

Rotherham Schools' Forum

Venue: Virtual Meeting via Date: Friday 15 January 2021
Microsoft Teams
Time: 8.30 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 Interest.

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 (Pages 3 - 11)

Recommendation:- To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November, 2020.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.

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

Items for Discussion:-

6. Presentation from the Isos Partnership

7. Feedback from High Needs Sub-Group

Report by Paul Silvester and Nathan Heath.

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

8. 2021/2022 Early Years Funding Formula (Pages 12 - 16)

Report by Aileen Chambers and Neil Hardwick.

Recommendation:- To note the content of this report and approve the 5% central retention of the Early Years Block to cover Early Years and Childcare Service delivery costs.

9. Falling Rolls Funding Criteria (Pages 17 - 19)

Report by Vera Njegic and Neil Hardwick.

Recommendation:- To note this information and ensure Forum Members make sure that school/academies that they represent were aware of this information.

10. 2021/2022 Dedicated Schools Grant School Block Funding Formula (Pages 20 - 24)

Report by Vera Njegic and Neil Hardwick.

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

11. Any Other Business.

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

12. Date of Next Meeting

Recommendation:- To consider and agree the date and time of the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum on Friday, 16th April, 2021 at 8.30 a.m.

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM
FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020**

In Attendance:- Deborah Ball (Treeton Primary (Academy) (in the Chair);
Raymund Brent – Primary Maintained Governor
Lianne Camaish, Aspire
John Coleman – Nexus MAT
Dom Curran – Aston Academy (Academy)
Pepe Di'lasio – Wales High (Academy)
Neil Hardwick – Head of Finance, CYPS, RMBC
Nathan Heath – Assistant Director of Education, CYPS, RMBC
Janet Hodgkinson – GMB Representative
Andy Krabbendam – Kiveton Park Infant and Harthill Primary (Academy)
Jenny Lingrell – Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion,
CYPS, RMBC
Angela McComb – Primary Maintained Governor
David Naisbitt – Oakwood High (Academy)
Vera Njelic - Principal Finance Officer, RMBC
Alan Richards – Secondary Governor
Kirsty Peart - Sitwell Infant (Maintained)
Lynne Pepper – Herringthorpe Infant (Maintained)
Debbie Pons – Clerk, RMBC
Steve Scott – PVI Sector
Sharon Stones – Head of Arnold Nursery and Children's Centre
Paul Silvester – Newman Special School (Maintained)
Nevine Towers – Diocese of Sheffield
Councillor Gordon Watson – Deputy Leader

Also in attendance:-

David Sutton, Maltby Academy (Observer)

Apologies were received from:-

Dean Fenton - Head of Access to Education
Ian Henderson, H.R. Officer, RMBC
Mary Jarret – Head of Inclusion, RMBC
Steve Rhodes, Winterhill School

62. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to today's virtual meeting and introductions were made.

63. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Further to Minute No. 60(a) of the last meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum held on 18th September, 2020 consideration was given to the formal appointment of Chair.

Agreed:- That the current position of Chair, role undertaken by Deborah Ball, remain as is until such time as the Schools Forum can resume meeting in person.

64. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Further to Minute No. 60(a) of the last meeting of the Rotherham Schools Forum held on 18th September, 2020 consideration was given to the formal appointment of Vice-Chair.

Agreed:- That the current position of Vice-Chair, role undertaken by Paul Silvester, remain as is until such time as the Schools Forum can resume meeting in person.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to report.

66. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2020.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the last meeting held on 18th September, 2020, be approved as a true and accurate record.

67. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising that were not contained within the agenda items for this meeting.

68. TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME

Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance for Children and Young People's Service, introduced the letter that had been submitted for consideration by the Schools Forum by Trades Unions.

The letter was seeking agreement to the delegation of funding for supply cover costs, which included funding for trade union facilities time.

This request was included as a question in the consultation report, which is also included for consideration on this agenda.

The decision on this request would be considered as part of that report.

69. SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22 CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Consideration was given to the report presented by Vera Njegic, Principa Officer (Schools Finance), which set out the indicative proposals and sought approval decisions (where needed) for two areas of the Dedicated Schools

Grant (DSG) for 2021/22:-

- Schools block.
- Central schools services block.

As a result of the Government's intention to implement a national funding formula for school funding allocations; 2021/22 represented the fourth year of the Government's planned transition towards these proposals.

To comply with the ESFA operational guidance, local authorities are required to consult with schools, academies and Schools Forum in respect of planned changes to the schools local funding formula including the method, principles and rules that are to be adopted.

The Forum was, therefore, required to decide upon specific elements in accordance with the powers and responsibilities assigned to it by the ESFA and would need to vote on a number of proposals which had been circulated in the report submitted. The proposals were based on the consultation responses received from individual schools and academies.

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.

A narrative and rationale for each of the questions was provided along with any clarification as necessary.

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 2021/22 (as far as was possible) for submission to the ESFA in January, 2021:-

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

Vote:- 8 For 0 Against

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

Vote:- 8 For 0 Against

Question 3 – Do you have any further suggestions on how the financial pressures in the high needs block can best be addressed?

This is to be considered by the Sub-Group during December, 2020.

Question 4 - Do you agree that the Local Authority should continue to provide for a growth fund? It is estimated for 2021/22 a budget of £280,000 is required

Vote:- 11 For 0 Against

Question 5 – Do you agree that the local authority should provide for a £500 falling rolls fund?

Vote:- 5 For 0 Against

Question 6 – Do you agree that funding from the central school services block can be held centrally for the services outlined above?

Vote:- 7 For 0 Against

Question 7 - Do maintained schools wish to de-delegate monies to create a Schools in Financial Difficulties contingency fund of £100k to support those schools with exceptional costs forcing them into a financial deficit position?

Vote:- 4 For 0 Against

Question 8 - Do maintained schools wish to de-delegate funds once again for trade unions (£2.00 per pupil), maintained school would no longer need to buy back from the Portfolio of services.

Vote:- 4 For 0 Against

70. DSG MANAGEMENT TEMPLATE

Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance for Children and Young People's Service, provided an update on the DEDICSG Management Template that the Council had in place to track its DSG deficit, showing how it would bring the annual in year deficit into balance within the three year time frame.

By way of sharing his screen virtually the Forum were walked through the DSG Management Template, showing graphical data and how this fed into the DSG financial summary.

The Template set out in detail the current and future funding assumptions, projected expenditure based on estimated future demands and implementation of strategies, proposed block re-directions and the associated impact on the DSG deficit in the current year and for future years and the relationship for the High Needs Block and other associated services such as Home to School Transport.

This would all be subject to forensic assessment via Section 251.

It was, therefore, suggested that the template be presented to the School Forum sub-group for the data to be considered in more detail. It was anticipated that this would take place in December where more background and historical information could be provided. An invitation to this sub-group would also be extended to Angela Acomb, Maintain School Primary Governor.

In absorbing the information shared the Forum sought clarification on whether the deficit and pressures were historical prior to 2017/18, whether this was a national issue and not just relative to Rotherham and the deficit projections into future years.

Jenny Lingrell, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, shared a powerpoint presentation supporting the DSG Management Template which highlighted:-

- Needs Analysis
 - ▲ Increase in requests for EHCP.
 - ▲ Autism – primary numbers.
 - ▲ 42% SEMH.
 - ▲ Preparation for Post 16 Plans.
 - ▲ LAC and SEND Sufficiency interdependencies.
- Placements
 - ▲ Mainstream SEN Toolkit.
 - ▲ Workforce Development Strategy.
 - ▲ Alignment of Inclusion Services.
 - ▲ ISOS Recommendations.
 - ▲ Resourced Provision/SEN Units – Wales, Brinsworth and Wath Victoria.
 - ▲ Special School Places – Milton, Kelford and Hilltop.
- Placements
 - ▲ Individual Provision.
 - ▲ Hospital School.
 - ▲ Post 16 and Future Education.
 - ▲ Health and Social Care/Direct Residential Development Programme.
- Link of all strategies back into the detail/forward plan of work on the budget.

