

Schools Forum

21st September 2023

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Membership - Report

Membership Review

- Review of Schools Forum membership carried out
 - Refer to report
 - Pupil numbers: May-23 census used
- No structural changes are required
- Report stated 3 vacancies
 - Primary Headteachers
 - Special Academy
 - Early Years/Nursery PVI Providers
- Subsequently 1 further vacancy
 - Mainstream Academy

Membership

Respresented sector	Current Membership	Updated Membership	Structural Changes	Vacancies at Sept-23
Primary Schools	7	7	0	1
Secondary Schools	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Academies	11	11	0	0
Special Schools	2	2	0	0
Special Academies	1	1	0	1
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	0	0
Pupil Refferal Unit (PRU)	1	1	0	0
Non School Group	5	5	0	1
Total	28	28	0	3

National Update

23/24 EY & HN DSG update

Coventry City Council DSG PPR - 2023/24

	Early Years Block (£000)	Schools Block & Growth (£000)	Central Sch.Serv Block (£000)	High Needs Block (£000)	Total (£000)	Movement since March (£000)
1 <u>22/23 Total resources (at budget setting)</u>	23,300	273,787	3,157	60,031	360,275	0
1.1 Removal of one-off reserve funding 22/23		(450)			(450)	0
22/23 DSG (current)	23,300	273,337	3,157	60,031	359,825	0
2 <u>Changes to forecast DSG resource</u>						
2.1 Pupil number changes (Oct-22 & Jan-23)	212	7,520	52	328	8,113	97
2.2 National funding formula increase	1,654	5,153	(260)	6,733	13,279	0
2.3 Supplementary Fund Included in SB		7,781			7,781	0
2.4 Formulaic growth fund allocation change		781			781	0
23/24 DSG (estimated)	25,166	294,572	2,949	67,091	389,779	97
3 <u>Additional non-DSG resource</u>						
3.1 23/24 Contribution from DSG reserves		243			243	0
22/23 Total resources (estimated)	25,166	294,815	2,949	67,091	390,022	97

2024/25 DSG Update

- National picture: Core Schools Funding
 - DFE: +£3.9bn in 23/24 and +£1.8bn in 24/25
- Hard National Funding Formula
 - Government response to consultation discussed at last meeting
 - Growth fund & split sites funding impacted in 24/25
- DFE released Indicative block allocations in July 2023
 - Schools, High Needs and Central Services → next slide
 - Early Years Block and post-16 funding → No updates yet

2024/25 DSG Update (INDICATIVE)

- Coventry Schools Block
 - Increase £15.5m
 - £9.7m due to Mainstream Schools Additional Grant
 - £5.8m due to NFF (£3.1m in 2023/24)
- Growth Fund
 - Based on planning estimates, forecasting a significant increase in allocation
 - Allocation announced in December
- Central School Services Block
 - Further 20% decrease for historic commitments (£166k)
 - 2.5% decrease for ongoing responsibilities (£22k)
- High Needs Block:
 - Increase of £3.1m (£4.1m in 2023/24)

Schools Block - recap

- NFF produces individual school level allocations, **total of this becomes schools block DSG for LA to allocate...**
 - NFF + protection (funding floor)
 - Growth = separate funding stream
- In 23/24 we funded the higher of 0.5% MFG or NFF allocation
 - 33 schools were on the 0.5% MFG increase – with the majority of schools (74) schools seeing a higher increase (51 in 22/23)
- Significant overspend on the formula (£1.1m) due to data changes – funded by the growth fund surplus & DSG reserve
- Significant underspend on growth fund (£901k) due to a significant increase in our allocation – used to fund the overspend on the school funding formula

2024/25 Schools Block

- Overall School funding through NFF to increase by 2.7% (1.9% in 23/24)
- Core formula factor values (E.G. basic entitlement, additional needs factors & lump sum) to increase by 2.4%
- Minimum per pupil funding to rise by 2.4% (0.5% in 23/24):
 - £4,655 per Primary pupil (£4,405 in 23/24)
 - £6,050 per Secondary pupil (£5,715 in 23/24)
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) range: +0% to +0.5%
 - For protection vs 2023/24 per pupil funding
 - Depends on affordability

2023/24 Schools Block continued...

- Despite these figures, key number for the some Coventry schools is the funding floor level for 23/24: +0.5%
 - i.e. some Cov schools are on the funding floor (as losers under NFF)
 - Other changes **may** increase some new schools above the floor
 - But +0.5% per pupil is the max that floor schools could increase
- **Indicative** figures suggest 90 schools on NFF (above floor)
 - i.e. see increase > +0.5%
 - BUT this is all INDICATIVE (based on Oct-22 census)
- Allocation updated for Oct-23 pupil numbers in December
 - Then need to determine affordability... **0.5% floor not guaranteed**
 - allocation may not equal what we want to give out:
 - Cost of MFG; data differences; high needs 0.5% transfer?

