

# **SOUTHWARK CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

## **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Members are requested to attend a meeting to be held at: **Notre Dame High School,  
118 St George's Rd, London SE1 6EX**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 3.45pm – 6.00pm**

David Cross

Email: [xdavidcross@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:xdavidcross@yahoo.co.uk)

**All documents distributed in advance will be taken as read**

### **AGENDA**

#### **ITEM**

1. Apologies for Absence and whether quorate (5 minutes)
2. Declaration of interests – the Education (Schools Government) Regulations 1989 (as amended) oblige members with a pecuniary interest in a contract or other matter to disclose the fact, to withdraw from the meeting when it is being discussed and not vote on it.
3. Minutes of the Meeting of 5th December 2019 (5 minutes)
- 3.1 Ratification of Appointment of Ms Janice Babb as Vice Chair
4. Matters Arising not on the Agenda (10 minutes)
  - a) Report back on LA consulting Maintained Special Schools
  - b) Report back on LA consulting Maintained Nursery Schools
5. Dedicated Schools Grant- 2019-20 Budget Monitor and 2020-21 DSG settlement (15 minutes)
6. Dedicated Schools Grant - 2020-21 – Central Retentions (10 minutes)
7. Schools Funding Formula 2020-21 (40 minutes)
8. Early Years Funding Formula 2020-21 (10 minutes)
9. A.O.B. Any items must be with the Clerk by Noon 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (5 minutes)
10. Dates of Further Meetings for 2019/20:  
  
19 March 2020, 14th May 2020 and 9 July 2020

<b>THE SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
------------------------------------

<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING</b>
-------------------------------

<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b>
--

---

1. **Attendance and Apologies:** See Annex A - The clerk explained that the governor vacancies were raised at the recent Southwark Governors Association meeting where two nominations were made. The primary academy headteacher and the community primary headteacher vacancies will be progressed by the current primary school headteacher members of the Schools Forum.
2. **Quorum:** The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was not quorate - any proposed decisions will be subject to ratification at the next quorate meeting.
3. **Declaration of Interests**

Members were asked to declare any pecuniary or other interests they might have that were greater than the interests of other members of the Schools Forum in any matter on the agenda for discussion. There were none.
4. **Election of Vice Chair** - Ms Janice Babb was nominated and there being no other nominations was declared Vice Chair elect - to be ratified at next meeting.
5. **Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd October 2019**
  - 5.1 These were agreed for accuracy
  - 5.2 Matters Arising: para. 6.9 - the LA confirmed that details of the 2019/20 Pay and Pensions Grants had been provided to schools by the LA.
6. **Minutes of the Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**
  - 6.1 These were agreed for accuracy
  - 6.2 Matters Arising: not on the Agenda
    - a) 4.15 - Clarification of the corporate overheads; the LA explained that these were still under review and full detail and clarification will be an appendix of the 2020-21 Budget report to the January 2021 Schools Forum
    - b) Progress on the consultation processes required for the January 2020 meeting; the LA confirmed that this was proceeding with a Consultation document, written from a Headteachers perspective, being distributed to schools on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and two briefings sessions already arranged.
7. **Dedicated Schools Grant- 2019-20 Budget Monitor**
  - 7.1 A report setting out the budget monitoring position as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 had been circulated in advance.

- 7.2 The Local Authority (LA) confirmed that the position was still showing a projected overspend of £6.5m due to the pressures in the High Needs Block and with the carry forward of an £11.5m overspend this now totalled an £18.m deficit.
- 7.3 The LA reported that budget monitoring for maintained settings in the borough has been improved via termly adjustments, there is further ongoing work to enhance budget monitoring in the other areas including non-maintained settings, out of borough, independent/NMSS (non- maintained special schools) and FE aged 19-25.
- 7.4 While the early years block is forecast to underspend, the funding will be adjusted retrospectively next July and this adjustment will be based on the January 2020 pupil numbers. It will not be possible to know the exact amount until the data is collected. It is still expected, however, that there will be an underspend and it will be used to fund the SENDIF (the SEND Inclusion Fund) as set out in the report discussed at the 21 November 2019 meeting.
- 7.5 It was noted that the DFE had said that the DSG was now a ring-fenced grant and so any over or under spends remained within the DSG and it was not expected that the council's general fund need be used to address any shortfall. The LA was already looking at the position that a lot of the financial shortfall was due to the responsibility for 19 to 25 year olds with SEND being moved into the DSG and this would have been previously funded by the Council from grant from central government under its adult social care budgets.
- 7.6 The Schools Forum also suggested that as the Council already charges a considerable amount of corporate overheads to the DSG then it should review their charges as a contribution to reducing the deficit in the High Needs Block.
- 7.7 In addition the Schools Forum reminded the LA that it had previously agreed that schools should be given a deadline for submitting claims for both maternity and trade union facility time reimbursement of costs and that it is suggested that it be applied so that all liabilities are met from the funds by the end of the financial year.

## **8. The Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-21**

- 8.1 This was the main item on the agenda and the previously circulated report asked the Schools Forum to start to consider the budget of the Schools Block of the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant including the centrally retained and de-delegated budgets with the final decisions being taken at the Schools Forum January 2020 meeting.
- 8.2 All members confirmed that they had read the report which was in line with the previous annual report for 2019-20 in that there were no new de- delegated or centrally retained budgets. It was also noted that most per pupil rates were the same in 2020-21 as they were in 2019-20.
- 8.3 It was noted that the full picture of all funding to schools for 2020-21 was not available and that the various formula factor rates were yet to be set - this will be done for the January 2020 meeting, as a consequence the Schools Forum is asked to indicate their views in relation to both the de-delegated budgets as set out in Table 2 of the report.

This is reproduced below:

Budget	Basis	Proposed 2020-21 estimated Budget £000	Proposed 2020-21 Primary School Rate £ per pupil	Proposed 2020-21 Secondary School Rate £ per pupil
Contingencies* (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)	AWPU	815	41.00	41.00
Behaviour support services	FSM Ever 6	410	64.55	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	FSM Ever 6	1,111	174.71	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	FSM Ever 6	62	9.81	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	AWPU	799	40.15	40.15
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	AWPU	82	4.00	4.00
<b>Total De-delegated budget</b>		<b>3,279</b>		

- 8.3 The Schools Forum members then went through each de-delegated budget and noted that there were some changes downwards as pupil numbers had fallen in the borough. The main change was to the relative high costs for checking the eligibility to free school meals for primary schools which was now benchmarked to the London borough average and so has been reduced.
- 8.4 The Chair asked that this should now feed through into the charges made by the LA to secondary schools as they are on a buy back service level agreement.
- 8.5 The two maintained primary school headteachers then agreed they could support the primary pupil rates for the de-delegated budgets and the maintained secondary school headteacher agreed that they could also support the secondary school pupil rates for the de-delegated budgets.
- 8.6 The Schools Forum maintained primary and secondary school members then agreed to the Local Authority seeking the decision of the maintained nursery schools as to whether they wish to buy into both the Contingency fund and the Maternity fund in 2020-21.
- 8.7 The Schools Forum maintained primary and secondary school members then agreed to the Local Authority seeking the decision of the maintained special schools as to whether they wish to buy into both the Contingency fund and the Maternity fund in 2020-21.
- 8.8 Following a number of points of clarification about the various 2020-21 de-delegated budgets the relevant members of the Schools Forum, as set out in the legislation, voted as follows:

- 8.8 i) a) Contingencies: In favour primary 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
In favour secondary 1, against 0, Abstentions 0  
b) Behaviour Support Services-Primary: In favour 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
c) Behaviour Support Services: Summerhouse: In favour 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
d) Free School Meals Eligibility-Primary: In favour 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
e) Maternity Cover Scheme: In favour primary 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
In favour secondary 1, against 0, Abstentions 0  
f) Trade Union Facility Scheme: In favour primary 2, against 0, Abstentions 0  
In favour secondary 1, against 0, Abstentions 0

As the Schools Forum was not quorate then the votes were not a formal decision but a guide to the LA, especially as the formal decision will be taken at the January 2020 meeting.

- 8.9 The Schools Forum then considered, in turn, each Centrally Retained Budget as set out in Table 3 of the report and asked that whether the funding not needed for the Growth Fund be switched to the Falling Rolls Fund as need is increasing in that area- this the LA said they thought was possible.
- 8.10 The LA gave some verbal detail of the use of the “Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils” which caused the Schools Forum concern as to whether they could support the budget especially as it was £294k for possibly only 6 or 8 pupils. The LA said that they would bring back detail to the January 2020 meeting and the Schools Forum said that their support for this centrally retained budget would be subject to its scrutiny.
- 8.11 The Schools Forum maintained and academy and free schools representatives then voted on each of the budgets and for each one set out in Table 3 in paragraph 3.4 of the report the Schools Forum voted unanimously in favour of.

As the Schools Forum was not quorate then the votes were not a formal decision but a guide to the LA, especially as the formal decision will be taken at the January 2020 meeting.

