



Schools Forum

Thursday 25 January 2024 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 with the link to attend and view the meeting available [HERE](#)

Membership

Representing

SCHOOL MEMBERS

Nursery

Nisha Lingam
Angela Turner

Head
Governor

Primary

Vacancy
Michelle Ginty
Melissa Loosemoore
Raphael Moss
Vacancy
Vacancy
Michael Odumosu
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

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

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

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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.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for Absence and Membership/ Election of Vice Chair	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Deputations (if Any)	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2023 as a correct record.	
5 Actions arising	
To consider any actions arising from previous meetings.	
6 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Budget 2024-25	7 - 24
This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for 2024/25 for consultation and agreement by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by Full Council in February 2024.	
7 Early Years National Funding Formula 2024-25	25 - 44
Following the confirmation of the provisional DSG Early Years' (EY) Block funding for Brent, this report seeks Schools Forum endorsement of the local EY Funding Formula for 2024/25	
8 Dates of Future meetings	
To note the schedule of dates for future meetings during 2023/24 as follows:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 20 February 2024	
Unless otherwise notified all meetings to be held online starting at 6pm.	

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MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Held as an online virtual meeting on Thursday 16 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

Membership

Representing

PRESENT (all in remote attendance):

Governors

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

Headteachers

Jayne Jardine
Melissa Loosemoore
Andy Prindiville
Gerard McKenna
Nick Cooper

Early Years PVI

Wioletta Bura

Officers

Shirley Parks (Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy)
Olufunke Adediran (Head of Finance)
Folake Olufeko (Senior Finance Analyst)
Natalie Connor & James Kinsella (Governance Team)

Councillors

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

1. Apologies for Absence and Membership

Apologies for absence were received from Michelle Ginty and Nisha Lingham.

The Forum was advised that existing forum vacancies would be advertised in the Head teachers and Governors Bulletin scheduled to go out at the end of the Autumn term 2023.

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 20 June 2023 as a correct record.

5. **Actions arising**

The Forum was advised that –

- **Action Point 89** – For the Forum to receive details of Early Years Panel Funding criteria, would be addressed at the next meeting of the Schools Forum in January 2024.
- **Action Point 90** – For the Forum to receive an update of the delivery of the DBV Programme, would be addressed at the next meeting of the Schools Forum in January 2024.
- **Action Point 91** – The Forum was advised that Special Schools were eligible for funding in relation to the Mayors Free School Meals scheme.
- **Action Point 92** – For the Forum to receive an update on the Mayors Free School Meals Scheme, would be addressed at the next meeting of the Schools Forum in January 2024.

6. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24**

Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst introduced the report that provided an update on the forecast financial position for 2023-24.

The Forum noted the following key points as part of the update provided:

- The cumulative deficit at the end of the financial year 2023/23 was £13.8m. The increased demand for High Needs provision was forecast to lead to the overall DSG expenditure exceeding income by £0.8m in 2023/24, this resulted in a forecast cumulative deficit of £14.6m by the end of the financial year. This was mainly due to the increased number of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- The detailed financial monitor of the DSG Schools Budget was presented in the accompanying Appendix 1, this provided details of the spends against each block of the DSG.
- The Schools Block was currently forecast to breakeven, of the total £261.7m Schools Block budget allocated by the DfE to Brent, £139.0m has been recouped and allocated directly to academies. £1.3m had been transferred to the HNB and £1.9m had been deducted for National Non-Domestic Business Rates to be paid by the DfE directly to the billing authority, leaving £119.5m directly allocated to Brent maintained schools and to fund centrally retained items including the growth fund.
- The High Needs Block budget, excluding the proportion allocated to academies was £74.7m, this allocation included the £1.3m transfer from the Schools Block that was previously approved by the Schools Forum.
- Place funding of £8.8m (£8.6m in January 2023) for Academies had been recouped from the Block and allocated to Special Academy providers, additionally there was a £0.3m in year adjustment by the DfE in July 2023 to

increase the HN funding for Brent children attending schools in other local authorities.

- Overall, the HNB was projecting a deficit of £0.8m, section 7, Table 2 of the report provided a breakdown of the income and expenditure against different categories in the High Needs Block.
- A pressure of £1.1m was projected against the cost of Post-16 provision, however the Forum noted that it was difficult to accurately forecast the Post-16 costs due to delays in various settings confirming their charges to the local authority and the issue of pupils joining mid-year, therefore the forecast pressure of £1.1m was subject to change later in the financial year, with the Forum due to receive an update at the January 2024 meeting.
- The overspends were partly mitigated by an underspend in the mainstream and academy budgets due to the increased utilisation of in borough SEND placements.
- The HNB Management Plan was in place to monitor and address the deficit, this included looking at longer term actions to reduce the deficit over time. A task group chaired by the Corporate Director of Children and Young People was in place to coordinate and monitor actions in the Plan, an updated Plan would be presented at the January Schools Forum.
- The Early Years Block was currently forecast to break even. However, this position was likely to change over the next two quarters, as children moved on from early years' settings and new take-up hours were confirmed from September 2023.
- It was noted that 95% of the Early Years Block's income was passed onto providers, and the remaining 5% was retained by the local authority for central expenditure budgets for Early Years services.
- The Central Block was also currently forecast to break even.
- In summary the majority of the DSG overspend was in relation to the HNB due to the increased EHCP numbers. This was recognised as a national issue, that was regularly under internal review. Additionally, it was expected that the benefits from the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND programme would start to take effect over the next few years, therefore effectively reducing longer term pressures on the HNB.

The Chair thanked officers for their report and asked the Forum if they had any questions in relation to the information provided. The Forum queried if Brent were to be offered a DfE "safety valve" agreement to support the deficit of the HNB and queried why there had been such a significant reduction in funding.

The following responses were provided:

- The Forum was advised that Local Authorities identified by the DfE for the safety valve support agreement would be written to individually, based on their deficit increase. Brent had not received any contact from the DfE at this point, however it was noted that many other local authorities that had been offered the safety valve agreement were also part of the DBV programme.
- In relation to why the DfE had significantly reduced funding, the Forum was advised that the DfE's explanation of this was that the increase in allocated funding provided last year for a two-year period, had been allocated at 5% in one payment, rather than being split over two years.

- The DfE were currently reviewing management plans to inform future funding decisions.

As there were no further questions the Chair thanked members and officers for their contributions to the discussion on the report and the Forum **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

7. **Dedicated Schools Grant Provisional Funding Update 2024/25**

Olufunke Adediran, Head of Finance introduced the report which updated the Forum on the provisional DSG block funding allocations announced for 2024/25.

The Forum noted the following key points as part of the update provided:

- The Forum was asked to note the provisional 2024/25 allocations which would form the basis of further detailed work to allocate funding to individual schools and settings at the January and February 2024 meetings, once the final funding was confirmed.
- The core factors in the NFF (such as basic per-pupil funding, and funding for additional needs such as deprivation) would increase by 1.4%, however a number of changes had been introduced, following the requirement for schools to move to the hard funding formula, as detailed in section 5 of the report.
- As discussed at previous Schools Forums, a small number of Brent schools would be affected by the split site funding; these schools had met with the finance team to discuss how their funding would be impacted.
- A further notable change was that, for the first time, in 2024/25 the DfE would allocate funding to local authorities on the basis of falling rolls, as well as growth. Local authorities could use the funding to support schools that experienced a short-term fall in the number of pupils on roll.
- A further change for 2024/25 would see local authorities being required to provide growth funding where a school or academy had agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment)
- In relation to the high needs block, the national increase for 2024/25 compared to 2023/24 was 4.3% or £440m. The NFF would ensure that every local authority received an increase of at least 3% per head of population, compared to 2023/24, and no more than 5%. Brent would receive the minimum 3% increase like other Outer London boroughs. This was the lowest increase in the past few years, the Forum was advised that if demand continued to grow the funding would not be sufficient to meet the pressures and the deficit was likely to increase. This could have a significant impact for Brent and many other councils in the event that the statutory override ceases in 25/26 and local authorities are expected to clear any deficits from their general funds.
- Central Block funding in 2024/25 would see an increase of 1.57% for the ongoing responsibilities that local authorities continued to have for all schools, whilst funding for historic commitments in relation to pension costs within this block would decrease by a further 20% from 2024/25.
- The 2024/25 Early Years' block funding allocations were due to be announced in December 2023, with the revised rates setting the basis of the EY budget allocations to be presented at the January 2024 Schools Forum.

- The DfE had announced that they would support the teacher's September 2023 pay award with additional grant funding, the indicative allocation for Brent mainstream schools (excluding special schools) in 2023/24 was £2.56m, schools were not required to spend the grant in year.
- For 2024/25 financial year, the DfE would pay the grant as a separate grant and for 2025/26 the grant would be incorporated into the NFF core budget allocations.
- A new School Place Planning Strategy 2024-2028 had been approved by Cabinet in October 2023 with a view to support schools with falling rolls, this included capping admission numbers, bringing schools together in federations and reducing capacity across the estate. In response to falling demand, the local authority was currently consulting on the closure of the Gwenneth Rickus site of Leopold Primary School that was opened as bulge accommodation when primary demand was high, as well as a reduction in PANs at other primary schools.

The Chair thanked officers for their report and invited the Forum to ask any questions in relation to the information reported on the DSG provisional funding update.

