

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS SCHOOLS FORUM

12 June 2024, Microsoft Teams Meeting, 9.30am

AGENDA

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item	Item name	Papers
1.	Welcome from Chair	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Exclusion of Press and Public To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
5.	Minutes of Previous Meeting (01 November 2023) and Matters Arising (Action Log)	Attached
6.	DSG Management Plan Update	Attached
7.	SEN Inclusion Fund	Attached
8.	LA Scheme for Financing Schools	Attached
9.	Early Years Budget 2024/25	Attached
10.	High Needs Budget Monitoring Q3	Attached
11.	Contingency Fund Budget Monitoring Q3	Attached

Item	Item name	Papers
12.	Consideration of Forum Member vacancies	Verbal
13.	Consideration of Working Groups	Verbal
14.	Dates of Future Meetings, Forward Plan and Any other business	
	i. The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on Wednesday 18 September 2024. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams. ii. Westmorland and Furness Schools Forum Forward Plan 2024-25	

PART 2: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

AGENDA ITEM 5

WESTMORLAND & FURNESS SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
17 January 2024, Microsoft Teams Meeting, 9.30am

PRESENT

Emma Aubrey (South Maintained Secondary)
Jon Hayes (Secondary Academy)
Lisa Balderstone (PRU)
Andy Brewerton (Teachers Professional Association)
Huw Davies (Primary Academy)
Stephen Gilby (North Maintained Secondary)
Peter Graveson (Early Years/ **PVI**)
Matthew Hardwick (South Maintained Secondary)
Daniel Hinton (Special Schools)
Michelle Hughes (Maintained Primary)
Paul Lovell (RC Diocese) representing Julie Jones/ Michael Merrick
Rachel Slattery (Special Schools Academy)
Sue Sanderson (Cabinet Member - Children's Services, Education and Skills)
Nicola Cove (16-19)
Laura Watson (CE Diocese)
Simon Laheney (Secondary Academy)
David Nattrass (North Maintained Primary)

Officers in Attendance:

Marie Barnes	(Senior Manager)
Amanda Chew	(Service Accountant)
Susan Milburn	(Group Accountant)
Sian Rees	(Strategic Lead Children's Services)
Jonny Horn	(Clerk)
Isobel Booler	(Assistant Director - Education and Inclusion)

Apologies for Absence:

Ian Nicol (South Maintained Primary)
Ruth Webster (South Maintained Primary)

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. **Welcome from Chair and introduction to Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion - Isobel Booler**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Appointment of Vice-Chair -**

David Natrass appointed as Vice Chair

4. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

Nothing to cover, no issues raised

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Nothing to cover, no issues raised

6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (01 November 2023) and Matters Arising (Action Log)**

Nicola Cove of Furness introduced to fill the vacancy for 16-19 Representative and was welcomed to the Schools Forum.

Vacancies for Secondary Academy Representatives: Matthew Hardwick to approach Kirkby Kendal School.

Vacancies for Secondary Academy Representatives: Emma Aubrey to approach the Furness Education Consortium.

Vacancy for Maintained Nursery and for 16-19 Provider representative: Clerk to discuss potential candidates with officers, and pass details to Stephen Gilby to contact them.

Vacancy for Non-Teaching Associations: Marie Barnes will pass GMB and Unison contacts from a recent JCG meeting to Andy Brewerton to follow up.

Clerk to update Membership document to include the elected member, AD for Education and Inclusion and support officers, to be circulated and published online.

Action - Andy to follow up membership for non-education members

Action - Jonny to follow up membership for maintained nursery members as above

- Item 12. STRB visit - Clerk to collate responses to forward Cumberland officers.
- Item 16i. Clerk to check new members have invitations for future meetings.

Review Action log with recording and review attachments

Minutes agreed

7. Update on Schools in Financial Difficulty

The Schools Forum members are asked to note the decision of the Director of Childrens Services to allocate Schools in Financial Difficulty funding on the basis of Model 1 as presented to Schools Forum at its meeting on 30 November 2023.

Chair noted paragraph 4.7 in paper - At Childrens DMT on 19 December 2023 both options (Model 1 and Model 1A) were presented. It was felt that neither option addressed the issue of where some schools have done more to tackle their deficit than others. It was also noted that the allocation to individual schools varies considerably depending on the method used. Following some discussion, the Director of Childrens Services decided that Model 1 would be used to allocate funding to schools. Questions invited, no questions or issues raised, SF Approved model 1 from DCS.

8. Early Years Funding Formula 2024-25

Entitled for parents with children 9m+ is extended.

Based on the consultation responses the Schools Forum is recommended to support the proposed:

- o centrally retained budget of £0.037m;
- o allocation of the new 2 year olds and Under 2s funding by using a base rate of £7.04 per hour for 2 year olds and £9.62 per hour for Under 2s;

- o deprivation supplement of £0.21 per hour for 2 year olds and Under 2s based on Children living in IDACI Bands A to F;
- o Adoption of the same methodology for allocating a deprivation supplement in the existing 3 - 4 year old funding formula as that proposed for 2 year olds and Under 2s.

At its meeting on 01 November 2023 Schools Forum agreed to consult early years providers on the proposed funding formulae to distribute the new 2 year olds and Under 2s free entitlement funding as below:

- A centrally retained budget of £0.037m for the early years team to support the roll out of the new entitlements;
- A SEN Inclusion Fund budget of £0.098m;
- A 2 Year Olds hourly funding rate and a deprivation supplement;
- An Under 2s hourly funding base rate and a deprivation supplement.

Schools Forum can:

- support the proposed centrally retained budget of £0.037m;

and recommend to Cabinet that:

- the new funding formulae for 2 year olds and Under 2s comprises of a base rate and a deprivation supplement;
- the proposed new methodology for calculating the deprivation supplement is applied.

Peter Graveson queried how each nursery will know what they're going to receive specifically, on the basis that providers would need to know exactly what they're receiving now, in advance of wage increases in April, to be able to review their costing.

