

Schools Forum Agenda

Thursday, 10th December 2020

4.30 pm – 6.30 pm, Virtual - Microsoft Teams

For more information contact: janita.aubun@lewisham.gov.uk tel: 020 83147030

Item	Pages
1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies	
2. Declaration of Interests	
3. Minutes of the Meeting - 15 October 2020	1 - 11
4. Matters Arising	
5. DSG Funding Report 2021-22	12 - 18
Purpose of this report is to agree principles and approach to enable Lewisham to progress with work following the Financial Settlement due later this month.	
6. High Needs Block Update	
Standing Item to update Schools Forum on the position with regards High Needs Funding and Mitigation plan.	
7. Membership/Constitution	19 - 21
Discussion to consider the Schools Forum membership constitution reflecting Pupil Number update at Oct 2020, which includes the transfer of Sedgehill to Academy.	
The discussion will also review end dates for current members to ensure knowledge and expertise remain during period of transition towards new members.	
8. Verbal Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New requirements reminder - Staff salary over £100k/Benchmarking• Covid claim update	

9. Any Other Business

Future meetings

21st January 2021 (subject to change dependent on DfE timelines)

All meetings will be held between 16.30 and 18.30

Sub Group meetings

High Needs Sub Group
28 th January 2021

DRAFT

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th October 2020

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 9) ✓ = present ✕ = absent a = apologies
s = substitute

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		12/12	16/01	09/07	15/10	Date of Appointment
Paul Moriarty	Good Shepherd	a	a	✓	✕	Dec 2018
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
Sharon Lynch	St William of York	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
Keith Barr	Kender	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
Matthew Ringham	Our Lady & St Philip Neri	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
Nursery School Headteacher						
Nikki Oldhams	Clyde Nursery				✓	Oct 2020
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	July 2019
VACANT						
Mark Phillips	Deptford Green		✓	✓	✓	Jan 2020
VACANT						
Special School Headteacher						
Lynne Haines	Greenvale	a	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2018

Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2020
Primary School Governors						
Rosamund Clarke	Perrymount	a	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
VACANT						
Secondary & Special School Governors						
Pat Barber	Bonus Pastor	a	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2018
VACANT						
VACANT						
Academies						
Dr Tesca Bennett	Haberdashers' Knights Academy	✓	✓	✗	✓	Oct 2018
VACANT						
14-19 Consortium Rep						
Asfa Sohail	Lewisham Southwark College	a	✓	✓	✓	Mar 2019
Early Years – PVI						
VACANT						
Diocesan Authorities						
Sara Sanbrook-Davies	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	Dec 2019
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	a	✓	a	✓	Feb 2018

Lynne Haines	Forum Chair	✓	a	✓	✓	Oct 2017
Keith Barr	Forum Vice-Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2017

Also Present	
Angela Scattergood	
Mala Dadlani	
Dipesh Gajmer	
Pele Moaolorunduro	
Martin Cunningham	
Tony Marnham	
Dorte Newman	
Matthias Clarke	
Matt Ringham	

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting – 9 July 2020

Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None

Keith and Lynne voted in for new term dates; it is not clear when they started. Mala to review the recast of membership.

Q Pat Barber: What is term of office for the forum?

The purpose of the report was to provide updates received from the Department of Education since the last forum meeting - mainly reflecting the 2021/22 DSG funding.

Table 1, summarises this point.

2021/22, estimated using last year's data, this is called a partial settlement £/pupil; the final being announced in December 2020.

Growth fund. Forum agreed that all growth was added to the APT tool. Growth is paying for unexpected bulge classes. Growth funding is currently assumed at 2020/21 levels and so remains a risk.

Schools Block has provisionally increased by £14M, this is not new money per se, but mainly a streamline of existing funding. £9M is existing money (grants). The real uplift is about 2%.

Central services block funds services provided to schools - predominantly statutory requirements. We had a reduction of £700k last year and there is a further £500k reduction in next year's budget which is anticipated.

High Needs block. Potentially £5M increase in funding, however this includes approximately £500k of funding to cover existing grants e.g. Teachers Pay and Pension grants for Special schools and centrally employed teaching staff.

