

BARKING AND DAGENHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
22 June 2021

Title: Schools' Forum Report	
Open	For Decision / For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Operational Director: Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director for Education Youth and Childcare	
Accountable Strategic Director: Elaine Allegretti – Director for People and Resilience	
<p>Summary: The purpose of this report is to update the Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 DSG Outturn for 2020/21 2 Local Management of Schools Out-turn / Reserves 3 2021/22 DSG Update 4 High Needs Block (HNB) Outturn for 2020/21 5 HN budget for 2021/22 6 Updated Early Years (EY) funding and payments for 2020/21 7 Falling Rolls for 2021/22 8 Schools Facing Financial Difficulty fund (SFFD) 9 Changes to Pupil Premium census data 10 Update on Covid19 funding for Schools 11 Music Service Funding Contributions by Schools 12 Financial Regulations for Schools – consultations 13 Other Updates 14 AOB 	

Recommendation(s)

The Schools' Forum is requested to:

1. (a) Note the projected DSG out-turn for 2020/21.
(b) Note the revised DSG reserves position.
2. Note and comment on the updated LMS reserves.
3. Note the updated 2021/22 DSG funding position.
4. Note and comment on the 2020/21 High Needs Outturn position.
5. Note and comment on the High Needs budget for 2021/22.
6. Note the updated 2020/21 Early Years funding arrangements.
7. Requested to consider the approval of
(a) the revised falling rolls criteria.
(b) falling rolls fund allocations.
8. Requested to note and comment on the:
(a) total SFFD funds
(b) SFFD loans outstanding
(c) balance of SFFD retained centrally.
9. Note the change in policy for allocating Pupil Premium by DfE and financial impacts on schools.
10. Note the update on Covid19 funding for Schools.
11. Note and comment on CMS contributions to be agreed by each school by Service Level Agreement.
12. Note and comment on the Financial Regulations for consultation.
13. (a) Note the DfE updates and announcements relating to schools.
(b) Note deadlines relating to forthcoming statutory returns.

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. DSG Outturn forecast for 2020/21

- 1.1. The Dedicated Schools Grant is reporting an overall underspend of £3,843k (please see table 1 below). This consists of an underspend on Early Years of £2,367k, an underspend on High needs block of £1,636k and a net overspend on the schools block of £160k.
- 1.2. The EY funding are based on prior year allocations and funding is only finalised using the previous two spring census data after year-end around July 2021. During the pandemic, the DfE introduced a protection arrangements to allow payments to providers to be based on pre-covid census data (Oct 2019) for the summer and autumn term, however spring 2021 payments was reverted back to actual places occupied. We have assumed a full claw back of the EY underspend, although there will be a retained element, this will not be known until July 2021.
- 1.3. The underspend on High Needs is £1,636k. This is primarily due to in-year net increase in import and export funding adjustments of £229k and effective management of gatekeeping budget of £935k set aside for in year pressures, and generally reduced activities due to Covid-19, and savings relating to out of borough children.
- 1.4. The Schools Block is reporting an overspend of £160k, and this relates to the known cash shortfall in the funding formula previously reported to the June 2020 Schools Forum, previously agreed to be funded as a cash advance from the DSG reserves and treated as the first call on the 2021/22 DSG grant allocations. The Central School Services Block is reporting a break-even position.
- 1.5. The total reserves before early years clawback is £9,828k, of which £3,848k relates to in-year movements discussed above. Other elements include DSG brought forward balances of £3,542k including £1,817k of favourable prior-year adjustments. The carry forward balance on growth fund is £641k which is available to support future growth proposals. Included in the DSG reserves is Schools Facing Financial Difficulty (SFFD) funds retained centrally to finance future loan requests. Previously reported DSG reserves were net of historic provisions and contingencies spanning several years, and these are no longer required and can be released back into the DGS reserves. Therefore, the overall DGS reserves before grant adjustments is £9,828k. However, it is prudent to assume a clawback on Early Years underspend.