Amanda Chew explained that we were tied into timescales around the consultation period, before moving through Schools Forum and Cabinet agreement. In terms of Early Years providers, indicative rates were presented in advance to support forecasting.

Peter then queried again, whether or not he (and other providers) would know whether or not he'll receive £7.04 or £7.04 plus £0.21.

Amanda explained there would be no agreed final rates before the paper moves through council.

The chair clarified again that we have the indicative rates and we know what the current established rates are in terms of depreciation etc, but is there any forecasting - Amanda, on which postcodes fall into the IDACI codes for the depreciation funding.

AC to follow up on IDACI codes in relation to postcodes for banding funding.

Chair finalised the item with stating that forum supports the paper/proposal. Concern that this will take longer time to progress through cabinet, but a confidence that council will approve the proposal on the basis that cabinet will support the recommendation of Schools Forum. On that basis, providers will be able to better predict their income and costings.

9. DSG - School Budgets 2024-25 (including Growth Fund 2024-25)

This paper informs the Schools Forum that the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block allocation for Westmorland & Furness is £163.782m.

- Approval is being sought from the Schools Forum to set the growth fund budget at £0.161m in 2024/25 to support schools experiencing a growth in pupil numbers in their own catchment areas above their Published Admission Numbers (PAN).
- Schools Forum support is also sought for the continued use of the optional exceptional circumstances factor in the 2024/25 school funding formula for 4 schools relating to rent costs totalling £321,096.
- After calculating the school budget shares using the national funding formula and after taking into account the proposed growth fund budget there is a balance remaining in the Schools Block of £0.033m (0.02%) which will be transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures.

- o The paper also confirms the maintained schools de-delegated budgets for 2024/25 and the primary and secondary per pupil rates.

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- support the continued use of the optional exceptional circumstances factor in the 2024/25 school funding formula for 4 schools totalling £321,096;

and approve:

- a growth fund budget of £0.161m;
- the growth fund allocation criteria at Appendix 2.

Schools Forum can:

- Support the use of the optional exceptional circumstances factor for 4 schools of £321,096 in 2024/25;

and

- Approve the Growth Fund budget of £0.161m;

Or

- Propose an alternative Growth Fund budget;

and

- Approve the growth fund allocation criteria at Appendix 2;

Or

- Propose an alternative growth fund allocation criteria.

It should be noted that if Schools Forum decide not to approve a growth fund budget in 2024/25 or approve a lower amount than the local authority's proposed budget of £0.161m there is a risk that it would have a detrimental impact on those schools experiencing growth in pupil numbers above their PAN levels at the local authority's request in 2024/25 and schools will be much less willing to admit additional pupils which will impact on the local authority's ability to fulfil its school place planning responsibilities in the future.

This would also increase the balance available to transfer to the High Needs Block.

Susan Milburn moved through the paper in detail for the benefit of members, with focus on paragraphs 4.1 - 4.24.

Key recommendation for consideration is to approve the growth fund budget of £161,000 and support the use of the optional exceptional circumstances factor for the four schools highlighted in paragraph 4.13, and approve the growth fund criteria.

J Hayes questioned if additional funding going to schools for halls was provided yearly. Specifically funding to Dallam school for building a sports hall as opposed to renting.

Susan Milburn clarified this was additional funding from EFSA rather than taking money from any other school.

Chair also raised concerns in support of J Hayes question, on the basis that members could be agreeing to spend large sums of money without clarity on specific schools.

Chair noted that this is public money to be going used, and this might be classed as specialised support for a particular school. More information might be required.

Amanda Chew clarified that this would be the same for any school in a similar position. Dallam specifically does not impact on this paper as the funding is provided to cover Dallams specific rental agreement, some of which is used for satellite teaching areas. Other schools can also apply for similar funding.

Chair - No challenges in regard to recommendations, so we can agree that schools forum supports the use of the optional exceptional circumstances factor and approve the growth fund, or propose an alternative growth fund budget. We have based this years budget on the expenditure from last year and any underspend goes back to the DSG, what would happen in the event of an overspent?

Susan Milburn clarified that this would come from DSG reserve if there's an overspend next year.

Chair - We don't have any alternative growth fund recommendations, so forum support the recommendations of the paper.

Forum Supports the recommendations/proposals within the paper. recommending to Cabinet that the **NFF** should be used to allocate funding to schools in 2024/25 and that after taking into account the growth fund any surplus balance remaining up to 0.5% could be

transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures at their 1 November meeting

10. DSG - Other Blocks 2024-25

This paper informs the Schools Forum on the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for Central School Services, Early Years and High Needs Blocks. The total DSG to be allocated through these blocks in 2024/25 for Westmorland & Furness is £51.739m.

The Schools Forum is asked to note the DSG Central School Services, Early Years and High Needs Block allocations for 2024/25. The Schools Forum is also asked to approve the provisional 2024/25 centrally retained expenditure budgets for the Central School Services and Early Years Blocks for Westmorland & Furness.

The Schools Forum is recommended to approve:

- the provisional Central School Services Block budget of £1.608m;
- the provisional centrally retained Early Years expenditure budget of £0.560m.

Schools Forum can:

- Approve the provisional CSSB budget of £1.608m;
- Approve the provision centrally retained EYB (Early Years Block) of £0.560m;

Or

- Not approve the provisional CSSB budget of £1.608m and propose an alternative budget.
- Not approve the provisional centrally retained EYB of £0.560m and propose an alternative budget.

Chair invited any comments or concerns. None raised. Schools Forum approves the recommendation of the report.

