

Bristol Schools Forum

Agenda Tuesday, 16th January, 2024 at 5.00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

	Start	Item	Action	Owner	Paper
1.	17:00	Welcome	A	Chair	
2.	17:05	Forum Standing Business (a) Apologies for Absence (b) Confirmation meeting is quorate (c) Appointment of new members/Resignations: (d) Notification of Vacancies: (e) Declarations of Interest	A	Clerk	
3.	17:10	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (a) To confirm as a correct record (b) Matters arising not covered on agenda	A	Chair	3 - 10
4.	17:20	Director of Education & Skills Update Presentation by Reena Bhogal-Welsh To include an explanation on the Inclusion Hub, report attached.	I	RBW	11 - 13
5.	17:40	Dedicated Schools Grant Allocation 2024/25 Presented by Travis Young, Finance Business Partner: Children & Education Report for Information & Decision	De	TY	14 - 23
6.	18:00	Schools Block Allocation 2024/25 Report presented by Travis Young, Finance Business Partner: Children & Education The report seeks a decision on De-delegation	De	TY	24 - 35
7.	18:20	Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitor Report presented by Travis Young, Finance Business Partner: Children & Education To update and inform	I	TY	36 - 42
8.	18:40	Chair's Final remarks and Close		Chair	

(*) A = Admin, I = Information, De = Decision required, C = Consultation, Di = Discussion
Clerk: Claudette Campbell email: claudette.campbell@bristol.gov.uk Tel: City Hall
Chair: (contact via clerk)

FUTURE MEETINGS

26 March 2024
21 May 2024
16 May 2024

Bristol Schools Forum

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28th November, 2023
at 5.15 pm at The Bordeaux Room - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR**

	Action
1. Welcome	
In attendance:	
Present:	
Del Planter	St Mary Redcliffe & Temple Secondary
Thomas Bolton	Union
Alastair Brown	Redcliffe Nursery
Melanie Bunce	Willow Primary
Mandy Cheshire	St Bedes Catholic College
Steve Davies	Union
Simon Eakins (Vice Chair)	Cathedral Primary
Lee Hannan	Brentry Primary
Tonya Hill	New Fosseyway School
Simon Holmes	St Philips Marsh Nursery
Steve Hornsby (Chair)	NorthStar Academy
Jo Kingston	Diocese of Clifton Dept for Schools & Colleges
Sarah Lovell	Bristol Brunel Academy
Aileen Morrison	St Matthias Park
David Otlet	Union
Chris Pring	Whitehall Primary School
Cedric Sanguinol	Bishop Road Primary
Cameron Shaw	Bristol Metropolitan Academy
Bristol City Council Officers:	
Reena Bhogal-Welsh	Director, Education & Skills
Denise Murray	Director, Finance & Section 151 Officer
Travis Young	Finance Manager
Claudette Campbell	Clerk, Democratic Services Officer
<p>The Clerk welcomed those present and gave the safety instructions as the meeting was held in person in City Hall.</p> <p>The Clerk moved for the appointment of a Chair.</p> <p>Steve Hornsby was proposed and seconded by Simon Eakins.</p> <p>Resolved:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. That Steve Hornsby be appointed Chair of the Schools Forum</p> <p>Steve Hornsby took the Chair and acknowledged the contribution and leading of his predecessor Sarah Lovell.</p>	

2. Forum Standing Business

The Clerk updated on the following:

Apologies for Absence were received from:

- Cllr Asher Craig
- Trisha Dodds
- Jo Grayson
- Sam Packer
- Jo Willis

Quorum

- Confirmation was given that Over 40% of members was present, the meeting was quorate.

Resignation

- Cedric Sanguinol advised that this would be his last meeting as the representative as the Primary Governor Maintained setting

Appointments

Following further advertising of the vacant post a number of persons came forward. An election was held for the appointment of the representative for Primary Governor Maintained setting. There were 2 candidates on the ballot. The ballots were circulated to the maintained governor primary settings via the Governor Hub communication.

- The two candidates were Lee Hannan and Merche Clark
- The responses were low with only 8 responses from the sector
- Lee Hannan received 6 votes and Merche Clark 2 votes

Lee Hannan was duly elected and will sit as one of the 3 maintained governor reps.

The following vacant seats received one applicant and the Schools Forum was asked to agree and affirm their appointment:

- Maintained Head Primary Setting – Melanie Bunce
- Nursery Governor - Alastair Brown

Schools Forum were asked to agree the appointment of Merche Clark into the seat vacated by Cedric Sanguinol, Maintained Governor Primary representative.

Vacancies

- Secondary Governor Academy
- Secondary Governor Maintained
- Primary Head Academy x 2

Membership continuation

- Confirmed that Chris Pring Maintained Primary Head moves into a third term on the

<p>forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Otlet (NEU Union) to continue as Non School Member rep 	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th Sept 2023 was resolved as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters Arising/Actions</p> <p>Noted that a number of actions from the minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Item 4 – action relating to the support to schools in deficit and the ask for update on those who had met the criteria for support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Update to given 2. Item 5c – the balances on the de-delegation service areas to be updated. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To be provided in January 2024 (Action: TY) 3. Item 7 – a report on the outcome of the original schemes established with regards the High Needs Recovery Plan (Action: RBW) 	<p>TY (1)</p> <p>RBW(1)</p>
4. Director of Education & Skills Update	
<p>The Director of Education and Skills, Reena Bhogal-Welsh, shared a presentation on the 'EHCP Process Improvement – Overview and Update'.</p> <p>The presentation was to be shared after the meeting to enable Forum Members to comment. (Action: Clerk)</p> <p>The following was noted from the presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That Bristol is following the national trend with an increase in the numbers of application for Education Health Care Plans. b) The EHCP process is under review, to bring it into line with the government statutory processing target of 20 weeks c) The presentation outlined the activities being considered by the EHCP Process Improvement Project. d) Ways are being sought to automate the process. The presentation explained the potential benefits of Automation. It would impact staff capacity with an anticipated 80% efficiency gain. <p>The Following was noted from the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) The scope of the process improvement project; it covers the whole application process, from the initial application, assessment, to the production of the EHCP. f) The process will not be implemented until it has been thoroughly tested and this is to be projected to happen in 2024. g) Clarification was sought on the staff saving of '15.47 fte' quoted in the presentation. How would automation impact overall team numbers and what percentage of staff would be lost with the introduction of Automation. This question to be address in the next update report. (Action: RBW) h) The report will update Forum on the outcome of testing, the process and the timeline for implementation. (Action: RBW) 	<p>CC (1)</p> <p>RBW (2)</p> <p>RBW (3)</p>

