

Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Agenda

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2pm to 4pm

Venue: 222, Room GA

Schools forum documents and reports | Islington Council

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
1.	Welcome and Apologies		Clerk (JW)	Verbal
2.	Declaration of interest		JW	Verbal
3.	Forum composition		JW	Enclosed
4.	Minutes of previous meeting		JW	Enclosed
5.	School Funding Arrangements (2024-25)	Decision	DS	Enclosed
6.	Central School Services Block - Central Retention (2024-25)	Information/discussion	TP	To follow
7.	DSG Budget Monitor (2023-24)	Information	TP	Enclosed

	Item	Information and to note/ comments and views/decision	Author	Report
8.	DSG Allocations (2023-24)	Information	DS	Enclosed
9.	DSG estimated allocations (2024- 25)	Information	DS	Enclosed
10	DfE - Additional support for Schools in Financial Difficulty	Information	DS	To follow
11	Forward Planning: Sub Group Updates • Early Years • High Needs • Capital	Information	Forum Reps	Enclosed
12	Roll Projections	Information	AC	Verbal presentation
13	Quality Assurance	Information	AC	Verbal presentation
14	AOB			

Contact for queries:

Suzie Crawford / Governor Services

T 020 7527 5755

Items 8 and 9 are not accessible. You can view Excel spreadsheet versions of <u>item 8</u> and <u>item 9</u> instead.



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: 3 - Forum Membership Update

Purpose of report: Receive update on membership

Recommendations:

Schools Forum are asked to note the updates below and discuss arrangements for appointments in light of two terms of office due to end in March 2024.

1. Update on vacancies / ends of terms of office

1.1. Maintained Primary Headteacher

A position became vacant when Cassie Moss resigned from the Forum in June. Nominations were requested by the Clerk by 10 July and none were received. A further position became vacant when Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy resigned on 30 August 2023.

The clerk wrote to all primary headteachers on 18 September seeking nominations for the vacancies. The Executive Head of the Learning Quarter, Nathalie Parker, nominated the Head of Hugh Myddleton, Sarah Gill. There being no other nominations, Sarah was appointed with a term of office from 16 October 2023 to 15 October 2027.

The clerk wrote again to all primary headteachers on 16 October to inform them of this appointment and to request nominations for the other vacancy by 6 November 2023.

1.2. Secondary Academy

A position became vacant on 7 June when Claire Hersey, Business Manager of COLAT resigned from Forum. The clerk wrote to the senior leadership teams of the secondary academies on 16 June requesting that they inform her, by 3 July, who was to be the replacement. There was no response. Vicky Linsley, Head of St Mary Magdalene's Academy, resigned on 13 July. The clerk emailed the senior leadership teams of the academies again on 18 September and 19 October, with the latest deadline for them to



Meeting documents and minutes published on Islington Schools Forum webpage.

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023, 2pm at Islington Town Hall.

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)
- Jenny Lewis (JL); Head teacher, Thornhill Primary School
- Patrick Mildren (PM); Head teacher, Canonbury Primary School
- Fiona MacCorquodale (FM); Head teacher, Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre (interim Vice chair)
- Nigel Smith (NS); Headteacher, New River College (Pupil Referral Unit)
- Penny Barratt (PB); Chief Executive Officer, The Bridge MAT
- Susan Service (SS); Head teacher, Arts & Media School Islington
- Paul Lasok (PL); Governor, St Aloysius Secondary School (and St Joseph's)
- Maggie Elliott (ME); Governor, Montem Primary School (Edventure Collaborative Federation with Drayton Park) (Vice-chair)
- Francis Gonzalez (FrG); Head teacher, Richard Cloudesley Special School

Other attendees

- Jon Abbey (JA); Corporate Director of Children and Young People
- Tim Partington (TP); Assistant Director Finance, Children's, Schools & Resources
- Jane Wright (JW); Manager Schools and EY Governance (Clerk)

- Debbie Stevenson (DS); Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services
- Alison Cramer (AC); Assistant Director, School Support and Information Services
- Kate Bingham (KB); Observing
- Diana Valcheva (DV); Headteacher, Kate Greenaway Nursery School Observing

Apologies

- Tanya Watson (TW); Head teacher, William Tyndale (Primary Academy)
- Vicky Linsley (VL); Head teacher, St Mary Magdalene Academy (Secondary) resigned
- Cllr Angelo Weekes (AW); Islington Council non-Executive Member
- Colleen Marshall (CMa); City and Islington College for 14-19 Partnership
- Andrew Bosi (AB); Governor, Rotherfield Primary School
- Sarah Callaghan (SC); Director of Learning and Culture

Not in attendance

- Ana Sevilla (ASe); Executive Head, New River Green and Packington Children's Centres
- Matthew Hillman (MH); Headteacher, The Pears Family School (AP Academy)
- Joy Odunayo Abegunde (JA); VCS Providers, Islington Play Association
- Joe Simpson (JS); Governor, St Peter and St Paul's Primary

Meeting minutes

No.	Agenda item	Action
1.	Welcome/Apologies for absence/not in attendance AM-L welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were as above.	
2.	Declaration of Interest	