11. Maintained School Balances

The Schools Forum is asked to:

Note the projected school balances for maintained schools and the latest forecast year-end outturn position as at 30 September 2023 for those schools that have proposed a deficit budget for 2023/24;

and

Consider the excess surplus balance modelling and recommend one of the following options:

- raise the excess surplus balances threshold from 8% to 10% for primary/nursery/special/PRUs and from 5% to 6% for secondary schools;
- retain the excess surplus balances threshold at 8% for primary/nursery/special/PRUs and 5% for secondary schools
- not apply the excess surplus balance policy in **2023/24.**

Schools Forum can recommend one of the following 3 Options:

- raise the excess surplus balances threshold from 8% to 10% for primary/nursery/special/PRUs and from 5% to 6% for secondary schools;
- retain the excess surplus balances threshold at 8% for primary/nursery/special/PRUs and 5% for secondary schools
- not apply the excess surplus balance in 2023/24 or future years.

Amanda chew clarified that these options are only relevant to maintained schools and invited questions.

Jon Hayes queried what happens to schools running consistent deficits without following guidance and where the £2m comes from, and how this is accounted for. Susan Milburn explained that this comes from the authority reserve balance.

Amanda explained that some of the schools are making an effort to balance budgets while tackling historic deficits. At the moment there is a small finance team which also support Cumberland Council, but that the finance team are attempting to support school deficits.

David Nattrass commented on his support for points raised by Amanda, in that this is a historic issue.

Isobel Booler also added that we will be reviewing support mechanisms

for maintained schools with deficits to ensure all relevant schools have a deficit reduction plan for the Council to review. Isobel would be concerned at removing the current mechanism due to the fact that this would ultimately impact the children in those schools.

Matthew Hardwick raised that some school costs per pupil are £5500 per child or £8000 per child, whereas salary increases are the same across the board, and that deficits are a result of many issues.

Chair states that he would agree with option 1. No further comments from colleagues, so forum supports option 1 and would not support option 2 or 3.

12. High Needs budget monitoring Q2

This report presents the High Needs (HN) Block deficit position as at 30 September 2023 which is forecast to be £18.858m as at 31 March 2024, an increase of £1.678m compared to the forecast position at Q1 of £17.180m. Chair and colleagues discussed and accepted the paper.

13. Contingency budget monitoring Q2

This report presents the forecast outturn position on the de-delegated contingency budget for the 2023/24 financial year as at 30 September 2023. The budget is projected to underspend by £0.258m.

In accordance with the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions, the underspend will be carried forward into the Central DSG earmarked reserve.

The Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast outturn position as at Q2 on the contingencies budget for 2023/24. Chair accepted the paper.

14. Consideration of Forum Member vacancies

Chair commented on current membership document, action for clerk to update, and the work done so far to introduce new members.

15. Working Groups

No action or comments.

16. Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Plan

- i. The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on Wednesday 12 June 2024. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams.
- ii. Westmorland and Furness Schools Forum Forward Plan 2024-25

PART 2: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Agenda Item 5

Schools Forum - Action Log

Meeting date	Agenda item	Ongoing Actions	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting
01/11/23	2	Vacancies for Secondary Academy Representatives: Matthew Hardwick to approach Kirkby Kendal School.	Matthew Hardwick	17/01/24	
01/11/23	2	Vacancies for Secondary Academy Representatives: Emma Aubrey to approach the Furness Education Consortium.	Emma Aubrey	17/01/24	Ongoing. Consortia meeting 16/01/24
01/11/23	2	Vacancy for Maintained Nursery and for 16-19 Provider representative: Clerk to discuss potential candidates with officers, and pass details to Stephen Gilby to contact them.	Clerk/ Stephen Gilby	17/01/24	In progress
01/11/23	2	Vacancy for Non-Teaching Associations: Marie Barnes will pass GMB and Unison contacts from a recent JCG meeting to Andy Brewerton to follow up.	Marie Barnes/ Andy Brewerton	17/01/24	
01/11/23	9	Sian Rees to raise concern over levels of Early Years funding with DfE during scheduled discussions over High Needs Block, and update Schools Forum. [Update: Susan Milburn & Isobel leading with DfE re: HNB funding]	Sian Rees Susan/ Isobel	17/01/24	
01/11/23	12	Clerk to schedule Sufficiency review findings report for a future Schools Forum meeting.	Clerk	17/01/24	Scheduled for 21/06/24
20/09/23	16ii.	Officers to discuss a possible Forward Plan item - a briefing on the potential impact of and opportunities arising from Team Barrow developments.	Officers	01/11/23	In progress

(See table below for completed items)

Meeting date	Agenda item	Completed Action	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting
01/11/23	2	Clerk to update Membership document to include the elected member, AD for Education and Inclusion and support officers, to be circulated and published online.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed.
01/11/23	6	Excess Surplus Balance Policy item to be scheduled for meeting on 17 January 2024.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed. Scheduled under Maintained School Balances item
01/11/23	6	STRB visit – Clerk to collate responses to forward to Cumberland officers.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed.
01/11/23	6	Clerk to check new members have invitations to future meetings.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed.
01/11/23	9	Amanda Chew to share the local authority's response to the DfE Early Years Funding Formula consultation with Peter Graveson.	Amanda Chew	17/01/24	Completed 15/11/23
01/11/23	12	Clerk to circulate DBV slides after meeting.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed.
01/11/23	15	Clerk to circulate the Guidance on Additional Funding – Schools in Financial Difficulty, following the meeting.	Clerk	17/01/24	Completed.
01/11/23	15	Clerk to agree with chair whether to convene a special meeting this term to agree appropriate criteria for allocating the funding.	Clerk	15/11/23	Completed. Meeting held 30/11/23
20/09/23	9	All Schools Forum members to encourage the schools the represent and others in their networks to take part in the forthcoming consultation on the Early Years Funding Formula.	ALL	08/11/23	Deadline passed.
20/09/23	11	Amanda Chew to consider options for the Excess Surplus Balance Policy, to be revisited at a future meeting.	Amanda Chew / Jonny Horn	01/11/23	Completed. Scheduled for 17/01/24
20/09/23	12	Clerk to email Schools Forum members a request for input on the STRB visit that can be forwarded to colleagues, and collate responses to feed back to Cumberland.	Jonny Horn	01/11/23	Completed
20/09/23	13	DBV in SEND updated to be scheduled for next meeting on 1 November.	Jonny Horn	01/11/23	Scheduled - item 12.

