

To all members of the Sunderland Schools Forum

Together for Children
Sunderland
City Hall – Level 2
Plater Way
Sunderland
SR1 3AA

Date: 10th September 2024
Our TFC-SF/ZW

Dear Colleague

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Schools Forum, scheduled for Thursday 19th September 2024 at 8.30 am. The meeting will be held virtually, and a Teams appointment has been circulated.

AGENDA

24/41	Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair – Term of Office 1 Year <i>Mrs Hegarty is no longer eligible to stand as Chair as she is not a Headteacher of a school/academy within Sunderland.</i>	
24/42	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Mandy Henderson, School Business Manager, Ryhope Infant Academy, has put forward an expression of interest to join the membership. The nomination was agreed by South Primary Headteachers.	
24/43	Declarations of Interest	
24/44	Minutes of Previous Meeting School Forum meeting, held on 4 th July 2024 (attached)	
24/45	Matters Arising from the Minutes/Agreed Actions (Action Log attached)	
24/46	Review of the Effectiveness of the Sunderland Schools Forum	
24/47	Feedback from Short Life Working Groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion • Quality Assurance Processes for Service Providers • DBV Funding: Probity (update on working group arrangements) • Pupil Numbers (update on working group arrangements) • Consideration of the implementation of an Attendance/Elective Home Education Working Party 	KR SM SM/PR KR SM/KR

24/48	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Better Value (DBV) Update 	PR
24/49	Reports for Discussion and Decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Schools Grant Update and Projected Outturn 2024/25 (report to follow) • East Boldon Riding Centre Alternative Provision (report enclosed) • Foundation of Light Primary Intervention Programme (report enclosed) • School Funding Reform (due to changes in Central Government this item of business has been deferred) • Budget Planning Framework 2025/2025 (due to changes in Central Government this item of business has been deferred) • High Needs Block Review (deferred until October 2024) • High Needs Block Commissioned Places 2025/26 (no updates to report) 	DD KR KR
24/50	Any Other Business	
24/51	Date and Time of Next Meeting 17 th October 2024 at 8.30 am	

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



Zena Wilkinson
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Together for Children
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SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERSHIP 2024

				VOTING RIGHTS				
SCHOOL MEMBERS				1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maintained Primary School Headteacher (Mandatory)			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Maintained Primary Schools South Headteacher	Catherine Jones – Headteacher	Thorney Close Primary School	No voting rights: the views of the individual Primary Headteacher Clusters Groups will be put forward by the Maintained Primary Schools representative. In the event of the Maintained Primary School Teacher absence a Deputy will be appointed to share the views of the individual Primary Headteacher Cluster Groups.				
	Maintained Primary Schools North Headteacher	Lisa Wood - Headteacher	Hylton Castle Primary School					
	Maintained Primary Schools Washington Headteacher	Sara Bainbridge - Headteacher	Barmston Village Primary School					
	Maintained Primary Schools Hetton/Houghton Headteacher	Nicola Hill - Headteacher	Hetton Primary					
2.	Maintained Special School Teacher (Mandatory)	James Waller – Headteacher: VICE CHAIR	Sunningdale School	Y	Y		Y	Y
3.	Maintained Nursery Headteacher (Mandatory)	Ailsa Higgins - Headteacher	Oxclose Nursery	Y	Y		Y	Y
4.	Maintained Pupil Referral Service Headteacher (Mandatory)	Donna Walker - Headteacher	Link School	Y	Y		Y	Y
5.	Maintained Faith School Headteacher/Representative	Anne Blakey-Headteacher	St Benet's RC Primary School	Y	Y		Y	Y
6.	Maintained Sector School Governor	Michael Hartnack - Governor	Grange Park Primary School	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Emma Jarvis – Headteacher (Hetton/Houghton)	Dubmire Primary		Y		Y	Y
8.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Audrey Bolam – Headteacher (Washington)	Oxclose Primary		Y		Y	Y
9.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	John Lines – Headteacher (Washington)	Columbia Academy		Y		Y	Y
10.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Lauren Reeves – COO (South)	Vision Learning Trust (Hillview)		Y		Y	Y
11.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Ruth Whiteside – Headteacher (South)	Barnes Primary Academy		Y		Y	Y
12.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Mandy Henderson - SBM			Y		Y	Y
13.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Vacant			Y		Y	Y
14.	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior	Vacant			Y		Y	Y
15.	Academy Secondary and All Through	David Amos - Headteacher	Academy 360		Y		Y	Y
16.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Madeline Hope – Director of Finance	Bishop Chadwick Education Trust		Y			Y
17.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Dean Juric - Headteacher	St Roberts Academy		Y			Y
18.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Andrew Carr – Director of Finance	Biddick Academy		Y			Y
19.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Joanne Maw – Chief Executive officer	Aspire Learning Trust		Y			Y
20.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Phil Smith – Chief Finance Officer	Castleview Academy		Y			Y
21.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Vacant CHAIR	Oxclose Community Academy		Y			Y
22.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Colin Devlin -	Kepier Academy		Y			Y
23.	Academy Special (Mandatory)	Mick Little – Chief Operations Manager	Ascent		Y			Y

NON SCHOOL MEMBERS								
24.	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries	David Martin	Chilton Moor Nursery		**		Y	Y
25.	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries	Michelle Barr, Nursery owner and Manger	Buttons Nursery Washington		**		Y	Y
26.	Post 16 Provision	Vikki Morton	Sunderland College					Y
27.	Teacher Associations	Andy Lewis						Y
28.	Roman Catholic Diocese	Vacant						Y
29.	Church of England Diocese	David Airey - Headteacher	Venerable Bede CE Academy					Y
TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN OFFICERS & COUNCILLORS								
	Director of Finance							
	Head of Accounting & Finance	Debra Orr						
	Director of Education	Simon Marshall						
	Strategic Service Lead – Education	Kim Richardson						
	Lead Member Children’s Services	Cllr M Butler						
	Lead Member Children’s Services Deputy – No longer applicable							

MEMBERSHIP VOTING RIGHTS		
1	Scheme for Financing Schools (Maintained)	
2	Schools Block Funding Formula	
3.	De-delegation maintained schools	
4.	Early Years Single Funding Formula	
5.	All other School Forum Decisions	a. Central expenditure relating to schools’ block b. Deficits on central expenditure to be funded from following year’s DSG. c. Voting procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> De-delegation maintained secondary removed as no longer pertinent 		
** PVI representatives can vote on the consultation on the funding formula only.		

