



## GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA

Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 2.00 pm via Microsoft Teams

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From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

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Item	Business
1	<b>Apologies</b>
2	<b>Minutes</b> (Pages 3 - 6)  The Forum is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 January 2022
3	<b>Section 98 Discretionary Free School Meals</b> (Pages 7 - 8)  Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
4	<b>Former Education Services Grant</b> (Pages 9 - 16)  Carole Smith and Terence Appleby, Resources and Digital
5	<b>School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant</b> (Pages 17 - 20)  Carole Smith and Terence Appleby, Resources and Digital
6	<b>DSG Quarter 3</b> (Pages 21 - 22)  Terence Appleby, Resources and Digital
7	<b>High Needs Commissioned Places</b> (Pages 23 - 26)  Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
8	<b>Early Years Funding for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds 2022-2023</b> (Pages 27 - 28)  Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
9	<b>Mainstream School Funding</b> (Pages 29 - 32)  Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
10	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 17 March 2022 at 2.00pm

Contact: Rosalyn Patterson - email: [rosalynpatterson@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:rosalynpatterson@gateshead.gov.uk),  
Tel: 0191 433 2088, Date: Wednesday 2 February 2022

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## GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 6 January 2022

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Peter Largue (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Sarah Diggle	Secondary Maintained Governors
	Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors
	Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
	Paul Harris	Primary Maintained Schools
	Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
	David Brophy	Secondary Academy Governors
	Elaine White	Diocese Representatives
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
	Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
	Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
	Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
	Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
	Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
	Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member	
Julie Vincent	Special School Headteachers	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Cllr Gary Haley	Gateshead Council
	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Anthony Ward	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

#### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Flowers and Andrew Fowler.

#### 2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

##### Matters Arising

**Page 4, item 3 - Financial Difficulty Funding** – the point was made that although the rules do not preclude the use of DSG reserves to support schools in financial difficulty, a comment was made that the process cannot be applied fairly to academies thus breaching different regulations.

It was confirmed that the matter is currently being looked at by officers in the legal

department and Schools Forum will be informed of its findings on this issue.

### **3 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT SETTLEMENT**

The Forum was informed that the funding settlement was received on 16 December 2021. There has been an increase of 17p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds and an increase of 21p per hour for 2 year old funding. In addition the funding rate for EYPP has increased, as has the Disability Access Funding.

There has been an expected cut in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) and it was noted that the additional funding for centrally Employed Teachers (CET) is now included in the CSSB unit of funding.

In terms of the Schools Block it was confirmed that this has increased by over £4m.

In relation to the High Needs Block, basic entitlement has stayed the same as last year but there is an increase of £2.8m.

It was also noted in the settlement that there will be an additional grant allocated to schools to cover the additional costs of the increased in national insurance contributions.

- RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted;
- The estimated Early Years Block
  - The Central Schools Services Block
  - The Schools Block
  - The High Needs Block allocation
  - The other grant information

### **4 MAINSTREAM SCHOOL FUNDING**

The Forum received a report on the proposed Authority Proforma Tool (APT) which was received on 20 December 2021.

The Schools Block allocation of funding for 2022/23 is £128.558m, calculated through Primary and Secondary Pupil numbers, including plus £4.348m for premises factors and £626,000 for growth funding. This is an increase on last year of £4.042m.

A number of funding pressures were highlighted; increase in Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils and a decrease in primary pupils, significant increases in FSM pupils and mobile pupils. There is also funding pressures with the inclusion of XP Gateshead in the APT for the first time and the requirement to adjust its pupil numbers to reflect that it is a new and growing school.

A number of different models were discussed and it was proposed that the model base on MFG at 1.31% without any capping and scaling was approved.

The Forum thanked officers for providing clarity on the proposed model.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the factor values, MFG and growth fund in appendix 1 of the report and noted the information in appendix 2 and 3.

## **5 FORMER EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT**

The Forum received a report requesting Schools Forum to approve centrally retaining the former retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) which was mainstreamed into the DSG in 2017.

It was noted that the former ESG retained duties funding rate is a flat rate of £15 per pupil.

