



Schools Forum Agenda

Date: Tuesday 22 March 2022

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

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Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Chairman's Welcome	13.30	
2 Apologies for Absence		
3 Declarations of Interest To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.		
4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022.	13.35	3 - 8
5 Update from the SFFG A verbal update to be provided by MS K Tamlyn, Chairman	13.40	

of the Schools Forum Funding Group.

6	Revenue Budget Monitoring To be presented by Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council.	13.50	9 - 12
7	Schools Budget Update To be presented by Mr J Carter, Schools Management Accountant- Buckinghamshire Council.	14.10	13 - 16
8	Report from the Contingency Panel To be presented by Mr D Hood, Chair of Schools Contingency Panel.	14.30	17 - 26
9	DSG Spending Review Group Verbal update to be provided by Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council and Mr S James, Director for Education- Buckinghamshire Council.	14.50	
10	F40 Update To be presented by Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council.	15.10	27 - 68
11	AOB		
12	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 28 June 2022- 1.30pm MS Teams Virtual Meeting	15.30	

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Christina Beevers on 01296 382938, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Schools Forum Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 in MS Teams Virtual Meeting, commencing at 1.30 pm and concluding at 2.55 pm.

Members present

Ms J Antrobus, Ms J Cochrane, Ms P Coppins, Cllr A Cranmer, Ms S Cromie, Ms J Freeman, Mr A Gillespie, Mr E Hillyard, Mr D Hood, Mrs D Rutley, Mrs E Stewart, Ms K Tamlyn, Mr B Taylor, Ms J Watson, Ms S Bayliss, Ms C Beevers, Mr H Beveridge, Mrs G Bull, Mr J Carter, Ms J Divers, Mr G Drawmer, Ms C Glasgow, Mr S James, Ms N Lovegrove, Ms H Slinn, Ms F Smalley and Ms E Williams

Agenda Item

1 **Chairman's Welcome**

The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all of the basic etiquette for a MS Teams meeting.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Mr K Patrick- Chiltern Hills Academy
Mr S Sneesby- Kite Ridge School
Mr R Page- Chalfont Community College

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2021 were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

The actions from the meeting held on 07 December 2021 were reviewed and **AGREED** as completed or carried forward as below.

Action	To be Actioned By	Completion Date
To update the attendance list from the last meeting	Ms C Beevers	Next Schools Forum Meeting.
To draft a letter to MP re funding issues	Mr K Patrick/ Mr S James	ASAP
To pull together placement numbers for a 3-5-year time period	Ms E Williams/Ms H Slinn	Next Schools Forum Meeting & DSG Management Group

5 Update from the SFFG

Ms K Tamlyn- Chairman of the Schools Forum Funding Group gave an overview of the SFFG meeting. The action notes were appended to the minutes.

6 School Budget Proposals 2022-23

Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council gave an overview of the report provided.

DSG Allocation 2022-23

Recommendations

- a) To recommend that Buckinghamshire Council sets the overall Dedicated Schools Budget at £532.816m in line with the funding allocation announced on 16th December 2021.
- b) To recommend that the supplementary grants announced by the Department for Education (DfE) are allocated to the Schools Budget in accordance with the conditions of grant (final allocations to be confirmed in spring 2022).
- c) To agree the allocation of funding to mainstream schools based on the local funding formula for schools agreed in December 2021, updated for the October 2021 census data. This recommendation has been updated to include the supplementary recommendations:
 - i. To consider the revised methodology for the calculation of Low Prior Attainment Funding within the local funding formula for infant schools based on the previous year's average data for those schools rather than the county average.
 - ii. To agree which model should be used to calculate school budgets for 2022-23
- d) To confirm the criteria for the Growth Fund in 2022-23.
- e) To consider the savings proposals detailed in Appendix 5 to reduce Central Schools Services Block expenditure in line with reductions in funding.
- f) To agree the Central Schools Service Block budgets for 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 6.
- g) To agree the budget for the High Needs Block in 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 7.
- h) To agree the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2022-23.

Resolved

- a) Schools Forum **RECOMMENDED** that Buckinghamshire Council sets the overall Dedicated Schools Budget at £532.816m in line with the funding allocation announced on 16th December 2021.
- b) Schools Forum **RECOMMENDED** that the supplementary grants announced by the Department for Education (DfE) are allocated to the Schools Budget in accordance with the conditions of grant (final allocations to be confirmed in spring 2022).
- c) Schools Forum **AGREED** the allocation of funding to mainstream schools based on the local funding formula for schools agreed in December 2021, updated for the October 2021 census data. This recommendation has been updated to include the supplementary recommendations:
 - i. Schools Forum **CONSIDERED** the revised methodology for the calculation of Low Prior Attainment Funding within the local funding formula for infant schools based on the previous year's average data for those schools rather than the county average.
 - ii. Schools Forum **AGREED** which model should be used to calculate school budgets for 2022-23
- d) Schools Forum **CONFIRMED** the criteria for the Growth Fund in 2022-23.
- e) Schools Forum **CONSIDERED** the savings proposals detailed in Appendix 5 to reduce Central Schools Services Block expenditure in line with reductions in funding.
- f) Schools Forum **AGREED** the Central Schools Service Block budgets for 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 6.
- g) Schools Forum **AGREED** the budget for the High Needs Block in 2022-23 as detailed in Appendix 7.
- h) Schools Forum **AGREED** the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 2022-23.

7 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)- Buckinghamshire Council gave an overview of the report provided.

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of December (Period 9)

Resolved:

Schools Forum **NOTED** the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of December (Period 9)

- 8 DSG Management Plan - Update from DSG Spending Review Group**
Verbal update provided by Ms E Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)-
Buckinghamshire Council and Mr S James, Director for Education- Buckinghamshire
Council.

- 9 AOB**
There were no items of AOB.

- 10 Date of Next Meeting**
Tuesday 22 March 2022- 1.30pm
MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Schools Forum Funding Group Actions – 4 January 2022

General points – overall report

Actions:

- Clarity to be provided on whether the supplementary grants are ringfenced. Action EW to include comment in the report
- Clarity to be provided on whether this funding will be taken away later and schools would be expected to budget for it. This information may not be provided from the Government till the Spring. Action EW to include a sentence in the report

Section A: Schools Block

Actions:

- Table 2 – typo as say December 2022 Action EW to amend report
- Paragraph 4.3 of the table to be changed to further options will be brought to the Schools Forum. Action EW to update para 4.3
- Growth Funding: A sentence should be added to the report saying that this would be kept under review and discussed with the DfE to make sure schools are financially viable in their pre-set up period. Action EW to amend section 5
- Reference was made to Birtton School and numbers of pupils for 22/23. Action JC to check agreed pupil numbers prior to Schools Forum

Section B: Central Schools Services Block (decision required by Schools Forum on details)

Actions:

- EW and SJ to review the wording in the report on proposed savings and to update
- Appendix 5 – remove the notes column. Action EW

Section C: High Needs Block

Actions:

- Report to be updated to include Period 9 (Q3) budget monitoring. EW to update report
- It was agreed that the paper on High Needs should be a supplementary paper to be submitted on 14 Jan after the DSG Spending Review Group meeting. Report to include proposals to meet demand, address cost pressures of Health and Social Care Levy and priorities for investment to support savings. Action EW/HS to finalise proposals to present to DSG Spending Review Group.

Section D: Early Years Block

- Further clarity was needed in the report regarding there not being a separate grant for private providers to cover Health & Social Care. Action EW to update report.

Agenda for Schools Forum

- Update from Simon and Gareth to be taken off the agenda.
- Budget Monitoring – still required as provided information for the budget report
- Budget report
- Update from DSG – could be verbal report.



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 22nd March 2022

Title: Dedicated Schools Budget – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021-22

Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance, Children’s Services

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of January (Period 10)

Reason for decision: For Information

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. This report updates Schools Forum on the current forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for the 2021-22 financial year, based on the spend to 31st January 2022 (period 10).

2. Forecast 2021-22

2.1. The overall Dedicated Schools Budget is currently projected to overspend by £1.882m as at the end of January, this is an improvement of £1.959m compared with the previous month.

