



## Schools Forum

**Thursday 21 January 2021 at 6.00 pm**

This will be undertaken as an online virtual meeting.

The press and public are welcome to attend this online virtual meeting. The link to attend and view the meeting will be made available [here](#).

### Membership

### Representing

#### SCHOOL MEMBERS

##### Nursery

Lesley Benson  
Vacancy

Head  
Governor

##### Primary

Vacancy  
Michelle Ginty  
Melissa Loosemore  
Raphael Moss  
Michael Odumosu  
Geraldine Chadwick  
Michael Maurice  
Narinder Nathan  
Tim Jones

Head  
Head  
Head  
Head  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor  
Governor

##### Secondary

Danny Coyle

Head (Maintained)

##### Special Education Needs

Vacancy

Head

##### Pupil Referral Unit

Ranjna Shiyani

Head

#### ACADEMY MEMBERS

##### Primary

Vacancy  
Jo Jhally

Head  
Governor

**Secondary**

Andy Prindiville	Head
Jude Enright	Head
Gerard McKenna	Head
Martin Beard	Governor
Mike Heiser ( <b>Chair</b> )	Governor
Vacancy	Governor

**Special Education Needs**

Jayne Jardine	Head
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**NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS**

**Early Years PVI**

Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Trade Union**

John Roche/Jennifer Cooper

**16-19 Provider Representative**

Vacancy

**For further information contact:** Craig Player, Governance Officer  
Email: [craig.player@brent.gov.uk](mailto:craig.player@brent.gov.uk); Tel: 020 8937 2082

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit: [www.brent.gov.uk/committees](http://www.brent.gov.uk/committees)

### **Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:**

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest\*\* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

### **\*Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

### **\*\*Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

- (a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:
  - To which you are appointed by the council;
  - which exercises functions of a public nature;
  - which is directed is to charitable purposes;
  - whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party or trade union).
- (b) The interests of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

Or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

# Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
<b>1 Election of Vice-Chair</b>	
To elect the Vice-Chair of the Schools Forum.	
<b>2 Apologies for Absence and Membership</b>	
<b>3 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>4 Deputations (if Any)</b>	
<b>5 Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 05 November 2020 as a correct record.	
<b>6 Actions arising</b>	
To consider any actions arising from previous meetings.	
<b>7 Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22</b>	7 - 16
To receive a report on the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22 for consultation and decision ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by Full Council.	
<b>8 Early Years National Funding Formula 2021/22</b>	17 - 22
To receive a report on Brent's Early Years Funding Formula for 2021/22 for approval.	
<b>9 Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan</b>	23 - 28
To receive a report on the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Deficit Management plan.	

**10 Any Other Urgent Business**

**Date of the next meeting: Thursday 25 February 2021**

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## MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM Thursday 5 November 2020 at 6.00 pm

### Membership

### Representing

#### PRESENT (all in remote attendance):

#### Governors

Mike Heiser (Chair)  
Martin Beard  
Geraldine Chadwick  
Jo Jhally  
Michael Odumuso

#### Headteachers

Melissa Loosemore  
Danny Coyle  
Michelle Ginty  
Gerard McKenna  
Raphael Moss

#### Pupil Referral Unit

Ranjna Shiyani

#### Trade Union

John Roche

#### Officers

Dena Aly  
Olufunke Adediran  
Brian Grady  
James Kinsella  
Craig Player

#### Councillor

Stephens (Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills)

### 1. Apologies for Absence and Membership

Apologies were received from Narinder Nathan (Governor) and Andy Prindville (Headteacher).

The Chair introduced Michael Odumoso (Governor), Danny Coyle (Headteacher) and Ranjna Shiyani (Pupil Referral Unit) as newly appointed members of the Forum, and welcomed back Geraldine Chadwick (Governor) and Jayne Jardine (SEN) who had been reappointed for another term. Thanks were extended to Titilola McDowell and Martine Clark who had both recently stood down from their respective posts.

James Kinsella, Governance Manager at Brent Council gave an update on the Forum's current vacancies. It was confirmed that a recent recruitment process had filled five posts, and that the remaining vacant posts would be recruited to in the

new year. A separate recruitment process was underway for the vacant Early Years PVI non-school member posts and these would be filled by the next meeting of the Forum.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Deputations (if Any)**

None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved**

That subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting on 17 June 2020 were approved as a correct record:

Pages 2-8 – It was noted that the document footer referenced the 26 February 2020 meeting of the Forum rather than the 17 June 2020 meeting.

It was therefore agreed that the document footer would be amended to reference the 17 June 2020 meeting of the Forum.

5. **Actions arising**

**Action 59:** DSG deficit – There had been a letter sent through by the Society of London Treasurers on the issues and concerns raised in relation to the continued pressure on DSG funding and deficit recovery plans. The letter also raised the possibility of collating deficits across London boroughs.

**Action 63:** Banding Review - The requested review of the impact that any recalibration may have on special schools was underway, and an update would be provided at the January meeting of the Forum.

**Action 64 and 65:** DSG management – An update would be given under Item 6: Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 to be considered later on the agenda.

**Action 66:** Split site funding proposals working group – This had been established and an update would be given under Item 7: Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Update 2021/22.

**Action 67:** Concerns over reconfiguration of the length of term and lack of consultation with early years providers – The concerns had been raised with the Early Years Team and an appropriate response had been provided outlining the reasons for the decision.

## 6. Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21

Aly Dena, Senior Finance Analyst at Brent Council and Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council presented a report on the forecast financial position for 2020/21. The position was reported against the budget set in consultation with the Schools Forum and submitted to the Department for Education on the Section 251 budget return.