High Needs is under considerable pressure as mentioned in our last meeting. The pressure on the HNB continues to increase despite a mitigation plan progressing. The pressure is mainly in the FE sector.

Early Years block - we have not received any information on funding for EY to date. It is also not clear how the streamlining of grants will work for EY and we are seeking further clarity from the DfE.

Schools Forum should note that for Schools Block, Lewisham is one of the highest funded councils in the country, but one of the lowest funded inner London Boroughs.

Pupil premium -2020/21 to expect a small increase in funding/pupil for Pupil Premium, primary £25/pupil, secondary £20/pupil and looked after pupils at £4/pupil.

New grants received:-

Covid Catch-up grant premium, **one off** @ £1B. £650m to go to schools in 3 tranches adjusted to the October 2020 Census; we expect the last payment in summer 2021. The grant is paying £80/pupil in primary and secondary schools and £240/pupil special and PRU. This is an academic year grant so must be spent by end of Summer 2021.

National tutoring programme. This has been put in place to offer schools subsidised support to deliver the additional support to pupils where schools run the risk around the quality of provision. It is a DfE centrally procured service, but is subsidised by part of the overall Covid grant.

PE & Sports Grant - has been confirmed at same level as last year, this is pupil number driven.

Covid grant claim - confirmation that 21 schools claims have been approved, other schools who have claimed but not received any funding yet, will now have a first element paid to them, *but any funding over and above the standard 3 headings provided within the claim forms, will take another 6 weeks to confirm. (Schools Forum to note that we have now received an update to this which will be discussed at the meeting)*

Q, Nikki Oldhams: statement, maintained nurseries are not included in the above claims.
Mala, yes that is correct. The matter has been raised with the DfE, who are clear that they do not anticipate Nursery schools to be part of the Covid claims process.

Q Niall Hand, what enhanced % should schools be using for the November budget submission, to cover the grants moving to the ISB.

Mala, suggested that the two are kept separate. Assume funding for the grants to be similar to current levels, increasing/decreasing relative to pupil number movement.

Q Martin Cunningham, thanked Mala for bringing clarification, Niall has complication being an all through school and PFI, are you comfortable with the mix? Should we include PFI or leave it stagnant?

Mala, advised that the specific query can be dealt with outside of the meeting and the split between pupil driven and premises cost will be provided.

Schools Forum Noted the Following: Noted the content of the paper

6. Scheme for Financing Schools Updates

Each year the DfE provides revisions to the Scheme as appropriate. The report advises on the necessary changes. As the changes are prescriptive, a consultation is not required.

DfE has limited the changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools to the following this year:

The main 3 things are:

Schools must complete 3 yr budget planning from 2021/22; we do this already.

DfE require that a school prepare a deficit recovery plan before they go into a 5% deficit, this is measured at the end of each financial year. This will apply from March 2021.

RPA agreement, this is the Government form of insurance; a clause enabling LA schools to join if they wish to.

Mala confirmed a conversation with the council's insurance department. i.e. the schools who are currently buying insurance through the LA are in a contractual position which ends Dec 2021.

Schools wishing to leave would need to inform insurance before July 2021, when the insurance service will consider options for retender based on the number of schools in contract.

The RPA does not give clear information. It appears that figures given are for basic cover. The cost goes up to cover trips etc. which is not included. Schools will have to buy insurance separately to cover this, which could make the RPA offer less favourable.

The RPA and Lewisham Insurance offer are effectively two very different products. The Insurance team will join the forum meeting in January 2021. It is proposed that the insurance team will give a presentation on the council insurance offer.

Next stage would be for the lead officer, Karen Eaton, to attend Heads meetings e.g leadership meetings to provide q&a sessions. This would be over February and March 2021.

Schools would need to express their wishes to join Lewisham insurance or opt out by early June. The council will need to understand who is in scope to finalise the cover. Insurance will go to the market to secure the best deal.

Q Pat Barber, comment: she has investigated RPA and it was a lot more expensive

Pat's comment was noted and Mala agreed and stated that schools need to be careful and ensure that they get the cover that they need.

Q Nikki Oldhams, asked what the timeframe was for the update of the Scheme for Financing Schools?

Mala, the document is live, we just need time to update and publish it on our portal.