	Total 2021-22 Plan	Total Actuals at 31/1/22	Year End Forecast	Forecast Variance Period 10
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block	185,875	121,400	185,820	(55)
High Needs Block	91,149	72,904	94,704	3,555
Central Schools Services Block	5,908	2,123	5,690	(218)
Early Years Block	33,007	26,036	31,607	(1,400)
Total	315,939	222,463	317,821	1,882

- 2.2. The main reason for the reduction in the forecast variance is a favourable movement of £1.130m against the early years block forecast. This is to reflect a lower projected take up of places in the spring term. The early years block is therefore forecast to underspend by £1.4m. It is likely that the DSG settlement for 2021-22 will be adjusted downwards to reflect the January 2022 early years census and therefore a proportion of this underspend will be clawed back in 2022-23.
- 2.3. A summary of the current forecast against the high needs block is attached as an appendix to this report. High needs budgets are projected to overspend by £3.6m this year, this is a reduction of £837k in the forecast compared with last month. Whilst there are small movements against a number of budget lines, the main reduction is against the forecast for post-16 placements. This is as a result of continued review of payments and of other agency contributions.
- 2.4. Schools block is currently projected to break even, there is potential for an underspend against the growth fund – this would be rolled forward against commitments in future years.
- 2.5. Central schools services block is projected to underspend by £218k. This is a planned underspend to support pressures against the high needs block.

3. DSG Reserve

- 3.1. Any variance against the DSG is to be managed through the DSG reserve which is ringfenced. At the start of the 2021-22 financial year the council had a deficit of £1.8m against its DSG reserve. The DSG deficit will be further impacted by a reduction of £392k against the 2020-21 Early Years block as a result of an adjustment by the DfE to reflect the January 2021 Early Years census.
- 3.2. The current projected overspend will increase the deficit to £4m if further savings cannot be identified before the end of the financial year.

High Needs Block - Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 10

Appendix 1

Expenditure Type	2021-22 budget £'000	Period 10 Forecast £'000	Forecast Variance £'000	Movement from Period 9 £'000
Placements/Top-ups 5-16 year olds				
Independent Special Schools	15,000	15,613	612	30
Other LA Special Schools (net)	4,324	4,443	119	-19
BC Special Schools	32,706	32,694	-12	0
ARPs	3,487	3,399	-88	-88
Mainstream Top-Ups with EHCP	10,134	11,442	1,307	0
Total Placement/Top-ups in Schools (5-16 year olds)	65,651	67,591	1,940	-75
Post-16 Placements				
Post-16 (Independent and FE College)	9,540	9,840	300	-854
Early Years Top-Ups				
Early Years pupils with EHCPs	303	796	492	0
Total support for pupils with EHCPs (places and top ups)	75,494	78,227	2,732	-929
SEN Support/Pupils without plans - Early Years	168	270	103	103
SEN Support/ Pupils without plans	1,063	1,268	205	-136
Total top ups for pupils without EHCPs	1,231	1,538	308	-33
Total Spend on Places and Top-ups for Pupils	76,725	79,765	3,040	-962
Alternative Provision				
Pupil Referral Units	2,494	2,514	20	0
Alternative Provision	1,259	1,587	328	137
Hospital Tuition Service	237	237	0	0
Home Tuition Service	218	218	0	0
Total Alternative Provision - spend on Pupils	4,208	4,556	348	137
Commissioned Contracts				
Integrated Therapies	1,657	1,857	200	0
Total Commissioned Contracts	1,657	1,857	200	0
Other support for pupils and schools and central costs				
Total Other support	8,559	8,526	-33	-11
Total Spend	91,149	94,704	3,555	-836

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Report to Schools Forum

Date: 22nd March 2022

Title: Schools Budget Update

Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance – Children’s Services

Recommendations:

- a) Schools Forum is asked to note that Buckinghamshire schools’ local funding formula model and growth methodology as agreed by Schools Forum on 18th January 2022 received political ratification on 15th February 2022 and has been cleared by the DfE.
- b) Schools Forum is asked to note that Ministerial approval has been received for the request to disapply the Minimum Funding Guarantee for special schools for the 2022-23 financial year.

1. Background

- 1.1. This report updates School Forum on the Schools Budget Proposals as presented at the meeting on 18th January 2022.

2. Budget Update 2022-23

Mainstream Schools

- 2.1. The 2022-23 Schools Block allocation is £387.291m, including £2.373m Growth Fund. Buckinghamshire will also receive £11.1m in supplementary grant to support the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost pressures.
- 2.2. The schools’ local funding formula was based on Model 1a agreed by Schools Forum in January 2022. The model uses 100% of National Funding Formula rates with a +0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and DfE minimum per pupil funding rates.

- 2.3. As a result of the model there are 4 schools protected through MFG with the cost of protection (£71k) met from within the DfE allocation. There is no requirement to cap schools in 2022-23 to fund MFG.
- 2.4. The schools' local funding formula, proposed growth fund methodology, and maintained schools de-delegation details received political ratification from the local authority on 14th February 2022 and were cleared by the DfE on 23rd February.
- 2.5. Maintained mainstream schools have now received details of their funding allocations for the financial year 2022-23. For academies, the DfE will issue 2022-23 general annual grant allocation statements within the statutory timescales.
- 2.6. The published rates for the allocation of the supplementary grant are outlined below. It should be noted that from the 2023-24 financial year it is expected that this grant will be rolled into the overall schools block rather than allocated as a separate grant.

Rate for early years

The base per-pupil funding rate for early years provision in schools, and for maintained nursery schools, will be £24 per pupil.

Rates for 5 to 16 schools:

The base funding rates for 5-16 schools will be:

- basic per-pupil rate of £97 for primary pupils
- basic per-pupil rate of £137 for key stage 3 pupils
- basic per-pupil rate of £155 for key stage 4 pupils
- lump sum of £3,680
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £85 per eligible primary pupil
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £124 per eligible secondary pupil

Rates for post-16

The base per-student funding rate for 16-19 provision in schools, including 16 to 19 schools and academies, will be £35 per student.

Special Schools

- 2.7. The council has now received confirmation that the request for an exemption from the MFG for special schools, agreed by Schools Forum in December 2021, has now been approved by the Minister. This enables band values to be issued to special schools in line with the proposed transitional arrangements for the implementation of the banded funding mechanism.
- 2.8. Special Schools and alternative provision will also receive a supplementary grant to cover the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy. The guidance for the grant requires local authorities to develop a methodology for allocating the grant to

schools and therefore special schools and the PRU will be notified of their allocations from April in due course.

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Report to Schools Forum

Date: 22nd March 2022

Title: Report from the Schools Specific Contingency Panel

Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance (Children's Services)

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to:

- 1. Note the outcomes of the Schools Specific Contingency Panel meeting**
- 2. Approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for implementation in the 2022-23 financial year.**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report updates members of Schools Form on the decisions of the Schools Specific Contingency Panel at its meeting on 2nd March 2022 for the financial year 2021-22.

2. Contingency Fund Applications

- 2.1. The budget for 2021-22 is £288,573 based on the agreed de-delegation pupil rate of £7 per pupil for primary and £8.75 per pupil for secondary. A balance of £195,018 was unspent from the previous year, giving a total available budget of £483,591.
- 2.2. The group considered applications from 8 schools totalling £227,109. At the meeting the group agreed payments of £30,899. The group has requested further information to be submitted by one school and a final decision has still to be reached on that case. All other schools have been notified of the outcome of their requests. No appeal requests have been received to date and Schools Forum will be updated of the outcome of any appeals in due course.
- 2.3. Appendix 1 shows details of anonymised applications and payments agreed for this financial year.

2.4. Similar to previous years, successful bids included unforeseen staffing costs, pupil premium for traveller children and costs associated with additional pupils up to a maximum of 7/12 AWPU. Unsuccessful applications were those in which the case was not made according to the Terms of Reference.

3. Schools Specific Contingency Fund Terms of Reference

3.1. The Panel agreed that the terms of reference for the contingency fund should be reviewed to include

- a) Support for costs incurred after the date of the meeting to the remainder of the financial year will be considered in the next financial year claim if the school still meet the criteria for financial difficulty.
- b) Costs for long term absence of HLTA staff if they are deployed in a teaching role and the absence needs to be covered by a supply teacher.

3.2. The terms of reference have been further reviewed to update the membership and the criteria that will be considered for funding. The changes recommended are:

- 1) That representatives from the iSEND Service are not required to attend as applications for SEND funding are outside of the Terms of Reference for the contingency fund.
- 2) That the need to fund applications for funding in respect of incorrect application of the school funding formula or incorrect data should be removed as Buckinghamshire now mirrors the National Funding Formula and uses the national data set provided by the DfE.

3.3. Appendix 2 to this report shows the proposed revisions.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Contingency Decisions 2021-22	
Contingency bids for Financial Year 2021-22	
Anonymised list of 8 schools	
Requested	Agreed 02/03/2022
£13,959	£4,770
£15,128	£0
£147,210	£0
£7,220	£7,220
£3,516	£1,758
£25,760	£7,443
£4,845	£238
£9,470	£9,470
£227,108	£30,899
Budget 2021-22	£288,573
C/f from 2020-21	£195,018
Total Available	£483,591
Balance for Unresolved Claim and Appeals	£452,692
Note: Request 3 required further information and a decision is still to be made	

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SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY FUND

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by Schools Forum: **DDMMYY**
Effective: **DDMMYY**

Background

The Schools Budget consists of the delegated budgets allocated to individual schools and a budget for other provision for pupils which local authorities fund centrally. The allocation to each school is made according to formulae, either set nationally or agreed on a local basis.