The Forum was then invited to raise questions on the report, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- In response to a question from the Forum, it was noted that there was a risk of overspend in the High Needs Block if the number of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) continued to grow at the same rate as previous years.
- As a result, there was an expected increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit due to an expectation that DSG expenditure would exceed income by £4.2 million in 2020/21. As such, the DSG deficit would increase from £4.9 million to £9.1 million by the end of the financial year.
- In response to a question from the Forum, it was noted that many schools were becoming increasingly concerned at demand on schools provision as a result of the growth in the number of EHCPs. The Forum was assured that resourcing and provision is being considered as part of the Banding Review and that particular attention was being given to special school place planning. Immediate actions to expand provision were underway as well as longer-term strategies.
- It was recognised that many mainstream schools, as well as special schools, had engaged with the Council in supporting the development of additionally resourced provision. However, Forum members expressed concern over the funding for additionally resourced provision and the long-term effect this could have on retaining providers.
- In response to a question from the Forum, it was recognised that the number of EHCPs had been rising over a number of years. There was a need for sufficient funding to cover the rising costs associated with special needs provision. The efforts of the Society of London Treasurers to lobby central government on children's services funding was welcomed.
- It was suggested that forecasts for the growth in the number of EHCPs recognise the likely increase in mental health issues as a result of the pandemic.
- It was noted that the funding made available to state-funded mainstream and special needs schools to claim back additional premises and cleaning costs associated with the pandemic was only available for costs incurred during the Easter holiday.
- In response to a question from the Forum, it was noted that schools had submitted claims of up to £104 million nationally. The first batch of funding that was paid out nationally amounted to £58 million, of which Brent schools received £99,000. The value of the second batch of funding was not yet known.
- Concern was raised over the additional costs that would be incurred due to the current lockdown. Schools were encouraged to evidence the level of additional costs so that it could be fed back to central government.

## **Resolved**

- 1. To note the contents of the Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitoring Report.**
- 2. That an update regarding the progress of special educational needs provision planning within the borough be provided to members of the Forum at a future meeting. (Action 68: Brian Grady)**
- 3. That officers survey Brent schools in the borough regarding the additional costs incurred due to the current lockdown, so that it could be fed back to central government. (Action 69: Olufunke Adediran)**

## **7. Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Update 2021/22**

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council and Aly Dena, Senior Finance Analyst at Brent Council presented a report on the provisional DSG block funding allocations announced for 2021/22 and the discussions held by the split site funding work group.

The Forum was then invited to raise questions on the report, which focused on a number of key areas as highlighted below:

- In response to a question from the Forum, it was noted that the High Needs Block had received a transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block income in 2020/21 and that continuing this transfer in 2021/22 would enable potential pressures arising from the growth in the number of EHCPs be mitigated.
- It was noted that the Council was now required to model the growth in the number of EHCPs in the borough. It was in the process of doing so and would bring this modelling to future meetings of the Forum.

## **Resolved**

- 1. To note the Dedicated Schools Grant Funding Update.**
- 2. That modelling of the growth in the number of EHCPs be provided to members of the Forum at a future meeting. (Action 70: Olufunke Adediran and Aly Dena)**
- 3. That a work plan detailing the actions being taken by officers in regard to the DSG budget be provided to members of the Forum at a later meeting. (Action 71: Brian Grady)**

## **8. Dates of Future Meetings**

### **Resolved**

**To approve the following changes to the schedule of future meetings:**

**Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 6pm to Thursday 10 December 2020 at 6pm  
(next meeting of the Schools Forum) 6pm**

**Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 6pm to Thursday 21 January 2021 6pm**

**Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 6pm to Thursday 25 February 2021 at 6pm**


**9. Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

M HEISER  
Chair

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 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b> 21 January 2021 <b>Report from the Strategic Director                  of Children and Young People</b>
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2021/22</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix A - Funding Factor Rates Appendix B - School Level Allocations 2021-22
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Prior financial reports to Schools Forum.
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: <a href="mailto:Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk">Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk</a>  Dena Aly Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: <a href="mailto:Dena.aly@brent.gov.uk">Dena.aly@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for consultation and decision by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Maintained school members of the Schools Forum are requested to approve the proposed de-delegation arrangements set out within this report.
- 2.2. Schools Forum is asked to approve the transfer of £1.2m (0.5%) from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. DfE regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to be transferred with Forum approval.
- 2.3. Schools Forum is asked to recommend the budget for the DSG blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to the Council.

### 3. Summary- 2021/22 DSG Funding Announcements

- 3.1. In November 2020, Schools Forum were presented with the provisional DSG allocations, which were published in July 2020. The final DSG block funding allocations were announced on 17 December 2020. This report gives an update of the final Schools Block allocations to include the growth funding allocation.

DSG Blocks	2020/21 Funding	2021/22 Funding	Change	Change
	£000	£000	£000	%
Schools Block*	£244,470	£247,702	£3,232	1.3%
High Needs Block	£60,386	£66,432	£6,046	10.0%
Early years block	£22,900	£23,374	£474	2.1%
Central Block	£2,204	£2,284	£80	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£329,960</b>	<b>£339,792</b>	<b>£9,832</b>	

\* 2020/21 Includes the teachers' pay and pensions grant which have now been included as core funding.

- 3.2. For 2021/22, the growth funding allocation was reduced from £3.2m in 2020/21 to £2.1m in 2021/22. The allocation is based on the difference between the number on roll in each school between the October 2019 and October 2020 school censuses.
- 3.3. The final High Needs Block allocation has been announced at £66.4m, a slight increase on the provisional allocation of £66.2m announced in July 2020. This is £6m more than the allocation for 2020/21, and represents a funding increase of 10%. However, the 2020/21 High Needs Block expenditure budget is currently forecast to spend £66m, with a further £1m recoupment for Brent pupils placed in other local authorities. The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) is continuing to increase, therefore in addition to a number of measures outlined in the DSG deficit recovery plan, it is recommended that there is a transfer of 0.5% from the schools block to the high needs block to mitigate the growing demand. This equates to a transfer of £1.2m, which would bring the high needs block budget to £67.4m. A detailed breakdown of the high needs block budget will be presented to Schools Forum in February 2021.
- 3.4. The Early Years Block allocations were also published in December 2020, which included an increase in the NEG 2 rate from £6.00 to £6.08, and an increase in the NEG 3 & 4 rate from £5.45 to £5.51. The detailed early years block budgets will be presented in a separate paper to this Schools Forum.
- 3.5. The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £2.3m, an increase of £80k compared to 2020/21. This includes a small reduction of funding for historic commitments, and an increase in funding for ongoing commitments, including pension costs for centrally employed teachers.

