

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 9 November 2023

PRESENT:	Peter Largue (Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteacher
	Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
	Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteacher
	Paul Harris	Primary Headteacher
	Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
	Denise Kilner	Maintained Nursery Representative
	Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
	Jacqui Ridley	Maintained Primary Governors

IN ATTENDANCE:	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Victoria Cramman	Gateshead Council
	Suzanne Dunn	Gateshead Council
	Barry Greenfell	Gateshead Council
	Kate Lowes	Gateshead Council
	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council

18 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Sarah Diggle, Andrew Fowler, Mustafaa Malik and Dominic Volpe.

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

20 DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT MONITORING - QUARTER 2

The Forum received a report on Quarter 2's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) projected outturn position for 2023/24.

The Council's budget for 2023/24 is £110.58m, with a projected outturn for the year of £110.997, an overspend of £0.417m. The overspend is due to:

- +£907k top ups for maintained and academy schools
- +£310k SEN support services
- -£157k alternative provision
- -£173k Support for Inclusion
- -£360k Early Years Block as actual places are less than estimated

The reserve balance was £3.965m as of 31 March 2023 and factoring in the

overspend of £0.417m and the Early Years clawback for 2022/23 of £0.182m this will reduce the balance to £3.366m at 31st March 2024.

RESOLVED – The School Forum notes the report.

21 EARLY YEARS SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT CONSULTATION OUTCOME

A report was brought to the School Forum for the outcome of the Early Years consultation on the allocation of the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG).

The Spring Budget 2023 announced additional funding for the existing early years entitlements for disadvantage for 2-year-old and 3 and 4-year-old children and the committee were presented with the provider responses in appendix 1 and further comments in appendix 2.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced they would provide additional supplementary funding to local authorities through a new EYSG. Following the previous meeting on the 14th September 2023 the consultation was sent out on the 18th August with a deadline date on the 22nd September 2023.

The consultation proposed the following;

- 2-year-old EYSG be paid as a flat rate top up per house of £1.63 to all settings in receipt of 2-year-old funding.
- 3- & 4-year-old base rate top up of £0.1672.
- ACORN/deprivation funding (weighted hour) £0.0003.
- Quality 1 (weighted hour) £0.024.
- Quality 2 £0.0106.
- Maintained Nursery Grant (MNG) increase of £0.27 per hour.

24 Responses were collated, and the Forum were provided with these responses in appendix 1 and 2, majority of the responses were positive and in support of the proposal.

The EYSG funding allocation of £578,164 has been received from the DfE.

RESOLVED – The School Forum notes the report.

22 MAINSTREAM SCHOOL FUNDING

A report was presented to the School Forum to provide an update of the funding announcement in October 2023 by the Department of Education (DfE).

The initial 2024-25 national funding formula (NFF) allocations in July 2023 found a technical error have been made by the DfE officials during their initial calculations. The error was due to the incorrect procession of the pupil number calculations, which has resulted in the overall cost of the schools NFF was underestimated and the incorrect values were published in July 2023. The DfE update contains the new,

corrected, factor values.

There are no other changes to the structure of the NFF. The total amount of funding in the core schools budget will remain the same as initially announced in 2024-25.

The DfE have stated they intend to increase core funding by 2.4% however, this has now decreased to 1.9% and some areas have only had 1.4% increase.

Gateshead's Allocations;

Mainstream Funding	July Announcement	October Announcement	Difference in funding
Primary Unit of Funding (per pupil)	£5,279	£5,231	-£48
Secondary Unity of Funding (per pupil)	£6,680	£6,617	-£63
Premises Factors	£5,239,254	£5,239,254	£0
Provisional Allocation	£144,568,580	£143,297,152	-£1,271,428

RESOLVES – The School Forum notes the report.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th December 2023 at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams.

Chair.....