

Public Document Pack  
**Schools Forum**  
**Agenda**

Thursday, 14 December 2023  
4.30pm – 6.30pm , Virtual - Microsoft Teams

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Item	Pages
<b>1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies</b> To include any apologies of absence, any new member appointments.	
<b>2. Declaration of Interests</b>	
<b>3. Election of Vice-Chair</b> Nominations and vote.	
<b>4. Minutes of the Meeting 19 October 2023</b>	1 - 8
<b>5. Matters Arising</b>	
<b>6. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25</b> Purpose of the report is to discuss a mandate for developing the 2024/25 Schools funding formula. This is a standard report to forum to manage in principle agreements once the settlement is announced (expected circa 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023).	9 - 16
<b>7. Application of the Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block 2023/24</b> The purpose of the report is to discuss and agree the method on how to distribute the quality factor. It is largely a repeat of the report presented at forum in October, updated for additional option requested by the nursery schools representative.	17 - 22
<b>8. Additional Funding for Schools in Deficit</b> Purpose of the report is to discuss the potential criteria on which to allocate funding to support maintained schools in financial difficulty (2023 to 2024).	23 - 25
<b>9. High Needs Block</b> Verbal update including presentation to Forum regarding the grant submission to the DfE for potential £1M to support actions	

anticipated to support the reduction of cost to the HNB.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### **Future meetings**

18 January 2024 (provisional date, subject to DfE)

All meetings will be held between 16.30 and 18.30 and virtually

### **Sub Group meetings**

<b>High Needs Sub Group</b>
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11 January 2024
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# DRAFT

**LEWISHAM SCHOOLS FORUM**

*Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023*

Membership (Quorum = 40% i.e. 7)    ✓ = present    ✕ =absent    a = apologies  
 s = substitute

		Attendance				
Primary School Headteachers		19/ 01	01/ 02	29/ 06	19/ 10	Date of Appointment
Manda George	Torridon Primary	✓	a	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Sharon Lynch	St William of York	✓	✕	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Julie Loffstadt	Kilmorie	✓	✓	✓	a	Jan 2022
David Lucas	Trinity	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2021
Maxine Osbaldeston	Launcelot	✓	✕	✓	a	Jan 2021
VACANT	PRIMARY SCHOOL					
VACANT	PRIMARY SCHOOL					
Nursery School Headteacher						
Cathryn Arnold-Kinsey	Clyde Nursery	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2022
Secondary School Headteachers						
Naill Hand	Prendergast Ladywell	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oct 2022
Michael Sullivan	Forest Hill	✓	✓	✓	a	Oct 2022
Special School Headteacher						
VACANT	SPECIAL SCHOOL					
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher						
Heather Johnston	Abbey Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jan 2023
Primary School Governors						
Daniel Meyer	St Bartholomews	✓	✓	✓	a	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					
<b>Academies</b>						
VACANT	ACADEMY					
Ann Butcher	Childeric	✓	✓	✓	*	June 2021
<b>14-19 Consortium Rep</b>						
Jamie Stevenson	Lewisham College				a	Oct 2023
<b>Early Years – PVI</b>						
Melanie Simpson	The Village Montessori		a	✓	*	Jan 2023
<b>Diocesan Authorities</b>						
VACANT	Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (Church of England)					
Yvonne Epale	Education Commission – Catholic Diocese of Southwark	✓	a	*	✓	May 2021

<b>Observers/Others in attendance</b>		
Strategic Business Partner	Mala Dadlani	
LB Lewisham	Matthew Henaughan	
LB Lewisham - Finance	Lurenco Reynolds-Moxam	
LB Lewisham	Ruth Griffiths	
LB Lewisham – Head of Early Years	Nikki Sealy	
LB Lewisham - SEND	Reinhild Onuoha	
LB Lewisham – Early Years	Tiffany Gordon	
Leathersellers Federation	Tony Marnham	
NEU	James Kerr	
Clerk	Janita Aubun	

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

Apologies accepted from Julie Loffstadt (Primary Headteacher), Michael Sullivan (Secondary Headteacher) and Daniel Meyer (Primary Governor).

Member Resignation: Miz Mann (Academies)

## 2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest.

## 3. Election of Chair

Clerk invited nominations for position of Chair. 1 nomination received - Manda George (former Vice-Chair). No objections hence Manda was elected to Forum Chair with immediate effect.

