

Bristol Schools Forum

**Agenda Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 5.00pm,
The Writing Room, CITY HALL, College Green, Bristol
Tea and coffee available from 4.30pm**

	Start	Item	Action	Owner	Paper
1	5.00	Welcome	A	Chair	
2	5.05	Forum standing business (a) Apologies for Absence: (b) Confirmation meeting is quorate (c) Appointment of new members/Resignations: Resignations: Jamie Barry – Primary Academy Head Massimo Bonaddio – Primary Maintained Head (d) Notification of Vacancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Early Years/Nursery Governor; • One Primary Academy Head; • Three Primary Maintained Heads; • Two Primary Academy Governors; • Two Secondary Academy Heads; • One Secondary Academy Governor; (e) Declarations of Interest	A	Clerk	Verbal
3	5.10	Minutes of meeting held on 2 nd July 2019 (a) To confirm as a correct record (b) Matters arising not covered on agenda	A	Chair	Attached
4	5.15	Presentation on role of the Forum	I	AS	Update on vacancies attached
5	5.25	System-wide Transformation of Bristol's Education Provision	I	JJ	Attached
6	5.40	Feedback from Finance Sub Group	Di	CT	Verbal Update
7	5.45	Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Budget Monitor 2019-20	I	TY	Attached
8	5.55	Update on DSG 2020-21 with Potential Funding Levels, including Consultation on De-delegation	C	TY	Attached
9	6.10	Schools Funding Formula Considerations	Di	TY	Attached
10	6.35	Financial Transparency Consultation and Scheme for Financing Schools	I	TY	Attached

11	6.45	High Needs Block	I	AS	Attached
12	7.00	Early Years DSG Funding		AS	Attached
13	7.15	Any Other Business			

(*) A = Admin, I = Information, De = Decision required, C = Consultation, Di = Discussion

Clerk: Corrina Haskins email: corrina.haskins@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 0117 35 76519 City Hall

Chair: Carew Reynell (contact via clerk)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Items
26 November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitor • Trading with Schools (TwS Annual Report) • HR System ITrent • BCC's draft proposals for the use of 20/21 DSG (including dedelegation). All four blocks. Proposals for the Central Services block to include TwS and planned 3rd party contract procurements • BCC's proposals for the funding formula for 20/21 • SEND update
15 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitor • Final proposals for the use of DSG and the funding formula • Presentation on Early Years funding • Schools Forum constitution and composition
31 March 2020	
13 May 2020	
15 July 2020	

Bristol Schools' Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019
at 18.00 hrs at City Hall

Present:

Simon Eakins	Academy Primary Head Rep, Cathedral Primary
Rob Endley	Non School Member, (NASUWT and NEU).
Peter Evans	Special School Head Rep, KnowleDGE
Simon Holmes	Nursery Head Rep, St Phillips Marsh Nursery
Sarah Lovell	Academy Secondary Headteacher Rep, Bristol Metropolitan Academy
Garry Maher	Diocese of Clifton Rep
Aileen Morrison	Pupil Referral Unit Rep, St Matthias Park
Carew Reynell	Academy Secondary Governor Rep, Henbury
Cedric Sanguignol	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, Bishop Road Primary
Simon Shaw	Maintained Secondary Head Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Christine Townsend	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, Whitehall Primary
David Yorath	Academy Secondary Governor Rep, Cotham School

In attendance from Bristol City Council:

Corrina Haskins	Clerk to Schools Forum
Sally Jaeckle	Service Manager, Early Years
Cllr Anna Keen	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Denise Murray	Director of Finance
Alan Stubbersfield	Interim Director Education Learning & Skills Improvement
Mary Taylor	Business Manager, SEND
David Tully	Interim Finance Business Partner
Travis Young	Corporate Finance

Observers:

Alderman Brian Price

	Action
1. Welcome and introductions	
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Forum standing business	
<p>a. Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jamie Barry (Academy Primary Head Rep, Parson Street School); - Lorraine Wright (Academy Primary Head Rep, Elmlea Junior School); - Kate Matheson (Maintained Primary Governor Rep, St Barnabas Primary); - Kris Hristakev (Special Schools Governor Rep, Woodway Federation); - Graham Clark (Maintained Primary Governor, Sea Mills Primary); - Chris Pring (Maintained Primary Headteacher Rep, Cabot Primary); 	

<p>- Ruth Pickersgill (Nursery Governor Rep, Rosemary Nursery); - Massimo Bonaddio (Maintained Primary Head, Blaise Primary); - Jez Piper (Diocese of Bristol Board of Education)</p> <p>b. Quorate The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>c. Resignations There were no resignations to report.</p> <p>d. Appointment of New Members The Clerk confirmed the following appointment: Kris Hristakev - Special Schools Governor Rep, Woodway Federation</p> <p>e. Notification of Vacancies The Clerk advised of the following Schools Forum Vacancies which would be advertised through the Heads/Governors Bulletins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Primary Maintained Heads; • Two Primary Academy Governors; • Two Secondary Academy Heads; • One Secondary Academy Governor; <p>f. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interests.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May 2019</p>	
<p>RESOLVED - that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>CR gave the following updates on actions required at the previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CR had formally thanked Billy Forsythe for his work as Clerk of the Schools Forum; 2. The first meeting of the Finance Sub Group had taken place and a further meeting would be held later this month; 3. AS had prepared a response to the other outstanding issues and this would be circulated to members of the Forum. On receipt of the information the Forum would consider whether it was necessary to have a further report on the issue of resource base places; 4. Graham Booth would be leading on the review of the scheme for financing schools. <p>In relation to the Hope School, a question was raised about how Schools Forum could see the impact of the additional funding given to the school as there was no performance data or detail about Governance on the Hope School Website. AS confirmed that Governors did receive performance data and AK further advised that Councillors also received this information through the Corporate Parenting Panel. It was agreed that, as the Hope School received funding from the Schools Block money, it would also be useful for Schools Forum to receive performance data to</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>GB</p> <p>AS</p>

<p>measure the impacts for looked after children.</p>	
<p>4. Scrutiny Report SEND</p>	
<p>AS gave a presentation on a report prepared for the Council’s Scrutiny Commission Task and Finish Group on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historical background for SEND legislation; • The Impact of SEND reforms; • The High Needs Block pressures and LGA analysis; • Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission; • SEND in Bristol. <p>The following questions and comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were post-16 SEND students supported to meet the gap between school and post-16 provision? The 2014 Act recognised this and there was a pathway to adult social care with Education and Health Care Plans, although this was not sufficiently backed by funding; • The number of home educated children had increased and there could be a relationship between this and schools off-rolling SEND students; • Local Authorities should be proactive in recognising where students were being off-rolled; • The data showed that 23% of children in Bristol had a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) and so why was this not part of the key conclusions? AS agreed that there were questions that needed further study and a proper analysis of needs; • The LGA refers to a demand-led service, but there should also be a focus on a preventative approach in the case of mental health and wellbeing of students. 	
<p>5. Draft Response to Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) call for evidence on SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Funding</p>	
<p>AS gave a presentation on the areas of questioning in response to the EFSA call for evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEN in Mainstream – notional SEN budgets, better targeting of funding, £6,000 threshold, clarity of information; • Alternative Provision – early intervention, collaboration, best value? • FE – do arrangements secure best outcomes at a reasonable cost? • Early Intervention • Partnership • Other aspects – Special School arrangements, Early Years / High Needs boundaries, ring-fencing DSG blocks? <p>He also drew attention to the results of the survey conducted by Primary Heads’ Association of Bristol (PHAB) which asked for the views of primary headteachers in response to the call for evidence.</p> <p>Forum Members raised the following comments/questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The £6k notional budget was problematic as provision was varied in different schools; • The £6k notional budget did not cover the real costs of supporting SEND students; • There needed to be a balance between formula allocation and a needs led assessment; • The response needed to evidence the case of what was different/unique in Bristol; • What percentage of SEND students were in AP as the result of permanent exclusion? AM 	

<p>responded that students in AP/PRU were often at risk of exclusion and a high percentage of those either had an Education and Health Care Plan or were awaiting one and should have had their needs identified earlier. Therefore there was an argument for investing in early intervention to prevent future escalation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progression of SEND students who benefitted from early intervention could be used as evidence; • The response should consider the number of SEND children who had been permanently excluded and also those who had been moved to avoid permanent exclusion; • Was the national formula too rigid, should there be one block or would this disadvantage areas such as AP?; • Concern was expressed about proposals to devolve AP funding to schools and the impact that this would have on the quality of the provision to these already vulnerable students. <p>DT asked for any further comments by 9th July to be included in the response to the EFSA.</p>	
<p>6. SEND Staffing (Bristol City Council Cabinet Report)</p>	
<p>AK reported that the Bristol City Council Cabinet had met earlier that day and considered a resourcing plan for SEND function. She confirmed that the Council was currently at risk of non-compliance with its statutory duties to SEND children and young people and a package of improvements had been agreed, as set out in the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that the report of Bristol City Council Cabinet in relation to SEND resources and the actions agreed to improve the service be noted.</p>	
<p>7. SEND Capital Strategy (Bristol City Council Cabinet Report)</p>	
<p>AK reported that the Cabinet had also approved the next steps in the education capital programme to progress priority projects that would ensure the provision of adequate and sustainable new places for children with SEND. AS confirmed that the Cabinet had approved 3 priority projects at Kingsweston Special School – The KEEP, KnowleDGE 6th Form and Claremont and Elmfield and other priorities included partnership work, Alternative Learning Provision and reviews of projections.</p> <p>The following comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report suggested that Lansdown had provision for KS4 children, but this was not the case. AK undertook to feed this back. • Were these schools at risk of closing due to lack of maintenance by Bristol City Council? AS stated that the schools had been opened in response to a need in the local area and housed in inadequate accommodation. The risk of not investing in these facilities was the risk of closure and children being educated out of area. <p>RESOLVED – that the report and decisions of Bristol City Council Cabinet in relation to SEND Capital Proposals be noted.</p>	
<p>8. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Overview 2019-20</p>	
<p>DT reported on the latest position as at Period 2 in relation to the DSG overview Budget 2019/20 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was early in the financial year, but based on the previous year, the overall forecast was 	

<p>for an overspend of £1.85m with in year variances in the Early Years Block and High Needs Block;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the decision at the previous meeting to retain £0.390m in the Early Years Block, SJ was working on options and would report back in the Autumn; • In terms of the Early Years Block, the forecast was relying on the pattern of provision in previous year which meant a £1.777m underspend; • In terms of the High Needs Block, the original budget exceeded in-year resources by £2.004m, and further net spending of £30k had been identified at the end of period 2, but this was expected due to the funding shortfall and was being addressed by lobbying government and pursuing the High Needs Transformation Programme.' <p>RESOLVED – that the period 2 DSG overview budget position 2019/20 be noted.</p>	
<p>9. Composition of the Forum</p>	
<p>CR reported that he had drafted a discussion document to address issues raised at the previous meeting in relation to the composition of the Forum. He confirmed that he had used comparative data with other local authorities and advice from DfE.</p> <p>The following comments were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about whether 1 representative of 16-19 provision was enough, but it was noted that the only part of the DSG funding which could be directed at this sector was the High Needs Block and that 16-19 provision was also included by some of the Secondary Schools represented on the Forum; • Would reducing the size of the Forum change anything as there would probably be the same people attending meetings? • Heads/Governors could be put off by the size of the Forum and lengthy meetings hence the number of current vacancies. Would a smaller group be more focussed and engaged? • Forum Members represent their group rather than their school and certain groups were currently over-represented e.g. church groups, which may or may not be an issue; • If the size is reduced this could affect Trade Union representation and as De-delegation decisions are made at Schools Forum, this has an impact on Trade Union funding; • There was a need to inform schools about the role of the Forum in terms of consultation and this could encourage more people to fill the vacancies; • Consideration should be given to undertaking a self-evaluation as part of the process of looking at the composition. <p>CR confirmed that the composition of the Schools Forum was ultimately a matter for Bristol City Council, but it was useful to know the views of Members and he asked for any further comments to be submitted by email.</p>	
<p>10. Any Other Business</p>	
<p>Forum Members noted that it was Alan Stubbersfield’s last meeting as Acting Director of Education and Skills at Bristol City Council and thanked him for all his help in supporting the Forum.</p>	

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Bristol Schools Forum
Role of Schools' Forum

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5pm
Venue:	City Hall

1. Purpose of report (For information)

1.1 To explore the School's Forum role.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to note the report.

3. Information

National guidance on the role of Schools Forum is limited to advice on processes and constitutional factors. The following documents are relatively easy to find:

- Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide;
- Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities;
- Schools forum Self-Assessment Toolkit.

