 3c LA + DBV MITIGATED</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Mainstream schools or academies	1,271	1,309	1,322	1,335	1,349
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	232	252	262	272	272
Maintained special schools or special academies	560	560	560	560	560
NMSS or independent schools	63	59	59	55	50
Medical/Home Tuition	45	46	48	49	51
Post 16	167	172	177	182	188
AP (EHCP)	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Total number of EHC plans by placement type</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>2,405</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,476</b>
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
<b>Total number of placements funded under the HNB</b>	<b>2,423</b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>2,584</b>

<b>Table 3c</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
Total Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£
Mainstream	8.928	9.514	9.692	9.974	10.263
Resources	6.346	6.885	7.446	7.921	8.211
Special Schools	13.727	13.616	13.874	14.122	14.377
NMSS or Independent	5.253	5.166	5.321	5.109	4.784
Medical or Home Tuition	0.763	0.809	0.857	0.908	0.962
Post-16 or FE	2.515	2.642	2.776	2.918	3.067
AP	2.745	3.350	3.687	3.763	3.841
	<b>40.277</b>	<b>41.981</b>	<b>43.653</b>	<b>44.715</b>	<b>45.505</b>
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.777</b>	<b>43.481</b>	<b>45.153</b>	<b>46.215</b>	<b>47.005</b>
<b>DSG Assumed</b>	<b>38.958</b>	<b>40.127</b>	<b>41.331</b>	<b>42.571</b>	<b>43.848</b>
<b>In Year Position</b>	<b>(2.819)</b>	<b>(3.354)</b>	<b>(3.822)</b>	<b>(3.644)</b>	<b>(3.157)</b>
<b>DSG (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(0.534)</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.707)</b>	<b>(10.529)</b>	<b>(14.173)</b>
<b>Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>(3.353)</b>	<b>(6.707)</b>	<b>(10.529)</b>	<b>(14.173)</b>	<b>(17.329)</b>

# Thurrock High Needs Budget 2024/25

<b>Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £m</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual £m</b>	<b>2023/24 Budget £m</b>	<b>2023/24 Outturn £m</b>	<b>2024/25 DSG Mgmt. Plan £m</b>
High Needs Block	28.092	32.662	37.356	37.356	38.958
Funding Block Transfer	0.873	0.700	0.742	0.742	0
<b>Funding Settlement</b>	<b>28.965</b>	<b>33.362</b>	<b>38.098</b>	<b>38.098</b>	<b>38.958</b>
Place Funding	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	7.281
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	5.606	6.500	7.026	7.026	0
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	3.206	3.386	3.600	3.849	4.821
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	2.979	3.596	4.948	4.092	5.315
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	5.158	6.501	7.811	7.524	8.327
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.526	1.728	1.815	2.015	1.895
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.143	1.401	1.448	1.611	1.600
Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.262	2.275	2.500	2.595	2.515
Pupils not in School	0.581	0.672	0.725	0.762	0.733
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.395	1.041	1.863	2.078	2.101
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.900	2.098	2.141	2.171	3.152
Commissioned Services	1.138	1.123	1.185	1.185	1.245
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.301	0.507	0.400	0.527	0.600
Home Hospital Education Services	0.024	0.023	0.030	0.028	0.030
Travellers Team	0.042	0.046	0.050	0.049	0.052
Home to School Transport	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.540	1.500
High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.675	0.610
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	<b>29.537</b>	<b>33.170</b>	<b>38.099</b>	<b>38.006</b>	<b>41.777</b>
<b>(Surplus) / Deficit</b>	<b>0.572</b>	<b>(0.192)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.092)</b>	<b>2.819</b>

# Transfer from SB to HNB

- In 2023/24 a transfer of £0.742m was agreed to support increased demand for specialist placements and EHCPs
- In 2023/24 pupil movement from SB to HNB of £0.167m

In Year Movement	Total	Primary	Total	Secondary	Total	Cost to HNB
<b>Minimum Per Pupil Value</b>		<b>£4,610</b>		<b>£5,771</b>		
Mainstream to Resource base	10	£46,100	5	£28,855	15	£74,955
Mainstream to Treetops	6	£27,660	9	£51,939	15	£79,599
Mainstream to Independent Special	0	£0	2	£11,542	2	£11,542
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>£73,760</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>£92,336</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>£166,096</b>

- DSG budget shows a budget shortfall of £2.819m
- DBV Grant implementation 2024/25, earliest impact 2025/26

## Decision

- Schools Forum is asked if it would support a transfer of £0.400m in 2024/25 to support pupil movement and the implementation of the DBV SEND action plan



# Schools Block 2024/25

# Schools Block Funding Change 2024/25

Changes to Pupil Numbers and Growth fund will be notified Dec-23

<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>£</b>
Schools Block 2023/24	<b>£156,833,736</b>
Less Growth Fund	<b>(£1,231,584)</b>
Transfer to High Needs Block	<b>(£742,472)</b>
Schools Block 2023/24	<b>£154,859,680</b>
Mainstream schools additional grant	£5,438,354
Revised Schools Block	<b>£160,298,034</b>
Increase in Funding	£3,969,978
Increase in Pupil Numbers Oct-23 Census	£0
Growth Fund 2024/25	£0
<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>£164,268,012</b>
% Increase	2.48%