## 4. Election of Vice Chair

There is now a vacancy for Vice Chair. Newly elected Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice Chair. No nominations were received. Forum agreed to take this vote forward to the next meeting. Interested members can have a conversation with MG should they wish to know more about the position. The election and nomination of Vice Chair to be the first item on the agenda at December forum.

## 5. Minutes of the Meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Amendment to be made on the attendance registers 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. To be corrected for the next meeting.

### Agenda Item 10: High Needs Mitigations & Delivering Better Value Update

Error in the report. Minutes correction with reference to 'It was confirmed that the agreement to provide additional funding to education settings with more than 5% of learners with EHCPs would also apply to nursery schools'.

## 6. Matters Arising

Forum constitution – membership to be recast following validation of October pupil Census data and Academisation. Potential changes taking place around expected academisation and other existing vacancies e.g. special schools. Recast to take place at January forum. Note, vacancies exist for Special School representatives on Forum.

Schools Forum Action Summary - Cost of living crisis lobby - rethink - do Forum want to make any representation to the Secretary of State regarding the 2024/25 funding allocation error? Forum felt it was worth raising concerns with the DfE/Secretary of State. Chair will draft letter and bring back to schools forum for discussion.

Mandatory Training for new Headteachers - Due to workload demands this will be postponed.

PFI consultation - meeting scheduled for after half-term. Naill Hand to Support Mala.

## 7. Lewisham School Place Planning

Primary – slight increase in numbers compared to previous, but downward trend in reception numbers; peak was in 2017. Numbers expected to increase by 2027/28. Short Term measure – LA allocation Caps 2023/24 (can happen in any year group as requested).

Medium term measure – continue to reduce by 1 – 2 FE per year, PAN reduction by admissions arrangements or by capping.

Secondary – increase in number of applications for Year 7 cohort over the past 2 years.

Options for reducing numbers are: -

- LA allocations CAP (quickest and easiest option) - non-official PAN reduction which doesn't override parental choice. PAN remains the same. Can be implemented any time and removed at any time.
- In-year PAN reduction which is done via the Office of Schools Adjudicator; can take up to 8 weeks for a decision.
- Determined Admission Arrangements. Mayor & Cabinet decision. Permanent change in PAN. Consultations for 2025 entry to commence in next couple of weeks. Decision in February 2024.

Forum informed that Schools Place Planning have set up a Task and Finish Group to look at how Lewisham deals with the over/under supply of places. New set of principles have been developed from this. Further meeting to follow and results of this meeting will be shared with Headteachers and Governing Bodies.

Question raised regarding Westminster parliamentary debate earlier this year on school places where Lewisham Year 7 admissions showing 10 – 15% reduction by 2026/7. Officers stated that this parliamentary report is based on previous data which has since been revised and is more positive.

Discussion regarding union having met with Sadiq Khan and whether modelling could be done on smaller class sizes within schools. Members raised the issue of mixed year groups and the impact on financial viability.

As requested, the nursery sector is to be represented in the Task and Finish Group.

## **8. High Needs Working Group Update**

Verbal update and slides shared by the Head of Integrated Services SEND. Schools Forum were made aware that this update follows on from the High Needs Working Group meeting held 11 October 2023, as well as the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme currently been undertaken – sessions have been held with DfE/Newton on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October. Newton provided a High Impact Analysis report which shows that our highest spend is on children in maintained special schools, next highest is in independent non-maintained special sector, followed by spend on children in mainstream schools with EHCP plans. Key factor is the growth is demand led.

Forum were informed that steady progress is being made to stabilise spend, however the demand and severity of need continues to place pressure. Are currently reviewing SEND priorities in line with DBV recommendations, continuing to create local SEN places for children, supporting schools with their SEN practices, working with local colleges on High Needs and working with early years settings on improving their practices.

This update also noted links to be reported on the DSG.

Also discussion around secondary schools and the fact that they are full in years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and that admission to their schools is now only, through direction over PAN.

Schools forum PRU representative requested to be included in the discussions and negotiations i.e. part of the working party for the secondary phase.

## 9. Application of Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block

Report shared by Head of Early Years Quality & Sufficiency, to approve the application of the Quality Factor which is £372K.

Forum members asked to make a decision on 1 of 4 options.

Option 1 – total funding £372,000 divided by the number of providers with a qualified teacher (117 staff). This equates to an allocation of £3,179.

