

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

16th January 2024 at 10:00 – 12:00

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

Multi Academy Trusts

Catalyst Academies Trust
Harris Federation
Ormiston Park
ORTU Federation
Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust
REAch2 Academy Trust
South West Essex Community Education Trust
The Gateway Learning Community Trust (GLC)
Vine Schools Trust
Christus Catholic Trust

Name

Mr T Parfett (Chair)
Mrs N Graham
To be advised
Mr K Sadler
Mr Griffiths
Mr E Samuel
Mr S Munday
Mrs V Reid (Vice-chair)
Mrs E Wigmore
Mrs J Seymour

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-Haynes

Alternative Provision

Olive AP

Name

Mr M Vickers

Special Schools

Treetops Academy
Beacon Hill Academy

Name

Mr J Brewer
Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members

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

Name

Miss S Jones
Mrs M Shepherd
Mr A Melbourne
Ms A Jones
Mr S Bowak

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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Introductory Items

Item	Item	Time Guide
1.	Welcome from Chair	10:00
2.	Apologies for Absence	10:02
3.	Agreement of agenda, time-guide and notification of 'Any Other Business'	10:03
For Decision		
4.	Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented by David May	10.05
For Decision		
5.	Growth Fund 2024/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented by David May	10.20
For Information and discussion		
6.	Schools' Forum Forward Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented by Sarah Williams	11:20
Closing Items		
7.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th December 2023	11:25
8.	Action Log	11:35
9.	Matters Arising	11:40

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10.	Any Other Business	11:45
	Date of next meeting Thursday 14 th March 2024	

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25
REPORT OF:	David May
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides details of the settlement information for 2024/25.
- 1.2 Officers continue to work through the detail. At the meeting a presentation will be made on all key issues and decisions required to finalise the 2024/25 DSG budget

2. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

- 2.1 On 19 December 2023, DFE announced the schools funding settlement for 2024/25, reflecting the outcome of the October 2023 school census.

Dedicated Schools Grant	2023/24	2024/25	Increase
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	156.834	167.156	10.322
Central School Services Block	1.633	1.610	(0.023)
High Needs Block	37.356	39.083	1.727
Early Years Block	13.599	22.127	8.529
Total	209.421	229.977	20.555

The key changes from the information presented in December are:

- The School Block change reflects the increase of 271 pupils, that attracts additional funding of £1.611m and confirmation of growth funding of £1.276m.
- The provisional increase in Early Years funding reflects the expansion of the early years offer in 2024/25.

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 increase.
 - 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 The Schools Forum agreed in December the transfer of £0.4m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support pupil movement and the implementation of the Delivering Better Value SEND action plan.

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.
- 2.7 At the December meeting the following decisions were agreed:
- The range of Special School Values to increase (Appendix A).
 - All Band Values to increase by 3% from September 2024 (Appendix A).
 - The hourly rate paid for EHCP's to increase to £11 (Appendix A).
 - Outreach services to increase by 3% from September 2024.
- 2.8 Detailed information will be presented at the meeting to reflect the updated DSG Management Plan as part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme, projected funding pressures and 2024/25 proposed budget.

Central School Services Block

- 2.9 This funding block is subject to a 20% year on year reduction to historic commitments. Officers continue to work through the detail with detailed budget information to be presented at the meeting.

Central School Services Block (CSSB)	2023/24	2024/25
CSSB unit of funding	£38.76	£41.24
CSSB pupil count	28,620.50	28,891
Funding for historic commitments	£523,469	£418,776
Total central school services block	£1,632,800	£1,610,221
Change in Funding	(£54,799)	(£22,579)
Change in Historic Commitments funding	(£130,867)	(£104,693)

Early Years Block

- 2.10 The following indicative allocations have been provided. These will be subject to change based on January census and termly updates for the new expanded offer.

Dedicated schools grant: Indicative 2024/25 Early years block allocations				
	Core	Pupil Premium	DAF	Total
3-and-4-year-old	£9,643,526	£79,331	£91,000	£9,813,857
3-and-4-year-old additional 15 hours	£4,046,756			£4,046,756
2-year-old disadvantaged	£2,176,143	£45,377	£31,850	£2,253,370
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£3,551,591			£3,551,591
Under 2s entitlement	£2,453,208	£2,268	£6,370	£2,461,846
Total early years block (£s)	£21,871,224	£126,976	£129,220	£22,127,420

- 2.11 A small number of LA's, including Thurrock, have been engaged in discussion with ESFA colleagues to outline issues with the way funding is to be allocated to LA's and Providers. The ESFA proposed methodology to LA's is different from the weeks to be paid to providers by LA's in each term, that would create a funding shortfall to LA's. The ESFA are considering options and a response

is awaited. A presentation will be made at the meeting on the latest information available.

3. REFERENCES TO OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS / PREVIOUS REPORTS

- School Forum meeting 13-12-23 – Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25
- 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.

