

Public Document Pack

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Chris Tomes (Vice-Chair), Isabel Cooke, Joolz Scarlett, Sarah Cottle, Andrew Morrison, Neil Dimpleby, Eddie Neighbour, Catherine Page, Tim Fettes and Ben Bausor

Thursday 18 January 2024 2.00 pm

Virtual Meeting - Online access & on [RBWM YouTube](#)

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Agenda

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1	Apologies for Absence To receive apologies for absence.	-
2	Declarations of Interest To receive any Declarations of Interest.	3 - 4
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting To confirm the minutes from the previous meeting.	5 - 10
4	Finance Update 2023/24 The Forum to consider the report from Louise Dutton, Head of Finance (Achieving for Children, AfC).	11 - 20
5	2024-25 Early Years Funding Consultation proposals and DSG funding update The Forum to consider the report from Tracey Anne-Nevitt, Business Finance Partner for Schools and Early Years (AfC).	21 - 46
6	2024-25 Schools Funding Update The Forum to consider the report from Tracey Anne-Nevitt, Business Finance Partner for Schools and Early Years (AfC).	To Follow

By attending this meeting, participants are consenting to the audio & visual recording being permitted and acknowledge that this shall remain accessible in the public domain permanently.

Please contact Laurence Ellis, Laurence.Ellis@RBWM.gov.uk, with any special requests that you may have when attending this meeting.

Published: 10th January 2024



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MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

DPIs (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- *Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.*
- *Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses*
- *Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.*
- *Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) *that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, and*
 - b) *either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.*

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.** If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests:

- a) any unpaid directorships
 - b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
 - c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, or a body included under Other Registerable Interests in Table 2 you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a financial interest or well-being of a body included under Other Registerable Interests as set out in Table 2 (as set out above and in the Members' code of Conduct)

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

Agenda Item 3

SCHOOLS FORUM

Thursday 14 December 2023

Present (virtually): Chris Tomes (Churchmead) (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Isabel Cooke (White Waltham), Catherine Page (Oldfield Primary), Neil Dimpleby (Altwood), Ben Bausor (Early Year PVI), Joolz Scarlett (Manor Green), Sarah Cottle (Maidenhead Nursery Federation), and Eddie Neighbour (Pioneer Academy).

Officers (virtually): Louise Dutton, Clive Haines, Tracey Anne-Nevitt, Sarah Ward and Laurence Ellis

Apologies for Absence

The Vice-Chair in the Chair, Chris Tomes (Churchmead), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Forum members then introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from Tim Fettes (Holy Trinity CE Primary) and Andrew Morrison (Furze Platt Senior).

Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Louise Dutton, Head of Finance (Achieving for Children, AfC), highlighted that the minutes stated that the Forum had voted for Option C in regard to the Growth Funding, claiming that they actually voted for Option B.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

Strategy for Maintained Schools in Deficit

Clive Haines, Deputy Director for Education (AfC), explained that the RBWM Schools Strategy to Support Maintained Schools in Financial Difficulty had materialised because the central government had allocated some additional funding to some local authorities (LAs) which were experiencing financial difficulties (notably deficits). He further stated that this funding strategy applied to maintained schools, nurseries, and special schools; but did not apply to academies (which would receive separate funding) and private voluntary nurseries.

For 2024-25, RBWM had been allocated around £220,000 in order to support schools with deficit budgets. Based on this, an eligibility strategy was formulated to implement this. Clive Haines informed that the report was for Schools Forum to adopt the strategy.

The eligible criteria (based on current trends) would encompass:

- Falling numbers on roll,
- Engagement with the Schools Management Resource (SMR) Advisors through their reports,
- A garrison intake – military schools that provides the primary education for the children of the armed forces,
- Larger than usual disadvantaged intake.

The strategy included strategic aims and sustainabilities under each of the eligibility criteria (detailed in Table 1, page 22 of the report).

Discussing the transparency and governance of the strategy, Clive Haines informed that:

- Schools would be selected against the strategy criteria and invited to submit an application based on the criteria.
- A suggestion that a panel be formed consisting of Schools Forum representatives with applicants being invited to present their cases to this panel.
- The panel would have a set terms of reference with delegated powers where it would agree/disagree each application and decide on the amount to be awarded based on the strategic aims and sustainabilities, ensuring the funding would help schools become more sustainable with their budgets in the future.
- Schools Forum would have the responsibility to monitor the grant budget, whereby the reports and grant budgets would be presented to Schools Forum in order to have governance around this strategy.

Clive Haines requested for Schools Forum to adopt the strategy and to take in the panel membership and the reporting governance into the Forum.

Joolz Scarlett (Manor Green) asked whether the number of schools which could be eligible had been identified. Clive Haines replied that he identified the potentially eligible schools but added that he could not reveal this publicly at the moment. Nevertheless, Louise Dutton informed that around 4 or 5 schools were potentially eligible.

The Chair asked whether schools needed to meet every single part of the criteria. Clive Haines replied that they did not, only a selection of the criteria. He reiterated that the criteria was set against the current trends which schools were experiencing that had put them into a deficit.

Neil Dimbleby (Altwood) asked about the timeframe for schools to apply, and then asked whether this would be all-in-one or would schools have to apply at different stages of the year. While needing confirmation with AfC finance officers, Clive Haines believed that it was all-in-one and applications had to be submitted in the first quarter of 2024. Neil Dimbleby stated that he would be happy if it was the case.

Neil Dimbleby then asked about the phrase “greater than usual” in regard to the number of challenging students, opining that the wording sounded a bit “woolly”. Clive Haines explained that it was difficult to place a definite criterion trigger and added that an example of a school meeting this criterion could be the number of students with EHCPs (Education Health and Care Plans) or on the SEN – K register (Special Educational Needs) in which the school had.

The Chair asked for confirmation on whether this would be allocated before the end of the current financial year. Louise Dutton answered that the funding needed be allocated and distributed to schools by the end of March 2024.

Ben Bausor (Early Year PVI) asked whether the process would involve the school requesting for a specific amount of funding or the panel deciding the amount to specific schools. Clive Haines replied that £220,000 was not a huge amount of money; therefore, it would be based on the application and then be distributed on the information AfC possessed on the budget deficits of each school. He added that this was the reason that a panel was required: to give this allocation strong governance.

The Chair asked for clarification on whether the aforementioned panel would be composed of members of Schools Forum who would then be invited to a meeting in the next school term. Clive Haines answered that the panel meeting would be separate to the Schools Forum meeting, but its activities would be reported back into Schools Forum.

