

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Ben Bausor, Rhodri Bryant, Peter Collins, Gill Denham, Valerie Harffey, Emma Lister, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Eddie Neighbour, Carol Pearce, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Jamie Rockman, Neil Sykes and Maggie Waller

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Sue Butcher, Neill Butler, Sarah Hockly, Neil Hoskinson, Sabi Hothi, Tony Madden

Cllr Paul Kelly (lead member for education and children's services)

MEETING DETAILS:

**THURSDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 2023 AT 9.15 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING (VIA ZOOM)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87300668285?pwd=NEtsNXdMOVFwUEVbVprT0MxNik5Zz09&from=addon>

**Meeting ID: 873 0066 8285
Passcode: 672195**

AGENDA

Item	Description	Presenter
1.	Apologies	Chair
2.	Notification of Any Other Business	Chair
3.	Declarations of Interest*	Chair
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 28.09.23 (including matters arising and action log)	Chair (Pages 1 - 4)
5.	Schools Forum Membership update	Chair (Pages 5 - 6)
6.	Update on National/Local funding issues	Sarah Hockly
7.	2023/24 DSG – Budget monitoring report – Q2 report	Sarah Hockly (Pages 7 - 10)
8.	2023/24 DSG – CSSB budget 2023/24	Sarah Hockly (Pages 11 - 16)
9.	Safety Valve programme update	Neil Hoskinson (Pages 17 - 32)
10.	2024/25 DSG – Schools block transfer	Sarah Hockly (Pages 33 - 42)
11.	Task group update	Chair
12.	2022/23 Forward Agenda Plan	Chair (Pages 43 - 44)
13.	Key Decisions Log	Chair (Pages 45 - 48)
14.	Any Other Business (notified at start of meeting)	Chair

** Declarations of Interest*

The Chair will ask Members to confirm whether they have any declarable interests in relation to any item on the agenda. All Members who believe they may have such an interest must declare it and may only: (a) remain in the meeting while that matter is discussed at the discretion of the Chair, and (b) speak on the matter by invitation. Examples of declarable interests include: where the outcome of a discussion may provide a personal advantage or avoid disadvantage (pecuniary or non-pecuniary), or where the focus of an agenda item and the likely impact of any outcome is wholly or mainly on a school with which the Member is associated.

Slough Schools Forum – Minutes of Meeting held on 28th September 2023

DRAFT MINUTES – for approval at meeting on 09.11.2023

Present: John Constable, Langley Grammar School (Chair)
 Ben Bausor, Always Growing Ltd
 Peter Collins, Slough & Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College
 Valerie Harffey, Ryvers School
 Navroop Mehat, Wexham Court Primary School
 Eddie Neighbour, Upton Court Grammar School
 Jon Reekie, Phoenix Infants School
 Jo Rockall, Herschel Grammar School
 Jamie Rockman, Haybrook College
 Maggie Waller, Holy Family Primary School
 Rhodri Bryant, The Langley Academy
 Neil Sykes, Arbour Vale School
 Emma Lister, Chalvey Early Years Centre

Officers: Neill Butler, Strategic Finance Manager, People (Children)
 Neil Hoskinson, Associate Director for Education and Inclusion
 Sarah Hockley, Interim Strategic Finance Manager, People (Children)

Observer N/A

Apologies: Gill Denham, Marish Primary School
 Angela Mellish, St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School
 Carol Pearce, Penn Wood Primary School

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that there was no clerk available for this meeting. Instead, the meeting would be recorded and transcribed afterwards.

957	Apologies Received as from Gill Denham, Angela Mellish and Carol Pearce
958	Notification of any other business None
959	Declarations of Interest None
960	Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 14 July 2023, (including matters arising and action log) The minutes of previous meeting held on 14 th July 2023 were agreed as an accurate recollection of the previous meeting. There were no matters arising.
961	Schools Forum Membership update The Chair confirmed that colleagues whose terms of office were ending had been contacted to confirm whether they were happy to continue. The membership list had been updated, although technically remained provision for academy representatives as endorsement by the proprietors was required. The Chair noted an error in John Reekie's term of office which would be changed. The Chair welcomed Rhodri Bryant, who has come forward to fill the vacant secondary academies representative. Rhodri will represent The Langley Academy, but as the CEO of the Arbib Trust, he also brings knowledge of the primary sector.

	<p>The Chair noted that there were still vacancies for a primary academies representative, and for a representative from the Windsor Forest Colleges group as a 16 to 19 Provider. The Chair agreed to contact the Windsor Forest group to remind them of the vacancy.</p>
<p>962</p>	<p>Update on National/Local Funding issues</p> <p>Neill Butler updated Forum members on the Teachers pay grant and the increase in teacher pay from the first of September. The increase is 6.8% for M1 and 6.5% for all other scale points; this will bring M1 up to £30,000 excluding any weightings in line with the government pledge from 2018 to ensure all qualified teachers would receive a minimum of £30k. This will be subsidised through a grant; for the period Sep 2023 through to Apr 2024, the grant will be paid in October, and will represent 7/12 of that period. The grant will then also be paid to all mainstream schools and academies for the financial year 24-25. This is because at this stage it will not be included in the National Funding Formula allocations. NB confirmed that academies would then get a further grant for the period Apr 2025 to August 2025.</p> <p>The Chair asked whether the government has published a methodology paper for this grant. NB confirmed that this had been done and that it outlines how the government is going to allocate the money to individual schools based on pupil numbers and lump sum.</p> <p>NB then updated Forum on the funding formula for 2024-2025. The provisional DSG for 24-25 has been announced, providing an increase of about £8.6 million in funding for Slough schools and academies which represents about 5.3% increase overall. Early modelling suggests that national funding formula factors can be maintained as in previous years and could also move 10% closer to applying the national factor for mobility. This is the one factor in Slough that isn't applied 100% to mainstream schools and academies. The modelling also indicates sufficient headroom within the allocation to go out to consultation on a 0.5% transfer between the schools block and other blocks.</p> <p>NB referred to the reinforced, autoclave, aerated concrete (RAAC) problems, and confirmed that only one school has been identified with this issue in Slough. Remedial work is being undertaken at the school at the moment with the intention of the full removal of RAAC in summer 2024. NH added that the main costs for this school are staffing and some equipment to cover revised lunch arrangements.</p> <p>NH commented that nationally there was unprecedented pressure on admissions; significant movement over the summer, and local authorities reporting high levels of in-year transfers. SBC received 800 applications in the initial 2 weeks leading up to September, and continues to receive over a hundred a week since then. NH confirmed that the LA is looking to increase schools up to their PAN in order to maximise funding levels.</p> <p>RB confirmed his full support for getting pupils into school, but pointed out that he had received a letter telling him to take an additional class because the school's PAN in year 6 is 90, when the school had capped numbers at 60 for the last 3 years. He questioned how a school can be expected to suddenly find a teacher and additional adults where this was not planned. NH accepted that but confirmed that the demand is unprecedented and has caught out a number of LAs with the movement in to the UK. LAs including SBC didn't plan for something they weren't expecting. RB emphasised that schools needed funding for these situations and that this discussion should continue outside the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked for clarification if this increased demand is outside the provision for growth fund this year. NH confirmed if schools were operating with 60 pupils in a year group while their PAN remained at 90 then this did not meet growth fund criteria. PC commented that as a member of the place planning committee, he did not think we should be in a position where a school has been asked to take 30 children unexpectedly. PC further noted that there had not been an emergency place planning committee meeting call to talk about that and look at the implications of this across the town. NH emphasised that there had been a lack of planning because the situation wasn't anticipated.</p>
<p>963</p>	<p>2022 / 2023 DSG Out-turn</p> <p>NB presented a high level summary of the 2022/23 DSG outturn. He noted that the LA had received £10.8 million in payment from the DfE as part of safety valve agreement. The deficit at the beginning of 2022-23 was £25.5 million, and the DfE has already written off £10.8 million of this by providing additional cash to the local authority. This means that the cumulative deficit at the end of 22-23 is £14.8 million with an actual in year deficit of almost £97k. However, there was still an overspend of about £800,000 in the high needs block last year, which was offset by an underspend in the schools and Early years blocks.</p>

	<p>The Chair asked whether the underspend in the schools block was related to the growth fund; NH confirmed this was the unneeded contingency. The Chair noted that underspend in the Growth Fund normally happens every year because contingency is not used; the underspend is then rolled forward to form part of the following year's growth fund. NB confirmed that this was correct.</p> <p>PC acknowledged that Forum members are aware of the pain that the safety valve has caused in terms of difficult decisions and to see the impact of that in terms of £10.8 million coming in and starting to 'see the tide turning' is very pleasing.</p> <p>NB confirmed he would bring further detail to the next meeting in relation to the 4 DSG blocks and where the underspend and overspends were.</p>
<p>964</p>	<p>2023/24 DSG and Safety Valve programme update</p> <p>NH confirmed that the first Safety Valve report had been presented to the DfE, and was now being brought to Schools Forum for information and comment. NB noted that the plan was showing about £2.8 million underspend for the key year which is in 2 years' time, however, this is largely wiped out by the project costs of outstanding EHC plans, estimated to be about £2.6m. A balance of £200k left with 2 years to go is not a strong position, so will have to be watched closely.</p> <p>NH noted that some young people placed into resource provision are probably going to need a special school in the future, and the LA is doing some work on that moving forward. Additionally, the LA is doing some internal work to look at the average funding to a maintained school and to a resource provision to make sure that that schools are not underfunded if they are taking pupils that are more complex.</p> <p>NH further advised that the LA is looking to make further savings within staffing and home school transport, looking at a number of cases where transport arrangements might have to be changed. Unlike most local authorities, the majority of Slough special school children go to one special school and they work with us very well in terms of transport.</p> <p>MW asked about the reference to a new banding matrix funding ready for implementation in March. Asking for clarification as to which area of the funding that applies to and what the process is in readiness for implementation. NH confirmed that it was already built in within the safety valve agreement as one of the things the LA was required to do and confirmed it will be across the board. MW asked if there is a planned consultation for this? NH confirmed that the LA would get a timetable out shortly.</p> <p>The Chair thanked NH and added that Forum will continue to have regular reports on the on the safety valve program and the usual monitoring of the DSG through the rest of this year as a standing item on every agenda.</p>
<p>965</p>	<p>2024/25 DSG Budget setting timetable</p> <p>NB referred to the proposed timetable for the setting of the 2024-25 DSG budget. The LA would be consulting with all mainstream schools and academies on the funding formula for 2024-25 and on the transfer of 0.5% out of the schools block in to the high needs block. Historically, we have transferred £100k from the high needs block into the central school services block. This is not needed any longer from 2024-25; part of the work undertaken for the Safety Valve identified £258k of spend that was being charged to the DSG that should have been charged to Slough's General Fund and has been amended for this year. SBC asked to remove the funding out of the DSG, which in effect is making a saving of £250k.</p> <p>Within the DSG safety valve plans, the 0.5% transfer from schools' block to the high needs block has been included on the advice of the DfE. Consultation with schools on block transfers has to be done each year; the consultation will take place for 4 weeks, and will be reported back to Schools Forum on the 9th November. Schools Forum need to consider responses when making the final decision.</p> <p>The authority pro forma tool (APT) is expected to be out in mid-December. The provisional DSG is announced normally about a week earlier. That is when the modelling would take place, and consultation with the 5-16 working group. Schools Forum is on 11th January, where the outcomes from that will be presented to Schools Forum. Political ratification is required by the 15th January, with the deadline to get the APT to the DfE is the 22nd January. Published budgets for mainstream schools will also include indicative budgets for 2025-26 and 2026-27. The Schools Forum meeting on 9th March will include approval of the Central School Services Block.</p>