Name: David May
Role: Head of Financial Management, Corporate Finance
E-Mail: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

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 or MPPG	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
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
Education Health and Care Plans Hourly Rate		£10.50				£11.00

Schools Forum

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

David May

Email: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

David May
Head of Financial Management
dmay@thurrock.gov.uk
16 January 2024

To Consider

- Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24
- Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25
- Schools Block & Thurrock Funding Formula
- Central Services Block
- High Needs Block
- DSG Management Plan and Delivering Better Value SEND Programme
- Early Years
- Next Steps

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	5.053	(0.397)
Central Services	1.633	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.633	1.622	(0.011)
High Needs	37.368	(7.026)	0.742	0.000	31.085	30.696	(0.389)
Early Years	13.599	0.000	0.000	0.000	13.599	13.942	0.343
Total	209.433	(157.667)	0.000	0.000	51.767	51.313	(0.454)

Variance	2023/24		DSG Deficit - Summary	£m	% of DSG
Schools	(0.396)	* Growth Fund	DSG Unfunded 31/03/2018	4.046	2.78%
Central Services	(0.011)	* Admissions	DSG Unfunded 31-03-2019	2.656	1.74%
High Needs	(1.097)	* Resource Bases	DSG Unfunded 31-03-2020	1.978	1.28%
High Needs	0.407	Top Up Funding	DSG Unfunded 31-03-2021	4.634	1.12%
High Needs	0.122	Professional Fees	DSG 2021/22	(0.178)	
High Needs	0.115	Post 16	DSG Unfunded 31-03-2022	1.705	0.93%
High Needs	0.063	Tuition Services	DSG 2022/23	(1.171)	
Early Years	0.343	Providers	DSG Unfunded 31/03/2023	0.534	0.25%
	(0.454)		DSG 2023/24	(0.454)	
			DSG Unfunded 31/03/2024	0.080	0.04%
* One-Off =	(1.504)				

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25

Dedicated Schools Grant	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Schools Block	156.834	167.156
Central School Services Block	1.633	1.610
High Needs Block	37.356	39.083
Early Years Block	13.599	22.127
Total	209.421	229.977
SB Recoupment	(150.641)	(161.025)
HNB Recoupment	(7.026)	(7.256)
Total Recoupment	(157.667)	(168.281)
DSG Retained	51.754	61.696

Schools Block	£m
Schools Block 2023/24	£156.834
Mainstream schools additional grant	£5.438
Revised Schools Block	£162.272
Increase in Funding	£3.332
Increase in Pupil Numbers Oct-23 Census	£1.611
Change in Growth Fund	(£0.059)
Schools Block	£167.156
% Increase in funding	2.05%



Schools Block 2024/25

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.

- **Growth fund included in the Funding Formula**

APT Growth 2024/25	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth New 2024/25	Total 2024/25	Estimated Cost 2024/25
Thames Park	180	Year 7	105	105	£605,955
Orsett Heath	240	Year 7	140	140	£807,940
Little Thurrock	30	Year 2	30	30	£138,300
Total	450		275	275	£1,552,195

- **Growth Fund required 2024/25**

Pupil Growth 2024/25	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2024/25	Funding Per Pupil	Total Cost 2024/25
Primary - Central Planning Area	60	Yr 3,5	60	£3,624	£217,440
Primary - Tilbury Pioneer / Gateway	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	70	£3,624	£253,680
Secondary	30	Yr7	17.5	£5,109	£89,415
	210		148		£560,535
				Growth Fund Agreed 2023/24 Summer Term	£423,588
				Growth Fund C/fwd 2024/25 Academic Year	£292,562
				Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,276,684
				ESFA Growth Fund Allocation	£1,276,875

School Block – Decision Required

- To confirm agreement to the retention of £1,276,684 to fund in year growth in 2024/25.
- To confirm agreement to the Growth and Falling Rolls policy 2024/25 (circulated with Agenda)
 - Key change is the updated funding rates 2024/25

Schools Block – Notional SEN 2024/25

Notional SEN Budget	2023/24	2024/25
Basic Entitlement	2.5%	2.5%
FSM	0%	0%
FSM6	100%	100%
IDACI Band A - F	25%	25%
EAL	0%	0%
Mobility	0%	0%
Low Attainment - Primary	100%	100%
Low Attainment - Secondary	100%	100%
Sparsity	25%	25%
Additional to meet minimum per pupil funding	100%	100%
Notional SEN Value	£21,617,590	£22,930,956
Schools Block Formula	£154,859,680	£166,024,368
% Notional SEN / Schools Block Formula	13.96%	13.81%

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.

Formula Factor Values

Formula Factor Values	2023/24		2024/25	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Minimum Per Pupil	£4,405	£5,715	£4,610	
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 3		£5,503		£5,771
Minimum Per Pupil - KS 4		£6,033		£6,331
Primary *	£3,436		£3,624.00	
KS 3*		£4,845		£5,109.40
KS 4*		£5,460		£5,759.50
FSM	£498	£498	£508.74	£508.74
FSM6	£732	£1,070	£851.37	£1,245.90
IDACI Band F	£239	£348	£243.99	£353.01
IDACI Band E	£291	£462	£295.90	£467.21
IDACI Band D	£457	£644	£462.02	£654.10
IDACI Band C	£498	£706	£503.55	£716.39
IDACI Band B	£530	£758	£534.70	£768.31
IDACI Band A	£696	£966	£706.01	£981.15
EAL	£602	£1,625	£612.57	£1,645.63
Prior Attainment	£1,199	£1,817	£1,214.75	£1,842.89
Mobility	£981	£1,412	£996.72	£1,432.79
Lump Sum	£132,922	£132,922	£139,540.80	£139,540.80
Sparsity	£58,465	£85,049	£59,284.08	£86,174.75
Area Cost Adjustment	1.03825		1.03825	

Notional SEN Allocation	£21,583,866	£23,348,190
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DSG Schools Block	£156,833,736	£167,156,024
NNDR	(£754,174)	(£754,174)
Transfer to HNB	(£742,472)	(£400,000)
Growth Fund	(£1,231,584)	(£1,276,684)
Budget Available	£154,105,506	£164,725,166
Cost implication	£154,105,506	£164,725,166
Variance	£0	£0

