

Rotherham Schools' Forum

Venue: Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street,
Rotherham. S60 2TH

Date: Friday, 17 January 2020

Time: 8.45 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Welcome by the Chair and introductions by all Forum Members present.

2. Apologies for Absence.

To receive apologies from any Forum Member who are unable to attend the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interests.

To invite Forum Members to declare any interests they may have on agenda items to be considered at this meeting, to confirm the nature of those interests and whether they intend to leave the meeting for the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 22nd November, 2019 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 9)

Recommendation:- To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd November, 2019.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

To consider and report on any matters arising from the previous minutes:-

- Minute No. 18 (Mid-Year Early Years Block Update and 2020/21 Funding Announcement) – Aileen Chambers to report.

6. Constitution and Membership of the Schools' Forum (herewith) (Pages 10 - 12)

Report of the School Forum Clerk

Recommendation:- To note the current membership and to agree the replacement representative for the nursery sector and the addition to the maintained school members – primary governor sector.

Items for Discussion:-

7. High Needs Sufficiency Strategy Update.

Verbal Update by Mary Jarrett,
Head of Inclusion.

9.00 a.m. (20 mins approx.)

Recommendation:- To receive the update and note the detail.

8. 2020/2021 Early Years Funding (herewith). (Pages 13 - 17)

Report by Aileen Chambers,
Education and Skills.

9.20 a.m. (15 mins approx.)

Recommendation:- (1) To note the early education funding rates for 2020/21.

(2) Approve retention of 5% of the 3 year old and 30 hour budget to cover central spend (Early Years and Childcare Service).

(3) To note the Inclusion Support Grant proposals.

9. 2020/2021 Dedicated Schools Grant and funding Formula (herewith). (Pages 18 - 22)

Report by Vera Njegic,
Schools Finance.

9.35 a.m. (15 mins approx.)

Recommendation:- To receive the report and note the contents.

10. Exclusions/Pupil Referral Units Strategy Update (herewith). (Pages 23 - 24)

Report by Mary Jarrett,
Head of Inclusion.

9.50 a.m. (20 mins approx.)

Recommendation:- To receive the report and note the contents.

11. Any other business.

Recommendation:- To receive any other items of urgent business.

12. Dates and Times of Future Meetings.

Recommendation:- To consider and agree the dates and times of future meetings of the Rotherham Schools' Forum for:-

- April, 2020 at 8.30 a.m. – venue to be confirmed.
- June, 2020 at 8.30 a.m. – venue to be confirmed.
- September 2020 at 8.30 a.m. – venue to be confirmed.
- November, 2020 at 8.30 a.m. – venue to be confirmed.

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM
FRIDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019**

In Attendance:-

Deborah Ball (Treeton Primary (Academy) (in the Chair);

John Coleman – Nexus Director (Special Academy)

Dom Curran – Aston Academy

Dean Fenton (Head of Access to Education)

Neil Hardwick (Head of Finance)

Christina Hill – GMB Representative

Andy Krabbendam – Kiveton Park Infant and Harthill Primary (Academy)

Jenny Lingrell – Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion

David Naisbitt – Oakwood High School (Academy)

Vera Njelic (Principal Finance Officer)

Kirsty Peart - Sitwell Infant (Maintained)

Alan Richards – Secondary Governors

Steve Scott – Happy Kids (PVI)

Paul Silvester – Newman Special School (Maintained)

Helen Simpson – Ferham Primary (Maintained)

Nevine Towers – Diocese of Sheffield

Also in attendance for part of the meeting was Sally Hodges, Interim Director of Children and Young People's Services, who presented a short statement on her role and position moving forward.

Apologies for Absence:-

Lianne Camaish – Aspire

Pepe DiLasio – Assistant Director, Education

Peter Gerrard – Rawmarsh Nursery

Mary Jarrett – Head of Inclusion

Lynn Pepper – Herringthorpe Infant School (Maintained)

Steve Rhodes – Winterhill School (Academy)

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest from the agenda to report.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

Agreed:- that the minutes of the last meeting held on 27th September, 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

With regards to Minute No. 7 (Exclusions Strategy Update) and the submission of a proposed briefing paper, this would be considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

15. HIGH NEEDS SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report presented by Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, and Jenny Lingrell, Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, which summarised the increase in the number of Education and Health Care Plans, the growth in demand for specialist provision and the financial position in 2019/20 of the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the revised cumulative deficit. The recent growth in volume through increased demand for special educational places and the impact on cost was outlined and compared against previous years.

The High Needs Block Recovery Plan aimed to bring in-year expenditure in line with the annual budget allocation and focus on a longer term plan which would contribute to reducing the cumulative deficit.

Reference was made to the educational setting for children and young people with education and health care plans and where there were increases (and pressures) in terms of placements.

In addition to providing education provision for children with SEND the High Needs Block also funded Alternative Provision for those pupils that have been excluded from schools and academies into Pupil Referral Units.

