



Schools Forum

Thursday 20 January 2022 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

Nisha Lingam

Head

Angela Turner

Governor

Primary

Vacancy

Head

Michelle Ginty

Head

Melissa Loosemore

Head

Raphael Moss

Head

Michael Odumosu

Governor

Geraldine Chadwick(Vice Chair)

Governor

Ernest Toquie

Governor

Narinder Nathan

Governor

Vacancy

Governor

Secondary

Danny Coyle

Head (Maintained)

Special Education Needs

Nick Cooper

Head

Pupil Referral Unit

Ranjna Shiyani

Head

ACADEMY MEMBERS

Primary

Vacancy

Head

Jo Jhally Governor

Secondary

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

Special Education Needs

Jayne Jardine	Head
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NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS

Early Years PVI

Paul Russell
Wioletta Bura

Trade Union

John Roche / Jennifer Cooper

16-19 Provider Representative

Mark Stacey

For further information contact: Natalie Connor, Governance Officer
Email: natalie.connor@brent.gov.uk Tel: 0208 937 1506

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

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
1 Apologies for Absence and Membership	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Deputations (if Any)	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 8
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 11 November 2021 as a correct record.	
5 Actions arising	
To consider any actions arising from previous meetings.	
6 Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2022/23	9 - 20
This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for consultation and agreement by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council.	
7 Early Years National Funding Formula 2022-23	21 - 28
This report confirms the provisional Early Years Block DSG funding for Brent, in order for the local Early Years Funding Formula to be set for 2022/23.	
8 Any Other Urgent Business	

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 17 February 2022



MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 11th November 2021 at 6.00 pm

Membership Representing

PRESENT (all in remote attendance):

Governors	Mike Heiser (Chair) Geraldine Chadwick (Vice-Chair) Martin Beard Jo Jhally Narinder Nathan Michael Odumuso Ernest Toquie Angela Turner
Headteachers	Danny Coyle Nick Cooper Jude Enright Michelle Ginty Jayne Jardine Nisha Lingam Melissa Loosemore Gerard McKenna Raphael Moss Andy Prindiville
Trade Union	Jennifer Cooper
PRU	Ranjna Shiyani
Early Years PVI	Paul Russell
Officers	Brian Grady Olufunke Adediran Folake Olufeko Sharon Buckby James Kinsella
Councillors	Tom Stephens (Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills) & Mili Patel (Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care)

1. Apologies for Absence and Membership

Apologies for absence were received from Wioletta Bura (Early Years PVI representative)

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Deputations (if Any)**

None.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Subject to Geraldine Chadwick being listed as Vice-Chair in the Chair at the end of the minutes, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th June 2021 as a correct record.

5. **Actions arising**

Action 81: Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block Management Plan Update

Brian Grady, Operational Director Safeguarding, Performance and Strategy (Brent Council) confirmed that Brent's Cabinet on 8 November 21 had approved a refresh of the School Place Planning Strategy which had included details on the planned strategies for addressing the significant and increasing demand for places that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25. This had been shared with school leaders and could also be accessed via the following link:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Monday 8 November 2021, 10.00 am \(brent.gov.uk\)](https://www.brent.gov.uk/agenda/cabinet/2021-11-08)

6. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitoring 2021/22**

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council, introduced the report providing an update on the forecast financial position for 2021/2022. Key points included the following:

- The update provided in relation to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income, as set out in Section 4 of the report. The Forum was advised whilst the mainstream Schools Block income was projected to be in line with the budget, this would exclude £129m recouped by the DfE for academies. The Forum also noted the variance against the High Needs Block following an anticipated additional import/export adjustment due to be made by the DfE totalling £0.576m and academy recoupment of £7.6m.
- In terms of Expenditure Forecast:
 - The Schools Block was currently forecast to break even;
 - Expenditure on the High Needs Block (HNB) was currently forecast to exceed the budget by approximately £4m, with the overall pressure identified as £4.6m including the shortfall against income as a result of the import/export adjustment. The Forum noted the key driver in terms of HNB expenditure being the increase in number of Education Health & Care Plan (EHCPs). The total forecast expenditure on top up funding for 2021/22 represented a 7% increase on the previous year with a forecast overspend of £2.8m for pupils placed in mainstream schools and £1.4m against independent special schools. In addition the High Needs SEN

support services budget was currently being forecast to underspend by £0.6m mainly due to the relatively low number of pupils in Alternative Provision. The Forum noted the update on the deficit management recovery plan detailed within section 7.7 and Appendix 2 of the report, which detailed progress on the mitigating actions agreed to manage demand and improve the sufficiency of places and financial management. These mitigating items had resulted in a £2.162m cost avoidance and included 88 EHCP's having ceased as of August 2021; a review of all additional packages in place including for those attending out of borough provision along with an increase of provision in the number of maintained and special school places for children with EHCPs in Brent to attend these settings in the borough as opposed to out of borough placements and non-maintained schools. In addition the Forum was advised of progress on the pilot for SEN Support which had started in September 2021 with a £0.5m envelope which had been designed to increase early intervention activity on a schools based graduated approach in an attempt to reduce escalation of need to ECHP level. A more robust forecast of the impact and update on this would be provided at a future Forum.

- The outline position in relation to the Early Years and Central Block, as detailed in sections 8 and 9 of the report which were currently forecast as broadly in line with Block grant income but would be subject to ongoing monitoring and updates to future Forum meetings.

The Forum were then invited to raise questions on the report, with the following issue(s) raised:

- Members sought further details on the reference made within the update on the High Need Block Deficit Management Plan (section 7.81 of the report) to the 88 EHC plans in the borough which had ceased. In response the Head of Finance confirmed that this would have involved a number of reasons including (in the majority of cases) recipients turning 25 years old and/or having successfully entered employment or higher education.