In Buckinghamshire, a contingency fund has been established, in accordance with current regulations¹, to assist maintained schools where, for a range of potential reasons they are experiencing financial difficulty to a degree likely to impact adversely on the education of pupils. This fund is known as the Schools Specific Contingency Fund (SSCF). The SSCF is a de-delegated service. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval. De-delegation is not an option for Special schools, Nursery schools and PRUs. Primary and secondary maintained school members of the Schools Forum can vote to approve a local authority proposal to pool funding from maintained school budgets.

Any unspent balance at the year-end should be reported to Schools Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following year and can be used specifically for de-delegated service if the authority wishes. If a local authority carries forward an overspend, then the Schools Forum must specifically agree for it to be funded from the following year's budget.

The SSCF is central expenditure deducted for the purpose of ensuring that monies are available to enable increases in a school's budget share after it has been allocated where it subsequently becomes apparent that a governing body have incurred expenditure which it would be unreasonable to expect them to meet from the school's budget share which may include expenditure in relation to -

- (i) schools in financial difficulty,
- (ii) the writing-off of deficits of schools which are discontinued, excluding any additional costs and overheads,
- (iii) new, amalgamating or closing schools, or
- (iv) other expenditure where such circumstances were unforeseen when initially determining the school's budget share

Regulations¹ give the Schools Forum members for Primary maintained schools and Secondary maintained schools the power to agree the level of the Schools Specific Contingency.

The Schools Specific Contingency Group (SSCG)

The Schools Specific Contingency Group has delegated authority from the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Schools Forum to make allocations of funding to schools from the Schools Specific Contingency Fund.

SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY FUND

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by Schools Forum: DDMMYY
Effective: DDMMYY

Membership of the group shall include:

Head of Finance Children's Services or representative

~~Head of SEN or representative~~ *Delete as SEND requests not within TOR*

And

At least three Members of the Schools Forum

The group has the authority to determine appropriate criteria for the allocation of contingency funding to schools; such criteria may need to change from time to time to reflect available funding and the number and nature of applications from schools.

The SSCG will meet once a year, in late February/March, when all cases submitted by schools will be considered. Meetings will be chaired by a Schools Forum member.

In order to avoid any conflict of interest that might exist for a member of the Group in the consideration of a specific application with which he/she may have a connection as a Governor, IEB member, Headteacher or Business Manager, then such a conflict will be eliminated by such a member withdrawing from the discussions and decision making surrounding the case.

Principles and criteria

Schools are expected to take all reasonable issues into account when setting their financial plans and to ensure that they have capacity within their plans to deal with unforeseen eventualities. The Schools Specific Contingency Fund is necessarily very limited and is therefore allocated only in exceptional circumstances.

Please note that unforeseen additional expenditure or loss of income attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be eligible for support through the SSCF.

In considering applications for support except those relating to errors in budget shares, in all cases the school is required to demonstrate that "financial difficulty"* would result. The SSCG will require evidence of the size and nature of the expenditure together with an explanation of steps taken to mitigate the impact on the school's budget. The group will take account of such steps and in cases where the expenditure could have been avoided or substantially reduced (e.g. through the purchase of appropriate insurance) applications will be discounted accordingly.

* Financial difficulties shall be recognised when either

- a) The latest forecast of the year end results show a deficit or
- b) As a result of the additional costs (being the subject of the Contingency application), the in-year deficit of the school exceeds 2% of the school's Budget share

Applications will be considered for the issues arising in the academic years covered by the current financial year. However, funding is only available on a financial year basis and therefore schools should ensure that applications are made within the correct financial year. **Consideration of applications will be limited by the level of the budget set aside for the SSCF.**

Where allocations are agreed, the following criteria will generally be applied;

SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY FUND

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by Schools Forum: DDMMYY
Effective: DDMMYY

- (i) ~~For errors in school budget shares arising from incorrect data or incorrect application of the funding formula – the full amount of the error for the current financial year. *Delete as BC now mirrors National Funding Formula and uses the data set provided by DfE*~~
- (ii) Support for significant unforeseen costs incurred up to the date of the SSCG meeting – no more than 50% of the cost accepted by the SSCG. (NB schools may apply for support to meet costs incurred in the remainder of the financial year after the date of the SSCG meeting in the following year if the school still meets the overall criteria for financial difficulty)

The following are examples of applications falling under point (ii).above – unforeseen costs – which the SSCG may consider:-

- a) Long term absence of teaching staff through sickness/maternity leave etc. where it has proved necessary to engage agency staff. This may include HLTA absence if that absence requires cover to be provided by a supply teacher. (N.B. the SSCG will require valid reasons if no insurance has been arranged either for teachers or for HLTA staff if they are being deployed in a teaching role)
 - b) Net redundancy costs² for staff declared redundant in the first 9 months of the financial year. Redundancies arising in the last 3 months of the financial year will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
 - c) Child Protection issues resulting in staff suspensions and/or legal costs.
- (iii) Support for additional pupil numbers
In cases where schools experience or need to plan for, a known (not forecasted) significant rise in pupil numbers since the date of the previous funding census (October) until the start of the financial year when those pupils begin to be funded through the funding model, they may apply for additional funding to cover costs incurred in providing education to those pupils. Each case will be considered on an individual spend or need to spend basis.

Schools need to demonstrate:

- a) That necessary additional staffing costs have been incurred or need to be incurred,
- b) That financial difficulty will arise without additional funding i.e. that insufficient free reserve and balances are available to cover those costs. "Free reserves refer to such reserves held by a school which are not specifically held for some future defined expenditure."
- c) Marginal non-staffing costs will be expected to be met by the schools themselves, but significant non-staffing costs will be considered provided that there is clear evidence to prove the cost would not have been incurred if the pupil numbers had not risen.

Contingency panel will grant the actual amount that the school can justify it has incurred due to the increase in pupils up to a maximum of 7/12 AWPU

SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY FUND

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by Schools Forum: DDMMYY
Effective: DDMMYY

iv) Traveller Children

For Traveller children who do not receive pupil premium an amount equal to Pupil Premium shall be paid for the period at which the child is registered at that school. Claims should be made in arrears.

Applications which fall outside the scope of the Contingency Fund which will not be accepted and for clarity include those:-

- (i) for funding appertaining to prior financial years
- (ii) for capital expenditure
- (iii) from academies
- (iv) for circumstances which fall under the criteria of the growth fund, i.e. pupil growth beyond PAN to meet basic need
- (v) for SEN funding
- (vi) for funding that is attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic

Application Process

Schools that believe their budget share is incorrect should contact the Schools Funding and Support Team to verify the calculations. Any errors established will be corrected as a matter of course and will be reported to the SSCG.

Additional information or evidence may be included in covering letters etc. to support the school's application.

The application must be supported by an up-to-date forecast of the school's projected year end income & expenditure and resulting surplus/deficit (such forecasts to be provided by utilising the standard financial reporting process), Updated for 4 weeks before the panel meeting. The date of the meeting will be announced on the SchoolsWeb.

Notification of Decisions

The BC Finance team will notify Schools of the decision on their contingency applications within 15 working days of the SSCG meeting.

Appeals

Schools wishing to appeal against the decision made on their application should put the details of their appeal in writing enclosing all additional and supporting information within 5 working days of the decision and submit using the Schools Contingency Fund Request Form on the Service Desk Portal. Any appeals will be heard and considered by the SSCG at a special meeting.

SCHOOL SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY FUND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved by Schools Forum: DDMMYY
Effective: DDMMYY

(Amended by Schools Forum 8th December 2020)

Note ¹: THE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2021

Note ²: Net redundancy costs to be calculated as the costs of the redundancy less the amount 'saved' in salaries, including on-costs, for the balance of the financial year. (Schools should be aware however that the SSCF would only cover up to 50% of the net redundancy costs)

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Report to Schools Forum

Date: 23rd Marc 2022

Title: Update from the F40 Group

Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance – Children’s Services

Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the latest campaign priorities for the F40 Group.

1. Background

- 1.1. The F40 group is made up of 42 local authorities who are among the lowest funded for education in England. Buckinghamshire is one of those local authorities and is a member of the F40 Group.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on the latest campaign priorities for the F40 Group.

2. F40 Priorities

- 2.1. The current F40 campaign priorities are outlined in the attached document circulated to local authorities in January.
- 2.2. The F40 group also hosted a webinar in January 2022 to highlight the issues associated with school funding. F40 have encouraged member authorities to share the slides from that webinar.