Schools Forum Noted the Following: Noted the content of the paper

7. Dedicated Schools Grant 2020/21

The purpose of this report was to update Schools Forum, with regards to the 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

At the July meeting Schools Forum was advised of a provisional £110k overspend. At that time we did not have the Early Years (EY) final funding. Following the finalisation of the EY data, this has resulted in a government claw back of £547k in the EY block, giving a final outturn £657k overspend. This will be a first call on this year funding in 2020/21 - to repay the deficit. We are already £2.3-4M overspent on the High Needs budget.

Since the April original data, of the EHCP's we have an increase of 45 children. Under 5s and Post-secondary give continuous pressures and this forms part of our mitigation plan.

The EY funding is provisional. It is based on the January 2020 and January 2021 pupil census data. The demand is uncertain, but providers are funded in line with anticipated take-up. In theory it shouldn't be a cost pressure as we should have less pupils to pay out.

Q No questions asked

Schools Forum Noted the Following: Noted the content of the paper

8. Schools Health Check

The report provides forum on an update based on the June budget plans. The report also updates with regards to further development work intended to strengthen the support provided to Lewisham schools.

Previously, there was insufficient engagement with schools. In agreement with Schools Forums request for more support, changes have been introduced over the last two years which have resulted in increased support to schools to help them improve their financial management.

This year RAG ratings have been introduced. The RAG ratings are to enable resource deployment to support schools. The RAG ratings are not for wider scrutiny or publication but to assist schools to consider working practices with finance and where suitable to engage in a voluntary process known as Deficit Prevention Plans.

We feel this is forward thinking, and feedback from schools has been very positive.

Q Sharon Lynch, add appreciation for the approach that Mala has taken, as a one form entry school, we do not have the capacity so we really appreciate the support, thank you Mala.

Q Rosamund Clarke, asked for clarification on the submission on spreadsheets, the blue column where it says DfE.

Mala, it is DfE guidance. We are looking at starting a benchmarking club later this year, and it will be based on local information. We are also doing a pilot test with a few schools.

Mala, - information is through contacts including the SRMA's; it is only a guideline. Benchmarking is only for guidance because every school is different but it can be used for meaningful discussion.

Q Mark Phillips, As long as it is for information. Clear curriculum planning and consistency through leadership cost. As a borough it would help if we had this and give more conducive comparison/analysis work.

Mala - Benchmarking will be extended to secondary schools and special schools

Schools Forum Noted the Following: Noted the content of the paper

9. High Needs Mitigation Plan.

Presentation on the actions currently being progressed as part of the mitigation plan.

Victoria Redgrave - as part of this forum, we were asked to draft a mitigation plan. This Sub officers working group for the High Needs block has 6 objectives:-

- CYP in the right provision. Clear, transparent and fair admission criteria across Lewisham

special schools that meets demand.

- Increase provision to meet growing demand. Reduce spend on OOB provision and pressure on HNB.
- Effective SEND sufficiency and place planning strategy.
- Provide clarity and indication of the cost to the LA of the future pressure on HNB. Details to support the LA strategy to reduce the overall spend on SEND provision and pressure on the HNB.
- Improve quality of provision and the SEND local offer, across the sector.
- Improve quality of inclusion and provision across Lewisham mainstream schools.

Timeline, written before the sad news of Claudia, so name may appear, Vicky apologised if this was the case, it is not intentional.

This is provision led, to fund young people and their needs. We are looking for the right support within the right areas, with one is transition. We have set up a pilot project for these children.

We are looking to potentially set up hubs looking at multiagency requirements, and capacity within the LA.

We are also looking at any increased resource provision, that they are placed correctly to provide positive outcome. We are meeting with schools who have expressed an interest in having a Resource Base.

SEND efficiency planning, we are looking to move pupils back into borough, and premises in current schools.

We are looking to review the early years Inclusion Fund, and for someone from the SEND advisory team to attend Children at Risk meetings as well as developing the education commissioner role to ensure we have full understanding of the SEND provision and pressures - and to make sure we develop expertise, ensuring value for money.

We are looking at ways to keep SEND pupils in borough and reduce sending people out to expensive provision that is no better.