Costs, Pressures, Other

- Teachers pay award
 - Between 5% - 8.9% September 2022. Equates to an average of 5.47%
 - All bands and allowances except TMS1 are increasing by 6.5%. TMS1 is increasing by 7.1% to a £30k starting salary from September 2023. 3% funded by government
 - Estimating 3% in September 2024
- Officer's pay award 2023/24
 - Still unconfirmed, latest offer of £1,925 per pro rate employee (average of 7%-8%), estimating 3% in 2024/25
- Energy Inflation
 - For schools on Council contracts
 - Electricity no increase from 1st October 2023 & 5% increase from October 2024
 - Gas increased by 400% in April 2023 & 5% from April 2024
- General Inflation
 - CPI inflation 6.7% August 23. Real term reduction in funding

What next?

- Detail still to work through
 - October 23 Census
 - No Early Years operational guidance yet
 - No Early Years indicative allocations
 - Updated 24/25 DSG allocations in December
- Central expenditure to be approved at next meeting

Current central exp position

	2022/23	2023/24	Provisional 2024/25	Inc/Dec
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Centrally Retained Services				
1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets	531	325	159	-166
1.4.2 School admissions	565	596	611	15
1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums	3	3	3	0
1.4.4 Termination of employment costs	323	323	323	0
1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund	0	0	0	0
1.4.6 Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	0	0	0	0
1.4.7 Prudential borrowing costs	0	0	0	0
1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN	0	0	0	0
1.4.9 Equal pay - back pay	182	182	182	0
1.4.11 SEN transport	310	310	310	0
1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State	0	0	0	0
*1.4.14 Other Items	677	538	483	-55
1.5.1 Education welfare service	322	513	518	5
1.5.2 Asset management	235	152	164	12
1.5.3 Statutory/ Regulatory duties	319	319	319	0
Total	3,467	3,261	3,072	-189
Historic Commitments	1,346	1,140	974	-166
NFF (Central Expenditure)	2,121	2,121	2,098	-23

*From 2021/22 TPS grant for centrally employed teachers is included in our central block

*NFF allocation for 2024/25 will be updated later in the year to reflect changes in pupil r

Central Expenditure

- What level of review is needed?
 - Schools Forum needs to approve CSSB expenditure in December
- Undertook a significant review in November 2021
 - All centrally funded service areas completed reports detailing what the service does, how it is funded and what the future of the service looks like
 - These reports were considered by the Schools Forum sub group & service managers were on hand to answer any queries the group had
 - Very little change to services offered since that review
- Are SF happy to approve based on detailed 22/23 review with any changes presented at the next meeting?

Growth Fund - Report

Growth Fund Recap

- At the January meeting the operation of the 23/24 growth fund was agreed with the following strands
 - In – year admissions funding
 - Class Size Funding
 - Secondary Growth
- Due to a significant increase in the LA's growth fund allocation for 23/24, the above agreed operation of the growth fund resulted in a £900k underspend
- This underspend was utilised to fund the overspend on the schools funding formula – along with a DSG reserve contribution

Growth Fund

- Since the operation of the growth fund was approved there has been a larger than normal level of in-year admissions
 - Causing a net increase in the number of pupils in Coventry schools
- This is putting pressure of sufficiency levels across all year groups as surplus places are being utilised.

Primary In Year Growth

Net Cohort Growth	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total Cohort Growth	Average Growth for each year group	Number of Extra Classes
01/09/2019 - 31/08/2020	86	103	16	-6	-59	5	-40	105	15	3.5
01/09/2020 - 31/08/2021	32	23	41	26	46	59	34	261	37	8.7
01/09/2021 - 31/08/2022	106	109	79	66	96	73	4	533	76	17.8
01/09/2022 - 31/08/2023	133	160	183	108	130	81	71	866	124	28.9

Secondary In Year Growth

Net Cohort Growth	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total Cohort Growth	Average Growth for each year group	Number of Extra Classes
01/09/2019 - 31/08/2020	5	3	34	85	4	131	26	4.4
01/09/2020 - 31/08/2021	29	116	-17	60	-43	145	29	4.8
01/09/2021 - 31/08/2022	40	54	52	90	2	238	48	7.9
01/09/2022 - 31/08/2023	75	90	58	70	-13	280	56	9.3

Primary Sufficiency

Primary In Year Sufficiency Position

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
PAN	4515	4500	4530	4620	4560	4620	4710
Vacancies	174	23	21	36	9	30	62
% Vacancies	3.85%	0.51%	0.46%	0.78%	0.20%	0.65%	1.32%
Next Admissions round position	Sufficient places currently	Zero places after allocation resulting in unplaced pupils	Zero places after allocation resulting in unplaced pupils	Zero places after allocation resulting in unplaced pupils	Zero places after allocation resulting in unplaced pupils	Can place all pupils in next round but will be insufficient places for future rounds	Can place all pupils in next round but may be insufficient places for future rounds

Secondary Sufficiency

Secondary In-year Sufficiency Position

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
PAN	4614	4524	4397	4374	4368
Vacancies	57	43	0	86	53
% Vacancies	1.24%	0.95%	0.00%	1.97%	1.21%
Next Admissions round position	Can place all pupils in next round but may be insufficient places for future rounds	Can place all pupils in next round but may be insufficient places for future rounds	Zero places after allocation resulting in unplaced pupils	Sufficient places currently	Sufficient places currently

Growth Fund Strategy

- A strategy for how to ensure sufficiency of places is being developed in partnership with Coventry schools
- As the growth is due to in-year admissions and not increasing birth rate, temporary bulge classes will be utilised to address the issue
- Funding is required by schools to enable them to take on these bulge classes.