Each reflects the same process focus, and none explores the remit or scope of Forum other than as implied explicitly by the second and covered in the other two. The material is essentially covered in the Schools Forum induction pack produced this year by the chair, whose introduction is reproduced below.

By contrast, when the Ofsted framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for school improvement was operational in the early part of this decade, reports sometimes commented positively on Forum activity extending beyond the financial to considerations of *why* we make resource allocation decisions, and what impact we aim to have on young people's lives.

Those inspections no longer happen, and the resulting letters to DCSs appear to evade observation on the Ofsted site. It might be that constraints on local discretion reduce the salience of those considerations for a schools forum, or that it is now felt right to draw lines around LA-level activity in a context where decisions tend to be at school or national level.

In that context it might be of interest to consider how Bristol's Forum would construct a self-assessment, and to reflect on the value of having a local induction pack which encapsulates the national guidance.

Induction pack

Welcome

Welcome to the Bristol Schools Forum. The information in this pack is intended to provide useful background information to support your induction to the Forum. If you would like more information or explanation, you are welcome to ask Council officers, the clerk, the chair, or other members of the Forum.

Role and Remit of the Forum

Education authorities are required to set up Schools Forums, which comprise representatives of schools and other education stakeholders. The membership of Bristol's Forum is set out in **Document 1**. The clerk to the Forum is Corrina Haskins (corrina.haskins@bristol.gov.uk), and the chair is Carew Reynell (carew.reynell@gmail.com).

Schools Forums generally have both a consultative role and decision-making responsibilities. The respective roles of the Council, the Forum and the DfE are set out in **Document 2**.

In summary, the areas on which Schools Forums make **decisions** on local authority proposals are:

- proposals to move up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to other blocks. The local authority can appeal to the Secretary of State if the Schools Forum rejects its proposals;
- de-delegation from mainstream (excluding academies) maintained schools' budgets (separate approval will be required by the primary and secondary phase members of Schools Forum), for prescribed services to be provided centrally;
- whether to create a fund for significant pupil growth in order to support the local authority's duty for place planning (basic need), including pre-opening and diseconomy of scale costs, and decide the criteria for maintained schools and academies to access this fund;
- whether to create a fund for falling rolls for good or outstanding schools if the schools' surplus capacity is likely to be needed within the next three years to meet rising pupil numbers and decide the criteria for maintained schools and academies to access this fund;
- agreeing other centrally retained budgets, including for local authority statutory responsibilities (where these relate to maintained schools only, voting is by the primary, secondary, special and PRU members of Schools Forum);
- funding for central early years expenditure, which may include funding for checking eligibility of pupils for an early years place, the early years pupil premium and/or free school meals;

- a reduction in the Schools Budget in order to fund a deficit arising in central expenditure, or from de-delegated services, which is to be carried forward from a previous funding period.

The local authority must **consult** the Schools Forum annually in connection with:

- amendments to the school funding formula, for which the voting is restricted by the exclusion of non-schools members except for Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) representatives;
- arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
- arrangements for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the local authority and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
- arrangements for early years provision;
- administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the local authority;
- when a local authority is proposing a contract for supplies and services which is to be funded from the Schools Budget and is in excess of the EU procurement thresholds. The consultation must cover the terms of the contract at least one month prior to the issue of invitations to tender.

The local authority cannot delegate its decision making powers to the Schools Forum.

The School Forum's constitution is in **Document 3**. There is Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) advice about Schools Forums at www.gov.uk.

Meetings

The Forum generally meets six times during an academic year, with the first meeting in September. Agendas will generally include a budget monitoring report and:

- September - the Council's strategy for the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the next year, reflecting provisional information from the ESFA;
- November - the Council's provisional detailed proposals for the use of DSG, for de-delegation, and for the funding formula;
- January - the Council's final proposals, reflecting final information from the ESFA;
- March
- May - the financial outturn for the year just ended;
- July

Meetings are held in City Hall (Bristol City Council offices, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR).

For parking and travel details, please contact the clerk.

Meetings start promptly at 5pm and should finish by 7.30pm. Tea/coffee is provided. Upon arrival, please collect your name badge and take a seat at the table.

Papers for each meeting are emailed out a week in advance. If an alternative method of communication is required for your needs please contact the clerk.

The meetings are open to the public and a number of visitors may observe the meetings. Minutes are published on the council website. Agendas and papers from previous meetings are at www.bristol.gov.uk/resources-professionals/schools-forum.

The funding system

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) includes blocks for Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Services. The funding formula (for allocating funding to mainstream schools) and high needs spending are high on the Forum's agenda. **Document 4** is a presentation on the schools funding system that was prepared by officers in March 2019. **Document 5** is a presentation on high needs funding (May 2019).

Further Information

As part of your induction to forum, we are able to offer additional support by pairing you with a more experienced Forum member. If you would be interested in this opportunity please contact the clerk.

A Glossary of acronyms and terms commonly used in Schools Forum discussion is in **Document 6**.

Thank You

Thank you for joining the Bristol Schools Forum. We encourage active engagement and discussion during our meetings which involve consideration of a wide range of key funding initiatives affecting Bristol schools. Our core purpose is to support the engagement of the schools sector in a fair and transparent funding system for all children i

Bristol Schools Forum
Vacancy Update

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Writing Room, City Hall

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To give an update on Schools Forum Vacancies and ask Forum for views on recruiting new Members

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) Suggest ways to recruit additional Members.**

3 Background

- 3.1 The number of vacancies on the Schools Forum has been increasing over recent months and it is becoming more challenging to recruit new Members.
- 3.2 When vacancies arise, they are currently advertised through the Heads Bulletin with Governor Vacancies also being advertised through Governors Development Service. Specialist posts such as Early Years/Special Schools are advertised through the appropriate networks.
- 3.3 The current vacancies are:
- One Early Years/Nursery Governor;
 - One Primary Academy Head;
 - Three Primary Maintained Heads;
 - Two Primary Academy Governors;
 - Two Secondary Academy Heads;
 - One Secondary Academy Governor.
- 3.4 Forum Members are asked for ideas on how to advertise the vacancies and recruit additional Members.

BRISTOL IN THE 20'S

system-wide transformation of Bristol's education provision

Dr Jacqui Jensen, Executive Director, People

September 2019



Education and Skills



Learning for the 20's

- Bristol is ambitious, growing, imaginative, polarised, stretched, engaged...
- We've got some great stories to tell with improvements, partnerships and skills...
- And known challenges with SEND, attendance, performance gaps, Ofsted outcomes...
- So we want investment in Bristol: capacity, credibility and creativity for the city

One City Plan: Ambition for the 20's

- No child with special educational needs or disabilities segregated at school
- Support provided where necessary to close the attainment gap
- The best start in life, gaining the support and skills to thrive and prosper in adulthood
- School engagement and attendance improved, as with the development of young people's life skills
- Improved support for children with Special Educational Needs and Looked After Children
- Improved post 16 offer developed with clear learning, employment and skills pathways.

Bristol's education system: step change for the 20's

1. The welfare of the child will be paramount; children's statutory needs will be prioritised

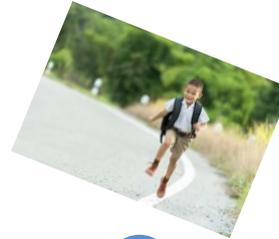
3. Children's needs are known and planned for promptly; these needs are met locally; support ensures adult life is fulfilling

5. All children will have the opportunity to attend, full time, a good or outstanding local school or setting and receive the right support to be successful

Child at the forefront

Children with SEND have their needs met seamlessly

Children attend a good local school



1

2

3

4

5

6



Structure to deliver One City Plan

Schools enabled to deliver top quartile performance

Aligned and Strategic commissioning

2. The directorate structure will be child-focused and advocate strongly for all children, keenly championing those with SEND and disadvantage.

4. All schools will be Ofsted rated Good or Outstanding and ensure all learners receive a high quality education and secure ambitious outcomes

6. We commission and broker support jointly, learning from effective CCG joint planning; we manage the market and develop local high quality good value provision

All children and young people receive a positive educational experience locally

Capacity for the 20's

- Substantive director and teams
 - *Deliver the 1 City Plan*
 - *A strong, listening partner*
- Focus on inclusive values and SEND
 - *Child at the forefront*
 - *Needs met seamlessly*
- Resource to support & to put into schools
 - *Capacity to learn for the 20's*
 - *Good schools, top quartile*

Credibility for the 20's

- Consistency, compliance, confidence
 - Capacity & resource well used
 - Commitment to stability
 - Shared leadership, mature partnerships
 - Mutual accountability
 - Meeting expectations
 - Delivering KPIs and outcomes

Creativity for the 20's

- Data rich, intelligence-led, values-driven
- Capacity, credibility - and skills to innovate
- Child focus and Ofsted aware
- Leadership and partnership models
- Showcase exemplary practice

The ask for the 20's

- Make creative use of shared capacity
- Partnerships and integrated working
- Investments in capacity, consistency & creativity to deliver outcomes
- Support EPS and SEND resources to build skills across the system
- Be the Best for all Bristol CYP

Bristol Schools Forum
DSG Budget Monitor 2019/20 P4

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Writing Room, City Hall

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the forecast financial position for the DSG overall as at Period 4 (to end July 2019).

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) note the latest in-year 2019/20 position for the overall DSG.**
- b) note the changes to ESFA DSG funding approved by Cabinet**

3 Background

- 3.1 A DSG Overview paper was presented to Schools Forum on 2 July 2019, giving the financial position as at the end of Period 2 (end of May 2019). At this point the forecast carry forward was a surplus of £185k, but this ignored the £2.407m additional budget approved from 2020/21 funding, the carry forward position taking account of this was a surplus of £2,592m.
- 3.2 The report updates Schools Forum on the position at Period 4 (end of July) 2019/20.
- 3.3 Following updates from ESFA, the High Needs block and the Early Years block have been adjusted and reflect the latest funding available.

