



GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA

Thursday, 16 March 2023 at 2.00 pm via Microsoft Teams

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

1 Apologies

2 Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

The Forum is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 February 2023

3 Quarter 3 DSG Monitoring (Pages 7 - 8)

Terence Appleby, Resources and Digital

4 Mainstream Additional SEND Funding (Pages 9 - 10)

Carole Smith, Resources and Digital

5 Mainstream Schools High Needs Top Ups (Pages 11 - 14)

Carole Smith, Resources and Digital

6 Commissioned Numbers (Pages 15 - 18)

Carole Smith, Resources and Digital

7 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Forum may wish to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds indicated:

Item	Paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
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8 Financial Difficulty Funding (Pages 19 - 36)

Carole Smith, Resources and Digital

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Any Other Business

To agree meeting dates for 2023/24;

- 14 September 2023
- 9 November 2023
- 7 December 2023
- 11 January 2024
- 15 February 2024
- 14 March 2024
- 16 May 2024
- 4 July 2024

10

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 18 May 2023 at 2.00pm

Contact: Rosalyn Patterson - email: rosalynpatterson@gateshead.gov.uk,
Tel: 0191 433 2088, Date: Thursday, 9 March 2023

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 16 February 2023

PRESENT:	Peter Lague (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Sarah Diggle	Secondary Maintained Governors
	Paul Harris	Primary Maintained Schools
	Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
	Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
	Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
	Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
	Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
IN ATTENDANCE:	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Councillor Gary Haley	Gateshead Council
	Suzanne Dunn	Gateshead Council
	Rachel Pizzey	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jacqui Ridley, Andrew Fowler and Alison Hall.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Item 10 – It was queried whether setting up a sub-group to look at the use of DSG reserves in June or July would give enough time to do anything meaningful in time for the next academic year. It was noted that this was to allow officers time and capacity to do some of the background work as officers would be working through final accounts and would have no spare capacity until July.

It was therefore agreed that ideas, issues and expressions of interest for the sub-group would be sought from the Schools Forum prior to July. Steve Haigh to collate potential ideas to feed back to officers in July.

3 MAINSTREAM SCHOOL FUNDING

The Forum received a report following on from January's meeting regarding the

amended APT for approval.

It was reported that following submission of the APT to the DfE queries were raised. An error was detected due to double counted rates adjustment. Therefore, in order not to affect funding factor it was proposed to offset this through the Growth Fund. This means the Growth Fund in the APT has been reduced to £23,993.11.

It was also reported that the APT now asks for estimations of rates bills for 2023/24. However, NNDR bills have not yet been calculated by the authority which could impact on funding for schools. It was therefore proposed to leave the APT and pick up any adjustments to rates bills in the following year as it was previously.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Schools Forum approved the reduction of the Growth Fund to £23,993.11 to balance the APT to the funding available for mainstream schools.
 - (ii) That any adjustments to rates bills be picked up in the following year.

4 EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION

The Forum received a report on the outcome of the Early Years Single Funding Formula Consultation.

It was noted that the response to the consultation was good and that there was clearly a real squeeze on the early years sector.

- RESOLVED -
- That the Schools Forum approved the proposed updates to Gateshead's EYSFF that will allocate the former TPPG to nursery classes in mainstream schools.

5 EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA

The Forum received a report on the results of the Early Years Funding modelling for 2023/24.

The funding formula is allocate via;

- 88% universal base rate
- 5% deprivation supplement
- 5% quality supplement – qualification
- 2% additional quality supplement – mainstream nursery class

It was noted that it is clear settings are being severely squeezed and it was questioned whether there was any recourse to support if settings were struggling to survive. It was noted that funding is not yet finalised and sometimes the Early Years allocation is underspent, however there is no other funding available.

The point was made that the whole sector is in crisis following wage increases and increased energy costs. Finances were stretched before these increases therefore potentially a lot of settings will close. It was also noted that there are problems in

staffing due to low wages with a lot of responsibility.

Concerns were raised regarding the pressure on PVI's to move to 30 hours which will therefore impact on private nurseries losing places. The point was made that there has been no strategic look at the sector which is important to ensure the best start in life for young children.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the updated EYSFF factor values and noted the two-year-old funding rate and approved the allocation of unspent centrally held inclusion funding.

6 SPECIAL SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2023/24

The Forum received a report on the proposal to increase Special School top up unit of funding by 3%.

In 2023/24 there was additional allocation in the HNB for additional costs and the DfE requested authorities to look at what special schools and PRU's received in top-ups. It is proposed that Gateshead special schools allocation is based on 3.4% of the total funding received. For the PRU the DfE provided an amount for them because this is more complex.