The Forum welcomed the supportive update and found it helpful. It was pleasing to see the grip on the in year spend, the detail of which would be discussed further at the Sub-Group. However, it was highlighted that 1.5% (£3 million) continued to be redirected and would remain at this level with Secretary of State agreement.

Whilst it was noted that the redirections/assumptions/pressures were projected into the future, there were risks to the viability as it was not

known what the funding would be from 2024 onwards. There was a SEN Review being undertaken at Government level due to the mismatch in demand and funding. It was expected that the landscape would eventually shift.

The ISOS Recommendations/Action Plan would have some strong proposals that would support progress on reducing the deficit even further. As previously suggested, a representative from the ISOS Working Group should be invited to give a presentation to the Forum at its next meeting in the new year. Details of the representative to be forward to the Clerk who would confirm dates and extend the invitation.

Agreed:- (1) That the DSG Management Template update be received and the detail noted.

(2) That a Sub-Group be arranged during December to look at the detail of the DSG Management Template and undertake a further review of the data.

(3) That Angela Acomb, Maintain School Primary Governor, be invited to join the membership of the Sub-Group.

(4) That arrangements be made for a representative from the ISOS Working Group to attend the next meeting of the Schools Forum and give a presentation on their findings and recommendations.

ACTION:- Vera Njelic/Clerk

71. SEND SUFFICIENCY PHASE 3

Jenny Lingrell, Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Inclusion, reported on the proposals that were to be considered at the next meeting of the Cabinet on 23rd November, 2020. The proposals would address current and future Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sufficiency issues that have been highlighted by SEND data and identified in the Rotherham SEND Sufficiency and Social Emotional Mental Health Strategies.

Rotherham currently had two key issues in relation to sufficiency of education for children with special education needs and disabilities that needed to be addressed:-

1. There was a lack of designated social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) educational provision.

2. Newman Special School building needed extensive work in order to bring it to the required standard to effectively deliver education for children and young people with disabilities.

A strategic options appraisal outlined four different approaches to respond to the issues identified and deliver the required outcomes for Rotherham's children and young people.

The opportunity presented was, therefore, to support children and young people with SEND to achieve improved outcomes through the development of new, modern, and well-designed provision on the Dinnington site which have sufficient space and resources to meet the needs of the children who would attend there.

The buildings would provide the opportunity to open a new special school that was dedicated to educating children and young people with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs, and providing safe, modern and well-planned new buildings for children and young people who attended Newman Special School. The upper school at Newman would move to the Dinnington site, providing the space required to do the required capital works on the main school site.

Rotherham had a lack of dedicated educational provision for children with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) and, at present, children in Rotherham with SEMH needs either attended Rotherham PRU provision at Aspire or Rowan. These provisions could meet need, but have physical limitations in terms of building capacity, (both Aspire and Rowan lacked suitable accommodation). Children who did not attend Aspire or Rowan were sent out of area to high cost provision.

In addition, Newman School, Rotherham's oldest special school, was sited in a listed building which was no longer of the required standard to effectively deliver education for children and young people with disabilities and required some investment.

The recommended option was to purchase Dinnington College which incorporated Block A, C, B and D at Dinnington College.

Block A would be adapted to provide a primary and secondary designated SEMH educational provision for up to one hundred and twenty-five children and young people, under the DfE Academy/Free school presumption process.

Block C and D would be adapted to provide upper school provision for around forty young people from Newman School.

Block B would be demolished and adapted to provide (along with other outdoor space) the required soft and hard play area for the two educational provisions.

The proposals themselves were welcomed and Paul Silvester, Head of Newman School, and Lianne Camaish, Principal of Aspire, echoed how much of a positive difference this would make in Rotherham.

