

Schools Forum

Minutes of Meeting
13 December 2023, 10am to midday
Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

Multi Academy Trusts

Catalyst Academies Trust
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)
The Osborne Trust

Name

Mr T Parfett (Chair)
Mrs V Reid (Vice-chair)
Mrs P Griffiths

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

Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members

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

Name

Mrs M Shepherd
Mr A Melbourne
Ms A Jones

Also in attendance:

Assistant Director, Education and Skills
Head of Financial Management, Children's
Services and Dedicated Schools Grant
Head of Education Support Service
Head of Specialist Provision/PEP
Clerk

Mrs M Lucas

Mr D May
Miss S Williams
Mr M W Taylor
Mrs S Hardy

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr S Munday, Mr S Bowack, Mr J Brewer, Mrs E Wigmore and Mr M Vickers (represented today by Mrs J Gillman).

3. Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'any other business'

- a) The Forum agreed the agenda and time-guide. No additional items received.

4. Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2023/24

Mr D May shared the report. Advised that the current financial year is forecasting a break-even position. Hopes that through some one-off funding may be able to reduce the deficit come year end. Continued pressures in the High Needs Block - increase of EHCPs – 30 per month. The increase being so significant that the DBV SEND work has had to be rebased, as the starting point was so significantly different that it would not be able to show any benefit from the work because we were too low in comparison to what we were starting at in January 2024 (have a separate presentation for that).

The overspend within EYs block highlighted how data has changed from 2023 to previous years. Works out the amount to pay providers in Dec/Jan before start of following financial year and uses previous 12 months data. When received data from January census that was 30k units less than previously forecasted. When summer 2023 payments had been made, the units were £30k more than were forecasting, so a 60k shift in what was expected and that is what has caused the deficit. The autumn term should be okay as it based on January 24 census which equals the spring 2024 payment. However, will be around 300k mark deficit in the EYs block. This will need to be considered when considering the 2024/25 budget and hourly rates to be paid to providers.

Mr A Melbourne asked how guesstimate was made and how it came about that it was seen as so far off?

Mr D May advised; In calculating 23/24 hourly rate, would have used the previous 12 months data – using the last 3 terms of every year – and with that, determine funding allocation and hours likely to pay to providers. The DSG that LA receives is based on the 2 January census. Payments to providers based on take up from the children on a termly census, so the termly January 23 census was using January 22 to project the full year DSG which had 30k less units, and as there is a peak in the summer and a reduction in the autumn, it levels itself out, however as January was low and summer was higher, that created a differential and, therefore, it created the deficit. Therefore, when looking at next years will use the data we have but may have to build in a contingency too.

Mr A Melbourne asked if, during discussions with ESFA/DfE etc, it could be mentioned how the whole structure of the funding needs to be changed to take account of these kinds of challenges.

Mr D May advised that this will be considered as part of 2024/25 budget. Advised that the previous 12 months data has enabled the maximum funding to be distributed to providers. Now need to do something different as cannot have £300k deficit in this area. A contingency would reduce the hourly rate paid.

Mr A Melbourne asked if there was another way to look at other contingency pots? What room do we have to add to the data from last year by way of a contingency?

Mr D May said that there is a massive risk with next years' as we don't know what the take up will be.

Mr M Taylor said the numbers of EHCPs have historically been much higher. We are beginning to turn it around in terms of the initiations. This term there have been fewer initiations, however it will not change the overall historic position, which ties in with the national situation too. We have done some good work around specialist placements, however, have a very small number of high-cost pupils in residential placements, which is an additional pressure. Small numbers, but high cost.

Mr D May continued; Teachers Pay Additional Grant 23/24 – as set out in point 6.3, three options to be considered by the Forum.

Mrs S Hewitt said it affects both Beacon Hill and Treetops in terms of how it was allocated. The reason they asked Mr May to go back and look at this was because the guidance for that money, when it comes to the LA, is very specific in that it doesn't have to be distributed at £260 per place, that is just the funding allocation. The reason they asked for option 3 to be produced was because everyone gets exactly the same amount of subsidy per teacher.

Mrs J Gillman said, looking at the three options, there needs to be fairness and simplicity. However, could see that option three would be quite complicated to administer. We came to the conclusion that option two gives us the balance of fairness and simplicity for all parties as it partially addresses the issue for smaller provisions and recognises a minimum amount is needed, and simple to administer. Option one, the way the ESFA has allocated it on £260 per pupil doesn't address any of the issues and is the least fair option.

