

Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Schools Forum - Agenda

Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Venue: Remote meeting on MS Teams

Schools forum documents and reports | Islington Council

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
1.	Apologies		Clerk	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting		Clerk	Enclosed
3.	Forum composition		JW	Verbal
4.	High Needs places	Decision	DS	Enclosed
5.	School Balances (draft: 2022-23)	Information	DS	Enclosed
6.	DSG Outturn (draft: 2022-23)	Information	TP	Enclosed
7.	Scheme for Financing Schools (2022-23)	Comments and views	DS	Enclosed

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
8.	Quality Assurance of LBI Services	Comments and views	sc	Enclosed
9.	SALT and CAMHS	Information	СН	Verbal
10.	Forward Planning	Information	DS	Enclosed
11.	Early Years Sub Group	Information	AG	Verbal
12.	AOB: Holiday Pay and TTO	Information		Verbal

Contact for queries:

Suzie Crawford / Governor Services



Meeting documents and minutes published on <u>Islington Schools Forum webpage</u>.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 January 2022 at 2pm – held virtually (MS Teams).

Attendees

Present

- Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy (AM-L); Executive Head teacher, Rotherfield and Newington Green Primary Schools (Chair)
- Alan Streeter (AS); Head teacher, Beacon High Secondary School (Islington Futures Federation)
- Patrick Mildren (PM); Head teacher, Canonbury Primary School
- Ana Sevilla (ASe); Executive Head, New River Green and Packington Children's Centres
- Vicky Linsley (VL); Head teacher, St Mary Magdalene Academy (Secondary)
- Anita Grant (AG); CEO, Islington Play Association
- Cllr Angelo Weekes (AW); Islington Council non-Executive Member
- Cassie Moss (CM); Head teacher, Yerbury Primary School (Vice-chair)
- Tanya Watson (TW); Head teacher, William Tyndale (Primary Academy)
- Fiona Maccorquodale (FM); Head teacher, Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre
- Penny Barratt (PB); Head teacher, The Bridge Special School (Academy)
- Susan Service (SS); Head teacher, Arts & Media School Islington
- Paul Lasok (PL); Governor, St Aloysius Secondary School (and St Joseph's)
- Claire Hersey (CHe); Principal Finance Officer, City of London Academy Trust
- Maggie Elliott (ME); Governor, Montem Primary School (Edventure Collaborative Federation with Drayton Park) (Vice-chair)
- Francis Gonzalez (FrG); Head teacher, Richard Cloudesley Special School

Andrew Bosi (AB); Governor, Rotherfield Primary School

Other attendees

- Sarah Callaghan (SC); Director of Learning and Culture
- Tim Partington (TP); Head of Children's Services, Finance
- Jane Wright (JW); Manager Schools and EY Governance (Clerk)
- Debbie Stevenson (DS); Head of Early Years and Schools Funding
- Alison Cramer (AC); Assistant Director, School Support and Information Services
- Susan Woodland (SW); Interim Finance Manager (LBI)

Apologies

- Jenny Lewis (JL); Head teacher, Thornhill Primary School
- Candy Holder (CH); Head of Pupil Services
- Cate Duffy (CD); Interim Corporate Director People

Not in attendance

- Sally Franklin (SF); Head teacher, North Islington Nursery and Children's Centre
- Nigel Smith (NS); Head teacher, New River College (Pupil Referral Unit)
- Joe Simpson (JS); Governor, St Peter and St Paul Primary

Meeting minutes

No.	Agenda item	Action
1.	Welcome/Apologies for absence/not in attendance	Action:
	AM-L welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies as above.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 July 2021	Action:
	 Accuracy – the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, 	
	Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.	
	Agreed	
3.	Schools forum composition	Action:
	The clerk (JW) spoke to a short report that had been circulated prior to the meeting.	
	3.1. Apportionment of places of Forum in line with apportionment of pupils	
	The final report on the apportionment of pupils across phases and type of school/academy indicated that there was no need to change the number of Schools Group members by type of setting with the current structure.	
	3.2. Update on vacancies	
	A vacancy for non-executive member (local authority) had just been filled – Cllr Angelo Weekes' term of office was 14 January 2022 until 13 January 2026.	
	3.3. Structure of Forum	
	DfE good practice guidance states that academy/free school members must represent mainstream academies and, if there are any in the local authority area, special academies and alternative provision (AP) academies. Given there are now two AP free schools, it was recommended that a 23 rd member be added to the membership of	Clerk

Islington Schools Forum. The clerk would contact these two settings and ask them to appoint a representative.	
Noted and agreed	
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitoring (2021-22)	Action:
TP spoke to a report that had been circulated in advance – this item was for queries and noting.	
The overall forecast underspend across all spending blocks had increased since the last Schools Forum by £0.169m to £5.982m. This included a net underspend of £88K against the Falling Rolls/Growth spending within the Schools Block (see Item 8 for more details).	
The Early Years (EY) contingency had risen a little to £2.093m because the in-year funding reduction from the DfE due to a reduced headcount was lower than had been anticipated.	
CM asked what criteria would be used in relation to the EY and High Needs underspends, given the current strain on schools.	
TP replied that these were LA decisions, but with input from Schools Forum in the relevant subgroups such as the HN group. Work was underway with Candy Holder in relation to HN.	
Noted	
Dedicated Schools Budget (DSG) Settlement	Action:
(2022-23)	
DS spoke to a report that had been circulated in advance – this item was for information.	
The LA had been informed of the settlement in relation to the Schools and High Needs Blocks on 16 December 2021.	
	Noted and agreed Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitoring (2021-22) TP spoke to a report that had been circulated in advance – this item was for queries and noting. The overall forecast underspend across all spending blocks had increased since the last Schools Forum by £0.169m to £5.982m. This included a net underspend of £88K against the Falling Rolls/Growth spending within the Schools Block (see Item 8 for more details). The Early Years (EY) contingency had risen a little to £2.093m because the in-year funding reduction from the DfE due to a reduced headcount was lower than had been anticipated. CM asked what criteria would be used in relation to the EY and High Needs underspends, given the current strain on schools. TP replied that these were LA decisions, but with input from Schools Forum in the relevant subgroups such as the HN group. Work was underway with Candy Holder in relation to HN. Noted Dedicated Schools Budget (DSG) Settlement (2022-23) DS spoke to a report that had been circulated in advance – this item was for information. The LA had been informed of the settlement in relation to

