

# Decision Sheet Schools Forum

Tuesday, 19th January 2021  
**4.30 pm – 6.30pm**, Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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Item	Pages
1. <b>Decisions of Forum Meeting 19th January 2021</b> Summary of key decisions made at Schools Forum.	1 - 2

## Dates of Future Meetings

To be arranged

All meetings 16.30 to 18.30

Report Reference	Page reference	Report Title	Purpose of Document	Recommendation	Schools Forum Decision
Item 1		<b>Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies</b>	Note any apologies		Apologies accepted.
Item 2		<b>Declaration of interests</b>			None declared.
Item 3	1 to 8	<b>Draft Minutes of the Meeting 10.12.20</b>	For accuracy		No corrections.
Item 4		<b>Matters arising</b>			No Matters arising.
Item 5	9 - 17	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 - Final Announcement</b>	This report is primarily for information and provides high level information on the DSG 2021/22 funding settlement. Very limited information is available on Early Years, with marginal increases in funding for 3 & 4 year olds and 2 year olds. The application of these marginal increases is included in tables 7 and 8 for agreement with Schools Forum.	Schools forum is asked to approve the distribution of the 3 and 4 year old funding in line with the table 7 below, which enables the 95% pass-through rate to be met and enables a prudent hold back of the 6p which equates in total to £213k, i.e. to contingency. Schools forum is asked to approve the allocation of the additional 8p for 2 year olds as outlined below in table 8, split between contingency and inclusion fund. Schools forum to note the change in count dates. Currently Pupil Premium is based on January Census dates. It is not clear what (if any) impact there will be on an individual schools' allocation. At this stage, it is not clear if there will be any transitional support should there be any significant changes in arising from change in methodology.	Agreed & Noted.
Item 6	18 - 27	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 - Schools Block</b>	This report provides an exemplification of the schools funding formula, based on the NFF values incorporating the 2% uplift. This forms the basis of the APT for Schools Form to approve for submission to the DfE on 21st January 2021. The report also seeks forum's guidance on the application of the remaining settlement after the maximum distribution from the funding formula. The report also confirms the de-delegation levels based on principles agreed in December.	Schools forum is asked to note and approve the APT, based on the National Funding Formula and 2% uplift (see Appendix A for exemplification) for submission to the DfE on the 21st January 2021. Schools Forum is asked to support the transfer to the High Needs Block for 2021/22 up to the 0.5% allowable by the DfE (£1.068m). Schools forum is asked to note the information provided on the de-delegation levels as it has been previously agreed. Falling roles and growth fund allocations agreed in principal and for inclusion in the APT - Agreed a further paper to Forum to discuss the outcomes of the proposal for Falling rolls and Growth. Also noted that the end of year reserve position would be a consideration of any potential allocations. Noted that as the funding is "one-off" and following discussions with the DfE, the options of usage are limited in line with Statutory Guidance and DfE advice.	Noted & Agreed
Item 7	28 - 34	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 - High Needs Block</b>	This report considers the pressure on the High Needs Block and the requirement to progress towards a recovery plan with the Department for Education (DfE). The report notes the work progressing on the mitigation plan, however the pace and associated costs of the increasing number of Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) continues to place a financial burden on the High Needs Block Report to be considered alongside the Schools funding report item 6.	Schools Forum is asked to note the pressures on the High Needs Block and the potential requirement (subject to the outturn for 2020/21), of a Management Action Plan. The LA has progressed a mitigation plan which will form the basis of the Management Action Plan to the DfE should that become necessary and in line with the forecast budget position. See above report on Schools block - approving the transfer of £1.068m	Considered & Noted

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Agenda Item 1

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Item 8	35 - 44	<b>Education Services Grant (ESG), DSG and Central School Services Block</b>	Following agreement from the Schools Forum at their meeting on the 10th December 2020, this report considers the options in relation to the support of the services previously supported by the Education Services Grant (ESG) which are now partially financed by the General Fund and partially from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB).	Report was presented to Schools Forum to enable a discussion on the funding for statutory services. The discussion notes reduction in the CSSB in 2020/21 £775k with further reductions of circa £600k in 2021/22 and thereafter, more. Background was discussed including the cessation of the ESG grant 2016/17 worth £3m. Noted the cost arising from the cessation was transferred to a combination of General Fund (which itself is now under pressure) and the CSSB. Agreed a more detailed report was required with the request for an extraordinary meeting of the Schools Forum in March/April.	Noted - agreed for an extraordinary meeting of the SF to discuss options
Item 9	45 - 55	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant - 2021/22 - Early Years Block</b>	1 Provides information on the application of the 5% central retention of the early entitlement funding block for 2021/22. (report as requested by Schools forum). 2 Notes the current arrangements for inclusion funding. 3 Seeks agreement to a change to the existing arrangements to ensure we are following current statutory expectations and to ensure equity and transparency across the Early Years Sector.	The Schools Forum is asked to: . Note the arrangements for the utilisation of the Early Years Funding Block 5% central retention. . Note the arrangements for Inclusion Funding and points 2.5 & 2.6 relating to work going forward. . Agree to the change in payment method as outlined in section 3 of this report with implementation from the next academic year Sept 2021.	Noted & Agreed.
Item 10	56 - 67	<b>Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA)</b>	Following consultation regarding extending the academies risk protection arrangement to local authority maintained schools, 'Ministerial approval was given and changes to the School and Early Years Finance regulations have been put in train to allow for the RPA to operate for LAMS (local authority maintained schools) from 1 April 2020.'	A report was provided outlining the RPA scheme and noting key timelines. Forum noted that the Insurance service would be commencing the procurement of the next insurance contract from June. For this reason, it was important that schools informed the Insurance section of their intention to stay with the Lewisham Insurance scheme or intention to exit before the 1st June 2021. The insurance service will be attending various headteacher and bursar sessions over the next few months to provide an opportunity for schools to receive a detailed presentation with opportunity for Q&A.	Noted.
Item 11		<b>Verbal Updates:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Term Time Only</li> <li>- Covid Grant Claims</li> </ul>	<u>Term Time Only</u> - Anne Gibson provided an update which included noting that payroll will be updated to effect amendments from 1st April 2021 - schools to note and budget accordingly. Ongoing discussions continuing with Trade Unions. Appropriate for Headteacher representation at TU meetings. KB, MP and LH will be joining the working group. <u>Covid Grant Claims</u> - Schools Forum Vice-Chair to circulate draft letter to Secretary of State for Education.	Discussed & Noted. Agreed that KB, LH and MP will be part of the meetings with trade unions.
		<b>AOB</b>			