Mr D May said to be aware that, in each of the options there is a formula which determines what the final total that will be going to each setting - e.g. option 2, Beacon Hill's permanent value would be £23,020 and would not be recalculated and would eventually be amalgamated into the DSG and eventually amalgamated into the funding that Beacon Hill will receive on an annual recurring basis.

Mrs S Hewitt said that she was not aware of that before. Asked Mr May to explain what the difficulty is in going for the third option where everyone receives the same amount per teacher?

Mr D May said he was just noting the considerable shift of money away from Treetops to other places as opposed to the other manageable money movement.

Mrs S Hewitt said but none of these monies have been paid out yet?

Mr D May said no, not until next week.

Mrs S Hewitt said, so could argue that Treetops are receiving more per teacher than everyone else?

Mr D May said yes, there is no right or wrong, it is just whichever option is preferred.

Mr A Melbourne said was Mr May's view that it is not wise to establish that fixed value?

Mr D May advised that once the value is determined, it is that fixed amount that will be permanently added year on year to Beacon Hill's budget. Ultimately the grant will move into DSG and, as part of that, this fixed amount will be paid continuously to all these four settings, doesn't matter which of the options are chosen.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes, agreed with Mrs Hewitt, said if this is money to fund the pay award, then should be looking at the number of teachers in these providers. Also, that smaller schools are under more pressure, and so don't have the economies of scale that larger schools have. Teachers pay and pensions are increasing, so if that is what the money is for then that is how the money should be allocated.

Mr M Taylor said, for note, that Treetops are not represented at this meeting as they have sent apologies, just aware that any decision made at this meeting will impact on them. Also, does it take into account the disproportionate numbers of LSA staff across special schools, or whether other funding mechanisms compensate as it is a particular pressure for Sue and for Jon and Anthony due to the large numbers of support staff impacted by other changes.

Mr D May said it is purely for teachers pay, which is why we looked at option 3. Obviously, Treetops would go for option 1 as opposed to the other two options.

Mr T Parfett said part of Mr Taylor's question was also about was there a mechanism for support staff?

Mr M Taylor said it was just where the pressure is on their budgets, affects Sue too, because of their support staff numbers. Has there been any adjustments around that specifically?

Mr D May advised, no, as there is no money available to make adjustments.

Mr M Taylor said he had thought not, and wanted to check if there had been any discussions outside of this meeting re this with Treetops and Treetops Free School?

Mr D May said yes, and they advised that they would go with option 1.

Mr P Griffiths said he noted that we are about to vote on 3 separate options and some of us are not part of the group that would benefit or otherwise from this decision and advised that in other forums those who are not involved don't vote on some issues as it is re a particular sector. Two of the schools named are not represented in the meeting and so it seems unusual. We are needing to make a decision and there doesn't seem to be a meeting of minds i.e. Treetops wants option 1, Olive AP option 2 and Beacon Hill prefer option 3 so there is no decision that will suit all parties and yet we are being asked to vote on it and are also trying to think holistically for the children in those schools. Don't want to make a mistake and then be brought to account later.

Mr T Parfett said, looking at his notes from the previous meeting, his understanding was that he had asked for a consultation between the providers to take place outside of the Forum for them to make a decision, and that decision would be confirmed at the next Forum meeting.

Mr M Taylor said, as a point of order, and just by a way to move things forward, and taking into account Mr Griffiths point, asked if it would be appropriate to have that consultation take place between the four providers to try to reach an agreement, and if no agreement could be reached, then for the Chair to make a decision on it outside of this forum?

Mr T Parfett said he was also considering that. Asked Mr May if there was a deadline for the decision? Mr D May advised that the money was there, and he was just waiting to know the means by which it would be distributed to the four providers.

Mr T Parfett advised that there needs to be a round table discussion with the providers to weigh up the benefits etc and that he would be happy to be part of that meeting to help them make a decision.

Mr D May agreed.

Mr P Griffiths asked the Chair if he would like, instead, to put forward a vote to the Forum on that instead - an outside meeting to take place with the providers?

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes said, from reading the conditions of the grant, that it does say that local authorities have flexibility in how they pass on the fundings to special schools and AP's, and recognises that teachers pay costs faced by special and AP schools vary considerably between individual providers.

Mr T Parfett asked the Forum to vote on if they agree for him to arrange to meet with the providers and, should he need to, to make a decision as Chair of this Forum, on which way forward will be the fairest.