	<p>NB advised the consultation would ask whether schools approved the 0.5% transfer, and how any headroom within the schools block should be allocated.</p> <p>The Chair asked where NB saw work of the 5 to 16 task group fitting in and how this would address the issue raised in last meeting, where it was agreed to look at the impact of the NFF rates on the primary/secondary funding ratio. After some discussion it was confirmed that this was about ensuring a thorough shared understanding amongst all the relevant parties across both phases of how that ratio is arrived at. JC proposed to liaise with NB outside the meeting to confirm when the 5-16 Task Group should meet.</p> <p>MW asked clarification that Slough is now at NFF rates for everything and is therefore aligned with the NFF. NB confirmed this was the case with the exception of the Mobility Factor.</p> <p>VH asked who is on the 5 to 16 Task Group. The Chair noted that the members were himself, JR, PC, MW, NM, and that there was effectively a vacancy for another primary colleague. VH confirmed that she would be happy to be involved, and this was endorsed by Forum members present.</p>
966	<p>Local School Improvement Fund update</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the Local School Improvement Fund will now be delegated out to spend through the primary and secondary headteacher associations. There will be an allocation made for this year, and in due course a report back on how that is being spent.</p>
967	<p>Task Group update</p> <p>The Chair asked for confirmation from the LA about the status of the EY and High Needs Task Groups.</p> <p>NB confirmed that Early Years group is led by Trish Hamlin from the LA. The group will meet to discuss the early years DSG settlement. The main discussion points are around the split between core funding for early years children and base funding, and also the allocation to deprivation, which is one the only mandatory factor that we have to put an allocation to. The LA works with representatives from all providers on the allocation of the early years funding. The Chair asked what the Forum representation is on that group, specifically whether there is anybody from a primary school which receives EY funding? NB agreed to check this.</p> <p>Following some discussion about the oversight of High Needs expenditure, it was agreed that there was no need for a specific High Needs Task Group linked to Schools Forum. The LA has a number of strategic groups established or proposed with headteacher representation and along with discussion at the Partnership Board, there is reckoned to be sufficient representation from schools.</p>
968	<p>2023/2024 Forward Agenda Plan</p> <p>The Chair asked Forum members to note the forward agenda plan as a work in progress and that there would most likely be changes to agenda items going forward. Forum members were asked to note meeting date changes which had been necessary due to clashes with phase-specific meetings. .</p>
969	<p>Key Decisions Log</p> <p>Log will be updated after meeting, then circulated with the minutes.</p>
970.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Chair thanked NH and NB for their preparatory work and all the discussions that have gone on behind the scenes to get Forum processes back on track this year, with meetings scheduled at the right times with the right agenda in place. The Chair also welcomed Sarah Hockly as Neill Butler's replacement and wished her well during the handover period.</p>

Slough Schools Forum Membership

This version – 06/11/2023

School	Type of school	Name and role	Elected/appointed by	Term of office ends
ACADEMIES (11 members)				
Special schools/PRUs (2 members)				
Arbour Vale School (<i>OHCA</i>)	Special School	Neil Sykes (Principal)	Academies	31 December 2023
Haybrook College Trust	PRU	Jamie Rockman (CEO)	Academies	31 December 2023
Primary academies (4 members)				
Phoenix Infants Academy (<i>Baylis Court Trust MAT</i>)	Academy	Jon Reekie (Governor)	Academies	31 August 2025
Ryvers School	Academy	Valerie Haffrey (School Business Manager)	Academies	31 August 2025
Marish Primary School (<i>Marish & Willow Trust</i>)	Academy	Gill Denham (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Vacancy	Academy	Vacancy	Academies	
Secondary academies (5 members)				
Herschel Grammar School (<i>Schelwood Trust</i>)	Academy	Jo Rockall (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2025
Langley Grammar School	Academy	John Constable (Headteacher)	Academies	31 August 2025
Slough & Eton CofE School (<i>SEBMAT</i>)	Academy	Peter Collins (Headteacher)	Academies	31 December 2023
Upton Court Grammar School (<i>Pioneer Education Trust</i>)	Academy	Eddie Neighbour (CEO, Pioneer Education Trust)	Academies	31 August 2025
The Langley Academy	Academy	Rhodri Bryant (CEO, Arbib Trust)	Academies	31 August 2025
MAINTAINED SCHOOLS (4 members)				
Primary maintained (3 members)				
Holy Family Primary School	Voluntary Aided	Maggie Waller (Governor)	Maintained schools	31 August 2025
Penn Wood School	Community	Carol Pearce (Governor)	Maintained schools	31 August 2025
Wexham Court Primary School	Community	Navroop Mehat (Headteacher)	Maintained schools	31 August 2023
Secondary maintained (1 member)				
St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School	Voluntary Aided	Angela Mellish (SBM)	Maintained schools	31 August 2025
MAINTAINED NURSERIES (1 member)				
Chalvey Nursery School	Nursery	Emma Lister (H/T)	Maintained Nursery HTs	31 August 2025
NON-SCHOOL MEMBERS (2 members)				
16-19 Provider (1 member)				
Windsor Forest Colleges Group	16-19 Provider	Vacancy	16-19 Providers	TBC
PVI Provider (1 member)				
Always Growing Ltd.	PVI Provider	Ben Bausor	Local Authority	31 st August 2025
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP				16 members

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Agenda Item 7

School Forum 9 November 2023	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Services	
DSG Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2023-24	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	None
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Sarah Hockly Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk</p> <p>Neill Butler Interim Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Neill.Butler@slough.gov.uk</p>

This report relates to all Forum Members and is for information.

1. Purpose of the report

This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the forecast financial position at the end of quarter 2 for 2023-24. The forecast is reported against the budget set in consultation with Schools Forum and submitted to the Department for Education on the Section 251 budget return.

2. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to **note** the contents of this report.

3. DSG Deficit Position

The Dedicated School Grant (DSG) balance has been in deficit for a number of years mainly due to overspends on the High Needs Block. This mainly relates to increased demand for out of borough SEN placements, post 16 services and places at Special schools.

Schools Forum are aware of the historic deficit position and work that has been undertaken with DfE as part of Safety Valve DSG Management Plan. The following table outlines the movements in the deficit since 2017-18.

Table 1 – Cumulative DSG Deficits from 2017-18

All in £million	Schools	High Needs	Early Years	Central Services	Total Deficit	Cumulative Deficit
2017-18					4.9	
2018-19	(0.1)	2.7	(0.5)	0.0	2.1	7.0
2019-20	(0.1)	5.9	0.4	0.0	6.2	13.2
2020-21	0.6	6.6	0.1	0.0	7.3	20.5
2021-22	(0.1)	4.8	0.3	0.0	5.0	25.5
DSG Management Plan Deficit Write-off 2022-23					(10.8)	14.7
2022-23	0.0	0.4	(0.7)	0.4	0.1	14.8

The first payment under the Safety Valve Agreement of £10.8 million was paid in March 2023. Further payments are expected between 2023-24 and 2026-27 to bring the deficit back into balance by 2026-27

4. Projected DSG Outturn 2023-24

The current projected outturn on the 4 DSG blocks the quarter 2 position which is due to be presented to Councillors later this month.

Table 2 DSG Projected Outturn 2023-24

Block	Budget	Forecast	Full Year Variance	Opening (Surplus) / Deficit	Cumulative (Surplus) / Deficit
	£ m	£'000	£'000		£'000
Schools	41.0	40.7	(0.3)	0.3	0.0
High Needs	25.1	24.9	(0.2)	14.5	14.3
Early Years	15.5	15.4	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.5)
Central Schools Services	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.4
Totals	82.5	81.9	(0.6)	14.8	14.2

5. Schools' Block

The Schools' Block is showing an underspend of £300k and is mainly due to the contingency for Growing Classes not thought to be required. Subsequently, approximately 600 new school admissions arrived in September and new bulge classes have been agreed with a few schools. This means that most of this expected underspend will now be used between now and March 2024. An update on the Growth Funding in 2023-24 will be given in the quarter 3 monitoring report.

6. Central Schools Services Block

CSSB block is forecasting to be on budget. The deficit carried forward from 2022-23 will be written-off against Safety Value payments in 2023-24.

7. Early Years Block

The current position is showing that this service will be on target. This is a demand funded/participation-based service with providers claiming funding for actual hours of provision at the hourly rate set by the authority for that particular financial year.

8. High Needs Block

The DSG 2023/24 High Needs Block projected outturn shows, in-year underspend of £200k. However, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team is currently working on backlog of almost 300 Education, Health and Childcare Plans which could put further pressure on this block. A further update on the cost impact of these additional plans will be reported at quarter 3.

9. Financial Implications

The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

10. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

11. Equality Implications

Not applicable

12. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

Not applicable

13. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

Not applicable

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School Forum 9 November 2023	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Service	
Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) Budget Setting for 2022-23	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	1
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Sarah Hockly Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk</p> <p>Neill Butler Interim Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Neill.Butler@slough.gov.uk</p>

This report relates to all Forum Members and is for decision.