The 2019/20 High Needs Block (HNB) was £34.5m (including the £2.8m transfer from the schools block) and remained under significant pressure due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision, the rising costs of Education Health Care (EHC) plans and growth in numbers accessing Alternative Provision.

The forecast at the end of October, 2019 showed an in-year pressure of £3.3m an increase of £867k on the previous period. The projections based on the DSG recovery plan assumptions and included increases on AP places, anticipated growth on EHCs numbers and the implementation of new developments linked to the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

Reference was also made to the educational setting for children and young people with education and health care plans and where there were increases (and pressures) in terms of placements.

Information was also shared on the Deficit and Recovery Plan and its variances which had been submitted, the unit costs for social care residential placements, Post 16 contracts, cost of pupil referral units and

other variances for education other than at school placements.

The recovery plan also reflected the SEND Sufficiency Strategy Phases 1 and 2 that would provide a further 111 additional local places from September, 2019 onwards.

This meant there were £3.3 million of pressures being alleviated by £2.8 million redirection from the Schools Block. A number of key areas were, therefore, being focused on to reduce the High Needs Block pressures as detailed in the report submitted.

Discussion ensued on the current position, whether children excluded from school were having an impact and methodology and costings for notional budgets.

Agreed:- (1) That the growth in Education and Health Care Plans in Rotherham be noted.

(2) That the increased demand for Specialist Education provision be noted.

(3) That the actions in place to mitigate and minimise forecast pressures be noted.

(4) That the in-year High Needs forecast pressures of £3.291m as per October 2019 be noted.

(5) That the progress against the recovery plan which will enable future budget sustainability be noted.

(6) That the recent ESFA Consultation on changes to the conditions of the DSG Grant and how the local authority must carry forward the whole of the overspend to the schools budget in future years be noted.

16. MID-YEAR HIGH NEEDS BLOCK UPDATE

Jenny Lingrell, Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, provided an update on the SEN and SEMH Strategy and the potential links to issues with exclusions, management of pressures, funding arrangements and plans and how work had commenced on the overall strategy.

The Forum were mindful of the pressures on all schools and the escalation of need across the whole system. This was a complex area with different strands moving in different directions.

Agreed:- That the information and detail be noted.

Action:- All

17. SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2020/21 CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Consideration was given to the report presented by Vera Njelic, Principal Officer (Schools Finance), which set out the indicative proposals and sought approval decisions (where needed) for two areas of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2020/21:-

- Schools block.
- Central schools services block.

This requirement to consult with schools, academies and the Schools' Forum was in respect of planned changes to the local funding formula including the method, principals and rules that were to be adopted. The final decisions in respect of the local formula remained with the Local Authority.

It was, therefore, necessary for the Schools' Forum to decide upon specific elements in accordance with the powers and responsibilities assigned to the Schools' Forum by the ESFA.

There were changes proposed both in terms of the formula factors being used and the individual rates that would be applied to those factors. Nationally, the ESFA were looking to reduce basic entitlement and increase those payable under additional educational needs (particularly low attainment).

Last year the Local Authority suggested that the future years should be used as a transition to the national funding formula and where possible seek to change local factors/rates to bring them in line with the national ones as this would provide for the best possible transition to the national formula. This was a view that was supported within Schools' Forum and the strategy that Rotherham had adopted.

To ensure schools and academies were in receipt of the indicative increase in the 2020/21 Local Authority's schools block allocation and due to the fact that local rates for primary, KS3 and KS4 AWPU were significantly higher than those under the NFF, the Local Authority was aiming to increase the MFG to between +1.0% and +1.84%.

A vote was, therefore, required on a number of proposals which were based on the consultation responses received from individual schools and academies which were set out in detail as part of this report.

In accordance with the regulations, only certain members were allowed to participate in a vote regarding the local funding formula. Other members that did not represent schools could engage and participate in discussions, but were not eligible to vote.

Discussion ensued on the process of the consultation, where it had been distributed to, voting by proxy and the responses received.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That the voting as indicated below be incorporated into the school and academy local funding formula for 2020/21 (as far as was possible) for submission to the ESFA on the 21st January, 2020:-

Question 1 – do you agree with the principle that Rotherham is adopting in terms of prioritising an increase to the MFG?

Vote:- 9 For 0 Against

Question 2 – considering the borough as a whole, and to ensure support for the most vulnerable children and young people in the district, do you support the Local Authority's request to transfer 1.5% from the schools block to the high needs block?

Vote:- 9 For 0 Against

Question 3 – do you agree that the Local Authority should continue to provide for a growth fund? It is estimated for 2020/21 a budget of £700,000 is required.

Vote:- 9 For 0 Against

Question 4 - do you agree that funding from the central school services block can continue to be held centrally for the services outlined above?

Vote:- 9 For 0 Against

Question 5 – do maintained schools wish to de-delegate monies to create a Financial Difficulties Contingency fund of £150,000 to support those schools with a financial deficit position?