It was suggested that this could be done through de-delegation through traded services, as it was suggested that this is the case in other authority areas. It was confirmed however that when ESG ceased Gateshead chose not to request de-delegation for the previously funded areas. The former retained duties element of £15 per pupil was put in the CSSB and this has been agreed by the Forum ever since.

It was requested that further clarity as to the original decision be brought back to the Forum before a decision be made on this issue.

RESOLVED - That further information be brought back to the Forum before approval of centrally retaining of funding allocation for retained duties can be made.

## **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Schools Forum accepted the resignation of Andy Ramanandi, representing maintained Primary Headteachers, as St Joseph's Blaydon will convert to an Academy from 1 February 2022.

The Chair thanked Andy for his invaluable input into the work of the Forum.

## **7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 2.00pm.

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## REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

10 February 2022

### TITLE OF REPORT: Section 98 Discretionary Meals

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum the proposal to use Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves to enable schools to provide a meal to children when their parents have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

#### Background

2. In December 2017, Schools Forum agreed that all Gateshead mainstream schools that are part of Gateshead's funding regime could apply for DSG reserves to fund discretionary meals when a parent is in the process of applying for universal credit, but the outcome of the application is not yet known. It was thought that this process could take up to 8 weeks, and this funding was time limited to 8 weeks.
3. From Autumn term 2021 a small number of schools in Gateshead have been asked to provide education to children where their parents are NRPF status.
4. People seeking asylum in the UK, who lack the means to support themselves, are entitled to support while the Home Office (HO) is processing their asylum application. This support is called Section 95 (s95) support and asylum-seekers must apply for s95 support, this can take several weeks for the HO to process this request.
5. Section 98 support is a form of temporary support that is provided to asylum seekers who appear to be destitute, and will be applying for s95 support, or have done and are awaiting a decision.
6. Section 98 support is supposed to be provided for a short period. Generally, it is a full-board HO hostel. This is referred to as initial accommodation (or IA).
7. Under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act (IAA) 1999 children are not entitled to a free school meal (FSM) as the HO is already providing a meal at the full-board hostel.
8. In Gateshead the decision has been made that children that are living with a family in a HO hostel should be provided with a school place if possible and

that schools should provide a school meal for these children to ensure they have a nutritious hot meal at school, and to assist them in the integration into school.

9. Although Section 98 support is to be short term support, there are a number of families that have now been in Gateshead for longer than the 8 week period funded for discretionary FSM.

### **Proposal**

10. That Schools Forum approves for DSG reserves to be used to provide funding for a school meal to schools that have children that are living in IA and attending school, and the number of weeks support is not limited to 8 weeks.

### **Recommendations**

11. That Schools Forum approves for DSG reserves to be used to fund schools that are educating children of parents supported under Section 98 of the IAA, until the school is able to apply for discretionary FSM as the parents move to be supported under Section 95 of the IAA. It is proposed that funding is at the rate in Gateshead's mainstream funding formula for FSM.

### **For the following reasons:-**

- To support schools that have taken children of asylum seekers that are being supported under Section 98 of the IAA
- To enable schools to provide a nutritious meal to these vulnerable children
- To assist children to integrate into school life

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CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext.2747

Julie McDowell Ext.8644

**REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM**

**10 February 2022**

**TITLE OF REPORT: Former Education Services Grant Transfer**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to request Schools Forums approval to centrally retain the former retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG), which was mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2017.

**Background**

2. This report builds on Report 5 from January 2022 Schools Forum, and the original request to centrally retain the former ESG retained duties report is in appendix 1.
3. Below is a link to the Schools Operational Guidance22-23.

[Schools operational guide: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-operational-guide-2022-to-2023)

4. Below is an extract which details the items that can be funded from the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) and be centrally retained.

**Annex 2 – central services that may be funded with agreement of schools forums**

5. The split of services between responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools, and those that relate to maintained schools only are shown below.
6. Responsibilities held by local authorities for all schools that are funded from the central school services block, with the agreement of schools forums.
7. Responsibilities held by local authorities for maintained schools are only funded from maintained schools budgets,, with agreement of the maintained schools members of schools forums.
8. The department has included references to the relevant schedules in the [School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2021](#).

