

**BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**07 December 2021**

<b>Title:</b> Schools' Forum Report	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Decision / For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected: All</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
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<b>Accountable Operational Director:</b> Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director for Education Youth and Childcare	
<b>Accountable Strategic Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti – Director for People and Resilience	
<b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2021/22 DSG Grant Update</li> <li>2. DSG Projected Out-turn</li> <li>3. High Needs Update</li> <li>4. Early years update and clawback</li> <li>5. Funding of School Improvement functions</li> <li>6. AOB</li> </ol>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  The Schools' Forum is requested to:	

1. (a) note the 2021/22 DSG grant funding allocations.
2. (a) note the projected DSG out-turn position for 2021/22.  
(b) note the revised DSG reserve.
3. (a) Note and comment on the 2021/22 High Needs Outturn Forecast.  
(b) Note the High Needs working group discussions from the meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>.  
(c) Note and comment about the additional one-off payment to support reception & PVI pupils with SEN.
4. (a) Note, comment and approve the proposed Early years rate.  
(b) Note and comment on the Early Years funded hourly rates for 2022/23.  
(c) Approve the SEN Inclusion fund (refer to section 4.8)  
(d) Approve the Early Years Centrally funded services line by line (refer to section 4.9)
5. (a) Note and comment on proposal to remove the School Improvement grant.  
(b) Note and comment on proposed de-delegation for school improvement function.

**Reason(s)**

The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 requires that the Schools' Forum meets regularly and is consulted by the local authority concerning the Dedicated Schools Budget and various related matters.

## 1. 2021/22 DSG Grant Update

- 1.1. The 2021/22 DSG allocations were first published in December 2020. The DFE published a further update in November but there are no changes to the position previously reported at last meeting based on the July publication. The High Needs recoupment is still subject to further revisions relating to direct funding of places at academies and import and export adjustments during the remaining part of the year.

	2021/22 DSG allocation as at Dece.20			2021/22 Updated DSG allocations as at July 21			
	Before recoup't £000s (a)	Less: recoup't £000s (b)	Net £000s (c) = (a) - (b)	Before recoupment £000s (d)	Less: recoup't £000s (e)	Net £000s (f) = (d) - (e)	Move't £000s (g)
Schools Bloc	244,281	60,939	183,342	244,281	60,939	183,342	(0)
Central Block	2,360		2,360	2,360		2,360	(0)
High Needs	42,598	3,620	38,978	42,557	4,001	38,556	(422)
Early Years	23,205		23,205	23,205		23,205	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>312,444</b>	<b>64,559</b>	<b>247,885</b>	<b>312,403</b>	<b>64,940</b>	<b>247,463</b>	<b>(422)</b>

### Updated DSG Grant Allocation for 2021/22 (in £000s)

- 1.2. As previously reported, the £422k on High Needs is the net effect of import / export adjustments, additional funding for special schools, and recoupment relating to Special Free Schools SEN place numbers, and Further Education and Independent Learning Provider deductions.
- 1.3. The Early Years allocations are provisional until these are finalised in the summer following the financial year-end.

**Recommendation (i):** Schools forum are requested to:

(a) note the 2021/22 DSG grant funding allocations.

## 2. 2021/22 Projected DSG Out-turn

- 2.1. The table below sets out the projected DSG outturn for 2021-22. There are no further changes from the position reported to the October 2021 meeting. Schools block is reporting an underspend of £323k. This is the net effect of £364k projected underspend on growth and £41k overspend on falling rolls. Central block is reporting a breakeven position. High Needs is reporting an overspend of £2,451k. Please refer to section 3 for details.

	2021/22 Funding £'000s	2021/22 Projected Out-turn+ £'000s	+ Surplus / (Deficit) March 21 £'000s	EY adjust.
Schools Block – ISB	183,342	183,019	323	
Central Block	2,360	2,360	0	
High Needs Block	38,566	40,718	(2,451)	
Early Years Block	23,205	23,205	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,473</b>	<b>249,302</b>	<b>(2,128)</b>	<b>(2,128)</b>
DSG reserves b/f (surplus)				<b>9,828</b>
<b>Total - Unadjusted DSG Reserves</b>				<b>7,700</b>
Less Early Years clawback				(563)
Growth Fund balance b/f				(641)
SFFD retained centrally				(699)
<b>Projected 2021/22 Closing DSG Reserves</b>				<b>5,797</b>

