



Schools Forum

Thursday 19 January 2023 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 is available [HERE](#)

Membership

Representing

SCHOOL MEMBERS

Nursery

Nisha Lingam
Angela Turner

Head
Governor

Primary

Vacancy
Michelle Ginty
Melissa Loosemoore
Raphael Moss
Vacancy
Michael Odumosu
Geraldine Chadwick(Vice Chair)
Ernest Toquie
Cassie Lloyd Perrin

Head
Head
Head
Head
Governor
Governor
Governor
Governor
Governor

Secondary

Vacancy

Head (Maintained)

Special Education Needs

Nick Cooper

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
Vacancy	Governor
Martin Beard	Governor
Mike Heiser (Chair)	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

Vacancy

<p>For further information contact: Natalie Connor, Governance Officer Email: natalie.connor@brent.gov.uk; Tel: 020 8937 1506</p>

<p>For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:</p>

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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.

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4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 8
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd November 2022 as a correct record.	
5 Actions arising	
To consider any actions arising from previous meetings.	
6 Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2023/24	9 - 26
This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for 2023/24 for consultation and agreement by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council in February 2023.	
7 Early Years National Funding Formula 2023/24	27 - 36
Following the confirmation of the provisional DSG Early Years' (EY) Block funding for Brent, this report seeks Schools Forum approval of the local EY Funding Formula for 2023/24.	
8 Any Other Urgent Business	

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 21 February 2023



MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 3 November 2022 at 6.00 pm

Membership

Representing

PRESENT (all in remote attendance):

Governors

Mike Heiser (Chair)
Geraldine Chadwick (Vice Chair)
Martin Beard
Jo Jhally
Cassie Lloyd Perrin
Michael Odumosu
Ernest Toquie
Angela Turner

Headteachers

Nick Cooper
Jude Enright
Michelle Ginty
Jayne Jardine
Nisha Lingham
Melissa Loosemoore
Gerard McKenna
Raphael Moss
Andy Prindiville

Pupil Referral Unit

Ranjna Shiyani

Non School Members

Early Years PVI

Paul Russell

Trade Union

John Roche

Officers

Nigel Chapman (Corporate Director Children & Young People)
Shirley Parks (Interim Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy)
Olufunke Adediran (Head of Finance)
Folake Olufeko (Senior Finance Analyst)
Sharon Buckby (Head of Inclusion)
Natalie Connor & James Kinsella (Governance Team)

Councillors

Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Schools.

1. Apologies for Absence and Membership

There were no apologies for absence received.

The Chair updated members on a number of changes to the Schools Forum membership. Cassie Lloyd Perrin was welcomed as newly appointed member to the Forum as a Maintained School Primary Governor, additionally Jo Jhally, Andy Prindiville, Martin Beard and Gerard McKenna had all agreed to a further term of office with the Schools Forum. A resignation had been received from Schools Forum member Narinder Nathan, the Forum extended their best wishes to Narinder Nathan and thanked her for her service to the Schools Forum. The Forum were advised that Danny Coyle had taken up a role as a head teacher in a different borough so would cease to be a member of the Brent Schools Forum.

The Forum was advised that vacancies would be addressed in the next round of Schools Forum elections in the New Year.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Deputations (if Any)

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th June 2022 as a correct record.

5. Actions arising

None.

6. Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND Introduction

Roseanne Furniss from Newton Europe, the Department for Education's (DFE) programme delivery partner was welcomed by the Chair who he advised had been invited to attend to share an overview of how the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND diagnostic phase would work in Brent as well as meeting the wider objective to identify local and national opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

The Committee heard that the context of the DBV in SEND Programme was to address the recognised challenges in providing SEN Services, particularly with regards to the underlying funding challenges. The programme would seek to explore how funding could be most effectively used to ensure that better outcomes for children and young people with SEN were achieved. The four cornerstones to consider in achieving improvements were recognised as taking a child/young person centred approach; actively listening to those receiving support from the system; collaborating with key partners including service users and their families and exploring the issues around funding to ensure that funding that was available was used efficiently to ensure maximum impact. The Forum heard that the DBV

programme aimed to design its support through providing short term help to Local Authorities to identify sustainable changes that could drive high quality outcomes and assist in building an evidence-based grant application to support the implementation of the changes. Parallel to this the DBV Programme sought to inform long term reform by collecting the objective evidence base from participating authorities to inform future policy, drive legislative changes and share best practice.

The Forum were advised that Brent were currently at Module 1 of the 3 module grant application process, Module 1 included an understanding of Brent's historic and current position in SEN support and consideration of future SEN provision, identifying themes from the baselines and forecasts at this stage would support Module 2 which focused on exploring the main drivers of challenges specific to Brent. Module 3 required further exploration on the cultural and behavioural changes that would require adaptation in order to improve outcomes. At this stage in the application process Local Authorities should have a clear evidence base that would inform how the grant would be used ahead of the final stage of the process of making the grant application.

The Chair thanked Rosanna Furniss for introducing the item before offering Forum members the opportunity to seek further details or clarify any questions they had. Forum members raised questions regarding the level and frequency of funding, timescales and stakeholder involvement, with the following responses provided:

- In response to a Forum query regarding the level and frequency of funding it was confirmed that each Local Authority participating would be given £45k to support the grant and application phase of the programme, this would be followed up by the grant of up to £1m which would be awarded as a one off payment to kick start the plans created throughout the grant application process. There would be no additional funding available following the award of any grant
- It was acknowledged the application timescale was tight, however Brent were still at the initial stage and support would be provided at each step to ensure Brent had the support to gain insight into their specific challenges and were able to put a strong bid together to gain the funding to begin to implement changes.
- Officers were clear that they wanted stakeholder engagement to ensure that decisions made were informed by as many partners within the system as possible. A meeting would be taking place in November 2022 to give as many groups within Brent's SEN systems including the High Needs Block Sub Group and the Inclusion Strategic Board the opportunity to engage in the process. Officers welcomed the opportunity for schools to attend to ensure as broad a representation of partners could share their views and ideas.

The Forum welcomed the information shared and noted the positive opportunities for effective change in SEN provision in Brent as a result of the DBV in SEND programme. Officers confirmed that an update on the programme would be provided at a future Schools Forum.

7. DSG Budget Monitoring Report 2022-23

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance at Brent Council, introduced the report for the Forum to note that provided an update on the forecast financial position for 2022/2023, with the following key points shared:

- The increased demand for High Needs (HN) provision was forecast to lead to the overall Dedicated School Grant (DSG) expenditure exceeding income by £2.2m in 2022/23, resulting in a forecast cumulative deficit of £17.3m by the end of the current financial year. This was mainly due to the increasing number of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) that had risen by 8% since last year.
- The £2.2m deficit against the HN Block had also been adversely affected by the increased forecast of costs at in-borough mainstream schools, academies and special schools and independent day special schools, as well as out-of-borough special schools. The forecast also included an increase in expenditure relating to £0.3m to be recouped from the HN Block and allocated to other local authorities for out of borough placements, following an adjustment by the DfE in July 2022.
- The pressures against the HN Block would be further offset by £1.9m underspends identified as part of the HNB Management Plan to review and realign costs that had been funded from the DSG but which could be funded by the DSG. Actions taken to alleviate the pressures included £1m contribution towards the costs of children placed in independent Residential Care Children's Homes and other education related costs for Looked After Children to be funded from the Placements budgets via the General Fund and a contribution of £0.9m towards transport costs for SEN children.
- The Early Years Block funding allocation had increased by £1.3m following the completion of the January 2022 census as a result of an expected increase in take up of the 3 and 4 year old entitlement and a small increase in take-up of the 2 year old entitlement. There would also be a reduction to the supplementary nursery grant, consideration was being given to how this reduction would be contained within the Early Years Block with the Forum being updated on this at a future Schools Forum meeting.
- The Central Block of the DSG (£2.1m) that funded central services for schools, including the long-term commitment towards pension strain costs for former school employees of £0.4m was forecast to break even.
- The outline position in relation to High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Block would be subject to ongoing monitoring and updated to future Forum meetings.