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Forum of the DfE published indicative figures for the authority’s CSSB allocation.
- 1.2 To advise the Forum about the services funded from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) in 2022-23 and the approvals required by the Forum.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Schools Forum **notes** the decision to transfer £100,000 form the Schools Block DSG to the CSSB DSG as approved in January 2023. A comparison of budget figures for 2022-23 and 2023-24 is included in Appendix 1
- 2.2 That Schools Forum **retrospectively agrees** the following budget allocations within the CSSB as outlined below:
 - Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - LA Safeguarding Children’s Board
 - Copyright Licence fee (this is a compulsory element)
 - Education Welfare (Former ESG)
 - Asset management (Former ESG)
 - Statutory & Regulatory (Former ESG)

3 CSSB DSG Allocation 2023-24

- 3.1. The CSSB DSG allocation for 2023-24 totalled £784,831. This is split between pupil led funding of £752,882 (95.93%) and funding for historic commitments of £31,949 (4.07%). With the inclusion of the £100,000 funding transfer from the Schools Block DSG this give a total allocation of £884,831 for 2023-24.
- 3.2 Funding for historic commitments will reduce by 20% year on year.

4 CSSB Budget Commitments 2023-24

4.1. Admissions £0.292m includes £0.100m transfer from the Schools Block

The school admissions budget funds the School Admissions Team. The team is responsible for the Local Authority's school admission processes. This includes co-ordination of the reception and secondary transfer admissions processes. This involves providing all residents who wish to apply with information about the process and an application form, processing all applications received and ensuring all applicants have one offer of a school place on national offer day. The team also co-ordinate in year primary and secondary admissions. Parents moving into Slough are provided with an application form and are offered a school place as soon as possible, usually within 4 weeks. The team deals with around 6000 applications annually.

4.2 Servicing of Schools Forum £0.055m

The budget for servicing the Schools Forum represents the costs incurred in providing this statutory duty. The LA is required to co-ordinate at least four Schools' Forum meetings per year. This budget contributes to the running costs of Schools' Forums including any agreed and reasonable expenses for members attending meetings, the costs of producing and distributing papers, costs of room hire and refreshments and for clerking of meetings.

4.3 LA Children's Safeguarding Board £0.030m

Contributions to the Safeguarding function adds value to the work of the Slough Children's Safeguarding Board (SCSB) and support all schools and academies in their vital work to keep children and young people safe and achieve compliance with Ofsted requirements.

4.4 Copyright Licences £0.162m (confirmed by ESFA)

This is negotiated centrally for all authorities; schools cannot opt out for these licences.

- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML)
- Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)
- Education Recording Authority (ERA)
- Public Video Streaming Licence (PVSL)
- Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
- Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL)
- Performing Rights Society (PRS)
- Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS)
- Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)

4.5 **Education Welfare (ESG) £0.145m**

The statutory Education Welfare functions include the promotion of good attendance for all children and young people, enforcement duties on behalf of schools and Academies for non- attendance and the licensing processes for the employment and engagement in entertainment activities by children and young people. In Slough the Attendance Team are responsible for these activities except licensing which is the responsibility of the Admissions & Transport Team. It also includes monitoring of attendance and the early intervention in cases of absence giving cause for concern in schools and academies. The Attendance Team also has an essential role in safeguarding and family support. The team are also involved in work linked to the Multiagency safeguarding Hub.

4.6 **Asset Management (ESG) £0.013m**

Contribution to the services related to school buildings including those leased to academies. Examples include the schools building condition survey, PFI negotiations and the asset management plan.

4.7 **Statutory and Regulatory (ESG) £0.188m**

Contributions to audit, revenue budget preparation, SACRE and the provision of information to Ofsted, DfE and other government bodies as required. Business support for education functions and systems for strategic information returns such as the school census are funded from this contribution.

Schools Forum are asked to note that in line with DfE funding guidance the budget for the virtual school is no longer funded from CSSB allocations. Also, the costs of some staff in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team and School Improvement Team are also no longer funded from CSSB allocations. All these costs are now funded within Slough Borough Council General Fund. The DfE have confirmed that there will be no retrospective adjustments of DSG allocations for 2022-23 or previous years due to these funding issues.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Not applicable

7 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7.1 Not applicable

8 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications for this report.

9 Equality Implications

9.1 Not applicable

Appendix 1

CSSB Budget Comparisons 2022-23 and 2023-24

Area	2022-23 Budget £m	2023-24 Budget £m	Change £m	Notes
Income Streams				
CSSB DSG Allocations	0.743	0.785	0.042	
Schools Block Contribution	0.100	0.100	0.000	
High Needs Block Contribution	0.181	0.000	-0.181	No longer needed
Total Income Streams	1.024	0.885	-0.139	
Budget Allocations				
LA Safeguarding Childrens Board	0.030	0.030	0.000	
Sub Total - Historical Commitment	0.030	0.030	0.000	
Servicing of Schools Forum	0.053	0.055	0.002	Cost of pay awards
Admissions	0.278	0.292	0.014	Cost of pay awards
Copyright Licences	0.147	0.162	0.015	DfE inflationary increase
Education Welfare (Former ESG)	0.145	0.145	0.000	
Asset Management (Former ESG)	0.013	0.013	0.000	
Statutory Regulatory (Former ESG)	0.358	0.188	-0.170	Removal of Virtual Schools and staff costs
Sub Total - Ongoing Commitment	0.994	0.855	-0.139	
Total Budget Allocations	1.024	0.885	-0.139	

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Slough Borough Council

Safety Value Intervention Programme/High Needs Budget Deficit Recovery Plan

15 September 2023: Summary Update Report

Date Submitted	15 Sept 2023
Signed off by Director of Children's Services	
Signed off by S151 Officer	

Summary:

Slough Borough Council is on track to meet the deficit control and reduction targets set out in its Safety Valve Agreement.

The provisional outturn position for 2022-23 is an overspend on all DSG blocks of £0.097m with an overspend on the High Needs DSG Block of £0.407m. This contrasts with a forecast overspend on all DSG Blocks at quarter 3 of 2022-23 of £1.638m.

2023-24 Period 5 Budget Management report for High Needs DSG has total forecast spend of £22.3m against a budget of £25.1m. The SEND Team is currently working on a backlog of 290 EHCP's which could see additional forecast spending of £2.6m in high needs top-up funding. This would give an overall projected spend of £24.9m, and an estimated underspend of 0.2m in 2023-24.

Overall, in 2023-24 the four DSG blocks are projected an underspend of £0.6m (£0.3m in schools block, £0.2m in high needs block and £0.1m in the early years block).

More work is being undertaken to refine our modelling forecasts and a more accurate estimate of the final outturn for 2023-24 will be available in the December 2023 update report.

On August 4th this year, the Secretary of State for Education issued a Statutory Direction to SBC in relation to its SEND services. This was due to a lack of progress made to address the seven areas of weakness identified in the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report from October 2021. The evidence regarding lack of progress was obvious at the DFE Monitoring Visit that took place at the end of February this year and from reports from the Department for Education (DFE) appointed Commissioner and SEND Adviser.

The DFE stated that they are aware that there has been "considerable change in senior leadership at SBC" in recent months and that the new team are "determined and motivated to bring positive change". Nevertheless, the local authority fully accepts the Statutory Direction and agrees that it was clear that the area had failed to make sufficient progress against the areas of significant weaknesses at the time of the DFE visit.

As a result, the remit of the Children's Services Commissioner, Paul Moffatt, will be extended

to include SBC SEND functions.

Department for Education (DFE) Monitoring Visit July 2023

The feedback from the DFE officials attending the latest monitoring visit acknowledged the demanding work that has been put into improving SEND 0-25 services in Slough since the start of March. The SEND Partnership Board new project reporting and data dashboard now provides a good understanding of the quality of the services being provided. Whilst the improvements made were too recent to have made a significant difference to the quality of SEND 0-25 service, the monitoring evidence showed early signs of improvement.

Several key actions that had been taken were shared with the DFE officials including the establishment of a Strategic Inclusion Partnership Board providing strategic oversight, a data dashboard measuring performance against agreed KPIs and a live cases dashboard to support decision making for individual pupils.

Shortly after the visit, the latest monthly reporting to the DFE included the fact that 28 EHC plans had been finalised in July. This is the most in one month since the inspection and included 5 that had been completed within statutory timescales which is again the best performance since 2021. The key factors in this change of performance are the changes to the team and the sourcing of more locum educational psychologists to complete assessments. Although this is very encouraging and evidences the improvement in the service, it is not yet at the level of the service in 2020 when around 30-35 plans were completed each month. Given that some of the teams are still inexperienced, new officers are now in place and that systems are still being improved, it is hoped that this level will be achieved (and potentially surpassed) in the new term and the team are determined to maintain this standard moving forwards.

Agreement Condition 1	Assurance Level		
Managing demand for Education Health Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs) and Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs)	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	GREEN	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Action taken to date.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>The following actions have been taken forward:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the SEND Statutory team has been developed both in terms of staffing and processes to ensure that the Code of Practice is effectively and efficiently followed. A Head of SEND 0-25, two experienced managers, a Resolutions Officer and a Commissioning Transformation consultant have been recruited. A new 			

Principal Educational Psychologist and Team Manager for Inclusion have also been appointed alongside additional locum EPs (Educational Psychology). The new Send 0-25 Leadership Team have already updated SEND processes and completed a review of all current cases to identify possible quick resolutions. All education settings /provisions now have a dedicated SEND Link Officer to improve communication and working together.

