

Schools Forum Agenda

Thursday, 19th October 2023

4.30 pm – 6.30pm , Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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

Item	Pages
1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies	
Member resignation	
Miz Mann – Academy Rep.	
2. Declaration of Interests	
3. Election of Chair	
Nominations and vote.	
4. Election of Vice Chair	
Nominations and vote.	
5. Minutes of the Meeting 29 June 2023	1 - 8
6. Matters Arising	
7. Lewisham School Place Planning	9 – 18
Head of Business Infrastructure, Compliance and Education Operations to provide an update on place planning. This will be in the form of a presentation, for which slides are attached.	
8. High Needs Working Group Update	
Verbal update at Forum following on from the High Needs Working Group meeting held on 11 October 2023, plus DBV (sessions held with Newton on 9 th and 10 th October).	
9. Application of Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block	19 - 23

The report provides options for consideration by Schools forum to agree the method for targeted allocations using the quality factor.

10. Early Years - Pressure on Inclusion Fund **24 - 34**

The report notes the continuing pressure on the inclusion fund arising from demand - with short term and longer term proposals.

11. DSG Update Including 2022/23 Final Early Years Position, 2023/24 Updated DSG & Headline Information 2024/25 **35 - 69**

Report provides forum detailed information on DSG for each of 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. The report also seeks agreement from Schools Forum on the application of £800k funding from 2022/23 (Early Years Block).

12. Any Other Business

FSM Auto enrolment update – verbal update

Future meetings

14 December 2023

18 January 2024 (provisional date, subject to DfE)

All meetings will be held between 16.30 and 18.30 virtually

Sub Group meetings

<p>High Needs Sub Group</p>

<p>7 December 2023</p>

<p>11 January 2024</p>

LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2023

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

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		15/ 12	19/ 01	01/ 02	29/ 06	Date of Appointment
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	✓	a	✓	Jan 2022
Sharon Lynch	St William of York	✓	✓	✕	✓	Jan 2022
Julie Loffstadt	Kilmorie	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Matthew Ringham	Our Lady & St Philip Neri	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	✓	✕	✓	Jan 2021
VACANT	PRIMARY SCHOOL					
Nursery School Headteacher						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery	a	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
Michael Sullivan	Forest Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
Special School Headteacher						
Lynne Haines	Greenvale	a	a	✓	✓	Dec 2021
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✕	✕	Jan 2023
Primary School Governors						
Daniel Meyer	St Bartholomews	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Peter Fidel	Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Federation	✓	✕	✓	✓	June 2021
Secondary & Special School Governors						
Pat Barber	Bonus Pastor	✓	✓	✓	a	Jan 2022

Andy Rothery	Leathersellers Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Academies						
Miz Mann	STEP Academy Trust	a	a	✓	a	Oct 2021
Ann Butcher	Childeric	✓	✓	✓	✓	June 2021
14-19 Consortium Rep						
Gerard Garvey	Lewisham Southwark College	x	x	x	x	June 2022
Early Years – PVI						
Melanie Simpson	The Village Montessori			a	✓	Jan 2023
Diocesan Authorities						
VACANT	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)					
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	a	✓	a	x	May 2021

Observers/Others in attendance		
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
Director of Education Services	Angela Scattergood	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
LB Lewisham - Head of Assurance	Rich Clarke	
LB Lewisham – Head of Early Years	Nikki Sealy	
LB Lewisham - Estates	Fiona Gavin	
LB Lewisham - SEND	Reinhild Onuoha	
Governor – Rushey Green School	Rachel Hope	
Governor – Rushey Green School	Daisy Hooper	
Leathersellers Federation	Tony Marnham	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies/ Welcome new members/Member Resignations

Apologies accepted from Pat Barber (Secondary Governor) and Miz Mann (Academies).

New member welcomed: Melanie Simpson (PVI – Early Years sector).

Resignations: Matthew Ringham (Forum Chair/ Primary Headteacher) and Lynne Haines (Special Headteacher).

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of Meeting 19 January 2023

Minutes all agreed as accurate. No amendments.

4. Minutes of Meeting 01 February 2023

Agenda Item 3 – PFI Consultation

Noted that two forum members (With PFI Factor in formula), requested that the minutes are updated to reflect a level of ambiguity in the outcome of the “desire of schools towards change. LA have noted this comment but however, state that the changes implemented, had been unanimously agreed by the headteachers of the PFI schools as part of the pre Forum discussions. The areas changed specifically around the all-through schools, SEN funding and ensuring that all schools received some funding - these were the changes agreed with Heads and implemented.

5. Matters Arising

Reminded of the request at January forum for review of the Quality Factor. This is work in progress from Nikki Sealy, Head of Early Years.

6. Schools Forum Work Plan 2023/24

This lays down the dates of future meetings including HNSG.
Forum to make a note of the dates of the meetings and the fact that the January 2024 meeting date is dependent on DfE APT response date.

7. Schools Audit 2022/23 – Overall Summary Report

Mala introduced the subject of School Audit to clarify that a positive outcome in an Audit does not mean:-

- the school is in a strong financial position
or
- that the audit is providing a view on competency of finance staff in school

Audit in schools, is more focused around controls and process – Head of Assurance would provide detail around audit.

Report shared by Head of Assurance.

Noted: Internal audit has been brought back in-house. Changes to testing programme include full results - not only exceptions. Every school in the 2022/23 programme received a positive assurance and all schools were invited to provide feedback on their audit process. Audit will make initial contact with schools who are part of the 2023/24 programme, to discuss logistics.

Discussion on mandatory training for new Headteachers with regards finance, with the view to extend this to existing Heads as well, in the autumn i.e. shortly after October half-term. Forum supported this idea.

8. Early Years Entitlements Expansion to 2025

Report shared by Head of Early Years Quality & Sufficiency.

Forum informed that by September 2025, working parents of all children over the age of nine months will be entitled to 30 hours of early years education. To be rolled out in 3 phases: -i.e.

- From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access 15 hours.
- From September 2024, 15 hours early years education will be extended to all children of working parents from age of 9 months till when they start reception.
- From September 2025, working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours childcare per week.

Parents will have to apply.

Expectation is that extended school care (wrap around care), will be offered to all families. The Government are setting up a pathfinder to consider the challenges this will bring about.

Early Years team are to arrange Headteacher and SBM briefings once they have absolute information from the DfE, including if any funding is made available and information regarding changes in rates.

9. Mayor of London – Universal Free School Meals

Slides shared for information.

Noted the scheme is for 1 year with the expectation that it will be extended, but no indication of funding, if it extends beyond 1 year.

Anticipated extra 20 – 30% take up of FSM, KS2. Funding will be based on assumed maximum 90% take-up. No longer any clawback. Schools who exceed the 90% take-up, will have to evidence their claim.

Some concern was noted if the £2.65 per meal would be sufficient, however recognising that schools would be funded at 90% of non free school meals pupils – some risk may be mitigated.

Any additional funds needed to purchase additional equipment, schools can contact Fiona Gavin's team for possible assistance, but schools are expected to absorb some of the costs.

Parents may decline applying for FSM because of the existing UIFSM at KS1. This is to the detriment of school's finances. For every child that does not register, a school can lose in the region of £3k.

LA will explore options for auto enrolment to mitigate risk.

Forum raised what are the GDPR implications in asking for NI number and dob to assist in deciding how their child's school meal will be delivered.

Suggested that the Household Support Fund is heavily promoted as an incentive, because of the voucher provision during the school holidays.

Regarding topping up of the grant, there should be no expectations for contributions from parents. Principle is that it is a free meal. Up to schools to consider any decision and the governing body need to undertake any reasonable risk and equality impact if considering this.

UIFSM allowance has been increased from £2.41 to £2.53.

10. High Needs Mitigations & Delivering Better Value – Update

Presentation from the Head of Integrated SEND Service, with updated slides to be sent to members after the meeting.

Noted additional resource bases in Lewisham mainstream schools, e.g. Forster Park, Edmund Waller Primary School. Aiming to open a new resource base at Launcelot Primary School in January 2024, following consultation and Mayor & Cabinet approval.

Expansion in special schools. Tighter monitoring in relation to independent Special out of borough placements. SEN team conducting termly review of banding for children in special schools.

Delivering Better Value (DBV)

Lewisham are part of the DBV programme; we are now in tranche 3.

National and London benchmarking has identified the continued increase in new EHCPs. Lewisham currently lower than the national average, but still the numbers are of concern. SEN team are looking to undertake a pilot scheme for a year (at an additional cost), to incentivise inclusive practice in our schools.

Increase in number of children placed in Lewisham mainstream special school provisions across the board, which is a positive.

Recommendation:-

To support schools who are more inclusive and have more than 5% of learners with EHCP's. Cost of this scheme is expected to be circa £700k. We anticipate this will also have a favourable impact on the transport budget as children can stay in borough. Implementation date to be from Sept 2023, based on October 2022 census. Applies currently to primary & secondary schools, including academies, and will be reviewed after one year.

A concern was raised by a nursery school representative as to whether this proposal would exclude nursery schools from the pilot. Head of SEN to liaise with nursery schools.

Action:-

- Majority agreement in favour. 14 agreed, 1 abstained.

11. Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 Including Schools Balances Position

Schools forum noted:-

This is a **provisional** 2022/23 DSG outturn because the Early Years budget is confirmed retrospectively (await January pupil census data) - this is expected to be confirmed July /August 2023 – forum will be updated as appropriate.

High Needs Block continues to overspend although the pace of the overspend appears to be stabilising. This would be linked to work progressing on the mitigation plan.

Continuing pressure on the Central Services Schools Block as the funding continues to reduce by 20% year on year. This is being presently managed partially by management action and support from the general fund.

With regards to the schools surplus/deficit position – overall the number of schools in deficit has increased to 21.

Total surplus balance position has reduced from 2021/22 to 2022/23, biggest reduction is in the primary sector @ 41%.

Mala advised Forum that their remains concern at the number of budget plans that appear either too optimistic (risk is school going into deficit). Or alternatively too pessimistic, again a risk with some schools continuing to build surpluses.

LA as stated in the February budget setting letter, will be writing to the COG with a view of the budget plans submitted including any requirements for DRP/DPP based on the June budget plans submitted. This is to formally ensure accountability for setting budgets, remains at the Governing Board level.

Observer questioned, how we might redistribute large surplus balances throughout the borough. Can we consider? Position is that Forum agreed several years ago that there will be no clawback mechanism, as such the Local Authority does not have clawback mandate at present. In the event clawback was to be considered (balance control mechanism), a full consultation would be required with discussion and approval from school's forum.

12. Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24 and Update on Other Specific Grants

Forum provided with update on the 2023/24 DSG, noting the continuing pressure on the CSSB and the High Needs Budgets. Informed that High needs has 5% increase in funding but Lewisham has in fact received circa 3%, because there are many schools who are net losers.

Confirmed grants for 2023/24:-

- Pupil premium 2023/24,
- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG),
- National Tutoring Programme (NTP),
- Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)
- Universal Infant free school meals (UIFSM).

For most schools MSAG was correct. For some schools there was movement in FSM6 -which generated small variations against figures exemplified.

Regarding the teachers' pay award, the pay review body assumes that schools be able to afford circa 4.5%. Note our salary estimator tool factors in 5% estimated affordability. At this present time, we do not know if the DfE will award additional funding.

Regarding non-teacher pay, no pay award 2023/24 has been agreed. If agreed, it will be backdated to April.

Reminder that schools must continue to review their budget plans to capture on going changes.

Forum requested summary bullet points on this discussion to be taken back to Primary and Secondary Consultative Heads – this was agreed.

13. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Updates Towards Hard Formula – Plus PFI Consultation

Discussion around the following:-

Risk surrounding growth fund as not confirmed.

As it stands the DfE are looking to consider PFI as a hard formula. Engagement with schools will be required shortly after the summer holidays. Transitional protection – how long should this be? Should any extra money released, be added to the lump sum or the

targeted element? Or do we change the collaboration of the formula with Forum agreement?

Officers ask that all PFI schools have sight of this paper in advance – to be shared at Secondary Heads Consultative.

Schools forum was asked to:

- note the Movement of the split sites and Growth Fund to hard formula from 2024/25.
- agree to the further consultation with schools (who receive PFI factor) from September to end of October. The outcome of this to be reported to schools forum for inclusion in the 2024/25 funding formula.

Action:-

- All noted and agreed.

14. Any Other Business

Noted the following:-

Schools Forum Constitution

Some potential changes taking place arising from schools converting to academy status. Review of constitution likely following October Census and agreed conversion dates.

Election of Chair

This will be the first agenda item for the Autumn Schools Forum meeting. Manda George is happy to self-nominate as Chair going forward and is equally happy to remain as Vice-Chair. Interested members can contact Manda/Matthew for further details about the role if they wish.

Forum thanked Matthew Ringham for all his hard work as Schools Forum Chair.

Forum also wished Lynne Haines, Special School Headteacher, a very happy retirement.

Future Meetings

19 October 2023

14 December 2023

18 January 2024 (provisional date, subject to DfE)

All Schools Forum meetings continue to be held between 16:30-18:30 and remain virtual, unless advised otherwise.

Sub Group meetings

<u>High Needs Sub Group</u>
11 October 2023
7 December 2023
11 January 2024

Schools Forum Action Summary

Item	Action to be taken	Officer(s) responsible	Outcome/Current position
8 – AOB Schools forum 15 December 2022	Cost of living crisis - to lobby at National Level. Letter currently being written and will be presented to the forum for approval.	All headteachers	Outstanding
5 – Summary of the Schools Funding Settlement 2023/24, Schools Forum 19 January 2023	Head of Early Years to provide a paper on distribution of early years funding relating to quality factor – for forum approval.	Nikki Sealy	Outstanding
7 - Schools Audit 2022/23 – Overall Summary Report – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	Plan for mandatory training for new Headteachers, with the view to extend this to existing Heads as well; in the Autumn i.e. shortly after October half-term. (good financial management in schools)	Mala Dadlani	Pending (November)
10 – High Needs Mitigations & Delivering Better Value Update – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	Updated slides to be sent to members after the meeting which incorporate amendments regarding recent central census and school census data.	Reinhild Onuoha	Outstanding
12 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24 and Update on Other Specific Grants – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	Forum requested summary bullet points on this discussion to be taken back to Primary and Secondary Consultative Heads – this was agreed.	Mala Dadlani	Completed - Slides Oct 12 th with Headteachers
13 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Updates Towards Hard Formula – Plus PFI Consultation – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	The outcome of the further consultation with schools (who receive PFI factor) from September to end October, this is to be reported to Schools Forum for inclusion in the 2024/25 funding formula.	Mala Dadlani/Niall Hand	Pending
14 – AOB – Schools Forum Constitution – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	To check and review in relation to academies.	Mala Dadlani	December 2023 Forum
AOB – Election of Forum Chair – Schools Forum 29 June 2023	Election of Schools Forum Chair at next meeting.	Members	October 2023 Forum

Lewisham School Place Planning

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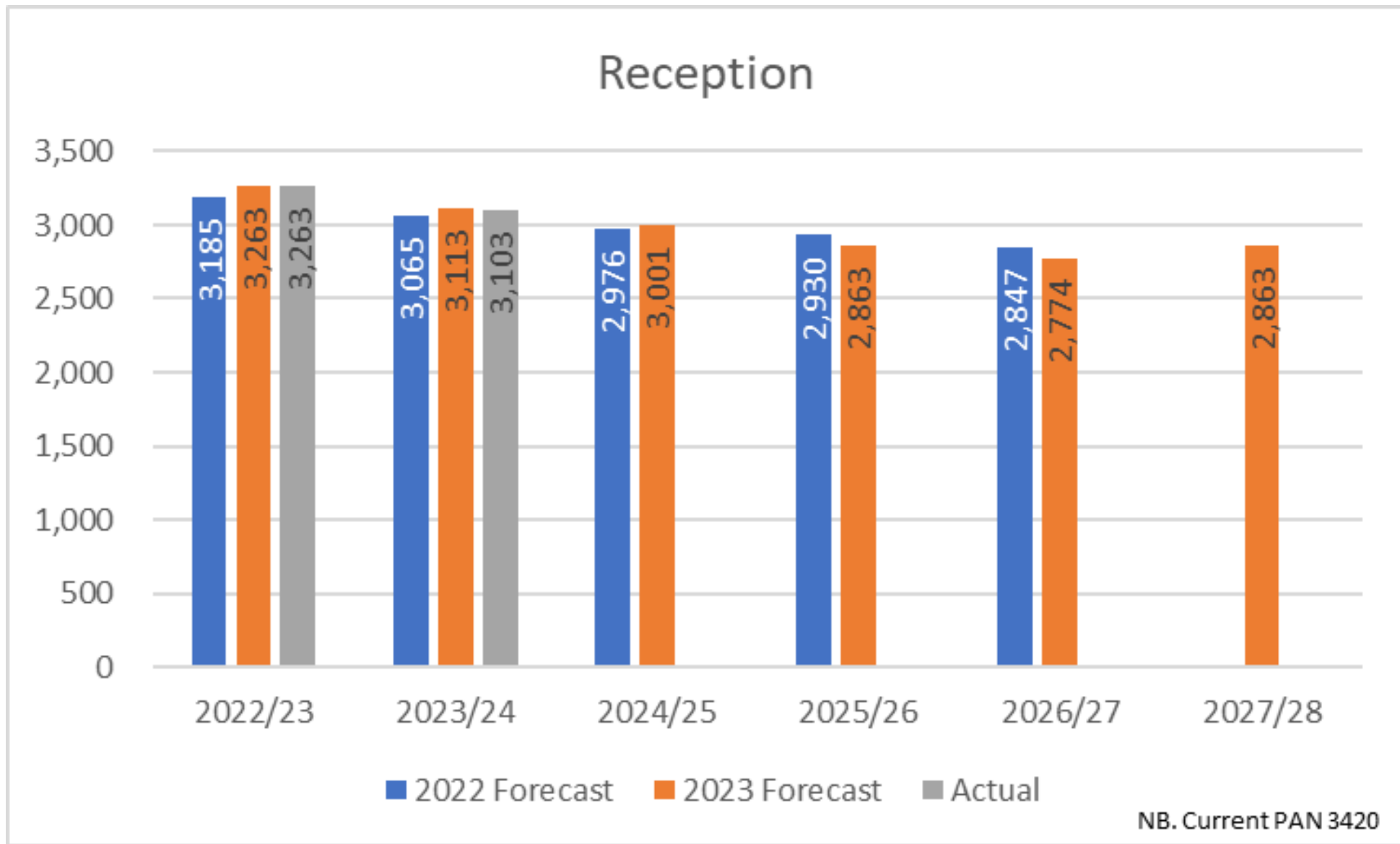
Schools Forum – 19 October 2023

Agenda Item 7

School Place Planning

Headlines - Primary

- 2023 forecasting predicts a slight increase in numbers compared to previous for the next couple of years. This is driven by the higher than expected numbers for the past 2 years. 2022 actuals were 78 pupils higher than forecast.
- Since 2018 we have taken circa 600 reception places out of the system. But moving forward there is still more work to do.
- Data from the Councils School Admissions Module (SAM) for this years intake shows that the revised forecasting is pretty accurate, with 3103 on role as of 5 October 2023 (versus 3113 forecast). Expectation are that the Autumn Census should be very similar.
- Bearing this in mind, the current plan of reductions by 1-2FE per year will continue.