3.6. Announcements were made by DfE in November 2020, to assist schools in dealing with further pressures arising from the impact of Covid-19 around staffing between 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. It is yet to be confirmed in light of the current third national lockdown (January 2021) whether there will be another opportunity to claim for exceptional costs incurred by schools. The Local Authority Covid related pressures were reported to Brent Council Cabinet in January 2021, in the Quarter 3 Financial Report 2020/21. This report confirms that Brent Council is experiencing £37.1m of pressures, which at this stage does not reflect the implications of the current lockdown. Applying the grant funding received of £28.9m, a gap still remains to be mitigated.

#### 4. Schools Block Expenditure – Mainstream Funding Formula

4.1. The mainstream funding formula for 2020/21 excluding the growth fund totals £244.016m. This includes £0.485m de-delegated funds and £0.360m retained by the council as a contribution towards fulfilling the education services leaving £243.171m to be transferred to schools.

4.2. The DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions is £0.6m made up of the £0.25m contribution from all schools and the £0.36m from maintained schools. This was agreed at previous Forums, and comparative London benchmarking information was presented at Forum in November 2019.

#### 5. De-Delegations

5.1. The de-delegated items from maintained schools includes expenditure on staff supply cover costs shown in **table 2** below. This has been calculated at the previous per pupil rates as in 2020/21 for all items except for the staff costs line. This budget includes funding for supply cover for teachers on parental leave.

#### 5.2. Table 2 – Expenditure on Staff Supply Cover Costs

	£'000		
	Budget	Outturn	Variance
<b>2018/19</b>	214	274	60
<b>2019/20</b>	182	287	105
<b>2020/21 (projected)</b>	169	290	121

5.3. In line with previous and projected expenditure levels on this budget, shown in table 2 above, is proposed that the budget is increased to £0.28m to meet current spending levels. This would require an increase in the de-delegation rate from £10.74 to £13.24, a £2.50 increase as shown in **Table 3** below.

#### 5.4. Table 3 – Increase in de-delegation rate for staff costs supply cover:

	Rate £	Eligible pupil numbers	Total de-delegation (£'000)
Current De-delegation rate	10.74	21,156	227
Additional £50k funding required	2.50	21,156	53
<b>Total de-delegation for staff costs</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>21,156</b>	<b>280</b>

5.5. As in previous years, approval to de-delegate is sought on the basis that centralised budgets provide better value, and that maintained schools have open access to the services listed in the table below.

#### 5.6. Table 2 – De-delegated items

	Rate per pupil £	2020/21	2020/21
Primary Pupil Numbers		19,831	19,109
			2,04
Secondary Pupil Numbers		2,019	7
<b>Total Maintained pupils</b>		<b>21,850</b>	<b>21,156</b>
Contingencies- Schools in Financial Difficulty	8.29	181,133	175,383
Free School Meals eligibility service	1.15	25,127	24,329
			5,28
Licenses/ Subscriptions	0.25	5,462	9
Staff costs	10.74/13.24	234,664	280,105
<b>Total De-delegated items</b>		<b>446,387</b>	<b>485,107</b>

## 6. Funding Formula Rates

6.1. Appendix A provides information on the funding factor rates used in the proposed funding formula, with a minimum funding guarantee set at 0.5%. In order to balance to the available funding, the per pupil funding factor rates have been increased by 10.7%.

6.2. Appendix B contains an analysis of the funding formula by individual school, giving both the total formula funding and per pupil funding against the previous year. It should be noted that changes in individual school funding are also caused by changes to the pupil cohort data for that school, e.g. the number of pupils attracting the low prior attainment funding factor will change from year to year, so changes in funding are not solely driven by changes to pupil numbers and to the funding factor rates in appendix A.

6.3. The funding formula is subject to a positive Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0.5% which ensures that per pupil funding increase by this proportion. Under these proposals 50 of the 87 schools require an MFG allocation, and this totals £1.36m.

## **7. Growth Fund**

7.1. The Growth budget funds increases in pupil numbers, and well as the CAFAI provision for children new to the country. The growth budget in 2020-21 is £2.25m, and is expected to spend to budget in order to continue to fund the projected growth in the secondary phase.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1. The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

## **9. Legal Implications**

9.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

## **10. Equality Implications**

10.1. Not applicable.

## **11. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

11.1. Not applicable.

## **12. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

12.1. Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

**Gail Tolley**

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

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**Appendix A - 2021-22 Funding Formula Rates - Pupil Funding Factors**

Type of Pupil Led Factor	Phase	Factors	2020-21 Rate £	2021-22 Rate £	Change to 2020-21 Rate £	2021-22 Units (Oct 20)	Total Funding 2021-22 £
Per Head	Primary	Primary (Years R-6)	3,518	3,895	378	25,538	99,477,298
Per Head	Secondary	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	5,083	5,628	546	9,791	55,105,963
Per Head	Secondary	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	5,610	6,212	602	6,312	39,211,329
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band F	357	395	38	4,127	1,630,030
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band E	362	401	39	4,177	1,673,179
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band D	369	409	40	2,642	1,079,433
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band C	611	676	66	1,483	1,003,063
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band B	927	1,026	99	215	220,711
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band A	1,307	1,448	140	3	4,384
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band F	376	416	40	2,314	963,478
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band E	399	442	43	2,290	1,011,700
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band D	495	548	53	1,477	808,915
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band C	659	730	71	665	485,383
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band B	1,012	1,121	109	139	155,490
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band A	1,436	1,591	154	2	3,183
AEN Factors	Primary + Secondary	LAC	1,065	1,179	114	85	99,824
AEN Factors	Primary	EAL	1,318	1,459	141	3,435	5,013,307
AEN Factors	Secondary	EAL	1,467	1,625	157	338	548,578
AEN Factors	Primary	Low Prior Attainment	1,268	1,404	136	7,623	10,700,809
AEN Factors	Secondary	Low Prior Attainment	1,627	1,802	175	3,776	6,803,824
AEN Factors	Primary	Mobility	1,067	1,181	115	267	315,881
AEN Factors	Secondary	Mobility	1,387	1,536	149	60	92,619
<b>Total</b>							<b>226,408,382</b>