Thurrock Funding Formula

Thurrock Funding Formula	2023/24		2024/25	
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	£117,810,856	76%	£125,922,229	76%
FSM	£3,263,371	2%	£3,523,259	2%
FSM6	£6,472,263	4%	£7,592,338	5%
IDACI	£6,876,972	4%	£7,074,300	4%
EAL	£1,808,985	1%	£2,015,749	1%
Prior Attainment	£9,705,582	6%	£10,223,128	6%
Mobility	£310,514	0%	£449,393	0%
Lump Sum	£6,989,461	5%	£7,256,112	4%
Sparsity	£58,465	0%	£59,284	0%
Min Per Pupil Funding Level	£760,615	0%	£601,274	0%
Minimum Funding Guarantee	£48,422	0%	£8,100	0%
NFF Allocation	£154,105,506	100%	£164,725,166	100%
Rates	£754,174	0%	£754,174	0%
Total Schools Funding	£154,859,680	100%	£165,479,340	100%
Notional SEN Allocation	£21,583,866	14%	£23,400,784	14%

School Budget Information 2024/25

School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	2024/25 APT NOR	% Change	NNDR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	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	28,816	29,154		£754,174	£154,105,506	£164,725,166	£10,619,660		£5,438,354	£5,181,306	3.4%	£23,348,190
Abbots Hall Primary School	336	321	(4.5%)	£4,167	£1,519,850	£1,532,099	£12,250	0.8%	£54,269	(£42,019)	(2.8%)	£169,109
Arthur Bugler Primary School	419	415	(1.0%)	£4,990	£1,846,836	£1,913,150	£66,314	3.6%	£62,618	£3,696	0.2%	£245,436
Aveley Primary School	412	407	(1.2%)	£7,578	£1,980,458	£2,071,305	£90,847	4.6%	£67,477	£23,370	1.2%	£328,116
Belmont Castle Academy	652	652	0.0%	£13,107	£2,968,338	£3,121,010	£152,671	5.1%	£100,807	£51,864	1.7%	£425,896
Benyon Primary School	368	360	(2.2%)	£3,643	£1,812,981	£1,866,826	£53,846	3.0%	£62,036	(£8,190)	(0.5%)	£271,846
Bonnygate Primary School	408	419	2.7%	£8,038	£1,946,500	£2,123,681	£177,182	9.1%	£64,498	£112,683	5.8%	£318,592
Bulphan Church of England Academy	66	69	4.5%	£1,921	£444,103	£487,069	£42,966	9.7%	£13,919	£29,047	6.5%	£43,022
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	206	209	1.5%	£3,393	£1,099,210	£1,167,659	£68,449	6.2%	£39,644	£28,805	2.6%	£180,506
Deneholm Primary School	416	416	0.0%	£5,786	£1,920,098	£2,022,538	£102,441	5.3%	£67,539	£34,901	1.8%	£282,314
Dilkes Academy	478	475	(0.6%)	£9,882	£2,218,879	£2,368,989	£150,110	6.8%	£75,045	£75,064	3.4%	£342,506
East Tilbury Primary School	679	682	0.4%	£15,667	£3,118,414	£3,379,325	£260,912	8.4%	£109,327	£151,584	4.9%	£535,234
Giffards Primary School	407	401	(1.5%)	£6,707	£1,870,981	£1,939,231	£68,250	3.6%	£66,535	£1,715	0.1%	£276,665
Graham James Primary Academy	423	420	(0.7%)	£7,014	£1,883,326	£1,970,304	£86,978	4.6%	£65,488	£21,490	1.1%	£251,905
Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred	627	628	0.2%	£27,646	£2,761,935	£2,895,080	£133,145	4.8%	£91,238	£41,907	1.5%	£404,276
Harris Primary Academy Mayflower	989	990	0.1%	£15,770	£4,356,545	£4,563,900	£207,355	4.8%	£144,288	£63,067	1.4%	£632,256
Herringham Primary Academy	403	402	(0.2%)	£6,810	£2,062,265	£2,193,220	£130,955	6.4%	£74,896	£56,058	2.7%	£394,330
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	203	208	2.5%	£5,786	£1,018,786	£1,105,704	£86,917	8.5%	£34,089	£52,828	5.2%	£146,458
Horndon-On-the-Hill CofE Primary School	201	201	0.0%	£3,418	£925,171	£981,414	£56,243	6.1%	£32,222	£24,021	2.6%	£105,284
Kenningtons Primary Academy	376	386	2.7%	£8,192	£1,766,812	£1,884,345	£117,532	6.7%	£59,788	£57,744	3.3%	£252,581
Lansdowne Primary Academy	619	617	(0.3%)	£13,005	£3,297,416	£3,474,303	£176,886	5.4%	£117,789	£59,098	1.8%	£713,047
Little Thurrock Primary School	603	609	0.9%	£12,186	£2,660,473	£2,805,185	£144,712	5.4%	£89,136	£55,576	2.1%	£341,777
Orsett Church of England Primary School	205	204	(0.5%)	£4,042	£930,877	£983,008	£52,131	5.6%	£31,961	£20,171	2.2%	£97,195
Ortu Corringham Primary School and Nursery	409	427	4.4%	£8,960	£1,806,592	£2,000,936	£194,344	10.8%	£63,434	£130,910	7.2%	£271,802
Purfleet Primary Academy	558	587	5.2%	£12,902	£2,764,302	£3,101,803	£337,500	12.2%	£95,995	£241,505	8.7%	£527,738
Quarry Hill Academy	422	419	(0.7%)	£9,830	£2,020,056	£2,097,494	£77,438	3.8%	£70,764	£6,673	0.3%	£298,626

