

Notice of Schools Forum

Date: Friday, 25 June 2021 at 9.00 am

Venue: Virtual Meeting - MS Teams



Membership:

Chairman:

Phil Keen

Vice Chairman:

Patrick Earnshaw

Russell Arnold

Mark Avoth

Lauren Dean

Kate Carter

Jon Chapple

Geoff Cherrill

Ben Doyle

Linda Duly

Phillip Gavin

Brigid Hincks

Sue Johnson

Dorian Lewis

Angela Malanczuk

David Newman

Jacqueline Page

Jeremy Payne

Sean Preston

Michael Reid

Dave Simpson

Cllr N Greene

Cllr M White

S Thomas

All Members of the Schools Forum are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to attend the meeting.

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Andrew Hind

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office by email at press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 June 2021



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests

Do any matters being discussed at the meeting relate to your registered interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

Yes

Declare the nature of the interest

Do NOT participate in the item at the meeting. Do NOT speak or vote on the item EXCEPT where you hold a dispensation

You are advised to leave the room during the debate

Local Interest

Yes

Declare the nature of the interest

Applying the bias and pre-determination tests means you may need to refrain from speaking and voting

You may also need to leave the meeting. Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer

No

Do you have a personal interest in the matter?

Yes

Consider the bias and pre-determination tests

You may need to refrain from speaking & voting

You may also need to leave the meeting. Please seek advice

No

You can take part in the meeting speak and vote

What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(susan.zeiss@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance. Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 January 2021, as a correct record.

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5. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020-21

The report considers the end of year position for the DSG budget 2020-21 at a net in-year deficit of £3.2 million. This is against a budgeted deficit of £4.9 million.

The £1.7 million reduction is the result of high needs expenditure accrued in earlier years being settled at £1.3 million less than provided due to imperfect information from legacy councils, plus £0.4 million from funding adjustments and savings within other expenditure blocks. High needs expenditure relating to 2020/21 was on budget.

The accumulated deficit has grown as a result from £4.6 million to £7.8 million at March 2021, with this required to be carried forward and recovered from future DSG allocations.

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6. EHCP Funding in Mainstream Schools

Verbal
Report

7. Dates of Future Meetings

- 14 September 2021 at 9.00am
- 12 November 2021 at 9.00am
- 13 January 2022 at 9.00am

8. Any Other Business

To consider any other business, which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE SCHOOLS FORUM 14 January 2021

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 11.00am.

Present:

Maintained – Secondary

David Newman – Director of Finance and Operations, Poole High School.

Maintained – Primary

Bridget Hinks – Chair of Governors, St. Joseph's Primary School

Mainstream Academies – Primary

Dave Simpson – Headteacher, The Epiphany School
Substitute attended in place of Jon Chapple – Headteacher, Twynham Primary
Jeremy Payne – Principal, St James' CE School
Sean Preston – Chief Financial Officer, Hamwic
Kate Carter – CEO, TEACH Academy Trust
Lauren Dean – Principal, King's Park Academy
Angela Malanczuk – Principal and Chair of PSA, Stanley Green Infant School

Mainstream Academies – Secondary

Andy Baker – Headteacher, Poole Grammar School
Patrick Earnshaw – Headteacher, Highcliffe School
Mark Avoth – Headteacher, Bourne Academy
Nadine Lapskas - Principal, Leaf Studio
Dorian Lewis – Headteacher, Bournemouth School

All-Through Academies

Ben Doyle – Headteacher, St Peter's School

AP Academy

Russell Arnold - Headteacher, The Quay School

Maintained – Special

Chair - Geoff Cherrill - Head Teacher, Winchelsea School

Maintained – PRU

Phillip Gavin – Headteacher, Christchurch Learning Centre

Academies – Special

Sian Thomas – CEO, Ambitions Academy Trust on behalf of Michael Reid – Finance Director - Ambitions Academy Trust

Early Years Representative

Sue Johnson – Jack in the Box, Bournemouth
Linda Duly – Cuddles Day Nursery

14-19 Representative

Andrew Reeks – Bournemouth & Poole College, 14-19 Representative

Invited Attendees

Nicola Webb – Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council
Neil Goddard, - Service Director – Quality and Commissioning
Jack Cutler – Planning and Statistics Officer, BCP Council
Gemma Donnelly – Department for Education

Invited Elected Members

Councillor Nicola Green – Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Schools and Skills
Councillor Mike White – Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Not Present:

Elaine Redding – Interim Corporate Director – Children’s Services, BCP Council

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read, signed and confirmed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that all other matters arising are covered in the agenda.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

No public issues were raised.