Vote:- 0 For 3 Against

Question 6 - do maintained schools wish to de-delegate funds again for trade unions (£1.95 per pupil), they would no longer need to buy back from the portfolio of services?

Vote:- 0 For 3 Against

Action:- Neil Hardwick/Vera Njegic

18. MID-YEAR EARLY YEARS BLOCK UPDATE & 2020/21 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Consideration was given to the report which provided a mid-year update on the Early Years Block spend and update on the recent funding announcement for 2020/21.

The Department for Education (DfE) budget allocation for the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant (EY DSG) for 2019/20 was set out in detail as part of the report and would provide the funding for early education places in schools and other early years providers. This budget would be adjusted retrospectively in 2020/21 based on January 2020 census returns.

Final budget adjustments for 2018/19, taking into account numbers of children accessing their entitlement in January 2020 led to a retrospective budget adjustment of £598k. £200k of this budget had been allocated to a contingency budget with the remaining balance allocated to the funding of the Inclusion Support Grant for 2019/20.

The Forum noted the DfE had announced the early years national funding formula rates for 2020/21 and it was intended that a report was to be submitted to the Directorate Leadership team before the end of the Autumn term and the Early Education Working Group with proposals for the local single funding formula for 2020/21. A further report would, therefore, be submitted to the Schools' Forum in early 2020.

Discussion ensued on the drivers for the budget adjustment, forecasted figures where the census was incorrect and how the adjustment had been configured and broken down. It was noted that some benchmarking activity had taken place following challenge, but further information was, therefore, required.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) That further information be provided to the Schools' Forum on the drivers for the budget adjustment, forecasted figures where the census was incorrect and how the adjustment had been configured and broken down.

Action:- Aileen Chambers

19. PUPIL GROWTH FUND 2020/21

Consideration was given to the report presented by Dean Fenton, Head of Access to Education, which provided details of the impact of education infrastructure following school expansions and the allocation of funding based on numbers on roll on census day.

Using the previously agreed formula for funding allocations for new and expanding schools it was recommended that an amount of £700k be approved from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block for 2020/21 to cover the expansion implications and new school pre start up implications.

There were always risks and uncertainties when a school expansion took place as, increasing pupil numbers in one school could impact on another schools numbers. However, pupil numbers were rising across the Borough and the trend was set to continue in to the future with the implementation of the Local Plan.

Confirmation would, therefore, be sought from expanding schools funded as part of basic need in relation to the creation of additional classes and the staffing implications after the first late applications allocation round

(mid-May) following the National Offer days for primary and secondary place allocation (1st March/16th April respectively).

A further report was to be submitted in June/July, 2020 confirming the allocation amounts based on pupil numbers and staffing implications for establishing a new classroom.

The pre start up allocations for a new school were pre-determined as a set amount subject to the number of year groups a new school opened to.

Discussion ensued on the differences between expansion and growth and the need for more clarity in the formulae.

Agreed:- (1) That an amount of £700k from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block for 2020/21 to cover the expansion implications and new school pre start up implications be approved.

(2) That a further report be submitted detailing the individual allocation amounts for expanding schools.

20. ROTHERHAM SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to the Rotherham Scheme for Financing Schemes document that had been circulated with the agenda papers.

This funding framework replaced the Local Management of Schools and was based on the legislative provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Agreed:- That the report be received and the contents noted.

21. ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS CONNECT SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report presented by Susan Gray, Service Leader (Digital Services), which detailed how the Schools' Connect Service offered ICT support services, through individual Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for schools to buy back.

The number of schools taking up support services had dropped steadily over the last few years and sharply over the last year as a result of the formation of larger Academy Trusts providing their own ICT Services, and/or the take up of third-party provision at reduced cost.

It was apparent that with a further thirty-eight schools no longer buying back Schools Connect services, expenditure would exceed income in the 2020/21 financial year and beyond.

Given this situation it had become difficult to retain staff and consequently difficult to deliver a quality and valued service. As a result, the Council were intending to close the Schools Connect service at the end of the

current financial year.

The schools currently buying back services would need to find an alternative web provider(s) for the services they wished to continue to need. There were several alternative providers who may provide some or all the needs.

Whilst the services would be withdrawn the Council was prepared to consider providing internet and content filtering services, which would be subject to more specific discussion.

Schools Connect had historically and to date provided support to schools in maintaining data quality standards and key statutory performance returns to the Local Education Authority via the B2B SIMS Service. Whilst RMBC would continue to provide the B2B SIMS Service for schools, the Council would not be able to apply any changes to a specific schools' configuration. That would need to be undertaken by the school themselves or through their provider.

As a result of the intended closure of the service, schools would need to enter into their own arrangements with Capita UK for the continued provision of the SIMS system.

It was, therefore, intended to write to all current schools to give notice of the Council's intention to terminate the service on 31st March, 2020 and in conjunction with schools, arrange to terminate or novate third-party related supply contracts to ensure expiry or novation with effect from 1st April, 2020 – within the necessary contract termination period.