We are looking to improve Lewisham inclusion policy - what does the provision look like? We are looking for the same quality from all settings. We want to be positively perceived.

Q Niall Hand, Thanks, really good document and it is appreciated. We can see a plan and ambition. Observation - looking at the number of special schools resources, have you compared Lewisham against neighbouring boroughs? Encourage schools to have more resource bases, looking at existing capacity, has any mapping been done?

Vicky - looked at capacity, we are currently at capacity. Looked at locality of pupils, flip side, schools put forward to have resource provision. We have not scoped on places comparing to other LA's, which is a good exercise to take up. Other factor, we have pretty high number of pupils with EHCP so again, may need to compare, looking at other LA's with equivalent EHCP's, I will look at it and report back.

Q Asfa Sohail, How do you plan to implement your provision to over 18's? what is expected from

me?

Vicky, we plan to book a meeting to talk to post 16 providers. We have presentations of pupils we would like to place. We are looking at individualised talks with providers to see how we meet the cohort's needs.

Mala - as Schools Forum, we need to recognise this partnership piece of work to secure the best outcome for pupils in exceptional challenging financial circumstances. There is a duty on the LA and Forum to deliver on SEN within the funding available.

Lynne Haines - if you are looking to extend the membership of the group, Martin Cunningham is happy to sit on the board. We need to make sure that we have got enough people and the right people.

Mala - it does need to expand. It is a small group, particularly if anyone is absent. Email forum to invite additional members. Process to support most vulnerable with limited funds available.

Lynne - there is currently limited representation for some groups of schools.

Vicky - that would be very helpful.

Lynne - want to see how many forum members would like to join.

Mala - not exclusive to forum; the group is commissioned by the forum. Use offers for recruitment drive.

Martin Cunningham and Mark Phillips to be added to High Needs working Group.

10. Verbal Updates.

- Schools Meals Catering Contract

Fiona, Lewisham will need to consider tender of the School Meals Contract. This is expected to take place, at the end of the year or early next year, to commence 1st August.

Pat Barber - will schools be involved with the tender?

Fiona, we will ask schools if they want to join, it will be a weekly commitment through November. It is a scoped process and we welcome thoughts and impact.

Sharon Lynch, how many schools will they be catering for? Can anyone join?
Second question, should the surplus go back to the schools? Will it not go back at the end of the contract?

Fiona - surplus is used to reduce future costs. An additional cost of Covid of £500k, but we will still have an approximate £1.3M surplus. There will be a balance going back to schools and we can do some calculations/ forecast.

Sharon Lynch that would be helpful.

Sharon Lynch, How many schools do you think will go into the contract?

Fiona - don't know, we are waiting for full governors meeting. Willing to attend any governors meeting. Happy to discuss if anyone wants to join, and happy to shape going in and out of the contract if anyone wants to.

Lynne - shame that some schools have dropped out.

Mala, we are aware some schools are looking at options outside this, but we need to make sure that they follow the rules for contract tendering within Lewisham and also European legislation. Some of the processes are not contracts but expression of interest.

If LA has more schools, we have a stronger hand to get a better price. The goal post will change.

Fiona - schools need to be mindful how external contractors lay out how they are collecting FSM. It can look as though the meals are free when they are not. You have to pay for free school meals. Happy to go through contracts even if they are not part of the Lewisham contracts.

Sharon, - thank you, we do appreciate this. Wish we were here a year ago; we have to live with what we have committed to.

Fiona, happy to review and do comparisons.

Lynne - really helpful.

- RPA

Already discussed.

11. Any Other Business.

Mala, Just a gentle reminder regarding the New Heads meetings next week

This is to meet our team and to find out how we support new heads.

Membership for schools forum needs to be revisited once we have final pupil data from October 2020 Census, including Academy schools.

Future meetings

10th December 2020

21st January 2021 (subject to change dependent on DfE timelines)

All meetings will be held between 16.30 and 18.30

Sub Group meetings

High Needs Sub Group
3 rd December 2020
28 th January 2021

Agenda Item 5



Schools Forum

Report title: Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22

Date: 10th December 2020

Key decision: No.