# Schools Block - Key Changes 2024/25

- The mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24 has been rolled into 2024/25 funding formula baselines. In Thurrock this accounts for £5.438m of the £8.770m increase. The true increase for schools is 2.48%.
- After the SSG has been added the Individual schools NFF factor values have increased as follows:
  - 4.3% to free school meals at any time in the last 6 years (FSM6) and income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)
  - 1.4% to the following factors: basic entitlement, low prior attainment (LPA), FSM6, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and sparsity factors, and the lump sum.
  - 1.4% to the minimum per pupil levels (MPPL). This will mean that, next year, every primary school will be allocated at least £4,610 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,771.
  - 1.6 to the free school meal (FSM) factor value.
  - 0.5% to the floor and
  - 0% on premises factors.
- Thurrock is within 2.5% of NFF values and deemed to be mirroring the NFF.

# Thurrock - Schools Funding Formula 2024/25

- NFF values & ACC have been applied  
Minimum Per Pupil Values - Primary £4,610 and Secondary £5,771
- However, this is unaffordable, so Basic entitlement values have reduced by Primary £30 and Secondary £45
  - Formula Factor Values and Indicative School 2024/25 funding allocations are shown on next 2 slides
  - Final formula and funding will be determined in January 2024 following the release of Oct-23 census data and final funding allocations Dec-23
  - Schools will need to consider provisional allocations and known change in pupil numbers and the impact on funding to be received.
- If the SF agree to a £0.400m transfer from SB to HNB the Basic entitlement values would reduce by Primary £13 and Secondary £20

Formula Factor Values	2023/24		October 2023		October 2023		SB £400k to HNB	
	Thurrock 2023/24		NFF +ACA 2024/25		Thurrock 2024/25		Thurrock 2024/25	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Minimum Per Pupil	£4,405	£5,715	£4,610		£4,610		£4,610	
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 3		£5,503		£5,771		£5,771		£5,771
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 4		£6,033		£6,331		£6,331		£6,331
Primary *	£3,436		£3,698.25		£3,667.90		£3,654.90	
KS 3*		£4,845		£5,214.09		£5,171.31		£5,152.98
KS 4*		£5,460		£5,877.53		£5,829.30		£5,808.64
FSM	£498	£498	£508.74	£508.74	£508.74	£508.74	£508.74	£508.74
FSM6	£732	£1,070	£851.37	£1,245.90	£851.37	£1,245.90	£851.37	£1,245.90
IDACI Band F	£239	£348	£243.99	£353.01	£243.99	£353.01	£243.99	£353.01
IDACI Band E	£291	£462	£295.90	£467.21	£295.90	£467.21	£295.90	£467.21
IDACI Band D	£457	£644	£462.02	£654.10	£462.02	£654.10	£462.02	£654.10
IDACI Band C	£498	£706	£503.55	£716.39	£503.55	£716.39	£503.55	£716.39
IDACI Band B	£530	£758	£534.70	£768.31	£534.70	£768.31	£534.70	£768.31
IDACI Band A	£696	£966	£706.01	£981.15	£706.01	£981.15	£706.01	£981.15
EAL	£602	£1,625	£612.57	£1,645.63	£612.57	£1,645.63	£612.57	£1,645.63
Prior Attainment	£1,199	£1,817	£1,214.75	£1,842.89	£1,214.75	£1,842.89	£1,214.75	£1,842.89
Mobility	£981	£1,412	£996.72	£1,432.79	£996.72	£1,432.79	£996.72	£1,432.79
Lump Sum	£132,922	£132,922	£139,540.80	£139,540.80	£139,540.80	£139,540.80	£139,540.80	£139,540.80
Sparsity	£58,465	£85,049	£59,284.08	£86,174.75	£59,284.08	£86,174.75	£59,284.08	£86,174.75
Area Cost Adjustment	1.03825		1.03825		1.03825		1.03825	
Basic Entitlement			1.03825		1.01723		1.01362	

Notional SEN Allocation	£21,583,866		£22,789,826	£22,827,394
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DSG Schools Block	£156,833,736	£164,268,012	£164,268,012	£164,268,012
NNDR	(£754,174)	(£754,174)	(£754,174)	(£754,174)
Transfer to HNB	(£742,472)	£0	£0	(£397,554)
Growth Fund	(£1,231,584)	£0	£0	£0
Budget Available	£154,105,506	£163,513,838	£163,513,838	£163,116,284
Cost implication	£154,105,506	£164,440,023	£163,513,261	£163,116,284
Variance	£0	£926,185	(£577)	£0

