

Schools Forum Key Decisions Log January 2018 ongoing

Issue and Decision	Schools Forum date	Schools Forum agenda item no.	School Forum Minute
Matters Arising			
Peter Collins agreed as member of Schools Forum, representing academy schools.	17/01/18	3	617
2017/18 DSG Monitoring Report			
Schools Forum noted DSG projected overspend of £3.4M across all three blocks – Schools, Early Years and High Needs with projected £4.1m cumulative overspend in High Needs Block.	17/01/18	4	618
Funding Formula Changes 2018/19			
Consultation with schools closed, 41% response, majority in favour of Option 2. £165k additional funding available following transfer into CSSB agreed under agenda item 6; Forum endorsed SB Task Group recommendation to allocate this funding in proportion across the factors in the formula.	17/01/18	5	619
Central Services Schools Block (CSSB)			
Forum approved transfer of £124,000 for licences and £52,000 for historical items to CSSB from Schools Block, to cover partial shortfall in DfE funding. Updated report subsequently posted on SBC website following meeting	17/01/18	6	620
Early Years			
Forum noted EY Task Group recommendations regarding implementation of EYNFF for 2018-19	17/01/18	7	621
Growth Fund 2017-18			
Forum approved approximately £90,000 from 2017/18 underspend to part-fund Grove Academy 'ghost places' places. Forum agreed Growth Fund criteria for 2018/19, with AWPU rates based on 2018-19 formula.	17/01/18	8	622
De-delegation Report			
Maintained school members agreed de-delegation for SEBDOS Behaviour Support Service, subject to revised unit costs, to reflect rates for primary and secondary as agreed in December 2015.	17/01/18	9	623
2017-18 Forward Agenda Plan and Key Decision Log			
Forum agreed appointment of Chair and Vice Chair be held at July 2018 meeting, prior to first meeting in the 2018-19 academic year.	17/01/18	12	626
Confirmation of Indicative Budgets 2018-19			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer funding as follows: £17,325 from HNB to the CSSB £100,045 from HNB to the CSSB for ongoing responsibilities £548,000 from HNB to the SB for PFI	06/03/18	5	632
Early Years Block			
The same level of activity and model for 2018-19 would be required to maintain a similar level of centrally retained spend. In principle, Schools Forum endorsed this and a detailed report would be presented at the next meeting for formal approval.	06/03/18	6	633
PFI Update Report			
The Schools Block contribution was confirmed as £297,000 for one academic year only, 2018-19 and would be reviewed for 2019-20 A table would be produced to show where contributions had been made to the sum of £297,000.	06/03/18	8	634
High Needs Block Budget 2018-19			
Members approved the centrally retained element for 2018-19 of £2.3m, which was a slight decrease on 2017-18.	06/03/18	9	635
Membership			
Kathy Perry from Mighty Acorns Nursery, was welcomed as the new PVI representative member. The Chair thanked Helen Huntley (who was retiring at the end of the Summer Term) for her valuable contributions as both a member of Schools Forum and as a champion of children and young people with special needs.	05/07/18	1	640
	05/07/18	1 & 11	640/652
Annual DSG Report 2017-18			
Schools Forum noted the comprehensive DSG annual report and requested this appear as an annual item on agendas	05/07/18	7	646

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Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18			
Schools Forum noted the consultation but requested that details of any licensed deficit scheme be circulated to Schools Forum prior to consultation	05/07/18	8	647
Early Years Centrally Retained 2018-19			
The details of the centrally retained Early Years funding for 2018-19 set out in the report were noted and lines of expenditure approved	05/07/18	9	648
Update from Task Groups			
Draft Terms of Reference for all three Task Groups were approved by Schools Forum	05/07/18	10	649
Election of Chair and Vice Chair			
The current Chair of Schools Forum would stand down at the end of the academic year: John Constable was proposed and duly elected to Chair of Schools Forum with effect from 1 September 2018, for a term of two years.	05/07/18	11	652
Schools Forum Membership/appointment of Vice Chair			
Noted that three members' terms of office due to finish 30 November 2018 and one further member had resigned.			
Forum agreed re-appointment of Jo Matthews as Special School/PRU Headteacher representative for a further year.			
Nominations to be sought from academy proprietors for the other three roles.			