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

- Members sought further details on the increased pressured on the High Needs Block in relation to the high costs of the children placed in provision outside of the borough. Officers clarified that costs had not increased, however a deep dive would be undertaken in this area to better reflect the breakdown of expenditure in this area as it remained a costly expenditure for the Council.
- In response to a query regarding why SEN Services in schools had continued to be reduced when Section 6, Table 2 in the accompanying report showed an underspend in SEN Services, officers clarified that due to the financial pressures it was vital for the Council to consider how spending across SEN in the borough was managed. As further highlighted by the DBV Programme, the Council were encouraged to think about different ways to deliver services to maximise the funding available, as such any saving made in one area would be

used to mitigate pressures in other areas. Officers advised that in considering how SEN Services were re-shaped schools should not feel that there had been a reduction. Officers encouraged schools to make contact with them if they were feeling that this was the case at their school.

- Members sought clarity on Section 6.6 of the report in terms of cost avoidance as part of the HNB Management Plan. Officers advised the Forum that as part of the management plan that was endorsed by the Schools Forum in May 2021, key themes were set out that supported exploration of how effective support could be delivered in the most cost-effective way. This tied in with the DBV in SEND Programme in thinking about what could be done differently, identifying needs at an earlier stage to effect maximum impact and better outcomes and how this in turn would impact the financial plan.
- In response to a Forum query regarding the increased savings made on the transport budget, officers clarified that following advice from CIPFA, transport costs going forward could be funded from the General Fund rather than the HNB and the DSG.

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

8. **DSG Provisional Funding Update Report 2023-24**

Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst, Brent Council, introduced the report to inform the Schools Forum of the provisional DSG block funding allocations announced for 2023/24. The Forum were asked to note the 2023/24 allocations that would form the basis of further detailed work to allocate funding to individual schools and settings at the January and February 2023 meetings, once final funding was confirmed.

Key points from the report were shared as follows:

- High needs and central schools services blocks would increase by 2.7% nationally, equating to £1.4 billion in 2023/24. However, London would see an overall increase of 2.4%.
- In Brent, the overall Schools Block funding would increase by £2.964 million in 2023/24, representing a 1.16% increase. This was lower than the national percentage increase of 1.9% and lower than the average of 1.6% for Local Authorities (LAs) in London when compared to 2022/23 based on pupil numbers driving the allocation of funding. Primary pupil numbers had been declining across London and in Brent, resulting in lower DSG allocations. The funding floor would ensure that every school was allocated at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to the 2022/23 allocation.
- The minimum per pupil funding levels would increase by 3%, compared to 2022/23. This would ensure that next year every primary school would receive at least £4,405 per pupil and every secondary school at least £5,715. These amounts were still lower than the Brent 2022/23 average under the Local Funding Formula (LFF) of £5,508 for primary and £6,900 for secondary.
- A further consultation, which closed in September 2022, focused on the implementation of the direct National Funding Formula (NFF) and the outcome of the consultation was expected to be published by December 2022. There were a number of proposals and those relevant to Brent included proposals in

relation to the transfer of funds between blocks, to introduce some flexibility to allow local authorities to continue to have the option to implement transfers, particularly from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and the determination of notional budgets for mainstream schools' SEND support within the NFF.

- The High Needs Block (HNB) would also see an increase of £570 million nationally, which represented a 6.4% increase compared to 2022/23. The NFF would ensure that every local authority received an increase of at least 5% per head of population, compared to 2022/23, and no more than 7%. Brent would receive the minimum increase of 5% equating to £3.5 million. This was below the London average of 5.8%. A key factor that had contributed to this outcome was changing demographic trends. As London was experiencing a low percentage increase in population, it would receive low percentage increases across various funding factors such as Free School Meals and population funding. The additional £3.5 million was lower than the funding increase received in the past few years and was unlikely to be sufficient to cover the current 2022/23 forecasted imbalance between the High Needs expenditure and income and fund any further increases in demand for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in 2023/24. The increase would also not be sufficient to cover the 2021/22 DSG deficit of £15.1 million.
- The Central Block would see an overall 4.1% reduction nationally. This block consisted of funding for ongoing responsibilities, which would increase by 2.2%, while funding for historic commitments within the block would decrease by a further 20% from 2022/23.
- The outcome of the DfE, Early Years Block NFF consultation, which ended on 16th September 2022 was expected in December 2022. One of the proposals in the consultation was to roll the Teachers Pay and Pensions grant (TPPG) into 3 and 4-year-old funding rates estimated as £0.13 and £0.56 into the Maintained Nursery Schools supplementary funding rate for Brent. The TPPG rates have been included in the comparative 2022/23 rates and were not increases to the funding block allocation.
- The illustrative allocations to local authorities were based on the part time equivalent January 2021 census data, with final allocations based on the January 2022 census data due to be presented at the Schools Forum meeting in January 2023.
- Indicative rate increases for the Block were shared as follows, nationally, the 2-year-old rate would see increases ranging from 1% to a maximum 8.6%. The London average was 8.3%, however Brent would see an increase of 7.6%. Nationally, the 3 and 4 year old rates would see increased funding ranging from 1% to a maximum of 4.5%. The average increase for London was 1.7%, Brent would see an increase of £0.06, which represented a 1% increase from £5.81 for 2022/23 (including the illustrative TPPG rate) to £5.87.
- The Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary (MNS) funding would see a £0.14 increase, this included an illustrative amount for the TPPG; the rate would increase from £4.99 to £5.13.
- There was also a proposal to introduce a minimum hourly funding rate and a cap on the hourly funding rate for MNS supplementary funding. The implications of this proposal for Brent would see nurseries' MNS funding being driven by take-up hours as opposed to the current funding methodology of allocating a £175k lump-sum and funding towards National Non-Domestic Business Rates (NNDR)

- In 2022/23, the number of Brent schools projecting an in-year deficit had increased to 67%. 23% of these schools planned to use over 50% of reserves to balance their budgets. Schools were feeling the impact of rising inflationary costs and increases in energy prices alongside the prospect of teachers pay increasing by 5% in 2022/23 and starting salaries rising by 8.9% to £30k.
- The DfE expected schools to manage these pressures within the allocated funding increase of 3.6% in 2022/23 and 1.2% expected in 2023/24. A number of Brent schools were also experiencing falling rolls that in turn had significantly reduced their funding. The Forum noted that the impacts of reduced funding had caused schools to have to make difficult strategic decisions to mitigate the impact of this.

The Chair thanked officers for the report before proceeding to invite the Forum to ask any questions they may have, with the following queries raised:

- Forum members felt it was important to highlight the level of challenge faced by schools who were trying to balance providing pupils with high quality education with continually decreasing budgets, this was further exacerbated by Brent teachers being paid at an inner London salary despite Brent being funded on an outer London scale.
- Officers acknowledged the scale of the budgetary pressures that schools were under, the Forum were further advised that there was not likely to be any uplift in funding in the short term, this highlighted the need for schools to continue to work together to explore how to manage smaller budgets whilst still providing a high standard of education.
- Forum members from Nursery settings advised that they were seeing an increase in 2, 3, and 4 year old funding uptake and queried if this was not the case across the borough, what action was being taken to encourage families to take up the nursery funding available, particularly as Nursery's were in a position to offer early SEN support, safety and continuity for vulnerable children.
- Officers welcomed the positive news that nursery numbers were increasing; however they were not yet at pre pandemic levels, it was confirmed that work was being done in Early Years to support families in terms of their entitlement to Early Years Funding.
- Councillor Grahl, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools empathised with the issues raised and shared her frustration at the lack of funding received from central government given the detrimental impact this was having on schools budgets. The Forum were assured that lobbying through the LGA continued to take place and the Administration in Brent would continue to advocate for better funding.

