

Rotherham Schools' Forum

Venue: Rockingham Professional Development Centre

Date: Friday 1 December 2023

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 5 - 10)

Recommendation:- To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd September, 2023

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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

6. Membership and Constitution of the Rotherham Schools Forum (Standing Item) (include full list of members and who has voting rights)

To consider any updates or amendments to the membership of the Schools Forum.

7. DSG Sustainability & High Needs Finance Update (Pages 11 - 15)

Neil Hardwick to report.

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

8. School Funding Formula Consultation (Pages 17 - 25)

Louise Keith / Vera Njegic to report.

Recommendation:- That the Schools' Forum note the content of the report and that votes be undertaken with the appropriate members of the Schools' Forum to agree the school and academy local funding formula for 2024/25 for submission in January 2024.

9. High Needs Block Sub Group

Neil Hardwick to report.

Recommendation: To receive the report and note the contents.

10. Send Sufficiency Phase 4 Update

Mark Cummins to report

Recommendation: To receive the report and note the contents.

11. Education Safeguarding Role Update (Pages 27 - 30)

Pam Ward to report.

Recommendation: (1) To agree proposed staffing arrangements to include the additional Safeguarding Officer post. This would lead to a review and streamlining of current responsibilities, build capacity and avoid a single point of failure.

(2) To agree proposed basis of funding charge to schools for both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

12. Early Years Expansion and Early Education and Childcare Strategy (Pages 31 - 34)

Aileen Chambers / Pam Ward to report.

Recommendation: To receive the report and note the contents.

13. Schools Forum Forward Plan (Non-Finance Reports)

Chair to report.

Recommendation:- To consider and agree a future schedule of non-finance related reports at the Rotherham Schools' Forum.

14. Any Other Business

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

15. Date of Next Meeting

Recommendation:- To consider and agree the date and time of the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum on 12th January, 2024 at 8.30 a.m. at Rockingham Professional Development Centre.

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**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS' FORUM
FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2023**

In Attendance:

Steve Rhodes – Winterhill (Academy) (in the Chair)
Deborah Ball - Treeton Primary (Primary Academy)
Guiseppe DiLasio – Wales (Academy)
Chris Eccles – Oakwood (Academy)
Lynsey Hadfield – Executive Head, Arnold Nursery (Observer)
Neil Hardwick – Head of Finance, CYPS
David Horrigan – Maltby Learning Trust (Primary Academy)
Louise Keith – Principal Finance Officer, CYPS
Lisa McCall – Wales (Academy)
Angela McComb – Primary Maintained Governor
Lee Morritt - Aspire
Vera Njegic - Principal Finance Officer, CYPS
Kirsty Peart - Sitwell Infant (Maintained)
Colin Price – NEU Representative
Mark Ryan – RNN Group
Karen Smith – Nexus MAT (Special Academy)
Sharon Stones – Head of Arnold Nursery and Children's Centre
Sarah Whitby - Head of Service - Access to Education
Nathan Williams – Roughwood Primary (Primary Academy)
Mark Windle – Badsley Primary (Primary Maintained)

Apologies were received from:

Kelly Crompton, CYPS, RMBC
Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for CYPS
Phil Davis - Secondary Academy Head - Wingfield Academy
Amy Leech - HR Business Partner, CYPS
Alan Richards – Secondary Governor
Steve Scott – Happy Kids (PVI Nursery)
Nevine Towers – Diocese of Sheffield
Pam Ward – Head of Service, Education, CYPS

12. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes from the previous meeting held on 23rd June 2023.

Agreed: That the minutes be approved.

15. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

16. MEMBERSHIP AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM (STANDING ITEM)

Consideration was given to the membership and constitution of the Rotherham Schools Forum as at September 2023 and the suggested changes for approval.

Agreed: (1) That Lee Morritt, the new Head of Aspire replace Lianne Camaish as the PRU Head Representative.

(2) That Mark Ryan of RNN Group replace Melanie Smith as the 16-19 Provider representative.

(3) That the resignation be received from Phil Wilkinson of ACET (Secondary Academy Representative).

17. EARLY YEARS UPLIFT IN RATES

Consideration was given to the report on Early Years Uplift in Rates which Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS introduced. He explained that a number of early education / childcare changes had been proposed in the Governments' March budget as detailed in Minute No.110 of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 28th April, 2023.

The report provided details on the proposed implementation dates for the early education / childcare changes noting that an implementation date relating to changes to wraparound care had not yet been confirmed.

Information was provided on the proposed indicative Autumn 2023 uplift of hourly rates to providers which considers the increase for the DfE supplementary rate, and passporting the supplementary increase to providers through the normal payment routes, in full accordance with DfE guidance.

The Early Years and Childcare Service are currently carrying out the annual childcare sufficiency assessment and this year's analysis would include projected impact of the increased entitlements.

The proposed increase in early education funding rates for 2 and 3-4 year olds from September 2023 was highlighted as a key issue, however it was noted that information relating to the formal implementation of the changes was still awaited.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note the information contained within this report.

18. TEACHERS PAY ADDITIONAL GRANT (TPAG)

Consideration was given to the report which Louise Keith, Principal Officer, CYPS introduced. It was explained that in July 2023 the Department for Education (DfE) announced further funding for schools through the teachers pay additional grant (TPAG) in 2023/24 to meet the costs of the 2023/24 pay award.

Indicative allocations have been published and these were referenced in Appendix 1 of the report.

Local Authority's (LA's) would receive payment for mainstream maintained schools in October 2023 to cover the period September 2023 to March 2024 and 100% of these funds would be passed directly to schools.

Academies would receive their funding direct from DfE in November to cover the period September 2023 to March 2024.

In 2024-25 TPAG would continue to be paid as a separate grant. Local Authority maintained mainstream schools would receive one payment on a date yet to be confirmed to cover the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Mainstream academies would also receive an additional allocation of TPAG to cover April to August 2025 as their funding cycle follows the academic year and would cover the period before the grant was moved to academies core budget allocations.

LA's would receive 2 payments for special and AP schools in 2023 to 2024. The first payment would be made to LA's in October based on place numbers and a second payment would be made in March 2024 using updated place numbers. These allocations would be passed on in their entirety to the special school or provision.

The DfE are in the process of developing a teachers pay additional grant (TPAG) for early years, details of which they expect to communicate in the autumn.

Additional funding for 16-19 students would not be through a separate TPAG, but would be through an uplift in mainstream 16-19 funding for the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

It was noted that the LA was not aware of any pay award uplifts to APT&C staff. No agreement has been reached on this matter and further guidance was expected to follow.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members receive the report and note

the information contained within this report.

19. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY IN 2023 TO 2024

Consideration was given to the report which Louise Keith, Principal Officer, CYPS introduced.

Reference was made to the guidance note from the Department for Education which provided details on additional funding that was being made available to support schools in financial difficulty in 2023 to 2024.

The additional funding would be used to expand the department's existing support route available to academies and help local authorities to expand the support provided to their maintained schools.