Resolved:

- To note the report
- That the report will be shared to School Forum members to share with settings and respond with comments
- That a further update will be provided early 2024

5. Delivering Better Value in SEND

The Director of Education and Skills, Reena Bhogal-Welsh, spoke to the report shared with forum members. Forum was asked:

- a) To note the update on the progress of the programme
- b) To consider allocation of an underspend in the programme to Schools Block
- c) Section 4.2 of the report sets out details of the schools given financial support to deliver creative ideas for innovative inclusion practices
- d) To consider the assignment of funds to support 'Component 3' activities; for individual, or groups of schools looking to develop initiatives using a test and learn approach.
- e) Those already funded were listed in 4.2.8 of the report and the activities to be funded in 4.2.9
- f) The sum of £51k is required to support the programmes from April to July 2024.
- g) The sum of £440k is unallocated; the proposal is to use this sum to support the establishment of 'Inclusion Hubs'; to support early intervention; to enable that early intervention to take place in the existing setting. The report at 4.2.15 details how the proposal is to be delivered and by whom.
- h) The programme costs update was provided at 4.6 in the report. The ask was the remaining funds to be carried forward to support the continued costs associated with programme delivery and management, estimated to be £400k.

The following was noted from the discussion.

- i) There was a general appreciation of the funding to support initiatives but there was also anxiety about sustainability of the projects.
- j) Officers explained that the projects, identified and underway, are one off projects with a start and completion date; the intention is to enable settings to promote and explore innovative activities; the sum requested is to sustain the projects to the given end date, set out in the report.
- k) Officers confirmed that the unspent funds of £440K, to be carried forward equates to the unspent balance set aside for the appointment of the delivery company.
- l) Forum discussed the need to see evidence of the milestones and/or success achieved by each project; to be better determine value and to enable a decision on the further funding allocation. **(Action: RBW)**
- m) The Inclusion Hub discussion centred around the creation and implementation of the hubs.
- n) Officers shared that extensive liaison that had taken place with settings and the Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) team; assurances were given that the hub had been codesigned with input from school settings; the intervention would be broken into Tiers 1 – 4; see section 4.2.15 of the report.
- o) Members were interested in knowing more particularly about actions post set-up; possible provision of staff training; the sustainability of the hub; a detailed understanding on how the principles of the hub would

RBW (4)

<p>operate.</p> <p>When put to the vote the following was resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. That the sum of £51k requested at 4.2.12 to support delivery of projects in component 3 be deferred to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Enable a further report to be provided to Forum to evidence the milestones and/or success achieved of each project. (Action: RBW) II. The sum of £440k requested at 4.2.13 to support the establishment of Inclusion Hubs be deferred; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A further report to be provided that expands on section 4.2.15 and addresses the operation of the inclusion hub (Action: RBW) III. The sum of £400k requested at 4.6 Programme Costs to be carried forward <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agreed without any objection 	<p>RBW (5)</p> <p>RBW (6)</p>
6. Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Monitor Period 6	
<p>Travis Young, Finance Business Partner, Children & Education, presented a report updating Schools Forum on the 2023/24 DSG position as at Period 06 (PO6) to end of September 2023.</p> <p>The following was to be noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the PO6 forecast position as at end of September 2023 for DSG b) Note the Q2 Forecast position for maintained schools c) Note the increase funding available for schools in financial difficulties <p>Schools in Financial Difficulty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> d) An update was provided on the assistance that would be offered to schools forecasting a budget deficit, with a robust recovery plan to secure their long-term financial sustainability. e) Progress on the use of the sums designated by the schools forum to support the recovery programme will be provided on a quarterly basis. <p>The following was noted from the discussion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> f) Three schools have had their licence deficit plans approved because they were able to demonstrate that the plans were robust and would enable them to recovery their financial position. g) The additional sum of £675K awarded from the ESFA was a welcome allocation; work is to be done on a process on the best way to use this fund. h) Members acknowledged the positive input from LA Officers to nursery and primary maintained settings that enabled settings to set in-year budget balances. i) There were concerns that the falling numbers on roll may impact the financial recovery of settings with a licence deficit. Assurance was given that financial sustainability is a part of the methodology of the transformation programme and that this had been factored into the recovery plan. j) Noted the contribution from Trade Unions in lobbying government and that with the continued liaison, that LA Officers had had with the ESFA, had resulted in the allocation of additional funding. k) There is an opportunity to properly document the use of the fund, to use it to evidence remaining and continued challenges to the ESFA. l) There was an ask for joint messaging, on the actual impact to service provision, to parents and families because of the current economic climate; that explains the 	

<p>consequence of the financial constraints and the steps that settings had to employ to achieve a balance budget. There was an opportunity to use existing mechanism for a consistent and collective messaging via the Cabinet Member, Parent Carer Forums and other groups. (Action: TY & RBW)</p> <p>Resolved to Note the Report</p>	<p>TY (2) RBW (7)</p>
<p>7. Schools Block School Funding Formula 2024 to 2025</p>	
<p>Travis Young, Finance Business Partner, Children & Education, presented the report to inform and seek agreement of the Schools Forum on the principles of the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2024/25, prior to final allocations being made available by the ESFA in December, for final formula agreement in January 2024.</p> <p>The recommendations were discussed, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were concerns expressed about the movement of sums to the High Needs Block (2.2 a) the first request to support this block was put in 2015; at that time the deficit was said to stand at £2.9m; it now is 20 times greater; the sums reassigned did not appear to have a lasting an impact or resolved the deficit position. b) The ask was for the actual deficit figure to be clearly shown in a report together with clear details on the impact that each sum allocated is making on the deficit. (Action: TY) c) Officers shared the huge scale of the issue arising from the change in need over the years; the ongoing collaboration; the positive message the assignment of this sum would give; the advocacy being done to highlight the issue; the work being done to establish a mechanism to remedy this issue. <p>The Chair moved for the principles set out in paragraph 2.2 a – e to be supported, calling for a vote on each item.</p> <p>When put to the vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 2.2a – On the transfer of 0.5% to High Needs Block. In line with consultation response - the LA is seeking this transfer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agreed with one objection noted from Chris Pring ii. 2.2b – set MFG at 0.0%. In line with the consultation response the LA is proposing to set the MFG at 0.0%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. (Unanimous) Agreed iii. 2.2c – set the value of the lump sum. The LA is seeking to set the lump sum to the maximum allowed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. (Unanimous) Agreed iv. 2.2d – how to allocate remaining funding (after mandated items). The LA is seeking to maximise the AEN factors, and then direct the remainder to the AWPU with no bias towards any phase. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. (Unanimous) Agreed v. 2.2e – the value to allocate for the Growth Fund. The LA is seeking to set at £2m for 2024/25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. (Unanimous) Agreed 	<p>TY (3)</p>
<p>8. De-delegation for 2024 to 2025</p>	

Travis Young, Finance Business Partner, Children & Education, presented the report on the outcome of the de-delegation consultation, which ran from 3rd October to 14th November 2023.