**School Indicative Budget Information 2024/25**

School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	Indicative 2024/25 APT NOR	NNDR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	Indicative Budget after deduction of 2024/25 NFF NNDR allocation	Change 2024/25	% Increase	Mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24	Increase 2024/25 (excluding Additional Grant)	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>£754,174</b>	<b>£154,105,506</b>	<b>£163,513,261</b>	<b>£9,407,755</b>		<b>£5,438,354</b>	<b>£3,969,401</b>	2.58%	<b>£22,789,826</b>
Abbots Hall Primary School	336	336	£4,167	£1,519,850	£1,615,847	£95,997	6.32%	£54,269	£41,728	2.75%	£184,519
Arthur Bugler Primary School	419	419	£4,990	£1,846,836	£1,931,590	£84,754	4.59%	£62,618	£22,136	1.20%	£229,815
Aveley Primary School	412	412	£7,578	£1,980,458	£2,101,153	£120,695	6.09%	£67,477	£53,218	2.69%	£332,822
Belmont Castle Academy	652	652	£13,107	£2,968,338	£3,150,731	£182,392	6.14%	£100,807	£81,585	2.75%	£437,822
Benyon Primary School	368	368	£3,643	£1,812,981	£1,922,994	£110,014	6.07%	£62,036	£47,978	2.65%	£283,835
Bonnygate Primary School	408	408	£8,038	£1,946,500	£2,063,441	£116,942	6.01%	£64,498	£52,443	2.69%	£280,588
Bulphan Church of England Academy	66	66	£1,921	£444,103	£468,322	£24,219	5.45%	£13,919	£10,300	2.32%	£22,028
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	206	206	£3,393	£1,099,210	£1,166,975	£67,765	6.16%	£39,644	£28,121	2.56%	£184,262
Deneholm Primary School	416	416	£5,786	£1,920,098	£2,039,641	£119,544	6.23%	£67,539	£52,005	2.71%	£285,384
Dilkes Academy	478	478	£9,882	£2,218,879	£2,354,504	£135,624	6.11%	£75,045	£60,579	2.73%	£326,792
East Tilbury Primary School	679	679	£15,667	£3,118,414	£3,313,546	£195,132	6.26%	£109,327	£85,805	2.75%	£457,470
Giffards Primary School	407	407	£6,707	£1,870,981	£1,988,481	£117,500	6.28%	£66,535	£50,965	2.72%	£289,401
Graham James Primary Academy	423	423	£7,014	£1,883,326	£2,000,858	£117,532	6.24%	£65,488	£52,044	2.76%	£257,842
Harrier Primary Academy	18	18	£0	£147,497	£161,394	£13,898	9.42%	£0	£13,898	9.42%	£11,441
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	627	627	£27,646	£2,761,935	£2,890,470	£128,535	4.65%	£91,238	£37,297	1.35%	£379,794
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	989	989	£15,770	£4,356,545	£4,559,290	£202,745	4.65%	£144,288	£58,457	1.34%	£587,424
Herringham Primary Academy	403	403	£6,810	£2,062,265	£2,190,817	£128,552	6.23%	£74,896	£53,655	2.60%	£372,754
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	203	203	£5,786	£1,018,786	£1,079,673	£60,887	5.98%	£34,089	£26,797	2.63%	£125,450
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	201	201	£3,418	£925,171	£982,553	£57,382	6.20%	£32,222	£25,160	2.72%	£99,874
Kenningtons Primary Academy	376	376	£8,192	£1,766,812	£1,874,661	£107,849	6.10%	£59,788	£48,061	2.72%	£254,338
Lansdowne Primary Academy	619	619	£13,005	£3,297,416	£3,498,880	£201,464	6.11%	£117,789	£83,676	2.54%	£695,079
Little Thurrock Primary School	603	603	£12,186	£2,660,473	£2,779,830	£119,357	4.49%	£89,136	£30,221	1.14%	£320,691
Orsett Church of England Primary School	205	205	£4,042	£930,877	£987,157	£56,280	6.05%	£31,961	£24,320	2.61%	£92,609
Ortu Corringham Primary School and Nursery	409	409	£8,960	£1,806,592	£1,909,130	£102,539	5.68%	£63,434	£39,105	2.16%	£241,657
Purfleet Primary Academy	558	558	£12,902	£2,764,302	£2,932,973	£168,671	6.10%	£95,995	£72,676	2.63%	£462,697
Quarry Hill Academy	422	422	£9,830	£2,020,056	£2,145,110	£125,055	6.19%	£70,764	£54,290	2.69%	£319,884