- the Chair of SEND Panel since April 2021 has ensured robust adherence to terms of reference and SEND Code of Practice (2015) ensuring transparency of decision-making and all decisions have been appropriately recorded and tracked.
- the membership of SEND Panel has widened to include regular contributions from head teachers and other agencies such as Adult Social Care and regular Health attendance.
- the SEND Commissioner (permanent post) has attended the Panel since May 2021, and this has enabled rigour and consistency in the approach to commissioning across cases and particularly for any complex cases.
- the triage process introduced in June 2021 continues to add a layer of quality assurance which ensures that all cases presented include the relevant and available evidence for the SEND Panel to make their decisions.
- proposals were shared with the Schools Forum in November 2021 to mitigate immediate risk of banding inflation at phase transfer. These proposals ensured that, where a child or young person's CYP (Children and Young People) needs were being met under the previous banding system, this banding would be maintained at phase transfer, rather than moving to the closest matrix banding, which would typically have incurred an increase of at least £1000 per EHCP (Education Health Care Plans). These were applied to all EHCPs amended as part of the September 2022 and September 2023 phase transfer process (i.e., from February 2022 onwards).
- the following assumptions have been applied to phase transfers from 2021-2202 and 2023 where appropriate to the need of the individual CYP:
 - most pupils leaving PVI's will transfer to mainstream primaries
 - most pupils leaving mainstream primaries will transfer to mainstream secondaries with same level of funding
 - most pupils with a primary RB (Resource Bases) place will transfer to mainstream secondary or mainstream secondary RB provision
 - most pupils in primary SEN (Special Educational Needs) units will transfer to maintained/academy special school
 - most pupils leaving mainstream secondaries will transfer to a local mainstream college placement
 - most pupils leaving special school will transfer to a higher cost college placement (i.e., not an ISP)

Impact to date

There has been considerable positive impact from the above actions:

- analysis of new assessments in the first 6 months of 2022-23, compared to the same period the previous year, shows that these have increased by 2.9% year-on-year in Slough. This is consistent with the overall prediction for a 3% rise in plans this year. This has spiked slightly in the last few weeks of the Summer

Term 2023 but has since reduced and we continue to be monitored closely from week to week.

- the average cost of a newly issued plan has decreased from £11,086 in July-Sept 2020 to £8,478 in July-Sept 2022; this exceeds the savings figures set out in CR4 of the Management Plan.
- the proportion of newly issued plans designated mainstream as type had increased from 81% to 92% and settled at +/- 90% with some fluctuation at times e.g., mover ins and phase transfers.

Ensuring Sustainability of Changes and Future Plans

The processes at the SEND Panel need to remain fully embedded to ensure ongoing rigour and transparency. Focus needs to remain on quality and outcomes for CYP with SEND, while also having regard for the financial envelope. particular focus will remain the timeliness of issuing of final plans as the system continues to become more robust.

More detailed proposals on updating the banding matrix will go to Schools Forum in March 2024. This will ensure that:

- the existing models used by statistical neighbours and other South-East authorities are fully considered and benchmarked against Slough.
- descriptors are reviewed to ensure that decisions regarding banding accurately reflects the provision that the LA (Local Authority) must fund through top-up in line with each EHCP.
- any EHCPs assimilated from previous system can be funded at a level which reflects provision required without arbitrary inflation due to a lack of 'like-for-like' banding increment.
- proposals are fully modelled both operationally and financially to ensure that needs are met while keeping regard to sustainability and the existing financial envelope.

Agreement Condition 2	Assurance Level		
Independent Non-Maintained Special School (INMSS)	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	NEEDS REVIEW	RAG

Progress Update:

Action taken to date.

The following actions have been taken forward:

- rigorous panel processes ensure and assure that only CYP whose needs cannot be met at local Maintained Provisions are being placed in INMSS.
- consultation processes have been strengthened and INMSS schools are only being consulted with where appropriate
- commissioning is being better informed and quality, appropriateness and value for money are the key considerations. Spend to save options must be produced on any expenditure or suggestion of an out of area OOA (Out of Area) placement.

- Slough Schools Placing Strategy and the Place Planning Board has been refreshed with a clearer focus on SEND 0-25 including Alternative Provision and Post 16 sufficiency.
- work is underway on a joint commissioning strategy with a Commissioning and Transformation consultant appointed to lead on this work. Initial scoping meetings have taken place to identify opportunities for wider delivery with Arbour Vale School. Capacity analysis of current SRP (Specialist Resource Provision) provision has been conducted and detailed SLAs agreed for each setting will be issued.
- all CYP attending Independent Non-Maintained Providers have been identified and at Annual Review all these cases are being audited to ensure this is the most appropriate placement to meet need. NASS type contracts have been renewed and IPA have been scrutinised and updated.
- at key transitions consideration is given to whether these placements are still the most appropriate placement for the CYP. A PfA {Preparing for Adulthood} Lead officer has been appointed to assure annual reviews consider ceasing EHCPs as appropriate. PfA will now be starting before NCY 9.
- all INMSS Providers have/are being met by the Group Manager for Inclusion and SEND Commissioner to review the cost of placements and to renegotiate costings if appropriate.
- officers have compared the data against bench marking exercise which have occurred with other Southeast authorities, and we now know joint commissioning opportunities are likely to be limited across the Southeast as schools who are used frequently by other authorities are not ones Slough use.

Impact to date

Ensuring Sustainability of Changes and Future Plans

It is important to reiterate that without continued scrutiny thorough SEND Panel process and rigour of decision making these numbers could very easily increase so panel processes are being further developed and there is now health (SLT) and social care representation:

- the ongoing work with East Berkshire needs to develop to ensure more effective joint commissioning to better meet the “East Berks’ area” needs and to thus have more cost-effective placements and better joined up working and decision making. The local commissioning working is focussing on high-cost providers and how we can more effectively commission places and manage the market. There is a development of a new Joint Commissioned contract with RBWM, Bracknell Forest BC and Slough for a Joint Therapies contract with Frimley ICB. Short term Contracts have been issued until March 2025 whilst the unique Joint Commission is agreed.
- a joint working party of the three LAs (local authorities) has been formed and meets the SEND Commissioner ensuring that we are securing agreement with Providers around costings and uplifts, also to ensure effective contract management.
- benchmarking data from across the Southeast demonstrates that our numbers are below those of our similar local authorities and we need to continue to ensure wherever possible not to use the INMSS sector for non-complex children. We have stopped an extremely expensive OoA placement of one pupil

<p>by a spend to save option using our own Special school. This has ‘saved’ a projected £670K over the next 10 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ when parents express a preference, SEND officers now work with them around the graduated response and most appropriate local setting to meet need. Highlighting Ofsted outcomes of some local INMSS and Section 41 status so parents have a full understanding all the information to make an informed choice. 			
Agreement Condition 3		Assurance Level	
Post-16	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	GOOD	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p><u>Action taken to date.</u></p> <p><u>The following actions have been taken forward:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ data has been audited and all post-16 placements identified with costs. ➤ a new operational policy for ceasing EHC plans and ensuring that young adults receive the right support moving forward has been agreed to ensure consistency and efficiency. ➤ any EHCPs which may need to cease have reviews and actions underway to send cease to maintain letters. ➤ decisions at SEND Panel are ensuring that YP’s placements are agreed after taking into consideration their aspirations but also ensuring quality of placements and value for money. ➤ decisions to continue to fund young people for the same courses in different institutions are being challenged and only agreed if it can be demonstrated that a key outcome is still to be achieved. ➤ individual placement costings are being scrutinised and where necessary being challenged. ➤ all placements now have a contract and an Individual Partnership Agreement (IPA) in place. ➤ all Year 14 placements are being scrutinised to ensure that there is an exceptional reason for why they need to stay in a school placement. transition plans at Years 9, 11 and 13 are being put in place to ensure that the assumption of Year 14 places in school are no longer the norm. ➤ all colleges have been met with to discuss both the LA and the settings statutory duties toward YP with EHC plans. These meetings are also allowing discussions around the importance of progression in courses and the need to have clear transition plans to leave college. ➤ more effective commissioning arrangements are being discussed with other Southeast LAs. 			

- more effective commissioning arrangements are being discussed with colleges and options to commission bespoke courses for Slough CYP are being investigated and costed
- work is underway with SEND Officers and Enhance EHC plan writers to ensure consistent quality of Post 16 Plans particularly around the clarity of provision in Section F. To ensure that the range of college providers can deliver with confidence and all costings then can specifically reflect the updated Plan.

Impact to date

There has been considerable positive impact from the above actions:

- where appropriate plans have been ceased and/or lower cost local alternative placements have been identified. This has enabled predicted cost reductions for 2021-22 and 2022-23 to be met in full.

Ensuring Sustainability of Changes and Future Plans

- a transition group is being developed which will be chaired by the AD (Associate Director) of Adults' Services and will work with all stakeholders including young people to ensure that clear pathways are in place to enable a smooth transition into other services if appropriate.
- it is important to reiterate that without continued thorough SEND Panel processes and rigour of decision making these numbers could very easily increase exponentially.
- working with Orchard Hill college (Specialist) and BCA (Berkshire College Agricultural) and Langley College, part of the Windsor Forest Group {WFG} to develop proposals around a specific provision to meet the needs of young people with social communication difficulties who have struggled to engage with the school curriculum in Key Stages 4 and 5. This has been identified as a gap in the Local Offer and for some of these youngsters they have had their needs met in PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) Provision which has not always been successful in ensuring their future inclusion in mainstream colleges.
- a more detailed proposal of how this will look will be developed after further meetings. Both colleges are keen to engage with Slough and there may be a capital bid related to this scheme.
- further development work with the WFG to look at development of the foundation courses and increase in placements to meet more YP's needs locally is being planned. Further development round the BCA/Langley College SEND Offer.

Agreement Condition 4	Assurance Level		
Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs)	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	GOOD	RAG

Progress Update:

Action taken to date.

The following actions have been taken forward:

- increased scrutiny of which CYP are placed in Slough ARPs, to ensure that only CYP with an ARP (Additional Resource Provision) identified in their EHC plan are filling a commissioned place.
- two primary ARPs which are currently functioning as SEN Units have consulted to ensure that this status can be reflected in their SLA with Slough to ensure that CYP are placed appropriately.
- one small primary ARP (8 commissioned places) closed in July 2022 following a consultation with stakeholders, due to difficulty in sustaining delivery to the small number of complex CYP for which it had ARP capacity. New placements were required for September 2022 where required (this was of negligible impact overall as the number of CYP requiring alternative placement totalled 5)
- one ARP is to reduce from 60 by a decrease in 10-20 places over the next 2-3 years. This is as result of the proportion of statutory SEND CYP in relation to mainstream Published Admission Number (PAN) becoming unsustainable, particularly as the school’s PAN is due to decrease as part of Slough’s Place Planning Strategy.
- agreement made with our all-through special school to ensure that all our commissioned places are focused on years 0 to 13. Commissioning of Nursery and Year 14 exception placements will occur separately to maximise placements for CYP aged 4 to 18 years and in line with the High Needs Block Guidance.
- increase in SEND EHC plan commissioned placements for September 2022 onwards within our secondary special school.
- SLAs have been re-drafted and scrutinised with legal advisors and sent to settings for consultation feedback
- The process of consulting with ARPs both when issuing new EHC plans and for phase transfers, has been made more robust to ensure full compliance with the SEND Code of Practice (2015)

Ensuring Sustainability of Changes and Future Plans

- regular contract monitoring meetings, to monitor new SLAs
- newly embedded processes must be maintained to ensure compliance
- contract monitoring and data monitoring need to be considered when looking at future place planning within the SEND sector. Resilience built into system to ensure that additional places can be commissioned in our ARPs and special schools to address population changes in a timely manner (see Risk and Resilience section).