School Budget Information 2024/25

School Name	2023/24 APT NOR	Indicative 2024/25 APT NOR	% Change	NNDR	Budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF NNDR allocation	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	28,816	29,154		£754,174	£154,105,506	£164,725,166	£10,619,660		£5,438,354	£5,181,306	3.4%	£23,348,190
Somers Heath Primary School	397	421	6.0%	£7,680	£1,910,553	£2,104,640	£194,087	10.2%	£67,459	£126,628	6.6%	£301,906
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	199	189	(5.0%)	£5,888	£959,200	£974,777	£15,577	1.6%	£34,243	(£18,666)	(1.9%)	£115,688
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	206	206	0.0%	£6,349	£1,096,057	£1,136,341	£40,283	3.7%	£35,324	£4,959	0.5%	£122,987
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	603	587	(2.7%)	£11,571	£2,660,839	£2,791,100	£130,261	4.9%	£88,596	£41,665	1.6%	£362,346
Stanford-Le-Hope Primary School	391	410	4.9%	£8,755	£1,799,751	£1,987,900	£188,148	10.5%	£62,074	£126,075	7.0%	£288,231
Stifford Clays Primary School	597	601	0.7%	£10,240	£2,680,604	£2,880,532	£199,928	7.5%	£91,526	£108,401	4.0%	£452,142
Thameside Primary School	802	796	(0.7%)	£17,101	£3,922,133	£4,146,981	£224,848	5.7%	£130,683	£94,165	2.4%	£746,920
The Gateway Primary Free School	401	391	(2.5%)	£14,234	£2,122,443	£2,171,149	£48,707	2.3%	£72,705	(£23,999)	(1.1%)	£400,420
Tilbury Pioneer Academy	431	421	(2.3%)	£6,737	£2,234,408	£2,330,222	£95,813	4.3%	£78,033	£17,781	0.8%	£413,626
Tudor Court Primary School	701	699	(0.3%)	£19,661	£3,095,196	£3,222,390	£127,194	4.1%	£100,706	£26,488	0.9%	£472,439
Warren Primary School	408	416	2.0%	£11,059	£1,797,240	£1,917,760	£120,520	6.7%	£58,666	£61,854	3.4%	£251,762
West Thurrock Academy	415	425	2.4%	£14,746	£1,924,771	£2,091,505	£166,734	8.7%	£68,927	£97,806	5.1%	£288,938
Woodside Academy	628	633	0.8%	£9,933	£2,777,281	£2,989,720	£212,439	7.6%	£96,869	£115,570	4.2%	£437,683
Grays Convent High School	643	680	5.8%	£8,294	£4,017,763	£4,454,468	£436,705	10.9%	£146,752	£289,953	7.2%	£495,907
Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	1,008	1,005	(0.3%)	£49,152	£5,848,659	£6,154,662	£306,003	5.2%	£211,959	£94,044	1.6%	£603,380
Harris Academy Ockendon	1,191	1,195	0.3%	£37,632	£7,586,368	£8,027,521	£441,152	5.8%	£276,939	£164,213	2.2%	£1,074,291
Harris Academy Riverside	887	946	6.7%	£31,232	£5,594,498	£6,287,051	£692,553	12.4%	£208,569	£483,983	8.7%	£847,268
Ormiston Park Academy	686	706	2.9%	£27,136	£4,651,775	£4,995,767	£343,992	7.4%	£176,787	£167,205	3.6%	£761,646
Orsett Heath Academy	350	480	37.1%	£6,088	£2,174,239	£3,084,216	£909,977	41.9%	£78,214	£831,762	38.3%	£314,530
Ortu Gable Hall School	1,121	1,076	(4.0%)	£41,984	£6,911,704	£6,960,624	£48,920	0.7%	£250,843	(£201,923)	(2.9%)	£895,574
Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	620	665	7.3%	£18,022	£4,098,622	£4,713,484	£614,862	15.0%	£152,514	£462,348	11.3%	£735,516
St Clere's School	1,358	1,236	(9.0%)	£40,960	£8,480,098	£8,149,026	(£331,072)	(3.9%)	£303,295	(£634,367)	(7.5%)	£1,123,302
Thames Park Secondary School	467	672	43.9%	£0	£2,993,932	£4,521,546	£1,527,613	51.0%	£112,395	£1,415,219	47.3%	£646,962
The Gateway Academy	1,069	1,106	3.5%	£70,656	£7,550,547	£8,164,842	£614,295	8.1%	£272,019	£342,276	4.5%	£1,390,109
The Hathaway Academy	716	672	(6.1%)	£18,842	£4,764,866	£4,733,591	(£31,274)	(0.7%)	£174,305	(£205,579)	(4.3%)	£693,412
William Edwards School	1,225	1,186	(3.2%)	£32,512	£7,325,933	£7,571,028	£245,095	3.3%	£264,391	(£19,296)	(0.3%)	£943,923

Grants 2024/25

- Pupil Premium
 - Eligible Pupils determined by October 23 Census

Pupil Premium - Pupil Eligibility Criteria	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
Pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible in the past 6 years (including eligible children of families with no recourse to public funds)	£1,455	£1,035	£1,480	£1,050
Looked-after children (LAC)	£2,530	£2,530	£2,570	£2,570
Previously looked-after children (PLAC)	£2,530	£2,530	£2,570	£2,570
Eligible service children in year groups reception to year 11	£335	£335	£340	£340

- Teachers Pay and Pension Grant 2024/25

Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	Primary	KS3	KS4	Special / AP
Financial Year	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
Basic per-pupil rate	£62	£86	£98	£391
Lump Sum	£2,306	£2,306		£9,000
FSM6 per-pupil rate	£53	£77		



Central School Services Block

Central School Services Block

- The central school services block (CSSB) was created from the DSG funding that was held centrally by the local authority.
- Statutory and Regulatory duties that include Planning for the education service, S151 Officer's responsibilities, Formulation and review of schools funding formula, Admissions, and Schools Forum.
- Historic Commitments relate to Historic Pension Costs and contribution to combined budgets. A 20% year on year reduction has been applied from 2020/21 – 2024/25 a reduction of £0.105m.