Referring to the lack of engagement from headteachers on the financial aspects of schools, Catherine Page (Oldfield Primary) asked whether the eligible schools would be directly contacted so that they were aware of this. Clive Haines confirmed this, and that it would be based on the information which AfC had on each school.

Louise Dutton added that AfC would be contacting all schools and then set out the strategy and the guidance. If the school believed that they were eligible for the funding, they could submit an application. The likely next step would be for the local authority to do a triage on which schools met the criteria before their application was presented to the panel.

Joolz Scarlett commented that there would need to be a more definitive definition with the “greater than usual” or some metrics put in place if the aforementioned process was to be followed, so that schools knew that they had a higher-than-average number of students with EHCPs or were on SEN – K register. Clive Haines suggested that this criterion could be amended to ‘high number of EHCP plans’.

The Chair asked the Forum whether they were happy with the aforementioned amendment, whereby the change of wording would be linked to the number of EHCPs.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY: RBWM Schools Strategy to Support Maintained Schools in Financial Difficulty with the added amendment of rewording the criterion to ‘high number of EHCP plans’.

2024-25 Schools Formula Funding Consultation outcome and DSG Budget update

Tracey Anne-Nevitt, Business Finance Partner for Schools and Early Years (AfC), introduced the report as an update on the schools funding consultation as well as an update on the recent announcement of early years funding for 2024-25, the de-delegation rates, and the central schools budget.

The schools funding consultation had ended on 1st December 2023 with 25 schools forwarding responses (42% of schools who received the consultation). Tracey Anne-Nevitt then went through the questions in the consultation and the responses from the schools:

- The proposal to retain the minimum funding guarantee at 0.5% for mainstream schools was supported by 92% of respondents.
- The continuation of the capping and scaling in the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) was supported by 64% of respondents.
- For the sparsity factor, the option with the highest support was Option 1: increase sparsity by 10% increase (the minimum increase to apply). Tracey Anne-Nevitt reminded the Forum that the sparsity was introduced to the formula for the first year (2023-24) with AfC gradually adding to this factor.
- For the headroom allocation, Option 1 had the highest support (52% support) which would be applying additional funding to the four formula factors which were funded below the NFF (national funding formula) levels.
- On de-delegation (which only applied to maintained schools), where a table of rates for the proposed rates for 2023-24 was provided to the consultation, including the School Improvement Service being partly de-delegated, 60% of maintained schools supported the de-delegation of school improvement, with one responding with ‘no’ and another 5 (33%) responding with ‘unsure’.

Regarding the low response rates from schools to consultations, Sarah Cottle (Maidenhead Nursery Federation) wondered whether a different approach could improve responses from schools, such as a short Zoom chat.

Louise Dutton responded that a drop-in session through Google Meets was offered, with an invite being sent out to headteachers and school business managers (including academies) but only four of these had joined the drop-in session. Concluding that a drop-in session did not

work, Louise Dutton informed that AfC would consider further actions they could do for 2024 in hopes of increasing responses. One option she mentioned was that AfC officers could attend headteacher meetings and present the information to them, possibly before a consultation was sent out, to give them insight on what was coming up.

The Chair agreed that there would likely be improved responses at headteacher meetings, stating that this was important for headteachers as it had significant impact on their school budgets. Louise Dutton added that she once came across a headteacher of an academy who believed that academies were not affected. From this, she highlighted that AfC needed to ensure that the message was being sent out and the right people received it.

Isabel Cooke highlighted that headteachers and school business managers received a high volume of emails, and as a result, they would likely miss important emails, such as consultations. As such, she believed that engaging through headteacher forums would be beneficial.

Continuing with her report, Tracey Anne-Nevitt highlighted the table which detailed the proposed de-delegation rates for 2024-25, adding that this table was brought to Schools Forum annually. She stated that the representatives for maintained schools were required to approve the de-delegation rates to go into the formula funding for the new financial year (2024-25).

Catherine Page, representing a maintained primary school, and the Chair, representing a maintained secondary school, approved the de-delegation rates.

AGREED: To approve the de-delegation rates to go into the formula funding for the financial year 2024-25.

Tracey Anne-Nevitt then moved onto the Central School Services Budgets (Table 3), explaining that this was to give the Forum an update on the budgets for places in independent schools – non-SEN, Admissions Team and servicing Schools Forum. She requested for the Forum to support these areas.

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED: To support the Central School Services Budgets.

Tracey Anne-Nevitt then moved onto the Early Years Funding Notification. She explained that at the end of November 2023, the Borough received an update on the outcome of the Early Years Funding consultation which central government carried out with local authorities. They also sent over the Early Years Local Authority Funding Rates (Table 4), which illustrated the RBWM rates per entitlement (Under aged 2, 2-year-olds, and 3- and 4-year-olds) for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Tracey Anne-Nevitt then discussed the Early Years Block Funding (Table 5), stating that these were illustrative rates based on estimates on the PTEs (part-time equivalent) from the central government.

Tracey Anne-Nevitt then informed that the AfC School Finance Team were working on the next consultation which would be brought to the Forum at the next meeting in January 2024 to showcase the details on the formula proposals. From there, this consultation would be sent out to schools so they could give their feedback on the proposals for April 2024 onwards.

The Forum noted the Early Years Block Funding.

The Chair concluded the meeting by wishing all attendees a Happy Christmas.

The meeting, which began at 2.02 am, finished at 2.28 pm

Chair.....

Date.....

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Report Title:	Finance Update 2023/24
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No – Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Amy Tisi
Meeting and Date:	Schools Forum 18 January 2024
Responsible Officer(s):	Lin Ferguson - Executive Director of Children’s Services Louise Dutton - Head of Finance Achieving for Children (RBWM)
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with the financial position for financial year 2023/24 along with a summary of associated material variances, and the projected reserve deficit balance. Details are set out in sections 2 to 4.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Schools Forum notes the report:

- including the reported variance for the financial year 2023/24, and the projected deficit balance carried forward.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Schools Forum to note the contents of the report and impact on the projected reserve deficit balance as at 31 March 2024. This is the recommended option.	Continued monitoring and timely reporting of material variances throughout 2023/24 reported to appropriate stakeholders including Schools Forums and RBWM Cabinet. This would enable up to date and accurate reporting of the projected reserve deficit as at 31 March 2024.
Do nothing. This is not recommended.	The failure to use relevant financial information to understand the position of the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve.