The following queries were raised:

- The Forum queried if the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding for each key stage could be provided, in response the Forum was advised that the AWPU funding figures would be distributed once received in January 2024.
- Following a Forum query in relation to the projected budgets and expenditure within the HNB for the following year, in light of the overspends and reduced funding, the Forum was advised that longer range forecasting was looked at as part of the deficit management plan. This information would be provided at the next Schools Forum.
- The Forum highlighted to officers the significant challenges faced by schools when trying to manage continued reductions in funding and adequately support SEND pupils. Officers advised that they understood and were sympathetic to the challenges faced by schools in stretching funding to support all pupils, it was hoped that through the DBV strategies in place, along with the continued support from the Council that schools would in time, start to experience the benefits of the revised strategies and feel sufficiently supported in ensuring SEND pupils were receiving the help they needed.
- The Forum questioned where the £6000 SEN funding that schools were required to spend on SEN pupils before top up funding could be requested from the local authority, could be found within their budgets. In response the Forum was advised that the funding was within the core budget that assumed a notional amount for SEND provision, this could be found on the Best Brent website where schools could access their budget information; a separate column showed the notional SEND budget. The Forum was further advised that these figures could also be found in the main budget published in February 2024 and if there were any specific queries in relation to this, schools could contact Folake Olufeko, Senior Finance Analyst, for further advice.

As there was no further discussion on the item the Forum **RESOLVED** to note the provisional 2024/25 allocations and the following Action Points to be taken forward:

Action Point 93:

Schools to be advised of the AWPU funding for each key stage.

Action Point 94:

The Forum to receive an update at a future meeting of the projected longer term financial position of the HNB as part of the deficit management plan.

8. Dates of Future Meeting 2023-24


The Committee noted that the provisional meeting scheduled for Tuesday 5 December 2023 was no longer needed and proceeded to agree and note the schedule of dates for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

- Thursday 25 January 2024
- Tuesday 20 February 2024

The Chair asked the Forum if they would like to consider a mixture a face to face and online meetings for future Schools Forums. The Forum was positive about the option of hybrid meetings so that they had the choice of in person or online attendance, dependant on their other commitments. It was therefore suggested that the first meeting of the next municipal year was held as a hybrid meeting at Brent Civic Centre and dependant on the success of this, the remaining meeting schedule could be agreed accordingly.

The meeting closed at 6:48 pm

M Heiser
Chair

 <p>Brent</p>	<p align="center">Schools Forum 25 January 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p>Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Budget 2024/25</p>	
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
List of Appendices:	Appendix A – 2024-25 Brent Local Funding Formula Rates Appendix B – School Level Allocations 2024-25
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.Adediran@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Folake Olufeko Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: Folake.Olufeko@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for 2024/25 for consultation and agreement by Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by Full Council in February 2024.
- 1.2. In November 2023, Schools Forum was presented with the provisional DSG allocations, which were published in July 2023. The final DSG block funding allocations were announced on 19 December 2023. This report gives an update on the final Schools Block allocations which includes the growth funding allocation for 2024/25.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Schools Forum is asked to:
 - a. Approve the transfer of (0.5%) £1.4m 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 Autumn Statement 2023.
 - c. Endorse the 2024/25 budget for the DSG Blocks, including the mainstream funding formula, to Full Council for approval.
 - d. Approve 2024/25 growth fund and the change in the current process of allocating growth fund to schools, in line with DfE's mandatory requirements for the treatment of the growth fund allocation.
- 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 increase the allocation to fund redundancy costs for school-based staff from the de-delegated contingencies budget and the proposal to increase the de-delegated funds from schools to make provisions for the local authority to continue to support school improvement activities.

3.0 Contribution to Borough Plan

- 3.1 This report is linked to the Council's Borough Plan which aims to support babies, children and young people get the best start in life, by working in partnership with schools and other partners to make sure access to education is fair and equal.

4.0 2024/25 DSG Funding Announcements

- 4.1 Additional funding for schools announced since the Spending Review 2021 totals more than £2.4bn in 2023/24, and more than £2.8bn in 2024/25, with the core schools' budgets totalling c£59.6bn in 2024/25.
- 4.2 This includes the additional funding for teachers' pay announced in July 2023; the Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG) provided an additional £482.5m in 2023/24, and £827.5m for 2024/25 for mainstream, special and alternative provision schools.
- 4.3 The government has also committed to providing an extra £4.1bn for childcare by 2027/28 to facilitate the expansion of the new free hours offer, which will bring total investment in childcare to over £8bn.
- 4.4 In the 2023/24 financial year, mainstream schools received additional funding through the mainstream schools' additional grant (MSAG). This grant has now been rolled into the National Funding Formula (NFF) and included in the baselines of 2024/25 Schools Block allocations.

4.5 Pupil premium which is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England in 2024/25 will increase to £1,480 for Primary aged pupils, £1,050 for Secondary aged pupils and £2,570 for children who are looked after by the local authority or who have been adopted from care or have left care.

5.0 2024/25 DSG Funding Blocks

5.1 Brent is set to receive a total DSG funding allocation of £397m in 2024/25 compared to £379m in 2023/24. This represents an overall increase of £18m.

5.2 The growth funding allocation has remained the same (£1.2m) as in 2023/24. This allocation is based on the difference between the number of pupils on roll in each school between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. This growth funding allocation is included in the overall Schools Block funding for 2024/25 as shown in Table 1 below.

5.3 Table 1 – 2024/25 Brent DSG Funding Allocations

Confirmed Allocations	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Central Services Block	Early Years	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2023/24	270,258	82,205	2,105	24,499	379,067
2024/25	274,404	85,045	2,094	35,196	396,739
Increase/(Reduction)	4,146	2,840	(11)	10,697	17,672
% Change from 2023/24	1.5%	3.5%	(0.5%)	43.7%	4.7%

5.4 The final HNB allocation has been announced as £85.0m. This is £2.8m more than the allocation for 2023/24 and represents a funding increase of 3.5%.

5.5 The 2023/24 HNB expenditure budget, excluding the proportion allocated for Brent children placed in other local authorities is £74.7m. The budget is currently forecast to spend £75.5m. The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) continues to increase. Therefore, in addition to 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 £1.4m, which would bring the total 2024/25 HNB budget to £86.4m and a net budget of £77.4m after deductions for allocations to other local authorities.

5.6 The 3.5% increase in funding in 2024/25 is considerably less than the 10% increase seen in 2023/24 and will not contribute towards the projected cumulative DSG deficit of £14.6m. 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 2024.

- 5.7 The Early Years (EY) Block allocations were also published in December 2023. The DfE has made further changes to the EY funding formula to take effect from the 2024/25 financial year, following a consultation on the EY funding formula which concluded in September 2022. This includes the introduction of new free childcare entitlements for children of working parents aged 9 months to 3 years. Brent is set to receive £35.2m. This represents an overall increase of £10.7m compared to 2023/24. The hourly rate of the EY NFF for EY Provision for the existing 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement is £9.59 in 2024/25, an increase from £6.84 in 2023/24. The 3 and 4-year-olds rate has increased from £5.93 to £6.59 in 2024/25. The detailed Early Years Block budgets are presented in a separate paper to this Schools Forum.
- 5.8 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 (£55k increase) and funding for historic pension costs for centrally employed teachers (£66k reduction). The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £2.1m, a small decrease across both elements of £11k compared to 2023/24.

6.0 Schools Block Expenditure – Mainstream Funding Formula

6.1 Table 2 – Individual Schools Block funding

Details	£
2024/25 DSG allocation	274.40
2024/25 NFF funded NNDR	(2.31)
DSG schools block after deduction of 2024/25 NFF funded NNDR	272.09
Less transfer to HN Block	(1.36)
	270.73
Less growth fund	(0.66)
	270.07
Less De-delegation	(0.79)
Less Education services	(0.52)
Post De-delegation and Education functions budget after deduction of 2024/25 NFF NNDR allocation	268.77

- 6.2 As shown in Table 2 above, the mainstream funding formula for 2024/25 is £274.4m. This includes £2.3m 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. £0.7m has been excluded for the growth fund with £1.4m proposed to be transferred to the HN Block. The allocation has been reduced by £0.790m for de-delegated funds and £0.519m retained by the council as a contribution towards fulfilling education services including school improvement services. This leaves £268.77m to be transferred to schools.

- 6.3 As was agreed at previous Schools Forums, the DSG contribution to central services to fund education functions was £0.6m, made up of the £0.250m contribution from all schools (included in the growth fund allocation) and £0.360m from maintained schools only. The DfE guidance makes clear that the £0.250m contribution could be charged to the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG and not to be funded from the growth fund. As such, the £0.250m element of this budget which was previously approved at Forum (December 2018) to support Council central services from 2019/20 has been removed from the growth fund, thereby releasing funds back to schools' allocations, however this additional cost cannot be absorbed by the Central Schools Services Block and will lead to a pressure against the Council's General Fund budgets for 2024/25.

School improvement services

- 6.4 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).
- 6.5 The government reduced the grant by 50% in 2022/23 and has brought it to an end in 2023/24. Part 7 of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023 allows local authorities to de-delegate for all improvement expenditure, including all core improvement activities.
- 6.6 Schools Forum was informed in January 2022 that the local authority would cover the cost of the 50% (£0.109m) reduction in grant funding in 2022/23 and this continued in 2023/24 with an undertaking to provide an update to this Forum.
- 6.7 There is now a requirement to make a £50k saving against the budget that contributes the above 50% from the council's general fund account. As a result of this, it is proposed to increase the de-delegated amount from schools to £0.159m and the local authority will continue to fund the balance of £59k for school improvement services to schools, to continue to support the functions of the Setting and School Effectiveness Service. Proposals for funding for

2025/26 will be presented at the subsequent January 2025 Schools Forum as part of the budget setting process.

6.8 This allocation of £0.159m plus the on-going £0.360m totals the £0.519m budget for education services as shown in Table 2.

7.0 De-Delegations

7.1 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.