Central School Services Block	2024/25
CSSB unit of funding	£41.24
CSSB pupil count	28,890.50
Funding for historic commitments	£418,776
Total central school services block	£1,610,221

Central School Services Block

Central Schools Services Block	Budget 2023/24 £m	Budget 2024/25 £m
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Education <i>Including: Director of children's services; Planning for the education service as a whole; Function in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools; School Attendance; Excluded Pupils; Responsibilities regarding the employment of children</i>	£0.473	£0.511
Statutory and Regulatory Duties - Finance <i>Including: Revenue budget preparation, information and external audit relating to education; Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula; Administration of grants; Task related to LA Section 151 responsibilities under LGA 1972</i>	£0.176	£0.174
School Place Planning	£0.027	£0.027
School Admissions	£0.300	£0.301
Servicing of Schools forum	£0.010	£0.009
SACRE	£0.015	£0.015
School Licensing	£0.155	£0.173
	£1.155	£1.210
Contribution to Combined budgets	£0.477	£0.400
Total DSG - Central Services Block	£1.633	£1.610

Central School Services Block Decision Required

- To agree the use of the Central School Services Block budget of £1.610m in 2024/25.



High Needs Block 2024/25
DSG Management Plan
Delivering Better Value SEND Programme

High Needs Block 2024/25

High Needs Block	2023/24	2024/25	Change	%
National Funding Formula	£33,165,412	£34,688,151	£1,522,739	
Additional High Needs allocation	£1,522,739	£1,603,765	£81,026	
National Funding Formula - Adjusted	£34,688,151	£36,291,916	£1,603,765	4.62%
Basic Entitlement	£2,644,874	£2,755,607	£110,733	
Teachers Pay/pension supplement	£62,312	£62,312	£0	
Additional funding Special Free School	£716,764	£717,012	£248	
Import/Export Adjustments	(£756,000)	(£744,000)	£12,000	
Total High Needs Funding	£37,356,101	£39,082,847	£1,726,746	4.62%
Transfer from Schools Block	£742,000	£400,000	(£342,000)	
High Needs Block Budget	£38,098,101	£39,482,847	£1,384,746	3.63%

- HNB Increase £1.726m or 4.62%, or 3.63% with £0.400m transfer from SB.

Thurrock Commissioned Places

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

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 Outreach Services

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

Academic Year Impact - Increase applied from Sept-24		
Commissioned Services	5%	3%
<u>Academy</u>	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


- As part of the DBV SEND programme a review of all the Outreach services will be undertaken to ensure they are meeting current need, targeted to deliver against priorities and achieve Value for Money.

High Needs Budget 2024/25

Dedicated Schools Grant - High Needs Block	2023/24 Budget £m	2023/24 Outturn £m	2024/25 DSG Mgmt. Plan £m	2024/25 Risks £m	2024/25 Budget £m
High Needs Block	37.368	37.368	39.083		39.083
Funding Block Transfer	0.742	0.742	0.400		0.400
Funding Settlement	38.111	38.111	39.483		39.483
Place Funding	0.280	0.280	0.025	(0.025)	0.025
Place Funding Academies to be recouped	7.026	7.026	7.256		7.256
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Schools & Academies	3.612	3.806	4.821	(0.061)	4.735
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Resource Provisions	5.008	4.092	5.315	(0.498)	4.817
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Special Schools	7.811	7.498	8.327	(0.457)	7.871
Top Up Funding - Thurrock Alternative Provision	1.815	1.935	1.895		1.895
Top Up Funding - Other Local Authorities (4-16)	1.448	1.661	1.600		1.600
Top Up Funding - Post 16	2.500	2.615	2.515		2.515
Pupils not in School	0.725	0.788	0.733		0.733
Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	1.863	1.855	2.101	(0.247)	1.854
Non Residential - Non Maintained and Independent	2.141	2.155	3.152	(0.997)	2.155
Commissioned Services	1.185	1.185	1.245		1.245
Additional High Needs Targeted	0.400	0.522	0.600		0.600
Home Hospital Education Services	0.030	0.038	0.030		0.030
Travellers Team	0.050	0.051	0.052		0.052
Home to School Transport	1.540	1.540	1.500		1.500
High Needs Central Team	0.675	0.675	0.600		0.600
Dedicated Schools Grant	38.111	37.722	41.768	(2.285)	39.483
(Surplus) / Deficit	0.000	(0.389)	2.285	(2.285)	0.000

High Needs Block Decision Required

- To agree the High Needs Block budget of £39.483m for 2024/25, recognising the risk identified through the DSG Management Plan of £2.285m.
- The risk of £2.285m will be closely monitored throughout 2024/25 through DSG Management Plan and monthly Budget Monitoring. An update will be provided at each meeting.



DSG Management Plan

Delivering Better Value SEND Programme

Thurrock Unmitigated Expenditure

Forecast accumulated deficit if we do nothing

Table 3a LB UNMITIGATED	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Mainstream schools or academies	1,340	1,477	1,634	1,799	1,967
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	183	183	183	183	183
Maintained special academies	540	540	540	540	540
NMSS or independent schools	63	84	105	126	148
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 EHCP's	2,345	2,509	2,693	2,886	3,083
AP Placement no EHCP	78	78	78	78	78
Total funded by HNB	2,423	2,587	2,771	2,964	3,161

Table 3a Unmitigated	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Mainstream schools or academies	9.179	10.169	11.044	11.984	12.969
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	5.151	5.038	5.156	5.278	5.403
Maintained special academies	13.271	12.823	13.064	13.293	13.529
NMSS or independent schools	5.253	7.332	9.457	11.717	14.112
Medical/Home Tuition	0.763	0.809	0.857	0.908	0.962
Post 16	2.515	2.642	2.776	2.918	3.067
AP	2.745	2.670	2.725	2.781	2.839
H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	40.378	42.982	46.579	50.379	54.382
DSG Assumed	39.483	40.255	41.463	42.707	43.988
In Year Position	(0.895)	(2.727)	(5.116)	(7.672)	(10.394)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(1.429)	(4.156)	(9.272)	(16.944)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(1.429)	(4.156)	(9.272)	(16.944)	(27.338)