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The campaign for fairness in education funding

Our objective

f40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live. We wish to see all schools properly funded to enable them to provide a quality education that enables children and young people to reach their potential. The basic funding should be enough to run a school before extra money is added on for any additional needs specific to a school or its pupils.

Historically, education funding has been unfair in England for many years. While good progress has been made with the introduction of the National Funding Formula, there are still too many discrepancies locked into the system, with some schools still receiving far less per pupil than others.

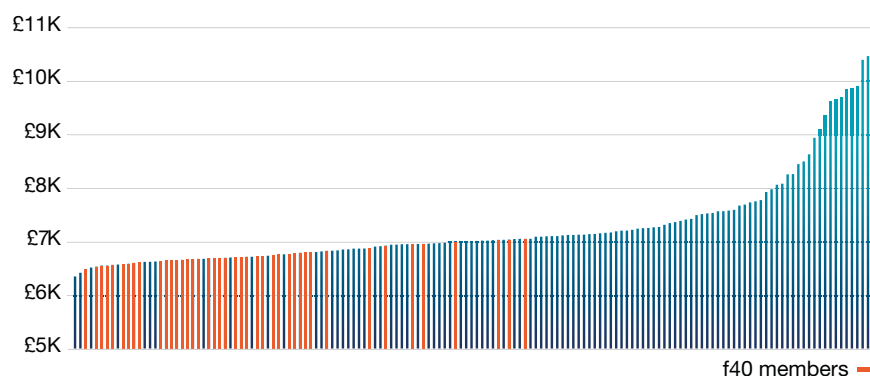
Government has acknowledged the unfairness and is attempting to level up without reducing funding for the better funded schools, but it is a slow process to address the historic disproportionate funding. Many areas, especially large rural communities and 'shire' local authorities, still receive inequitably less funding.

f40, made up of 42 local authority members from across England, is campaigning for fair funding in all areas of education, including primary and secondary schools, Early Years, 16-19, and High Needs up to age 25.

Fair funding for all schools

- Equitable funding should be provided to all schools to allow them to deliver a high-quality education and to enable them to safeguard all children and young people.
- Further funding should be provided to meet additional needs of pupils, and school and area living costs, without the need for historic protections or top-ups, such as a minimum level of funding per pupil.

Variation in gross DSG allocation per mainstream pupil by LA



Sufficiency of funding for all schools

- Funding should be sufficient to ensure effective and enriched learning for all pupils.
- Funding should address historic shortfalls, where budgets have not matched inflation.
- Funding should reflect rising demands on schools, such as policy changes/Covid.

It must be recognised that the pandemic has impacted on all pupils – not just those with additional needs.

In 2019, f40, working with other educational organisations, estimated that £12.6bn was required to return schools to 2010 funding levels. Since that time, extra funding has been announced, but constantly-evolving pressures and

demands mean that schools have not received an increase in their budgets in real terms. Extra costs include:

- The health and social care levy collected through increases in National Insurance
- Teachers' starting salaries increasing to minimum £30k
- Rise in general costs, such as utility and fuel charges
- Immediate Covid costs (extra heating, cleaning, PPE and staffing)
- Long-term Covid costs (mental/emotional/physical/health impacts and catch-up)
- Necessary and unavoidable extra staffing costs, impacting on recruitment/retention

SEND

The number of children and young people with SEND, and their complexity of need, continues to rise. This, coupled with more young people accessing support for longer (19-25), without sufficient funding, is putting great pressure on the system. Funding is also currently based on historic need, which is very different to the requirements of SEND today.

- Local authorities and schools should receive enough revenue annually so they can deliver high quality services to all children with 'high needs', recognising the rising demand, increasing complexity of need, and wider implications from policy changes.
- Additional funding should be provided specifically to help local authorities settle the huge deficit budgets in High Needs stemming from changes to the Code of Practice in 2014. These changes led to greater identification of children with SEND, with numbers increasing each year. The deficits are a direct consequence of under investment since the changes in the Code of Practice were introduced.
- The SEND review should be published at the earliest opportunity and major changes to overhaul the system introduced.

Early Years

- Additional funding should be allocated to enable local authorities to meet the need for Early Years provision at a level that ensures sustainability of the market.
- The extra funding should address the historic shortfall in funding, which has not kept pace with inflation. It should take into account pressures faced by the sector, such as the impact of increases in the minimum wage and the social care/health levy.



Capital funding

There has been little investment in the fabric of schools in recent years, resulting in poor condition and maintenance of many buildings across the country. This lack of investment must be reversed at the earliest opportunity before minor maintenance issues become more expensive, major problems.

- Funding should be made available for the maintenance of buildings to help schools deal with the backlog of repairs and improvements required.
- Funding should be provided to enable schools to implement carbon reduction measures that will be vital if the UK is to become Net Zero by 2040.
- Capital funding should be available to local authorities flexibly and quickly to ensure the requirements of children with high needs are met within the allocation provided, and to ensure the excessive use of expensive independent provision is minimised.
- The Free School programme should be more responsive to pressures for additional school places and new schools, preventing unnecessary and costly delays.

For more information

For more information about f40, contact Secretary Karen Westcott at karen@dtw.co.uk or on **07545 210067**.



Fair funding for
all schools

The campaign for fair funding - a presentation by f40

January 25, 2022

Presentation by f40 Executive members

- **Councillor Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Education, Derbyshire County Council**
- **Emily Proffitt, Headteacher of a Staffordshire primary school and Deputy Chair of f40**
- **Jackie Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Brunel SEN MAT and CEO of Uplands Enterprise Trust**

View from a local authority

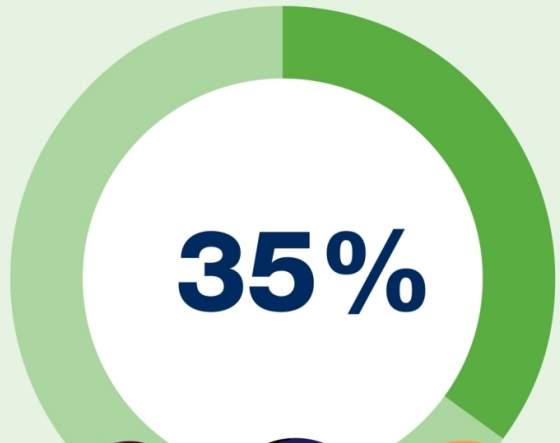
Councillor Alex Dale
Cabinet Member for Education
Derbyshire County Council

The f40 campaign

- F40 was launched around 25 years ago
- Borne out of unfairness in the way education funding was distributed
- Derbyshire was a founding member and is still one of the lowest funded authorities
- Now has 42 local authority members across England

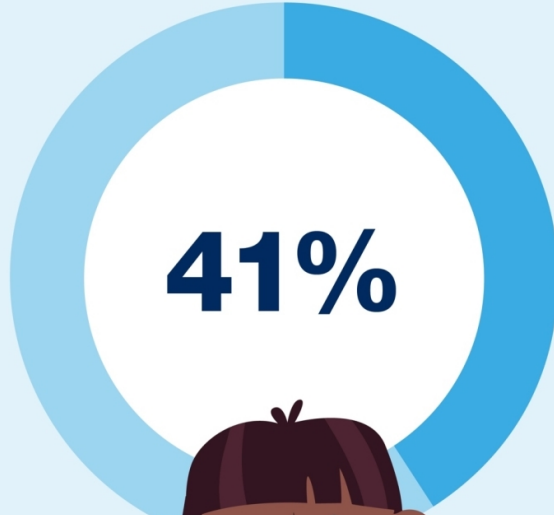


How the f40 figures stack up



Total school pupils in f40 areas: **Over 2.9m**

35% of all schoolchildren in England

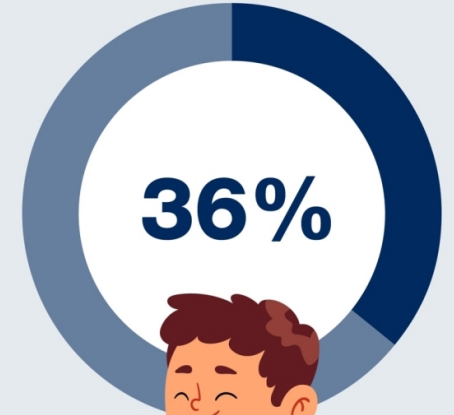


Total schools in f40 areas: **Almost 9,000**

41% of all schools in England

Children with EHCPS in maintained and independent schools: **Over 117,000**

36% of national total of EHCPS



Rise of 37% since 2016



Percentage of EHCPS across all pupils in f40 areas:

4.73% vs.