- 8.12 The LA continues to hold specific responsibilities for maintained schools, known as “Maintained Schools Only Central Retention” and in 2020-21 the cost is at the same rate per pupil as the in the previous year i.e. £16.43. The total funding would drop in line with the expected reduction in pupil numbers. The amount is forecast to be £327k which had reduced due to the fall in pupil numbers and two schools converting to academies.
- 8.13 The LA proposed Maintained Only Schools Centrally Retained Budget was then voted upon by the maintained primary and secondary school representatives only who supported the proposal which will be formally ratified at the January 2020 meeting.

## 9. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of the next meetings were noted.

**Annex A**  
**SCHOOLS FORUM ATTENDANCE SHEET**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
Janice Babb	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Susannah Bellingham	Primary School Headteacher	Yes
Pia Longman	Primary School Headteacher	Apologies
Vacant	Primary School Headteacher	
Vacant	Primary School Governor	
Vacant	Primary School Governor	
Rebecca Sherwood	Nursery School Headteacher	Apologies
Teresa Neary	Special School Headteacher	No
Nicola Howard	Early Years – Private/Voluntary and Independent Settings	Apologies
Steve Morrison	Academy	Yes
Vacant	Academy (Primary)	
Mike Antoniou	Academy	Apologies
Simon Eccles	Special School Academy	Apologies
Yomi Adewoye	Pupil Referral Units	Apologies
Sister Anne-Marie Niblock	Secondary School Headteacher	Yes
Vacant	FE SEN	
Catherine May	Diocesan Boards	Apologies
Betty Joseph	Trade Unions	Yes

**Senior Officers in Attendance**

Nina Dohel	Yes
Russell Dyer	Yes
Dave Richards	Yes
Terry Segarty	Yes
David Cross	Clerk

<b>Date:</b> 15 January 2020	<b>Item</b> 5	<b>Type of report:</b> Information
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20 Budget Monitor and Provisional 2020-21 Allocation.</b>	
<b>Author name and contact details:</b>	Russell Dyer/ Dave Richards <a href="mailto:russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk">russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk</a> dave.richards@southwark.gov.uk	
<b>Officer to present the report:</b>	Russell Dyer Dave Richards	

## Executive Summary

This report sets out the financial position of the 2019-20 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as at 30th November 2019. In addition, detail is given of the allocation for 2020-21 with a comparison to the 2019-20 allocation.

## Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to note:

- a) the 2019-20 DSG budget monitor position and the anticipated deficit position of £18m
- b) the provisional 2020-21 DSG allocation of £332.7m (£320.2m in 2019/20) before recoupment (funding that goes direct to academies & free schools, including growth and per place funding for high needs)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 This paper considers the budget monitoring position for 2019-20 and the announcement on the 19 December 2019, by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of the Funding Settlement for 2020-21.

## 2. Budget Monitoring 2019-20

- 2.1 The overall position on the budget monitoring as at Month 8 is summarised in the table below. The allocation is before block transfers are applied, namely the £3.2m movement from Schools Block to High Needs Block (£3.1m) and the movement from the Central Block to the High Needs Block (£0.1m) as approved by the Secretary of State.

	<b>DSG Allocation 2019-20 £m</b>	<b>Over/ (Underspend) £m</b>
Schools Block	122.732	(0.2)
High Needs Block	42.383	7.6
Early Years Block	26.747	(0.6)

	DSG Allocation 2019-20 £m	Over/ (Underspend) £m
Central Services	1.683	(0.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.545</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Deficit as at 31 March 2019</b>		<b>11.5</b>
<b>Forecast Deficit as at 31 March 2020</b>		<b>18.0</b>

Note 1 - these figures are after recoupment for academies but before any block transfer

Note 2 – These figures now include the adjustment relating to the pupil numbers in January for Early Years pupils and Special Education Needs Children in other Local Authorities

- 2.2 The outturn position for the DSG as at 31 March 2019 was an £11.5m deficit (the deficit as at 31 March 2018 was £4.1m).
- 2.3 The current forecast indicates a £6.5m in year pressure(overspend) on the DSG after offsetting other underspends. The main area of pressure continues to be the high needs block of £7.6m. The high needs forecast is predicated on a set level of increased activity and assumed unit cost values. Should these assumptions change significantly during the year, then the forecast will change.
- 2.4 While the early years block is forecast to currently underspend, the funding will be adjusted retrospectively next July and this adjustment will be based on the January 2020 pupil numbers. It will not be possible to know the exact amount until the numbers are collected. It is, however, still expected to be an underspend and this will be used to fund the SENDIF funding that was discussed at the 21 November 2019 meeting and will relieve the pressure on the high needs block.
- 2.5 Financial position on de-delegated budgets and Growth Fund

The summary position is shown in the table below:

2019-20	Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Over/ (Underspends) £m
Schools in financial difficulty	0.5	0.5	0
Behaviour Support services (including Summerhouse)	1.6	1.6	0
Maternity	0.8	0.6	(0.2)
Trade Unions	0.1	0.1	0
Growth Funds	0.1	0.1	0
Falling Rolls	0.1	0.1	0



- 2.6 The Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund is showing signs of pressure. The Panel met on the 5 December 2019 and a number of cases were agreed, but often the exact costs of redundancies is not always known. A case is usually agreed by the panel on the basis of a maximum cost they are prepared to meet, while they await the redundancy cost to be confirmed.
- 2.7 Most of the cases put forward to the Panel in December will result in restructures at the end of the spring term and the cost will fall in next year. At the moment though it is still unclear the exact amount that will be needed to be funded next year but early indications are that fund will be used in full. It will be recommended to the Schools Forum in due course that if there is any underspend it will be carry forward to next year. At the moment the forecast has been left at a balanced position.
- 2.8 The Maternity Fund at the moment has paid out just under £300k. Traditionally schools are slow in submitting claims, last year from November to the end of the year the fund paid out £425k, although the trend is the number of cases is slightly lower this year. If this year is similar, there could be an underspend of £0.2m and this has been assumed.
- 2.9 The Trade Unions Facilities Time budget has been overspent in the past few years. The method of allocating funds changed to one where it was the cost of supply, based on an average rate. This is now confirmed as £280 per day. It is expected the fund will be balanced at the end of the year. At the last meeting of the it was agreed that schools should be given a deadline for submitting claims for both trade union facility time and maternity reimbursement of costs, this has been set at Spring half term and schools will be written to shortly.
- 2.10 The growth fund (£0.1m) has been fully allocated but no further calls are expected on this.
- 2.11 The Falling Rolls Fund (£0.1m) has agreed one application for this year and currently there is a balance of £50k left in the fund. The panel will meet on the 14 January 2019 and a verbal update will be given to the Schools Forum.

### **3 Dedicated Schools Grant Allocation 2020-21**

- 3.1 The provisional DSG allocation for 2020-21, before deductions for academies recoupment (including growing free schools) is £332.75m, an increase of £12.5m from last year. While the DSG has been set at this level, it will change due to adjustments to pupil numbers.
- 3.2 The DSG is set out in four blocks; schools block, central block, early years block and the high needs block.

	2019-20	2020-21	Change
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	247.3	254.3	7.0
Central block	1.7	1.7	0.0

High Needs block	44.5	50.0	5.5
Early years block	26.7	26.7	0.0
	320.2	332.7	12.5

- 3.3 The funding for the schools blocks is made up of 4 elements, an amount per pupil for primary pupils, an amount per pupil for secondary pupils, a premises amount and a growth fund. The changes from last year are shown in the table below:

	Unit of Funding				
	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	Change £	%	
Primary	5,537.79	5,637.62	99.83	1.80%	A
Secondary	7,756.04	7,873.97	117.93	1.52%	B
	Pupil numbers				
	2019-20	2020-21	Change	%	
Primary	23,341	22,818	-523	-2.24%	C
Secondary	14,494	15,222	729	5.03%	D
Total (1)	37,835	38,040	206	0.54%	
	Overall funding				
	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	Change £		
<b><u>Pupil Led</u></b>					
Primary	129,257,556	128,639,213	- 618,343	-0.48%	A*C
Secondary	112,412,166	119,857,571	7,445,405	6.62%	B*D
Total (2)	241,669,722	248,496,784	6,827,062	2.82%	
Premises	3,047,200	3,382,274	335,074	11.00%	
Sub Total (3)	244,716,922	251,879,058	7,162,136	2.93%	
Growth Funds	2,593,868	2,389,718	-204,150	-7.87%	
Overall Total	247,310,790	254,268,777	6,957,987	2.81%	

- 3.4 As can be seen from the above the percentage increases in the unit of funding is below the often quoted 1.84% minimum increase per pupil. The Department for Education quote 2.37% as the increase for Southwark schools. Their basis of their calculation is by combining both primary and secondary figures. The calculation is below:

Total schools block less growth fund 2019/20 (Sub total 3 in table above)	A	£244,716,922
Pupils Numbers		
2019/20	B	37,835
2020/21	C	38,040
	A/B * C = D	£246,042,862
Total schools block less growth fund 2020/21	E	£251,879,058
Increase in Funding	E-D = F	£5,836,196
Increase	F/D	2.37%

- 3.5 Despite the calculation above the table below gives the underlying changes to the schools blocks broken down into the pupil number changes and the actual increase in the settlement

Changes to the schools block broken down into cost and volumes				
		Pupil changes	Funding	%
Pupil changes	primary	-523	-2,948,475	-2.28%
Pupil changes	secondary	729	5,740,124	5.11%
Settlement increase	primary	23,342	2,330,232	1.80%
Settlement increase	secondary	14,509	1,711,046	1.52%
			6,832,927	

#### 4 High Needs Block Settlement

- 4.1 There is an increase of £5.5m in the High Needs block, this is slightly higher than the previous announcement, the increase is broken down as follows.