	2020/21 Funding £'000s	2020/21 Projected Out-turn £'000s	(Surplus) / +Deficit March 21 £'000s
Schools Block – ISB	171,254	171,414	160
Central Block	2,364	2,364	0
High Needs Block	34,015	32,379	(1,636)
Early Years Block	22,933	20,566	(2,367)
Total	230,566	226,723	(3,843)
DSG reserves b/f			(3,542)
Growth Fund balance b/f			(641)
SFFD retained centrally			(699)
DSG release of contingencies			(1,103)
DSG out-turn			(9,828)
Early Years adjustment			2,367
Adjusted DSG exc Early Years			(7,461)

Table 1– 2020/21 DSG funding and expenditure outturn

Recommendation (i): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) to note the DSG out-turn for 2020/21.
(b) the revised DSG reserves position.

2. Local Management of Schools (LMS) Out-turn / Reserves

- 2.1. The outturn position for local authority maintained schools is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. LMS reserves held by schools have increased from £11.3m to 12.4m, a favourable movement of £1.1m.
- 2.2. There were 28 schools that reported a combined in-year surplus of £3.9m whilst 14 schools reported a combined in-year deficit of £2.8m. Out of the 14 schools that reported in-year deficits, 3 were secondary schools and 11 primary schools. The number of schools in deficit have reduced from 5 to 3 as at the end of March 2021.
- 2.3. The reduction in activities due to Covid-19 along with a range of support measures from the DfE appears to have masked the underlying financial pressures within schools. Although majority of schools have reported in-year surpluses, there are indications that schools are facing significant financial pressures. Moreover, the disruptions of Covid-19 pandemic have opened up significant gaps in educational attainments. Although some earmarked funding has been made available by the DfE to address these gaps, significant additional resources are required in the short to medium term to address these gaps. To this end, schools that have added to their reserves may wish to consider

utilising the increases in the reserves in this financial year to try and minimise the impact on current cohorts.

Recommendation (ii): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) Note and comment on the updated LMS reserves.

3. 2021/22 DSG Update

3.1. The 2021/22 DSG allocations first published in December 2020. There are no further changes to the pre-recoupment DSG settlement of £312,444k. However, the High Needs recoupment is subject to further on-going updates relating to direct funding of places at academies and import and export adjustments during the course of the year. The March 2021 updates are set out on table 2 below.

	2021/22 as at Dec. 2020 Update (a)	Less: Recoup't (b)	Net 2021/22 DSG (c) = (a) - (b)	2021/22 as at March 2021 Updated (v)	Less: Recoup't (w)	Net 2021/22 DSG as (x) = (v) - (w)	Move't Net DSG (y)
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	42,598	4,001	38,597	(381)
Early Years	23,205		23,205	23,205		23,205	0
Total:	312,444	64,559	247,885	312,444	64,940	247,504	(381)

Table 2 : Updated DSG Grant Allocation for 2021/22 (in £000s)

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

(b) Updated 2021/22 DSG funding position.

4. HNB Outturn for 2020/21

4.1. The end of year outturn position for the high needs budget was £1,636,435 surplus. This comprises of in year surplus of £473,760 plus gatekeeping contingency of £1,162,675. As a reflection of the historic underfunding and the high levels of demand in previous years, LBBB received the maximum funding increase of 17% in 2020/21. The 2020/21 HN funding was £34m as compared with £28.7m in 2019/20. Table 3 below shows the detailed position for High Needs for 2020/21.