2.1 The recommended option to note the contents of the report and impact on the projected reserve deficit balance as at 31 March 2024 will ensure an

understanding of the Dedicated Schools Grant financial position for 2023/24 and the cumulative deficit.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The thresholds for measuring the effectiveness have been set in table 2. Therefore, the measure has been met.

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Schools Forum to note the contents of the report and impact on the projected reserve deficit balance as at 31 March 2024	Greater than 3% movement in reported variance of central schools budget as at 31 March 2024	Less than 3% movement in reported variance of central schools budget as at 31 March 2024	Less than 2% movement in reported variance of central schools budget as at 31 March 2024	Less than 1% movement in reported variance of central schools budget as at 31 March 2024	16 November 2023

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The settlement for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for 2023/24 (including Academy schools) budget notification is £150.428m with net retained funding of £75.663m.
- 4.2 Table 3 breaks down the grant allocation by agreed application and between the element that will be administered by the local Authority and the proportion that will be recouped by the DfE for academies, non-maintained independent special schools and further education colleges.
- 4.3 **Table 3: DSG Allocation 2023/24**

DSG Block	Total DSG budget (£m)	Academy Recoupment (£m)	LA Retained budget (£m)
Schools Block	109.814	(73.331)	36.483
Central Schools Services Block	0.995	0.000	0.995
High Needs Block	28.352	(1.435)	26.917

Early Years Block	11.267	0.000	11.267
Total DSG	150.428	(74.765)	75.663

4.4 The dedicated schools grant budget for the financial year 2023/24 is projected to overspend by £0.252m representing 0.1% of the total DSG allocation for 2023/24. Table 4 outlines the allocation and projected spend for each of the four blocks.

4.5 **Table 4: Summarised Financial Position 2023/24**

DSG Block	Budget 2023/24 (£m)	Month 6 Projection (£m)	Variance (£m)
Schools Block	36.483	35.878	(0.605)
Central Schools Services Block	0.995	1.044	0.050
High Needs Block	26.917	28.135	1.218
Early Years Block	11.267	10.856	(0.411)
Total DSG	75.663	75.852	0.252
Balance brought forward DSG general reserve (surplus) / deficit			1.106
Net (surplus) /deficit			1.358

4.6 The main reasons for the Dedicated Schools Grant net overspend of £0.252m are as follows:

- The Schools Block underspend (£0.605m) relates to the release of an uncommitted pupil growth fund as no additional school places have been required this year, the underspend represents 54% of the budget allocation.
- The Early Years Block underspend (£0.411m) reflects the projected funding levels compared to actual levels of provision as reported through census data, the underspend represents 4% of the budget allocation. The January 2024 census data is unknown at the time of writing the report. The final outturn position will be predicated on this census.
- The High Needs Block overspend (£1.218m) is primarily due to provision of Independent Special or Non-Maintained Schools and other associated direct support and increase in top up funding for pupils in mainstream schools. The overspend represents 5% of the budget allocation.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6. RISK MANAGMENT

- 6.1 There are no potential risks directly arising from this report, however, the requirement from the DfE is RBWM/AfC will update and agree a Deficit Management Plan to address the cumulative deficit position in the short to medium term.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 Equalities. Equality Impact Assessments are published on the [council's website](#). The Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the council to ensure that when considering any new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure the impacts on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups, have been considered. It has been assessed that there are no Equality Impact risks arising from this report. Link to Equality Impact Assessments. <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/equalities-and-diversity/equality-impact-assessments>
- 7.2 Climate change/sustainability. There are no climate change/ sustainability risks arising from this report.
- 7.3 Data Protection/GDPR. There are no data protection/ GDPR risks arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There is no requirement for stakeholder consultation arising from this report.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 There is no timetable for implementation of any actions arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 This report is supported by one background document:
- Schools revenue funding 2023/24 Operational guide [Schools operational guide: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

11. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officer (or deputy)</i>			
Elizabeth Griffiths	Executive Director of Resources & S151 Officer		
Elaine Browne	Deputy Director of Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer		
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Deputy Director of Finance & Deputy S151 Officer		
Jane Cryer	Principal Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer		
<i>Mandatory: Procurement Manager (or deputy) - if report requests approval to go to tender or award a contract</i>			
Lyn Hitchinson	Procurement Manager		
<i>Mandatory: Data Protection Officer (or deputy) - if decision will result in processing of personal data; to advise on DPIA</i>			
Samantha Wootton	Data Protection Officer		
<i>Mandatory: Equalities Officer – to advise on EQiA, or agree an EQiA is not required</i>			
Ellen McManus-Fry	Equalities & Engagement Officer		
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Stephen Evans	Chief Executive		
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place		
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Health		
Lin Ferguson	Executive Director of Children's Services & Education		
<i>Assistant Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Clive Haines	Deputy Director of Education		
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
N/A			
Cllr Tisi	Cabinet Member for Children Services		

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For information	No	No
Report Author: Louise Dutton, Head of Finance – Achieving for Children		

Equality Impact Assessment

For support in completing this EQIA, please consult the EQIA Guidance Document or contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

1. Background Information

Title of policy/strategy/plan:	Finance Update 2023/24
Service area:	Schools
Directorate:	Children's Services

Provide a brief explanation of the proposal:

- What are its intended outcomes?
- Who will deliver it?
- Is it a new proposal or a change to an existing one?

The intended outcome of the proposal is to provide Schools Forum with an updated financial position in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grants reported variance, deficit balance as of 31 March 2024.

This is not a new proposal and is a requirement to inform Schools Forum of the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

2. Relevance Check

Is this proposal likely to directly impact people, communities or RBWM employees?

- If No, please explain why not, including how you've considered equality issues.
- Will this proposal need a EQIA at a later stage? (for example, for a forthcoming action plan)

Yes.

The Deficit Management Plan developed may impact on the current range of services provided for pupils within this characteristic. The impact will be continually reviewed and reassessed. The expectation is more appropriate provision will be provided to pupils within this characteristic.

If 'No', proceed to 'Sign off'. If unsure, please contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

3. Evidence Gathering and Stakeholder Engagement

<p>Who will be affected by this proposal? For example, users of a particular service, residents of a geographical area, staff</p>
<p>Stakeholders including pupils with disabilities will be directly affected by the proposals included within this report.</p>
<p>Among those affected by the proposal, are protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership) disproportionately represented? For example, compared to the general population do a higher proportion have disabilities?</p>
<p>Stakeholders including pupils with disabilities will be directly affected by the proposals included within this report.</p>
<p>What engagement/consultation has been undertaken or planned?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has/will equality considerations be taken into account? • Where known, what were the outcomes of this engagement?
<p>Schools Forum is actively engaged throughout the Schools Formula budget setting. Within the Deficit Management Plan strategy there was a series of stakeholder surveys and engagement sessions undertaken with key groups.</p>
<p>What sources of data and evidence have been used in this assessment? Please consult the Equalities Evidence Grid for relevant data. Examples of other possible sources of information are in the Guidance document.</p>
<p>Not Applicable</p>

4. Equality Analysis

Please detail, **using supporting evidence**:

- How the protected characteristics below might influence the needs and experiences of individuals, in relation to this proposal.
- How these characteristics might affect the impact of this proposal.