	£
Settlement Increase	5,100,000
Pupil number increase	342,991
Recoupment change	174,821
	5,617,812

#### 5 Pupil Premium Rates

- 5.1 The announcement from the DFE is expected shortly.

<b>Date:</b> 15 January 2020	<b>Item</b> 6	<b>Type of report:</b> Decision
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>The Dedicated Schools Grant 2020-21 – Central Retentions</b>	
<b>Author name and contact details:</b>	Russell Dyer / Dave Richards russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk <a href="mailto:dave.richards@southwark.gov.uk">dave.richards@southwark.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Officer to present the report:</b>	Russell Dyer / Dave Richards	

## Executive Summary

This report considers the 2020/21 budget for the schools block including the centrally retained and de-delegated budgets. Original proposals by the Local Authority were considered by the Schools Forum at its meeting on the 5 December 2019. The Schools Forum is now asked to formally decide on the proposals.

## Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- A) Agree by phase (maintained primary and secondary school only) to the de-delegated budgets as outlined in 2.6;
- B) The Maintained Nursery schools to confirm they wish for 2020-21 to buy into the:
  - i) Contingency fund
  - ii) Maternity fund
- C) The Maintained Special schools to confirm they wish for 2020-21 to buy into the
  - i) Contingency fund
  - ii) Maternity fund
- D) Agree to the Centrally Retained Budgets – (to be agreed individually – maintained primary and secondary schools/academy and free schools) as outlined in para 4 with detail in Appendix A
- E) To note the position on the corporate overheads

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The guidance surrounding central retentions and de-delegations is governed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publication *Schools Revenue Funding 2020 to 2021 Operational Guide*.
- 1.2 Under the regulations the schools block of the DSG can only be held centrally for certain services as specified by the DfE and where the Schools Forum agree to:

- de-delegate funding, by phase;
  - centrally retain funding before allocating the formula.
- 1.3 The LA is required to submit to the Education & Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) the provisional 2020-21 authority pro-forma by 21 January 2020. The pro-forma outlines the details of the local funding formula, including the agreed de-delegated budgets.
- 1.4 The Schools Forum at its December 2019 the Local Authority asked for feedback on its draft proposals for both de-delegated and centrally retained budgets. The Schools Forum did so, see the minutes of that meeting and also requested further information regarding the corporate overheads and the budget for Independent Schools fees for non-SEN pupil and these are addressed below.
- 1.5 Since the December the Local Authority has received from the Department of Education the data on which to calculate the school budget for next year. Some of these changes were known and assumed in the calculation of the de-delegated budgets. However, the changes around the Free Meals over 6 were not and Table 2 has been adjusted to reflect this latest data. This has fallen by 10% and this has meant a reduced level of funding for Summerhouse and Family Early Help.

## **2.0 De-delegated Services**

- 2.1 This funding is initially allocated to all schools, as part of the Southwark Schools Funding Formula. For maintained primary and secondary schools funding in some instances can be de-delegated or “returned” to the Local Authority to be held and managed centrally. De-delegation is not applicable to academies, special schools, nurseries or PRU’s. For PRUs, nursery schools and special schools to benefit from these services there would need to be “buy back” into service. Nursery schools and special schools (except hospital schools) agreed to buy back into the fund for contingencies and maternity in this current year (2019-20) and it is assumed they will continue although the Schools Forum are asked to confirm this position should they wish to. Academies can buy into some funds but not others, specifically not maternity and nor contingencies.
- 2.2 The Schools Forum are required to formally agree the de-delegated budgets annually, with members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools required to decide separately for each phase. The outcome of the decision applies to all LA maintained schools within that phase.
- 2.3 The funding for de-delegated services is automatically allocated to academies as part of the schools funding formula and they are able to make their own arrangements for these services. Academies may choose to purchase services from the LA, where they are offered.
- 2.4 Last year the Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate funding for the following services in 2019-20:

**Table 1:**

Budget	Basis*	2019-20 Budget £000	2019-20 Primary School Rate £	2019-20 Secondary School Rate £
Contingencies* (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)	AWPU	841	41.00	41.00
Behaviour support services	FSM Ever 6	423	64.55	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	FSM Ever 6	1,146	174.71	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	FSM Ever 6	108	16.60	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	AWPU	824	40.15	40.15
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	AWPU	82	4.00	4.00
<b>De-delegated budget</b>		<b>3,424</b>		

\*Schools in Financial Difficulty £505k, Audit £36k and Intervention Fund £300k.

- 2.6 The proposed funding for 2020/21 is shown in the table 2. The rationale for the proposals is then shown below:

**Table 2**

Budget	Basis	Proposed 2020-21 estimated Budget £000	Proposed 2020-21 Primary School Rate £	Proposed 2020-21 Secondary School Rate £
Contingencies* (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)	AWPU	816	41.00	41.00
Behaviour support services	FSM Ever 6	384	64.55	N/A

Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	FSM Ever 6	1,111	187.00	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	FSM Ever 6	58	9.81	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	AWPU	799	40.15	40.15
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	AWPU	80	4.00	4.00
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>		<b>3,248</b>		

\* Schools in Financial Difficulty £490k, Audit £36k and Intervention Fund £290k.

## 2.7 Free School Meals Eligibility Team

2.7.1 The Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility checking team provide comprehensive advice and information on the legal requirements of free school meals and checking of eligibility using the Central Government Benefit Hub.

2.7.2 When Benchmarking the provision Southwark's cost is high, however not all authorities operate a team which may distort the position. It was proposed last year that in the long term the costs of Southwark's team should be in line with Inner London average for those authorities who continue to have such a team over a two-year period. The funding was reduced this year and 2020/21 will be the final reduction to the inner London average.

2.7.3 The figures for each inner London authority from the s251 benchmarking 2019/20 data are as follows:

	£
201 City of London	-
202 Camden	35,000
203 Greenwich	84,943
204 Hackney	70,523
205 Hammersmith & Fulham	32,000
206 Islington	42,767
207 Kensington & Chelsea	-
208 Lambeth	-
209 Lewisham	58,664
211 Tower Hamlets	113,000
212 Wandsworth	-
213 Westminster	-

The Inner London average being £62,400, which would equate to £9.81 per pupil for Southwark. This has then been reduced to £58k due to the reduction in the October 2019 Free School Meals "Ever 6" data, that is now available.

## 2.8 **Trade Union Facility Time**

2.8.1 The amount would continue at £80k in 2020-21 and this is supporting a set number of union support days. The funding pay out rate will continue as agreed previously with Schools Forum.

## 2.9 Summerhouse

2.9.1 Summerhouse is a Southwark provision which offer specialist educational and SEMH interventions. Interventions are tailored specifically to the individual pupil by specialist staff that have proven expertise and skills in this discrete area. It is directly responsible for the reduced number of fixed term exclusions and eliminating the need for primary permanent exclusions within the borough.

2.9.2 Over the past few years the financial pressures and lack of expertise are affecting schools' capacity and ability to identify and support a growing number of pupils' complex needs (particularly SEMH and developmental difficulties) and Summerhouse provides the early interventions that are necessary to avoid exclusions. These pressures have increased mainstream school referrals to Summerhouse for support.

2.9.3 This year's budget for summerhouse was increased the extra demand although this was offset to a degree by two schools becoming academies. The Free School Meal "Ever 6" data used in the final calculation is 10% lower than last year and this will reduce the funding available to Summerhouse by £100k. The Summerhouse budget has been protected at its existing level and this has changed the de-delegated funding rates to £187 per Free School Meals "Ever 6".

## 2.10 Contingencies

### 2.10.1 Schools in Financial Difficulty (£480k)

The contingency supports those schools who are in financial difficulty and are make staffing reductions. The call on this fund could grow in the current climate of financial constraint. The fund is showing signs of financial pressure and while it is difficult to predict the exact end of year financial position, no further increase is proposed at this time.

### 2.10.2 School audits (£36k)

This budget funds the school audit programme, to ensure that all schools in Southwark are audited once every three years. This provides assurances to schools, governing bodies and the Local Authority on the financial controls in place in schools. It is not proposed to reduce the funding rates, although discussions will be held on the audit programme.

### 2.10.3 School intervention (£300k)

This funding is used to support individual "schools of concern" with school improvement support. No changes are proposed.

### 2.11 Supply Cover (Maternity cover)

No changes are proposed to the existing scheme. .