National average:

3.84%

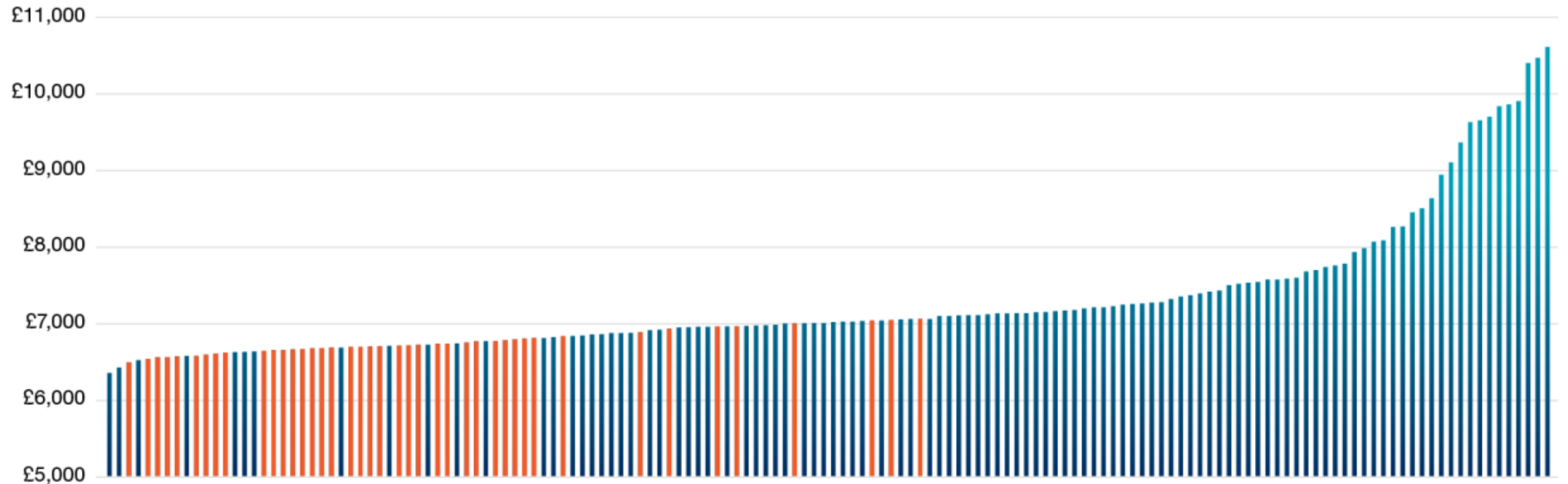
Mainstream Funding

- Historically, difficult for councils to justify why the education of some children received greater funding than others
- Introduction of the NFF was a positive step, but it.....
 - Still locks in historic inequalities
 - Does not give enough as a basic entitlement
 - Allows too much for “add-ons”
- Government has acknowledged unfairness but levelling up is slow
- f40 priority has always been fair funding
- Now also concerned about quantum
- Increased funding packages in recent years have been very welcome, but still fall short of what is needed in real terms
- Unfairness continues

Variation in Funding

f40 members

Gross DSG allocation per mainstream pupil by local authority



High Needs Funding

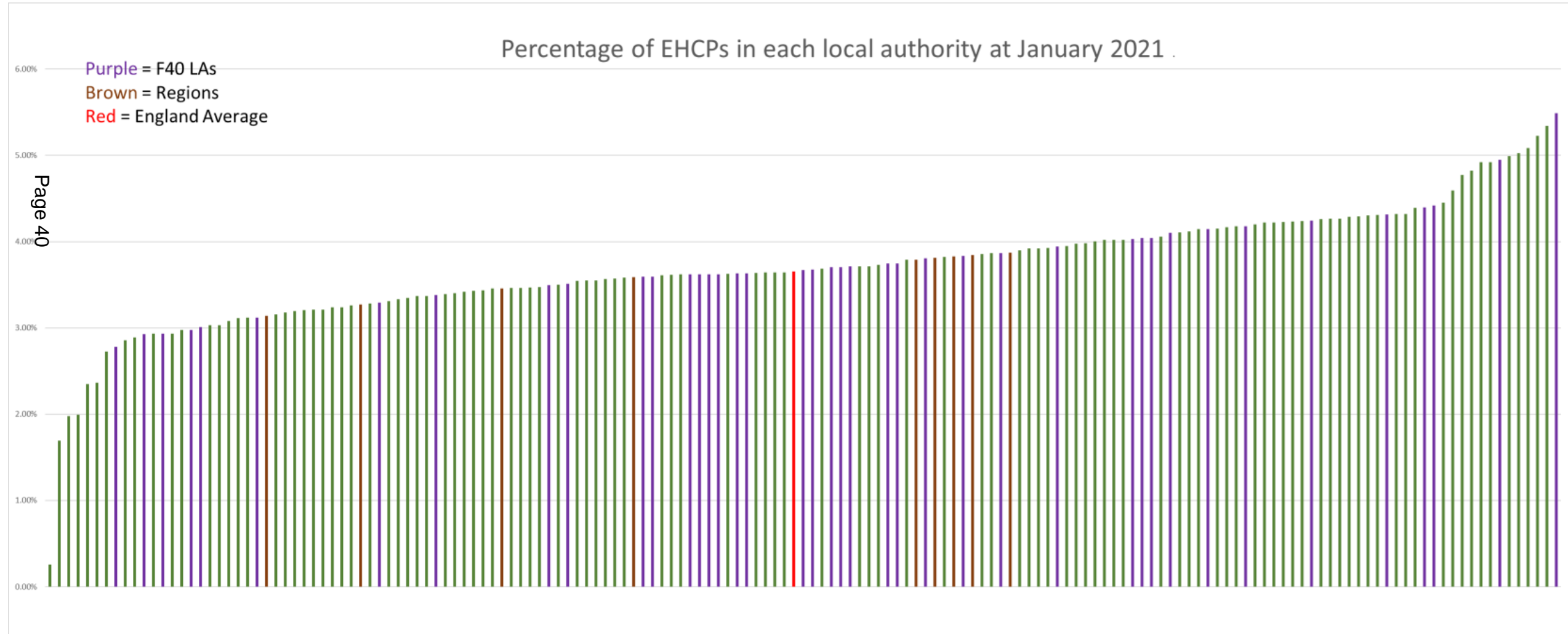
- Nowhere is the issue of quantum more important than in SEND
- A clear national crisis – more than £1bn overspend
- Lower rise in EHCPs means Derbyshire's situation has been more healthy than others:
 - Avoided a deficit in previous years by using reserves, but £6m deficit this year
 - Recently secured approval for a 0.5% transfer as part of our DSG recovery plan
 - But... raft of fairly unpalatable measures are still required
- Other authorities are in a much worse position – e.g. Devon has an £88m deficit
- Solution for deficit budgets required
- Urgent action required – SEND Review must lead to bold improvements

Percentages of EHCPs by local authority 2021

Percentage of EHCPs in each local authority at January 2021 .

Purple = F40 LAs
Brown = Regions
Red = England Average

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Online poll

Cloud poll



Other Issues

- What is the role of the local authority within the education sector moving forward?
- Schools White Paper – system currently feels disjointed – clarity needed urgently
- Capital funding:
 - Under investment has led to backlog of repairs and improvements needed
 - Investment required for carbon reduction measures
 - Should be available to local authorities flexibly and quickly
 - Free School programme should be more responsive to need for school places
 - Early Years

View from a Headteacher

Emily Proffitt

**Headteacher of a Staffordshire primary school
and Vice Chair of f40**



Making Ends Meet

- Rural school, 225 pupils, one form entry, with a nursery
- Low Pupil Premium / high level of SEND
- Full in number, so no additional funding available
- Just emerged from deficit of 42K, but forecast to be in deficit again next year
- Budgets stripped back as far as possible
- Gradual staff reduction to support stretched budget
- Every penny carefully accounted for / parents contributing more and more
- Relying on Before and After School Clubs and extended nursery for income
- Budget increases wiped out by rising costs and demands

Impact of COVID-19

- Pupils' emotional / physical / mental well-being impacted by Covid
- Family resilience adversely impacted
- Insufficient additional money to cover increase in extra COVID-19 spending (cleaning / PPE / heating / energy costs / ventilation requirements)
- Increased staff absence / headteacher teaching / supply teacher costs
- No crystal ball to enable us to forward-plan in relation to COVID-19 costs

SEND

- Increased amount of pupils requiring support
- High level of early SEND coming through, possibly as a result of COVID-19
- High levels of speech and language issues, as well as social concerns
- No available places in special schools, so pupils of high needs remain in mainstream education
- Increased amount of EHCPs / majority of TAs attached through EHCPs
- Very little available support for children without EHCPs