There was some information about Early Years – the full picture for 2022-23 will not be known until the census in January 2023. Despite the overall decrease in pupil numbers (-311 primary; +79 secondary), there will be a net increase in Schools Block of £2.7m – the last year in the three-year funding settlement that started in 2019. Given the continuing delay to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Green Paper, the DfE has DS again announced funding for this area – Islington is due to receive £3.030m. In addition, there will be a new grant outside of the DSG to cover the forthcoming increases in costs to schools such as the Government's planned rise in National Insurance Contributions and energy price increases. Islington will receive about £4m plus about £1.5m for HNs settings. The final High Needs Block DSG will be confirmed in March. AML commented that it was helpful to have the percentages of changes and proportions of funding included in the report – helped to contextualise the figures. Noted 6. **School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant** Action: SC gave a verbal update. Following the Government consultation in late autumn, the DfE had analysed the responses and confirmed that this grant will be reduced by 50% in April 2022 and ended completely in April 2023. The LA is committed to funding the 50% gap in 2022-23 to ensure continuity of services. Then discussion can take place at the new Education Board, in line with discussions about Education priorities/strategy, to see whether these or other

interventions supporting the agreed priorities will be funded

in the longer term.

Noted

7. School Funding Formula (2022-23)

vance

Action:

DS spoke to a report that had been circulated in advance – this item was for decisions in relation to:

- 1. allocation of headroom (surplus funding to schools)
- 2. values for Growth and Falling Rolls funding
- 3. 2022-23 formula factors and values
- 4. disapplication for Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) exemption.
- 1. After funds are allocated through the National Funding Formula (NFF), there will be a surplus of £237K (headroom) that will need to be allocated to schools. This, in part, relates to changes in the payment process of NNDR (business rates) from 2022-23.

To allocate this funding, we will have to deviate from the NFF. The options are to give schools a lump sum, or the recommended approach is to increase the base rate per pupil. This will be a minor deviation from the NFF.

Two votes were conducted:

- in favour of the lump sum option (Option 1)0 votes
- in favour of increasing base rate (Option 2)
 9 votes in favour; 3 abstentions

It was agreed to increase the base rate

2. Forum had agreed in principle at the last Forum to retain the values for Growth and Falling Rolls; £300k and £400k respectively. Forum were now asked to ratify the rates.

Agreed unanimously

3. Agree 2022-23 formula factors and values.

This was agreed as point 2 above had been agreed.

Agreed unanimously

4. Disapplication for Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) exemption

AB commented that the RPI used was two months' out of date. DS replied that that was the latest information available at the time of calculating for the ESFA (agreed formula due with them on 21 January). The actual charges to schools will be based on February 2022 information in line with the individual school's BSF Governing Body Agreement.

Agreed unanimously

8. 2022-23 Growth / Falling Rolls Funding

DS spoke to a report previously circulated.

Forum had agreed to the Growth funding at the November 2021 meeting, but had asked for further clarification of Falling Rolls funding.

To remain within budget, an additional layer of criteria had been added for FR funding in that the school would cover the first 5% of movement.

There had also been some questions about the apparent difference in funding for academies as opposed to maintained schools. SW explained that it was a matter of timing of funding, not different amounts, given academies are funded September to end August, while maintained schools are funded in line with the financial year. So if an academy has a bulge class from April, it will receive 12 months' funding in September of that year. Whereas a maintained school will receive funding earlier, in that April.

In relation to FR, AM-L commented that it had been agreed fairly recently that schools would get a maximum of three years' funding. She asked if there was any rule about the gap of time before a school could apply again. She noted on Appendix B that one school had been funded for five years in total.

DS replied that at the July 2022 Forum meeting, there would be discussion about new proposals for criteria/whether to fund in 2023/24. FM commented that

Action:

schools receiving FR funding in the last three years are not getting funding in this current school year.

Recommendations

8.i. Growth Funding – Schools' Forum were asked to note previously agreed potential explicit growth funding allocations.

Noted

8.2 Falling Rolls - Schools' Forum were asked to note and agree funding allocations.

Agreed unanimously

Forum were asked to:

9. School Central Retention (2022-23)

TP spoke to a report that had previously been circulated.

- a) Agree the proposed central retention in the CSSB
- b) Note the proposed change to central retention in the High Needs block
- c) Agree the proposed central retention in the Early Years Block
- d) Note resultant DSG budget in Appendix A

The funding envelope for central schools services to which all schools and academies have access was being reduced by £124K. This funding is being reduced each year by 20% until it is fully phased out. The cost of centrally retained services is £1.425m against an allocation of £1.478m, leaving an unallocated balance of £53k. This balance can be held to smooth in any further funding reductions against the CSSB in 2023/24 and as a contingency for demand led items – it will be added to the balance from previous years of £199k.

The plan is to look at all services the LA provides during 2022-23, including those funded through central retention, as part of the Education Strategy.

Action:

TW queried why there was reference to an SLA for Legal Services. TP replied that the first level of support from Legal Services was available free to all schools and academies and funded through centrally retained funding. But further levels of support were available through an SLA. TP agreed to circulate what that first level entailed.

TP/AC

And VL asked for it be spelt out to what other services her academy should have access.

SS queried the Schools HR and Payroll item. TP and AC explained that it had been agreed through the November 2021 funding consultation to de-delegate a small amount for specified HR services such as model pay policies for all schools. As Schools HR and Payroll are now separate services, TP clarified the de-delegated item here should be HR only. Again more information would be circulated.

TP/AC

AM-L asked for improved information about centrally retained services over the year, including KPIs and feedback from schools about the quality of the services, plus Benchmarking against other LAs. Also it would be useful to know how central retention has changed over time. AM-L invited members of Schools Forum to contact her with feedback.

Schools members

CM asked if any of the services were statutory. The reply was yes, some are statutory.