## 2.12 Behaviour Support Services - Contribution to early help service

2.12.1 The funding to Behaviour Support Services supports the delivery of a whole family approach by the Family Early Help (FEH) service which was restructured in July 2018 to bring together localities teams, Specialist Family Focus Team, the parenting team and statutory education welfare functions.

2.12.2 Children & Family Centres were integrated in 2019 to extend Family Early Help to a 0 – 18 provision including the Youth Offending Service. The FEH service budget of £4m is funded from a combination of Troubled Families monies (including Payment by Results), core council budgets, income from trading schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant contributions from the schools block and early years or high needs block. The service provides a Single Point of Contact for all Southwark Schools to support inclusion.

2.12.3 All schools are provided with support to work with families where children are at risk of permanent exclusion or there are multiple risk factors as well as persistent absenteeism. Additional resources co-located within Family Early Help include Early Help CAMHS and a specialist school nurse plus links to a number of third sector agencies. Maintained Primary Schools and trading schools additionally receive termly “team around the school” multi-agency meetings to identify and agree provision for vulnerable children, with this enhanced service requiring lower referral thresholds for family support.

## 3.0 Centrally Retained Services

3.1 Funding can be centrally retained for some services with agreement from Schools Forum. The services allowed are set nationally by the DfE with a number of these subject to a limitation of no new commitments nor any increases, other than for schools forum and admissions.

3.2 The Schools Forum agreed in 2019-20 to centrally retain funding for the following services:

- Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy (Growth fund);
- A falling rolls fund
- Admissions
- Servicing of the Schools Forum

3.3 The proposed 2020-21 centrally retained budgets are outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3 – proposed 2020-21 centrally retained budgets**

Budget	Approved 2019-20 budget £000	Proposed 2020-21 budget £000	Comments
LA duties for all schools	600	600	This relates to statutory and regulatory duties for all schools in the borough regardless of whether they are maintained, free school or academies. See Appendix A – all schools section
Growth fund	100	100	There are no planned bulge classes opening in September 2020, although

			<p>since the last meeting we have become aware of one school that will need financial support from this fund, as they will take in three forms of entry in September but lose two forms entry in Year 6.</p> <p>The budget has been fully spent in 2019-20, funding has been provided to an academy and one maintained school. The academy received funding due to the nature of their lagged funding, one other maintained school opened a class. The funding has been left at the same level for 2020-21 and provides for one further bulge class in case of emergencies. The DFE have just issued new guidance and now the Schools Forum must be consulted before any expenditure from the growth fund is incurred.</p>
Schools Falling Rolls	100	100	<p>The Schools Falling Rolls fund is currently £100k. The purpose of the fund is to provide support to those schools whose rolls are falling only for them to rise in the following two years. This is to avoid the possibility that a school will reduce their staffing complement one year only to need to reemploy staff the next. With schools rolls expected to continue to decline it is not expected many schools will qualify for the fund. Further constraints on allocating the fund is made by the Department For Education who will only allow funding to be provided to schools that are judged by Ofsted as "Good" or "Outstanding".</p> <p>In the current year one school has received funding from the fund, this related to a re-submission of a previous years bid as further clarification of their original submission was required. There is a window for schools to bid for funds which closes on the 31 December 2019. There are currently two bids that have been received, although a number of schools are considering making a bid at the time of reporting this report.</p>
Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils	294	294	LA proposes to continue to top-slice the schools budget to contribute towards the educational costs of looked after children that Southwark is responsible for. See paragraph 3.6 for extra details.
Admissions	623	623	Admissions is a statutory LA responsibility and therefore funding cannot be delegated to schools to carry out this function.

Servicing of Schools Forum	15	15	LA proposes to continue to retain funding of £15,000 in 2020-21 to cover the costs of servicing the Schools Forum operation including clerking and working groups. It is not proposed to increase this contribution.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,732</b>	

3.5 Recoupment academies contribute to budgets for centrally retained services as this funding is top-sliced from the Southwark Dedicated Schools Grant funding.

### 3.6 Non-SEND Residential

3.6.1 So far in 2019-20 there have been 7 LAC children and young people in this cohort at an overall cost of £0.22m for the education element of the package (DSG contribution is £0.294m). The needs of this cohort are very high given their LAC status and also given the fact that they are in residential settings which are generally for the children with the most challenging needs. The location of the placement, which can often be a significant distance from the borough (e.g. Norfolk, Cumbria & Merseyside), and the social, emotional and behavioural needs of the children are a strong influencing factor on the type of education provision which this contribution funds.

3.6.2 The education provision is also required to be of good or outstanding grade under OFSTED regulations and also to meet the requirement of the virtual school for looked after children, as well as the Personal Education Plan of the child/ young person. In addition, many of the placements by their nature are at very short notice and therefore the costs for such packages may be at a premium.

3.6.3 The Schools Forum will appreciate the need to keep the details of these children anonymous, however of the cohort, 2 are in mainstream settings but payment relates to previous provision in non-mainstream prior to moving to mainstream as well as additional support to transition successfully to mainstream while EHCP is completed (e.g. LSA) in those settings (one at £39k pa and one at £19k pa). 1 young person is in FE provision at a comparable cost to other FE provision for higher needs young people (£41k pa – a 17-year old). 3 children are in special provision either in a local independent special school or within the residential setting at significant cost (£33k, £29k and £59k with an average cost of a special school of circa £30k) – these children are in the EHCP process given that they have special needs.

3.6.4 The LA is committed to ensuring that Schools Forum receives an annual report on the nature of this expenditure compared to the contribution from the DSG central block and that this report provides an assurance that costs are kept under close review and scrutiny by the LA by ensuring that there is similar rigour to placements in the high needs block. The Director of Children's and Families will be at the Schools Forum meeting to answer any further questions that the Schools Forum may have.

#### **4 Central Retentions Maintained Schools only**

- 4.1 The LA continues to hold responsibilities for maintained schools, the current years budget amounts to £337k, which is equivalent to £16.43 per pupil, the same per pupil level as agreed by maintained schools for 2018-19. The overall funding has reduced since 2018-19 due to the fall in pupil numbers and two schools converting to academies.
- 4.2 These duties continue into 2020-21. The details on these duties are given at Appendix A (maintained schools only). The LA is asking maintained schools to approve the continuation of this central retention in 2020-21 by maintained schools at the same rate per pupil of £16.43 (the same as in the previous year) although the funding would fall in line with the expected reduction in pupil numbers. The amount is forecast to be £327k.

#### **5 Corporate overheads charged to the High Needs Block**

- 5.1 As part of the work with the Schools Forum Sub Group and Budget Recovery Board the Schools Forum asked the Local Authority to review the level of corporate overheads charged to the DSG. In 2018-19 this was £1.8m and it has been agreed in the draft DSG Budget Recovery Plan that this would reduce by £0.5m in 2019-20 and by a further £0.5m in 2020-21.
- 5.2 Given the pressures on other parts of the system it was agreed that the Schools Forum needed oversight of the £0.8m to understand what this was made up of, what services it represented and what would be the alternatives if it was not paid for by the DSG. As part of this any relevant benchmarking data with other LAs could be considered. In addition, the Schools Forum also asked the LA to consider whether there would be any potential to reduce the charge further in 2021-22 as part of the DSG draft budget recovery plan.
- 5.3 What is the governance around this charge?
  - 5.3.1 The charge is currently a central retention within the DSG high needs block. The LA is responsible for setting this but needs to consult with the Schools Forum. The LA has been clear that the direction of travel has been to reduce the charge to a reasonable and affordable level in the context of the financial challenges of the DSG, with the ambition of being at an average level or lower when compared to other similar LA's.
- 5.4 What is the £1.3m charge in 2019-20 moving to £0.8m in 2020-21 made up of and what services are provided for this?
  - 5.4.1 The breakdown is shown at Appendix B. This also shows the overall context of the charge compared to the overall Council as compared to other services.
  - 5.4.2 In summary, there are a large number of posts in the Council which are funded by DSG and perform duties related to the DSG most notably with regard to SEND, Early Years and Admissions. As a consequence there is an apportionment of Council overhead costs associated with these posts to the DSG, notably with regard to HR, payroll, Finance, Insurance, IT and accommodation costs. This is the case for any ring fenced service at the Council, notably Housing and Public Health as can be seen at Appendix B.