Schools would have to migrate to their own Microsoft Office 365 Tenancy and have to provide their own email and Microsoft Office 365 Applications. The Council could assist with this transition.

Discussion ensued on the short timeframe for withdrawal of the service and the impact this would have on those schools currently subscribing to the School's Connect Service.

Whilst the service could not broker any other support for the schools, they were happy to building in an overlap facility and support schools in their transitions.

It was, therefore, suggested that relevant communications be distributed to all schools to make them aware and prepare them for the Schools' Connect Service being withdrawn.

Agreed:- (1) That the content of this report and the intention of RMBC to close the Schools Connect service on 31st March, 2020 for the reasons outlined be noted.

(2) That the actions that will be taken by RMBC and those required of

schools, between now and the closure of the Schools Connect service, as highlighted in this report be noted.

(3) That the commitment to continue to provide network/internet and content filtering services, so long as this remains viable following discussion and confirmation from those schools that wished to keep this provision from RMBC be acknowledged.

(4) That relevant communications be distributed to all schools to make them aware and prepare them for the Schools' Connect Service being withdrawn.

Action:- All/Jenny Lingrell

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration was given to the following matters:-

(a) Exclusions

For consideration at the next meeting.

(b) Agenda Papers

It was requested that all reports for agenda items be circulated in advance of the meeting and be incorporated into the full agenda pack to avoid reports being circulated on the day and presented by relevant officers.

Agreed:- That the information be noted.

Action:- All

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum take place on Friday, 17th January, 2020 commencing at 8.30 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall.

Rotherham Schools Forum: Constitution – April 2019

Position	Name	End of Term	School/Body	Email
School Members				
Nursery School Head Teacher x 1	Sharon Stones	March 2021	Head of School at Arnold Nursery School and Children's Centre	
Primary School Head Teachers x 4	Paula Dobbin	March 2021	Head Teacher of Redscope Primary	
	Lynn Pepper	March 2021	Head Teacher of Herringthorpe Infant	
	Kirsty Peart	March 2021	Head Teacher of Sitwell Infant	
	Helen Simpson	March 2021	Head Teacher of Ferham Primary	
Primary Academy Representatives x 6	Deborah Ball	March 2021	Chair and Head Teacher of Treeton CofE Primary	
	Andy Krabbendam	March 2021	Executive Head of Kiveton Park Infant and Harthill Primary	
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
Special School Head Teacher x 1	Paul Silvester	March 2021	Head Teacher of Newman School	
Special Academy Representative	John Coleman	March 2021	Nexus MAT Director	
Secondary Maintained School Head Teacher x 1	Vacancy			
Secondary Academy Representatives x 6	Phil Davies	March 2021	Head Teacher of Wingfield Academy	

	Dom Curran	March 2021	Head Teacher of Aston Academy	
	Steve Rhodes	March 2021	Head Teacher of Winterhill Academy	
	Jon Taylor	March 2021	Head Teacher of Wath	
	David Naisbitt	March 2021	Head Teacher of Oakwood Academy	
	Andy Riches	March 2021	CEO of LEAP Academy Trust (Brinsworth & Dinnington)	
Pupil Referral Unit Head Teacher x 1	Lianne Camaish	March 2021	Head Teacher of Aspire	
Maintained School Members: Primary Governors x 3	Sue Mallinder	March 2021		
	Angela McComb		Local Authority Governor – Anston Park Junior	
	Vacancy			
Maintained School Members: Secondary Governor x 1	Alan Richards	March 2021		
Academy Members: Governors x 6	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			
	Vacancy			

Non-School Members			
Diocese of Sheffield Church of England x 1	Nevine Towers	March 2021	Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust
Diocese of Hallam, Roman Catholic x 1	Vacancy		
Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector Nursery x 2	Steve Scott	March 2021	Happy Kids
	Vacancy		
16-19 Provider x 1	Laura Reid	March 2021	RNN Group
Union Representatives x 2	Christina Hill	March 2021	GMB
	Sultan Mahmood	March 2021	Unison
Observer			
Education Funding Agency	Name notified to School Governor Services in advance of attendance.	N/A	EFA
Total Places	38		
Total Places Filled	24		
Total Vacancies	14		

Schools Forum Briefing

1.	Date of meeting:	17th January 2020
2.	Title:	Early Education and Inclusion Support Funding – Proposals for 2020/21
3.	Directorate:	CYPS

Summary

This paper summarises statutory guidance in place for the allocation of early education funding; and Inclusion Support Grant and proposals for the 2020/21 allocation.

Recommendations

- Note the early education funding rates for 2020/21.
- Approve retention of 5% of the 3 year old and 30 hour budget to cover central spend (Early Years and Childcare Service).
- Note the Inclusion Support Grant proposals.