This opportunity would allow for a managed transfer of children and young people with SEMH needs from PRUs into the new SEMH provision and allow for the transfer of the upper school provision from Newman site to Dinnington College. This will enable the works to be completed at Newman school whilst remaining operational for the remaining children and young people.

Any new school proposal must be developed under the DfE free school presumption process and would require formal notification to DfE and proposals to be drawn up in the form of a prospectus outlining the need for the new school and context.

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

ACTION:- ALL

72. SCHEME FOR FINANCING LOCAL AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (UPDATED SCHEME)

Further to Minute No. 56 and 57 of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 18th September, 2020, the updated scheme was now circulated for information. This would provide a source of practical guidance and advice and reflected the underlying principles associated with good financial management and practice.

Agreed:- That the updated scheme be received and the contents noted.

ACTION:- ALL

73. FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Neil Hardwick, Head of Schools Finance, and Nathan Health, Assistant Director of Education, provided an update on proposals with regards to Free School Meals over Christmas and for the February half term period.

Whilst it was outlined that provision had been made during the October half term, some schools and academies had been more proactive and made arrangements to passport out vouchers early, for which they were reimbursed.

Given notification by Government as part of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, it was proposed that a similar voucher system would be issued, subject to approval by the Cabinet and allow for consistency across the borough.

Agreed:- That the update be welcomed and the contents noted.

ACTION:- ALL

74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for discussion.

75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of Rotherham Schools' Forum take place on Friday, 15th January, 2021 at 8.30 a.m. and that it be on a virtual basis unless otherwise indicated.

<h1 style="margin: 0;">BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	15 th January 2021
	LEAD OFFICER:	Aileen Chambers Head of Service – Early Years and Childcare
	TITLE:	Early Education Funding Proposals 2021-22
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 2021/22 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 early years funding 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 funding for 2021/22 will be allocated initially as an 'indicative' allocation in December 2020. The usual process is for the ESFA to allocate an indicative funding allocation based on the previous January Census data with two further adjustments - one during the year (July) based on the January 2021 Census data and further adjusted in July 2022 based on 5/12ths of January 2021 Census and 7/12ths of January 2022 Census. The process was amended for the 2020/21 budget due to Covid.	
1.5	The rate that the Local Authority receives from the DfE will increase in 2021/22 from £4.38 per hour to £4.44 for 3 / 4 year olds and from £5.28 per hour to £5.36 for 2 year olds. Prior to an increase in 2020/21, the funding rate had 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.	
	<p style="text-align: center;">3 / 4 year olds & 30 Hour Budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5% Centrally Retained to contribute to Early Years and Childcare Service running costs ○ 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 2020/21 were 15p / hour (High) and 10p / hour (Medium).

Two year old Budget:

- 100% passported to providers

1.7

2020/21 Budget Projections

The Early Years block typically generates a reserve due to the way in which the funding is calculated and distributed. The reserve amount has been used since 2018/19 to fund the Inclusion Support Grant and prior to Covid, it was projected that the EY Block would generate a reserve in 2020/21.

This year the DfE amended the funding allocation and distribution requirements due to the pandemic. The annual funding will be based on 9/12^{ths} of January 2020 census and 3/12ths of January 2021 census. Local authorities were also required to fund all early education providers in the Autumn term 2020 at Autumn 2019 take-up levels as a minimum. This requirement has had a significant impact on the overall budget. Due to changes in take-up patterns, whilst a number of providers received top-up funding to last year's levels, a significant number of providers had higher take-up levels than last year and received an increased level of funding. This resulted in an increased cost of delivery for Autumn 2020 and it is projected that there will be no contribution to reserves from the this years funding allocation. Depending on January 21 take-up levels there could be an in-year deficit budget of £50/£100k. This could be offset by utilising the reserve detailed below. The DfE have confirmed that funding should be distributed to providers in January 2021 at actual take up levels.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) had a reserve of £67k carried forward from 2019/20 into 2020/2, which is anticipated to increase in 2020/21 to £98k (see details below).