As no further issues were raised the Chair thanked officers for the update and it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

7. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding Update Report 2022-23**

Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst at Brent Council introduced the report, which detailed the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) block funding allocations for 2022-23 allocations that would form the basis of further detailed work regarding funding.

Key points highlighted within the report were as follows:

- The provisional school funding allocations announced in July 2021 had indicated that core funding was expected to increase nationally by £2.3 billion in 2022/23. This was in line with the confirmed 2020 Spending Review increases to funding for schools in England by £7.1 billion by 2022/23 compared to 2019/20.

- Overall the schools block funding in Brent would increase by £1.8 million in 2022/23, representing a 0.7% increase. This was lower than the national increase of 2.9% and lower than the average of 1.7% for London. Factors which had contributed to the lower increase in funding included London having a lower share of primary and secondary schools, with a per pupil funding level below the 2022/23 minimum per pupil rate of £4,265 per primary school pupil and £5,525 for secondary school pupils alongside the impact of decreases in primary pupil numbers.
- High needs block funding would see an increase of £5.3 million, representing an 8% increase however the Forum was advised this would still not be sufficient to cover the identified deficit brought forward from 2020/21 DSG of £10.5m and any further increase in demand for ECHPs in 2022/23.
- The Central Block would also see a reduction of 6% totalling approximately £145,000 in Brent with London also experiencing smaller than average percentage increases in funding for ongoing responsibilities. This was driven by the decrease in pupil numbers across the borough and London as a whole.
- As part of the Chancellor of the Exchequers 2021 Spending Review £4.7billion growth had been announced for school's core budgets by 2024/25. This would include funding to cover the cost of the temporary increase in National Insurance Contributions and salaries although it was still unclear as to whether this funding would be subject to a levelling up process in the DfE's steps towards a hard National Funding Formula (NFF). The Review had also included £2.6 billion to support SEND provision, with further details now awaited on how the funding would be allocated.

In terms of the overall Schools Block allocation, the Forum noted the plans being considered by the Government to move towards compulsory implementation of a full National Funding Formula (NFF). Funding allocated through the schools NFF had been increased by 3.2% overall in 2022/23 and by 2.8% per pupil (2% per pupil for Brent which represented the minimum increase). In recognition of the potential impact any compulsory move may have the 3.2% increase was seen as a positive step towards matching the current local Brent formula, which included average funding levels per pupil of £5,408 for primary pupils and £6,826 for secondary pupils.

As no further issues were raised the Forum **RESOLVED** to note the 2022/23 allocations as the basis for further detailed work to allocate funding to individual schools and settings at the January 2022 School Forum meeting.

8. **Schools Block – Local Funding Formula (LFF) proposed arrangements for 2022/2023 & National Funding Formula (NFF) update**

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council introduced the report providing an update on the National Funding Formula consultation carried out by the DfE between July 2021 and September 2021. Members of the Forum were advised they were being asked to consider the proposed changes to the Brent Schools Block Funding Formula (LFF) from 2022/23 as a result of the consultation and Government's plans to transition towards a full NFF arrangement from 2023/24

which had been designed to enable a more phased approach. In addition the report updated the Forum about the proposed changes to payments of maintained schools Non Domestic Business Rates (NNDR) from 2022/23.

In presenting the report the key points highlighted included:

- Whilst the final outcome of the consultation undertaken by the DfE was still awaited the main proposals and changes which had been included for considered from 2023/24 were as follows (as detailed in section 4.1 of the report):
 - That local authorities be required to start bringing their local formula factors at least 10% closer to the NFF factor value by 2023/2024. This would include all NFF funding factors without local adjustment. Subject to the impact of the 10% move proposed in 2023/24 the DfE was then looking to move at least 15% closer to the NFF in 2024/25 and at least 20% closer in 2025/26. The Forum's attention was drawn to Appendix A of the report, which set out Brent's Local Funding Formula (LFF) rates for 2022/23. These were mainly higher than the NFF rates meaning adjustments would be required with the same appendix highlighting the impact on Brent's rates as a result of the 10% moved towards NFF;
 - To reform the premises factors from historic spend to a new formulaic approach following further consultation by the DfE. This would impact on the five schools in Brent that currently received split site funding;
 - To revise the basis of allocating growth funding for new and growing schools to meet basic need;
 - To change the falling rolls fund which provided funding for schools with short term reductions in pupil numbers and were judged to be "Good" or Outstanding" at their most recent Ofsted inspection. The Forum was advised that Brent did not currently have a falling rolls fund and if that was required under the NFF only schools that fitted the eligibility criteria would benefit, which may include some within the borough;
 - The proposed changes to the role of the Schools Forum, including the removal of powers relating to the LFF, deciding on growth funds and falling rolls funds as well as agreeing a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to support other funding blocks as had been used by the Schools Forum in Brent to support the High Needs Block. It was noted that the removal of this power may have an impact on Brent's deficit recovery plan, with the assumption that the option could be used moving forward over the next few years.
- The details of the consultation undertaken with Brent maintained schools and academies during October 2021 seeking views on any changes to the LFF for primary and secondary mainstream schools funding and to be applied to the schools block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding in support of the transition to NFF, as set out in section 11 and Appendix C of the report. There had been 11 respondents to the consultation, with the school level allocations for each option consulted upon set out in Appendix B of the report. Due to the relatively limited response the outcome had been broadly inconclusive providing, at this stage, no clear consensus for change with officers also acknowledging that the results could not be used as a fair representation on behalf of all schools in Brent.