7.2 Table 3 – De-delegated items

	2023/24		2024/25	
Primary Pupil Numbers	18,665		18,554	
Secondary Pupil Numbers	1,890		1,873	
Total Maintained pupils	20,555		20,427	
	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)	Rate per pupil (£)	Amount (£)
Contingencies- Schools in Financial Difficulty	8.53	175,400	8.59	175,400
Contingencies- Redundancy funding	9.73	200,000	14.69	300,000
Free School Meals eligibility service	1.22	25,000	1.22	25,000
Licenses/ Subscriptions	0.27	5,500	0.32	6,500
Staff costs - Maternity & paternity supply cover	10.85	223,000	10.92	223,000
Staff costs - Trade union facilities	2.77	57,000	2.94	60,000
¹ School improvement services	5.30	109,000		
Total De-delegated items		794,900		789,900

Contingencies

7.3 The number of Brent schools experiencing difficulties in 2023/24 has increased with 79% (67% in 2023/24) projecting an in-year deficit. 39% (23% in 2023/24) of these schools' plan to use over 50% of reserves to balance their budgets in 2023/24. It is therefore proposed to continue to de-delegate funds to support schools in financial difficulty. There is a £0.07 increase in the proposed rate for 2024/25 at £8.59, 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

¹ This budget has been moved from de-delegations and added to the budget for education functions as set out in section 6.3, since funding can now be deducted from maintained special schools and PRUs, as well as maintained primary and secondary schools ([paragraph 53 of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023](#))

be found from within wider DSG funding. It was agreed that redundancies should be funded from the Schools Facing Financial Difficulties Fund (SFFDF). It is proposed to increase this allocation to £0.3m (£0.2m in 2023/24) at a rate of £14.69 per pupil for centrally funded redundancies, where schools are eligible for funding. This is based on forecast payments in 2023/24 and the expected increase in requests in 2024/25 considering declining levels of schools' reserves.

Free School Meals eligibility

- 7.4 The Per Pupil rates (£1.22) will remain the same as last financial year despite the fall in pupil numbers. This is required to maintain the Free Schools Meals eligibility service at £25k.

Licences and Subscriptions

- 7.5 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 £6.5k in line with the actual cost in 2023/24 and expected inflationary increase in the next financial year.

Staff costs

- 7.6 This covers schools' costs for maternity and paternity supply cover and Trade Union services. It is proposed to increase the Trade Union service budget by £3k to meet additional staff costs from the increase in pay award in the current financial year. The net cost of centrally employing union representatives is estimated at £60k with £0.223m earmarked for maternity and paternity supply cover, in line with the current forecast for 2023/24. This equates to de-delegation rates of £2.94 and £10.92 respectively.

8.0 Growth Fund

- 8.1 The current growth budget funds growth in pupil numbers, as well as the Choice Advice and Fair Access Interview (CAFAl) projects for children who have newly arrived in the UK and require additional educational support.

8.2 Brent's current growth fund criteria

For the Primary Phase that expand in response to the basic need to accommodate pupil; if pupil numbers increase by more than 1.75% as measured by two October census points, then in-year 'Rising Rolls funding' will apply. This is calculated as actual growth x 85% AWPU pro rated.

For the Secondary Phase that expand in response to the basic need to accommodate pupils, by 30 places or more, a pupil number variation will be applied in the first year of growth, based on the number of planned places. Increases in actual pupil numbers in subsequent years will then be funded by the rising rolls mechanism; increased number of pupils x 85% AWPU pro rated. The threshold for triggering rising rolls in Secondary schools is an absolute value of 15 pupils per secondary school.

- 8.3 From 2024/25 local authorities will need to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment).
- 8.4 The growth fund can only be used to:
- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
 - support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
 - meet the revenue cost of new schools.
 - meet revenue costs, for schools, of removing or repurposing surplus places.

The growth fund must not be used to support:

- schools in financial difficulty; any such support for maintained schools should be provided from a de-delegated contingency.
- general growth due to popularity; this is managed through lagged funding. This includes cases where academies have admitted above pupil admission numbers (PAN) by their own choice.

- 8.5 As a minimum local authorities will have to provide funding to a level which is compliant with the following formula:

primary growth factor value (£1,550) × number of pupils × ²ACA

The primary growth factor value will be used for all school types – recognising there is one teacher pay scale and that this funding is a minimum value.

- 8.6 Schools Forum is asked to approve the change in the current basis of allocating growth funding to schools, from allocating funds for popular growth to allocating funds for pupil growth to meet basic need, as the former is not supported by the DfE.

² Area Cost Adjustment. Brent's ACA for 2024/25 is 1.14748

- 8.7 Schools Forum is also asked to approve the change in the current funding criteria to match the DfE's requirements as set out in paragraph 8.5 of this report. There are currently no formal agreements between the local authority and any of the schools to support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need however there are c65 pupils who are expected to be placed in secondary schools during the year. A budget of £0.116m has been earmarked for arrangements with schools to place these children.
- 8.8 The proposal is to set aside a growth budget of £0.656m made up of £0.116m to provide extra classes to meet basic need for the pupils on the waiting list and £0.540m for the current CAFAI arrangements with 3 schools to continue to meet the local authority's requirement to meet basic need for children who have newly arrived in the UK and require additional educational support.

9.0 Falling Rolls

- 9.1 For the first time in 2024 to 2025 the DfE will allocate funding based on both growth and falling rolls. The falling rolls funding will be distributed based on the reduction in pupil numbers that local authorities experience each year. The calculation for 2024/25 will be based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. The DfE will measure falling rolls using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population data. The falling rolls allocation for each local authority will be £140k per Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) from the ONS data, which sees a 10% or greater reduction in the number of pupils on roll between the two census years. Brent did not receive an allocation for 2024/25.
- 9.2 In addition, the requirement that schools must be Ofsted rated 'good' or 'outstanding' to be eligible for falling rolls funding will no longer apply from 2024/25.
- 9.3 Where local authorities operate a fund, they will only be able to provide funding where school capacity data 2022 (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. A review of Brent's SCAP demonstrates that fallings rolls are projected for the next 3 to 5 years for the schools experiencing falling rolls and therefore, the funding would not apply for the next financial year.

10.0 Funding Formula Rates

- 10.1 The government is taking a gradual approach to transitioning the local formulae progressively closer to the NFF over time. 2023/24 was 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 by the 2027/28 funding year at the latest.

- 10.2 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 2024/25 Schools budgets.
- 10.3 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 2024/25 to cushion the impact of the transition, the local funding formula factors used to set the budgets for 2024/25 have been applied as follows to:
- (a) In line with the results of the local authority's consultation with schools on the implementation of the direct NFF and as prescribed by the DfE, implement the compulsory 10% move, and narrow the gap for Primary IDACI B, C, E and F, Secondary IDACI F, Primary LPA and Primary and Secondary lump sums as these factor rates were significantly higher than the NFF.
 - (b) Set all Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), Primary and FSM ever6, Primary IDACI bands A and D, Secondary IDACI bands A to E, Secondary Low Prior Attainment (LPA), Primary and Secondary Mobility factors at the NFF rate as the current rates are either almost mirroring the NFF rate or affordable within the allocated funding.
 - (c) To set the DfE's compulsory split site rates at the NFF rates.
 - (d) To utilise the remaining funds after allocating all other factors to move the Primary and Secondary FSM and Primary and Secondary Additional Language (AEL) factors c45% closer to the NFF and within the DfE stipulated factor values.
- 10.4 The change in formula rates primarily allocates 25% of the additional pupil led funding through AWPU for all Primary and Secondary schools and targets schools with high deprivation via FSM as well as schools with a high number of pupils with EAL across both phases.
- 10.5 The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) threshold range for 2024/25 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 20 out of 76 schools require an MFG

allocation, and this totals £2.1m. This adjustment is included in the overall post de-delegations and education functions budget as shown in Appendix B.

10.6 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, for example, 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.

10.7 10 schools are set to see reductions in overall budget share allocations in 2024/25 and this is mainly due to falling rolls ranging from 4% to 22% drop in pupil numbers.

11.0 Update on Split site funding

11.1 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.

11.2 The DfE has developed a split sites factor which recognises costs through a basic eligibility criteria that attracts a lump-sum payment of £62k, and a distance 600m eligibility criteria that attracts an additional lump-sum payment of up to £31k.

11.3 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.

11.4 The table below sets out the split sites funding allocations for 2024/25 for schools that meet the new criteria compared to 2023/24. The 2023/24 rates have been included in the baseline amounts used to calculate these school's 2024/25 minimum funding guarantee and therefore protected the schools from losing out due to this change. The local authority met with the schools' head teachers to help address concerns and respond to queries raised.

11.5 Table 4 – Brents Schools’ Split Site funding for 2024/25

School	DfE's distance to second site (metres)	Basic eligibility	Distance factor	Total 2024/25 allocation	Total 2023/24 allocation
		£	£	£	£
Alperton	670	61,620	30,867	92,487	334,790
Islamia	112	61,620	950	62,570	96,958
Kingsbury High	600	61,620	30,867	92,487	337,860
Leopold	1730	61,620	30,867	92,487	223,933

12.0 Mayor’s Free School Meals Update 2024/25

12.1 In February 2023, the Mayor of London informed all London authorities that he will provide funding at £440 per child for all state-funded primary school children to receive Free School Meals (FSM) for the academic year 2023/24. The Mayor’s ambition was that the funding offers all primary aged children access to a meal at least once a day. The funding was at a rate of £2.65 per meal and provision was also made for Kosher meals funded at a rate of £3.50. These rates are above the government’s current rate of £2.41 which is to enable schools fund the associated costs such as administrative and staffing costs of delivering additional FSMs.