As no further queries were raised the Forum **RESOLVED** to note the 2023/24 allocations that would form the basis of further detailed work to allocate funding to individual schools and settings at the January and February 2023 meetings, once final funding had been confirmed.

9. Any Other Business


Shirley Parks, Interim Director, Safeguarding Performance and Strategy, Brent Council, advised that Schools Admissions were currently experiencing a high number of in year admissions for pupils in Year 10 and 11 who had moved to the borough

from within the UK which had created pressure on school places,. The Forum was informed that some schools who had the physical capacity may be asked to take on bulge classes to accommodate the increased pupil numbers, with funding being allocated from the Rising Rolls Fund to support the staffing costs to accommodate the additional classes. The Forum was advised that this would also be factored into the budget for 23/24 going forward.

In noting the update provided, the Forum recognised the necessity to ask some schools to take on a bulge class, whilst also noting that where schools experienced a stream of high mobility it was important to consider on a larger scale the most effective support that could be offered when pupils entered a new school and how they could be supported when potentially moving on, both from a financial perspective for the schools and the lived experience of the pupil.

The meeting closed at 7:17 pm

M Heiser
Chair

	Schools Forum 19 January 2023
	Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People
Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2023/24	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Three Appendix A- 2023-24 Funding Formula Rates Appendix B – 2023-24 School Level Allocations Appendix C – DfE's Split Site Eligibility Criteria
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	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 2023/24 for consultation and agreement by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council in February 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Schools Forum is asked to:
 - a. In line with 2022/23, approve the transfer of (0.5%) £1.3m from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block. Department for Education (DfE) regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block funding can be transferred with Forum approval.
 - b. Note the additional funding allocations to Brent, as mentioned in the Government's Spending Review 2021 and Autumn Statement 2022.

- c. Endorse the 2023/24 budget for the DSG Blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to Full Council for approval.
 - d. Note the DfE's update on split site funding effective from 2024/25
- 2.2. Maintained school members of the Schools Forum are requested to approve the proposed de-delegation arrangements set out within this report. This includes the proposal to provide an allocation to fund redundancy costs for school-based staff from the de-delegated contingencies budget and the proposal to de-delegate funds from schools to make provisions for the local authority to continue to support school improvement activities.

3. 2023/24 DSG Funding Announcements

- 3.1. In November 2022, Schools Forum was presented with the provisional DSG allocations, which were published in July 2022. The final DSG block funding allocations were announced on 16 December 2022. This report gives an update on the final Schools Block allocations which includes the growth funding allocation.
- 3.2. The 2022 Autumn Statement announced that the core schools' budget would increase by £2.3bn in the next two financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, over and above totals announced at the Spending Review 2021. However, the allocation will be £2bn as the announcement was inclusive of £0.3bn for the Health and Social Care Levy which has been abolished. In the 2023/24 financial year, mainstream schools will be allocated additional funding through the mainstream schools' additional grant (MSAG) 2023/24. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula (NFF). The MSAG will allocate funding to state-funded mainstream schools only.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. Brent is estimated to receive £8.5m of this grant in total for primary and secondary maintained schools and academies, free schools and city technology colleges. School-level allocations of the MSAG for the full 2023/24 financial year will be published in May 2023.
- 3.5. The MSAG will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2024/25. So, for primary, secondary and all-through schools, the funding will be rolled into the schools NFF for 2024/25.
- 3.6. In addition to the MSAG, local authorities have been allocated £400m additional High Needs funding for 2023/24, on top of their High Needs NFF allocations. Brent is estimated to receive an additional £3.5m of this grant. This is an increase of 4.7% to the High Needs allocations announced in July 2022 and an overall increase of 10% compared to 2022/23.

3.7. In 2022/23 schools were allocated additional funding through the schools' supplementary grant (SSG) to reflect the costs of the health and social care levy and other costs pressures. For 2023/24, this funding has been rolled into the schools' NFF for the 5 to 16-year-old element of the grant. The early years element of the SSG was provided for early years provision in schools and maintained nursery schools and the post-16 element of the grant was provided to school sixth forms and 16 to 19 schools. The grant was to compensate for the increase in national insurance contributions which took effect from April 2022. This increase has been reversed, removing this extra cost to schools, and therefore, the Early Years and post-16 elements of the grant will not continue in 2023/24.

3.8. Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. Funding rates for the pupil premium in 2023/24 will increase by 5% to £1,385 for Primary aged pupils and £985 for Secondary aged pupils and £2,410 for children who are looked after by the local authority or who have been adopted from care or have left care. From 1 April 2023, pupil premium eligibility for pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care will include children adopted from outside of England and Wales.

4. 2023/24 DSG Funding Blocks

4.1. Brent is set to receive a total DSG funding allocation of £379m in 2023/24 compared to £357m in 2022/23. This represents an overall increase of £22m.

4.2. The growth funding allocation has increased from £1.0m in 2022/23 to £1.2m in 2023/24. The allocation is based on the difference between the number of pupils on roll in each school between the October 2021 and October 2022 school censuses. This growth funding allocation is included in the overall Schools Block funding for 2023/24 as shown in Table 1 below.

4.3. Table 1 - 2023/24 Brent DSG Funding Allocations

Confirmed Allocations	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Central Services Block	Early Years	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022/23	256,596	74,755	2,129	23,238	356,718
2023/24	261,738	78,706	2,105	24,499	367,048
Increase/(Reduction)	5,142	3,951	(24)	1,261	10,330
% Change from 2022/23 (Jul 22)	2.0%	5.3%	(1.1%)	5.4%	2.9%

2022 Autumn Statement-MSAG & Additional HN funding	8,520	3,499			12,019
Total Funding allocation for 2023/34	270,258	82,205	2,105	24,499	379,067
% Change from 2022/23 (Dec 22)	5.3%	10.0%	(1.1%)	5.4%	6.3%

- 4.4. The final HNB allocation has been announced as £82.2m. This is £7.4m more than the allocation for 2022/23 and represents a funding increase of 10.0%. The funding includes the additional £3.5m funding allocation announced in the 2022 Autumn Statement and the £3.9m increase in the provisional allocation that was announced by the DfE in July 2022.
- 4.5. The 2022/23 HNB expenditure budget, excluding the proportion allocated for Brent children placed in other local authorities is £67.8m. The budget is currently forecast to spend £70.6m. The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) continues 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 £1.3m, which would bring the total 2023/24 HNB budget to £83.5m and a net budget of £75.0m after deductions for allocations to other local authorities.
- 4.6. The increase in funding in 2023/24 will not contribute towards the projected cumulative DSG deficit of £17.3m. It would, however, contribute towards funding any further additional pressures due to continued increases in the number of ECHPs. A detailed breakdown of the HNB budget will be presented to Schools Forum in February 2023.
- 4.7. The Early Years (EY) Block allocations were also published in December 2022. The DfE has made changes to the EY funding formula to take effect from the 2023/24 financial year, following a consultation on the EY funding formula which concluded in September 2022. Brent is set to receive £24.5m. This represents an overall increase of £1.3m compared to 2022/23. The hourly rate of the EY NFF for EY Provision for 2-year-olds has increased from £6.29 in 2022/23 to £6.84 in 2023/24 and for 3 and 4-year-olds has increased from £5.68 to £5.93 in 2023/24. The detailed Early Years Block budgets are presented in a separate paper to this Schools Forum.
- 4.8. 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 (£59k increase) and funding for historic pension costs for centrally employed teachers (£83k reduction). The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £2.1m, a small decrease across both elements of £24k compared to 2022/23.