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail the statutory guidance in place for the allocation of early education funding; the current position and proposals for the 2020/21 allocation.
- 1.2 Following the outcome of the Department for Education's (DfE) Early Years national funding formula consultation in 2016 a national single funding formula was introduced by the DfE in 2017/18 for the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant Early Years Block early education funding to all schools and providers. Local Authorities (LAs) are required to allocate the funding to early education providers based on a local funding formula made up of a single base rate and a mandatory deprivation supplement (for 3/4 year old early education). LAs can retain 5% of the 3 / 4 year old budgets allocation to fund central services
- 1.3 Local authorities are required to consult providers on annual changes to their local formula. Schools forums must also be consulted on changes to local early years funding formulas, including agreeing central spend by 28 February, although the final decision rests with the local authority.
- 1.4 The Early Years Block budget for 2020/21 will be allocated initially as an 'indicative' budget in December 2019. This indicative budget is based on the 2019 January Census data. The budget will be adjusted during the year (July) based on the January 2020 Census data and further adjusted in July 2021 based on 5/12ths of January 2020 Census and 7/12ths of January 2021 Census.

- 1.5 The rate that the Local Authority receives from the DfE will increase in 2020/21 from £4.30 per hour to £4.38 for 3 / 4 year olds and from £5.20 per hour to £5.28 for 2 year olds. The previous rates were set by Central Government as part of the National Funding Formula introduced in 2017/18 and remained static for 3 years.
- 1.6 The current local formula, as detailed below, was consulted on prior to introduction in 2017/18 and the deprivation supplement was reviewed again in January 2018.

3 / 4 year olds & 30 Hour Budgets:

- 5% Centrally Retained
- 2% Deprivation Supplement
- 93% Early Education Base Rate

The deprivation supplement is allocated as follows:

- High deprivation – providers with an average Index of Multiple Deprivation score (based on postcode of children accessing) in top 10% deprivation level
- Medium deprivation - providers with an average Index of Multiple Deprivation score (based on postcode of children accessing) in between the top 11 – 30% deprivation levels

The deprivation supplement is allocated as an addition to the hourly rate. The deprivation supplements in 2019/20 were 15p / hour (High) and 10p / hour (Medium).

Two year old Budget:

- 100% passported to providers

1.7 SEN inclusion fund

DfE guidance (Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers Operational guide 2018 to 2019) states that LA's are required to have a special educational needs inclusion fund. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN. Local authorities should target SEN Inclusion Funds at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and those in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG. The value of the fund must take into account the number of children with SEN in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children. Local authorities must consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SEN inclusion fund. Local authorities will establish their SEN Inclusion Funds using funding from either one or both of their early years block and high needs block of the DSG. Local authorities should pass the majority of their SEN inclusion fund to providers in the form of 'top up grants' on a case-by-case basis.

2. Proposals

2.1 It is proposed to retain the current local funding formula in 2020/21 as follows:

Retention for Central Spend	5% of 3 / 4 year old and 30 hour budgets (projected £670k)
3 / 4 year old hourly rate	£4.08 plus deprivation supplement if eligible (increase of 8p per hour)
3 / 4 year old Deprivation Supplements	Up to 2% of 3 / 4 year old and 30 hour budgets to be distributed as an additional hourly rate as detailed above, maintaining the 10p / 15p supplement
2 year old hourly rate	£5.28 (increase of 8p per hour)
Nursery Stability Funding*	Lump sum to be passported to 3 nursery schools as required by guidance.

*The Department for Education have confirmed that Local Authorities with maintained nursery schools will continue to receive supplementary funding in 2019 to 2020. This funding is provided in order to enable local authorities to protect their 2016 to 2017 funding rates for MNS (that is, the rates that existed before the EYNFF).

The 2020/21 increases in hourly rate for early education providers will be the first increase they have received in 3 years. This increase is essential for ongoing sustainability as the cost of delivery has increased significantly over the last three years with increases in minimum wage, business rates increases as well as increases in running costs.

2.2 **Early Years Pupil Premium** Providers can apply for Early Years Pupil Premium for eligible children at a rate of 53p per hour.

2.3 **Disability Access Funding** of £615 per year is also available for children claiming Disability Living Allowance. In 2019/20 the DfE advised that surplus DAF allocations should be *spent in line with the principles and aims of DAF*. As well as Makaton and Autism Training, the funding was used to provide £615 DAF for eligible 2 year olds. It is proposed to continue to offer DAF to 2 year olds in 2020/21 should the DfE allow continued use of DAF carry forward. (It is projected that £40k of the £83k 2019/20 DAF budget will be allocated this year).