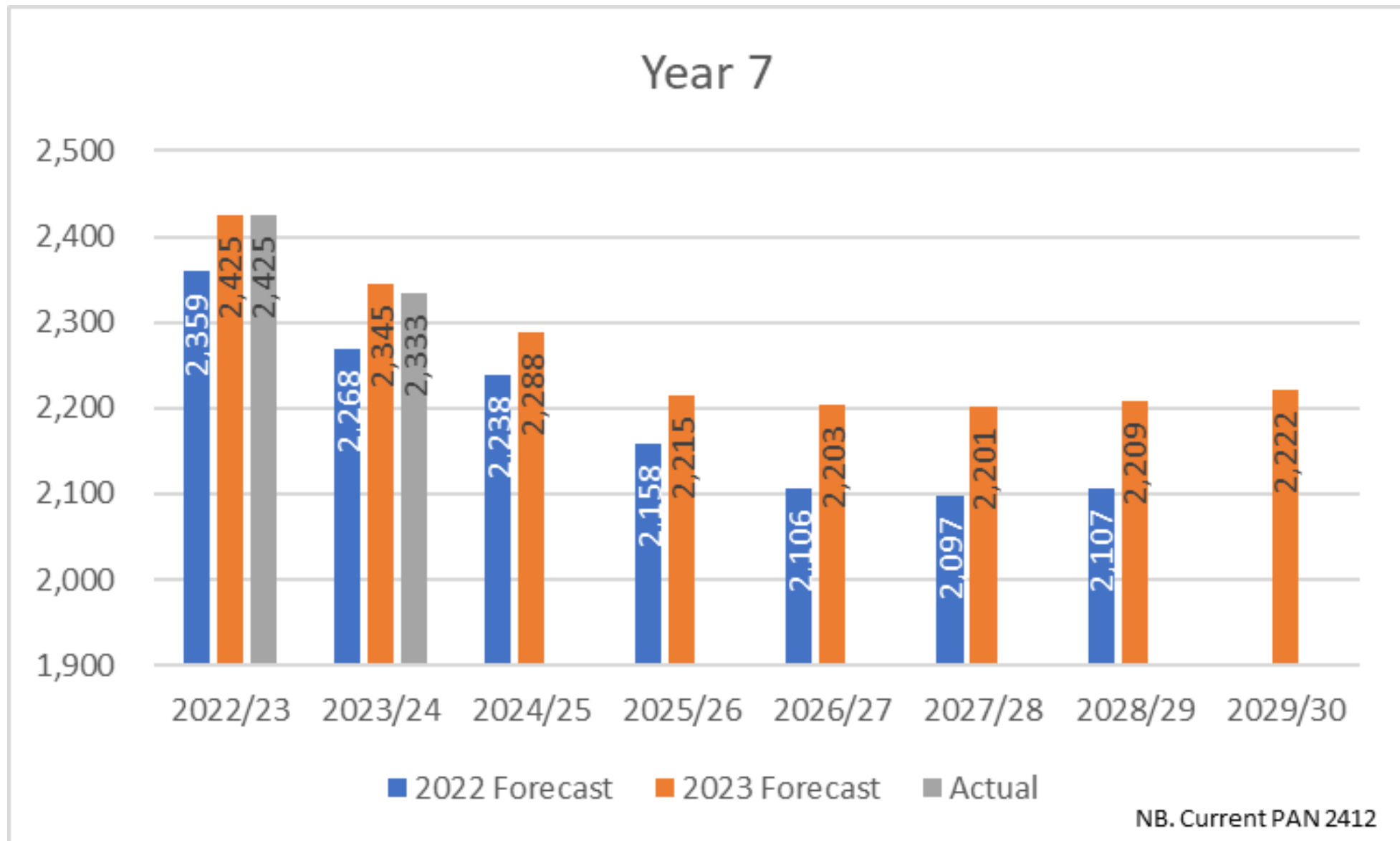


Actions

- Short term – Caps in place in for this academic year 2023/24.
Conversations with schools regarding further actions once Reception rolls known.
- Medium term – Continue working with schools to consider the possibility of in-year Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) applications for Published Admissions Number (PAN) reductions dependent upon application numbers, where appropriate.
Expectations continue to be that we need to reduce numbers by approximately 1-2FE per year either via PAN reduction or capping.

Headlines - Secondary

- Following an increase in applications for 2022/23 which resulted in over-offering at undersubscribed schools we saw a similar pattern for 2023 whereby we over-offered in a number of schools again.
- The highpoint for the primary bulges coming through was in 2022/23, so this is showing that typically Lewisham schools are becoming more popular. The Year 7 cohort in 2022/23 was 66 higher than forecast.
- Data from SAM suggests that the new forecasting is pretty accurate with 2,333 on role as at 5 October 2023 versus a forecast of 2,345
- Current primary year group numbers are relatively consistent with cohorts around 3300 so there should be a steady number of pupils coming through to Year 7 moving forwards.



Mainstream Forecasting - Secondary

Actions

- Continuing discussions via Secondary Heads regarding future over-offering if needed.

Reminder of options for Reducing Numbers

LA Allocations Cap

- Can vary across year groups
- Not an official reduction in PAN, so cannot override parental choice
- Can be put in place at any point, and removed at any point

In year PAN reduction

- Only applies to that years 'entry'
- Requires an application to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator
- Needs clear evidence that demand not there
- Decision is not ours
- Takes up to 8 weeks post submission

Options for Reducing Numbers (*cont.*)

Determined Admissions Arrangements PAN reduction

- Next determined admissions arrangements consultation due to start October 2023 for 2025 entry (for community schools)
- Will be a permanent change in PAN
- Decision taken by the Mayor and Cabinet in February 2024

NB – all decisions need input from Governing Body

Any queries please contact Matt.Henaughan@lewisham.gov.uk

0208 314 3321

Wider work on Strategy

- The School Place Planning and Admissions Forum have set up a task and finish group to look at how we go about dealing with over and under-supply of places.
- First meeting has taken place and a new draft set of over-arching principles has been developed for further discussion.
- Once agreed we will share with Heads and GBs for further discussion and agreement.



Schools Forum

Report title: Application of Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block

Date: 19th October 2023

Key decision: Yes

Item number: 9

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to approve the application of the quality factor which is £372k.

The operational guide for early years released by the DfE on December 2022 states the following:

“We encourage local authorities to use the quality supplement [one of the supplements to funding, LAs are allowed to include in local formulas] to distribute the additional funding they will receive because of the mainstreaming of the teachers’ pay and pension grants.”

“As with all other supplements it is for local authorities to determine the appropriate metric for allocating funding. However, we would encourage local authorities to consider the purpose for which the grants were originally introduced when designing their approach”.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

In January Schools Forum agreed for officers to recommend options for consideration on the distribution of the funding on “Quality based factor linked to teachers”. This had been due to come back to Forum in June, but was delayed due to a number of factors, including the announcement of the extension to the early entitlements in March 23.

A data collection exercise has been undertaken, which has provided 3 options for consideration to determine those providers that should receive a quality factor and the value of that factor.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The main focus of this report is requesting Schools Forum to consider and agree one of the three options for the allocation of the quality factor of the early years funding block.

2. Background

- 2.1. Each Local Authority (LA) is required to make a decision about how the quality factor is distributed across the sector.
- 2.2. From April 2023, for all early year’s settings, the TPECG and TPG has been rolled into the EYNFF for 23-24 which is administered by LAs and includes all such funding for academies. It no longer exists as a separate grant.
- 2.3. The operational guide for early years released by the DfE on December 2022 states the following:

“We encourage local authorities to use the quality supplement [one of the supplements to funding, LAs are allowed to include in local formulas] to distribute the additional funding they will receive because of the mainstreaming of the teachers’ pay and pension grants.”
- 2.4. The total amount allocated to Lewisham to cover this grant is 372K.
- 2.5. Over the summer term research was carried out internally based on the methodology to be used and informed by January 2023 EY census data.
- 2.6. In addition 8 neighbouring local authorities across London were consulted. There was also desk top research carried out with other local authorities nationally, mainly in the north of the country.
- 2.7. The outcome of this research establishes three options, that are most in line with what other Local authorities have utilised.

3. Option 1

- 3.1. Following a survey of early years providers across the sector it was established that there are qualified teachers or those with Early Years Teacher Status in the following ratios.

Nursery Schools	2
Primary Schools with Nursery Classes	51
PVIs	64
TOTAL number of settings with a teacher	117

- 3.2. If the total funding of £372,000. is divided up by the number of providers with a qualified teacher (117), it equates to an allocation to each provider of £3,179.
- 3.3. This is a straightforward option that targets those providers with teaching staff and acknowledges the increased salary costs of those employees.
- 3.4. It is intended to be a contribution and not meet total cost.

4. Option 2

- 4.1. To take this approach a step further and to target in even more detail, we could consider providers weighted by the number of children on role in each setting.
- 4.2. We would need to establish the number of children on role in each individual setting with a teacher, at the time of the EY and School Census in January 23.
- 4.3. The total number of children would then be divided by the total amount of funding available. As an example if we based numbers on 3,000 children. The total amount of £372,000 would be divided by 3,000 which gives a total of funding for each child of £124.
- 4.4. This amount would then be multiplied by the number of children on role in each setting in January 23 and allocated individually.
- 4.5. Whilst this is the most targeted, it is also the most complicated and time consuming, and will delay allocation to providers.
- 4.6. It also assumes that the number of teachers increases with the number of children on role which is not the case.

5. Option 3

- 5.1. The third option is to recognise that additional money in a setting, benefits children. If we want to reach as many children as possible, we could choose to allocate a one-off payment to all providers who provide early entitlement funding equally.

5.2. This option focusses on distributing funding across the largest number of children possible. It would need to be divided amongst:-

Nursery Schools	2	
Primary Schools with nursery classes	51	
PVI's	135	
Childminders Registered for EE funding*	60	
TOTAL number of providers	246	indicative

5.3. In this example, we would divide 372,000 by 246, which would give a total amount allocated to each provider of approx. £1,500.

5.4. This is the simplest and most straightforward option to implement, however it does not target those providers who have the additional costs associated with higher qualified staff.

5.5. It also does not recognise that each organisation will have different numbers of children on role.

6. Summary

6.1. Of the local authorities consulted, half had paid it as a quality supplement to those providers who employed a QTS or EYPS, in order to recognise the higher costs associated with employing more highly qualified staff, and as a consequence the impact on quality.

6.2. The other half distributed it as a supplement to all early years providers under the rationale that the supplement would benefit the greatest number of children.

6.3. Of the 6 local authorities reviewed nationally, all had agreed to add the quality factor to the base rate and pass it through to all providers.

6.4. There is a significant body of evidence demonstrating that where high qualified staff are employed, outcomes for children are better.

6.5. Funding on this basis would mean that providers judged to be less than good would receive the same amount of funding as a good or outstanding provider.

7. Recommendation

7.1. Whilst both option 1 and 2 both recognise the intention of providers to employ high quality staff that have spent time to extend and supplement their qualifications.

7.2. Option 1 is straightforward to implement and provides a one off payment as a contribution to costs.

7.3. It can be executed quickly and the formula used is simple and will avoid confusion.

8. Financial implications

8.1. There are no significant financial implications of this report.

9. Legal implications

9.1. There are no significant legal implications of this report.

10. Equalities implications

10.1. There are no direct EI implications arising from this report as it complies with the implementation of the EYNFF which itself would have been through the EI assessment.

11. Climate change and environmental implications

11.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications of this report.

12. Crime and disorder implications

12.1. There are no crime and disorder implications of this report.

13. Health and wellbeing implications

13.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications.

14. Report authors and contact

Nikki Sealy Head of Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Service
nikki.sealy@lewisham.gov.uk

Mala Dadlani Strategic Business Partner – CYP,
mala.dadlani@lewisham.gov.uk

Agenda Item 10



Schools Forum

Report title: Pressure on Inclusion Fund

Date: 19th October 2023

Key decision: Yes

Item number: 10

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to make schools forum aware of the current pressure on the Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund and to highlight some of the considerations for review.

The report notes the increased pressure on the Early Years inclusion fund as a consequence of the reasons stated in this report.