The Early Years block (excluding DAF) has a reserve of £705k carried forward from 2019/20 into 2020/21 it is anticipated that this reserve will reduce to £360k in 2020/21.

1.8

Disability Access Fund: the DfE introduced a Disability Access Fund (DAF) in 2017/18. The funding is to be passported to childcare / early education providers for the purpose of aiding access to early years places. The funding allocated to each LA is calculated on the number of children in the area claiming Disability Living Allowance. Providers are responsible for claiming the funding from the LA. Funding is awarded to providers in a lump sum of £615 per year for each eligible 3 / 4 year old. Nationally the take-up of this funding by childcare providers is low leaving LA's with budget surpluses. The DfE have not clawed back underspend in this budget but have advised that LA's are expected to:

spend any additional funding over and above DAF actually paid out on services in line with the principles and aims of DAF

1.9

A decision was approved in 2018/19 that previous surplus funding could be used to provide a DAF award for eligible 2 year olds as well as delivery of training

Inclusion Support Grant: Statutory guidance required each local authority to have an Inclusion Support grant (ISG) to support providers to secure better outcomes for children with lower level or emerging SEN. In Rotherham children with more complex needs are also funded through the ISG. A budget was allocated for the ISG in Rotherham from the High Needs block until 2018/19 and since then from Early Years block reserves.

A review of Rotherham's inclusion support grant was carried out in 2019 with the outcomes presented to DLT in December 2019 to inform the funding approval for 2020/21. It was acknowledged that the £410k spend was value for money and the review evidenced that usage of the grant contributed to positive outcomes for children with SEND.

Changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage assessment requirements which come into force in September 2021 will affect the criteria currently used to assess needs and award the grant. The new requirements are being trialled by Early Adopter schools currently and work is underway to determine the most appropriate measure to replace the current criteria.

2. Proposals

2.1 It is proposed to retain the current local funding formula in 2021/22 as follows:

Retention for Central Spend	5% of 3 / 4 year old and 30 hour budgets
3 / 4 year old hourly rate	£4.14 plus deprivation supplement if eligible (increase of 6p 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	£5.36 (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 has confirmed the maintained nursery school supplementary funding allocations for April – August 2021 but highlighted that September 2021 to March 2022 allocations are conditional and they may be subject to change. Confirmation has been received that the government's commitment to the long-term funding of maintained nursery schools is unchanged and that further information will be available in early 2021

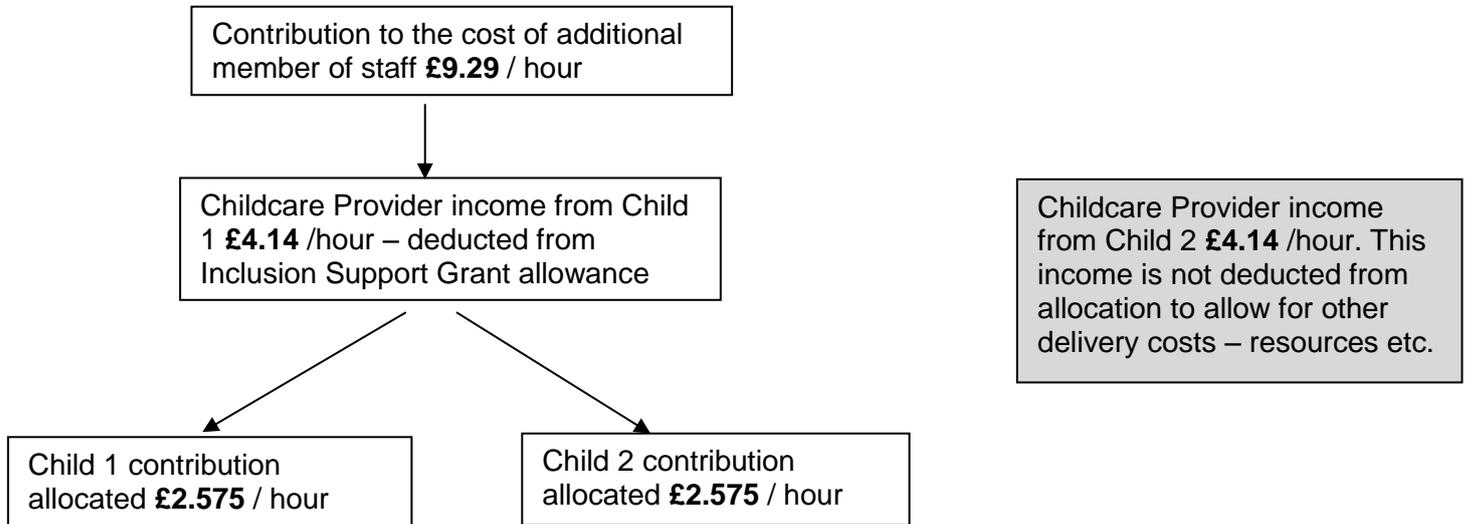
2.2 The 2021/22 increases in hourly rate for early education providers will only be the second increase they have received in 4 years. This increase is essential for ongoing sustainability as the cost of delivery has increased significantly over the last four years with increases in minimum wage, business rates and running costs. In addition, the increases in delivery costs and reduced take-up due to Covid have had a significant impact on sustainability of the childcare sector.