Agreed

- i) 11 Members agreed that Mr T Parfett will meet outside of this meeting with the providers to make a decision.

Mr T Parfett said he will table a meeting for as soon as is possible.

Mrs S Hewitt asked if there was a timescale attached to the meeting as should have had the money at the beginning of the academic year, and that at the last meeting Treetops requested it to be passported for as quickly as possible.

Mr T Parfett asked Mrs Hewitt if she could stay on at the end of this meeting so that they could arrange a suitable meeting date.

Mr D May continued with the next part of the report – pt 7, Early Years Teachers' Pay Additional Grant 23/24. This grant is a one off, running from September 23 to March 24 and is reflected in the new rates published for 24/25. Received an allocation of £54,327 in the first instance. The money has to be distributed, so has followed the principle that we agreed in setting the 23/24 budget that the 4p per hour would be distributed to all providers and only for the autumn and spring term. This is, therefore, the decision for the Forum to agree.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes said that the guidance states that Mr May did not have to consult with the Schools' Forum, so was being kind to do so. Asked if all the providers have a teacher?

Mr D May said he would not have that information. Just following the principles that were agreed, and the guidance does recognise the workforce pressures and that is specific in the guidance. The proposal reflects the principle agreed for 2023/24.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked if anyone knew if all the providers that receive the money have a teacher?

Mr A Melbourne said no, however re Mr May's last point about the guidance and recognising the workforce pressures and also, in parallel to that, recognizing all the potential uplifts that go around teachers and their pay and pensions, none of the early years professional staff receive anywhere near any kind of benefit from it. Just to highlight those parallels.

Mrs A Jones said that most providers do not have a qualified teacher. In her setting they do, however have considerable pressures with the new minimum wage coming into effect, and a lot of settings are in quite dire trouble. Therefore, any extra is a bonus to help them survive.

Mr T Parfett said last time we voted to go with this suggestion?

Mr D May said, yes, in the January 2023 meeting it was agreed that for the whole of 2023/24, that when the previous teachers' pay grant was merged into the early years, we would just have one hourly rate for all providers – will only apply for 2 terms.

There were no questions.

Mr T Parfett asked the Forum to vote if they were in agreement with the hourly increase.

Agreed

- i) 10 Members agreed on the hourly increase.

Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes asked that it be noted if people who don't have three- and four-year-olds within their provision voted on that, there may have been some people.

5. Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan/DBV SEND Programme

Mr D May said apologies that the Forum meeting had to be re-arranged twice due to the demands of the DBV programme. The Grant Application will be submitted this week. This presentation outlines what came out of the programme and also what the grant application is looking like at this stage. The financial figures here are a work in progress. Still working with Newtons to validate some of the figures. Also have challenges with the CIPFA who go through the DSG management plan detail as part of the grant application.

Shared the report (which was distributed to attendees before the meeting – copy attached for ease of reference):

The money must be spent during the financial year 24/25, although may be some slippage around the academic year 24/25 – 1 year funding to make the most impact on some of the figures and the projected deficits.

Mrs M Lucas thanked everyone who participated with the DBV programme – for example, attending the case review workshops and responding to the surveys. Advised that at the meeting with DBV in Birmingham, it was interesting to hear that most local authorities were grappling with the same issues and were addressing it in a slightly different way – so we will learn from some of those experiences when thinking about our commissioned outreach programme. Advised that, as part of this, we are commissioning a review of our outreach provisions to see what is currently on offer and what might be possible going forward, and met with some who will do that for us, and will be in contact with the individual providers. As Mr May mentioned, the data we presented at Birmingham last week shows we are keeping a number of our children within the authority and that's due to the work you are all doing. The data shows that this is an authority, borough and school's landscape that supports the children locally. However, if we do not start addressing the number of plans coming through,

we will be facing an unprecedented overspend on high needs block. It is not just about all the diagnostic work, have also been working with a subgroup of the schools' forum throughout the programme, gathering information to enable us to drive the work forward. With thanks too to a number of colleagues who have worked very hard on this.

Mr A Melbourne asked Mr May what was the percentage of increase in EHCPs around early years versus other age groups? Are there defining characteristics on how it is applied across age groups and different types of settings, or is there any criteria around that which is mandatory?