- 5.4.3 In addition, some support services, are funded in part directly from the central block and former ESG de-delegation, but this does not cover the entire costs, for example with regard to the S151 officer (Finance), the SAP ledger (computerised accounts system) (on which the accounts are recorded), banking (the DSG, nor schools are charged interest on deficits by the Council), FOI, pensions administration (both TP and LGPS), anti- fraud, internal audit (excluding schools) and also exchequer services (raising and payment of invoice and payment plans). Finally, there are smaller amounts set aside within the charge for legal and procurement, for basic checks upon leases and contracts etc.
- 5.5 How are the costs apportioned?
- 5.5.1 Generally costs are either apportioned directly or on another fair basis. For example, a number of costs are apportioned on the basis of DSG funded staff FTE which is a reasonable basis in our view as it reflects a driver of cost for the DSG. Some areas have a notional apportionment to recognise some element of fixed cost, for example banking and transactional services. We also hold detailed records of staff apportionments for Finance staff.
- 5.6 How do we ensure that there is no double fund of DSG Central Block/ ESG de-delegation for former ESG duties to all schools/ maintained schools?
- 5.6.1 Specific adjustments are made to offset any charge by funding held back in the central block for services to all schools and also to maintained schools via the former ESG de- delegation as listed in the Appendix A in this report.
- 5.6.2 We make sure that other areas such as Internal Audit which are partly funded via the above and the DSG de-delegation are excluded for schools related audits to ensure that there is no double charging and that this only funds the elements for DSG centrally retained services.
- 5.7 How do we ensure that there is no double count with services currently being bought back?
- 5.7.1 This generally relates to support services and not direct services that are charged to schools – we check to ensure that there is no double funding and challenge areas where we suspect that this is a risk.
- 5.8 Why are the other DSG blocks not charged for corporate overheads?
- 5.8.1 Generally, the charge is made to the high needs block as previous flexibilities ended some years ago and the LA had more control over central retentions on that block. Such charges are no longer permitted to be charged to the schools block which would have been the natural place for much of the charge.
- 5.8.2 The central block which took over for many of the centrally retained charges related to schools has a number of commitments against it, meaning that any significant charge to that block has not been possible as the overall block amount is set and cannot be changed not unless there is a approved block transfer.
- 5.8.3 Any charge to this block would also require Schools Frum approval. For the early years block whilst a charge can be made, this would need to be

approved by the Schools Forum and would also have to be within the central retention limit on the block which is 5% of 3 and 4 year old funding which as noted elsewhere is also reducing.

- 5.8.4 The Local Authority recommends that for 2021-22 alongside the work of the Schools Forum Sub Group, that the re-alignment of the charge across the central block, early years block and high needs block be considered, to ensure that it is fairly spread (recognising the key cost drivers across each of the blocks) and is properly accounted for across the blocks and funded. This will require the agreement and support of Schools Forum and may also require some block transfers to fund some elements of these changes. We would also need to be mindful of any rules regarding central retention limits particularly with regard to the early years block and also recognise that some matters on block transfers may require SoS approval.

5.9 How do we compare to other LAs?

- 5.9.1 Data is not readily available however, we have reviewed the levels at comparable LAs and consider that the current level against the DSG is slightly below the average. Some LAs have a much higher charge, for example Central Bedfordshire have a charge of £0.7m versus a high needs block of £24m as compared to LBS which is £0.8m (20-21) versus a high needs block of c£45m. The LA has the ambition to be at or below the average for comparable LAs but we know that the landscape may be changing in this area and therefore this needs to be kept under review and we are happy to work in partnership with Schools Forum in doing that.

5.10 If we did not pay for this via DSG what would happen?

- 5.10.1 The LA may have to either cease some services or move to buybacks to fund. In some cases it would be difficult to see how statutory services could continue to be provided as the service infrastructure would no longer be provided. Schools and other settings may start to notice a deterioration in the provision of some support services e.g. longer response times, delays in paying budget shares, greater self service.

- 5.10.2 Existing buyback charges may have to increase to compensate. Some services might have to cease which would start to affect front line service delivery to settings and for children and young people. The LA may eventually have to consider asking schools to academise en masse, although this is clearly not a preference. Another alternative may be to join up with another LA to seek economies of scale, though again services may deteriorate and also be less responsive to local circumstances.

5.11 Are there other alternatives to funding these costs?

- 5.11 The alternative would be the Core Council budget, although given other funding pressures affordability would be a significant challenge. However, the latest DSG consultation indicates that DSG cost is ring-fenced and no significant subsidy is expected. The buyback scenario has also been highlighted above as a potential alternative.

- 5.12 We already hold back funding from the Central Block and ESG de-delegation to fund statutory services for all schools and maintained schools, but this does not extend to funding these overheads.

5.13 What are the prospects for further costs reductions post 2020-21 in the draft DSG budget Recovery Plan?

5.13.1 This may be difficult given the current benchmarking information which suggests that we are below average (though the direction of travel may be going downwards given LAs in DSG deficits), however the LA is committed to ensuring that this is reviewed and that any efficiencies or cost reductions are passed onto this charge in 2021-22 over and above the £1m reduction secured between 2018-19 and 2020-21. Therefore, the LA will continue to review this area on an ongoing basis, working with the Schools Forum Sub Group.

**Schools Forum  
Item 6  
Dedicated Schools Grant - 2020-21  
Appendix A**

### Statutory and regulatory duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)	Functions of LA related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Sch 2, 56)
Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)	Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Sch 2, 73)
Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)	Functions relating to the financing of maintained schools (Sch 2, 58)
Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)	Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Sch 2, 57)
Formulation and review of local authority schools funding	Monitoring of compliance with

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>formula (Sch 2, 15d)</p> <p>Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)</p> <p>Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)</p> <p>Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)</p> <p>Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)</p>	<p>requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Sch 2, 58)</p> <p>Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 for maintained schools (Sch 2, 59)</p> <p>Functions made under Section 44 of the 2002 Act (Consistent Financial Reporting) (Sch 2, 60)</p> <p>Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 61)</p> <p>Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Sch 2, 62)</p> <p>Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the</p>



Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
	<p>cost (Sch 2, 75)</p> <p>HR duties, including: advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Sch 2, 63); determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Sch 2, 64); appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Sch 2, 65)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to staffing (Sch 2, 66)</p> <p>Compliance with duties under Health and Safety at Work Act (Sch 2, 67)</p> <p>Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown relating to schools (Sch 2, 68)</p> <p>School companies (Sch 2, 69)</p> <p>Functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Sch 2, 70)</p> <p>Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Sch 2, 71)</p> <p>Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Sch 2, 72)</p>

**Table 8a: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (statutory and regulatory duties)**

## Education welfare

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)</p> <p>School attendance (Sch 2, 16)</p> <p>Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)</p>	<p>Inspection of attendance registers (Sch 2, 78)</p>

**Table 8b: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (education welfare)**

## Asset management

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)</p> <p>General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)</p> <p>This does not apply to VA schools.</p>	<p>General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Sch 2, 76a &amp; b (section 542(2)) Education Act 1996; School Premises Regulations 2012) to ensure that school buildings have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation)</li> <li>• the ability to sustain appropriate loads</li> <li>• reasonable weather resistance</li> <li>• safe escape routes</li> <li>• appropriate acoustic</li> </ul>

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
	<p>levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards</li> <li>• adequate water supplies and drainage</li> <li>• playing fields of the appropriate standards</li> </ul> <p>General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)</p> <p>Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings (Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012)</p>

**Table 8c: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (asset management)**

### Central support services

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	<p>Clothing grants (Sch 2, 52)</p> <p>Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Sch 2, 53)</p> <p>Visual, creative and performing arts (Sch 2, 54)</p> <p>Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the</p>

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
	provision of organised games, swimming or athletics) (Sch 2, 55)

**Table 8d: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (central support services)**

### Premature retirement and redundancy

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Sch 2, 77)

**Table 8e: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (premature retirement and redundancy)**

### Monitoring national curriculum assessment

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	Monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Sch 2, 74)

**Table 8f: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (monitoring national curriculum assessment)**

### Therapies

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
No functions	This is now covered in the high needs section of the regulations and does not require schools forum approval

**Table 8g: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (therapies)**

## Other ongoing duties

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8); this does not require schools forum approval</p> <p>Admissions (Sch 2, 9)</p> <p>Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)</p> <p>Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)</p> <p>Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)</p> <p>Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)</p> <p>Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (new addition to CSSB, to be included in 2018 to 2019 regulations)<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>No functions</p>

**Table 8h: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (other ongoing duties)**

<sup>1</sup>Funding for this duty was previously delivered to local authorities via a s.31 grant. Additional funding will be added to the CSSB baseline for this from 2018-19.