	The chair asked if anyone had a pecuniary or non- pecuniary interest to declare in relation to the agenda items at the meeting. None were declared.		
3.	Schools Forum composition – for information and decision		
	JW (the clerk) spoke to a report previously circulated.		
	Update on vacancies / ends of terms of office		
	3.1. A primary academy position was due to become vacant at the end of term when Tanya Watson, Head of William Tyndale Primary Academy, was due to leave her post. By 3 July, the clerk had received one nomination from Tanya Watson for Sophie Gavalda, due to take up the William Tyndale headship in September 2023. Forum noted this outcome and confirmed term of office would be 1.9.23 to 31.8.27.		
	3.2. Maintained Nursery Headteacher Following the resignation of Sally Franklin, Head teacher of North Islington, on 25 May from the Forum, the clerk had consulted the other two heads and they proposed an arrangement whereby Diana Valcheva, Head teacher of Kate Greenaway, would take the place, and with Karen Smith, Head teacher of Margaret McMillan assisting her and attending when Diana was not able to. Forum agreed to this arrangement – term of office 1.9.23 to 31.8.27.		
	3.3. Maintained Primary Headteacher Following the resignation of Cassie Moss, Head teacher of Yerbury, from the Forum in June, nominations were requested by the clerk by 10 July. To date, no nominations had been received, so the clerk will email the headteachers again in September to seek nominations. At the same time the clerk will ask for nominations for another primary headteacher representative given Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy will be resigning from the Forum on 31.8.23. Noted	JW	
	3.4. Secondary Academy Following the resignation of Claire Hersey, Business Manager of COLAT, from the Forum in June,		

nominations were requested by the clerk by 3 July, and again on 3 July. To date, no nominations had been received, so the clerk will email the secondary academies again in September to seek nominations. In addition, Vicky Linsley (VL); Head teacher, St Mary Magdalene Academy (Secondary) – had resigned on the day of the meeting, so the clerk will be seeking two secondary academy representatives in September. **Noted**

JW

- 3.5. Maintained Secondary Headteacher The terms of office of Susan Service (SS) (first term of office), Headteacher of Arts and Media School Islington, ended on 28 February 2023. The Clerk had written to the secondary headteachers on 22 June suggesting that SS continues for another term of office, as she was willing to do this, but that if other headteachers wanted to be nominated, they should contact the Clerk by 3 July. No objections to SS continuing and no further nominations had been received, so it was recommended to Forum that SS would continue on the Forum with a further term of office until 27 February 2027. Agreed
- 3.6. Maintained Special School The terms of office of Francis Gonzalez (FG) (first term of office), Headteacher of Richard Cloudesley, ended on 10 January 2023. The clerk wrote to the two maintained special school headteachers on 26 June suggesting that the two heads discuss how they wanted to take this forward. In the light of their responses, the Clerk suggested FG to continue so new terms of office up to 10 January 2027, with Cerys Normanton, Head of Samuel Rhodes, to support him and attend when he was not able to. Agreed
- 3.7. Terms of office next due to end

Joe Simpson, Governor at St Peter and St Paul's – 5.3.24

Penny Barrett, Director of Bridge Academy – 31.3.24. **Noted**

3.8. Elections of Chair and Vice-chair

The clerk chaired this item. Members of Forum had been asked to nominate members to be chair and vice-chair.

Election of Chair

The current chair, Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy, was due to step down from the chair at the end of this term. The clerk had received one nomination, for Maggie Elliot (ME) and there were no further other nominations at the meeting. ME was elected unopposed to be chair from 1 September 2023 until 31 December 2024 when her term of office on the Forum was due to end, so there would need to be new elections in autumn 2024.

Agreed

Election of Vice-chairs

With ME becoming chair on 1.9.23, her position as vice-chair would therefore be vacant from then. In addition, the other vice-chair position was vacant due to the resignation of CM from Forum. There were two nominations for these positions, one of them Fiona MacCorquodale (FM), Interim Vice-chair to cover for CM, the other Susan Service (SS), Headteacher of Arts and Media Islington Secondary School.

Agreed that FM be elected substantive vice-chair until 12.7.26 and that SS be elected vice-chair from 1.9.23 until 31.8.26.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 May 2023

- Accuracy the minutes were agreed as a true record subject to one correction – under Item 6 Draft School Balances, on page 6 of the minutes, fourth paragraph down, to replace 'the outside' with 'the DfE'.
- Matters arising the clerk advised that, as agreed at the last meeting, Matthew Hillman and Joy Abegunde were being invited to join the High Needs Subgroup and Early Years Subgroup respectively.

5. Scheme for Financing Schools (Local) – for decision

DS spoke to a paper previously circulated. The scheme had been brought to May Forum prior to being released for consultation with schools from 1 to 30 June. There were only two responses. The consultation had been advertised Action:

on Schools Bulletin, Governor Hub and to chairs of governors and other reminders. There will be a rethink about how to encourage more responses in future years.

Neither response disagreed with the proposals, which were set out in Appendix A.

ME said that she had responded – DS said she would reply to her query about what happens after licensed deficits. KB clarified that, in line with statutory guidance, this scheme set the framework or rules, while details of procedures sat outside the framework. The lengthy escalation process had been explained at Headteachers' Briefing. It was still in the power of Schools Forum to revise the procedures. ME suggested revising the procedures in November. JA mentioned that schools applying for licensed deficits managed the process in different ways. ME reported that she and the headteacher of her federation had written several letters asking for licensed deficits and had had no response as to what the next steps were. There was an issue around communications with the LA, but also around thresholds and escalation points. PL asked if Forum could see the procurement document. AM-L suggested this be looked at in the autumn. DS offered to go through the proposed changes line by line, but Forum agreed the Scheme 2023-24, with the caveat that Forum would look at the procedures in autumn 2023.

6. School Balances (FINAL – prior year) – for information

DS spoke to a report previously circulated.

The draft figures had been brought to Forum in May. The schools' planned uses of surpluses were now available, apart from an accounting issue in two schools meaning that their information being reported to the DfE would be reduced. The information in relation to three schools had changed, with an improvement to the balances outcome of £175K.

The final end of year balance was £6.4m.

Schools with ratified budgets have been RAG rated:

Action:

- Red schools in deficit as of end 2021-22/projecting to end 2022-23 in deficit
- Amber schools projecting cumulative surplus in 2022-23 but in-year deficit and projecting cumulative deficits in years 2 and 3 unless action taken in current year
- Green schools projecting cumulative surplus in 2022-23 and in years 2 and 3.

The ESFA guide was that schools should not have a surplus of more than 8% (primary) and 5% (secondary). There may be a discussion about clawback for schools in that position, but the DfE has not done such clawback for some time.