The Forum agreed this was a sensible way to allocate the funding. It was suggested that for transparency the formula should be shared in the same way it is for mainstream schools. It was noted that all special school Headteachers sit on the funding sub-group therefore they have transparency within the sector, however it was agreed this would be included in future reports.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Schools Forum approved;
 - The 3% increase in the special school unit of funding for special school top ups
 - The methodology for allocating the additional grant payment to special schools.
- (ii) That the Schools Forum noted that the DfE have already provided the additional grant funding allocation for Gateshead's AP Academy.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The proposed meeting schedule for 2023/24 was discussed and it was suggested that December's meeting be brought forward by a week.

The Forum agreed to check the schedule and advise of any potential clashes. The final schedule will be brought back to the next meeting for agreement.

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 16 March 2023 at 2.00pm.

TITLE OF REPORT: Dedicated Schools Grant Revenue Monitoring January 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of the January 2023 projected outturn position of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2022/23.

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 2022/23 is £105.001m.
5. At 31 January, the projected year-end outturn for the year was £102.287m, an underspend of £2.714m. The projections are based on expected activity at the time of preparing the report. The main areas of underspend relate to: additional HNB funding, special schools top-ups, ARMS, SEN Support Services and support for Inclusion which are partially being offset by maintained, academy and independent school top ups.
6. The balance of the DSG reserve at 31 March 2022 was £2.255m. Factoring in the in year underspend of £2.714m and the Early Years adjustment for 2021/22 of £0.043m, it is forecast that the balance will increase to £4.926m at 31 March 2023. However, pay awards for teaching and non-teaching staff are not yet factored in.

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

2022/23 DSG Revenue Monitoring January

DSG Area	Central Services Budget £'000	Total Approved Budget £'000	Central Services Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Comments/Notes
Maintained Schools Budget Share		70,813	0	70,813	0	Reduced further due to academy conversions
DEDELEGATION						
Contingencies		0	0	2	2	
Behaviour support services		214	0	235	21	
Support to UPEG and bilingual learners		227	0	168	(59)	
Staff costs		175	0	172	(3)	Maternity Credits & TU facilitator costs
HIGH NEEDS BUDGET						
High Needs Budget (including Special Schools, PRU and Additional Support Top-ups)	547	23,233	547	20,595	(2,638)	-£1,122k Additional HNB -£399k Special schools - OOB income -£327k ARMS -£622k SEN Support Services -£777k Support for Inclusion +£59k All Alternative Provision +£429k Maintained and Academy +£194k Independent schools
EARLY YEARS BUDGET						
2,3 and 4 year-olds funding to PVI's	0	8,908	0	8,882	(26)	
CENTRAL PROVISION WITHIN SCHOOLS BUDGET						
Contribution to combined budgets	50	370	50	359	(12)	
School admissions		154	0	153	(1)	
Servicing of schools forums		47	0	47	0	
Termination of employment costs		313	0	325	12	Premature Retirement costs
Pupil growth/ Infant class sizes		40	0	40	0	
Other Items		148	0	139	(9)	CLA/ MPA Licences top sliced from DSG for all school licences
Statutory/ Regulatory duties		358	0	358	0	ESG topslice agreed by Schools Forum
TOTAL DSG	597	105,001	597	102,287	(2,714)	Appropriated to DSG reserve

	£'000	Comments/Notes
Reserves balance at 31 March 2022	(2,255)	
Appropriation to reserve: in year adjustments	43	EY 21/22 clawback
Appropriation (to)/from reserve: in-year (surplus)/deficit	(2,714)	
Projected reserve balance at 31 March 2023 (surplus) / deficit	(4,926)	

TITLE OF REPORT: Additional Mainstream SEND Funding

Purpose of the Report

1. This report brings to Schools Forum applications from 5 schools for additional mainstream special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) funding for the financial year 2022/23.

Background

2. This process was developed to enable schools with large proportions of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) and large numbers of children on their special educational needs (SEN) register to apply for additional high needs block (HNB) funding, as there is an anomaly in the mainstream funding system that puts inclusive schools at a financial disadvantage.
3. Four schools applied for additional funding from the HNB and funding was allocated on the following basis:-
 - Funding for EHCP children where the top up for the number of hours awarded in the EHCP did not cover the standard cost of a L3 TA for that number of hours
 - Schools that demonstrated that they had spent over their notional SEN funding on children on their SEN register.
4. A total of £99,910 has been awarded to 4 schools.

Proposal

5. That Schools Forum notes the content of the report and that all schools that applied have been notified of their allocation. The application process has not yet been updated with lessons learned from the 2 funding rounds, but when this work takes place an updated process will be brought to Schools Forum for approval at a later meeting.

Recommendations

6. That Schools Forum notes the outcome of the funding applications

For the following reasons: -

- To ensure that Schools Forum is aware of the additional funding allocated to the schools that applied.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Mainstream High Needs Top Ups 2023/24

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forums attention the proposed Mainstream schools top up rates from April 2023.

Background

2. Under the funding arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the government intends for all children and young people to be supported regardless of where they are educated. This intention is inclusive for all types of SEND pupils up to the age of 25.