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**Appendix B - School Level Allocations 2021-22**

School	2020-21				2021-22				School
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget £	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment £	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget £	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment £	
Anson Primary School	345	1,777,387	5,151.85	-	351	1,920,580	5,471.74	-	Anson Primary School
Brentfield Primary School	483	2,645,195	5,476.59	-	429	2,473,311	5,765.29	75,476	Brentfield Primary School
Byron Court Primary School	741.5	3,369,773	4,544.54	14,346	776.5	3,752,020	4,831.96	-	Byron Court Primary School
Carlton Vale Infant School	79	600,118	7,596.43	-	62	534,439	8,619.99	10,636	Carlton Vale Infant School
Harlesden Primary School	361	2,025,725	5,611.43	49,629	320	1,894,852	5,921.41	107,370	Harlesden Primary School
Mount Stewart Junior School	334	1,480,470	4,432.55	18,777	316	1,575,306	4,985.15	-	Mount Stewart Junior School
Mount Stewart Infant School	244	1,292,585	5,297.48	88,002	249	1,321,937	5,308.99	18,816	Mount Stewart Infant School
Uxendon Manor Primary School	622.5	2,856,748	4,589.15	-	619	2,996,804	4,841.36	-	Uxendon Manor Primary School
Kingsbury Green Primary School	597	2,817,160	4,718.86	-	557	2,772,904	4,978.28	4,391	Kingsbury Green Primary School
Leopold Primary School	749	4,170,421	5,567.98	-	681	3,909,633	5,741.02	54,962	Leopold Primary School
Lyon Park Primary School	829	3,860,254	4,656.52	16,129	812	4,048,077	4,985.32	-	Lyon Park Primary School
Malorees Infant School	173	994,071	5,746.08	-	170	1,031,247	6,066.16	-	Malorees Infant School
Northview Junior and Infant School	202	1,143,862	5,662.68	-	199	1,176,528	5,912.20	6,390	Northview Junior and Infant School
Park Lane Primary School	418	2,103,883	5,033.21	-	410	2,163,631	5,277.15	21,484	Park Lane Primary School
Preston Park Primary School	651.5	2,999,225	4,603.57	9,752	585	2,910,100	4,974.53	-	Preston Park Primary School
Roe Green Junior School	479	2,217,610	4,629.67	15,381	475	2,289,475	4,819.95	4,101	Roe Green Junior School
Roe Green Infant School	452	2,450,401	5,421.24	610	388	2,354,880	6,069.28	-	Roe Green Infant School
Barham Primary School	847	3,896,513	4,600.37	-	840	4,133,987	4,921.41	-	Barham Primary School
Wykeham Primary School	447	2,287,146	5,116.66	2,030	445	2,382,177	5,353.21	1,047	Wykeham Primary School
Elsley Primary School	633	3,172,284	5,011.51	42,144	675	3,516,966	5,210.32	17,457	Elsley Primary School
Donnington Primary School	198	1,108,326	5,597.61	-	194	1,135,399	5,852.57	22,771	Donnington Primary School
The Stonebridge School	368.5	2,021,540	5,485.86	-	353.5	2,012,924	5,694.27	63,457	The Stonebridge School
Newfield Primary School	275	1,565,392	5,692.33	-	242	1,458,522	6,026.95	45,535	Newfield Primary School
Mitchell Brook Primary School	600	3,088,405	5,147.34	-	596	3,209,768	5,385.52	63,707	Mitchell Brook Primary School
Chalkhill Primary School	409	2,145,568	5,245.89	15,218	416	2,288,407	5,500.98	13,346	Chalkhill Primary School
Salisbury Primary School	603	2,843,420	4,715.46	-	599	2,997,938	5,004.91	-	Salisbury Primary School
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	412	1,971,430	4,785.02	20,331	410	2,058,421	5,020.54	4,765	Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
Mora Primary School	387	1,966,621	5,081.71	-	395	2,130,824	5,394.49	-	Mora Primary School
Fryent Primary School	699	3,402,365	4,867.47	-	676	3,473,538	5,138.37	-	Fryent Primary School
Christ Church CofE Primary School	176	951,908	5,408.57	-	164	963,815	5,876.92	-	Christ Church CofE Primary School
John Keble CofE Primary School	386	2,021,952	5,238.22	-	366	2,012,739	5,499.29	18,042	John Keble CofE Primary School
Princess Frederica CofE Primary School	392	1,792,252	4,572.07	178	397	1,919,607	4,835.28	-	Princess Frederica CofE Primary School
St Mary's CofE Primary School	240	1,348,419	5,618.41	-	222	1,317,574	5,935.02	40,445	St Mary's CofE Primary School
St Joseph RC Junior School	280	1,334,753	4,766.98	8,310	278	1,391,266	5,004.55	13,106	St Joseph RC Junior School
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School	338	1,634,343	4,835.34	1,607	322	1,640,780	5,095.59	-	St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School
St Robert Southwell RC Primary School	417	1,895,810	4,546.31	23,620	408	1,958,352	4,799.88	-	St Robert Southwell RC Primary School
Convent of Jesus and Mary RC Infant School	251	1,364,755	5,437.27	-	228	1,309,558	5,743.67	14,228	Convent of Jesus and Mary RC Infant School
Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School	200	1,133,371	5,666.86	-	202	1,190,694	5,894.52	47,335	Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School
St Joseph's RC Infant School	210	1,159,350	5,520.71	-	210	1,227,907	5,847.18	-	St Joseph's RC Infant School
Sinai Jewish Primary School	557	2,330,611	4,184.22	9,463	590	2,682,815	4,547.14	-	Sinai Jewish Primary School
St Mary's RC Primary School	244	1,311,646	5,375.60	-	236	1,329,995	5,635.57	15,598	St Mary's RC Primary School
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	181	864,112	4,774.10	7,821	183	929,688	5,080.27	-	Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School
Wembley Primary School	818	3,982,475	4,868.55	-	800	4,103,326	5,129.16	-	Wembley Primary School
Malorees Junior School	255	1,258,170	4,934.00	-	252	1,308,032	5,190.60	-	Malorees Junior School
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	470	2,256,142	4,800.30	15,845	470	2,368,173	5,038.67	44,800	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
The Kilburn Park School Foundation	152	892,897	5,874.32	-	119	765,120	6,429.58	26,183	The Kilburn Park School Foundation
Islamia Primary School	421	2,270,850	5,393.94	15,887	421	2,370,737	5,631.20	24,818	Islamia Primary School
Ark Franklin Primary Academy	595	2,745,392	4,614.10	85,181	598	2,899,686	4,848.97	103,927	Ark Franklin Primary Academy
Gladstone Park Primary School	610	2,993,195	4,906.88	-	608	3,134,243	5,155.00	-	Gladstone Park Primary School