15 schools were in deficit as of 2022-23 financial year end. 16 schools were due to be in deficit by end of 2023-24. By end of 2024-25, the figure was projected to rise to 26 schools. The cumulative deficit would be £5.5m, rising to £15m by end of 2025-26.

JL asked if the situation laid out related to the situation prior to implementing measures in the School Organisation Plan. DS commented that there will be additional costs and income coming through following the teachers pay announcements, but there would also be more challenges with future pupil numbers reported in the October Census – further drops in school roll figures. The implication of schools possibly overestimating their school rolls could be that the cumulative deficit by end 2024-25 would be £6m. AC clarified that the School Organisation Plan was based on current schools and budgets.

AM-L felt there was pressure to speed up actions to tackle the school roll issue. JA agreed but reminded Forum that to amalgamate or close schools was a long and complex process, and that plans must safeguard Islington's estate. AC added that plans were progressing in relation to School Organisation for September 2024 and September 2025. JL suggested that schools be involved with those plans and that the LA help them with their strategies. AC replied that this was a very sensitive area, and that it was important to sequence the communications correctly/trigger informal consultations at the right time. FM commented that for a

school closure in August 2024, the informal consultation would take place after October 2023 half-term. Following the model used for the Vittoria and Copenhagen amalgamation informal consultation, staff and the parent community would be notified first, then the wider community of stakeholders. JA reflected that this was happening in other London boroughs.SS said it made a difference to know that Islington was not alone. Noted 7. DSG Outturn (FINAL – prior year) – for information Action: TP spoke to a report previously circulated. The position remained unchanged from the draft position reported at the May Forum, with DSG balances standing at £5.083m at the end of 2022-23. This surplus was to be fully spent within two years due to demand pressures on High Needs. **Noted** 8. **DSG Allocations (in year)** Action: DS spoke to a spreadsheet that had been previously circulated. The EY adjustments were due very soon. The Government had announced in spring 2023 Budget, funding of £204m nationally for additional wrap-around care - is to be paid this year as a stand-alone grant in September. In 2024-25, £288m funding (£204m plus a further £84m) was to be included in the DSG EY Block. Once the EY operational guidance is received in September, the allocations in Islington will be clarified – DS' current estimate is £680K. There is also an increase in the EY offer funding rate for 3 and 4year olds of 8p and for 2 year olds of £2.45p. FM asked if the forthcoming changes in EY ratios would be reflected in EY funding. This was not clear, given the changes in ratios will not be enforced. **Noted**

9.	DSG Schools Block estimated funding (new year)	Action:
	DS spoke to a spreadsheet that had been previously circulated. When projecting ahead, accuracy was variable. The 2024-25 figures were based on latest admissions as of 23 June. The top part of the sheet projected a decrease of 235 pupils, equating to a reduction in funding to schools of £1.4m.	
	ME commented that this projection was the same as the drop this year. DS pointed out a bigger drop in secondary was projected compared to this year, and the most vulnerable would be most impacted.	
	There would be a better estimate in November when we would be clear what the DSG allocations and salary costs funding were.	
	Noted	
10.	Forward planning	Action:
	DS advised the meeting of a new item for the November 2023 agenda:	
	 Consultations – with links for Forum members to complete at the meeting. The Chairs' Group would have an extra meeting in September to discuss what the consultations would cover, eg QA of services. That meeting would also look at how the subgroups are reporting into the main Forum meetings. 	ME, SS, FM, DS, TP
	There were comments at the meeting about the difficulties people had had accessing the online QA survey. It was noted that MS Forms would be better for this – having to log on was a barrier.	
	DS also advised that Growth and Falling Rolls funding would be covered at the January 2024 meeting. AC added that roll projections would be a standing item at Forum meetings.	
11.	Quality Assurance survey	

This had been covered in earlier items. Forum members were urged to respond to the QA survey.	
АОВ	
The Mayor of London's Fund – universal Free School Meals from September 2023 – equated to £2.65 per meal. Islington had been funding Free School Meals at £2 per meal. The GLA has agreed to Islington passing the extra 65p on to the schools.	
The Council is looking to retrospectively increase the funding for schools for universal free school meals for the summer term 2023 to £2.41 (the DfE funding rate for free school meals) subject to funding.	
ME advised the meeting that had been no subgroup meetings since the last Forum meeting. There would need to be a Capital Subgroup meeting in September to look at the Estate Plan.	DS/Deirdre Vimpany to arrange
There being no further business, AM-L thanked all for preparing for the meeting and for their contributions and wished them a happy summer.	
Schools Forum thanked AM-L for doing a wonderful job as Chair of Forum over the past three years.	
Dates of next meetings	
(virtual meetings on MS Teams unless otherwise indicated)	
Schools Forum – face to face, venues tbc	
Thursday 9 November, 2 to 4pm	
Thursday 18 January, 2 to 4pm	
Thursday 23 May, 2 to 4pm	
Thursday 11 July, 2 to 4pm	
Chairs Subgroup	
Wednesday 4 October, 1 to 2pm	
	AOB The Mayor of London's Fund – universal Free School Meals from September 2023 – equated to £2.65 per meal. Islington had been funding Free School Meals at £2 per meal. The GLA has agreed to Islington passing the extra 65p on to the schools. The Council is looking to retrospectively increase the funding for schools for universal free school meals for the summer term 2023 to £2.41 (the DfE funding rate for free school meals) subject to funding. ME advised the meeting that had been no subgroup meetings since the last Forum meeting. There would need to be a Capital Subgroup meeting in September to look at the Estate Plan. There being no further business, AM-L thanked all for preparing for the meeting and for their contributions and wished them a happy summer. Schools Forum thanked AM-L for doing a wonderful job as Chair of Forum over the past three years. Dates of next meetings (virtual meetings on MS Teams unless otherwise indicated) Schools Forum – face to face, venues tbc • Thursday 9 November, 2 to 4pm • Thursday 18 January, 2 to 4pm • Thursday 23 May, 2 to 4pm • Thursday 11 July, 2 to 4pm • Thursday 11 July, 2 to 4pm