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 4th July 2024 at 8.30 am

School Forum Member Attendance

Voting

Paula Hegarty - Chair (PH)	Academy Secondary and All Through
David Airey (DA)	Church of England Diocese
David Amos (DAm)	Academy Secondary and all Through
Michelle Barr (MB)	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries
Audrey Bolam (AB)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Ann Blakey (ABI)	Maintained Faith School Headteacher/Representative
Michael Hartnack (MH)	Maintained Primary – Governor
Ailsa Higgins (AH)	Maintained Nursery Headteacher
Stephen Hoggett (SH) (on behalf of Lauren Reeves)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Emma Jarvis (EJ)	Academy Primary, Infant and Junior
Dean Juric (DJ)	Academy Secondary and All Through
Andy Lewis (AL)	Teacher Association
John Lines (JL)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Michael Little (ML)	Academy Special (mandatory)
David Martyn (DM)	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries
Phil Smith (PS)	Academy Secondary and All Through
James Waller (JW)	Maintained Special School Teacher
Ruth Whiteside (RW)	Academy Primary, Infant and Junior
Lisa Wood (LW)	Maintained Primary School Headteacher

Non-Voting

Sarah Bainbridge (SB)	Maintained Primary School Headteacher
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Together for Children Officers and Councillors

John Hope (JH)	TfC Technical Accountant Education Funding
Deborah Orr (DO)	TfC Head of Accounting and Finance
Emma Leech (EL)	TfC Finance Business Partner
Simon Marshall (SM)	TfC Director of Education
Leigh Morris (LN)	TfC Team Manager, School Finance
Emma Nolan (EN)	TfC Finance Business Partner
Kimberley Richardson (KR)	TfC Strategic Service Manager
Pamela Robertson (PR)	TfC Strategic SEND Lead
Gemma Slater (GS)	TfC Trainee Accounting Technician
Jill Wilson (JWi)	TfC Finance Business Partner

Zena Wilkinson	Schools Forum Clerk
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School Forum Non-Member Attendance

		Agreed Action
24/33	<u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</u> PH welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

	<p>The Clerk advised that apologies for absence had been submitted by Cllr Butler, Mrs Dixon, Mrs Hope, Mrs Reeves (Mr Hoggett was in attendance to represent Mrs Reeves) and Mrs Walker.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed a quorum was present and the meeting could proceed to business.</p> <p>Mrs Hegarty advised members that Ms Rachel Donohue had left Academy 360 and Mr David Amos (DAm) had taken on the position of Headteacher. Mrs Hegarty reported that DAm had been approached to ascertain whether he would like to become a member of the Schools Forum and he had confirmed he would.</p> <p>Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To appoint DAm as an Academy Secondary and All Through representative for the Schools Forum. 	
24/34	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Members NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were no declarations of interest in relation to the business to be considered. - Declarations could be made throughout the meeting, if appropriate. 	
24/35	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To accept the minutes of the Schools Forum held 6th June 2024 as a true record. 	
24/36	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes/Agreed Actions</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p> <p>SF members confirmed they had received a copy of the Action Log prior to the meeting for consideration.</p>	
24/37	<p><u>Feedback from Short Life Working Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion <p>KR reported that an Inclusion Forum was held week commencing 24th June 2024, sharing that the focus of the meeting was suspensions and permanent exclusions. KR shared that Ms Sarah Martin-Denham (Sunderland University) had attended and presented information on the “Pull Up a Chair Programme”. KR shared that the presentation detailed that within 2021 there had been a total of 299 permanent exclusions nationally and current data indicated that there had been approximately 4,000, which evidenced the issues encountered within Sunderland were being reflected nationally.</p> <p>KR shared that the meeting discussed the challenges schools were facing having to support these children and families,</p>	

<p>stating that she believed it had been beneficial Ms Martin-Denham had attended in relation to SEND pupils.</p> <p>KR advised members that to support schools TfC was looking at positive measures which could be implemented, sharing that detailed work had been undertaken by Consilium Evolve, which appeared insightful: KR explained that Consilium Evolve had reviewed their Year 7 cohort to see if there was a link between attendance and suspensions to sound and hearing abilities. KR stated that further information would be distributed in October 2024, but she believed the processes implemented had been quite innovative.</p> <p>KR shared that Consilium Evolve had won 2 national awards, the TES Schools Award and the Pearson National Headteacher Award.</p> <p>KR informed members that the Inclusion Forum would hold additional forums, with Mrs Donna Walker, who would share details of a new social, emotional, mental health (SEMH) strategy drafted, together with a toolkit, which had been implemented. KR stated that the strategy and toolkit appeared user friendly and would support work being undertaken with children.</p> <p>PH stated it was positive to learn there was a tangible forum which was implementing initiatives which could be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance Processes for Service Providers <p>SM reported that TfC had appointed to 1 of the 3 Quality Assurance positions (internally) but recruitment for the remaining positions had proven difficult. SM explained that the positions had been advertised but if TfC were unable to recruit they may consider inviting expressions of interest for secondment opportunities, and expressions of interest would be welcomed from colleagues within schools.</p> <p>SM advised members that a meeting had been held with a Department for Education (DfE) representative, explaining that they were reviewing TfC's progress against targets: SM stated that the representative was pleased with the progress made but had acknowledged recruitment was a challenge. SM highlighted that appointments were required as soon as possible, explaining that the funding received was only short term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Better Value (DBV) Funding: Probity <p>SM reported that developments had been made in relation to the Actin Plan and the re-appointment of replacement leads. SM stated that TfC were in the process of recruiting a Digital Specialist but advised that this was challenging: SM explained that the post may need to be reviewed, stating that the role was around the digital processes and ensuring information was being recorded correctly etc. SM shared that if the current recruitment processes were unsuccessful consideration would be given to</p>	<p>KR</p>
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offering the position as a secondment opportunity, which would be opened up to colleagues within schools.

SM informed members that a recruitment process had been implemented for 3 Headteachers/Senior Leadership Team members to undertake work to embed practice and look at quality assurance. SM explained that he envisaged that these appointments would be for 1 day per week, but the same Team members would be expected to work together to deliver DBV and sustain practice going forward. SM stated that he would like a range of staff from schools, which would link into the Schools Forum.

SM explained that if no recruitments had been made by September 2024 there may be a need to look at the posts creatively, to see what resources were available across schools. SM stated that the posts had been advertised widely but they were for fixed term periods, which was detrimental to recruitment.

