

**Schools Forum Agenda  
Monday 4 October 2021**

**Time:** 9.00am  
**Place:** Virtual (Zoom)  
**Chair:** Jolyon Roberts  
**Vice Chair:** Theresa Staunton

**Invited:**

**Headteachers**

**Academy Representatives:** Jolyon Roberts, Chris Andrew, Soumick Dey, Rob Hitch, Rob Veale, Neil Ferrigan, Roger Capham, Tyrone Myton, Toby Martlew, Markie Hayden, Clare Cranham

**Nursery Schools:** Jaqi Stephenson, Jane Charman

**Primary Schools:** Leonore Fernandes

**Secondary Schools:** Patrick Shields, Nathan Walters

**Special Schools:** Lorraine Slee

**PRUs:** Jenny Adamson, Gareth Denton

**Governors**

**Nursery:**

**Primary Schools:** Dave Harvey, Keran Currie

**Secondary Schools:**

**Non Schools**

**Post 16:** Kevin Standish

**EY providers:** Theresa Staunton, Christine Marchant

**Southwark CofE Diocese:** Josephine Copeland

**Southwark RC Diocese:** Linda O'Callaghan

**Trade Union:** Dave Winters, Joe Flynn

**Cllr Majority:** Group Rep: Joy Prince

**Cllr Minority:** Group Rep: Helen Redfern

**Observers**

**Councillors:** Alisa Flemming, Margaret Bird and Shafi Khan

**ESFA:** Murial Rant

**General:** Joe Harrison

**LBC:** Shelley Davies, Charles Quaye, Kathy Roberts, Sarah Bailey

**Clerk:** Heather Beck/Geraldine Truss

**VOTING GUIDANCE**

<b>School members - Green</b>	<b>Academy members - Yellow</b>	<b>Non- school members - Pink</b>
<p>Only primary representatives (reps) can vote on primary school de-delegation</p> <p>Only Secondary school reps can vote on secondary school de-delegation</p>	<p>No voting on de-delegation</p> <p>All academies members can vote on any other Schools Forum business, including the consultation on the funding formula</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Observers – Mauve cards</u></b></p>	<p>No voting on de-delegation</p> <p>Only PVI representatives can vote on the consultation on the funding formula</p> <p>All non- school members can vote on any other Schools Forum business</p>

All schools members can vote on any other Schools Forum business, including the consultation on the funding formula

**Croydon Council website Link to Schools Forum:**

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/statnotice-consult/croydon-schools-forum>

Item	Agenda items	Lead	Time
1.	Minutes and actions from last meeting (12 July Virtual meeting via Zoom)	Jolyon Roberts	9.00 – 9.05
2.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	Shelley Davies	9.05 – 9.10
3.	Chair and Vice Chair of All sub groups appointed by Schools Forum	Chair	9.10 – 9.15
4.	Terms of Reference of Schools Forum Work Groups	Work Group Chairs	9.15 – 9.25
5.	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula 2022/23 Formula Factors	Charles Quaye	Start 9.25
6.	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit Management Plan – September 2021	Shelley Davies/Kathy Roberts/Charles Quaye	Finish 9.40
7.	Update from Schools Forum Work Groups (for information) a) Early Years b) Schools Block c) High Needs	Theresa Staunton Patrick Shields Rob Veale	9.40 – 9.50
8.	Any Other Business	All	9.50 – 9.55

**Meeting dates for 2020/21, Monday from 9am – 12noon:**  
4 October 2021, 8 November 2021, 6 December 2021, 17 January 2022  
7 March 2022, 13 June 2022, 11 July 2022

Item	8 November 2021	Lead
1.	DSG Schools Block Formula Factors Review	Charles Quaye
2.	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding Formula 2022/23 Split Site factors	Shelley Davies/ Charles Quaye
Item	6 December 2021	Lead
1.	DSG Management Plan, Progress Report (Q2 2021/22)	Charles Quaye
Item	17 January 2022	Lead
1..	DSG Management Plan, Progress Report (Autumn Term / Q3 2021/22)	Charles Quaye
Item	7 March 2022	Lead
1.	DSG Management Plan, Progress Report (Q3 2021/22)	Charles Quaye
2.	Progress Report – Phase 1 and Phase 2 Expansion of the Locality SEND Support Project	Mark Southworth
3.	School Audit Programme	David Phillips
Item	13 June 2022	Lead
1.	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn report 2021/22 – paper report	Charles Quaye
2.	2 year project - drop in numbers regarding birth-rate – report update	Ashana Graham
Item	11 July 2022	Lead

**STANDING ITEM FOR JAN – Croydon Recovery Plan**

**STANDING ITEM FOR JUNE – DSG Year-end Outturn report**

**STANDING ITEM FOR OCT – Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

– Chair and Vice Chair of All sub groups to be appointed by  
Schools Forum

– All sub groups to share revised Terms of Reference and confirm  
Chair/Vice Chair details

**STANDING ITEM FOR NOVEMBER - DSG Schools Block Formula Factors Review**

## **SF Work Groups Meeting Dates**

**Early Years, Tuesday 10am – 12pm: Chair is Theresa Staunton, Vice Chair is Chris Marchant**

**Meeting dates for 2021/22**

28 September 2021, 2 November 2021, 30 November 2021, 11 January 2022, 22 February 2022,  
24 May 2022, 5 July 2022

**High Needs, Wednesday 10am – 12pm: Chair is Rob Veale, Vice Chair is Lorraine Slee**

**Meeting dates for 2021/22**

22 September 2021, 19 October 2021, 17 November 2021, 12 January 2022, 2 March 2022,  
5 May 2022, 22 June 2022

**Schools Block: Tuesday 10am – 12pm: Chair is Patrick Shields, Vice Chair tbc**

**Meeting dates for 2021/22**

14 September 2021, 12 October 2021, 23 November 2021, 8 February 2022, 11 May 2022,  
28 June 2022



# Schools Forum

## Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 12 July 2021 Virtual (via Zoom)

**Members Present:** Nicholas Dry                      Nathan Walters  
Patrick Shields                      Rob Veale  
Lorraine Slee                      Jenny Adamson  
Neil Ferrigan                      Roger Capham  
Tyrone Myton                      Kevin Standish  
Vivienne Esparon                      Keran Currie  
Dave Harvey                      Chris Andrew  
Josephine Copeland                      Cllr Joy Prince

**Observers Present:** Shelley Davies                      Kate Bingham  
Orlagh Guarnori                      Dave Phillips

**Apologies:** Cllr Redfern, Cllr Flemming, Rob Hitch, Soumick Dey  
Leonore Fernandes

**Chair:** Jolyon Roberts  
**Vice Chair:** Theresa Staunton

**Clerk:** Heather Beck/Geraldine Truss

	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> There were none.	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. David Phillips, LBC Senior Audit Manager attended the meeting to discuss Agenda Item 2. The meeting was quorate.	
1:	<b>Minutes and actions from the last meeting (14 June Virtual Meeting – Zoom)</b> <u>Matters arising from the minutes</u> Page 1, Action 1 - Louise Lee from Oasis has been invited to the October Schools Forum. Page 3, Action 1 - SEND Board Performance Dashboard is currently being worked on to pull out relevant information for sharing with Schools Forum.	

Action 2 – paper on the average cost of maintained places verses the average cost of independent school places - information delayed until the dashboard is updated. Following the updating of this information it will be agreed at the High Needs Working party meeting and then return to Schools Forum.

Action 3 – Audit Framework - Part of the Audit Framework is being discussed today within David Phillips paper.

Page 4, Para 3 - Dave Harvey (DH) informed Schools Forum that as there is an Independent Schools for Boys moving onto Virgo Fidelis site that there was, perhaps, a moral case to be explored. The Sisters of Our Lady of Fidelity have closed the school to Year 10 girls. The cost of the removal and placement of these Year 10 girls into another school to complete their exams has fallen to the LA. He would like a letter to go to the Sisters of Our Lady of Fidelity to highlight the financial consequence this has had on the LA and for them to meet this deficit.

Shelley Davies (SD) informed Forum that the deficit falling to the LA is due to longstanding central government policy. Virgo Fidelis is not an LA building, the decision making is uninfluenced by the LA and thus the LA did not have a choice. The school was to be closed on 31/8/2021 and there had to be a school place for the girls. The LA are concerned about the deficit and that they are paying this. The LA is looking into this to see what actions we can take. This is similar to the discussion Forum had about St Andrew's.

Jolyon Roberts (JR) said the LA have effectively enabled the new organisation (Cedars) to use the building by moving the existing girls out - this brings fresh information to the subject. It is unknown what the impact of a letter would be but he will pick this up for consideration in POST MEET. The capacity to rent the building on to a new institution was facilitated through the closure of the previous school and this is a fresh consideration.

Cllr Prince said she supported very strongly what DH said. She thought that at least a strongly worded letter from Schools Forum should be sent.

Q1: Theresa Staunton said Lanfranc had transferred to an academy and that the LA had to pay nearly £900K. Although the school stayed the LA picked up this shortfall. She is confused as to why Virgo Fidelis is any different;

A1: JR said Schools Forum had contingency at that time and that the Lanfranc money came from that. There are no reserves or contingency at this time.

SD said it was a different situation with Lanfranc regarding the choice of academisation. There was a deficit budget and if a school chooses to become an academy the deficit sits with them, but if a school has to undertake a forced academisation the LA picks up the deficit.