- Wednesday 1 November, 2 to 3pm
- Wednesday 10 January, 2 to 3pm
- Wednesday 15 May, 2 to 3pm
- Wednesday 3 July, 2 to 3pm

Early Years Subroup

- Friday 17 November, 1 to 2.30pm
- Friday 12 January, 1 to 2.30pm
- Friday 17 May, 1 to 2.30pm

Capital Subgroup

- Monday 6 November, 11 to 12.30pm
- Friday 9 February, 12.30 to 2pm
- Friday 16 May, 12.30 to 2pm

High Needs Subgroup

- Monday 16 October, to 11am to 12.30pm
- Monday 15 January, 11am to 12.30pm
- Monday 20 May to 11am to 12.30pm



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 5 – 2024-25 Islington School Funding Consultation

Purpose of report: Decision

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum agrees individual recommendations made in Section 3 of the report.

Background

- 1.1 A consultation with schools on School Funding 2024-25 ran from 29 September 20 October 2023
- 1.2 There were eight respondents to the consultation: 7 primary schools and 1 secondary schools; all maintained.
- 1.3 The responses have been collated and the results are listed below. Answers can only be accepted where relevant e.g. a special school cannot respond to questions on formula factors and an academy cannot respond on de-delegation from formula funding. Comments submitted as part of a consultation response are included.
- 1.4 As in previous years, the final factor values used in the local formula will be agreed at the January Schools' Forum following the December DSG funding settlement and the release of the October 2023 census data.

Proposals and Responses

Proposal 1: Do you agree that to ensure affordability of the available funding pot it may be necessary to vary the MFG, with a maximum of +0.5% and applying a cap on the gaining schools?

Yes	6
No	2

The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) is a national formula and its purpose is to protect schools from significant budget reductions and to provide stability of funding in schools year on year. It works by comparing a school's level of funding per pupil on a like for like basis from one financial year to the next.

In 2024-25 local authorities have the freedom to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee in local formulae between +0.0% and +0.5% per pupil. Capping is a funds balancing mechanism that allows the MFG % to be managed within the permitted range.

Proposal 2: Do you agree that, in accordance with DfE's requirements from 2024-25, we should continue to retain funding for schools with previously agreed additional and/or bulge classes to meet basic need?

Yes	8
No	0

Proposal 3: Do you agree to retain spend from growth funding on repurposing and removing surplus places; circa £39k?

Yes	7
No	1

Proposal 4: Do you agree to continue to de-delegate the current services?

Yes	7
No	1

Two primary schools added comments. A primary suggested that local authority services are vital as a lot of the professional expertise cannot be purchased in the open market.

Another commented that the de-delegated service should show value for money and good quality of service through quality assurance.

Proposal 5: We are not proposing to offer de-delegated services for the following, do you agree? Y/N

• Behaviour Support Service

- Library Service
- Premises Insurance

Yes	5
No	3

Once school commented that the needs of children vary and with a lack of cohesion with external support it's important we have a centralised support

Proposal 6: In accordance with the DfE's operational guidance, the Council will continue to retain funding for permitted services to maintained schools and academies but will be subject to appropriate scrutiny through Schools Forum; do you agree?

Yes	8
No	0

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to Schools Forum:

- Vary MFG within allowable range of +0.0% to +0.5% and cap budget gains as necessary to ensure school budget allocation remain within funding envelope
- Continue to retain Growth Funding; re purposing and removing surplus place;
- To continue de-delegated current services

Contact for queries:

Debbie Stevenson – <u>debra.stevenson@islington.gov.uk</u>

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

T 020 7527 5763



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2 to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 6 - CSSB Central Retention (2024-25)

Purpose of report: For information

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum note:

- a) The current cost of CSSB services
- b) That Schools Forum will be required to agree allocations for 2024/25 in January following the quality assurance reviews before Christmas.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of central retention within the Central School Services Block (CSSB) in advance of the forthcoming quality assurance workshops and the need for Schools Forum to agree central retention for 2024/25 in January. Schools Forum are required to agree all central retention under the CSSB, except for licences which is an automatically top-sliced by the DfE. There must be equality of access to centrally retained services for schools and academies under the CSSB.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

2. CSSB funding is provisionally £1.328m for 2024/25, but will change following the outcome of the October Census. This represents a reduction of £0.050m from 2023/24 as the DfE continue to reduce funding for historic commitments by 20% per annum. The split in funding and provisional movement from 2023/24 between the ongoing duties and the historic element of CSSB funding is as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25 Provisional	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
Ongoing duties	1.041	1.058	+0.017
Historic commitments	0.338	0.270	-0.067
Total	1.379	1.328	-0.050

- 3. In addition to the provisional allocation above of £1.328m there is a prior year balance of £0.205m of CSSB funding from previous years that can be used to continue to support services in future years and smooth in the reductions in funding. The exact level of prior year balances will change if there is an under or overspend on the CSSB in the current financial year. This brings the provisional budget to £1.533m.
- 4. The cost of centrally retained services is currently £1.442m. If services are funded at the same level in 2024/25, £0.091m of prior year CSSB balances will be available for future years:

Cost of CSSB Services							
Service	£k						
9. Admissions	630	School admissions service for children and young people of compulsory school age. Advice on school exclusions, representing the LA at exclusion hearings and independent review panels. Secure appropriate education provision for children applying in year as soon as possible. Tracking pupils missing education, including unofficial exclusions, Day 6 provision, off-rolling and in-year admissions. Coordinate Islington's Fair Access Protocol via the Primary and Secondary Securing Education Board mechanisms. Represent the LA at statutory admission appeals. Advice and guidance to parents and schools on the school admissions					