5. Schools Block Expenditure – Mainstream Funding Formula

5.1. Table 2 – Individual Schools Block funding

Details	£'000
2023/24 Schools Block DSG allocation	261,738
2023/24 NFF funded NNDR	(1,877)
DSG schools block after deduction of 2023/24 NFF funded NNDR	259,861
Less transfer to HN Block	(1,299)
	258,562
Less Growth fund	(2,800)
	255,762
Less De-delegation	(795)
Less Education services	(360)
Post De-delegation and Education functions budget after deduction of 2023/24 NFF funded NNDR	254,607

5.2. As shown in Table 2 above, the mainstream funding formula for 2023/24 is £261.738m. This includes £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. £2.8m has been excluded for the growth fund with £1.3m proposed to be transferred to the HN Block. The allocation has been reduced by £0.795m for de-delegated funds and £0.360m retained by the council as a contribution towards fulfilling education services. This leaves £254.607m to be transferred to schools.

5.3. As was agreed at previous Schools Forums, the DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions is £0.6m, made up of the £0.250m contribution from all schools (included in the growth fund allocation) and the £0.360m from maintained schools.

6. De-Delegations

6.1. 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. Maintained school representatives are required to take a decision for their own school phase on each service on whether to de-delegate. The table below sets out the proposed de-delegated services.

6.2. Table 3 – De-delegated items

	2022/23		2023/24	
Primary Pupil Numbers	18,676		18,665	
Secondary Pupil Numbers	1,925		1,890	
Total Maintained pupils	20,601		20,555	
	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)
Contingencies- Schools in Financial Difficulty	8.51	175,383	8.53	175,400
Contingencies- Redundancy funding	-	-	9.73	200,000
Free School Meals eligibility service	1.21	25,000	1.22	25,000
Licenses/ Subscriptions	0.26	5,289	0.27	5,500
Staff costs - Trade union facilities	2.77	57,000	2.77	57,000
Staff costs - Maternity & paternity supply cover	10.85	223,000	10.85	223,000
School improvement services	-	-	5.30	109,000
Total De-delegated items		428,672		794,900

Contingencies

- 6.3. The number of Brent schools experiencing difficulties in 2022/23 has increased with 67% projecting an in-year deficit. 23% of these schools' plan to use over 50% of reserves to balance their budgets in 2022/23. It is therefore proposed to continue to de-delegate funds to support schools in financial difficulty. There is a £0.02 increase in the proposed rate for 2023/24 at £8.53, due to reduced number of pupils, to allocate £0.175m.

Schools Forum agreed in January 2022 that 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 was agreed that redundancies should be funded from the Schools Facing Financial Difficulties Fund (SFFDF). However, the budget was not increased to allow for the additional costs from redundancy pay outs.

It is therefore proposed to allocate £0.2m at a rate of £9.73 per pupil for centrally funded redundancies, where schools are eligible for funding. This is based on forecast payments in 2022/23 and the expectation of increased requests in 2023/24.

Free School Meals eligibility

- 6.4. The Per Pupil rates (£1.22) have been adjusted in line with the decrease in pupil numbers to maintain the Free Schools Meals eligibility service at the same level of funding as in 2022/23 at £25k.

Licences and Subscriptions

- 6.5. This covers the cost of two licences which the local authority pays for on behalf of schools. These are the British Pathe and CLEAPPS which is an advisory service that provides support in science and technology for a consortium of local authorities and their

schools. It is proposed to increase this allocation to £5.5k in line with the actual cost in 2022/23.

Staff costs

- 6.6. There are no changes to the rates and de-delegate amounts for staff costs. This covers schools' costs for Trade Union services and maternity and paternity supply cover. The net cost of centrally employing union representatives is estimated at £57k with £0.223m earmarked for maternity and paternity supply cover, in line with the forecast for 2022/23. This equates to de-delegation rates of £2.77 and £10.85 respectively.

School improvement services

- 6.7. The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant was introduced in 2017 to provide local authorities with funding to support them in fulfilling their statutory school improvement functions under Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and their additional school improvement expectations as set out in the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) guidance (collectively referred to as core school improvement activities).
- 6.8. In late autumn 2021, the DfE held a consultation¹ on changes to the way that School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant will be funded from 2022/23. The consultation proposed that there would be a phased removal of the grant over the course of financial year 2022/23 following which all council school improvement activity, including core improvement activities, would be funded via de-delegation, with any non-statutory services which councils choose to continue to offer either provided on a traded basis or also funded through de-delegation. The DfE have published outcomes of their consultation via the link below:
[Government response - Reforming how LA SI functions are funded \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-how-local-authority-school-improvement-functions-are-funded)
- 6.9. The government reduced the grant by 50% in 2022/23 and will bring it to an end in 2023/24. The government has also updated Part 7 of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for FY 2022/23 to allow local authorities to de-delegate for all improvement expenditure, including all core improvement activities.
- 6.10. Schools Forum was informed in January 2022 that the local authority would cover the cost of the 50% reduction in grant funding in 2022/23 and that Forum would be updated when more detail was provided by the DfE on the approach to take for future years.
- 6.11. As the grant is no longer available from 2023/24 onwards, it is proposed to de-delegate £0.109m for school improvement services to schools to continue to support the functions of the Setting and School Improvement Service. This represents 50% of the current allocation in 2022/23. The local authority will continue to part fund the cost of this service in 2023/24 from the General Fund. Proposals for funding for 2024/25 will be presented at the subsequent January Schools Forum as part of the budget setting process.

¹ [Reforming how local authority school improvement functions are funded - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

7. Growth Fund

- 7.1. The Growth budget funds increases in pupil numbers, as well as the Choice Advice and Fair Access Interview (CAFAI) projects for children who have newly arrived in the UK and require additional educational support. The growth budget, inclusive of £0.250m contribution to fund central services for education functions, in 2022/23 is £2.3m. This budget is expected to overspend by £0.3m due to rising pupil numbers, mainly within the Secondary phase. It is therefore proposed to increase the current growth budget to £2.8m to fund the projected growth in pupil numbers in 2023/24. This also includes an allocation to fund a secondary bulge class as approved by Forum in November 2022.

8. Funding Formula Rates

- 8.1. The government is taking a gradual approach to transitioning the local formulae progressively closer to the NFF over time. 2023/24 forms the first year of that compulsory gradual process. A fixed target date by which the direct NFF will be in place has not been set, although the expectation is a move to the direct NFF within the next five years, by the 2027/28 funding year at the latest.
- 8.2. The DfE has provided the 2023/24 factor values including an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) for Brent. Minimum and maximum allowable rates have also been included so local authorities must either move towards the NFF within the allowable rates or use the actual NFF rates. In line with this requirement, Appendix A provides information on the proposed funding factor rates used in setting the 2023/24 Schools budgets.
- 8.3. To allocate the maximum amount of the Schools Block funding to schools via the funding formula factors, and to make use of the increased funding available in 2023/24 to cushion the impact of the transition, the local funding formula factors used to set the budgets for 2023/24 have been applied as follows to:
- (a) Set the Primary Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) at the NFF rate as the current rate was almost mirroring the NFF rate.
 - (b) Retain the current 2022/23 rates for the KS3 and KS4 AWPU and the Primary and Secondary lump sums to minimise the impact of the shift towards the NFF.
 - (c) Allocate the minimum allowable rates for Primary and Secondary FSM, Primary IDACI band D and Secondary IDACI bands C, D and E, Primary and Secondary English as an Additional Language (AEL) and Secondary Low Prior Attainment (LPA) as these factors were significantly lower than the NFF and therefore the 10% move was not allowable within the DfE stipulated factor values.
 - (d) Narrow the gap by making the compulsory 10% move for Primary IDACI A, B, C, E and F, Secondary IDACI A and B, Primary LPA and Primary and Secondary Mobility factor rates.

- (e) To balance the books, set the Primary FSM ever6 to the NFF and to move the Secondary FSM ever6 closer to the NFF, as these rates were newly introduced in 2022/23.
- 8.2 The change in formula rates primarily targets schools with high deprivation or those with a high number of pupils with EAL.
- 8.4. The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) threshold range for 2023/24 is between 0% and +0.5%. The MFG has been set at the maximum allowable rate of +0.5%. This means that the per pupil funding rates will increase by this proportion. Under these proposals 47 out of 76 schools require an MFG allocation, and this totals £3.1m. This adjustment is included in the overall post de-delegations and education functions budget as shown in Appendix B.
- 8.5. 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 increases or decreases to pupil numbers.