Further details on arrangements for allocation and distribution of funding to local authorities would be provided in due course.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members receive the report and note the update provided.

20. EDUCATION SAFEGUARDING ROLE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the update from Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS. It was explained that discussions have been taking place about the new Education Safeguarding role and its associated funding. Conversations are now progressing, and information would be disseminated in the near future on what the offer would look like. Information on the next steps would also be communicated.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note the update provided.

21. SAFETY VALVE UPDATE

Consideration was given to the update from Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS. He explained that the 2nd quarter update for this financial year had been submitted to the Safety Valve Team and an update on the current financial position was provided.

It was noted that there had been some mitigating risks to the current reported position linked to the cost of living and inflation pressures, however, Rotherham remained in a strong position to meet its commitments.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note the update provided.

22. HIGH NEEDS SUB-GROUP UPDATE

Consideration was given to the update from Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS. He explained that support would be offered to Pam Ward to re-establish meetings of the High Needs Sub Group. Outcomes from those meetings would be fed back to future School Forum meetings.

All previous Members of the Sub Group would receive an invite to attend future scheduled meetings and new representatives would also be welcomed.

A new Chair would need to be identified for the Sub Group.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note that the High Needs Sub Group would be re-established and outcomes from the High Needs Sub Group meetings would be fed back to future Schools Forum meetings.

23. RAAC (REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE) USE IN SCHOOLS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the update from Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS. He explained that a review of all schools in the borough had been undertaken to check if RAAC had been used. It was confirmed that Rotherham are not aware of any RAAC being present in any of their school buildings.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note the update provided.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair invited Forum Members to share any other items for business.

(a) Staffing Update

Neil Hardwick, Head of Finance, CYPS confirmed the following staffing changes:

- 1) Nathan Heath had left the position of Assistant Director of Education. Pam Ward would be covering the school's element of the role and Aileen Chambers would be covering the education support services element. Cover arrangements would continue until a permanent appointment to the Assistant Director of Education could be made.
- 2) Julie Day, Head of Inclusion had left Rotherham MBC and Tracey Jubb was the Interim Head of Inclusion. Caryanne Sykes would be the new permanent Head of Inclusion from the 2nd October.

Agreed: That the Schools Forum members note the update provided.

(b) Future Agenda Items

The Chair sought views from School Forum members about bringing forward agenda items for more detailed discussion. It was noted that information regarding Exclusion data, PRU numbers and High Needs Sub Group feedback had all been previously presented to the Forum and Forum members agreed this had been useful.

It was agreed that the Clerk for the meeting would send out an agenda item request to all School Forum members one week prior to the agenda setting meeting. Any items put forward by Forum members would then be discussed and agreed with the Chair at the agenda setting meeting.

It was agreed it would be useful to create a Forward Plan of agenda items for the next 12 months.

Agreed: (1) That the Clerk to the Schools Forum issue a request for agenda items to all School Forum members one week prior to the agenda setting meeting and notify the Chair of any items put forward at the agenda setting meeting.

(2) Establish a Forward Plan of agenda items for the next 12 months.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of the Schools' Forum take place on Friday, 17th November, 2023 at 8.30 a.m. at Rockingham Professional Development Centre.

Schools Forum Briefing

1.	Date of meeting:	1st December 2023
2.	Title:	DSG Sustainability & High Needs Finance Update
3.	Directorate:	Finance Customer Services / CYPS

1. SUBJECT: DSG & High Needs Update

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update all members of Schools Forum on the latest Dedicated Schools Grant position and the DSG projections as outlined in the DSG Management Plan.

3. RECOMMENDATION (S)

That members note the contents of the report.

4. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S)

To ensure Schools Forum members are aware of the current and medium-term projections of the wider dedicated schools grant (DSG) and the impact this has on the DSG reserve.

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 5.1 Rotherham is a relatively low funded authority and has seen significant pressures on the High Needs Block for many years. The High Needs Budget allocation has increased year on year but, partly due to Rotherham's low funding baseline compared to neighbouring boroughs and nationally, the budget uplifts have not been sufficient to match the acceleration in demand and increase in the cost of provision.
- 5.2 During 2017/18 the ESFA undertook an historic spend data DSG block realignment exercise, the High Needs block was then realigned after taking account of a £2.9 million transfer from the Schools block in 2016/17 and an additional £3 million transfer in 2017/18. Prior to this exercise Rotherham consistently had a lower High Needs allocation than its statistical neighbours and the transfers helped dampen the impact of rising costs associated with the increasing demand for SEND provision in the borough.
- 5.3 From 2016/17 to 2019/20 the DSG deficit was rising at circa £5m per annum leading to an overall deficit of just under £20m, but since that point the SEND sufficiency strategies have started to have an impact, but further work is still required as the overall DSG deficit as previously report had risen to £21.258m at the end of the 2020/21 financial year.
- 5.4 As part of the DSG grant conditions in 2021 / 22 paragraph 5.2, there was a requirement introduced for all LA's with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2020 to 2021 financial year, to present a plan to the Department for Education

(DfE) for managing their future DSG spend. To help LAs to meet this requirement the DfE provided a DSG management plan template.

- 5.5 As part of the Department of Education work to address long term challenges in the High Needs funding within the Dedicated Schools Grant a small number of identified local authorities including Rotherham were invited to have financial agreement known as a 'Safety Valve'.
- 5.6 The development of Rotherham MBC Safety Valve Agreement has considered key strategic SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) priorities, effective and sustainable financial planning, trajectories of cohort growth across SEND in the borough across the next five years, and our ambitions to support the creation of strong SEND locally based provision in Rotherham.
- 5.7 The development of Rotherham MBC Safety Valve Agreement considers key strategic SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) priorities, effective and sustainable financial planning, trajectories of cohort growth across SEND in the borough across the five year period to 2025/26, and to support the creation of strong SEND locally based provision in Rotherham.
- 5.8 The finalised agreement in March 2022 sets out an investment from DfE across the lifespan of the agreement to remove the anticipated DSG deficit of £20.528m (without Safety Valve monies) as outlined in the table below:

Safety Valve Revenue Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26					
	2021-22 £,000s	2022-23 £,000s	2023-24 £,000s	2024-25 £,000s	2025-26 £,000s
Mitigated expenditure forecast	£274,031	£282,200	£288,938	£299,155	£305,451
Estimated DSG Funding	-£272,815	-£282,650	-£290,914	-£298,033	-£305,250
Other Income	-£461	-£468	-£476	-£484	-£492
School Block to HNB Transfer	-£3,038	-£3,236	-£3,300	£0	£0
In Year Deficit / Surplus	£756	-£918	-£2,453	£638	-£292
Planned Overall DSG position (surplus)/deficit at Year End (Excludes Delivery Team)	£22,013	£21,095	£18,643	£19,280	£18,988
Safety Valve Delivery Team	£0	£385	£385	£385	£385
Planned Overall DSG position (surplus)/deficit at Year End (Includes Delivery Team)	£22,013	£21,480	£19,413	£20,435	£20,528

- 5.9 The DfE funding to be received if the plan remains on target to be delivered will be £20.530m. The profiling of the funding was adjusted at the end of 2023/24 as follows:

• Year	• Original Profiling	• Revised Profiling
• 2021/22	• £8.53m	• £8.53m
• 2022/23	• £3.00m	• £6.00m
• 2023/24	• £3.00m	• £2.00m
• 2024/25	• £3.00m	• £2.00m
• 2025/26	• £3.00m	• £2.00m
• Total	• £20.530m	• £20.530m

- 5.10 The Management Plan is fundamentally based on current Education Health and Care Plans and growth assumptions which reflect previous years trends, adjusted for the estimated impact of the council's strategies.
- 5.11 The 2021/22 outturn on high needs expenditure remained at £0.73m as reported to

Schools Forum throughout the year, however after taking account of other balances in other DSG funding blocks resulted in an in-year deficit of £0.11m increasing the net deficit in the DSG Central Reserve of £21.37m, which is ahead of target in terms of the £22.013m estimated in the DSG Management Plan.