## Historic commitments

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
<p>Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)</p> <p>Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))</p> <p>Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))</p> <p>Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))</p>	<p>No functions</p>

**Table 8i: Central services responsibilities held by local authorities (historic commitments)**

## Additional note on central services

Services set out in the tables above will also include administrative costs and overheads relating to these services (regulation 1(4)) for:

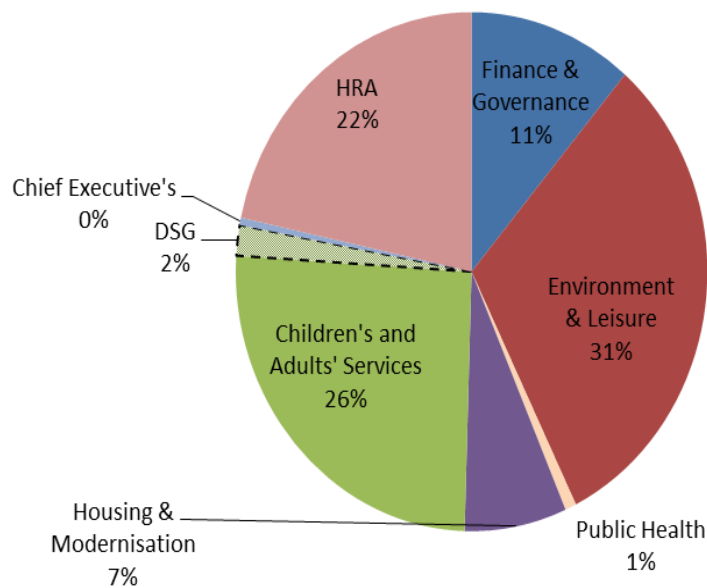
expenditure related to functions imposed by or under Chapter 4 of Part 2 of the 1998 Act (financing of maintained schools), the administration of grants to the authority (including preparation of applications) and, where it's the authority's duty to do so, ensuring payments are made in respect of taxation, national insurance and superannuation contributions

expenditure on recruitment, training, continuing professional development, performance management and personnel management of staff who are funded by expenditure not met from schools' budget shares and who are paid for services

expenditure in relation to the investigation and resolution of complaints

expenditure on legal services

## Overhead Apportionment 2020/21 - Share across Council



Overheads	£m
Total Overhead Councilwide	42.2
of which is Childrens & Adults	11.6
of which is DSG	0.8
DSG Element Breakdown	£000
Premises and Facilities	210
Finance Related	260
HR	60
Insurance	60
IT related	200
Law & Democracy	10
Total	800

<b>Date: 15 January 2020</b>	<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Type of report: For decision</b>
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Schools Funding 2020-21</b>	
<b>Author name and contact details:</b>	Russell Dyer/ Dave Richards <a href="mailto:Russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk">Russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk</a> Dave.Richards@southwark.gov.uk	
<b>Officer to present the report:</b>	Russell Dyer Dave Richards	

## Executive Summary

This report provides the details of the mainstream school funding formula for 2020-21 and the associated individual school budgets, the detail of which needs to be submitted to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by the 21st January 2020.

## Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) Agree for 2020-21, that ,as in 2019-20, a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block of £3.1m
- b) Agree a further School Block transfer of £1.9m over and above the current £3.1m for 2020-21 as set profiled in Option 3 in paragraph 4.2 to the High Needs Block

Or to agree the profiles in either i) Option 1 or ii) Option 2 as set out in paragraph 4.2.

- c) Support the Local Authority seeking the Secretary of State's approval for the schools block transfers agreed in recommendations a) and b) above
- d) Agree to the proposal that all the other school funding rates remain the same as 2019-20 with the exception of those changes set out below
- e) Agree to a special schools minimum funding guarantee to be set at minus 1.5%.
- f) Agree the funding rates for the Special Schools funding formula for 2020-21 will be as set out in in Table 5 in paragraph 9.3
- g) Agree that the High Needs sub-group in 2020-21 review the funding rates for the Haymerle Special School and for Park College
- h) Agree the funding rates for the Resource Base funding formula for 2020-21 will be as detailed in Table 6 - paragraph 10.1



i) Agree that the High Needs sub-group in 2020-21 review the funding rates of the Hearing Impaired resource unit and the Speech and Language

j) Agree the top-up rate in 2020-21 for Southwark's Pupil Referral Unit -SILS - should be at the same level as 2019-20, i.e. £11,000 (paragraph 11)

k) Agree that the funding rate for hospital schools for 2020-21 will be (paragraph 12):

Evelina Hospital School	£19,728
Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital School	£25,046

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Local Authority is required to submit each year details of the mainstream school funding formula to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The funding formula is based on data provided by the ESFA although there is some scope to make some changes; the funding rates need to be agreed with the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The recent consultation with schools on the High Needs Block impacts on setting the rates for the funding formula as the consultation proposed to increase the 2019-20 transfer of £3.1m by £1.9m to an overall total of £5m for 2020/21. As a consequence, the response to the consultation is dealt with in the first part of this report.

## **2. Outcome of the High Needs Sub Group Consultation**

- 2.1 The consultation was emailed to schools on the 6 December 2019 and closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019, two roadshows were held to give schools an opportunity to discuss the details proposed. There were 16 responses; this included a joint response from Special Schools as well as three special schools who responded individually.

The summary of the responses can be found in Appendix A

- 2.2 The consultation was designed to ask schools whether they wished to continue the current transfer from the schools blocks to the high needs block of £3.1m and then whether they would consider increasing this by a further £1.9m. The consultation was designed, in such a way that if schools did not want to continue or increase the transfer then consideration be given to the most suitable options to address the overspend on the high needs block.
- 2.3 There were three alternatives presented; one to reduce the services provided by Family Early Help, behavioural services and SEN teams. one to have a temporary transfer increase of £1.9m which would reduce over three years and finally, an option to reduce the EHCP's top-up rate.
- 2.4 One school said "No" to the school block transfer and "No" to any of the alternatives, so was not considered. One school said No to all options apart from a reduction in central services although there is not sufficient funding in the central services to meet the reduction of £5m.

### **3. Analysis of the Consultation**

#### **3.1 Question 1      Yes 13 No 2**

Do you agree to continue the school block transfer undertaken in previous years (2018/19 and 2019/20) of £3.1m to the High Needs block?

#### **3.2 Question 2      Yes 9 No 6**

Do you agree to an additional transfer of a further £1.9m to the High Needs block from the schools block in 2020/21?

##### **Comment**

While schools were slightly in favour of this, if one analyses the results the Special Schools voted in favour of taking more funding from mainstream schools and none from themselves, perhaps not surprisingly. If you look deeper into the schools that said no, some of those schools did opt for the alternative, in option 4b which was to agree to the transfer on a one year basis and then release the funding back into schools budgets over a three year period.

Combining question 2 and 4b then results are markedly different , namely Yes 12 and No 2

#### **3.3 Question 3      Yes 8 No 5**

Do you agree to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of Special Schools at minus 1.5% to align the reductions made to Primary and Secondary schools in the past?

##### **Comment**

If one looks at the responses from special schools there is no special school in favour of this proposal, perhaps not surprisingly if you asked a question of whether you want your income reduced. All specials schools voted in favour of taking money from mainstream schools.

In order to implement this option an opinion of the Schools Forum is needed and then the Secretary of State's approval is needed, a provisional application as required under the funding regulations and this has already been made and can still be withdrawn or confirmed.

In terms of voting on a disapplication from the MFG, the regulations state any such request should have the agreement of the Schools Forum and the schools concerned

#### **3.4 Question 4a      Yes 5 No 6**

Do you agree to reduce the following services as an alternative to proposal 2 (increase in the schools block transfer of £1.9 m)

Family Early Help?  
Behaviour and SEN services?

##### **Comment**

This vote was split, but on greater analysis of the comments there are a number of questions raised about Family Early Help service.

3.5 Question 4b Yes 6 No 6

Do you agree to the implementation of the schools block transfer and the MFG Reduction in special schools but agree that the increase in the block transfer of £1.9m should be lowered over the next three years to nil, as a number of savings begin to yield cost reductions (notably Home to School Transport)?

Comment

Noting the comments above about question 2 and this question, when one combines the two questions the results are as follows : Yes 12 No 2

While some schools doubted being able to make savings on SEN transport, there would appear to be a lack of appreciation of the nature of independent travel training. This is perhaps understandable as the consultation did not go into this matter fully.

Schools did ask to see the impact on their budgets of the High Needs block paying back the funding over three year as and this is detailed later in this paper. It has to be noted that these figures will be subject to change as the pupil numbers and other data in the formula change each year as well as we have different settlements announcements. These figures should be viewed as a broad guide only.

3.6 Question 4c Yes 1 No 10

Do you agree to reduce the funding of EHCP's as an alternative? If a reduction in the top up funding of 10% is made this would release £700k and further savings would be needed as well. This would include some savings per 4A1 and 4A2?

Comment

There is no real appetite for this option and so is not being pursued.

3.7 Outcome

It is recommended to the Schools Forum to approve the extra schools block transfer of £1.9m making a total of £5.0m in all, with a payback over a three-year period of the £1.9m only

#### 4. Establishing the Overall Individual Schools Budget

- 4.1 As noted in the previous report, the overall DSG settlement is £332.7m of which £254.3m relates to the Schools Block. This represents the resources available for deployment to schools. However, there are two commitments, over and above the schools block transfer that need to be made before this can be allocated to schools, namely the Growth Fund (£100k) and the Falling Rolls Fund (£100k) and then the block transfer.

- 4.2 It has become apparent following the consultation that there were different interpretations on the most favoured option by schools of the £1.9m transfer over three years and how it will operate. The table below shows these different interpretations, although the last one has been added subsequently i.e. not part of the consultation.