Mr D May advised that the purpose of the grant is to make the maximum impact within the one-year timeframe, so it is about transitions – from early year to primary, primary to secondary is key and also the ability of mainstream schools to hold on to these children with an EHCP. It is very much about training and upskilling staff. This is where it needs to be progressed, and where the grant application will drive that out, and obviously will be accountable of how we have spent the money for the next 2-4 years to see the impact.

Mr P Griffiths welcomed the plan and thought that it had a lot of strengths within it and agreed that the focus should be on training staff in mainstream settings to upskill them, and it would be good to roll that out to a wider group of schools too. Issue, however, is that it is limited funding, and not a massive amount of money. The impact has to be seen over several years, however, need several years of funding to support and embed that practice. Noted that it is recognised that it is a tough ask.

Mr D May agreed and said that has certainly been the case all through this programme, we originally envisaged it being a three-year grant that would be awarded, so to then build on the strengths year on year, however it has changed and is now a one-off fund and has to be spent within a year.

Mrs S Hewitt asked if there was any discussion at any point around the lack of or the benefit of specialist early years provision in terms of stopping the children getting into the system in the first place in terms of EHCPs as we do not have as many specialist early years provision as we used to.

Mr M Taylor advised that the actual numbers of plans don't necessarily reflect the need across different local authorities due to different practices across those authorities. Historically we put more plans in the early years, however some authorities choose not to do that early intervention. We reintroduced an increased level of transition funding for some of the early years and there are two reasons for that; one is because we had a significant number of children being identified with high needs where we wanted to give them support in the early years and going into reception, and some of those wouldn't require plans due to post pandemic issues in part and difficulties in accessing speech and language services etc. It is partly about not over identifying young people who, with the right type of support, wouldn't necessarily need a plan. The other reason was obviously to get better identification, having got them a clearer assessment once they are in their reception class because you get a different type of assessment activity then you get a more detailed plan. In general terms, it is important to acknowledge that we have seen a significant increase in the total complexity of need and the numbers of youngsters with complex needs in the borough and particularly around autistic spectrum conditions where we have got an unprecedented high level of needs and this is also reflected in national figures. Also advised that re training and upskilling schools, the Teaching School is holding another SEND in mainstream school course at the beginning of January.

6. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

Mr D May shared the presentation (which was distributed to attendees before the meeting – copy attached for ease of reference).

Mr D May advised that this was discussed in the September meeting, however in October the ESFA announced that they had got the pupil data projections wrong, therefore have had to re base line everything again and the figures in the presentation today shows that the schools block is reduced by £1.5 million. Settlement figures should be available next week based on the census, however, don't know whether any additional money will be provided by the government as it has done in the previous 2 years. The reason the ESFA took until October to advise is because they were in discussion with the Treasury to see if they would receive any additional funding from that.

First decision to vote on.

Agreed

- i) 12 Members agreed to the increase in band values by 3% from September 2024 (to take affect from academic year 24/25).

Second decision to vote on.

Agreed

- i) 13 Members agreed to increase the Outreach Services by 3%, consistent with the increase put on the values.

Third decision to vote on.

Agreed

- i) 10 Members agreed to support a transfer of £0.4m to the high needs block.

7. ESFA Consultations – Early Years response to Consultation and Information released

Mr D May shared the presentation (see copy of the presentation under item 6).

Mr A Melbourne agreed with Mr May re his point re Early Years about consistency between the 2- and 3-year-old offer, and using that deprivation rate seems sensible and practical as well as morally right. Asked Mr May, for the benefit of the attendees, to reiterate about the matter of the 2-year-old rate being at risk, for clarification.

Mr D May advised will need to consider the hourly rate we are paying this year, and that is probably the minimum that we would pay. Would then need to look at what the units we had in 23/24 were and make an assumption about how that unit would impact on the unit cost, which may then increase or impact on the hourly rate that is passported to providers.

Mr A Melbourne asked what are the things we can explore/look at in order to protect what providers are going to receive and experience as if it turns out they start getting less at a time when there are workforce pressures/costs increasing/minimum wage to take into account etc, how are they going to then deliver the service – how do we protect the sustainability of the sector?

Mr D May said that this will be for discussion at January's meeting. Once we know the facts and what the impact is, then we can develop something around that.

8. School's Forum Forward Plan

Miss S Williams shared the Forward Plan.

9. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 September 2023

Agreed.

10. Action log

Updates:

Mr T Parfett advised re his action, he had met with Mr A Melbourne re starting the early years letter to the DfE, and it will be finalised early in the New Year.