PH queried the funding period. SM explained that the funding had been allocated for one financial year and meetings would be held with DfE representatives to monitor the use of the funding, as well as submitting returns.

SM extended an open invitation for interested parties to contact him directly.

PH enquired if the positions would be detailed within the Comms e mails and SM confirmed they would, together with being placed on the Tfc website and Jobs NE, sharing that if possible Tfc would like to recruit someone from within Sunderland.

- Pupil Numbers

KR advised that an initial meeting was scheduled to be held this afternoon, to scope the Pupil Numbers Project.

SM shared that the Comms e mail had extended an offer for Mr Alan Rowan to meet with individual groups to detail the projected pupil numbers, sharing that Mr Rowan could provide bespoke information for specific geographical areas. PH confirmed that Mr Rowan had attended the Washington Primary Headteacher meeting, sharing that this was beneficial as he had included specific data for the local area. PH stated that she believed this information was important in terms of planning staffing requirements going forward and shared that she would encourage Headteachers to contact Mr Rowan directly if they had any queries.

SM shared that arrangements would also be implemented for Mr Rowan to meet with trade union representatives, to update them on the potential detrimental effects the projected dip in pupil numbers could have.

Presentations

- Transport Initiatives

KR advised members that Mr Tomlin was unable to attend the meeting due to technology issues, but she would provide an overview of initiatives implemented.

KR explained that there had been an ever increasing demand on Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) transport, which linked to the increase in Education Health Care (EHC) plans. KR shared that Mr Tomlin worked to meet the transport needs of approximately 1,200 children and had investigated strategies and projects which could support independent travel and reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

KR reported that a number of strategies implemented had worked well, but others had not (examplng parents were less keen on the gym passes and bike scheme offered). KR shared that one strategy which was proving popular was the opportunity to apply for a grant, of £50, to purchase a winter coat which would allow families to walk to school.

KR advised that a larger strategy had been implemented, with partners, which had evidenced a more significant impact, explaining that this was focused on independent travel. KR highlighted that a proposal had been presented to increase staffing and this initiative had been beneficial in terms of the numbers of people staff had been able to work with. KR stated that further data would be available in relation to the change in independent travel arrangements, sharing that this strategy would continue to be developed in line with services.

KR stated that a new mini bus had been purchased, although awaiting delivery, and discussions had been held with colleagues to deliver transport services using this resource, on behalf of TfC, and arrangements had been agreed. KR reported that some cost benefits had been realised, sharing that TfC were in the process of identifying their specific requirements for a second mini bus.

MH shared that he and ML had worked with Mr Tomlin at the beginning of this Working Group and reported that Mr Tomlin had been creative and receptive to ideas, which had been taken forward. MH stated that he believed this was an example of the benefits of the Schools Forum supporting initiatives. MH commended the role undertaken by Mr Tomlin. KR thanked MH for his comments and confirmed she would pass the commendation onto Mr Tomlin.

ML stated that as part of a pilot, identified with Mr Tomlin, (which was implemented for a trial period) there may be further opportunities for SEND pupils within Sunderland, which would benefit both children and families.

KR

	<p>ML shared that he echoed MH's comments in relation to Mr Tomlin's creative thinking in terms of potential cost saving initiatives.</p> <p>JW stated that he would also like to echo MH and ML's comments, sharing that his school had a number of different transport needs and Mr Tomlin always responded.</p>	
24/39	<p><u>Reports for Discussion and Decision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Update</p> <p>DO recapped that the 2023/24 DSG overall position was a deficit of £4.5 million with an in-year High Needs Block (HNB) overspend of £5.3 million. The HNB overspend for 2023/24 is in line with the projections included in the report completed by Newton on SEND Delivering Better Values. DO reported that the overall deficit as of 31 March 2024 was £9 million.</p> <p>DO reported that for 2024/25, the HNB budget had only increased by £2.2 million, which represented a 5.13% increase, compared to the 2023/24 budget making it impossible to set a balanced 2024/25 in-year budget based on 2023/24 spend plus inflationary increases given the HNB was overspent by 16.12%.</p> <p>DO shared that 2024/25 budgets had been set on varying percentage reductions in projected spend in order to set the overall DSG budget to balance to the ESFA 2024/25 DSG Allocation of £111.7m after Academy recoupment. These assumptions are based on work currently being undertaken with DfE SEND Delivering better Values Project.</p> <p>DO acknowledged that it was still early in a new financial year, advising that a report would be presented in September 2024 detailing the projected outturn, which would include the EHCP top up inflationary increase (following a decision by Schols Forum at this meeting); increase in number of new EHCP pupils and projection to the end of the March 2025; EHCP pupil movements from primary to secondary; additional Commissioned Places as agreed, plus new Resource Provisions opening in September 2024; Non Maintained Independent Schools projected outturn with new starts from September 2024; and would also include Post16 top up projected costs and staff pay awards, once agreed.</p> <p>SM highlighted that the City of Sunderland's Section 151 Officer (Mr Paul S Wilson, the Council's Director of Finance) needed to be advised of the DSG projections, as they held overall responsibility for the budgets. SM advised members that he met with the Section 151 Officer on a regular basis, to detail mitigation proposals to balance the budget, where possible. SM questioned if SF members would like to meet with the Section 151 Officer, sharing that DO also attended frequent meetings with Mr Paul S Wilson.</p> <p>PH stated that she would propose an invitation was extended to the Section 151 Officer to attend a Schools Forum meeting. MH</p> 	DO