12.2 This was intended to be a one-year arrangement only however, the Mayor informed London authorities on the 9th of January 2024 that the funding will continue for the 2024/2025 academic year which will be until July 2025. The proposed price per meal will also increase from £2.65 to £3.00 per meal which is still higher than the government’s 2024/25 increased rate of £2.53. The rate for the Kosher meals is yet to be confirmed.

13.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

13.1 This paper enables consultation with members of Brent’s Schools Forum. The recommendations include a requirement for the endorsement of the DSG 2024/25 budgets for approval at full council on 29 February 2024.

14.0 Financial Considerations

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

15.0 Legal Considerations

15.1 This report has been drafted with due consideration of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.

16.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

16.1 Not applicable.

17.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

17.1 Not applicable.

18.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

18.1 Not applicable.

19.0 Communication Considerations

19.1 All School Forum papers are published, and all schools will have access to them. The final 2024/25 Schools' budget allocations school will be published on Best Brent by 29 February 2024.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People

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Appendix A - Brent 2024-25 Local Funding Formula Rates

Pupil Led Factors	23-24 Brent LFF	24-25 APT minimum	24-25 APT maximum	24-25 NFF including ACA	Brent LFF 10% towards NFF	24-25 Proposed LFF within allowable rates (£)	Change in LFF compared to 23-24	% Change in LFF compared to 23/24	2022-23 Units (Oct 22)	2023-24 Units (Oct 23)	Diff. in no of units	Total Funding 2023-24	Total Funding 2024-25
	£	£	£	£	£	£	No.	%	No.	No.	No.	£	£
Primary basic entitlement (Yrs R-6)	3,907	3,985	4,190	4,087	3,925	4,087	180	4.6%	25,131	25,017	(114)	98,183,550	102,252,580
KS3 basic entitlement (Yrs 7-9)	5,628	5,619	5,907	5,763	5,642	5,763	134	2.4%	9,868	10,047	179	55,539,374	57,897,290
KS4 basic entitlement (Yrs 10-11)	6,212	6,333	6,658	6,496	6,241	6,496	284	4.6%	6,566	6,638	72	40,789,240	43,119,680
Primary FSM	310	344	576	562	335	412	103	33.2%	5,020	5,278	258	1,554,343	2,176,542
Secondary FSM	310	344	576	562	335	412	103	33.2%	3,496	3,893	397	1,082,508	1,605,411
Primary FSM6	812	917	964	941	824	941	129	15.9%	5,290	5,516	226	4,292,994	5,190,190
Secondary FSM6	1,013	1,221	1,411	1,377	1,049	1,377	364	36.0%	4,209	4,324	116	4,261,958	5,954,503
Primary IDACI F	369	263	364	270	359	359	(10)	-2.7%	4,071	4,066	(4)	1,502,492	1,460,506
Primary IDACI E	385	319	383	327	379	379	(6)	-1.5%	4,133	4,163	30	1,589,619	1,577,144
Primary IDACI D	447	457	523	511	453	511	64	14.3%	2,407	2,359	(49)	1,075,557	1,204,351
Primary IDACI C	651	543	645	557	641	641	(9)	-1.4%	1,372	1,316	(56)	892,858	844,140
Primary IDACI B	940	576	909	591	906	906	(35)	-3.7%	197	195	(2)	185,103	176,657
Primary IDACI A	1,316	761	1,270	780	1,262	780	(536)	-40.7%	3	3	0	3,952	2,343
Secondary IDACI F	409	380	411	390	407	407	(2)	-0.5%	2,396	2,372	(24)	980,081	965,622
Secondary IDACI E	475	483	529	516	479	516	42	8.8%	2,315	2,431	116	1,098,857	1,255,235
Secondary IDACI D	604	624	741	723	616	723	119	19.7%	1,416	1,406	(10)	854,850	1,016,185
Secondary IDACI C	763	772	812	792	766	792	29	3.7%	634	636	2	483,782	503,409
Secondary IDACI B	1,064	828	1,051	849	1,043	849	(215)	-20.2%	139	123	(16)	148,349	104,629
Secondary IDACI A	1,487	1,057	1,460	1,084	1,447	1,084	(403)	-27.1%	2	3	1	2,975	3,254
Primary EAL	497	524	694	677	515	604	107	21.5%	9,835	9,928	93	4,889,183	5,999,064
Secondary EAL	711	838	1,864	1,819	822	1,213	502	70.6%	1,345	1,574	228	957,053	1,909,168
Primary LPA	1,387	1,309	1,394	1,343	1,382	1,382	(4)	-0.3%	7,345	7,794	450	10,185,417	10,774,604
Secondary LPA	1,883	1,919	2,088	2,037	1,899	2,037	154	8.2%	3,719	3,605	(114)	7,002,985	7,341,563
Primary mobility	1,161	1,074	1,168	1,102	1,155	1,102	(60)	-5.1%	678	679	1	787,683	747,925
Secondary mobility	1,538	1,544	1,623	1,584	1,543	1,584	45	3.0%	170	395	226	261,009	625,855
Total Pupil Led Funding												238,605,769	254,707,849
School led factors & other													
Primary lump sum	171,431	150,366	175,901	154,221	169,710	169,710	(1,721)	-1.0%	60	60		10,285,860	10,182,600
Secondary/Althrough lump sum	171,431	150,366	175,901	154,221	169,710	169,710	(1,721)	-1.0%	16	16		2,742,896	2,715,360
Primary sparsity	n/a	63,883	67,159	65,521	n/a	n/a							
Secondary sparsity	n/a	92,860	97,622	95,241	n/a	n/a							
Middle-school sparsity	n/a	92,860	97,622	95,241	n/a	n/a							
All-through sparsity	n/a	92,860	97,622	95,241	n/a	n/a							
Split sites basic eligibility funding	local criteria	60,079	63,160	61,620	NFF mandatory	61,620						993,541	340,031
Split sites distance funding	local criteria	30,096	31,639	30,867	NFF mandatory	30,867							
Business Rates												1,876,645	2,312,798
Growth funding												2,800,000	656,000
MFG												3,133,768	2,129,130
0.5% Trasfer to the HN Block												1,299,306	1,360,457
Total School led funding 2024/25												23,132,016	19,696,376


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Appendix B - School Level Allocations 2024-25

(2023/24 is inclusive of the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG) published in Spring 2023 and included in the 2024/25 baseline)