- 5.12 The Original Management Plan & Latest Position, starting from the DSG deficit position to the latest 2023/24 position is outlined in the table below:

	<u>2021/22</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>2022/23</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>£000's</u>	<u>2025/26</u> <u>£000's</u>
Safety Valve Plan					
Overall DSG Position (surplus)/deficit at Year End (as above)	22013	21480	19413	20435	20528
Safety Valve Funding	8533	3000	3000	3000	3000
Cumulative Safety Valve Funding	8533	11533	14533	17533	20533
DSG Position after Safety Valve Funding (surplus)/deficit at Year End	13480	9947	4880	2902	0
Latest Position Management Plan					
Actual Outturn		12840	5926	3411	3127
HNB Planned Contribution to / from Reserves*		-724	-851	1716	93
Safety Valve Contribution		-6000	-2000	-2000	-2000
Planned Use of Reserves **		-190	336	0	0
DSG Reserve	12840	5926	3411	3127	1220
Variance	-640	-4021	-1469	225	1220

*HNB Contributions to / from reserves includes the Delivery Team

**24/25 contribution from reserves assumes 0.5% Schools to HNB Transfer

- 5.13 Demand on the High Needs budget remains high due to rising numbers of children supported in specialist provision and the rising costs of Education Healthcare (EHC) plans.

- 5.14 In the 2023/24 financial year the High Needs budget position as at October 2023 shows an overspend of £1.217m (excluding safety valve funding) against a planned contribution to reserves of £2.068m. The £2.068m planned contribution to reserves would be reduced to £851k should the £1.217m overspend be realised, see table below for details.

	Revised Budget 2023/24	Forecast	Forecast Variance to Budget 2023/24
Special Schools	24,811,607	24,811,607	0
Primary Resource Units	502,446	427,966	-74,480
Secondary Resource Units	695,597	651,750	-43,847
Top Up Funding	8,026,920	8,371,152	344,232
Alternative Provision	4,846,281	5,061,374	215,093
External Residential	1,393,878	1,480,801	86,923
Independent Service Providers	11,580,152	12,299,743	739,591
Inclusion Services	2,983,314	2,996,735	13,421
Other Education Services	2,667,743	2,603,363	-64,380
CCP & FE Places	1,244,167	1,244,167	0
Total	58,732,105	59,948,658	1,216,553

*The HNB budget includes a contribution to reserves of £2.068m

- 5.15 The £851k contribution to reserves is after the £3.459m transfer of funding into

the High Needs Block, therefore the financial pressure would be £2.608m without the Schools Block transfer in the 2023/24 financial year.

- 5.16 In terms of the 2024/25 budget estimate the HNB pressures remain, the High Needs Block indicative allocation for 2024/25 is £57.377m. **The current 2024/25 pressure on the High Needs Block is estimated to be £1.716m when including a transfer amount of £1.210m (0.5%) from the Schools Block.** Without this transfer the pressure is estimated at £2.927m, see table below for details.

	Draft Budget 2024/25	Budgeted Numbers April 2024- August 2024	Budgeted Numbers September 2024-March 2025
Special Schools	26,071,787	1,165	1,217
Primary Resource Units	567,787	50	63
Secondary Resource Units	733,646	60	79
Top Up Funding	8,237,700	1,175	1,175
Alternative Provision	5,185,854	171	171
External Residentials	1,117,665	13	13
Independent Service Providers	13,637,171	310	310
Inclusion Services	3,063,639	13	11
Other Education Services	537,051	0	0
CCP & FE Places	1,302,000	196	232
Total	60,454,300	3,153	3,271

HNB Allocation 2024/25	57,377,270
Tfr from Schools Block (0.5%)	1,210,960

Total HNB	58,588,230
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2024/25 Pressure with Block T/F	1,866,070
Exclusions	150,000

Total Pressure with transfer	1,716,070
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Total Pressure without Block T/F	2,927,030
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- 5.17 As can be seen from the 2024/25 budget estimate the Safety Valve agreement will still require a transfer from the School Block for the 2024/25 financial year of 0.5% to dampen the in-year financial pressures, to continue to meet the Safety Valve assumptions and avoid a significant increase in the overall DSG deficit over this period, see the table in 5.1.2
- 5.18 The other factors and risks to the management plan outside of the requirement for a school block transfer are the inflationary pressures, delivery of the capital programme to continue to support growth in resource centres and accessibility schemes to avoid high cost Independent Sector Placements and the continued growth in EHC plans.

- 5.19 In summary, the financial sustainability of the high needs block still remains a significant cause for concern for the borough and will require the support of the School Forum and High Needs Subgroup to implement the strategies to assist in supporting the DSG High Needs Block to operate within its annual allocation.

Name and Contact Details

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BRIEFING PAPER FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	1st December 2023
2.	Title:	School Funding Formula 2024/25 Consultation outcome
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To set out the indicative proposals and seek decisions (where needed) for two areas of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25;

- Schools block
- Central schools services block

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

2.2 That votes are undertaken with the appropriate members of Schools Forum to agree the school & academy local funding formula for 2024/25.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

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

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 As a result of the government's intention to implement a national funding formula for school & high needs funding allocations; 2024/25 represents the seventh year of the governments planned transition towards these proposals.

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

Schools Forum are required to decide upon specific elements in accordance with the powers & responsibilities assigned to Schools Forum by the ESFA. In order to agree this, Schools Forum will need to vote on a number of proposals which are set out in this report. The proposals are based on the consultation responses received from individual schools & academies (see detail in appendices A and B).

Forum members are reminded that, in accordance with the regulations, only certain members are allowed to participate in a vote regarding the local funding formula. Other members that do not represent schools i.e. Union /Post-16 representatives can engage and participate in discussions but are not eligible to vote.

5. CONSULTATION PROCESS

5.1 Schools block funding formula 2024/25

The following activities have taken place in respect of the consultation on the schools block and central schools services block;

- Consultation document was issued via e-mail on Friday 10th November 2023 to all mainstream schools and academies.
- The consultation closed on Friday 24th November 2023.