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 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 academies	560	560	560	560	560
NMSS or independent schools	63	63	59	59	55
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 EHCP's	2,345	2,409	2,435	2,465	2,481
AP Placement no EHCP	78	108	108	108	108
Total funded by HNB	2,423	2,517	2,543	2,573	2,589

Table 3c Mitigated	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Mainstream schools or academies	8.918	9.504	9.783	10.068	10.362
Resourced Provision or SEN Units	6.346	6.885	7.446	7.921	8.211
Maintained special academies	13.727	13.616	13.874	14.122	14.377
NMSS or independent schools	5.253	5.416	5.221	5.380	5.162
Medical/Home Tuition	0.763	0.809	0.857	0.908	0.962
Post 16	2.515	2.642	2.776	2.918	3.067
AP	2.745	3.350	3.687	3.763	3.841
H2S Transport	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
Total	41.767	43.721	45.144	46.580	47.483
DSG Assumed	39.483	40.255	41.463	42.707	43.988
In Year Position	(2.284)	(3.466)	(3.681)	(3.873)	(3.495)
DSG (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.534)	(2.818)	(6.284)	(9.965)	(13.838)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus	(2.818)	(6.284)	(9.965)	(13.838)	(17.333)

Estimated Impact

Projected Impact	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
DBV Lower Band Unmitigated	2,423	2,587	2,771	2,964	3,161
LA & DBV Mitigated	2,423	2,517	2,543	2,573	2,589
EHCP Projected Impact	0	(70)	(228)	(391)	(572)
DBV Lower Band Unmitigated	40.378	42.982	46.579	50.379	54.382
LA & DBV Mitigated	41.767	43.721	45.144	46.580	47.483
Financial Impact	1.389	0.739	(1.435)	(3.799)	(6.900)
DBV Lower Band Unmitigated	(1.429)	(4.156)	(9.272)	(16.944)	(27.338)
LA & DBV Mitigated	(2.818)	(6.284)	(9.965)	(13.838)	(17.333)
Accumulated (Deficit)/Surplus Impact	(1.389)	(2.128)	(0.694)	3.106	10.005



Early Years

Early Years funding 2024/25

- 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 – Recognised by recent dialogue with ESFA
- Funding received from ESFA is based on the January Census for the 3-&-4-year-old and Disadvantaged 2-Year-olds.
 - Jan 24 = 5/12 of 2024/25 Funding – Update received July-24
 - Jan 25 = 7/12 of 2024/25 Funding – Final Allocation July-25
- The new offer for Working Parents of 2-Year-Olds from April 2024 and Under 2s from September 2024 will be based on a termly census.
- For the under 2s offer, Local Authorities will receive 26 weeks funding, not the usual 7/12 allocation, recognising the week providers are paid.

Early Years funding 2024/25

- 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
 - LA needs to consider the 2023/24 overspend of £0.343m
- This will now include the following funding formula requirements
 - 3-&-4-Year-Olds – Consistent with 2023/24, more funding targeted through Deprivation.
 - 2-Year-Olds – New Funding formula to be applied to both Disadvantage and Working parents with deprivation factor compulsory.
 - Under 2s – New funding formula to be applied – Hourly Rate only.
 - Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund applicable to all
 - SEN Inclusion Fund extended to all Early Years funding.

Early Years funding 2024/25

Dedicated schools grant: Indicative 2024 to 2025 Early years block allocations

	Core	Pupil Premium	DAF	Total
3 and 4 year old	£9,643,526	£79,331	£91,000	£9,813,857
3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours	£4,046,756			£4,046,756
2 year old disadvantaged	£2,176,143	£45,377	£31,850	£2,253,370
2 year old entitlement for working parents	£3,551,591			£3,551,591
Under 2s entitlement	£2,453,208	£2,268	£6,370	£2,461,846
Total early years block (£s)	£21,871,224	£126,976	£129,220	£22,127,420

Early Years funding 2024/25

Early Years Funding Formula 2024/25			
The hourly rates to be paid to all providers from April 2024 will be:			
Under 2's	£11.14	New	
2 Year Olds	£7.50	New	
3 and 4 Year Olds	£5.40	An increase of 10p per hour	
Deprivation funding for all 2 and 3&4 Year Olds			
	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
		Annual Rate	Rate Per Hour
Band G - IDACI SCORE < 0.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Band F - IDACI SCORE 0.20 - 0.25	£0.35	£230.00	£0.40
Band E - IDACI SCORE 0.25 - 0.30	£0.35	£230.00	£0.40
Band D - IDACI SCORE 0.30 - 0.35	£0.44	£285.00	£0.50
Band C - IDACI SCORE 0.35 - 0.40	£0.61	£370.00	£0.65
Band B - IDACI SCORE 0.40 - 0.50	£0.79	£485.00	£0.85
Band A - IDACI SCORE > 0.50	£1.05	£625.00	£1.10
IDACI Postcode Score can be download from:			
http://imd-by-postcode.opendatacommunities.org/imd/2019			
EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM		£387.60	£0.68
DISABILITY ACCESS FUND		£910.00	