View from the SEND Sector

**Jackie Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Brunel SEN MAT
and
CEO of Uplands Enterprise Trust**

Context – the Brunel MAT

- Six specialist provisions (540 CYP) from nursery to college (2–25 years)
- Increasingly complex needs / over 55% diagnosis of autism
- Average class size ten
- More than 600 staff
- Demand outstrips available places
- Significant waiting lists

The Perfect Storm – The SEND Crisis

- Inadequate funding – more with less, year-on-year financial pressure
- Increasing numbers of CYP with SEND, with increasingly complex needs
- System-led issues – compounded by COVID-19 and the impact on the SEND landscape

Inadequate Funding for SEND

- Current funding formula based on historic need, not current, increased need
- Place funding of £10k not increased and inconsistent inflation applied to top-up funding since 2013
- Increased staff costs – 2013 TA £12-£14k, compared to 2021 TA £22-£23k
- High Needs funding pot not increased to reflect increased age range to 25 years
- Insufficient provision and increasing need leads to expensive out-of-borough placements
- Bureaucracy of funding – slow and complex processes and systems

Increasing numbers of SEND

- Increasingly complex needs – requiring greater expertise
- High demand for EHCPs
- Increasing autism diagnosis
- Special schools/provisions often at capacity with waiting lists
- Capacity issues in all sectors (Education, Health & Care) results in lack of cross-sector collaboration & coproduction. Health & Social Care relying on Education to facilitate and deliver

System-led Issues

- Newly-qualified teachers not equipped to teach SEND CYP
- Reduced capacity and skills in local authorities to support SEND delivery
- SEND in mainstream schools often bolt on, not built-in
- Lack of innovation and collaboration as schools protect funding
- Inconsistency in funding
- Reduced outreach and in-reach services – special schools' capacity and reduced expertise
- Balancing the need for additional places with High Needs deficit budgets

Impact of COVID-19

- Additional cost of PPE / cleaning / ventilation
- Navigating national COVID finance support schemes
- Loss of additional income, such as lettings
- Recruitment and retention of experienced SEND staff
- School leaders forced to be operational / unable to deliver on strategy
- Well-being of all is impacted – especially mental health
- Parent/carer desire for special school places – significant increase in tribunals

Thank you!

Please write any questions you have in the Q&A section and we will attempt to answer them at the end. The questions with the most 'likes' will be prioritised.





Where next for education funding?

- Tom Goldman, Funding Policy Unit

The core schools budget is made up of a number of blocks, to fund the core activities of compulsory schooling

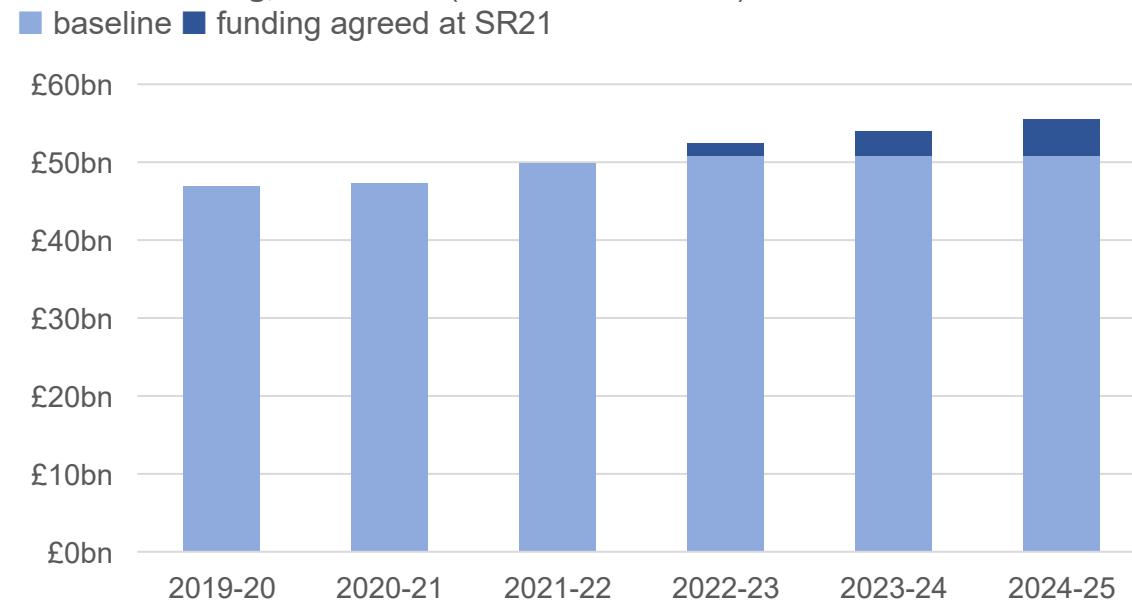
- We provide over £50 billion pa to cover the core costs of education for nearly 7.5 million pupils in over 20,000 schools
- The “core schools budget” does not cover 100% of the funding for schools. Other significant funding streams include:
 - Covid Recovery Funding
 - Universal Infant Free School Meals
 - Primary PE & Sport Grant
- Schools will also receive Early Years funding (for nursery classes) and 16-19 funding (for sixth forms), where appropriate

Core Schools Budget		
Funding stream	Value in 2021-22	Purpose
Schools block	£39.2bn	Funding for all pupils in mainstream schools, from Reception to year 11: covers schools’ core running costs (teacher and other staff salaries; utilities, teacher resources and other non-pay costs)
Pupil premium	£2.5bn	Additional funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities. Also includes targeted funding for looked after children and service children
High needs block	£8.1bn	Funding for pupils and students (to age 25) with high level special educational needs in all settings, and those who need Alternative Provision. Covers all of the running costs of special schools, and ‘top up’ funding for pupils with EHC plans in mainstream schools
Central schools services	£0.4bn	Funding for local authorities for their ongoing responsibilities towards both maintained schools and academies

At the 2021 Spending Review, we confirmed real terms per pupil increases to the core schools budget in each of the next three years

- Core School Budget to 2024-25
- **Increasing by over £7bn by 2024-25**, compared to 2021-22 (including the already planned increase of £2.4bn in 2022-23 from SR19).
- Significant additional funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Plans confirmed for 2022-23
- Overall, in 2022-23 core schools funding will **increase by £4bn** compared to 2021-22; **a 5% real terms per pupil boost**. This total broadly includes:
 - **£2.5bn** increase in mainstream school funding for 5-16 year olds, equivalent to an average 5.8% cash increase per pupil.
 - **£1bn** increase in high needs funding for children and young people with the most complex SEND, with total high needs funding reaching £9.1bn in 2022-23.
 - **£100m** increase in Pupil Premium funding - increasing to over £2.6bn in 2022-23, from £2.5bn this year
 - **£225m** to maintain and expand our ‘safety valve’ intervention programme to target more local authorities with the highest deficits.
 - A small increase in funding for on-going responsibilities in the Central School Services Block (CSSB)

Schools funding, real terms (2019-20 to 2024-25)



Source: HM Treasury SR19 and SR21 settlements, OBR GDP deflators; funding from 2022-23 onwards is a projection, price year = 2021-22. *To note:* the per pupil figures provided here are illustrative and designed to demonstrate the overall impact of the SR settlement on the core school budget. They are not directly comparable with DfE’s published official statistics on school funding, the next update to which will be published at the end of January 2022

	2022-23	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
SR19 core schools budget	£49.8 bn	£52.2bn	-	-
SR21 additions on SR19 settlement for 2022-23		+£1.6bn	+£3.2 bn	+£4.7 bn
Total core schools budget*	£49.8 bn	£53.8bn	£55.3 bn	£56.8 bn

*Numbers may not add due to rounding

The majority of the £1.6bn additional funding in 2022-23 will be distributed through the Schools Supplementary Grant

2022-23 School Supplementary Grant:

- £1.2bn allocated to schools
 - £325m additional High Needs funding to LAs
- We have also used £150m to expand the safety valve intervention programme, to support more local authorities with the highest deficits.

- £1.2bn to schools will be in addition to the funding they schools will receive through local formulae.
- We have already published indicative allocations of the supplementary grant for each local authority - finalised allocations will be published in spring 2022
- This additional funding will be provided in each year of the spending review period; from 2023-24 our intention is to incorporate it into core budget allocations. i.e. for 5 to 16 schools, additional funding will be rolled into the schools NFF.

How is this grant calculated?

For mainstream schools - the 5-16 funding rates consist of the following three elements, which are based on factors already in the schools NFF:

- a basic per-pupil rate (with different rates for primary, KS3 and KS4)
- a lump sum paid to all schools
- a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils.

For LA High Needs budgets - increased local authorities' high needs DSG funding:

- distributed as a percentage uplift to the original amount calculated in 2022-23 high needs NFF.
- Local authorities decide how to allocate the additional funding to special schools and alternative provision.