**Responsibilities held for all schools**

9. Statutory and regulatory duties
  - Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)
  - Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)
  - Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)

- Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)
- Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)
- Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)
- Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)
- Plans involving collaboration with other local authority services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)
- Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)

### **Education welfare**

- Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)
- School attendance (Sch 2, 16)
- Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)

### **Asset management**

10. Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)
  - General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)

### **Other ongoing duties**

- Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require schools forum approval
- Admissions (Sch 2, 9)
- Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)
- Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)
- Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)
- Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)
- Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Sch 2, 23)

### **Historic commitments**

- Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)
- Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))
- Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))
- Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))

### **Responsibilities held for maintained schools only**

11. Statutory and regulatory duties

- Functions of local authority related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 59)
- Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 75)
- Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 60) Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 61)
- Internal audit and other tasks related to the local authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 62)
- Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 63)
- Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 64)
- Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 65)
- Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Sch 2, 78)
- HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Sch 2, 67), determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Sch 2, 67); appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Sch 2, 67)
- Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 69)
- Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 70)
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 71)
- School companies (Sch 2, 72)
- Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 73)
- Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 74)
- Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 75)

## **Education welfare**

- Inspection of attendance registers (Sch 2, 81)

## **Asset management**

- General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Sch 2, 79a & b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:
  - appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation)
  - the ability to sustain appropriate loads
  - reasonable weather resistance
  - safe escape routes
  - appropriate acoustic levels
  - lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards
  - adequate water supplies and drainage
  - playing fields of the appropriate standards
- General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)
- Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)

## **Central support services**

- Clothing grants (Sch 2, 55)
- Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Sch 2, 56)
- Visual, creative and performing arts (Sch 2, 57)
- Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming or athletics) (Sch 2, 58)

## **Premature retirement and redundancy**

- Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Sch 2, 78)

## **Monitoring national curriculum assessment**

- Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 77)

## **Therapies**

- This is now covered in the high needs section of the regulations and does not require schools forum approval

## **Additional note on central services**

12. Services set out above will also include administrative costs and overheads relating to these services (regulation 1(4)) for:
  - expenditure related to functions imposed by or under chapter 4 of part 2 of the 1998 Act (financing of maintained schools), the administration of grants to the local authority (including preparation of applications) and, where it's the local authority's duty to do so, ensuring payments are made in respect of taxation, national insurance and superannuation contributions
  - expenditure on recruitment, training, continuing professional development, performance management and personnel management of staff who are funded by expenditure not met from schools' budget shares and who are paid for services
  - expenditure in relation to the investigation and resolution of complaints
  - expenditure on legal services
13. As a Local Authority Gateshead has chosen not to ask schools to de-delegate for the above maintained schools services, but many of them are offered to schools on a buyback basis.

## **Proposal**

14. The DSG allocation received in December 2021 was based on 23,893 pupils and the retained duties element is calculated  $£15 \times 23,893 = £358,395$ .
15. The current regulations state that ESG retained duties funding (now included in the DSG) requires Schools Forum approval for the local authority to retain this funding centrally.

## **Recommendations**

16. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the information in this report and approves the central retention of funding allocated for retained duties.

### **For the following reasons:**

To provide funding to enable the local authority to carry out their retained duties.

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**CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext. 2747 Terence Appleby Ext. 2468**

## Item 10

**TITLE OF REPORT: Education Services Grant Transfer****Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to Schools Forums attention the transfer of the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2017, and to propose the central retention of this funding.

**Background**

The Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 stated: "Savings of around £600 million will be made on the ESG, including phasing out the additional funding schools receive through the ESG. The government will reduce the local authority role in running schools and remove a number of statutory duties. The government will consult on policy and funding proposals in 2016."

The ESG general funding rate for local authorities/ academies in the 2016/17 financial year is £77 per pupil in mainstream schools and £288.75 and £327.25 per place in pupil referral units and special schools respectively. This funding will cease from the end of August 2017.

The ESG retained duties funding rate for local authorities only is a flat rate of £15 per pupil in all state funded schools. The multipliers for pupils in special schools/special academies and pupil referral units (PRU)/alternative provision (AP) academies are not applied, because they are only relevant to school-level responsibilities. This funding will be included in the DSG from April 2017.