Mr D May's action has been covered at this meeting.

11. Matters arising

None.

12. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16 January 2024.

DBV SEND Programme

Michele Lucas
Assistant Director Education & Skills
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
Total	209.421	(157.667)	0.000	0.000	51.754	51.754	(0.000)

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
	(0.000)
* One-Off =	(1.150)

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	
DSG Unfunded 31/03/2023	(0.534)	0.25%

Thurrock Unmitigated Expenditure

Table 3a LB UNMITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
Total number of EHC plans by placement type	2,546	2,660	2,788	2,925	3,067
AP Placement no EHCP	78	78	78	78	78
Total number of placements funded under the HNB	2,624	2,738	2,866	3,003	3,145

Table 3a	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
	41.758	42.982	46.299	49.799	53.395
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	43.258	44.482	47.799	51.299	54.895
DSG Assumed	38.958	40.127	41.331	42.571	43.848
In Year Position	(4.299)	(4.355)	(6.468)	(8.728)	(11.046)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(4.833)	(9.188)	(15.656)	(24.385)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(4.833)	(9.188)	(15.656)	(24.385)	(35.431)

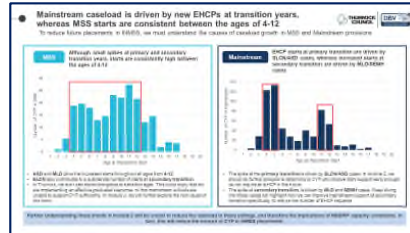
Our first focus area explores how we can support more children in SEN support as opposed to through EHCPs

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

Focus 2: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

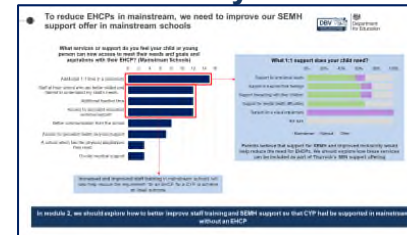
Focus 3: Reducing INMSS Unit Cost

High impact analysis...



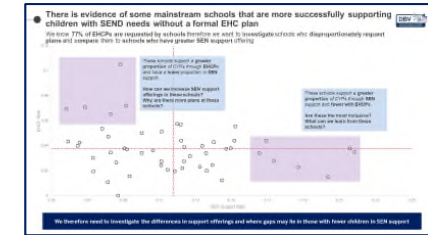
...showed the majority of EHCPs in mainstream start at the transition years

Case reviews and surveys...



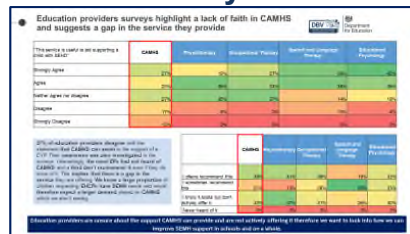
...showed us 63% of mainstream EHCPs were regarded as non-ideal with an emphasis on MH support and access to specialist services as a drivers

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...



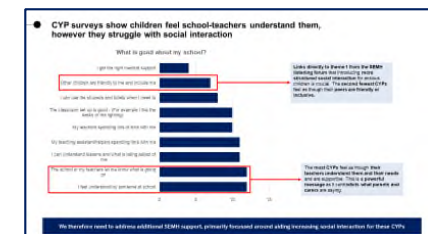
...showed us their lower confidence in Mental Health services than services such as Speech & Language Therapy, OT, PT.

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...

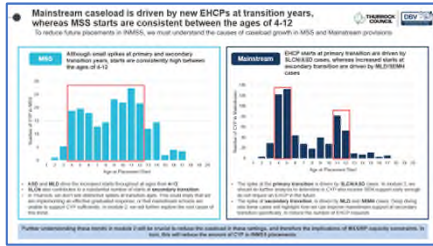


...indicated that children are struggling the most with social interaction, with the lowest level of positive responses to a question about peer inclusivity

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

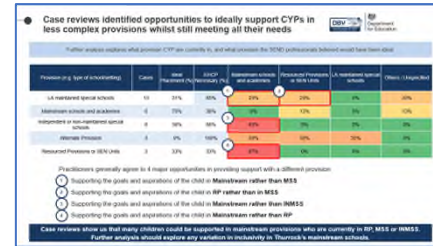
Focus 1: Supporting CYP on SEN Support Without a Need for an EHCP

High Impact Analysis...