	<p>DH said SD was correct, there is nothing the LA could have done, which is why he used the word 'moral' case. With Lanfranc the pupils remained in the same school, with St Andrew's there was a gradual closure and students who had started their GCSEs were allowed to continue and then it was closed. Critically, in neither case was a different group of students admitted in the following September, after the school was closed.</p> <p>JR said he will look at it but he did not want to write a letter when nothing could be achieved. No one is happy about this situation but it is good that the girls are continuing their education together and this is thanks to St Mary's for accommodating the remaining girls as one cohort .</p> <p>Letter to the Sisters of Our Lady of Fidelity - pick up in POST MEET <b>ACTION</b></p> <p>Neil Ferrigan said Schools Forum have to be careful, as the word moral issue could be used as a hideaway word for political, which is a different matter. The LA is governed by the law and as a chair JR has to consider his position. This can open up a can of worms i.e. why has the deficit in this school been allowed to get so high?</p> <p>Page 8, Para 1 .... to provide parenteral choice .... amend to parental choice.</p> <p>Page 16, special schools head teachers meeting – this has been postponed twice but will now be held following today's Schools Forum. Feedback will be passed onto Forum.</p> <p>All other actions have been completed and minutes agreed.</p>	Jolyon Roberts
2:	<p><b>School Audit Programme</b></p> <p>Dave Phillips (DP) presented this paper</p> <p>DP informed Forum that this is the schools test programme which is used to conduct the audit of maintained schools. Historically the test programme was started for keeping balance and good practice in schools. It has been added to over the years as legislation has changed. The Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) is used to underpin the audit of the schools. There are only a certain number of days to complete a school audit, hence the test audit been tailored to reflect this. Anything added will encroach on the time spent on other parts of the audit. The audit is on a 3 year turnaround to maintain comparability in the results. The previous programme was first used in 2018/19. It is not there to catch schools out but there to help the schools.</p> <p>Jolyon Roberts said there used to be an audit subcommittee of Forum. Forum have had an in-depth look at it in PRE MEET with a number of additions made. It is the audit programme for use by</p>	

	<p>maintained schools which is different from the academies audit. The highlights in yellow are his own to bring to head teachers' attention. This will be put up on the audit web page for schools to view for next year, along with a scheme for financing schools and some modelling documents.</p> <p>Jolyon Roberts said this document is important and that Forum needs to have oversight. He advised head teachers to read the Health &amp; Safety section in the appendix as there are onerous items to note.</p> <p>The Schools Audit Programme will be an agenda item to be discussed every year.</p> <p>Recommendation: That Schools Forum have had oversight of this document and note the amended School's Audit Programme.</p>	
3:	<p><b>SRMA Verbal Update</b></p> <p>Orlagh Guarnori updated Forum that the SRMA report has been delayed due to a bereavement within the officer's family. Contact will be made this week. The LA has 9 schools and nurseries in deficit and review meetings have begun. The initial deficit reporting plans with an accurate picture is forthcoming, with realistic plans for moving them out of deficit, within the 3 years as requested by the DfE.</p>	
4:	<p><b>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2020/21 Outturn – paper report</b></p> <p>Orlagh Guarnori (OG) presented this paper</p> <p>The report highlights the key budget areas, in-year activity and outturn position of the DSG.</p> <p>The LA was allocated £365.277m of DSG for 2020/21 before recoupment and after academy recoupment the LA received £171.462m.</p> <p>Table 1 breaks down the DSG allocation between the 4 blocks.</p> <p>Table 2 illustrates the overall movement in the DSG position from 2019/20 to 2020/21. There is a carry forward overspend of £18.527m going into 2022.</p> <p>Table 3 illustrates the total expenditure in the various DSG blocks.</p> <p>Table 4 lays out the Growth Expenditure in 2020/21 showing an overspend of £56k as a result of actually spend in 2021 compared to the original budget. This is broken down into the individual elements of the compilation of growth fund.</p> <p>Table 5 shows the DSG cumulative overspend and how the £18.527m overspend has been arrived at. Note that in 4.2 of Table 5, the High Needs spend of £67.147m was set against a budget of £61.404m.</p>	



There is underspend of the Early Years High Needs block of £2.992k as a result of underspend on top slice and the remainder as a result of the early years fund to meet the expected DfE future clawback.

It is reported this way as the LA have to report back to the DfE and show the DSG as a net position. Although we talk about High Needs being the overspent area, we have to show the DSG as one complete grant allocation and the net position is what we report.

Appendix A gives the final High Needs Outturn position and a line by line view of where the spend is.

Appendix B gives Early Years Final Outturn for 2020/21 including reserves position.

Q1: Neil Ferrigan referred to Appendix A, line 8, the FE Colleges. He said this seems to be one of the biggest jumps – how can this be explained and what is it indicative of?

A1: OG said when a budget is set for High Needs, by law, we have to set a balanced position. There are certain lines which will look disproportionately overspent. Regarding the FE colleges she asked Kathy Roberts to update;

Kathy Roberts said this reflects the additional spend the LA have with the 16-19 cohort and 19-25 cohorts we are working within Croydon. This reflects the number of places, partly, that the LA and Croydon College are working with in developing pathways and so on, for the young people and the growth of a more localised position. It is basically the cost of the placements for most of the children and young people;

Q2: Jolyon Roberts asked how do we know this represented good value for money;

A2: Kathy Roberts said in terms of our strategy around more localised provision, we can evidence that, in terms of the relative cost of placements and the costs of different colleges. We use a number of local colleges within the local boroughs as well as further afield. We try to manage their uplifts. We have been successful as part of the South London Commissioning Partnership, to hold any percentage increases to a level that we as a group of 12 boroughs are happy to pay. We do a lot of scrutiny and have done quality assurance visits to the settings, to ensure we are getting good value for money. That work continues and this contributes to managing this spend.

Q3: Jolyon Roberts referred to Line 3 and Line 8 and said he appreciated that a balanced budget needed to be set. Therefore even though you know that on Line 3 it will cost £21m you have to set it at £18m – is this the gist of it?

A3: Orlagh Guarnori said yes.

Jolyon Roberts asked Kathy Roberts whether it would be worth having a further paper, to show we have had oversight and pick up on

	<p>the value for money question. The things you have verbally reported on i.e. bench marking – given that the overspend is obvious. There is a huge overspend and we have to drill down.</p> <p>Nick Dry said this will be on the High Needs agenda for tomorrow.</p> <p>Kathy Roberts said they are comparable but there are spikes and that the LA is trying to address this, which we think is historical. We do not get the additional funding for the 19-25 cohort (i.e. the line for FE provision) and the budget is increasing.</p> <p>Paper to be presented to Post Meet how many young people are represented by the £5m figure (18-25 young people) for a comparison with mainstream school age children <b>ACTION</b></p>	Kathy Roberts
5:	<p><b>SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>Orlagh Guarnori (OG) presented this paper</p> <p>The LA are required to publish their scheme for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between the LA and the schools they maintain. Full guidance on the scheme is available at the following link showing the latest updates which are highlighted in yellow. This is updated every year.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools">http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools</a></p> <p>The deadline has been changed for submission to the LA to 28 May. Section 5.8 discusses borrowing by schools and the changes relating to financing. Section 6.9 is the licenced deficit where the school is required to show a budget advance not to be overdrawn at their bank, is to be shown as advance and not a loan. The LA is not allowed to make loans to schools unless it is for a capital project.</p> <p>The scheme for financing schools will be circulated in the Schools bulletin, uploaded to the council website and the Schools SharePoint site.</p>	
6:	<p><b>Split Site Schools proposed use of schools block reserve fund</b></p> <p>Orlagh Guarnori (OG) presented this paper</p> <p>Forum were informed that within the growth funding element of the Schools Block 2021/22 formula, the split site factor was included. For the 2021/22 funding, a review of the 4 split site schools was undertaken. It was identified that the schools previously on the list no longer met the pre-agreed growth fund criteria. Part of the criteria for this fund being allocated was for a set amount of time i.e. 5 years and 7 years.</p>	

Schools Forum voted in December 2020 for the split site funding to be removed from the growth fund and returned to the APT, as an individual factor in 2022/2023 onwards as this is now allowed again. The criteria will be examined and confirmed in the October 2021 review of the APT factors.

This paper is requesting that the Schools Block reserve funds are used to fund the 4 schools that previously were in receipt of split site funding up to the 2021/22 year. They will receive funding via this methodology for one year only until such time as the factor is returned to the APT tool. Schools Block reserves has an underspend from prior years available. It is proposed to fund the schools at the rate of £35K per split site school which is the original funding rate for that criteria when it was still part of growth fund.

Table 2 illustrates the split site proposed funding for the 4 schools.

Patrick Shields said Schools Block held a robust discussion and the general consensus was to recommend schools are funded for this year, knowing that there will be clear transparency for the APT, so there is long term clarity and transparency for everyone as to how we move forward. He said this was discussed from a number of different points of view and that the final agreement was that we should recommend payment for this year, in the knowledge that the review for the APT comes in the Autumn.

Jolyon Roberts said he would abstain from voting on this agenda item as 2 of his schools are involved. Split sites do have additional costs i.e. split site admin offices, double boilers etc. and this funding helps to plug that gap.

Those in favour = 11  
Abstention = 1

**7: Update from Schools Forum Work Groups (for information)**

Early Years Working Party (Theresa Staunton)

Early Years met on 6/7/2021. Gill Bates, Sufficiency Officer is leaving the LA in July, this will be a great loss to the service as she does a fantastic job. Gill will be greatly missed.

Jolyon Roberts added his thanks to Gill from Forum.

Schools Block Working Party (Patrick Shields)

Schools Block met on 29/6/2021 and looked at the DSG Outturn paper, the schemes for financing schools and split sites. All these items have been covered in today's Schools Forum.