	<p>stated that he would second the proposal, and commended Mr Paul S Wilson and the Finance Team in relation to putting the budget situation into context.</p> <p>ML stated that he agreed with MH's comments, sharing that it was good to have clear communication, but SF members needed to be aware of the outcome and potential impact of decisions taken.</p> <p>SM acknowledged that ultimately the education budget sat within a larger budget, therefore the Section 151 Officer needed to sign off on any budget projections.</p> <p>SF members agreed an invitation to attend a Schools Forum meeting would be extended to Mr Paul S Wilson: SM shared that the Section 151 Officer may arrange for one of his Assistant Directors to attend but confirmed he would extend the invitation.</p> <p>SF Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To extend an invitation to the Section 151 Officer, or their representative, to attend a future Schools Forum meeting. - To accept the DSG update, as presented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHCP Top Up Banding Rate Proposals (updated) <p>SF members confirmed they had received a copy of the following report prior to the meeting for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EHCP Top Up Banding Rate Proposals (Updated) <p>PH noted that an initial report had been tabled at the previous meeting and following discussion SF members had agreed that there were further proposals which could be considered.</p> <p>PH highlighted that the updated report now included 5 proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal 1 – No increase to banding rates - Proposal 2 – Increase all EHCP banding rates by 1.9% in line with average overall Budget increase to mainstream schools from April 2024, at an estimated additional cost of £323,130 to DSG High Needs Block for full 2024/25 Financial year (assuming a 15% increase in EHCP Pupil numbers) - Proposal 3 – Increase all EHCP banding rates by 2.5% in line with latest proposed staff pay award from April 2024, at a projected additional cost of £425,172 to DSG High Needs Block for full 2024/25 Financial year (assuming a 15% increase in EHCP Pupil numbers) - Proposal 4 – Increase all EHCP Banding rates by 4% in line with the average pay increase staff pay award proposal from 2024, at a projected additional cost of £532,693 to DSG High Needs block for Full 2024/25 Financial year (assuming a 15% increase in EHCP Pupil numbers) - Proposal 5 – Increase all Top up Banding rates by 1.9% in line with average overall Budget increase to Mainstream Schools from April 2024, and also increase Commission 	<p>SM</p>
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place funding for all special School places by 1.9% (£191 per place). This proposal is estimated to cost the High Needs block an additional £547,384 for full 2024/25 Financial year (assuming a 15% increase in EHCP numbers).

PH invited questions or comments.

JL advised that Washington Primary Headteachers had met, and he had been requested to provide the following feedback:

1. The general feeling was a 1.9% increase was not necessarily seen as fair and transparent and Headteachers felt contributions from schools were too heavily weighted.
2. Headteachers felt Proposal 5 actually covered 2 separate items and felt the proposal should have been separated accordingly: Washington Headteachers felt a 2.5% top up and a 1.9% increase for commissioned places could be considered.

ML shared that within his representative group the overall feelings were in relation to fairness and equity and, when comparing funding increases this was, on average, 1.9% for mainstream schools across the board, although there were some variations.

ML stated that from discussions Headteachers felt Proposal 5 was fair and transparent, although they had acknowledged that this was the most expensive option. ML acknowledged JL's comments but stated that he felt fair and transparent proposals had been put forward, acknowledging that there would never be a perfect solution.

PH acknowledged JL's comments but stated that the difficulty was if the proposals presented were changed other groups would not have had an opportunity to consider these. PH stated that there was a need for SF members to consider whether they would like to vote on the proposals presented or revisit these in the new academic year, acknowledging that this would mean further delays.

ML queried if it would be possible to consider parts of each proposal to verify what could be considered at this meeting. SM stated that he would recommend caution if looking at a sixth proposal in terms of the potential impact, reiterating that the funding came from a single pot of funding. SM stated that he believed a decision on the proposals presented needed to be made rather than further proposal options being added.

PH requested SF members to vote on whether or not to consider the proposals, as presented: Option 1: to vote on the proposals as presented or Option 2: defer a vote until the new academic year. SF Members voted for Option 1.

PH invited SF members to vote on each individual proposal detailed within the report. SF members voted, by majority, for proposal 5.

	<p>Following a vote SF Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To vote on the proposals detailed within the EHCP Top up Banding Rate Report, as presented. - To accept proposal 5: Increase all Top up Banding rates by 1.9% in line with average overall Budget increase to Mainstream Schools from April 2024, and also increase Commission place funding for all special School places by 1.9% (£191 per place). This proposal is estimated to cost the High Needs block an additional £547,384 for full 2024/25 Financial year (assuming a 15% increase in EHCP numbers). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Forum Provision Future Dates and Workplan 2024/2025 <p>SF members confirmed they had received a copy of the following report prior to the meeting for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School Forum Meeting Schedule and Workplan <p>PH advised members that the proposed scheduled had been discussed within the Secondary Headteacher’s meeting and slight amendments had been proposed. The Clerk explained that the proposal was for future Secondary Headteacher Meetings to commence at 8.30 am and a request had been submitted to Washington Primary Headteacher to reschedule their meetings to 11.00 am. PH explained that Secondary Headteachers within the Washington area worked closely with their primary feeder schools and this proposal would allow Secondary Headteacher representatives to attend the Primary Headteacher Cluster meeting.</p> <p>SF Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To note and accept the School Forum Meeting Schedule and Workplan, as presented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Funding Reform <p>DO advised that there was no report to present at the current time and a report would be presented when information was known.</p> <p>SF Members NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This item of business was deferred until information on the School Funding Reform was formally received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance/Elected Home Educated (EHE) Update <p>SF members confirmed they had received a copy of the following report prior to the meeting for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attendance Team <p>PH invited KR to present the salient points within the report.</p>	<p>DO</p>
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KR explained that the challenges being faced within the Attendance Team, to meet statutory obligations, had been raised within a previous meeting, especially in relation to the significant increase in EHE's. KR explained that to safeguard EHE children, and families, there was a need to increase the current support capacity within the Attendance Team, and the proposal was to implement this additional capacity within a sub team of the Attendance Team. KR explained that the proposal would enable EHE functions to be effectively managed, to support some of the City's most vulnerable young people, exemplifying that the postholders would work in partnership with other professionals (exemplifying professionals from Social Care, Health, Youth Offending Services and Safeguarding) to ensure the necessary checks and balances were completed. KR explained that a teaching role, within the sub team, was required to undertake assessments and provide advice and guidance to families to ensure appropriate Education Plans were in place.

KR advised members that the staffing proposal presented would enable additional capacity within the Attendance Team and enable current members of the Attendance Team to focus on day to day attendance and court proceeding requirements.

KR stated that the new positions would be used to support the Inclusion and Access Team more widely, sharing that the proposals would provide more capacity to support schools.

LW explained that North Primary Headteachers had queried if children with EHE received any funding. KR confirmed that they did not, sharing that she believed this proposal would help in terms of providing advice and guidance.

PH advised that Secondary Headteacher's had wanted clarification on the roles and responsibilities for the additional staff members, sharing that they were aware KR was looking at options to support the Attendance Team. KR confirmed this statement, sharing that this was part of wider work being undertaken and the additional posts would provide additional capacity.