6. DSG Budget monitoring 2020-21

Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council, presented the report.

This item was presented as a usual budget monitoring report.

Nicola Webb (NW) noted that there may be some additional spends around the growth fund ~~due to legacy arrangements that would fund schools more generously than the current arrangements where pupils do not materialise in the schools~~. This will be picked up later in the meeting.

NW noted that the January Early Years (EY) will still take place, and the expectation is that EY funding will continue as usual, unless the Local Authority (LA) hears otherwise from the Department from Education (DfE)

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

7. DSG Settlement and Draft Budget for 2021-22

Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer, BCP Council, presented the report.

A summary of the report was provided.

NW noted there has been at 6p per funded hours increase in the Early Years Government funding rate for 3&4 year old, and 8p increase for 2 year olds. The government maintained these are based on inflationary increases.

The National Funding Formula (NFF) Schools Block funding increase was reported at the last meeting. The December settlement provided ~~on~~ the increase in the schools block funding from changes in pupil numbers at the October census. The increase in the funding values and data changes resulted in a 4.7% increase in funding, whilst the additional pupils provided a further uplift of £2.2m. The significant increase in per pupil funding is predominantly due to the increase in the minimum per pupil funding levels, particularly within the primary phase. This therefore represents a significant increase in funding for schools, some of which around increasing per pupil funding levels, and some around growing pupil numbers. Unfortunately, growth funding has reduced by £0.4m from last year however this is still projected to be sufficient to fund the growth anticipated for 2021-22.

NW reported that on the Central Schools Funding Block, the LA had funding restored for historic commitments, part of which was linked to prudential borrowing for a SEND provision added by legacy Bournemouth Council some years ago. This means the LA does not need to find this funding from elsewhere within the DSG or other funding sources.

There was also some additional funding put into the High Needs (HN) block due to a growth in pupils.

Table 1 in the report shows the funding in each DSG Block, and how this compares with current year 2020/21. The Early Years sector were hoping to see a more significant increase than has been provided. The High Needs increase is welcome but expected to be absorbed into the increasing numbers of children with an Education, health and Care Plan (EHCP) that need supporting.

Kate Carter questioned whether the 0.5% transfer would be from all schools, or just those above the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Formula. NW clarified this would be 0.5% from the surplus, not out of any NFF.

8. Mainstream schools and Early Years Funding formulae 2021-22 and DSG Funding Block transfer considerations

Jack Cutler (JC) confirmed there were 9 proposals within this report, and the Chair confirmed each proposal should be taken in turn as the report is gone through.

JC confirmed a consultation was undertaken with schools and early years providers between 23rd November and 13th December, both of which are included as appendices within the report.

JC noted the primary minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPFLs) had increased since 2020/21 under the NFF, which has brought even more Primary schools onto the MPPFLs's. JC continued to take the Forum through the questions included within the school's consultation and a summary of the responses received to these. There were no further questions raised in this section of the report.

The Chair requested of the Forum they take a decision at this point whether to support the establishment of a HN Task and Finish Group.

Proposal 9:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support Proposal 9, to establish a High Needs Task and Finish Group.

JC noted that 45% of schools did not support a 0.5% transfer, while 55% did, and noted that this was a transfer out of NFF, rather than a transfer of surplus funding.

Proposal 2:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 2, that agreed the growth fund policy.

Proposal 1:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 1, to recommend to Council the proposed local mainstream schools formula.

Proposal 3:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 3, to agree the central budget for the growth fund.

Proposal 4:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 4, to agree a £1.1 million (0.5%) transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

Proposal 5:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 5, to recommend to Council the proposed Early Years funding formula.

Proposal 6:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 6, to agree the central budgets supporting the early years free entitlements.

Proposal 7:

RESOLVED: The Forum unanimously agreed to support proposal 7, Agree the central school services block budgets

Proposal 8:

RESOLVED: The maintained school members of the Forum voted 3 in favour and 1 against to support the retention rates per pupil and budgets for LA duties supporting maintained schools. At the Forum meeting itself the vote was cast 2 in favour and 1 against, however subsequently a further 1 in favour vote was received via email to the clerk and forwarded to the Chair for verification.

9. Draft LAC Pupil Premium policy 2021-22

The report was presented by Luana Girling from the BCP LAC Virtual School for consultation.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Friday 25th June 21
- Tue 14th September 21
- Friday 12th November 21
- Thursday 13th January 22

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked all the members for their valued contribution to the discussion.