4 Budget monitoring 2019/20

- 4.1 The previously reported position in July 2019 was a forecast £0.630m in-year surplus on the Dedicated Schools Budget for Period 2 2019/20.
- 4.2 This position has moved favorably by £0.040m giving an in-year surplus of £0.670m, and adding this to the brought forward balance gives a forecast surplus carry forward at year end of £2.632m. The movements are in the Early Years block and the High Needs block and are detailed below. The

Period 4 position is set out in **Table 1** with more detail set out in **Appendix 1**.

Table 1: Forecast position on overall DSG for 2019/20 at Period 4 (July 2019)

	<i>b/f</i>	<i>DSG Funding 2019/20</i>	<i>Forecast Outturn Period 04 2019/20</i>	<i>In-year variance</i>	<i>Forecast Carry-forward Period 04 2019/20</i>	<i>Forecast Carry-forward Period 02 2019/20</i>	<i>Movement Period 02 to Period 04</i>
Schools Block		259,445	259,445				
De-delegation	(414)	0	0		(414)	(414)	0
Schools Central Block		2,329	2,329				
Early Years	(1,115)	36,461	35,731	(730)	(1,845)	(1,775)	(70)
High Needs Block Funding	(433)	58,904	58,964	60	(373)	(403)	30
		(354,732)	(354,732)				
Total	(1,962)	2,407	1,737	(670)	(2,632)	(2,592)	(40)

Note – the DSG funding column includes £2.407m of accelerated funding from 2020/21.

- 4.3 **Schools Block (Nil variance).** All of the formula funding for maintained schools and academies has been allocated. The only scope for variation is in the growth fund. Spend on the growth fund will depend on the pupil number information included on the October 2019 pupil census, so it will not be clear much before December 2019 whether any variations will arise on this. The provision is sufficient to cover expected commitments.
- 4.4 **De-delegated resources (-£0.414m forecast underspend).** While this is being reported as not moving during 2019/20, there will be some calls on the Schools in Financial Difficulty balance, but none have so far been included in the first forecast.
- 4.5 **School Central Services Block (Nil Variance).** It is expected that all of the services in this block will spend to budget.
- 4.6 **Early Years Block (-£1.845m forecast underspend).** The Early Years DSG income is based on 5/12ths of the January 2019 census and 7/12ths of the January 2020 census. As the profile of participation in 2018/19 generated an underspend in excess of £1m, a similar level of participation will generate a similar underspend.
- 4.7 A 19% reduction in participation for 2 Year Olds has been forecast, which is being pursued by Early Years team, reducing funding by £415k (as 7/12ths is derived from the January 2020 census), along with a reduction in expenditure of £719k (as this is across the whole financial year).
- 4.8 We had anticipated an increase in funding of £0.619m based on the January 2019 census figures, updated allocations have been received

from ESFA confirming that the actual increase was £0.443m therefore reducing the funding figure for this block by £0.176m compared with the previously reported figure.

- 4.9 The expenditure forecast has been updated to take into account the census figures for January and May 2019, further adjustments will be made when the October census figure is available, the final position will not be known until the January 2020 census is available.
- 4.10 The overall effect of these changes in both funding and expenditure has resulted in the forecast carry-forward underspend increasing by £0.070m to £1,845m
- 4.11 There is a report elsewhere on the agenda relating to the Early Years underspend carried-forward from 2018/19, outlining the proposed use of the £1.115m.
- 4.12 **High Needs Block (£0.373m underspend).** The High Needs block is forecasting an in-year overspend of £0.060m at this stage of the year. The High Needs budget approvals for 2019/20 included £2.407m additional funding from 2020/21 in advance, this will affect the funding available in 2020/21.
- 4.13 The funding has been increased to reflect revised allocations received from ESFA. Net movement between LA areas has resulted in an additional £0.306m and inclusion of funding for a Special Free School of £0.411m, giving an overall funding increase for the block of £0.717m. Expenditure for both these items had already been included in the forecast but we had not forecast any additional funding as we were taking a prudent view until ESFA updates.
- 4.14 The expenditure forecast has increased by £0.747m since period 2, reflecting the latest top-ups following panel decisions. The additional funding outlined in paragraph 4.13 has offset most of this increase resulting in a small increase in the forecast carry-forward of £0.030m to £2.034m.
- 4.15 The underlying position for High Needs is that the difference between the current level of spending and the pure High Needs DSG allocation for 2019/20 is a shortfall of £5m. The plan for addressing this presently is to lobby government for more resources, to pursue the High Needs Transformation Programme to deliver service improvements and to take any opportunities that present themselves to transfer funding from other blocks or elsewhere.
- 4.16 **Funding (Nil Variance).** £355.148m is the latest DSG notified by the ESFA, this has been reduced by £0.415m to give a total figure of

£354.733m reflecting the expected decrease to the Early Years DSG due to estimated reduced pupil numbers in the January 2020 census.

**Appendix 1 - Forecast position for Overall DSG 2011/20 as at Period 4
(Block financing position)**

	Brought forward 1.4.19 £'000	Funding 2019/20 £'000	Forecast Outturn Period 04 2019/20 £'000	In-year movement £'000	Carry forward 31.3.20 £'000
Maintained Schools		80,270	80,270		
Academy Recoupment		176,829	176,829		
Growth Fund		2,346	2,346		
Schools Block		259,445	259,445		
De-delegation Services	(414)				(414)
Admissions		351	351		
Centrally Retained		1,978	1,978		
Schools Central Services		2,329	2,329		
National Formula Funding Accrued		28,768	28,431	(337)	
2 Year Old Funding		3,376	3,061	(315)	
Pupil Premium (EYPP)		354	312	(42)	
Additional Support Services		805	805		
SEN Top up		1,042	1,248	206	
Staffing		2,016	1,796	(220)	
Disability Access Fund		100	77	(23)	
Early Years Block	(1,115)	36,461	35,731	(730)	(1,845)
Commissioned Services		2,500	2,500		
Core Place Funding		10,514	9,876	(638)	
Staffing		974	974		
Top Up		26,753	27,492	739	
Placements		7,437	7,414	(23)	
Pupil Support		741	741		
HOPE Virtual School		236	217	(19)	
Committed reserve Funding agreed but not assigned		(2,215)		2,215	
Academy Recoupment		9,557	9,750	193	
Accelerated Funding from 2020/21		2,407			
High Needs Block	(433)	58,904	58,964	60	2,034
Funding		(354,732)	(354,732)		
Total	(1,962)	2,407	1,737	(670)	(2,632)

Bristol Schools Forum
Update on DSG 2020-21 with potential funding levels, including
consultation on de-delegation

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Writing Room, City Hall

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides an outline of emerging DSG funding levels for 2020/21, and updates on any changes to regulations surrounding DSG. As details on allocations are yet to be confirmed any figures are indicative and should be treated with caution.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) note the potential 2020/21 indicative funding levels.**
- b) note the proposed restrictions relating to the DSG.**
- c) note that the LA will consult with schools on their views on de-delegation, and report the results of the consultation to Forum for their decision at the meeting in November.**

3 Background

- 3.1 HM treasury released some details of the 2019 Spending Round on 4 September 2019, following presentation to Parliament.
- 3.2 Further details were contained in a written statement to Parliament on 9 September 2019.
- 3.3 Detailed allocation methods are expected October 2019 but based on current allocations some estimate can be made of the allocation for Bristol.
- 3.4 Whilst funding in schools and high needs blocks is distributed to individual LAs using National Funding Formula (NFF), a local formula can be adopted by the LA to distribute the schools block to individual schools.

4 Funding levels for 2020/21 and following years

- 4.1 The announcement has stated that national funding for schools and high needs will increase by £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8bn for 2021/22, and £7.1bn for 2022/23. Further details of the provisional allocations for the schools block at LA level will not be published until October. Final allocations and high needs block allocations will be published in December. Whilst waiting for these actual allocations we can make some assumptions about the likely levels of funding for Bristol in 2020/21 by analysing the detail in the announcements.
- 4.2 The announced national increase in the schools block is around 5% but as part of the national strategy is to address historic underfunding it is likely that we will receive less than this. The schools block will be calculated using NFF; if we used the NFF to distribute the DSG then the increase would be 4%, so we assume that our increase in funding will be around this level. This would mean an additional £10.5m in the schools block.
- 4.3 The high needs block is increasing nationally by an average of 11%. Allocations to individual LAs will rise by at least 8%, with a maximum increase of 17%. If Bristol receives the average of 11% an additional £5.9m will be received however, if only the minimum 8% increase is received this results in an extra £4.3m for Bristol.
- 4.4 The teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant will continue to be paid separately from the NFF in 2020/21. The actual grant allocations will be published at a later date but we can estimate that this will increase to cover the full year effect of the changes introduced in September 2019, this will result in an increase of £4.1m.
- 4.5 The national increase for early years is £66m, which represents a 1.8% increase. Applying this percentage increase to our current funding would result in an additional £0.7m for 2020/21.
- 4.6 In all the above examples we have assumed no changes in pupil numbers or composition. Final APT containing the basis for 2020/21 funding is expected to be issued in December 2019.
- 4.7 Table 1 shows the potential increases in DSG funding for Bristol for 2020/21.

Table 1 - Indicative increases in DSG funding,
 based on current known data

DSG allocations	2019/20 allocation	Possible impact of spending review	% increase	Indicative 2020/21 allocation
	£m	£m		£m
Schools Block	261.4	10.5	4%	271.9
Schools Central Block	2.9	0	0%	2.9
Early Years	36.9	0.7	2%	37.6
High Needs Block	53.9	5.9	11%	58.2
Total DSG	355.1	17.1	5%	372.2
Other Items				
Teacher Pay/Pension Grant	8	4.1	51%	12.1
<p><i>Ignoring any changes in pupil numbers/characteristics Allocations before any movement between blocks</i></p>				

5 Restrictions on use and allocations

- 5.1 For 2020/21 we will continue to set a local schools formula. The government has confirmed again its intention to move to a single 'hard' national funding formula to determine every school's budget but no timescale for this change has been announced.
- 5.2 Minimum funding levels per pupil are set as part of the NFF, for 2020/21 these will be £3,750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools. This minimum per-pupil funding will be a mandatory factor in the local formula for the first time in 2020/21. There are currently 18 primary schools and 6 secondary schools in Bristol that are funded below these levels, until we have more detail on funding levels as well as pupil numbers and characteristics it is difficult to forecast if these schools will still be below the minimum per-pupil levels and therefore benefit from this.
- 5.3 MFG can be set at between +0.5% and +1.84%. An MFG of 0% was applied for 2019/20, Forum will need to discuss and agree what MFG rate is set for 2020/21.
- 5.4 Local authorities will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. In 2019/20 we transferred £2m from the schools block (to high needs block), this represents 0.76%. If 0.5% of the indicative Schools Block is taken this only allows a transfer of up to £1.36m so to repeat the 2019-20 movement in 2020/21 would require Secretary of State approval.