**Table 1 School block transfer options over and above the current £3.1m transfer**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	MFG in the first year %
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Option 1	1.9	1.3	0.7	0	0.85
Option 2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	1.42
Option 3	1.9	0	0	0	0.85

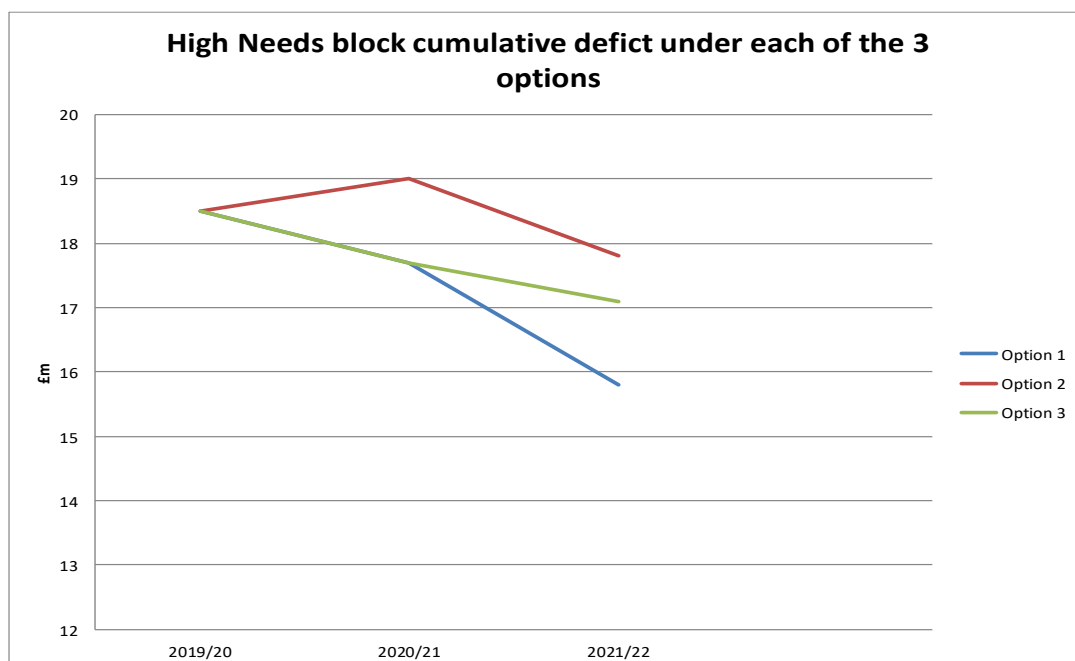
- 4.3 The impact on typical schools is estimated below

**Table 2 impact on schools of each option in the first year**

	Typical Budget £'000	Option		
		1	Option 2	Option 3
		First year transfer		
		£1.9m	£0.6m	£1.9m
Primary - 1 Form Entry	1,214	8,400	2800	8,400
Primary - 2 Form Entry	2,225	16,000	5500	16,000
Primary - 3 Form Entry	2,947	22,900	7446	22,900
Secondary - 600 pupils	5,105	41,100	13300	41,100
Secondary - 1800 pupils	13,877	114,400	37100	114,400

- 4.4 Impact on the High Needs block deficit

The Deficit Recovery Plan is given in Appendix B and in some respects all 3 options support the High Needs block deficit. The approach has always been to bring the high needs block into balance in-year, all but option 2 achieves this by next year. Once the high needs block is brought into an in-year balance then consideration can be given to paying back the deficit. All the options evidently do this but start the “payback” at different rates. For ease this is modelled below.



It is perhaps not surprising that the higher the value of the schools block transfer, then the faster the high needs deficit is brought into balance

- 4.5 The preferred option of the Local Authority is Option 3, which is detailed in Table 1 in paragraph 4.2. This is on the basis that it brings the High Needs block into a small in-year surplus in 2020-21, and allows a small contingency. While option 1 also does this, following the concerns expressed by schools during the consultation it was felt it had too great an impact on school budgets.
- 4.6 As all Southwark schools will be on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) no changes to the funding rates within the formula are proposed.

## 5. Protection of small schools

- 5.1 One of the questions arising out of the consultation was "Could the borough's small schools (i.e. one form entry) be protected". This could be achieved by increasing the lump sum and reducing the basic entitlement. The assumptions in Table 3 looks at increasing the lump sum from £137,400 to £145,000

**Table 3 – Impact of increasing the lump sum £145,000**

School	Typical budget	Change in funding
	£'000	£
Primary – 1 Form Entry	1,214	800
Primary – 2 Form Entry	2,225	-500
Primary – 3 Form Entry	2,947	-100
Secondary – 600 pupils	5,105	-200
Secondary – 1800 pupils	13,877	-700

- 5.2 While the increase in the lump sum is favourable to the one form entry, it does reverse a trend of recent years, whereby Southwark has been reducing the lump sum to align itself with the national funding formula whose lump sum is £129k (after London weighting is taken into account). A large number, 110 Local Authorities, have their lump sums below Southwark's already.
- 5.3 What is unknown is if central government wish to introduce the National Funding Formula over the next few years then how any protection system might work and whether it will include or exclude the lump sum. As can be seen in the above table the impact is uneven as the MFG impacts on the figures.
- 6 The Payback to the School Block Transfer over a three- year period for option 1 only**
- 6.1 One further question arising out of the high needs consultation was how would the payback of the £1.9m impact on schools budgets going forward. It is anticipated this would happen evenly over the three-year period and schools would receive the extra funding in line with the table below:

**Table 4 – Payback of the extra school block transfer of £1.9m (one year effect shown)**

School	Typical budget	Extra funding in each of the next three years
	£'000	£
Primary – 1 Form Entry	1,214	2,800
Primary – 2 Form Entry	2,225	5,500
Primary – 3 Form Entry	2,947	7,400
Secondary – 600 pupils	5,105	13,200
Secondary – 1800 pupils	13,877	37,000

## **7. Final School Budget pro-forma**

- 7.1 The pro forma APT template containing the unit values will need to be submitted to the ESFA on 21 January 2020. Following this, the ESFA can make changes and therefore the estimates provided at this meeting can be subject to change.

## **8. Alternatives**

- 8.1 There are a number of alternative options that could be followed for distributing the schools block headroom. The option that is explored above is to help with the high needs block deficit position. This would be the LA's highest priority option given the scale of the challenge being faced in this area overall. The impact on each school of the transfer would be similar to the consultation in that this funding is not already within existing schools' budgets but would be additional.
- 8.2 Whilst the block transfer is the highest priority and preferred option of the LA, we would note that there are other alternative options, which would be to add the funding for distribution to schools via;
- Increase the basic AWPUE entitlement, primary or secondary or both,
  - Increase a deprivation factor such as Free Schools Meals "ever 6"
  - The lump sum.
  - The falling rolls fund
- 8.3 Whilst additional funding would be released to schools, there would be a number of downsides to this which would, in the LA's view, be undesirable. These are highlighted as follows:
- a) One of the difficulties with distributing the funding is the impact of the Minimum Funding Guarantee where a number of schools would not gain any additional funding under these options just it would be the same overall level but delivered by different factors

- b) It would move Southwark even further away from the National Funding Formula (NFF) rates and create more protection, this could be undesirable in allowing schools to make adjustments for when such protection measures are withdrawn
- c) As the secondary AWPU is greater than the suggested NFF ratio it would seem unwise to maintain or add to this difference
- d) An increase to the lump sum would not be appropriate due to NFF direction of travel is to reduce it.
- e) Other funding streams support deprivation such as the pupil premium, UIFSM and also the overall free healthy school meals local scheme.
- f) There is already extra funding within the settlement for schools

8.4 As a consequence, the LA considers that the option to add the additional headroom within the schools block to the high needs block transfer is the highest priority and the most desirable option to take. Whilst this is the decision of the LA, the Schools Forum must be consulted in taking this decision.

## 9. Special School Funding Rates

- 9.1 One of the recommendations of the High Needs Sub Group and which formed part of the consultation, was to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for special schools at minus1.5%. In reality this would reduce the top-up funding rates for special schools by 1.5%. This will be a saving to the High Needs block of £140k, if this were not to happen alternative savings will need to be found.
- 9.2 The main driver behind the change was to ensure there was a more equitable distribution of the impact of the required savings between mainstream schools and special schools. This was highlighted by the impact of the reductions to schools budgets to allow the block transfers to take place, these reductions are shown in the table below

Financial Year	Primary and secondary Schools		Special
	MFG	Lump Sum	MFG
2016/17	-1.50%	£150,000	0%
2017/18	-1.50%	£150,000	0%
2018/19	-1.50%	£137,400	0%
2019/20	0	£137,400	0%



- 9.3 The funding rates for Special schools will reduce if this proposal is agreed as shown in the table below:

**Table 5 – Reduction in special schools top-up rates if MFG is set at Minus 1.5% for 2020-21**

School	Top-up Rate 2019/20	Top-up Rate 2019/20 No MFG Reduction	Top-up Rate 2019/20 With MFG Reduction of -1.5%	Type of Need
<b>Special Schools</b>	£	£	£	
Beormund School	£17,568	£17,568	£17,304	BESD
Cherry Garden	£21,634	£21,634	£21,309	PMLD / SLD
Haymerle School *1	£18,906	£18,906	£18,622	Autism
Highshore	£13,212	£13,212	£13,014	MLD
Tuke School	£19,629	£19,629	£19,335	PMLD / SLD
Spa School *2	£19,030	£19,030	£18,745	Autism
Newlands Academy	£20,247	£20,247	£19,943	Autism

\*1 Haymerle has, this year, started taking classes of higher need children. They have opened classes where instead of having 7 pupils there are now 5, as a consequence there is a funding shortfall due to a single top-up funding rate. One proposal is to have two top-up rates for the school.