5.2 Responses

Below is a table showing the responses to the 2024/2025 consultation. Further detail can be found in appendix A and B to this report. Please note two responses were received late due to technical issues and have been included in the analysis.

	Maintained schools	Academies	Total
Primary	7	26	33
Secondary	0	3	3
Total (& % response rate)	7 35%	29 33%	36 33%

6. School block funding formula

6.1 Transition to a national funding formula

There are changes proposed both in terms of the formula factors being used and the individual rates that will be applied to those factors. Nationally, the ESFA have looked to increase NFF factor values by 1.4% for basic entitlement, low prior attainment, free school meals, income deprivation affecting children index, English as an additional language, mobility, sparsity, the lump sum and the minimum pupil levels. In addition, the ESFA have increased the funding floor by 0.5%.

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.

This is therefore the strategy that Rotherham has adopted.

To ensure schools and academies are in receipt of the indicative increase in the 2024/25 LA's schools block allocation of £13.4m (2.03% per pupil year on year increase) the local authority is aiming to set the MFG to +0.5%. The MFG must be between 0.0% and 0.5% and is a way to protect the funding on a per pupil rate.

Question 1 consulted upon prioritising an increase to the MFG and the response was mainly in favour of this approach being adopted with 97% of respondents agreeing.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members are to vote on whether the proposal to set the MFG to 0.5% should be agreed.

6.2 High Needs - funding transfer from the schools block.

Rotherham continues to experience pressures on its High Needs budget which is a trend that is being experienced nationally, mainly due to the increasing EHCP numbers / exclusions / cost of out of authority SEN placements. In addition, the increasing number of pupils in mainstream schools with EHC plans requiring support, some with complex needs, continues to rise.

Following negotiations and significant work to share/develop documentation with the negotiation team from the DfE, Rotherham were invited to participate in the 'Safety Valve' arrangement .

A safety valve revenue plan for the years 2021/22 to 2025/26 was submitted and agreed. The plan included a 1.5% funding transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the 2023/2024 financial year only with no further transfers assumed in future years.

The finalised agreement sets out an investment of £20.528m to be received from the DfE across the lifespan of the agreement (2021/22 to 2025/26), which will remove the DSG deficit based on the Council's revenue assumptions including the 2023/24 1.5% block transfer request.

In 2023/24 the High Needs Block is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.217m (excluding safety valve funding) against a planned contribution to reserves of £2.068m. The planned contribution to reserves would be reduced to £851k should the overspend be realised.

In terms of the 2024/25 budget estimate the HNB pressures remain, the High Needs Block indicative allocation for 2024/25 is £57.377m. **The current 2024/25 pressure on the High Needs Block is estimated to be £1.716m when including a transfer amount of £1.210m (0.5%) from the Schools Block.** Without this transfer the pressure is estimated at £2.927m, see table below for details.

Question 2 requested a transfer of 0.5% from the schools block to support the high needs block and 29% of respondents agreed to the transfer. Of the 36 respondents, 8 (22%) responded in favour of this, 28 (78%) voted no.

It should be noted that 3 academies representing a total of 26 schools voted no. Taking each academy vote as 1 (1 in favour and 3 against) the total response rate including LA maintained schools is 55% in favour of the 0.5% transfer.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members are to vote on whether the proposal to transfer 0.5% should be agreed.

6.3 Top-slicing arrangements (impacting all mainstream schools & academies)

Pupil Growth

In accordance with Government requirements, the pupil growth fund is to meet basic need and will be for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies.

Under the current formula arrangements school & academy budgets are to be based on pupil numbers as at the October pupil census. If a school admission limit is increased from September 2023 due to expansion, interim financial support to bridge the gap is necessary to cover the period September to March (or September to August for academies).

If a growth fund is not established schools will have to meet the revenue costs of expansion from within their existing balances.

Question 3 asked if the LA should continue to provide a growth fund in 2024/2025 from reserve. There was an overwhelming response with 100% of respondents agreeing to this.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members are to vote on whether the proposal to continue with a pupil growth fund of £120,000 should be agreed.

6.4 Falling Rolls

Local authorities will be funded for growth and falling rolls in 2024/25. Rotherham will operate and distribute funding on the basis of observed differences between primary and secondary numbers on roll within each medium super output area (MSOA) between the most recent October census and the census in the previous October.

Rotherham's policies for access to falling rolls funding will be updated to reflect the DfE changes for 2024/25 including:

Access to falling rolls funding can only be provided to schools where school capacity survey (SCAP) 2022 data shows that school places will be required in the subsequent 3 to 5 years.

The removal of the restriction that schools are only eligible for falling rolls funding if they were judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted making the local policy more flexible and accessible from 2024/25.

Question 4 asked if the LA should continue to provide a falling rolls fund in 2025/2025 from reserve. A total of 35 (97%) of schools agreed with the provision of a Falling Rolls Fund.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members are to vote on whether the proposal to provide a Falling Rolls Fund should be agreed.

6.5 Central Schools Services Block

The CSSB brings together:

- Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
- Funding for on-going central functions, such as admissions.

Centrally retained spend & retained duties

The Local Authority currently retains funding centrally in order to provide / meet the following services / costs

- Admissions Service
- Servicing of the Rotherham Schools Forum
- Central licences managed by the DfE
- Central education related services which the local authority retain on behalf of all pupils in the district irrespective of school/academy setting

Question 5 of the consultation asked if funding from this block could be retained for the services outlined above.

All 36 respondents were in favour.

6.6 De-delegation arrangements (impacting on all maintained schools)

The DfE guidance permits maintained schools only to de-delegate services through the formula. Each school contributes from its delegated budget share an amount per pupil.

Schools In Financial Difficulty Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide support to the budgets of maintained primary schools where if not supported a school would be placed in a financially difficulty position that is likely to have a detrimental impact on outcomes for children.

Question 6 asked maintained primary schools if they wished to de-delegate monies to create a schools in financial difficulty fund. A total of 4 maintained schools wished to de-delegate, and 3 did not.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members (primary maintained only) are to vote on whether to create a fund.

Trade Union Facilities Time

Allows trade unions to represent and consult with their members and with the school as their employer, as local branch trade union representatives are available. This is currently offered via a service level agreement to all schools and academies who may purchase if they wish.

Question 7 asked all maintained schools if they wished to de-delegate funds, once again, for trade union facilities time rather than buy back from the portfolio of services. A total of 4 maintained school wished to de-delegate, and 3 did not.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members (maintained only) are to vote on whether to de-delegate.

School Improvement Services

This funding is to support core school improvement activities previously utilised through the former School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant. The LA's school improvement activity can be divided into 'core improvement activities' and 'additional improvement services'

Question 8: Do maintained schools wish to de-delegate funds once again for school improvement activity? Option 1 a rate of £24 per pupil or option 2 a rate of £31 per pupil. There were 3 schools chose option 1 and 4 schools chose option 2.

Required action:

Eligible Schools Forum members (maintained only) are to vote on whether to de-delegate.