Schools Forum will further note:

- A 2023/24 Early Years Block was finalised in August, however the provisional budget set was predicated on the draft settlement in December. Based on rising demand, there is now a projected deficit of £200k.
- B The report sets out future mitigations, however, the funding gap of £200k needs to be resolved.
- C Schools Forum further notes the change in practice of the inclusion fund to reflect the rising demand within the financial constraints.
- D Schools forum also notes that a post implementation review would be appropriate of the proposed changes, recognising any local offer must remain within the financial consideration.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

Since April 2017, when holding a SEN inclusion fund (SENIF) became a statutory duty for local authorities, inclusion funding has seen a steady increase in applications each term.

There has been a significant increase post pandemic. In autumn 2019, **195** applications were submitted. In autumn 2022, **339** applications were made. This represents a **74%** increase.

This has created additional pressure on the fund which is now facing an overspend. There is also a need to review the process to avoid this happening in the future.

Purpose of Inclusion Funding.

- 1.1. All local authorities are required to hold an inclusion fund in their local funding systems for 3 and 4year olds with SEND, taking the free entitlement. The purpose of the fund is to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN. SENIF is meant to cater for 'emerging needs' and should assist with preventing escalation of needs, e.g. *preventing a young child from requiring statutory support*
- 1.2. LA's across the country have varying models of delivery of the inclusion fund. Some are part EY funding block and part high needs block, some have much higher levels of funding and some are significantly less. Some pay an hourly rate for a certain number of hours.
- 1.3. We have chosen not to pay as an hourly rate to deter from the first use of the funding being to simply employ additional adults. Our application criteria is on a similar premise to most London LAs.

2. Funding

- 2.1 The inclusion fund is funded by retaining 2.69% from 3& 4 yr. old hourly rate and 7.58% from two-year-old hourly rate.
- 2.2 The annual allocation of the Early Years Funding block is determined by the January EY census and figures for the last 2 years are shown below.

Early Years funding	2023-24				2022-23			
	3&4 yo	2 yo	Other	Total	3&4 yo	2 yo	Other	Total
Inclusion Fund	575,728	211,312	0	787,040	565,244	193,549	0	758,793
Contingency	372,530	63,023	0	435,553	386,838	59,554	1	446,393
2 Year Old Entitlement	0	2,513,497	0	2,513,497	0	2,303,980	0	2,303,980
3 & 4 Year Old Entitlement - Quality factor	372,530	0	0	372,530	0	0	0	0
3 & 4 Year Old Entitlement	18,287,846	0	0	18,287,846	18,186,724	0	0	18,186,724
Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Team	1,049,858	0	0	1,049,858	1,047,468	0	0	1,047,468
Disability Access Fund	0	0	124,200	124,200	0	0	105,600	105,600
Early Years Pupil Premium	0	0	91,581	91,581	0	0	99,180	99,180
3 & 4 Year Old Supplement	0	0	403,469	403,469	0	0	407,984	407,984
Deprivation	778,927	0	0	778,927	763,079	0	0	763,079
	21,437,419	2,787,832	619,250	24,844,501	20,949,353	2,557,083	612,765	24,119,201

- 2.3 However within this context, and for the longer term we should also consider the extension of the EE Starting in April 24 which will increase numbers as more children will be eligible, initially under 2 yr old entitlement for working parents, and then from 9 months in Sept 24.

3. Who Funding is intended for

- 3.1 The SEN inclusion fund is for 3- and 4-year-olds who are taking up free entitlement and have emerging SEN.
- 3.2 Inclusion funding is sometimes provided for a child who is in the term before their 3rd birthday.
- 3.3 Inclusion funding is granted where existing provision /resources have been optimised and other non-financial support including specialist advice has been sought and implemented. Where despite taking relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet need the expected progress has not been made, SENIF might be considered for the period a child remains in nursery provision. Which could be for up to 6 terms, if it has been provided for a child as a rising 3 yr old (*i.e. still 2 yrs old*) and that child has significant and identified needs.
- 3.4 More generally it would be provided for up to 5 terms for a child for whom an application is made in the term following their 3rd birthday until they then move to reception.
- 3.5 We would usually expect and advise a setting that has made 3 terms of applications for a child to be requesting EHCNA – this would be evidence that despite setting utilising all resources available, the child had not made sufficient progress.

4. Current Context

- 4.1 The SEN Inclusion fund is expected to overspend for the year 2023-24 by £200,000. against the provisional budget of £787,040. if we continue our existing pathway using the current process and application criteria which has been in line with other boroughs.
- 4.2 It is worth noting however they have all since reviewed and removed any age and developmental levels criteria, and now use a variety of evidence based models. This is what we are proposing in order that we remain in line with other authorities across London.
- 4.3 For the interim period until the end of this financial year, a decision needs to be made to mitigate for the risk of significant predicted overspend due to high demand under the current criteria.

5. SENIF and the High Needs Block.

- 5.1 LBL's aim is to use SENIF to target children with lower level or emerging SEN. However we have seen a significant increase in the number of children presenting with significant additional needs.
- 5.2 Children with very highest level of complex needs or disability and those granted an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continue to be eligible to receive funding via the high needs block of the DSG
- 5.3 Typically, **55%** of applications are made by maintained nursery classes (MNC) and nursery schools (MNS), **45%** by PVI providers
 - **57%** of MNC and MNS apply for inclusion funding
 - **27%** of PVIs apply for inclusion funding

6. Why has demand increased?

- 6.1 Impact of pandemic. More children meet the current assessment criteria of a delay of 12 months +
- 6.2 School budgets reducing – less staff to support with additional needs in a responsive approach. Nursery schools and nursery classes have reduced staffing so seek other sources of funding to secure SEN support in early years, previously the school may have met need through own resources.
- 6.3 PVI workforce issue, staffing very stretched and agency costs expensive - In order for settings to remain sustainable they seek funding to support with this

to enable a child to access a place. Otherwise they may just refuse to accommodate the child.

- 6.4 We have to work in partnership with commercial entities, we have no power to direct to admit. There is a significant and widely acknowledged gap in workforce – lack of suitably qualified staff. This results in providers needing to source staff to provide additional adult support/enhance legal ratios of adults to children, from agencies which have increased prices.

7. Current Criteria

- 7.1 Either; a 3 or 4 year old accessing the early entitlement (*15 hours universal childcare or 30 hours extended entitlement*) **or** a two year old child that turns 3 during the term of application.
- 7.2 The setting provides additional SEN support which is **above** what would be provided for **all** children
- 7.3 Assessments of the child, demonstrate a delay of **more than 12 months** in **two or more** areas of learning
- 7.4 All criteria has to be met in order to qualify

8. Outcomes

- 8.1 There is no specific data available in regard to outcomes and attainment, other than assessment descriptors provided by practitioners; this is mainly due to the changes to the EYFS and the focus on the reduction of paperwork. The indication however is that most children made progress as a result of the funding. Before agreeing to repeat funding each application is reviewed and assessed as to whether what inclusion funding has been used for is meeting the child's needs as identified by the provider.
- 8.2 There is currently no capacity within the service to do this. This would form part of one of the roles we are in the process of presenting to fund via a review of the service to support the expansion of the early entitlements. This would either be funded from the implementation grant expected from the DfE or some underspend of last years EYB.
- 8.3 An outcome of inclusion funding/additional financial support will often be that EHCNA is identified and requested, or child transitions to school successfully or it could be indicated by EYFSP attainment?
- 8.4 Last year approx. 500 children accessed inclusion funding. This is made up of

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a core cohort of 350 applying in Autumn term and then repeat funded over the year, plus around 70 new applications for both spring and summer terms

8.5 The percentage of children accessing inclusion funding with higher level of needs (e.g. *minimum 24 month plus delay*) indicating an EHCP may be issued if requested or where an EHCP is already in process, is around **60%**.

8.6 Going forward impact could be measured in the number/percentage of children with SEND attaining GLD?

2022-2023 data will be available in November

2021-2022

National

- SEN support GLD 22.9%
- EHCP GLD 3.6%

Lewisham

- SEN support GLD 27%
- EHCP GLD 4%

9. Immediate need and options:

9.1 Resolving the issue for the rest of this financial year (Autumn and Spring Terms), consider the following options:

	OPTION	Impact	Risk
A	Do nothing applying current criteria - continue as is.	Budget will be overspent by approx. £200,000.	The assumption that providers continue to apply as have done in previous years. The assumption that the needs of children are not increasing.

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B	Restrict/limit number of agreed applications.	Budget will stay on track.	Providers working with 100-150 (35%) children not able to access funding. We would take the approach of being more robust with the criteria applications and aim to refuse approx. 35% of applications. This would have an impact on the number of children who can be supported and potentially the settings ability to be able to continue to provide a place for that child. See description below.
C	Increase budget/top up budget.	Budget will stay on track. All providers making successful applications meeting current criteria able to access funding.	Capacity to continue to top-up budget. This would need to be funded either from contingency and/or DAF underspend. Or last years EY carry forward.

Options

A Continue as usual. The remaining budget is: £ 427,040 for autumn and spring terms. With approximately 350 applications being submitted per term, if agreed is likely to mean budget will be overspent by £195,306. The table below shows the number of applications received against the last 3 years. It can be seen that the number of applications has increased year on year. It should be noted that in 2021 a large number of children were funded into their reception class as they had not received support or funding whilst in nursery due to Covid. This year all applications have been for nursery aged children. Autumn 22 was closer to Summer 21. Applications jumped in Spring 23.

Summer 2020	Autumn 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Autumn 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Autumn 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
62	234	241	308	526	365	350	339	402	352

B. Restrict spending. If we use draft OAP document as a benchmark for the criteria to be met and settings have to evidence working above that. This approach uses the current criteria with a more robust benchmark than previously used. This will lead to reduction in the number of applications being made and in applications being agreed. As this is a mitigation and not a

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fundamental change of process we should not need to consult with stakeholders.

C. Increase/top-up budget as short-term measure for remaining 2 terms of financial year. Use the time to review, consult and change access to inclusion funding for 2024-2025 financial year.

9.2 If inclusion funding criteria and process remain as is, we will continue to pay out approx. £360,000. per term from a termly pot of £262,346 which is approx. £ 97,603. over budget per term.

9.3 This increased spending was covered last financial year by using DAF underspend and previous years (*pandemic impact*) carry forward, of the inclusion fund.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 At present budget allocation is broadly steady with previous years (inclusion fund is derived as a percentage holdback of the EY hour rate circa 2.7% of 3 and 4 year old funding and 7.6% of 2 year old funding). Main issues has been that demand has increased.