School	2023-24					2024-25				Change			
	NOR	Post Delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions) £	2023/24 MSAG £	Total inclusive of MSAG £	Per Pupil £	MFG Adjustment (included in post delegations budget) £	NOR	Post Delegation and Education functions budget (after NNDR deductions) £	Per Pupil £	MFG Adjustment (included in post delegations budget) £	Increase/(Decrease) in pupil Nos.	Increase/(Decrease) in funding £	Increase/(Decrease) in rate £
Anson Primary School	356	2,017,387	65,201	2,082,588	5,850	0	361	2,172,705	6,019	0	5	90,117	169
Brentfield Primary School	379	2,256,222	73,389	2,329,611	6,147	0	352	2,251,915	6,397	0	(27)	(77,695)	251
Byron Court Primary School	812	4,034,810	127,314	4,162,124	5,126	114,234	858	4,423,286	5,155	0	46	261,161	30
Carlton Vale Infant School	56	499,479	14,060	513,539	9,170	19,718	59	533,320	9,039	14,372	3	19,781	(131)
Harlesden Primary School	283	1,746,405	58,973	1,805,378	6,379	0	274	1,830,140	6,679	0	(9)	24,762	300
Mount Stewart Junior School	315	1,577,615	51,085	1,628,700	5,170	34,013	324	1,675,557	5,171	18,844	9	46,857	1
Mount Stewart Infant School	261	1,422,926	42,260	1,465,186	5,614	65,103	260	1,464,697	5,633	18,976	(1)	(489)	20
Uxendon Manor Primary School	628	3,118,499	100,724	3,219,223	5,126	64,405	630	3,239,507	5,142	24,543	2	20,284	16
Kingsbury Green Primary School	548	2,867,655	95,581	2,963,236	5,407	0	554	3,076,457	5,553	0	6	113,221	146
Leopold Primary School	634	3,797,092	117,058	3,914,150	6,174	0	579	3,602,010	6,221	99,793	(55)	(312,141)	47
Lyon Park Primary School	809	4,126,929	122,593	4,249,522	5,253	85,749	816	4,308,305	5,280	0	7	58,783	27
Malorees Infant School	176	1,076,823	31,575	1,108,398	6,298	79,619	170	1,079,521	6,350	75,414	(6)	(28,877)	52
Northview Junior and Infant School	207	1,255,936	41,687	1,297,623	6,269	0	202	1,316,841	6,519	0	(5)	19,218	250
Park Lane Primary School	423	2,297,393	74,507	2,371,900	5,607	10,821	420	2,378,078	5,662	0	(3)	6,178	55
Preston Park Primary School	522	2,682,705	86,563	2,769,268	5,305	38,791	539	2,887,935	5,358	0	17	118,667	53
Roe Green Junior School	455	2,313,982	76,548	2,390,530	5,254	0	461	2,452,957	5,321	0	6	62,427	67
Roe Green Infant School	357	2,239,306	56,488	2,295,794	6,431	315,739	360	2,321,641	6,449	271,909	3	25,847	18
Barham Primary School	846	4,238,906	132,570	4,371,476	5,167	100,266	844	4,381,248	5,191	0	(2)	9,771	24
Wykeham Primary School	420	2,325,672	76,012	2,401,684	5,718	12,698	417	2,393,888	5,741	16,252	(3)	(7,797)	22
Lyon Park Primary School	739	3,921,018	124,138	4,045,156	5,474	2,690	749	4,342,280	5,797	0	10	297,124	324
Donnington Primary School	209	1,236,094	41,363	1,277,457	6,112	9,618	206	1,287,720	6,251	0	(3)	10,263	139
The Stonebridge School	270	1,638,514	56,064	1,694,578	6,276	15,312	271	1,741,483	6,426	0	1	46,906	150
Newfield Primary School	227	1,431,855	49,695	1,481,550	6,527	0	227	1,508,877	6,647	0	0	27,327	120
Mitchell Brook Primary School	609	3,381,128	109,307	3,490,435	5,731	19,966	592	3,489,025	5,894	0	(17)	(1,410)	162
Chalkhill Primary School	418	2,353,676	74,900	2,428,576	5,810	0	413	2,478,163	6,000	0	(5)	49,588	190
Salisbury Primary School	615	3,185,111	101,885	3,286,996	5,345	4,523	601	3,273,686	5,447	0	(14)	(13,310)	102
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	418	2,147,040	68,315	2,215,355	5,300	46,418	419	2,227,314	5,316	15,821	1	11,959	16
Mora Primary School	377	2,146,339	72,277	2,218,616	5,885	0	382	2,329,008	6,097	0	5	110,392	212
Frynt Primary School	633	3,369,482	107,874	3,477,356	5,493	55,026	655	3,604,888	5,504	21,617	22	127,532	10
Christ Church CofE Primary School	160	995,199	32,256	1,027,455	6,422	0	171	1,107,851	6,479	0	11	80,395	57
John Keble CofE Primary School	379	2,232,288	70,396	2,302,684	6,076	0	372	2,339,096	6,288	0	(7)	36,412	212
Princess Frederica CofE Primary School	404	2,030,048	63,046	2,093,094	5,181	98,118	400	2,080,648	5,202	67,808	(4)	(12,446)	21
St Mary's CofE Primary School	196	1,232,323	41,130	1,273,453	6,497	14,999	180	1,225,223	6,807	0	(16)	(48,229)	310
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School	279	1,453,062	47,599	1,500,661	5,379	1,611	275	1,486,046	5,404	2,182	(4)	(14,615)	25
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School	296	1,593,154	53,400	1,646,554	5,563	0	267	1,536,948	5,756	0	(29)	(109,606)	194
St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School	414	2,067,377	66,690	2,134,067	5,155	36,451	420	2,169,549	5,166	5,046	6	35,482	11
Convent of Jesus and Mary RC Infant School	229	1,365,602	41,708	1,407,310	6,145	52,666	198	1,243,618	6,281	17,450	(31)	(163,692)	135
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	192	1,186,789	38,555	1,225,344	6,382	25,144	197	1,291,072	6,554	0	5	65,728	172
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School	210	1,274,254	35,035	1,309,289	6,235	73,743	207	1,297,051	6,266	43,929	(3)	(12,238)	31
Sinai Jewish Primary School	582	2,759,392	88,505	2,847,897	4,893	85,436	557	2,741,433	4,922	91,409	(25)	(106,464)	28
St Mary's RC Primary School	189	1,184,717	40,179	1,224,896	6,481	0	189	1,268,009	6,709	0	0	43,113	228
Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School	179	949,089	30,070	979,159	5,470	10,486	174	997,192	5,731	0	(5)	18,033	261
Wembley Primary School	821	4,328,436	136,089	4,464,525	5,438	64,850	829	4,541,097	5,478	0	8	76,572	40
Malorees Junior School	215	1,218,247	42,065	1,260,312	5,862	0	209	1,233,821	5,903	2,061	(6)	(26,491)	42
St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School	429	2,270,635	76,527	2,347,162	5,471	15,170	439	2,405,718	5,480	7,176	10	58,557	9
The Kilburn Park School Foundation	76	580,751	20,032	600,783	7,905	0	59	507,894	8,608	0	(17)	(92,889)	703
Islamia Primary School	413	2,426,845	76,729	2,503,574	6,062	17,376	416	2,529,237	6,080	24,983	3	25,663	18
Ark Franklin Primary Academy	590	2,984,482	96,066	3,080,548	5,221	149,335	598	3,135,502	5,243	119,012	8	54,953	22
Gladstone Park Primary School	597	3,339,583	108,929	3,448,512	5,776	0	613	3,632,253	5,925	0	16	183,741	149
St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School	392	2,231,891	75,050	2,306,941	5,885	0	389	2,375,166	6,106	0	(3)	68,226	221
Kilburn Grange School	219	1,459,540	48,599	1,508,139	6,886	89,723	206	1,435,097	6,966	46,499	(13)	(73,042)	80
East Lane Primary School	626	3,132,427	96,722	3,229,149	5,158	220,564	628	3,254,477	5,182	198,305	2	25,329	24
Braintcroft E-Act Primary Academy	621	3,661,574	116,714	3,778,288	6,084	0	628	3,877,354	6,174	0	7	99,066	90
Furness Primary School	312	1,815,176	58,747	1,873,923	6,006	4,946	288	1,813,744	6,298	0	(24)	(60,178)	292
Sudbury Primary School	847	4,267,057	143,362	4,410,419	5,207	0	844	4,442,362	5,263	0	(3)	31,943	56
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School	232	1,343,631	44,513	1,388,144	5,983	0	232	1,400,214	6,035	0	0	12,070	52
Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	180	1,138,634	32,721	1,171,355	6,508	48,670	179	1,170,891	6,541	20,272	(1)	(464)	34
St Margaret Clitheroe RC Primary School	197	1,210,154	37,803	1,247,957	6,335	19,924	204	1,291,978	6,333	7,976	7	44,021	(2)
Oakington Manor Primary School	636	3,392,863	103,564	3,496,427	5,498	58,275	634	3,546,559	5,594	0	(2)	50,132	96
North West London Jewish Day School	179	1,016,556	30,190	1,046,746	5,848	51,982	187	1,090,524	5,832	49,259	8	43,779	(16)
PRIMARY TOTAL	24,293	132,847,771	4,242,997	137,090,768	2,234,178	24,184	138,540,075	2,280,906	1,280,906	(109)	1,449,307		
Michaela Community School	611	4,381,209	160,975	4,542,184	7,434	0	599	4,554,888	7,604	0	(12)	12,705	170
Ark Elvin Academy	1072	8,079,690	290,141	8,369,831	7,808	0	1071	8,534,470	7,969	0	(1)	164,639	161
North Brent School	330	2,367,187	35,659	2,402,846	7,281	6,980	186	1,464,292	7,873	0	(144)	(938,554)	591
Wembley High Technology College	1110	7,516,724	264,235	7,780,959	7,010	119,130	1289	9,169,436	7,114	0	179	1,388,476	104
Claremont High School	1351	9,099,720	314,710	9,414,430	6,968	173,941	1381	9,667,626	7,000	74,690	30	253,196	32
Kingsbury High School	1636	11,745,250	415,471	12,160,721	7,433	0	1662	12,414,445	7,470	70,186	26	253,723	36
Queens Park Community School	1070	7,509,639	266,348	7,775,987	7,267	92,362	1088	7,971,999	7,327	0	18	195,512	59
Saint Claudine's Catholic School for Girls	756	5,884,456	202,974	6,087,430	8,052	0	812	6,901,900	8,500	0	56	814,470	448
Alpertown Community School	1609	11,555,114	391,979	11,947,093	7,425	89,167	1634	12,190,876	7,461	257,541	25	243,783	36
St Gregory's Catholic Science College	952	6,521,469	220,490	6,741,959	7,082	139,692	945	6,726,426	7,118	159,617	(7)	(15,533)	36
Harris Lowe Academy Willesden	896	6,812,736	252,148	7,064,884	7,885	0	913	7,433,547	8,142	0	17	368,663	257
E-Act Crest Academy	1,011	7,862,473	287,813	8,150,286	8,062	0	1082	9,123,028	8,432	0	71	972,741	370
JFS	1421	9,264,725	309,759	9,574,484	6,738	276,936	1409	9,531,332	6,765	286,188	(12)	(43,152)	27
Newman Catholic College	469	3,779,826	133,749	3,913,575	8,345	0	464	4,013,665	8,650	0	(5)	100,090	306
SECONDARY TOTAL	14,294	102,380,219	3,546,451	105,926,670	898,208	14,535	109,697,431	848,223	241	3,770,761			
Preston Manor School	1665	10,931,488	384,065	11,315,553	6,796	1,382	1667	11,580,298	6,947	0	2	264,745	151
Ark Academy	1313	8,447,457	310,919	8,758,376	6,671	0	1316	8,948,266	6,800	0	3	189,890	129
ALL THROUGH TOTAL	2,978	19,378,944	694,984	20,073,928	1,382	2,983	20,528,564	2,129,130	0	5	454,635	0	
Total	41,565	254,606,934	8,484,432	263,091,366	3,133,768	41,702	268,766,069	2,129,130	5,674,703				

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	<p align="center">Meeting Title 25 January 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p align="center">Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) 2024/25</p>	
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
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – The Under 5s nursery panel information
Background Papers:	None.
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Olufunke Adediran Head of Finance – CYP 0208 937 1196 Email: Olufunke.Adediran@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Folake Olufeko Senior Finance Analyst – CYP 0208 937 2179 Email: Folake.Olufeko@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. Following the confirmation of the provisional DSG Early Years' (EY) Block funding for Brent, this report seeks Schools Forum endorsement of the local EY Funding Formula for 2024/25.
- 1.2. The 2024/25 EY Block funding for Brent is £35.2m, an increase of £10.6m from 2023/24 allocations.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is asked to endorse Brent's EY Funding Formula for 2024/25, 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 £5.39 per hour. This represents an 11.4% increase of £0.55p from £4.84 in 2023/24.