Bulge Classes Funding

- The DfE have announced that in 24/25 LAs must provide funding where a school has agreed with the LA to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area
- Guidance states that LAs must use the following formula for both primary & secondary schools as a minimum
 - Primary Growth factor value x number of pupils x ACA
- LA intention is to introduce this in 23/24
- The above formula relates to September – March
 - If classes begin a different time, the formula is calculated pro-rata
- Schools will receive ca £46k if classes start in September
 - Ca £20k if classes start in January

Bulge Classes Funding

- Report estimated that 15 classes will be required from January
 - Estimated cost in 23/24 is ca £294k
 - Latest update is 25 classes may be required – cost ca £490k
- Funded from DSG reserve (£10.2m as at end of 22/23) as growth fund underspend used to fund the schools funding formula
- Funding will also be required in 24/25 for these classes as children will not be on the October census and therefore not in 24/25 budget shares
- Proposing to carry a full review of the operation of the growth fund with the schools forum sub group

Growth Fund: Approval / Ratification

- **The Schools Forum should approve the proposed Criteria for funding bulge classes from the growth fund in 2023/24 as set out in the report.**

Voting: All Members

Teachers Pay Additional Grant

Teachers Pay Additional Grant

- Teachers Pay Award September 23
 - 7.1% for TMS 1 to get minimum starting salary to £30k
 - All other grade seeing a 6.5% increase
- 3.5% funded from school budgets & 3% funded by the teachers pay additional grant
 - £525m in 23/24 (Sept - Mar)
 - £900m in 24/25 (Apr – Mar)
- Maintained mainstream schools will receive funding from the LA in October
- Mainstream academies will receive funding directly from ESFA in Nov

Mainstream Schools

- Individual school allocations have been published by the DfE
- Funding Rates
 - £36 per primary pupil (incl reception)
 - £50 per KS3 pupil
 - £57 per KS4 pupil
 - £1,345 lump sum
 - £31 per FSM6 primary pupil
 - £45 per FSM6 secondary pupil
- SFOs working with maintained mainstream schools to apply this grant to budget plans

Special Schools & PRUs

- No school level allocations have been published. LA must decide how to distribute.
- Proposal to distribute funding based on Sept 23 commissioned places, with the exception of Hospital Education
- As Hospital Education is funded as a central service its commissioned numbers are not representative
- Therefore a Hospital Ed allocation will be calculated using staffing costs. Other settings will receive £242.19 per place

Early Years Update

EY Supplementary Grant

- The 2023 Spring budget announced additional funding for existing EY entitlements for disadvantaged 2 year olds and 3 & 4 year olds
 - EYSG totals £204m nationally in 23/24
- Whole amount must be passed onto providers (5% cannot be retained centrally) and comes into effect from September
- 3 & 4 YO base rate = £4.81 (38p increase)
- 3 & 4 YO deprivation rate = £1.44 (11p increase)
- 2 year old base rate = £7.46 (£1.91 increase)

EY Funding Consultation

- Consultation released in July on how new entitlements for children aged 9 months to 2 years will affect early years funding
- Mainly technical changes designed to make funding for 2 year olds and younger consistent with 3 & 4 year old funding

EY Funding Consultation

- Additional needs
 - Currently funding for 2 year olds is only targeted towards disadvantaged 2 year olds
 - Proposal to mimic 3 & 4 year old formula
 - Universal base rate of funding for each child (89.5% of funding)
 - Additional needs factor (10.5%)
 - Area cost adjustment
 - For 3 & 4 year olds additional needs is based on FSM
 - Not suitable for younger children as data not as reliable
 - Proposal to make 2 year old additional needs funding based on following factors:
 - FSM (4%)
 - IDACI (4%)
 - EAL (1.5%)
 - Disability Living Allowance (1%)
- DAF, EYPP & SENIF
 - Currently only 3 & 4 year olds are eligible
 - Proposal to extend to 9 months and over

Fair Funding Consultation

Fair Funding Consultation

- We will consult on formula approach, but as in previous years our intention would be to mirror NFF as closely as possible.
 - Will also include an option should +0.5% be unaffordable
- Consultation will also cover:
 - De-delegation options (maintained schools)
 - Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation changes
- Consultation to close by mid November
- Report outcomes to Cabinet in early January