6 De-delegation of services to Maintained Schools

- 6.1 In order that schools and academies can be funded on the same basis, the funding for a number of services have been identified by the DfE as services that must be delegated as part of the initial formula.
- 6.2 Maintained mainstream schools, by a majority vote of the Schools Forum in each sector, can opt to 'de-delegate' the funding for their sector i.e. the LA will hold the funding centrally for the agreed services with the funding spent on that sector only. The agreed retention will not be given to maintained schools in the formula.
- 6.3 The LA will consult with maintained mainstream schools to canvass opinion on the currently de-delegated services. The result of this consultation will be reported to the November meeting of Schools Forum where the maintained school representatives will vote on which services to de-delegate for 2020/21.

6.4 The current de-delegated services are:

Primary schools

- Premises & employee insurance
- FSM assessment
- Maternity Supply Cover
- Schools in Financial Difficulty
- Trade Union Facility time
- Education Psychology

Secondary schools

- Premises & employee insurance
- FSM assessment
- Maternity Supply Cover
- Trade Union Facility time
- Health & Safety Reps
- Education Psychology

Report for Schools Forum

Funding Formula considerations

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	City Hall, Writing Room

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report follows from the discussions of the sub-group meeting in September where the sub-group considered variations to the funding formula, largely before the effect of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) is factored in.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Forum considers the content of this report and the data in the appendices to agree a way forward
- 2.2 That in agreeing the way forward, Forum notes the recommendation of the sub-group and

3. Overview and Background

- 3.1 For the meetings of the sub-group in June and September, the LA produced information on how the formula funding to schools varies according to changes in emphasis to certain funding factors.
- 3.2 At the meetings, the sub-group considered how the factors interacted before the influence of the (MFG) is considered.
- 3.3 All of the modelling that is presented in this report and is detailed in the appendices is based on the 2019-20 formula data set. Forum is reminded that the data set for the 2020-21 formula will differ, perhaps significantly, from the 2019-20 so this should only be taken as a guide to the influence of the factors rather than considered to be accurately modelling final outcomes.
- 3.4 The 4 scenarios that have been modelled are explained in **Table 1** below

Table 1: Current formula 2019/20 and illustrations of alternative formulae without MFG.

Illustration	AWPU (Basic Entitlements) £'000	Additional Educational Needs £'000	Premises Factors £'000	Lump Sums £'000	Minimum Funding Guarantee (Current formula only) £'000	Amount distributed £'000
Current formula 2019/20 (including MFG)	£181,367	£48,270	£9,443	£15,948	£2,817	£257,845
Memorandum item: Pure NFF with ESFA advised rates for Bristol.	£177,272	£52,257	£9,443	£14,235	£0	£253,207
Scenario 1: Scale up current formula. Scaling up the current pure local formula to distribute the 2019/20 total, leaving premises and lump sum factors the same.	£183,592	£48,862	£9,443	£15,948	0	£257,845
Scenario 2: NFF AEN priority. Keep local factor values for AWPU, premises and lump sum the same, but distribute the balance on NFF AEN proportions.	£181,367	£51,087	£9,443	£15,948	0	£257,845
Scenario 3: NFF KS4 priority. Keep the local factor values for premises and lump sum, but distribute the balance on the relative proportions for NFF AEN proportions and NFF AWPU proportions for each key stage (ie which favours KS4).	£179,531	£52,923	£9,443	£15,948	0	£257,845
Scenario 4: Scale up NFF. Keep the premises factors the same, set the lump sum at the NFF level and distribute the balance on the relative proportions for NFF AEN proportions and NFF AWPU proportions for each key stage (ie which favours KS4)	£180,854	£53,313	£9,443	£14,235	0	£257,845

3.5 The detailed results of this modelling are in the appendices to this report.

3.6 As the NFF does not specifically comment on Premises factors utilised in the formula, the present level of spend on PFI, NNDR and split sites has been retained in each example of the modelling, as it would be impossible to fairly re-allocated these sums and yet require schools eligible for these funding streams to meet their commitments, through the NFF-specified factors.

4. Summary findings

4.1 The four scenarios produce a range of results, some more beneficial to smaller primary schools whilst other models prefer secondary schools. Table 2 below shows each of the models and the number of schools (by sector) that model prefers.

Table 2: Best scenario by number of school in each sector

Scenario	Primary	Secondary	Total
1	82	0	82
2	17	2	19
3	5	0	5
4	1	21	22
Total	105	23	128

Table 3: Distribution of funding across sector by scenario

	Sum of Current formula £'000s		Sum of SCENARIO 1 £'000s		Sum of SCENARIO 2 £'000s		Sum of SCENARIO 3 £'000s		Sum of SCENARIO 4 £'000s	
Primary	148,044	57.4%	147,747	57.3%	147,082	57.0%	146,535	56.8%	146,093	56.7%
Secondary	109,801	42.6%	110,098	42.7%	110,763	43.0%	111,310	43.2%	111,752	43.3%
Grand Total	257,845		257,845		257,845		257,845		257,846	

4.2 Table 3 quantifies the degree of re-distributed funding under the modelled scenarios; with funding shifting away from primary schools to secondary schools.

4.3 The NFF allocates a significantly higher proportion of funding using AEN factors than does the local formula.

4.4 The impact varies from school to school, depending on the details of their pupils. Some 'high needs' schools do relatively well out of the AEN factors used in the local formula. Many primary schools benefit from scenario 3, which adopts the NFF weightings, but keeps the lump sum at the current level of £125k, but most of them lose much of that benefit in scenario 4 where the lump sum is reduced to £112k.

4.5 The NFF allocates more AWPU to KS4 and this points to most secondary schools benefitting from a full move to the NFF.

5. Consideration for Schools Forum

5.1 Whilst this modelling will provide strong evidence to the effects of any changes to future formula funding, the Forum must take regard of the minimum funding guarantee both in that the level it is set at will

- a) Influence the amount of funding remaining to change the formula after MFG commitments are met

b) Influence the amount of change a school can actually experience through changes to the formula

5.2 Whilst a “soft” formula remains for 2020-21, recent announcements have placed increased restrictions on formula options, further moving towards a hard NFF. There will be competing pressures upon the Schools Block resource, such as:

- The potential establishment of a Falling Rolls fund
- Supporting Growth in schools (via a Growth Fund)
- Transfers between blocks

5.3 The largest consideration is that the data set upon which the formula will be based is unlikely to be received by the LA until mid-December. This will limit the amount of time remaining for Schools Forum to interrogate any arising permutations from the preferred course of action.

Total allocation before MFG

Sector	LAESTAB Name	Pupil numbers Oct 2018	257,845	253,208	257,845	257,845	257,845	257,846	Best scenario 1-4
			Current formula £'000s	NFF £'000s	SCENARIO 1 £'000s	SCENARIO 2 £'000s	SCENARIO 3 £'000s	SCENARIO 4 £'000s	
Primary	8012001 Brunel Field Primary School	410	1,599	1,561	1,610	1,605	1,591	1,588	1
Primary	8012002 Cheddar Grove Primary School	415	1,653	1,619	1,671	1,658	1,651	1,649	1
Primary	8012003 Ashley Down Primary School	415	1,516	1,477	1,524	1,520	1,507	1,504	1
Primary	8012004 Ashton Gate Primary School	723	2,542	2,467	2,544	2,534	2,509	2,512	1
Primary	8012006 Nova Primary School	364	1,579	1,563	1,597	1,597	1,595	1,592	2
Primary	8012018 Broomhill Junior School	179	809	797	817	821	819	811	2
Primary	8012019 St Werburgh's Primary School	330	1,445	1,401	1,441	1,435	1,430	1,425	1
Primary	8012020 Chester Park Junior School	257	1,150	1,134	1,162	1,162	1,160	1,154	2
Primary	8012021 Chester Park Infant School	186	906	867	894	891	890	882	1
Primary	8012023 Hillcrest Primary School	408	1,453	1,424	1,469	1,467	1,454	1,450	1
Primary	8012027 Shirehampton Primary School	425	1,753	1,711	1,764	1,750	1,744	1,743	1
Primary	8012028 Two Mile Hill Primary School	568	2,246	2,239	2,272	2,287	2,279	2,281	2
Primary	8012037 Glenfrome Primary School	402	1,692	1,647	1,686	1,684	1,680	1,678	1
Primary	8012041 Henleaze Infant School	271	1,003	962	1,002	996	986	978	1
Primary	8012069 St Anne's Infant School	248	1,071	1,003	1,036	1,033	1,028	1,021	1
Primary	8012073 Sefton Park Infant School	173	735	675	709	702	696	686	1
Primary	8012074 Sefton Park Junior School	227	845	820	854	850	842	834	1
Primary	8012079 Southville Primary School	502	1,883	1,811	1,871	1,861	1,845	1,844	1
Primary	8012081 Summerhill Infant School	245	1,056	1,027	1,060	1,056	1,052	1,045	1
Primary	8012086 Upper Horfield Primary School	178	875	849	871	872	871	863	2
Primary	8012098 Holymead Primary School	605	2,272	2,253	2,298	2,307	2,293	2,295	2
Primary	8012109 Brentry Primary School	204	903	867	902	893	890	882	1
Primary	8012115 Broomhill Infant School & Chilc	157	716	692	714	716	713	704	2
Primary	8012138 Elmlea Infant School	270	1,007	964	1,001	998	988	981	1
Primary	8012139 Cabot Primary School	184	1,010	931	960	953	954	947	1
Primary	8012299 Hannah More Primary School	327	1,610	1,528	1,575	1,557	1,559	1,556	1
Primary	8012312 Bishop Road Primary School	818	2,829	2,741	2,835	2,816	2,787	2,792	1
Primary	8012314 Blaise Primary and Nursery Sch	380	1,657	1,608	1,658	1,643	1,640	1,638	1
Primary	8012326 Fair Furlong Primary School	410	2,009	1,928	1,992	1,961	1,964	1,964	1
Primary	8012327 May Park Primary School	604	2,705	2,643	2,696	2,689	2,688	2,692	1
Primary	8012328 Whitehall Primary School	535	2,193	2,123	2,187	2,170	2,161	2,162	1
Primary	8013000 Avonmouth Church of England	196	869	830	861	856	852	844	1
Primary	8013008 Horfield Church of England Pri	413	1,568	1,530	1,579	1,572	1,561	1,558	1
Primary	8013010 St Barnabas Church of England	149	781	770	788	791	792	783	3
Primary	8013013 St George Church of England Pi	62	370	357	373	374	373	362	2
Primary	8013014 St Johns Church of England Pri	505	1,811	1,774	1,831	1,825	1,808	1,806	1
Primary	8013018 St Michael's on the Mount Chu	137	673	656	680	677	676	667	1
Primary	8013400 School of Christ The King Cathc	208	1,049	983	1,031	1,007	1,007	1,001	1
Primary	8013401 Holy Cross RC Primary School	199	908	889	918	914	912	905	1
Primary	8013402 Ss Peter and Paul RC Primary S	205	836	812	845	839	834	826	1
Primary	8013403 St Bernard's Catholic Primary S	201	871	822	862	848	844	836	1
Primary	8013405 St Joseph's Catholic Primary Sc	212	907	864	902	892	887	879	1
Primary	8013412 Our Lady of the Rosary Catholi	211	983	918	964	944	942	934	1
Primary	8013413 St Pius X RC Primary School	137	773	740	770	759	761	753	1
Primary	8013415 St Bernadette Catholic Volunta	202	855	811	850	838	833	825	1
Primary	8013417 St Bonaventure's Catholic Prim	402	1,488	1,442	1,494	1,484	1,473	1,469	1
Primary	8013433 Stoke Park Primary School	202	949	934	959	959	958	951	2
Primary	8013437 Bridge Farm Primary School	623	2,284	2,208	2,285	2,265	2,248	2,250	1
Primary	8013438 Knowle Park Primary School	616	2,436	2,340	2,417	2,393	2,381	2,384	1
Primary	8013439 Sea Mills Primary School	204	952	916	942	942	939	932	1
Primary	8013441 Air Balloon Hill Primary School	787	2,955	2,939	2,989	3,004	2,988	2,995	2
Primary	8013442 St Peter's Church of England Pr	414	1,827	1,770	1,824	1,806	1,804	1,803	1
Secondary	8014603 St Mary Redcliffe and Temple S	1082	5,402	5,399	5,466	5,452	5,479	5,505	4
Secondary	8014801 St Bernadette Catholic Second	728	3,833	3,847	3,878	3,883	3,908	3,922	4
Primary	8012005 Ashton Vale Primary School	191	807	789	816	815	811	802	1
Primary	8012010 Fonthill Primary Academy	201	939	922	949	946	946	938	1
Primary	8012013 Begbrook Primary Academy	578	2,221	2,195	2,246	2,246	2,235	2,237	1
Primary	8012017 Waycroft Academy	410	1,555	1,519	1,566	1,561	1,551	1,548	1
Primary	8012022 Cotham Gardens Primary Scho	531	2,000	1,965	2,023	2,014	2,001	2,001	1
Primary	8012029 Ilminster Avenue E-ACT Acader	310	1,503	1,472	1,516	1,500	1,503	1,499	1
Primary	8012030 St Ursula's E-ACT Academy	560	2,037	1,967	2,034	2,020	2,003	2,004	1
Primary	8012034 Filton Avenue Primary School	772	3,202	3,183	3,239	3,240	3,235	3,244	4
Primary	8012038 Oasis Academy Connaught	356	1,736	1,703	1,752	1,732	1,737	1,735	1
Primary	8012040 Henleaze Junior School	380	1,347	1,316	1,362	1,358	1,345	1,341	1
Primary	8012044 Hotwells Primary School	192	762	743	769	770	764	756	2
Primary	8012055 The Dolphin School	358	1,538	1,494	1,543	1,529	1,525	1,522	1
Primary	8012056 Oasis Academy Bank Leaze	187	925	889	916	912	912	904	1
Primary	8012061 Parson Street Primary School	405	1,737	1,718	1,757	1,754	1,752	1,751	1
Primary	8012062 Minerva Primary Academy	260	1,215	1,168	1,192	1,196	1,195	1,190	2
Primary	8012064 Frome Vale Academy	172	827	797	820	820	819	810	1
Primary	8012067 Fishponds Church of England A	393	1,650	1,635	1,668	1,672	1,668	1,666	2
Primary	8012077 Bannerman Road Community /	320	1,578	1,498	1,528	1,526	1,529	1,525	3
Primary	8012078 Henbury Court Primary Acader	336	1,479	1,463	1,495	1,494	1,493	1,490	1
Primary	8012080 Summerhill Academy	333	1,381	1,374	1,396	1,407	1,403	1,399	2
Primary	8012082 The Kingfisher School	135	668	656	675	677	676	667	2