Agreement Condition 5	Assurance Level		
Alternative Education Provision	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023

	N/A	GOOD	RAG
<p>Progress Update:</p> <p><u>Action taken to date.</u></p> <p>The following actions have been taken forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the LA has reviewed benchmarking data from different authorities all who have differing models. Most provide the minimum statutory provision (6th day following a permanent exclusion) and some preventative places where schools either fund most of the place or fund top up above the £10,000 base funding. The numbers for these preventative places are significantly lower than those provided by Slough. ➤ unusually, Slough has not got a strong alternative education offer within a broader market, unlike some of the other authorities in the South-East, and this appears to be due mainly to the fact that the LA has fully funded full time AP (Alternative Provision) places at Haybrook School and Littledown School so schools have not needed to look elsewhere to purchase or fund their AP Provision. The model of AP provided in Slough fails to have regard for the DfE (Department for Education) definition of AP with most costs being borne by the LA as opposed to Schools. ➤ the existing model is not sustainable and cost reductions have been put forward around a more manageable costing to reflect the LA’s Statutory Responsibilities around Permanent Exclusions. Cost Reductions have been proposed over a three-year period to mitigate impact and allow the schools to develop other models of delivery with schools. ➤ discussions have started with both existing AP Providers. This area requires significant systemic change. <p><u>Impact to date</u></p> <p>There has been considerable positive impact from the above actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Actions implemented to reduce commissioned numbers have achieved a cost reduction of £538k for the year 2022-23, and projected savings for the project overall are set out in Table 3 below. <p><u>Ensuring Sustainability of Changes and Future Plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AP costs in Slough are likely to remain disproportionately high compared to our statistical neighbours unless there is a strong, clear strategy which highlights Academies and Maintained Schools’ statutory responsibilities toward vulnerable CYP. ➤ The development of a stronger market for AP Providers from different sectors would allow for a better range of vocational options for children, young people and their families and would introduce an element of competition to the market 			

<p>for schools and the LA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current proposals to reduce LA-commissioned places over the next 3 years will deliver the following savings:
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Risk 1	Assurance Level		
Financial	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>High Needs budget could continue to experience escalating cost pressures due to a continued increase in demand for EHCPs and top up funding and complexity of need which can only be met in the independent sector. Cost Reductions are not as high as estimated, increase demand leading to increase commissioning of places, increased costs linked to addressing increase legal challenge.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>There is pressure both in terms of demand for EHC plans and existing settings requesting larger than usual cost of living inflationary increases. The Council has agreed a maximum uplift policy which we have been able to meet so far.</p> <p>We are currently managing the demand and the wider delivery project with Arbour Vale School and other settings is designed to meet future demand without increasing the use of INMSS settings.</p> <p>However, the joint commissioning / SEND Place Planning will continue to monitor this closely to ensure that this continues to be managed effectively in the future.</p>			
Risk 2	Assurance Level		
Service Delivery	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>Challenges around sufficiency of the market. Turnover of staff impacting on workforce capacity and skill set.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>As above, joint commissioning and wider delivery programmes will ensure that any sufficiency issues are addressed. New members of the SEND Statutory team have brought greater experience, knowledge, and examples of best practice. New operational</p>			

<p>processes and guidance, alongside a programme of training, ensure that all officers are empowered and will encourage greater retention of staff. As a result, the high turnover of staff did not continue in the summer term 2023.</p>			
Risk 3	Assurance Level		
Reputational	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>Increase in Corporate complaints, dissatisfaction among stake holders, negative publicity.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>The level of complaints has remained high until recently. In the last few weeks, a new complaints policy and next steps planning approach has resolved several concerns. The service is also receiving regular compliments from service users.</p> <p>The service continues to work closely with Special Voices, our Parent Carer Forum, including regularly regular surveys. This means that we will track service user satisfaction and dissatisfaction without simply relying on complaints. Similarly link officers for all schools can better understand concerns and measure improvement by talking to SENCOs and other education leaders.</p> <p>Another key piece of work moving forward will be better understanding of the lived experiences of our children and young people with SEND.</p>			
Risk 4	Assurance Level		
Legal/Regulatory	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Watch	RAG
<p>Increased risks of legal challenge by way of appeal and judicial review and increased risk of complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>Recent tribunal decisions have been decided in favour of the Council and we are not seeing the elevated level of appeals that other LAs are experiencing. We have seen several complaints to the LGSCO (Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman) but have been able to resolve most of these through mediation to avoid judgements that could have financial and reputational implications. This will need to be monitored closely and so we have RAG rated this as Amber.</p>			

Risk 5	Assurance Level		
Economic	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>Unanticipated changes in demographics and cost of living/ inflationary pressures. Risks to jobs and workforce if cost reductions are made to quickly and too soon.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>There is no evidence of issues around the speed of cost reductions. The number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children with complex needs has been identified as a potential risk but is not yet affecting our financial progress.</p>			
Mitigation 1	Assurance Level		
Alternative Education Provision	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>There is significant stake holder scrutiny around this project (particularly head teachers.) There is a three-year Plan in place and the project is in Year 1 now; savings have already been achieved within timescale. Mitigations in place are a Project Group led by the SEND Commissioner and this group will run for the next three years. This will ensure any issues and areas of concern are addressed. New ways of working are being developed which moves the emphasis on commissioning AP Provision to the school rather than Stake Holders viewing the Local Authority as the sole Commissioner. The LA will continue to meet its Statutory duty for six-day provision for permanently children and some preventative placements allocated via a multi-agency panel.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>A new working party looking at exclusions and AP provision has been formed to ensure that school leaders views and daily experiences are considered in our Council policies and practice. There is a growing recognition that non statutory, preventative AP placements should not be funded by the High Needs Block unless there is a proven spend-to-save model.</p>			
Mitigation 2	Assurance Level		

Agenda Item 9

Post 16 Provision	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	RAG	Good	RAG
<p>The main risk within the Post 16 Sector at present is the merger of BCA College to become a part of the Windsor Forest Group. This means that Slough is now the host Authority and commissions places across the Group. There have been several meetings to ensure that Slough commission the correct number of places for the group across the local area. Further meetings are occurring with all Berks and Bucks LAs to ensure we can work together to have more effective place planning. It has been identified that ongoing work is required at phase transfer for Years' 9, 11 and 13/14 to ensure that young people's pathways are appropriate for achieving their preparation for adulthood (PfA) outcomes; mitigations include the bolstering of SEND team staff in a dedicated post-14 team, to focus on PfA and effective phase transfer processes. Potential capital projects are also being explored to increase of range of placements and accessible pathways.</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>A new PfA approach is being designed and post 16 places have a high priority in our overall sufficiency and place planning work. Sufficiency of places has not been a significant issue at the start of the new academic year.</p>			
Mitigation 3	Assurance Level		
Managing demand (EHCNAs/EHCPs)	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	RAG	Good	RAG
<p>Mitigations here are inbuilt and based on rigorous process and decision-making, which is already seeing an impact. In addition, there is potential for capital projects to support commissioning of places as population fluctuates (this is anticipated and planned for), and these are being incorporated into the current draft of the Council's Place Planning Strategy (draft to be scrutinised at next Cabinet meeting).</p>			
<p>Progress update:</p> <p>The capital programme is being agreed by Cabinet and further details will be shared in the next quarter monitoring paper.</p>			
Mitigation 4	Assurance Level		
Inflation	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG
<p>The High Needs block funds pupil placements in schools and further education</p>			

establishments, and this represents 81.25% of total forecast expenditure. This expenditure is split between base funding of £10,000 per pupil and top-up funding. The base funding has been flat for the last couple of years and has not attracted any inflationary increases. Top-up funding in Slough BC represents some of the highest payments to providers than anywhere else within England. One of our key cost reductions is focused around reducing top-up funding to all providers, therefore, it would not be appropriate to add inflationary increases to funding we want to reduce. Expenditure on the remaining 18.75% of High Needs expenditure should attract inflationary increases. We are forecasting 4% inflation in 2023-24 and 2% in subsequent years

Progress update:

SBC is carefully managing requests for inflationary increases from 3rd party providers to keep inflationary increases within our forecasts. This is being off-set by increased in-borough provision by 3.4% in line DFE funding guidance.

Resilience	Assurance Level		
	16 June 2023	15 Sept 2023	15 Dec 2023
	N/A	Good	RAG

The projects to reduce costs within the current plan have been carefully considered and interrogated to ensure sustainability, minimal impact on service delivery wherever possible, and best potential outcome for value and managing costs. The pace and amount have been planned to ensure stability of the workforce and continuity for stakeholders – any acceleration would need to treat with caution, due to the risk of destabilising the plan as a whole; many of the projects involve mechanisms that interlink and interact upon one another.

To develop our resilience there is capacity within the plan for a centrally retained number of places (up to 50), which can be allocated during the lifetime of the plan should demand increase beyond our planned projections. There are also aspects of the Council’s centrally retained budget, which fund non-statutory services and posts, which can be drawn upon should there be an unplanned momentous change in demand which needs to be addressed. This gives further assurance that we can meet cost reduction targets, though use of this mechanism may impact wider service delivery within the People (Children’s) directorate.

All cost reduction projects within the plan have detailed, year-on-year actions and outcomes outlined; this ensures that any staff new to the organisation are clear on project progress and next steps. There are succession plans in place for key roles, including the roles of commissioning and finance as well excellent work being carried out on recording procedures, systems, and processes. SEND, commissioning and finance have worked collaboratively in the formulation of this plan and will continue to do so throughout its implementation. The council has also committed addition general funding to permanent posts within the SEND team to support implementation.