To seek agreement from the maintained primary school members and secondary maintained school members on the de-delegation services for 2024/25.

The following was noted from the discussion:

- a) There was concern expressed about the consultation process and whether the notification of the consultation was properly shared.
- b) A discussion followed on access to certain aspects of the funds in particular the Trade Union time reclaim process.
- c) The maintain settings representatives expressed concern about the numbers of responses received; said that 6 out of 41 primary maintained schools responded and neither of the two secondary settings. Assurances was given that the notices and reminders were sent via the Heads Newsletter and the primary documents to the Heads and/or Business Managers at each setting.
- d) When asked whether the representatives were happy to vote on the delegation there was a request for further details about each line listed in section 2.2 and 2.3. In addition, further expansion on the details set out in Table 3 'Areas of De-delegation' section 5.3.
- e) There was a question on whether individual settings could opt out of a specific delegated service? The representatives were reminded that they represent the whole setting and not an individual setting; that the decision was on behalf of all maintain setting.
- f) When the Chair moved for a vote on the Officers recommendation as set out in the report.

The following was resolved:

- i. Maintained Primary Representatives asked to agree the de-delegation set out in the report at 2.2, when put to a vote the 4 representatives abstained from voting and moved that the matter be deferred for a decision in January 2024 that:
 - a) Officers provide a further fuller explanation on the areas of de-delegation.
 - b) to provide assurances that the consultation was widely shared to all maintained primary settings. **(Action: TY)**
- ii. Secondary Primary Representative asked to agree the de-delegation set out in the report at 2.3; when put to the vote the representative present abstained from voting moved that the matter to be deferred for a decision in January 2024 that:
 - a) Officers provide a further fuller explanation on the areas of de-delegation.
 - b) confirmation when the consultation was shared with the two settings. **(Action: TY)**

TY (4)

TY (5)

9. Early Years Supplementary Grant 2023 to 2024

Travis Young, Finance Business Partner, Children & Education, presented the information report on the recently announced Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG)

School Forum members were invited to note the nature of the grant funding:

- a) The funding initiative is to provide additional financial support for existing early years entitlements during the current financial year (23/24) starting from September 2023.
- b) The grant sum is £843,216 for September 2023 to March 2024
- c) The grant is to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers for the government's existing entitlement offers.
- d) LA's must pass on the EYSG in full to early years providers for each funding stream and

are able to determine how best to do so.

- e) The report provided full details of the funding streams available with the current rates and increase rate to the 4 areas.
- f) Officers will present to the School Forum in January 2024 details on the Autumn announces from the DfE. **(Action: TY)**

TY (6)

School Forum Resolved:

- i. To note the report

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Bristol Schools Forum

Inclusion Hub – 2024 onwards

Date of meeting:	16 th January 2024
Time of meeting:	17.00 - 19.00
Venue:	Online
Officer Presenting Report	Reena Bhogal-Welsh

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide further detail regarding the operation of the Inclusion Hub, to include sustainability and how the £440k will be spent.

2. Background

- 2.1. From the School's Forum meeting on 28th November, it was proposed that:

£440k is currently unallocated from the Belonging with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) programme. It is proposed that this funding is used to cover the start-up costs of an Inclusion Hub, focused on early intervention, for the period of December 2023 and March 2024. The specific aim of this programme is to support schools in:

1. Ensuring that the Ordinarily Available Provision is in place
2. Supporting the schools to implement a child focused graduated response to need
3. Providing support, advice, and resource **in school** to ensure that the child can flourish in their mainstream setting.
4. Allowing easy, early access to BCC support so that needs are addressed in a focused and timely manner. This will allow both primary and secondary schools to address emerging SEND needs and put in place supportive measures that will reduce the need for crisis response later in the child's school career.

The Inclusion Hub would be delivered by BCC's Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) team and initially offered to schools in Bristol for free in 2023/24 using this funding source. The intention is to move towards a more sustainable, contribution-based model from 2024/25 onwards. Proposals regarding the nature of contributions will be discussed and PHAB, and BIFAP (Bristol Inclusion and Fair Access Panel) steering group and presented at BASHP/PHAB for approval. It is intended that BCC and Bristol schools will work together in a comparable way to Bristol Inclusion Panel to joint fund the commissioned 'in school' resource. The initial BIP arrangement was for schools to contribute 50% of the cost of ALP, but details will be available through consultation for 2024-25. These proposals have been widely shared through BIFAP, PHAB, BASHP, Headteacher briefing and with the SEND team. All schools were asked to contribute to the nature of support that would be welcomed with 27 primary and 17 secondary schools responding to the anonymous consultation. The tiered approach and the resource detailed in table 3.6 were designed based on these responses and the Safeguarding review of BIP.

- Tier 1 – School Based – support to ensure that the school is demonstrating a fully graduated response.
- Tier 2 – Triage and Treat – provision and support to ensure that any extra support is targeted and effective.
- Tier 3 – Turnaround Provision – Short term placements off-site to address specific identified needs.
- Tier 4 – Long term Provision – A more thorough investigation into the needs of a child in an AP (Alternative Provision) setting.