- In terms of a proposed way forward, informed by the DfE consultation proposals and position in other local authority areas, officers were therefore recommending that the Forum consider incorporating changes within the Brent LFF to support a transition towards the full NFF in order to avoid a more significant impact in 2023/24. This would be based on a 10% gradual move in 2022/2023 as a step towards the NFF, as detailed within section 6 and Appendix B of the report as part of a phased approach including a minimum funding guarantee. It was proposed that the recommended approach would then be subject to final approval at the next Schools Forum meeting.
- In addition the Forum was provided with details of a further change from the DfE following the consultation undertaken on centralising the payment of Non Domestic Business Rates (NNDR). As a result it had been confirmed that from April 2022 the Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) would pay NNDR directly to billing authorities on behalf of schools for 5 to 16 year olds with maintained schools no longer needing to make NNDR payments to billing authorities and budget share allocations for 2022/23 reflecting the funding for NNDR although schools would not receive the actual cash payment. EFSA would provide additional rates costs associated with additional buildings on a school site that were used to deliver education for pupils at the school, however they would not cover additional rates costs associated with other buildings on site not used to deliver education. In order to enable a smooth transition to the new payment system, schools were therefore being advised to ensure they registered any additional buildings on school sites not used to deliver education for pupils at the school as a separate entity with the Valuation Office Agency's rating list (VOA), to ensure two individual bills were produced.

The Forum were then invited to raise questions on the report, with the following issues raised:

- Forum members were supportive of the recommended way forward being proposed in terms of Option 3 that had been consulted upon involving the making of a 10% move towards the NFF funding rates whilst maintain the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) element at current rates and using the minimum funding guarantee to mitigate against losses. This was on the basis of the proposal being regarded as the least disruptive option for schools as part of the ongoing transition process although concerns were expressed should any more significant movement be required outside of the planned gradual and incremental increases over the next few years.
- Details were sought on the process to be undertaken in engaging and advising schools on the approach agreed in relation to the transition process. In response, Brian Grady assured the Forum of the measures being taken to actively engage and seek further views from all schools on the proposed changes. Further communication would be undertaken with schools following on from the Forum meeting with a further update to be provided for the next meeting on the outcome of the process and further comments received, prior to a final decision being made.

- Concerns were highlighted by members of the Forum that the limited response to the original consultation with schools may have been as a result of the frustrations felt by schools leaders about the financial pressures being faced in relation to school funding and budgets and a general acceptance that whatever the outcome the changes were going to need to be implemented anyway. In response, Councillor Stephens (as Brent Council's Lead Member for Schools, Employment & Skills) recognised the concerns being expressed given the current pressures being experienced in relation to school funding arrangements and assured the Forum, in support, of the continued lobbying actively taking place on the issues identified at both a regional and national level.
- Further clarification was also sought on the impact of the proposed changes around NNDR and the impact on Early Years and PRU providers, which officers advised they would investigate and respond separately to outside of the meeting.

Having noted the comments provided, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Endorse as a way forward, the proposals to change the LFF to support a move towards the NFF rates and funding factors in order to enable further engagement with schools in determining the 2022/23 budget share allocations and a final decision on the LFF to be taken at the next Schools Forum meeting. These proposals to include:
 - (a) The introduction of the Free Schools Meals (FSM) funding factor; and
 - (b) making a 10% move towards the NFF funding rates, whilst maintaining the Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) element at current rates and using the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to mitigate against any losses.
- (2) Note the changes to payments of maintained schools Non Domestic Business Rates (NNDR) from 2022/23.

9. **Any Other Urgent Business**

The Forum noted the following as dates scheduled for future meetings:


- Thursday 9 December 2021 at 6pm (additional meeting, if required)
- Thursday 20 January 2022 at 6pm

No other items of business were identified.

The meeting closed at 6:40 pm

M HEISER
Chair

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 Brent	Schools Forum 20 January 2022
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2022/23	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	N/A
No. of Appendices:	Two Appendix A – Funding Formula Rates 2022-23 Appendix B – School Level Allocations 2022-23
Background Papers:	Prior Financial reports to Schools Forum.
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk Folake Olufeko Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: Folake.Olufeko@brent.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Schools Forum is asked to:
 - a. In line with 2021/22, approve the transfer of £1.2m (0.5%) from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. Department for Education (DfE) regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to be transferred with Forum approval.
 - b. Note the additional funding allocations to Brent, as mentioned in the 2021 Spending Review.
 - c. Recommend the budget for the DSG blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to Full Council for approval.
- 2.2. Maintained school members of the Schools Forum are requested to approve the proposed de-delegation arrangements set out within this report; including the proposal

to fund redundancy costs for school based staff from the de-delegated contingencies budget.

3. Summary- 2022/23 DSG Funding Announcements

- 3.1. In November 2021, Schools Forum was presented with the provisional DSG allocations, which were published in July 2021. The final DSG block funding allocations were announced on 16 December 2021. This report gives an update of the final Schools Block allocations which includes the growth funding allocation.
- 3.2. Following the 2021 Spending Review, the government has announced that it will provide a Schools Supplementary Grant of £1.2bn, in addition to the DSG for mainstream schools. Brent is estimated to receive £6.9m of this grant. School-level allocations of the Schools Supplementary Grant will be published in Spring 2022. The grant will be available to primary, secondary, maintained nursery schools and Post 16 provisions to support cost pressures in respect of the 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy (Increased National Insurance Contributions) effective from 2022/23 and other wider cost pressures as defined by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 3.3. The government has also announced an additional £325m in 2022/23 for Special schools and other providers funded from the High Needs Block (HNB), through a top up to the HNB of the DSG. This is an increase of 4% to the High Needs allocations announced in July 2021. Brent is estimated to receive an additional £2.9m of this grant.