2. Name and contact details

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School and Academy responses to the School Funding Formula Consultation 2024/25								
~	URN	Name of School	NOR Oct 22	Primary	Secondary	A/M	Academy/LA Maintained	Responded
139992	3724011	Wingfield Academy	995.00	0.00	995.00	A	New Collaborative Learning Trust	Y
106833	3722004	Badsley Primary School	555.00	555.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106834	3722005	Blackburn Primary School	199.00	199.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106861	3722052	Bramley Sunnyside Junior School	328.00	328.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106864	3722055	Brinsworth Manor Infant School	200.00	200.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106851	3722034	Herringthorpe Infant School	257.00	257.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106858	3722042	Sitwell Infant School	217.00	217.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
106883	3722081	Wales Primary School	208.00	208.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	Y
146467	3722130	Anston Hillcrest Primary School	208.00	208.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
144324	3722053	Brampton Cortonwood Infant School	112.00	112.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
144197	3723331	Brampton Ellis CofE Primary School	448.00	448.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
147374	3722121	Brinsworth Howarth Primary School	181.00	181.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
148013	3722043	Ferham Primary School	197.00	197.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
146492	3722061	Harthill Primary School	163.00	163.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
146470	3722082	Kiveton Park Infant School	141.00	141.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
146582	3722083	Kiveton Park Meadows Junior School	197.00	197.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
146411	3722079	Laughton Junior and Infant School	211.00	211.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
147920	3722023	Meadow View Primary School	170.00	170.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
147938	3722137	St Ann's Primary School	323.00	323.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
146866	3722097	Thurcroft Infant School	222.00	222.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
143544	3722026	Wath Central Primary School	383.00	383.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
143480	3723327	Wath Church of England Primary School	402.00	402.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
140170	3722085	Wath Victoria Primary School	277.00	277.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
106917	3722120	West Melton Primary School	92.00	92.00	0.00	A	JMAT	Y
140459	3724003	Oakwood High School	1,063.00	0.00	1,063.00	A	Inspire	Y
141060	3722037	Sitwell Junior School	302.00	302.00	0.00	A	Inspire	Y
141853	3724010	Winterhill School	870.00	0.00	870.00	A	Inspire	Y
141590	3723333	Aston All Saints CofE (A) Primary School	207.00	207.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
141589	3722132	Flanderwell Primary School	366.00	366.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
145273	3723001	Kilnhurst St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy	207.00	207.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
146068	3723329	Laughton All Saints' CofE Primary School	108.00	108.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
141455	3723332	St Alban's CofE (Aided) Primary School	215.00	215.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
106860	3722051	Swallownest Primary School	192.00	192.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
141588	3723328	Thrybergh Fullerton Church of England Primary Academy	185.00	185.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
144557	3723341	Treeton Church of England Primary School	274.00	274.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
141587	3723334	Trinity Croft CofE Primary Academy	170.00	170.00	0.00	A	DSAT	Y
143054	3722133	Aston Hall Junior and Infant School	302.00	302.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
143055	3722087	Aston Lodge Primary School	152.00	152.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
143057	3722108	Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School	247.00	247.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
143545	3724005	Clifton Community School	1,009.00	0.00	1,009.00	A	WPT	N
149198	3722044	Foljambe Primary School	115.00	115.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
145017	3722030	Monkwood Primary School	407.00	407.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
140799	3722067	Rawmarsh Ashwood Primary School	179.00	179.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
140553	3724002	Rawmarsh Community School	1,089.00	0.00	1,089.00	A	WPT	N
144490	3722028	Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School	221.00	221.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
148547	3724009	Thrybergh Academy	507.00	0.00	507.00	A	WPT	N
140993	3722014	Thrybergh Primary School	130.00	130.00	0.00	A	WPT	N
140646	3724018	Wickersley School and Sports College	1,746.00	0.00	1,746.00	A	WPT	N
141788	3722017	Herringthorpe Junior School	357.00	357.00	0.00	A	Willow Tree Academy	N
145740	3722031	Rockingham Junior and Infant School	258.00	258.00	0.00	A	Willow Tree Academy	N
144195	3722036	Roughwood Primary School	241.00	241.00	0.00	A	Willow Tree Academy	N
144325	3722140	Anston Brook Primary School	168.00	168.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
145095	3722104	Anston Park Infant School	157.00	157.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
143320	3722054	Brinsworth Manor Junior School	233.00	233.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
140109	3722139	Canklow Woods Primary School	206.00	206.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
141771	3722060	Dinnington Community Primary School	177.00	177.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
141730	3724022	Dinnington High School	853.00	0.00	853.00	A	White Woods	N
143894	3722074	Kilnhurst Primary School	168.00	168.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
143652	3723342	Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School	297.00	297.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
143321	3722075	Swinton Queen Primary School	312.00	312.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N
144198	3723003	Wentworth CofE Junior and Infant School	113.00	113.00	0.00	A	White Woods	N

	Total Schools	Responded to Consultation	
		Y	N
LA Maintained	20	7	13
JMAT	16	16	0
Aston CE Trust	8	0	8
Central Learning Partnership Trust	3	0	3
WPT	12	0	12
White Woods	14	0	14
Willow Tree Academy	3	0	3
Learners Trust	3	0	3
New Collaborative Learning Trust	4	1	3
Maltby Learning Trust	5	0	5
Inspire	3	3	0
Nexus MAT	1	0	1
Grange Trust	1	0	1
DSAT	9	9	0
LEAF	1	0	1
Catholic Voluntary Academy	2	0	2
St Francis Catholic MAT	3	0	3
	108	36	72