**School Indicative Budget Information 2024/25**

School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	Indicative 2024/25 APT NOR	NNDR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	Indicative Budget after deduction of 2024/25 NFF NNDR allocation	Change	% Increase	Mainstream schools additional grant 2023/24	Increase 2024/25 (excluding Additional Grant)	% Increase	Notional SEN Budget
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>28,834</b>	<b>£754,174</b>	<b>£154,105,506</b>	<b>£163,513,261</b>	<b>£9,407,755</b>		<b>£5,438,354</b>	<b>£3,969,401</b>		<b>£22,789,826</b>
Shaw Primary Academy	411	411	£7,270	£1,977,326	£2,099,103	£121,777	6.16%	£68,757	£53,020	2.68%	£284,208
Somers Heath Primary School	397	397	£7,680	£1,910,553	£2,029,399	£118,846	6.22%	£67,459	£51,387	2.69%	£301,570
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	199	199	£5,888	£959,200	£1,019,076	£59,876	6.24%	£34,243	£25,633	2.67%	£124,016
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	206	206	£6,349	£1,096,057	£1,159,252	£63,195	5.77%	£35,324	£27,871	2.54%	£138,466
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	603	603	£11,571	£2,660,839	£2,823,181	£162,342	6.10%	£88,596	£73,746	2.77%	£344,742
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	391	391	£8,755	£1,799,751	£1,911,117	£111,365	6.19%	£62,074	£49,292	2.74%	£261,473
Stifford Clays Primary School	597	597	£10,240	£2,680,604	£2,845,907	£165,302	6.17%	£91,526	£73,776	2.75%	£428,487
Thameside Primary School	802	802	£17,101	£3,922,133	£4,156,840	£234,707	5.98%	£130,683	£104,024	2.65%	£726,469
The Gateway Primary Free School	401	401	£14,234	£2,122,443	£2,249,116	£126,673	5.97%	£72,705	£53,968	2.54%	£417,469
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	431	431	£6,737	£2,234,408	£2,369,761	£135,353	6.06%	£78,033	£57,320	2.57%	£402,224
Tudor Court Primary School	701	701	£19,661	£3,095,196	£3,231,610	£136,414	4.41%	£100,706	£35,708	1.15%	£448,405
Warren Primary School	408	408	£11,059	£1,797,240	£1,880,880	£83,640	4.65%	£58,666	£24,974	1.39%	£222,947
West Thurrock Academy	415	415	£14,746	£1,924,771	£2,046,179	£121,408	6.31%	£68,927	£52,480	2.73%	£269,711
Woodside Academy	628	628	£9,933	£2,777,281	£2,951,091	£173,810	6.26%	£96,869	£76,941	2.77%	£398,579
Grays Convent High School	643	643	£8,294	£4,017,763	£4,278,900	£261,137	6.50%	£146,752	£114,385	2.85%	£486,557
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	1,008	1,008	£49,152	£5,848,659	£6,232,769	£384,110	6.57%	£211,959	£172,151	2.94%	£609,333
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,191	1,191	£37,632	£7,586,368	£8,076,714	£490,346	6.46%	£276,939	£213,407	2.81%	£1,107,367
Harris Academy Riverside	887	887	£31,232	£5,594,498	£5,961,521	£367,022	6.56%	£208,569	£158,453	2.83%	£807,832
Ormiston Park Academy	686	686	£27,136	£4,651,775	£4,956,642	£304,867	6.55%	£176,787	£128,080	2.75%	£801,873
Orsett Heath Academy	350	350	£6,088	£2,174,239	£2,282,813	£108,573	4.99%	£78,214	£30,359	1.40%	£287,383
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,121	1,121	£41,984	£6,911,704	£7,361,014	£449,311	6.50%	£250,843	£198,468	2.87%	£946,357
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	620	620	£18,022	£4,098,622	£4,364,851	£266,230	6.50%	£152,514	£113,716	2.77%	£666,044
St Clere's School	1,358	1,358	£40,960	£8,480,098	£9,024,988	£544,890	6.43%	£303,295	£241,594	2.85%	£1,220,696
Thames Park Secondary School	467	467	£0	£2,993,932	£3,189,386	£195,454	6.53%	£112,395	£83,059	2.77%	£449,341
The Gateway Academy	1,069	1,069	£70,656	£7,550,547	£8,026,290	£475,743	6.30%	£272,019	£203,724	2.70%	£1,426,248
The Hathaway Academy	716	716	£18,842	£4,764,866	£5,071,678	£306,812	6.44%	£174,305	£132,507	2.78%	£764,240
William Edwards School	1,225	1,225	£32,512	£7,325,933	£7,803,161	£477,228	6.51%	£264,391	£212,837	2.91%	£911,519

## **Cabinet Decision: December 2023**

**Agree that Thurrock's 2024/25 Schools funding formula to be implemented as stated below.**

**This being consistent with previous Cabinets decisions made since 2020/21.**

Thurrock's funding formula will implement the following principles consistent with the decision made by Cabinet from 2020/21:

- National Funding Formula including Area Cost Adjustment values to be applied.
- Where this is unaffordable the Basic Entitlement value, to be included, will be reduced to contain within the funding available. The reduction to be applied will be weighted, consistent with the distribution of funding between Primary and Secondary.
- Growth fund to be retained to support sufficiency of school places.