	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget	2020/21 March Outturn	2020/21 Jan Outturn Forecast	Variance +deficit / (surplus)
Alternative Provision	3,544,000	3,574,000	3,399,759	3,188,669	(174,241)
ARP Funding	6,032,800	6,102,000	6,093,890	6,042,652	(8,110)
DSG – HN Education Inclusion.	1,666,000	1,618,000	1,494,256	1,586,483	(123,744)
Top-ups (inc. OB & NMSS)	6,662,200	7,635,000	6,264,504	6,908,293	(1,370,496)
High Needs Top Ups – Post 16	969,000	1,291,000	1,801,210	1,753,542	510,210
SEN Panel Top Ups	1,418,000	1,148,000	1,522,596	1,148,000	374,596
LACHES, Language Support	331,000	335,000	360,490	361,482	25,490
Initiatives	200,000	150,000	147,608	150,000	(2,392)
Special School Funding	7,493,000	10,643,000	10,951,784	10,954,092	308,784
Early Years & Integrated Youth	398,000	356,000	342,143	342,163	(13,857)
Total	28,714,000	32,852,000	32,378,240	32,435,376	(473,760)
Surplus & Gatekeeping / Cont		1,162,675	1,636,435	1,579,299	(1,162,675)
Total Budget		34,014,675	34,014,675	34,014,675	(1,636,435)

Table 3 – High Needs Outturn

4.2. Table 3 above reports the High needs block outturn for 2020/21:

- Alternative Provision savings were £52k from in-year savings and £122k from Seabrook Campus that is earmarked for other school provision less ongoing committed contracts and SLA's.
- Additional Resourced Provision (ARPs) forecast was a net saving of £8k due to secondary ARP top up payments. Due to demand primary ARPs overspent due to additional early years SEN pupils and primary SEN place demand. Secondary ARP places was not fully committed that helped with the overall ARP saving.
- Education Inclusion services delivered savings across all budget areas, Communications teams £16k, Visual Impairment (VI) £31k, Education Inclusion £63k and Dowry/training budget £8k, and other residual movements of £6k, in total £124k savings.
- Post16 top up payments in support of continued growth and additional funding in support of our 16-25 cohort reported an overspend of £510k.
- Headteacher SEN Panel top ups budget reported an overspend of £375k due to SEN children requiring additional support and recognition of early years SEN in schools.
- Looked After Children and Education Services (LACHES) reported an overspend of £25k primarily due to salary costs.

- Initiatives budget of £150k reported a small saving of £2k.
 - Special Schools top up payments due to changes in banding levels for some children and young people in these placements forecast a pressure of £309k.
 - Youth services salary contribution reported a saving of £14k.
 - Total High Needs block (HNB) savings of £474k.
 - The gatekeeping in-year amount of £1,163k is made of £935k that was earmarked to respond to any additional in year pressures that we had to respond to in the remaining months of the year and £228k which was subject to import and export adjustments. The total HNB reported savings is £1.636m.
- 4.3. Payment to all providers and settings continued during the financial year in accordance with government guidelines around Covid-19 and careful monitoring of the High Needs block have continued due to the complexities and increase in SEN children being identified.

Recommendation (iv): Schools forum are requested to:

Note and comment on the 2020/21 High Needs Outturn position.

5. HN budget for 2021/22

- 5.1. The budget for 2021/22 is £38.978m (after recoupment) and including The Teacher Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) of £148k based upon the latest DSG funding announcement published on December 2020. Appendix 2 provides the 2021/22 detailed budget analysis, and as requested by School Forum in previous years the last 3 years budgets has also been provided for comparison purposes.
- 5.2. There continues to be significant growth and demand for SEN places especially in early years and primary schools. ARP expansions was discussed at the HN working group and proposed new settings, all subject to each of the schools' governing body approval. The draft budget 2021/22 does include the proposals, and Appendix 3 details ARP proposed growth for 2021/22.
- 5.3. Autumn census mainstream SEN pupil data was reviewed at the HN working group as an action from School Forum and the inter-relationship with mainstream notional budgets. The census reported 528 pupils (excluding ARP pupils) with an EHC plan and 657 recorded as receiving top up with or without an EHC plans but excluding ARP census. The working group agreed that further work was required to review notional SEN budgets.

- 5.4 The HN working group have developed a model for both primary and secondary school notional budgets of suggested expenditure earmarked from the notional budget in support of Low Cost High Incident (LCHI) Children. This is to ensure that schools have the understanding and able to identify eligible costs relating to notional SEN funding.