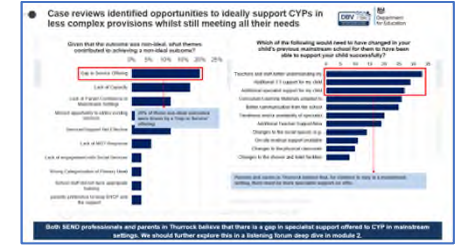
...identifies MSS caseload is putting pressure on HNB expenditure

Case Reviews...



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

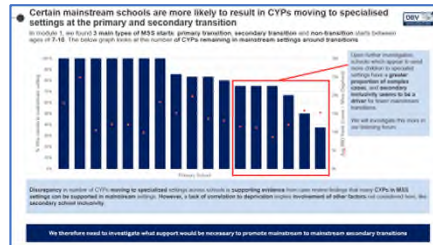
Case reviews and surveys...



...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

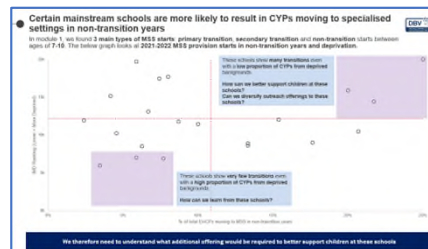
Focus 2: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

Variation analysis...



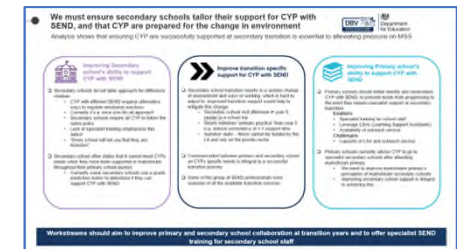
...show us that there is variation between mainstream schools in the proportion of CYP moving to MSS at secondary transition

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

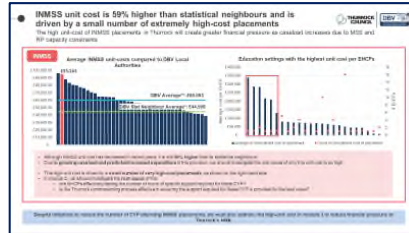
Our third focus area explores INMSS unit cost and how we can bring it down

Focus 1: Supporting CYP in Mainstream instead of Specialist Settings

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

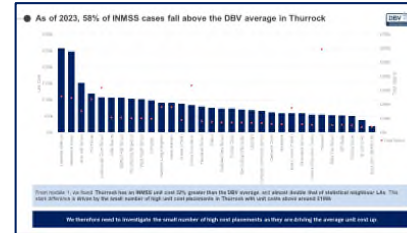
Focus 3: Reducing INMSS Unit Cost

High impact analysis...



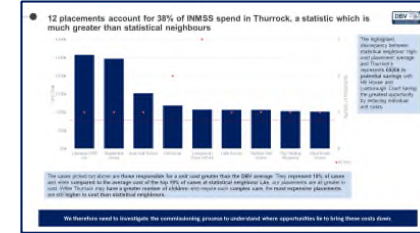
...showed Thurrock has an **INMSS unit cost 50% greater than the DBV average** and considerably higher than stat. neighbours

Unit cost deep dive...



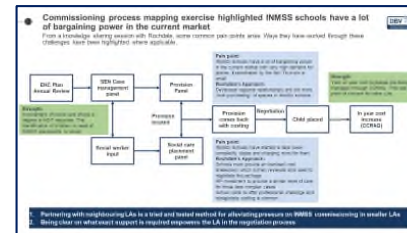
...showed Thurrock's INMSS unit cost is **driven up by a small number of high-cost placements**

Unit cost deep dive...



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

Commissioning process mapping...

