

To all members of the Sunderland Schools Forum

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

Date: 12th November 2024
Our TFC-SF/ZW

Dear Colleague

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Schools Forum, scheduled for Thursday 21st November 2024 at 8.30 am. The meeting will be held virtually, and a Teams appointment has been circulated.

AGENDA

24/62	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies	
24/63	Declarations of Interest	
24/64	Minutes of Previous Meeting School Forum meeting, held on 17 th October 2024 (attached)	
24/65	Matters Arising from the Minutes/Agreed Actions (Action Log attached)	
24/66	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) Transport Attendance/Elective Home Education 	KR SM PR KR KR KR
24/67	Presentations:	
24/68	Reports for Discussion and Decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Health Care Plans Top Up Banding Proposals Review (report to follow) Voting: 5 (All) Budget Planning Framework 2025/26 (report to follow) Voting: 2 	PR DO/JH

24/69	Any Other Business	
24/70	Date and Time of Next Meeting 9 th January 2025 at 8.30 am	

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

Yours faithfully



Zena Wilkinson
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Governor Support Team
Together for Children
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				<u>VOTING RIGHTS</u>				
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: CHAIR	Sunningdale School	Y	Y		Y	Y
3.	Maintained Nursery Headteacher (Mandatory)	Ailsa Higgins - Headteacher	Hetton Lyons/ Usworth	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	Ryhope Infant Academy		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	Academy 360		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	Vicki Pinkney - Headteacher	Hetton Academy		Y			Y
22.	Academy Secondary and All Through	Colin Devlin – VICE CHAIR	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								
	Head of Accounting and Finance	Deborah 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 17th October 2024 at 8.30 am

School Forum Member Attendance

Voting

James Waller (JW) - Chair	Maintained Special School
David Amos (DAm)	Academy Secondary and all Through
Michelle Barr (MB)	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries
Ann Blakey (ABl)	Maintained Faith School Representative
Audrey Bolam (AB)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Michael Hartnack (MH)	Maintained Primary – Governor
Mandy Henderson (MHe)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Ailsa Higgins (AH)	Maintained Nursery
Nicola Hill on behalf of Emma Jarvis (NH)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Dean Juric (DJ)	Academy Secondary and All Through
Sarah Kemp on behalf of John Lines (SK)	Academy Primary, Infants and Junior
Andy Lewis (AL)	Teacher Association
Michael Little ML)	Academy Special
David Martyn (DM)	Private, Voluntary & Independent Nurseries
Joanne Maw (JM)	Academy Secondary and All Through
Vicky Pinkney (VP)	Academy Secondary and All Through
Donna Walker (DW)	Maintained Pupil Referral Services
Lisa Wood (LW)	Maintained Primary School

Non-Voting

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

Cllr Michael John Butler (MJB)	Lead Member Children's Services
Richard Cullen (RC)	TfC Strategic Lead – School Improvement and Early Years
Debra Dixon (DD)	TfC Team Manager, Management Accounting Team
Richard Cullen (RC)	TfC Strategic Lead School Improvement & Early Years
John Hope (JH)	TfC Technical Accountant Education Funding
Deborah Orr (DO)	TfC Head of Accounting and Finance
Emma Leech (EL)	TfC Finance Business Partner
Leigh Morris (LM)	TfC Team Manager, School Finance
Emma Nolan (EN)	TfC Finance Business Partner
Alan Rowan (AR)	TfC Capital Sufficiency Lead
Kimberley Richardson (KR)	TfC Strategic Service Manager
Pamela Robertson (PR)	TfC Strategic SEND Lead
Zena Wilkinson	Schools Forum Clerk