In relation to the first recommendation - agreeing the proposed central retention in the CSSB the vote was:

14 in favour; 1 not in favour, Agreed

In relation to the second recommendation - noting the proposed change to central retention in the High Needs block – Noted

In relation to EY funding, it is proposed to continue to retain funding in line with the 5% cap in 2022/23, which is the equivalent of £899k, a reduction of £80k (8%) from 2021/22. Some of the reduction in funding (£23K) can be managed by meeting the full cost of SALT and CAMHS from the High Needs Block, and we will manage the remaining reduction of £57k within the EYFS Team and

	Strategy and Management service without impacting services in 2022-23.	
	AM-L acknowledged that while Forum cannot make decisions about HN funding, there was some concern about the SALT and CAMHS services and Forum was awaiting a paper that Cate Duffy had agreed could come to Forum on this. DS replied that Forum is still consulted on areas of funding for which it cannot make decisions (eg through HN subgroup), and there would be a paper on SALT and CAHMS at the May 2022 Forum meeting.	СН
	SC added that Education Board will be an opportunity for schools to be consulted.	
	In relation to the third recommendation - agreeing the proposed retention of Early Years funding, it was agreed unanimously.	
	In relation to the fourth recommendation to note the resultant DSG budget in Appendix A - Noted	
10.	Early Years Sub Group update	Action:
	AG, the chair of the group, gave a verbal update. The last meeting on 11 January considered the EY Consultation document as no results were yet available (consultation under way). The group agreed to the proposals in the consultation document.	
	The group suggested further consultation of settings to establish whether attendance was returning to prepandemic levels and attendance patterns. It had been difficult to respond to the consultation as it went out so late. The subgroup messaged EY colleagues so there was some dialogue at the subgroup meeting.	
	There was a plea to ensure the EY sector is involved in discussions about additional funding for SEN (CH's work).	
11.	Early Years Funding Formula (2022-23)	Action:
	(Cllr AW arrived at the meeting at 3.08pm during discussion of this item.)	

DS spoke to a report previously circulated. This item was for decisions.

DS thanked AG for taking the chair of the EY subgroup, for responding to the consultation and encouraging other providers to do so. The consultation could not have gone out any earlier due to when information was released by the DfE on the funding settlement and the operational guidance.

While the DfE was not increasing the rate for 3 and 4 year olds (£7.81), the LA was proposing to, and most respondents agreed with this. There will be an increase in DfE funding in 2022-23 in the 2 year old rate; by £0.21 to £6.87.

Forum was asked to:

- 1. Continue with the SEN Inclusion Fund at the level stated in the consultation; £1,289k
- 2. To proceed with the disapplication process to the DfE to maintain the current 2 year old funding rate.
- 3. 3 & 4 yr old EYNFF to maintain existing supplementary factors across all types of provider
- 4. 3 & 4 yr old EYNFF To continue to use EYPP as the measure of deprivation
- 5. 2 yr old EYNFF To continue to use the quality factor
- 6. 2 yr old EYNFF To continue to use the small setting factor for childminders
- 7. 2 yr old EYNFF To protect the 2 year old hourly rate for 2022-23

Agreed

12. Forward Planning

AM-L welcomed Cllr Angelo Weekes to the meeting.

Forum **noted** the forward planning paper.

	T	T						
13.	AOB and close	Action:						
	Holiday Pay & TTO – AC reported verbally that legal advice had yet to be issued.							
	AM-L thanked all for their preparation for and participation in the meeting. She noted that the Governor Hub account was working well, having all papers in one place.							
	The meeting closed at 3.20pm							
	Dates of next meetings							
	(virtual meetings on MS Teams unless otherwise indicated)							
	Schools Forum							
	 Thursday 19 May 2022, 2 to 4 pm 							
	 Thursday 14 July 2022, 2 to 4pm (face to face, venue tbc) 							
	DSG/Chairs Sub Group							
	Thursday 12 May, 2 to 3.30pm							
	 Thursday 7 July, 2 to 3.30pm 							
	Early Years Sub Group							
	Friday 6 May, 1 to 3pm							
	Capital Sub Group							
	Thursday 24 February, 12.30 to 2pm							
	 Thursday 12 May, 12.30 to 2pm 							
	High Needs Sub Group							
	Monday 7 March to 11am to 1pm							
	Monday 16 May to 11am to 1pm							



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Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 3.30pm

Agenda item: 4 - High Needs place numbers 2022-23

Purpose of report: Decision

Recommendations:

Schools Forum are asked to ratify the place numbers 2022-23

Background

Determination of place numbers at maintained special schools and resource units is an annual process.

Numbers of current placements are taken from the current year January school census. These numbers are then reviewed with each school to assess need for the coming financial year.

The local authority informs and requests the view of Schools Forum on funded place numbers.

High Needs Places (maintained) 2022-23

Place numbers

Numbers used for maintained special schools are those occupied as at January 2022 school census date plus allowance for known starters or agreed growth. Should unexpected demand for places arise in year, the LA will discuss provision with the school and determine any additional funding required.

Places at New River College increased from 108 to 127. Two extra places at Primary and 17 extra medical places.

Laycock Primary registered 58 pupils in the hearing unit at census data but assessment of young children has been difficult during pandemic restrictions, and it is anticipated there is

backlog of requests for placements. Therefore, their standard number of places is agreed at 64. A review of places will be made termly, and budget adjustments made if appropriate.

Top up funding

Funds available for individual pupils in special school, resource unit and PRU settings was increased by 2%. This is in line with the Minimum Funding Guarantee applied to budgets for mainstream schools.

Funded place numbers for the 2022-23 financial year:

School	Agreed Places Pre-16 2021-22	Agreed Places Post 16 2021-22	Total	Agreed Places Pre-16 2020-21	Agreed Places Post 16 2020-21	Total
New River College	127		127	108		108
Richard Cloudesley	61	23	84	63	24	87
Samuel Rhodes	105	33	138	101	23	124
Laycock	64		64	64		64
Total	357	56	413	336	47	383

Recommendations

Schools Forum are asked to ratify the place numbers 2022-23.

Contact for queries:

Christina West

Finance Support, Schools Finance



Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

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Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 5 - Draft Schools Balances 2021-22

Purpose of report: Information

Recommendations:

Schools Forum are asked to note:

Islington's provisional 2021-22 schools' balances position

School Balances

Following schools' financial closedown, the table in Appendix A provides details of school balances to be reported to Department for Education (DfE) as at 31 March 2022 compared to those held at March 2021. The balances are further compared to the relevant ESFA's suggested revenue balance limits.