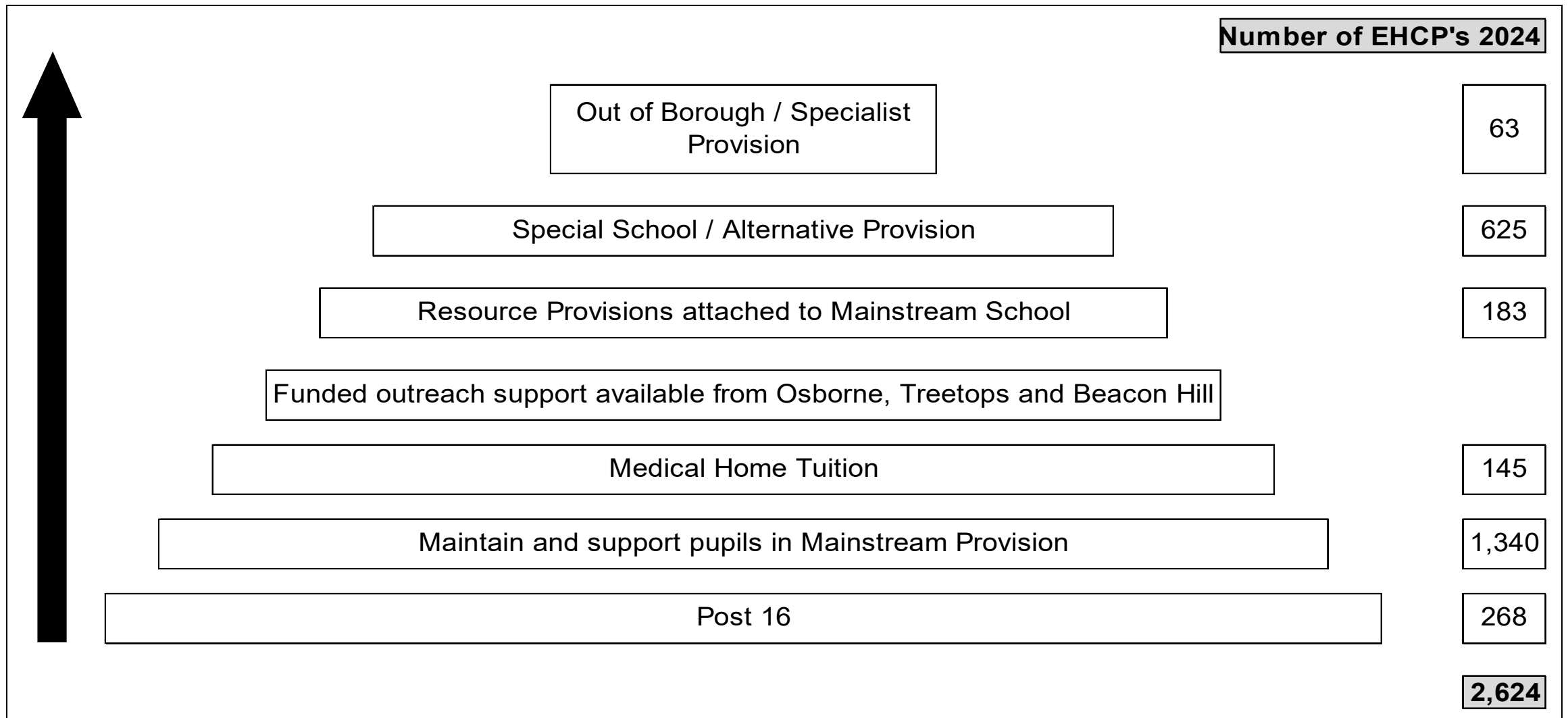


...identified **bargaining power and lack of selectivity** as key challenges. These have been **addressed in a knowledge sharing session with Rochdale**.

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 th 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)
Inclusion			
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	£550,000	£550,000
Improving mainstream capacity and ability to meet needs of children and young people at SEND Support and with EHCPs.	Increased Outreach Offer	£300,000	£300,000
Performance & Digital Development			
Review of Outreach services to prioritise and mainstream year 1 investment	SEND specialist engaged to review and prioritise outreach offer.	£75,000	£75,000
Reducing the high INMSS placement costs	Increase to commissioning capacity to ensure VFM being secured.	£75,000	£75,000
		£1,000,000	£1,000,000

Thurrock Unmitigated Expenditure

Table 3a LB UNMITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
Total number of EHC plans by placement type	2,546	2,660	2,788	2,925	3,067
AP Placement no EHCP	78	78	78	78	78
Total number of placements funded under the HNB	2,624	2,738	2,866	3,003	3,145

Table 3a	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
	41.758	42.982	46.299	49.799	53.395
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	43.258	44.482	47.799	51.299	54.895
DSG Assumed	38.958	40.127	41.331	42.571	43.848
In Year Position	(4.299)	(4.355)	(6.468)	(8.728)	(11.046)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(4.833)	(9.188)	(15.656)	(24.385)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(4.833)	(9.188)	(15.656)	(24.385)	(35.431)