	<p><u>High Needs Working Party (Nick Dry)</u></p> <p>Nick Dry informed Form that this was his last meeting and that Rob Veale is his successor as Chair of the High Needs. The special schools head teacher meeting is taking place today and will be looking at the special school funding formula. There is a High Needs working group meeting tomorrow (13/7/2021) and this will bring forward a discussion on the special schools' formula and drill down into the areas of spending in the High Needs Block.</p> <p>Jolyon Roberts thanked Rob Veale taking the role of Chair of the High Needs. He thanked Nick Dry on behalf of Forum for all his work done on High Needs and his valued contributions to Schools Forum.</p>	
8:	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>The clerk gave an update on the Schools Forum vacancies. The deadline is 23 July 2021 and so there have been quite a few responses. Colleagues were reminded and encouraged to complete the nominations form as there are still a number of substantive vacancies.</p> <p>This is Kate Bingham's last meeting and Jolyon Roberts on behalf of Forum thanked her and said that Forum appreciated all the work she carried out for Schools Forum and the council. He expressed his best wishes to Kate in what comes next.</p> <p>Kate Bingham said she has enjoyed her time in Croydon and wishes everyone the best for the future.</p> <p>Nick Dry said it was a pleasure to be part of this group, knowing that there are so many people, most of whom are volunteering to deal with the very tricky issues in the LA. He thanked Jolyon Roberts in particular, as he knows how much time and effort he has put into chairing Forum and the commitment shown by him and the members of the group.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting 4 October 2021</b></p>	

## Abbreviations used within the minutes

<b>AVA</b>	<b>Addington Valley Academy</b>
<b>AWPU</b>	<b>Average weighted pupil unit</b>
<b>BWH</b>	<b>Bernard Weatherill House</b>
<b>CALAT</b>	<b>Croydon Adult Learning and Training</b>
<b>CHTA</b>	<b>Croydon Headteachers Association</b>
<b>DfE</b>	<b>Department for Education</b>
<b>DSG</b>	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>
<b>EAL</b>	<b>English as an additional language</b>
<b>ESOL</b>	<b>English as a second/or other language</b>
<b>ESFA</b>	<b>Education Skills Funding Agency</b>
<b>EHCP</b>	<b>Education, Health and Care Plan</b>
<b>E-PEP</b>	<b>Electronic Personal Education Plan</b>
<b>ESG</b>	<b>Education Services Grant</b>
<b>EY</b>	<b>Early Years</b>
<b>FSM</b>	<b>Free School Meals</b>
<b>GLA</b>	<b>Greater London Authority</b>
<b>GPAC</b>	<b>General Purpose Audit Committee</b>
<b>IDACI</b>	<b>Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index</b>
<b>IMD</b>	<b>Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>
<b>INM</b>	<b>Independent/non-maintained</b>
<b>KPI</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicator</b>
<b>LA</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
<b>CLA</b>	<b>Child Looked After</b>
<b>LLW</b>	<b>London Living Wage</b>
<b>LPA</b>	<b>Low Prior Attainment</b>
<b>MAT</b>	<b>Multi-Academy Trust</b>
<b>MFG</b>	<b>Minimum Funding Guarantee</b>
<b>MNS</b>	<b>Maintained Nursery Schools</b>
<b>MHCLG</b>	<b>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</b>
<b>NEOST</b>	<b>National Employers Organisation for School Teachers</b>
<b>NEET</b>	<b>Not in Education, Employment or Training</b>
<b>NFF</b>	<b>National Funding Formula</b>
<b>PAN</b>	<b>Planned Admission Number</b>
<b>PEP</b>	<b>Personal Education Plan</b>
<b>PFI</b>	<b>Private Finance Initiative</b>
<b>PPG</b>	<b>Pupil Premium Grant</b>
<b>PPL</b>	<b>Private Public Limited, Consultancy Firm</b>
<b>PVI</b>	<b>Private, voluntary sector and independent providers</b>
<b>SLA</b>	<b>Service Level Agreement</b>
<b>SRMA</b>	<b>School Resource Management Adviser</b>
<b>STPCD</b>	<b>School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document</b>
<b>STRB</b>	<b>School Teachers Review Board</b>
<b>ToR</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b>
<b>TPA</b>	<b>Teacher Professional Association</b>
<b>UAS</b>	<b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker</b>
<b>UPN</b>	<b>Unique Pupil Number</b>

## Academies and their Trusts

Type	School	Trust	Single Trust or MAT
<b>Primary</b>			
Academy	Aerodrome Primary Academy	REACH2	MAT
Academy	Applegarth Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Ark Oval Primary Academy	ARK	MAT
Academy	Atwood Primary Academy	Atwood Primary Academy	Single
Academy	Beulah Infant School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Broadmead Primary Academy	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	Castle Hill Academy	The Platonos Trust	MAT
Academy	Chestnut Park Primary School	GLF Schools	MAT
Academy	Chipstead Valley Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Courtwood Primary School	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Cypress Primary School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	David Livingstone Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Davidson Primary Academy	Chancery Education Trust	MAT
Academy	Ecclesbourne Primary School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Fairchildes Primary School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	Forest Academy	Synaptic Trust	MAT
Academy	Gilbert Scott Primary School	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Gonville Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School	Good Shepherd Catholic Primary and Nursery School	Single
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Benson	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Haling Park	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Kenley	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Primary Academy Purley Way	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Heathfield Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Kensington Avenue Primary School	The Manor Trust	MAT
Academy	Keston Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Kingsley Primary Academy	Cirrus Primary Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Monks Orchard Primary and Nursery School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	New Valley Primary School	PACE Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Byron	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Ryelands School	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Shirley Park	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Park Hill Junior School	The Folio Trust	MAT
Academy	Robert Fitzroy Academy	REACH2	MAT
Academy	Rowdown Primary School	Fairchildes Academy Community Trust	MAT
Academy	St Aidan's Catholic Primary School	St Aidan's Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	St Chad's Catholic Primary School	St Chad's Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy	St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy	Single
Academy	St James the Great RC Primary and Nursery School	St James the Great R.C. Primary and Nursery School	Single
Academy	St Mary's Catholic Infant School	St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust	MAT
Academy	St Mary's Catholic Junior School	St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust	MAT
Academy	St Peter's Primary School	The Folio Trust	MAT
Academy	St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School	St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School	Single
Academy	The Crescent Primary School	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	The South Norwood Academy	The Pioneer Academy	MAT
Academy	The Woodside Academy	Synaptic Trust	MAT
Academy	Tudor Primary Academy	STEP Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	West Thornton Primary Academy	Synaptic Trust (due to change on 31/12/19)	MAT
Academy	Whitehorse Manor Infant School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Whitehorse Manor Junior School	Pegasus Academy Trust	MAT
Academy	Winterbourne Boys' Academy	The Platonos Trust	MAT
<b>Secondary</b>			
Academy	Harris Academy Purley	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris Academy South Norwood	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	Harris Federation	MAT
Academy	Meridian High School	GLF Schools	MAT
Academy	Norbury Manor Business & Enterprise College	The Manor Trust	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Arena	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Coulsdon	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Oasis Academy Shirley Park	Oasis Community Learning	MAT
Academy	Orchard Park High School	Greenshaw Learning Trust	MAT
Academy	Riddlesdown Collegiate	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Shirley High School Performing Arts College	Shirley High School	Single
Academy	St Joseph's College	St Joseph's College Delasalle	Single
Academy	The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy	The BEC Trust	Single
Academy	The Quest Academy - Coloma Trust	The Collegiate Trust	MAT
Academy	Woodcote High School	Woodcote High School	Single
<b>SEN</b>			
Academy	Beckmead family of schools	The Beckmead Trust	MAT

ARK - Absolute Return for Kids

GLF - Grown, Learn, Flourish

PACE - Partnership Achievement Community Excellence

STEP - Striving Together for Excellence in Partnership

**CROYDON SCHOOLS FORUM - MEMBERS VOTING RIGHTS**

Version 3 - 2019													
Ref 6.10	Casting a vote Members voting card colours	Academies and Free Schools	Maintained Nursery Schools	Maintained Primary School Governors	Maintained Secondary School Governors	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Maintained Special Schools	Maintained Pupil Referral	Early Years Provider	Non Schools	Overall Total	
		YELLOW	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	PINK	PINK		
	Member voting totals by category group	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	22	
a	Only maintained primary school members can vote on primary school de-delegation			2		2						4	
b	Only maintained secondary school members can vote on secondary school de-delegation				1		1					2	
c	Combined voting on de-delegation for primary and secondary schools may be taken where the requirement is common for both schools. Optional - may vote depending on paper			2	1	2	1	optional	optional			6	
d	Retained funds for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only is limited to maintained primary, secondary special schools and PRU members			2	1	2	1	1	1			8	
e	All school members can vote on the scheme for financing schools but not academies, free school members and PVI		1	2	1	2	1	1	1			9	
f	All school members including academies, free schools and PVI members can vote on any other school forum business including consultation of the funding formula	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		18	
g	Non school members cannot vote on de-delegation matters relating to the formula concerning schools and early years providers or the scheme for financing schools	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		18	
h	Non school members can vote on any other school forum business	8	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	22	
i	<b>Local Authority officers and all observers have no voting rights. They have PURPLE cards and do not vote</b>												





**Schools' Forum Early Years Working Group**  
**Terms of Reference**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The working groups of the Croydon Schools' Forum make recommendations to the main Schools' Forum meetings related to areas within their remit - described in 'scope' below. They **do not vote** but make recommendations based on consensus. Where no consensus can be reached by the working group two or more alternatives are presented to the main Schools' Forum. The chair and the vice chair are appointees of the main Schools' Forum and shall always be elected members of Croydon Schools' Forum.