The final reported school balances for year ending 31 March 2022 totalled £8.313m, compared to a balance of £9.459m in 2020-21; representing a net decrease of £1.145m; -12%. It should be noted that the year-end balance represents 7% of the schools' annual Individual School Balances (ISB).

A further report will be presented to Schools Forum in July on completion of the annual process of schools submitting their planned use of surplus balances (PUSB) for capital and other purposes, before the end of May 2022.

There are now 10 schools ending the 2021-22 financial year with deficit balances, compared to 9 at March 2021. Of the 9 reported deficits at 31 March 2021, two schools have been able to deliver an underspend during the year meaning their cumulative financial position returns to surplus. Three schools during the 2021-22 financial year have entered into a deficit.

A further analysis of balances, when compared to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) suggested guidance of balances held by schools; 8% for nursery, primary and special schools and 5% for secondary schools, indicate 21 schools are above the suggested limits. Of

the 21, 11 schools reported an in-year deficit which means their cumulative balance has reduced when comparing year-on-year.

Of the 52 maintained schools in Islington, 37 have reported in-year deficits with only 15 schools reporting increases to their overall balances. This picture is reflective of the ongoing financial pressures schools are currently facing.

The Council's Scheme for Financing Schools does not permit a school to set a deficit budget. Where in exceptional circumstances deficits cannot be avoided, schools will enter into a formal agreed deficit recovery plan (DRP) which requires schools to move back into a surplus financial position within a 3-year period. Schools, including their Chair of Governors, will be required to meet with the LA on at least a termly basis to monitor their progress against the DRP and asked to identify risks of achieving the required timeline of returning to a surplus. Schools are also required to submit their pupil number projections for determination of realistic future budget forecasts. The LA representatives included in the meetings will be Schools Finance; School Improvement and HR.

Recommendations

That Schools Forum notes:

- provisional 2021-22 schools' balances position
- deficit schools and schools that have moved out of deficit

A further report will be presented to the July meeting of this Forum to include the following:

- earmarked revenue balances for capital purposes
- schools with deficit balances and actions being taken to achieve a deficit recovery
- 3 year summary of LBI schools' balances
- schools forecasting a deficit position for 2022-23
- schools ratified budgets 2022-23 including identifying schools with high balances and high in year deficits

Contact for queries:

Sabrina Bryan

Schools Finance Service Manager

Schools Forum 19 May 2022 Draft School Balances 2021-22

Note: balances are before deduction of revenue earmarked for capital balances not yet decided by schools.

Provisional data as at 10 May 2022

1 Tovisional data as at 10 May 2022							
	School Balances 20-21 £	School Balances 21-22 £	Increase / (Decrease) in balances	Islington School Budgets 2021-22	21-22 Balances as a % of ISB	ESFA Balance Guide @ 5% / 8%	Excess over
Kate Greenaway Nursery School	41,071	25,855	-15,217	561,900	5%	44,952	
Margaret McMillan Nursery School	443,686	333,878	-109,808	746,653	45%	59,732	274,146
North Islington Nursery School	49,135	98,315	49,180		16%	49,436	48,879
Total Nursery Schools	533,892	458,048	-75,844	1,926,509	24%	154,121	323,025
Ambler Drimery Cohool	71,941	115,198	43,257	2,622,192	4%	209,775	
Ambler Primary School Ashmount Primary School	134,949	115,196	-121,317	2,622,192 2,512,894	4% 1%	209,775	
Blessed Sacrament RC Primary School	101,643 -18,377	62,610	-39,033	884,963	7%	70,797	
Canonbury Primary School		15,787	34,164	2,400,510	1% 9%	192,041	9,098
Christ The King RC Primary School	213,463 88,048	147,598	-65,865 -63,793	1,731,254	9% 2%	138,500 89,211	9,098
Copenhagen Primary School		24,255		1,115,132			
Drayton Park Primary School	-284,696	-554,977	-270,281	1,735,057	-32%	138,805	
Duncombe Primary School	-285,254	-341,167	-55,912	2,339,290	-15%	187,143	
Gillespie Primary School	49,026	47,996	-1,030	1,331,421	4%	106,514	
Grafton Primary School	-94,386	-265,720	-171,334	2,589,276	-10%	207,142	
Hanover Primary School	134,032	95,302	-38,730	1,863,632	5%	149,091	
Hargrave Park Primary School	137,397	87,188	-50,209	2,007,310	4%	160,585	
Highbury Quadrant Primary School	-175,444	-165,562	9,882	1,828,230	-9%	146,258	
Hugh Myddelton Primary School	118,319	17,868	-100,451	2,833,644	1%	226,692	
Laycock Primary School	13,932	-197,348	-211,280	2,872,511	-7%	229,801	
Montem Primary School	398,036	283,517	-114,519	2,080,618	14%	166,449	117,067
Moreland Primary School	136,835	101,455	-35,380	2,129,783	5%	170,383	
Newington Green Primary School	280,356	211,372	-68,984	2,484,134	9%	198,731	12,641
Pakeman Primary School	93,450	38,971	-54,478	1,908,919	2%	152,713	
Pooles Park Primary School	45,020	-50,376	-95,396	1,652,068	-3%	132,165	
Prior Weston Primary School	-122,300	-359,204	-236,903	1,887,523	-19%	151,002	
Robert Blair Primary School	127,796	93,769	-34,027	1,400,417	7%	112,033	
Rotherfield Primary School	317,158	238,734	-78,424	2,141,957	11%	171,357	67,377
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	376,934	340,147	-36,787	2,720,805	13%	217,664	122,482
St Andrews (Barnsbury) Church of England Primary School	-18,377	-36,699	-18,322	1,185,077	-3%	94,806	
St Joan of Arc RC Primary School	125,719	204,582	78,863	2,351,774	9%	188,142	16,440
St John Evangelist RC Primary School	213,627	189,214	-24,413	1,755,664	11%	140,453	48,761
St Johns Highbury Vale CofE Primary School	8,978	-44,393	-53,372	1,104,633	-4%	88,371	
St Johns Upper Holloway CofE Primary School	86,462	215,345	128,884		16%	107,799	107,546
St Josephs RC Primary School	633,688	795,446	161,757	2,344,434	34%	187,555	607,891
St Judes & St Pauls CofE Primary School	113,085	152,093	39,008	1,099,988	14%	87,999	64,094
St Lukes CofE Primary School	43,797	29,841	-13,957	1,349,560	2%	107,965	
St Marks CofE Primary School	248,016	228,483	-19,533	1,384,916	16%	110,793	117,690
St Marys CofE Primary School	269,225	258,149	-11,076	1,122,134	23%	89,771	168,378
St Peters & St Pauls RC Primary School	118,522	98,507	-20,015		8%	100,174	
Thornhill Primary School	437,906	484,050	46,144	2,515,844	19%	201,268	282,783