# Decision

- Cabinet in December to approve the following approach
  - National Funding Formula including Area Cost Adjustment values to be applied.
  - Where this is unaffordable the Basic Entitlement value, will be reduced to contain within the funding available. The reduction to be applied will be weighted, consistent with the distribution of funding between Primary and Secondary.
  - Growth fund to be retained to support sufficiency of school places.
- Is the Schools Forum supportive of a transfer of up to £0.400m = 0.24% from the SB to the High Needs Block ?
- Need to agree the principles to be applied to updated 2024/25 data and finance to be received in December



# Early Years

# Early Years funding 2023/24

- Early Years is 1 of 4 funding blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant, each has separate rules, regulations and funding allocations. (Schools; Central Services, High Needs and Early Years)
- Early Years Funding is Complex
- Funding received from ESFA is based on the January Census
  - Jan 23 = 5/12 of 2023/24 Funding – Update received July-23
  - Jan 24 = 7/12 of 2023/24 Funding – Final Allocation July-24
- Funding paid to providers by LA is based on a termly census
  - LA must have a local funding formula in line with ESFA guidance
  - LA must manage the termly change in numbers and include deprivation funding
  - LA local funding formula is used to distribute funds to providers
  - LA pays providers before it receives confirmed funding allocation

# Early Years Block 2023-24 – A recap

Early Years Funding Formula 2023/24			
Funding Rates 2023/24	<u>Apr-23</u>	<u>Sep-23</u>	<u>Sept-23 Updated (EYTPAG)</u>
2 Year Olds	£5.50	£7.48	£7.48
3 and 4 Year Olds	£4.79	£5.30	£5.34
DEPRIVATION ANALYSIS FOR 3&4 YO		Annual Rate	Rate Per Hour
Band G - IDACI SCORE < 0.20		£0.00	£0.00
Band F - IDACI SCORE 0.20 - 0.25		£200.00	£0.35
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30		£200.00	£0.35
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35		£250.00	£0.44
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40		£350.00	£0.61
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50		£450.00	£0.79
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50		£600.00	£1.05
IDACI Postcode Score can be download from:			
<a href="http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019">http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019</a>			
	<u>Apr-23</u>	<u>Sep-23</u>	
EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM	£353.00	£376.00	
DISABILITY ACCESS FUND	£828.00	£881.00	

# DSG Funding formula 2024/25

- In 2023 Spring Budget the government announced the expansion of the free childcare offer.
  - ❖ April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks a year)
  - ❖ September 2024 this will be extended to parents of 9 month to 3-year-olds
  - ❖ September 2025 working parents of 9 month to 3-year-olds will be able to access 30 free hours per week (38 weeks a year)
- *Eligibility is termly date after they reach the relevant age (1 September, 1 January or 1 April)*
- With this significant increase in funding, the ESFA have determined that the 2-year-old formula can mirror the 3-and-4-year-old formula.
- This is the simplest approach as the alternative is to have a separate hourly rate for Disadvantage 2-year-olds and Working parent 2-year-olds.
- Deprivation would be the supplementary factor used to target funding to disadvantage 2-year-olds, but the same hourly rate paid.

# Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

- What does this mean in practice
  - EYNFF – 3- and 4-Year-Old Funding. Need to consider deprivation quantum and the 2023/24 overspend.
  - A new 2-year-old formula to distribute funding to providers will be required. Do we have 1 combined formula or 2 separate formulas for Disadvantage and Working Parents. If 1 formula this will need to include Base Rate, deprivation and increased SEN inclusion.
  - Under 2 formula to distribute funding to providers will be required.

## • Published Rates 2024/25

Funding Rates	3 and 4 YO 2023/24	3 and 4 YO 2024/25	2 year olds 2023/24	2 year olds 2024/25	9 mths to 2YO 2024/25
<b>ESFA to Thurrock</b>	<b>£5.61</b>	<b>£5.88</b>	<b>£8.07</b>	<b>£8.45</b>	<b>£11.52</b>
Thurrock to Providers	£5.30	tbc	£7.48	tbc	tbc
Nearest neighbour median	£5.38	£5.63		£8.03	£10.93
English average	£5.29	£5.72		£8.17	£11.06

- Awaiting funding allocations and core data from the ESFA, expected to be released w/c 18-12-23. Ongoing ESFA events.
- Engagement with School Forum and Providers will be held late January with changes implemented from April 2024.



# Central School Services Block

# Central School Services Block

<b>Central school services block (CSSB)</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
CSSB unit of funding	£38.76	£40.65
CSSB pupil count	28,620.50	28,620.50
Funding for historic commitments	£523,469	£418,775
<b>Total central school services block</b>	<b>£1,632,800</b>	<b>£1,598,996</b>
Change in Funding	<b>(£54,799)</b>	<b>(£33,804)</b>
Change in Historic Commitments funding	<b>(£130,867)</b>	<b>(£104,694)</b>

- Officers continue to work through the detail of the 2024/25 budget and the impact of the 20% reduction in funding of historic commitments.
- Detailed information will be presented to the January meeting for School Forum approval.