Item number: 5

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to agree the principle and approach for the 2021/22 schools funding – Authority Proforma Tool (APT) submission to the DfE

Schools Forum is asked to agree guiding principles including

- 1 *Continuation with the National Funding Formula in the deployment of the Schools Block*
- 2 *Agree to any growth funding to be included on the APT tool, with a minimal amount in the Growth Fund Budget to fund incremental support for bulge class and potentially any unplanned in-year growth/bulges.*
- 3 *De-delegation to be in line with the current basis plus inflation*
- 4 *De-delegation –agree to receive a detailed report for consideration on functions previously supported by the Education Services Grant.*
- 5 *Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) – consider two options for MFG*
 - A *MFG set at max 2% (estimate), with any residue to support pressures in HNB.*
 - B *0.5% transfer from Schools Block, followed by MFG set at affordability*

Schools forum is also asked to note the continuation of financial risk associated with High Needs (demand led) and Early Years Funding (lack of clarity arising from COVID-related estimations in payment terms and funding receivable).

Schools forum is also asked to note and agree to receive further updates as more information is made available at the January meeting and the summer meeting.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

At the time of writing, a partial DSG settlement has been advised by the DfE, which was the main matter for discussion at the last schools forum meeting.

The final settlement is due just ahead of Christmas, with a submission to the DfE due 21st January 2021.

The December meeting is commonly used for discussion between the Local Authority and Schools forum to agree the approach to facilitate the finalisation of the APT submission.

January 18th a further meeting of Schools forum to support the submission of the APT tool to the DfE

The January schools forum meeting will also be used to further consider the High Needs Recovery Plan (potentially a submission to the DfE)

&

January meeting – any updates on “Term Time Only” review.

Summary

- 1 Main focus of this report will be for schools forum to consider and agree main components of the funding formula that will enable Lewisham Council to provide a draft funding formula (known as the APT tool) to the Department for Education (DfE) in January.
- 2 Please note the will further provide update on various risks including
 - High Needs Block
 - Early Years Funding
- 3 Term Time Only potential financial risk

Background

- 4 Schools Forum will be aware that each Local Authority is required to submit their agreed Local Schools Funding Formula to the DfE by the **21st January** 2021 (primary and secondary).
- 5 The deadline for producing this information is very challenging as the financial settlement is unlikely to be known until around 22nd December 2020. For this reason, there could potentially be a delay to the reports dispatch process although every effort will be taken to meet the required timescales. [Schools Forum to note](#)
- 6 The APT tool submission is mainly based on the Schools Block, however the Local Authority is responsible for ensuring overall affordability across the whole DSG.
- 7 Schools Forum will be aware that the APT modelling tool is provided by the DfE. The tool is largely a prepopulated data modelling tool.
- 8 Using the APT tool, the LA determines each school's budget share and associated Minimum Funding Guarantee. The MFG is based on overall affordability and is expected

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Page 13

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to be minimum 0.5% to a maximum 2% per pupil uplift (based on pupil led characteristics e.g AWPU, Free School Meals etc).

- 9 Once the APT is submitted it remains provisional until the DfE has undertaken validation and approved the submission for accuracy and compliance.
- 10 Special Schools are funded based on their operating model of places and top up. Funding for Special Schools is from the High Needs Block and is not part of the APT reconciliation. There will need to be some consideration at the January forum report with regards to the allocation of the Teachers' pension and pay grant for specialist provisions. At the time of writing we do not have the detailed information.
- 11 Equally nursery schools, PVI's and the early years component for primary schools are funded from the Early Years Block and are not part of the APT tool process. No information has been received with regards EY funding. The January report will provide update based on the funding settlement.
- 12 There is a legal requirement for all schools to be advised of their budget share by the end of February 2021. It is at this point schools will be formally advised of their delegated budget share.
- 13 This report will aim to gain the necessary mandate to enable officers to provide schools forum with final funding information to enable both the above deadlines to be met.

DSG 2021/22

- 14 Schools forum was advised of the partial settlement for 2020/21 at their meeting in October 2020. Schools forum will recall that for 2021/22, the teachers' pension and pay award grants are expected to be streamlined into the DSG. It is anticipated that the final allocation to schools will clearly separate the aspects for the main delegated budget share and the streamlining of grants to enable comparisons.