Tufnell Park Primary School	35,890	62,403	26,513	2,204,547	3%	176,364	ı
Vittoria Primary School	171,056	96,620	-74,435	1,211,583	8%	96,927	
Winton Primary School	-1,770	11,546	13,316	1,580,940	1%	126,475	
Yerbury Primary School	214,183	176,051	-38,132	2,242,390	8%	179,391	
Total Primary Schools	4,557,885	2,922,284	-1,635,602	75,126,697	4%	6,010,136	1,742,248
Central Foundation	231,602	488,720	257,117	7,235,661	7%	361,783	126,936
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	1,271,489	1,049,254	-222,235	7,380,061	14%		680,251
Highbury Fields School	554,082	570,460		6,542,430		327,121	243,338
Beacon High	-325,752	-333,664	-7,912	4,075,715		203,786	210,000
Arts & Media School Islington	216,337	773,006	The second secon	5,621,568			491,928
St Aloysius' College	1,643,121	1,815,796					1,546,244
Total Secondary Schools	3,590,879	4,363,572	772,693	36,246,485	12%	1,812,324	3,088,697
Richard Cloudesley PH School	461,027	420,832	-40,196	1,814,905	23%	145,192	275,639
Samuel Rhodes MLD School	240,770	117,890	-122,881	2,326,412	5%	186,113	I
Total Special Schools	701,798	538,721	-163,076	4,141,317	13%	331,305	275,639
New River College	74,234	30,693	-43,541	3,622,222	1%	289,778	
Total Pupil Referral Unit	74,234	30,693		3,622,222	1%		_
Total Fupil Neterral Offic	74,234	30,693	-45,041	3,022,222	1 /0	203,110	_
Total school balances before earmarked capital deductions	9,458,688	8,313,318	-1,145,370	121,063,230	7%	8,597,664	5,429,610

3 Year comparison	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	£	£	£	£
Balance totals - note capital deductions to be added in when school data available	8,185,997	11,732,678	9,458,688	8,313,318
Change from previous year	-84,214	3,546,681	-2,273,990	-1,145,370



Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 6 - Draft DSG Outturn 2021/22

Purpose of report: For information

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum notes:

- a) The £5.218m underspend against the DSG, of which £1.252m has been allocated and £3.878m has been earmarked for cost pressures and risks.
- b) That the final outturn will be confirmed at Schools Forum in July.

Background

1. The draft DSG budget outturn for 2021/22 is contained in this report. The overall position across all spending blocks is an underspend of (-£5.218m, 3.3%). Most of this balance has already been allocated (£1.252m) or has been earmarked for cost pressures / risks (£3.878m). A significant proportion of this underspend relates to balances carried forward from previous years:

	Schools Block	De- delegated	CSSB	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening balance	0.484	0.080	0.044	1.542	2.496	4.646
In-year movement	0.292	0.042	0.166	1.107	-1.035	0.572
Draft closing balance	0.776	0.122	0.210	2.649	1.461	5.218
Allocated	0	0	0	1.252	0	1.252
Earmarked for cost pressures / risks	0.688	0.122	0.210	1.397	1.461	3.878

	Schools Block	De- delegated	CSSB	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
To be allocated	0.088	0	0	0	0	0.088
Total	0.776	0.122	0.210	2.649	1.461	5.218

2. All of the budget variances for 2021/22 are in Appendix 1.

Schools Block (-£0.776m underspend)

- 3. This consists of funding centrally retained for growth (£0.300m) and falling rolls (£0.400m). Any net underspend against these budgets will be rolled forward at year end. Allocations of growth are adjusted following the October census. The following variances against the budget have led to a £0.088m underspend:
 - £0.081m (-27%) underspend against the budget for growth, following the outcome of the October census
 - - £0.007m (-2%) underspend against the budget for falling rolls
- 4. The net underspend against growth and falling rolls will be carried forward to 2022/23 and can either be used for the same purpose in 2022/23 or allocated elsewhere by Schools Forum.
- 5. The following balances being held until the summer term, pending any funding adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in relation to the term-time only staff holiday pay issue:
 - - £0.321m balance from the one-off cash payment in relation to the Secondary Unit of Funding from 2019/20.
 - £0.367m one-off DSG rebate in relation to Clerkenwell School which closed in the summer.

De-delegated funding (-£0.122m underspend)

- 6. This is funding de-delegated by maintained schools for specific functions. Underspends cannot be used to offset overspends elsewhere within the DSG.
- 7. The schools in financial difficulties (£0.220m) and priority support (£0.188m) budgets have been allocated in full this year.
- 8. The school redundancy budget (£0.205m) is made up of in-year de-delegated funding of £0.083m, a £0.022m carry forward from previous years and £0.100m of core Council funding. This budget has overspent by £0.085m (41%) due to the high levels of redundancies in schools this year. Redundancy costs are split between schools and this budget. Cost sharing arrangements will be reviewed to reduce the risk of future overspends as the level of staff reorganisations in schools leading to redundancy costs are expected to remain high. However this will need to be done with caution due to the impact on school balances which are in decline.
- 9. The following variances also occurred against de-delegated budgets:

- + £0.009m (15%, a new variance) overspend against the de-delegated budget for trade union facility time.
- £0.216m (a new variance) underspend against de-delegated funding for NQTs following implementation of the Early Career Framework (ECF). £0.061m of this variance is an underspend carried forward from 2020/21. This underspend will be used to offset the overspends against the redundancy and trade union facility time budget. A 3-year budget plan for the ECF is being worked-up taking into account the remaining funding (£0.122m). This will be shared with Schools Forum in July.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) (-£0.210m underspend)

- 10. There is an unallocated balance of -£0.155m (10%) against the CSSB and a carry forward of £0.044m from 2021/22. These balances were being held to smooth in continued reductions in CSSB funding by the government.
- 11. There is an underspend of -£0.011m (24%) against the budget for admission appeals. This will be added to the balance above, leaving a total of £0.210m to smooth in future funding reductions.