The latest data suggest school reserve levels are improving, with an increasing proportion of schools reporting a surplus

The proportion of schools in surplus has increased:

- 96% of academy trusts were in surplus or breaking even end of August 2020 (up from 94% the previous year)
- 92% of maintained schools were in cumulative surplus or breaking even end of March 2021 (up from 88% previous year).

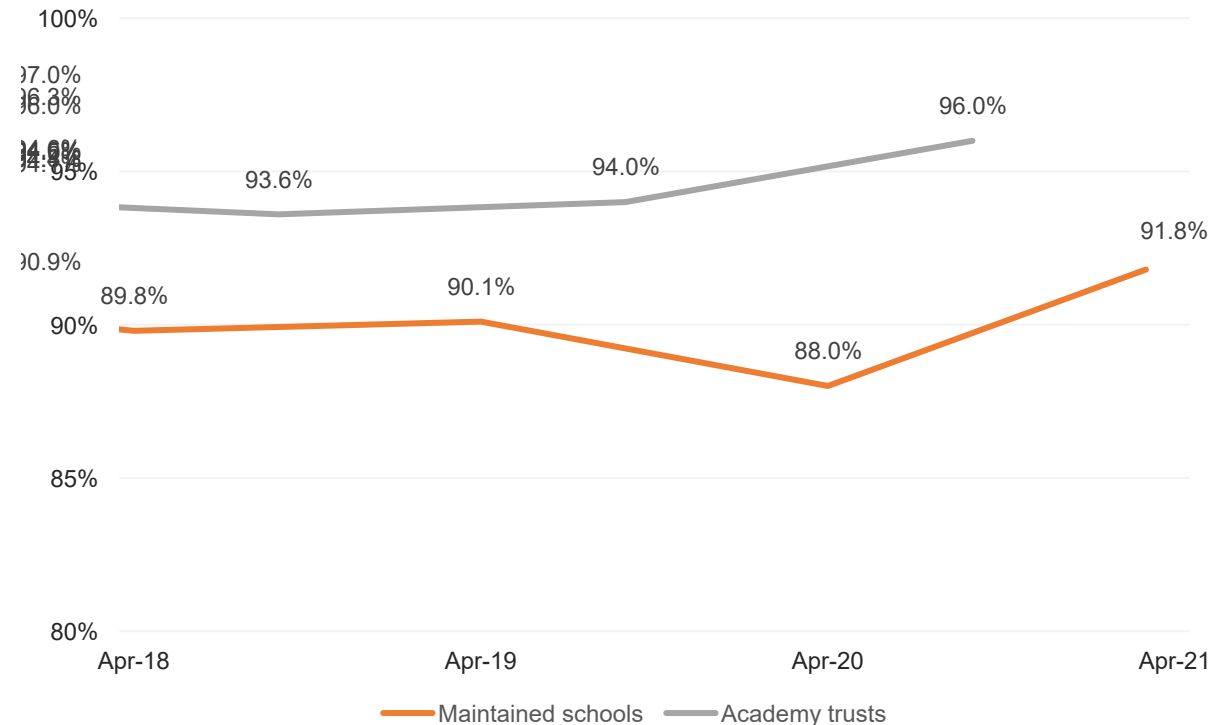
The average size of revenue reserves has increased:

- Average academy trust's revenue reserves increased to £1.15 million in AY 2019/20 (up from £0.96 million)
- Average maintained school's revenue reserves increased to £160,490 in FY 2020-21 (up from £110,690)

But the **average size deficits where schools have deficits has increased**, from -£169,000 in 2019-20 to -£225,000 in 2020-21.

Proportion of schools and trusts in surplus/breaking even*

*note y axis does not start at 0%



We still cannot anticipate the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Data on maintained schools shows the effect of the full first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data on trusts reflects the first 5 months of the pandemic, before full school reopening in September 2020.

The SR21 settlement will deliver significant increases to school funding, especially in 2022-23, to recognise the costs schools are likely to face in the coming years

- Following SR21, funding increases to schools are significantly front-loaded, to rapidly give schools resources to meet:
 - 2022/23 and 2023/24 teacher pay awards
 - costs associated with the Health and Social Care Levy
 - wider cost and inflationary pressures (e.g. energy costs)

This is alongside the work they are already doing to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and promote the best outcomes for their children and young people.

- Of course...schools have the flexibility to prioritise their spending of additional funding to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures.

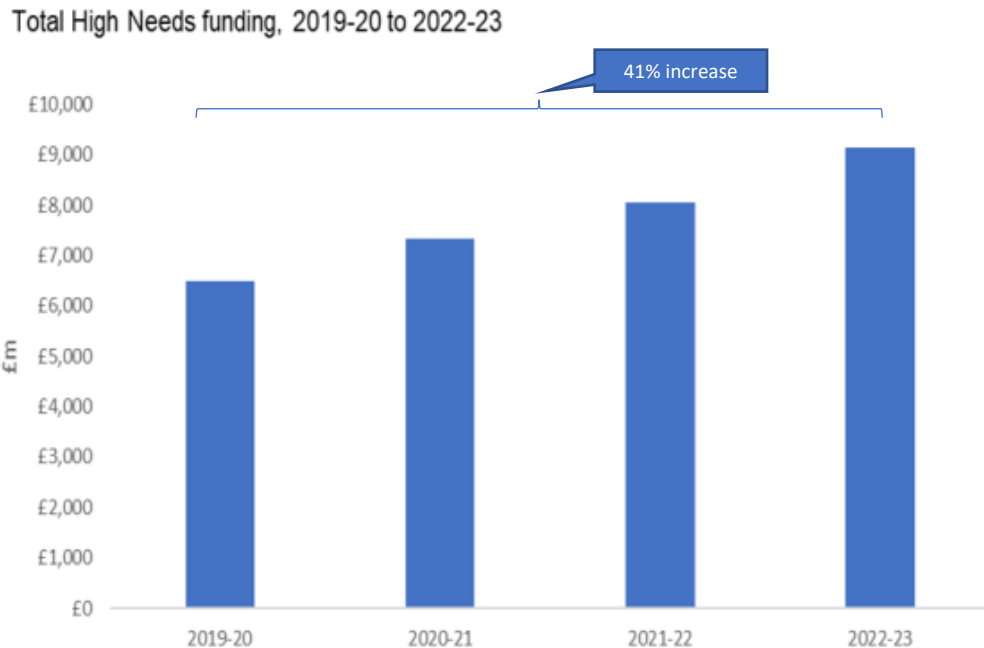
Where next on teacher pay?

- The School Teachers Review Body (STRB) will give recommendations on the **both the 2022/23 and 2023/24 pay awards** in summer 2022.
- The government remains committed to increasing starting salaries to £30,000 outside of the London pay areas, alongside sustainable uplifts to the pay of more experienced teachers.
- Important to ensure that any proposals are affordable across the school system.
- No expectation of a further Teachers Pay Grant: expect the pay awards to be affordable within the overall SR21 funding envelope.

Investment in high needs provision and moving to a financially sustainable system

High needs revenue funding will increase by over a third by 2022-23, compared to 2019-20.

An unprecedented investment in high needs funding – a 13% (over £1bn) increase in 2022-23, on top of the over £1.5bn increase in the previous two years.



- Despite the funding increases, we know that in many LAs high needs spending is growing faster than funding - with around 2/3rds LAs building up DSG deficits.
- A key driver of high needs costs is growth in numbers of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- The SEND Review (to be published this spring) will set out the Department's proposals for the reform of the high needs and AP system, to achieve financial sustainability.
- Alongside this, through the "Safety Valve" programme, we will be working with a wider cohort of authorities to tackle their deficits over a number of financial years.
- Also, the department will be supporting a wider group of local authorities with smaller DSG deficits through a new programme called Delivering Better Value in SEND - providing support and funding to help these LAs address the underlying issues that lead to increased pressure and putting them on a more sustainable footing.
- And a focus on sharing effective approaches across the system – in spring we plan to publish results of a research project into LAs that have achieved greater financial sustainability in their high needs spending.