Option 2 – considers providers weighted by the number of children on role in each setting, with a teacher and at the time of the EY and Schools Census in January 2023. Total number of children would then be divided by the total funding. This amount would then be multiplied by the number of children on role at January 2023 census and allocated individually.

Option 3 – this allocates a one-off payment to all providers who provide early entitlement funding, equally. By dividing £372K by the total number of providers. Note it does not target those providers who have additional costs associated with higher qualified staff and also does not recognise that each setting has different numbers of children on role.

Option 4 - members asked if we should postpone and there be an option 4. It was felt that there is a significant difference between the costs of a nursery school employing many teachers and a private nursery employing one member of staff with early years teaching status. A vote was taken on this with a resulting majority 8 in favour. Agreed to come back to December forum with a costed option, for a vote to be taken then.

## 10. Early Years – Pressure on Inclusion Fund

Forum informed about the increasing pressure on this fund, circa £200k overspent. Increased applications are being made annually; particularly post pandemic. Potential overspending budget. Options are – do nothing i.e. overspend. Restrict/limit the number of agreed applications or increase the top-up to the budget from contingency or DAF underspend.

### **Recommendation:-**

- Schools forum agree the use of the 2022/23 carry forward to support the overspend on the 2023/24 Inclusion Fund.
- Schools forum further note the change in practice of the inclusion fund to reflect the rising demand within the financial constraints.
- Schools forum also to note that a post implementation review be appropriate for the proposed changes, recognising any local offer must remain within the financial consideration.
- £600K remaining – to support the High Needs Block.

### **Action:-**

- Report noted and all recommendations agreed.

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

This report provided forum an update of the final EY block position in relation to the 2022/23 DSG, an update on the 2023/24 DSG allocation position, following the 2022/23 Early Years data validation process. Also forum were given headline updates with regards to 2024/25 funding.

2023/24 Central Schools Services block continues to face pressure because the grant is abated year on year. Despite this, the LA has not reduced any of the services that we have always provided to schools.

### **Recommendation:-**

- To approve the application of the £800K 2022/23 funding which was not clawed back.
- Support the expected overspend on the Inclusion Fund of £200K.
- Support the pressure on the HNB i.e. the £600K cost of Early Years on the High Needs Block.
- Note the extension of the EY offer will require embedding support from the Local Authority; schools forum to be updated as necessary.
- Schools Forum is 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 that funding is targeted towards the Early Years phase.
- Schools forum is also asked to note the 2023/24 forecast position and also the 2024/25 partial settlement.

### **Action:-**

- Agreed to approve the application of the £800K 2022/23 funding which was not clawed back. 8 voted in favour i.e. majority agreement for the use of this amount to support the £200K inclusion fund 2023/24.
- Forum agreed the remaining £600K to be used to support the High Needs Block (recognising the increased pressure arising from the emerging needs on the under 5 age group with SEN/EHCP). 8 voted in favour i.e. majority vote.
- All the other above recommendations were noted.

## 12. Any Other Business

### **FSM Auto enrolment update – verbal update**

Information shared to forum: worked with colleagues in the wider council to see if any families potentially entitled to FSM - positive result securing circa £1.3M extra funding. Noted and schools forum recognised the positive work.



## Future Meetings

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**

### **High Needs Sub Group**

7 December 2023

11 January 2024

## **Schools Forum Action Summary**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>	<b>Officer(s) responsible</b>	<b>Outcome/Current position</b>
<b>6 – Matters Arising - Schools Forum 19 October 2023</b>	Cost of living crisis - to lobby at National Level. Letter to be drafted for forum approval, making representation to the DfE/Secretary of State regarding the 2024/25 funding allocation error.	Chair	
<b>Training for New Headteachers</b>	Mandatory training to be held in November 2023.	Mala Dadlani	Pending
<b>9 – Application of Quality Factor of Early Years Funding Block – 19 October 2023</b>	Head of Early Years Quality & Sufficiency factor to come back with a costed Option 4, for a vote to be taken then.	Nikki Sealy	For December forum.
<b>10 – High Needs Mitigations &amp; Delivering Better Value Update – Schools Forum 29 June 2023</b>	Updated slides to be sent to members after the meeting which incorporate amendments regarding recent central census and school census data.	Reinhild Onuoha	Outstanding
<b>13 - Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 – Updates Towards Hard Formula – Plus PFI Consultation –</b>	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	Mala Dadlani/Niall Hand	Completed and included in the DSG paper for 2024/25