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School	2020-21				2021-22				School
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget £	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment £	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget £	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment £	
St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School	395	2,019,367	5,112.32	-	397	2,141,182	5,393.40	-	St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School
Kilburn Grange School	213.5	1,339,082	6,272.05	121,208	225.5	1,453,885	6,447.38	151,060	Kilburn Grange School
East Lane Primary School	456.5	2,132,047	4,670.42	68,261	557.5	2,692,296	4,829.23	81,107	East Lane Primary School
Braintcroft E-Act Primary Academy	594	3,107,337	5,231.21	-	593	3,244,443	5,471.24	1,244	Braintcroft E-Act Primary Academy
Furness Primary School	369	1,941,159	5,260.59	-	331	1,839,143	5,556.32	31,851	Furness Primary School
Sudbury Primary School	836	3,685,370	4,408.34	-	837	3,962,784	4,734.51	-	Sudbury Primary School
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School	234	1,218,057	5,205.37	5,782	233	1,282,790	5,505.54	-	Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School
Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	175	1,004,098	5,737.70	11,239	172	1,052,529	6,119.36	-	Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School
St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	206	1,152,441	5,594.37	13,529	191	1,129,953	5,915.98	5,415	St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School
Oakington Manor Primary School	669	3,203,420	4,788.37	-	647	3,300,748	5,101.62	-	Oakington Manor Primary School
North West London Jewish Day School	229	1,121,768	4,898.55	-	221	1,170,492	5,296.34	-	North West London Jewish Day School
<b>PRIMARY TOTAL</b>	<b>25,209</b>	<b>125,740,444</b>		<b>680,282</b>	<b>24,720</b>	<b>130,018,945</b>		<b>1,154,871</b>	
Michaela Community School	594	3,869,517	6,514.34	6,492	602	4,179,606	6,942.87	-	Michaela Community School
Ark Elvin Academy	996	6,691,158	6,718.03	31,684	988	6,984,011	7,068.84	26,041	Ark Elvin Academy
North Brent Free School	70	582,592	8,322.74	-	190	1,372,777	7,225.14	44,994	North Brent School
Wembley High Technology College	1090	6,487,445	5,951.78	-	1090	7,089,272	6,503.92	-	Wembley High Technology College
Claremont High School	1323	7,843,930	5,928.90	-	1339	8,646,643	6,457.54	-	Claremont High School
Kingsbury High School	1657	10,505,098	6,339.83	-	1610	10,974,564	6,816.50	-	Kingsbury High School
Queens Park Community School	1091	6,849,099	6,277.82	-	1092	7,332,939	6,715.15	-	Queens Park Community School
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	773	5,136,340	6,644.68	-	704	4,974,987	7,066.74	-	Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College
Alperton Community School	1355	8,824,862	6,512.81	98,275	1449	9,961,557	6,874.78	-	Alperton Community School
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	921	5,593,738	6,073.55	638	942	6,182,001	6,562.63	-	St Gregory's Catholic Science College
Capital City Academy	924	6,224,545	6,736.52	-	916	6,520,172	7,118.09	-	Capital City Academy
The Crest Academy	997	6,836,433	6,857.00	-	973	7,013,818	7,208.45	84,662	The Crest Academy
JFS	1492	8,422,268	5,644.95	-	1527	9,515,542	6,231.53	-	JFS
Newman Catholic College	527	3,804,311	7,218.81	101,576	520	3,937,219	7,571.57	46,479	Newman Catholic College
<b>SECONDARY TOTAL</b>	<b>13,810</b>	<b>87,671,336</b>		<b>238,665</b>	<b>13,942</b>	<b>94,685,107</b>		<b>202,176</b>	
Preston Manor School	1672	9,609,761	5,747.46	-	1672	10,505,122	6,282.97	-	Preston Manor School
Ark Academy	1294	7,443,376	5,752.22	4,549	1307	7,962,119	6,091.90	-	Ark Academy
<b>ALL THROUGH TOTAL</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>17,053,137</b>		<b>4,549</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>18,467,241</b>		<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>230,464,917</b>				<b>243,171,294</b>			

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b> 21 January 2021
<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</b>	
<b>Early Years National Funding Formula 2021/22</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Prior financial reports to Schools Forum.
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: <a href="mailto:Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk">Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk</a>  Dena Aly Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: <a href="mailto:Dena.aly@brent.gov.uk">Dena.aly@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. Following the confirmation of the provisional Early Years Block DSG funding for Brent, the local Early Years Funding Formula needs to be set for 2021/22.
- 1.2. There have been increases to the funding rates allocated to Brent for 2-year-old, and 3 and 4-year-old provision. The LA continues to retain 5% of the total allocated to Brent, with 95% allocated to providers.
- 1.3. The base funding rate to providers makes up 90% of allocated funding. The deprivation factor allocates the remaining 10%, based on the IDACI index, which has been updated to reflect 2019 data.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Schools Forum is asked to endorse Brent's Early Years Funding Formula for 2021/22.