Tick positive/negative impact as appropriate. If there is no impact, or a neutral impact, state 'Not Applicable'

More information on each protected characteristic is provided in the Guidance document.

	Details and supporting evidence	Potential positive impact	Potential negative impact
Age	This report does impact on pupils within this protected characteristic; however, as school funding is on a formula basis impact has already been considered within previous reports and decision-making processes	Yes	Not Applicable
Disability	The Deficit Management Plan developed may impact on the current range of services provided for pupils within this characteristic. The impact will be continually reviewed and reassessed. The expectation is more appropriate provision will be provided to pupils within this characteristic.	Yes	Yes
Sex	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Race, ethnicity and religion	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Sexual orientation and gender reassignment	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Pregnancy and maternity	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Marriage and civil partnership	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Armed forces community	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Socio-economic considerations e.g. low income, poverty	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Children in care/Care leavers	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

5. Impact Assessment and Monitoring

If you have not identified any disproportionate impacts and the questions below are not applicable, leave them blank and proceed to Sign Off.

<p>What measures have been taken to ensure that groups with protected characteristics are able to benefit from this change, or are not disadvantaged by it?</p> <p>For example, adjustments needed to accommodate the needs of a particular group</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Where a potential negative impact cannot be avoided, what measures have been put in place to mitigate or minimise this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planned future actions, provide the name of the responsible individual and the target date for implementation. <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>How will the equality impacts identified here be monitored and reviewed in the future?</p> <p>See guidance document for examples of appropriate stages to review an EQIA.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>

6. Sign Off

Completed by: Louise Dutton	Date: 25-10-23
Approved by:	Date:

If this version of the EQIA has been reviewed and/or updated:

Reviewed by:	Date:
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Report Title:	2024-25 Early Years Funding Consultation proposals and DSG funding update.
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No – Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Amy Tisi
Meeting and Date:	Schools Forum 18 January 2024.
Responsible Officer(s):	Lin Ferguson – Executive Director of Children’s Services and Education Tracey Anne Nevitt – Finance Business Partner Kelly Nash
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the schools Forum with the 2024-25 early years formula funding consultation proposals for 2024-25 and an update on the 2024-25 DSG notifications.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Schools Forum notes the report includes:

- The proposals for early years funding consultation with RBWM providers.
- Update on the Early Years Funding announcement for 2024-25 to note.
- Early years block central expenditure and passthrough estimate.
- Latest Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement for 2024-25.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report.

Option	Comments
Schools Forum to note the contents of the report, comment and signify support for Early Years consultation outcome. This is the recommended option.	Compliance with ESFA Schools Operational Guidance and School Finance Regulations
Do nothing. This is not recommended.	The failure to use relevant financial information to understand the position of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Background

- 1.1 Each year local authorities are notified of the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Each local authority consults with the Schools Forum on schools and early years local formula. This report concentrates on Early Years funding formula, the recent ESFA funding announcement and the latest DSG settlement.
- 1.2 The government have published a number of guides and details on the responses to the government consultation. An 'Easy Guide' link can be found [here](#).
- 1.3 Currently local authorities receive funding for all parents of 3-4 year olds so they can access 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year and eligible working parents can access an additional 15 hours of free entitlement. The eligible working parent criteria can be found in Appendix B of this report.
- 1.4 Parents of disadvantaged 2-year olds can access up to 15 hours of free entitlement.
- 1.5 The government is extending the eligibility to free entitlement so that all eligible working parents will be able to access 30 hours of free entitlement for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child turns 9 months old. This will be rolled out in stages:
 - From April 2024 all eligible working parents of 2-year olds can access 15 hours per week
 - From September 2024 all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 15 hours per work extending to 30 hours from September 2025.
- 1.6 The ESFA guidance states that the local authorities are to apply the same funding rules to the new 2 year old and Under 2s funding which currently apply to the 3-4 year old funding which are as follows:
 - LAs must use a universal base rate of funding for all providers regardless of type;
 - LAs must plan to pass-through at least **95%** of the funding that it receives in 2024/25 to early years providers (rising to 97% in future years).
 - LAs are required to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF) to support children who are taking up the 3-4 year old free entitlements, targeted at children with lower level and emerging SEN needs.
 - LAs can use a restricted number of supplements in their funding formula to channel additional funding (up to a cap of 12% of planned formula funding to providers) meeting criteria set by the LA.

- 1.7 Guidance from the ESFA states the importance of recognising deprivation within the local funding approach to ensure that funding is targeted at those areas and cohorts that need it most.
- 1.8 Allowable funding supplements for 2024-25 include:
- Deprivation
 - Quality
 - Rurality
 - Flexibility
- 1.9 The information within this report reflects the most up to date information at the time of writing this report.

2 Key Implications

Table 2

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.	No engagement by the Schools Forum.	Schools Forum to comment and support the local authority consultation proposals	Schools Forum engage with the process providing insight into the impact on RBWM settings.	Schools Forum engage with the process providing insight into the impact on RBWM Early Years settings	18 January 2024

4. RBWM Early Years Funding Formula Consultation

Approach

- 4.1 In 2024-25 as in previous years, each local authority is to continue to set a local Early Years funding formula, in consultation with settings. The early years consultation will be sent to all Early Year's providers and one response will be accepted from each Private, voluntary & Independent (PVI) setting or maintained School.
- 4.2 The 2024-25 Early Years consultation will include a number of in principle questions for settings to respond to and an opportunity to comment on the individual proposals. To allow time for the local authority to notify settings of the

new local hourly rates by early February 2024, the consultation will close on the 30th January 2024.