Recommendation (v): Schools forum are requested to:

- (a) note and comment on the High Needs budget for 2021/22

6. Updated Early Years (EY) funding and payments for 2020/21

- 6.1. Early Years is reporting a combined underspend of £2,367k. This is made up of £1,322k for two year olds and £1,045k for 3 and 4 year olds. This amount is subject to DfE clawback, and the final figure would be confirmed in July 2021. Take up during the pandemic was low, at some points as low as 10% for vulnerable 2-year-olds. However, this did not significantly impact funding due to the protection measures that were in place until the start of Spring 2021.
- 6.2. In the summer, DfE announced its intention to return to normal funding process from 2021 spring term as take ups were gradually returning to pre-Covid levels. However, the DfE recognises that attendance may not be fully back to normal for all areas at the January 2021 census, and it may not represent the mid-year attendance in the normal way. Therefore, in local authorities where attendance is below 85% of the January 2020 census levels, and where that local authority can provide evidence of increased attendance during the spring term, DfE would provide a top-up to the January 2021 census. The top-up, which would be made on a case-by-case basis, would only fund the additional places taken up after the January 2021 census week count and the total allocation for spring term will be limited to a cap equivalent to 85% of their January 2020 census level. These arrangements were published before the January 2021 lockdown was announced.
- 6.3. The January 2021 occupancy figures were lower than last year. Unvalidated census figures show a 72% take up for 2-year-olds (this was 84% in 2020) and 78% for 3-and 4-year-olds (compared to 87% in 2020). This will mean a decrease in funding for providers and the Local Authority. The local authority will not qualify for the minimum funding guarantee of 85%, as numbers have not fallen over 15% from the previous year. Providers have been funded on actuals and schools and PVI's will be experiencing reductions in funding until attendance numbers fully recover back to pre-Covid19 levels. Currently there are indications that demand is starting to pick up again.

Recommendation (vi): Schools forum are requested to:

(a) Note the updated 2020/21 Early Years funding arrangements.

7. Falling Rolls

- 7.1. Overall pupil numbers have increased by 470 between October 19 and October 20 censuses across all phases. There are 32 schools, with combined pupil increases of 1,055. In contrast, 24 schools reported falling numbers, with combined reductions of 585 pupils. All except two of these are primary schools, accounting for reductions in pupil numbers of 434. Please see [Appendix 4](#) for changes in pupil numbers between October 19 and October 20 census.
- 7.2. Pupil numbers are the main driver of formula funding allocations. Therefore, reductions in numbers on roll would have a corresponding impact on Individual School Budget (ISB) allocations. For example, 18 out of the 24 schools with reductions in pupil numbers reported aggregate reductions in ISB of £1,833k (after removing the impact of rolling in Teachers Pay and Pension grants and business rates adjustments). Falling numbers are also likely to impact on other funding streams, such as Pupil Premium, further adding to the financial stress.
- 7.3. Schools Forum previously agreed to set aside £750k for falling rolls, £495k from schools block and £255k from DSG reserves. This is intended to provide limited short-term financial support for schools to deal with temporary drop in pupil numbers and where appropriate allow lead time to make the necessary organisational changes.
- 7.4. To be eligible for falling rolls, schools must meet a number of qualifying criteria. It is a DfE mandatory requirement that the school must be good or outstanding. Other conditions previously agreed by the Forum were;
- (a) reductions of 2% or more in pupil numbers.
 - (b) year on year reduction in delegated budgets of 1% or more.
 - (c) school's reserves do not exceed 2% of delegated budget.
- 7.5. The current agreed criteria above are restrictive. Therefore, to ensure that support reaches schools that have experienced significant drop in numbers Schools Forum is requested to approve a revised set of local criteria in addition to the mandatory DfE requirement regarding Ofsted rating. Proposed revised criteria is as follows:
- (a) Schools that are rated Good or Outstanding (DfE Mandatory requirement)
 - (b) Primary schools or All-through schools with primary phase.
 - (c) Reductions in pupil numbers of 10 or more after adjusting for loss of bulge class / planned reductions.