<b>Schools Forum 29 June 2023</b>	for inclusion in the 2024/25 funding formula.		
<b>14 – AOB – Schools Forum Constitution – Schools Forum 29 June 2023</b>  <b>AOB – Election of Vice Chair – Schools Forum 19 October 2023</b>	To check and review in relation to academies.  Nominations/election of Schools Forum Vice Chair at next meeting.	Mala Dadlani  Members	January 2023 Forum  December 2023 Forum



## Schools Forum

**Report title: Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25**

**Date:** 14th December 2023

**Key decision:** No

**Item number:** 6

## Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to agree the principle and approach for the 2024/25 schools funding – Authority Proforma Tool (APT) submission to the Department for Education (DfE).

- A. Schools Forum is asked to agree guiding principles including:-
- I. Continuation with the National Funding Formula in the deployment of the Schools Block.
    - Including changes previously advised and appropriate implementation - in particular relating to split sites.
    - Note that the exceptional factor usage for St Michaels and Bonus Pastor is pending – submission has been made to the DfE.
    - Note request for exceptional factors has been submitted to DfE in respect of Playing Field management and Service Charge costs. Previously DfE had approved the disapplication for several years, however as a move towards NFF, are revisiting previous approvals. This therefore remains a risk.
  - II. Agree to any growth funding to be included on the APT tool, to determine amount in the Growth Fund Budget to fund incremental support for bulge class and potentially any unplanned in-year growth/bulges. Any unused funds, to be held in the Growth Fund.
  - III. De-delegation to be in line with the current basis plus inflation (where appropriate).
  - IV. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) – consider two options for MFG:-
    - **Option one-** MFG set at max 0.5% (estimate), with any residue to support pressures in HNB.
    - **Option two-** 0.5% transfer from Schools Block, followed by MFG set at affordability.
    - **Option three-** depending on the financial settlement, it may be necessary to provide a hybrid model of options one and two.
  - V. Review of the PFI factor:-
    - Note conclusion of the consultation -
    - 3-year Transition and 20% lump sum and 80% targeted funding- **schools forum to note and agree the outcomes of the consultation. - See Appendix A.**
- B. Schools' forum is also asked to note the continuation of financial risk associated with High Needs (demand led), Early Year (EY) (numbers accessing free entitlement), pressure on schools arising from economic challenges and national policy.
- C. Schools' forum is also asked to note and agree to receive further updates as more information is made available at the January meeting and the Summer meeting.

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

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

The final settlement is due just before the Christmas break, with a submission to the DfE due 22nd January 2024. This leaves a very small time frame for officers to undertake detailed work. **Schools forum to note that this will mean that the lead in time will be reduced from 5 working days to 3 (potentially).**

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

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

## Summary

1. Main focus of this report is requesting Schools Forum to consider and agree main components of the 2024/25 funding formula that will enable Lewisham Council to provide a draft funding formula (the Authority Proforma Tool or APT), to the Department for Education (DfE), in January. **There are no real changes to previous years.**
- 1.1. Please note we will provide further update on various risks including:-
  - High Needs Block
  - Early Years Funding
  - Central School Services Block (CSSB)

## Background

2. Each Local Authority (LA) is required to submit their agreed Local Schools Funding Formula to the DfE by the 22nd January 2024 (primary and secondary).
- 2.1 The deadline for producing this information is very challenging as the financial settlement is unlikely to be known until around 20th December 2023. For this reason, there could potentially be a delay to the reports dispatch process - although every effort will be taken to meet the required timescales. **Schools' forum to note.**
- 2.3 The APT tool submission is mainly based on the Schools Block, however the LA is responsible for ensuring overall affordability across the whole Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 2.4 The APT modelling tool is provided by the DfE and is largely a pre-populated data modelling tool.
- 2.5 Using the APT tool, the LA determines each school's budget share and associated Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG). The MFG is based on overall affordability and is now confirmed at 0 to 0.5% uplift per pupil (based on pupil-led characteristics e.g. Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), Free School Meals etc). **Subject to affordability we will aspire to achieve as close to 0.5% as possible (or the maximum advised by the DfE). Schools forum will also be aware that for 2024/25, the MSAG grant (Mainstream Schools Additional Grant), will be streamlined into the main funding delegated budget**

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share.