Table 1

2022/23 Brent DSG Funding Allocations	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Central Services Block	Early Years	Total
Confirmed	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2021/22	247,702	66,396	2,284	23,374	339,756
2022/23	249,727	71,926	2,129	21,957	345,739
Increase/(Reduction)	2,025	5,530	(155)	(1,417)	5,983
% Change from 2021/22	0.8%	8.3%	(6.8%)	(6.1%)	1.8%
Spending Review: Provisional schools supplementary grant & additional HN funding	6,875	2,874			9,749
Total funding allocations for 2022/23	256,602	74,800	2,129	21,957	355,488

- 3.4. For 2022/23, the growth funding allocation has been reduced from £2.1m in 2021/22 to £1.0m in 2022/23. The allocation is based on the difference between the number of pupils on roll in each school between the October 2020 and October 2021 school censuses. This growth funding allocation is included in the overall Schools Block funding for 2022/23 as shown in Table 1 above.
- 3.5. The final HNB allocation has been announced at £71.9m, a £0.377m decrease from the provisional allocation of £72.3m announced in July 2021. There has also been a £0.576m reduction in the 2021/22 HNB allocation due to a recoupment of funds for Brent pupils placed in other local authorities. This follows an import/export review by the DfE

which was carried out in July 2021. The reduction was forecasted in the DSG Budget Monitoring report which was presented to Schools Forum in November 2021.

- 3.6. The HNB allocation for 2022/23 is £5.5m more than the allocation for 2021/22, and represents a funding increase of 8.3%. However, the 2021/22 HNB expenditure budget is currently forecast to spend £71.5m. This is inclusive of £7.6m recouped for Brent pupils, with high needs, 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 HNB to mitigate the growing demand. This equates to a transfer of £1.2m, which would bring the HNB budget to £73.1m. A detailed breakdown of the HNB budget will be presented to Schools Forum in February 2022.
- 3.7. The Early Years Block allocations were also published in December 2021. For Brent, the hourly rate from the Early Years National Funding Formula for Early Years Provision for 2 year olds has increased from £6.08 in 2021/22 to £6.29 in 2022/23 and for 3 & 4 year olds has increased from £5.51 to £5.68 in 2022/23. Although the funding has increased at a per pupil level, the reduction in overall funding of £1.4m is mainly as a result of the drop in the number of children requiring early years provision, following the repeated lockdowns from March 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The detailed Early Years Block budgets will be presented in a separate paper to this Schools Forum.
- 3.8. The Central Schools Services Block funding is allocated to local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies. The Central Block funding is split into two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities and funding for historic pension costs for centrally employed teachers. The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £2.1m, a decrease across both elements of £0.155m compared to 2021/22.

4. Schools Supplementary Grant and High Needs Top Up Funding

- 4.1. The allocations for the School Supplementary Grant as shown in Table 1 represents an additional funding of £6.9m for the Schools Block.
- 4.2. This additional funding will be provided in each year of the current Spending Review period. It is the DfE's intention that payment of this additional funding will be in the form of a separate grant for 2022/23 only. The funding will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2023/24 where possible. As a result, for 5 to 16 aged pupils in schools, the funding will be rolled into the schools' National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2023/24.
- 4.3. In recognition of the funding cycle for academies, which follows the academic year (rather than the financial year, as for local authority-maintained schools), academies will receive an additional allocation of the schools supplementary grant to cover April to August 2023, this is the period in advance of the funding being rolled into academies' core budget allocations through the NFF.
- 4.4. This additional funding against the Schools Block of the DSG will go towards supporting Brent schools, especially those experiencing financial difficulty and currently projecting an in-year deficit. For maintained mainstream schools, the grant will be paid to local

authorities to transfer to individual schools at the rates published by the DfE. The DfE will pay published rates directly to academies.

- 4.5. These local authority allocations of the school supplementary grant are indicative only, as they are calculated using preliminary data from the October 2021 census. In particular, part of the allocations will depend on the number of "FSM6" pupils a school has - that is pupils who either currently are, or have been, recorded as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years. The final FSM6 data will be available in early 2022. Final school level allocations of the school supplementary grant will be confirmed in Spring 2022, based on final FSM6 data and an number of other factors such as a basic per pupil rate and a lump sum paid to all schools.
- 4.6. The 2022/23 HNB base funding allocation of £71.9m is in line with the HNB deficit management plan which had estimated £71.8m income for this block in 2022/23. However, the increase will not contribute towards the projected cumulative DSG deficit of £15.4m. This additional top up funding of £2.9m will contribute towards funding any further additional pressures due to increased number of ECHPs in the following year, compared to 2021/22.

5. Schools Block Expenditure – Mainstream Funding Formula

- 5.1. The mainstream funding formula for 2022/23 excluding the allocated growth fund totals £244.067m. This excludes £1.9m of the Schools Block funding which has been clawed back by the DfE to pay for Non Domestic Business Rates directly to billing authorities on behalf of schools; and includes £0.486m de-delegated funds and £0.360m retained by the council as a contribution towards fulfilling the education services. This leaves £243.365m to be transferred to schools.
- 5.2. 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.

6. De-Delegations

Redundancy funding

- 6.1. If in exceptional circumstances school redundancies are eligible to be funded centrally then these will need to be found from within wider DSG funding. It is proposed that this is funded from the Schools Facing Financial Difficulties Fund (SFFDF) with a current budget of £175k as shown in Table 2 below. However, this expenditure is currently forecast to spend to budget in this financial year and may present a financial pressure in 2022/23 if the same level of spend is maintained.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. The Per Pupil rates have been adjusted in line with the decrease in pupil numbers to maintain the same level of funding as in 2021/22 for contingencies, licences and staff costs cover. The Free Schools Meals eligibility service has been increased slightly to factor in additional on-costs from 2021/22.

