

Schools Forum

18th March 2024 - Virtual Meeting



Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest
3. Public questions
4. Minutes from the previous meeting
5. Early Years
6. High Needs
7. F40 update



Early Years

Teachers Pay Award Grant (EY TPAG)

- Gloucestershire County Council have received £124K for 2023/24 for TPAG.
- The funding has been provided to LAs to address increases in teacher pay from 1 September 2023.
- As Gloucestershire does not have maintained EY provision, it is proposed that the EY TPAG amount of £124K is added to the EY DSG balances and distributed to EY providers.



Early Years

Early Years DSG balances – 2022/23

- Early Years block funding is calculated using the numbers from the claims submitted in the January census multiplied by a nationally set rate hourly rate.
- Funding is not used equally across the academic year, partly due to variation in the length of academic terms and partly due to variations in take-up of the Early Years entitlement.
- This can lead to a surplus when the lagged effect is adjusted in the summer of the following year. This reconciliation for the a/y 2022/23, identified a balance of £612k.



Early Years

Use of Early Years DSG balances

- The Early Years balances and the surplus Teachers Pay Award Grant, total £736k. It is proposed that we:
 - Retain £200k as contingency to mitigate the risk of a funding gap as the result of unpredictable claims under the new EY entitlement.
 - Allocate £536k to providers based on the full academic year hours for 2022/23. This will provide a positive injection of funding and support sufficiency and quality of provision across the county.

Early Years

Hourly rate distribution for 2024/25

- Following the last Schools Forum meeting and subsequent consultation with the Early Years sector, members are asked to note that option 1 was identified as the preferred method to distribute hourly rates in 2024/25.

2 year olds	Current		Option 1		Option 2	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Basic rate	5.36	72.14	7.14	93.95	7.12	93.68
Supplementary grant	1.87	25.17		0.00		0.00
Deprivation		0.00	0.12	1.58	0.14	1.84
	7.23	97.31	7.26	95.53	7.26	95.53
Inclusion Funding		0.00	0.04	0.53	0.04	0.53
Central Services	0.20	2.69	0.30	3.95	0.30	3.95
Total Funding Rate	7.43	100.00	7.60	100.00	7.60	100.00

9 to 24 months	Current		Option 1		Option 2	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Basic rate			9.76	94.48	9.74	94.29
Deprivation			0.12	1.16	0.14	1.36
			9.88	95.64	9.88	95.64
Inclusion Funding			0.04	0.39	0.04	0.39
Central Services			0.41	3.97	0.41	3.97
Total Funding Rate			10.33	100.00	10.33	100.00

3& 4 year olds	Current		Option 1		Option 2	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Basic rate	4.50	86.54	5.09	93.05	5.07	92.69
Supplementary grant	0.33	6.35		0		0.00
Deprivation	0.17	3.27	0.12	2.19	0.14	2.56
	5.00	96.15	5.21	95.24	5.21	95.25
Inclusion Funding		0.00	0.04	0.73	0.04	0.73
Central Services	0.20	3.85	0.22	4.03	0.22	4.02
Total Funding Rate	5.20	100.00	5.47	100.00	5.47	100.00

High Needs Funding

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Draft: High Needs Budget 2024/25

Key assumptions

- EHCP growth remains in line with that experienced in 2023/24.
- A 3% uplift to the banding model, subject to approval by Cabinet.
- Increase of 38 special school places and the full year impact of Sladewood.
- Net increase of 71 placements into independent special schools.
- Similar rate of progression to FE and College as 2023/24.
- Continued rise in demand for EOTAS, Personal Budgets, and Special School Bespoke packages.
- LA staffing budgets include a 3% inflationary increase.

High Needs Block	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25 Budget	Variance to	Variance to
	Budget	Forecast		2023/24 budget	2023/24 y/e forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Early Years	636.3	636.3	655.4	19.1	19.1
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Primary	13,040.1	13,141.2	14,423.7	1,383.6	1,282.5
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Secondary	6,765.1	7,130.6	7,861.1	1,096.0	730.5
Mainstream EHCP Costs - Secondary Post 16	435.0	435.0	441.8	6.8	6.8
Special Centres - Primary	777.2	893.4	906.9	129.7	13.5
Special Centres - Secondary	120.9	155.7	157.9	37.0	2.2
Special School Provision - Place funding (LA)	15,563.8	15,422.1	16,658.0	1,094.2	1,235.9
Special School Provision - Top-up funding	17,777.6	18,014.9	19,314.9	1,537.3	1,300.0
Independent Special Schools placements	19,627.2	21,761.8	23,470.5	3,843.3	1,708.7
Post 16 Independent School Placements	1,893.0	2,082.1	2,082.1	189.1	0.0
EHCP Costs - College and FE	12,438.1	12,473.9	14,632.2	2,194.1	2,158.3
Alternative provision - places & top ups & services	5,082.5	6,085.3	6,085.3	1,002.8	0.0
Alternative provision - Glos Hospital Education	2,442.0	2,551.3	3,051.3	609.3	500.0
Excluded pupils	-100.0	-442.7	-442.7	-342.7	0.0
Services and staffing	3,374.1	3,159.0	3,353.8	-20.3	194.8
Restorative Practice	200.0	200.0	304.2	104.2	104.2
Special School Teachers Pay and Pensions	971.3	971.3	971.3	0.0	0.0
Other additional packages of support	980.8	1,953.7	2,453.7	1,472.9	500.0
Education other than at school (EOTAS)	1,366.8	1,566.8	2,066.8	700.0	500.0
Special School Bespoke Packages	1,000.0	1,520.1	1,970.1	970.1	450.0
Support Services	411.5	421.4	323.2	-88.3	-98.2
Therapies and other health related costs	263.3	263.3	263.3	0.0	0.0
High Needs Unallocated	-11,835.0	-12,986.0			
Rounding	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0
	93,231.7	97,410.4	121,004.7	15,938.0	10,608.3
High Needs Funding Allocation			97,421		
			-23,583.7		

High Needs: Targeted SEND support funding

Why are we reviewing the 1 in 30 model?

1. **Sustainability:** Thresholds for the current model continue to increase, making the model unsustainable
2. **Financial control:** the current model provides no mechanism to control spend throughout the year
3. **Impact:** The current model provides no oversight of the impact of the funding, which makes it hard to commit more!
4. **Complexity of needs:** the current model exclusively uses EHCP numbers to distribute funding



High Needs: Targeted SEND support funding

Feedback and learning

- The proposed model provides much greater control of expenditure.
- Assessing the impact of funding is important for future investment.
- Longer-term investment and allocations is positively received but reduces responsiveness.
- Broadening proxy factors significantly changes distribution of funding and that SEND factors (EHCP, SEND Support and Low Prior Attainment), remain critical for distribution.

Next steps: Phase 1

- funding levels for 2024/25 to remain in line with 2023/24.
- Distribution of funding to also mirror 2023/24, with schools receiving a fixed funding allocation and asked to report on use of funding.

Next steps: Phase 2

- Further refinement and consultation on the appropriate proxy factors.
- Further modelling developed for Schools Forum working group, ahead of a decision for 2025/26 distribution.



F40 Update

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