2.4 **SEN Inclusion Funding:** The Inclusion Support Grant (ISG) in Rotherham has historically been funded through the High Needs Block but in 2018/19 and 2019/20 carry forward from the Early Years Block has been utilised to provide ISG. A review of the ISG was carried out in 2019/20 and approval obtained from the CYPs Directorate Leadership Team to continue to offer the ISG in the current format in 2020/21. The grant is available to support children, predominantly on a 1:2 ratio to meet needs throughout all childcare / out of school provision, including Foundation

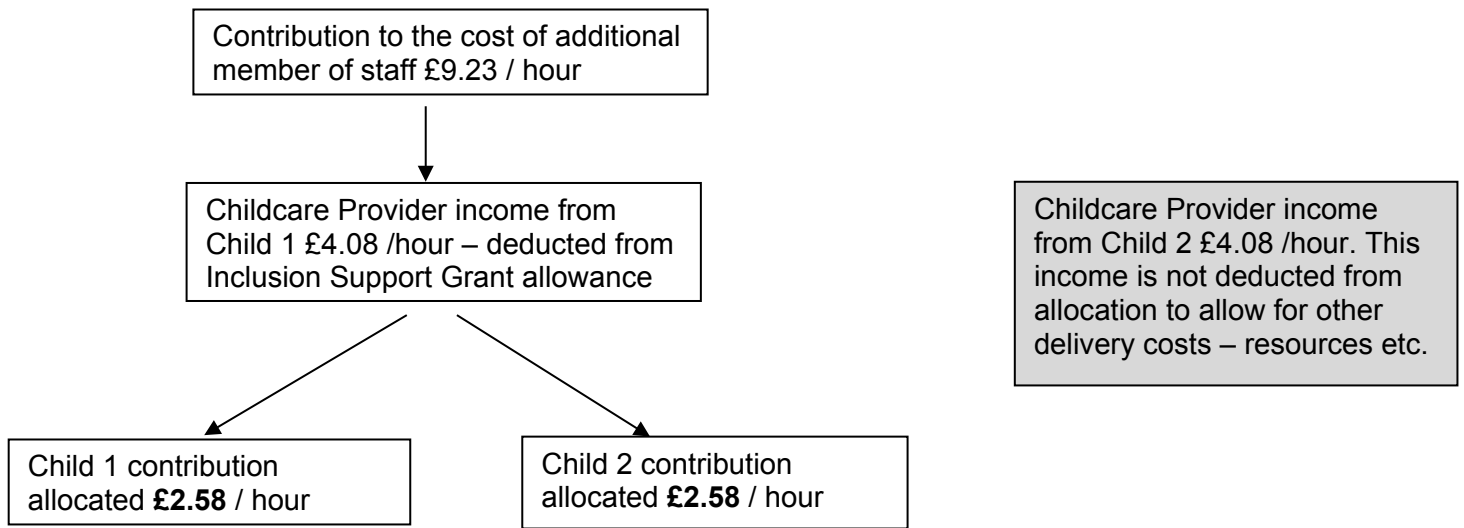
1 classes in school. Appendix 1 details the methodology for allocation of the funding. It is anticipated that a budget of £410k will be required in 2020/21. The ISG will be funded in 2020/21 from the Early Years Block through a contribution of carry forward from 2019/20 and in year 2020/21 budget.

3. Name and contact details

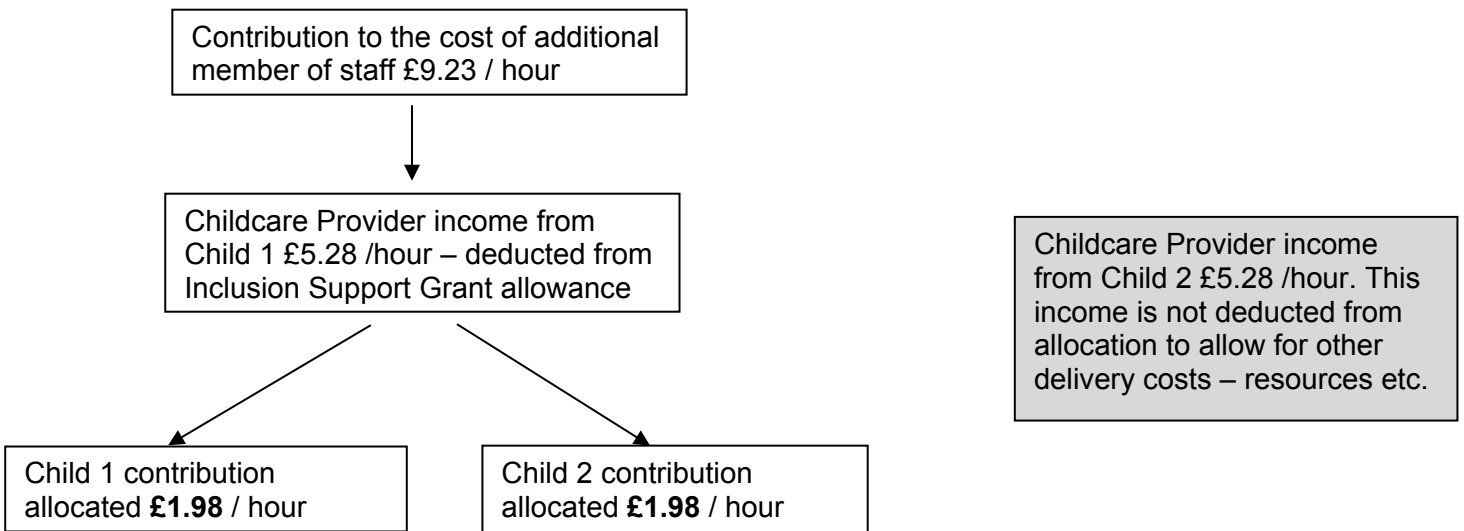
Aileen Chambers, Head of Service - Early Years and Childcare, Tel ext: 54770, email aileen.chambers@rotherham.gov.uk