6.4. Table 2 – De-delegated items

	2021/22		2022/23	
Primary Pupil Numbers	19,109		18,676	
Secondary Pupil Numbers	2,047		1,925	
Total Maintained pupils	21,156		20,601	
	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)
Contingencies- Schools in Financial Difficulty. Proposed to include redundancy funding from 2022/23	8.29	175,383	8.51	175,383
Free School Meals eligibility service	1.15	24,329	1.21	25,000
Licenses/ Subscriptions	0.25	5,289	0.26	5,289
Staff costs	13.24	280,105	13.59	280,000
Total De-delegated items	485,106		485,672	

7. Funding Formula Rates

- 7.1. Appendix A provides information on the funding factor rates used in the proposed funding formula, with a minimum funding guarantee set at 1.5%. This follows consultations with the schools and the November Schools Forum endorsement to change the current local funding factors to enable a gradual move towards the National Funding Formula, which is set to be compulsory from 2023/24.
- 7.2. The agreed local funding option which has been used to set the budgets for 2022/23 includes:
- (a) The introduction of the Free Schools Meals (FSM) funding factor; and
 - (b) Making a 10% move towards the NFF funding rates, whilst maintaining the Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) element at current rates and using the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to mitigate against any losses.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. The funding formula is subject to a positive MFG of 1.5% which ensures that per pupil funding will increase by this proportion. Under these proposals 59 out of 76 schools require an MFG allocation, and this totals £2.3m. This adjustment is included in the overall post de-delegations and education functions budget as shown in Appendix B.

8. Growth Fund

- 8.1. The Growth budget funds increases in pupil numbers, as well as the Choice Advance and Fair Access Interview (CAFAI) projects for children who are new to the country. The growth budget in 2021/22 is £2.25m, and is expected to spend to budget. In 2022/23, two of the five CAFAI projects are expected to come to an end, releasing £243k of this budget. It is proposed to retain the current growth budget and use this surplus to fund the projected growth in the Secondary phase.

9. Financial Implications

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

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

11. Equality Implications

- 11.1. Not applicable.

12. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 12.1. Not applicable.

13. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 13.1. Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

Appendix A - 2022-23 Funding Formula Rates - Pupil Funding Factors

Type of Pupil Led Factor	Phase	Factors	2021-22 Rate £	2022-23 Rate £	Change to 2021-22 rates £	2021-22 Units (Oct 20)	2022-23 Units (Oct 21)	Diff. in no of units	Total Funding 2021-22 £	Total Funding 2022-23 £
Per Head	Primary	Primary (Years R-6)	3,895	3,895	0	25,538	25,118	(420)	99,477,298	97,841,287
Per Head	Secondary	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	5,628	5,628	0	9,791	9,771	(20)	55,105,963	54,993,398
Per Head	Secondary	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	6,212	6,212	0	6,312	6,360	48	39,211,329	39,509,514
AEN Factors	Primary	FSM	-	270	270	-	4,755	4,755	0	1,283,398
AEN Factors	Primary	FSM6	-	68	68	-	5,180	5,180	0	350,978
AEN Factors	Secondary	FSM	-	270	270	-	3,181	3,181	0	858,529
AEN Factors	Secondary	FSM6	-	99	99	-	4,098	4,098	0	407,110
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band F	395	381	(14)	4,127	4,054	(74)	1,630,030	1,543,266
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band E	401	392	(9)	4,177	4,195	18	1,673,179	1,642,308
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band D	409	416	7	2,642	2,512	(130)	1,079,433	1,044,831
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band C	676	662	(15)	1,483	1,393	(90)	1,003,063	921,740
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band B	1,026	980	(46)	215	206	(10)	220,711	201,357
AEN Factors	Primary	IDACI Band A	1,448	1,376	(71)	3	4	1	4,384	5,528
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band F	416	412	(5)	2,314	2,369	56	963,478	975,074
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band E	442	446	5	2,290	2,262	(28)	1,011,700	1,009,803
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band D	548	561	14	1,477	1,465	(12)	808,915	822,241
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band C	730	731	2	665	614	(51)	485,383	449,313
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band B	1,121	1,089	(32)	139	143	4	155,490	155,868
AEN Factors	Secondary	IDACI Band A	1,591	1,534	(57)	2	3	1	3,183	4,603
AEN Factors	Primary + Secondary	LAC	1,179	1,179		85	89	5	99,824	105,229
AEN Factors	Primary	EAL	1,459	1,378	(81)	3,435	3,584	149	5,013,307	4,939,683
AEN Factors	Secondary	EAL	1,625	1,638	13	338	485	148	548,578	794,754
AEN Factors	Primary	Low Prior Attainment	1,404	1,393	(11)	7,623	7,213	(410)	10,700,809	10,048,562
AEN Factors	Secondary	Low Prior Attainment	1,802	1,818	16	3,776	3,783	7	6,803,824	6,877,659
AEN Factors	Primary	Mobility	1,181	1,169	(12)	267	560	293	315,881	655,349
AEN Factors	Secondary	Mobility	1,536	1,535	(1)	60	116	56	92,619	178,574
Total									226,408,382	227,619,954

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Appendix B - School Level Allocations 2022-23


(This excludes the schools supplementary grant which will be published in Spring 2022)