- 4.3 For 2024-25 RBWM is proposing a consistent approach to funding all age groups in receipt of the free entitlements. In line with the current funding methodology for 3 & 4 year olds, the models in this report include two supplements of deprivation and quality for all age groups and a local limit on the central element for the financial year 2024-25.
- 4.4 In 2023-24 the RBWM three and four year old free entitlement funding is allocated to settings via a base rate and two supplements. Each supplement has 3 bandings of high, medium and low, with different hourly rates for each. Appendices B includes details of the 2023-24 supplements and eligibility. Operational guidance states that the deprivation supplement is mandatory for the 3 & 4 year old element of the free entitlement and will continue to be mandatory for the financial year 2024-25.
- 4.5 The supplement for quality of provision is to support workforce qualifications or system leadership. This discretionary rate recognises settings with staff qualified to level 3 or above and encourage settings to having aspirational views with regard to staff recruitment, retention and training. Resulting in the children accessing a higher quality provision overall.

Special Educational Need Inclusion Funding (SENIF)

- 4.6 The RBWM SEN Inclusion Fund was first established in the financial year 2017-18 for 3 and 4 year olds in the Early Years sector. Over the years the demand on the service and funding has increase significantly. Appendix C details the referral numbers per academic year.
- 4.7 For 2024-25 RBWM proposes to increase the locally set SENIF rates by 4%. The table below details the current rates and matrix.

Table 3 RBWM SEN Inclusion Matrix

2023-24 RBWM Funding Matrix

SEN Inclusion Funding by Band

The vast majority of EYIF requests are anticipated to fall within Band A and B. A very limited number of requests are anticipated to fall within higher bands/ Band C.

Band	SEND category	Funding per term	Funding per year
A	Low/Emerging needs/Early Intervention graduated support	Up to £600*	£1800
B	Moderate to High Needs graduated support	Up to £1060**	£3180
C	Complex Needs level of funding	Discussed on a case by case basis	Discussed on a case by case basis

* Based on the child accessing their full entitlement of 15 or 30 hours per week

** Band values are subject to change and available budget

5. Consultation Models

- 5.1 In considering the shape of the new funding formulae at provider level the local authority needs to consider what level of funding is needed to support Early Years providers centrally and how much SENIF (SEN Inclusion Funding) is required. The remaining funding after taking these two factors into account is available for the new early years funding formulae.
- 5.2 The next consideration is achieving passthrough of a minimum of 95%. For the financial year 2023-24 local authorities are required to achieve passthrough of 95% of the 3 & 4 year old entitlements only. Currently 2 year old free entitlement for disadvantaged pupils does not have a passthrough calculation. For 2024-25 local authorities are required to ensure a minimum 95% passthrough for all new and current free entitlements individually. RBWM's current passthrough for 3 & 4 year olds is 96%.
- 5.3 After accounting for the costs associated with central support and the rising demand for the SEN inclusion fund, the following percentage allocations of the local authority funding rate for each age group. Two models are listed for consultation with the Schools Forum in Table 5. Table 4 contains the latest ESFA Local Authority hourly rates for Windsor and Maidenhead.

Table 4 Local Authority Hourly Rates - Windsor and Maidenhead:

Local Authority Hourly rates.	Early Years Block:			
	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	
	£	£	£	
	RBWM	RBWM	National Average	Note
Under 2's.	N/A	12.52	11.22	Sept 2024 onwards
2 year olds.	6.87	9.23	8.28	
3 + 4 year olds.	5.61	6.53	5.91	

Table 5 Proposed Percentage Allocations:

Model A				Model B		
LA Hourly rate % allocation	3 & 4 year olds	2 year olds	Under 2's	3 & 4 year olds	2 year olds	Under 2's
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Base rate	85	85	85	87.5	87.5	87.5
Supplements	9	9	9	7	7	7
SEN Inclusion Fund	2	2	2	1.5	1.5	1.5
Passthrough target	96	96	96	96	96	96
Central Expenditure	4	4	4	4	4	4
Percentage overall	100	100	100	100	100	100

- 5.4 The ESFA guidance allows local authorities to have the flexibility to either treat the two 2-year old entitlements the same or set individual rates. RBWM is proposing one provider rate for both 2 year old entitlements, as shown in the table above.
- 5.5 Table 6 lists the proposed provider hourly rates per supplement per model, with illustrative budget estimates detailed in table 7.

- 5.6 Hourly allocations for the two supplements are split evenly between Deprivation and Quality. The table below details the estimated rates for models A & B. Appendices B details the eligibility for each banding.
- 5.7 RBWM currently allocate 9% of the budget through the supplements, which is replicated in Model A. Model B gives the option of reducing the amount through supplements and SEN Inclusion and increasing the base rate.

Table 6 Rates per hour

Model A		Model B					
Hourly Rates		£	£	£	£	£	£
		3 & 4yr	2 year old	Under 2's	3 & 4 year	2 year old	Under 2s
Base rate estimate		5.55	7.85	10.64	5.71	8.08	10.96
Deprivation	High	0.39	0.55	0.75	0.33	0.46	0.63
	Medium	0.26	0.37	0.50	0.20	0.28	0.38
	Low	0.13	0.18	0.25	0.13	0.18	0.25
Quality	High	0.39	0.55	0.75	0.33	0.46	0.63
	Medium	0.26	0.37	0.50	0.20	0.28	0.38
	Low	0.13	0.18	0.25	0.13	0.18	0.25

- 5.8 Table 7 details the budget estimates based on the illustrative funding notification in November 2023, split as per models A and B. Final budget allocations will be published in the annual S251 Budget Statement submitted to the ESFA. Please note that the ring-fenced funding elements; Maintained Nursery School Supplement (MNS), Disability Access Fund (DAF) and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) are not included in the figures below.

Table 7 Budget Estimate – Free Entitlements 2024-25

	Model A		Model B	
	£'000s	%	£'000s	%
Providers Allocations:				
Under 2's	1,789	94%	1,799	94.50%
2 year olds	3,374	94%	3,392	94.50%
3 & 4 year olds	11,057	94%	11,115	94.50%
SEN Inclusion fund	345	2%	259	1.50%
Central Element	690	4%	690	4%
	17,255		17,255	
Illustrative LA funding allocations Nov'23 - Entitlements	17,255		17,255	

6. Consultation questions

- 6.1 The proposed consultation questions include in principle questions and support for the central retention percentage for 2024-25.
- 6.2 The first question relates to the central retention.

Q1:-Local authorities are allowed to retain up to 5% of the individual entitlements for central support expenditure. Do you support a local cap on the central element at 4% for 2024-25, ensuring further funding is available for higher hourly rates / SEN inclusion funding to providers?

- Yes
- No. (state reasons & %)
- Unsure
- Comments

- 6.3 RBWM proposes a consistent approach to the funding of each entitlement that applies two supplements to each age group plus the base rate. Guidance from the ESFA states the importance of recognising deprivation within the local funding approach to ensure that funding is targeted at those areas and cohorts that need it most.