High Needs Block (-£2.649m underspend)

- 12. The following variances have occurred against the high needs block:
 - £1.210m (79%) remaining balance from the £1.524m underspend carried forward from 2020/21. £0.314m has allocated to schools with higher than average numbers of children with Education, Health and Care Plans.
 - £1.983m (6%) high needs funding being held against future funding risks. This is the
 remainder of the growth in funding we received in 2021/22 to meet increasing cost
 pressures in high needs. We are being cautious over the allocation of funding as the
 outlook for further growth for high needs after 2022/23 will be significantly lower than in
 previous years and we are facing increasing levels of demand and complexity. We also
 need to take into account the ongoing effect of the cost pressure against centrally
 commissioned provision below, which will need to be offset against this funding.
 - +£0.701m (5%) overspend against the budget for centrally commissioned places in academies, the independent sector, further education and out of borough provision.
 - - £0.118m (20%, a new variance) unallocated funds from the area based budget for additional needs
 - - £0.039m (8%, a new variance) underspend against the SEND outreach and commissioning budget.
- 13. £1.252m of the 2021/22 overall high needs underspend has been allocated in 2022/23, leaving a forecast balance of £1.397m (4% of next year's High Needs Block funding) as a one-off contingency for high needs in 2022/23:

Item	£m	Description
Draft high needs underspend in 2021/22	2.649	
Allocation in 2022/23		
Mainstream primary schools to meet cost pressures in relation to SEND.	-1.152	The allocation is targeted at primary schools as the main cost pressure is at early years to primary transfer. Allocations are based on 1/2 an FTE for a 1 form entry school, 3/4 of an FTE for a 1.5 form entry school and 1 FTE for a 2 form entry school.
One-off top-up for SALT (over 5s)	-0.100	Top-up to enable the Whittington Trust to continue to deliver support to schools until the end of the year despite a significant increase in demand. During this time, the Trust will work with Council officers to revise the current delivery model so that it is more fit for purpose and better reflects need.
Balance	1.397	One-off contingency for high needs in 2022/23

Early Years Block (-£1.461m underspend)

- 14. The position against the early years block follows finalisation of protection arrangements based on the January census in mid-March:
 - £0.463m 2 year old balance from previous years that is being held to smooth in new funding arrangements for providers in future years. The cost of 2 year old provision is greater than 3 and 4 year old provision but the hourly rate received from the DfE is less. In previous years he have had to apply to the Secretary of State to cross subsidise 2 year old provision with 3 and 4 year old funding, but we were not required to for 2022/23. If this remains the case for 2023/24, we can consider moving this balance into the wider early years block continency.
 - - £0.518m contingency balance (21%, a reduction of £0.282m since month 11):

Item	£m	Description
Budget		
2.75% growth contingency	0.472	To fund increased numbers in the summer term and new provision
Carry forward of 2020/21 Early Years contingency budget	1.475	Balance at end of 2020/21 financial year
Carry forward of other 2018/19 Early Years Block underspends	0.558	Underspend of £73k against children's centres and an unallocated balance against the Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund budgets of £9k and £39k respectively
Budget	2.505	

Transfers to and from Contingency		
Prior year adjustments	-0.424	Net 2020/21 prior year funding adjustment from the DfE
In-year adjustments	-1.831	Net 2021/22 in-year funding adjustment from the DfE (excluding EYPP increase)
Estimated funding adjustments passported to providers	0.268	Estimated participation adjustments passed on to providers in-line with the termly headcount after allocation of protection funding
Total movement	-1.987	
Contingency Balance	0.518	This is a one-off balance

- As per previous years, next year's funding rates were applied retrospectively in 2021/22.
 We were also able to mitigate losses in funding due to reduced headcounts by up to 40%.
 This has led to a substantial reduction in the contingency balance, therefore there it is unlikely that similar levels of protection can be afforded in future years.
- The in-year adjustment of £1.802m is due to the DfE taking into account the summer and autumn term headcounts. Funding is normally based on the spring term headcount, but due to the impact of the pandemic on attendance, the DfE have factored in the summer and autumn term headcount in this financial year. From 2022/23 the basis of funding will return to the spring term headcount only. The adjustment is broken down as follows:

Adjustment	Charged to contin-gency	Added to EYPP budget	Comments
	£m	£m	
3&4 year old universal entitlement	-0.958		An element of these adjustments will be passed onto settings visa. Participation adjustments. Assumed ca. £900k pending the spring census
3&4 year old extended entitlement	-0.554		
2 year old entitlement	-0.255		
EY pupil premium		0.029	
Maintained nursery supplement	-0.064		Options to be considered for passing an element on to settings
	-1.831	0.029	£1.802m net negative adjustment

• We will receive a further adjustment in 2022/23 in relation to the current financial year based on the spring 2022 headcount. It is expected that this will be a positive adjustment as the headcount starts to recover from the impact of the pandemic. This is expected to retrospectively recover some of the in-year reduction of £1.802m.

- Ongoing funding reductions represent a medium to long term funding risk due to changes in demand for childcare, and will impact on the sustainability of provision of early education and childcare in the borough if the headcount does not recover to pre-pandemic levels. It is therefore important to manage this balance carefully.
- £0.425m forecast underspend (34%, an increase of £0.225m from month 11) against the SEND inclusion fund due to a reduced take up of PEL SEND provision in line with the reduced headcount. This underspend will be transferred into the early years contingency balance (above) in the new financial year.
- £0.063m underspend against the disability access fund (79%, a new variance) due to claims be lower than funded for by the DfE due to reduced headcounts. This underspend will be transferred into the early years contingency balance (above) in the new financial year.
- ±0.027m overspend against the early years pupil premium (15%, a new variance) due to eligibility being higher than we have been funded for by the DfE. This overspend will be transferred into the early years contingency balance (above) in the new financial year.
- £0.018m miscellaneous underspends against centrally retained budgets in the Early Years Block. This underspend will be transferred into the early years contingency balance (above) in the new financial year.
- 15. The net underspend of £1.461m against the Early Years Block will be carried forward as a combination of the 2-year old balance (£0.463m) and a one-off contingency for Early Years in 2022/23 (£0.998m). This will offer some protection for settings if the headcount does not recover to pre-pandemic levels and act as a contingency for Early Years SEND.