9. Update on Split site funding

- 9.1. Following the [Implementing the direct national funding formula – government consultation](#) which concluded in September 2022, the DfE has announced that from 2024/25, there will be a standardised formula to calculate the funding for schools with split sites in order to ensure consistency across all local authorities.
- 9.2. The DfE proposes to develop a split sites factor which recognises costs through a basic eligibility criteria that attracts a lump-sum payment, and a distance eligibility criteria that attracts an additional lump-sum payment.
- 9.3. Brent's current criteria are:
- a) The sites are more than half a mile apart, separated by public roads.
 - b) It is necessary for staff to move between the sites to teach on both sites.
 - c) Each site is occupied by a large proportion of the school (more than one year group).
- 9.4. Brent's allocation for split site funding is made up of a lump sum of £151,847, plus £113.70 per pupil. There is also an allocation for partial funding at a reduced lump sum of £50,000 where schools met two of the three criteria stated above.
- 9.5. The table below sets out the schools that meet the current criteria and outlines the funding allocations for 2023/24.

9.6. Table 4 – Brent's Schools' Split Site funding for 2023/24

School	NOR	The sites are more than half a mile apart, separated by public roads	It is necessary for staff to move between the sites to teach	Each site is occupied by a large proportion of the school (more than one year group)	Lumpsum £	Per Pupil funding (£113.7 per pupil) £	Total 2023/24 allocation £
Alperton	1609	Yes	Yes	Yes	151,847	182,943	334,790
Islamia	413	No - c200 metres	Yes	Yes	50,000	46,958	96,958
KHS	1636	Yes	Yes	Yes	151,847	186,013	337,860
Leopold	634	Yes	Yes	Yes	151,847	72,086	223,933

9.7. Appendix C is the DfE's guidance for local authorities and schools to assess eligibility for split site funding. Based on the flow chart, one of Brent's schools that is currently in receipt of partial split site funding would not qualify and as a result would not receive this funding from FY 2024/25.

9.8. The financial estimate of the potential impact for schools from 2024/25 is not available at this stage, as the final design of the split sites formula, including decisions around distance thresholds, remains subject to the outcome of the DfE's consultation.

10. Financial Implications

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

11. Legal Implications

11.1 There are no legal implications for this report.

12 Equality Implications

12.1 Not applicable.

13 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

13.1 Not applicable.

14 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

14.1 Not applicable.

Related Documents

Prior Financial reports to Schools Forum

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director Children and Young People

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Appendix A - Brent 2023-24 Local Funding Formula Rates - Pupil Led Funding

Pupil Led Factors	22-23 Brent LFF £	23-24 APT min £	23-24 APT max £	23-24 NFF including ACA £	Brent LFF 10% towards NFF £	23-24 Proposed LFF within allowable rates (£)	Change in LFF compared to 22-23 £	2022-23 Units (Oct 21)	2023-24 Units (Oct 22)	Diff. in no of units	Total Funding 2022-23 £	Total Funding 2023-24 £
Pri (Yrs R-6)	3,895	3,809	4,087	3,907	3,896	3,907	12	25,118	25,131	13	97,841,286	98,183,550
KS3 (Yrs 7-9)	5,628	5,370	5,885	5,508	5,616	5,628	0	9,812	9,868		55,223,217	55,539,374
KS 4 (Yrs 10-11)	6,212	6,053	6,515	6,208	6,212	6,212	0	6,360	6,566	206	39,509,514	40,789,240
Primary FSM	270	310	566	553	298	310	40	4,789	5,020	231	1,292,492	1,554,343
Secondary FSM	68	310	566	553	116	310	242	5,200	3,496	(1,704)	352,364	1,082,508
Primary FSM6	270	263	832	812	324	812	542	3,187	5,290	2,103	860,182	4,292,994
Secondary FSM6	99	381	1,215	1,186	208	1,013	913	4,107	4,209	101	408,034	4,261,958
Primary IDACI F	381	258	380	265	369	369	(12)	4,030	4,071	41	1,534,058	1,502,492
Primary IDACI E	392	314	396	322	385	385	(7)	4,191	4,133	(58)	1,640,896	1,589,619
Primary IDACI D	416	447	519	506	425	447	31	2,507	2,407	(99)	1,042,794	1,075,557
Primary IDACI C	662	539	673	553	651	651	(11)	1,389	1,372	(17)	918,915	892,858
Primary IDACI B	980	572	962	587	940	940	(39)	206	197	(9)	201,437	185,103
Primary IDACI A	1,376	752	1,348	771	1,316	1,316	(61)	4	3	(1)	5,528	3,952
Secondary IDACI F	412	376	425	386	409	409	(3)	2,375	2,396	21	977,502	980,081
Secondary IDACI E	446	475	525	512	453	475	28	2,269	2,315	46	1,012,638	1,098,857
Secondary IDACI D	561	604	732	714	577	604	43	1,467	1,416	(51)	823,387	854,850
Secondary IDACI C	731	763	802	783	736	763	32	616	634	17	450,806	483,782
Secondary IDACI B	1,089	819	1,097	840	1,064	1,064	(25)	144	139	(5)	157,103	148,349
Secondary IDACI A	1,534	1,044	1,531	1,071	1,487	1,487	(46)	3	2	(1)	4,603	2,975
Primary + Secondary LAC*	1,179	0	0	0	0	0	(1,179)	87		(87)	102,670	0
Primary EAL3**	1,378	497	684	668	480	497	38	3,607	9,835	6,228	4,971,008	4,889,183
Secondary EAL3**	1,638	711	1,847	1,801	671	711	165	486	1,345	859	796,249	957,053
Primary LPA	1,393	1,296	1,415	1,330	1,387	1,387	(6)	7,172	7,345	173	9,991,519	10,185,417
Secondary LPA	1,818	1,883	2,065	2,014	1,838	1,883	65	3,767	3,719	(48)	6,848,579	7,002,985
Primary mobility	1,169	1,061	1,184	1,088	1,161	1,161	(8)	561	678	118	655,588	787,683
Secondary mobility	1,535	1,526	1,605	1,566	1,538	1,538	3	116	170	53	178,574	261,009
Total Pupil Led Funding											227,800,941	238,605,769
School led factors												
Primary lump sum	171,431	143,659	175,000	147,342	169,022	171,431						
Secondary lump sum	171,431	143,659	175,000	147,342	169,022	171,431						
Primary sparsity	0	7,958	66,428	64,807	n/a	n/a						
Secondary sparsity	0	11,585	96,633	94,276	n/a	n/a						
Middle-school sparsity	0	11,585	96,633	94,276	n/a	n/a						
All-through sparsity	0	11,585	96,633	94,276	n/a	n/a						