- b) An allocation for deprivation supplement of 10% and quality supplement of 2% for 3 and 4-year-old funding.
- c) A base rate of £9.54 to pay Brent providers for the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement. This represents a 40% increase of £2.70 from £6.84 in 2023/24.
- d) A base rate of £9.41 to pay Brent providers for the 2-year-old working parent entitlement.
- e) A base rate of £12.87 to pay Brent providers for children aged 9 months up to 2 years.
- f) A 5% centrally retained funding by the local authority from the 3 and 4-year-old funding.
- g) Following the DfE's extension of the 95% pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement from 2024/25, a 0.5% centrally retained funding by the local authority from this cohort.
- h) Additional funding for some 3 and 4-year-olds, extended to 9 months to 3-year-olds and based on local eligibility, 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. This follows the DfE's expectation that local authorities have special educational needs inclusion funds (SENIFs) for all children with special educational needs (SEN) eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.
- i) In line with the DfE's proposal to roll the teachers' pay and pension grant into the EYNFF from 2023/24 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% continues to be used as a quality supplement to the 3 and 4-year-old funding allocated to providers.

2.2. Schools Forum is asked to note the requirement for local authorities to have a disadvantaged 2-year-old rate that is at least equal to the rate for 2-year-old children of working parents.

2.3 Schools Forum is requested to agree a change to the current approach whereby all 2-year-olds, whether applying for the disadvantaged two-year entitlement or the two-year entitlement for working families, access their entitlement the term after their 2nd birthday, in line with the timing of the government's funding.

3.0 Contribution to Borough Plan

- 3.1 This report is linked to the Council's Borough Plan which aims to support babies, children and young people get the best start in life, by working in partnership with schools and other partners to make sure access to education is fair and equal.

4.0 Funding from central government

- 4.1 At the Spring Budget 2023, the Government said it would provide additional funding to increase the hourly funding rate for the existing childcare entitlements. £204m provided in 2023/24 (paid from September 2023 via the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG)) and £288m will be provided in 2024/25.
- 4.2 There will be further investments to enable schools and local providers to set up wraparound childcare provision so that parents of school age children can access childcare in their local area. This could include provision of activities that fall outside of school hours, such as breakfast clubs and after-school clubs.
- 4.3 The reforms include changes to the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) requirements to improve flexibility for providers and support the workforce. This includes changes in staff child ratios and the introduction of childminder grants to support childminders.
- 4.4 The government expects to spend an additional £4.1bn by 2027/28 to fund 30 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks per year) for children over the age of 9 months. At the introduction of the new entitlements from 2024/25, the average funding rate for local authorities for under 2-year-olds will be around £11 per hour.
- 4.5 The government consulted on the EY funding formula which ran from July 2023 to September 2023. The outcome of the consultation has now been published below is the summary of revised policy decisions:
- 4.5.1 For 2024/25, a new national funding formula for both the existing 2-year-old entitlement for disadvantaged children and the new working parent entitlements for 2-year-olds and under will be introduced.
- 4.5.2 There will be 3 separate hourly funding rates: 2-year-olds, which will be the same for both the disadvantaged and the working parent entitlements; 9-month-old up to 2-year-olds for the new working parent entitlement; and 3 and 4-year-olds for the universal and additional hours entitlements.

4.5.3 The Early year Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the Disability Access Fund (DAF) will extend to eligible children aged 2 and under in receipt of a free entitlement place from 2024/25.

5.0 Implications of government funding for Brent

5.1 The 2024/25 Brent EY Block funding has increased by £10.6m to £35.2m compared to 2023/24. Of the £10.6m increase, £6.8m is allocated to for free childcare entitlements for working parents with children under the age of 3. There have been increases to the funding rates allocated to Brent for the existing 2-year-old, and 3 and 4-year-old provisions.

5.2 The Early Years supplementary grant increased the EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4-year-olds from £5.93 to £6.29 in 2023/24 for September 2023 to March 2024 period. This represented a 6.1% increase of £0.36p from £5.93 in 2023/24.

5.3 The EYNFF hourly rate for 3 and 4-year-olds has increased from £6.29 in 2023/24 to £6.59 in 2024/25. This represents a 4.8% increase of £0.30p from £6.29. Table 1 sets out the key figures.

5.4 Table 1: EYNFF funding rates

3 and 4-year-olds	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Universal 15 hours allocation	£14.6m	£16.0m	£17.6m
Additional 15 hours allocation	£3.6m	£4.0m	£4.6m
Hourly rate before central spend	£5.68	£5.93	£6.59
Maximum % for central spend	5%	5%	5%
Hourly rate after central spend removed	£5.40	£5.63	£6.26
Maximum % for deprivation	10%	10%	10%
Maximum % for quality supplement	0%	2%	2%
Maintained Nursery Schools Supplementary Funding	£0.732m	£0.778m	£0.915m
2-year-olds			
2-year-old disadvantaged funding allocation	£2.9m	£3.4m	£4.9m
2-year-old working parents funding allocation	n/a	n/a	£4.0m
Hourly rate for 15 hours allocation	£6.29	£6.84	£9.59
Under 2-year-olds			
Under 2-year-old working parents funding allocation	n/a	n/a	£2.8m
Hourly rate for 15 hours allocation	n/a	n/a	£13.07

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

6.1 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 £4.84 in 2023/24 to £5.39 in 2024/25 as shown below:

a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE	£6.59
b) Remove central spend of 5%	£6.26
c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p)	£6.13
d) Reduce by allocation for deprivation (£6.13 x 90%)	£5.52
e) Reduce by allocation for quality supplement (£5.52 – (£6.13*2%))	£5.39

6.2 Funding supplements are amounts of funding paid to providers in addition to the base rate to reflect local needs or policy objectives. The 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 2024/25. This equates to £0.61p per hour.

6.3 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.

6.4 Local authorities are not required to use this additional flexibility. However, to ensure that schools continue to have visibility of this funding, it is proposed to continue 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 PVI's that meet the criteria and equates to £0.12p per hour.

6.5 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.

6.6 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 2024 census data will be used as the basis of funding for FY 2024/25, given this would be the latest published information available.

- 6.7 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 2024/25.

7.0 Base rates for Brent providers for 2-year-old funding for 2024/25

- 7.1 The 2024/25 disadvantaged 2-year-old provisional allocation is £4.9m, an increase of 44% from the last financial year.
- 7.2 The DfE's provisional funding estimates are based on the January 2023 census data and as expected, the actual funding allocation for 2024/25 has increased, reflecting the increase demand for childcare for 2-year-olds compared to January 2022 figures.
- 7.3 The EYNFF rate for 2-year-old funding will increase from £6.84 per hour in 2023/24 to £9.59 per hour.
- 7.4 From April 2024, the 2-year-old funding will extend to working parents of 2-year-olds to access 15 hours care entitlement per week, over 38 weeks per year.
- 7.5 The government mandates local authorities to have a disadvantaged 2-year-old rate that is at least equal to their rate for 2-year-old children of working parents. It also recognises the expectation that local authorities have SENIFs for all children with SEN. In line with this, the proposal to distribute this rate to providers is as set out below:

Base rate for the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE | £9.59 |
| b) Allocation for central spend (0.5%) | £9.54 |

Base rate for the working parents of 2-year-olds' entitlement:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE | £9.59 |
| b) Allocation for central spend (0.5%) | £9.54 |
| c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p) | £9.41 |

8.0 Proposed change in access to the 2-year-old free entitlements

- 8.1 The 2-year-old entitlement to free 15 hours of early education for eligible children was rolled out in Brent in 2013, following participation in the

government's pilot for this. The statutory guidance stated that children could access their entitlement the term after their 2nd birthday. Take-up of this entitlement amongst eligible families as well as the number of providers willing to offer this entitlement was low, both during the pilot and full implementation.

- 8.2 To increase sufficiency of 2-year provision, thereby making the entitlement more accessible to families and provide quicker access to early education for the most vulnerable children, a decision was made locally in Brent that eligible 2-year-olds could access their entitlement the day after their 2nd birthday. This had the desired effect in increasing the numbers of providers offering 2-year places and take-up increased, albeit slowly. There was also a financial impact of this decision as the additional weeks were not funded by the DfE and absorbed within the Early Years Block. For example, the financial impact during 2022/23 was £0.211m and £0.157m as of December 2023 for the current 2023/24 financial year.
- 8.3 This approach has been in place for the last 10 years, however with the roll-out of the 2-year entitlement for working families in April 2024 which also allows access to the entitlement the term after the child's 2nd birthday, it is timely for this to be reviewed.
- 8.4 If the current approach is not changed, an unsustainable two-tier system would develop with children eligible for the disadvantaged 2-year entitlement being eligible the day after their 2nd birthday and 2-year-olds from working families only able to access the term after their 2nd birthday. This is likely to prove very unpopular with families. Applying the current approach to the new entitlement, with all 2-year-olds accessing the day after their 2nd birthday, will increase the financial impact in terms of number of additional weeks funded and therefore not be tenable for the local authority.
- 8.5 Schools Forum is therefore requested to agree a change to the current approach whereby all 2-year-olds, whether applying for the disadvantaged 2-year entitlement or the 2-year entitlement for working families, access their entitlement the term after their 2nd birthday. In consideration of the feedback from the EY sub-group, it is proposed that this change would take effect from 1 September 2024.

9.0 A base rate for Brent providers for under 2-year-old funding

- 9.1 From September 2024, working parents of children aged 9 months up to 2-year-olds can access 15 hours care entitlement per week over 38 weeks per year.
- 9.2 For 2024/25, the EYNFF rate for under 2-year-old funding is £13.07 per hour.