SM advised members that he had been tasked, by the Sunderland Safeguarding Partnership Board, to undertake a full review of attendance and EHE across the City, therefore had implemented a Strategic Group (and provided an overview of the membership of the group). SM stated that he believed it would be beneficial to implement an Operational Group, sharing that he was keen to establish new narratives around attendance and exclusion in relation to schools doing the majority of the work, explaining that he believed there were a high number of vulnerable children not in school and gaps were widening. SM summarised that the remit of the Operational Group would be looking at the current context of attendance and EHE, sharing that Mr Lynn had detailed two good case study reports.

SM explained that he wanted to get to the point where attendance was everyone's responsibility/role, exemplifying police, Health professionals etc, sharing that he was hoping to attract

	<p>additional support, which would in turn provide additional support to families.</p> <p>SM advised members that meetings would be scheduled, commencing in the Autumn term 2024, which would include partner agencies and school staff and stated that there would be a need to look at an impact report at the next meeting.</p> <p>SM reiterated that he believed attendance needed to be everyone's responsibility.</p> <p>AH shared that Mr Lynn had identified a link between attendance issues identified within nursery provisions to gang membership, highlighting that attendance within Early Years (EY) provisions was not statutory and it may be beneficial to look to see how attendance could be monitored. SM confirmed that when Mr Lynn had delved into case histories there were key elements identified, exemplifying non-attendance with EY provisions, sharing that it may be beneficial to invite Health Visitor representatives to become involved with non-attendance issues.</p> <p>SM stated that SF members may wish to consider implementing an Attendance/EHE Working Party from September 2024. PH agreed this would be beneficial, especially as it would have a specific foci.</p> <p>Following a vote SF Members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To agree the proposal to fund the staffing proposals for the Attendance Team, from the HNB, on a permanent basis. - To consider the implementation of an Attendance/EHE Working part in September 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning High Needs Places for 2024/25 in Specialist and Alternative Provisions <p>Members confirmed they had received a copy of the following report prior to the meeting for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioning High Needs Places for 2024/25 in Specialist and Alternative Provisions (Updated) <p>PH noted that additional commissioned high need placement proposals were shared, verbally, at the last meeting and the report circulated had been updated in line with the full proposals put forward.</p>	
24/40	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>PH formally welcomed DAm to the Schools Forum.</p> <p>PH thanked all SF members for their contributions over the current academic year, acknowledged that a lot of discussions and difficult decisions had been made.</p>	

24/41	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u> Thursday 19 th September 2024 8.30 am Venue: Meeting to be held virtually	
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Subject To Approval

Schools Forum Action Log

Date of Meeting	Agenda No	Request	Action	Responsible	Date of Completion	Remarks
06-Jul-23	23/48	Feedback from Short Life Working Parties: School Transport	KR to update members about the progress made in relation to the School Transport proposals including sharing a timeline for draft proposals/project documentation.	KR	ongoing	Completed
20-Oct-23	23/62	Feedback from Short Life Working Groups	IWR: SM to present resource proposals for the Helton Nursery resource.	SM	Nov-23	Completed
20-Oct-23	23/63	Reports for Discussion and Decision	Updated reports to be presented to the SF meetings in January and March 2024 detailing the DSG Projected Outturn positions.	SR	Jan-24 and Mar-24	Ongoing
04-Jul-24	24/37	Feedback from Short Life Working Groups	Consilium Evolve findings following their project to ascertain whether there were any links to attendance and suspensions with sound and hearing abilities to be shared with Forum members	KR	Oct-24	
04/07/2024	24/38	Presentations: Transport	KR to relay MH's commendations to Mr P Tomlin	KR		
04/07/2024	24/39	Reports for Discussion and Decision	SM to extend an invitation to Mr P S Wilson, Section 151 Officer, or his representative, to attend a future SF meeting.	SM		
04/07/2024	24/39	Reports for Discussion and Decision	School Funding Reform report to be tabled, when information becomes available.	DO		
04/07/2024	24/39	Reports for Discussion and Decision	SF members to consider the proposal to implement an Attendance/EHE Working Party in September 2024.	SM		

standing item

REPORT TO SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

19 September 2024

East Boldon Riding Centre Alternative Provision

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the current position in respect of alternative provision capacity across the City and detail the proposal to commissioned places at East Boldon Riding Centre (EBRC) to assist in the response to the current capacity crisis to ensure that the needs of the City's children and young people are met.

2. Background

- 2.1 As Forum members are aware the demand for places at the Link School and across the alternative provision framework is currently unprecedented. The total number of permanent exclusions for the academic year 2023/24 was 131, representing a 35% increase from 2022/23. The Link School has been operating at capacity for some time with no scope for inductions via VPP at Key Stage 3 or 4 from September 2024 creating extreme pressure on the system when the next phase of young people from those Key Stages become permanently excluded.
- 2.2 In addition to the sufficiency planning required to support the next phase of permanently excluded pupils, there is also several young people who are currently accessing various alternative provisions on bespoke packages who would benefit from moving to a more structured offer; in addition to a small number of young people who were permanently excluded at the end of the 2023/24 academic year who currently have no offer.

3. East Boldon Riding Centre (EBRC)

- 3.1 EBRC was first introduced to TfC in 2022 when officers undertook a visit to meet with the founders to explore their proposals to expand their offer beyond the equestrian delivery model and into alternative provision following the work they had commenced with children and young people with SEND.

- 3.2 The Strategic Lead for Education and the Safeguarding School Improvement Officer were extremely impressed with not only the delivery model and safeguarding practices but also their ethos and genuine desire to help the children and young people of Sunderland. After meeting with EBRC and following the completion of appropriate due diligence checks EBRC were included in the TfC Alternative Provision Directory and have been used successfully on an ad-hoc basis by both schools and TfC.
- 3.3 EBRC has in the past 24 months significantly developed their offer to now include:
- Equestrian Studies
 - Hair and Beauty
 - Construction Skills
 - Forestry Skills
 - Sports and Nutrition
- Each course is structured and includes an industry accredited qualification to ensure the students have a real sense of purpose and to support the development of their skills and CV in readiness for life post 16.
- 3.4 EBRC also benefits from significant and well-established links with local business and has successfully placed young people on apprentice and employment pathways following their time spent at the provision.
- 3.5 The offer is for a maximum of 3 days a week as EBRC is not currently Ofsted registered however they are keen to do so to enable a 5-day offer to be viable. Despite not being registered the provision has recently been assessed by Ofsted as part of Durham County Council's inspection and the feedback was that the provision met all of the required standards should they have been subjected to their own inspection. This gives further confidence in the commissioning of a currently unregistered provision. Additionally, TfC have undertaken due diligence in respect of both safeguarding and quality of provision which has provided assurances in respect of both. TfC will continue discussions with EBRC to support their future registration plans.
- 3.6 In respect of a typical day at EBRC the young people will be collected by minibus from a number of hubs across the city, to support semi-independent travel. They will receive a functional skills structured curriculum delivered by teaching staff in the morning and then undertake their chosen skills pathway in the afternoon. The provision allows flexibility where a young person can move across skills if they decide their original choice is not meeting their needs. The minibus will then return the young people back to the hub for their onward travel home.