School	2021-22				2022-23			
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions)	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)
Anson Primary School	351	1,920,580	5,471.74	-	353	1,926,495	5,457.49	37,668
Brentfield Primary School	429	2,473,311	5,765.29	75,476	403	2,306,811	5,724.10	81,472
Byron Court Primary School	776.5	3,752,020	4,831.96	-	747.5	3,627,728	4,853.15	41,223
Carlton Vale Infant School	62	534,439	8,619.99	10,636	52	464,166	8,926.27	15,830
Harlesden Primary School	320	1,894,852	5,921.41	107,370	293	1,743,280	5,949.76	77,092
Mount Stewart Junior School	316	1,575,306	4,985.15	-	316	1,538,396	4,868.34	12,623
Mount Stewart Infant School	249	1,321,937	5,308.99	18,816	255	1,359,059	5,329.64	9,902
Uxendon Manor Primary School	619	2,996,804	4,841.36	-	627	3,027,975	4,829.31	10,361
Kingsbury Green Primary School	557	2,772,904	4,978.28	4,391	549	2,750,931	5,010.80	-
Leopold Primary School	681	3,909,633	5,741.02	54,962	664	3,883,003	5,847.90	-
Lyon Park Primary School	812	4,048,077	4,985.32	-	810	4,026,111	4,970.51	27,987
Malorees Infant School	170	1,031,247	6,066.16	-	162	978,766	6,041.77	27,549
Northview Junior and Infant School	199	1,176,528	5,912.20	6,390	200	1,181,066	5,905.33	32,742
Park Lane Primary School	410	2,163,631	5,277.15	21,484	416	2,198,411	5,284.64	7,222
Preston Park Primary School	585	2,910,100	4,974.53	-	523	2,613,534	4,997.20	29,170
Roe Green Junior School	475	2,289,475	4,819.95	4,101	452	2,195,010	4,856.22	1,638
Roe Green Infant School	388	2,354,880	6,069.28	-	360	2,206,130	6,128.14	56,476
Barham Primary School	840	4,133,987	4,921.41	-	845	4,122,406	4,878.59	91,531
Wykeham Primary School	445	2,382,177	5,353.21	1,047	420	2,259,147	5,378.92	-
Elsley Primary School	675	3,516,966	5,210.32	17,457	706	3,650,132	5,170.16	47,172
Donnington Primary School	194	1,135,399	5,852.57	22,771	199	1,150,928	5,783.56	35,460
The Stonebridge School	353.5	2,012,924	5,694.27	63,457	285	1,677,072	5,884.46	59,722
Newfield Primary School	242	1,458,522	6,026.95	45,535	236	1,422,201	6,026.28	34,959
Mitchell Brook Primary School	596	3,209,768	5,385.52	63,707	575	3,110,572	5,409.69	73,767
Chalkhill Primary School	416	2,288,407	5,500.98	13,346	410	2,242,118	5,468.58	-
Salisbury Primary School	599	2,997,938	5,004.91	-	600	3,044,325	5,073.87	-
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	410	2,058,421	5,020.54	4,765	411	2,057,063	5,005.02	9,983
Mora Primary School	395	2,130,824	5,394.49	-	400	2,150,682	5,376.71	1,985

School	2021-22				2022-23			
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions)	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)
Fryent Primary School	676	3,473,538	5,138.37	-	657	3,393,775	5,165.56	-
Christ Church CofE Primary School	164	963,815	5,876.92	-	160	965,288	6,033.05	-
John Keble CofE Primary School	366	2,012,739	5,499.29	18,042	370	2,067,891	5,588.89	-
Princess Frederica CofE Primary School	397	1,919,607	4,835.28	-	392	1,922,554	4,904.47	34,138
St Mary's CofE Primary School	222	1,317,574	5,935.02	40,445	198	1,208,468	6,103.37	66,859
St Joseph RC Junior School	278	1,391,266	5,004.55	13,106	280	1,417,809	5,063.61	20,696
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School	322	1,640,780	5,095.59	-	314	1,625,003	5,175.17	18,477
St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School	408	1,958,352	4,799.88	-	417	2,024,181	4,854.15	5,796
Convent of Jesus and Mary RC Infant School	228	1,309,558	5,743.67	14,228	226	1,315,905	5,822.59	14,646
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	202	1,190,694	5,894.52	47,335	199	1,190,093	5,980.37	50,184
St Joseph's RC Infant School	210	1,227,907	5,847.18	-	208	1,232,994	5,927.86	13,999
Sinai Jewish Primary School	590	2,682,815	4,547.14	-	583	2,688,898	4,612.17	32,989
St Mary's RC Primary School	236	1,329,995	5,635.57	15,598	211	1,222,259	5,792.70	3,175
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	183	929,688	5,080.27	-	184	944,852	5,135.07	8,453
Wembley Primary School	800	4,103,326	5,129.16	-	825	4,230,896	5,128.36	35,651
Malorees Junior School	252	1,308,032	5,190.60	-	242	1,278,717	5,283.96	5,492
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	470	2,368,173	5,038.67	44,800	447	2,290,902	5,125.06	39,280
The Kilburn Park School Foundation	119	765,120	6,429.58	26,183	72	535,838	7,442.19	16,342
Islamia Primary School	421	2,370,737	5,631.20	24,818	421	2,402,585	5,706.85	40,737
Ark Franklin Primary Academy	598	2,899,686	4,848.97	103,927	604	2,957,154	4,895.95	119,290
Gladstone Park Primary School	608	3,134,243	5,155.00	-	611	3,260,181	5,335.81	-
St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School	397	2,141,182	5,393.40	-	387	2,111,670	5,456.51	32,382
Kilburn Grange School	225.5	1,453,885	6,447.38	151,060	229	1,471,261	6,424.72	138,372
East Lane Primary School	557.5	2,692,296	4,829.23	81,107	615.5	2,992,607	4,862.07	132,650
Braintcroft E-Act Primary Academy	593	3,244,443	5,471.24	1,244	610	3,368,373	5,521.92	-
Furness Primary School	331	1,839,143	5,556.32	31,851	304	1,717,606	5,650.02	30,583
Sudbury Primary School	837	3,962,784	4,734.51	-	823	3,953,725	4,804.04	11,137
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School	233	1,282,790	5,505.54	-	234	1,303,834	5,571.94	32,516
Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	172	1,052,529	6,119.36	-	179	1,101,758	6,155.07	42,050
St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	191	1,129,953	5,915.98	5,415	185	1,113,379	6,018.27	30,042