2.3 **Disability Access Fund:** There is an anticipated DAF reserve of £98k by the end of

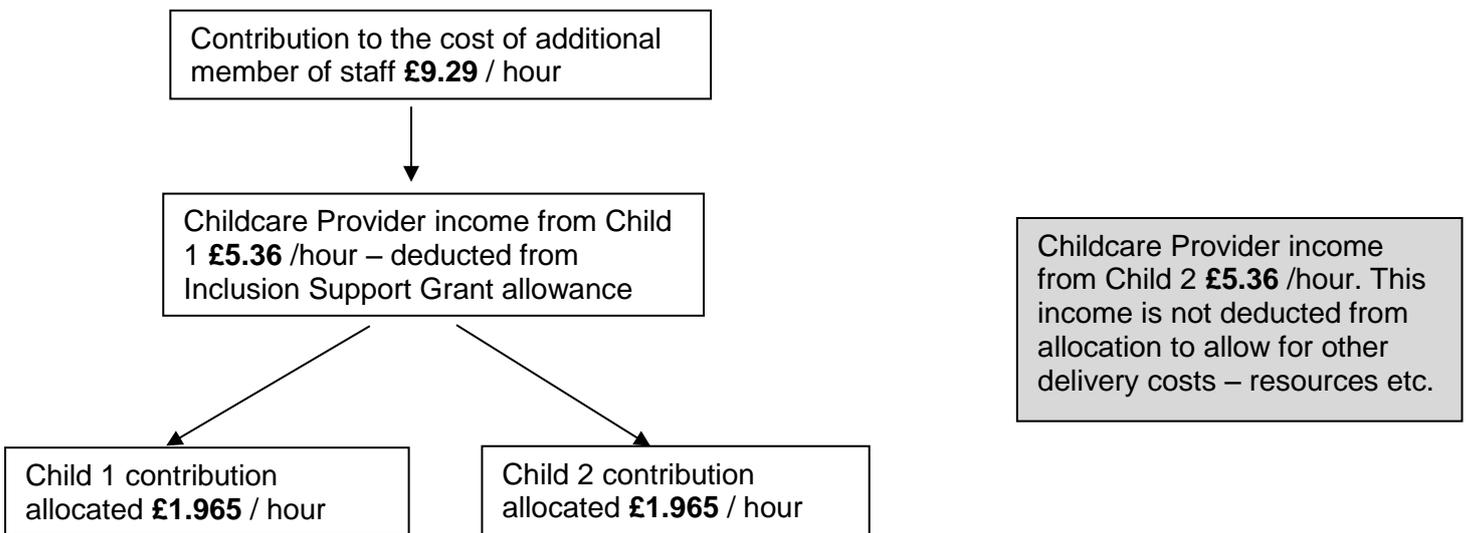
	<p>this year. It is proposed to cease the 2 year old DAF award and allocate the surplus to the Inclusion Support Grant budget in 2021/22.</p>
2.4	<p>Inclusion Support Grant: It is proposed to maintain the current Inclusion Support Grant formula 2021/22 (see Appendix 1 for details). The Inclusion support grant currently tops up the hourly rate paid to £9.23. Due to planned increase in the early education funding hourly rate from April 2021, it is proposed that from April 2021 the inclusion support grant tops up the hourly rate paid to £9.29 per hour. This is an increase of 6p/hour; the hourly rate for two year olds is being increased by 8p / hour therefore Inclusion Support contributions for two year olds will reduce by 2p/hour to maintain the same top up rate across both age ranges. The budget is needs led but is anticipated that spend will remain consistent at £410k.</p>
2.5	<p>Should there be a shortfall of carry forward funding / in year EY Block to cover ISG spend it is proposed to carry deficit forward to EY Block in 2022/23.</p>
<p>3. Key Actions and Timelines</p>	
3.1	<p>January 2021: proposals presented to DLT January 2021: proposals presented to Early Education Working Group January 2021: proposals presented to Schools Forum February 2021: 2021/22 funding rates confirmed to early education providers</p>
<p>4. Recommendations</p>	
4.1	<p>It is recommended that schools forum note the content of this report and approve the 5% central retention of the Early Years Block to cover Early Years and Childcare Service delivery costs.</p>