Q2. Do you agree with the RBWM proposed approach to fund all entitlements via a base rate and two supplements; deprivation and quality?

Please note that for the 3 and 4 year old entitlement the deprivation supplement is mandatory and ESFA has stated the importance of recognising deprivation in the local funding approach for two year old funding for 2024-25.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Comments

6.4 Two year old funding is split into 2 entitlements; disadvantaged pupils and eligible working parents. RBWM proposes to fund all two year olds on the same base rates plus supplements, recognising levels of deprivation and quality'.

Q3: Do you agree with the RBWM proposed approach to fund the same rates for two year old disadvantaged pupils and two year old working parents ? Each setting would receive the base rate + two supplements banded high to low, recognising deprivation and quality (see appendix B for more detail on the supplement bandings).

- Yes
- *No - Two separate rates for disadvantaged and working parents. Please state reasons.*
- *Unsure.*
- *Comments.*

6.5 Financial model A replicates the current funding model allocating 9% of the budget through provider supplements with SENIF at 2% & B model allocates 7% through provider supplements with SENIF at 1.5%.

Q4: Which of the two models (A & B) do you support?

- Model A.
- Model B.
- Unsure.
- Comments.

6.6 SENIF Matrix values Inflation uplift 2024-25.

Q5: Do support the proposed inflation uplift for the SENIF matrix values of 4%?

- Yes
- No
- Comment

SENIF Matrix Values	2023-23 Termly £	Annual £	2024-25 Termly £	Annual £
Band A – Low /Emerging	600	1,800	625	1,875
Band B – Moderate - High	1,060	3,180	1,105	3,315
Band C - individual rates	N/A		N/A	

6.7 The consultation results will be reported to the Schools Forum at the next meeting on the 16th May 2024. Providers will be sent the new 2024-25 base rates and the final agreed table of supplements in February 2024.

6.8 A review of all funding allocations will take place in 2025-26 to assess the final 2024-25 allocations and level of supplements generated by the new entitlements.

7. Early Years Funding Notification Summary

7.1 On the 29th November 2023 the ESFA published the outcome of the Early Years Funding consultation and updated the operational guidance relating to 2024-25 Early years funding. Included in the announcement are the funding rates for each local authority for both existing and new early years entitlements.

Table 8 Early Years Block Funding.

<u>Early Years Block</u>	2023-24 DSG Census PTEs	2024-25 ESFA Estimate PTEs	Notes
<u>Entitlements</u>			
Under 2's	N/A	267	22 weeks (Sept-March)
2 year olds	156	682	
3 + 4 year olds:			
Universal	2,298	2,298	
Additional	861	861	
<u>Early years Funding</u>	£'000	£'000	
Under 2's	N/A	1,903	Part year funding
2 years old	610	3,590	
3 + 4 year olds:			
Universal	7,349	8,554	
Additional	2,756	3,208	
MNS Supplementary	478	585	
EYPP	40	66	December notification
DAF	34	63	December notification
	11,267	17,969	

8. Table 9 Dedicated Schools Grant 2024-25 - Grant notification

Dedicated Schools Grant	2024-25 Provisional Funding Notification	2024-25 Settlement 19th December 2023	Draft Budget 2024-25	Current Budget 2023-24	Change in funding between years
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
<u>Gross Block Funding:</u>					
High Needs	29,141	29,145	29,145	28,335	810
Central school services	966	971	971	995	(24)
Indicative Early Years. Schools - Delegated formula budget.		17,969	17,969	11,268	6,701
Schools - Pupil Growth Fund	116,235	116,104	116,104	108,774	7,330
		828	828	1,039	(211)
Gross DSG Budget	146,342	165,017	165,017	150,411	14,606
<u>Less Grant Deductions:</u>					
Direct Funding Estimate		(1,524)	(1,524)	(1,435)	(89)
Academy Recoupment Estimate			(77,217)	(73,331)	(3,886)
DSG Budget Estimate	146,342	163,493	86,276	75,645	10,631

- 8.1 The table 9 above compares the current budget for the financial year 2023-24 to the latest 2024-25 DSG funding notification from the ESFA, sent to Local authorities on the 19th December 2023.
- 8.2 The 2024-25 Early Years block funding will remain indicative. The block notification is currently based on estimated Part time equivalents (PTEs) numbers for the new entitlements and will be updated for actual PTE's per term, along with the annual recalculation of the 3 & 4 year old funding based on the two January census counts. Further details can be found in the Early Years Operational Guidance.
- 8.3 School Pupil growth funding has decreased by 20% from the current year. The fall is mainly due to lower NOR in the primary sector and errors in individual schools' census returns.
- 8.4 Schools block delegated formula funding for 2024-25 now includes the 2023-24 Mainstream Schools Additional grant funding (MSAG). Schools will no longer receive a separate grant for MSAG from the 1st April 2024.
- 8.5 The Central School Services block (CSSB) has decreased overall. The historic element of this block funding, which contributes to combined budgets, has been decreased by 20% . The ESFA state that they will continue to decrease this element by 20% each year.

9. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 9.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is an annual ringfenced grant. All proposals within this report are within the DSG grant funding and comply with the Operational Guidance 2024-25.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 11.1 There are no potential risks directly arising from this report. The proposals are within the RBWM Dedicated Schools Grant ring fenced funding.

12. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 12.1 Equalities. Equality Impact Assessment is shown below in Appendix A. The Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the council to ensure that when considering any new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure the impacts on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups, have been considered. It has been assessed that there are no Equality Impact risks arising from this report. Link to Equality Impact Assessments.
- 12.2 Climate change/sustainability. There are no climate change/ sustainability risks arising from this report.
- 12.3 Data Protection/GDPR. There are no data protection/ GDPR risks arising from this report.

13. CONSULTATION

- 13.1 The 2024-25 funding consultation was sent to all RBWM Early years providers by Monday 22nd January 2024.
- 13.2 Financial reporting including the Dedicated Schools Grant is regularly provided to the RBWM commissioners and the Achieving for Children Board.

14. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 14.1 There is no timetable for implementation arising from this report. Annual formula funding consultation process with the Schools Forum to comply with the School and Early Years Finance regulations.

15. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

15.1 This report is supported by the following background documents:

- [Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities.](#)
- [School Finance Regulations](#)
- [Early years Operational Guidance 2024-25.](#)

16. APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment.
- Appendix B – Early years rates and supplements.
- Appendix C – Early Years SEN Inclusion.

17. Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officers (or deputies)</i>			
Elizabeth Griffiths	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	05.01.24	
Emma Browne	Director of Law, Strategy & Public Health/ Monitoring Officer	05.01.24	
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)		
Jane Cryer	Principal Lawyer & Deputy Monitoring Officer		
<i>Mandatory: Procurement Manager (or deputy) - if report requests approval to go to tender or award a contract</i>			
Lyn Hitchinson	Procurement Manager	05.01.24	08.01.24
<i>Mandatory: Data Protection Officer (or deputy) - if decision will result in processing of personal data; to advise on DPIA</i>			
Samantha Wootton	Data Protection Officer	05.01.24	
<i>Mandatory: Equalities Officer – to advise on EQiA, or agree an EQiA is not required</i>			
Ellen McManus-Fry	Equalities & Engagement Officer	05.01.24	
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Stephen Evans	Chief Executive		

Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place		
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of Adult Services and Health (DASS)		
Lin Ferguson	Executive Director of Children's Services and Education (DCS)	05.01.24	05.01.24 4

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Education	Cllr A Tisi. 05.01.24
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For information	No	No
Report Author: Tracey Anne Nevitt, Finance Business Partner, AFC		

Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix A

For support in completing this EQIA, please consult the EQIA Guidance Document or contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

1. Background Information

Title of policy/strategy/plan:	Dedicated Schools Grant
Service area:	Schools and Early Years
Directorate:	Children's Services

Provide a brief explanation of the proposal:

- What are its intended outcomes?
- Who will deliver it?
- Is it a new proposal or a change to an existing one?

The intended outcome of the proposal is to provide Schools Forum with an updated on the providers responses to the funding consultation. This is not a new proposal and is a requirement to inform Schools Forum of the financial position of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

2. Relevance Check

Is this proposal likely to directly impact people, communities or RBWM employees?

- If No, please explain why not, including how you've considered equality issues.
- Will this proposal need a EQIA at a later stage? (for example, for a forthcoming action plan)

No.

The formula funding proposals do not directly impact on pupils and other stakeholders.

If 'No', proceed to 'Sign off'. If unsure, please contact equality@rbwm.gov.uk

3. Evidence Gathering and Stakeholder Engagement

Who will be affected by this proposal? For example, users of a particular service, residents of a geographical area, staff
Stakeholders will not directly be affected by the proposals included within this report.
Among those affected by the proposal, are protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership) disproportionately represented? For example, compared to the general population do a higher proportion have disabilities?
There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic.
What engagement/consultation has been undertaken or planned? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How has/will equality considerations be taken into account?• Where known, what were the outcomes of this engagement?
Schools Forum is actively engaged throughout the Schools Formula budget setting. Final schools' formula allocations are submitted to the ESFA for checking and validation.
What sources of data and evidence have been used in this assessment? Please consult the Equalities Evidence Grid for relevant data. Examples of other possible sources of information are in the Guidance document.
Not Applicable

4. Equality Analysis

Please detail, **using supporting evidence**:

- How the protected characteristics below might influence the needs and experiences of individuals, in relation to this proposal.
- How these characteristics might affect the impact of this proposal.

Tick positive/negative impact as appropriate. If there is no impact, or a neutral impact, state 'Not Applicable'

More information on each protected characteristic is provided in the Guidance document.

	Details and supporting evidence	Potential positive impact	Potential negative impact
Age	The reported grant does impact on pupils within this protected characteristic; however, as school funding is on a formula basis impact has already been considered within previous reports and decision-making processes	Yes	Not Applicable
Disability	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not applicable	Not Applicable
Sex	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Race, ethnicity and religion	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Sexual orientation and gender reassignment	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Pregnancy and maternity	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Marriage and civil partnership	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Armed forces community	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Socio-economic considerations e.g. low income, poverty	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Children in care/Care leavers	There is nothing in the report which is considered to impact on this protected characteristic	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

5. Impact Assessment and Monitoring

If you have not identified any disproportionate impacts and the questions below are not applicable, leave them blank and proceed to Sign Off.

What measures have been taken to ensure that groups with protected characteristics are able to benefit from this change, or are not disadvantaged by it? For example, adjustments needed to accommodate the needs of a particular group
Not Applicable
Where a potential negative impact cannot be avoided, what measures have been put in place to mitigate or minimise this? <ul style="list-style-type: none">For planned future actions, provide the name of the responsible individual and the target date for implementation.
Not Applicable
How will the equality impacts identified here be monitored and reviewed in the future? See guidance document for examples of appropriate stages to review an EQIA.
Not Applicable

6. Sign Off

Completed by: Tracey Anne Nevitt	Date:
Approved by: Louise Dutton	Date:

If this version of the EQIA has been reviewed and/or updated:

Reviewed by:	Date:
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Appendix B

Current Provider rates + Working Parents Eligibility

2023-24 Early Years Single Funding Formula :

Description	Subtype	Hourly Rate £	Allocation method
3 & 4 Year Old Base rate	Maintained nursery classes and independent providers. Private & voluntary Child Minders Maintained nursery schools	£4.82	Per hour
Deprivation supplement (all providers)	High	£0.33	50% or more of pupils in Acorn categories 3 & 4 or 5
	Medium	£0.22	25% - 49.9% of pupils in Acorn categories 3 & 4 or 5
	Low	£0.11	10% - 24.9% of pupils in Acorn categories 3 & 4 or 5
	None	£0.00	0% - 9.9% of pupils in Acorn categories 3 & 4 or 5
Qualification supplement (other staff)	High	£0.33	75% of staff at Level 3 or above
	Medium	£0.19	50% - 74.9% of staff at Level 3 or above
	Low	£0.10	<50% of all staff at Level 3 or above
	None	£0.00	All staff at Level 2 or unqualified
Nursery school protection	Maintained nursery schools	Indicative	Across all 3 settings

Two year old funding rate 2023-24 £6.66 per hour

Early Years Pupil Premium £0.62 per hour

Disability Access Fund £828 per pupil

Early Years Supplementary Grant Rates

Description	Rate Sept23 – Mar24
3 & 4 Year Old	£0.57 / hour
2 Year Old	£2.54 / hour
Early Years Pupil Premium	£0.04 / hour
Disability Access Fund	£30.92 / eligible pupil

Eligibility Criteria for 30 hours Free Childcare

The extended entitlement is available to families where:

- both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- each parent earns on average a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at the national minimum wage or 16 hours at National Living Wage
- neither parent has an income of more than £100,000 per year
- both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity or paternity leave, adoption leave or get statutory sick pay
- one parent is employed, and one parent has substantial caring roles based on specific benefits received for caring, or is disabled/ incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits

Appendix C

SEN Inclusion Funding (SENIF)

Extract from ESFA Guidance :

'Early Years Operational Guidance

With the introduction of the new working parent entitlements for 2024 to 2025, local authorities should establish SENIFs for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN who are taking up the entitlements. This fund will also support local authorities to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEN services as required under the Children and Families Act 2014.