Early Years funding 2024/25

Funding Rates	ESFA	Thurrock	Thurrock	Thurrock
		Hourly Rate	Deprivation	Total
Number for 3 and 4 year old	£5.88	£5.40	£0.18	£5.58
Number for 3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement	£5.88	£5.40	£0.18	£5.58
Number for 3 and 4 year old early years pupil premium funding	£0.68	£0.68		£0.68
Estimated number for 3 and 4 year old disability access funding	£910.00	£910.00		£910.00
SEN Inclusion Fund				£522,351
Number for 2 year old disadvantaged entitlement funding	£8.45	£7.50	£0.26	£7.76
Estimated number for 2 year old entitlement for working parents	£8.45	£7.50	£0.26	£7.76
Estimated number for 2 year old early years pupil premium funding	£0.68	£0.68		£0.68
Estimated number for 2 year old disability access funding	£910.00	£910.00		£910.00
SEN Inclusion Fund				£150,000
Estimated number for under 2s entitlement	£11.52	£11.14		£11.14
Estimated number for under 2s early years pupil premium funding	£0.68	£0.68		£0.68
Estimated number for under 2s disability access funding	£910.00	£910.00		£910.00
SEN Inclusion Fund				£42,456
Early Years Central Team				£635,000

Early Years funding 2024/25

- Some Childminders have expressed a desire to move to monthly payments. Whilst this would create additional administration it also has a cash flow disadvantage as shown below:

Cashflow Examples	Childminder 1				Childminder 2				Commentary
	Monthly	%	Termly	%	Monthly	%	Termly	%	
April		0%	£3,915	25%		0%	£7,829	25%	Payment made end of first week of term
May	£979	6%		25%	£1,957	6%		25%	
June	£979	12%	£1,448	34%	£1,957	12%	£2,896	34%	Adjustment Payment made 30 June
July	£979	19%		34%	£1,957	19%		34%	
August	£2,427	34%		34%	£4,853	34%		34%	Final Post headcount return
September			£4,216				£8,432		Payment made end of first week of term
October	£1,054	41%		61%	£2,108	41%		61%	
November	£1,054	48%	£1,559	71%	£2,108	48%	£3,119	71%	Adjustment Payment made 17 November
December	£1,054	54%		71%	£2,108	54%		71%	
January	£3,717	78%	£3,312	92%	£7,434	78%	£6,625	92%	Payment made end of first week of term
February	£1,104	85%		92%	£2,208	85%		92%	
March	£2,329	100%	£1,225	100%	£4,659	100%	£2,450	100%	Final Post headcount return
Total	£15,675		£15,675		£31,350		£31,350		
Number of Children	5				10				
Hours per child	15				15				
2 Year old rate	£5.50				£5.50				

Early Years funding 2024/25

Decision Required

- To agree the use of £0.635m for the Early Years Central Team in 2024/25.

Early Years Central Team	Budget 2023/24	Actual 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Employees	£484,504	£466,801	£611,249
Supplies and Services	£12,275	£9,628	£10,000
ICT	£7,000	£7,000	£17,000
Income from Traded Services / Govt. Grant	(£13,779)	(£22,561)	(£3,249)
Total	£490,000	£460,868	£635,000

- This represents 3% of the indicative Early Years funding allocation.

Early Years funding 2024/25

Next Steps

- A series of briefings to be held with Early Year providers to inform of the new funding rates to be applied from April 2024.
- Discuss the benefits of the current payment process v monthly payments.



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Schools Funding Formula to be submitted to ESFA by 22 January
- ESFA approval to the formula is required before the budgets can be confirmed as final.
- Headteachers Briefing 1 February

- Challenge meetings with CIPFA on DSG Management Plan, Starting Thursday 18 January
- SEND DBV Programme Board meets 29 February to consider Grant application and DSG Management Plan.

- Schools Forum meeting Thursday 14 March:
 - Outcome of the Early Years briefings
 - Outcome of the SEND DBV Grant application
 - Thurrock Council Budget – Children Services

THURROCK SCHOOLS FORUM REPORT

DATE:	16 January 2024
SUBJECT:	Growth and Falling Rolls Fund 2024/25
REPORT OF:	Sarah Williams
THE REPORT IS:	For Decision

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the proposed criteria for schools and academies accessing funding allocated for growth for the academic year 2024/25.
- 2.2 To agree to the continued use of the age weighted pupil unit value for the academic year 2024/25.
- 2.3 To agree a Growth Fund budget for the financial year 2024/25 of £1,276,684.
- 2.4 To keep under review the need to establish a Falling Rolls Policy

3. GROWTH FUND

- 3.1 Following the annual review of Pupil Place Plan and school places across Thurrock the Head of Education Support Services and the Head of Financial Management have worked together to present the forecasted growth budget for 2024/25.
- 3.2 The local authority continues to work with schools and academies to ensure that there is a sufficiency of school places to meet local demand across the borough. In certain circumstances this may involve increasing the published admission number (PANS) in those schools and academies where existing places are deemed insufficient to meet projected local demand. Currently the local authority, through basic need funding, supports the capital cost of any required expansion and bulge classes, if that expansion or bulge class has been agreed as part of the pupil place planning process.

Growth Criteria

- 3.3 The Schools Operational Guide 2024/25 published by the ESFA outlines the principles for a growth fund. Local authorities may centrally retain funding within the schools block in order to create a growth fund to support schools and academies which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including pre-opening.
- 3.4 The growth fund may not be used to support schools and academies in financial difficulty. Growth funding in Thurrock will be applied in the following circumstances:
- where a school or academy has agreed with the authority to provide additional places to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or on-going commitment).
 - support where a schools and academy has increased its PAN in agreement with the local authority to meet basic need in the area.
 - Funding will be provided for one year only. For example, from September to the following August. There will then be an annual review of the numbers in the bulge class using the summer census. Funding in the second year will be based on the difference in actual numbers of children on roll between the summer and October census. No funding will be provided in year 3.
- 3.5 Growth funding will not apply in the following circumstances:
- For any PAN increases which are not agreed with the local authority as part of the place planning process to meet basic need in the area.
 - Where pupils are admitted above a schools and academies PAN as a consequence of appeal, infant class size regulation exceptions or error in the school admissions process.
 - The fund will not be applied retrospectively and will only apply to increases in class size agreed with the council.
 - Funding will not be provided following the October census whereby the class is not full to capacity.