Appendix 1

**Inclusion Support Grant Allocation Methodology – 3 / 4 year olds children
(Proposed 2021/22 rates)**



Inclusion Support Grant Allocation Methodology - 2 year olds children



Schools Forum Briefing

1.	Date of meeting:	15th January 2021
2.	Title:	Falling Rolls Fund Criteria
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services Directorate

1. SUBJECT: FALLING ROLLS CRITERIA

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Schools Forum members of the criteria for a falling rolls fund.

3. RECOMMENDATION (S)

That members note this information and ensure they make school/academies that they represent aware of this information.

4. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S)

To ensure Schools Forum members are aware of the operational guidance on falling roles funding.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5.1 Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a small fund to support good schools with falling rolls, where local planning data shows that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.

5.2 The Schools Forum should agree both the value of the fund and the criteria for allocation, and the local authority should consult Schools Forum before expenditure is incurred.

5.3 The Falling Rolls Funds is ring-fenced. It operates in a similar way to the Growth Fund, in the sense that both maintained schools and academies are top sliced for the cost of the Fund and both are eligible to receive support through it.

6. SETTING FALLING ROLLS FUNDING CRITERIA

6.1 Following consultation with all schools, Schools Forum agreed at the November 2020 meeting to set aside a small fund of £50,000 in 2021/2022 to support good schools with falling rolls. It is proposed the criteria for allocating falling rolls funding contains clear objective trigger points for qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations

6.2. **CRITERIA FOR FALLING ROLLS FUNDING**

- Support is available only for schools judged good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (this is a mandatory requirement)
- There is a reduction in numbers comparing the October School Census with the previous October census that results in substantial disruption to the provision of education in the school
- Admission' demographic data evidences that the reduction is temporary – i.e that numbers are expected to rise again over the next two years
- The school's roll includes at least 80% of the pupils that live within the area
- Reduction in numbers due to pupil migration to other local schools is not eligible.