** LAC is no longer an allowable funding factor

*Brent used EAL1 factor in 2022/23

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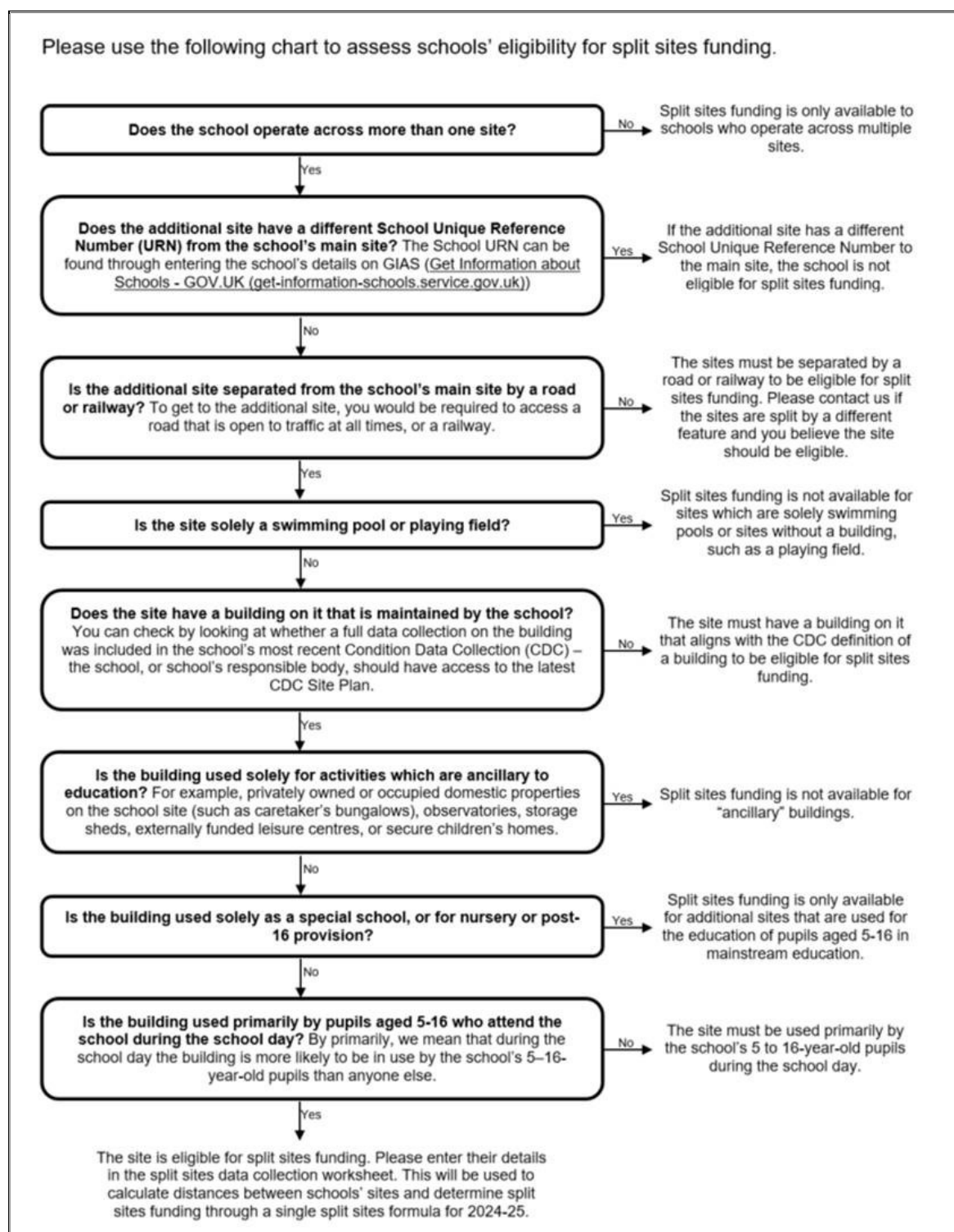
Appendix B - School Level Allocations 2023-24

(This excludes the additional mainstream schools grant which will be published in Spring 2023)


School	2022-23				2023-24			
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions)	£ 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	353	1,926,495	5,457.49	37,668	356	2,017,387	5,666.82	-
Brentfield Primary School	403	2,306,811	5,724.10	81,472	379	2,256,222	5,953.09	-
Byron Court Primary School	748	3,627,728	4,853.15	41,223	812	4,034,810	4,968.98	114,234
Carlton Vale Infant School	52	464,166	8,926.27	15,830	56	499,479	8,919.26	19,718
Harlesden Primary School	293	1,743,280	5,949.76	77,092	283	1,746,405	6,171.04	-
Mount Stewart Junior School	316	1,538,396	4,868.34	12,623	315	1,577,615	5,008.30	34,013
Mount Stewart Infant School	255	1,359,059	5,329.64	9,902	261	1,422,926	5,451.82	65,103
Uxendon Manor Primary School	627	3,027,975	4,829.31	10,361	628	3,118,499	4,965.76	64,405
Kingsbury Green Primary School	549	2,750,931	5,010.80	-	548	2,867,655	5,232.95	-
Leopold Primary School	664	3,883,003	5,847.90	-	634	3,797,092	5,989.10	-
Lyon Park Primary School	810	4,026,111	4,970.51	27,987	809	4,126,929	5,101.27	85,749
Malorees Infant School	162	978,766	6,041.77	27,549	176	1,076,823	6,118.31	79,619
Northview Junior and Infant School	200	1,181,066	5,905.33	32,742	207	1,255,936	6,067.32	-
Park Lane Primary School	416	2,198,411	5,284.64	7,222	423	2,297,393	5,431.19	10,821
Preston Park Primary School	523	2,613,534	4,997.20	29,170	522	2,682,705	5,139.28	38,791
Roe Green Junior School	452	2,195,010	4,856.22	1,638	455	2,313,982	5,085.68	-
Roe Green Infant School	360	2,206,130	6,128.14	56,476	357	2,239,306	6,272.57	315,739
Barham Primary School	845	4,122,406	4,878.59	91,531	846	4,238,906	5,010.53	100,266
Wykeham Primary School	420	2,259,147	5,378.92	-	420	2,325,672	5,537.31	12,698
Elsley Primary School	706	3,650,132	5,170.16	47,172	739	3,921,018	5,305.84	2,690
Donnington Primary School	199	1,150,928	5,783.56	35,460	209	1,236,094	5,914.33	9,618
The Stonebridge School	285	1,677,072	5,884.46	59,722	270	1,638,514	6,068.57	15,312
Newfield Primary School	236	1,422,201	6,026.28	34,959	227	1,431,855	6,307.73	-
Mitchell Brook Primary School	575	3,110,572	5,409.69	73,767	609	3,381,128	5,551.93	19,966
Chalkhill Primary School	410	2,242,118	5,468.58	-	418	2,353,676	5,630.80	-
Salusbury Primary School	600	3,044,325	5,073.87	-	615	3,185,111	5,179.04	4,523
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	411	2,057,063	5,005.02	9,983	418	2,147,040	5,136.46	46,418
Mora Primary School	400	2,150,682	5,376.71	1,985	377	2,146,339	5,693.21	-
Fryent Primary School	657	3,393,775	5,165.56	-	633	3,369,482	5,323.04	55,026
Christ Church CofE Primary School	160	965,288	6,033.05	-	160	995,199	6,220.00	-
John Keble CofE Primary School	370	2,067,891	5,588.89	-	379	2,232,288	5,889.94	-
Princess Frederica CofE Primary School	392	1,922,554	4,904.47	34,138	404	2,030,048	5,024.87	98,118
St Mary's CofE Primary School	198	1,208,468	6,103.37	66,859	196	1,232,323	6,287.36	14,999
St Joseph RC Junior School	280	1,417,809	5,063.61	20,696	279	1,453,062	5,208.11	1,611
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School	314	1,625,003	5,175.17	18,477	296	1,593,154	5,382.28	-
St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School	417	2,024,181	4,854.15	5,796	414	2,067,377	4,993.66	36,451
Convent of Jesus and Mary RC Infant School	226	1,315,905	5,822.59	14,646	229	1,365,602	5,963.33	52,666
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	199	1,190,093	5,980.37	50,184	192	1,186,789	6,181.19	25,144
St Joseph's RC Infant School	208	1,232,994	5,927.86	13,999	210	1,274,254	6,067.88	73,743
Sinai Jewish Primary School	583	2,688,898	4,612.17	32,989	582	2,759,392	4,741.22	85,436
St Mary's RC Primary School	211	1,222,259	5,792.70	3,175	189	1,184,717	6,268.34	-
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	184	944,852	5,135.07	8,453	179	949,089	5,302.17	10,486
Wembley Primary School	825	4,230,896	5,128.36	35,651	821	4,328,436	5,272.15	64,850
Malorees Junior School	242	1,278,717	5,283.96	5,492	215	1,218,247	5,666.26	-
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	447	2,290,902	5,125.06	39,280	429	2,270,635	5,292.85	15,170
The Kilburn Park School Foundation	72	535,838	7,442.19	16,342	76	580,751	7,641.16	-
Islamia Primary School	421	2,402,585	5,706.85	40,737	413	2,426,845	5,876.14	17,376
Ark Franklin Primary Academy	604	2,957,154	4,895.95	119,290	590	2,984,482	5,058.44	149,335
Gladstone Park Primary School	611	3,260,181	5,335.81	-	597	3,339,583	5,593.94	-
St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School	387	2,111,670	5,456.51	32,382	392	2,231,891	5,693.60	-
Kilburn Grange School	229	1,471,261	6,424.72	138,372	219	1,459,540	6,664.57	89,723
East Lane Primary School	616	2,992,607	4,862.07	132,650	626	3,132,427	5,003.88	220,564
Braintcroft E-Act Primary Academy	610	3,368,373	5,521.92	-	621	3,661,574	5,896.26	-
Furness Primary School	304	1,717,606	5,650.02	30,583	312	1,815,176	5,817.87	4,946
Sudbury Primary School	823	3,953,725	4,804.04	11,137	847	4,267,057	5,037.85	-
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School	234	1,303,834	5,571.94	32,516	232	1,343,631	5,791.51	-
Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	179	1,101,758	6,155.07	42,050	180	1,138,634	6,325.74	48,670
St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	185	1,113,379	6,018.27	30,042	197	1,210,154	6,142.91	19,924
Oakington Manor Primary School	648	3,352,700	5,173.92	-	636	3,392,863	5,334.69	58,275
North West London Jewish Day School	189	1,034,002	5,470.91	24,167	179	1,016,556	5,679.08	51,982
PRIMARY TOTAL	24,294	128,610,677		1,823,634	24,293	132,847,771		2,234,178
Michaela Community School	617	4,261,927	6,907.50	16,476	611	4,381,209	7,170.55	-
Ark Elvin Academy	1033	7,442,623	7,204.86	-	1072	8,079,690	7,537.02	-
North Brent School	180	1,326,143	7,367.46	8,803	330	2,367,187	7,173.29	6,980
Wembley High Technology College	1086	7,114,908	6,551.48	67,178	1110	7,516,724	6,771.82	119,130