**2. Scope**

- 2.1 The Early Years Working Group (EYWG) makes recommendations on all matters related to spending within the early years' block of the total Croydon Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. The early years block supports funding for children between the ages to 2 and 4 before they attend mainstream education. Included in the scope of the early years block are children in nursery schools, nursery classes in mainstream schools and licensed private, voluntary and independent providers (PVI's).
- 2.2 In the case of PVI's children will receive funding for the term in which they become 5 unless they attend a mainstream school before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 2.3 Additional funding for Early Years children with special needs is provided by allocations from the High Needs Block (HNB).

**3. EYWG membership**

- 3.1 Anyone from the Schools Forum who has declared their interest in this working group is a member. The PVI Schools Forum member is also a member. Other members are drawn from:
- a) Day nurseries;
  - b) Pre-schools;
  - c) Childminders;
  - d) Local Authority Finance representative;
  - e) Education and Youth Engagement Officers;
  - f) Local Authority Clerk;
  - g) Chair/Vice Chair of Schools Forum.

This list is not exhaustive and other interested parties may also attend and contribute if invited to do so by the Chair.

**4. The working group will:**

- 4.1 Assimilate, analyse and debate information provided by the LA Finance Officer to make informed recommendations to the Schools Forum for approval on treatment of the funding formula for Early Years. The working group set budget distribution in compliance with the national funding formula from the EFA (Education Funding Agency) block funding to Early Years Block.
- 4.2 Discuss and agree funding elements for 2 year old education and funding requirements.

- 4.3 Discuss and agree funding elements for 3 and 4 year old education and funding requirements.
- 4.4 Develop work plans for future meetings and work with the Schools Block and High Needs Block to ensure plans are aligned and there are no overlaps and duplication.
- 4.5 Discuss and agree responses to DfE consultation documents that impact early years funding.
- 4.6 Monitor progress and implementation of statutory funding requirements e.g. 30 hours funding, Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), Disability Access Fund (DAF) and SEN inclusion funds.
- 4.7 Liaise and co-ordinate with the 0-25 SEND service primarily through the High Needs Work Group to ensure continuity of funding for Early Years children.
- 4.8 Work with PVI's and mainstream schools on funding related matters.
- 4.9 Be appraised of statutory changes from the DfE, EFA and LA that impact funding.

## **5. Administration**

- a) The LA will provide a clerk for the meeting;
- b) Papers for the meeting will be circulated 5 days prior to the meeting;
- c) Minutes from the meeting will be circulated 5 days after the meeting;
- d) Approved minutes will be sent to the clerk of the Schools Forum for uploading onto the Schools Forum website;
- e) Meetings will be held at least termly but more frequently when required. Where papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum, meetings will be scheduled prior to the Schools Forum pre-meeting which is normally three weeks before the main Schools Forum meeting;
- f) Draft approved minutes by the chair will be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting;
- g) Voting members must declare any business interest in regard to a subject for discussion and cannot vote on that subject;
- h) The voting quorate for recommendations is 50% of members present. LA staff representatives are not eligible to vote. At least 1 Schools Forum member must be present for the voting;
- i) The Chair of the Schools Forum may attend the meetings;
- j) Observers to the meetings are welcome but should only contribute when invited by the Chair;





## ITEM 4b

### **Schools Forum Schools' Block Working Group** **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The working groups of the Croydon Schools' Forum make recommendations to the main Schools' Forum meetings related to areas within their remit - described in 'scope' below. They **do not vote** but make recommendations based on consensus. Where no consensus can be reached by the working group two or more alternatives are presented to the main Schools' Forum. The chair and the vice chair are appointees of the main Schools' Forum and shall always be elected members of Croydon Schools' Forum.

#### **2. Scope**

- 2.1 The Schools' Block Working group (SBWG) supports the funding of school aged children other than children who come under the High Needs Block or Early Years Block. Included in the scope of SBWG are children in maintained and academy schools.

#### **3. Membership**

- 3.1 Anyone from the Schools Forum who has declared their interest in this working group is a member. Other members are drawn from:
- a) Academy representatives;
  - b) Primary maintained Headteacher representatives (or Deputies)
  - c) Secondary maintained Headteacher representatives (or Deputies)
  - d) Maintained school governor representatives;
  - e) Head of Education standards, safeguarding and inclusion (LA);
  - f) Finance Business Partner, children families and education (LA);
  - g) Senior Management Accountant, children families and education (LA);
  - h) Chair/Vice Chair of Schools' Forum.

This list is not exhaustive and other interested parties may also attend and contribute if invited to do so by the Chair.

#### **4. The working group will:**

- 4.1 Assimilate, analyse and debate information provided by the LA finance officer and other LA officers to make informed recommendations to the Schools Forum on treatment of the funding formula for the schools block. This is to ensure the schools formula is fit for purpose and working in line with agreed principles.
- 4.2 Develop work plans for future meetings and work with the Early Years Block and High Needs Block working groups when required to ensure plans are aligned and that there are no overlaps or duplication.
- 4.3 Discuss and agree responses to DfE consultation documents that impact schools' block funding.
- 4.4 Monitor progress and implementation of statutory funding requirements.
- 4.5 To monitor, evaluate and recommend to schools forum on all school based financial issues, such as school balances, growth funding, PFI, rates and central costs.

- 4.6 Liaise and co-ordinate with the High Needs work group special needs funding requirements where appropriate.

## **5. Administration**

- 5.1 The LA will provide a clerk for the meeting.
- 5.2 Papers for the meeting will be circulated 5 days prior to the meeting.
- 5.3 Minutes from the meeting will be circulated 5 days after the meeting.
- 5.4 Approved minutes will be sent to the clerk of the Schools Forum for uploading onto the Schools Forum website.
- 5.5 Meetings will be held at least termly but more frequently when required and when papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum. Where papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum, meetings will be scheduled prior to the Schools Forum pre meeting which is normally two weeks before the main Schools Forum meeting.
- 5.6 Where members do not attend 3 meetings without apologies membership will be withdrawn.
- 5.7 The work group make recommendations to the Schools Forum.
- 5.8 The Chair of the Schools Forum may attend SBWG meetings as a matter of course.







## ITEM 4c

### **Schools Forum High Needs Working Group** **Terms of reference**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The working groups of the Croydon Schools' Forum make recommendations to the main Schools' Forum meetings related to areas within their remit - described in 'scope' below. They **do not vote** but make recommendations based on consensus. Where no consensus can be reached by the working group two or more alternatives are presented to the main Schools' Forum. The chair and the vice chair are appointees of the main Schools' Forum and shall always be elected members of Croydon Schools' Forum.

#### **2. Scope**

- 2.1 The High Needs Working Group (HNWG) makes recommendations on all matters related to spending within the high needs block of the total Croydon Direct Schools Grant (DSG) allocation. The High Needs funding block supports the education of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and complex needs in a range of settings including PRUs and alternative provision.
- 2.2 In Croydon the referral of pupils to PRUs and alternative provision is managed collegiately by headteachers through the Fair Access Panel.

#### **3. Membership**

- 3.1 Any of the categories listed below may attend:
- a) Primary governor representatives;
  - b) Secondary governor representatives;
  - c) Primary Headteachers;
  - d) Secondary Headteachers;
  - e) Special School Headteachers;
  - f) PRU Headteacher/Deputy Headteachers;
  - g) Post 16 College representatives;
  - h) Nursery School representatives (Headteacher or Governor)
  - i) Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP) representatives;
  - j) Director of Education and Youth Engagement (LA)
  - k) Head of 0-25 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Service (LA)
  - l) Senior Management Accountant (LA)
  - m) Head Special Educational Needs 0-25 (LA)
  - n) Head of Learning Access (LA)
  - o) Head of Virtual School (LA)
  - p) Commissioning and Integrated Services Manager (LA)
  - q) Chair of Schools Forum (to receive minutes and attend if available)

#### **4. The working group will:**

- 4.1 Inform decision making on funding for pupils with SEND and complex needs.
- 4.2 Champion priorities for pupils with SEND and complex needs and challenge all services, providers and partners to improve the pace and impact of actions to support these pupils in education and narrow any gaps in achievements.
- 4.3 Receive and assimilate data and information, to determine effective use of high needs funding.
- 4.4 As appropriate, commission task and sub-groups for particular work streams.

- 4.5 Review capital & revenue funding for SEND and alternative provision and make recommendations to LA and Schools Forum.
- 4.6 Review budget plans and outturn reports prior to presentation to the schools forum.
- 4.7 The work group will review plans to reduce the block deficit to zero over a five year period and management update to the schools forum covering progress, work plans delivery and strategies as an ongoing item at each meeting.
- 4.8 Develop work plans for future meetings and work with the Schools Block and Early Years Block to ensure plans are aligned.
- 4.9 Analyse demand and performance against expenditure.
- 4.10 Report to the Schools Forum of work group activities and report back to the work group of requirements from the Schools Forum.

## **5. Conduct of meetings**

- 5.1 Meetings to be held at least termly, at least two weeks before pre-meeting for main Schools' Forum meetings.
- 5.2 One School Forum member should be present for meetings where recommendations are being made to the Schools Forum.

## **6. Administration**

- 6.1 The LA will provide a clerk for the work group meeting.
- 6.2 Papers for meetings of the work group will be circulated to members during the week before a meeting, preferably at least 5 working days in advance.
- 6.3 All papers will be sent electronically by email, with spare copies to be made available at meetings.
- 6.4 Meetings will be held at least termly but more frequently when required and when papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum. Where papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum, meetings will be scheduled prior to the Schools Forum pre meeting which is normally two weeks before the main Schools Forum meeting.
- 6.5 Distribute meeting minutes to work group members within 7 working days of the meeting.
- 6.6 Approved meeting minutes are to be posted on Schools Forum web site.

## **7. Accountability**

- 7.1 Recommendations to Schools Forum and any other relevant funding groups for this group of children and young people (this is not a decision making group.)
- 7.2 Reporting by Schools Forum members to Schools Forum.