3. The ALP Hub 2016-23 & The Inclusion Hub 2024 onwards

- 3.1. The ALP Hub has previously focused, through Bristol Inclusion Panel (BIP) on the provision of support for children 'at risk of' or more commonly 'at the point of' permanent exclusion. The outcome of this model has been a significant rise in the use of full-time ALP placements through BIP for children who had reached the point of permanent exclusion. BIP moved a considerable number of children out of their mainstream setting into various other provisions, removing the parent and family right to reply, as would have been available through permanent exclusion. In 2021-22, 218 children were moved through this route. It is considered that this focus on, and support for, the movement of children out of their mainstream setting is both costly and not in the best interest of children and families.
- 3.2. The focus of the Inclusion Hub will be in providing early support, advice and intervention for schools and families through the 4-tier system that will promote children remaining in their mainstream schools.
- 3.3. The Inclusion Hub Team will comprise of:
 - 3.3.1. Headteacher Inclusion Hub (Currently fixed term – Sept 2024)
 - 3.3.2. Commissioning and Inclusion Manager (Currently Full-time permanent)
 - 3.3.3. Commissioning and Inclusion Officers x 3 (Currently 2 permanent and 1 fixed term April 2025)
 - 3.3.4. Placement Officer Part-time provision (Fixed term April 2025)
 - 3.3.5. Administrative & Data Support 1.4 FTE (provided through Business Support Team)
- 3.4. The operating model for the Inclusion Hub will be brought in line with other BCC models to allow for an individual officer to work with schools in the North, East Central, and South of the city. The current model has two officers: one officer for primary schools and one for secondary schools. In developing a locality model, officers will continue their relationship at Key Stage transfers, and become integral to the local offer in that area. The 3rd officer has been recruited and will start work in January 2024. The placement officer is also a new appointment who will start work in February 2024, and will be responsible for the quality assurance of individual child placements at part-time provision from the AP commissioning framework.
- 3.5. The routes through which support will be available are:
 - 3.5.1. The team are always available for telephone, video or email advice and support.
 - 3.5.2. Daily drop-in sessions to advise and interrogate graduated response and use of Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) in line with Tier 1. All schools can access these sessions. The locality model will increase the availability of access to Inclusion Hub support.
 - 3.5.3. Weekly surgeries for both primary and secondary schools. These multi-professional surgeries consider referrals from all schools and will consider early intervention support for children. Decisions regarding provision at tiers 2-4 will be taken at surgery.

3.6. The Inclusion Hub is currently operating the drop-in and surgery processes, but are proposing that the support for schools from December 2023 – March 2024 would impact 219 children and include:

Intervention	Children	Term 2 Cost	Children	Term 3/4 Cost	FY 2023/24	Children
Bristol Autism Team • Enhanced Casework	12	£14,934	24	£29,868	£48,802	36
Education Psychology • Surgery • School support • Supervision for schools	24	£18,315	48	£36,630	£54,945	72
In-School Support • Mentoring • Learning recovery	10	£70,940	20	£141,880	£212,820	30
Mentoring programs Lot 3 • Mentoring AP Framework	15	£9,750	30	£19,500	£29,250	45
Outreach from ALP • In-school mentoring • Academic support	12	£48,000	24	£96,000	£144,000	36
Total	73	£161,939	146	£323,878	£485,817	219

3.7. The model will be sustainable by:

- 3.7.1. The reduction in the use of full-time ALP places through BIP will fund the support for schools and children in full. A reduction of 20 places in full-time ALP will provide funding for over 400 early intervention programs. In future therefore, the ALP (Inclusion) Hub will work within current budgets.
- 3.7.2. The reduction in use of full-time ALP places will provide opportunities for strategic use of ALP in addressing the sufficiency challenges for children with an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan).
- 3.7.3. The BIP steering group are considering the contributions that schools currently make for permanently excluding children, which has supported the placement of children in recent years. It is envisaged that a similar process will be implemented to access support from the Inclusion Hub. These contributions will enhance the offer and allow us to work with even more schools, families, and children.

Bristol Schools Forum **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2024/25**

Date of meeting:	16th January 2024
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Virtual Meeting

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To give an overview on the DSG for 2024/25 and seek ratification of the Schools Forum on the block allocations which were agreed in principle at the last meeting.
- 1.2 To seek agreement on the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) proposals, following consultation with settings.
- 1.3 The Local Authority (LA) must seek Schools Forum approval for Central Services spend, except for the item relating to school licences which must be repaid to the Department for Education (DfE) on behalf of all maintained schools and academies.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) **note 2024/25 funding levels.**
- b) **approve final transfers between blocks.**
- c) **approve the EYNFF.**
- d) **agree Central School Services Block allocations**
 - LA Core Functions £1.223m (as per Appendix 1);
 - School Admissions £0.592m;
 - Schools Forum £0.023m;
 - Combined Services £0.382m (as per Appendix 2).
- e) **provide feedback, as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council, for their consideration in making final decisions on the Schools Budget for 2024/25.**

3 Background

- 3.1 Schools Forum considered the emerging position on the DSG for 2024/25 at its meetings in September and November 2023 and agreed 0.5% could be transferred to the High Needs Block from the Schools Block. This 0.5%

will be used to increase the funding available to support High Needs in 2024/2025, rather than be earmarked to support the Education Transformation. These recommendations were made following consultation with schools.

- 3.2 The final data and allocations from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) were released on 19th December 2023 and the results of both events have informed this report.

4 DSG 2024/25

- 4.1 The funding in the DSG is primarily generated by pupil numbers from the October 2023 census, which for mainstream schools recorded 34,671 primary age pupils. Decrease of 330 from October 2022 (0.94%, 35,001), continuing the decline in primary age (which fell by 359 (-1.01%) between October 2022 and October 2021).
- 4.2 Secondary age pupil numbers in mainstream schools continue to increase, with October 2023 counting 21,789 – an increase of 413 (1.93%) in October 2022. This also continues the trend (Oct 2022 was an increase of 797 (3.87%) in Oct 2021).
- 4.3 Funding per pupil in mainstream schools has also increased (by 5.13% for primary and 5.53% for secondary) over the 2023-24 levels. The overall increase in the DSG, is £28.750m giving a total DSG of £491.736m.
- 4.4 Table 1 shows the funding allocations in each block for 2024/25 compared to the current allocations for 2023/24.