### 3. Summary

3.1. It is recommended that for 2021/22, the following are applied to the Early Years National Funding Formula:

- a) A universal base rate for Brent providers for 3 and 4 year old funding of £4.59 per hour. This has increased from £4.53 in 2020/21.
- b) An allocation for deprivation for 3 and 4 year funding of 10%.
- c) A base rate for Brent providers for 2 year old funding of £6.04. This has increased from £6.00 in 2020/21.
- d) A cap on centrally retained funding by the local authority to 5%.
- e) The funding previously allocated under a disapplication for the 2017/18 academic year for additional 15 hour places for some 3 and 4 year old based on local eligibility continues to be allocated to the Under 5's Nursery Panel, and both PVI and maintained providers can apply for this, to ensure the funding continues to be targeted at vulnerable children.

### 4. Funding from central government to the local authority

4.1. The Early Years National Funding Formula hourly rate has increased from £5.45 in 2020/21 to £5.51 in 2021/22. Key figures are:

4.2. **Table 1** EYNFF funding rates

<b>3 and 4 year olds</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Universal 15 hours allocation	£15.5m	£15.0m	£14.9m
Additional 15 hours allocation	£3.42m	£3.78m	£3.8m
Hourly rate before central spend	£5.37	£5.45	£5.51
Maximum percentage for central spend	5%	5%	5%
Hourly rate after central spend removed	£5.10	£5.18	£5.23
Maximum percentage for deprivation	10%	10%	10%
Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary Funding	£778k	£725k	£717k
<b>2 year olds</b>			
Hourly rate for 15 hours allocation	£5.92	£6.00	£6.08
Provider rate for 2 year olds	£6.00	£6.00	£6.04

### 5. A universal base rate for Brent providers for 3 and 4 year old funding

5.1. After the 5% reduction for central resources, this funding will be distributed to providers as a universal base hourly rate plus the additional allocation for deprivation. The universal base rate to providers has increased from £4.53 in 2020/21 to £4.59 in 2021/22.

a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE	£5.51
b) Remove central spend (5% of £18.17m)	£5.23
c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p)	£5.10
d) Reduce by allocation for deprivation (£5.10 x 90%)	£4.59

5.2. Deprivation is allocated based on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which allocates a score according to postcodes. The index was updated based on 2019 data, as the previous data used was based on 2015. For 2020/21, transitional protection was applied to ensure that no provider rate reduced by more than 1.5% compared to 2019/20, while ensuring that 10% of the rate is still allocated for deprivation overall. For 2021/22, it is proposed that the updated IDACI scores will be used to allocate deprivation funding.

## 6. Specialist nursery panel

6.1. This is a multi-agency panel allocating funds for children with SEND or CIN based on eligibility criteria to assist with their successful inclusion in their setting.

6.2. A disapplication to the single national funding formula regarding funding for additional 15 hour places for some 3 and 4 year olds based on local eligibility criteria was allowed by the DfE in January 2017 and applied until the summer term of 2018. This equated to 13p from the 3 & 4 year old funding rate. In January 2018, Schools Forum agreed to release this funding (approximately £0.4m in 2018/19) to this panel for allocation in order to ensure the most vulnerable children receive some additional support. The principle remains that children with the most complex needs will be supported to attend one of the specialist nurseries where appropriate. For 2021/22, the value of this funding is £0.442m.

### 6.3. Table 2 Specialist Nursery Panel Budget

<b>Proposed income 2021/22</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DSG High Needs Block	(£ 1,128,085)
Early Years Block	(£442,190)
Disability Access Fund	(£79,950)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(£1,650,225)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Early Years Inclusion Fund for specialist nurseries	£724,988
CIN for specialist nurseries	£288,000
Inclusion fund for 3 & 4 year olds in non-specialist early years provision	£294,172
Transport	£39,627
Staff member for EY Inclusion team	£56,000
Disability Access Fund	£72,570
CIN/2 year olds in non-specialist early years provision	£94,753
Additional one off funding	£80,115
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 1,650,225</b>

## **7. Additional resources for maintained nursery schools**

- 7.1. The provisional allocation for maintained nursery school supplementary funding in in 2021/22 is £0.717m, compared to £0.725m in 2020/21.
- 7.2. This funding is split between the council's four maintained nursery schools on an agreed local formula i.e. based on business rates, a lump sum and estimated hours.

## **8. Centrally retained funding**

- 8.1. The DfE mandated that 95% of the early years funding for 3 and 4 years olds is passed through to providers.
- 8.2. The central spend budget is based upon the DfE estimates for the take-up of provision and is then fixed for the year. The actual income received in year is dependent upon the number of 3 and 4 year olds who take up places in Brent and are counted in the January census.
- 8.3. The central spend will support early years services support as set out below. A significant number of Brent early years settings have accessed this support during the pandemic period, when this support has been particularly highly valued:
  - providing specialist early years advice and guidance to nursery schools, early years' settings and children's centres to improve the quality of early learning.
  - supporting the inclusion of young children who have a range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) that may be affecting their learning and progress.
  - expanding supply and take-up of good quality early learning and childcare opportunities for all 3 and 4 year olds and increasing numbers of 2 year olds. Administration of the NEG and related projects.
  - learning and development for practitioners from all parts of the sector including single and multi-day courses, projects and annual conferences.
- 8.4. The maximum 5% of early years funding is retained in 2021/22.