# Summary

# Summary

- Significant Pressures in the whole system
- No current long-term solution to pressures in HNB
  - SEND Review
  - Delivering Better Value in SEND programme
  - Need both a funding increase and reduction in EHCP's
- Currently seeking to balance the HNB in year position.
- Awaiting settlement information, headlines today but detail w/c 18-12-23
- Principles agreed
- Early Years – A lot of work to do, as all new.
- Final information to be presented to January SF meeting

## Thurrock School Forum Forward Plan for 2023 – 2024

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item / Focus
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday</b> <b>16 January 2024</b></p>	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report & Presentation
	Growth Fund 2023/24
	ESFA Consultations - <b>Standing</b>
	Review of Forward Plan 2023/24 - <b>Standing</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday</b> <b>14 March 2024</b></p>	Thurrock Budget – Children’s Services
	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	Thurrock Code of Practice for delivery of early education for 2, 3&4 year olds - <b>Standing</b>
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan – Decision
	ESFA Consultations - <b>Standing</b>
	Pupil Place Planning Review - <b>Standing</b>
	Review of Forward Plan 2023/24 - <b>Standing</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday</b> <b>13 June 2024</b></p>	Dedicated Schools Grant – Finance Report - Decision
	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan - Decision
	ESFA Consultations - <b>Standing</b>
	Union Facility Time Annual Review
	Review of Forward Plan 2023/24 - <b>Standing</b>

# Schools Forum

## Minutes of Meeting 14 September 2023, 10am to midday Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams

### In attendance:

#### **Multi Academy Trusts**

Catalyst Academies Trust  
South West Essex Community Education Trust  
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)  
Vine Schools Trust

#### **Name**

Mr T Parfett (Chair)  
Mr S Munday  
Mrs V Reid (Vice-chair)  
Mrs E Wigmore

#### **Secondary Voluntary Aided School**

Grays Convent

#### **Name**

Mrs P Johnson

#### **Standalone Academy Trusts**

Woodside Academy  
Giffards Primary

#### **Name**

Mr S Proctor  
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

#### **Infrastructure Groups**

TASS  
TPHA

#### **Name**

Mr S Bell  
Mrs J Sawtell-Haines

#### **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 A Jones  
Mr S Bowak

### Also in attendance:

Strategic Lead – DSG and Schools  
Strategic Lead – Education Support Service  
Strategic Lead – Specialist Provision/PEP  
Clerk

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

## 1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr M Vickers; Ms Jo Gillman will be representing The Olive Academy. Mr Paul Griffiths sent his apologies. Mrs P Johnson advised she would be late joining the meeting.

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

- a) The Forum agreed the agenda and time guide.
- b) Any Other Business: Miss S Williams advised we have setup a Team channel for the school forum and would like all members to check and make sure they have access to this area as all papers will be distributed through this channel for future meetings. Members advised that they are unable to see any papers. Miss S Williams to look into this and will setup a session to show members how to access this area.  
**Action: External members do not seem to have access to the papers via Teams. Miss S Williams to look into this and setup a session to show members how to access.**

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

Miss S Williams asked forum members to agree that the current Chair, Mr T Parfett continues in the position whilst delivering the Best Value SEND programme and also to agree a new Vice Chair. All forum members were asked to vote. 11 forum members agreed and 1 abstained. Miss S Williams asked if anyone was interested in taking over as the Vice Chair. Miss V Reid advised she is happy to remain as Vice Chair. All members agreed.

Miss S Williams went through the school Forum membership which is reviewed and updated yearly.

### Agreed

- a) 11 forum members present agreed Mr T Parfett to remain as The Chair. 1 member abstained
- b) All forum members agreed to Miss V Reid to remain as Vice Chair

## 5. Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan 2021/22

Mr D May advised that the DSG is currently projecting a breakeven position that would maintain the deficit at £0.534m.

There continues to be significant risk within the High Needs Block:

- Continued increase in demand for EHCPs
- Sufficiency of local offer to prevent high-cost external placements
- Costs incurred in providing education for pupils not in school

Mr D May advised that pupil movement, within the schools and high needs block, for the new

academic year is not fully known. This will be included in the information to be reported in November. The High Needs Block continues to bring challenges with Out of Borough placements and top up funding relating to academies where we are seeing around 34 new EHCPs a month. There will be a more accurate position in November once we have the pupil's movement and we start to get the costs for that.

Mr D May spoke about the teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG) which allocates funding for mainstream schools, special and AP schools in 2023/24. He advised that in 2023/24, funding through TPAG covers the 7-month period from September 2023 to March 2024. TPAG will continue into 2024/25, with the expectation that from 2025/26 this will be included as part of the Schools and High Needs national funding formula.

The LA has the flexibility on how they pass on the funding allocations for special schools and AP schools to individual providers. This flexibility recognises that the teachers' pay costs faced by special schools and AP schools vary considerably between individual providers, depending in part on the complexity of the pupil needs that they serve.

Mr J Brewer spoke about the options for teachers pay additional grant. He advised that Table 2 did not appear to be correct. Mr D May apologised and will look at this again. He advised that the total grant value is £170,666. He advised they are looking at distributing the money differently.

Mrs S Hewitt advised that the guidance advised that the LA had flexibility on how to pass the funding allocations on for special schools and AP schools to individual providers and the flexibility recognises that teachers pay costs by special schools and AP schools vary considerably between individual providers depending in part on the complexity of the pupil needs they serve. She advised that she benefits slightly from the 2nd option, but this is probably due to the teacher pupil ratios being different in different schools. Mr D May commented that the funding they will receive is not sufficient to pay the teachers' pay grant but will pay some of it.