Proposed application of the Schools Block

- 15 **Alignment to the National Funding Formula** - Continue to progress with the Principles of the National Funding Formula in full. This includes using all funding values as determined by the DfE. [Schools Forum to agree \(Primary and Secondary\)](#)
- 16 **Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) uplift** –the DfE requirement is that all schools will receive an uplift of between 0.5% and 2.00%. Subject to affordability it is proposed that the formula will endeavour to deliver on or as close to the 2%. [Schools Forum to agree \(Primary and Secondary\)](#)

De-Delegation

- 17 The DfE guidance enables Local Authorities to provide services centrally which are funded by a process known as de-delegation. This only applies to mainstream schools and not academies. As such funding levels agreed will reduce should any school convert following finalisation of the budget process.
- 18 The de-delegation process **must be agreed every year** and supported (by means of voting) by the representative of each phase at Schools Forums. The proposal for 2019/20 delegation are in line with the current de-delegation levels. It is proposed that de-delegation

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continues in line with current levels plus 2% uplift where indicated and supports the following:

- A Administration of Free School Meals (£59K plus 2%) = £60k
- B Trade union and non-sickness supply scheme (Maternity Fund) (£1.1m plus 2%), = £1.122
- C School Improvement –to support the work of the Lewisham Learning Partnership. (£300k)
- D **Schools Contingency** – to support costs that should not be reasonably incurred by a governing body. (£557k). Please note that Schools Forum has agreed a two year finance support package, 2021/22 will be the second year of this funding.
[Schools Forum to agree \(Primary and Secondary\)](#)

19 **Consideration of De-delegation to support previous functions funded from the Education Services Grant.**

Schools forum will be aware that the historically the Department for Education supported LA with a unringfenced grant called the Education Services Grant. The grant was significantly reduced, yet the services have continued to be provided and supported mainly from the General Fund

Across the country councils have a different approach to financing these functions. Some LA include this as part of the de-delegation process

[Schools Forum is asked to agree to receive a detailed paper at the January Budget Setting meeting to consider the appropriateness of considering de-delegation to support core functions.](#)

Overall duty to ensure spending is within DSG

- 20 The [Dedicated Schools Grant \(DSG\): conditions of grant 2020 to 2021 paragraph 5.2](#), requires that any local authority (LA) with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of 2019 to 2020 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.
- 21 The DfE provides a very detailed and comprehensive return to be completed.
- 22 Schools Forum will be aware that Lewisham has raised concerns around the ability to deliver SEN provision within the funding allocated. As previously stated this position is not unique to Lewisham and has been discussed at various government forums including Parliament. In recognition of the challenges, the DfE has given additional resources towards high needs. Unfortunately, the funding coupled with the increase in demand (activity/price) is more than the funding given. Schools Forum will also be aware that a mitigation plan is in place, led by the SEN team. Again there is a challenge between the pace at which the mitigation plan is embedded against the increasing demands, which has been exacerbated by COVID.
- 23 To put this into context, the table below shows the increase in EHCP since April of this year

Phase - EHCPs	Under 5s	Primary	Secondary	Post-secondary	Grand Total
2020/21 April	57	985	903	775	2720
2020/21 November	78	937	960	937	2912
Increase on Baseline Numbers	21	-48	57	162	192
Increase on Baseline %	36.8%	-4.9%	6.3%	20.9%	7.1%

- 24 Schools Forum will note that the greatest area of increase is post-secondary. At this stage further exploratory work is being undertaken to understand why, however it is anticipated that there are many reasons for this increasing
- Limited job opportunities in the current climate so young people want to stay in education longer
 - Greater awareness that EHCP plans are supported to 0-25
 - Greater learning opportunities for young people with EHCP
- 25 The current projected overspend for 2020/21 is now expected to be in the region of £4m to £6m.
- 26 Whilst we note an increase in funding for 2021/22 (potentially £5m) this will not be sufficient to finance the overspend from 2020/21.
- 27 As with any funding allocations, there is a requirement to spend within the allocation. This report (and previous reports to Schools Forum) have highlighted pressures arising from a combination of demand, type of need and cost pressures (including inflation/supply and demand/ overall growth). Whilst it is noted that the funding for next year is expected to increase by circa £5m, we anticipate demand/cost drivers to potentially exceed this figure. Schools forum is asked to support in principle the transfer of 0.5% towards the high needs block. Lewisham is expected to progress towards a formal recovery plan with the DfE and this would support some aspect of the solution. It is anticipated that the additional 0.5% circa £1m will enable the mitigation plan to embed. If this request is not supported, then part of the mitigation plan will require a review of discretionary versus statutory services including potentially reduction in spend falling on preventative measures. It is re-emphasised that the obligation and solutions to spend within the budget allocation is a joint responsibility on Lewisham Council and schools forum. It should be further noted that it is not prohibited for the General Fund to subsidise this grant.