## ITEM 5

### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula – 2022/23 Formula Factors to be included in this year’s Authority Proforma Tool (APT)

Schools Forum – 4 October 2021

#### **Recommendation**

##### **The Schools Forum is asked to:**

Agree the formula factors to be used in the setting of the 2022/23 schools’ budgets set out in Table 2 below

**Members of Forum allowed to vote:** All school and academy members are able to vote. Only early years representatives from the non schools members are able to vote. Non-school members even if represented by school staff are not eligible to vote.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1** The National Funding Formula (NFF) came into effect in April 2018 for schools, high needs, early years and central services block. The schools block NFF calculates a notional allocation at a school level and then aggregates these to produce the LA level allocations. The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed the intention to move to a hardening of the individual factors between now and 2024/25 however for 2022/23, local authorities will continue to be allowed to determine final funding allocations for schools through a local formula. In 2021/22 Schools Forum made the decision to move closer to the NFF on some factors by taking the mid-point between the previous year’s factor rate and the NFF rate. This paper continues on this path towards NFF and sets out two options: move to the NFF in 2022/23 or make a partial transition to ease the potential turbulence of moving to a ‘hard formula’ at a later stage.
- 1.2** This paper sets out each of the factors that were used in the Croydon local formula in the year 2021-22 and considers if those should remain the same or be changed for the formula to be used in 2022-23
- 1.3** The schools block is ring-fenced in 2022 to 2023, but local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block funding into another block, with the approval of their Schools’ Forum. However, there is no request to transfer between blocks at this time.

#### **2. Provisional funding allocation**

- 2.1** The Croydon NFF provisional allocation for 2022/23 is below in Table 1. The funding is an indicative allocation and subject to change following pupil numbers adjustments after the October census. Final allocations have in prior

years been issued in late December. The movement shows an indicative increase of £5m from the 2021/22 final allocation.

- 2.2 The Teachers pensions & the teachers' pay award grants were rolled into the schools block funding in 2021/22 excluding an additional allocation of £145k. In 2022/23 the grants have been fully rolled into the schools block and there will be no further separate allocations for teachers' pension or teachers' pay grants.

**Table 1 Schools Block provisional allocation 2022/23 (if all other factors including pupil numbers remained the same)**

	Total 2021/22 final allocation	Provisional funding in 2022/23	Movement
Schools block allocation	£281,312,962	£286,333,669	£5,020,707

### 3. Formula factors

- 3.1 The formula factors used in Croydon which require Schools Forum approval are summarised below in Table 2. Further discussion about methodology for each factor will take place at the Schools Block working group and at Schools' Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> November

**Table 2 Formula factors requiring approval**

	Formula factor	Approval type -2022/23	Used in 2021-22?	Amount distributed via this factor in 2021-22
1	Minimum per pupil funding	To note (compulsory factor and rate)	Yes	Primary £4,180 and Secondary £5,465
2	Age weighted pupil unit	To note (compulsory factor and local rate)	Yes	£213,491,491
3.1	Deprivation - IDACI	To agree to continue to use as a method of calculating deprivation; To agree rates to be used (compulsory / discretionary)	Yes	£9,976,625
3.2	Deprivation - FSM	To agree to continue to use as a method of calculating deprivation; To agree continue to follow NFF rates (compulsory / discretionary)	Yes	£17,687,253
4	Low prior attainment	To agree (optional / discretionary)	Yes	£14,481,786
5	English as an additional language	To agree (optional / discretionary)	Yes	£4,895,610
6	Looked after children	To agree (optional / discretionary)	Yes	£167,151
7	Lump Sum	To agree (optional / discretionary)	Yes	£15,318,333

8	Mobility	To agree (optional / discretionary)	Yes	£220,315
9.1	Private Finance Initiative - RPI	Compulsory factor as have one but with an optional / discretionary amount allocated	Yes	£607,831
9.2	Private Finance Initiative – base rate increase	To agree (optional / discretionary)		none
10	Minimum Funding Guarantee	To agree (compulsory)	Yes	0.5% - £87,337
11	Growth	Criteria for growth agreed SF 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Yes	Various factors - £1,914,299
12	Split sites (see 3.2 & 3.3)	To agree (optional / discretionary)	No	none

**3.2** Split sites funding was allocated in previous years via growth fund as in previous iterations of the APT a split site factor was not allowed. If this factor is agreed and the eligibility criteria are unchanged this will move money from factor 11 (growth) to a new factor 12. The general ‘direction of travel’ over the last few years at Forum has seen funding allocated to the growth factor dwindling year on year (from £3,002,894 in 2018-19 to £1,914,299 in 2021-22) as the need for growth falls and schools are funded via the general formula factors. If the split site factor is included we should be able to get the growth factor to £0 at some point soon.

**3.3** The precise criteria for allocations via an agreed split site factor will be the subject of discussion at Schools’ block working group and Forum in forthcoming meetings. However, any additional funding provided via this factor, above what was allocated through growth factor in previous years, will mean less is available to be distributed through AWPU (factor 2)

#### **4. Factors available in the APT but not currently used by Croydon**

	Formula Factor	When this factor is used
1	Sparsity Factor	Small & geographically isolated schools
2	Fringe Payments	The fringe factor for Croydon is calculated on a multiple of 1 on other local factors calculations, so N/A.
3	Split Sites	Schools on two or more geographical sites.
4	Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY21-22	As described.
5	Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools	As described.
6	Other exceptional circumstances	As described.
7	Falling Rolls Fund	Separate budget decided by Forum for falling rolls.

**Recommendation**

**The Schools Forum is asked to:**

Agree the formula factors to be used in the setting of the 2022/23 schools' budgets set out in Table 2 below



## Appendix A

**APT** – Authority proforma tool – the spreadsheet that all formula factors are entered into once decided by Forum.

**FSM6** - Pupils who are identified as FSM6 eligible (pupils who have been entitled to FSM at any time in the last 6 years) as taken from the previous January census.

**IDACI** - The IDACI element of the deprivation factor is based on the IDACI dataset for 2019, which is published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). IDACI is a relative measure of socio-economic deprivation—an IDACI score is calculated for an LSOA (an area with typically about 1,500 residents) based on the characteristics of households in that area. The IDACI score of a given area does not mean that every child living in that area has particular deprivation characteristics—it is a measure of the likelihood that a child is in a household experiencing relative socio-economic deprivation. LSOAs are ranked by score, from the most deprived LSOA, with the highest score, to the least deprived LSOA.

The IDACI measure uses 7 bands (A to G where A is the most deprived) and different values can be attached to each of the 6 bands A to F. Different unit values can also be used for primary and secondary schools in each band.

**Low Prior Attainment** - The LPA factor acts as a proxy indicator for low level, high incidence, special educational needs and is measured as such for primary and secondary pupils:

1. primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development in the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP).
2. secondary pupils not reaching the expected standard in KS2 at either reading, writing or maths—an individual weighting is applied to each year group from years 7 to 10 when calculating secondary LPA to reflect the higher levels of low attainment under the new testing regime

**Mobility** - This factor pertains to pupils who first appeared in either the January or May census return at their current school (the one they are on roll with in the October census) in 2017 or later. This is for pupils in reception only, those first appearing at their current school in the May census are classed as mobile.

With this factor, there is a 6% threshold and funding is allocated based on the proportion above the threshold (for example, a school with 8% of pupils classed as mobile will attract pupil mobility funding for 2% of pupils).

**How PFI is calculated in the NFF** - Premises funding will continue to be allocated at local authority level on the basis of actual spend in the 2020-21 APT, with the PFI factor increasing in line with the RPIX measure of inflation (1.56%) to reflect PFI contracts.

## **Guidance by DfE on how to set the Private finance initiative (PFI) factor:**

The purpose of this factor is to support schools that have unavoidable extra premises costs, because they are a PFI school, and to cover situations where the PFI 'affordability gap' is delegated and paid back to the local authority.

Methodologies for funding PFI schools must be objective and clear, and capable of being replicated for academies. The purpose of the factor is to fund the additional costs to a school of being in a PFI contract, not necessarily the full cost, as some costs may be covered within other factors.

An acceptable methodology would generally contain some of the features set out below.

These examples are intended to help local authorities formulate a clear process for funding; it is unlikely that a local authority would need to incorporate all of the features into its own policy.

If a PFI factor is used, all PFI schools should receive it; there may be different arrangements between contracts but, within a contract, all PFI schools should receive funding on an equivalent basis.

This does not necessarily mean all schools should receive the same amount per pupil, but they should be treated on a consistent basis.

Examples of a clear formula for funding PFI schools are:

- 1) Allocations are in accordance with an original governors' agreement
- 2) Allocations reflect the difference between the PFI contractual cost, and the grant received by the local authority, less any local authority contribution

Methodologies for calculating allocations could include:

- 1) A percentage of the school's budget share;
- 2) A per-pupil rate;
- 3) A rate per square metre of floor area;
- 4) A historical lump sum previously agreed, and indexed by a percentage per year

Agreements can refer to proportions or elements of the school's budget share, which, due to changes in funding arrangements, may have changed significantly. Where this situation occurs, the department would expect schools and local authorities to work together to agree an alternative arrangement, so that neither party is significantly disadvantaged





## ITEM 6

### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit Management Plan – September 2021

Schools Forum – 4 October 2021 (highlighted areas by SF steering group)

#### **Summary and recommendation:**

This paper sets out:

The updated financial and organisational position of Croydon's High Needs Block management plan based on the latest information.