10.2 The budget allocation for 2023-24 has been confirmed at £787,040 which is an increase on last year.

10.3 Spend for last financial year 2022-2023 was £920k against a budget of £758k – the overspend was managed within other areas of underspend in the EY block.

10.4 2023/24 Early Years Block was finalised in August, however the provisional budget set was predicated on the draft settlement in December. Based on rising demand, there is now a projected deficit of £200k.

10.5 This is the second year where pressure has outstripped funding - the report sets out future mitigations to enable demand to be within budget.

10.6 With regards 2023/24, there is an expected the funding gap of £200k needs to be resolved. There are two options:

- Overspend from 2023/24 is carried into 2024/25 –which would mean the inclusion funding for 2024/25, is extremely limited – **this is not recommended.**
- Schools forum agrees the use of the 2023/24 carry forward to support inclusion fund for 2023/24.

Schools Forum further notes the change in practice of the inclusion fund to reflect the rising demand within the financial constraints.

11. Going Forward

11.1 In light of the new extended early entitlements that will begin in April 2024 and will continue implementation through to September 2025, we will need to do a broader piece of work that re-designs the process and purpose of the SENIF to ensure that we are meeting need in the best way possible. This is a more extensive piece of work that will need to consider the key issues laid out below.

1. **Two year olds with more complex needs.** Currently there is no funding available for this group to access unless a new high needs funding pathway is developed for this age group. If the child has significant needs, providers are expected to fund this using own resources. It is also very likely that this will become an expectation of the new early entitlements. It has been consulted on, but we have not yet had the government response.
2. **Demand for increased funding to provide a higher level of support** for children who present with significant and profound SEN who are highly likely to require statutory support as they move onto formal education. Currently there is one level of funding meeting both short term SEN/pandemic impact needs and more complex needs of children that are likely to require statutory support. Providers should be able to access high needs funding to support children with more complex and profound needs who are likely to require support via EHC Plan and potentially an SEN place.
3. **Bulk Funding:** Some providers also access large amounts of inclusion funding due to having bigger groups of children with lower level needs (*not necessarily long term SEN*). This could benefit from a cap as the funding should be pooled to benefit the group as opposed to support individual children.
4. **Banding:** Consider 2 levels of banding within SENIF, to be determined in consultation with SEN colleagues and an additional level for children who might potentially require statutory support from the high needs block. We would need to model what each band might look like for each level of need.

11.2 Other aspects for consideration

It could be prudent to consider asking for examples of the child's developmental needs in the 4 areas of the SEN code of practice:-

- Cognition and learning,

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- social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- physical and sensory needs
- communication and interaction

We may wish to utilise the above in order to reintroduce a way of describing a judgement on development or we could create a developmental framework.

We could also consider using development matters and Birth to 5 matters as developmental framework – providers typically use these documents. Development matters is recommended by DfE but the age bands are very broad so most providers use Birth to 5 Matters (written by sector for sector) where age bands (ranges) are similar to original Development Matters. As it is not DfE recommended, we'd need to be careful about insisting on this being used as part of criteria. It was also not created to be assessment/tracking tool. However we should be aware that this may contradict the requirements of the statutory EYFS requirements.

12. Summary

The information provided in the report is intended to set the context and case for future review. A decision regarding the overspend of the inclusion fund for 2023/24 is required as set out under financial implications in section 10. The report also sets out some of the factors for consideration when the SENIF is reviewed more fully over the coming months. It is suggested that options for this new model is brought back to Schools Forum for approval in January 2024.

13. Recommendation

It is recommended that Schools forum agrees the use of the 2022/23 carry forward to support inclusion fund for 2023/24.

That Schools Forum further notes the change in practice of the inclusion fund to reflect the rising demand within the financial constraints.

Schools forum also notes that a post implementation review would be appropriate of the proposed changes recognising any local offer must remain within the financial consideration.

14. Legal implications

Local authorities are required to have SEN inclusion funds for all three and four year olds with special educational needs who are taking up the free entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. These funds are intended to support local authorities to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN and to undertake their responsibilities to strategically commission SEN services as required under the Children and

Families Act 2014. The SEN Inclusion Fund should be targeted at children with lower level or emerging SEN. The value of the fund must take into account the number of children with SEN in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children. Local authorities must consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SEN inclusion fund.

15. Equalities implications

There are no direct EI implications arising from this report as it complies with the implementation of the EYNFF which its self would have been through the EI assessment.

16. Climate change and environmental implications

There are no climate change or environmental implications of this report.

17. Crime and disorder implications

There are no crime and disorder implications of this report.

18. Health and wellbeing implications

There are no direct health and wellbeing implications

19. Report authors and contact

Nikki Sealy Head of Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Service
nikki.sealy@lewisham.gov.uk

Tiffany Gordon, tiffany.gordon@lewisham.gov.uk



Schools Forum

Report title: DSG Update including 2022/23 Final Early Years Position, 2023/24 Updated DSG Position and Headline Information for 2024/25

Date: 19th October 2023

Key decision: No.

Item number: 11

Outline and recommendations

*2022/23 DSG - report provides an update of the final EY block position and recommends the use of the surplus circa £800k to support Inclusion fund (Early Years) £0.2m and High Needs Block £400k, to support the additional cost of EHCP pressure on high needs. The figure is based on the 2022/23 actual position of circa £0.4m. **Decision required.***

*2023/24 -the report provides an updated DSG allocation position, following the 2022/23 Early Years data validation process with a forecast spend position. **For information***

*2024/25 – Headline updates with regards 2024/25 funding. **For information***

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

2022/3 Final Early Years Block Position

Schools forum is asked to support the use of 2022/23 surplus (following DfE confirmation £800k), relating to the Early Years Block - to provide targeted support on:-

A - the inclusion fund £200k -following agenda item 10 presented by Head of Early Years.

B – support of the High Needs Block in recognition of the pressure arising from EHCP support for pupils of EY based on 2022/23 actual of £365k. Following from Agenda Item 8, which will note the pressure on the High Needs Block with particular concern relating to EY.

2023/24 DSG projected spend position – recognising a potential pressure on the:

A – Central Schools Services Block – following on from the year on year abatement, there is expected to be a pressure on the CSSB which is being supported by corporate funds. As such the projection shown is balanced to allocation.

B - High Needs Block – awaiting data at present, projection of £5m noted as previous years. Anticipating some reduction following mitigation plan however HNB remains under pressure due to rising EHCP (in particular EY phase pupils).

C – EY block – pressure arising on the inclusion fund following demand in take up.

2024/25 DSG – headlines from the partial settlement including updates on engagement with School Business Managers, Governors and Headteachers. Provides update on the teachers pay settlement and supporting grant (Teachers Pay Additional Grant).

Report was drafted pre notification from DfE of the error announced on the 6th October 2023, confirming the need for DfE to re-issue 2024/25 draft settlement. Based on initial calculations (assuming the error only applies to school's block), there is a potential reduction of £1.5m to £2m in our overall funding. Each school will be impacted differently based on the pupil characteristics. Equally the overall affordability on the 0.5% MFG could be compromised – we don't know now until the formal settlement in December what the position is on our overall settlement. As part of that process and submission to DfE we will provide an update accordingly.

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Summary

1. Purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with an update on the
 - a. 2022/23 final position with regards to the Early Years Block including recommendations for Schools Forum to consider.
 - b. 2023/24 -Update position of the DSG following the revision of the Early Years Block.
 - c. 2024/25 DSG, following on from the partial settlement, the report provides headline information for Schools Forum to note including an updated position for the 2023 teachers pay award and its potential funding support / implications.

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

2022/23 - Final Settlement

2. Following the finalisation of the Early Years Pupil Data, the DfE has revised the final settlement for 2023/24 as confirmed in table 1 below. The DfE has applied a clawback of £800k. Schools Forum will recall the “underspend” in 2022/23 was £1.6m. This leaves a remaining £800k for discussion.

Table 1	£m
Schools Block	221.1
Central Schools Services Block	3.7
High Needs Block	70.1
Early Years Block	23.7
Gross DSG	318.6

3. Overall the validation of 2022/23 has noted a significant reduction in pupil numbers taking up the entitlement for the Early Years offer, circa 2% for 3 and 4 year olds and 9% for 2 year olds. This has been reflected in the funding for 2023/24, which has seen an overall reduction in funding of £1.4m, again this remains provisional until the January 2024 count.
4. Table 2 shows the final 2022/23, v draft (December settlement) v updated 2023/24 for early years. Initially we were expecting an increase of £2.6m, this has now been reduced to £1.1m.

Table 2

2022/23	£23,727,146
2023/24 draft	£26,282,973
2023/24 updated	£24,844,501
movement from 2022/23	£1,117,355
movement from draft 2023/24	-£1,438,472

5. Most of the reduction would be mitigated by lower allocations to providers, this will however have implications for budgets centrally managed by the LA; budgets which are derived as agreed percentages from actual take up. The financial impact of which is £0.1m.
6. There is a separate report elsewhere on the agenda which notes an expected pressure on the EY inclusion funding of approximately £0.2m. Plus pressure on the HNB circa £0.4m to

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2023/24 DSG Allocation

7. The 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) grant allocation was advised by the Department for Education (DfE) in December 2022 and reported to Schools Forum at the January 2023 meeting. The information provided at that time was the gross figure before academy recoupment and before the finalisation of the EY block.
8. Recoupment and high needs adjustment - table 3 below shows the projected outturn position for the DSG for 2023/24 against the funding now available, including revision of the Early Years Block.

Table 3 – DSG projected outturn 2023/24

DSG Projected Outturn	Schools Block	Central Schools Services Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total DSG Allocation
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Gross Budget	231.0	3.3	76.9	26.3	337.5
In Year Virement	(0.7)	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
ESFA Holdback	(47.5)	0.0	(0.4)	0.0	(47.9)
DSG Budget	182.8	3.3	77.2	26.3	289.6
Expenditure	182.8	3.3	82.2	26.6	294.6
Variance	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.3	5.3

9. **Schools Block:** £0.7m has been agreed with schools forum to be transferred to support the high needs block and is shown as an in year virement.
10. **Central School Services Block:** A balanced position is shown however there has been a reduction in funding nationally over the past 3 years, the figure has been abated by 20% year on year. There is potential pressure in the region of £900k which is resulting from the reduction in grant funding, however that is expected to be supported corporately and is therefore not shown in the above figures.
11. **High Needs Block:** High Needs continues to show a pressure against the available funding. Lewisham has been progressing a mitigation plan and is now working with the DfE as part of the Delivering Better Value initiative. Schools forum has agreed a transfer of £0.7m to support the pressure, however the increase both in demand and inflationary pressures continue to prove challenging. Increased places in many schools including Drumbeat, Watergate and Greenvale have been completed or are near completion, and will provide some welcomed capacity. The Resource Base expansion is also progressing well. Detailed update is provided elsewhere on this Agenda with regards high needs. One key area to note is the increase pressure in Early Years arising from EHCP. At the time of writing the full effect of the new academic year is not finalised. We are estimating a pressure of circa £5m in line with

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previous years. This could reduce based on the actions embedding, regarding the mitigations being undertaken. Equally there are emerging challenges including continuous pressure on the number of ECHP's, price inflation, severity of needs, to mention some. As stated, one major concern is EY cohort, especially as the DfE extends the Early Years offer over the next few years. Table below shows that by age, relative to March 2023, there has been a net increase of 58 EHCP's. Of these, 35 have been within the Early Years Phase.

		Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23		movement
Age Breakdown	Under 5s	68	82	86	93	103		35
	Primary	1263	1269	1276	1295	1298		35
	Secondary	1219	1222	1224	1228	1229		10
	Post-secondary	883	881	875	871	861		-22
	Grand Total	3433	3454	3461	3487	3491		58

Early Years Block:

12. The Early Years Block remains provisional until the validation of the January 2024 census, which is likely to be around summer 2024.
13. Schools Forum will be aware of the wide changes to the childcare offer including the extension to, 9 months to 5 years. Over the Summer a consultation took place which suggested that the funding for EY expansion will be mapped to the current model of funding. This is not positive for Lewisham as we are one of the lowest funded councils in Inner London.
14. Copy of the consultation response is attached for your information. Appendix A
15. See Appendix B for detail on EY funding between 2022/23 and 2023/24.
16. To support Early Years Providers, the DfE has agreed additional funding in the form of EY supplementary grant. The table below shows the revised rates for 2023/24 - including associated funding streams.

	Funding Per Term 2023/24			How the hourly rate will be funded	
	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Early Years National Funding Formula	Early Years Supplementary Grant
3 & 4 Year Old Entitlement	£5.40	£5.99	£5.99	£5.40	£0.59
2 Year Old Entitlement	£6.78	£9.22	£9.22	£6.78	£2.44

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17. There will also be increases in:-

The early years pupil premium (EYPP), this is expected to be at 4p per hour (currently 62p per hour from the Dedicated Schools Grant)

The Disability Access Funding (DAF), this is expected to increase to £30.92, funded from EYSG (building on the current £828 funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant).

Teachers Pay Grant (additional funding - New Grant)

18. The DfE position is that all schools should be able to meet the first 3.5% of the teachers pay award from within their specific delegated budgets. The grant is expected to support 3%. Both the main funding and the Teachers Pay grant are method based and as such schools will benefit at varying degrees. For example a school with higher than average spend on teaching will likely receive a lower percentage of their spend in the form of grant.
19. There is reference to suggest additional funding for EY providers for Teachers Pay Additional Grant, however no further information has been provided.

2024/25 DSG - Partial Settlement

20. In line with previous years, the DfE has provided each Local Authority with their Partial Settlement. i.e the funding values that Local Authorities can receive and also individual schools.
21. The settlement is known as “partial” as the final will not be known until December pending October 2023 census. As such the final settlement will be updated for changes in demographics and characteristics e.g pupil numbers, FSM, EAL etc.
22. As previous the Early Years Block remains provisional following Jan 2024 data cleansing.
23. With respect to 2024/25, the key points to note are as follows –there is a slide pack attached which has been presented to School Business Managers, Headteachers and Governors. The content of this has also been shared as part of the schools weekly newsletter.

Schools Block

24. With regards to the Schools Block :-

- Mainstream Schools Additional Grant – will be rolled into the main schools block. This is not new money and needs to be subtracted to enable comparison.
- Based on the limited information received, we are able to suggest that the overall increase in funding to Lewisham is in the region of 2.1%, of this 0.4% relates to premises related including split sites and PFI factor. The balance of 1.7% relates to all other factors (as a basket of factors).
- Growth Fund has not yet been confirmed and could impact on the overall affordability.
- MFG uplift will be between 0% to 0.5%, so broadly speaking flatlined
- With regards pressures in schools, key areas remain:-
 - Teachers Pay award - DfE has provided a specific grant known as Teachers Pay Additional Grant. DfE has suggested that this should cover approximately 3% of the teachers pay award. As with all funding,

- this will be distributed in line with nationally agreed formula and will vary school by school as to the actual percentage support schools receive. The other complexity remains in that schools with higher than average costs are likely to have a larger drift (i.e not funded). 3.5% of the pay award is expected to be met from the increase in delegated funding. once again, each schools position will vary depending on the funding they attract based on the NFF and their local characteristics.
- MFG transitional support – Schools with MFG transitional support need to be more cautious, as increase in funding could potentially mean a fall out of the MFG transitional support, as such the real cash increase for some schools will be offset.
- At the time of writing, the non teachers pay award has not been agreed. The employer offer remains at £2,355 (i.e circa £3200 with oncost). There is no additional grant to support this pressure.
- Schools continue to face challenges arising from the impact of “cost of living” – inflation; including utility costs and uplift on other contracts.

High Needs Block

25. The provisional high needs block settlement suggests an increase of circa £2.38m. As with the schools block, the figures will be revised based on the October census and SEN returns. Pressure at present is circa £5m. this could potentially reduce due to mitigation plans and equally see further pressure based on emerging needs/demands as discussed previously in the report.

	Pupil numbers	£	£m		
Baseline (funding floors/ceilings)			74.9		
basic entitlement	1134	5646	6.4		
import /export	-493	6000	-3.0		
New schools			0.0		
import /export adjustment			-2.9		
Hospital and historic TPPG			0.4		
Provisional figure for 2024/25			78.8	sum of the blue item	
2023/24 funding			76.4		
Increase in funding			2.38		
			3%		

Central Schools Service Block

26. In line with DfE policy, the CSSB is expected to continue to reduce by a further circa £0.3m. At present, this is being considered as part of wider corporate considerations.

Early Years Block

27. The EY block was not covered as part of the partial settlement.

Recommendation

28. Schools Forum is asked to approve the application of the £800k 2022/23 unclawed funding to:-
- Support the expected overspend on the Inclusion fund of £0.2m.
 - Support the High Needs Block pressure arising from new EHCP's in the EY phase. In 2022/23 the total cost of EY – EHCP was £0.4m, we anticipate a similar position for 2023/24 (potentially higher, cost will vary depending on severity of need). Between March and July there was an overall increase in EHCP of 58, of these, 35 related to EY. It is proposed that £600k support the cost of EY in HNB.
 - Schools Forum should further note that the extension of the EY offer will require embedding support from the Local Authority. As far as possible, it is anticipated that the implementation can be delivered within existing resources supported by additional grant from DfE. At this stage we don't know the value of the grant. Schools Forum will be updated as necessary.
29. Schools Forum is further asked to note that in partnership with Lewisham, there is a duty to operate within the overall funding levels.
- The funding is "once off" as it relates to residue from 2022/23. It should be noted that the proposals support funding is targeted towards EY phase.
30. Schools forum is further asked to note the 2023/24 forecast position and also the 2024/25 partial settlement.

Financial implications

31. This report recognises that the DSG continues to face pressure mainly in the High Needs Block. The report further notes that Lewisham is currently working with the DfE as part of its Delivering Better Value intervention measures (largely influenced by the Mitigation Plan) which has now been progressing for approximately 4 years.
32. It is estimated that the overspend on the HNB for this year could potentially be circa £5m; although mitigations arising from expansions of in house provision, may reduce this.
- The report recognises emerging pressure arising from Early Years and notifies of possible pressures arising as the Government policy to further expand the EY childcare offer. Circa £365k of cost in 2022/23 related to EY age pupils,
33. This report notes that 2022/23, following the validation of the pupil data, the overall position was that the EY numbers are down. There is a one off balance remaining of circa £800k.
- The report further recognises pressure on the inclusion fund of circa £300k.
34. The High Needs Block and Central Schools Services Block both also remain areas of concern and review, to consider longer term sustainability. As stated, work has been progressing on both areas as part of wider strategic reviews.

Legal implications

35. There are no specific legal implications arising at this stage.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

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Equalities implications

36. At this stage there are no direct implications arising from this report. Equalities impact will need to be considered as Lewisham progresses options towards mitigating an overspend position on the High Needs Block and Early Years Block .

Climate change and environmental implications

37. Not applicable

Crime and disorder implications

38. Not applicable

Health and wellbeing implications

39. Not applicable

Report author and contact

Mala Dadlani Strategic Business Partner -CYP

mala.dadlani@lewisham.gov.uk 020 8314 3581

Is this report easy to understand?

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Submitted to Early years funding - extension of the entitlements
Submitted on 2023-08-31 12:41:35

Introduction

What is your name?

Name::

Nikki Sealy

What is your email address?

Email::

nikki.sealy@lewisham.gov.uk

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Which of these options best describes you or your organisation?

Type of Organisation::

Local Authority

If 'Other', please provide further detail::

London Borough of Lewisham

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of your organisation?

Name of Organisation::

London Borough of Lewisham

What local authority area are you or your organisation based in? (If you do not wish to provide this information, please select 'prefer not to say')

Local Authority Area::

Lewisham

Would you like your responses to remain confidential?

No

Reason for Confidentiality (Optional)::

Section 1: National funding distribution for entitlements for children aged 2-years-old and under

1 Do you agree that we should introduce IDACI as a new proxy, and use it alongside FSM as a basket of measures for deprivation in the additional needs factor in the new national funding formula for 9-month-olds to 2-year-olds?

No

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

IDACI has far too many flaws including (but not limited to)

- Infrequency of IDACI data revision
- Doesn't recognise that especially in areas such a London, many properties with affluent post codes are rented to deprived families -so effectively ignored from the calculation
- Areas of new developments (Lewisham is one), suffer when this proxy is used as the postcodes are not recognised
- It does not account for housing costs more generally being higher in London than elsewhere as a consequence the funding to boroughs like Lewisham is lower than would have been expected.

Better data can be used from for example health around birth rate and needs. Or other indicators of deprivation such as LIFT (Low income family tracker) data

2 Do you agree that we should continue to use EAL and DLA as proxies in the additional needs factor in the new funding formula?

Unsure

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

DLA is not always representative of SEND in Early Years. Also families should be able to apply for DLA at an earlier point if their child has a disability and want to access an early years place as an under 2. It is also not awarded fairly and accurately, the award often depends on how good families are with filling in lengthy forms, e.g. a family experiencing digital poverty and/or having limited literacy skills might be disadvantaged. We have seen clear inequity re DLA awards.