- (d) Schools with year-on-year ISB reductions (after adjusting for the effect of Teachers Pay and Pension Grants and Business Rates corrections).
- (e) Schools with reserves not exceeding 8% of ISB allocation.

7.6. For schools that meet these criteria it is proposed to award additional funding at 46% of AWPU for the reduction in numbers.

7.7. Table 4 below sets out the schools that qualify for falling rolls under the revised criteria. Total funding required is £495k. Payments to Dorothy Barley Junior and St Josephs (Dagenham are subject to confirmation of school reserves)

School	Oct 19 NOR	Oct 2020 NOR	Primary NOR Reductions	Adjust..for bulge class / planned reductions	Actual drop in NOR adjusted for Bulge Class	% Change in ISB	LMS as % of ISB	AWPU (£3,820) at 46%
Dorothy Barley Jun.	402	387	(15)		(15)	(1.4)	^	26,901
Northbury	809	780	(29)		(29)	(1.9)	5	52,009
Ripple Primary	898	867	(31)		(31)	(1.7)	(29)	55,595
Valence Primary	998	940	(58)	29	(29)	(2.8)	0	52,308
John Perry	585	552	(33)		(33)	(2.4)	0	59,182
Gascoigne	1155	1086	(69)		(69)	(4.2)	4	123,745
Thames View Inf.	334	312	(22)		(22)	(5.2)	8	39,455
Parsloes Primary	497	463	(34)		(34)	(4.9)	7	60,976
St Josephs (Dag)	371	358	(13)		(13)	(0.6)	^	24,830
TOTAL			(291)		(262)			495,000

^ funding subject to confirmation of LMS balance

Table 4 – Proposed Allocation of falling rolls fund.

Recommendation (vii): School Forum are requested to consider the approval of:

- (a) the revised falling rolls criteria.
- (b) falling rolls fund allocations.

8. Schools Facing Financial Difficulties (SFFD) Fund

8.1. The purpose of SFFD fund is to provide temporary financial support for schools in financial difficulty to enable organisational / staffing changes to be implemented in order to place the schools on a financially sustainable basis. Funds have been built-up through de-delegation over several years, and contributions to the fund ceased in 2017/18 as it was intended to be a self-financing from then onwards. Schools are charged interest rate of 1% above the Bank of England base rate. This is recycled back to the fund.

8.2. To access the loan facility schools are required to submit:

- a recovery / business plan setting out proposed savings and risks,
- a three-year budget and demonstrate deficit clearance over a period not exceeding three years,
- establishment list covering the period of recovery,
- repay the loan within three years (subject to individual school circumstances),
- cash flow statement,
- minutes of discussion by Finance Committee / Governing Body,
- and approval by Finance Monitoring Group / Commissioning Director of Education

8.3. By the end of 2016/17, the total value of the de-delegated funds were £3,223k. Please see [Appendix 5](#). However, in the early part of the scheme one off payments totalling £1,770k were provided to schools. From 2015/16, financial support is only available in the form of loans. Since the start of the schemes, interest payments of £90k have been added to the pool. The total available fund is £1,543k, of which £845k is outstanding loans (excludes interests), and the current amount retained centrally is £699k to support future loan requests. The balance available changes as loans are made or re-paid.

Recommendation (viii): School Forum are requested to note and comment on:

- (a) total SFFD funds
- (b) SFFD loans outstanding
- (c) balance of SFFD retained centrally.

9. Changes to Pupil Premium Census

9.1. In previous years, Pupil Premium funding have been calculated on the basis of preceding January census (2020/21 funding was based on January 20 census). Schools get £1,345 for every primary age pupil, or £955 for every secondary age pupil, who claims free school meals (FSM), or who have claimed free school meals in the last 6 years (known as FSM Ever 6).