One nomination for the role of Vice Chair and Nicky Willis, Executive Principal of Cippenham Primary School duly appointed for a two-year term.	10/10/18	4	656
Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB and Early Years			
Following 5-16 Task Group meeting, consultation to run with local schools from 15 October - 5 November 2018 regarding two options to move towards NFF (National Funding Formula of either 50% or 75%. Comments from schools to be invited. Task Group to meet again on 13th November following outcome of consultation.	10/10/18	9	658
Consultation results on the Scheme for Financing Schools and Licensed Deficit Scheme			
LA to write into the Scheme that maintained schools will be involved in discussions.			
Schools Forum approved the Scheme for Financing Schools.	10/10/18	6	659
Schools Forum Membership			
Following due process, Jon Reekie, governor at Phoenix Infant Academy reappointed, Susan Marsh, Headteacher Colnbrook Primary School and Ray Hinds, Baylis Court appointed, all for terms of two years. Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School agreed to continue as an observer.	04/12/18	5	668
Growth Fund 2019/20			
DSG top slice for 2019/20 of £900,000 was requested. SBC was also asked to underwrite Year 7 places at Grove Academy: Schools Forum agreed to fund £90,000 for 2018/19, and to continue the underwriting into 2019/20 as the third and final year with a maximum of £60,000 or 50% of the cost, whichever was the lower.			
Schools Forum also agreed the criteria for accessing Growth Fund in 2019/20 as proposed. With all these commitments taken into account, SF agreed a reduced DSG top slice of £800,000, leaving an estimated carry forward of £130,000 at the end of 2019/20. Falling rolls were thought likely to really impact in the year 2021/22 and it was suggested a supporting paper be presented to Schools Forum in the summer 2019.	04/12/18	8	671
DSG Budget 2019/20			
A request was made to Schools Forum to approve re-allocation of funds to the correct blocks in order to correct DfE baseline errors.			
Schools Forum agreed to transfer £264,566 from High Needs Block to CSSB, £500,000 from High Needs Block to Schools Block, to re-allocate Virtual School funding of £100,000 from Historical commitment to Ongoing commitment within the CSSB, a move from 50% to 65% NFF in 2019/20 formula (following inconclusive consultation outcome). Schools Forum rejected SBC's proposal to transfer 0.5% (approximately £650,000) from 5-16 Schools Block to High Needs Block, based on the outcome of the consultation with schools.	04/12/18	9	672
Banding (High Needs top-up funding) Working Group update			
New Banding model to continue to be tested, with workshops and training sessions to be made available during the Spring term 2019.	04/12/18	10	673
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
Jo Matthews had stood down as Special School/PRU Representative but would continue as an Observer. The 3 special/PRU academies had confirmed that Neil Sykes would become Academy Special School member and Jamie Rockman Academy PRU member, both for 2 year terms of office w/e/f date of S/F meeting	16/01/19	4	681
S/F acknowledged the projected DSG outturn and approved the overall deficit should be carried forward into 2019-20	16/01/19	4	681
De-delegated funding for behaviour support services			
3 out of 4 S/F members representing maintained schools had voted against the de-delegation of funding from maintained school budgets for inclusion in the Schools Block APT	16/01/19	7	684
Early Years Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20			
Schools Forum members noted and agreed the use of Centrally Retained Funds 2019/20 for the Early Years block.	16/01/19	8	687
High Needs Block - Deficit Reduction Strategy			
The ESFA had requested that LAs inform them how deficits, particularly in High Needs, were being addressed. The LA had responded that it was doing all it could to address the issue and this work was ongoing. There was evidence of underfunding whilst demand was increasing. The link between High Needs and PFI was			

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acknowledged and would be taken into account to reduce the deficit. A supporting paper would be presented to S/F for their March 2019 meeting.	16/01/19	10	685
High Needs Block – Centrally Retained Budget 2018/19			
New commissioned Speech & Language service commissioned to be available from Friday 1 February. Communication to be made re. launch.	16/01/19	11	686
Any Other Business			
Chair of S/F to write to the Education Secretary, on behalf of members, regarding the proposal to withdraw supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools.	16/01/19	15	692
Minutes of Previous Meeting			
S/F meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 May cancelled.	05/03/19	3	695
High Needs Funding - final proposal for banding model			
Consultation was extended by 2 weeks, closing on 1 March. New banding model to be introduced 1 April 2019, agreed feedback be given July and December 2019, and April and July 2020. Some continuing concerns from special schools but work ongoing with Vikram Hansrani. Key monitoring reports to be shared with S/F.			