Progress on the Schools National Funding Formula

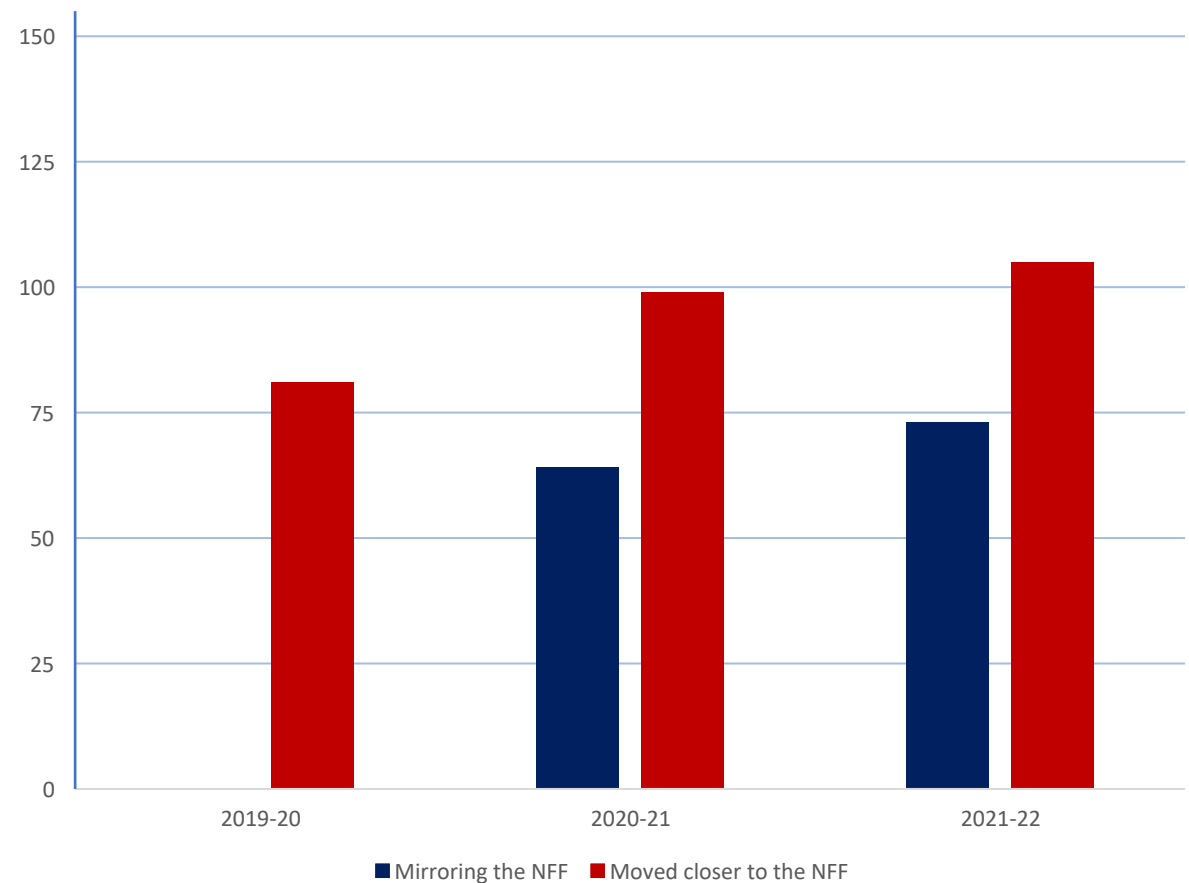
We have made a number of improvements to the NFF since it was first introduced in 2018-19. Key changes include:

- **Formularisation of growth funding** from 2019-20, distributing funding fairly based on actual growth, rather than historic spend by LAs on growth.
- **Abolishing the gains cap** in 2020-21, ensuring that schools attract the full gains they are due.
- **Formularisation of mobility funding** from 2020-21 – adopting a new and more robust methodology to determine pupil mobility than that used previously in LAs’ local formulae.
- **Increasing funding for the lowest funded schools** through uplifts to the minimum per pupil funding levels – and making the minimum levels mandatory in local formulae.
- **Supporting small and remote schools** through reforms which will see total funding through the “sparsity factor” increase from £42m in 2021-22 to £95m in 2022-23:
 - Moving to road distance instead of straight line distance to measure remoteness and introducing a distance “taper”
 - Increasing the maximum amount of sparsity funding schools can attract to £55K for primary and £80K for secondary

Progress on the Schools National Funding Formula - LA movements towards mirroring the NFF

- Currently, schools are funded through a 'soft' NFF which means that the NFF calculates funding for each mainstream school, which is then aggregated up to form each LA's allocation. LAs are then responsible for setting each schools funding on the basis of a local formulae.
- In the longer term, we plan to move to a 'direct' NFF which would remove the need for local formulae.
- Since the introduction of the soft NFF we have seen a general trend of LAs moving towards NFF values.
- 105 LAs have moved every local factor value closer to NFF, with 73 LAs now mirroring NFF
- However, a number of LAs are still some way off and unlikely to move closer without a process of transition

Movement towards the NFF in recent years



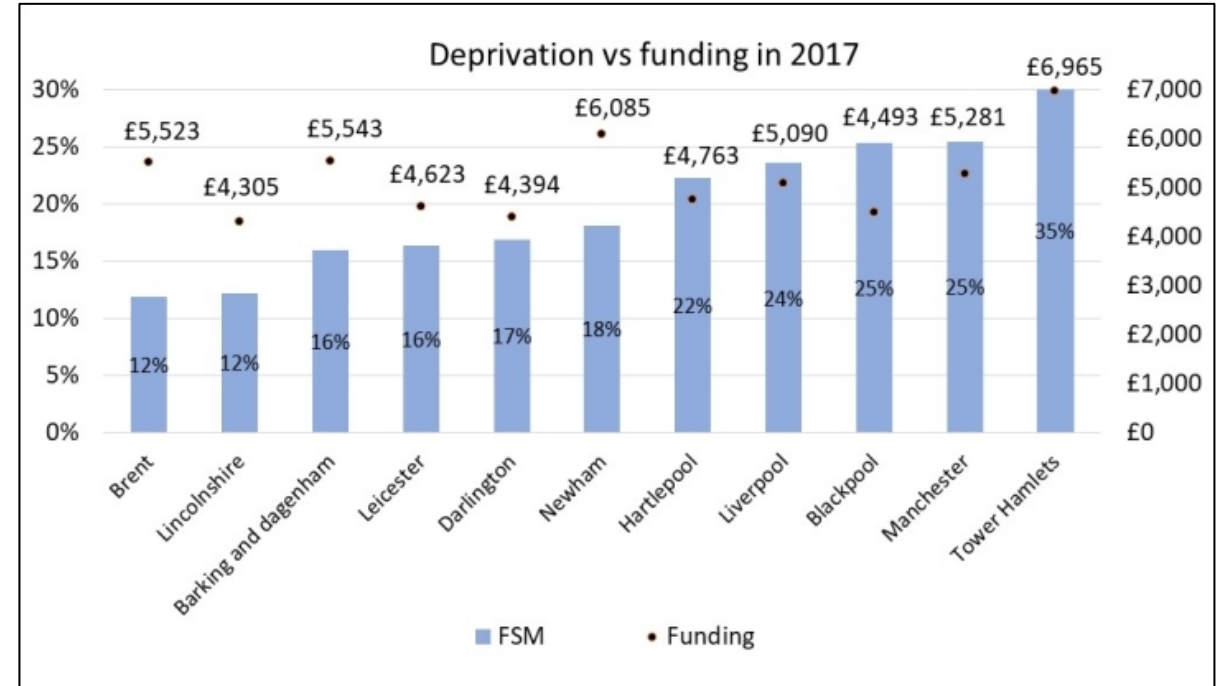
What has happened in most deprived areas?

The pre-NFF system was unfair: The NFF replaced a broken system – one that had not reflected changes in need for a long time. As a result, funding levels pre-NFF did not adequately reflect need. (Adjacent graph shows the poor correlation between FSM eligibility and funding at the time.)

With the NFF, deprivation funding now reflects current need

Funding has become fairer as the system “catches up” with changes in deprivation patterns since the early 2000s: areas which saw an increase in their deprivation levels pre-NFF have typically seen higher than average funding growth under the NFF, and vice versa.

Funding explicitly targeted to deprivation has increased since the introduction of the NFF: £2.4bn in local formulae in 2016-17 vs £3.8bn in the NFF 2022-23; but much of that is the NFF recognising “hidden deprivation”



NOTE: The funding figures in this graph include the area cost adjustment (ACA) uplifts some areas receive, most notably in London. Even when adjusting for the ACA, however, areas such as Brent and Barking and Dagenham were still significantly more highly funded than Lincolnshire, Leicester and Blackpool – despite having similar or lower levels of deprivation.

Moving to a direct NFF

In our recent consultation, we proposed to move local authority formula closer to the NFF from 2023-24. This would mean:

- Local authorities having to use all the NFF formula factors.
- Local authorities having to move each formula factor 10% closer to the NFF value, unless they are already mirroring the value.
- Continuing to protect schools from losses.

We will publish our response to the consultation shortly, confirming plans for 2023-24. The next steps of transition, from 2024-25, will be informed by feedback gathered from the first step in 2023-24.

Questions?

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