9.2. In December 2020, DfE announced that from 2021 to 2022 onwards, pupil premium funding is to be based on the October census for mainstream and special schools. Pupil premium funding for the financial year starting on 1 April 2021 will therefore be based on the October 2020 census instead of the January census as would have previously been the case. It is intended to bring pupil premium in line with how the rest of the core schools' budget is calculated and will provide schools and DfE with greater certainty around future funding levels earlier in the year. However, there was no consultation on these changes.

9.3. The January census allows schools to ensure a sufficient window for schools to identify potential FSM pupils and get the eligibility assessment completed by the January census. This could not be prioritised as schools had no warning regarding the use of

October data. There was a significant increase in the number of pupils qualifying for FSM between October and January census.

- a) However, these pupil will not attract funding in 2021/22 as the October 20 census is used. The impact of the delayed funding is set out on Appendix 6.
- b) It is important that schools prioritise and complete the FSM eligibility assessments for Reception children by the October census date in order to be eligible for Pupil Premium funding that starts in the subsequent financial year in April.
- c) Any children that triggered FSM between October 20 and January 21 census but previously qualified for FSM in the last 6 years will continue to receive funding 2021/22. The change in census data will not have any impact on these children.
- d) Free school meals are funded from the Individual School Budgets. Hence, spikes in number of children qualifying for FSM between the two censuses would create some additional funding pressures for schools to manage.

Recommendation (ix): Schools forum are requested to note:

(a) the change in policy for allocating Pupil Premium by DfE and financial impacts on schools.

10. Update on Covid19 funding for Schools

10.1. Government's response to Covid-19 is fast-moving and the accompanying guidance is being regularly updated. Therefore, a verbal update is to be provided to School Forum at the meeting.

£302m Covid Recovery Premium Fund

10.2. A new one-off Recovery Premium for state primary and secondary schools, building on the Pupil Premium. It is intended to help schools to deliver evidence-based approaches for supporting the most disadvantaged pupils. Schools' allocations from the Recovery Premium are calculated based on the numbers of their pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. This will provide each mainstream school with a total of £145 for each eligible pupil and special, AP, hospital schools and special units within mainstream schools, with £290 for each eligible pupil, across the 2021/22 academic year. The average primary school will receive around £6,000 extra (minimum of £2,000), and the average secondary school around £22,000 extra (minimum £6,000).

10.3. Schools should use the total Recovery Premium funding available to them as a single total from which to prioritise support for particular pupils, including children with SEND or EHCPs, according to their need. The allocations are expected to be published in November 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-education-recovery-package-for-children-and-young-people>

Coronavirus Summer Schools Programme Funding (Secondary Schools)

- 10.4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) summer schools programme funding secondary schools is part of the wider recovery package to support children in catching up on missed face to face learning and development and providing an opportunity to support their mental health and wellbeing, DfE is providing £200m to enable as many secondary schools as possible to deliver face-to-face summer schools this year. Funding is calculated based on 50% of a school's year 7 cohort being offered a place on a two-week programme, or 100% of the cohort being offered a week-long programme and equates to £597 per two-week place (£1,791 for pupils in special schools or units and alternative provision). Schools should confirm the arrangements with the DfE by completing the [confirmation form](#) by **30 June 2021**.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-schools-programme?utm_source=20%20April%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

No Recourse to Public Funds – Free School Meals

- 10.5. Details of how to make a claim for additional pupil premium funding in respect of pupils who meet the following two conditions have been published by the DfE
- (a) if at any time between 1 April 2020 and 1 October 2020 the school had any pupils eligible for free school meals under the temporary extension granted to some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- (b) these pupils were on the school roll on the date of the October census (1 October 2020).