Chairman

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SCHOOL'S FORUM



Subject	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020-21
Meeting Date	25 th June 2021
Executive Summary	<p>The report considers the end of year position for the DSG budget 2020-21 at a net in-year deficit of £3.2 million. This is against a budgeted deficit of £4.9 million.</p> <p>The £1.7 million reduction is the result of high needs expenditure accrued in earlier years being settled at £1.3 million less than provided due to imperfect information from legacy councils, plus £0.4 million from funding adjustments and savings within other expenditure blocks. High needs expenditure relating to 2020/21 was on budget.</p> <p>The accumulated deficit has grown as a result from £4.6 million to £7.8 million at March 2021, with this required to be carried forward and recovered from future DSG allocations.</p>
Recommendations	To note the contents of the report.
Reasons for Recommendations	To update schools forum on the DSG financial position
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene – Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education Councillor Mike White – Children and young People
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding
Report Author (s)	Nicola Webb, Assistant Chief Finance Officer email: n.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Summary DSG Outturn 2020-21

1. The DSG outturn in-year deficit for 2020-21 is £3.2 million (£1.7 million less than the £4.9 million budgeted). This is in addition to the cumulative net £4.6 million deficit brought forward from the legacy councils to give an overall accumulated deficit at 31 March 2021 of £7.8 million.
2. The growing deficit is a result of unfunded pressures in high needs, with the in-year deficit for this block of expenditure at £4.6 million (£1.3 million less than budgeted). The improvement compared with the £1.4 million overspend forecast at the end of quarter three is from reduced use of alternative provision in the spring term during the third lockdown and other movements in provision for EHCPs. Over the year the growth in EHCPs numbers was not as high as budgeted but the average costs of plans requiring funding have been higher. As we return to normal after the pandemic, growth is likely to return to previous levels.
3. The high needs budget annual deficit was partially mitigated by prior year adjustments of £0.2 million and small underspends on the other three spending blocks of the DSG of £0.2 million.
4. The table below summarises the DSG outturn for 2020-21

Table 1: Summary DSG Outturn 2020-21

			Funding	Spend	Net
Early Years Block	Budget	£000's	-21,143	21,143	0
	Actual	£000's	-20,879	20,664	-215
	Variance	£000's	264	-479	-215
School Block	Budget	£000's	-208,104	207,108	-996
	Actual	£000's	-208,063	206,954	-1,109
	Variance	£000's	41	-154	-113
Central School Services Block	Budget	£000's	-1,978	1,978	0
	Actual	£000's	-2,037	1,969	-68
	Variance	£000's	-59	-9	-68
High Needs Block	Budget	£000's	-43,920	49,866	5,946
	Actual	£000's	-44,015	48,616	4,601
	Variance	£000's	-95	-1,250	-1,345
Total DSG	Budget	£000's	-275,145	280,095	4,950
	Actual	£000's	-274,994	278,203	3,209
	Variance	£000's	151	-1,892	-1,741

DSG Income 2020-21

5. A net reduction in funding of £264,000 in the early years block. This includes the prior year adjustment from the January 2020 census resulting in additional funding of £189,000 but offset by reduced funding for 2020-21 estimated at £452,000. The funding calculation was changed due to the pandemic, with greater reliance on the January 2020 early years census to determine funding levels. An estimate based on the new guidance has been made and allowed for in the outturn figures.

6. Due to the disruption caused by the on-going pandemic, to better match funding levels with the uptake of provision, in 2021-22 the DfE has moved to using a termly census rather than relying only on the January position. Funding is expected to be £0.5 million less than budget once the adjustment has been made later this year with allocations to providers also lower.
7. Additional funding of £59,000 was received for the central schools services to restore commitment funding to the historic level. This has not been spent as budgets had already been set and agreed and saving made elsewhere within the block.
8. As previously reported, £95,000 of additional high needs block funding was provided due to updated pupil data. This comprises an extra £12,000 for special free school places, £56,000 from a pupil number adjustment to the high needs block allocation and £27,000 from the import / export adjustment.

DSG Expenditure 2020-21

9. Expenditure for each block is summarised in the appendix.

Early Years Block Spend

10. The funding payments made to early years providers has been slightly less than expected despite protection and additional support with personal protective equipment.
11. Overall, the early years block has a surplus of £0.2 million for 2020-21, largely made up of the additional funding relating to the previous year. The in-year funding has largely all been allocated to providers, except the agreed retention of less than 1%.