**Table - 2020/21 DSG funding and expenditure outturn**

**Recommendation (ii):** Schools forum are requested to note the:

- (a) projected DSG out-turn position for 2021/22
- (b) revised DSG reserve

### 3 High Needs Update

- 3.1 The budget for 2021/22 is £38.556m (after recouPMENT). The table below shows the detailed position for High Needs for 2021/22. The projected outturn position for the year is £2.2m overspend. This includes over £2m that will be disbursed to schools to help alleviate the financial pressures schools are facing due to the ongoing demand and complex cases of children with SEN. This is an one-off payment for pupils with band F/G/H that exceeds 1% of the total school population. This includes provision of £1.1m for early years SEN pupils at reception and PVI settings. (please refer to Appendix for details)

	<b>2020/21 Outturn</b>	<b>2021/22 Budget</b>	<b>2021/22 Outturn Forecast</b>	<b>Variance + surplus / (deficit)</b>
Alternative Provision	3,399,759	3,475,830	3,184,510	291,320
ARP Funding	6,093,890	8,259,360	8,094,750	164,610
DSG – HN Education Inclusion.	1,494,256	1,542,659	1,449,462	93,188
Top-ups (inc. OB & NMSS)	6,264,504	7,863,410	7,520,206	343,204
HN Top Ups – Post 16	1,801,210	1,755,760	2,119,605	(363,845)
SEN Panel Top Ups	1,522,596	1,350,000	2,007,909	(657,909)
LACHES, Language Support	360,490	344,210	337,892	6,318
Initiatives	147,608	676,750	676,750	0
Special School Funding	10,951,784	12,279,360	12,307,923	(28,563)
Early Years & Integr. Youth	342,143	568,410	568,410	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,378,240</b>	<b>38,115,749</b>	<b>38,267,417</b>	<b>(151,668)</b>
<b>Surplus &amp; Gatekeep</b>	<b>1,636,435</b>	<b>440,365</b>	<b>2,739,357</b>	<b>(2,298,992)</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>34,014,675</b>	<b>38,556,114</b>	<b>41,006,775</b>	<b>(2,450,670)</b>

**Table – Projected High Needs Outturn for 2021/22**

3.2 Alternative Provision underspend of £291k relates funding earmarked for EAL students, we await confirmation from Admissions Service on the disbursement of this allocation.

- Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs) forecast underspend of £164k will be utilised to alleviate the financial pressures schools are facing due to ongoing demand and complex cases. An amount of £1,305,000 has already been paid to schools as one-off payment for pupils with band F/G/H that exceeds 1% of the total school population.
- Post16 top up payments in support of continued growth and funding in support of our 16-25 cohort reported an overspend of £363k.
- Headteacher SEN Panel top ups budget is forecasted to overspend by £658k due to SEN children requiring additional support and recognition of early years SEN in schools.

### 3.3 The High Needs working group met on 25<sup>th</sup> November and main areas discussed were:

- The action from last school forum on early years children attending school settings since September 21, with SEN and the data exercise undertaken to identify and report back to the working group.
- Schools were requested to submit numbers of children entering school provision in September that they considered to be either band F, G or H on the local authority SEN banding criteria.  
The early numbers for inclusion of an additional one-off payment of c£4,000 per child was discussed and payments pro rata for early years settings and PVI's.
- School returns reported 135 children in band F, and it was discussed that some of these children identifying SEN could be COVID related, 73 band G and 19 band H, a total 227 children and 110 early years children.
- Three schools have not submitted any information and to finalise the data capture we await their information before SEN support funding is devolved to schools in support as a one-off payment to schools and settings.
- As part of the SEN audit, Jacqui Twitchell conducted prior to September in schools, Ann Jones has been visiting settings since start of term to review SEN children and school provision including the new intake of reception and nursery children

**Recommendation (iii):** Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) Note and comment on the 2021/22 High Needs Outturn Forecast.
- (b) Note the High Needs working group discussions from the meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- (c) Note and comment about the additional one-off payment to support reception & PVI pupils with SEN.

## 4. Early Years Update

- 4.1 In respect of 2020/21, a provision for clawback for the full underspend of £2,367k on Early Years was anticipated. DfE have now published the actual clawback, which is summarised on the table below. The actual clawback is £563k, which means a favourable impact of £1,804k on the DSG reserves.