Phase	Responded to Consultation	
	Y	N
P	33	65
S	3	7

140115	3722093	Whiston Junior and Infant School	204.00	204.00	0.00	A	White Woods	P	N
140116	3722111	Whiston Worrygoose Junior and Infant School	212.00	212.00	0.00	A	White Woods	P	N
141337	3722016	Wickersley Northfield Primary School	416.00	416.00	0.00	A	White Woods	P	N
144323	3722134	Woodsetts Primary School	189.00	189.00	0.00	A	White Woods	p	N
139876	3723340	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	290.00	290.00	0.00	A	St Francis Catholic MAT	P	N
140590	3723338	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	125.00	125.00	0.00	A	St Francis Catholic MAT	P	N
139881	3723335	St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)	130.00	130.00	0.00	A	St Francis Catholic MAT	p	N
143481	3722063	Crags Community School	363.00	363.00	0.00	A	Nexus MAT	p	N
141537	3722124	Anston Greenlands Primary School	211.00	211.00	0.00	A	New Collaborative Learning Trust	P	N
147738	3722021	Redscope Primary School	388.00	388.00	0.00	A	New Collaborative Learning Trust	P	N
147739	3722032	Thorpe Hesley Primary School	489.00	489.00	0.00	A	New Collaborative Learning Trust	P	N
141729	3722099	Maltby Lilly Hall Academy	394.00	394.00	0.00	A	Maltby Learning Trust	P	N
141366	3722024	Maltby Manor Academy	362.00	362.00	0.00	A	Maltby Learning Trust	p	N
140583	3722112	Maltby Redwood Academy	178.00	178.00	0.00	A	Maltby Learning Trust	P	N
141731	3722066	Ravenfield Primary Academy	174.00	174.00	0.00	A	Maltby Learning Trust	p	N
145848	3724007	Wath Academy	1,608.00	0.00	1,608.00	A	Maltby Learning Trust	S	N
142978	3722116	Catcliffe Primary School	114.00	114.00	0.00	A	Learners Trust	P	N
142977	3722019	High Greave Infant School	94.00	94.00	0.00	A	Learners Trust	P	N
142976	3722018	High Greave Junior School	187.00	187.00	0.00	A	Learners Trust	P	N
141901	3722135	Greasbrough Primary School	214.00	214.00	0.00	A	LEAF	P	N
106896	3722095	Anston Park Junior School	222.00	222.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106859	3722050	Aston Fence Junior and Infant School	211.00	211.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106895	3722094	Bramley Sunnyside Infant School	228.00	228.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106835	3722006	Broom Valley Community School	375.00	375.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106845	3722022	Kimberworth Community Primary School	208.00	208.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106942	3723337	Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	204.00	204.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106875	3722070	Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior School	230.00	230.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106876	3722071	Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School	159.00	159.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106910	3722110	Rawmarsh Thorogate Junior and Infant School	214.00	214.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106962	3724601	Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities	683.00	0.00	683.00	M	LA Maintained	S	N
106944	3723339	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	198.00	198.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106849	3722029	Thornhill Primary School	291.00	291.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
106907	3722106	Todwick Primary School	213.00	213.00	0.00	M	LA Maintained	P	N
141488	3722105	Bramley Grange Primary School	228.00	228.00	0.00	A	Grange Trust	P	N
139223	3722001	Coleridge Primary	203.00	203.00	0.00	A	Central Learning Partnership Trust	P	N
139225	3722002	East Dene Primary	281.00	281.00	0.00	A	Central Learning Partnership Trust	P	N
140378	3722011	Eastwood Village Primary School	173.00	173.00	0.00	A	Central Learning Partnership Trust	P	N
139877	3723336	St Gerard's Catholic Primary School	149.00	149.00	0.00	A	Catholic Voluntary Academy	p	N
139880	3723322	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	210.00	210.00	0.00	A	Catholic Voluntary Academy	p	N
136718	3724021	Aston Academy	1,428.00	0.00	1,428.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
143482	3722122	Aughton Junior Academy	150.00	150.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
145928	3722033	Brookfield Junior Academy	231.00	231.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
141539	3722058	Listerdale Junior Academy	337.00	337.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
142139	3722100	Springwood Junior Academy	184.00	184.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
143141	3724004	Swinton Academy	902.00	0.00	902.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
138357	3722000	Thurcroft Junior Academy	249.00	249.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N
147871	3722039	Waverley Junior Academy	405.00	405.00	0.00	A	Aston CE Trust	P	N

Question	Phase	Total number of responses	Yes	No
1. Do you agree with the principle that Rotherham is adopting in terms of prioritising an increase to the MFG?	Primary	33	32	1
	Secondary	3	3	
	Total	36	35	1
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 LA's request to transfer of the 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block?	Primary	33	6	27
	Secondary	3	2	1
	Total	36	8	28
3. Do you agree that the Local Authority should continue to provide for a growth fund? It is estimated for 2024/25 a budget from reserve of £120,000 is required.	Primary	33	33	0
	Secondary	3	3	0
	Total	36	36	0
4. Do you agree that the Local Authority should continue to provide for a falling rolls fund? It is proposed the fund will be funded from reserve as with the Growth Fund?	Primary	33	30	0
	Secondary	3	2	1
	Total	36	32	1
5. Do you agree that funding from the central school services block can continue to be held centrally for the services outlined above?	Primary	33	33	0
	Secondary	3	3	0
	Total	36	36	0
6. Do maintained school wish to de-delegate monies to create a Financial Difficulties Contingency Fund of £50K to support those schools with a financial deficit position?	Primary	7	4	3
	Secondary	0	0	0
	Total	7	4	3
7. Do maintained schools wish to de delegate funds again for trade unions facilities time, they would no longer need to buy back from the portfolio of services?	Primary	7	4	3
	Secondary	0	0	0
	Total	7	4	3
8. Do maintained schools wish to de delegate funds once again to support 'core school improvement activities' £24 per pupil and 'additional improvement services' £31 per pupil?	Primary	7	£24	£31
	Secondary	0	3	4
	Total	7	3	4

Maintained or Academy	Total number of responses	Yes	No
LA Maintained	7	6	1
Academy	4	4	0
Total	11	10	1
LA Maintained	7	5	2
Academy	4	1	3
Total	11	6	5
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	4	4	0
Total	11	11	0
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	4	3	1
Total	11	10	1
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	4	4	0
Total	11	11	0
LA Maintained	7	4	3
Academy	0	0	0
Total	7	4	3
LA Maintained	7	4	3
Academy	0	0	0
Total	7	4	3
LA Maintained	7	£24	£31
Academy	0	3	4
Total	7	3	4

Maintained or Academy	Total number of responses	Yes	No
LA Maintained	7	6	1
Academy	29	29	0
Total	36	35	1
LA Maintained	7	5	2
Academy	29	3	26
Total	36	8	28
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	29	29	0
Total	36	36	0
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	29	28	1
Total	36	35	1
LA Maintained	7	7	0
Academy	29	29	0
Total	36	36	0
LA Maintained	7	4	3
Academy	0	0	0
Total	7	4	3
LA Maintained	7	4	3
Academy	0	0	0
Total	7	4	3
LA Maintained	7	£24	£31
Academy	0	3	4
Total	7	3	4

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BRIEFING	TO:	School forum
	DATE:	1 st December 2023
	LEAD OFFICER:	Pam Ward Pam.ward@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Education Safeguarding Officer
1. Background		
1.1	An Education Safeguarding Lead (ESL) was appointed in January 2023. This post has been jointly funded through a £17k contribution from Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) and the remaining £35k from schools.	
1.2	<p>Since the appointment the ESL has had a wide and varied role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Rotherham schools and nursery settings, Private, Voluntary and Independent early years sector, Post 16 and Colleges • Participation and delivery of Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities through work with schools via attendance at key RSCP Safeguarding Delivery Groups and membership of key safeguarding networks (Neglect Delivery Group, Performance, Practice and Learning Review Delivery Group, Safeguarding in Education Delivery Group, Child Exploitation Delivery Group, Child Death Overview Panel, Channel Panel, Serious Violence Group – Silver) • Leading Local Authority Safeguarding Compliance Audits to ensure that safeguarding practice, policy and systems are effective and compliant in line with Keeping Children Safe 2023. • Leading Attendance Audits • Supporting Behaviour Audits • Delivery of the termly Education Safeguarding Forums for Governors, Trustees, Heads of Schools and Designated Safeguarding Leads. • Leading training for schools, Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and governors • Provided a single point of contact for education, early years and Further Education professionals in relation to safeguarding systems, pathways, and procedures. • Multi-agency partnership work (LADO, MASH, EH, Youth Justice, Community Safety, Violence Reduction Unit, South Yorkshire Police – GRIP Team, Protective Vulnerable People Team, Counter Terrorism Team, Rotherham Public Health, Rotherham Alcohol and Drug Service, Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust) • Responding to and supporting schools with an ever-increasing number of safeguarding complaints including Ofsted safeguarding qualifying complaints. Meetings with school leaders to monitor and quality assure safeguarding practice, Leading multidisciplinary Team to assess safeguarding provision where Ofsted/HMI express concern - S11a • On site support during Ofsted inspections. • Supporting schools with a potential inadequate safeguarding judgement to achieve an 'Effective' safeguarding outcome. • Writing policies, providing updates of statutory guidance and information linked to emerging or priority issues. • LA representation on Aspire Management Committee and Governing Boards where safeguarding capacity is identified as an area which requires improvement • Education representation within RSCP Quality Assurance and Audit process • Education representative for Joint Target Area Inspection (JTAI) 	