Progress update:

The main area for focus moving forward will be the backlog cases and managing the national increase in demand for EHC plans and special school places. However, as the rest of this report evidence, whilst we remain cautious, the current position suggests that the resilience of the plan is not a concern and the improving quality of the SEND Statutory team is a key factor in this.

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Schools Forum 9 November 2023	
Report from Executive Director of People - Children Services	
Schools Block Transfer 2024-25	
Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
No. of Appendices:	2
Contact Officer(s):	<p>Neil Hoskinson Interim Director – Education & Inclusion Email: Neil.Hoskinson@slough.gov.uk</p> <p>Sarah Hockly Strategic Finance Manager – Children’s Email: Sarah.Hockly@slough.gov.uk</p>

This report relates to all academies and mainstream schools’ representatives and is for decision by all Forum Members.

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of the report is to inform Schools Forum of the outcome of the consultation that took place with Maintained Schools and Academies on the National Funding Formula for 2024-25.

The consultation with Mainstream Schools and Academies ran between Wednesday 4 October 2023 and Wednesday 1 November 2023.

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum members are asked to:

- a) **Approve** the transfer of 0.5% (provisionally £0.857) million of the Schools Block to support pressures in the High Needs block.
- b) **Approve** using the Basic Entitlement for Pupils Factor to allocate surplus schools block funding to Mainstream Maintained Schools and Academies in 2023-24.

3. Introduction

Each year the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) informs each Local Authority (LA) of the provisional allocations for the forthcoming financial year.

The LA then undertakes modelling of the available funding and the impact it has on each Mainstream Maintained School and Academy in their area.

Modelling usually results in there being a modest surplus and this consultation exercise seeks views from individual Mainstream Maintained Schools and Academies on a number of options to use the surplus to support children in our Mainstream Maintained Schools and Academies.

The role of Schools Forum is to take account of the views expressed through this consultation and to make **recommendations** to the LA on the local formula. Schools Forum must also **approve** any funding transfer between DSG blocks.

4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2024-25

The provisional DSG 2024-25 for the schools block, based on October 2022 pupil census data, is £171.399 million but excludes Growth Funding which will be announced later in the autumn.

The Schools Block DSG for 2024-25 represents an increase of £4.169 million (2.49%) above 2023-24 funding, excluding Growth Funding. Approximately £4.400 million of the increase in 2024-25 schools block DSG will be automatically added to maintained school and academy budgets due to the increase in the NFF factors.

5. ESFA Consultation on the National Funding Formula (NFF)

As the ESFA requires LAs to move nearer to the 'hard' NFF, local formulae need to continue to meet the following requirement:

- Local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae.
- Local authorities **must use all NFF factors** – except for the locally determined premises factors which remain optional. This means that local authorities will have to use all 3 deprivation factors (Free School Meals, Free School Meals 6 and Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index), as well as Low Prior Attainment (LPA), English as an Additional Language (EAL), Mobility and the Lump Sum
- Local authorities must **move their local formula factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF**, except where local formulae are already mirroring the NFF. These criteria do not apply to locally determined factors – notably the premises factors.

- Local authorities can only increase the Basic Entitlement for Pupils Factor by a maximum of 3.8% above 2022-23 levels and by a maximum of 2.5% for all other NFF factors.
- Local authorities must use **the NFF definition for the EAL factor** in 2023 to 2024
- Local authorities have the freedom to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee in their local formulae between +0.0% and +0.5% per pupil.
- Local authorities continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block to other blocks of the DSG, with Schools Forum approval.

Over the last few budget cycles the Slough local formula has moved progressively closer to the NFF. This has been a deliberate strategy by Schools Forum to avoid 'cliff edges' in funding.

Except for the Mobility Factor the LA mirrors the 'hard' NFF. Therefore, the Mobility Factor will need to be increased by 10% above the 2022-23 level to meet the ESFA requirements.

6. Schools Funding Modelling 2023-24 and Options

In July 2023 the DfE announced provisional schools funding and circulated a tool which allowed schools to estimate potential budgets for 2024-25 based on October 2022 pupil numbers.

On Friday 6 October 2023 the DfE announced that the number of pupils had been underestimated. The original estimate that funding for pupils would increase by 2.7% was revised down to 1.9%. The timing of this announcement was unfortunate as the LA had started its consultation with schools 2 days earlier.

While there is a reduction in the increase in pupil funding the actual overall provisional schools block DSG has not be revised down. This still stands at £171.399 million and was the figure included in the consultation paper.

The original financial modelling which took place over the summer estimated that the headroom in the Schools Block allocation could be £2.229 million. The consultation proposal was to transfer £0.857 million to the high needs block and £1.372 million allocated to maintained schools and academies through the Age Weighted Pupil Unit factor.

Based on revised funding factors subsequent financial modelling suggest that the headroom in the schools block allocation could be £3.537 million. This would mean that £2.680 million could be allocated to maintained schools and academies through the Age Weighted Pupil Unit factor with an increase of 2.50% to this factor. This would

leave £0.857 million to be transferred to the high needs block and a contingency of £0.275 million.

Alternatively, we could explore the viability of applying the NFF Factors which were originally notified in July 2023 once the final Schools Block DSG is announced in December 2023. This would then be shared with the Schools Forum 5-16 working group before the final allocations of any headroom would be brought back to Schools Forum in January 2024.

So, while the funding factors overall have been reduced the DSG allocation based on October 2022 pupils remains the same.

The published NFF factor values for July 2023 and the amendments published in October 2023, together with the changes in the factors, are included in Appendix 1.

7. Key Factors Behind Current High Needs Block Position

Key factors in the current positive position are the reduction in the average cost of a new EHC plan and the increase in the percentage of pupils being placed in mainstream settings.

The average cost of a newly issued plan has decreased from £11,086 in July-Sept 2020 to £8,478 in July-Sept 2022; this exceeds the savings figures set out in CR4 of the Management Plan. The proportion of newly issued plans designated mainstream as type had increased from 81% to 92% and settles at +/- 90% with some fluctuation at times e.g. mover ins and phase transfers.

This has been achieved by reviewing panel processes ensure and assuring that only pupils whose needs cannot be met at local Maintained Provisions are being placed in independent non maintained special schools [INMSS]. Consultation processes are being strengthened and INMSS schools are only being consulted with where appropriate.

Commissioning has been better informed and quality, appropriateness and value for money are the key considerations. Spend to save options must be produced on any expenditure or suggestion of an Out of Area placement.

8. High Needs Block and Safety Valve Monitoring Actions

A new High Needs Block and Safety Valve Monitoring Board has been formed which includes the Director of Childrens Services, the Section 151 Officer, the Education Finance Lead, the Associate Director of Education and Inclusion and the SEND Consultant leading on commissioning. The Board is in the process of agreeing a timetable for project management actions including an action plan, a risk log and a finance dashboard that includes panel decisions and corresponding future budget projections.

Finally, if we achieve a balance DSG budget by 2025-26 it is very likely that the DfE will write off most, if not all, our cumulative DSG deficit which has been built up over a number of years in supporting Slough children.

This will include testing existing Safety Valve Agreement assumptions against future data trends for EHC plans, average costs and placement decisions. This will allow early identification of potential gaps and possible mitigations, including alternative savings.

One important area of work will be ensuring that there is a focus on mainstream school inclusion numbers, use of school SEND funding and the graduated approach available to all pupils. This should help to manage future requests for High Needs Block funding by reducing demand for EHC plans.

Work is underway on a joint commissioning strategy to be brought to the SEND Partnership Board by the end of December 2023 with a Commissioning and Transformation consultant appointed to lead on this work. Capacity analysis of current SRP provision has been conducted and detailed SLAs agreed for each setting will be issued. Another key workstream is a new joint commissioning approach for integrated health therapies.

Current placements are being reviewed for all young people placed in INMSS including post 16 college placements. The effectiveness of the setting is reviewed after taking into consideration the young person's outcomes, aspirations but also ensuring quality of placements and value for money.

A review of the process for permanent exclusions and preventative placements has been started and will be completed by April 2023. It is clear that the existing model is not sustainable and cost reductions have already been implemented around a more manageable costing to reflect the LA's Statutory responsibilities around exclusions. Further reductions have been proposed over a three-year period to mitigate impact and allow the schools to develop other models of delivery with schools.

This work will be supported by a refreshed Place Planning Board including a working party focusing on SEND sufficiency. Initial scoping meetings have taken place to identify opportunities for wider delivery with Arbour Vale School, Haybrook College and Littledown School to develop more alternative provision and special school places.

A Preparation for Adulthood [PfA] Lead officer has been appointed to assure annual reviews consider ceasing EHC plans as appropriate. An operational guide for ceasing EHC plans appropriately has already been agreed. PfA will now be starting before NCY 9 and will ensure that, at key transitions, consideration is given to whether placements are still the most appropriate placement for the child or young person.

Work has begun to co-produce a new Matrix for banded funding ready for implementation in March 2024. This will ensure that funding matches the needs of each young person accurately and are modelled both operationally and financially to

ensure that needs are met while keeping regard to sustainability and the existing financial envelope. Our matrix funding levels will be informed by the existing models used by statistical neighbours and other South-East authorities.

9. Consultation Outcome

Section 30 of the Schools Revenue Funding 2024-25 Operational Guide states:

“Local authorities wishing to make a transfer should also consult local maintained schools and academies, and the Schools Forum should take these views into account before making their decision.”

Consultation was undertaken with 43 maintained schools and academies and a copy of the response form is attached as an Appendix 2.

A total of 9 (8 responses received last year) maintained academies and schools responded to the consultation by the 12:00 pm deadline on Wednesday 1 November 2022. The responses to the questions were as follows:

Question	Yes	No
1	5	4
2	8	1

The four schools voting against the transfer of funding to the high needs block stated that it was becoming more difficult to set a balanced budget. One primary school did not support the use of AWPU for allocating any DSG headroom preferring Deprivation of FSM to be used.

10. Financial Implications

The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper.

11. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

12. Equality Implications

Not applicable

13. Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

Not applicable

14. Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

Not applicable

Appendix 1

July 2023 Factor Values

Factor	23-24 NFF including ACA	23-24 APT	Difference between 23-24 APT and 23-24 NFF	24-25 NFF including ACA	24-25 APT minimum	24-25 APT maximum
Primary basic entitlement	£3,590.51	£3,641.00	£50.49	£3,807.06	£3,711.89	£3,902.24
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,062.05	£5,134.00	£71.95	£5,368.20	£5,234.00	£5,502.41
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,705.25	£5,786.00	£80.75	£6,050.87	£5,899.60	£6,202.14
Primary FSM	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£518.62	£505.65	£531.58
Secondary FSM	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£518.62	£505.65	£531.58
Primary FSM6	£745.82	£750.00	£4.18	£878.47	£856.51	£900.43
Secondary FSM6	£1,089.64	£1,090.00	£0.36	£1,280.66	£1,248.65	£1,312.68
Primary IDACI F	£243.32	£245.00	£1.68	£248.72	£242.51	£254.94
Primary IDACI E	£296.21	£300.00	£3.79	£301.64	£294.10	£309.19
Primary IDACI D	£465.48	£470.00	£4.52	£476.28	£464.37	£488.19
Primary IDACI C	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£518.62	£505.65	£531.58
Primary IDACI B	£539.53	£540.00	£0.47	£550.37	£536.61	£564.13
Primary IDACI A	£708.79	£710.00	£1.21	£725.00	£706.88	£743.13
Secondary IDACI F	£354.40	£355.00	£0.60	£365.15	£356.02	£374.28
Secondary IDACI E	£470.77	£475.00	£4.23	£481.57	£469.53	£493.61
Secondary IDACI D	£655.90	£660.00	£4.10	£672.08	£655.28	£688.89
Secondary IDACI C	£719.37	£720.00	£0.63	£735.59	£717.20	£753.98
Secondary IDACI B	£772.27	£775.00	£2.73	£793.80	£773.96	£813.65
Secondary IDACI A	£983.85	£985.00	£1.15	£1,005.48	£980.34	£1,030.62
Primary EAL	£613.58	£615.00	£1.42	£629.75	£614.00	£645.49
Secondary EAL	£1,655.61	£1,660.00	£4.39	£1,698.73	£1,656.26	£1,741.20
Primary LPA	£1,221.87	£1,225.00	£3.13	£1,254.20	£1,222.85	£1,285.56
Secondary LPA	£1,851.33	£1,855.00	£3.68	£1,894.54	£1,847.17	£1,941.90
Primary mobility	£999.72	£207.18	-£792.54	£1,026.65	£313.37	£1,052.31
Secondary mobility	£1,438.74	£298.81	-£1,139.93	£1,476.47	£450.53	£1,513.38
Primary lump sum	£135,411.20	£135,500.00	£88.80	£143,624.88	£140,034.26	£147,215.50
Secondary lump sum	£135,411.20	£135,500.00	£88.80	£143,624.88	£140,034.26	£147,215.50
Primary sparsity	£59,559.77	£56,300.00	-£3,259.77	£61,069.68	£58,135.89	£62,596.42
Secondary sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£88,799.76	£84,531.95	£91,019.75
Middle-school sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£88,799.76	£84,531.95	£91,019.75
All-through sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£88,799.76	£84,531.95	£91,019.75
Split sites basic eligibility funding				£57,471.12	£56,034.34	£58,907.90
Split sites distance funding				£28,682.64	£27,965.57	£29,399.71

October 2023 Factor Values

Factor	23-24 NFF including ACA	23-24 APT	Difference between 23-24 APT and 23-24 NFF	24-25 NFF including ACA	24-25 APT minimum	24-25 APT maximum
Primary basic entitlement	£3,590.51	£3,641.00	£50.49	£3,770.02	£3,675.77	£3,864.27
KS3 basic entitlement	£5,062.05	£5,134.00	£71.95	£5,315.28	£5,182.40	£5,448.17
KS4 basic entitlement	£5,705.25	£5,786.00	£80.75	£5,991.60	£5,841.81	£6,141.39
Primary FSM	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£518.62	£505.65	£531.58
Secondary FSM	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£518.62	£505.65	£531.58
Primary FSM6	£745.82	£750.00	£4.18	£867.89	£846.19	£889.59
Secondary FSM6	£1,089.64	£1,090.00	£0.36	£1,270.08	£1,238.33	£1,301.83
Primary IDACI F	£243.32	£245.00	£1.68	£248.72	£242.51	£254.94
Primary IDACI E	£296.21	£300.00	£3.79	£301.64	£294.10	£309.19
Primary IDACI D	£465.48	£470.00	£4.52	£470.99	£459.21	£482.76
Primary IDACI C	£507.79	£510.00	£2.21	£513.32	£500.49	£526.16
Primary IDACI B	£539.53	£540.00	£0.47	£545.08	£531.45	£558.70
Primary IDACI A	£708.79	£710.00	£1.21	£719.71	£701.72	£737.70
Secondary IDACI F	£354.40	£355.00	£0.60	£359.86	£350.86	£368.85
Secondary IDACI E	£470.77	£475.00	£4.23	£476.28	£464.37	£488.19
Secondary IDACI D	£655.90	£660.00	£4.10	£666.79	£650.12	£683.46
Secondary IDACI C	£719.37	£720.00	£0.63	£730.30	£712.04	£748.55
Secondary IDACI B	£772.27	£775.00	£2.73	£783.22	£763.64	£802.80
Secondary IDACI A	£983.85	£985.00	£1.15	£1,000.19	£975.18	£1,025.19
Primary EAL	£613.58	£615.00	£1.42	£624.46	£608.84	£640.07
Secondary EAL	£1,655.61	£1,660.00	£4.39	£1,677.56	£1,635.62	£1,719.50
Primary LPA	£1,221.87	£1,225.00	£3.13	£1,238.33	£1,207.37	£1,269.29
Secondary LPA	£1,851.33	£1,855.00	£3.68	£1,878.66	£1,831.69	£1,925.63
Primary mobility	£999.72	£207.18	-£792.54	£1,016.06	£302.78	£1,041.47
Secondary mobility	£1,438.74	£298.81	-£1,139.93	£1,460.59	£434.65	£1,497.11
Primary lump sum	£135,411.20	£135,500.00	£88.80	£142,248.96	£138,692.74	£145,805.18
Secondary lump sum	£135,411.20	£135,500.00	£88.80	£142,248.96	£138,692.74	£145,805.18
Primary sparsity	£59,559.77	£56,300.00	-£3,259.77	£60,434.64	£57,500.85	£61,945.51
Secondary sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£87,847.20	£83,579.39	£90,043.38
Middle-school sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£87,847.20	£83,579.39	£90,043.38
All-through sparsity	£86,642.01	£81,900.00	-£4,742.01	£87,847.20	£83,579.39	£90,043.38
Split sites basic eligibility funding				£56,836.08	£55,415.18	£58,256.98
Split sites distance funding				£28,470.96	£27,759.19	£29,182.73

Changes in Factors

Factor	24-25 NFF including ACA	24-25 APT minimum	24-25 APT maximum	24-25 NFF including ACA2	24-25 APT minimum2	24-25 APT maximum2
Primary basic entitlement	-£37.04	-£36.12	-£37.97	-0.98%	-0.98%	-0.98%
KS3 basic entitlement	-£52.92	-£51.60	-£54.24	-1.00%	-1.00%	-1.00%
KS4 basic entitlement	-£59.27	-£57.79	-£60.75	-0.99%	-0.99%	-0.99%
Primary FSM	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Secondary FSM	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary FSM6	-£10.58	-£10.32	-£10.84	-1.22%	-1.22%	-1.22%
Secondary FSM6	-£10.58	-£10.32	-£10.85	-0.83%	-0.83%	-0.83%
Primary IDACI F	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary IDACI E	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Primary IDACI D	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-1.12%	-1.12%	-1.12%
Primary IDACI C	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.42	-1.03%	-1.03%	-1.03%
Primary IDACI B	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-0.97%	-0.97%	-0.97%
Primary IDACI A	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-0.74%	-0.74%	-0.74%
Secondary IDACI F	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-1.47%	-1.47%	-1.47%
Secondary IDACI E	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.42	-1.11%	-1.11%	-1.11%
Secondary IDACI D	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-0.79%	-0.79%	-0.79%
Secondary IDACI C	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-0.72%	-0.72%	-0.73%
Secondary IDACI B	-£10.58	-£10.32	-£10.85	-1.35%	-1.35%	-1.35%
Secondary IDACI A	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.43	-0.53%	-0.53%	-0.53%
Primary EAL	-£5.29	-£5.16	-£5.42	-0.85%	-0.85%	-0.85%
Secondary EAL	-£21.17	-£20.64	-£21.70	-1.26%	-1.26%	-1.26%
Primary LPA	-£15.88	-£15.48	-£16.27	-1.28%	-1.28%	-1.28%
Secondary LPA	-£15.88	-£15.48	-£16.27	-0.85%	-0.85%	-0.84%
Primary mobility	-£10.58	-£10.59	-£10.84	-1.04%	-3.50%	-1.04%
Secondary mobility	-£15.88	-£15.88	-£16.27	-1.09%	-3.65%	-1.09%
Primary lump sum	-£1,375.92	-£1,341.52	-£1,410.32	-0.97%	-0.97%	-0.97%
Secondary lump sum	-£1,375.92	-£1,341.52	-£1,410.32	-0.97%	-0.97%	-0.97%
Primary sparsity	-£635.04	-£635.04	-£650.91	-1.05%	-1.10%	-1.05%
Secondary sparsity	-£952.56	-£952.56	-£976.37	-1.08%	-1.14%	-1.08%
Middle-school sparsity	-£952.56	-£952.56	-£976.37	-1.08%	-1.14%	-1.08%
All-through sparsity	-£952.56	-£952.56	-£976.37	-1.08%	-1.14%	-1.08%
Split sites basic eligibility funding	-£635.04	-£619.16	-£650.92	-1.12%	-1.12%	-1.12%
Split sites distance funding	-£211.68	-£206.38	-£216.98	-0.74%	-0.74%	-0.74%

Appendix 2 - Consultation Response Form

Please complete the following details about your school	
School/Academy Name	
Full Name	
Position	

Q1 Do you support the transfer of 0.5% of the schools block to support pressures in the High Needs block?

Yes

No (If, no please give a reason)

Reason

Q2 Do you support the proposal to use the Basic Entitlement for Pupils Factor to allocated surplus schools block funding to Mainstream Maintained Schools and Academies?

Yes

No (if no, please state which factor you would want to use and why?)

Factor and why?

Please return completed responses to: education.finance@slough.gov.uk

By 12:00 Noon on Wednesday 1 November 2023.