Thurrock Mitigated Expenditure

Table 3b LA MITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
Total number of EHC plans by placement type	2,345	2,456	2,554	2,639	2,717
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
Total number of placements funded under the HNB	2,423	2,564	2,662	2,747	2,825

Table 3b	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
	40.277	42.183	44.239	45.558	46.627
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	41.777	43.683	45.739	47.058	48.127
DSG Assumed	38.958	40.127	41.331	42.571	43.848
In Year Position	(2.819)	(3.556)	(4.408)	(4.487)	(4.279)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(3.353)	(6.908)	(11.316)	(15.803)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(3.353)	(6.908)	(11.316)	(15.803)	(20.082)

Thurrock and DBV Mitigated Expenditure

Table 3c LA + DBV MITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
Total number of EHC plans by placement type	2,345	2,405	2,435	2,461	2,476
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
Total number of placements funded under the HNB	2,423	2,513	2,543	2,569	2,584

Table 3c	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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
	40.277	41.981	43.653	44.715	45.505
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	41.777	43.481	45.153	46.215	47.005
DSG Assumed	38.958	40.127	41.331	42.571	43.848
In Year Position	(2.819)	(3.354)	(3.822)	(3.644)	(3.157)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(3.353)	(6.707)	(10.529)	(14.173)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(3.353)	(6.707)	(10.529)	(14.173)	(17.329)

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.

Schools Forum

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

David May

Email: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

David May
Head of Financial Management
dmay@thurrock.gov.uk
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
Total	209.421	204.825	14.935	219.761	10.340

- 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)	
National Funding Formula - Adjusted	£34,688,151	£36,291,916	£1,603,765	4.62%
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	
Total High Needs Funding	£37,356,101	£38,958,424	£1,602,323	4.29%
Transfer from Schools Block	£742,000	£0	(£742,000)	
High Needs Block Budget	£38,098,101	£38,958,424	£860,323	2.26%

- 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
RESOURCE BASES	213	233	176	267
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
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	556	576	540	560
Alternative Provision - Olive	85	85	85	85
THURROCK	854	894	801	912

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.

Academic Year Impact - Increase applied from Sept-24		
Commissioned Services	5%	3%
Academy	2023/24	2024/25
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
Total Commissioned Services	£1,208,850	£1,244,666

- 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

Table 3c LA + DBV MITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Mainstream schools or academies	1,271	1,309	1,322	1,335	1,349
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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
	40.277	41.981	43.653	44.715	45.505
Other H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	41.777	43.481	45.153	46.215	47.005
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In Year Position	(2.819)	(3.354)	(3.822)	(3.644)	(3.157)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(3.353)	(6.707)	(10.529)	(14.173)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(3.353)	(6.707)	(10.529)	(14.173)	(17.329)

Thurrock High Needs Budget 2024/25

Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block	2021/22 Actual £m	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Budget £m	2023/24 Outturn £m	2024/25 DSG Mgmt. Plan £m
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
Funding Settlement	28.965	33.362	38.098	38.098	38.958
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
Dedicated Schools Grant	29.537	33.170	38.099	38.006	41.777
(Surplus) / Deficit	0.572	(0.192)	0.000	(0.092)	2.819

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
Minimum Per Pupil Value		£4,610		£5,771		
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
Total	16	£73,760	16	£92,336	32	£166,096

- 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

Schools Block	£
Schools Block 2023/24	£156,833,736
Less Growth Fund	(£1,231,584)
Transfer to High Needs Block	(£742,472)
Schools Block 2023/24	£154,859,680
Mainstream schools additional grant	£5,438,354
Revised Schools Block	£160,298,034
Increase in Funding	£3,969,978
Increase in Pupil Numbers Oct-23 Census	£0
Growth Fund 2024/25	£0
Schools Block	£164,268,012
% 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
Total	28,834	28,834	£754,174	£154,105,506	£163,513,261	£9,407,755		£5,438,354	£3,969,401	2.58%	£22,789,826
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
Total	28,834	28,834	£754,174	£154,105,506	£163,513,261	£9,407,755		£5,438,354	£3,969,401		£22,789,826
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:			
http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019			
		<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
ESFA to Thurrock	£5.61	£5.88	£8.07	£8.45	£11.52
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

Central school services block (CSSB)	2023/24	2024/25
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
Total central school services block	£1,632,800	£1,598,996
Change in Funding	(£54,799)	(£33,804)
Change in Historic Commitments funding	(£130,867)	(£104,694)

- 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