The broad duties covered by the retained duties funding relate to the following areas:-

- Schools Admissions - Local authorities have responsibility for determining admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and for co-ordinating admissions for all schools, including academies. These functions are consistent with the local authority role to ensure every child has a school place.
- Asset Management – Local authorities have responsibility in relation to the management of the authority's capital programme, preparation and review of an asset management plan, negotiation and management of private finance transactions and contracts (including academies which have converted since the contracts were signed), general landlord premises functions for all schools including academy leases, health and safety.
- Education Welfare - Local authorities currently receive ESG funding for education welfare services. This includes attendance services and prosecutions, tracking children missing education, and undertaking licensing

and registration responsibilities in respect of child employment and engagement in performances. Local authorities will continue to have a strong and important role in ensuring educational needs are catered for, and acting as champions for parents, families and vulnerable pupils.

- Statutory and Regulatory Duties - The ESG is currently intended to fund a wide range of statutory and regulatory duties, including:
  - financial planning and management for the whole of DSG;
  - equalities duties;
  - data collection for returns to the Department for Education;
  - the authority's role in the education strategy, including the employment of a Director of Children's Services; and
  - establishing a standing advisory council on religious education and preparing a locally agreed syllabus of religious education.

In addition to the retained duties above, local authorities will also have duties that are required to be performed for maintained schools only, funded via the general ESG rate which will no longer be funded from September 2017. Confirmation of the specific duties that will be removed, or how they can be funded is not known at the time of writing and is expected as part of the second stage consultation on the National Funding Formula.

The retained duties funding is calculated using the total headcount of pupils in state-funded primary and secondary schools. The numbers of full time equivalent (FTE) 3 and 4 year olds in nursery schools for each local authority are also included. Only pupils that are solely registered in a suitable institution or dual-registered with their main registration at such an institution in that local authority are counted. For special schools and academies, PRUs, AP academies and general hospital schools, the 2015 to 2016 places data are used.

The provisional DSG allocations received in July, and updated in November estimate that Gateshead Council will receive £414,255 for retained duties based on 27,617 pupils aged 3 to 19. It is anticipated that this figure will be updated for the October 2016 census.

The current regulations state that ESG retained duties funding, now included in the DSG, requires Schools Forum approval for the local authority to retain this funding centrally.

## **Proposal**

That Schools Forum approves the central retention of the allocation for retained duties.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Schools Forum approves the central retention of funding allocated for retained duties.

## **For the following reasons:**

To provide funding to enable the local authority carry out their retained duties.

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## REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

10 February 2022

### TITLE OF REPORT: School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum's attention the outcome of the Department for Education (DfE) latest consultation on the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant.

#### Background

2. The School Improvement and Brokering Grant was introduced to replace the Education Services Grant (ESG) which was introduced in 2013 to replace Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) for academies.
3. Originally ESG was made up of 2 elements: the retained duties rate and the General funding rate. The general funding rate was phased out and replaced by the School Improvement and Brokering grant and the retained duties element was mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) at the rate of £15 per pupil.
4. Since 2017, the School Improvement and Brokering Grant has been provided to support councils to fulfil their core school improvement activities, with the amount received by each council proportionate to the number of maintained schools in their area.
5. The Department for Education (DfE) released a consultation to seek views on either:
  - Removing the grant entirely or
  - Making provisions to allow local authorities to fund their school improvement activity via de-delegation of maintained mainstream school's budget shares.
6. The premise behind the change is as follows:

The local authority role in school improvement has changed significantly in recent years, with the growth of school-led approaches, such as Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). In turn, the council's role in school improvement in maintained

schools is increasingly focused on helping those of their schools that need it, to access the support they need from the school system. Given these changes in the respective roles and responsibilities of different parties in the school system, we believe now is the right time to revisit councils' school improvement functions and how they are funded and consider what this means for the future of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant.