- 2.6 Once the APT is submitted it remains provisional until the DfE has undertaken validation and approved the submission for accuracy and compliance.
- 2.7 Special Schools are funded based on their operating model of places and top up. Funding for Special Schools is from the High Needs Block and is not part of the APT reconciliation. **Schools' forum to note that following the funding settlement, a paper will be presented to Schools Forum to confirm the 2024/25 DSG position for special provision, at the January meeting.**
- 2.8 Equally nursery schools, PVI's and the early years component for primary schools are funded from the Early Years Block and are not part of the APT tool process. We await clarity from DfE in the December funding settlement. **A report elsewhere on the agenda provides detailed update as we have been advised.**
- 2.9 There is a legal requirement for **all schools** to be advised of their budget share by the end of February 2024. It is at this point schools will be **formally** advised of their delegated budget share.
- 2.10 This report seeks to gain the necessary mandate to enable officers to provide schools forum with final funding information to enable both the above deadlines to be met.

## DSG 2024/245

3. Schools forum was advised of the partial settlement for 2023/24 at their meeting in October 2023. We noted that the MSAG grant would now be incorporated in the Schools Block. We had initially been advised that our funding had increased in the region of 2.2% (at LA level), however, a fundamental error was realised by the DfE at a national level, which now means that our funding is likely to be more in the region of circa 1.7%ish. We will not know for sure until the final settlement is received including the Growth Fund calculation.

## Proposed application of the Schools Block

4. Alignment to the National Funding Formula - Continue to progress with the principles of the National Funding Formula in full. This includes using all funding values as determined by the DfE. Schools Forum to agree (primary and secondary).
  - 4.1 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) uplift – the DfE requirement is that all schools will receive an uplift of between 0 to 0.5%. Subject to affordability it is proposed that the formula will endeavour to deliver on or as close to the max allowed by the DfE. Schools Forum to agree (primary and secondary).
  - 4.2 Mindful of the pressure on the High Needs Block, Forum to agree to receive 2 (potentially 3) report versions of the APT:-
    - APT - NFF applied at max 0.5%, with any residue requested to support the high needs block to a max of 0.5% allowed transfer.
    - APT – NFF applied. 0.5% transfer to HNB, determine MFG uplift at affordability.if appropriate a 3<sup>rd</sup> option being a hybrid between option 1 and 2.

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- 4.3 **Exceptional Factors** - Note request for exceptional factors has been submitted to DfE in respect of Playing Field management and Service Charge costs. Previously DfE had approved the disapplication for several years, however as a move towards NFF are revisiting previous approvals. This therefore remains a risk. Schools Forum will be updated on the outcome of the application.

## De-delegation

5. The DfE guidance enables Local Authorities to provide services centrally which are funded by a process known as de-delegation. This only applies to mainstream schools and not academies. As such, funding levels agreed will reduce should any school convert following finalisation of the budget process.
- 5.1 The de-delegation process must be agreed every year and supported (by means of voting), by the representative of each phase at Schools Forum.
- 5.2 It is proposed that de-delegation continues in line with current levels plus 3.88% uplift where indicated (referencing to mid-level pay awards), and supports the following:-
- Administration of Free School Meals (£61.3k plus 5%) = £64.4k
  - Trade union and non-sickness supply scheme (Maternity Fund) (£1.14m plus 5% = £1.2m) **Schools Forum to note, that we are currently gathering information on those establishments that need reimbursement which will form the basis of the recovery method).**
  - School Improvement – as agreed - 2 year support.
  - Schools Contingency – to support costs that should not be reasonably incurred by a governing body. (£557k Please note this includes the continuation of the Lewisham schools finance support at £136k).
- 5.3 It should be noted that the academy transfers will reduce the value of contingency held. Also, we will consider if the current rate remained, could the potential be to reduce the value of contingency held, instead of increasing the per pupil rate. **Schools Forum to agree (primary and secondary) de-delegation as proposed in table 1 below:-**

**Table 1- Proposed de-delegation 2024/25**

2023/24 De-delegation	Primary	Secondary	Total	2024/25		
	£	£	£			
Schools contingency	£401,724	£155,880	£557,604	£557,604	Remain at current value.	AWPU
Free school meals eligibility	£41,324	£23,392	£64,716	£67,227	Uplift by Inflation.	FSM6
Licences/ subscriptions	£147,347	£58,340	£205,687	£205,687	To be advised by DfE and will be amended accordingly.	AWPU
Staff costs supply cover	£812,304	£315,196	£1,127,500	£1,172,600	Increase by 4% to gain some inflation cover.	APWU
Lewisham Learning	£322,364	£127,636	£450,000	£450,000		AWPU
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,725,063</b>	<b>£680,444</b>	<b>£2,405,507</b>	<b>£2,453,118</b>		

- Schools Contingency, this incorporates £130k in 2023/24 for Finance Support. Schools forum to agree the continuation of support for 2024/25, uplifted for pay award.
- Licences/subscription – 2023/24 figure shown for completeness. Schools forum to note this item will be updated as advised by DfE.