Transfer request of 0.5% to support the High Needs Block

- 28 Schools Forum is asked to consider a potential transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs for 2021/22.
- 29 To enable this consideration it is proposed that two options are put to schools forum
- APT using full funding
 - impact of transfer of 0.5%
- 30 Schools Forum will recall that in 2020/21, the funding was sufficient to meet the maximum 1.84% increase, with a residue of £400k.
- 31 Under the regulations, a consultation with all schools is required. Schools forum is asked to agree that Lewisham undertakes this brief consultation with schools to be

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considered alongside the holistic DSG funding issue. Schools Forum to agree (Primary and Secondary)

EXTRACT FROM DfE GUIDANCE

1. Subject to the paragraphs below, local authorities must not allocate money designated in the DSG settlement tables as schools block to items of spend other than budget shares for mainstream primary and secondary schools (excluding funding for nursery classes and for places reserved for pupils with special educational needs), or money retained centrally for growth in schools, as defined in paragraphs [4] to [7] of Schedule 2 to the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020.
2. Local authorities may allocate up to 0.5% of money designated as school block to other items with the consent of the schools forum.
3. Local authorities must consult with all local maintained schools and academies if they propose to allocate schools block money to other items. The schools forum must take into account the outcome of that consultation before deciding whether to give their consent.
4. The local authority can apply to the Secretary of State for permission to allocate schools block money to other items if they do not secure the consent of the schools forum as above, or if they wish to allocate more of the schools block money to other items than would be permitted under point 2. In the case of the Secretary of State giving such permission, this may be for all or part of the sum requested by the local authority and may be given subject to conditions.

Early Years Funding

- 32 At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the Provisional Early Years Settlement. Early Years is always a complex area to determine as it is demand led and paid on 3 termly counts, yet funding is received on the two January count dates.
- 33 For the current year this process is more complex due to COVID. Early Years attendance numbers have been clearly down as a consequence of COVID, coupled with the DfE attempt at providing necessary protection to EY providers. The extract below from the DfE suggests that the autumn payment will be based on January 2020 and the Spring Payment on January 2021. (Normally Autumn and Spring would be on 2021). There remains an expectation that providers are funded on numbers had COVID not been in place! **Schools Forum to note a potential risk.**

Funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to local authorities in the autumn term 2020

The normal process for determining funding allocations for local authorities for the early years entitlements is to take an annual census count of the number of hours taken up by children in each local authority in January. This is the mid-point of the academic year and so balances the relatively lower numbers eligible for the free entitlements in the autumn term and the higher numbers in the summer term. This means that local authorities would in normal circumstances be paid for the autumn term 2020 based on the January 2021 census data.

We recognise that the number of children attending childcare may not have returned to normal levels by early January, when we take the January 2021 census. In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the final funding allocation to local authorities for the 2020 autumn term will therefore exceptionally be based on their January 2020 census count

Funding from local authorities to early years providers in the autumn term 2020

From the start of the autumn term 2020, local authorities should continue to fund providers which are open at broadly the levels they would have expected to see in the 2020 autumn term had there been no coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. They should also continue to fund providers which have been advised to close, or left with no option but to close, due to public health reasons. Local authorities should not fund providers which are closed, without public health reason, from the start of the autumn term.

Is this report easy to understand?

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Page 17

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The intention is to fund on the basis of 'as if autumn term 2020 were happening normally'. In order to do this, local authorities might, for example, use the numbers of children in places in the previous autumn to inform funding levels this autumn. This means that if a local authority is aware of particular changes in catchment demographics that would have impacted local demand (for example, a big increase in family housing in an area), they should take that into account. Local authorities should be transparent in the approach they take.