It might be worth factoring in Public Health data from GP's/ Health Visitors re developmental checks and subsequent developmental delays of young children.

We have a concern around the accuracy of schools recording of EAL. Probably better options of establishing need from health and birth records—maybe even DWP?

3 Do you agree with our proposed approach to the area cost adjustment in the new national funding formula?

Unsure

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Area cost adjustment is crucial but must be realistic and revised annually to keep pace with changes, especially in the current high inflation market. There needs to be an assessment of the true cost of employing like for like staffing and other cost structures e.g if a teaching assistant in the north of England is costing £10 an hour, but due to London living wage costs say £13 per hour, the difference needs to reflect this true cost. Equally the same applies to non staffing costs associated costs. The adjustment must also accurately reflect additional locality pressures, house prices etc.

4 Overall, do you agree with our proposed approach of following the same structure and weightings for the new national funding formula as in the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula?

No

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

We don't believe the funding received by Lewisham is sufficient to meet the actual costs. We continue to be the 3rd lowest funded Inner London authority with difference of £2.40 in hourly rate between us and highest funded LA, Camden. The funding Lewisham receives relative to its neighbouring boroughs is also insufficient . The table below notes that Lewisham receives £6.33 which compared to the majority of London boroughs is not compatible. The listing below suggests that the 3&4 year old funding is in itself not fair and equitable. As such if the 2 year old (and below) funding is processed on this basis, than our funding will continue to be not fair and not equitable.

Camden £8.73
Hackney £6.54
Hammersmith and Fulham £8.42
Haringey £6.16
Islington £8.05
Kensington and Chelsea £8.36
Lambeth £7.50
Lewisham £6.33
Newham £6.12
Southwark £7.06
Tower Hamlets £8.33
Wandsworth £6.97
Westminster £8.09

5 Do you agree that we should extend DAF eligibility to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024?

Yes

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

DAF funding should be provided to support all age groups where the need is identified. We would however recommend the eligibility criteria is reviewed to include children under 2 who will be entitled to access a funded place from April 24.

6 Do you agree that we should extend EYPP eligibility to all children accessing a free childcare entitlement from April 2024?

Yes

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Section 2: Impact of proposals

7 Do you agree with this approach?

Unsure

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Lewisham continues to be disadvantaged by this approach. There should also be some flexibility to allow for childminders to be paid under a different approach ie an average of the 3 rates rather than controlled by age of child. The current approach means that CMs are likely to stop caring for 3&4 yr olds as the rate is so much lower. The sudden reduction in hourly rate will have a significant impact on CMs and their ability to take on assistants as the cost to employ remains the same whatever the age of the children.

Section 3: Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

8 Do you agree a pass through rate of 95% should be applied to each funding stream in 2024-25: the 3-and-4-year-old universal and 30 hours offer; the two-year-old disadvantaged and working parent offers; and the 9 months to two year-old offer?

Yes

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

As there will be a significant increase in workload this needs to be sustained over time to ensure sufficient capacity and resource within the LA.

9 Do you agree that the same list of allowable supplements should be applied to every entitlement funding stream, capped at a maximum 12 percent of planned funding for that entitlement?

Yes

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Agree that the LA (in agreement with stakeholders) should have flexibility to target funding mirroring the supplements.

The supplements/factors should remain discretionary as LA's will be best placed to support/target need.

We don't agree that there should be any artificial caps, LA and stakeholders have long established partnerships and are best placed to target funding to needs. We agree approach allocations should be based on local criteria/formula.

10 Do you agree that the deprivation supplement should be mandatory for every entitlement funding stream?

Unsure

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Being able to accurately target deprivation would be ideal, the question is how, and what reliable data/information is easily available. The bigger issue here is how deprivation is measured/targeted. As previously stated, we do not support IDACI as a measure of deprivation. Key stage 1 data for FSM is also very misleading due to the universal infant free school meals initiative.

11 Do you agree with our proposal that local authorities should establish a special educational needs inclusion fund for children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the entitlements?

Yes

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

We believe (as in the case of the 3 & 4 year old funding), an element of the hourly rate should be used to support the inclusion fund.

We don't agree that a separate pot for 2 year olds should be established—it should all form part of one collective pot managed by the LA to support EY children.

The inclusion fund should also work in harmony with the High needs block, and should allow higher rates of support/funding for young children identified as having significant and likely lifelong needs, not only cater for 'emerging needs'.

12 What more can be done to support local authorities and providers to reduce bureaucracy and streamline SENIF processes whilst also ensuring the system remains fair and financially sustainable?

Please provide your answer below: (Please limit responses to 200 words):

Would suggest greater clarity in SEND code of practice. SENIF was established to meet emerging needs, but is increasingly being used to support children with very high needs prior to an EHCP being allocated. Currently in Lewisham an EHCP is required to allocate a child a special school place, Ensure that current developments such as the SEND Improvement plan (on the back of the green paper), local inclusion plans and partnerships as well as anticipated change in legislation such as SEN Code of Practice, factor in more clarity.

13 Would local authorities and providers find it helpful for the Department to be more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs?

No

Do you have any additional comments? (Please limit responses to 200 words):

What is required is greater clarity rather than a prescriptive approach.

14 Do you have any comments about the potential impact, both positive and negative, of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics? Where any negative impacts have been identified, do you know how these might be mitigated?

Please provide comments below. Please limit responses to 200 words.:

It would be helpful if the DfE could specify a minimum amount of 'funded hours only' places that each setting providing early entitlements must provide. ie a proportion of the number of places they are registered for. This becomes even more important as funding is provided for an increased number of children. Providers increasingly supplement the funded hours element by adding conditions around the purchase of additional hours. This could either be by making their funded hours offer virtually unusable eg: 3.00-6.00pm daily or by making it a condition of a place being offered.

Any Other Comments

15 Are there any other comments that you would like to make about our proposals set out in this consultation?

Please provide comments below. Please limit responses to 200 words.:

The timing of this consultation is not helpful as it crosses over with school summer holidays and many interested parties/stakeholders have not been able to respond within the given timeframes.

Whilst webinars were offered, the short notice made it very difficult for people to attend. They were also very controlled environments that made any real interaction problematic and many left many questions unanswered. The FAQ sheets did not respond to 'more challenging points' or provide any new information.

We would have appreciated the opportunity to seek views from our partners across the local area ensuring this is a co-produced and collaborative response to the consultation.

APPENDIX B

	Hourly rate for 3 and 4 year olds from early years national funding formula (£ / hr)	Number for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	Initial funding allocation for universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Number for 3 and 4 year old additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents (part-time equivalent)	Initial funding allocation for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds (£s)	Hourly rate for 2 year old entitlement (£ / hr)	Number for 2 year old entitlement funding (part-time equivalent)	Initial funding allocation for 2 year old entitlement (£s)	Initial funding allocation for early years pupil premium (£s)	Funding allocation for disability access fund (£s)	Hourly rate for supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools (£ / hr)	Number for supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools (part-time equivalent)	Initial supplementary funding allocation for maintained nursery schools (£s)	Total early years block (£s)	
Final 2022/23	£5.93	4290.28	£14,501,576	1735.15	£5,864,981	6.87	711.54	£2,786,320	£87,847	£105,600	£3.89	171.75	£380,822	£23,727,146	
Provisional 2023/24 (at December)	£6.33	4420.52	£15,949,679	1722.46	£6,214,808	7.52	797.15	£3,416,904	£89,644	£124,200	£4.48	191.00	£487,738	£26,282,973	£2,555,827
Provisional 2023/24 (at July - updated for Jan census)	£6.33	4197.25	£15,144,098	1744.22	£6,293,321	7.52	650.39	£2,787,832	£91,581	£124,200	£4.48	158.00	£403,469	£24,844,501	£1,117,355
	£0.40	-93.03	£642,522.00	9.07	£428,340	£0.65	-61.15	£1,512	£3,734	£18,600	£0.59	-13.75	£22,647	£1,117,355	-£1,438,472

2022/23	£23,727,146
2023/24 draft	£26,282,973
2023/24 updated	£24,844,501
movement from 2022/23	£1,117,355
movement from draft 2023/24	-£1,438,472

Chair of Governor's Briefing

18th September 2023

Mala Dadlani –Strategic Business Partner (CYP & Schools)

Agenda – 2023/24

- Mayor of London FSM funding
- Auto Enrolment- FSM (Pilot)
- School Is Funding updates

School Meals

		Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 3 & 4				
		total	per pupil	total	per pupil	total	per pupil			
FSM for eligible pupils	Delegatated Budget Share	£570.68	£3.00	£570.68	£3.00	£570.68	£3.00	2023/24 FY	£581.46 from 2024/25	£3.06
uifsm	DFE (UNIFSM)		£2.53		£0.00			2023/24 AY		
MOL	MOL		£0.00		£2.65			2023/24 AY		

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MOL Scheme										
- estimate based on Jan 2023										
- revised for Oct 2023 census										
- 50% autumn, 25% spring and 25% summer payment profile										
- 90% of those NOT eligible for FSM										
- if schools have take up over 90%--that would be a business										
- condition of grant that schools capture numbers of take up -Tina - update please										
Household Fund										
- holiday fsm vouchers will continue for this year, March 2024										
- additional funding to target support for those not FSM - mindful of extended schemes to KS2--likely to be geared towards secondary schools- fiona will communicate directly, including data returns required from schools										

Meal Coding in Scholarpack (for those on ACCESS –but similar approach can be applied to other finance systems)

- Suggested meal coding in Scholarpack to identify the different funding grants and to help reporting to Blue runner.
- This will enable clear reporting of figures back to the Government (LA) for the number of pupils that have taken the Mayor’s London Free School Meal for state-funded schools in London.

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Grant name	Suggested code	Key stage	Blue runner reporting name
Universal Free School Meals	UIFSM	Key stage 1	Key Stage ONE UIFSM
Free School meal	FSM	Key stage 1	Key Stage ONE FSM
Free School meal	FSM	Key Stage 2	Key Stage Two Free
London state-funded free school meals (90%)	LFSM	Key stage 2	Key Stage Two Full Rate (£2.65)

Auto –Enrolment (FSM)

- Lewisham has progressed a process of auto-enrolment.
- This includes identifying potential pupils who could be eligible for FSM –covering primary and secondary
- Letters sent to Parents/guardians –opt out not opt in!
- Caution -process covers **Lewisham residents only**, if you have pupils who are **not Lewisham residents please ensure you encourage applications directly (i.e not in scope of our exercise)**
- Schools should still undertake due diligence
 - At present this process is too new to assess reliability so should be seen as process to supplement not replace locally encouraging parents to sign up.
 - Depending how this progresses, expectation is for progressing towards this model.
 - **PRACTICAL DETAIL'S TO FOLLOW FROM PROJECT LEAD**

Dedicated Schools Grant – Partial Settlement

In July 2023 – Lewisham received a partial settlement

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This basically means –what our funding would look like if there was no movement in pupil data/characteristics

How Lewisham receives funding determines overall affordability- for each of the 4 funding blocks (Schools, CSSB, High Needs and Early Years)

Within each there is different methodology for allocating funding to stakeholders.