6.3 **FUNDING DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY**

- Annual agreement requiring application each year if the impact of reduction is expected to last for 2 years
- Schools will be expected to cover the temporary funding shortfall from existing carry forward balances prior to application to the Falling Rolls Fund.
- Funding will be allocated up to the AWPU rate for the difference between: the current year October number on roll and; the lower of number on roll at the previous October census and the forecast number on roll using admissions data
- CYPS Finance will oversee the allocation of the Falling Rolls Fund and report to Schools Forum. Applications for financial hardship to the Strategic Director of CYPS will recognise if money has been awarded through this route and may, where appropriate recommend an approach is made to the falling rolls fund.
- The falling rolls fund is open to all schools equally whether academy or maintained. Funding will be kept entirely separate from the contingency for schools in financial difficulties which is of course only open to maintained primary schools.

The local authority will report any falling rolls funds remaining at the end of the financial year to Schools Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period, as with any other centrally retained budget.

Name and contact details

Neil Hardwick
Head of Finance (CYPS)
[Tel:01709 254508](tel:01709254508)
Email: neil.hardwick@rotherham.gov.uk

Vera Njegic
Principal Finance Officer (Schools Finance)
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REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	15th January 2021
2.	Title:	2021/22 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 2021/22 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 2020 pupil census information shortly before Christmas. The local authority has until 21st January 2021 to submit the final version back to the Department for Education.

In October 2020 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 17th December 2020, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2021/22 financial year.

For Rotherham, the initial allocations are;

Table 1.

	Initial Allocation
Schools block (both schools and academies)	£211.310m
Central schools services block	£1.371m
Early Years block	£17.942m
High Needs block	£42.159m
TOTAL	£272.782m

6. SCHOOLS BLOCK

The final allocation is mainly based on funding rates of £4,525.65 for primary children (£4,186.71 in 2020/21) and £5,997.26 for secondary children (£5,604.92 in 2020/21) as at the October 2020 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2020 census count shows that there are a total number of pupils across the borough of 39,695; this is a decrease of 47 (+202 in primary & - 155 in secondary) pupils from the October 2019 census count.

From the census data we have identified that 64 schools/academies have seen overall decreases in pupils, 7 have remained static and 40 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 £197.068m in 2020/21 to £211.31m in 2021/22. The increased allocation is due to an increase in funding rates and the funding previously allocated through the teachers' pay and pensions grant now added into the Dedicated Schools Grant.

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on the 20th November 2020 a request to transfer 1.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 23rd November 2020. 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%

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£197.07m	£211.31m	£14.24m	increase in funding rates & former Teachers Pay/Pensions Grant
Pupil Growth fund	£700k	£280k	-£420k	Agreed at November meeting
Falling Rolls Fund	-	£50k	£50k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.96m	£3.04m	£0.08m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£193.41m	£207.94m	£14.53m	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	98.5%		

Table 3 - Unsuccessful Disapplication request - transfer 0.5%

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£197.07m	£211.31m	£14.24m	increase in funding rates & former Teachers Pay/Pensions Grant
Pupil Growth fund	£700k	£280k	-£420k	Agreed at November meeting
Falling Rolls Fund	-	£50k	£50k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.96m	£1.01k	-£1.95m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£193.41 m	£209.97m	£16.56m	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant and reduction in top slice from schools block
% 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 2020/21 rates. Table 4 shows those rates applied should the 1.5% transfer be approved. 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 as indicated in Table 5.

To date the Secretary of State 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 2021/22 budgets with 2020/21 .

Table 6

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Central services schools block allocation	£1.13m	£1.37m	£240k	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant
Admissions	£167k	£182k	£15k	Agreed at November meeting
National copyright licences	£264k	£263k	-£1k	Notified by DfE
Former ESG	£698k	£757k	£59k	Agreed at November meeting
Centrally employed teachers pay and pensions	-	£164k	£164k	
Schools Forum	£3k	£4k	£1k	Agreed at November meeting

8. PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING FOR 2021/22.

The following arrangements for pupil premium in 2021 to 2022 were announced on 17th December 2020:

- From April 2021, pupil premium allocations will be calculated based on the number of eligible pupils recorded by schools in their in October 2020 census.
- Pupil premium and service rates will remain unchanged for the 2021 to 2022 financial year.

9. Name and contact details

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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