<p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p>	<p>As a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role has ensured Rotherham schools and settings are fulfilling their safeguarding duties as required under the 2002 Education Act and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023'. • There is a growing consistency of effective safeguarding practice across settings. • There is now an LA safeguarding and attendance audit. • All maintained schools and settings are supported before and during their inspection. • There is a training and development portfolio which provides statutory training and addresses contextual/emerging safeguarding themes has been delivered (e.g., Urban Street Gang awareness raising, knife crime) • Schools have a single point of contact to discuss a range of safeguarding issues. • There is greater multidisciplinary partnership. • Education is a priority for RSCP and a new Education safeguarding driver group is evidence of this. • Senior Leaders, Governors, DSL's are supported to raise awareness and disseminate practice to embed Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership priority areas (e.g. Exploitation, Neglect) <p>There is direct partnership work between the RSCP and education settings re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective Home Education • School exclusions • Attendance data (including pupils missing from education) • SEMH • Early Years • Post pandemic legacy issues • Children's Social Care – MASH, First Response
<h2>2. Key Issues</h2>	
<p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p>Currently the Education Safeguarding Lead is fulfilling all the roles above. Schools and multi-agency partners value her advice and input but as a result there is a growing demand on her time The workload is creating service pressure and there is a risk of a single point of failure. There is a need to increase capacity or to review the roles and responsibilities of the ESL to streamline the service she can provide.</p> <p>An audit of need has highlighted additional safeguarding priorities for 2023 -24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid increase in Elective Home Education and associated safeguarding risks. • Social, emotional, and mental health increase in pupil cohorts and entrenched persistent absenteeism are areas of immediate focus across safeguarding in education. • An increase in the number of suspensions or exclusions linked to students vaping. • With an increasing number of maintained schools now in the Ofsted window there could be the need to support more than one school during Ofsted inspections. • An ever-increasing number of Ofsted complaints from parents with a large number having a specific safeguarding focus. • Enhancing the current communication plan to make sure model policies, updates of statutory guidance and information linked to emerging themes, or priority issues to support forward planning and training. • The volume of partnership meetings that require education representation. <p>The EWO would support the ESL in providing support, training and challenge for these priorities.</p>

Our regional neighbours have developed their safeguarding offer beyond one post:

- Sheffield has 6 Education Safeguarding Officers.
- Doncaster have a bespoke team of Education Safeguarding Officers

3. Key Actions and Timelines

- 3.1** A business case is to be presented to recruit an Education Safeguarding Officer who would support the work of the Education Safeguarding Lead. This Band H post would cost £46,419 per annum.
- 3.2** The Education Safeguarding Role was discussed at School Forum 22nd September 2023. It was agreed that information about a possible new Education Officer, associated funding and next steps would be disseminated at the next Forum meeting 1st December.
- 3.3** A funding formula has been developed to cover the single post for 2023-24 and to cover both posts from 2024-25.

The proposed funding formula is shown below.

SAFEGUARDING POST RECHARGES

<u>PRIMARY SCHOOLS</u>		Band	23.24, £	24.25, £
Pupil Numbers	<250	1	£200	£470
	251-300	2	£250	£588
	301-350	3	£300	£705
	351-400	4	£350	£823
	>400	5	£400	£940

<u>SECONDARY SCHOOLS</u>		Band	23.24, £	24.25, £
Pupil Numbers	<1000	6	£700	£1,645
	1001-1500	7	£1,100	£2,585
	1501-2000	8	£1,300	£3,055
	>2000	9	£1,500	£3,525

If there is agreement the position would be advertised for a possible April 2024 starting date

4. Recommendations

- 4.1** **It is recommended that Schools Forum consider these options**
- Agree proposed staffing arrangements to include the additional Safeguarding Officer post. This would lead to a review and streamlining of current responsibilities, build capacity and avoid a single point of failure.
 - Agree proposed basis of funding charge to schools for both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

5. Finance & HR Implications

5.1	In 2023/24 the Education Safeguarding Lead post has been jointly funded through a £17k contribution from Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP), with the remaining £35k to be funded from schools.
5.2	In 2024/25, the joint funding arrangement with RSCP would continue, resulting in the school contribution for the Education Safeguarding Lead totalling £39.5k. In addition, the Education Safeguarding Officer (Band H SCP 27) would cost £46.4k, an overall 2024/25 total for both posts of £85.9k. Costs include on costs and an assumed 3% pay award for 2024/25.
5.3	The proposed charging basis for schools would generate sufficient income to cover the costs in both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