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
PROPOSED FORWARD AGENDA PLAN 2023/24

Updated 06/11/23

Substantive Agenda items

Meeting 1 – Thursday 28 September 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	2022/23 DSG monitoring	Q4/final outturn for 202/23 – Forum to note
2	2023/24 DSG monitoring	Q1 report - Forum to note
3	Safety Valve plan update	Update on progress with DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
5	2024/25 DSG workplan	To include confirmation of process for Schools Block 2024/25 consultation.
6	Task Groups	Confirmation of role and membership of task groups
Meeting 2 – Thursday 9 November 2023		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q2 report - Forum to note
2	CSSB budget 2023/24	Forum to approve budget
3	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme.
4	Provisional DSG settlement 2024/25	Forum to note position and make provisional recommendation on any headroom allocation.
5	DSG Consultation 2024/25	Forum to note report on outcome of consultation with schools for DSG block funding transfer.
6	DSG Block transfer proposals 2024/25	Forum to consider and make provisional decision
Meeting 3 – Thursday 11 January 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme.
2	Growth Fund report	LA confirms outturn from 2022/23 and update to allocations and EoY position for 2023/24. LA confirms of 2024-25 ‘top slice’ from Schools Block. Forum agrees allocation criteria.
3	Resource Provision and AP place commissioning	LA to confirm places commissioned in academies for 2023/24
4	DSG Schools Block 2024/25 – confirmed settlement	Forum notes final DSG settlement, recommends local formula to LA, confirms decisions on block transfer requests
5	Early Years block 2024/25	LA confirms funding arrangements for 2024/25
Meeting 4 – Wednesday 13 March 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q3 report – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Schools Block – confirmation of individual schools’ budgets 2024/25	LA confirmation of individual budgets for 2024/25 following APT submission and any subsequent adjustments
4	DSG HNB centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of HNB centrally retained funding.
5	DSG EY centrally retained 2024/25	LA confirms allocation of EY centrally retained funding
6	Central School Services Budget 2024/25	Forum approves CSSB budget allocations for 2024/25
Meeting 5 – Thursday 13 June 2024		
Item	Description	Notes
1	DSG Monitoring Report 2023/24	Q4 report and outturn – Forum to note
2	DSG Management Plan update	To include update on DfE ‘Safety valve’ programme
3	Growth Fund - outturn from 2023/24 financial year	LA confirms outturn from 2023/24 and any consequent update to the allocations for 2024/25
4	Scheme for financing schools	Approval of revised scheme by maintained school reps following consultation.
5	Annual membership review	

Standing items for all meetings		
Item	Description	Notes
Chair	Apologies/AOB/declaration of interests	
Chair	Minutes of previous meeting	
Chair	Matters arising including rolling action log	
Chair	Forum membership update	As required
LA	Update on national/local funding issues	Verbal notification of any updates
LA	Academies update	Notification of any changes to school status
Chair	Forward agenda planning	Sets out proposed agenda for the remainder of the year
Chair	Key decisions log	Records key Forum decisions over running 2-yr period

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
School Forum membership update	09/12/21	4	866
Gill Denham confirmed as academies member			
Chair to write to Coral Snowden and Peter Collins to ask if they wish to continue in post from January 2022			
DSG 2021/22 Monitoring report	09/12/21	6	868
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG funding update 2022/23	09/12/21	7	869
Forum NOTED the provisional DSG allocation for 2022/23 as set out in the report			
Schools Block 2022/23	09/12/21	9	871
LA to provide scenario modelling with and without requested 0.5% DSG top slice, to inform decision on block transfer in January meeting			
Early Years update	09/12/21	10	872
Forum NOTED the verbal report on EY funding			
Scheme for Financing Schools	09/12/21	11	873
Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools, required in relation to the UK leaving the European Union, APPROVED by maintained school members, subject to confirmation from maintained secondary member (absent from meeting)			
Schools Forum membership update	19/01/22	5	879
Peter Collins confirmed as academies member for two years until January 2024			
Coral Snowden’s term extended until July 2022			
Nominations to be sought for secondary academy member vacancy			
DSG 2021/22 monitoring report	19/01/22	7	880
Forum NOTED current 2021/22 DSG position			
DSG Management Plan update	19/01/22	8	881
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan			
SEND Banding	19/01/22	9	882
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Chelsea Barnes on changes to the SEND banding matrix			
Growth Fund update	19/01/22	10	883
Forum APPROVED the Growth Fund criteria for 2022/23			
Forum NOTED the forecast position for the three years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24			
Schools Block 2022/23	19/01/22	11	883
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing 0.44% figure (£676k) to the High Needs block transfer.			
Report to brought to March Forum meeting describing in detail the difference that this funding has made and how the funds transferred are being allocated.			
Early Years funding 2022/23	19/01/22	12	884
Forum members endorsed the EY Task Group recommendation and APPROVED Option 1 from the 2022/23 funding consultation			
AOB – School Improvement funding	19/01/22	16	888
Discussion to be arranged between LA officers and the chairs of SPHA and SASH to develop proposals for school improvement funding to take to the School Improvement Board and bring back to Forum.			

DSG monitoring report 2021/22	10/03/22	7	894
Forum NOTED the latest DSG position.			
DSG Schools Block 2022-23	10/03/22	8	895
Kamaljit Kaur confirmed she would follow up NNDR payment mechanism and issue clarification for all schools.			
CSSB budget 2022-23	10/03/22	9	896
Forum APPROVED transfer of £180,815 from High Needs block to the CSSB for 2022-23			
Forum AGREED allocation within the CSSB as proposed by the local authority.			
EY centrally retained budget 2022-23	10/03/22	10	897
Forum AGREED the use of the central retained funding as proposed by the local authority.			
DSG Management plan update	10/03/22	11	898
Forum NOTED the Cabinet report on current status of DSG Management Plan and accompanying verbal update			
Written or verbal update to be given at next meeting			
Task group update	10/03/22	12	899
Work of Task groups (Schools Block, High Needs and EY)			
Forward agenda and Key decisions log	10/03/22	14	901
Key decisions log to be updated for May meeting (Chair)			
Forum membership	05/07/22	5	906
Forum NOTED the adjustments to members' terms of office to better align with the academic terms.			
Chair agreed to seek nominations to fill primary and secondary vacancies in September			
Update on national/local funding issues	05/07/22	6	907
Chair agreed to collate and return Forum response to DfE consultation on national funding formula.			
High Needs Budget 2022/23	05/07/22	10	911
Forum NOTED the allocation of centrally retained funding			
Scheme for financing schools	05/07/22	14	912
Maintained Forum members AGREED the proposed minor change to the current Scheme raising the tender threshold from £10k to £25k			
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
DSG 2022/23 Monitoring report	10/11/22	7	923
Forum NOTED the current DSG position as set out in the monitoring report			
DSG Management Plan update	10/11/22	8	924
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			
Schools Block 2023/24	10/11/22	10	926
Forum APPROVED the transfer of £100k from Schools Block to the CSSB.			
Forum APPROVED the transfer of the balancing figure (0.5% less £100k) to the High Needs block, subject to confirmation in January 2023 following final DSG settlement.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA recommendation that DSG headroom be allocated through the basic entitlement factor			
Resource provision and AP place commissioning	13/01/23	7	937
Forum NOTED the number of resource and alternative provision places commissioned by the LA in academies for September 2023.			
Growth Fund 2023/24	13/01/23	8	938
Forum NOTED the proposed 2023/24 Schools Block top slice of £565k to support the Growth Fund.			
DSG Management Plan and Safety Valve programme	13/01/23	9	939
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Johnny Kyriacou on the DSG management plan and the application to the DfE Safety Valve programme			

DSG settlement 2023/24	13/01/23	10	940
Forum CONFIRMED the overall 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to the CSSB (£100k) and HNB (0.5% less £100k) as provisionally approved in November 2022.			
Forum ENDORSED the LA's proposals for the overall 2023/24 DSG allocation.			
Forum NOTED the LA's continued commitment to allocate DSG headroom through the basic entitlement factor.			
DSG Management Plan update	14/07/23	6	949
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Neil Hoskinson on the DSG management plan and the application DfE Safety Valve programme			
Primary-secondary funding ratio	14/07/23	7	950
Forum AGREED that discussion of the impact of the formula decisions on the primary-secondary ratio be discussed within the 5-16 Task Group Chair was tasked with responding to the SPHA letter			
Local School Improvement Fund	14/07/23	8	951
Forum AGREED the proposed principles for the future operation of the LSIF, to now be delegated to the phase associations with a regular report back to Forum.			
Schools Forum membership update	14/07/23	9	952
Forum NOTED that the terms of office of a number of members would end in August 2023. Chair to write to members asking if they wish to continue. Chair to seek nominations to fill primary and secondary academy vacancies			
Reappointment of Chair	14/07/23	10	953
John Constable reappointed as Chair for the AY 2023/24			
Forward agenda plan	14/07/23	11	954
Forum AGREED the structure of meetings proposed for 2023/24			
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24			
Issue and decision	Forum date	Agenda item	Minute ref
Schools Forum membership update	28/09/23	5	961
Rhodri Bryant confirmed as secondary academies member (subject to formal approval by academy proprietors), representing The Langley Academy			
2022/23 DSG outturn	28/09/23	7	963
Forum NOTED the 2022/23 DSG outturn and the receipt of the first payment of £10.8 million from the DfE under the Safety Valve programme.			
DSG Management Plan update	28/09/23	8	964
Forum NOTED the verbal update from Neil Hoskinson on the DSG management plan and the application DfE Safety Valve programme			
2024/25 DSG Budget setting timetable	28/09/23	9	965
Forum NOTED the LA's timetable for consultation with schools on (a) the annual request to transfer 0.5% from Schools Block to the High Needs Block, and (b) the proposed allocation of any headroom through AWPU.			
Update on task groups	28/09/23	11	967
Forum NOTED the continued role of the Early Years Task Group.			
Forum ENDORSED the role of the 5-16 Task Group in examining the impact of the DSG settlement on 2024/25 school budgets, and in clarifying how the primary-secondary ratio is affected by decision about NFF factor rates. Forum ENDORSED the membership of the 5-16 group, to include Valerie Harffey.			
Forum AGREED that there was sufficient headteacher representation on other groups to provide oversight of the High Needs block, and that a High Needs Task Group was not currently needed.			

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