4. Process

- 4.1 The Access and Inclusion team will support the cohort of young people who are currently without a home school, or become so due to permanent exclusion, to access EBRC where suitable.
- 4.2 It is likely that the first cohort of young people will include those moving from their current bespoke arrangements to EBRC where this offer is assessed as more suitable.
- 4.3 Places at EBRC will be reviewed on a termly basis where the continuation of the placement will be assessed and consideration will be given to the viability of a permanent pathway for the young person which may include, a statutory assessment, another alternative provision, the Link School or back into a mainstream setting via the In Year Fair Access protocol. All transitions will be supported by the work undertaken at EBRC.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 It is proposed that in the academic year 2024/25 TfC exclusively commissioned 20 places at a negotiated reduced rate of £80 per day from £105 per day. The maximum places ERBC can offer TfC is 35.
- 5.2 In addition ERBC have offered to hold the remaining 15 places for exclusive use by Sunderland schools via the VPP process for pupils who may benefit from short term access as an early intervention / prevention strategy. The charge will be £80 per day however the HNB will recoup the funding with a slight surplus from the daily charge to schools of £85 per day in line with the alternative provision charging framework.

6. Proposed Costs

- 6.1 The cost to the HNB to commission 20 places at ERBC at a daily rate of £80 would be £187,200 for the 2024/25 academic year. A significant saving on current / future expenditure if other alternative provisions were to continue to be heavily utilised. At full capacity the surplus detailed at 5.2 above would amount to £8,775 which can be offset against the commissioned place figure.
- 6.2 Currently TfC are paying a significantly higher daily rate to other unregistered alternative providers for students who do not currently have a home school due to permanent exclusion. The table below provides a cost comparison based on 20 commissioned places at 3 days per week. During 2023/24 TfC, at maximum numbers, had 12 young people accessing Future Pathways and 5 accessing Evolve Sports.

6.3 Use of Future Pathways and Evolve Sports will be considerably higher in 2024/25 as there are an additional 32 young people without provision following a permanent exclusion late in the summer term of 2023/24.

Provider/ Rate	EBRC	Future Pathways	Evolve Sports
Daily	£80	£175	£125
Weekly	£240	£525	£375
Yearly	£9,360	£20,475	£14,625
Total (20 Places)	£187,200	£409,500	£292,500
Saving to HNB	£0	£222,300	£105,300

6.4 Commissioning ERBC to support capacity across the City will not only provide significant savings to the HNB in comparison to current spend but will also result in improved outcomes and a more structured offer for students supporting both transitions and post 16 next steps.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 The alternative option is to do nothing. This option has been considered and discounted as the current risks with doing nothing are:

- 32 young people excluded in the summer term may not have access to any provision in September 2024, this number will increase as permanent exclusions begin. As you are aware children and young people have a statutory right to education, failure to allocate provision from the 6th day following a permanent exclusion will result in TfC being statutorily non-compliant.
- A number of young people will not achieve the best possible outcomes due to the limitations an appropriateness of their current bespoke offers.
- The strain on the high needs block will continue with the use of high-cost placements.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- To agree to the commissioning of a minimum of 20 places at EBRC for the academic year 2024/25.

- ii. To agree to the proposal to offer access to an additional 15 places at EBRC to Sunderland schools via VPP to support intervention and prevention strategies.

REPORT TO SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

19 September 2024

Foundation of Light Primary Intervention Programme

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the delivery of the Primary Intervention Programme (PIP) for the academic year 2023/24 and to seek approval for TfC to commission a further 5 places at the provision for the academic year 2024/25.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Foundation of Light has grown to become one of the most pioneering sports charities in the country, winning multiple awards for ground-breaking programmes. The Foundation works with a large cross section of people from a number of communities, with ages ranging from 18 months to 80 years plus. Foundation programmes are designed to address local challenges in education, health and wellbeing, sport and play and world of work (employability) as well as specific programmes aimed to support veterans, young people, mental health, healthy eating, drug and alcohol misuse, bullying, racism, and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 Programmes are delivered by passionate, dedicated and highly skilled teams including teachers, health workers, coaches, family learning officers, youth workers and support staff based at offices and classrooms within the Beacon of Light and outreach centres throughout the region.

3. Primary Intervention Programme

- 3.1 Historically the Foundation offered an intervention programme for Key Stage 3 students which was superseded by the introduction of the Beacon of Light alternative provision. The purpose-built facilities remained available at the Stadium of Light and discussions were held in 2023 as to the viability of an early intervention offer for Key Stage 2 students. TfC identified the demand across the city for a

programme of this type to intervene at an early stage and deploy a preventive model / approach and the proposal to commission 5 places at the FoL was put to Forum in September 2023 with a proposed start date following October 2023 half term.

- 3.2 As you are aware the provision is aimed at children who present with range 2 behaviours on the SEND SEMH range who would typically benefit from some form of intervention to prevent progression and escalation of behaviour which may lead to the need to a higher level of intervention such as the Link School or an Assessment Hub place for example. It is also an expected outcome that instances of suspension and permanent exclusion be reduced as a natural consequence of an improvement in behaviour.
- 3.3 The programme is offered exclusively to Sunderland schools on 6 week basis with students attending full time Monday to Friday. The curriculum offer is delivered by qualified teachers on a 2:10 ratio in a classroom setting; core subjects are delivered alongside a robust PSHE / RSE offer to meet the specific outcomes required in supporting the reduction of SEMH needs.

4. Outcomes

- 4.1 As detailed above the programme commenced following October 2023 half term with a gradual induction of pupils up to full capacity in December 2023.
- 4.2 Attendance at provision has been an average of 98% which is significantly higher than the attendance of the cohort at their home school.
- 4.3 The feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive in respect of the standard of service delivery and impact on pupils with some examples included below:

George Washington Primary School

"The contact and communication with the team at the FoL was excellent throughout."

'JB has come back to school, and it is clear to see the programme has had a positive impact on his ability to deal with his emotions.'