#### **Schools Forum are asked to:**

Note the actions plans and progress to date on High Needs Recovery Plan as well as potential risks.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1** As part of the latest Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) grant conditions, all local authorities with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2020 to 2021 financial year are expected to meet the following requirements:
- a) Provide information as and when requested by the Department for Education (DfE) about its plans for managing its DSG balance as well as information on pressures and potential savings on its High Needs budget;
  - b) LA is Required to meet with officials from DfE as and when they request to discuss the LA's plans and financial position on its Deficit Management Plan;
  - c) Expected to keep School's Forum updated regularly about the Local Authority's DSG account and plans for managing it, including high needs pressures and potential savings.
- 1.2** This paper aims to provide Schools Forum with an update on the deficit recovery plans which the LA is required to submit to the DfE to demonstrate how the LA is working towards keeping the High Needs Block spend within budget.
- 1.3** A five-year DSG Deficit Recovery Plan was earlier submitted to the DfE and this paper provides an update position which we have scheduled a meeting with the DfE to then review.
- 1.4** The DfE is fully aware that there are circumstances where some local authorities, notwithstanding their best-efforts in implementing various savings strategies, will still not be able to clear their historic DSG deficit hence regular meetings with DfE is useful.
- 1.5** **Final Outturn – High Needs Block for 2020/21.** The final High Needs Block outturn for 2020/21 is £66.982m with a budget of £61.239m, hence the reported variance is £5.743m which represents an adverse movement of £1.269m when compared to the forecast of £4.474m variance under the previous DSG Management plan.
- 1.6** The reason for the adverse movement was due to significant cases of a number of complex high needs pupils being admitted at some special schools at the beginning of the new academic year as well as additional one off payments to few schools including

Harris Federation for outstanding funding cases, St Joseph Specialist, Priory Special School and St Nicholas' Special School. All related to additional funds due to complex cases.

**Table 1 – breakdown of additional spend by school**

	School name	Extra funding allocated	Number of pupils this funding relates to	Commentary
A	St Nicholas School	42,154	8	Additional funding for complex SEND cases
B	Priory Special School	237,344	9	Additional funding for complex SEND cases
C	St Joseph Specialist Cranleigh	209,748	2	Cases reported post after Q3 forecast
D	Red Gates School	175,000	156	Additional funding for complex SEND cases
E	Harris Federation	580,078	95	Historical cases / not factored in the forecast
F	Other miscellaneous schools	24,676		Other miscellaneous schools

1.7 As a result of the extra spending detailed in Table 1 the cumulative High Needs block (including previous years) overspend at the end of March 2020/21 has now reached a new peak of £24.221m.

**2. Current forecast and Management plan updates**

2.1 As a result of this High Needs overspend against budget the DSG Management Plan is entirely focused on the implementation of the SEND strategy to ensure that the High Needs Block expenditure is contained within the High Needs Block funding allocation by Year 3 (2023/24) with potential recovery of the cumulative deficit.

2.2 The current in-year High Needs overspend forecast as at July 2021 (Period 4) is £3.5m. The forecast position for this year has remained stable. This represents improvement on previous years and records a positive downward trend over time as demonstrated in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 Trend of High Needs variance over the three years and four months.**

High Needs Overspend	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Financial Year 2019/20	6.7	6.6	7.1	6.7
Financial Year 2020/21	4.4	4.6	4.6	5.7
Financial Year 2021/22	3.5	3.6 *		

\*exc Schools Block transfer

\*P4 forecast

2.3 For example, the reported final outturn variance for 2019/20 was £6.7m compared to 2020/21 outturn variance of 5.743m representing significant improvement of £1m over the previous year's outturn position.

### 3. Management Plan - Overview of recovery

3.1 Table 3 below demonstrates how the budget has been managed over the years to keep the forecast overspend down to £3.5m at Q1 of 2021.

**Table 3 - Trend analysis – In year overspend and cumulative position**

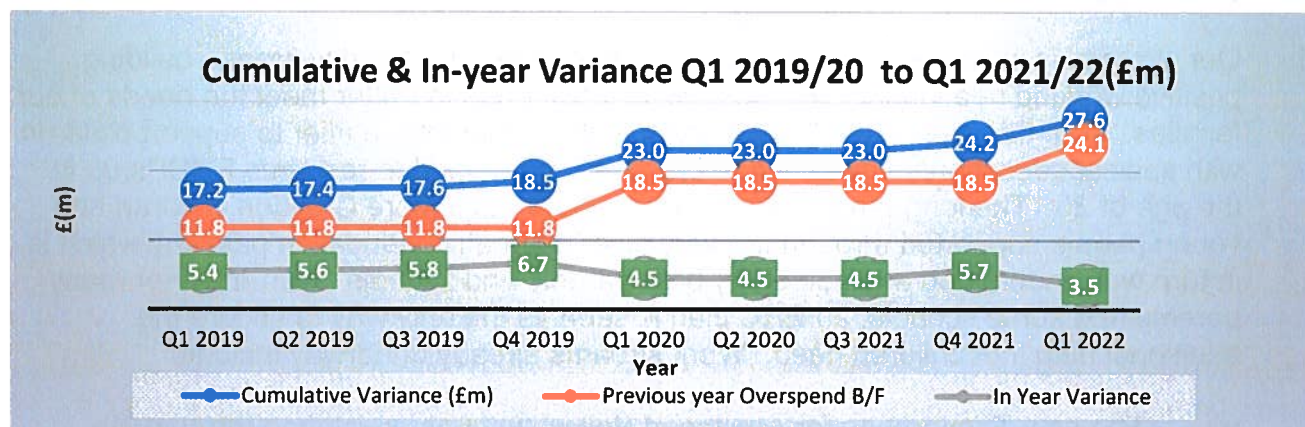


Table 4 shows a steady rise in the overall expected DSG deficit of £24.221m at 2020/21 to £28.519m by the end of 2025/26.

**Table 4 Overview of Croydon Deficit Recovery Plan**

Overall DSG High Needs Forecast Position	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'001
Total expenditure	62,388	66,983	71,144	71,798	72,739	74,521	79,847
Total income	-55,716	-61,240	-67,644	-71,000	-72,739	-74,521	-79,847
Total net - High Needs (In - year)	6,673	5,743	3,500	798	-	-	-
Schools block transfer	-1,238						
Total net - DSG (In - year)	-70	3,920					
Add brought forward deficit	9,193	14,558	24,221	27,721	28,519	28,519	28,519
<b>Overall Cumulative deficit position</b>	<b>14,558</b>	<b>24,221</b>	<b>27,721</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>28,519</b>
Do nothing option - Deficit position	14,558	24,221	29,639	30,086	32,861	35,629	33,408

3.2 Table 4 is based on these assumptions:

- whilst the 2019/20 to 2021/22 total income reflects confirmed allocations, future High Needs Block allocations have assumed a 2.5% estimated adjustment for inflation;
- to highlight the impact of the SEND strategy and the accompanying planned reduction in High Needs expenditure, the surplus balances as at the end of 2019/20 have been removed from the model (£3.920m);
- transfers from the school block were not requested in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and not been factored into the model

3.3 It should be noted that the in-year deficit may not be reduced to nil by the end of year 3 due to potential financial risk associated with the overall deficit plan linked to the ESFA / DSG funding methodology. The SEND Board continue to undertake annual reviews of all the SEND Transformation Strategies to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the Children and Young People as outlined in the Children and Family Act 2014. This may lead to potential operational changes to the strategies and priorities possibly leading to a gap in the expected savings.

**3.4 Do nothing option.** Table 4 also shows that the DSG deficit would continue to rise from £24.221m at the end of 2020/21 to approximately £33.408m by 2025/26 if nothing is done about the situation. This again demonstrates the importance and usefulness of the Deficit Recovery Plan

#### **4. Work streams**

**4.1** Our strategy is in line with the council's move to working in locality areas - building positive working relationship with schools in local areas to better meet the needs of our families. With this comes the knowledge that if we intervene earlier to support children with special educational needs, we will reduce the demand to resource EHCPs up to the age of 25. The long-term aim is for Croydon to have more Croydon children and young people supported through the very clear alternative education pathway which is in turn well understood and valued by both parents and schools. Currently, for many parents and some schools, an EHC plan is seen as the only way to secure the additional help that children need. Work streams already underway include:

- a) The new 'Preparation for Adulthood Policy' 2021 as developed through the work of the SEND Transformation Post 16 Delivery Group and the SEND Post 16 Options guidance which now goes out to every pupil at Year 11;
- b) An increase in local specialist provision with additional capacity of 30 places within St. Nicholas Special School. 20 places opened September 2021 and 10 additional places planned for September 2022;
- c) The continued development for Post 19-25 students at Croydon College which has supported 53 students to date;
- d) The opening of a new special school – Addington Valley Academy – which has supported 21 year 7 pupils with complex ASD and challenging behaviours for this academic year and placement plans for 80 pupils for September 2021;
- e) Out of borough placements are being reviewed with costs and requested uplifts being managed through the South London Commissioning Partnership. A quality audit is scheduled for our most high-cost placements in order to ensure provision is meeting needs and delivering according to contract and EHCP specifications;
- f) The Special School Funding Review currently underway aims to establish a transparent fair funding framework for our specialist provision which would minimise in-year additional funding pressures and requests.

#### **5. Governance of SEND**

**5.1** We have incorporated a SEND Finance Board into our SEND Governance Structure, membership of this includes the Chair of school forum and the Chair of the high needs working group. The Board will provide challenge and oversight of the DSG Management Plan.

#### **6. Risks**

**6.1** Current identified risks to the plan include:

- a) Potential impact the DfE SEND review may have on the current strategies
- b) More than expected number of EHCP cases in future years as forecasting model based current demographic information hence has limitations in forecasting accurate future



data of pupils with EHC plans.