Table 1 - DSG Allocations

DSG blocks	Current 2023/24 DSG allocation	DSG 2024/25 allocation	Increase	Change
	£m	£m	£m	%
Schools Block*	336.192	344.325	8.133	+2.42%
Central School Services Block	2.717	2.696	(0.021)	-0.77%
High Needs Block	86.645	89.535	2.890	+3.34%
Early Years Block**	37.432	55.180	17.748	47.41%
Total	462.986	491.736	28.750	6.21%

*£10.714m has been added to 23/24 allocation to include MSAG which is included in schools block for 2024/25

**Early years funding for 2024/25 includes new funding totaling £14.996m. More information can be found in point 4.12

- 4.5 **Central School Services Block.** This block is funded in two parts, for ongoing and for historic responsibilities. The funding for historic commitments has been reduced again by 20% (£0.095m) from £0.477m to £0.382m. It remains the aim of ESFA to withdraw this funding over time. The historic responsibilities' part previously supported two areas: contributions to Combined Services and Prudential Borrowing. The prudential borrowing element had not been required for that purpose for some time, so the LA has elected to maintain the contribution to combined services as far as possible and then transferred any remainder of the historic responsibilities portion to support High Needs.
- 4.6 The 2024-25 allocation for historic responsibilities is £0.382m, so the LA needs to trim the contribution to combined services by £0.095m with no spare element to transfer to high needs or elsewhere.
- 4.7 **High Needs Block.** The High Needs Block has received an increase in funding (of 3.34%) but this block continues to be under pressure. Current spending levels in 2023/24 indicate that the increased allocation will not cover spending at the same level as this year and does not provide any additional funding for growth, additional need or historic shortfalls.
- 4.8 Forecast in-year spend in 2023/24 is £17.605m over budget. Table 2 shows the forecast position for 2023/24 and 2024/25 highlighting the ongoing deficit position. Whilst the projection is £108.582m, there is a risk that this could change depending on the upward pressures of rising demand and rising costs against planned mitigations in this block.

Table 2 – High Needs Analysis

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Block Allocation	86.675	89.535
Transfer from CSSB	0	0
Transfer from Schools Block	1.627	1.721
Total Block Funding	88.302	91.256
Forecast Spend	103.230	108.582
Education Transformation spend	2.677	
Total Spend	105.907	108.582
In year over/(under) spend	17.605	17.326
Opening Balance b/f - HNB	42.520	59.197
Opening Balance b/f - Transformation	(0.928)	
Closing Balance c/f	59.197	76.523

- 4.9 For the 2023/24 budget £1.6m was transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block with agreement from forum, and this funding is being used to support the Education Transformation Programme. At the November meeting Forum agreed to the transfer of 0.5% of the schools' block into the high needs block. This funding will be used to support High Needs activities and reducing the deficit.
- 4.10 **Schools Block** Details on this block are covered in a separate paper on this agenda.
- 4.11 **Early Years Block.** The allocation is still indicative at this stage as the majority of the funding in this block is based on census data collected throughout the year. The indicative allocation is based on January census only, so the actual amount will be updated by ESFA once the Spring 2024 census figures are known.
- 4.12 The 2024/25 allocation includes £14.996m of new funding being:
- New 2-year old and under entitlement to 15 hours of free childcare for eligible parents
 - Extension of pupil premium and DAF to eligible 2 year olds and under
- Overall the change in early years funding is £17.748m increase when compared to 2023/24.
- 4.13 The release of the block allocations also included the first indication of the hourly rates for 2024/25. For 3 & 4 year old the rate will increase by 17p to £5.97 from £5.80 in 2023/24. The 2 year old rate will increase by £2.36 to £8.25. The under 2 year old rate will be £11.24 which is new for 2024/25. These are the rates used to calculate funding to the LA, the rates paid to providers are outlined in section 5 of this report.
- 4.14 The Maintained Nursery School (MNS) supplementary funding will increase to £4.64 per hour; this is equivalent to an indicative increase of £0.613m in funding based on part-time participation number of 1,177 for 15 hours per week, 38 weeks per year.
- 4.15 The Teachers Pay and Pensions Grant (TPPG) continues to reside in the Early Years Block as per 2023/24. The Early Years team confirm that no funding will be retained and payments to schools and academies with nursery classes will continue through the payment workbook at a provisional rate of £0.27 for 3 & 4 year old universal and extended hours. TPPG is already included in the MNS supplement (for rates, see 4.14).

4.16 **Overall position.** Table 3 shows the effect on the block funding position and outlines the 2024/25 Budget, it also shows the forecast carry forward amounts against each block.

Table 3: Forecast block budgets after movements between blocks and carry forward amounts.

DSG Blocks	Balance brought forward from 2023/24 (forecast) £m	2024/25 DSG allocation* £m	Movement between blocks £m	Final DSG budget 2024/25 £m	Estimated spend 2024/25 £m	Carry forward balance at end of 2024/25 £m
Schools block	(0.787)	(344.325)	1.721	(342.604)	342.604	(0.787)
De-delegation	(0.528)			(0)	0	(0.528)
Central Services Block	0	(2.696)	0	(2.696)	2.696	0
High Needs Block	59.197	(89.535)	(1.721)	(91.256)	108.582	76.523
Early Years	0.307	(55.180)		(55.180)	55.180	0.307
Total	58.189	(491.736)	0.000	(491.736)	510.783	75.515

*Figures are based on latest allocations published in December 23

5 Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF)

5.1 The rates outlined in section 4.10 are those which generate funding to the LA. There have been significant changes in the guidance regarding how local authorities must distribute funding, which culminated in the [publication of changes](#) here which outline the [expansion of free childcare to Under 2s and 2 year olds from working families](#), beginning in April 2024 (and fully rolling out by Sept 2025). There remains a requirement to consult with providers prior to setting rates, which ran for 6 weeks and concluded on 29th Dec 2023.

5.2 Providers were asked for their views on the base rate, payment frequencies, supplements and the rates for SEN. Here is the final outcome of the 24/25 EYNFF consultation. 122 providers (34% of market share) responded:

Table 4: EYNFF Consultation responses

Question	% Agree	% Disagree
Base rate – Under 2s from working families	88	12
Base rate – Eligible 2s and 2s from working families	79	21
Base rate – 3 and 4 year olds	34	66
6 additional places for Eligible 2s	84	16
Limiting eligible 2s to 1 provider at a time	89	11
1 calendar months' notice period for eligible 2s	94	6
Introduce monthly payments (CMs and PVI's only)	77	14 (9N/A)
Supplement – keep deprivation supplement as current	96	4
Supplement – use System Leadership for the quality supplement	98	2
EY SEN – maintain the current rate	83	17

5.3 The rates that the LA is proposing to pay to providers for 2024/25 are as follows:

- 3 and 4 year olds: £5.08
- 2 year olds: £7.82
- Under 2 year olds: £10.77

5.4 The small increase in the 3 & 4 year olds funding rate proved unappealing to the sector, however as much as was affordable was included and due to funding regulations and restrictions, no further increase is possible without reducing the supplements (which were overwhelmingly supported). The Early years team feel that the significantly higher rate for under 2s overshadowed the older age range rates.