Sector	LAESTAB Name	Pupil numbers Oct 2	257,845	253,208	257,845	257,845	257,845	257,846	Best scenario 1-4
			Current formula c'000s	NFF £'000s	SCENARIO 1 £'000s	SCENARIO 2 £'000s	SCENARIO 3 £'000s	SCENARIO 4 £'000s	
Primary	8012087 Cathedral primary School	337	1,448	1,291	1,340	1,328	1,319	1,314	1
Primary	8012089 Redfield Educate Together Prin	316	1,391	1,286	1,330	1,318	1,314	1,309	1
Primary	8012091 Westbury Park Primary School	415	1,441	1,400	1,451	1,445	1,430	1,426	1
Primary	8012092 Oasis Academy Marksbury Roa	238	1,018	965	1,009	994	990	982	1
Primary	8012093 Fairlawn Primary School	175	778	717	752	743	738	730	1
Primary	8012094 Oasis Academy Long Cross	409	1,861	1,852	1,882	1,886	1,888	1,887	3
Primary	8012099 Headley Park Primary School	419	1,668	1,592	1,657	1,633	1,624	1,622	1
Primary	8012101 Easton Church of England Acac	452	2,292	2,123	2,173	2,157	2,162	2,164	1
Primary	8012106 Barton Hill Academy	376	1,977	1,783	1,818	1,814	1,818	1,817	1
Primary	8012107 Wicklea Academy	307	1,202	1,178	1,216	1,212	1,205	1,200	1
Primary	8012108 Woodlands Academy	181	836	823	844	847	846	838	2
Primary	8012110 Hareclive E-ACT Academy	378	1,939	1,845	1,912	1,874	1,880	1,880	1
Primary	8012112 Elmlea Junior School	358	1,283	1,257	1,297	1,296	1,285	1,280	1
Primary	8012114 St Mary Redcliffe Church of En	391	1,603	1,579	1,621	1,616	1,610	1,608	1
Primary	8012117 Badocks Wood E-ACT Academy	220	1,075	1,071	1,086	1,095	1,097	1,090	3
Primary	8012118 Perry Court E-Act Academy	338	1,520	1,506	1,537	1,537	1,537	1,534	1
Primary	8012119 Luckwell Primary School	197	794	775	802	802	797	788	1
Primary	8012120 Evergreen Primary Academy	185	1,008	918	948	940	941	934	1
Primary	8012320 Compass Point Primary School	195	946	927	944	950	951	943	3
Primary	8012324 Four Acres Academy	289	1,368	1,328	1,362	1,356	1,357	1,352	1
Primary	8013003 Christ Church Church of Englan	395	1,428	1,400	1,444	1,442	1,430	1,426	1
Primary	8013025 Stoke Bishop Church of Englan	410	1,516	1,486	1,532	1,528	1,517	1,514	1
Primary	8013026 Westbury-On-Trym Church of E	410	1,491	1,462	1,508	1,504	1,493	1,489	1
Primary	8013408 St Nicholas of Tolentine Cathol	187	919	897	927	920	920	913	1
Primary	8013411 St Patrick's Catholic Primary Sc	210	908	874	909	901	897	890	1
Primary	8013414 St Teresa's Catholic Primary Scl	207	916	872	910	898	895	887	1
Primary	8013431 Greenfield E-Act Primary Acade	402	1,859	1,783	1,847	1,817	1,818	1,817	1
Primary	8013432 Little Mead Primary Academy	419	1,764	1,739	1,784	1,777	1,774	1,772	1
Primary	8013434 Oasis Academy New Oak	216	1,005	921	950	947	945	937	1
Primary	8013436 West Town Lane Academy	627	2,298	2,253	2,316	2,309	2,294	2,296	1
Primary	8013440 Victoria Park Primary School	413	1,640	1,615	1,654	1,655	1,648	1,645	2
Secondary	8014001 Bristol Free School	889	4,383	4,390	4,435	4,454	4,457	4,476	4
Secondary	8014003 Orchard School Bristol	837	5,277	5,368	5,333	5,414	5,441	5,463	4
Secondary	8014007 Oasis Academy Brislington	795	5,396	5,394	5,383	5,436	5,461	5,479	4
Secondary	8014010 The City Academy Bristol	714	4,470	4,587	4,506	4,614	4,656	4,675	4
Secondary	8014011 Ashton Park School	1065	5,338	5,384	5,402	5,436	5,464	5,490	4
Secondary	8014031 Henbury School	733	4,604	4,675	4,653	4,714	4,740	4,757	4
Secondary	8014037 Bedminster Down School	1024	6,212	6,256	6,279	6,304	6,339	6,366	4
Secondary	8014100 Cotham School	1103	5,807	5,881	5,876	5,929	5,967	5,997	4
Secondary	8014101 Fairfield High School	1029	5,602	5,490	5,487	5,545	5,571	5,598	4
Secondary	8014602 St Bede's Catholic College	934	4,572	4,520	4,589	4,574	4,589	4,608	4
Secondary	8014627 Redland Green School	1077	4,996	4,921	5,009	4,995	4,995	5,017	4
Secondary	8016907 Bristol Brunel Academy	1094	7,249	7,369	7,319	7,414	7,457	7,487	4
Secondary	8016908 Bristol Cathedral Choir School	669	3,337	3,329	3,375	3,375	3,382	3,392	4
Secondary	8016909 Colston's Girls' School	721	3,563	3,552	3,597	3,598	3,609	3,621	4
Secondary	8016911 Oasis Academy John Williams	865	4,922	4,722	4,736	4,764	4,794	4,815	4
Secondary	8016912 Oasis Academy Brightstowe	789	4,876	4,946	4,928	4,979	5,014	5,033	4
Secondary	8016913 Bristol Metropolitan Academy	912	6,453	6,223	6,187	6,260	6,299	6,322	4
Secondary	8014005 Bridge Learning Campus	962	5,750	5,717	5,810	5,768	5,793	5,816	4
Secondary	8014006 Steiner Academy Bristol	367	1,663	1,659	1,682	1,697	1,692	1,690	2
Secondary	8016910 Merchants' Academy	1001	5,668	5,691	5,735	5,727	5,775	5,802	4
Secondary	8019999 CST Trinity Academy	70	427	416	431	434	428	423	2
Primary	8014012 Wansdyke Primary School	206	874	850	883	877	873	865	1

Schools Formula Factor Unit Values in modelling

Item 9 Appendix

	Present local formula (2019-20)	National Funding Formula Values	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (Primary)	2,868.25	2,786.35	2,903.44	2,868.25	2,821.85	2,842.65
Basic Entitlement (KS3)	4,091.93	3,918.00	4,142.14	4,091.93	3,967.92	3,997.16
Basic Entitlement (KS4)	4,315.33	4,448.66	4,368.28	4,315.33	4,505.34	4,538.54
Free School Meals (Primary)	375.52	446.31	380.12	436.31	451.99	455.32
Free School Meals (Secondary)	384.26	446.31	388.98	436.31	451.99	455.32
Free School Meals Ever 6 (Primary)	360.74	547.74	365.17	535.47	554.72	558.80
Free School Meals Ever 6 (Secondary)	524.42	796.25	530.85	778.42	806.39	812.34
IDACI (P F)	250.46	202.87	253.53	198.32	205.45	206.96
IDACI (P E)	300.55	243.44	304.23	237.99	246.54	248.36
IDACI (P D)	427.45	365.16	432.70	356.98	369.81	372.54
IDACI (P C)	494.23	395.59	500.29	386.73	400.63	403.58
IDACI (P B)	561.01	426.02	567.89	416.48	431.45	434.63
IDACI (P A)	851.51	583.24	861.96	570.18	590.67	595.02
IDACI (S F)	310.58	294.16	314.39	287.57	297.90	300.10
IDACI (S E)	400.75	395.59	405.67	386.73	400.63	403.58
IDACI (S D)	531.00	522.38	537.51	510.68	529.04	532.93
IDACI (S C)	607.80	568.02	615.26	555.30	575.26	579.50
IDACI (S B)	681.26	608.60	689.62	594.97	616.35	620.89
IDACI (S A)	1,008.50	821.61	1,020.88	803.21	832.08	838.21
EAL3 (P)	525.38	522.38	531.82	510.68	529.04	532.93
EAL3 (S)	1,197.24	1,404.85	1,211.93	1,373.38	1,422.75	1,433.23
Low Attainment (P)	916.91	1,036.65	928.16	1,013.43	1,049.85	1,057.59
Low Attainment (S)	1,369.99	1,572.21	1,386.80	1,537.00	1,592.24	1,603.98
Lump Sum	125,000.00	111,576.30	125,000.00	125,000.00	125,000.00	111,576.30