Appendix 1

**Inclusion Support Grant Allocation Methodology – 3 / 4 year olds children
(Proposed 2020/21 rates)**



Inclusion Support Grant Allocation Methodology - 2 year olds children



REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	17th January 2020
2.	Title:	2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to Schools Form members as to the 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Rotherham along with proposals on the formula for allocation of the schools block and the central schools block element of DSG.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That members of Schools Forum note the content of the report.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

To ensure members are aware of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding information as set out by the Department for Education.

To ensure compliance with the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department for Education issued the final version of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) to local authorities, with the autumn 2019 pupil census information shortly before Christmas. The local authority has until 21st January 2020 to submit the final version back to the Department for Education.

In October 2019 the local authority sought consultation with schools, academies and Schools Forum on the local funding formula decisions as set out in the regulations and the tables and appendix within this report contain summary information on the impact of those decisions.

5. INITIAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT ALLOCATIONS

On 19th December 2019, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2020/21 financial year.

For Rotherham, the initial allocations are;

Table 1.

	Initial Allocation
Schools block (both schools and academies)	£197.068m
Central schools services block	£1.136m
Early Years block	£17.624m
High Needs block	£36.854m
TOTAL	£252.682m

The allocations above are prior to;

- Updates to the funding for three and four year olds from the January 2020 & January 2021 census
- Updates to the early years pupil premium allocations

6. SCHOOLS BLOCK

The final allocation is mainly based on funding rates of £4,186.71 for primary children (£4,001.11 in 2019/20) and £5,604.92 for secondary children (£5,494.74 in 2019/20) as at the October 2019 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2019 census count shows that there are a total number of pupils across the borough of 39,742; this is an increase of 83 (-311 in primary & + 394 in secondary) pupils from the October 2018 census count.

From the census data we have identified that 59 schools/academies have seen overall decreases in pupils, 5 have remained static and 46 have seen an overall increase in the number of pupils on roll.

As noted previously, MFG protection is on a per pupil basis – it does not safeguard against overall reductions in the numbers of pupils within a school/academy.

Tables 2 and 3 below shows that the overall school block funding allocation has increased from £189.875m in 2019/20 to £197.068m in 2020/21.

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on the 22nd November 2019 a request to transfer 1.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 28th November 2019. If this request does not gain approval 0.5% will be transferred, therefore the local authority is required to complete 2 versions of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT)

Summary position in respect of DSG schools block allocation**Table 2- Successful Disapplication request to transfer 1.5%**

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£189.88m	£197.07m	£7.19m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
Pupil Growth fund	£479k	£700k	£221k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.85m	£2.96m	£0.11m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£186.55m	£193.41m	£6.86m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	98.5%		

Table 3 - Unsuccessful Disapplication request - transfer 0.5%

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£189.88m	£197.07m	£7.19m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
Pupil Growth fund	£479k	£700k	£221k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.85m	£985k	-£1.85m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£186.55 m	£195.38m	£8.83m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	99.5%	-	

Annex A to this report provides further details to the rates that are being applied to the individual formula funding factors and how these have changed in comparison to 2019/20 rates. Table 4 shows those rates applied should the 1.5% transfer be approved, although there may be some slight changes to these in order to allocate the Schools Block in full. These changes are in line with the previous decisions reached in respect of the gradual transition to the national funding formula rates. The rates applied will also vary if the disapplication request is unsuccessful, this is currently being worked on and will be presented to Forum on the 17th January meeting.

To date the Education & Skills Funding Agency has not made a final decision regarding the local authority's request to transfer 1.5%,

7. CENTRAL SERVICES SCHOOLS BLOCK (CSSB)

The table below compares the CSSB allocation and agreed 2020/21 budgets with 2019/20 .

Table 6

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Central services schools block allocation	£1.11m	£1.13m	£20k	Increased pupil numbers & 2% rate increase
Admissions	£164k	£167k	£3k	Agreed at November meeting
National copyright licences	£259k	£264k	£5k	Notified by DfE
Former ESG	£686k	£698k	£12k	Agreed at November meeting
Schools Forum	£3.18k	£3.18k	-	Agreed at November meeting

8. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING FOR 2020/21.

The following arrangements for pupil premium and other school grants in 2020 to 2021 were announced on 19th December 2019 with further details available in 2020:

- **Teachers' pay grant** will continue in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, as set out in in the teachers' pay grant methodology document.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-grant-methodology/teachers-pay-grant-methodology>
- **Teachers' pension employer contribution grant** will continue in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, as set out in TPECG methodology document.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pension-employer-contribution-grant-tpecg/pension-grant-methodology>
- **Pupil premium** rates for the 2020 to 2021 financial year will be confirmed in the new year.
- Information about all other grants will follow in the new year.