## Notional SEN

6. Schools receive funding in line with the NFF. DfE requires LA to determine the Notional SEN. To be clear, this is not additional funding but a recognition of Notional SEN at LA level. Ultimately schools remain responsible for determining their local SEN budget.
- 6.1 Table below shows the SEN values based on 2023/24, which shows the proportion of each factor attributable to notional SEN – Schools forum, to note and agree the ongoing application of factor % for Notional SEN.

	Notional SEN shown as %	
	Primary	Secondary
Primary (Years R-6)	0.32%	
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)		0.27%
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)		0.27%
Description		
FSM	74.25%	78.66%
FSM6	74.25%	78.66%
IDACI Band F	100.00%	100.00%
IDACI Band E	100.00%	100.00%
IDACI Band D	100.00%	100.00%
IDACI Band C	100.00%	100.00%
IDACI Band B	100.00%	100.00%
IDACI Band A	100.00%	100.00%
Description		
EAL 3 Primary	100.00%	
EAL 3 Secondary		100.00%
Pupil Mobility	100.00%	100.00%
Primary low prior attainment	100.00%	
Secondary low prior attainment		100.00%
7) Lump Sum	0.00%	0.00%
10) Split Sites	0.00%	0.00%
11) Rates	0.00%	0.00%
12) PFI funding	0.00%	0.00%
MFG	0.00%	0.00%

## Overall duty to ensure spending is within DSG

7. There is a requirement for the DSG to spend within the overall affordability. Schools forum will be aware from previous discussions on the pressure, in particular relating to the High Needs Block.
- 7.1 Schools forum to receive verbal update from the High needs Working group meeting.

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## **Transfer request of 0.5% to support the High Needs Block**

8. Schools Forum is asked to consider a potential transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs for 2024/25.
- 8.1 To enable this consideration it is proposed that two options are put to schools forum:-  
Do we need modelling of the two options?
  - a. APT using full funding.
  - b. Impact of transfer of 0.5%.

## **Early Years Funding**

9. At the time of writing we have yet to receive confirmation of the EY block. Depending on the final settlement position, Officers will provide recommendations for consideration by schools forum. This will include an overall uplift based on the current formula allocation.

## **Financial implications**

10. There are no direct financial implications of this report.

## **Legal implications**

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

## **Equalities implications**

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

## **Climate change and environmental implications**

13. There are no climate change and environmental implications of this report.

## **Crime and disorder implications**

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

## **Health and wellbeing implications**

15. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications.

## **Report author and contact**

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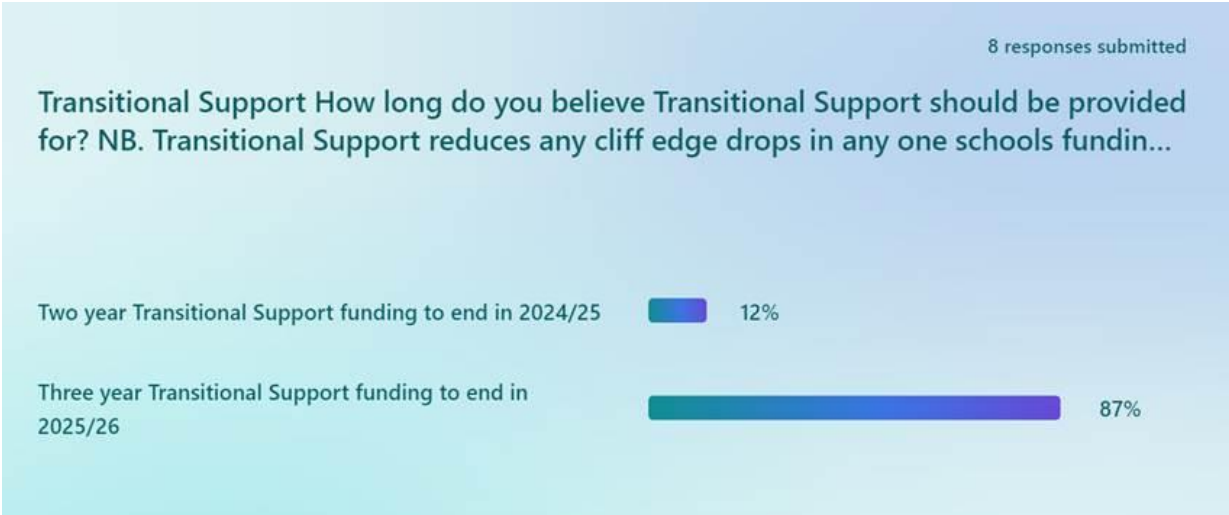
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# Appendix A