Cost of CSSB Services		
		application and appeal procedures and exclusions procedure.
9A. School admission appeals	45	Cost of hearing admission appeals
14. Access and engagement service	257	Support to schools, children and families to secure good attendance and engagement, and ensure that all children are properly safeguarded by: advising schools in their delivery of a whole school approach to promoting good attendance and engagement and on safeguarding policy and practice; operating to an agreed borough-wide approach; empowering parents to meet their legal responsibilities regarding school; and supporting efficient and effective partnerships in the best interests of the child or young person. The service is also responsible for monitoring illegal school activity and elective home education and for issuing licenses for children in employment or entertainment, and for providing safeguarding support to schools.
18. Servicing Schools Forum	50	Support to Schools Forum
19. Capital and asset management	110	Management of the capital programme including preparation and review of asset management plan, and negotiation and management of BSF. General landlord duties
24. Directors and assistant directors	71	Statutory and regulatory duties under the School and Early Years Finance Regulations including planning for the education service as a whole.
65. Equalities	30	Ongoing work with all schools (including academies and free schools) to raise progress and achievement for the two lowest achieving

Cost of CSSB Services		
		groups in schools (black Caribbean and white British) and Equaliteach
66. Legal services SLA	30	Provision of legal advice to schools (encompassing education law, employment law, contract law, data protection and freedom of information, property matters, child and adult community care, and litigation), ensuring they can access appropriate legal advice when necessary, minimising potential liabilities.
67. Sports co-ordinators	25	This funding supports the work of the PE, School Sports and Physical Activity team in their work with primary and secondary schools in: developing physical activity opportunities for the least active children and young people; advising on high quality PE, and meeting the requirements of the PE and sport premium and expectations from Ofsted; accessing additional resources and support from local and national providers; and Work with schools identified as having higher levels of health needs ('red' schools) to support PE, school sport and physical activity.
69. Copyright licences	136	Automatic top-slice by the DfE. Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools.
73. Early Career Training (ECT)	54	Provision of a training programme for each NQT as required by statutory guidance / statutory induction monitoring and guidance service provided by the Council. The training is provided through the Paddington Teaching Schools Alliance and schools nominate Islington as the appropriate body for the scheme. The programme is now a two year programme and at the end of the two years the

Cost of CSSB Services								
		schools involved in the scheme get a payment of £2,600 from the DfE.						
Total	1,442							
Provisional funding	1,533							
Balance	0.091	For smoothing in further future year reductions in CSSB funding						

5. The services above will be part of the quality assurance reviews before Christmas to enable Schools Forum to allocate funding in January.

Recommendations

That Schools Forum note:

- a) The current cost of CSSB services
- b) That Schools Forum will be required to agree allocations for 2024/25 in January following the quality assurance reviews before Christmas.

Contact for queries:

Tim Partington

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

T 020 7527 1851



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 7 – DSG Budget Outturn (2023-24)

Purpose of report: For information

Recommendations:

That Schools Forum notes:

- a) The forecast in-year overspend of £0.077m against the Dedicated Schools Grant at quarter 2.
- b) That DSG balances are forecast to be £5.006m at the end of the year.
- c) That these balances are earmarked for in future years to manage increasing pressures on the high needs block and early years block, and to meet cost pressures within schools.

Background

1. The DSG budget forecast 2022/23 at quarter 2 (30 September) is contained in this report. The overall position across all spending blocks is an in-year overspend of £0.077m (0.06%). DSG balances stood at £5.083m at the end of 2022/23 and are forecast to reduce to £5.006m at the end of 2023/24, as shown in the table below. These balances are earmarked in future years to manage increasing pressures on the high needs block and early years block, and to meet cost pressures within schools. The outlook for high needs is particularly concerning, with the balance forecast to reduce to £1.5m in 2024/25, before going into deficit in 2025/26.

	Schools Block	De- delegated	CSSB	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening balance	0.512	0.156	0.264	3.284	0.867	5.083
In-year movement	-0.512	-0.156	-0.059	0.650	0.000	-0.077
Draft closing balance	0.000	0.000	0.205	3.934	0.867	5.006
Allocated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earmarked for cost pressures / risks	0	0	0.205	3.934	0.867	5.006
To be allocated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0.000	0.000	0.205	3.934	0.867	5.006

Schools Block (+£0.512m in-year overspend)

- 2. This consists of funding centrally retained for growth (£0.300m) which, are adjusted following the October census, therefore are subject to change. As at the 30 September we were working on the assumption that the growth fund would be fully allocated. However, following an initial review of the October census data only £0.089m will be allocated in-line with the growth fund criteria. Taking into account the previous year's net overspend against growth and falling rolls (£0.055m), this would leave an in-year underspend of -£0.156m to be redistributed to all schools. The position will be confirmed at School Forum, following further review of the data.
- 3. The +£0.512m overspend against the Schools Block overall is made up of the following:
 - +£0.567m assumed drawdown of the school's block balance from previous years to:
 - meet potential technical funding adjustments in relation to business rates for schools; and
 - distribution of remaining funding to schools in relation to the term-time only staff holiday pay issue. This legal issue is expected to be resolved in this financial year.
 - -£0.055m adjustment in-relation to last year's overspend against growth and falling rolls.

De-delegated funding (+£0.156m in-year overspend)

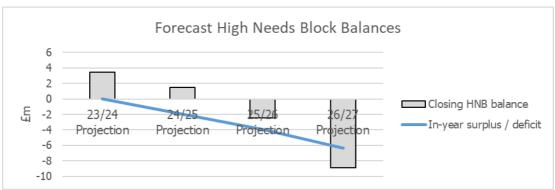
- 4. This is funding de-delegated by maintained schools for specific functions. Underspends cannot be used to offset overspends elsewhere within the DSG.
- 5. The schools in financial difficulties (£0.219m), priority support (£0.187m) and schools redundancy (£0.083m) budgets are expected to be allocated in full this year.
- 6. The £0.156m overspend relates to the assumed drawdown of prior year underspends against de-delegated budgets and redistribution to maintained schools.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) (+£0.059m in-year overspend)

- 7. This represents the drawdown of prior year balances to meet the £0.059m funding shortfall for CSSB services in 2023/24 following continued cuts in funding by the DfE that are expected to continue over the next two years.
- 8. The Central Services Schools block balances stood at £0.264m at the end of 2022/23. The planned drawdown of £0.059m will reduce this to £0.205m. This balance is being used to smooth in known future funding reductions.