9. Name and contact details

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Principal Finance Officer (Schools Finance)
Tel: 01709 822042
email vera.njegic@rotherham.gov.uk

Annex A
Analysis of movement in factor rates

Table 4 1.5% Re-distribution from Schools Block to High Needs

Formula Factors	Column B		Column C		Column D		Column E		Column F	
	NFF Rates		19/20 Final Funding Factors		20/21 Final Funding Factors		Movement Between Years		Variance - 20/21 Rates to NFF Rates	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
AWPU Primary	£2,857.00		£2,985.00		£2,930.00		-£55.00		£73.00	
AWPU KS3		£4,018.00		£4,555.00		£4,018.00		-£537.00		£0.00
AWPU KS4		£4,561.00		£4,750.00		£4,561.00		-£189.00		£0.00
Dep Ever 6	£560.00	£815.00	£540.00	£785.00	£560.00	£815.00	£20.00	£30.00	£0.00	£0.00
Dep FSM	£450.00	£450.00	£320.00	£320.00	£400.00	£400.00	£80.00	£80.00	-£50.00	-£50.00
IDACI Band A	£600.00	£840.00	£390.00	£540.00	£490.00	£640.00	£100.00	£100.00	-£110.00	-£200.00
IDACI Band B	£435.00	£625.00	£280.00	£400.00	£350.00	£480.00	£70.00	£80.00	-£85.00	-£145.00
IDACI Band C	£405.00	£580.00	£260.00	£375.00	£320.00	£410.00	£60.00	£35.00	-£85.00	-£170.00
IDACI Band D	£375.00	£535.00	£240.00	£345.00	£300.00	£425.00	£60.00	£80.00	-£75.00	-£110.00
IDACI Band E	£250.00	£405.00	£160.00	£260.00	£200.00	£320.00	£40.00	£60.00	-£50.00	-£85.00
IDACI Band F	£210.00	£300.00	£135.00	£195.00	£165.00	£220.00	£30.00	£25.00	-£45.00	-£80.00
LPA	£1,065.00	£1,610.00	£645.00	£920.00	£800.00	£1,050.00	£155.00	£130.00	-£265.00	-£560.00
EAL 3	£535.00	£1,440.00	£515.00	£1,385.00	£535.00	£1,440.00	£20.00	£55.00	£0.00	£0.00
Lump sum	£114,400.00	£114,400.00	£114,000.00	£114,000.00	£114,400.00	£114,400.00	£400.00	£400.00	£0.00	£0.00
Mobility	£875.00	£1,250.00	£500.00	£1,250.00	£875.00	£1,250.00	£375.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	9/1/20
	LEAD OFFICER:	Mary Jarrett Head of Inclusion mary.jarrett@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	SEMH developments 2020
1. Background		
1.1	<p>The SEMH strategy was finalised in September 2020 and has six priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sufficiency: develop local education provision that responds to need – this will include flexible and specialist provision 2. Seamless Pathways: ensure that pathways to support are connected and aligned and develop a clear behaviour pathway that includes responses to attachment and trauma 3. Partnerships: develop and sustain robust inclusion partnerships that enable schools to meet need through a collective approach to responding to the needs of individual children 4. Evidence-Based Approaches: ensure that the local authority offer (from Early Help and Inclusion services) responds to need and is underpinned by evidence-based approaches and aligned with clear pathways 5. Workforce: develop a robust training and support offer, enabling professionals to feel confident in responding to the needs of children and young people with SEMH needs 6. Outcomes Focused and Value for Money: ensure that all activity can demonstrate a clear outcomes and value for money 	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	<p>In order to progress these pieces of work the Local Authority has identified 3 pieces of work which will take place during the remainder of the academic year. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of small grants to ‘seed fund’ secondary schools to support the development of Alternative Provision in Rotherham. The monies were calculated according to pupil numbers and deprivation indices. These will be supported by an SLA between secondary schools and the local authority. The SLA will support schools to work together and to clarify the use of Aspire as Alternative Provision. 	

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Review of Pupil Referral Units in Rotherham and use of Alternative Provision in the Borough. This work will be tendered out for competitive bids by the end of January.
3. Workforce development project. The local authority has commissioned Sara Graham from Maltby Academy trust via ROSIS to evaluate the current workforce offer in relation to SEN and to develop evidence based programme of CPD for education staff. |
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3. Key Actions and Timelines

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| 3.1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Seed Funding SLA to be issued to schools by 16/1/20 with monies issued upon receipt of signed agreement.2. Tender for Alternative Provision review to be advertised by 20/1/203. Sara Graham to undertake workforce development project. |
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4. Recommendations

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| 4.1 | That this briefing is noted for information. |
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