Mainstream School Top Up Rates

3. A banded top up structure for mainstream schools was introduced in 2013/14 in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance and was last updated for 2023/24.
4. Additional funding has been allocated to Gateshead's high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for 2023/24 and it is proposed that the mainstream top up rates be increased.
5. When the Top up structure was introduced in 2013/14, funding was based on an hourly rate of a level 3 Teaching Assistant (TA). However, as funding has not kept pace with the increase of staffing costs, top ups have previously been either increased or decreased in line with MFG rather than annual pay awards. As a result of this prior to 2022/23 the gap between funding and costs widened.
6. Due to the additional funding, it was proposed that tops ups were increased in line with the hourly costs of a level 2 TA of £16.28 per hour (including estimated on costs). This represented an average increase of 12.41%.
7. For 2022/23 the local government pay award increased the by £1,925 on pay local government pay scales (LGPS) 1 to 43. The current top up rate is that of level 2 TA scale point 5.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that that TA level 2 point 6 be used for the mainstream top up rate, and this would give an estimated hourly rate of £17.55, an increase of £1.27 and 7.81%.
9. The previous and proposed rates are shown in Appendix 1.

Recommendations

10. That school forum approves the mainstream top up increases for 2023/24.

For the following reason(s):

To enable Mainstream School top up budgets to be set and mainstream schools to estimate their high needs income for financial year 2023/24

CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext. 2747

Appendix 1

Mainstream Schools top ups 2022/23 & Proposed 2023/24 rates

Mainstream (Reception to Year 11)				
	No of hours support per FTE	Current Top Up Funding per FTE	Proposed Top Up Funding per FTE	Requirements
From School Resource	1 to 10	£0	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to high quality universal services supported by curriculum differentiation or environmental access/adaptation as appropriate. -Some targeted or integrated support. -Group strategies used flexibly to promote independent or child-initiated learning. -Some specific reinforcement or skill-development activities may be required. -Access to regular and additional targeted teaching in small groups and/or individually to address the pupil's individual needs, including social (skills), physical, medical and self-help skills. -Some intensive individualised programmes may be required with long term adaptation of the curriculum to address the attainment levels which will be significantly below age related expectations in National Curriculum subjects. -Input from specialist outside agencies.
Band 5	11 to 15	£3,174	£3,423	<p>As from schools' resources plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individualised programmes/adaptations will be required with adaptations for specific skills development to ensure access to the curriculum and/or significant physical/medical needs are met. -Additional and different activities may be required with regular opportunities for over learning (repetition). -Additional access to specialist equipment may be required. -Ongoing advice and support from specialist outside agencies.
Band 4	16 to 20	£6,349	£6,846	As per Band 5 but with higher levels of support required.
Band 3	21-25	£9,524	£10,268	<p>As Band 4 and 5 plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Extensive individualised programmes and some one-to-one support to enable the pupil to concentrate and access the curriculum or to meet complex physical and/or medical needs more severe than at Band 4. -Regular supervision throughout the day, including the use of time out and other such approaches. -Some support may be required during unstructured times. -There may be multi-agency direct involvement.
Band 2	26 to 30	£12,699	£13,691	As Band 3 plus:

				<p>-access through the usual mainstream groupings may not be appropriate for some areas of the curriculum due to significant or complex learning/physical/medical needs so extensive individualised programmes will be required which may involve the use of specialist teaching techniques, alternative communication methods, appropriate equipment and materials.</p> <p>-On-going direct support and advice from external agencies.</p> <p>-Support during un-structured times for health and safety reasons.</p>
Band 1	31 to 35	£15,874	£17,114	<p>Pupils in this band would be those who require full time support in mainstream school because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -are very disabled -present with exceptionally challenging behaviour, -are severely autistic -present serious Health and Safety considerations.

REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

16 March 2023

**TITLE OF REPORT: Commissioning Arrangements for High Needs Places
2023/24**

Purpose of the Report

1. To bring to Schools Forum the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2023/24.

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 2023/24

4. As in 2022/23, all special schools and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) will receive funding of £10,000 per commissioned place. Additionally Resourced 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.
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 2023/24 within the LA.

Commissioned Places 2023/24				
Additionally Resources Mainstream Support Bases				
	KS1	KS2	KS3 & 4	Notes
Bede	8	8		
Swalwell	10			
Swalwell ASD	8			
Brandling	4	4		
Lobley Hill	8			
Rowlands Gill	8			
Whickham School			13	+3 Post 16
Whickham School - From September 2023			5	
Thorpe Academy			13	+ 2 Post 16
Special Schools	Pre 16	Post 16		
Dryden	35	11		
Eslington	68			
Furrowfield	71			
Gibside	170			
Hill Top	88	17		
The Cedars	170	20		
Alternative Provision	Pre 16	Post 16		
Pru	103			
Post 16				
Gateshead College		59		

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)

CONTACT: Carole Smith Ext.2747

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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