High Needs Block (-£0.650m in-year underspend)

- 9. There is a forecast -£0.650m underspend (-1.5%) against the High Needs Block. This is made up of the following variances:
 - £0.207m (-1.0%) in-year underspend against the budget for provision in academies, the independent sector, further education settings and in out of borough provision after allowing for forecast demographic cost pressures
 - £0.443m (-1.0%) in-year unallocated funding, but earmarked for future demand pressures
- 10. Demand for EHCPs is forecast to increase by an average of 9% over the next three years (12% in 2023/24) but DfE are only increasing funding by between 2% and 3% per annum. While a small in-year surplus forecast for 2023/24 (£0.650m), an in-year deficit is projected for 2024/25 of £2m. An overall cumulative deficit balance is forecast for by end of 2025/26 of £2.5m increasing to £9m by 2026/27.



Early Years Block (no variance forecast)

- 11. No variance is currently forecast against the Early Years Block, although there is likely to be a pressure against the SEND Inclusion Fund as number of children in year with additional needs continues to increase. Any overspend will be a call on the Early Years Block balance of £0.867m.
- 12. In-year Early Years Block funding adjustments were received form the DfE at the end of the summer term, however these were anticipated during budget setting, and therefore have been absorbed against the in-year contingency budget (loss of £0.859m):

	PTE reduction	Clawback £m
3&4 year olds 15 hours	-121	-0.557
3&4 year olds extended	-42	-0.192
2 year olds	-15	-0.065
EY pupil premium	-127	-0.045
Total		-0.859

13. Any calls on the Early Years Block balance of £0.867m will be known after the spring census.

Recommendations

- 14. That Schools Forum notes:
 - a) The forecast in-year overspend of £0.077m against the Dedicated Schools Grant at quarter 2.
 - b) That DSG balances are forecast to be £5.006m at the end of the year.
 - c) That these balances are earmarked for in future years to manage increasing pressures on the high needs block and early years block, and to meet cost pressures within schools.

Contact for queries:

Tim Partington – tim.partington@islington.gov.uk
Assistant Director of Finance, Children's, Schools and Resources
T 020 7527 1851

AGENDA ITEM - 8

Source: DfE DSG Updated allocations (24/07/23)

Source: DtE DSG Updated allocations (24/07/23)											
	Πŧ	2023-24 DSG Updat (20/07/2023 odated PUF & (A)	3)		2023-24 DSG Settlem (16/12/2022 pdated PUF & (B)	2)	Change (C) = (A - B)		% Change	Notes	
	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding	Pupil Nos	Unit value	DSG Funding		
Schools Block:			£			£			£		
Primary Pupils (PUF) Secondary Pupils (SUF) Growth Premises National non-domestic rates within the premises factor	12,383 7,422	6,220.22 8,230.29	77,024,984 61,085,212 389,632 5,236,225	12,383 7,422	6,220.22 8,230.29	77,024,984 61,085,212 389,632 5,236,225	0		0	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
Schools Block - before recoupment	19,805		143,736,054	19,805		143,736,054	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0%	
National non-domestic rates within the premises factor			- 2,627,879			-2,627,879			0		
Academy Recoupment:			- 38,464,860			- 38,464,860			0	0.0%	
% of Total DSG		68.7%	62.5%		68.4%	62.0%			0.0%		
Total Schools Block - after recoupment	19,805	0	102,643,315	19,805	0	102,643,315	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0%	
Central School Services Block:											
Ongoing Duties	19,805	52.61	1,041,942	19,805	52.61	1,041,942		0.00	0	0.00%	
Historic Commitments			337,510			337,510			0	0.0%	
% of Total DSG		0.7%	0.8%		0.7%	0.8%			0.0%		
Total CSSB			1,379,452			1,379,452			0	0.0%	
High Needs Block:											
National Funding Formula			40,482,011			40,482,011			0	0.0%	
Basic Entitlement Factor (Sp Schs & Acads)	614	5656.28	3,472,957	614	5656.28	3,472,957		0.00	0	0.0%	
Import / Export adjs			- 264,000			- 282,000			18,000		
Special Free Schools			291,199			296,327			-5,128	-1.7%	
Hospital education**, AP teachers pay/pension and			210,842			210,842			0	0.0%	
supplementary funding*** factor total (provisional) Add'l High Needs Funding (Nov 22 Gov Autumn Statement)			1,858,670			1,858,670			0	0.0%	
High Needs Block - before recoupment			46,051,679			46,038,807			12,872		,
EFA Direct funding of places			- 3,850,835			- 3,610,000			-240,835		Adjustment following import / export process
% of Total DSG		22.0%	25.7%		21.9%	25.6%			-240,033 21.0 %		Tagasanone following impore / expore process
Total High Needs Block - after recoupment		22.0 /0	42,200,844		21.0/0	42,428,807			-227,963		
Early Years Block:	PTE	£/hour	72,200,044	PTE	£/hour	-72,-720,001	PTE	£/hour	-221,303		
3&4 Year Old (Schs + PVI)	2,574.89	8.05	11,814,884	2,696.38	8.05	12,372,341	-121	0.00	-557,457	-4 5%	Annual participation adjustment
3&4 Year Extended (Schs + PVI)	696.57	8.05	3,196,211	738.33	8.05	3,387,827	-42		-191,616		Annual participation adjustment
2 Year Old (Schs + PVI)	574.95	7.54	2,471,020	590.27	7.54	2,536,862	-15		-65,842		Annual participation adjustment
EYPPG (Schs + PVI)	456.50		161,328	583.42		206,181	-127		-44,853		Annual participation adjustment
MNS	145	4.48	370,272	145	4.48	370,272	0	0.00	0	0.0%	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
DAF	143	828.00	118,404	143	828.00	118,404	0		0	0.0%	
% of Total DSG		8.7%	11.0%		9.0%	11.5%			79.0%		
Total Early Years Block			18,132,119			18,991,887	_		-859,768	-4.5%	
Total DSG before Recoupment			209,299,304			210,146,199			-846,896	-0.4%	1
Total DSG after Recoupment			164,355,730			165,443,460			-1,087,731		
Total 200 after Necoupilletti			104,333,730			100,440,400			-1,007,731	-0.7%	