Funding Requirements 2024/25

- 3.6 The local authority is required to publish the methodology used to provide additional growth funding to schools and academies and it must be applied in the same way regardless of the type of school.
- 3.7 Within the operational guide 2024/25 the common methodology used is the age weighted pupil unit. The AWPU value to be paid for the academic year 2024/25 would be Primary £3,624 and Secondary £5,109 per pupil. These values have been updated and reflect the Primary and KS3 Basic Entitlement to be used in funding formula.
- 3.8 For the academic year 2024/25 a growth class of 30 would receive, Primary £108,720 and Secondary £153,282.

- 3.9 The Local Authority has received within the DSG Schools Block funding allocation the following growth and falling roll funding:

Table 1: Thurrock DSG Schools Block Growth Fund Allocation 2024/25

Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	Numbers	ACA	Value	Allocation
Growth Fund Primary	185.00	1.03825	£1,550	£297,719
Growth Fund Secondary	406.50	1.03825	£2,320	£979,156
Falling Roll Primary	0.00	1.03825	£140,000	£0
Falling Roll Secondary	0.00	1.03825	£140,000	£0
Total	591.50			£1,276,875
Growth Fund 2023/24	629.50			£1,336,258

- 3.10 Thurrock has experienced significant growth in the area for a number of years. The table below shows existing commitments for summer 2024 and the areas currently identified where additional places will be required in 2023/24:

Table 2: Thurrock Growth Fund 2024/25

Pupil Growth 2024/25	Pupil Growth	Year Group	Growth 2024/25	Funding Per Pupil 2024/25	Total Cost 2024/25
Primary - Central Planning Area	90	Yr 2,3,5	52.5	£3,624	£190,260
Primary - Tilbury Pioneer / Gateway	120	Yr 1,2,3,4	70	£3,624	£253,680
Secondary	30	Yr7	17.5	£5,109	£89,415
	240		140		£533,355
				Growth Fund Agreed 2023/24 Summer Term	£423,588
				Growth Fund C/fwd 2024/25 Academic Year	£319,742
				Growth Fund Retained by LA	£1,276,684
				ESFA Growth Fund Allocation	£1,276,875

- 3.11 To support existing commitments and the need for an additional 240 places during the academic year 2024/25, a retained growth fund of £1,276,684 is required.

4. FALLING ROLLS FUND

- 4.1 For the first time in 2024/25 the funding formula includes provision for falling rolls.
- 4.2 Local authorities will continue to have discretion over whether to operate a falling rolls fund. Where local authorities operate a fund, they will only be able to provide funding where school capacity data 2022 (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years.
- 4.3 The guidance requires such funds to set out clear criteria containing objective trigger points for eligibility or qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.
- 4.4 The requirement that schools must be Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' to be eligible for falling rolls funding will no longer apply from the 2024/25 financial year.
- 4.5 The key principles that drive the need to maintain a falling rolls fund are to ensure that places are secured that will be required in the following three to five years (based on the school capacity data 2022 (SCAP)) and that neither the local authority, nor schools/academies incur unnecessary costs in relation to short-term temporary losses in pupil numbers.
- 4.6 In consideration of the data available it is not considered that this would be appropriate as the conditions outline above would not be met within Thurrock in 2024/25. Officers will annually consider if circumstances require the development of a policy.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Schools Forum Report 17th January 2023 - Growth and Falling Rolls Fund

6. CONTACT DETAILS OF LEAD OFFICER / AUTHOR

NAME: Sarah Williams

ROLE: Head of Education Support Services

EMAIL: sjwilliams@thurrock.gov.uk

NAME: David May

ROLE: Head of Financial Management

EMAIL: dmay@thurrock.gov.uk

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

**Draft Minutes
13 December 2023 at 10:00 – 12:00
Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams**

In attendance

Multi Academy Trusts Name

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

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

Secondary Voluntary Aided School Name

Grays Convent

Mrs P Johnson

Standalone Academy Trusts Name

Woodside Academy
Giffards Primary

Mr S Proctor
Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Infrastructure Groups Name

TASS
TPHA

Mr S Bell
Mrs J Sawtell-Haynes

Alternative Provision Name

Olive AP

Ms Jo Gillman

Special Schools Name

Beacon Hill Academy

Mrs Sue Hewitt

Non-school members Name

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

Mrs M Shepherd
Mr A Melbourne
Ms A Jones

Also in Attendance:

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

Mrs M Lucas
Mr D May

Miss S Williams
Mr M W Taylor
Ms S Hardy

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

1. Welcome from Chair

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.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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.

THURROCK SCHOOLS' FORUM

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*):



Item 5 - Thurrock
DBV Grant.pptx

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, e.g. 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.

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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*).



Item 6 & 7 (Early
Years) - Schools Forum

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).

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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. Schools' Forum Forward Plan

Mrs 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

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None.

12. Any Other Business

None.

Date of next meeting

- Tuesday 16 January 2024

AGENDA ITEM 8							
Thurrock Borough Council Schools Forum 16th January 2024							
Thurrock Borough Council	Agenda Item	Action details	Action Owner	Action or Decision	Relevant Timescales	Action Status	Additional information
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	At Schools Forum on 13th December 2023 Mr T Parfett advised a meeting with Mr A Melbourne had taken place to start the early years letter to the DfE, and it will be finalised early in the New Year.