Meeting date	Agenda item	Completed Action	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting
20/09/23	14	All Schools Forum members to approach at least one colleague who meets the criteria to fill vacancies.	ALL	01/11/23	Superseded
20/09/23	15	Working Groups to be a standing agenda item to consider whether any need has arisen.	Jonny Horn	Ongoing	Completed. Noted on Forward Plan.
20/09/23	16i.	Clerk to circulate dates for Summer term 2024 and 2024/25 academic year.	Jonny Horn	01/11/23	Completed. 17/01/24 12/06/24 18/09/24 06/11/24
14/06/23	6	Christina to arrange and circulate potential dates to be used for working groups / training / task and finish work to start following the 20 September meeting.	Christina Summerfield	20/09/23	Funding formula training scheduled for 17/10/23. Working groups on agenda for 20/09/23
14/06/23	7	Matt Hardwick will raise a query with Amanda Chew over whether this document [regarding land assets] covers long term leasing.	Matt Hardwick	20/09/23	Issue resolved and closed.
14/06/23	10	Amanda to check revised [Maintained Schools Balances Outturn 22-23] papers carry correct percentages in para. 4.11: 8% (primary) and 5% (secondary).	Amanda Chew	20/09/23	Corrected paper uploaded to webpage.
14/06/23	11	Susan Milburn will discuss with Trudy whether input from the Schools Forum on DBV in SEND would be useful, and confirm.	Susan Milburn	20/09/23	Update to be presented in item 11.

WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the DSG Management Plan that was submitted to DfE in February 2024. The submission of a DSG Management Plan is included within the DSG conditions of grant. Furthermore, authorities, such as Westmorland & Furness, that are part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme are also required to submit a management plan.
- 1.2 The Management Plan sets out Westmorland & Furness' forecast DSG income and expenditure for 2023/24 to 2029/30. The forecast includes both a mitigated and unmitigated deficit position with savings initiatives totalling £43.866m included in the mitigated forecast. Despite these mitigations, the DSG deficit is forecast to increase to £37.314m by 2029/30.
- 1.3 In order to provide review, challenge and support Schools Forum are asked to consider whether a High Needs Working Group should be established.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 The DSG Management Plan is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland & Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to:
 - note the DSG Management Plan
 - consider establishing a High Needs Working group

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 The DSG Management Plan submitted in February 2024, was prepared using the 2023/24 Q2 forecast outturn position as the starting point. As required on the template, expenditure was categorised in line with s251 returns. Pupil and EHCP numbers included in the plan were based on current numbers with forecasts based on information provided by a firm of consultants working with the SEND team. In accordance with DfE advice costs and income were assumed to increase by 3% pa.
- 4.2 Mitigations included in the plan were based on the cost differential between current provision and proposed provision. For example, to model the impact of further increasing special school places, the net saving reflects the additional cost of place funding and top ups at special schools less the cost of top ups in mainstream schools and average costs of places in ISPs. The modelling is also based on an academic year start for any new places made available resulting in 7/12 of the impact in year one, 5/12 in year 2 plus 7/12 of any further increase in year 2 and so on.
- 4.3 Mitigations that have been modelled in the plan include:
- Increasing special school places by 30 in September 2024 and a further 30 by September 2025;
 - Reducing ISP post 16 and day placements through a range of initiatives including use of FE colleges and bespoke commissioning, by meeting need earlier for SEMH children in mainstream schools through enhanced Graduated Approach and using a hub and spoke model to increase places at mainstream schools with pupils on roll at the PRU, in-house AP provision at Channelside;
 - Increasing secondary Resource Provision places for ASC through a review of the continuum of provision and the revised sufficiency strategy including SEN sufficiency increase;
 - A stronger EHCP process to ensure EHCPs are fit for purpose and appropriate with reviews at transition points;
- 4.4 Work streams for each mitigation are being developed to enable the financial and non-financial impact of each mitigation to be evaluated and adjusted, expanded or stopped as appropriate.
- 4.5 The mitigations modelled within the plan total £43.866m cumulatively up to 2029/30 with the deficit rising to £37.314m. However, the deficit is forecast to rise to £81.180m by 2029/30 if no action is taken. The DSG Statutory override is due to end in March 2026 at which point DSG deficits will be included on the LAs balance sheet.
- 4.6 The DSG Management Plan is intended to be a live document that is reported to Schools Forum at least termly. To assist the LA to refine existing mitigations and develop new ones, Schools Forum are asked to consider whether the High Needs working group should be reestablished to provide review, challenge and guidance on future mitigations.
- 4.7 The Management Plan will be refreshed each quarter in line with the corporate monitoring timetable and brought to Schools Forum.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 The Schools Forum members are asked to note the DSG Management Plan submitted to DfE in February 2024;

And

- 5.2 Consider whether to establish a High Needs Working Group to provide review, challenge and support on the Management Plan.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

12 June 2024

REPORT AUTHOR

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WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: SEN Inclusion Fund 2024-25
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper informs the schools forum members on the proposal to extend the funding period of the SEN Inclusion Fund for those children under an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment and for children with low level or emerging needs, where it can be evidenced, to extend the period of SEN inclusion funding would have a positive impact on the child's progress.
- 1.2 It is proposed the changes will be piloted during 2024-25.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 The utilisation of the early years block within the Dedicated Schools Grant is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland & Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to note the contents of this paper and support the proposed change in the SEN Inclusion Fund application process and eligibility criteria.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 Local authorities are required to have an SEN Inclusion Fund for children who are taking up the free entitlements. The Early Years National Funding Formula guidance states that the majority of the SEN Inclusion fund should pass to providers in the form of grants on a case-by-case basis. Local Authorities can also use part of the SEN Inclusion Fund to support specialist SEN services in their local area. The SEN Inclusion Fund can be funded by the Early Years and/or the High Needs Block. The SEN Inclusion Fund was first introduced in 2017-18 and has been fully funded from the Early Years Block.

