

Papers for meeting of Surrey Schools Forum 12 May 2023

Item 5

Surrey Schools Forum

12 May 2023

Lead: David Green/Sarah Bryan

For information (and approval of Central Schools Services Block)

Update on 2023/24 budgets including disapplication requests and final school

olds which would address the remainder of the structural underspend. From the data available in March 2023 this was not deemed affordable. DfE have now promised an increase in funding from September 2023 (although no indication has been given of

expected in 2023/24 when considering the allocation of any such additional funding, subject to regulations permitting,

Special schools

Top up rates for special schools have been inflated by 0.5% plus £50. Taken together with the increase of 2.5% plus £250 in 2022/23 this delivers the required 3% increase from 2021/22-2023/24 in per pupil funding in special schools.

Additionally special schools and PRUs receive inflation funding equal to 3.4% of average 2022/23 per pupil funding (place and top up), in compliance with the DSG conditions of grant.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

Education Authorities are required to seek approval for CSSB expenditure. Full use of CSSB funding (excluding historic commitments funding) has been approved for 2023/24 (approved at December 2022 and January

Funding to contribute towards supporting the implementation of Inclusion and Innovation Working Group programs.

Additional targeted resources for SEN Case officer teams

If approved, the spend would likely be profiled in line with when general fund

Item 6
Surrey Schools Forum
12 May 2023

**Based on allocation before year end adjustment for latest January census data.
This adjustment was an increase of £769,000 for 2021/22.*

*** Grant added in 2022/23 in respect of 2021/22*

**** Adjustment expected in July 2023 in respect of Jan 2023 early years census data
Not yet known, but expected to be small (under £0.1m)*

***** Planned spending in 2022/23 from previous year Schools Block surplus*

The in-year deficit on the High Needs Block was £31.3m and the cumulative deficit on that block is now £85.8m, after deducting safety valve contribution from DfE of £64.0m (£40.5m in 2021/22 and £23.5m in 2022/23).

The key variations per block are as follows:

1. SCHOOLS BLOCK OUTTURN

**2022/23
(Under) /**

Transfer of prior reserves for special school inflation	929	One off exceptional payment to Surrey Special Schools and PRUs for 22/23 in response to the 2022/23 pay award.
B/f contingency recycling	156	Funding brought forward from 2021/22 underspend and delegated to schools in 2022/23
Over (under)	-981	

2. CENTRAL SCHOOLS BLOCK (CSSB) OUTTURN

	(Under) / overspend	Explanation of variance
	£'000	
Devolved Admissions Appeals	-39	Demand led i.e. depends on the number of admissions appeals claimed by individual schools
Various centrally managed services	-252	Underspend relating to 30.5% teachers pensions costs chargeable to CSSB, Schools relationship and other smaller misc. amounts. See item 5 proposals to reduce potential under85 549ensi3(s o)-5(g)6

3 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK OUTTURN

Category	Outturn £000	Outturn %
Independent Special	84,146	36%
Maintained/Academy Special	50,919	22%
Other Special	8,489	4%
Place funding	21,992	10%
Specialist Centres	7,604	3%
Mainstream	24,190	10%
Colleges	4,133	2%
Direct provision	7,580	3%

4. EARLY YEARS BLOCK OUTTURN

	(Under) / overspend	
	£'000	
Three & Four Year Olds		
Main Formula	-1,155	This reflects the structural underspend generated by the formula. The intention is to review the funding for 23/24 to allow for this, alongside changes we expect to be needed in September (see item 5).
Early intervention fund	-300	
Disabled access fund	-110	The number of children for whom Disability Access funding is claimed has historically been well below the allocation
Centrally retained services for 3-4 year olds	-106	An amount was kept in reserve in order to support and address upkeep of the portal and the introduction of EYES
Two Year Olds		
Expenditure above (below) grant	-22	Reflects variation in termly take-up. Historically this has been overspent in recent years
Over(under)	-1,693	

Action for the Forum

To note and discuss.