"Before the programme, J struggled to engage with staff and deal with his emotions, but since returning he has engaged in every lesson and has been a more active participant in lessons and in game play during break times. The programme has had a really positive impact on his emotional wellbeing."

"Communication with the FoL was excellent throughout. They kept us up to date with how J was getting on, on a weekly basis. They also provided excellent support after J returned to school through the Kicks mentoring programme. Feedback from J has been very positive, and he really enjoyed his time on the programme. Since returning to school he is now engaging more in lessons and activities. "

"Thanks for everything that your team have done to support J."

Maple Cottage

"Can I just say a big tank you to the whole Team you have a done a marvellous job with X considering how detached from education he was at the start."

- 4.4 Anecdotal evidence suggests that, in the main, improved behaviour and attendance have been sustained following the pupils return to their home school with no repeat referrals for further intervention.
- 4.5 2024/25 will be the first full year of operation with an established curriculum and staffing model. Systems and procedures are now well established and will allow for more detailed evidence based outcomes to be provided in respect of behaviour and attendance moving forward.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 Feedback and evidence demonstrates that the PIP is having a positive early intervention impact on Key Stage 2 pupils with emerging SEMH needs, to continue the positive impact and to meet growing need it is proposed that commissioned places at PIP are increased from 5 to 10 for the academic year 2024/25.

6. Proposed Costs

- 6.1 A reduced rate has been renegotiated in respect of TfC commissioned places. Each commissioned place per annum will cost £10,670 to TfC reduced from the higher rate of £12,160, totalling £106,700 for 10 commissioned places. However, £85 per day will be recovered from schools in line with the alternative provision charging framework which will, at full capacity, bring £164,900 back into the HNB per annum.
- 6.2 Capacity at the provision is required to be above 65% to break even. Since December 2023 capacity has been at 100% therefore it is expected that the cost of the provision will be comfortably met by the expected attendance rate with the surplus returning to the HNB.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- i. To agree to the commissioning of 10 places at the Foundation of Light for the academic year 2024/25.

REPORT TO SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

19 September 2024

Dedicated Schools Grant Update and Projected Outturn 2024/25

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with a projected outturn position for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2024/25 based on extant activity and funding information.
- 1.2 Section 2 of the report sets out the quantitative issues affecting the DSG and Section 3 covers some of the qualitative aspects.

2. Dedicated Schools Grant Projected Outturn 2024/25

- 2.1 The 2024/25 DSG in year forecast outturn position is a projected deficit of £5,956,478. The DSG deficit balance carried forward from 2023/24 reported to Schools Forum in May 2024 was £9,070,410, which has now increased by £18,104 for the 2023/24 financial year following the Early Years Pupil number adjustment (updated by the ESFA in July 2024). Therefore, the amended DSG reserve balance as of 31 March 2024 is £9,088,514. Details of the 2024/25 in-year projected overspend are provided in the table and paragraphs below:

2024/25 DSG Budget (After Recoupment)	Revised DSG Budget as at Sept 2024 £	Projected Outturn £	Total (Over) / Underspend £
Schools Block	45,340,209	44,448,600	891,609
Central School Services Block	1,495,738	1,395,456	100,282
Early Years Block	30,370,035	30,320,526	49,509
High Needs Block	34,515,181	41,513,059	(6,997,878)
TOTAL DSG	111,721,163	117,677,641	(5,956,478)

Schools Block and Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 2.2 The Schools' Block is currently projected to be £891,609 underspent at the end of the current financial year due to projected underspends in Growth funding of £705,183 and Academy Rates savings following conversion of £186,426.

- 2.3 The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is projecting an overall underspend of £100,282 of which £82,282 in the Historic School Redundancy budget. It is currently anticipated this budget will not be spent in 2024/25 as any School/DSG Redundancies will be funded from the Schools Redundancy Reserve or by the schools themselves. The Admissions Team budget is projecting an underspend of £20,000, as a result of staffing slippage.

Early Years Block

- 2.4 At this stage the Early Years Block projection is based on the 2024/25 budget position, with the exception of a small staffing underspend in the Early Years Team of £49,509. Funding for the new working parent 2 year old entitlement along with Under 2s funding from September will be based on actual termly headcount data rather than January census which the other entitlements are funded on. It is anticipated a more accurate projected outturn for Early Years will be provided later in the year following October census.

High Needs Block

- 2.5 The volatility, uncertainty, and unknown variables in the High Needs Block (HNB) continue to make budget monitoring and forecasting the outturn position extremely challenging.
- 2.6 As of 19 September 2024, the projected HNB in-year outturn position for 2024/25 is an overspend of £6,997,878. The anticipated overspend is based on known commitments at this stage and is a result of a continued requirement for the increased number of commissioned places, EHCP top-up payments made during the year and additional Non-Maintained Independent Schools (NMIS) places.
- 2.7 As School Forum members are already aware, Sunderland is currently part of the SEND Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme. Last year TfC colleagues worked alongside Newton who were appointed by DfE to carry out investigation work on HNB spending. Newton produced a diagnostic report on current HNB spend to calculate future unmitigated and mitigated projected costs. Current projections for HNB spend of £41m are in line with the with forecast spend in Newton's diagnostic report for 2024/25 financial year.

2.8 The HNB forecast overspend is analysed in the table below:

High Needs Block	2024/25 Budget £	2024/25 Projected Outturn £	Variance £
Commissioned Places - Special	3,321,232	3,443,544	(122,312)
Commissioned Places - AP/Returners/Young Mums	2,380,000	2,704,359	(324,359)
Commissioned Places - Resource Provisions	484,833	625,708	(140,875)
Pay & Pensions Grant	855,184	886,600	(31,416)
Top-Ups	15,690,000	20,267,951	(4,577,951)
Top-Ups - Post 16	1,800,000	1,800,000	0
Virtual School	400,556	398,000	2,556
Residential – Non-Maintained Independent	6,358,954	8,172,260	(1,813,306)
Retained HNB	3,224,422	3,214,637	9,785
Total HNB - Together for Children	34,515,181	41,513,059	(6,997,878)

DSG Reserves

2.9 The previously reported DSG deficit reserve balance brought forward as of 31 March 2024 was £9,070,410 which, as detailed in paragraph 2.1 above, has been adjusted by £18,104, therefore increased to £9,088,514. The projected in-year outturn position for 2024/25 is £5,956,478 overspend, therefore the overall projected deficit on the DSG Reserve as of 31 March 2025 is estimated to be £15,044,992.