5.5 Deprivation supplement will be applied to all ages (currently only 3 and 4 year olds) from April 2024.

5.6 For under 2s and 2 year olds, early years Pupil Premium (rising to £0.68 per universal hour) and Disability Access Fund (rising to £910 per year) will also be available from April 2024.

5.7 For 2024/25, the LA is allowed to retain central funding from the under 2 and 2 year olds funding. The maximum percentage allowed is 5% (which is the same as the current 3 and 4 year olds) but to keep the base rates high, the LA are only retaining 3% of each for both under 2 and 2 year olds. 3 and 4 year olds will remain at 5% for 2024/25.

6 Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 6.1 The purpose of the CSSB is to provide funding for the statutory duties the LA hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:
- funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
 - funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block
 - residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block
- 6.2 The LA must still seek Schools Forum approval for Central Services spend, apart from the item relating to school licences which must be repaid to the DfE on behalf of all maintained schools and academies.
- 6.3 **CSSB Budget proposals.** The CSSB allocation for 2024/25 is £2.696m. This total is composed of two distinct components: on-going functions (£2.314m) and historic commitments (£0.382m). The on-going functions element has increased by 3.3% from 2023/24, up from £2.240m. Of the historic commitments, this funding is insufficient to support the contribution to combined services at the previous level, and as such leaves no element to transfer to high needs or elsewhere. Table 5 shows the funding and proposed 2024/25 budgets.

Table 5: Composition of Central School Service Block Allocations

Type of funding	Component	DSG Allocation 2023/24 £'000	2023/24 budget £'000	DSG Allocation 2024/25 £'000	Proposed 2024/25 budget £'000
Formulaic	LA Core functions	1,175	1,179	1,223	1,223
Formulaic	School Admissions	575	575	592	592
Formulaic	School Licences	348	348	358	358
Formulaic	Schools Forum	23	23	23	23
Formulaic	Pay & Pension – Centrally employed teachers	119	115	118	118
Historic	Combined Services	477	477	382	382
Historic	Prudential Borrowing	0	0	0	0
Total		2,717	2,717	2,696	2,696

- 6.4 **LA Core Functions £1.223m.** Appendix 1 sets out the functions and services that may be included in the LA Core functions budget. The relevant

costs for Bristol have been included against these line items. For 2024/25 it is proposed to inflate each item by 4.4% to reflect inflationary pressure across all spending items.

- 6.5 **Admissions £0.592m.** The only change to this budget is that arising from the increase in CSSB generally, due to pupil number and rate increases. For 2024/25, it is proposed to inflate this budget by 3% to reflect the increase in funding for ongoing commitments.
- 6.6 **School Licences £0.358m.** The DfE requires the Authority to pay licences on behalf of all maintained schools, academies and free schools in Bristol, to avoid the administration of delegating funding to and recovering the money from each school. The amount for 2024/25 has been increased by 3% to reflect the increase in funding for ongoing commitments. However, this figure is provisional and could change once DfE provide 2024-25 costs. There is no requirement for Schools Forum to specifically approve this line of the budget.
- 6.7 **Schools Forum £23k.** This funding is used to support the administration, clerking and hosting the meetings. It is proposed that this allocation remain at the 2023/24 level.
- 6.8 **Pay and Pensions – Centrally Employed Teachers.** For 2024/25, it is proposed that the budget is increased by 3% to reflect the increase in the funding of ongoing commitments.
- 6.9 **Combined Budgets. Appendix 2** details the analysis of the £0.382m for Combined Services, which Schools Forum has agreed in the past and it is proposed for agreement again for 2024/25. However, many of these costs are increasing and 20% reduction in funding has been distributed equally across all functions.

Appendix 1 – CSSB LA Core Functions

Category	Component permitted to be funded from central DSG, subject to Schools Forum agreement	BCC proposal	Amount 2024/25 £'000	Amount 2023/24 £'000
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a) Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b) 	Central budgets for education planning that are not already charged to Combined Budgets or elsewhere in the DSG.	112	107
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22) Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c) Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d) 	Accounting and finance staff directly supporting education budget setting and funding for all schools.	281	269
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	Estimated cost of internal audit time.	29	28
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19) Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f) 	Estimated cost of public consultation on service development (eg High Needs) and collaborative working.	92	88
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17) 	Current budget for SACRE.	14	13
Statutory & Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21) 	Legal Services staff support.	68	65
Education Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20) School attendance (Sch 2, 16) Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18) 	Current budget for Education Welfare.	438	420
Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b) 	Current budget for education property management and capital programme monitoring.	189	181
TOTAL STATUTORY / REGULATORY FUNCTIONS OF LA			1,223	1,171

Appendix 2 – CSSB Combined Services Budget

Service	Total 2024/25 £'000	Total 2023/24 £'000
Director of Education and Skills	77	96
Equalities	29	36
Governor Support	14	17
HR	16	20
Primary Services	114	142
Pupil Census	22	28
School Place Planning	57	72
Secondary Services	53	66
Grand Total	382	477

Bristol Schools Forum **Schools Block 2024/25**

Date of meeting:	16 th January 2024
Time of meeting:	5:00 pm
Venue:	Zoom

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform and seek agreement of the Schools Forum on the final application of the funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2024/25, prior to final decision by Cabinet and submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is invited to:

- 2.1 Indicate which of the two proposed formula models for 2024/25 mainstream funding formula is preferred. The LA recommends the option to maximise the lump sum first, for the reasons set out in the report.
- 2.2 Approve the proposed arrangements for the 2024/25 mainstream funding formula, including the amount set aside for the Growth Fund
- 2.3 Provide feedback, as appropriate, to Cabinet and Council, for their consideration in making final decisions on the Schools Budget for 2024/25.