7. The grant was also subject to a consultation from 28 April to 26 May 2021 with the outcome being that the grant would now be subject to conditions, as previously it was non-ringfenced.
8. The conditions applied are:
  - Use for statutory school improvement functions
  - Place clear obligation on LA's for the sustained return of pupils to school following Covid-19, and addressing the educational impacts of the pandemics
  - Enable the Secretary of State to enforce compliance, including clawback or reduction of funding going forward.
9. The full results of the most recent consultation were published 11 January 2022 which Gateshead's January Schools Forum. The outcome can be found here:  
  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1045633/Government\\_response\\_-\\_Reforming\\_how\\_LA\\_SI\\_functions\\_are\\_funded.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1045633/Government_response_-_Reforming_how_LA_SI_functions_are_funded.pdf)
10. Whilst 71% of respondents disagreed that the proposals would enable councils to ensure they are sufficiently funded to exercise all their core school improvement activities, the DfE have concluded that they will proceed with reducing the local authority school improvement monitoring and brokering grant by 50% for financial year 2022 to 2023, prior to full removal in financial year 2023 to 2024. The DfE suggested that these services should be provided to maintained schools as part of a traded service or de-delegated with the approval of Schools Forum.

## **Proposal**

11. That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report, and that the outcome of the consultation was too late for Gateshead's Schools Forum to be consulted with on any potential de-delegation options for 2022/23. However de-delegation maybe explored for future years.

## **Recommendations**

12. That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report.

**For the following reasons:-**

- To be informed of the outcome of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant and that the option for de-delegation has been missed due to the timing of the consultation response.

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CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext.2747 Terence Appleby Ext.2468

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**TITLE OF REPORT: Dedicated Schools Grant Revenue Q3 2021/22**

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## **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Schools Forum of the quarter 3 projected outturn position of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2021/22.

## **Background**

2. The DSG is made up of four funding blocks:
  - The **Early Years (EY) block** for 2 and 3 & 4-year-old funding;
  - **Mainstream Schools block** which includes some centrally held and de-delegated funding;
  - **High Needs block (HNB)** which includes special schools, alternative provision and top-ups to maintained schools and academies; and
  - **Central Services Schools block** which includes central functions carried out on behalf of schools, for example, licences, schools' admissions, pension costs.
3. Schools Forum receives details of DSG revenue monitoring throughout the financial year, with the format presented based on the expenditure headings of the Section 251 statement. Details are provided in Appendix 1.
4. The Council-lead DSG budget for 2021/22 is £107.073m. This has reduced by £1.951m since the quarter 2 report primarily due to academy conversions and an in year Early Years clawback of £0.857m.
5. At quarter 3, the projected year-end outturn for the year was £106.669m, an underspend of £0.404m. The projections are based on expected activity at the time of preparing the report. The in-year Early Years clawback has significantly reduced the expected underspend position. The main areas of remaining underspend relate to: independent schools top ups, special schools top-ups, the PRU, alternative provision and SEN Support Services which are partially being offset by maintained and academy top ups.
6. The balance of the DSG reserve at 31 March 2021 was £2.241m. Factoring in the in year underspend of £0.404m and the Early Years adjustment for 2020/21 of £0.230m, it is forecast that the balance will increase to £2.415m at 31 March 2022.

## **Proposal**

7. That Schools Forum notes the content of the report.

## **Recommendations**

8. That Schools Forum notes the content of the report.
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**CONTACT: Terence Appleby x2468**

## 2021/22 DSG Revenue Monitoring Quarter 3

DSG Area	Central Services Budget £'000	Total Approved Budget £'000	Central Services Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Comments/Notes
Maintained Schools Budget Share		76,133	0	76,133	0	Reduced further due to a cademy conversions
<b>DEDELEGATION</b>						
Contingencies		0	0	33	33	
Behaviour support services		151	0	151	0	
Support to UPEG and bilingual learners		247	0	247	0	
Staff costs		177	0	108	(69)	Maternity Credits & TU facilitator costs
<b>HIGH NEEDS BUDGET</b>						
High Needs Budget (including Special Schools, PRU and Additional Support Top-ups)	447	19,586	447	19,176	(410)	-£209k Independent schools -£221k Special schools - OOB income -£135k PRU -£124k Alternative provision -£130k SEN Support Services +£449k Maintained and Academy
<b>EARLY YEARS BUDGET</b>						
2,3 and 4 year-olds funding to PVI's	0	8,674	0	8,734	60	£857k in year clawback January 22
<b>CENTRAL PROVISION WITHIN SCHOOLS BUDGET</b>						
Contribution to combined budgets	148	431	148	443	12	
School admissions		141	0	134	(7)	
Servicing of schools forums		116	0	86	(30)	
Termination of employment costs		313	0	320	7	Premature Retirement costs
Pupil growth/ Infant class sizes		607	0	607	0	
Other Items		139	0	139	0	CLA/ MPA Licences top sliced from DSG for all school licences
Statutory/ Regulatory duties		358	0	358	0	ESG top slice agreed by Schools Forum
<b>TOTAL DSG</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>107,073</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>106,669</b>	<b>(404)</b>	Appropriated to DSG reserve