- c) Likely demand from Special Schools for an increase in top up funding due to increasing needs and cost of services \*\*\*

**Summary and recommendation:**

This paper sets out:

The updated financial and organisational position of Croydon's High Needs Block management plan based on the latest information.

**Schools Forum are asked to:**

Note the actions plans and progress to date on High Needs Recovery Plan as well as potential risks.



## High Needs Working Group

## Minutes

Date Tuesday 13 July 2021

Time: 3pm

Venue: ZOOM Meeting

Invited:

Kathy Roberts	<b>(KR)</b>	Head of 0-25 SEN Service
Orlagh Guarnori	<b>(OG)</b>	Finance Manager
Helene Greenidge	<b>(HC)</b>	John Ruskin College
Jenny Adamson	<b>(JA)</b>	Saffron Valley Collegiate Head Teacher
Judith Lunnon	<b>(JL)</b>	Improvement & Development Advisor
Jaqi Stephenson	<b>(JS)</b>	Head of Selhurst Nursery & Children Ctr
Theresa Staunton	<b>(TS)</b>	Early Years
Lorraine Slee	<b>(LS)</b>	Red Gates Head Teacher
Keran Currie	<b>(KC)</b>	SEN Area Locality inclusion project
Mark Southgate	<b>(MS)</b>	Consultant Lead, Locality Inclusion project
Jonathan Driscoll	<b>(JD)</b>	SEN Data Manager
Sonal Desi	<b>(SD)</b>	SEN Area Locality Inclusion Project

Chair: Nick Dry (DB) HT St Nicholas School

Vice Chair:

Note Taker: Geraldine Truss, Senior Admin Officer.

Agenda Item	Title	Lead
1:	Welcome and Introductions Apologies from Rob Veale	Chair
2:	Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 May 2021  Correction: Page 7 Agenda Item 6 Demand for specialist places in Croydon – St Nicholas school will increase by 20 this academic year with a potential for an increase of 10 places in 2022/23 giving a total number of pupils of 235.  Update on actions and minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion Project is becoming part of Croydon's strategy it is good for High Needs to be part of it. The project is due to increase in size in September 2021.</li> <li>Annual Review Update: KR informed meeting that they are currently appointing the team, with interviews Saskia Van Vliet (12-25 SEN Team leader) is leading on this.</li> </ul>	Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of a Fund Summary line to Dashboard - JD to liaise with OG</li> <li>• Paper on transparency of Special School Funding on this agenda</li> </ul>	
3.	SEN Data dashboard (standing Item)	Jonathan Driscoll
	<p>NG said that Schools Forum have asked for the addition of a fund summary line in the dashboard, to have more clarity and to compare the value for money of more inclusive provision against less inclusive provision. but this will need more discussions.</p> <p>JD said he would like a meeting with Finance before the addition of a Fund Summary line is added to the Dashboard.</p> <p>Page 2 Overview section 'Ones to Watch' in June 2021 35% of children with an active Child in Need plan had an EHCP which was an increase of 2% compared with the previous month.</p> <p>ND said he thought there were a number of children at St Nicholas' school who should have a Child in Need plan but don't have one. It would be interesting to compare Croydon with other authorities to see if we are targeting more children or less children. It is also relative as there are 2 thresholds which interact. We are issuing more EHCPs. This was discussed at the SEND Strategy Board about OFSTED area Inspection and what they will make of it. Some of us are frustrated that not enough children get a Child in Need plan or even early help.</p> <p>JL: said this is a one to watch, it might be a national picture, but it is thinking about what the implications are in terms of funding for social care and family support. The wider implications are across education health and social care, it might be mental health needs as well.</p> <p>JA: said we also need to think with the current landscape and the pandemic - is 2% really that concerning or is it what we are expecting – does it mean we are meeting the needs of people who are struggling as a result of what is happening and their needs have been exasperated because of the pandemic. As long as things 'float' down eventually. But I agree it is a trend to watch</p> <p>KR: said for information. The next focused deep dive audit will be looking at plans, Child in Need, EHCPs, and PEPs to see if there is a correlation between them rather</p>	

than isolated plans and we are joining up all the dots. We will feed back on this.

ND said this is good to know and we have a lot of information. This overview is useful but with the amount of data it is difficult to interpret and it would be good to have an executive version.

On the 'Ones to Watch' section which will be of interest to Mark and the Inclusion project there is still a rise of EHCPs across all schools, although in the schools in his project the EHCPs have gone down. Next year it will be good to have a year on year comparison.

JD said he can do a more in depth analysis looking at localities to compare year on year and looking at local data.

ND said 4th bullet point re children with physical disabilities. Their level of support is high and their EHCPs tend to be expensive, this puts pressure on the high needs block. It is difficult to do anything about it as it is a geographical anomaly, Croydon has a lot of children with disabilities.

JD: on the section 'Things to do Better' the pressure point is the annual reviews. The average case load of SEN workers is 187 and there is a lot of demand and pressure to deliver existing reviews and new reviews.

*Slide entitled Covid-19 LA SEND Service data collection.*

The DFE has asked all local authorities to submit a picture of how LAs are doing in response. The EHCP requests has increased by 30% in May as compared to April 2021; 60 in Croydon which is an increase of 9%. There has been an increase of cases with emotional social wellbeing needs and data shows that this has also been reported by local authorities across England. Interesting to see the effect of Covid on LAs

Qualitative – key themes: around the capacity of Educational Psychologist impacting on LAs

ND: said this is true within Croydon we have been told by Anne Moore (Chief Educational Psychologist) there is a huge demand for educational psychologists and needs assessment services in schools. At the moment they are trying to recruit as they are unable to provide the non-statutory provision they were previously providing due to that pressure. None of this figures are going down and Covid has made it worse.

	<p>JD said the Overview slide goes into more detail and break down and school funding and EHCPs. There is a lot of information and detail, with more bench mark observation.</p> <p>HG: asked if the Dashboard could give data on the number of FE students and their journey at that stage, and their number of enrolments at Post 16. We have seen a growing number of students who are enrolling on another subject after their Year 13 (so they do a Year 14 and in some cases a Year 15) to delay their progression into the world of work if they do not go to university. Progression to apprenticeship or progression to supported traineeships are difficult to arrange/access/win. Getting into employment is really difficult for young people – let alone for those with SEND/EHCPs.</p>	
4.	<p>Update on development of AVA (Addington Valley Academy - standing Item)</p>	Kathy Roberts
	<p>There are currently 80 places confirmed for September 2021 from Reception to Key Stage 3. Inductions have started with the parents and children to familiarise them with the building etc. The building gets handed over mid-September and then there is a phased opening and by the last week of September it will be fully opened.</p> <p>Orchard Hill Academy Trust has helped with taking 7 Post 16 placements as the school was not setup enough for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and Early Years at this point of the opening, but we had pressures and we came up with a good solution at this stage. We have a Key Stage 5 cohort based there but the staffing is by OHC&amp;AT (Orchard Hill College &amp; Academy Trust). The building is wonderful and looks good.</p> <p>The Canterbury Road site is closing, as there is a cost pressure there and it will be returned back to the community's recreation ground.</p>	
5:	<p>Monitoring Summary of the High Needs Budget 21-22 Appendix A High Needs Final Outturn for 2020/21</p>	Orlagh Guarnori
	<p>The DSG paper went to Schools Forum on 12/7/2021 There is an in year overspend of £5.7m this is added to the cumulative overspend of previous year of £18.4m giving a total overspend of high needs outturn position of £24m.</p> <p>Line 8 of Appendix A: FE Colleges, this is kept highlighted as an overspend. When the government changed the regulations and increased the age group the LAs became liable to provide provision, this had a</p>	

major impact on Croydon's budget. No additional funding was provided by government but the LA has to provide a service up to age 25. The FE colleges spend continues to grow as the population moves up. This is kept highlighted as it keeps attention and focus on this overspend and we continue to discuss it with the DSG.

We have been asked to provide a more in depth break down of the FE colleges' cohort, spend and pupil numbers and we will work with Jonathon to develop. It will be brought back to this working party and then on to Schools Forum.

Another area is special schools including 6<sup>th</sup> forms. Although it looks like an overspend we need to know this included an increase in the pupil population during that period of time. This significant overspend could have been higher but for the outreach programme which Mark and the team are doing and as a result we have been able to contain it in most areas the spend. Line 6 Out of Borough placements in the past year have increase but not to the same scale as in previous years. The work of the Localities team is helping to limit that.

### **Overview of P2**

Overview of P2 is showing an overspend. However this is caveated as it was put in the management plan that in the initial years there was an element of investment still required and we were going to continue with an overspend, but this has reduced significantly and it is currently £3.2M.

The main drivers behind this are the special schools but we have taken additional places including our AVA which is a significant impact in place numbers for this year. We also flag the FE colleges which there is a spend of £5.3m rather than the £2.7m earmarked in the budget.

Legally we must set a balanced budget and set a balanced DSG High Needs budget the reality is we are looking to work within the means of that but so far it is still moving beyond that as we continue to have a spend over the budget lines.

But there are good signs as we look at the variance, other areas are seeing underspend which is off set against those with overspend.

Q1: ND: we have not compared those figures with the Recovery Plan overall – has work been done to see which way the budget is going this year?

A1: OG: The overall recover plan allowed for the deficit to continuing into 2022/23 and then in 2023/24 we would

be at an in year balanced position and then 2024/25 hoped to be in a position to pay off some of the deficit carried forward. It will not be reduced to nil at the end of the 3 years. We have not done a line by line analysis but this will happen in P3.

Our out of borough placements have maintaining at a steady rate. At P3 our out of borough placements are at £3.6m which is on budget so a positive step and this is part of achieving our management plan along with the ongoing work Mark and his team are doing.