School Forum Non-Member Attendance

Sarah Chapman (SC)	Balmoral Learning Trust
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		Agreed Action
24/53	<p><u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised that JW (Chair) had been delayed and, in the absence of the Vice Chair, invited nominations/expressions of interest to Chair the meeting until JW arrived. KR put forward an expression of interest, which was accepted by SSF members.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that apologies for absence had been submitted by David Airey; Emma Jarvis (represented by Nicola Hill); Catherine Jones; John Lines (represented by Sarah Kemp); Simon Marshall; Lauren Reeves (represented by Stephen Hoggett) and Phil Smith.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed a quorum was present and the meeting could proceed to business.</p>	
24/54	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>MH advised that as an elected Councillor he would declare declarations throughout the meeting, if appropriate.</p> <p>SSF 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. 	
24/55	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>SSF members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To accept the minutes of the Sunderland Schools Forum (SSF) held 19th September 2024 as a true record. 	
24/56	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes/Agreed Actions</u></p> <p>Matters Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p><u>24/48 Feedback from Short Life Working Groups – Inclusion</u> KR advised SSF members that the Inclusion Forum had been held and it had been attended by Robert Bell (Headteacher at Consilium Evolve). Mr Bell had presented information on the sensory and visual process work Evolve had implemented.</p> <p>KR shared that Dr Louise Harrison, Tfc Educational Psychologist, also attended and presented information on trauma: the presentation highlighted that symptoms presented from trauma were similar to the symptoms presented for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). KR informed SSF members that clinicians were identifying the need to address trauma needs prior to diagnosis.</p>	

	<p>KR advised that Neurodivergent Pathways were also discussed within the Forum and invited SSF members to inform the Clerk if they would be interested in attending a conference on Neurodivergent Pathways later in the year.</p> <p><u>24/50 Reports for Discussion and Decision – EBRC Alternative Provision</u></p> <p>KR reported that following the acceptance of proposals presented at the last meeting she had re-negotiated the placement costs with EBRC (which had been reduced from a daily rate of £80 to £75). KR explained that this was line with a commitment EBRC had made, based on the number of commissioned places taken forward.</p> <p>Agreed Actions:</p> <p>SSF members confirmed they had received a copy of the Action Log prior to the meeting for consideration and the actions of the meeting were reviewed in detail.</p> <p><u>24/50 Reports for Discussion – Foundation of Light Primary Intervention Programme</u></p> <p>KR advised SSF members that following the query received, from CJ, in relation to being able to extend the primary intervention support available from the Foundation of Light (FoL) she had discussed this option with James Wright, Managing Director. Mr Wright had indicated that the resource had a new staffing cohort and going forward they may be able to consider admitting pupils with more significant needs. KR stated that she would work with the FoL to develop a strategic offer in respect of this need, as well as needs identified within the Link School.</p>	SSF members
24/57	<p><u>Feedback from Short Life Working Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion Forum <p>SSF members noted an update had been provided within 24/56 Matters Arising from the Minutes/Agreed Actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport <p>KR reported that work had been undertaken with colleagues at Ascent Trust, in relation to the mini buses (which had been purchased through funding from the Low Carbon Initiative). KR explained that Ascent were delivering transport routes, on behalf of TfC, and going forward it was hoped this initiative would be expanded across the City.</p> <p>KR shared that full time Travel Arrangers had been appointed, to support independent travel.</p> <p>JW joined the meeting.</p> <p>KR explained that TfC were looking at different options for route planning, to support the Transport Team, due to the level of demand experienced and extended an open invitation for SSF members to contact her if they had any innovative ideas.</p>	SSF members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance/Elective Home Education (EHE) <p>KR acknowledged that SSF members were aware of the increasing number of children being EHE'd, which was a challenge for individual setting and the wider Local Authority. KR explained that the rise in children being EHE'd raised concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour, County Lines and sexual exploitation.</p> <p>KR advised SSF members that TfC was drafting an Attendance Strategy document, which would be shared with strategic partners and a consultation process would be implement with schools/academies. KR stated that the aim of the Attendance Strategy document was to embed that attendance was everyone's responsibility, exampling police, health representatives and statutory partners. KR explained that the expectation was for any professional, who identified that a child was not in school, should question the reason why. KR explained that it was hoped this approach would improve attendance, as parents would be challenged about non-attendance every time they met with a professional.</p> <p>KR stated that she believed going forward workshops would be implemented to detail the content, and expectations, of the Attendance Strategy document.</p> <p>KR informed SSF members that the recruitment process had been completed, for members of the EHE Team, explaining that there was an EHE Co-Ordinator (who would draft policies and procedures) and an EHE Advisor (a qualified teacher), explaining that their role was to provide advice to parents about EHE requirements.</p> <p>KR acknowledged current legislation was not beneficial but assured SSF members that TfC was working with the framework currently available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBV Funding Probity <p>PR advised SSF members that in terms of DBV, the majority of posts had been filled and set processes had been compiled. PR explained that Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members had been appointed, for the whole educational programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance Process for Service Providers <p>PR reported that in terms of quality assurance TfC had managed to procure the Envisage Quality Assurance tool and explained that work was also being undertaken, with Commissioning, around the framework of need .</p> <p>PR advised that work was commencing, around ordinarily available resources.</p>	
SSF members agreed to change the order of business		