Recommendations

That Schools Forum notes the £5.218m underspend against the DSG and that the final outturn will be confirmed at Schools Forum in July.

Contact for queries:

Tim Partington

Assistant Director of Finance, Children's, Schools and Resources

Draft DSG Outturn Appendix 1

SCHOOLS BLOCK The DSG guidance states that these should be carried forward for the same purports from the October census Falling Rolls Balance from one-off cash payment in relation to the Secondary Unit of Funding Clerkenwell Subtotal Schools Block DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic year	(81) (7) (321) (367) (776)	The net underspend against growth and falling rolls will be carried forward to 2022/23 and can either be used for the same purpose in 2022/23 or allocated elsewhere by Schools Forum Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in to the term-time only staff pay to be resolved. Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in to the term-time only staff pay to be resolved.
Underspend against the growth budget following confirmation of final pupil numbers from the October census Falling Rolls Balance from one-off cash payment in relation to the Secondary Unit of Funding Clerkenwell Subtotal Schools Block DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(7) (321) (367)	2022/23 and can either be used for the same purpose in 2022/23 or allocated elsewhere by Schools Forum Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in to the term-time only staff pay to be resolved. Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the
Balance from one-off cash payment in relation to the Secondary Unit of Funding Clerkenwell Subtotal Schools Block DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(321)	Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in to the term-time only staff pay to be resolved. Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the
Clerkenwell Subtotal Schools Block DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(367)	changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the legal position in to the term-time only staff pay to be resolved. Being held until the summer term pending any adjustments following the changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the
Subtotal Schools Block DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic		changes to the treatment of NNDR for schools by the DfE / resolution of the
DE-DELEGATED FUNDING These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(776)	
These funds are from maintained schools. Underspends cannot be used to offset schools School reducndancy budget Trade union facility time NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic		
NQTs / Early Career Framework Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	overspends elsewhere	ere in the DSG and vice versa. Balances can be rolled forward or returned to The net underspend will carry forward to 2021/22 and a 3-year budgte plan will
Subtotal De-delegated CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	9	be worked up for the ECF taking into acocunt this balance and de-delegation in
CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(216)	2022/23
These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic	(122)	
These funds are managed on behalf of all schools Admission Appeals Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic		
Underspend against the budget for school admission appeals for this academic		
	(11)	These balances are being held to smooth in continued reductions in CSSB
Unallocated CSSB funding A balance of £44k has been carried forward from 2020/21 and £155k of 2021/22 funding is unallocated.	(199)	funding by the government
Subtotal CSSB	(210)	
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK		anial andread
These funds are managed on behalf of maintained schools, academies and free selections that the selection is the selection of the selection of the selection is the selection of	scrioois iricidaing spe	$\cancel{\text{E314k}}$ has been allocated to schools with higher than average numbers of
A balance of high needs funding of £1.542m has been carried forward from 2020/21.	(1,210)	children with Education, Health and Care Plans. The remainder will be carried forward as a one-off contingency for high needs in 2022/23
High Needs Block funding being held against future funding risks	(1,983)	This is the remainder of the growth in funding we received in 2021/22 to meet increasing cost pressures in high needs. We are being cautious over the allocation of funding as the outlook for further growth for high needs after 2022/23 will be significantly lower than in previous years and we are facing increasing levels of demand and complexity. We also need to take into account the ongoing effect of the cost pressure against centrally commissioned provision below, which will need to be offset against this funding.
Centrally commissioned places Underspend against the budget for provision in Academies, the independent sector and out of borough provision	701	overspend against the budget for centrally commissioned places in academies, the independent sector, further education and out of borough provision
SEND additional needs	0	Balance against the budget for additional needs. Although this is an in-year underspend, costs are committed until the end of the academic year, therefore this represents a timing difference
Subtotal High Needs Block		

DSG Draft Outturn	Over/(Under) Spend	Comments / options for use
EARLY YEARS BLOCK These funds are ring-fenced for Early Years under the DSG Operation	ional Guidance	
2-year old trajectory funding. Carry forward of 2-year old DSG funding from previous years that is being held to smooth in funding reductions for the statutory entitlement for free childcare for deprived 2-year olds now funding is allocated to local authorities based on take-up.	(463)	Currently met from 3 and 4 year old funding. The need for this balance will be reviewed for 2023/24
Early Years contingency balance on the early years contingency budget from previous years that is being held to offset funding risks due to lower numbers in provision as a result of the pandemic.	(518)	
SEND inclusion fund Reduced take up of PEL SEND provision in line with the reduced headcount.	(425)	The combined balance of £998k will be carried forward as a one- off contingency for Early Years in 2022/23. This will offer some
Disability access fund Claims were lower than funded for by the DfE due to reduced headcounts.	(63)	protection for settings if the headcount does not recover to pre- pandemic levels and acta as a contingency for Early Years SEND.
Early years pupil premium Eligibility was higher than we have been funded for by the DfE	27	
Miscellaneous underspends against centrally retained budgets	(18)	
Subtotal Early Years Block	(1,460)	
Total all blocks	(5,217)	



Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 7 - Scheme for Financing Schools 2022-23

Purpose of report: Information

Recommendations:

Schools Forum notes the report

Background

Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires Local Authorities (LAs) to prepare a Scheme for Financing Schools that sets out the financial relationship between the LA and the school they maintain. The Scheme should set out the requirements for financial management and associated issues that are binding on both the LA and its schools. Schemes need not follow the format used in this guidance, except for the text of directed revisions.

Updates in this report are in accordance with <u>issue 14</u> of the statutory guidance given by the Secretary of State.