Ms J Gilmore commented that table 2 also potentially gives recognition to smaller provisions needing a minimum level of staff and structure. She asked if this only related to Sept 2023 around to March 2024. Mr D May advised yes this was the case and commented that the teachers grant will remain as a separate grant for 2024/25 as well. Mr J Brewer commented that he just wants what is fair but has not been asked what the pupil teacher ratio is. Their students are complex, and they have more students than they ever had. Miss V Reid asked if the decision must be made now. Mr D May commented that they receive the money in October and the aim was to distribute it to settings in November. He commented that they can just take a small group and look at just The Olive Academy, Treetops and Beacon Hill and try and get an agreement amongst themselves. The Chair commented that he does not feel he has enough information himself to make an informed decision and would welcome this. Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes commented that she feels that it is an unfair decision for the forum to make but equally there was not huge differences between the two options, and she would abstain if they were forced to vote. The Chair commented that they need more details before making this decision. Mr J Brewers would like the decision to be made sooner. The forum agreed for Mr D May to take this outside the forum to be agreed by the schools involved. The forum would be notified of the outcome at the next meeting. The forum delegated Mr D May to get agreement from the three schools involved and bring back decision to November meeting.

## **Agreed**

- a) All Forum members noted and had clarity on the contents of the report
- b) All Forum members agreed to delegate to Mr D May and the three schools involved to agree the method of distribution to Special and AP Academies of the Teacher pay additional grant as outlined in Section 6 and bring back the decision to the November meeting

## **Delivering best value in send programme**

Mr D May advised that they have started the detail engagement with Newton they have had one residential session, and this was about considering the pupil level data for three years and forecasts for future years. They are working through projections and Mr D May has another meeting on the finance side next week to agree the projected data. The first of three workshops with all engaged in the EHCP process will start next week.

The residential session to be held in October will consider the data on the DSG Management plan and develop mitigations would feed into a grant application to the DfE this calendar year. Newtons are attending the November meeting to discuss the outcomes from the programme.

## **6. Early Years Update 2023/24**

Mr D May advised that as announced in the 2023 Spring Budget additional funding is to be provided to increase the hourly funding rates for early years providers to deliver the existing early years entitlements for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and 3 and 4-year-olds from September 2023. In 2023/24 this will be paid as a standalone top-up grant known as the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG). The additional funding allocation is £288m, to be provided to local authorities over 2023/24 (£204m) and 2024/25 (£84m).

Mr D May feels this area is becoming the most complex of all the blocks because we have to make assumptions and don't get notified of the final allocation until after the financial year when all payments have been made to providers. This will get more difficult moving forward as the offer gets expanded as no data to base the assumptions on is available.

Grant conditions have recently been received that allow the full increase to be passported to providers.

The 3&4 year old rate will increase from £4.79 to £5.30; with the 2 year old offer increasing from £5.50 to £7.48.

A new approach to the way funding for the 2 year old and under offer will be distributed from the DfE to the LA from 2024/25 has been subject to a recent consultation. The proposal is to mirror the approach to 3 and 4 year old funding. The funding to LA's will include:

- A universal base rate of funding for each child (89.5% of funding)
- Additional needs factor (10.5% of funding)
- Deprivation – a combination of IDACI (4%) and Free School Meals (4%).
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) (1.5%).
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (1%)

The funding to providers will be required to include:

- Universal base rate – LAs must set a universal base rate to all providers
- Pass through rate – Requires LAs to pass through at least 95% of their 3-and 4- year-old entitlement funding to providers will increase to 97%
- Supplements – LAs can use a restricted number of supplements to channel additional funding to providers meeting criteria set by the LA
- SEN inclusion fund – LAs are required to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund to support children who are taking up the free entitlements, targeted at children with lower level and emerging SEN
- Contingency funding – LAs can set aside contingency funding as part of their local budgetary process to help manage fluctuations in take-up

Mr D May advised that information will be released in late December. He will bring back the report to the forum in January and will go out to consultation with providers in the Spring term to come back to the forum to make a decision in the March 2024 and the new payments will be operational from April 2024.

Miss A Jones commented that the increases is great as so many settings are now on their knees. Lots of areas have been given it in September but we must wait for the extra until the 2nd payment in November. It makes it harder to budget. Also having to wait until March next year for April is very late to have any kind of budget especially if there is a possibility of it going down.

Mr D May advised that the information will not be received until the week before Christmas and then need to consider and develop local formula. In January as part of the consultation providers will be aware of what the proposals will be to be implemented from April 2024.

Mr A Melbourne commented that it is crazy that Early Years is the most complex. It is a cash flow pressure for the settings. The whole current offer makes it is impossible for settings to have a business plan in a robust mature way. There is a major risk to the sector and really worried about April in case the rates go down. He would like us to be able to emphasize that it is essential that there is some sort of protection against a reduction in the rates. The Chair commented that he would include this in his letter to be written to the DFE regarding Early Years.