## PFI consultation outcome



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## Schools Forum

**Report title:**           **Application of the Quality Factor - Early Years Funding Block – 2023/24**

**Date:**                    14<sup>th</sup> December 23

**Key decision:**        Yes

**Item number:** 7

### **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 was undertaken, which provided 3 options for consideration to determine those providers that should receive a quality factor and the value of that factor.

This was brought to schools forum on 19<sup>th</sup> October for decision. At the meeting it was highlighted that maintained nursery schools employ a greater number of qualified teachers than nursery classes in primary schools or PVI's due to requirements that apply to schools, and because all pupils attending will be under statutory school age.

It was agreed that the options would be reviewed and brought back to Schools Forum for final decision at the next meeting.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The main focus of this report is requesting Schools Forum to consider and agree one of the four 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 TPPG has been rolled into the EYNFF for 2023-24 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 established three options, that are most in line with what other local authorities have utilised.
- 2.8. Following Schools Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> October it was highlighted that maintained nursery schools employ a greater number of qualified teachers than nursery classes in primary schools or PVI's due to requirements that apply to schools and because all pupils attending will be under statutory school age.
- 2.9. Therefore a 4th option has been added for consideration and decision.

### 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
PVI's	64
<b>TOTAL</b> number of settings with a teacher	<b>117</b>

- 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 providing EE funding*	60	
<b>TOTAL number of providers</b>	<b>248</b>	indicative

- 5.3. \*60 is the number of childminders who made a funding claim in January 23. This alters each term and the childminders who claimed in January 23 may not necessarily currently have any funded children on roll
- 5.4. In this example, we would divide 372,000 by 248, which would give a total amount allocated to each provider of approx. £1,500.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. It also does not recognise that each organisation will have different numbers of children on role.

## 6. Option 4

- 6.1. This additional option recognises that maintained nursery schools face greater financial challenges in relation to staffing than primary schools that will in the majority of cases have 1 qualified teacher in place overseeing the nursery provision.
- 6.2. 64 of our 138 PVI settings employ a qualified teacher.
- 6.3. 2 maintained nursery schools employ eight (3 @ Clyde, 5 @ Chelwood), qualified teachers.
- 6.4. In this option we would divide the total funding £372,000 by the number of qualified teachers i.e. 123. This would mean the allocation per qualified teacher working in nursery provision would be £3,024.39.

- 6.5. This, like Option 1, is a straightforward option that targets providers employing qualified teachers but recognises that some providers employ more by necessity and therefore the salary costs are higher.
- 6.6. It is again intended as a contribution and not to meet the total cost.

## 7. Summary

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. There is a significant body of evidence demonstrating that where highly qualified staff are employed outcomes for children are better.
- 7.6. The guidance from DfE encourages local authorities to be mindful of the original purpose of the funding when determining the appropriate metric for allocating funding.

## 8. Recommendation

- 8.1. The DfE recommendation for the distribution of this funding is to consider the original purpose of the grant. It can be seen in this context that options 1,2 and 4 all recognise the intention of providers, or the legal requirement placed on schools, to employ high quality staff that have spent time to extend and supplement their qualifications. Research has also clearly shown that highly qualified staff have a positive impact on the quality of provision. Correspondingly option 3 does not meet this commitment, but has been included as it is an approach used by some other authorities.
- 8.2. Officer recommendation would be option 4 which recognises that some providers have a higher ratio of qualified teachers to other staff by necessity. The approach is straightforward to implement and provides a one-off payment as a contribution to costs.
- 8.3. It can be executed quickly, and the formula used is simple and should minimise confusion.