	£'000	Comments/Notes
Reserves balance at 31 March 2021	(2,241)	
Appropriation to reserve: in year adjustments	230	EY 20/21 clawback
Appropriation (to)/from reserve: in-year (surplus)/deficit	(404)	
<b>Projected reserve balance at 31 March 2022 (surplus) / deficit</b>	<b>(2,415)</b>	

## REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

10 February 2022

**TITLE OF REPORT: Commissioning Arrangements for High Needs Places  
2022/23**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To bring to Schools Forum the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2022/23.

### **Background**

2. The Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England) require Schools Forum to be consulted on the commissioning arrangements for high needs places. This includes all places for special education needs (SEN) and alternative provision places commissioned by the local authority (LA), and the arrangements for paying top-up funding.
3. Not all places are currently agreed and therefore these numbers could be subject to change.

### **Commissioning Process for 2022/23**

4. As in 2021/22, all special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) will receive funding of £10,000 per commissioned place. Additionally Resources Mainstream Schools (ARMS) will receive £6,000 per place for a pupil that is main or current registered at the school and £10,000 for a vacant place or a pupil subsidiary registered at the school. Special schools and the PRU will also receive £660 per commissioned place or September 2021 pupil numbers (whichever is the greater). There will also be additional funding for the increase in national insurance contributions but the value of this additional grant to individual settings is not yet known.
5. In addition to this and according to national funding policy, the LA will pay a locally agreed top-up to settings if and where they are necessary. The top-ups may vary between settings depending on the complexity of pupils' needs in the particular establishment. This top-up will only be paid for pupils on roll and will move in real time with the pupils.
6. The LA gathers data and intelligence to support the annual commissioning process by:

- Looking at retrospective data and trends
- Reviewing special schools' current pupils and pupils that will leave at the end of the academic year
- Discussion with school headteachers
- Estimating needs for new special placements by analysing information from:
  - the early years' service
  - annual moderation process
  - other intelligence from the casework officer team and other services

## Commissioned Places

7. The below table shows the proposed commissioned places for 2019/20 within the LA

<b>Commissioned Places 2019/20</b>				
<b>Additionally Resources Mainstream Support Bases</b>				
	KS1	KS2	KS3 & 4	Notes
Bede	8			
Swalwell	10			
Brandling	4	4		
Rowlands Gill	8			
Whickham Comprehensive			13	+3 Post 16
Thorpe Academy			13	+ 2 Post 16
<b>Special Schools</b>	Pre 16	Post 16		
Dryden	35	11		
Eslington	68			
Furrowfield	71			
Gibside	170			
Hill Top	88	17		
The Cedars	170	20		
<b>Alternative Provision</b>	Pre 16	Post 16		
Pru	103			
<b>Post 16</b>				
Gateshead College		59		

## Proposal

8. That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and proposed commissioning of the above places.

## **Recommendations**

9. Schools Forum notes the report.

### **For the following reasons:-**

- To adhere to the requirements of the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations (England)

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CONTACT: Carole Smith    Ext.2747

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**REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM**

**10 February 2022**

**TITLE OF REPORT: Early Years Funding 2022/23**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to bring to Schools Forum the results of the Early Years Funding modelling for 2022/23.

**Background**

2. For 2022/23 there has been an increase in funding to the Local Authority (LA) of £0.21 per hour for 2-year-old and £0.17 per hour for 3 and 4-year-old funding. The rate for 2 year olds has increased from £5.36 an hour to £5.57, this rate is fully passported to providers.
3. The rate to the LA for 3 and 4 year-olds has increased from £4.67 to £4.84 per funded hour. The early years allocation received in December will be amended to take account of the January 2021 census and the funding will be updated in June 2022. At this time, it is thought that the funding allocation will decrease due to falling birth rates.
4. LA's are able to top slice the early years block by up to 5% for central services. The proposed top slice for 2022/23 is 5%.
5. Total estimated funding for the 3 and 4 year old Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) is

£11,355,635 and is for both the universal and extended hours.