4.3 The current process is:

- Applications are submitted to the decision-making Panel by practitioners in line with the timetable specified by The Council
- The decision-making panel consider the applications and make decisions, considering the evidence provided. The panel members include Early Years Team Managers, Educational Psychology and Health
- The level of funding is allocated by the panel based on the information provided by the practitioner which identifies the needs of the child.
- The funding levels below are for children accessing 15 hours per week over 38 weeks (academic year), funding is adjusted depending on the number of free entitlement hours accessed from the provider per week, up to a maximum 30 hours per week, (1140 hours per academic year)
 - Level one £1,000 (£1.75 per hour)
 - Level two £1,500 (£2.63 per hour)
 - Level three £2,000 (£3.51 per hour)
- Funding is paid to providers termly, based on the number of hours a child has accessed the childcare provision. For example, if a child is assessed at Level 1 and attends 15 hours per week per term the funding would be paid as follows:

Term	No of Weeks	No of hours	Level 1 per hour*	Amount
Spring	11.6	15	£1.754	£305.26
Summer	12.4	15	£1.754	£326.32
Autumn 2	14	15	£1.754	£368.42
Total	38			£1,000

*Figures are rounded (£1,000 / 38 weeks/ 15 hours= £1.754385965)

- If the child is eligible for 30 hours of free childcare the amounts allocated are double and they would be allocated £2,000. The funding is based on the number of hours accessed by the child; therefore, funding is pro-rated accordingly.
- Providers are required to record and monitor outcomes for children and spend of the grants. Sample auditing of the grants is conducted on an annual basis and through visits by Area SENCOs.

4.2 During the financial year 2023-24 there were a 114 approved applications at a total cost of £166,492 against a budget of £177,568 representing an underspend of (£11,076).

4.3 Proposed Changes

- It is proposed to pilot that where a child with low level or emerging needs is identified that require continued and ongoing support, the provider can submit another application to extend the funding period beyond one year.
- This will enable the provider to have more time to implement strategies to support the child's learning and development and assess the impact of interventions. For some children additional SEN Inclusion Funding may support readiness and transition to school.
- The grants panel would ensure that additional funding applications would only be approved where there is clear evidence that the previous funding is having an impact on the child's progress.
- It is proposed to pilot the extension of the SEN Inclusion Funding to identify firm criteria for future SEN Inclusion Funding extension applications. It is anticipated, based on current applications that this will not significantly impact on the budget allocation. Based on the 23-24 applications there are low numbers of children where this would have applied.

5.0 Options

The Schools Forum is recommended to note the contents of this paper and support the change in the allocation methodology of the SEN Inclusion Fund. The changes should enable practitioners to secure funding to support children to implement early intervention strategies to meet the needs of children in their care.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 The proposed changes to the SEN Inclusion Fund will increase support for children with SEN identified at an early stage and could lead to a longer-term reduction in the complexity of support needed at a later stage of a child's education.
- 6.2 The SEN Inclusion budget for 2024-25 is £255,547, an increase of £77,979 compared to the 2023-24 budget of £177,568. The budget has been based on estimated applications including estimated applications from early providers for children accessing the new working parents of 2 year olds and Under 2s free entitlements.
- 6.3 Based on the modelling the proposed changes in 2024/25 are not expected to have a significant impact on the budget.
- 6.4 No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

3 June 2024

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WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: LA Scheme for Financing Schools
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Schools Forum of amendments to the Westmorland & Furness LA Scheme for Financing Schools and Pupil Referral Units (Scheme).
- 1.2 The revised Scheme will come into effect from June 2024.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Improving the financial processes for schools is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland & Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to note the amendments to the Scheme which applies to all maintained schools and pupil referral units.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998) requires that local authorities maintain a Scheme setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools that it maintains.

Amendment 1 - Borrowing by Schools

- 4.2 The DfE updated their guidance for local authorities on Schemes on 28 March 2024, available [here](#). As a consequence an amendment (highlighted in yellow in the below table) has been made to the Scheme as follows:

Section	Current	Revised
3.6 Borrowing by schools	Governing bodies may borrow money only with the written permission of the Secretary of State and permission is only likely to be granted in exceptional circumstances. From time to time, however, the Secretary of State may introduce limited schemes in order to meet broader policy objectives. Schools to are allowed to use any scheme that the Secretary of State has said is available to schools without specific approval, currently including the Salix scheme, which is designed to support energy saving.	Governing bodies may borrow money (which includes the use of finance leases) only with the written permission of the Secretary of State and permission is only likely to be granted in exceptional circumstances. The introduction of IFRS16 for local authorities from 1 April 2024 ends the distinction between operating and finance leases at maintained schools for accounting purposes. Under the Education Act 2002, all leases will be classed as borrowing and will require the Secretary of State for Education's consent. The Secretary of State has, however, agreed to provide blanket consent to a range of the most common leasing activities, as set out in the IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024. Leases not included in this Order will still require the written consent of the Secretary of State. From time to time, however, the Secretary of State may introduce limited schemes to meet broader policy objectives.

4.3 From 1 April 2024, following the introduction of the international financial reporting standard (IFRS 16 Leases) all leases will be classed as borrowing and will require Secretary of State approval. However, the Secretary of State has provided general consent for maintained schools for the following common leases:

- IT equipment (including photocopiers, CCTV)
- Telephony
- Catering and cleaning
- Furniture
- Bathroom & sanitary items
- Gym equipment
- **LED** lighting systems

- Vehicles for the use of the school
 - Temporary classrooms and equivalent structures (not land leases)
- 4.4 The full schedule is attached at Appendix 1 which has also been added to the LA Scheme at Annex L for reference. Governors should seek approval from the Secretary of State for any leases outside of this list. If maintained schools have any questions about leases they should contact their named finance officer in the first instance.