Bristol Schools Forum
Financial Transparency Consultation and Scheme for Financing Schools

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Writing Room, City Hall

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the Council's response to the Financial Transparency consultation, and provides a draft timetable for a refresh of the Scheme for Financing Schools.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) note the response to the Financial Transparency consultation.**
- b) note, and give comments on the draft timetable for refreshing the Scheme for Financing Schools.**

3 Background

- 3.1 Financial Transparency Consultation was launched by DfE in July 2019.
- 3.2 The proposals in the consultation if adopted will become mandated items for the scheme for financing schools.
- 3.3 Local Authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. Bristol's current document dates from May 2017.
- 3.4 Scheme for Financing Schools was the subject of a paper to Schools Forum on 15 May 2019, proposing updates to the current document. Forum did not agree to the recommendations and requested further work on the Scheme.
- 3.5 Changes to the scheme can be initiated by the LA or be directed by the Secretary of State. Where these changes are directed by the Secretary of State they become part of the scheme from the date of direction. Other proposed revisions must be subject to consultation with the governing body and head teacher of every maintained school subject to the scheme before they are submitted to Schools Forum for approval.

4 Financial Transparency Consultation

- 4.1 The consultation will be responded to on behalf of Bristol City Council. Schools and individuals are able to respond directly to the consultation.
- 4.2 Internal consultation on the response has taken place with Internal Audit and Trading with Schools.
- 4.3 The draft response is attached as appendix 1.

5 Scheme for Financing Schools

- 5.1 The results from the consultation on Financial Transparency are expected in December alongside new mandated changes to the scheme.
- 5.2 Whilst waiting for the consultation results we will review the current document and incorporate existing mandated changes and local priorities. We want to ensure that proposals are acceptable to schools so will incorporate feedback from the previous consultation responses. We want to ensure any new proposals are both feasible, from a systems point of view, and not too onerous so will want to engage with school business managers.
- 5.3 Once we have been notified of any new mandated changes and have incorporated them into the document we will consult formally with maintained schools before presenting a final document to forum for approval.
- 5.4 A draft timetable for this process is attached as appendix 2.

Proposals

Proposal 1: Making public where local authorities are failing to comply with deadlines for completing assurance returns and financial collections

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.2 - 3.10** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Local authorities, and maintained schools, are obliged to complete the following assurance returns and financial collections:

- Schools Financial Value Standard
- Dedicated Schools Grant

We have reviewed the approach to late returns that the ESFA has adopted this year for the academy sector, whereby they publish (on GOV.UK) the names of trusts who are late in submitting more than 2 out of 4 annual returns and believe similar measures could be used in the LA maintained schools sector.

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.**
Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
<p>We propose to publish the names of local authorities on GOV.UK who fail to comply in any financial year with more than two deadlines from the following collections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) ▪ Dedicated Schools Grant CFO assurance statement ✓ ▪ Consistent Financial Reporting ▪ Section 251 Budget ✓ ▪ Section 251 Outturn ✓ 			

Comments

We agree with the principle of naming organisations who do not abide by reporting deadlines and agree that this will not add any cost burden to local authorities. However some of these returns are the responsibility of individual schools, so the naming of the local authority for something not under their direct control seems unfair.

Proposal 2a: Strengthening DSG annual assurance returns: Collecting the number of schools with suspended budgets and notices of financial concern through existing DSG assurance statement

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.11 - 3.14** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to collect the number of schools with suspended budgets and notices of financial concern through the existing DSG assurance statement signed by the local authority CFO at the end of the financial year.	✓		

Comments

We agree with this proposal and do not think it would add a significant cost burden.

Proposal 2b: Strengthening DSG annual assurance returns: Adding a new section to the DSG assurance statement that captures the amounts that LAs have recovered from investigating fraud

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.11 - 3.15** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Currently, local authorities recover funds from fraud investigations but only inform DfE of the number and value of reported cases, not the value of money recovered

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to add a new section to the DSG assurance statement that captures the amounts that LAs have recovered from investigating fraud	✓		

Comments

This is only a slight change in reporting as we already have to report the level of reported fraud. The only change required would be in capturing this information and do not this this would be too onerous or cost a significant amount to implement.

Proposal 3: Requiring maintained schools to provide local authorities with 3-year budget forecasts

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.16 – 3.21** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Local authorities are required to maintain schemes for financing schools, which set out the financial relationship they have with their maintained schools. We have recently introduced a requirement for academies to send the department a three-year budget plan and we believe that this could be extended to maintained schools in the form of sending a three-year budget plan to their maintained authority.

**1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose a directed revision of the schemes for financing schools to make it a requirement for maintained schools to provide local authorities with three-year budget forecasts	✓		

Comments

<p>This matches what is already in our Scheme for Financing Schools and we believe it is key to good financial planning.</p>
--

Proposals 4 (a,b,c): Strengthening Related Party Transaction arrangements in maintained schools:

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.22 – 3.29** of the consultation document before responding to these proposals. The three proposals are alternatives to one another.

Academy trusts must report all Related Party Transactions (RPTs) to ESFA in advance of the transaction taking place, using ESFA's on-line form. This requirement applies to transactions made on or after 1 April 2019. Since April 2019, all academy trusts have had to seek approval from the ESFA for RPT payments of more than £20,000 and all

transactions below £20,000 must be declared. The arrangements for reporting RPTs in maintained schools are not as stringent as those in academy trusts.

Proposal 4a: : Making schools append a list of RPTs to their response to the new question in the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) about their arrangements for managing RPTs, so that the information goes to the local authority and can be passed on to the department

- 1) **Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
<p>We propose to make schools append a list of RPTs to their response to the new question in the SFVS about their arrangements for managing RPTs.</p> <p>In addition, we would insert additional columns into the CFO Assurance Statement, to request the number of RPTs and value for each to be disclosed.</p>			✓

Comments

Whilst we see that from a transparency perspective listing RPT would be beneficial, it is hard to comment on these proposals without more detail around the definition of RPTs. If a LA counts as a related party (which in theory it is), then for most maintained schools it will mean a list of numerous transactions with the LA which we don't think will add any value.

If the LA doesn't count as a related party we think that this would mean very few RPTs so wonder if it worth mandating this and also needing to change systems to enable reporting.

Proposal 4b: Making a directed revision to the statutory Scheme for Financing Schools to require schools to report all RPTs, or RPTs above a certain threshold, directly to the local authority

1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to amend the scheme for financing schools to require schools to report all RPTs, or RPTs above a certain threshold, directly to the local authority.			✓

Comments

See response in 4a

Proposal 4c: Making a directed revision to the statutory Scheme for Financing Schools to require schools to seek permission from the local authority to enter into RPTs above a certain amount.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below. Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to amend schemes to require schools to seek permission from the authority to enter RPTs above a threshold.			✓

Comments

See response in 4a

Proposal 5: Requiring maintained schools to be subject to internal audit at least every 3 years

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.30 – 3.34** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Schools are within the overall audit arrangements determined by the local authority's statutory section 151 officer (CFO). Authorities operate internal audit teams whose work is then relied on by their external auditors. Most audit plans use a risk-based approach with some themed audits. We have learned in discussion with local authorities that the cycles for auditing-maintained schools vary a great deal and, in some cases, have fallen into disuse. Consequently, we think there is a case for action.

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to make a directed revision to the scheme guidance to require that every maintained school be subject to internal audit at least every 3 years.		✓	

Comments

Bristol has adopted a combination of themed audits and risk based audits. For the last themed audit we sought input from all maintained schools. In accordance with Internal Audit standards we have adopted a risk based approach with an annual risk analysis, rather than a cyclical programme of visits to all schools. Consequently we have visited schools identified as high risk. Some Bristol schools have not fallen into this category and some have not been visited for a number of years. These schools have provided SFVS returns and generally been in robust financial health in the interim and fell within the scope of the themed audit. Visiting low risk schools every 3 years does not seem a good use of scarce resources. Council colleagues do monitor these schools through receipt and analysis of financial returns and monitoring the outcomes of OfSTED visits so there is no lack of oversight.

The consultation is silent on the scope of an internal audit visit. There are a number of areas that might be covered such as governance, financial health, financial monitoring, student data, data protection, vfm etc. If a visit is to be mandated every 3 years then an indication of what must and what might be covered would be helpful.

Proposals 6 (a,b,c): Strengthening arrangements to help schools that are in financial difficulty:

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.35 – 3.37** of the consultation document before responding to these proposals. These proposals are additive, and we could implement all three together.

There is currently no requirement for local authorities to report to the department their plans for addressing financial difficulty in specific schools. Local authorities include both a deficit and surplus policy within their scheme for financing schools and monitor their schools' compliance with these. We have not previously collected information from authorities on the number of schools they intervene in but consider that this evidence base would help us to understand any variances in the level of support provided and target additional support from the Department.

Proposal 6a: Requiring schools to submit a recovery plan to their maintaining authority when their deficit rises above 5%

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
-----------	-------	----------	----------------------------

We propose to make a directed revision to the scheme for financing schools requiring schools to submit a recovery plan to their maintaining authority when their deficit rises above 5%.	✓		
--	---	--	--

Comments

This is already part of our Scheme of Financing Schools.
--

Proposal 6b: Collecting information on the number of recovery plans in each LA through DSG annual assurance returns from the CFO

- 1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose to collect information on the number of recovery plans in each LA through the DSG annual assurance return from the CFO.	✓		

Comments

This data would be easy to collate and report within the DSG assurance statement.

Proposal 6c: Writing to local authorities each year when the end-year data is published, specifying the threshold of deficit that would trigger contact with the Department

1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below.
Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
<p>We propose to formalise the approach to working with LAs and include a request for high level action plans from some LAs. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing published data on the school balances in each LA • Use this data and evidence-based requests from LAs to ensure support is focused where it is needed • Request high level action plans from LAs in which the number or proportion of school revenue deficits over 5% is above a certain level. 	✓		

Comments

Proposal 7: Increasing transparency in the reporting of high pay for school staff

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.38 – 3.41** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Currently there is a disparity between public access to information on high salaries within maintained schools and academies. Salary ranges within the national pay framework are published annually in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document – these apply to teachers and leaders in maintained schools.