£567,782 5% top slice

£373,905 Early Years Team costs

£193,877 Inclusion Fund

**Funding to Providers**

6. The basis for the 3 and 4 year old funding formula for 2022/231 has not changed from and uses the same allocation of funding for the three elements as 2018/19: -
  - 90% of available funding allocated via the universal base rate
  - 5% of available funding allocated via the quality supplement
  - 5% of available funding allocated via deprivation supplement
7. With the increase in funding there has been an increase in the universal base rate £0.1244 from £4.0135 to £4.1382.

8. The increase for quality and deprivation are £0.03 per weighted hour for quality and £0.00025 for deprivation as below. The deprivation supplement may change slightly when the Acorn data is refreshed from the January 2022 census.

9. For 2021/22 the rates were: -

- Quality Supplement £0.5272 – per quality weighted hour
- Deprivation Supplement £0.0055 –per deprivation weighted hour

10. The new rates are: -

- Quality Supplement £0.5588 – per quality weighted hour
- Deprivation Supplement £0.0061 –per deprivation weighted hour

### **Proposal**

11. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the new funding rates for the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) as the methodology of the formula has not changed and notes that the increased funding rates for deprived two-year olds.

### **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the updated EYSFF factor values and note the two-year-old funding rate.

### **For the following reasons:**

- To comply with the Early Years National Funding Formula Operational Guidance
- To comply with Schools and Early Years (England) Regulations

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**Contact:** Carole Smith Ext. 2747

## REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

10 February 2022

### TITLE OF REPORT: Mainstream School Funding

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the amendments required by the Department for Education (DfE) and for the re-submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).

#### Background

2. This report builds on the January Schools Forum report on mainstream school funding. Following Schools Forum approval and the presentation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement and Mainstream Schools Formula to Children's and Young Peoples Portfolio holders, Gateshead's APT was uploaded to the DfE for compliance checking.
3. The DfE identified a number of areas for review. Two of the three issues were errors where a yes had been put in a box that should have been no however, the third issue related to the new process for Rates.
4. The DfE require local authorities to use last year's Rates as per 2021/22 APT to be used to calculate 2022/23 school budgets. This was done together with inputting the estimated Rates for XP Gateshead and the Rates adjustments to account for the over or under funding of school Rates for 2021/22. The resulting figure was then used in the calculate the residual funding.
5. The DfE error stated that this was the incorrect methodology and the 2021/22 rates as notified by the DfE should be used for this calculation. This resulted in a small overspend of the total school block DSG of £386.38.

#### Proposal

6. It is proposed that in order to rectify this issue and balance the Schools Block of the DSG in the APT that the £40,000 allocated to the central Growth Fund be reduced by £386.38 and now be £39,613.62 as per the updated proforma in appendix 1.

#### Recommendations

7. It is recommended that Schools Forum approves the change in the central Growth Fund to eliminate the schools block overspend of the DSG which eliminates the need to alter any funding allocations to schools.

#### For the following reasons:

- To comply with the Schools Operational Guidance and other DfE documents

- To enable the APT to be approved by the DfE so that funding allocations can be issued to mainstream schools within timescales.
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**Contact:** Carole Smith Ext. 2747

Appendix 1

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

LA Name:	Gateshead
LA Number:	390

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level	Disapplication number where alternative MPPF values are used
£4,265	£5,321.00	£5,831.00	£5,525.00	