Reports for Discussion and Decision

- Commissioning of Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Placements

SSF members confirmed they had received a copy of the following document prior to the meeting:

- Commissioning High Need Places for 2025/2026 in Specialist and Alternative Provisions (dated 17th October 2024)

PR explained that the content of the report detailed proposals for commissioning high need placements for 2025/2026, which was in line with the requirement for commissioning information to the Department for Education (DfE) for alternative resource provisions (ARP), alternative placements (AP), specialist provisions and Post16 provisions.

PR confirmed that the SEND landscape was still challenging, in relation to the rising number of Education Health Care (EHC) plans and increasing levels of complexity.

PR highlighted that at the end of the last academic year additional placements had been identified within Columbia Grange, Harry Watts Academy and Sunningdale School, which helped to reduce the waiting list.

PR stated that she hoped to secure an additional 18 places at Sunningdale School, explaining that the additional capacity was because of the implementation of a satellite site at Ryhope. PR shared that she believed this provision would be well used.

PR explained that additional capacity had also been identified at Harry Watts Academy.

PR advised SSF members that, overall, an additional 72 placements had been identified within statutory school places (87 with further educational places). PR explained that Sunderland College had adjusted their placements from 150 to 180 in 2025/2026. PR stated that although there had been a slight increase in Sunderland placements the majority of the increase of placements within Sunderland College was due to increased demand from Northumberland and Hartlepool, which meant that ultimately this provision was cost neutral.

PR highlighted that part of the role of DBV was to reduce the number of placements within independent non maintained provisions, which was difficult. PR stated that the number of placements was not increasing, which was a positive, but overall, these placements were a key driver in terms of looking at alternative social, emotional, mental health (SEMH) provisions.

KR advised SSF members that she and DW were working closely with colleagues to try and get traction within Behaviour Intervention, as the Link School was at capacity due to the

	<p>number of pupils who had been permanently excluded. KR explained that she would like behaviour interventions resources within schools, to try to negate the need to implement permanent exclusions.</p> <p>ML noted that one of the main pushes was to reduce the number of non-maintained placements and ensuring value for money but acknowledged that this was dependent on parental choice. ML stated that he would find it beneficial to have more information on the DBV strands and plans to reduce the cost from £4.7m to comparable costs of other resources across the City, which currently equated to 25% of overall expenditure. PR agreed with the comments made, acknowledging that this was one of the biggest challenges. PR explained that this was the driver for local SEMH ARP provisions. PR stated that she did not believe DBV would fully solve all problems encountered but they were looking at the collective.</p> <p>DAm advised that he would find it beneficial if the appendices could detail what type of age range each provision covered. PR agreed to take this forward.</p> <p>JW invited SSF members, by a show of hands to vote on the proposals put forward.</p> <p>Following a vote SSF members RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To agree the proposed commissioned numbers for 2025/2026 in order for a submission to be made to the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by November 2024. - Agreed to receive updated reports in December 2024, should any changes be made to the number of placements presented. <p>MB joined the meeting.</p>	<p>PR (completed 17/10/24)</p>
<p>24/59</p>	<p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Place Planning – Projections 2024/2029 <p>SSF members welcomed AR to the meeting.</p> <p>AR presented the following presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Place Planning – Projections 2024/2029 (dated 17th September 2024) - Background <p>AR explained that Sunderland Council had a statutory duty to ensure there were sufficient school places to meet local needs and annual projections identified potential surpluses or deficits in local school places, to inform delivery of this duty.</p> <p>AR explained that primary school projects were calculated for a 5 year period and second school projections were calculated over a 7 year period.</p>	

- Primary Occupancy

AR explained that there were currently 21,133 pupils enrolled in the City's 24,437 mainstream primary school places, sharing that this represented an increase from 21,018 pupils on the 2023 Spring census. AR stated that despite Reception cohorts falling in recent years overall occupancy, of primary school places, had increased in the period 2021 to 2023. AR explained that the average increase within established years groups over this period was 2% but the Reception cohort was 2% lower in 2023 than 2021.