- 9.3 The local authority proposes to deduct 0.5% from this funding allocation to contribute towards the cost of central services and as with the other free entitlements, deduct £0.13p from the pass-through rate for a contribution towards SENIF. The rate is to be applied as follows:

Base rate for the working parents of 9 months to 2-year-olds entitlement:

a) Overall hourly rate received from DfE	£13.07
b) Allocation for central spend (0.5%)	£13.00
c) Allocate to Specialist Nursery Panel (0.13p)	£12.87

10.0 Retention of funding for Central Spend

- 10.1 The DfE guideline mandates local authorities to pass through 95% of the Early Years funding to the 3 and 4-year-old entitlement as well as extending this pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements for central services.

- 10.2 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 9 months to 2-year-olds from eligible families.
- 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.

- 10.3 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 9 months to school age children who take up free entitlement places in Brent and are counted in the latest January census.

- 10.4 It is recommended that central retention of EY funding for the existing and new entitlements for 2024/25 is as set out in the table below.

10.5 Table 2: Local funding allocation for central expenditure

Entitlements	Retention %	2023/24 (£)	2024/25 (£)	Increase (£)
15 and 30 hours for 3 and 4-year-olds	5	1,001,265	1,109,600	108,335
15 hours for the most disadvantaged 2-year-olds	0.5	n/a	24,435	24,435
15 hours for 2-year-olds of eligible working parents	0.5	n/a	20,288	20,288
15 hours for children aged 9 months to 2 years of eligible working parents	0.5	n/a	14,009	14,009
Total		1,001,265	1,168,331	167,066

10.6 The above percentages have been set in acknowledgment of both the increase in administration of the expanded entitlements as well as the DfE's plans to increase the pass-through rate to 97% once the new entitlements have been successfully implemented. This change is expected within the next year or two and the full 3% will need to be applied across all entitlements to continue delivering the current level of central services.

10.7 The proposed central retention equates to £1.168m, compared to a £1.001m equivalent in 2023/24; an increase of £0.167m from the previous financial year.

10.8 The budget requirement for delivery of the current level of central services and the training offer as set out in paragraph 10.2 is £1.058m. This provision will ensure continued delivery of support and training which has been acknowledged by the Early Years Funding subgroup as a required service and is valued by providers.

10.9 This leaves a surplus of £0.109m. The expanded entitlements will increase workload for the teams involved due to the increased numbers of children accessing free entitlements, both in terms of administration and working with providers and parents to ensure smooth implementation across the dates set by the DfE and high awareness amongst families to enable as many eligible families as possible access their entitlements. It is proposed that this surplus is used to fund additional resources to facilitate this implementation.

11.0 Specialist Nursery Panel

11.1 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.

- 11.2 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 £0.13p 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 contribution for the 3 and 4-year-old funding equates to £0.438m for the next financial year. The principle remains that children with the most complex needs will be supported to attend one of the specialist nurseries where appropriate.
- 11.3 In line with the DfE's expectation that local authorities have SENIFs for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, it is proposed to include a contribution from the new free entitlements for children of working parents aged 9 months to 3-years-old, at the same rate of £0.13p which equates to £83k.
- 11.4 **Action 89** arising from the last Schools Forum requested details of the Early Years Panel funding decision making criteria to be shared with Forum members. This can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 11.5 For 2024/25, the total value of the Early Years Inclusion fund from the EY Block is £0.521m.
- 11.6 Table 3: DSG Specialist Nursery Panel Budget

Proposed income	2023/24	2024/25
Income	£	£
DSG High Needs Block (HNB)	(1,089,160)	(1,089,160)
Early Years Block	(439,003)	(520,650)
Disability Access Fund	(119,232)	(163,800)
Total Income	(1,647,395)	(1,773,610)
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	70,000	70,000
CIN for specialist nurseries	288,000	288,000
CIN/2-year-olds in non-specialist early years provision	94,753	0
Inclusion fund for 9 months to 3 years-olds in non-specialist early years provision	0	142,650
Quality Assurance staff (1.5 post)	0	90,000
Transport	39,627	0
Additional one-off funding	16,623	0

Disability Access Fund	119,232	163,800
Total Expenditure	1,647,395	1,773,610

12.0 EY funding based on DfE's provisional allocations

12.1 Table 4 outlines the Early Years' budget based on draft allocations from the DfE and the recommendations from this paper.

12.2 Table 4: Proposed Early Years block budget

Income	2023/24 £' (000)	2024/25 £' (000)
Universal allocation for 3&4-year-olds	15,995	17,626
Additional hours for 3&4-year-olds	4,030	4,566
Allocation for 2-year-olds	3,484	4,887
Allocation for 2-year-olds with working parents	n/a	4,058
Supplementary funding for MNSs	778	915
Disability Access Fund for 3 to 4-year-olds	119	128
Disability Access Fund for 2-year-olds	n/a	25
Disability Access Fund for under 2-year-olds	n/a	11
Early years pupil premium for 3 to 4-year-olds	93	109
Early years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	n/a	66
Early Years Pupil Premium for under 2 years old	n/a	3
Total Income	24,499	35,196
Expenditure	2023/24 £' (000)	2024/25 £' (000)
Distribute to providers for 3&4-year-olds universal offer	14,845	16,397
Distribute to providers for 3&4-year-olds children with working parents (additional 15 hours)	3,740	4,247
Central spend	1,001	1,168
Additional panel funding	439	521
Distribute to providers for disadvantaged 2-year-olds	3,484	4,863
Distribute to providers for 2-year-olds children with working parents	n/a	3,982
Distribute to providers for under 2-year-olds	n/a	2,760
Supplementary funding distributed to maintained nursery schools	778	915
Disability Access Fund for 3 to 4-year-olds	119	128
Disability Access Fund for 2-year-olds	n/a	25
Disability Access Fund for under 2-year-olds	n/a	11
Early years pupil premium for 3–4-year-olds	93	109
Early years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	n/a	66
Early Years Pupil Premium for under 2 years old	n/a	3
Total Expenditure	24,499	35,196
Funding gap	0	0

13.0 Additional funding for maintained nursery schools (MNS)

- 13.1 Local authorities with MNS will continue to receive supplementary funding for the 2024/25 financial year. The provisional allocation for Brent is £0.915m compared to £0.778m in 2023/24. This represents an increase of 17.6%.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 This supplementary 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. The proposal is to continue to distribute this funding to the MNS based on an hourly rate for 2024/25, in line with the DfE's change in local authority fundings to an hourly rate basis.
- 13.4 The MNS supplementary hourly rate, inclusive of Teachers' Pay Additional Grant has increased from £5.47 to £6.27 per hour: an increase of 15%.

14.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 14.1 A discussion took place with the Early Years Sub-group of the Schools Forum on the 9th of January regarding the hourly rates and central retention from the Early Years funding allocation, taking into consideration the requirements of the expanded entitlements, including the application of central retention and SENIF across all the entitlements. Members of the group agreed with the proposals to retain 5% from the 3- and 4-year allocation, and 0.5% from the under-two and two-year allocations for central support services.
- 14.2 The initial findings and draft proposals following the review of Early Years SEND Inclusion funding were shared with the group. The group acknowledged the value and quality of the specialist nurseries and the important part these play in providing high quality inclusive provision in the borough. A discussion followed on the proposals for the HN contribution to the EYIF and on preparations for the imminent changes considering the expansion of the entitlements, resulting in an even younger cohort of children with SEND being eligible for SENIF. Further discussions will be had with members of the group before Schools Forum to agree their preferred options.

- 14.3 The proposal to change access for two-year-olds eligible for the disadvantaged two-year entitlement from the day after their second birthday (a Brent local decision) to the term after their second birthday as per the requirements of statutory guidance was discussed by the group. While the group acknowledged the rationale behind the request for change, both in terms of parental response to differing approaches for different cohorts of two year olds as well this not being affordable for the local authority, they felt strongly that this change should not happen both from a financial sustainability perspective for providers in that the additional funding was valuable and that vulnerable two year olds would miss out on the opportunity to access their entitlements earlier. Members of the group also fed back that the current system allowed for a gradual entry of two-year-olds into provision as they turned two rather than larger groups of two-year-olds starting together at the beginning of term, and that this was a practical benefit for settings in supporting these children.
- 14.4 Following feedback from the EY funding sub-group, modelling on the impact of the change to the providers has taken place and this indicates that approximately 7% of the total two-year cohort in any year start before the term time after their second birthday with 93% starting at the DfE funded dates. This equates to a yearly average cost of £2.8k per setting. It is anticipated that this financial impact will be offset by the increased number of two-year-olds taking up places through the two entitlements for working families. Furthermore, in consideration of the group's feedback, it is proposed that this change for the next financial year commences from 1 September 2024, to allow settings a transitional term to prepare.
- 14.5 As providers will be receiving a higher hourly rate for children accessing the two-year entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds compared to two-year-olds from working families, it is anticipated that there will continue to be a financial incentive for offering places for the most vulnerable two-year-olds in the borough.
- 14.6 The group was also consulted as on the requirement within the Statutory guidance 'Early education and childcare (applies from 1 April 2024) Updated 1 January 2024' for providers to be paid monthly. The group were presented with the following three options:
- 1) Continue with the existing system of an initial estimate, a Headcount 1 for adjustment against the estimate and a final Headcount 2 towards the end of term. This option is aligned to Schools Census dates and gives 3 payment points in a term.

- 2) Move to a system of monthly payments, with no estimates, no alignment with School Census dates but with similar payment points as above, except for the summer term with a possible 4 payment points.
- 3) Adopt a new system of estimates at the beginning of term and a final headcount at the end of term. This would offer 2 payment points and would not be aligned with Schools census dates.