S/F approved the new banding model and agreed to receive feedback reports at the key stages noted.	05/03/19	6	698
Update on Central School Services Block			
Due to slight increase in copyright costs the amount required for transfer from High Needs to CSSB reduced by approximately £10,000.	05/03/19	8	700
PFI Update			
Noted Council reviewing High Needs Block and possible Section 106 funding.	05/03/19	9	701
Schools Forum membership			
Terms of office of nine members due to finish 31 July 2019. Clerk to arrange nomination process/elections (if appropriate)	05/03/19	12	704
Matters Arising			
Decision made taken by SBC to fund the £184,000 to 3 PFI schools and guarantee to be taken.	04/07/19	3	709
Growth Fund 2018/19			
Forum noted the contents of the Growth Fund 2018/19 outturn report and agreed the underwriting for Grove of £90,000 to £25,000 (2018/19) and maximum from £60,000 to £90,000 (2019/20)	04/07/19	5	711
DSG Budget Deficit Recovery Plan			
Neil Wilcox and Nic Barani to clarify whether historic £184,000 related to PFI contribution for Arbour Vale.	04/07/19	7	713
Review of the Scheme for Financing Schools 2019/20			
LA noted that maintained schools to be consulted on dates of publishing such consultations in future.	04/07/19	8	714
Update from Task Groups			
All Task Groups to meet before November 2019 Schools Forum meeting. A list of respective Task Group members to be drawn up for regular circulation to members. Terms of Reference for 5-16, HNB and Early Years Task Groups approved, without change, for academic year 2019/20	04/07/19	9	715
Schools Forum membership			
An email sent to all local schools, inviting nominations for membership	04/07/19	10	716
Any Other Business			
Forum approved the transfer of approximately £54,153 to Local School Improvement Board (LSIF) from Slough Primary Heads' Association (SPHA), being the remainder of £70,000 grant from DSG underspend agreed in 2016 to address issues around Recruitment and Retention.	04/07/19	13	719
Schools Forum Membership			
Following due process, it was confirmed that nine members of Schools Forum had been reappointed for a further two-year term.	01/10/19	4	723
Update on National/Local funding issues			
Schools Forum approved the transfer of £500,000 from HNB to Schools Block, to correct an historical error in the 2017/18 baseline. Schools Forum agreed that the consultation to schools should give two options for consideration, 65% and 85% National Funding Formula.	01/10/19	5	724
SEND Banding Update			
Schools Forum noted that Forum was to receive quarterly updates on the new banding model.	01/10/19	9	728
Growth Fund 2020-21			
S/Forum noted primary 'bulge' classes now working through secondary sector. Only two primary schools receiving Growth Fund allocations. S/Forum noted primary 'bulge' classes now working through secondary sector, with continued high pupil movement into and out of Slough. For the past two years S/Forum had agreed to support 50% underwriting for Grove Academy. Members queried Grove moving from 2 form entry to 4 form entry in 2020/21 in light of falling rolls. S/Forum approved Growth Fund top slice of £600,000 giving an estimated underspend of £24,000 and underwriting for Grove 2019/20 at £90,000 (previously £60,000) Falling Rolls Fund not considered necessary at this time.	12/11/19	6	738
Proposed Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block			

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S/Forum noted the response to the consultation on the proposal to transfer 0.5% from Schools Block to High Needs Block and rejected the application, upholding the outcome of the consultation. LA representatives confirmed they would not apply to the DfE to overturn this decision.	12/11/19	7	739
Schools Block 5-16 Formula Consultation Outcome			
S/Forum noted the outcome to the other element of the consultation and recommended the LA follow the support to finalise budgets based on an 85% move towards the National Funding Formula (NFF). Final APT to be shared with S/Forum at next meeting.	12/11/19	8	740
Scheme for Financing Schools			
S/Forum noted 41% had responded to consultation on minor changes. Scheme only applicable to maintained schools and respective S/F members representing that sector approved the changes to the Scheme 2019/20. LA representatives noted request for changes to be shared earlier, although dependent on DfE	12/11/19	9	741
Update on Membership			
Philip Gregory, representing nursery sector and Peter Collins, representing academy sector reappointed unopposed as members of S/F. Maxine Wood appointed as 16-19 provider representative.	15/01/20	3	748
Final 2020-21 DSG Settlement			
Noted that the PFI premises factor had been allocated within Schools Block and transfer of £500,000 from High Needs in relation to PFI unnecessary. LA to adjust transfer and to be kept under review.	15/01/20	6	751
Schools Block 2020-21 - Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and budget timeline			
Final APT to be shared with S/F members electronically.	15/01/20	7	752
Central Schools Services Block 2020-21			
S/F approved the transfer of £250,000 from High Needs to CSSB and agreed the service allocations as detailed at the meeting.	15/01/20	8	753
Early Years Block 2020-21			
S/F agreed the use of centrally retained funds at 5% across the Early Years Block 2020-21.	15/01/20	9	754
2019-20 DSG Budget monitoring (all blocks)			
S/F approved the deficits to be rolled forward into the new financial year.	15/01/20	10	755
High Needs Place Change Notification			
Detailed report on Resource Bases and specialist provision to be shared.	15/01/20	11	756
Meeting scheduled for 03/03/20 cancelled			
Meeting scheduled for 23/04/20 cancelled			
Meeting scheduled for 13/05/20 cancelled			
Annual DSG Report			
Concern expressed about Nursery funding. Piece of investigative work to be carried out on those schools holding excessively large amounts of money.			