	Initial 20/21 Allocations	Clawback adjust.	Final 20/21 Allocations	Actual Spend	Move't + favo / (unfavo)
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
3 & 4 Year Olds	18,463	(415)	18,048	17,566	482
2 Year Olds	4,242	(150)	4,092	2,770	1,322
EY Pupil Premium	154	2	157	157	0
Disability Access	74	0	74	74	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,933</b>	<b>(563)</b>	<b>22,370</b>	<b>20,567</b>	<b>1,804</b>

**Table - Early Years Update**

- 4.2 During the October Schools Forum meeting, members expressed concerns regarding the unprecedented increase in the number of children entering primary reception requiring special needs supports. The pandemic and lockdowns have disrupted the support networks with very little in the way of identification of needs and early intervention leading to increased needs as these children enter the primary phase.
- 4.3 Following the emergency High Needs working group on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Members recommended a one-off payment to support schools & PVI for the number of children entering school or early years provision in September that they considered to be either band F, G or H on the local authority SEN banding criteria. This includes pro-rata payment for PVI settings. A provision of circa £1.1m has been made to support this cohort from the EY years underspend. It's proposed that any balance remaining from the EY clawback will be added to the DSG reserve.
- 4.4 2022/23 EY funding rates for local authorities were announced in late November 2021, and these are set out in the table below. The rates for 3 and 4 year olds are increasing by 17p to £5.81, and 2 year old rates by 21p to £6.03. Hourly pupil premium is increasing by 7p to 60p an hour. The Disability Access Fund is also being increased by £185 to £800. For planning purposes, we have assumed a small reduction in pupil numbers compared to 2020/21. The early years estimated funding for 2022/23 is set out in the table below. The actual allocations will be based on January 22 and 23 censuses, and funding is expected to be announced in July 2023

	Rate (£s)	PTE	Annual Entitle't (Hrs)	Funded Hours	Rates	Total Funding
	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Universal Entitlement 3&4 Year Olds	5.64	4,334	570	2,470,314	5.81	14,352,522
Plus 15 PTE 3&4 YO	5.64	1,086	570	619,102	5.81	3,596,981
<b>Total 3&amp;4 YO EY Block</b>						<b>17,949,503</b>
EY Pupil Premium	0.53	500	570	285,084	0.60	171,051
Disability Access Fund	615.00	121			800	96,800
						-
Entitlement 2 Y O	5.82	1,191	570	678,931	6.03	4,093,954
<b>PROVISIONAL EY for 2022/23</b>						<b>22,311,308</b>

**Table – Estimated EY funding allocations for 2022/23**

4.5 The budgeted distribution of funding is set out in the table below. In view of the cost pressures faced by the sector, we are proposing to increase the rates paid to providers in excess of the DfE uplifts:

- the 3 and 4 year old funded rates by 25p to £5.09, or by 5.2%, and
- the rates for 2 year olds by 25p to £5.76 or 4.5%
- the proposed increase of 25p for 3 & 4 year olds is made up of £0.17p from the DfE uplift plus an additional increment of 8p recommended by the local authority.
- the proposed increase of 25p for 2 year olds is made up of £0.21p from the DfE uplift plus an additional increment of 4p recommended by the local authority.
- The overall financial impact on the early years budget for the additional increment recommended by local authority is estimated to be circa £270k.

4.6 The budgeted distribution of funding is set out in the table below. In view of the cost pressures, we are proposing to increase

- the 3 and 4 year old funded provider rate by 25p to £5.09, or by 5.2%, and

	2021/22 Funding Rate 2021/22	PTE 2022/23	Annual Entit'mt (Hrs) 2022/23	Funded Hours 2022/23	Rates 2022/23	Total Funding 2022/23
Central	933,047					897,475
Universal 3&4 YO		4,334	570	2,470,314	5.09	12,573,896
Census Adj.	4.84	(87)	570	(49,406)	5.09	(251,478)
Plus 15 PTE 3& 4 YO	4.84	1,086	570	619,102	5.09	3,151,227
Deprivation	30p-22p				(30p-22p)	1,002,408
Flexibility	0.21				0.21	198,213
SEN Inclusion						377,761
Contingency						0
<b>Total 3&amp;4 YO EY Block</b>						<b>17,949,502</b>
EY Pupil Premium	0.53				0.60	171,051
Disability Access Fund	615.00				800.00	96,800
Entitlement 2 YO	5.51	1,191	570	678,931	5.76	3,910,642
Census Adj.	5.51	(41)	570	(23,355)	5.76	(134,526)
Commissioning Costs						195,532
SEN inclusion fund						122,305
<b>TOTAL EY BLOCK</b>						<b>22,311,307</b>