Pupil Led Factors

Description	Reception uplift		Pupil Units		0.00		Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
	No	Amount per pupil	Pupil Units	Sub Total	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)					
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)											
Primary (Years R-6)		£3,217.00	14,587.00	£46,926,379			36.63%		5.00%		
Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)		£4,536.00	5,749.16	£26,078,190			20.35%		5.00%		
Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)		£5,112.00	3,586.00	£18,331,632			14.31%		5.00%		
2) Deprivation											
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)	
	FSM	£470.00	£470.00	4,126.00	2,490.00	£3,109,519	£14,047,331	10.96%	23.00%	19.00%	
	FSM6	£590.00	£865.00	4,345.00	2,983.75	£5,144,492			23.00%	19.00%	
	IDACI Band F	£220.00	£320.00	1,655.25	1,089.59	£712,822			0.00%	0.00%	
	IDACI Band E	£270.00	£425.00	2,679.33	1,622.94	£1,413,167			0.00%	0.00%	
	IDACI Band D	£420.00	£595.00	1,247.90	787.24	£992,526			0.00%	0.00%	
	IDACI Band C	£460.00	£650.00	876.97	595.89	£790,735			0.00%	0.00%	
	IDACI Band B	£490.00	£700.00	927.96	573.10	£855,869			23.00%	19.00%	
	IDACI Band A	£640.00	£890.00	879.31	522.97	£1,028,200			23.00%	19.00%	
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC March 19			223.88		£0		0.00%		0.00%	
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£565.00		902.66		£510,001	£813,948	0.55%	0.00%		
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,530.00		124.23	£190,075				0.00%	
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£925.00	£1,330.00	123.10	0.00	£113,871		0.09%	0.00%	0.00%	
6) Low prior attainment	Primary low prior attainment		£1,130.00	27.60%	4,025.30	£4,548,592	£7,641,183	5.96%	100.00%		
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	64.53%		20.76%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	64.53%		20.32%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	64.53%	£1,710.00	20.74%	1,808.53	£3,092,591					100.00%
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	63.59%		17.99%							
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)	58.05%		16.81%							

Other Factors

Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
7) Lump Sum	£121,300.00	£121,300.00			£9,218,800	7.20%	0.00%	0.00%	
8) Sparsity factor	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Rows 46 to 49 are populated with the NFF methodology, please leave this as is if you wish to follow the NFF. As per the Operational Guidance, the distance thresholds can be increased or the year group size thresholds decreased and the distance threshold taper is optional. An alternative method of allocation to the NFF's average year group size taper can be chosen: the continuous taper (Tapered) or fixed sum (Fixed). Examples of each are provided in the Operational Guidance.									
Primary distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Primary pupil number average year group threshold	21.40	Apply primary distance taper	No	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity primary lump sum?	NFF		
Secondary distance threshold (miles)	3.00	Secondary pupil number average year group threshold	120.00	Apply secondary distance taper	No	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity secondary lump sum?	NFF		
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	Middle school pupil number average year group threshold	69.20	Apply middle school distance taper	No	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity middle school lump sum?	NFF		
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)	2.00	All-through pupil number average year group threshold	62.50	Apply all-through distance taper	No	NFF, tapered or fixed sparsity all-through lump sum?	NFF		
9) Fringe Payments					£0	0.00%			
10) Split Sites					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
11) Rates					£1,652,973	1.29%	0.00%		
12) PFI funding					£2,639,282	2.06%	0.00%		
13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)									
Circumstance					Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY21-22					£0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance3					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance4					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance5					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance6					£0	0.00%	0.00%		
Exceptional Circumstance7					£0	0.00%	0.00%		

<b>Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)</b>	<b>£127,349,717</b>	<b>99.39%</b>	
14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level	£775,644	0.61%	0.00%
<b>Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)</b>	<b>£128,125,361</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

15) Minimum Funding Guarantee	1.31%	£415,649	
Where a value less than 0.5% or greater than 2% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value			
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)	No		
Capping Factor (%)	Scaling Factor (%)		
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied			
		£0	
		Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding (%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)		£415,649	0.32%
<b>Total Funding for Schools Block Formula</b>		<b>£128,541,010</b>	<b>£14,355,037</b>
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)			
Additional funding from the high needs budget		£0.00	
Growth fund (if applicable)		£39,613.62	
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)		£0.00	
Other Adjustment to 21-22 Budget Shares			
		£0	
<b>Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)</b>		<b>£128,580,624</b>	
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement		71.29%	
% Pupil Led Funding		88.85%	
Primary: Secondary Ratio		1 :	1.28

22-23 NFF NNDR allocation		£1,671,652	
<b>Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding) after deduction of 22-23 NFF NNDR allocation</b>		<b>£126,908,972</b>	

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