2024-25 DSG Allocations (estimates) Source: Census data (October 2023)

and DfE 2024-25 released information 2024-25 2024-25 2023-24 **Estimated Funding Estimated Funding DSG Settlement** ** Incorrect information released by DfE July 2023 -Change (Pupil numbers) Change **Net Change** (16/12/2022) (21/07/2023) (21/07/2023) reduction in funding = £1.291m ** (C) = (A - B)Change (E) = (B - D)Change (F) = (A - D)Change Updated PUF & SUF (Admissions) Updated PUF & SUF (Illustrative) (Oct 2022 census) (A) (B) (D) Pupil Nos Unit value DSG Funding Pupil Nos DSG Funding DSG Funding Unit value **Pupil Nos** Unit value 6,565.97 Primary Pupils (PUF) 6,565.97 79,605,762 12,383 81,306,34 0.00 -1,700,585 12,383 6,220.22 77,024,984 345.75 4,281,363 345.75 2,580,778 12,124 7.291 8.706.15 63.476.555 7.422 8.706.15 64.617.061 -131 0.00 -1.140.506 7.422 8.230.29 61.085.212 475.86 3.531.848 131 475.86 2.391.342 3.9% Secondary Pupils (SUF) -1 89 5.8% 0.09 -100.0% -100.0% 389 632 389 632 Growth 389 632 5,208,372 5,208,372 0.09 5,236,225 -0.5% Premises 27,853 -0.5% 27,853 National non-domestic rates within the premises factor 19,415 148,290,689 19,805 151,131,78 7,285 -2,841,091 19,805 7,258 143,736,054 7,395,727 4,554,636 Schools Block - before recoupment -390 5.1% -390 3.2% -1.9% National non-domestic rates within the premises facto 2.627.879 -2.627.87 -2.627.87 0.09 Academy Recoupment: 38,464,860 38,464,860 38,464,860 68.6% 68.4% 75.5% of Total DSG 62.49 62.7 62.0% Total Schools Block - after recoupment 107,197,950 110.039.041 7,285 2.841.091 19.805 02.643.315 7.395.727 5.1% 4.554.636 3.2% 19,805 Ongoing Duties 19,415 54.19 1,052,100 19,805 54.19 1,073,23 -390 0.00 -21,134 52.61 1,041,942 1.58 31,292 390 1.58 10,158 -1.97 3.00% 1.09 67,502 67,502 -20.0% Historic Commitments 270.008 270.00 337.510 -20.0% 0.0 0.8% 0.6% 0.6% 1,322,108 -57,345 **Total CSSB** 1,343,242 -21,134 1,379,452 -36,211 -4.2% National Funding Formula 43.851.96 43,851,961 40,482,011 3,369,950 8.39 3,369,950 Basic Entitlement Factor (Sp Schs & Acads) 614 5645.90 3,466,584 614 5645.90 3,466,584 0.00 0.0% 614 5656.28 3,472,957 6,373 -0.2% 6,373 -0.2% Import / Export adjs 27,199 27,199 0.0% 282,000 309,199 -109.6% 309,199 -109.6% -100.0% Special Free Schools 0.09 296 327 296 327 296 327 -100.0% Hospital education**, AP teachers pay/pension and 210,841 210,841 0.09 210,842 0.09 0.0% supplementary funding*** factor total (provisional) Add'l High Needs Funding (Nov 22 Gov Autumn 1.858.670 1,858,670 1,858,670 0.09 -100.0% -100.0% Statement) Supplementary Grant Funding (NiC) 0.0% High Needs Block - before recoupment 47.556.585 47.556.585 46.038.807 1.517.778 1.517.778 3.3% EFA Direct funding of places 3,827,501 3,827,501 0.0% 3,610,000 217,501 0.0% 22.0% 21.6% Total High Needs Block - after recoupment 43,729,084 43,729,084 42,428,807 ,300,277 1,517,778 Early Years Block Under 2 Year Olds (Schs + PVI) 15.16 15.16 0.00 15.16 15.16 0.0% 574.95 3,634,431 590.27 3,731,274 -96,842 590.27 2,536,862 1,194,411 15.32 1,097,569 2 Year Old (Schs + PVI) 11.09 11.09 -15 0.00 -2.6% 7.54 3.55 47.1% 3.55 43.3% 3&4 Year Old (Schs + PVI) 0.08 440,042 2,574.89 8.13 11,932,299 2,696.38 8.13 12,495,296 -121 0.00 -562,997 -4.5% 2,696.38 8.05 12,372,341 80.0 122,955 1.0% 121.49 -3.6% 3&4 Year Extended (Schs + PVI) 696.57 8.13 3.227.975 738.33 8.13 3.421.495 -42 0.00 8.05 3.387.827 0.08 33.668 0.08 -159.852 -4.7% -193 52 738 33 41 76 -5.79 1.0% EYPPG (Schs + PVI) -127 0.04 -456 50 0.66 171 735 583.42 0.66 219.483 0.00 -47.747 -21.8 583.42 0.62 206.181 0.04 13,302 6.5% 126.92 34 445 -16.79 MNS 145 4.72 390.108 145 4.72 390.108 0.00 0.09 145 4.48 370.272 0.24 19.836 5.49 0.24 19.836 5.49 DAF 143 881.00 125,983 143 881.00 125,983 0.00 0.09 143 828.00 118,404 53.00 7,579 6.49 53.00 7,579 6.4% 9.0% 9.2% Total Early Years Block 19,482,532 20.383,638 901,106 -4.4% 18,991,887 1,391,751 7.3% 490,645 2.6% 216,651,913 Total DSG before Recoupment 220,415,245 -3,763,331 -1.7% 210,146,199 10,269,045 4.9% 6,505,714