“Term Time Only” –review

- 34 Schools Forum will be aware that there is currently ongoing discussions on the subject of “term time only”. In a number of LAs, it was noted that an error in calculation has resulted in underpayment of holiday pay. Each LA is in a different stage of this discussion. Lewisham is currently in discussion with various partners including trade unions. Until the matter is concluded there remains a risk which may or may not have financial implications for schools. Schools Forum is asked to continue to note this risk and to agree to receive regular updates over the next series of meetings.

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Agenda Item 7

Current			
	Total	filled	Vacant
Primary Heads	5	5	0
Primary School Governors	2	1	1
Secondary Heads	4	2	2
Secondary School Governors	2	1	1
Academy Representatives	2	1	1
Total	15	10	5
Special School Head	1	1	0
Special School Governor	1	0	1
PRU Head	1	1	0
Nursery School Head	1	1	0
Early Years – PVI Representative	1	0	1
Diocesan Authority Representatives	2	2	0
14-19 Consortium Representative	1	1	0
Total	23	16	7

5 x Primary Heads
 2 x Primary School Governors (includes 1 vacancy)
 4 x Secondary Heads (Head leaving this term plus 1 academy conversion)
 2 x Secondary School Governors (includes 1 vacancy)
 2 x Academy Representatives (includes 1 vacancy)

1 x Special School Head
 1 x Special School Governor
 1 x PRU Head
 1 x Nursery School Head (on Sabbatical) term of office expires October 2021
 1 x Early Years – PVI Representative (now vacant – existing term of office expires)
 2 x Diocesan Authority Representatives
 1 x 14-19 Consortium Representative

Pupils				
Census20				
	20	%	members	%
Total Pupils	35666	1.00	15	1.0
Primary	22051	0.62	9.27	0.6
Secondary	8406	0.24	3.54	0.2
Academy	5209	0.15	2.19	0.1

	Oct-19	
15	36121	-455
9	21081	970
4	9631	-1225
2	5409	-200

15
 2408.039

December Forum

	Total	filled	Vacant	change
Primary Heads	7	5	2	2
Primary School Governors	2	1	1	0
Secondary Heads	2	2	0	-2
Secondary School Governors	2	1	1	0
Academy Representatives	2	1	1	0
Total	15	10	5	0
Special School Head	1	1	1	
Special School Governor	1	1	0	
PRU Head	1	1	0	
Nursery School Head	1	1	0	
Early Years – PVI Representative	1	0	1	
Diocesan Authority Representatives	2	2	0	
14-19 Consortium Representative	1	1	1	
Total	23	17	8	

Schools Forum Members – Dates of Appointment

Name	Position	Month/Year
Pat Barber	Secondary School Governor	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Rosamund Clarke	Primary School Governor	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Paul Moriarty	Primary Head	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Keith Barr	Primary Head	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Sharon Lynch	Primary Head	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Manda George	Primary Head	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Matthew Ringham	Primary Head	Dec 2018 – Dec 2021
Mark Phillips	Secondary Head	Jan 2020 – Jan 2023
Naill Hand	Secondary Head	July 2019 – July 2022
Lynne Haines	Special Head	Oct 2018 – Oct 2021
Nikki Oldhams	Nursery School Head	Oct 2020 – Oct 2023
Heather Johnston	PRU	Dec 2020 – Dec 2023
Dr Tesca Bennett	Academies	Oct 2018 – Oct 2021
Asfa Sohail	14-19 Consortium	Mar 2019 – Mar 2022
Yvonne Epale	Diocesan Authority	Feb 2018 – Feb 2021
Sara Sanbrook-Davies	Diocesan Authority	Dec 2019 – Dec 2022

Forum agreed that the term of office for all members is 3 years.

notes

Lynne Haines

***Chair**

***Oct 2017**

Keith Barr

***Vice-Chair**

***Oct 2017**

***forum agreed that Chair and Vice-Chair terms of office will expire in line with their regular membership duration i.e. Chair will expire October 2021 and Vice-Chair will expire December 2021.**