**Table – Early Years provisional Budget for 2022/23**



- 4.7 The early years funding requirements include the need to:
- set a single funding for universal and additional hours.
  - pass on a minimum of 95% of the 3- & 4-year-old funding to providers
  - use a universal base rate for all types of providers.
  - use a deprivation supplement.
  - not to channel more than 10% of their funding through supplements
  - provide a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF)
  - pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3 and 4 year olds
  - pass on the Disability Access Fund (DAF)
- 4.8 The SEN Inclusion fund for early years is £378k and £122k for 3&4 years olds and 2 years olds respectively. The total amount of £500k would be passported to settings by the local authority inclusion team.
- 4.9 In line with previous years, it is proposed that 5% of the 3 and 4 year old funding is retained centrally to meet support and costs of early years provision. This is to fund home portage scheme (home visiting), early years teacher service (qualified teachers working with settings to raise standards, childminding development officer, and commissioning costs. (Please refer to table below for details.)

<b>3 and 4 YO central Costs</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Childminding development Officers	73,546	70,742
Early Years Teachers Service	554,134	533,008
Home Portage Scheme	190,155	182,906
Targeted Support Central Costs DSG	115,211	110,819
<b>Total</b>	<b>933,047</b>	<b>897,475</b>

**Table – Early Years centrally funded services**

**Recommendation (iv):** Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) note the 2020/21 Early Years clawback adjustment
- (b) Note and comment on the Early Years funded hourly rates for 2022/23.
- (c) Approve the SEN Inclusion fund (refer to section 4.8).
- (d) Approve the Early Years Centrally funded services line by line (refer to section 4.9)

## 5. Funding of School Improvement functions

5.1 The government is in a process of reforming how school improvement functions are funded. They are seeking views about proposed changes to how LAs' fund school improvement activities. The proposals are as follows:

- **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant, which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities; and
- **Make provisions** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) **via de-delegation from schools' budget shares**.
- The consultation seeks to reduce the grant by 50% by April 2022 and remove the grant entirely by April 2023.
- Consultation was issued on **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and closed on **26<sup>th</sup> November 2021**.
- The table below shows details of the school improvement brokerage grant since it's inception in Sept 2017.

Year	Grant Amount
<b>Actuals:</b>	
2017/18	99,630
2018/19	170,030
2019/20	181,456
2020/21	179,200
2021/22	167,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>797,909</b>
<b>Projections:</b>	
2022/23 Grant allocation	83,800
2022/23 De-delegation	83,800
23/24 (Full De-delegation)	£167,600

**Table School Improvement Brokerage Grant**

5.2 An indicative de-delegate amount of £2.81 and £5.62 per pupil will be needed in 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively for school improvement functions to continue uninterrupted at current provisions. The actual amounts would be known when pupil numbers are confirmed.

Year	De-delegation Amount	Pupil Nos	De-delegation Amount
2022/23	83,800	29,811	2.81
2023/24	167,600	29,811	5.62

**Table - The proposed de-delegation rates**

**Recommendation (vi):** Schools forum are requested to

Note and comment on

a) Proposal to remove the School Improvement grant

b) Proposed de-delegation for school improvement function.

## 6 Financial implications

6.1. As presented in this document.

## 7 Legal implications

The schools forums (England) regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the forum. The schools finance (England) regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the local authority must or may consult the schools forum and those in respect of which the schools forum can make decisions. These regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed Early Years provision in England.

## 8. Other implications

- a. **Risk management** - None
- b. **Contractual issues** - None
- c. **Staffing issues** – None
- d. **Customer impact** – None
- e. **Safeguarding children** - None
- f. **Health Issues** - None
- g. **Crime and Disorder Issues** – None

**h. Property / Asset Issues – None**

**Background papers used in the preparation of the report:**

None.

**List of appendices:**

Appendix – one off exceptional payment EY & Primary