2.10 Appendix A provides a summary position of the 2024/25 budget and projected outturn.

3. High Needs Block Pressures

3.1 High Needs Block pressures 2024/25:

- Increase in number of Needs Assessments and EHCP plans issued
- Increase in complexity of need in respect of Autism and SEMH
- Total number of EHCP as of September 2022 was 2,393 increasing by 320 to a total of 2,713 as at September 2023. This has further increased by 254 to a total of 2,967 EHCPs as at September 2024.
- Commissioned places: there is an overall increase of 104 places from 1,883 in September 2023 to 1,987 in September 2024 required in special schools and Resourced Provisions. A detailed report on Commissioned place numbers for the 2025/26 academic year will be shared with Schools Forum at the October 2024 meeting.
- NMIS: increased charges for inflation plus increase in pupil numbers placed.
- Post 16: Increase in number of Commissioned places and Top-ups.
- Current projections for 2024/25 for top-up fees are based on the current EHCP numbers as of September 2024.
- Uncertainty of future Health funding for EHCPs.
- Retained staff proposed pay awards.
- Increase in number of Permanent Exclusions.

3.2 **SEND DBV Planned Mitigations**

- Opening 2 new Mainstream 16 place School Resourced provisions from September 2024 and the expansion of existing Mainstream Resourced Provisions.
- Increase in number of Commissioned places in Mainstream Special Schools from September 2024
- Supporting the goals and aspirations of the child in a Mainstream setting rather than Special Schools & Non Maintained independent schools
- Supporting the goals and aspirations of the child can be achieved without the need for an EHCP in Post 16.

4. **Recommendations**

4.1 The Schools Forum is invited to:

- i. Note the contents of the report;
- ii. Seek updates on the 2024/25 projected outturn position at the January 2025 and March 2025 School Forum meetings.

Simon Marshall, Director of Education
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Debra Dixon, Team Manager: Management Accounting Team
debra.dixon@togetherforchildren.org.uk

2024/25 DSG Funding as at September 2024					APPENDIX A		
	Schools Block	Central School Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total 2024/25 BUDGET		
	£		£	£	£		
Funding Settlement 2024/25 (includes Pay & Pensions)	217,622,479	1,495,738	44,534,251	30,445,491	294,097,959		
Rates Deduction	(1,821,205)		0		(1,821,205)		
Central Teachers & AP provision Pay/Pension Grant			181,759		181,759		
Additional HNB Funding NEW 23/24					0		
Less import/Export adj for High Needs block			(408,000)		(408,000)		
Free Special Schools funding			1,002,000	0	1,002,000		
Total DSG (Before High Need Deductions)	215,801,274	1,495,738	45,310,010	30,445,491	293,052,513		
Less Academy Recoupment high Needs places			(11,873,835)		(11,873,835)		
Early Years Adjustment 24/25				(75,456)	(75,456)		
	215,801,274	1,495,738	33,436,175	30,370,035	281,103,222		
Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs block	(1,079,006)		1,079,006		0		
Total Adjusted DSG (Before Academy Recoupment)	214,722,268	1,495,738	34,515,181	30,370,035	281,103,222		
Academy Recoupment	(169,382,059)				(169,382,059)		
Total DSG & YPLA After Schools recoupment	45,340,209	1,495,738	34,515,181	30,370,035	111,721,163		
Local Authority					Total Budget	Projected Spend	(Over)/ Underspend
Schools Block Breakdown							
Maintained Schools Budgets - Primary	43,942,516				43,942,516	43,942,516	0
Maintained Schools Budgets - Secondary	0				0	0	0
NEW De delegation Union Facility	26,932				26,932	26,932	0
Academy Recoupment Rates Saving	186,426				186,426	0	186,426
ESG Transfer into DSG - Retained functions		583,000			583,000	583,000	0
Admissions Team		15,000			15,000	15,000	0
Termination Of Employment Costs		80,282			80,282	0	80,282
Growth Fund	1,184,335				1,184,335	479,152	705,183
Copyright Licencing		205,978			205,978	205,978	0
Total DSG - Local Authority	45,340,209	884,260	0	0	46,224,469	45,252,578	971,891
Together for Children							
CSSB Retained including Schools Forum & NMIS Fees No EHCP		396,902			396,902	396,902	0
SACRE		13,000			13,000	13,000	0
Teachers Pensions Grant-Retained Teachers		48,576			48,576	48,576	0
Admissions Team		153,000			153,000	133,000	20,000
Commissioned Places - Special			3,321,232		3,321,232	3,443,544	(122,312)
Commissioned Places - Link School & Alternative Provisions			2,380,000		2,380,000	2,704,359	(324,359)
Commissioned Places - Resource Provisions			484,833		484,833	625,708	(140,875)
Teachers Pay & Pensions Grant £660 per place			855,184		855,184	886,600	(31,416)
Top Ups			15,690,000		15,689,999	20,267,952	(4,577,953)
Top Ups - Post 16			1,800,000		1,800,000	1,800,000	0
Virtual School			400,556		400,556	398,000	2,556
Residential - Non Maintained Independent			6,358,954		6,358,954	8,172,260	(1,813,306)
Retained HNB			3,224,422		3,224,422	3,214,637	9,785
3&4 Year old				10,137,049	10,137,049	10,137,048	1
Additional hours 3 & 4 year olds				5,110,554	5,110,554	5,110,554	0
Pupil Premium 2, 3 & 4 year olds				587,564	587,564	587,564	0
Additional Nursery funding				1,322,400	1,322,400	1,322,400	0
Retained by LA 5%				800,000	800,000	750,491	49,509
2 year olds				3,523,019	3,523,019	3,523,019	0
2 Year old working parents entitlement NEW 24/25				4,312,365	4,312,365	4,312,365	0
Under 2 Entitlement NEW 24/25				3,553,125	3,553,125	3,553,125	0
SEN inclusion				700,000	700,000	700,000	0
Disability allow				323,960	323,960	323,960	0
Total High Needs Block	0	611,478	34,515,181	30,370,036	65,496,694	72,425,063	(6,928,369)
Total Adjusted DSG	45,340,209	1,495,738	34,515,181	30,370,036	111,721,163	117,677,641	(5,956,478)
						DSG Deficit Reserve Balance 31/3/24	(9,070,410)
						Early Years 2023/24 Pupil No Adj to Reserve Balance	(18,104)
						Projected DSG Deficit Reserve Balance 31/3/25	(15,044,992)