Maintained primary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:

- 2.4 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in table 2 for 2024/25:
 - a) Employee and Premises Insurance
 - b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals
 - c) Maternity supply cover
 - d) Schools in financial difficulty
 - e) Trade Union facility time
 - f) Education Psychology
 - g) School Improvement Services

Maintained secondary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:

- 2.5 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in table 2 for 2024/25:
 - a) Employee and Premises Insurance
 - b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals

- c) Maternity supply cover
- d) Trade Union facility time
- e) Health and safety roving reps
- f) Education Psychology
- g) School Improvement Services

3. Funding available

- 3.1 The DSG overview paper elsewhere on this agenda explains the overall strategy for schools finance for 2024/25. This indicates that the allocated funding for Schools Block in 2024/25 is £344.3m.
- 3.2 At the meeting held November 2023, Schools Forum agreed the following:
- The transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block;
 - The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to be set at +0.0%;
 - The lump sum was to be set at maximum allowed £139,849.82;
 - Any remaining funding directed to the Additional Education Needs (AEN) factors, then Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU); and
 - £2.0m top-slice of Schools Block to create the Growth Fund for 2024/25.
- 3.3 **Table 1** sets out how it is proposed that this funding be calculated and applied.

Table 1: Proposed Schools Block Budget 2024/25

Funding	£'000	Cost	£'000
Pupil led DSG funding	£330.1m	Transfer of 0.5% to HNB	£1.7m
Premises led DSG funding	£12.2m	Growth Fund	£2.0m
Growth funding	£2.0m	Balance remaining for Mainstream Schools formula	£340.6m
DSG Schools Block Total Allocation	£344.3m	Schools Block Total	£344.3m

*The 2023/24 mainstream schools additional grant has been rolled into the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2024/25 and is therefore, included in the schools block allocation.

- 3.4 The component elements of the calculation have been refreshed, upon release of the October 2023 census data. Each of the components is explained below.
- 3.5 **Pupil led DSG funding £330.1m.** This is the sum allocated to the LA based on the number of pupils recorded in the October 2023 census. Primary age pupils attract unit funding of £5,200.70, which is an increase on 2023-24's £4,946.84.

Secondary age pupils attract unit funding of £6,873.45, up from £6,513.22. The allocation to Bristol is based on a recorded 34,671 primary age pupils, down from last year's 35,001. Secondary is based upon 21,789 pupils, up from last year's 21,376.

- 3.6 **Premises led funding £12.2m.** This is the element of the Schools Block DSG that recognises costs not defined by NFF values, and is derived from the 2023/24 NFF baseline.
- 3.7 **Growth Funding £2.0m.** This element of the DSG Schools Block settlement is calculated by the ESFA based on the observed differences between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. Growth is measured at the level of middle layer super output areas (MSOAs). This allocation is intended to meet the cost of both the growth fund and the additional cost of those pupils in growing schools not yet present in the school census, but can be insufficient as it is based on the historic change and not the anticipated change it is required to fund.
- 3.8 **Schools Block Total £344.3m.** This is the sum of the proposed allocations above.
- 3.9 **Transfer 0.5% of Schools Block to High Needs Block £1.7m** Schools Forum agreed to the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block at its meeting in November 2023. 0.5% is the maximum the Department for Education (DfE) allows to be agreed locally.
- 3.10 **Growth Fund allocation £2.0m** This funding as agreed at November's schools forum, is the top-slice of the Schools Block taken in order to fund growth expansions in existing schools for the following academic year, separate to the growth commitment in "new and growing" schools" which is funded within the formula mechanism.
- 3.11 **Balance remaining for Mainstream Schools formula £340.6m.** This is the remainder of the Schools Block allocation available for the mainstream funding formula, including the mandated elements of the formula.
- 3.12 **Schools Block Total £344.3m.** This is the total of the elements above.

4. Growth Fund

- 4.1 The growth funding into the Schools Block is £2.0m, and this intended to support both the "new and growing" schools funded via the APT and create a growth fund to support existing schools that have been expanded.
- 4.2 Officers have estimated the requirement in "new and growing schools" to be for 210 FTE pupils, and this cost is built into the school funding formula.

- 4.3 Officers have also considered the existing commitments on the Growth Fund and projected these forward for a potential cost in 2024/25. This commitment is estimated to be approximately £1.2m, and includes the effect of existing growth moving from KS3 into KS4.
- 4.4 In addition to the existing known commitments it is possible further expansion may be needed, as the primary age bulge continues to move into secondary schooling. The Growth Fund of £2.0m leaves approximately £0.8m over the estimated known commitment to support any additional growth commitments and exceptional funding requests that may arise.

5. Funding formula

- 5.1 Schools Forum agreed the principles for the operation of the mainstream formula at its meeting in November 2023, including:
- Appropriate allocations are made for NNDR/rates
 - A Minimum Funding Guarantee of +0.0%
 - The Additional Educational Needs (AEN) factor values to be a function of the available funding
 - The lump sum is set to maximum allowed at £139,849.82 for both Primary and Secondary
 - An allocation of £2.0m is set for the Growth Fund
 - No decisions were made for de-delegation and representatives asked that this was deferred to January's schools forum. As de-delegation is applied after formula shares are determined, these outstanding items have no direct impact on the information presented in this report.
- 5.2 Following December's announcement from Education and Skills Funding Agency, when distributing the allocated schools block funding, it was not possible to maximise AEN and the lump sum in the same funding calculations. This is because of the Autumn census data adding proportionally more secondary pupils than the previous census. As Secondary pupils are funded at a higher level, once we met the statutory minimum requirements, the remaining unallocated funding was not sufficient to maximise the AEN and lump sum. Therefore, we have modelled two options and schools forum is being asked which one to apply.
- 5.3 Two options for the Schools Block formula have been modelled within the above constraints:
- Scenario 1: AEN factors have been prioritised with remaining funding being distributed through lump sum.
 - Scenario 2: Lump sum has been set to maximum allowed with remaining funding being distributed through AEN factors.