Schools Forum noted overall deficit on 2019/20 DSG which would be reversible on 2020/21 DSG.	14/07/20	7	768
High Needs/SEND Review Update 2020/21			
SBC Officers had met with ESFA representatives who acknowledged the SEND trends and pressures on Slough. Resources bases - ratification for any proposals suggested should be in line with Schools Forum calendar of meetings.	14/07/20	8	769
Impact of Covid-19 on School Finances: Local Perspective			
ESFA representative to refer points raised by Forum members to the ESFA.	14/07/20	11	772
Update from Task Groups: 5-16, HNB, Early Years			
Terms of Reference for respective T/G approved by Schools Forum for 2020/21.	14/07/20	12	773
Election of Chair and Vice Chair			
Schools Forum endorsed the reappointment of John Constable as Chair for a further two-year term. Election of Vice Chair deferred to next meeting.	14/07/20	14	775
Schools Forum Membership			
Nominations to be sought for a Primary academy governor representative and a Secondary academy representative	01/10/20	5	781
Scheme for Financing Schools (maintained) 2020/21 & proposed consultation			
Maintained school members approved minor amendments in the Scheme for Financing Schools: Consultation document to be circulated.	01/10/20	8	784
SEND Quarterly Update			
Quarterly visual of banding update to be shared with Schools Forum	01/10/20	11	787
Update from Task Groups: Early Years, 5-16 and HNB			
All three Task Groups to arrange to meet.	01/10/20	12	788
Any Other Business			
Chair to follow up whether ESFA representative had taken concerns back to DfE about Covid-19 associated precaution costs impacting on schools.	01/10/20	15	791

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Schools Block 2021/22: consultation outcome and Task Group recommendation			
Schools Forum endorsed the recommendation to move to full NFF or as close as final settlement allowed.			
Schools Forum rejected the request to transfer £600,000 from Schools Block to High Needs Block.			
Proposals to change SBC's Admissions Team noted. Schools Forum approved transfer of £100,000 from Schools Block to Central School Service Block in order to support this change. Request for transfer and report to be made to Schools Forum on an annual basis.	09/12/20	6	797
Scheme for Financing (maintained) Schools 2020/21: update on consultation			
Schools Forum noted the outcome of the consultation.	09/12/20	8	799
High Needs Block Centrally Retained Budget			
Schools Forum noted the outcome of the consultation.	09/12/20	9	800
Schools Forum Membership update			
Jamie Rockman and Neil Sykes reappointed for further 2 year terms of office as Special School/PRU representatives	19/01/21	4	810
Schools Block Budget: Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and timeline for 2021/22			
Sign off by Cabinet (due on to meet 22 February) and ESFA prior to issuing budgets to schools.			
Ongoing issue of Maintained Nursery Supplement (MNS) had been raised with DfE as a financial risk and need for long-term plan requested.	19/01/21	6	812
DSG Budget Monitoring Report (all blocks)			
Schools Forum NOTED the financial position and APPROVED the carry forwards of deficits, dependent on the figures presented to Schools Forum at their next meeting.	19/01/21	7	813
High Needs Place Change Notification			
Schools Forum Noted the LA had submitted the ESFA High Needs Placement Change Notification 2021/22 form, in Novemembr 2020.	19/01/21	8	814
Growth Fund 2021/22 allocations and issues			
Schools Forum AGREED the principles of the allocations 2021/22 and the carry forward and top slice for 2021/22. in line with the previous year and aligned with the Schools Block.	19/01/21	9	815
DSG Deficit Management Plan update			
DSG Deficit Management Plan outlined, with a focus on High Needs deficit reduction but with a number of departments updating. This was a 'live' document which was to be available to stakeholders: the DfE would monitor and it was likely would request regular meetings with the LA and would review Schools Forum papers to confirm the members had been kept informed.	19/01/21	11	817