The deadline to submitting claims is 17:00 on **30 June 2021** via DfE Portal. Please access the [no recourse to public funds, free school meals additional pupil premium claim form](#) to submit claims.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-no-recourse-to-public-funds-free-school-meals/coronavirus-covid-19-no-recourse-to-public-funds-free-school-meals-guidance>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) mass testing funding for secondary schools

- 10.6. Rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing of staff, pupils and students in secondary schools started in January 2021. Schools are being funded to support with costs they have incurred to in running asymptomatic testing site (ATS) on premises. Allocations are based on the number of bays/desks calculated as needed to deliver the number of tests completed (measured by the number of test results recorded on the school or college's individual account on the Test Site Results service). The combined total spring term

allocations for maintained, academies and special schools in LBBB is £537k. The spring term allocations and grant conditions can be found here;

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) mass testing funding for schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-mass-testing-funding-for-schools-and-colleges)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) National Testing Programme: conditions of grant - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-national-testing-programme-conditions-of-grant)

- 10.7. Details of funding for testing conducted in the period April to July 2021, to enable the twice weekly testing of students or pupils for whom at home testing is not considered suitable or who may need additional assistance will be made at the end of August 2021.

Recommendation (x): Schools forum are requested to note:

- (a) the update on Covid19 funding for Schools

11. Music Service Funding Contributions by Schools

- 11.1. Following the decision by the government to withdraw all the funding from the Central Schools Services Block over a 5year period starting from 2019/20 financial year, the Community Music Service (CMS) is one of 5 services that will be affected by this policy.

- In response to this policy, School's Forum appointed a subgroup to review and recommend a new financial model for CMS to ensure future delivery and financial sustainability. Schools Forum ratified the subgroups recommendation during the January 2021 meeting for CMS to arrange a service level agreement with respective schools to implement the new delivery model.
- The new delivery model is to be implemented from September 2021. Appendix 7 shows the SLA contributions expected from each school for this financial year 2020/21.

Recommendation (xi): Schools forum are requested to note and comment the:

- (a) CMS contributions to be agreed by each school by Service Level Agreement.

12. Financial Regulations for Schools – consultation

- 12.1. The draft financial regulations is ready to be consulted with Schools. The document provides advice, information and guidance for schools for the financial management of

delegated funds and other funds obtained by the school for education, teaching and learning and other school activities.

12.2. The purpose of the document is to provide standard guidance rather than pockets of good practices in our schools and to ensure schools have a source document to refer as part of governance and compliance arrangements. The document is also designed to create awareness of good financial practices & processes, especially during changes in key personnel.

12.3. The document was prepared and drafted by a panel of School Business Managers including local authority officers. It has been reviewed by Internal Audit, Procurement, Human Resources and other key local authority officers.

12.4. The table below shows the document history and timelines for consultation and approval by Schools Forum. The dates for the one-month consultation are: 22nd June to 21st July 2021. Document to be circulated to schools on or before 22 June 2021.

12.5. We will seek Chair's action in September to approve the document pending ratification by School Forum in October 2021. This will enable governing bodies to adopt the document should schools have their GB meetings in September prior to the October Schools forum ratification.

Version	Date	Author	Description
1.0	15/10/2020	School Business Managers	Document released to a Panel of School Business managers for review, update and comments
1.1	24/05/2021	LA Schools Finance Team	Updated document issued for review and assurance by Internal Audit, Procurement, Treasury etc
1.2	18/06/2021	All	Deadline for feedback and comments
1.3	22/06/2021	All	Final document circulated to schools' forum and schools for consultation
1.4	21/07/2021	LA Schools Finance Team	End of Consultation
1.5	Oct 2021	LA Schools Finance Team	Approval by School Forum
1.5	Oct 2021	LA Schools Finance Team	For release & publication on LBBB website

Recommendation (xii): Schools forum are requested:

(a) Note and comment on the Financial Regulations for consultation.