Last year our final outturn was predicted at £4.6 but because 2 exceptional elements were added therefore the final outcome was £5.7 at end of 2021.

Looking at P2 we have included the additional places in the special schools, flagging up the FE colleges where there has been additional growth.

We continue to meet with the DfE who go through our management plan and scrutinise it to ensure we are driving it in the right direction.

ND asked what type of conversations do you have with the DfE, and Section 114

OG said some boroughs have not submitted a recover plan and don't intend to – the DfE are reviewing that, but their scrutiny is on how achievable the plan is and the actual placement numbers and the work Jonathan does is really useful.

As a result of Section 114 we have our High Needs management plan. We have the Deficit Management Board which review it, which is made up of internal and external personnel, it goes for review by GPAC, High Needs, Schools Forum and Cabinet. In Report of the Public Interest the recommendations were accepted. And Croydon are acting on that.

KR: three other boroughs have been asked to write a recover plan and they have come to Croydon to ask whether we are willing to share. A lot information is in the public arena and in Schools Forum minutes but it is interesting more boroughs are slipping into the same position.

Q2: JS: said 24 reception children for September being placed in out of borough schools. In view of our efforts to drive this down, as once children are placed in out of borough schools they stay there through-out their academic school life.

A2: OG: said she will have to take this back to investigate.



	<p>Q3: ND: asked if the places at Addington Valley Academy would be recorded as out of borough as they are an academy?</p> <p>A3: KR: we will do some drilling into this it might be that they are going to an neighbouring borough school not necessarily a high end school</p> <p>ND: St Nicks are taking in 34 and Red Gate have a cohort and AVA have a cohort but it was a large number this year. There are more places at AVA this year which previously did not exist.</p>	
6.	Update on Special School funding	Kathy Roberts
	<p>This has been a long and complex piece of work. There are a number of different pressures on the spend and we have had a positive engagement. The work done on the moderation exercise was invaluable.</p> <p>We have taken all that intelligence and analysis and come up with a framework for a banded funding proposal for our special schools taking into account all the pressures.</p> <p>We are looking at a growth of over £2m in placements within our special schools; the expansion of AVA and expansion of numbers at St Nicks. All these are part of our management plan. We have reached an initial place in terms of our proposal for a transparent, much evidenced funding formula to apply to our special schools which was presented to the Special Schools Heads yesterday.</p> <p>We have looked across the whole system. It has to be a fair funding system across the SEN community and take in to account our new way of working in terms of our SEN support, the finance and funding within that arena. As well as the funding which goes into our mainstream schools for banded funding and the funding which goes into support our special schools.</p> <p>The framework was presented yesterday and we have requested that our head teachers talk to their governors and bursars and give us feedback and we have had one response. The responses will be collated and then reviewed. There will be one to one meetings in September with all the head teachers when we have confirmed numbers and places then we will apply the formula to see how well it works.</p> <p>It is not a completed formula it is out there for scrutiny. The time frame is in September, with a round of one to one conversations. In October finalise the formula and then the finance behind that and then onto the various forums it needs to go to for sign off. Then each special</p>	

school will have their budget plan by the end of November.

Finance was an element when we reviewed it in order to keep in line with the DSG management recover plan. The proposal put forward will involve additional funding but work has been done to identify where that funding can come from it and in a sense we have tried to do our best to fix the funding gap – but we don't know the size of the gap until we finalise it with our schools.

ND: A preliminary paper was put together which requires further discussion. As part of the process Kathy will have with each of the special schools. This should come to the High Needs group.

KR the initial feedback will be reviewed and then revised and then following individual school meetings in September the results will come to High Needs and Schools Forum.

Q1: ND asked Orlagh with changing a formula although additional money will be going into the special schools pot, most of that money will go into expansion of places in various settings This means the overall pot will be divided up in a fairer way and there may be winners and losers. Is there a minimum funding guarantee which would be applicable to any changes?

A1: OG said they will put in a transitional protection arrangement to ensure no one loses out, we need to find out whether it needs to last for more than one year. Guidance suggests one year would be sufficient but we need to look at the long term.

Took on board on how we have a lot of teaching support in special schools and originally when designing this we did look to see if we could get uplift to reflect this - year on year - but we don't get the inflation uplift within the High Needs budget, every time we tried to do this we would hamper other areas and it would become less transparent as a band. The rationale is that we set the bands as they are and then review them. The commitment would have to be for this approach, it would have to be reflective to changes in the economy and review the band every 3 or 2 years so as not to push schools to breaking point.

Q2: ND said schools have come under increasing pressure from teaching assistance, pensions and salaries costs which has not been costed in to high needs. This year they have put in to teachers' pension but this has been a bolt on. Will this bolt on be added to

	<p>funding next year? It places special schools on a different footing to mainstream schools – this is a problem not resolved. As funding has not kept up with costs elsewhere.</p> <p>A2: OG: The DfG have kept it separate and it cannot be included in any of the place funding.</p> <p>KR there is pressure on government to review this</p> <p>LS asked how much impact our feedback will have on the final outcome. Once we know the impact of our feedback on the final outcome and how much movement. Once we know the impact of our comments then we will be able to make further comments on the discussions and whether the discussions are genuine and will make a difference.</p> <p>ND said until the discussion have taken place it would be unfair to have a wider presentation.</p> <p>KR said she was really keen to get everyone’s feedback, nothing is set in cement now and there will be detailed one to one conversations in September. Be assured the time frame although ambition is what we have to do to get to that point before end of autumn term. It will be a case of looking at the transitional arrangements. There will be protections should any school find the outcome is too difficult to manage and we would work through this with them.</p> <p>ND said the paper presented yesterday was trying to come up with a holistic funding process for autism with EHCPs whatever their setting.</p> <p>KR said she touched on it briefly looking at the whole arena, for funding through SEN support and through banded funding through our panels there has to be transparency and very clear progression in terms of complexity; the bands relate to each other which is all part of the ethos we are trying to achieve.</p>	
7.	<p>Summary of the provision for commissioned Speech and Language Services and future plans funded from high Needs Block</p> <p>ND contacted Faith Brook, speech and language, Claire Andrews has also offered to comment more widely who has agreed to do a presentation at a future meeting. The spec will be Early Years and to include Key Stage 3 and AP provision</p>	TBC

	<p>JA asked if she could be drawn into it as they are neither a special school nor a main stream school and we have concerns about the support we are receiving.</p> <p>JL: Claire Andrews said there was a Task and Finish group around therapy provision and Sonal and Keren were going to be part is this the same or different?</p> <p>ND said he was unsure but Schools Forum are concerned about the level of provision available.</p> <p>SD: said it is about provision and we have met with the head of the ECG. There has been a capacity issue it was more reviewing schools on what they are getting based on what they need and Claire was putting a review/survey together. It was key that we have an Early Years and a specialists person on that group so we can see the whole cycle. They are looking to plan a re set and organise how that happens based on the feedback. In Mainstream schools speech and language provision seems to be the highest need in Croydon schools at the moment.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Paper to cover Early Years, AP provision (Saffron Valley) and commissioned servies.</p>	
9:	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>Theresa Staunton said she has some questions for Kathy Roberts</p> <p>There is going to be an Early Years strategy and there are 8 key points and SEN part is key priority 2 after making sure we have a stream line governance mechanism. But there has been any progress. Spoke to Denise Bushey who has an overview, she did hope there would be more input from the SEN team as to what will happen.</p> <p>There are a couple of things. The 130 children that required places this year and the fact that 24 have gone out of borough and everyone seemed surprised about that. The Early Years sector are not surprised - as we have seen all those children in our settings. But we don't have any mechanism to get this information back into the Early Years SEN. We have not had a SENCO meeting since May 2019. There has been no provision for the sector to discuss SEN since then. From September there is an Early Years framework which means the existing system of how we get funding will no longer fit the EYS framework, yet our last interaction with Area SEN for Early Years is to send out a new system for requesting funding which contradicts entirely what will happen from 1<sup>st</sup> September. We really need</p>	

	<p>some very urgent intervention to get this Early Years SEN strategy moving.</p> <p>JS said she completely endorsed what Theresa said. This has been an ongoing concern for Early Years for a long time. With the revised framework in September she was really worried about how - as a community in Croydon we are proposing the ensure that the children that need additional funding, irrespective of where they are placed are the ones that achieve it as she don't think Croydon has a system that will work in light of the framework.</p> <p>KR: said we will have a focus group meeting. She had met with the SEN early years team this week and had a similar conversation and it shows there is a real need to do a complete Early Years review and strategy for Croydon. At the moment it is not in the right configuration or in the right shape to ensure we can deliver.</p> <p>She was happy to meet up and have a focused discussion, the Early Years strategy and the SEN input, the process is in place, but she was concerned about the lack of a SENCO meeting in the early years. We will talk about this and make plans.</p> <p>TS we work during the summer and other colleagues will be interesting</p> <p>ACTION; KR to send an email to key members to pull together a focus meeting.</p>	
	<p>ND said for two members of this meeting it will be their last.</p> <p>Judith is leaving and she will be really missed. Thank you Judith for all your work and we wish you all the best for the future.</p> <p>JL: said thank you and this will be hard. It has been a pleasure to work with you all, SEN is not an easy place, and we do know it as we care for the outcome of our children and we continue to fight for them.</p> <p>She was in Bensham Manor the other day and saw pupils she have seen when they have been small and how they have now progressed.</p> <p>ND: said this is also his last meeting. It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues who share his passion for the children and to fight to get the best for them. Thank you all for your support and good luck in the future.</p>	

	The whole High Needs working party wished Nick good luck in the future and thanked him for his input, his in depth knowledge and commitment to children in Croydon which will be greatly missed.	
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Meeting Finished at: 4.30pm

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2021, 10am via Zoom**