Eligibility

Local authorities should target SENIFs at children with lower level or emerging SEN. Children with more complex needs and with an education, health and care plan (EHC) plan continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG. Further information on the high needs funding system can be found in the [high needs funding arrangements: 2024 to 2025](#). As with other elements of early years funding, SENIFs should apply to children attending settings in the relevant local authority area, regardless of where they live.

Sources of funding

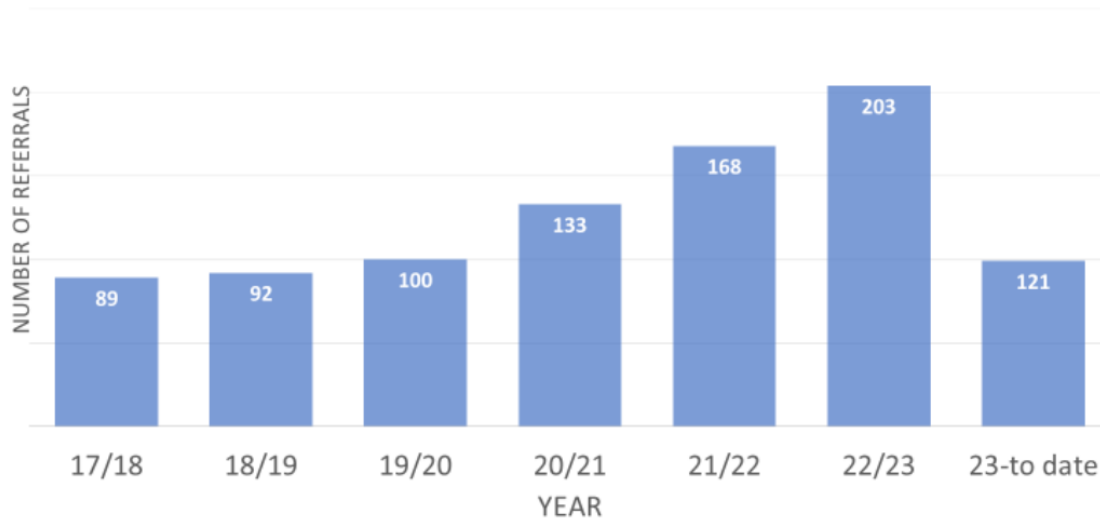
Local authorities should establish their SENIFs using funding from the early years block and/or the high needs block of their DSG allocation.'

Value

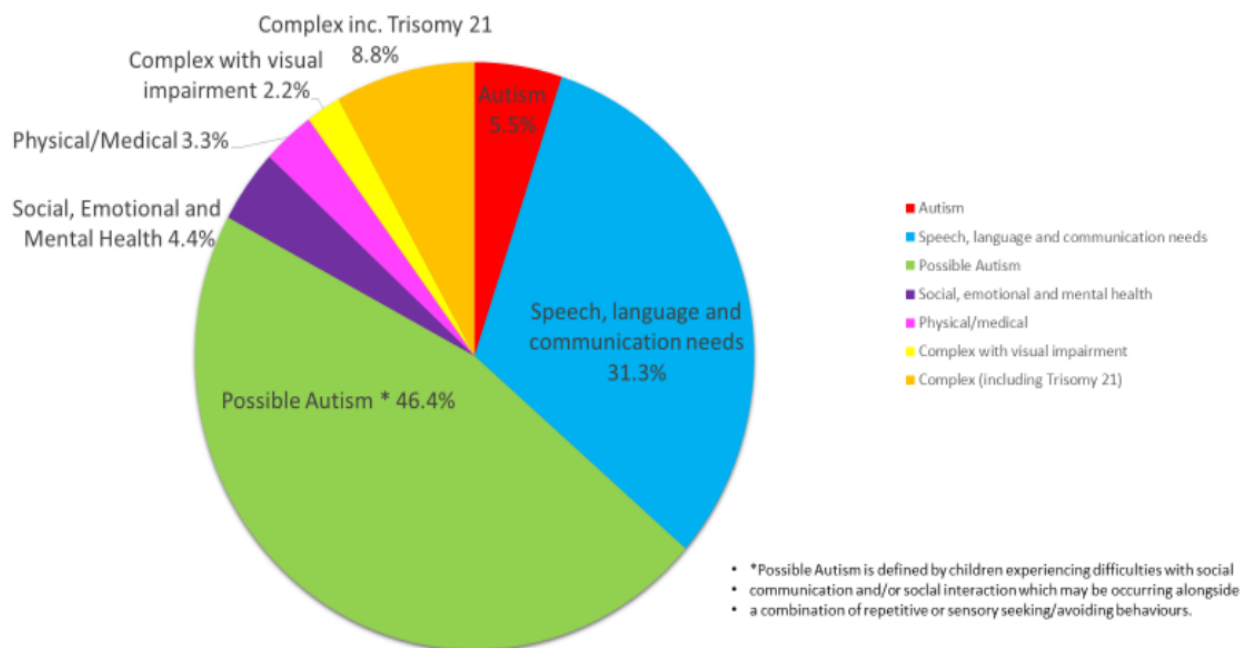
The value of the fund should consider the number of children with SEN in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children. Local authorities must consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SENIF.

RBWM Referrals data – Academic Years

Number of individual referrals to the EYs SEND team by year



Number of referrals by category of need 2023/24 to date



2023-24 RBWM Funding Matrix

SEN Inclusion Funding by Band

The vast majority of EYIF requests are anticipated to fall within Band A and B. A very limited number of requests are anticipated to fall within higher bands/ Band C.

Band	SEND category	Funding per term	Funding per year
A	Low/Emerging needs/Early Intervention graduated support	Up to £600*	£1800
B	Moderate to High Needs graduated support	Up to £1060**	£3180
C	Complex Needs level of funding	Discussed on a case by case basis	Discussed on a case by case basis

* Based on the child accessing their full entitlement of 15 or 30 hours per week

** Band values are subject to change and available budget

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