## **9. A base rate for Brent providers for 2 year old funding**

- 9.1. In 2021/22, the funding rate has increased from £6 per hour to £6.08 per hour. Funding providers at £6.08 per hour does not take into account the use of a proportion of 2-year-old funding for central spend. Allocating 5% of this budget for central spend would be the equivalent of reducing funding to £5.78 per hour. This gap has previously been funded from DSG reserves, which are no longer available.
- 9.2. It is proposed to pass on £6.04 to providers, with a deduction of 4p (0.7%) for central services. Not deducting the full 5% will mean a funding gap of £0.140m if the central budgets were to remain at the same level as 2020/21.

9.3. Since the DfE provisional funding figures estimates are based on January 2020 data, it is expected that the funding will be increased in line with increased take up, however further guidance is being sought from the DfE regarding arrangements for census 2021 in light of Covid-19 pandemic January lockdown. This will need to be monitored throughout the year and if take up does not increase in future years, options will need to be considered on how to manage this funding gap.

## 10. Early years funding based on DfE provisional allocations

10.1. The following table outlines an early years' budget based on draft allocations from the DfE and the recommendations from this paper.

### 10.2. Table 4 Proposed Early Years block budget

Expenditure	2020/21 £(000)	2021/22 £(000)	Part of high pass through requirement
Distribute to providers for 3-4 year old universal offer	13,975	13,820	Yes
Distribute to providers for 3-4 year old children with working parents (additional 15 hours)	3,501	3,542	Yes
Supplementary funding distributed to maintained nursery schools	725	717	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	67	64	No
Disability Access Fund	73	80	No
Distribute to providers for 2 year olds	3,166	3,746	No
Central Spend	1,102	1,102	No
Additional Panel Funding	450	442	Yes
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>22,901</b>	<b>23,514</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
Universal allocation for 3-4 year olds	15,090	14,918	Yes
Additional hours for 3-4 years from September 2017	3,781	3,824	Yes
Supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools	725	717	No
Disability Access Fund	73	80	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	67	64	No
Allocation for 2 year olds	3,166	3,771	No
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,901</b>	<b>23,374</b>	
Balance	158	<b>140</b>	
<b>Breakdown of balance:</b>			
Funding gap for 2 year olds	158		
Central spend for 2 year olds			
<b>Balance</b>	158		

## 11. Financial Implications

11.1. The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

**12. Legal Implications**

12.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

**13. Equality Implications**

13.1. Not applicable.

**14. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

14.1. Not applicable.


**15. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

15.1. Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

***Gail Tolley***

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Schools Forum</b> 21 January 2021
<b>Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</b>	
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Deficit Management Plan</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 6462 Email: <a href="mailto:Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk">Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk</a>  Sharon Buckby Head of Inclusion & Headteacher Virtual School 0208 937 2179 Email: <a href="mailto:Sharon.buckby@brent.gov.uk">Sharon.buckby@brent.gov.uk</a>

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To provide information on the DSG deficit management plan toolkit provided by the ESFA for all local authorities.
- 1.2. To present Schools Forum with the first update on preparation of the plan, with further updates to be presented to Schools Forum on a termly basis.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the Schools Forum notes the DSG High Needs Block deficit management plan proposals.

**3. Summary**

- 3.1 In September 2020, the ESFA issued a template to help local authorities manage their deficit management plan, through developing evidence-based and strategic plans covering the provision available for children and young people (CYP) with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

- 3.2 Any local authority with an overall DSG deficit by the end of the 2019-20 financial year must be able to present a plan to the DfE for managing their future spend.
- 3.3 As stated in the deficit management template's published guidance, the template is designed to help local authorities:
- comply with the DfE requirement for any local authority with an overall DSG deficit at the end of the 2019-20 to provide information (as and when requested by the DfE) about plans for managing DSG expenditure;
  - keep the Schools Forum regularly updated about the local authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings;
  - monitor how DSG funding is being spent;
  - compare data on high needs spend between LAs;
  - highlight areas where LAs may wish to review spending;
  - form evidence-based and strategic future plans for the provision of children and young people with SEND;
  - present complex funding information simply to Schools Forums and other external stakeholders;
  - provide a consistent reporting format to help LAs share best practice and initiatives.

#### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1 At the end of the financial year 2019/20, the overall DSG was in deficit by £4.9m and this represents 1.57% of the DSG allocation. This deficit was carried forward to 2020/21. Presently the current DSG forecast for 2020/21 is a further deficit of £4.2m and this would mean that at the end of the financial year 2020/21, the deficit would increase to £9.1m, which represents 2.9% of the current 2020/21 allocation.
- 4.2 A large number of Councils including most London Boroughs are forecasting a deficit on their DSG budgets by the end of 2020/21. An ISOS Partnership's research project commissioned by the LGA in 2019 showed that by the end of 2018/19 HNB expenditure was projected nationally to be in a cumulative deficit position of £470m. It showed that the degree of cumulative overspend on the HNB was higher in London than in any other region.
- 4.3 A recent survey undertaken by the Society of London Treasurers (SLT) of the 32 London Boroughs in the summer of 2020 showed that 18 out of 24 responding LAs are forecasting in year deficits at the end of 2020/21. Forecast deficits ranged from £0.4m to £14.4m placing Brent mid-range and the total forecast accumulated deficits for 17 out of the 24 responding LAs amount to £239m with accumulated deficits ranging from £1.5m to £28.4m.