AR presented data detailing the individual year group pupil numbers from Reception to Year 6 from 2021 to 2024, highlighting that occupancy in Reception 2024 was 79%.

AR highlighted that year group numbers often increased (examplng Year 1 cohorts, in 2022, moved to Year 2 in 2023 and occupancy increased to 88%, from 86%).

- Secondary Occupancy

AR informed SSF members that there were 15,228 pupils enrolled in the City's 16,750 mainstream secondary school places in 2022/2023, which represented a marginal decrease, from 15,356 on the 2023 Spring census.

AR highlighted that the Year 7 cohort, in 2023, was 5% higher than in 2021, however stated that the trend of growth in already established year groups evidenced within primary schools was not replicated.

AR presented data detailing the individual year group pupils numbers from Year 7 to Year 11 from 2021 to 2024. AR highlighted the increase in year group numbers from Year 7 in 2022 (89%) to Year 8 in 2023 (90%).

- Increase in City Population

AR explained that the City population increase in year was largely due to migration.

SSF members were advised that the 2023 GP registration data demonstrated a greater than average year on year increase of new school aged pupils in the City. AR stated that 876 additional school aged pupils, with a Sunderland postcode, registered with a GP in 2023/2024.

AR explained that a lot of the increase was due to the growth around the City Centre, examplng that there was a huge demand for school places in the central area (examplng Hudson Road, Grangetown and Valley Road) so growth was being evidenced and growth was now picking up in smaller areas.

AR stated that historically Sunderland was quite insular in terms of asylum migration but it was now seeing more applications and

seeing less children moving out of the City for primary school placements. AR explained that this could be due to the fact that there were less secondary school placements.

AR presented data representing the increase in City population from age 2 to age 18.

JM noted that the data reflected an increase but explained that she would question if this was dependent on the children of overseas Sunderland University students. JM questioned if there was any migration patterns identified which would match the data presented. JM explained that she believed with the change in legislation the number of overseas students may drop. AR confirmed this statement and acknowledged that this fact may affect the data projections but explained that there was no "crystal ball" to calculate potential projections.

AR acknowledged that one of the issues being encountered was the lagging funding model currently in place, stating that this was not beneficial.

AR shared that he believed he would only be able to identify whether or not the change in legislation had impacted pupil numbers when the Summer census was completed but highlighted that high levels of deprivation also impacted.

AR reiterated that he was unable to make any projections against numbers going forward.

- Projections 2023

AR informed SSF members that school place projections were calculated using a range of data sets including:

- GP registration data
- School census data
- Housing release and planning data
- School place preference data
- Historical transition data

- Citywide Projections (Primary)

AR shared that projections indicated that numbers on role would decline in future years, with 1,261 fewer children in the primary sector by 2028/2029. AR exemplified that the 2028/2029 Reception cohort was projected to be 143 pupils lower than 2024/2025.

AR explained that the greatest projected fall was within the Washington area (with the total school population anticipated to be 13% lower in 2028/2029 than in 2024/2025). SSF members were advised that the smallest projected fall in roll was the Coalfields area, with a projected decline of 2%; the decline in Sunderland South was projected to be 4% and North 9%.

- Citywide Projections (Secondary)