Schools Services Block Spend

12. The mainstream schools funding formula is being paid to mainstream schools and recouped by the ESFA as per the formula set in January 2020.
13. Growth funding payments were £154,000 less than budgeted. However, the late funding adjustment for academy recoupment of £41,000 reduces the overall school block saving to £113,000.
14. Unallocated school block funds of £1.0 million have contributed to the overall DSG position at year end.

Central Schools Services Block Spend

15. The cost of schools forum was £9,000 less than budgeted as meetings were moved online.

High Needs Block Spend

16. The underspend of £1.1 million for independent and non-maintained special schools (INMSS) relates largely to fees accrued in earlier years but settled for less due to imperfect information from LGR. There was not, therefore, a significant saving in costs relating to 2020-21.

17. Additional places in resource bases and special schools were delivered leading to an overspend on the place funding and top-up funding to state school budgets. The increase in bespoke packages continued from last year, despite the creation of these extra places. Although this was less than projected at quarter three due to reduced delivery from these providers during lockdown.
18. A reduced number of medical pupils during the year, due to schools not being open for most pupils has led to reduced use of alternative provision.
19. There were other underspends from centrally commissioned services again due to lower activity due to the pandemic.

Legal Implications

20. It is a requirement of the Council to monitor budgets during the financial year and for schools forum to be informed of the DSG outturn.

Background Papers

Previous schools' forum papers are available at the link below:

[http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=149&\\$LO\\$=1](http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=149&LO=1)

Appendix

Presentation of detailed DSG outturn budget variances for 2020-21.

Appendix – DSG Outturn 2020-21

£000's	Budget					Outturn	
	Early Years	Schools	Central Services	High Needs	Total	Total	Variance
DSG 2 year olds NFF (estimated)	(2,582)				(2,582)	(2,370)	212
DSG 3 year olds NFF (estimated)	(18,394)				(18,394)	(18,124)	270
DSG Pupil Premium (estimated)	(89)				(89)	(118)	(29)
DSG Disability Access Fund	(78)				(78)	(78)	(0)
DSG Prior Year (January 2020 census)					0	(189)	(189)
DSG NFF School Block		(205,634)			(205,634)	(205,593)	41
DSG Premises		(1,658)			(1,658)	(1,658)	0
DSG Growth Fund NFF		(1,858)			(1,858)	(1,858)	0
High Needs Block Transfer		1,046		(1,046)	0	0	0
DSG High Needs Block				(42,874)	(42,874)	(42,969)	(95)
DSG Central School Services Block			(1,978)		(1,978)	(2,037)	(59)
Total Funding	(21,143)	(208,104)	(1,978)	(43,920)	(275,145)	(274,994)	151
Providers - 2 year olds	2,431				2,431	2,444	13
Providers - 3 and 4 Year olds	17,803				17,803	17,130	(673)
Disability Access Fund	89				89	41	(48)
Early Years Pupil Premium	78				78	126	48
Providers SEN top up grants	557				557	738	181
Early Years LA duties	185				185	185	(0)
Mainstream Schools Formula		206,608			206,608	206,608	(0)
Growth Fund		500			500	346	(154)
School Admissions			423		423	423	0
Servicing Schools Forum			18		18	10	(8)
Ex ESG Services (all schools)			1,007		1,007	1,007	0
Commitments - Premature retirements			20		20	20	0
Commitments - ASD Base / other			275		275	274	(1)
Licences Purchased by DfE			235		235	235	0
Place Funding				11,327	11,327	11,895	568
Top up Funding - State Sector				14,587	14,587	14,815	228
Top up Funding - Independent/NMSS				13,280	13,280	12,165	(1,115)
Top up Funding - Post Schools				3,883	3,883	3,252	(631)
Top up Funding - Pre schools				204	204	23	(181)
Top up Funding - Excluded Pupils/AP				1,899	1,899	1,377	(522)
Commissioned Services / outreach				1,083	1,083	1,304	221
Hospital Education Top up				128	128	39	(89)
Bespoke SEN /Therapies				1,964	1,964	2,454	490
Support for Inclusion				141	141	103	(38)
Early Years Central SEN support				612	612	533	(79)
Sensory Impaired Service				758	758	656	(102)
Total Expenditure	21,143	207,108	1,978	49,866	280,095	278,203	(1,892)
In-year (Surplus) / Deficit	0	(996)	0	5,946	4,950	3,209	(1,741)
DSG Deficit brought forward						4,644	
DSG Deficit carried forward						7,853	

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