Academy trusts must disclose in their published financial statements information about each individual earning over £100k - specifically (i) their total FTE salary in £10k bandings, e.g. £100k - £110k, (ii) their job role and description and (iii) whether they are predominantly focussed on curriculum and education leadership or school business management leadership. We believe that this measure should be introduced for LA maintained schools and would require them to publish annually on their websites the number of individuals earning over £100K in £10K bandings.

1) Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below. Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose that all LA maintained schools should be required to publish annually on their websites the number of individuals (if any) earning over £100K in £10K bandings	✓		

Comments

This would mirror the information provided in the Statement of Accounts for the LA, but at a school level so providing greater transparency.

Proposal 8: Increasing transparency in reporting maintained school income and expenditure

Please refer to **paragraphs 3.42 – 3.45** of the consultation document before responding to this proposal.

Local authority school accounts are part of the local authority statements of accounts that are published at gross level for income and expenditure. While individual schools are not included on the LA balance sheet, individual maintained schools are required to produce annual income and expenditure statements, known as Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR), or else local authorities produce them on the schools' behalf. The department publishes all the information from CFR in a spreadsheet but we believe it would add significantly to transparency if there were a requirement for individual schools to publish annually on their websites their latest CFR statements.

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the proposal below. Please Tick (✓)

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
We propose that all LA maintained schools should be required to publish annually on their websites their latest Consistent Financial Reporting statement of income, expenditure and balances.	✓		

Comments

This information is already produced, so the requirement to publish should not be an onerous task and as other proposals adds to transparency.

New financial burdens on local authorities

Local authorities are invited to fill in the table below to indicate and quantify any new burdens they believe would arise from the proposals in this document. Please specify in as much detail as possible what costs you believe would arise and provide figures.

Proposal	Yes/No	Details and quantification of cost
2a		
2b		
3		
4a		
4b		
4c		
5	Yes	Difficult to estimate as not clear what a 'visit' actually is – assuming an overview audit this would add at least £20k to our Internal Audit costs.
6a		
6b		
Other proposals (please specify)		

Additional costs for schools

Respondents are invited to fill in the table below to indicate and quantify any additional costs they believe would arise for schools from the proposals in this document. Please specify in as much detail as possible what costs you believe would arise and provide figures.

Proposal	Yes/No	Details and quantification of cost
3		
4a		

4b		
-----------	--	--

4c		
5		
6a		
7		
8		
Other proposals (please specify)		

7. Respond Online

7.1 To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations to submit your response.

Other ways to respond

7.2 If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, please email or write to the addresses below and we will send you a word document version.

By email

- LAFinancialTransparency.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk

By post

LA Financial Transparency Measures
Department for Education
5th Floor
2 St Pauls Place
125 Norfolk Street

Sheffield
S1 2JF

Deadline

7.3 The consultation closes on 30 September 2019



© Crown copyright 2019

This document/publication (not included logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third-party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

write to: Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries: www.education.gov.uk/contactus

download: www.gov.uk/government/consultations

Reference: [DfE-00146-2019]



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk

Scheme for Financing Schools

Draft Timetable for updating current document.

Date	Action
July – September 2019	ESFA LA Transparency Consultation open
30 September 2019	ESFA LA Transparency Consultation closes
September – December 2019	Review of current Scheme for Financing Schools by BCC (including internal consultation)
December 2019	Expected announcement of results of LA Transparency Consultation
January 2020	BCC incorporate new mandated items into scheme.
February 2020 (at least 3 weeks)	Local consultation on revised scheme – maintained schools
March 2020	Final scheme presented to schools forum for agreement
April 2020	Revised Scheme takes effect.

Bristol Schools Forum
High Needs Block

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	City Hall,

1. Purpose of report (FOR INFORMATION)

- 1.1 To update Schools Forum on the period 4 2019/2020 forecast position
- 1.2 To provide Schools Forum with an update on the High Needs Block Transformation Projects.
- 1.3 To advise Schools forum of the statistics with regards to its special educational needs position and the action taken by the local authority to improve its performance for children, young people and families with SEND.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **To note the period 4 2019/2020 High Needs Block forecast;**
- 2.2 **To note the new timescales for the Sensory Support Service and Top Up Funding redesign.**
- 2.3 **To note and comment on the information provided on statutory assessment process for Education, Health and Care plans and the plan of action to improve performance.**

3. Summary and Context

- 3.1 This paper provides an update on the period 4 forecast 2019/20, which documents an adverse position of £0.584M on the budget of £58,187M
- 3.2 Schools Forum have been updated each meeting on the progress of the High needs Block Transformation programme, which initially identified four key areas for development: Sensory Support Service redesign, review of the Early Intervention Base two year pilot, Top Up Funding processes and procedures and Bristol Hospital Education Service (BHES). The BHES

review was earmarked for January 2020 due to capacity issues for such a large piece of work but the other three projects are progressing and an update, including timescales for completion, is provided within this report.

- 3.3 Following the request for additional resource from cabinet in July 2019 for the Education and Skills directorate, an independent review was commissioned of SEND data and performance system and processes. Details of this commission and the performance data as of 31st August 2019 are provided within this report for Schools Forum's attention.

4. Budget Monitoring Position for Period 4 2019/20 outturn.

- 4.1 **Table 1** sets out the period 4 2019/20 forecast position

Table 1: High Needs Block budget outturn for 2019/20

Component	Budget 2019/20 £'000	Period 4 2019/20 Forecast £'000	Variance
1. Places only	17,659	17,021	(638)
2. SEN Top-ups	25,714	26,626	912
3. AP Top-ups	1,439	1,492	53
4. Other SEN provision	6,568	6,344	(224)
5. Other AP provision	4,224	4,224	0
6. Services	3,300	3,258	(42)
Total 2019/20	58,904	58,964	60

- 4.2 **Places only (-£0.638m underspend).** The budget was set at the available funding level at the start of the year, which was a prudent position. Additional funding of £0.717m has been allocated by ESFA for Free School places and import/export adjustment.

- 4.3 **SEN Top-Up (£0.912m overspend)** Following Top Up moderation panel in the summer term, increases in funding requested and subsequently agreed were seen across the board. Special Schools increased by £400K, maintained schools by £550K and General Further Education £115K. Out of local authority (OLA) school placements increased by £200K; it should be noted that BCC are unable to negotiate on these fees but rather have to abide by each LA's banding or matrix system. These increases in Top Up were offset during the period by an underspend in forecast of £350K against resources bases.

- 4.4 **AP Top-up (£0.053m adverse):** The main reason for this small forecast overspend relates to PRU top up funding being higher than budgeted.
- 4.5 **Other SEN Provision (-£0.224m underspend):** Underspend seen as a result of reduced demand for Post 16 independent non maintained school placements and independent specialist college placements compared to previous years trends. Each year's cohort obviously has different individual needs but this decrease can also be attributed to the LA's proactive approach to improving Bristol's local offer around preparing for adulthood outcomes – employment, community inclusion, independent living and leading healthy adult lives. Further developmental and commissioning work is also underway to improve the transition for young people with SEND from the age of 14 years, with the aim to improve their options and outcomes and which indirectly will improve financial forecasting too.
- 4.6 **Other AP Provision (-£0).**
- 4.7 **SEN services (-£0.042m underspend)** This underspend is as a result of an underspend on local authority staffing and contractual spend.

5. **High Needs Block Transformation Projects** Please refer to April Schools Forum report for full background information. Current updates are:

Sensory Support Service

- 5.1 Stakeholder events have taken place in each local authority with the initial survey with one version for parents/ families, another for CYP and another for professionals –this survey finished in October 2018. Ideas/ suggestions from this have been used to identify changes and improvements.
- 5.2 A Joint Operational Group was established – this includes parents/carers, voluntary organisations, commissioners, health and social care representation. Regular meetings with members of this group were organized for co-production of surveys, work on different models or provision etc.
- 5.3 Stakeholders continued to be involved in shaping the models being considered and a second public consultation will take place in 2019 for comments on the proposed new model.
- 5.4 The proposed redesign for the Sensory Support service will:
 - 5.4.1. Extend the Service to go beyond the age of 16 and support children and young people up to the age of 25 across a wider range of education settings in Bristol, BANES, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

- 5.4.2 Replace 1:1 sessions for which staff have to spend time travelling, with carefully designed group sessions in educational settings and other places. These surgery-style sessions will also give opportunities for families to meet others in the same or a similar situation and get support from their peers.
- 5.4.3 Put in place workforce development for education settings as well as training to support parents and carers across the local areas.
- 5.4.4 Utilise a wider range of communication strategies to enable easier access to advice and guidance at universal, targeted and specialist levels.
- 5.4.5 Amalgamate the Habilitation (Guide Dogs for the Blind) contracts to include all four local authorities.
- 5.4.6. Develop an equitable traded model of support that better supports the changing needs and requirements of schools and educational settings in the four areas to help them perform well and improve educational outcomes for children and young people with sensory impairments.
- 5.5 The new staffing structure and service redesign will be going to public consultation for an eight week period starting from October 2019 and a link to the 'BCC Consultation Hub' will be sent to school forum members when it becomes live.
- 5.6 The feedback and analysis from the public consultation will become available to the Director of Education and Skills by 23rd December 2019 and will then be considered and the redesign amended, as appropriate.
- 5.7 Management of change would then commence in January 2020 for the staff working within the Sensory Support Service. Schools Forum will also be updated on the feedback and how the service redesign will be cascaded to service users.
- 5.8 It is anticipated that changes to the sensory support service will take place with effect from 1st April 2020.

6. Top Up Funding Process and Procedures

- 6.1 Engagement and stakeholder events took place between November 2018 and January 2019, additional contributions were gathered at the SENCO conference in March 2019 and the Inclusion in Education Group have then taken on the continual developmental work up to the present date.
- 6.2 The recommendations for changes to the Top Up process will go to public consultation in October 2019 for eight weeks; feedback will be analysed, adjustments made as appropriate by the end of the year prior to sign off early in the New Year.
- 6.3 Workforce training will be crucial and is projected to commence from February 2020 with a view to the new Top Up process being in place for the new financial year.
- 6.4 The proposed new paperwork will be:
 - 6.4.1. Bristol Universal Descriptors (BUDS) to be replaced by the Bristol Graduated Guidance.
 - 6.4.2. Top Up Funding banding system to be replaced with a Needs Matrix
 - 6.4.3. Requests for Top Up funding – new statutory assessments will have funding agreed at the time a EHCP is agreed. For all other requests, these will be reviewed and moderated through a Top Up Panel which will meet every (new) term e.g. every 6 weeks.

7. Early Intervention Base Pilot Review

- 7.1 A review of the two year pilot has now taken place and has identified that a city wide strategy and policy is now required to ensure we have a city wide offer to enhance attendance, improve inclusion, reduce fixed term exclusions and improve educational outcomes.

8. SEN Performance update

- 8.1 Following Full Cabinet in July, additional resource was made available to increase capacity and an independent review of SEND data and performance system and processes was commissioned. To address the poor performance in the delivery of statutory timescales and team outputs, action has been taken by the LA as follows:
 - 8.1.1. A full review of working practices has taken place during July/August.