School	2022-23				2023-24			
	NOR	Post De-delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions)	£ 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)
Claremont High School	1337	8,713,990	6,517.57	70,312	1351	9,099,720	6,735.54	173,941
Kingsbury High School	1618	11,194,237	6,918.56	-	1636	11,745,250	7,179.25	-
Queens Park Community School	1092	7,404,164	6,780.37	72,769	1070	7,509,639	7,018.35	92,362
Saint Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	701	5,137,499	7,328.81	-	756	5,884,456	7,783.67	-
Alperton Community School	1557	10,827,476	6,954.06	40,195	1609	11,555,114	7,181.55	89,167
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	940	6,233,317	6,631.19	52,957	952	6,521,469	6,850.28	139,692
Capital City Academy	903	6,465,245	7,159.74	-	896	6,812,736	7,603.50	-
E-Act Crest Academy	987	7,190,888	7,285.60	-	1011	7,862,473	7,776.93	-
JFS	1459	9,228,847	6,325.46	79,794	1421	9,264,725	6,519.86	276,936
Newman Catholic College	466	3,595,119	7,714.85	15,685	469	3,779,826	8,059.33	-
SECONDARY TOTAL	13,976	96,136,384		424,168	14,294	102,380,219		898,208
Preston Manor School	1665	10,567,021	6,346.56	31,422	1665	10,931,488	6,565.46	1,382
Ark Academy	1314	8,051,149	6,127.21	-	1313	8,447,457	6,433.71	-
ALL THROUGH TOTAL	2,979	18,618,169		31,422	2,978	19,378,944		1,382
Total	41,249	243,365,230		2,279,224	41,565	254,606,934		3,133,768

Appendix C - DfE's 2024/25 Split Site Eligibility Criteria



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	Schools Forum 19 January 2023
	Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People
Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) 2023/24	

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:	None
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 DSG Early Years' (EY) Block funding for Brent, this report seeks Schools Forum approval of the local EY Funding Formula for 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Schools Forum is asked to endorse Brent's EY Funding Formula for 2023/24, as supported by the EY Funding Subgroup. The following updates have been applied to the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF):

- a) A universal base rate for Brent providers for 3 and 4-year-old funding of £4.84 per hour. This represents a 2.1% increase of £0.10p from £4.74 in 2022/23.
- b) An allocation for deprivation supplement for 3 and 4-year-old funding of 10%.

- c) A base rate for Brent providers for 2-year-old funding of £6.84. This represents an 11% increase of £0.68 from £6.16 in 2022/23.
- d) A cap on centrally retained funding by the local authority of 5% of the 3 and 4-year-old funding.
- 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 5s Nursery Panel, and both PVI and maintained providers can apply for this to ensure the funding continues to be targeted at vulnerable children.
- f) In line with the DfE's proposal to roll the teachers' pay and pension grant into the EYNFF and with the increase in the planned value of supplements to no more than 12% (from 10% previously), it is proposed that the additional 2% is used to introduce a quality supplement to the 3 and 4-year-old funding allocated to providers.

3. Funding from Central Government to Brent

- 3.1. Nationally the government announced a £180 million increase for 2023/24 and £170 million for 2024/25 in the 2021 Spending Review for the EY Block. A further £20m was announced for 2023/24 to support providers with the additional National Living Wage costs associated with delivering the free childcare entitlements.
- 3.2. For Brent, the EY Block funding has increased by £1.3m compared to 2022/23 to £24.5m in 2023/24. There have been increases to the funding rates allocated to Brent for 2-year-old, and 3 and 4-year-old provisions.
- 3.3. The local authority continues to retain 5% of the total 3 and 4-year-old funding allocated to Brent detailed in paragraph 6 below, with 95% allocated to providers and 100% of the 2-year-old funding allocated to providers.
- 3.4. The government consulted on the EY funding formula which ran from July 2022 to September 2022. The consultation focused on updating underlying data within the EYNFF, mainstreaming the current separate teachers' pay and pensions grants into the EYNFF and into the MNS supplementary funding and reforming the distribution of the MNS supplementary funding.
- 3.5. The consultation results have been published and majority of the proposals had favourable responses. The EYNFF has therefore been updated to reflect the proposed changes, including mainstreaming the teachers' pay and pension grant by baselining the grant within the EYNFF. Results of the consultation can be

accessed via the following link: [Early years funding formulae - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-formulae)

3.6. The EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4-year-olds has increased from £5.68 in 2022/23 to £5.93 in 2023/24. Table 1 sets out the key figures.

3.7. **Table 1** EYNFF funding rates

3 and 4-year-olds	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Universal 15 hours allocation	£14.9m	£14.6m	£16.0m
Additional 15 hours allocation	£3.8m	£3.6m	£4.0m
Hourly rate before central spend	£5.51	£5.68	£5.93
Maximum % for central spend	5%	5%	5%
Hourly rate after central spend removed	£5.23	£5.40	£5.63
Maximum % for deprivation	10%	10%	10%
Maximum % for quality supplement	0%	0%	2%
Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary Funding	£0.717m	£0.732m	£0.778m
2-year-olds			
2-year-old funding allocation	£3.8m	£2.9m	£3.4m
Hourly rate for 15 hours allocation	£6.08	£6.29	£6.84
Provider rate for 2-year-olds	£6.04	£6.16	£6.84

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

4.1. The 3 and 4-year-old funding will be distributed to providers as a universal base hourly rate plus additional allocations for deprivation and quality supplement, after the 5% reduction for central spend. The universal base rate to providers has increased from £4.74 in 2022/23 to £4.84 in 2023/24 as shown below:

a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE	£5.93
b) Remove central spend of 5%	£5.63
c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p)	£5.50
d) Reduce by allocation for deprivation (£5.50 x 90%)	£4.95
e) Reduce by allocation for quality supplement (£4.95 – (£5.50*2%))	£4.84

4.2. Funding supplements are amounts of funding paid to providers in addition to the base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives. 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 and it is proposed to continue to apply this rate for 2023/24. This equates to £0.55p per hour.