Dedicated Schools Grant – Partial Settlement

Schools Block funds mainstream schools – primary and secondary

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High Needs Block – funds Special Schools, resource basis, top up etc

Early Years Block – funds provision for under 5's

Most schools will receive funding from a variety of the above plus from various grants.

Schools Block			
2024/25	Per Pupil Funding	Pupil Numbers	£m
Primary Schools	£6,063.62	22,552	£136.7
Secondary Schools	£8,358.01	11,628	£97.2
Sub total		34,179	£233.9
Premises Factor			£8.6
Total Cash Funding Excluding Growth			£242.5
2023/24	Per Pupil Funding	Pupil Numbers	£m
Primary Schools	5,778.12	22,552	£130.3
Secondary Schools	7,928.78	11,628	£92.2
Sub total			£222.5
Premises Factor			£7.7
MSAG			£7.6
Revised			£238
baseline per pupil	£6,956		
Difference	Per Pupil Funding	% increase	£m
Primary Schools	£285.50	5%	£6.44
Secondary Schools	£429.23	5%	£4.99
Premises Factor			£0.9
			£12.33
MSAG grant	Streamlined into the DSG		-£ 7.6

DfE
headlines
for
Lewisham
funding –

Remember
ISB for
each school
is
calculated
specifically
–based on
APT tool

Schools Block --so what does this mean!!

Summary -			£m	%		
Net increase	increase less MSAG		£4.75	2.1%		
Split as follows :						
Premises	PFI and Split sites		£0.9	0.4%		
Non premises			£3.85	1.7%		
How Leiwisham funding is calculated - individual schools will vary depending on NFF and schools individual character						

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Important to note that schools are funded using the NFF

- Specific funding for each characteristic e.g. pupil number, FSM, FSM 6, EAL etc
- Role of MFG !! Schools on MFG may find that some increase in funding is offset by reduced reliance/fall out of the MFG!! So lower cash increase
- 0.5% uplift max –subject to affordability of the APT.
- MSAG –now incorporated in above
- New grant Teachers pay additional grant –will remain separate for 2024/25

Schools in financial difficulty

DfE has stated that a “pot” will be made available for schools that are facing hardship

However no further information is available – will update as information becomes available

Please note Lewisham is one of the highest funded councils at present -

NFF values 2024/25 – INCORPORATE MSAG

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Factor	23-24 APT	24-25 NFF including ACA	Increase	Comments	% increase
Primary basic entitlement	£4,035.19	£4,268.42	£233.22		6%
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,688.98	£6,018.74	£329.76		6%
KS4 basic entitlement	£6,411.85	£6,784.14	£372.29		6%
Primary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78		2%
Secondary FSM	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78		2%
Primary FSM6	£838.19	£984.93	£146.74		18%
Secondary FSM6	£1,224.59	£1,435.86	£211.27		17%
Primary IDACI F	£273.45	£278.87	£5.41		2%
Primary IDACI E	£332.90	£338.20	£5.30		2%
Primary IDACI D	£523.12	£534.00	£10.87		2%
Primary IDACI C	£570.68	£581.46	£10.78		2%
Primary IDACI B	£606.35	£617.06	£10.71		2%
Primary IDACI A	£796.58	£812.86	£16.29		2%
Secondary IDACI F	£398.29	£409.40	£11.11		3%
Secondary IDACI E	£529.07	£539.93	£10.86		2%
Secondary IDACI D	£737.13	£753.53	£16.40		2%
Secondary IDACI C	£808.47	£824.73	£16.26		2%
Secondary IDACI B	£867.91	£890.00	£22.08		3%
Secondary IDACI A	£1,105.70	£1,127.33	£21.63		2%
Primary EAL	£689.57	£706.06	£16.49		2%
Secondary EAL	£1,860.66	£1,904.59	£43.93		2%
Primary LPA	£1,373.20	£1,406.19	£32.99		2%
Secondary LPA	£2,080.61	£2,124.12	£43.51		2%
Primary mobility	£1,123.53	£1,151.06	£27.53		2%
Secondary mobility	£1,616.93	£1,655.39	£38.46		2%
Primary lump sum	£152,181.76	£161,029.76	£8,848.00		6%
Secondary lump sum	£152,181.76	£161,029.76	£8,848.00		6%
Split sites basic eligibility funding	£32,158.49	£64,435.64	£32,277.15	new method	100%
Split sites distance funding	£0.00	£32,158.49	£32,158.49	new method	
PFI remains local determination within affordability					
exceptional factors subject to approval from dfe					
MFG between 0.% to max 0.5%					

NFF values 2024/25

We cannot forecast what each schools funding will be for 2024/25 –due to variable including

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- Individual movements in schools data (census 2023)
- Overall settlement due in December
- As explained –funding how LA receives and allocates are different methods –so affordability will be part of the equation
- Growth fund /Falling rolls funding –new method, we have historically done well from the Growth Fund allocation
- Effect of MFG including iterative effect of increase in cash offset by fall out of MFG – then how the uplift in MFG 0.5% max fits into this!!

- We will share what funding could look like based on 2022 census data with uplifted NFF values –as stated (this includes MSAG funding)

Teachers Pay Additional Grant to Support the 2023/24 pay award

		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Allocations for period	Primary /secondary	7/12 - separate grant	Full year - separate grant	Full year -but not clear if this will remain separate grant
Allocations for period	Special/PRU	7/12 - separate grant	Full year - separate grant	Full year but not clear if this remains separate grant

Teachers Pay Additional Grant – 2023/24

Primary and Secondary Schools

- LA receive funding October 2023
- Funding rates for 2023/24 financial year

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	£ with ACA
Primary	£42.80
ks3	£59.45
ks4	£67.77
Primary FSM 6	£36.86
Secondary FSM 6	£53.50
lump sum	£1,599.09

Teachers Pay Additional Grant – 2023/24

Special and AP's

- Payment in two parts - autumn based on current data ESFA has, revision in March 2024, based on updated information (place numbers)
- £315.59 Per place for 2023/24 financial year

Early Years - "yet to be advised"

Post 16

increased the national funding rate for students aged 16 and 17 and students aged 18 and over with high needs in band 5, by a further £111 per student, to £4,753, and other funding bands will increase proportionately. This is a 4.6% increase compared to academic year 2022 to 2023. ... also increased all programme cost weightings.

More details can be found below link

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-information-for-2023-to-2024#changes-for-2023-to-2024>

Schools Block – so do schools get 6.5% increase to fund TEACHERS pay award??

- Each school will be affected differently –winners and losers.
- Total cost of teaching staff in some schools will be higher than other schools .
- Schools with lower characteristics e.g fall in - pupil numbers, FSM numbers etc will face more pressure unless their spend is reduced.
- Things to consider also
 - TLR points etc also up by pay award
 - Entry level staff- (DfE recruitment and retention scheme), will also go up by PA
 - As baseline increases – associated costs also increase i.e oncosts –I believe there is a pension actuarial review taking place in 2024/25!! (cover both teaching and non teaching staff – previously dfe supported with funding
 - Payaward is academic year! not financial year for teachers.
- any overall increase in funding to school –is not just for teachers pay award but must cover other increase too!!
- Non – teaching staff pay award not yet agreed! (backdated to April)..minimum £2355 plus oncosts

High Needs Block

	Pupil numbers	£	£m		
Baseline (funding floors/ceilings)			74.9		
basic entitlement	1134	5646	6.4		
import /export	-493	6000	-3.0		
New schools			0.0		
import /export adjustment			-2.9		
Hospital and historic TPPG			0.4		
Provisional figure for 2024/25			78.8	sum of the blue item	
2023/24 funding			76.4		
Increase in funding			2.38		
			3%		

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Again –draft settlement – suggests an increase of £2.4m i.e 3% increase in funding

Lewisham HN currently is £5m circa overspend (mitigation plan in place)

DBV –DfE sponsored diagnostics work –

Pilot of 5%- schools learner numbers with EHCP – agreed with schools forum

Early Years Funding

	Funding Per Term 2023/24			How the hourly rate will be funded	
	Summer 2023	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Early Years National Funding Formula	Early Years Supplementary Grant
3 & 4 Year Old Entitlement	£5.40	£5.99	£5.99	£5.40	£0.59
2 Year Old Entitlement	£6.78	£9.22	£9.22	£6.78	£2.44

Table above shows the funding position –from EY Block and EY supp Grant --

The early years pupil premium (EYPP), this is expected to be at 4p per hour (currently 62p per hour from the Dedicated Schools Grant)

The Disability Access Funding (DAF), this is expected to increase £30.92 funded from EYSG (building on the current £828 funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant)

Early Years Funding

Consultation over the summer –to consider hourly rate funding for 0.9 to 2

Basically expected to mirror the current method –which uses for example historic base, FSM, and IDACI –

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Important to note that many settings have noted a reduction in numbers—question is if the reduction is consequence of changes in peoples lifestyle/working arrangements (temporary /perm, effect of new changes to pupil take up????)

–so you need to consider intake in your projections as well as the funding

Other Finance Updates

- **Budget Plans – June**
 - Letters to GB and Heads based on the June submission – accountability for the budget remains with the GB
- **Required by 15th November, with agreement 30th November**
 - Budget plans must be realistic – not over prudent or too dismissive
 - Governing Body **MUST** own the budget plans and be responsible for setting the budget
- **SBM /head –other authorised signatories etc–staff turnover**
 - Finance services **MUST** be notified as soon as it is known that a finance officer in the school is leaving to discuss business continuity
- **Submit your year-end statement for the NTP by 2pm on 29 September**
- **Dates for the Next SBM meetings**
 - Spring Term
 - Tuesday 9 January 2024, 10:00 - 12:00

Thank you for your time today 😊

- **Staff Awards –Corporate Services**
 - **Team of the year 2023 –Highly Commended**
 - **Inspirational Leader –Nominated**
 - **Volunteer of the year – Winner**

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