- 8.1.2. In September, revised work streams are being designed to improve early engagement with young people and parents/ carers and support co-production. These have been shared with stakeholders.
- 8.1.3. Management reports are now becoming available through the new database 'Early Years & Education System' (EYES) and further training and development for staff on the system has been put in place. Performance clinics will keep performance under review.
- 8.1.4. A review of the SEN casework team scale and structure has taken place and this is now being discussed with the staff involved. The aim again is to improve working practices and capacity to meet statutory timescales as well as develop areas as per the SEND self-evaluation.

City Outcome: *What is the proposed outcome for the city and how does this contribute to the Corporate Plan?*

- **Empowering and Caring:** Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people with SEND and equipping the children and young people in our care with the skills and tools to live fulfilling, successful, and rewarding lives.
- **Fair and Inclusive:** Demonstrating due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and continue to improve outcomes across education, health and social care for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities aged 0-25 years. To ensure everyone has access to a high quality education with appropriate levels of support and resources. Reducing in the gap between disadvantaged pupils (including pupils with special educational needs, disability and children in care) and the Bristol Average at Key Stage 4. An increase in the proportion of young people who have experience of work/apprenticeship by school age 16.
- **Well connected:** Supporting social inclusion and community cohesion for children and young people with SEND, and their families.
- **Wellbeing:** Children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years and their families will have access to appropriate support for their needs from birth and will be better able to co- ordinate support around the child, achieve better outcomes and make firm plans for their future. Encourage life-long learning in environments where both academic and emotional development are understood and delivered together and increase overall educational performance.

Health Outcome summary: not applicable

Sustainability Outcome summary: not applicable

Equalities Outcome summary: No savings are planned and therefore these proposals and processes employed aim to minimize any impact on protected groups within the next financial year. All project work streams have completed equalities checks and draft initial Equalities Impact Assessments that will evolve as each project progresses.

Impact / Involvement of partners: consultation with schools as well as wider stakeholders and partners is indicated in the report

Consultation carried out: This report is part of the engagement with schools and other partners prior to this matter being considered by Cabinet and Council.

Financial Issues: The underlying financial position in the High Needs block remains a concern. The difference between the 2019/20 High Needs budget agreed by Council and the DSG for High Needs is £5m. The strategy is to lobby government, transform the service and transfer funding where opportunities arise. This strategy will need to be kept under review and adapted as necessary.

Bristol Schools Forum
Early Years DSG Funding 2019/20

Date of meeting:	25 th September 2019
Time of meeting:	5pm
Venue:	City Hall

1. Purpose of report (For information and steer)

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial position for Early Years DSG for 2019/20 and sets out a proposal on how the final £0.390m of the net DSG surplus for 2018/19 earmarked for Early Years could be applied.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) Note the details of the forecast position for 2019/20; and
- b) Comment on the proposal to supplement funding for 2 years olds accessing the free early education entitlement, as set out in section 4.

3. Early Years budget position 2019/20

- 3.1 The report elsewhere on this agenda indicates that the Early Years Block is forecast to underspend by -£1.845m for 2019/20. The Early Years DSG income is based on 5/12ths of the January 2019 census and 7/12ths of the January 2020 census. As the profile of participation in 2018/19 generated an underspend in excess of £1m, a similar level of participation will generate a similar underspend.
- 3.2 **Table 1** includes the details of the calculations that point to a surplus of £1.845m by the end of this financial year.

Table 1: Detail of P04 Early Years DSG forecast position

Component	Funding forecast £'000	Expenditure forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Income 3 and 4 year olds	-32,046			Based on participation in Jan 19 and the same level in Jan 20
Income 2 year olds	-3,307			Based on participation in Jan 19 and 81% of that level in Jan 20
Income 2018/19 (YE Accrual v Final ESFA)	34			Difference between forecast final EY DSG 2018/29 at year-end and confirmed final EY DSG.
Mainstream U&Ext		9,472		Based on expected participation as per 2018/19, updated for May 2019 census.
Mainstream Deprivation		433		Based on the average mainstream deprivation rate at the expected level of participation
PVI U& Ext		16,966		Based on expected participation as per 2018/19, updated for May 2019 census.
PVI Deprivation		278		Based on the average mainstream deprivation rate at the expected level of participation
2YO expenditure		3,061		Based on 20% lower participation than in 2018/19 across 2019/20.
Central Team		1,378		Current expected commitments
SEN		1,585		Includes enhanced rates for 2019/20.
Quality Supplement		887		Current expected commitments
Maintained Nursery Supplement	-744	1,282		Rate for individual schools is always based on 2016/17 rate, but national income in EY DSG continues to abate.
Disabled Access Fund	-100	77		Income is based on notified amount from ESFA. Expenditure is based on current expected commitments.
EYPP (Pupil Premium)	-299	312		Income is based on notified amount from ESFA. Expenditure is based on current expected commitments.
b/f from 2018/19	-1,115			Actual brought forward agreed from 2018/19
TOTAL	-37,577	35,731	-1,846	

3.3 A 19% reduction in participation for 2 Year Olds has been forecast, which is being pursued by Early Years team, reducing funding by £415k (as 7/12ths is derived from the January 2020 census), along with a reduction in expenditure of £719k (as this is across the whole financial year).

3.4 We had anticipated an increase in funding of £0.619m based on the January 2019 census figures, updated allocations have been received from ESFA confirming that the actual increase was £0.443m therefore

reducing the funding figure for this block by £0.176m compared with the previously reported figure.

- 3.5 The expenditure forecast has been updated to take into account the census figures for January and May 2019, further adjustments will be made when the October census figure is available, the final position will not be known until the January 2020 census is available.
- 3.6 The overall effect of these changes in both funding and expenditure has resulted in the forecast carry-forward underspend increasing by £0.070m to £1.845m.
- 3.7 The brought forward amount from 2018/19 is £1.115m. £0.517m was earmarked for the local maintained nursery supplement. £0.208m was agreed in May 2019 as an uplift to the SEND rates for early years settings in 2019/20. The remaining £0.390m has not yet been allocated, nor has the forecast assumed that it would be spent.
- 3.8 The next section considers a proposal on how that one-off funding could be applied for 2019/20.

4. Consideration of a proposed use for the £0.390m one-off underspend.

- 4.1 The January 2019 pupil census pointed to a net increase of 1.5% on all early years' participation, compared to 2018, with nearly all of the increase being in extended hours.
- 4.2 The participation of two year olds, if population levels are stable, ought to vary only according to the relative size of each term. However there has been a reduction in the number of two year olds accessing their free early education entitlement in successive terms, by more than might be explained by the relative size of the terms.
- 4.3 This is a national as well as a local issue. A study by NatCen for the DfE provides the most comprehensive picture of the variation in take up of the free entitlements, noting that: "across all areas, children from the most disadvantaged families, who stand to gain most, are least likely to access the funded entitlements."
- 4.4 This could be explained by:
 - A slowing of the local population rate (the latest statistics point to the number of Bristol births in 2017 being below 6,000 for the first time in a decade)

- fewer two year olds being eligible for their early education entitlement as more parents are now in work (the national explanation) with an all-time low unemployment figure in England
- fewer families qualifying for the two year old entitlement following the introduction of Universal Credit as the threshold of household earning has dropped from £16,190 to £7,400
- a reduction in Children's Centre resources impacting on families' awareness and understanding of their early education entitlements and their confidence to take them up.
- increased take up of extended hours places (11% between January 2018 and January 2019) may have reduced the number of two year old places available, particularly as the extended offer is more profitable for early years settings
- funding is also a factor, at £5.40 per hour, the hourly rate for eligible two year olds has not been reviewed in three years and in many cases is too low to provide a sustainable offer for early years settings

4.5 Evidence nationally and locally demonstrates that the amount of DSG funding for eligible two year olds is placing significant financial pressure on the early years' sector which will potentially impact on both the sufficiency of places and the quality of provision for our youngest children due to the small staff child ratio (4 children to 1 adult).

4.6 Further evidence from the Bristol Early Years Partnership demonstrates that the Early Years National Funding Formula barely covers the costs of delivering the Early Education Entitlement for eligible two year olds and resources are too stretched to fund the cost of releasing early years practitioners to attend professional development opportunities, so these are key considerations for the proposals below.

4.7 It is therefore proposed that the **£0.390m** Early Years DSG balance be applied as outlined below. The Early Years Partnership, a forum which includes representatives from maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers has been consulted on these proposals and is in agreement.

- a) **£240k** support for settings to maintain and improve the quality of the early education entitlement for eligible two year olds, by enabling staff to access professional development opportunities
- b) A **£135k** funding subsidy for settings that only take eligible two year olds in areas of disadvantage where the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment indicates that there is a need for places to fulfil statutory requirements. This is in recognition of the current hourly rate for eligible two year olds and the lack of any identifiable economies of

scale. Settings falling into this category will be invited to submit a business case requesting funding which will be reviewed and assessed by both the LA and the Bristol Early Years Partnership.

- c) **£15k** for resources, including e-learning, to relaunch Five to Thrive in early years settings and strengthen practitioner awareness of early attachment and emotional development in the earliest years
- 4.8 The £240K for professional development would be allocated to settings on a pro-rata basis, according to the number of eligible two year olds attending the setting at the January headcount 2019 (based on 1,193 children at £200 per child). The funding will provide a contribution towards supply/backfill costs to enable practitioners working with eligible two year olds to access the CPD opportunities below:
- the NASEN SENCO Level 3 Award
 - Five to Thrive
 - Paediatric First Aid
 - Safeguarding
 - Capable and Curious Two Year Olds
- 4.9 Attendance will be monitored via the CPD booking system and followed up during Lead Teacher quality improvement visits.
- 4.10 If Schools Forum agrees that this is an appropriate proposal the final decision would require agreement by Cabinet to vire the budget.

5. Risks

- 5.1 Funding rates for early years settings have reduced for 3 and 4 year olds in recent years. In 2017/18, the local universal hourly rate was £5.02, for 2018/19 and 2019/20 it has been £4.88. Early years settings have to absorb cost pressures like other parts of the education service, so this represents a real terms reduction in funding.
- 5.2 Proposed funding rates for 2 year olds represent no change since 2016/17. Again, settings providing early years education for two year olds face significant cost pressures. The proposed targeting of the £0.390m to settings with 2 year olds may assist in easing the position temporarily.
- 5.3 Additional budget pressures could be created if large numbers of children taking up the 30 hours entitlement are living in areas of deprivation and therefore attracting a higher hourly funding rate. It would need quite sizable changes for this to have any noticeable effect.
- 5.4 Take up of the Early Years Free Entitlement is not consistent across the academic year, with fewer children accessing their place in the Autumn

Term. It is therefore difficult to predict with any accuracy what the annual take up rate will be.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The strategic financial position of the Early Years DSG is dependent on linking the levels of activity (eg: numbers of part-time equivalent pupils, actual profile of deprivation allocations etc) against the income that will be generated from the variable DSG. Higher levels of participation will generate some leeway for central spend, SEN and quality components of the formula; lower participation than anticipated may produce financial difficulties if the differences are material.
- 6.2 During 2019/20, the usual concern about the level of participation in the January 2020 census will create uncertainty in the monitoring and forecasting position.