**Action: The Chair to include in his letter to the DFE regarding Early Year that it is essential that there is some sort of protection against a reduction in the rates.**

Mr D May commented that he does not envisage the hourly rate for most settings decreasing but there could be fluctuations to reflect the need within the settings. The Chair commented that the timing of the fundings being released is not great. Mr D May commented that they may release something in November. Mr A Melbourne asked if when Mr D May and Mrs M Lucas meet the DFE again that they do raise these issues. Mr D May advised that Mrs A Winstone and Mrs M Lucas meet with this regularly, and he will ask them raise this.

Mrs P Johnson joined the meeting.

### **Agreed**

- a) 15 Forum members agreed the new funding rates to be paid from September 2023.
- b) All Forums members noted the recent consultation and impact from April 2024.

## 7. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

Mr D May advised that overall, core schools funding (including funding for schools and high needs) is increasing by £1.8 billion in 2024/25 compared with the previous year, on top of the £3.9 billion increase in 2023/24.

Mr D May advised they have received provisional allocations which is based on Oct-22 census. This will be updated based on the October 2023 census. The increase on the Schools Block is 3.1%. There is a 20% reduction in funding for the Central Schools Block and the High Needs Block has received a 3% increase. The key changes were highlighted and discussed.

LAs will be required to move their local formula factors 10% closer to the national funding formula (NFF) and Thurrock is classed as mirroring the NFF.

Mr D May advised a number of scenarios had been considered and the option presented in detail was consistent with the methodology used in previous years.

Mr D May advised that the assumption so far is that there will be no transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. He is concerned that doing this in one year is too much of a drop in funding. Should this be done over two years. He will bring back options to the November meeting.

The notional SEN percentages to be applied will be the same as last year.

Mr D May included in the papers a breakdown by school the indicative budget information for 2024/25.

High Needs Block funding through the NFF is increasing by a further £440 million, or 4.3%. All LAs will receive at least a 3% increase per head of their age two to 18 population, compared to their 2023/24 allocations. The budget that will be available if we do not transfer from the School Block will be 2.26%. Although it has been discussed to break the dependency on the Schools Block transfer, should this be phased over a two-year period. The HNB remains the area of significant risk with an expected overspend of up to £0.300m in 2023/23. The key area is the continued increase in the number of EHCPs.

Next steps:

- School Forum Meeting 16 November 2023 will consider:
  - Any Implications arising from a detail review of Schools Operational guide 2024/25
  - School formula options to be presented to Cabinet in December for their approval
  - HNB 2024/25 Budget and key issues
  - SEND Delivering Better Value programme and implications on DSG Management Plan
- Cabinet – December:
  - Approve LFF principles to be applied
- ESFA w/c 18 December 2024/25 Funding allocations released
- School Forum Meeting 16 January 2024
  - Final School & DSG budgets
  - Options for a new Early Years funding formula
- Schools Forum Meeting 14 March 2024
  - Consider EYFF following consultation with Providers

The Chair asked Mr D May to clarify that there is not suggestion of a transfer to the High Needs Block. Mr D May would like to work through the figures and bring back options around that depending on the level of funding. He agrees we need to break the link but concerned that doing it in one year is too much of a drop in funding.

**Action: Mr D May to present figures in November where they will have a discussion on the need to transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for another year.**

**Agreed**

a) All 13 Forum members noted the contents of the report

## **8. School's Forum Forward Plan**

Miss S Williams presented at the meeting the forward plan and asked if any items needed to be added. The Chair asked if they know how long they will need for the DBV SEND Programme during the next meeting. Mr D May advised he will have a better indication at the end of October.

All Forum members were happy to keep the same school forum cycle of meetings for 2023/24 and were happy with the forward plan.

## **9. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 June 2023**

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

## **10. Matters arising**

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

## **11. Action log**

Actions outstanding:

*Action 1: The Chair to put a letter together to be send to the DfE regarding Early Years – This has been delayed until the Early year's consultation has been completed.*

*Action 2: Mrs S Williams to contact schools that have not had representation at the schools Forum for replacement representative – Miss S Williams advised she has been in contact with Ormiston Park and hopefully will have a representative for the next meeting.*

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 7 December 2023.

<b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b>							
Thurrock Borough Council Schools Forum 13th December 2023							
<b>Thurrock Borough Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action details</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Action or Decision</b>	<b>Relevant Timescales</b>	<b>Action Status</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
14th September 2023	Item 3 - 3. Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'Any Other Business'	External members do not seem to have access to the papers via Teams. Miss S Williams to look into this and setup a session to show members how to access.	Miss S Williams	Action		Open	
14th September 2023	Item 6 - 6. Early Years Update 2023/24	The Chair to include in his letter to the DFE regarding Early Year that it is essential that there is some sort of protection against a reduction in the rates.	Chair	Action		Open	
14th September 2023	Item 7 - 7. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25	Mr D May to present figures in November where they will have a discussion on the need to transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for another year.	Mr D May	Action		Open	To be presented to forum in Novmeber.