Item 7

Surrey Schools Forum

12 May 2023

Lead: David Green

For information/discussion

Update on DFE consultations and announcements

DFE response to second stage consultation on implementation of hard /direct national funding formula for schools

On 26 April 2023, the government published its response to the second stage consultation on the hard/direct national funding formula (which closed on 9 September 2022). The response proposes the following changes for 2024/25:

A national formula for split site funding, largely as set out in the consultation, i.e. a lump sum for split site schools, plus a second lump sum if the two sites are more than 500m apart. Two changes have been made: the basic lump sum

While the various proposals are far reaching, they require much additional detailed work and are unlikely to have a direct impact on local funding arrangements for 2024/25, other than perhaps notional SEND budgets.

Extension of free childcare offer to children aged 9 months-3 years of working parents

Expansion to early years Entitlements announced in Chancellor's Budget March 2023

Item 8

Surrey Schools Forum

12 May 2023

Lead: David Green

For information and support

Update on growth fund

Summary

This paper provides an update on the growth fund for 2023/24 and considers in more detail two specific issues which were briefly mentioned at the January meeting.

Background

LAs are allowed to maintain a growth fund to fund schools increasing PAN or admitting bulge classes, and this is funded by a separate (but unearmarked) allocation within Schools Block DSG. Current estimates for 2023/24 and recent

Table: Growing schools budgets 2021/22-2023/24	2021/22 outturn	2022/23	2022/23 Final	2023/24	2023/24
		Est Jan 2022		Initial estimate	

To agree that bulge classes admitted to secondary schools other than in year 7 and/or after October census date, should be funded as growth, on the basis described above, where the LA has no alternative places to offer

To support in principle, adjustments to the funding of secondary schools so that where funding is provided for bulge classes from September when they are admitted, it ceases from July in the year in which they leave (subject to approval of individual cases by DfE)

Item 9**Surrey Schools Forum****12 May 2023****Lead: Carol Savedra****For information and discussion****Mainstream SEND banding review****Summary**

This item provides an update on recent consultations on the mainstream SEND banding review, and summarises action to be taken should the proposals be implemented. It is proposed that formal approval be requested to implement the proposed changes.

Background

A proposed model has been designed, in collaboration with senior school leaders, which we believe will offer schools the opportunity to use the funding in a more innovative way using a variety of interventions, activities and resources.

Public Consultation Summary

Action requested of the Forum

Comparisons with other LAs

A review of the latest published DFE formula data for 2022/23 (14 June 2022) suggests that the proportion of delegated funding designated notional SEN funding by Surrey is somewhat lower than national averages. This has not been a matter of

schools supplementary grant, because had that been included in DSG in 2022/23 n higher.

	2022/23 notional SEN adjusted for schools supp grant £m	Est 2022/23 NSEN based on national average (+SSG at national average £m	Increase in NSEN in moving to national average £m	% increase
Primary 15734				

Primary 15734

Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guidance as well as an analysis of the impact to the schools notional SEN budget if it did change to the national average scenario (national average factors used within the calculation).

In addition to this targeted work the Council propose sending a request for information to all schools to help establish the existing SEN support provision and how it aligns with the Councils Ordinarily Available Provisions (OAP) guidance.

The council will then look at the impact of converging on the national average over the next few years (perhaps 3-5 years).

Action requested of the Forum

Consider the issues around Notional SEND budgets described above and endorse the proposed next steps.

David Green

24 April 2023

Annex 1 Illustrations of notional SEN budget per SEN support pupil in Surrey at current funding levels and national average levels

The tables below illustrate the level of notional SEN budget available per SEN support pupil in Surrey now (i.e. after funding the first £6,000 per EHCP) and compared to the level which would be available if notional SEN budgets were set using national average percentages for each factor. 2022/23 data is used because 2023/24 national comparators are not yet available (as at 5 May 2023).

(Remember: this affects the amount of budget schools are expected to spend on SEN, it has no impact on the total funding available to them).

Primary schools

	Surrey 2022/23	Move halfway to national average SEN factors*	Move to national average SEN factors*
Average £/SEN support (after providing £6,000 per EHCP) ie (NSEN-6000per EHCP/no of ch on SEN support	875	1,377	1,879

No of schools where £/SEN