## 5. Deficit Management Template

- 5.1. The deficit management template is a large, comprehensive document, which comprises several tabs of data and narrative to be completed. Officers will continue to work on this and the High Needs Sub group will be engaged as the plan is developed, with updates to the Schools Forum.
- 5.2. The narrative sections include the current DSG financial position, high needs trends and proposed strategies for managing demand, engagement with stakeholders and key risks and mitigations.
- 5.3. The data sections of the template include current and projected EHCP numbers, recent High Needs Block outturn data, as well as projected (mitigated and unmitigated) expenditure for future years. Once completed, the template will then include some useful benchmarking comparisons across different years, and to statistical neighbours of a geographical region.

## 6. EHCP Projections.

- 6.1. The main cost driver of the HNB deficit remains the growth in EHCPs. Table 1 below models three scenarios of EHCP growth. The scenarios are “Low” which assumes that EHCP numbers will reduce compared to 2020/21 and level off; “Medium” which assumes a stable increase over the next few years; and “High”, which assumes exponential growth in EHCP numbers.

**Table 1 – Projected Increases in EHCP numbers.**

Number of EHCPs	Projected 2020	Projected 2021	Projected 2022	Projected 2023	Projected 2024	Projected 2025
<b>Low</b>	2,807	3,060	3,213	3,373	3,542	3,719
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	7%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Medium</b>	2,807	3,116	3,427	3,770	4,147	4,562
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%
<b>High</b>	2,807	3,121	3,484	3,952	4,557	5,348
Estimated % Increase	12%	11%	12%	13%	15%	17%

- 6.2. The growth in EHCP numbers will have a financial impact and Table 2 below models the potential financial impact of EHCP increases and assumes a 6% increase in HNB funding based on average HNB funding increases over the past 3 years. The model excludes any assumed transfers from the schools block.

**Table 2 – Financial Impact of forecast trends of EHCP numbers.**

	Projected 2020-21	Projected 2021-22	Projected 2022-23	Projected 2023-24	Projected 2024-25	Projected 2025-26
<b>Low</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Expenditure	66,484	70,689	73,651	75,948	78,322	80,775
HNB Allocation	(60,386)	(66,425)	(70,639)	(75,122)	(79,888)	(84,958)
<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>(1,566)</b>	<b>(4,183)</b>
<b>Medium</b>						
Expenditure	66,484	70,995	75,098	79,451	84,067	88,963
HNB Allocation	(60,386)	(66,425)	(70,639)	(75,122)	(79,888)	(84,958)
<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>4,570</b>	<b>4,459</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>4,178</b>	<b>4,005</b>
<b>High</b>						
Expenditure	66,484	71,066	75,786	81,592	88,685	97,414
HNB Allocation	(60,386)	(66,425)	(70,639)	(75,122)	(79,888)	(84,958)
<b>Funding Gap</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>4,642</b>	<b>5,147</b>	<b>6,470</b>	<b>8,797</b>	<b>12,456</b>

6.3. In summary against the high scenario an exponential growth in demand could increase the deficit position, while if the rate of growth in EHCPs slows down and levels off, the funding gap will reduce.

## 7. Key Strategies to mitigate the High Needs Block deficit.

7.1 As set out in the School Place Planning strategy 2019 – 2023 November 2020 refresh, a number of actions are being taken to expand the range of local placement options for children with SEND and reduce the need for high cost independent sector placements. These include:

- a. The new Roundwood School is opening to its first cohort this month. The first cohort will consist of KS3 and KS4 pupils on 6 week respite placements. The provision will offer combined curriculum and therapeutic interventions.
- b. Brent Council is working with Brent special schools to expand their Published Admission Number (PAN) over the next 3 years.
- c. Brent Council is working to establish an additional special school in Brent and additional satellite provision, particularly at secondary.
- d. Options are also being considered by Brent Council with Brent CCG, FE Colleges and school partners to develop a new post 16 skills hub to help meet the demand for education places for young people 16-25 with SEND.

7.2 Further developments are underway to manage the rate of EHCP growth and securing provision locally to meet the needs of Brent children. Brent is adopting an approach that builds on jointly meeting the needs of Brent children and recognises that for most children SEND is a dynamic characteristic. In addition to those areas identified in this paper, the strategy under development includes:

- a. Reviewing SLCN, MLD, and Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) EHCPs to ensure that resources are targeted appropriately, considering time limited resources where possible.
- b. A new Banding matrix and criteria to be established and to be agreed with Schools Forum as part of financial regulations. Within a defined matrix offer approach to allocate funds and additional support into SEN support this will include keeping young people in mainstream with appropriate funding and less reliance to default to an EHCP; work with current school clusters to explore with schools how needs can be best met locally, focusing on increasing SEND capacity in mainstream through Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs).
- c. Introduce a strengthened graduated response and mainstream plus offer, with a Brent moderation programme with SENCOs and Headteachers to address needs earlier, to support children to stay and progress in mainstream without an EHCP. It is proposed that this is called a Graduated Response Programme (GRP) with the aim to reduce the number of requests for EHCPs as modelled in the “Low” scenario in table 1 above.
- d. Clearly define Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) that provide a ‘mainstream plus approach for low needs such as Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD), Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and SEN Support, with an allocated amount to strengthen SEN support intervention and reducing the need for EHCP or promoting time limited EHCPs; and for children requiring at least 60% time in specialist provision coupled with a new Banding Matrix that clearly defines primary need [called Level 2 ARPs].

7.3 Brent Council is also developing a cross borough approach with the West London Alliance (WLA) for commissioning Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS) to help reduce the financial impact on the DSG High Needs Block from these placements.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1. If the key strategies outlined in the report are implemented, the financial impact, and how it contributes to the reduction of the DSG deficit, will be modelled and presented at future Schools Forums.

## **9. Legal Implications**

9.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

## **10. Equality Implications**

10.1. Not applicable.

**11. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

11.1. Not applicable.

**12. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

12.1. Not applicable.

**Report sign off:**

***Gail Tolley***

Strategic Director of Children and Young People