In making any changes to schemes, other than directed revisions, local authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools.

2022-23 Update

The Department for Education (DfE) released an updated model scheme in March 2022. There are no directed revisions to the scheme for 2022-23 and therefore no mandatory changes. However, the following updates have been made to reflect current policy positions and changes in legislation:

- Paragraph 1.1: Issue of the Statutory guidance changed "issue 13" to "issue 14"
- 5.8 Borrowing by schools

 The reference to the Salix Scheme has been removed, as this scheme has now closed.

Islington will consult on any local changes with all maintained schools and governors during June for Schools Forum to make formal decisions in July. This will be subject to further legislation issued by the DfE.

A tracked-changed document will be issued as part of the consultation as well as a simple table of proposed changes to enable recipients of the consultation to easily view the sections requiring decisions. Each change will require the final formal decision from Forum.

There are no key local changes to the scheme for 2022-23, rather the changes made are to reflect this latest issue and in general reference to the latest legislation or amend the word rather than the spirit of earlier guidance.

Recommendations

School Forum are asked to note the latest issue from DfE and the requirement on the LA to consult with maintained schools ahead of July Forum.

Contact for queries:

Debbie Stevenson

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services



Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 8 - Quality Assurance of LBI Services

Purpose of report: Comments and views

Recommendations:

To support the proposed process for quality assurance of LBI Services to schools in 2022-23

Background

In Islington, the developing Education Strategy, **Putting Children First**, sets out how strong and effective partnerships will drive an ambition for educational excellence. Key to the success of the strategy is the need to provide services that: meet school's needs, are value for money and, most importantly contribute to our high and shared high ambition for education.

Without strong and robust processes that underpin the financial arrangements to support schools to access quality provision, our shared ambition for education will not be realised.

This paper aims to set out a process for quality assuring services, functions and projects managed by the Local Authority and funded by school budgets.

In line with the principles underpinning the Education Strategy, this process needs to be one that is agreed in partnership with schools for schools so that schools are assured of the quality of the service they receive.

Purpose of Report

This brief report sets out a proposed process to quality assure projects, functions and services funded by schools. Schools Forum is asked to consider and support this proposed process.

The scope of the functions includes:

- Functions that are supported by de delegated funds from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- Traded services
- Functions/services funded from the Central Services Schools Block
- Functions/services funded through the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (SIMBG)
- Services, functions, and projects funded through de-delegated funds

Proposed Process

To demonstrate value for money and to ensure funding is used in a way that supports improved outcomes for children and young people, it is essential that processes are in place that will be **transparent**, **consistent** and **rigorous** and in line with Council policy.

To demonstrate this assurance, the proposed processes are described as:

Annual Online Satisfaction Survey to take place in summer term

An online survey of Headteachers and Chairs of Governors will be carried out in the second half of the summer term to measure satisfaction ratings with services provided by Islington Council to schools, and seek feedback on what is working well and what could be improved.

Quality Assurance Review to take place in autumn term

It is proposed that representative Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from Primary, Secondary, Early Years and Special Schools are part of a quality assurance panel alongside senior officers from the Council responsible for the services and functions that are funded/purchased/traded.

The function of this panel will be to rigorously review the quality of these services against agreed criteria, which will include the outcomes of the Annual Satisfaction Survey carried out in the summer term; benchmarking with other Local Authorities where available; service relevant performance indicators and a self-assessment by the service lead. The performance indicators for services will be brought to the next Schools Forum meeting for decision.

The process for review will be consistently applied across all function/services so that there is a consistency of approach.

The panel review will take place in the first half of the autumn term with a summary report produced with the findings produced for January Schools' Forum meeting to inform decisions regarding 2023-24 funding.

Process Review

It is proposed that the effectiveness of the process set out above is reviewed by Schools' Forum in 12 months time to determine if it provides the quality assurance required and if it could be improved.

Contact for queries:

Sarah Callaghan

Director of Learning and Culture



Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 19 May 2022, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 10 - Forward Planning

Purpose of report: Information

Recommendations:

Schools Forum notes the updates and provide comments

Forward planning

The purpose of this report is to provide the foundation of a future work plan for Schools Forum meetings for the 2022-23 financial year and will be updated on a rolling 12-month period.

The report presented to Schools' Forum in January has been updated to reflect changes that have since emerged.

The table in appendix A provides the updated work plan and includes an additional notes column to enable recognised changes.

Listed within the work plan are suggested standing items, these will be presented either via a written or oral report, dependant on the need for the meeting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum note the updated work plan and provide comments.

Contact for queries:

Debbie Stevenson

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

Appendix A – School Forum: Work plan

Standing Items:

- Declaration of Interest
- Forum Composition
- Forum Forward Planning
- Sub Group Updates

		Information & To Note /	
Financial Year	Agenda Item	Comments & views / Decision	Notes
July 22	School Balances (FINAL - prior year)	Information & To note	
	DSG Outturn (FINAL: prior year)	Information & To note	
	DSG Allocations (in year)	Information & To note	
	Scheme for Financing Schools	Decision	Following consultation with schools
	Schools Internal Audit Programme Outcomes (prior year)	Information & To note	
	DSG Schools Block estimated funding (new year)	Information & To note	
	Falling Rolls estimated allocations (new year)	Information & To note	
October 22	DSG Budget Monitor (in year)	Information & To note	
	School Funding Arrangements, Consultation results (future y	ear Decision	
Schoo	School Funding Consultation: DfE	Information & To note	
November 22	DSG Funding Settlement	Information & To note	
	DSG projected allocations (future year)	Information & To note	
	Growth / Falling Rolls proposals (future year)	Decision & views	
	Central School Services Block - Central Retention	Decision	
January 23	DSG Budget Monitor (in year)	Information & To note	
	DSG Settlement (future year)	Information & To note	
	Growth / Falling Rolls proposals (future year)	Decision	
	School Funding Formula (future year)	Decision	
	School Central Retention (future year)	Decision	
	Early Years Funding Formula (future year)	Decision	
	High Needs Places	Decision	
May 23	School Balances (DRAFT - prior year)	Information & To note	
	DSG Outturn (DRAFT: prior year)	Information & To note	
	Scheme for Financing Schools	Comments & Views	Dependent on DfE release of scheme