-3,763,331

-2.1%

165,443,460

10,051,544

6.1%

6,505,714

Total DSG after Recoupment

171,731,673

175,495,005



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2 to 4pm

Agenda item: 10 - DfE - Additional support for Schools in Financial Difficulty

Purpose of report: Information

Recommendations: To note

Background

- In July 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) announced that it is providing up to £40 million of additional funding in 2023 to 2024, to support individual schools which find themselves in particular financial difficulties.
- 1.1 This £40 million funding is to enable the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and local authorities to expand the existing financial support that is already in place for academies and maintained schools.
- 1.2 This is one-off funding available in 2023 to 2024 only and the department has no plans for similar additional funding in 2024 to 2025.
- 1.3 This funding can be used to support all maintained schools including special schools, pupil referral units, and nursery schools.

Allocations

- Of the £40 million, the DfE will provide £20 million to local authorities which have the most significant maintained school deficits. Distribution of this £20 million is therefore targeted and not every local authority will receive additional funding.
- 2.1 The department will allocate the £20 million between local authorities who have aggregated school-level deficits as a proportion of their total maintained schools' income above 1%. Local authorities' allocations will be in proportion to their aggregated school level deficit.

- 2.2 35 Local Authorities are to receive a proportion of the £20m, of which, 28.5% relate to London boroughs with allocations totalling £5.2m. Islington is to receive £364,816.42 (7% of London).
- 2.3 Local authorities are to report to their schools forum on how the funding will be allocated to maintained schools.
- 2.4 The remaining £20 million will be used to top up the existing financial support already available to academies.

Support

- The DfE have not been prescriptive in how the funding can be used and are giving Local Authorities significant flexibility over how the funding can be used.
- 3.1 It is recognised that whilst maintained schools are responsible for managing their own finances and should have the financial, leadership and management capability to plan and make decisions in the best interests of their pupils within their existing funding, there are some circumstances where the school requires additional support from the LA to manage its finances.
- 3.2 The DfE also provides the offer of school resource management advisers (SRMAs) to review and support schools to make best use of available resource.
- 3.3 This additional funding does not negate the Local Authorities responsibility for supervising their maintained school estate.
- 3.4 The Scheme for Financing Schools guidance allows for local authorities to pay cash sums towards elimination of a deficit balance where it may not be possible for the school to eliminate the whole of the deficit from its own future resources. Such cash sums can be charged to the dedicated schools grant (DSG) only where they form part of a contingency fund approved by maintained school members of the schools forum under Regulation 11(5) of, and paragraph 51 of Schedule 2 to, the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023. Islington retains funds through de-delegation which is used to support schools in financial difficulty.
- 3.5 This additional funding will be another source of cash sums towards elimination of a deficit balance where the conditions of this grant will allow the money to be used for this purpose. However, this does not mean that every school with a deficit within that local authority should be given additional funding. We expect funding to be allocated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the severity of the school's position and prioritising those in greatest need.

Recommendations

For context, it should be noted that 13 maintained schools are projecting to end 2023-24 financial year in deficit with a cumulative balance of £5m. Whilst the additional funds are welcomed, and considerable, for some schools with higher and increasing deficits,

- coupled with falling rolls pressures, it is evident that this additional funding will not address the wider issues faced within the borough. Therefore, Islington will need to carefully consider how best to use the funds in a fair and transparent way.
- 4.1 Therefore, as Local Authorities are not required to distribute immediately it is suggested that, following the submission of the mid-term budget reforecasts, school finances are reviewed, both in-year and future years, to determine how best to utilise the funds effectively.

Contact for queries:

Debbie Stevenson

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

T 020 7527 5763



Chair: Maggie Elliott

C/o Governor Services

The Laycock Centre

London N1 1TH

Date/time: Thursday 9 November 2023, 2pm to 4pm

Agenda item: Item 11 - 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 on a rolling 12-month period.

The report presented has been updated to reflect changes that have since emerged from the previous meeting.

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, dependent 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 – <u>debra.stevenson@islington.gov.uk</u>

Head of Schools & Early Years Finance Services

T 020 7527 5763

APPENDIX A – School Forum: Work plan

Standing Items: Declaration of Interest

Forum Composition Forum Forward Planning Sub Group Updates Roll Projections Quality Assurance

Financial Year	Agenda Item	Information/ Comments & views / Decision
November 2023	School Funding Arrangements, Consultation results (future year)	Decision
	Central School Services Block - Central Retention	Decision
	Quality Assurance Survey	Information
	DSG Budget Monitor (in year)	Information
	DSG Funding Settlement (in year)	Information
	DSG projected allocations (future year)	Information
	DfE - Add'l support for Schools in Financial Difficulty	Information
January 2024	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
	DSG Budget Monitor (in year)	Information
	DSG Settlement (future year)	Information
May 2024	Scheme for Financing Schools (DfE)	Comments & Views
	School Balances (DRAFT - prior year)	Information
	DSG Outturn (DRAFT: prior year)	Information
July 2024	Scheme for Financing Schools (Local)	Decision
	School Balances (FINAL - prior year)	Information
	DSG Outturn (FINAL: prior year)	Information
	DSG Allocations (in year)	Information
	Schools Internal Audit Programme Outcomes (prior year)	Information
	DSG Schools Block estimated funding (new year)	Information
November 2024	School Funding Arrangements, Consultation results (future year)	Decision
	Central School Services Block - Central Retention	Decision
	Quality Assurance Survey	Information
	Roll Numbers	Information
	DSG Budget Monitor (in year)	Information
	DSG Funding Settlement (in year)	Information
	DSG projected allocations (future year)	Information
	DfE - Add'l support for Schools in Financial Difficulty	Information