BRIEFING	TO:	Schools Forum												
	DATE:	1 st December 2023												
	LEAD OFFICER:	Aileen Chambers Head of Service Early Years and Childcare												
	TITLE:	Early Years Expansion and Early Education and Childcare Strategy												
1. Background														
1.1	This purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview of the range of developments currently taking place within early years including: The DfE Early Years Expansion; The DfE Wraparound Childcare Programme; the development of a Rotherham Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy; the funding availability and the actions needed locally to meet requirements.													
1.2	<p>Early Years Expansion: In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced an expansion to the current early years entitlements – 30 hours childcare for every child over the age of 9 months with working parents by September 2025. The government are focused on giving children the best start in life and supporting parents to access affordable, high quality childcare and this expansion of funded childcare is the largest ever and will remove barriers to work for nearly half a million parents with a child under 3 in England. To enable childcare providers to prepare to deliver such a major expansion, it will be rolled out in phases to ensure there are enough places and staff ready to meet increased demand, and the funding paid to childcare providers to deliver these offers will be increased. The expansion delivery phases are:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age of child</th><th>Number of funded hours per week</th><th>Date of implementation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Term after 2nd birthday</td><td>15 hours per week</td><td>April 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Term after child is 9 months old</td><td>15 hours per week</td><td>September 2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>From term after child is 9 months old</td><td>30 hours per week</td><td>September 2025</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Childcare Sufficiency analysis in Rotherham indicates that most areas will have sufficient capacity to meet the projected demand in April 2024.</p> <p>In September 2024 there is likely to be a shortfall in Whiston, Canklow, Thurston and Brampton/West Melton South/West and possibly Aughton/Aston, Catcliffe/Treeton and Kimberworth/Kimberworth Park if the take-up levels are higher.</p> <p>By September 2025 we are likely to have an under supply of 2 year old places in Aughton/Aston, Broom/Moorgate, Catcliffe/Treeton, Thorpe Hesley and Bramley/Wickersley. Depending on the take-up levels for children under 1 year old, additional places could be required across 70% of the borough based on the current market.</p> <p>The DfE have announced a £100 million allocation for local areas to use to make sure childcare settings in their areas have enough physical space, anticipated to add thousands of new places across the country. Confirmation on allocation amounts to local authorities and accompanying guidance are awaited.</p>		Age of child	Number of funded hours per week	Date of implementation	Term after 2 nd birthday	15 hours per week	April 2024	Term after child is 9 months old	15 hours per week	September 2024	From term after child is 9 months old	30 hours per week	September 2025
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	<p>Increased capacity will be required within the Early Years team to manage the increased parental enquiries, distribution of funding to childcare providers and support for the sector to increase capacity and maintain high quality of delivery.</p> <p>LA's are able to retain a percentage of the Early Years DSG to cover central delivery. It is anticipated that the central retention will increase by approx. £380k in 2024-25. This funding currently covers the majority of the Early Years and Childcare Service delivery. A review of the structure of the Early Years and Childcare Service is underway with proposals being developed to ensure there is sufficient capacity and skills within the team to support the increased entitlement implementation.</p>
1.3	<p>The DfE consulted on the increased early years entitlements between July – September 23. The proposals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending early years pupil premium to all ages (currently only 3 / 4 year olds) • Extending Disability Access Fund to all ages (currently only 3 / 4 year olds) • Enabling LA's to retain up to 5% of all EY Block funding streams in 2024/25 (currently on 3 / 4 year old funding stream) • Reducing the LA central retention to 3% across all EY Block funding streams with the roll out of the new entitlements • Requiring a mandatory deprivation supplement across all funding rates (currently only applies to 3 / 4 year olds) <p>The outcome of the consultation is still awaited. These details as well as the funding rates for 2024/25 are required before the local funding formula can be developed.</p>
1.4	<p>Wraparound Childcare Programme: The government is investing £289 million over 2 years to support the expansion of wraparound childcare for primary school-aged pupils. The government's ambition is for all parents of primary school children who need it, to be able to access childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. This will help to ensure that parents have enough childcare to work full time, more hours and with flexible hours. The wraparound programme aims to remove barriers to setting up new provision or expanding current provision, including removing the financial risk of setting up new provision when demand is not yet guaranteed. Parents should expect to see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from September 2024, with the programme ambition being that every parent who needs to will be able to access term-time wraparound childcare by September 2026.</p> <p>The programme is designed to fund the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision where there is clear demand and remove the financial risk of setting up or expanding wraparound provision where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision from the start (but where sufficient demand may be built over time as parents are assured of the supply of places). The aim for the programme is for the substantial majority of new/expanded provision to be self-sustaining from the end of the planned programme (i.e. 2026 onwards).</p> <p>The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to make sure that there are enough childcare places within its locality for working parents or for parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).² This programme's specific focus on children in reception to year 6 fits within this age range.</p> <p>Funding to support this programme will include:</p>

	<p>Capacity funding: Funding for local authorities to use to build their internal capacity to deliver. This could include paying for a designated wraparound lead if one does not already exist.</p> <p>Programme funding: Funding for local authorities to deliver programme objectives, including to distribute to providers to set up new provision or expand existing provision.</p> <p>Capital funding: Funding for local authorities to support new / extended wraparound provision, including distribution to childcare providers. For capital projects only</p> <p>Guidance for schools will be published in early 2024.</p> <p>In Rotherham 81% of primary schools have an out of school childcare offer (either delivered by the school or by childminders). 18 schools have no out of school childcare offer.</p>								
1.6	<p>Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy: following awareness raising by the LGA, Cllr Cusworth requested that a Rotherham Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy was developed. The draft strategy is attached. Consultation with the sector has been undertaken to inform the strategy. It will be reviewed at an Improving Lives Workshop on 27th November and is due to be taken to Cabinet for approval in February 2024.</p> <p>The main aims of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents can access affordable, sufficient, high quality and fully inclusive childcare places that support early learning and working parents• Children’s early learning and development is expertly supported by a strong, skilled, and knowledgeable early years and childcare workforce• Children who may be at risk of poor outcomes are prioritised for high quality targeted support• All children have a positive journey through their early years and are well supported to transition to Foundation 2 (Reception)								
2. Funding									
2.1	<p>EY Delivery Support funding allocations: have been awarded for 2023/24 (£60,884) RMBC Grant Approval received</p>								
2.2	<p>Wraparound Childcare Programme funding:</p> <table><tr><td>FY 23-24</td><td>FY 24-25</td><td>FY 25-26</td><td>TOTAL</td></tr><tr><td>£23,022.63</td><td>£1,606,680.34</td><td>£745,641.26</td><td>£2,375,344.23</td></tr></table> <p>RMBC Grant Approval has been requested.</p>	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	TOTAL	£23,022.63	£1,606,680.34	£745,641.26	£2,375,344.23
FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	TOTAL						
£23,022.63	£1,606,680.34	£745,641.26	£2,375,344.23						
2.3	<p>Early Education Funding: The DfE have indicated that the EY Block allocations and early education rates for 2024/25 will be released by the end of November.</p>								
2.4	<p>Capital Funding: The DfE have indicated that capital funding will be allocated for both the EY Entitlement expansion and the Wraparound Childcare Programme. Further details are awaited.</p>								
3. Key Actions and Timelines									
3.1	<p>17.11.21 Deadline to submit MoU for National Wraparound Childcare Programme</p> <p>24.11.23 Deadline to return LA Readiness self-assessments for both the EY Entitlements and Wraparound</p> <p>21.11.23 Improving Lives Workshop – Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy</p> <p>Dec 23: On receipt of EY Block funding for 24/25 – develop local funding formula proposal and submit options to DLT</p>								

	Dec / Jan: Recruit an additional EY Technical Support Officer to ensure readiness to meet the increased processing of early education funding.
	Dec 23: Review the structure of the Early Years and Childcare team, identify additional capacity requirements and timescales to implement.
	Dec 23: Recruit a Wraparound Lead and establish a Wraparound Programme Working Group
	Jan / Feb 24: Consult on Early Education Local Funding Formula proposals
	Feb 24: Finalise Early Education Local Funding Formula and present to Schools Forum
	Feb 24: Early Years Education and Childcare Strategy to Cabinet
	Feb 24: Submit Wraparound Childcare Programme Delivery Plan for use of LA capacity funding
	June 24: Local authorities to submit Wraparound Childcare Programme Delivery Plan for programme funding
4. Recommendations	
4.1	Note and approve the content of the report