School	2021-22				2022-23			
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions)	£ Per Pupil	MFG Adjustment (included in post de-delegations budget)
Oakington Manor Primary School	647	3,300,748	5,101.62	-	648	3,352,700	5,173.92	-
North West London Jewish Day School	221	1,170,492	5,296.34	-	189	1,034,002	5,470.91	24,167
PRIMARY TOTAL	24,720	130,018,945		1,154,871	24,294	128,610,677		1,823,634
Michaela Community School	602	4,179,606	6,942.87	-	617	4,261,927	6,907.50	16,476
Ark Elvin Academy	988	6,984,011	7,068.84	26,041	1033	7,442,623	7,204.86	-
North Brent School	190	1,372,777	7,225.14	44,994	180	1,326,143	7,367.46	8,803
Wembley High Technology College	1090	7,089,272	6,503.92	-	1086	7,114,908	6,551.48	67,178
Claremont High School	1339	8,646,643	6,457.54	-	1337	8,713,990	6,517.57	70,312
Kingsbury High School	1610	10,974,564	6,816.50	-	1618	11,194,237	6,918.56	-
Queens Park Community School	1092	7,332,939	6,715.15	-	1092	7,404,164	6,780.37	72,769
Saint Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	704	4,974,987	7,066.74	-	701	5,137,499	7,328.81	-
Alperton Community School	1449	9,961,557	6,874.78	-	1557	10,827,476	6,954.06	40,195
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	942	6,182,001	6,562.63	-	940	6,233,317	6,631.19	52,957
Capital City Academy	916	6,520,172	7,118.09	-	903	6,465,245	7,159.74	-
E-Act Crest Academy	973	7,013,818	7,208.45	84,662	987	7,190,888	7,285.60	-
JFS	1527	9,515,542	6,231.53	-	1459	9,228,847	6,325.46	79,794
Newman Catholic College	520	3,937,219	7,571.57	46,479	466	3,595,119	7,714.85	15,685
SECONDARY TOTAL	13,942	94,685,107		202,176	13,976	96,136,384		424,168
Preston Manor School	1672	10,505,122	6,282.97	-	1665	10,567,021	6,346.56	31,422
Ark Academy	1307	7,962,119	6,091.90	-	1314	8,051,149	6,127.21	-
ALL THROUGH TOTAL	2,979	18,467,241			2,979	18,618,169		31,422
Total	41,641	243,171,294		1,357,047	41,249	243,365,230		2,279,224

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	Schools Forum 20 January 2022
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) 2022/23	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	N/A
No. of Appendices:	None.
Background Papers:	Prior Financial reports to Schools Forum.
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.adediran@brent.gov.uk Folake Olufeko Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: Folake.Olufeko@brent.gov.uk

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 2022/23.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Schools Forum is asked to endorse Brent's Early Years Funding Formula for 2022/23, as supported by the Early Years Funding subgroup.

3. Summary

- 3.1. There have been increases to the funding rates allocated to Brent for 2-year-old, and 3 and 4-year-old provision, however, overall funding allocations have reduced due to a reduction in demand for Early Years Provision since January 2020.

3.2. The local authority continues to retain 5% of the total 3&4 year old funding allocated to Brent, with 95% allocated to providers and proposes to retain 2% of the 2 year old funding.

3.3. It is recommended that for 2022/23, the following are applied to the EYNFF:

- a) A universal base rate for Brent providers for 3 and 4 year old funding of £4.74 per hour. This has increased by £0.15p from £4.59 in 2021/22.
- 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 £6.16. This has increased from £6.04 in 2021/22.
- d) A cap on centrally retained funding by the local authority of 5% of 3&4 year old funding.
- e) In addition to that, a retention of £0.13p from the 2 year old funding for support services.
- f) 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 5s 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 EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds has increased from £5.51 in 2021/22 to £5.68 in 2022/23. Key figures are:

4.2. **Table 1** EYNFF funding rates

3 and 4 year olds	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Universal 15 hours allocation	£15.0m	£14.9m	£14.6m
Additional 15 hours allocation	£3.78m	£3.8m	£3.6m
Hourly rate before central spend	£5.45	£5.51	£5.68
Maximum percentage for central spend	5%	5%	5%
Hourly rate after central spend removed	£5.18	£5.23	£5.40
Maximum percentage for deprivation	10%	10%	10%
Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary Funding	£0.725m	£0.717m	£0.732m
2 year olds			
Hourly rate for 15 hours allocation	£6.00	£6.08	£6.29
Provider rate for 2 year olds	£6.00	£6.04	£6.16

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

5.1. The 3 & 4 year old funding will be distributed to providers as a universal base hourly rate plus an additional allocation for deprivation; after the 5% reduction for central resources. The universal base rate to providers has increased from £4.59 in 2021/22 to £4.74 in 2022/23 as shown below:

a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE	£5.68
b) Remove central spend of 5%	£5.40
c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p)	£5.27
d) Reduce by allocation for deprivation (£5.27 x 90%)	£4.74

5.2. Funding supplements are amounts of funding paid to providers in addition to the base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives. The total planned value of funding supplements must not be more than 10% of the total value of planned formula funding to providers. The Department for Education (DfE) requires local authorities to use a supplement to recognise deprivation in their areas. In Brent, the maximum 10% allowable for supplements is applied to deprivation.

5.3. Deprivation is allocated based on an index called Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), which allocates a score according to postcodes. The index was updated by the DfE based on 2019 data, as prior to 2020/21, 2015 data was being used. Similarly to the last financial year, the 2019 IDACI scores will be used to allocate deprivation funding for 2022/23.

6. A base rate for Brent providers for 2 year old funding

6.1. The DfE provisional funding estimates are based on the January 2021 census data and as expected, the actual funding allocation for 2022/23 has reduced in line with a 6% reduction in take up hours experienced between January 2020 and January 2021. This is mainly as a result of the impact of repeated lockdowns since March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Take-up numbers for both the 2 year old and the 3&4 year old entitlements have since increased from January 2021 and are now at 90% of the pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels, based on headcounts as at November 2021. It is anticipated that these increased numbers will be reflected in the final allocation for 2022/23 which will be based on the January 2022 census.