\*2 Spa Educational trust on the 1 Sept 2019 opened Park College, this is a 19-25 autism facility. The unit is more costly to run currently.

It is recommended that the High Needs Sub-Group review the special schools top-up rates for next year.

## 10. Resource Base Funding Rates

- 10.1 The resource base funding rates proposed for 2020-21 are shown in Table 6. The reduction in the autism base has already been agreed

**Table 6 Resource base funding rates**

Resource Base	Top-up Rate 2019/20 £	Top-up Rate 2020/21 £	Type of Need
John Ruskin	£5,688	£5,688	Speech and Language
Snowsfields	£14,430	£11,930	Autism*1
Brunswick Park	£14,430	£11,930	Autism*1
Rye Oak	£14,430	£11,930	Autism*1
Redriff	£14,430	£11,930	Autism*1
City Of London Academy	£14,430	£11,930	Autism*1
St Johns and St Clements	£8,228	£8,228	Hearing Impaired*3
Lyndhurst	£6,746	£6,746	Dyslexia*2

- \*1 The revised rate of the autism units were agreed at the Schools Forum meeting in October 2019.
- \*2 The Dyslexia unit is currently under review with a proposal to transform it into a different type of service provision from September 2020.
- \*3 St Johns and St Clements are currently receiving the above top-up rate but in addition are also receiving funding for pupils EHCP's, this does not happen in the other resource bases, it is proposed that the High Needs Sub-Group reviews the top-up rate for this unit over the coming months to avoid this practice.

10.2 It is recommended that the Local Authority through the High Needs sub group consider both the funding of the Speech and Language unit and the Hearing Impaired unit next year.

## **11 Pupil Referral unit**

11.1 Southwark's pupil referral unit "Southwark Inclusive Learning Service (SILS)" is funded in a similar way to special schools with both place led funding of £10,000 and a top-up. The current top-up is £11,000 and it is proposed to leave this at the same level for 2020-21. SILS is currently being reviewed through the High Needs sub-group.

## **12 Hospital schools**

12.1 Hospitals schools are funded on the basis of place led funding. Southwark has two hospital schools and the funding rates proposed for 2020-21 are the same as 2019-20, which is as follows

Evelina Hospital School	£19,728
Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital School	£25,046

Please note that the appendices to this report are Excel spreadsheets and do not fit easily when printing on an A4 page they have been attached as separate excel files which you may wish to view rather than print

<b>Date:</b> 15 January 2020	<b>Item</b> 8	<b>Type of report:</b> Decision
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Early Years Funding 2020-21.</b>	
<b>Author name and contact details:</b>	Russell Dyer/ Dave Richards <a href="mailto:russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk">russell.dyer@southwark.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dave.richards@southwark.gov.uk">dave.richards@southwark.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Officer to present the report:</b>	Russell Dyer Dave Richards	

## 1. Executive Summary

This report sets out the provisional allocation of the Early Years Block of the 2020-21 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and provides details of the changes in comparison to 2019-20. It asks for members to confirm the funding rates for early year providers.

## 2. Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to agree to:

A) The funding rates for Early Year providers

- i) 3 and 4 year olds a base rate of £5.95 per hour (Section 4.1)
- ii) 3 and 4 year olds deprivation funding rates (Section 4.2)
- iii) 2 year olds funding of £6.25 per hour (Section 4.3)

B) That the nursery schools agree the distribution of the supplementary funding of £1,561k and advise the Local Authority accordingly.

C) That the central retentions budget should be set at £921k as per Section 5.2.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant is broken down into four blocks; one of those blocks, the Early Years Block, is the source of funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The Department For Education estimate each Local Authorities funding for the year based on the January 2019 pupil numbers.
- 3.2 The DFE will then revise the funding during the financial year to reflect the actual numbers. The estimated funding for 2020-/21 for Southwark's early years has been initially set at £26.7m.  
The Department provides local authorities with six relevant funding streams which together form the early year's block of the DSG. They are as follows:

	2020/21 Settlement Funding	2019/20* Estimated Funding	Change
	£m	£m	£m
Two year olds	3.258	3.218	0.040
Three and four year olds	17.447	17.447	0.000
Additional hours for three and four year old children of eligible working parents	4.273	4.273	0.000
Supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS)	1.561	1.561	0.000
Pupil Premium (EYPP)	0.177	0.177	0.000
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	0.084	0.070	0.014
	26.800	26.746	0.054

\*These figures are the latest allocations based on the January 2019 census, largely this a neutral effect as the amount Southwark pays to providers links to the pupil numbers. One exception is the Nursery supplementary funding, the original estimate was £1.466m, the difference between this and the latest figure above of £1.561m (£0.095m) will be paid to the maintained nursery schools.

### 3.4 The funding rates received by Southwark are as follows

	2020/21 Settlement Funding	2019/20 Estimated Funding	Change
	Per hour £	Per hour £	Per hour £
Two year olds	6.58	6.50	0.08
Three and four year olds	6.86	6.86	0.00

At the moment there is continued speculation of whether the maintained nursery schools supplementary funding will continue beyond the 2020-21 financial year. The maintained nursery schools were invited last year to recommend to the Local Authority the distribution of this funding and are requested to do so for 2020-21.

## 4 Funding Rates for 2020-21

In the light of the little change in the funding it is proposed that the funding rates for 2020-21 remain the same as those for 2019-20.

#### 4.1 EYSFF base rates – 3 and 4 year olds

Provider	2019-20 Base Rates £	Proposed 2020-21 Base Rates £
MNS	5.95	5.95
Primary	5.95	5.95
PVI	5.95	5.95

#### 4.2 EYSFF - deprivation rates for three and four year olds:

	2019-20 Base Rates			Proposed 2020-21 Base Rates		
Provider	MNS £	Primary £	PVI £	MNS £	Primary £	PVI £
IDACI 1	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
IDACI 2	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62
IDACI 3	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94
IDACI 4	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25

MNS is Maintained Nursery Schools

Primary is Maintained Primary Schools, Academies and Free Schools

PVI is the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector

#### 4.3 EYSFF – rates for 2 year old rates

4.3.1 The rate across all settings was £6.25 per hour in 2019-20 and this is proposed to remain the same for 2020-21. There is an 0.08p per hour extra in the settlement but the calculations provided included both an hourly rate and the funds for deprivation. The latter is overspending and it is proposed to offset this overspend with the extra funding and not increase the funding rates.

4.3.2 It is unusual for Local Authorities to have a separate deprivation factor within their formula allocation for 2 year olds, as by definition all 2 years are from deprived backgrounds in order to receive funding. The deprivation factor will be looked at over the coming year.

### 5 Early Years Central Retentions

5.1 The Local Authority retains a proportion of the Early Years Block in order to meet its statutory duties in respect of early education and childcare as set out in the Childcare Act 2016 and related guidance. These include:

- Duty to secure free early education for all three and four year olds and specified two-year-olds,
- Duty to collect information about individual children receiving early year's provision and supply that information to DfE (school and early years census)

- Duty to fund early education places in all sectors using a locally-determined, transparent formula – the early years single funding formula
- Duty to secure information, advice and training for childcare providers in their area
- Duty to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area

5.2 These duties are delivered through three small teams within Children's & Adults services:

- The Free Early Learning Team (3 staff) manages the free early education offer process, including termly headcount/claims process, funding to early years settings and promoting the free entitlement to parents.
- The Early Years Quality Improvement Team (6 staff) provides information, advice and support to the 150 early years group care settings and 350 childminders in Southwark
- The Early Years Consultants (4 staff) in the Standards team provide information, advice and support to schools in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

5.3 For 2020-21 the limit for central retentions on the early years block continues to be 5%. Based upon the December allocations the limit is now £0.9m and is allocated as follows:

<b>2020-21 Proposed Central Retention on early year block for approval</b>	<b>£000</b>
Early Years Teams Staffing	539
Early Help Service (See below)	392
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>

5.4 The overall restructured Family Early Help Service continues to provide a team of 68 staff, delivering a whole family approach and now includes a specific senior officer with responsibility for integration of under 5s work. The whole family approach ensures that all children and adults within a household are offered support so referrals from primary and secondary schools will also include provision for younger children.

### **Schools Forum Actions**

The Schools Forum is asked to agree to:

A) The funding rates for Early Year providers

- 3 and 4 year olds a base rate of £5.95 per hour (Section 4.1)
- 3 and 4 year olds deprivation funding rates (Section 4.2)
- 2 year olds funding of £6.25 per hour (Section 4.3)

B) That the nursery schools agree the distribution of the supplementary funding of £1,561k and advise the Local Authority accordingly.

C) That the central retentions budget should be set at £921k as per Section 5.2.