

Schools Forum

6th July 2023

National Update

National Update

- As part of the 2023 Spring Budget Statement several announcements relating to Early Years were made
 - From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds will be able to access 15 hours of funded childcare
 - From Sept 24, 15 hours of funded childcare will be extended to all children from the age of 9 months
 - From Sept 25, working parents under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare per week
 - The government will uplift the hourly funding rate paid to providers to help deliver the existing funded hours offer (£204m from Sept 23 & £288m in 24/25 – both national figures)
 - Child to staff ratio increasing from 1:4 to 1:5 for 2 year olds

National Update

- Uplift to hourly funding rate from Sept 24
 - Additional £204m will be allocated to LAs through a standalone top-up grant, not through the DSG.
 - Known as the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG)
 - No guidance on EYSG methodology or hourly funded rates – expected before the summer holidays.
- From 2024/25, this funding will be allocated to LAs through the DSG.

National Update – NFF Consultation

- Latest NFF consultation launched 7th June 2022
- Transition to full NFF by 2027/28 at the latest
- Council provided a response
- Government response issued April 2023
- Consultation covers
 - Transfer of High Needs budget – more formalised process
 - Individual SEND budgets – set nationally not locally
 - Growth Fund
 - Premises Funding
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee – to be based on LA figures not DfE
 - The annual funding cycle
 - Data Collection

NFF Consultation (cont)

- Consultation suggested Growth Fund could retain some local flexibility but minimum requirements would be placed on LAs
 - E.G. if a school provides a bulge class they must receive £x
- Our response agreed in general with this principle as long as the minimum requirements were not too restrictive or unaffordable so we could still provide the support we currently do (class size, in year admissions etc)
- Government confirmed that minimum requirements will be implemented for 2024-25. These requirements will apply where a school has agreed to host an additional class & minimum requirements will be placed on how much funding should be provided.
- Final guidance will be published in July 2023

NFF Consultation (cont)

- Falling rolls funding is currently only available to schools with an Ofsted rating of good or outstanding.
 - CCC have not operated a falling rolls fund as a result of this restriction
 - Consultation proposed to remove this restriction
- 86% of respondents agreed with this approach and as such the Ofsted restriction will be removed for 2024/25
- Will relate to schools where SCAP data shows that school places will be required in the subsequent 3-5 years.

NFF Consultation (cont)

- Split Sites funding to be partly based on eligibility & partly on distance
- Original consultation suggested split sites funding would be 60% of NFF lump sum
 - 60% of lump sum = £77k in 23/24
 - Split sites funding in 23/24 = £88k
- Consultation proposed that 2/3 of split sites funding be based on distance & 1/3 based on eligibility.
- Our response suggested that total funding should be higher and a greater importance should be placed on eligibility not distance
- Government responding by saying the funding will still be 60% of lump sum but now 2/3 will be based on eligibility & 1/3 on distance
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1153128/Implementing_the_direct_national_funding_formula_government_consultation_response.pdf

2022/23 DSG Outturn & Reserves

Overview Outturn & Reserves

- Centrally held DSG had an underspend of £4.8m
 - Due to High Needs underspend of £4m, a £0.9m underspend on Early Years offset by a £0.1m overspend on de-delegated services.
- This left a £10.2M DSG reserve closing balance
 - Central - £9.7m; Other - £0.5m
- After 23/24 reserve contributions this leaves £10M
 - Central - £9.5m; Other - £0.5m
- Maintained Schools and PRUs reserve - £23m

DSG Outturn Block Analysis

Block	Central £000's	Other £000's	Comments
Schools Block	0	0	
Early Years Block	-848		Activity levels not as high as budgeted, central underspend due to staffing vacancies & increase in 21/22 DSG allocation
De-delegated	84		Overspend on Teacher Maternity costs
High Needs	-4,000		£0.7m underspend on provision, £0.5m underspend on central areas due to staffing vacancies & £2.8m holding pot
Central	4		
Total	-4,760	0	

High Needs Underspend

- Underspend on the HN block for 22/23 was £4m
 - underspend on provision (£0.7m – see below)
 - central underspends (£0.5m – staffing vacancies)
 - money being put aside for future use (£2.8m)
 - Provision budgets increased by £5.4m in 23/24

High Needs Area	21/22 Spend £000's	22/23 Budget £000's	22/23 Spend £000's	(Under)/overspend £000's
High Needs Inclusion	600	1,000	600	-400
High Needs Top Up - Mainstream	3,600	4,600	4,750	150
Independent Specialist Placements	6,700	6,550	5,700	-850
Other Local Authority Placements		1,650	1,500	-150
High Needs Top Up - Special Schools	2,650	3,400	3,950	550
Total Provision	13,550	17,200	16,500	-700

DSG Reserve Position

22/23

	Central £m	Other £m
Opening Balance as @ 01/04/22	-5.4	-0.5
Budget Setting 2022/23- use of rese	0.5	
In-year under/ overspend	-4.8	0.0
Closing Balance as @ 31/3/23	-9.7	-0.5
Budget Setting 23/24	0.2	
Early Years adj - 2 year olds	0.0	
Early Years adj - 3 & 4 year olds	-0.1	
Rounding adjustment	0.1	
Remaining Balance	-9.5	-0.5
General	-9.5	
Earmarked: De-delegated	0.0	
Earmarked: NNDR		-0.5

2022/23 School Balances

School Balances – Summary by Phase

Total Reported Balances by Phase Including Academies

School Type	20-21	Change	21-22	Change	22-23	22-23 Balance % of budget
	Balance (£000's)		Balance (£000's)		Balance (£000's)	
Primary (inc Nursery)	28,938	-60	28,877	-839	28,038	17.2%
Secondary	14,393	+3,454	17,847	+1,769	19,616	14.3%
Special & PRU's	3,718	+1,755	5,473	-1,273	4,199	13.9%
Total	47,048	+5,149	52,197	-343	51,853	15.7%

Age Profile of School Balances – No. of schools & academies by Phase

Reported balances as a % of school budget shares across 3 years

School Type	<5%			5% - 10%			>10%		
	20-21	21-22	22-23	20-21	21-22	22-23	20-21	21-22	22-23
Primary	9	8	8	13	9	16	65	70	63
Secondary	5	4	3	5	2	2	11	15	16
Special & PRU	3	1	2	2	2	1	4	6	6
Total	17	13	13	20	13	19	80	91	85

Membership update

Membership Update

- Review of Schools Forum membership carried out
 - Normally just an update ahead of Sept at this stage
- No structural changes, existing vacancies remain
 - This will mean 1 academy vacancy
- Membership report at September meeting as usual

Membership Update

Respresented sector	Current Membership	Updated Membership	Structural Changes	Vacancies at Sept-23
Primary Schools	7	7	0	0
Secondary Schools	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Academies	11	11	0	1
Special Schools	2	2	0	0
Special Academies	1	1	0	0
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	0	0
Pupil Refferal Unit (PRU)	1	1	0	0
Total	23	23	0	1