Amendment 2 - Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

- 4.5 Minor amendments to update the SFVS Checklist questions at Annex K to reflect the latest version as published by the DfE for 2023/24.

Amendment 3 - Excess Surplus Balances Policy

- 4.6 The policy has been updated to reflect the new excess surplus thresholds agreed by Schools Forum at its 17 January 2024 meeting. Namely, the new threshold for secondary schools is 6% of total delegated budget share and for primary/nursery/special schools it is 10%.
- 4.7 As amendment 1 has been led by the DfE, amendment 2 relates to minor amendments to wording and amendment 3 has already been agreed by Schools Forum, consultation with maintained schools and approval of the Scheme by their Schools Forum representatives is not required for these revisions.
- 4.8 The revised Scheme will be published on the School Portal shortly after this meeting.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 There are no options, the maintained schools' Schools Forum representative members are asked to note the amendments and the revised Scheme.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No other implications have been identified.

3 June 2024

Appendices

1. IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024
2. Westmorland & Furness LA Scheme for Financing Schools June 2024

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The IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent2024

The general consent

1. The Education Act 2002 ("the Act") provides for each maintained school to have a governing body which is a body corporate constituted in accordance with statute. Schedule 1 to the Act¹ contains general provisions relating to the governing body as a body corporate.
2. Paragraph 3 of that Schedule sets out the governing body's powers, including in particular power to borrow such sums as the governing body think fit and, in connection with such borrowing, to grant security over any land or other property of the governing body (sub-paragraph (3)(a)). That power to borrow money and grant security may, however, only be exercised with the written consent of the Secretary of State in relation to England (sub-paragraph (4))². Such consent may be given for borrowing of a particular class.
3. The Secretary of State for Education hereby grants consent for borrowing comprised in a lease entered into by or for one or more maintained schools where the lease is of a description specified in the Schedule to this general consent.
4. This general consent comes into force on 1 April 2024 and may be cited as "The IFRS16 Maintained Schools Finance Lease Class Consent 2024".

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education

Signed

Deputy Director, Central Capital Unit

Dated

26/03/2024

¹ brought into effect by section 19(6) of the Act

² unless the Secretary of State makes provision (under sub-paragraph (5)) by order for that function to be instead exercised by the maintaining local authority: no such order is in force

Schedule

1. All existing leases in place on 1 April 2024 for items included in this list
2. Leases related to IT equipment (for example laptops, tablets, desktop computers, printers, photocopiers, servers, door entry security systems, CCTV Systems, whiteboards and touch screen boards)
3. Leases related to telephony (for example mobile phones, landline phones and telephone systems)
4. Leases related to catering and cleaning equipment (for example tills, water coolers, vending machines, dishwashers, washing machines, ovens, fridges, freezers, water boilers, small kitchen appliances, crockery and cutlery)
5. Leases related to furniture (for example desks, tables and chairs)
6. Leases related to bathroom and sanitary items (for example hand dryers, towel dispensers, sanitary bins)
7. Leases related to gym equipment (for example treadmills, free weights and weight machines, rowing machines and exercise bikes)
8. Leases related to groundskeeping equipment (for example lawn mowers, string trimmers, leaf blowers and salt spreaders)
9. Leases related to LED lighting system (for example lightbulbs, control mechanisms and control panels) - consent is granted where the product has been sourced with support from the Department for Education through [Get help buying for schools](#) or from a recommended route on our [Find a framework](#) website
10. Leases related to minibuses and other vehicles for the use of the school
11. Leases related to temporary classrooms and equivalent structures (but not land leases they sit on, which may require separate consent- see [school land transactions guidance](#))

WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: Early Years Budget 2024-25
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

11.0 Executive Summary

11.1 This paper sets out the decision on the Early Years Budget 2024/25 which was taken by Cabinet on 13 February 2024.

11.2 This decision is in line with the Schools Forum recommendation following consultation with affected schools and academies in Westmorland & Furness and supports the proposed:

- centrally retained budget of £0.037m (new entitlements);
- allocation of the new 2 year aids and Under 2s funding by using a base rate of £7.04 per hour for 2 year aids and £9.62 per hour for Under 2s;
- deprivation supplement of £0.21 per hour for 2 year aids and Under 2s based on children living in IDACI bands A - F;
- to adopt the same methodology of using the IDACI Bands A to F to allocate the deprivation supplement funding in the existing 3-4 Year Olds funding formula.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

2.1 Ensuring that schools and early years providers are funded appropriately supports the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland & Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The Schools Forum is asked to note the decision that has been taken.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

4.1 At the 17 January 2024 meeting Schools Forum was presented with the Early Years Block budget for 2024/25 which proposed a centrally retained budget

of £0.477m, an increase of £0.115m compared to 2023/24 comprising of the following:

	2024/25	2023/24	Variance
<u>Centrally Retained Early Years Budgets:</u>	£m	£m	£m
Contribution to Early Years Team	0.147	0.110	0.037
Early Years Sustainability Grant	0.044	0.044	0.000
Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund	0.256	0.178	0.078
Total Centrally Retained Early Years Budgets:	0.447	0.332	0.115

4.2 The local authority is obliged to seek Schools Forum approval for this centrally retained budget. The budget was provisional as it was subject to Cabinet's decision on the new funding formulae for the new 2 year aids and Under 2s free entitlement funding at provider level which included a proposal to centrally retain £0.037m from the new entitlements funding.

4.3 Cabinet agreed with the Schools Forum recommendations at paragraph 1.2 and therefore the centrally retained budget, which the Schools Forum provisionally approved at its meeting on 17 January 2024, is now confirmed.

5.0 Options

5.1 There are no options.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No other implications have been identified.