4.3. The DfE took the decision to mainstream the teachers' pay and pensions grant into the 2023/24 EYNFF. Several local authorities have raised concerns that

schools-based nurseries will no longer receive the teachers' pay and pensions grant as a separate grant. To address these concerns, the government has increased the total planned value of funding supplements to no more than 12% of the total value of planned formula funding to providers, compared to 10% in 2022/23. This would allow local authorities the flexibility to use the additional 2% to fund pressures that some providers might face from, for example, addressing the need to pay contributions to the teachers' pension scheme.

- 4.4. LAs are not required to use this additional flexibility. However, to ensure that schools continue to have visibility of this funding, it is proposed to use the quality supplement to apply the additional flexibility to replace the previous teachers' pay and pensions grant that was paid by the DfE. The quality supplement would apply to Brent school-based nurseries and PVIs that meet the criteria and equates to £0.11p per hour.
- 4.5. Maintained nurseries will be excluded from the quality supplement to avoid double funding as the maintained nursery supplementary funding has been revised to an hourly funding rate that is inclusive of the teachers' pay and pensions grant.
- 4.6. The Early Years Funding Subgroup was consulted on the proposed methodology for the quality supplement, and it was agreed to use the 'qualified teacher status' data from census returns as the criteria for eligibility. The January 2023 census data will be used as the basis of funding for FY 2023/24, given this would be the latest published information available.
- 4.7. 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 2023/24.

5. A base rate for Brent providers for 2-year-old funding

- 5.1. The DfE provisional funding estimates are based on the January 2022 census data and as expected, the actual funding allocation for 2023/24 has increased, reflecting the increase in take-up percentage (57% for 2-year-olds) published by the DfE in the June 2022 statistical release.
- 5.2. This was an increase of 8% from the previous year, but take-up numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. The local authority is taking ongoing steps to promote awareness of and increase take-up of this entitlement, including contacting eligible families encouraging them to take up their entitlement.

- 5.3. For 2023/24, the EYNFF rate for 2-year-old funding will increase from £6.29 per hour to £6.84 per hour. In 2022/23, £0.13p was retained from the £6.29 allocated as a contribution towards central services. Providers were given a rate of £6.16. The proposal is to pass through 100% of the 2-year-old funding to providers in 2023/24. This is due to the increased funding for the 3 & 4-year-olds which has resulted in an increase in allocation of the 5% retained for central expenditure.

6. Centrally retained funding

- 6.1. The DfE guideline mandates local authorities to pass through 95% of the Early Years funding for 3 and 4-year-olds to providers. The department does not mandate how much of the 2-year-old funding local authorities can retain for central services.
- 6.2. The central spend supports Early Years services as set out below. A significant number of Brent Early Years settings access this support and regard it as 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.
- 6.3. 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 which are counted in the January census.
- 6.4. It is recommended that 5% of Early Years funding for 3 and 4-year-olds is retained in 2023/24. This equates to £1.001m, compared to a £0.911m equivalent in 2022/23; an increase of £90k from the previous financial year which will go towards inflationary cost increases.
- 6.5. £59k was retained from the 2-year-old funding in 2022/23 as a contribution towards the provision of central services to support the sector. It is proposed to discontinue the retention of funds from the 2-year-old rate due to the increase in contribution from the 3 and 4-year-old funding. This provision 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.

7. Feedback from the Early Years Funding Subgroup

- 7.1. A detailed discussion took place regarding the hourly rates and central services retention from the Early Years funding allocation and the proposal to introduce a quality supplement to the EY NFF hourly rate for 3 and 4-year-olds.
- 7.2. Members of the group fed back that notwithstanding the proposed increases in funding rates, the real term difference and benefits would be minimal when increases, effective from April 2023, in minimum wage for their staff and other cost of living pressures were considered. All sector representatives reported financial difficulties. The on-going issue with recruitment and retention continues to pose challenges as staff are moving to other sectors. The group also cited an increase in the number of children with Special Educational Needs and the need to spend time with parents to complete application forms, for example, to complete the Disability Access Fund and Food Bank applications.
- 7.3. Members of the group agreed with the proposals to retain 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.

8. Specialist Nursery Panel

- 8.1. 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	2023/24
Income	£	£
DSG High Needs Block (HNB)	(1,128,085)	(1,089,160)
Early Years Block	(416,981)	(439,003)
Disability Access Fund	(98,400)	(119,232)
Total Income	(1,643,466)	(1,647,395)
Expenditure		
Early Years Inclusion Fund for specialist nurseries	724,988	724,988
Inclusion fund for 3 & 4-year-olds in non-specialist early years provision	294,172	294,172
Staff member for EY Inclusion team	56,000	70,000
CIN for specialist nurseries	288,000	288,000
CIN/2-year-olds in non-specialist early years provision	94,753	94,753
Transport	39,627	39,627
Additional one-off funding	73,356	16,623
Disability Access Fund	72,570	119,232
Total Expenditure	1,643,466	1,647,395

- 8.2. The HNB allocation of £1.09m contributes to the costs associated with the children with SEND. 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 and 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 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 2023/24, the value of this funding from the EY Block is £0.439m.

9. Additional funding for maintained nursery schools (MNS)

- 9.1. Local authorities with MNS will continue to receive supplementary funding for the 2023/24 financial year. The provisional allocation for Brent is £0.778m compared to £0.732m in 2022/23. This represents an increase of 6%.
- 9.2. In response to the consultation on the early years funding, from 2023/24 the distribution of the MNS supplementary funding has been reformed to ensure that it is being shared more evenly across all local authorities with MNSs. A minimum and a cap on the hourly funding rate that local authorities can receive for their MNSs has been introduced and all providers must be paid the same hourly base rate. The government has also mainstreamed the funding that MNSs previously received through the teachers' pay and pensions grants, so it has now been rolled into each local authority's supplementary funding allocation.

9.3. This funding applies to the council's four MNSs and was previously allocated on an agreed local formula i.e., based on business rates, a lumpsum and estimated hours. However, in light of the DfE's changes to an hourly rate, this will be the basis for distribution to the MNS from 2023/24.

10. Early years funding based on DfE provisional allocations

10.1. In summary, Table 3 outlines the Early Years' budget based on draft allocations from the DfE and the recommendations from this paper.

Table 3 Proposed Early Years block budget

Income	2022/23 £' (000)	2023/24 £' (000)	Part of high pass-through requirement
Universal allocation for 3&4-year-olds	14,591	15,995	Yes
Additional hours for 3&4-year-olds	3,628	4,030	Yes
Allocation for 2-year-olds	2,852	3,484	No
Supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools	732	778	No
Disability Access Fund	98	119	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	55	93	No
Total Income	21,957	24,499	
Expenditure			
Distribute to providers for 3&4-year-olds universal offer	13,528	14,845	Yes
Distribute to providers for 3&4-year-olds children with working parents (additional 15 hours)	3,363	3,740	Yes
Central spend	1,102	1,001	No
Additional panel funding	417	439	Yes
Distribute to providers for 2-year-olds	2,794	3,484	No
Supplementary funding distributed to maintained nursery schools	732	778	No
Disability Access Fund	98	119	No
Early Years Pupil Premium	55	93	No
Total Expenditure	22,090	24,499	
Funding gap	133	0	

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.

Related Documents

Prior Financial reports to Schools Forum

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People

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