13. Other Updates

- 13.1. Financial insights (VMFI) tool and access is now available for local authorities and maintained schools. The tool provides users with insights into the financial position and performance of their school. It identifies areas that may require further attention and offers guidance and advice on a range of key financial indicators. This on-line toolkit provides detailed bench marking analysis including linking finances to educational attainment. [ESFA Update local authorities: 2 June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/esfa-update-local-authorities-2-june-2021)
- 13.2. DfE recently consulted on the payment of schools' business rates directly to billing authorities on behalf of schools and a single reconciliation payment to billing authorities to allow for adjustments before the end of the financial year. If the scheme is implemented, it would be a relatively small change to the way the Dedicated School Grant is administered, and there are no financial impacts on schools.
- 13.3. The Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for schools is an alternative to insurance where losses that arise are covered by UK government funds. The RPA covers property damage and business interruption, public liability, employers' liability and travel. For those that participated in the arrangement during the 2019/20 academic year, £18 per pupil was deducted. Nearly all of the maintained schools currently buy into the LA insurance scheme. Where schools intend to opt out local authority insurance arrangement, schools should notify the Insurance team by 31 March so that cover can cease on 30 June when contracts are renewed. If a school has paid any recharged premium(s) and then decides to change to the RPA mid-way through the insurance policy year, no pro-rata premium refund can be given as premium rates are based on the risks as presented at renewal.
- 13.4. Local authorities have been allocated Holiday Activities and Food Programme grants across the country. The share of Barking and Dagenham is £1,013k. The purpose of the grant is for local authorities to make free places at holiday clubs the summer and Christmas school holidays in 2021. This will be made available to children in the local authority area who are eligible for and receive benefits-related free school meals. Schools are encouraged (but in no way mandated) by the DfE to act as hosts for providers to deliver programmes over the Summer (and potentially Easter holidays) given their direct access to families who are eligible for Free School Meals. Following a bidding process which took place in April, 19 providers have been commissioned to deliver provision for the Summer 2021 over 33 sites, 18 of which are schools. It is important that places are not restricted to families that attend the host school, and publicity for the borough-wide programme is being prepared for roll out shortly. There

may be the opportunity for schools to bid for provision taking place at Christmas.

- 13.5. DfE have rolled out a Staff Absence Insurance framework contract for accident, illness jury service, suspension, maternity, paternity, adoption etc via Commercial Team and Crescent Purchasing Consortium's (CPC). Further details can be found here: [Staff Absence Insurance and Associated Services](#)

Early Years and Post 16 Teachers Pay and Pension Grants

- 13.6. Maintained schools and academies with post 16 pupils and early years settings currently receive allocations for teachers' pay grant (TPG) and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG) from ESFA. These are being as separate grants outside of the national funding formula (NFF) in 2021 to 2022. Pay and Pension cost relating to Primary and Secondary phases are now included in the formula from the start of 2021/21 financial year. The April to August 2021 allocations for early years and post 16 can be found here.

[ESFA Update local authorities: 28 April 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- 13.7. The Scheme for Financing Schools require maintained schools to submit ratified three year budget plans to the local authorities by 31 May 2021. Whilst the majority of the schools have complied, a number of schools are yet do so. This information is needed monitoring and follow up purposes. The DfE also requires schools to submit to the local authority the Schools Financial Value Standards return by the same date. It forms the basis of the Section 151 Officer assurance statement that the local authority need to provide to the DfE. Schools must submit these returns as a matter of urgency if they have already not done so.
- 13.8. Schools are also required to upload onto DfE COLLECT database the annual out-turn returns (Consistent Financial Return) by 31 July 2021, but should submit this information at least two weeks before the deadline to allow the local authority sufficient time review, follow up and approve the submission. This is the data that underpins the bench marking (Financial insights (VMFI)) mentioned in paragraph 13.1.

Recommendation (xiii): Schools forum are requested:

- (a) note the DfE updates and announcements relating to schools.
- (b) note deadlines relating to forthcoming statutory returns.

14. Financial implications

- 14.1. As presented in this document.

15. 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.

15. 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 (1) – LMS 2020/21 Closing Balances
- Appendix (2) –2021/22 High Needs Budget
- Appendix (3) – ARP Budget
- Appendix (4) – Movement in Numbers on Roll between October 2019 and October 2020
- Appendix (5) – Schools Facing Financial Difficulty (SFFD) Fund
- Appendix (6) – Funding Impact of Pupil Premium data change
- Appendix (7) – Music Service SLA Contributions - 2021/22