	<p>AR explained that the Secondary roll numbers were projected to increase, by 5%, between 2024/2025 and 2027/2028, before falling, by 1%, in 2029/2030. AR shared that projections indicated that there would be 733 more children accessing a secondary school place within Sunderland based school in 2029/2030, than in 2023/2024. AR stated that the increased rolls were a consequence of the previous larger year groups transitioning from the primary sector to secondary.</p> <p>AR advised that only one area within Sunderland (Washington) was projected to have a fall in pupil numbers, stating that numbers were anticipated to be 2% lower in 2029/2030 than in 2024/2025.</p> <p>AR explained that there was a projected deficit in school places within the Coalfields area, from 2026/2027 to the end of the projection periods. SSF members were advised that Sunderland North and South were currently projected to have sufficient places across the planning area to meet potential demand.</p> <p>- The Great Unknowns</p> <p>AR highlighted that projections were based on current GP data, and historical average data and, should trend factors change (for example an increased requirement for school places from families seeking asylum or resettlement), this would impact on the accuracy of the data.</p> <p>AR explained that the projections also included an allocation of pupils for housing developments that have full planning permission, sharing that at the current time there were approximately 1,000 pre applications not included within the projections.</p> <p>AR highlighted that the projections incorporated the allocation of school places within calculation factors, but the increased supply of surplus places may lead to variations in travel patterns, which would impact on the accuracy of the allocations.</p> <p>AR stated that the projections presented were based on “worst case scenarios” and he believed there may be another 250 children through the planned new builds and migration.</p> <p>AR invited questions and SSF members confirmed they had no questions in relation to the information presented.</p> <p>SSF members thanked AR for the information presented and he withdrew from the meeting.</p>	
24/60	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>EHCP Top Up Banding Rate Proposals</u></p> <p>JW advised SSF members that ML would like to raise a further item of business in relation to the EHCP Top Up Banding Rate Proposal report, which was presented in July 2024.</p>	

ML explained that when above report was presented the proposal agreed was to increase all Top up Banding rates by 1.9%, in line with average overall budget increases to mainstream schools from April 2024, and also increase commission place funding for all special school places by 1.9%. ML stated that there was an assumption that the 1.9% uplift would be applied to all funding streams but it was being specifically applied to the banding rates. ML explained that there could be specific costs attached to cases and these costs had not been inflated and he would like the proposals to be revisited.

ML highlighted he was vocal within the meeting in relation to the top up funding increase and shared discussions with other colleagues had identified an understanding that the 1.9% increase could be across the board, to be fair and equitable.

DAm withdrew from the meeting.

JW explained that some elements of the top up funding was attached to EHC plans, and not banded, and these could be identified specific amounts. JW confirmed that there was an assumption that the 1.9% uplift would be applied.

JW stated that within specialist settings colleagues felt the 1.9% uplift was not beneficial for some resources, as a significant number of pupils had top up payments.

PR stated that she believed this was a complex issue which needed to be revisited in terms of cost implications. PR agreed to take this work forward.

PR

ML shared that he felt this identified a lesson to learn, in terms of ensuring future reports were explicit in relation to what components uplifts would be attached to.

School Funding

JH advised SSF members that TfC were in an unusual position in terms of the 2025/2026 School Fund, as no funding data had been received. JH explained that no APT information had been provided, which was used for modelling funding, and the DfE had stated that they were not proposing to release any information until after the October 2024 budget.

JH proposed that once the data/figures were received the Finance Team would implement a consultation process and feedback to the School Forum. SSF members agreed the proposal.

SSF members **RESOLVED:**

- To accept the proposal put forward for a consultation process to be implemented in relation to School Funding, prior to information being presented to the Sunderland Schools Forum.

	<p><u>Chief Executive Officer/Director of Children’s Services</u></p> <p>KR advised SSF members that following a recruitment process Simon Marshall had been appointed to the post of Chief Executive Officer/Director of Children’s Services. KR stated that a formal communication would be issued.</p> <p>SSF members extended their congratulations to SM on the appointment and KR agreed to forward this.</p> <p>MH questioned if a temporary Director of Education had been appointed. KR advised that they had not, explaining that the CEO appointment had only recently been made so the current arrangements would remain in place. KR explained that she, Pam Robertson or Richard Cullen, could be contacted for support in the interim period.</p>	
24/61	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 21st November 2024 8.30 am Venue: Meeting to be held virtually</p>	

Subject To Approval

Schools Forum Action Log

Date of Meeting	Agenda No	Request	Action	Responsible	Date of Completion	Remarks
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 - Standard Agenda Item
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	24/39	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		
19/09/2024	24/47	Feedback from Short Life Working Groups	DW to raise option for secondary schools to submit expressions of interest to open an SEMH ARP provision.	DW	Oct-24	Completed
17/10/2024	24/59	Reports for Discussions	Future commissioning reports to detail the age range of pupils for individual provisions.	PR	17/10/2024	Updated report circulated detailing the phases.
17/10/2024	24/61	Any Other Business	PR to visit the EHCP Top Up Banding Proposals, tabled in July 2024, in terms of the potential additional expenditure if the 1.9% uplift was implemented across the board.	PR	Nov-24	