3 June 2024

Appendices

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WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: High Needs Budget Monitoring Q3
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the High Needs (HN) Block deficit position as at 31 December 2023 which is forecast to be £18.742m as at 31 March 2024, an decrease of (£0.116m) compared to the forecast position at Q2 of £18.858m.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 The utilisation of the HN Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland and Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are recommended to note the current projection on the HN budget as at 31 December 2023.

4.0 Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 A balanced High Needs budget has been set for 2023/24 with no planned transfer to or from reserves. The initial budget available for the HN Block, after academy recoupment, was £25.944m based on the provisional HN Block allocation from central government as confirmed in December 2022. There were no transfers from the Schools Block.

Budget Revisions

- 4.2 Since the initial budget was set the HN block allocation has been updated to reflect adjusted recoupment for HN places as shown in the table below:

	2023/24
	£m
High Needs allocation before recoupment for place funding in academies and FE institutions	27.640
Less recoupment for high needs places in academies and FE institutions	(1.696)
Initial Budget	25.944
DfE Recoupment adjustment for HN places AY 2023/24	(0.101)
DfE Import/Export Adjustment	0.153
DfE Import/Export review	0.060
Total High Needs Budget Q1	26.056

Projected Outturn

- 4.3 Performance against the High Needs Block budget is monitored monthly with reports presented to senior management and to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, as well as to each Schools Forum meeting.
- 4.4 The table below presents the projection against the budget as at 03. This shows that the budget is projected to overspend by £6.724m at 31 March 2024:

Description	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m	Previous Qtr Variance £m	Change in Variance £m
Special Schools - High Needs	6.920	7.115	0.194	0.186	0.009
Schools -Resourced Provision	0.358	0.370	0.012	0.012	0.000
Independent & Other Placements	4.740	7.300	2.560	2.703	(0.143)
Central SEN (Equipment, BVI, Audio etc)	0.031	(0.033)	(0.064)	(0.046)	(0.019)
SEND Residential Placements	1.792	1.881	0.089	0.039	0.050
High Needs - Invest to Save	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.276	(0.006)
High Needs - Post 16 ISPs	1.019	1.870	0.851	0.854	(0.002)
High Needs - Post 16 FE	0.699	0.961	0.262	0.338	(0.076)
High Needs - Top Up	6.912	9.462	2.550	2.479	0.071
Virtual School (CLA Inclusion)	0.149	0.149	0.000	0.000	0.000
Inclusion Teams	1.177	1.177	0.000	0.000	0.000
PRU Budget	2.229	2.229	0.000	0.000	0.000
Mobility and Independence Contract	0.008	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.000
Share of de-delegated (special schools)	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total DSG to transfer to DSG HNB reserve	26.056	32.780	6.724	6.841	(0.116)

- 4.5 Special Schools £0.194m. The pressure, which represents an increase of £0.009m since 02, relates to new and amendments to EHCP top-ups since the start of the year.
- 4.6 Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs) & Other Placements £2.560m. The forecast, which represents an decrease in pressure of (£0.143m) since 02, is based on current and known new day ISPs coming through the system. The forecast expenditure for day ISPs is predicted to be £5.969m. The overall number of ISPs has increased by 9 from 90 to 99 since 02 and the average full year cost of a day ISP is £59,845 as at Q3. There have been 8 new placements, 4 ended placements and 5 placements transferred in that were

previously included in the EOTAS forecast since 02 representing a movement of (£0.158m) since 02. Also included within this budget line is forecast EHCP top-ups for children placed in Cumberland schools of £0.463m, children placed in other local authorities of £0.099m and forecast costs associated with children being educated other than at a school (EOTAS) of £0.769m representing a net decrease in forecast expenditure of (£0.301m) compared to 03.

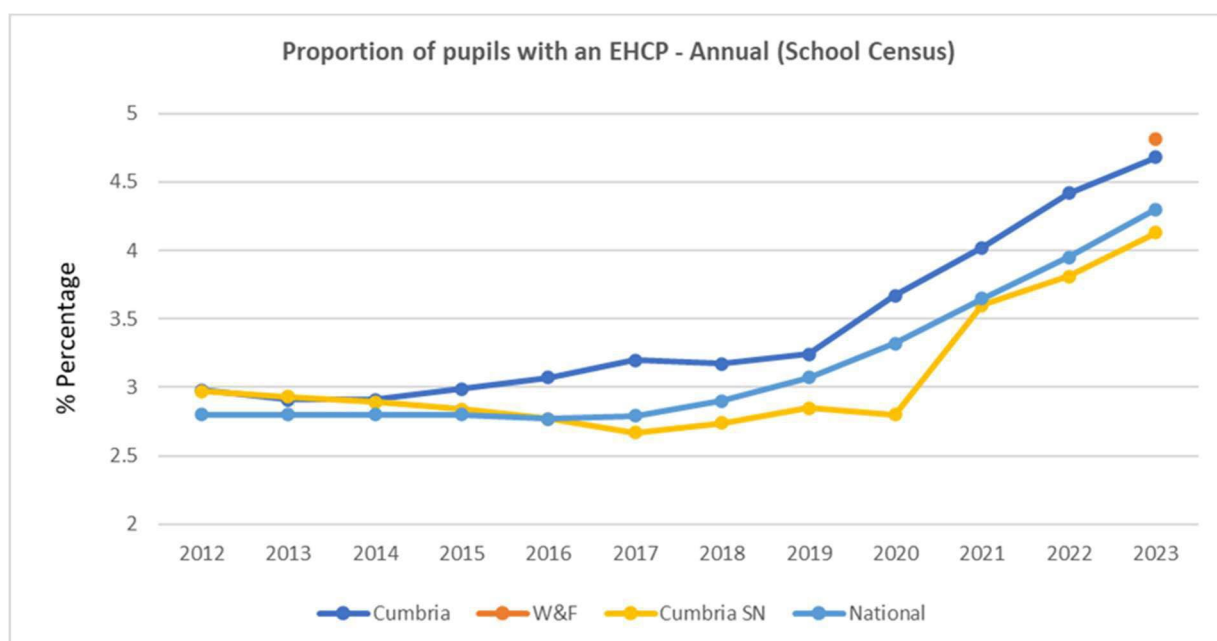
- 4.7 Residential placements £0.089m. The forecast, which represents an increase of £0.050m compared to 02, is based on current and known new placements. The overall number of residential placements as at 03 is 25. Since 02 there has been no change in placements numbers. The average full year cost of a residential placement is £74,543 as at 03.
- 4.8 Post 16 ISPs £0.851m. The forecast is based on current and known new placements. The current number of Post 16 ISPs is 47, a net decrease of 2 placements compared to the 02 forecast. The average cost of a Post 16 ISP is £43,048 as at 03.
- 4.9 The below table summarises the number of pupils in ISPs by provider type:

Number of Children and Young People with EHCPs in Independent Special Placements 2023/24

Placement Type	Number of Children								2023/24 Forecast Spend £m	Average Annual Cost of Placements	
	2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Q2	New	Ended	Placement Changes		Total Change	2023/24 Q3		2023/24 £	2022/23 £
					In	Out					
ISP - Day	88	90	8	-4	5		9	99	5.965	59,845	65,613
ISP - Residential	24	25					0	25	1.881	74,543	85,256
ISP - FE Colleges	38	49	2	-4			-2	47	1.870	43,046	42,244
Total	150	164					7	171	9.721		

- 4.10 Post-16 Further Education £0.262m. The forecast expenditure, which represents a reduction of (£0.076m) compared to 02, reflects estimated top-up payments to FE Colleges totalling £0.633m and other FE education providers of £0.328m.
- 4.11 High Needs Invest to Save Initiatives £0.270m. The forecast expenditure here relates to the Sandgate School Early Intervention and Greengate Junior School Alternative Provision programmes. The forecast is net of re-charge for the leadership provided by Sandgate School for the two Hub schools in Cumberland of £0.051m.
- 4.12 EHCP top-ups for pupils in mainstream schools and Early Years Providers £2.550m. The forecast is based on current EHCP costs and predicted number of new and amended ECHPs in-year. Since the start of the year there have been new and amendments to existing EHCPs of £1.533m, payments to PVIs of £0.148m, and forecasted new EHCPs based on known children coming through the system totalling £0.118m. The forecast also includes the additional net cost of restoring the notional SEN to £6,000 after removing the Targeted SEN funding with effect from September 2021 of £0.262m and pre-existing budget pressures of £0.489m.

- 4.13 The remaining balance relates to individually non-material variances totalling a net underspend of (£0.052m).
- 4.14 The pressure against the High Needs Block continues to be due to specific budget pressures relating to the growth in demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people with SEN. The number of children with EHCPs as Q3 is 2,620. This figure is provisional pending the completion of the disaggregation of cases between the two new authorities.
- 4.15 The benchmarking chart below shows that Westmorland & Furness' percentage of pupils with EHCPs is higher compared to the national and Cumbria statistical neighbours rates although the rate of increase for Cumbria overall is largely matched by the rate of increase both nationally and against our statistical neighbours:



- 4.16 In 2023/24 local authorities have seen an increase in their High Needs Block funding of at least 5% per head of population and additional High Needs funding to reflect likely cost increases for local authorities and schools of £1.127m resulting in total funding of £26.056m as at Q3 after deductions for directed funding of high needs places by the ESFA. However, 29% of the total allocation is still based on historic 2017/18 actual spend. There has been no transfer of funding from the Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2023/24. Cumbria took part in the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value for SEND programme and successfully applied and received approval for a £1m grant for each new authority to support their improvement plans the impact of which will be incorporated into Westmorland & Furness' DSG management plan in due course.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to note the current projection against the High Needs Block budget.

6.0 Financial and Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 Resource and value for money implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

12 June 2024

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WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: De-delegated Contingency Budget Monitoring 03 2023-24
Meeting date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Isobel Booler, Assistant Director - Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the forecast outturn position on the de-delegated contingency budget for the 2023/24 financial year as at 31 December 2023. The budget is projected to underspend by £0.259m.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions, the underspend will be carried forward into the Central DSG earmarked reserve.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that schools are funded appropriately is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland & Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The maintained schools' Schools Forum members are asked to note the forecast outturn position as at Q3 for the contingency budget.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 The de-delegated contingency budget for 2023/24 is £0.287m. The Department for Education (DfE) guidance states that the contingency budget can be used for three purposes:
 - Circumstances which were unforeseen when the school's budget share was initially determined;
 - Schools in financial difficulty;
 - Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.

- 4.2 In line with the School and Early years Finance Regulations 2023 de-delegation only applies to maintained schools and not academies.

Forecast Outturn

- 4.3 The below table shows the forecast outturn as at Q3 for 2023/24:

	Forecast Outturn 2023/24 as at Q3
	£
Budget 2023/24	287,022
Net Expenditure 2023/24:	
Ill health retirements	0
Settlement Agreements and Staff Termination costs	0
Administration costs Teachers Annual Pension Return	29,508
Other miscellaneous costs	(1,125)
Total - Unforeseen Circumstances	28,383
	0
Total - Schools in Financial Difficulty	0
Closed Schools	0
Total - Additional Costs relating to New, Closing or Amalgamated Schools	0
Total Net Expenditure 2023/24	28,383
Forecast Over/ (Under) spend 2023/24	(258,639)

The expenditure against unforeseen circumstances relates to administration of the Teachers Annual Pension Return offset by an excess surplus balance clawed back.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 The Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast outturn position as at Q3 on the contingencies budget for 2023/24.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. Any under or over spend on the de-delegated contingency budget at the financial year end is transferred into the DSG earmarked central reserve, as required by the School and Early Years Finance Regulations.

12 June 2024

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