## 9. Financial implications

- 9.1. There are no financial implications of this report as the quality factor applied will need to be within the budget allocated.

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## **10. Legal implications**

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

## **11. Equalities implications**

11.1. 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.

## **12. Climate change and environmental implications**

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

## **13. Crime and disorder implications**

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

## **14. Health and wellbeing implications**

14.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications.

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## Schools Forum

**Report title: Additional Funding for Schools in Deficit**

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Key decision:** No.

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Item number:** 8

### Outline and recommendations

#### Outline

Schools Forum to note the guidance regarding the financial support for local authorities supporting maintained schools in financial difficulty (2023 to 2024).

#### Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to note the content of this report that focuses on:-

- Criteria for supporting schools that are currently in a deficit budget, in line with the grant conditions supporting this funding.
- To note this is one off funding which must be allocated to schools by the 31<sup>st</sup> March where they meet the criteria.
- Allocation of funding must remain within the overall funding provided by the DfE.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The DfE has allocated £20 million between local authorities who have aggregated school-level deficits as a proportion of their total maintained schools' income above 1%. Local authorities' allocations will be in proportion to their aggregated school-level deficit.
- 1.2. Lewisham has been allocated £458,226.44 for the financial year 2023/24. Payment to schools will be made in December 2023 and January 2024.
- 1.3. Local Authorities are to use this funding to best support their schools in the individual circumstances in which they find themselves. Local Authorities have flexibility over how this funding can be used, however it is premised on the most recent guidance ( March 2023) Schemes for financing local authority maintained schools 2023 to 2024.

It is important to note that:

- Section 6.7 of the guidance allows for local authorities to pay cash sums towards elimination of a deficit balance. This is designed for circumstances where it is not

reasonable to expect the school to eliminate the whole of the deficit from its own future resources.

- This **does not mean** that every school with a deficit within that local authority should be given additional funding. Funding to be allocated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the severity of the school's position and prioritising those in greatest need.
- Local authorities should demonstrate transparency in the use of this additional funding and therefore the following criteria will be used in determining funding for schools in deficit.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Schools Forum is asked to note the content of this report that focuses on:-
- Criteria for supporting schools that are currently in a deficit budget, in line with the grant conditions supporting this funding.
  - To note this is one off funding which must be allocated to schools by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, where they meet the criteria.
  - Allocation of funding must remain within the overall funding provided by the DfE.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Lewisham's 2022-26 Corporate Strategy will continue the fantastic work of the last four years, supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham. Lewisham's Education Strategy 2022-27 has high aspirations for all our children and young people, whatever their starting point. We want all children and young people to have access to excellent education in Lewisham, so they can fulfil their true potential.

## 4. Criteria for the allocation funds to support schools in receipt of a deficit budget

- 4.1. Schools with a current deficit at the end of the financial year in 2022/23 will be invited to apply to the local authority for additional funding to reduce or eliminate their deficit by submitting evidence linked to the following criteria (no more than 1000 words):
- A current and up to date deficit recovery plan that demonstrates that the deficit in decreasing (evidence of an in-year surplus) within the 3 year timescale **and is not increasing**
  - Evidence of recent benchmarking against similar schools – particularly in relation to staffing.
  - Extraordinary circumstances experienced by the school will be considered on a case by case basis, including why the school is in a deficit. The following are examples of what would not be considered extraordinary:
    - Long term sickness
    - Redundancy
    - Capital works that are the responsibility of the local authority
- 4.2. It should be noted that in the event a school is the beneficiary of any funding, should the schools position at 2023/24 exceed the value, the difference will be clawed back.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1. £458k is a one off funding support provided to LA to target some contribution to

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schools that are currently in financial difficulty.

- 5.2. The LA is required to allocate this funding before the end of the financial year and is intended to provide some welcome relief to the school.
- 5.3. The funding is not intended to write off total deficits and can only be a contribution towards the overall debt.
- 5.4. Depending on the number of successful applications received, the funding will be allocated to schools, but must remain within the total funding level
- 5.5. Funding is not intended to support a school to build reserves.
- 5.6. Schools forum will updated on the total number of schools supported.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 7.2. In light of this an Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken for each school who makes an application to access funding to reduce a deficit budget to ensure that the school is financially viable and secures a quality of education that supports the Lewisham Education Strategy.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no climate change and environmental implications.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. There are no crime and disorder implications.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no health and wellbeing implications.

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