6.2. In 2022/23, the EYNFF rate for 2 year old funding has increased from £6.08 per hour to £6.29 per hour. In 2021/22, £0.04p was retained from the £6.08 allocated as a contribution towards central services. Providers were given a rate of £6.04 per hour.

7. Centrally retained funding

7.1. The DfE guideline mandates local authorities to pass through 95% of the Early Years funding for 3 and 4 years olds to providers. The department does not mandate how much of the 2 year old funding local authorities can retain for central services.

7.2. The central spend supports Early Years services as set out below. A significant number of Brent Early Years settings have accessed this support especially during the pandemic period, when this support has been particularly highly valued. Services include:

- Providing specialist Early Years advice and guidance to nursery schools, Early Years' settings and Family Wellbeing Centres to improve the quality of early learning.
- Supporting the inclusion of young children who have a range of 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 Nursery Education Grant (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.

7.3. 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.

7.4. It is recommended that 5% of Early Years funding for 3 and 4 year olds is retained in 2022/23. This equates to £0.911m, compared to a £0.937m equivalent in 2021/22; a reduction of £0.026m on the previous financial year.

7.5. It is proposed to retain £0.13p of the increase to the 2 year old rate (£59k compared to £25k which was retained in 2021/22), as a contribution towards the provision of central services to support the sector. If agreed, £6.16 would be passed to providers. This allocation to central services will ensure continued delivery of the training offer which has been acknowledged by the Early Years Funding subgroup as a required service and is valued by providers, as well as other key central support provisions as outlined above. This will bring the total budget allocation for central services in 2022/23 to £0.970m, a reduction of £0.132m from the previous financial year.

8. Feedback from the Early Years Funding Subgroup

8.1. A detailed discussion took place regarding the proposed hourly rates and central retention from the Early Years funding allocation.

8.2. Members of the group feedback that notwithstanding the proposed increases in funding rates, the real term difference and benefits would be minimal when increases in minimum wage for their staff were considered. All sector representatives reported financial difficulties; including outstanding debt that they and others were experiencing. Recruitment and retention also pose challenges as staff are moving to other sectors and they also stated that the needs of children have increased as a result of the pandemic. The group has advised that without further intervention at central government level, there is a significant risk of providers closing down in the next 12 months. A number of broader options were suggested by members of the group, including the

consideration of innovative partnership alliances with the private and voluntary sectors.

- 8.3. Members of the group were in agreement with the proposals to retain 2% from the 2 year allocation and 5% from the 3 and 4 year allocation for central support services and acknowledged that the Early Years support services, including the provider training offer being provided, are invaluable to the sector.

9. Specialist Nursery Panel

- 9.1. This is a multi-agency panel allocating funds for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) or Children in Need (CIN), based on eligibility criteria to assist with their successful inclusion in their setting.

Table 2: DSG Specialist Nursery Panel Budget

Proposed income 2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
Income	£	£
DSG High Needs Block	(1,128,085)	(1,128,085)
Early Years Block	(442,190)	(416,981)
Disability Access Fund	(79,950)	(98,400)
Total Income	(1,650,225)	(1,643,466)
Expenditure		
Early Years Inclusion Fund for specialist nurseries	724,988	724,988
CIN for specialist nurseries	288,000	288,000
Inclusion fund for 3 & 4 year olds in non-specialist early years provision	294,172	294,172
Transport	39,627	39,627
Staff member for EY Inclusion team	56,000	60,000
Disability Access Fund	72,570	72,570
CIN/2 year olds in non-specialist early years provision	94,753	94,753
Additional one off funding	80,115	69,356
Total Expenditure	1,650,225	1,643,466

- 9.2. 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 2022/23, the value of this funding is £0.417m.

10. Additional resources for maintained nursery schools

10.1. The provisional allocation for the Maintained Nursery School supplementary funding in 2022/23 is £0.732m, compared to £0.717m in 2021/22. This represents an increase of 2.1%.

10.2. 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.

10.3. Following the 2021 Spending Review, the government has announced that it will provide a Schools Supplementary Grant of £1.2bn, of which Brent is estimated to receive £6.9m for mainstream schools. The grant will also be made available to Brent maintained nursery schools to support cost pressures in respect of the 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy (Increased National Insurance Contributions) effective from 2022/23. School level allocations of this grant will be published by the DfE in Spring 2022.

11. Early years funding based on DfE provisional allocations

11.1. The following table outlines an Early Years' budget based on draft allocations from the DfE and the recommendations from this paper.

Table 3 Proposed Early Years block budget

Income	2021/22 £(000)	2022/23 £(000)	Part of high pass through requirement
Universal allocation for 3-4 year olds	14,918	14,591	Yes
Additional hours for 3-4 years from September 2017	3,824	3,628	Yes
Allocation for 2 year olds	3,771	2,852	No
Supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools	717	732	No
Disability Access Fund	80	98	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	64	55	No
Total Income	23,374	21,957	
Expenditure			
Distribute to providers for 3-4 year old universal offer	13,820	13,528	Yes
Distribute to providers for 3-4 year old children with working parents (additional 15 hours)	3,542	3,363	Yes
Distribute to providers for 2 year olds	3,746	2,793	No
Supplementary funding distributed to maintained nursery schools	717	732	No
Disability Access Fund	80	98	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	64	55	No
Central spend	1,102	970	No
Additional panel funding	442	417	Yes
Total Expenditure	23,514	21,957	
Funding gap	140	-	

12. Financial Implications

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

13. Legal Implications

13.1. There are no legal implications for this report.

14. Equality Implications

14.1. Not applicable.

15. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

15.1. Not applicable.

16. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

16.1. Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director of Children and Young People

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