Members of the group voted unanimously to retain the existing system, which they said worked extremely well and would not add the additional administration burden that would be the case with option 2.

15.0 Financial Considerations

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

16.0 Legal Considerations

16.1 This report has been drafted with due consideration of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework which sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

17.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

17.1 Not applicable.

18.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

18.1 Not applicable.

19.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

19.1 Not applicable.

20.0 Communication Considerations

20.1 All School Forum papers are published, and all schools will have access to them. The final 2024/25 EY budget allocation for each school will be published on Best Brent.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People

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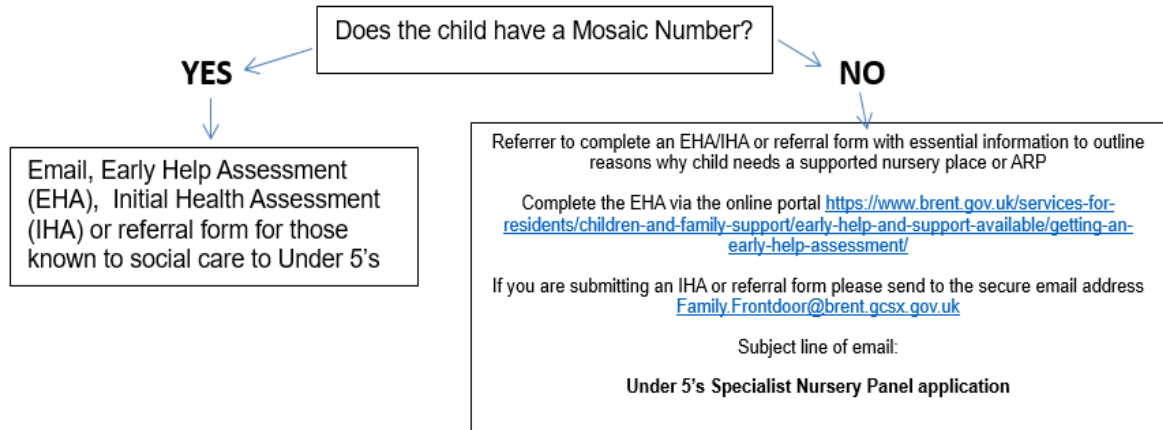
Appendix 1 – The Under 5s Nursery Panel process and criteria

Beyond the free entitlements –the Under 5s Specialist Nursery Panel

Referral Process for a Specialist Nursery or Additional Funding through the Under 5's Specialist Nursery Panel

The Panel supports children;

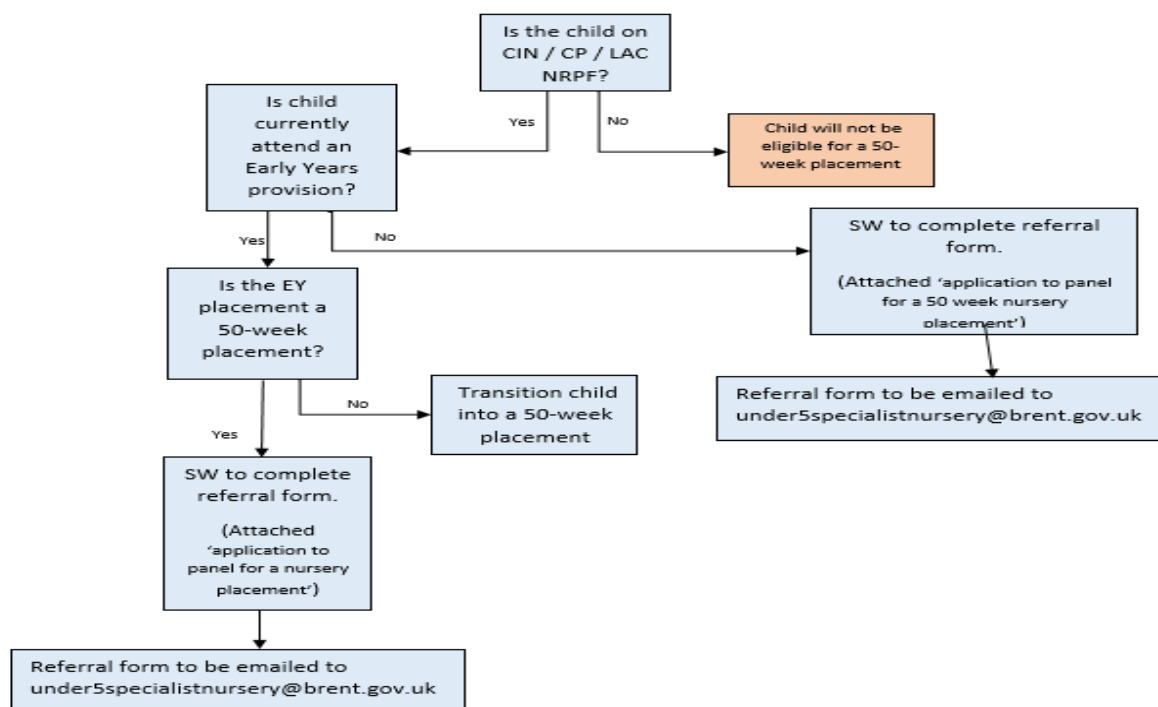
- that attend an Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) for children under five on the Autistic Spectrum (Horizon, Rainbow or Sunshine)
- children with special educational needs or a disability in Curzon/~~Fawood~~, Granville Plus Nursery School, Willow SEND Family Wellbeing Centre Nursery or an appropriate PVI or nursery class.
- children who are a Looked After Child, subject to a Child in Need or Child Protection plan or have No Recourse To Public Funds in Curzon/~~Fawood~~, Granville Plus Nursery School, Willow SEND Family Wellbeing Centre Nursery or an appropriate PVI.



Criteria for CIN/CWD/LAC/NRPF funded nursery place (15 hours for 50 weeks of the year)

- Child currently attending a 50-week nursery or seeking a 50-week nursery placement.
- subject to a Child Protection (CP) or Child in Need (CIN) plan
- Brent Looked After child (LAC)
- part of a family whose parents have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRP)

Appendix 1 – The Under 5s Nursery Panel process and criteria



- Finding a nursery that is 50 weeks placement. First, look for Brent’s specialist nursery placements (Curzon Crescent, Fawood, Granville, Willow). *Please note that there needs to be exceptional reasons why a place at a specialist placement is not being requested.*
- If a placement is required at a nursery and not one of the specialist provisions listed above you must clearly state the reason for this in referral form.
- Any alternative PVI nursery is agreed with the Under 5’s Panel SW must confirm that is open 50 weeks and has been rated ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted.
- Funding covers 15 hours a week across a 50-week year. This is to ensure a protective environment and consistent monitoring within the setting.
- Managers of EY setting to be notified by Social Worker of this support on joining a nursery.
- SW should contact Early Years Inclusion Support Team (EYIST). EYIST linked to and support every Brent nursery and childminder setting. – **All contact details in attached EYIST leaflet.**
- Child under CIN / CP / LAC are likely to need support with Social, Emotional, Mental, Health needs (SEMH) EYIST team to support setting.
- Please ensure that all referrals are received by 4pm on the 1st Wednesday of every month. The panel is held on the 2nd Monday of each month (unless stated otherwise on the Under 5’s email auto response message). The referrer and the parent/carer will be informed within 2 weeks of panel meeting.
- If a child is currently attending a setting that is not 50 weeks a request for wrap around care to cover holidays at a childminder/50-week nursery maybe be considered.

Appendix 1 – The Under 5s Nursery Panel process and criteria

➤ Brent Under 5s panel bandings**Band 5 (£8 per hour)****Fund A**

For 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds: Criteria for CwD funded nursery place at a Specialist Nursery (15 hours x 38 weeks of the year)

- With SLD /ASD and/or other known syndromes (e.g., Downs, Fragile X) with some challenging behaviour and the capacity for making small progress, who may have challenging behaviour particularly around non-compliance and inability to cope in a range of environment.
- With extreme physical; medical; sensory; and/or emotional needs who demonstrate the potential for making small amounts of progress in accessing some aspects of the curriculum and/or self-regulating their behaviour.
- A combination of learning difficulties, speech and language delay and social deficits (with or without a diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder) **and** with associated **multiple** problems in the range of attention, communication, empathy, emotional control, attachment, anxiety, or depression associated behaviour that is either harmful to others or harmful to self or that prevents participation (such as extreme avoidance or withdrawal)
- Pupils with dual sensory impairment with moderate loss in both or most affected modality

Fund B

For 3-4 year olds or 2 year olds in exceptional circumstances: Criteria for CwD funded nursery place at a PVI, childminder or school nursery rated good or outstanding by Ofsted (15 hours x 38 weeks of the year)

- As for the Specialist Nurseries (above) but with no significant medical needs or without the need for specialist equipment

Band 3 (£5 per hour)**Fund C**

For 3–4-year-olds: Proposed criteria for one off funding to purchase a piece of equipment or specific SEND training for staff for those children with lower-level needs relating to band 3 criteria below (15 hours x 38 weeks of the year).

- They may on occasions/possibly regularly but not too frequently, require some low-level additional supervision and intervention from others. They are likely to respond positively to routine, structure, and support.
- display persistent low-level disruption (frequent inappropriate interruptions) and occasionally exhibiting anti-social behaviour which may include for example: having frequent (at least daily or very long) temper tantrums, with screaming, kicking or a complete loss of control.
- Experiences moderate level of hearing impairment and/or visual or perceptual impairment as described by specialist staff.

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