- 5.4 In both scenarios, the basic entitlement uses the AWPU rates at the minimum allowed for 2024/25. The total funding distributed by this factor is £235.4m (69% of the pre-MFG total). The per-pupil rates for 2024/25 are as follows:
- Primary £3,501.80
 - KS3 (years 7-9) £4,937.55
 - KS4 (years 10-11) £5,565.65
- 5.5 Scenario 1 favours the majority of secondary schools (18 out of 22), 2 all-through schools and 15 Primary schools. Whilst scenario 2 favours the most primary schools (70 out of 103) and 3 Secondary schools. The remaining 19 schools will receive the same level of funding from both of the proposals.
- 5.6 Scenario 2 does result in a slight decrease in some of the AEN factor values (FSM, IDACI, EAL3 and Low attainment) compared to 2023/24. However, the minimum funding guarantee along with increases in statutory minimum per pupil funding protects these schools from any potential loss resulting in a reduction of these factor values. This scenario also brings the factor values closer to the NFF values which supports the transition to hard NFF. Overall, this scenario is still more beneficial to majority of primary schools due to increase in lump sum and MFG protections.
- 5.7 Scenario 1 results in the lump sum being £133,649.08 for each setting, which distributes a total of £16.9m for all settings (4.98% of the pre-MFG total). In scenario 2, the lump sum is set to maximum allowed £139,849.82 which distributes a total of £17.7m for all settings (5.22% of the pre-MFG total).
- 5.8 The Minimum per Pupil funding levels were made a mandatory item in 2020/21 and remain mandatory in the formula, the rates have been dictated by the NFF. For 2024-25 the Primary rate is £4,610, whilst is £5,995 for secondary school pupils.
- 5.9 Overall in scenario 1, 109 of the 127 schools are set to receive an increase in cash funding in 2024/25, whilst 18 schools will receive less funding than in 2023/24. In scenario 2, 110 of the 127 schools are set to receive an increase in cash funding in 2024/25, whilst 17 will receive less funding than in 2023/24. Where schools receive a reduction in funding, this is being caused by a reduction in pupil numbers on roll that does not offset per-pupil funding gains in the formula.
- 5.10 The LA recommends option two over option one as this favours more schools, and as these schools are mainly primary, have smaller overall budgets than secondary schools. Option two also has the advantage of the formula factors becoming closer to the NFF values, which is required in the transition to a hard formula.
- 5.11 In total, 60 schools have a reduced NOR in 2024/25, whilst 8 are static and 59 have increased NOR.

5.12 Forum should note that the formula is subject to final approval from ESFA so figures in the report and appendices are therefore still indicative at this stage.

- 5.13 The detail of the unit values, the allocations against factors and individual school budget shares are shown in the appendices.
- Appendix A shows the formula unit values
 - Appendix B shows the distribution of the funding across the relevant factors
 - Appendix C shows the school budget shares and indicates which model benefits each school.

6. De-delegation

- 6.1 In November's schools forum, maintained primary and secondary school representatives were asked to agree to de-delegation for services listed in table 2. However, representatives asked to defer this decision to January's schools forum pending further information.
- 6.2 On 3rd October 2023, a consultation paper on 2024-25 School's Funding which included de-delegation was sent to head teachers for all settings via email and was also included in the Head Teacher's bulletin.

Table 2: De-delegation rates per pupil for primary and secondary schools

	Primary rate £	Secondary rate £
Employee and Premises Insurance	29.92	29.92
FSM Eligibility	1.23	1.23
Maternity Supply Insurance	33.55	48.72
Schools in Financial Difficulty	0	N/A
Trade Union Facility Time	4.15	4.15
Health and Safety Roving Reps	N/A	0.98
Educational Psychology	6.27	6.27
School Improvement Services	5.31	5.31

- 6.3 De-delegated items 2024/25:

Employee and Premises Insurance

This funds insurance cover as arranged by the local authority. If delegated, schools would need to assure the LA that cover arranged by the school (if not bought back) is fit for purpose. Pooling the funding ensures proper cover and

allows schools' to avoid bureaucracy.

More information on the RPA for schools can be found here: [The risk protection arrangement \(RPA\) for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-risk-protection-arrangement-rpa-for-schools)

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 8% from 2023/24. This includes £2 increase in RPA rate which DfE have announced.

Assessment of eligibility for free school meals

This funding enables the service to schools for the checking of free school meal eligibility.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 5% from 2023/24

Maternity Supply Cover

Supports schools by funding the costs incurred covering staff taking maternity / paternity leave or staff on adoption leave.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 5% from 2023/24.

Schools in Financial Difficulty for primary schools

Provides support to schools in or forecasting a deficit. Access to the support is generally dependent on a school producing an agreed Recovery Plan. The use of funds is directed by the head of school partnerships.

For information: there is currently available balance of £335k on this fund.

Rate: No contribution proposed for 2024/25.

Trade Union Facility Time Fund

Employers have a statutory obligation to release trade union representatives for representation in cases. The facilities fund held by Bristol City Council is used to remunerate schools that release their teachers who are TU representatives to carry out casework for their members. In the absence of any facility fund, maintained school bear the cost of releasing staff.

For information: there is currently available a balance of £192k available to be used for this purpose.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 5% from 2023/24.

Health and Safety Roving Reps in Secondary Schools

"Roving" reps are safety representatives who are appointed by TUs to cover multiple school sites. Their work includes effective consultation with employees in relation to employee health and safety issues. Compared to previous years, there are fewer safety representatives, and the cost of training is reduced. School head teachers retain overall responsibility, with the TU rep acting on the Head's behalf.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 5% from 2023/24.

Education Psychology (EP)

The Education Psychology Service provides professional advice to young people, families and educational settings. The de-delegated funding supports the delivery of EP visits to schools to discuss and identify vulnerable children and young people, and support a robust graduated response to needs including cost effectiveness. This is in addition to the Educational Psychology work in to the SEN assessment process, paid for by the LA as a statutory responsibility.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 5% from 2023/24.

School Improvement Service

The ending of the DfE School Improvement monitoring and brokering grant for 2022-23 impacted on the current model of school improvement service. We are now working to create a model to support quality provision for children and young people. This model is to meet both statutory improvement needs and provide a holistic approach to school improvement across the city. The request of £86,000 is to commit to investing into the service to future proof and become a self-sustainable model and not simply to meet the statutory requirements. The model places children and young people at the heart of the work and we want to ensure an equitable service is funded realistically and fairly.

Rate: Per-pupil charge has increased by 46% from 2023/24. However, de-delegation for 2023/24 was based on 9 months funding, whereas 2024/25 is being requested for the full year.

Schools forum - January 2024
Appendix A - Unit Values

Factor	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	For reference	
	AEN set to maximum apart from FSM6 which is 23/24 value + MSAG + 1.4% increase with remaining funding through lump sum	Lump sum set to maximum with remaining funding through AEN factors	2023/24	2024/25 NFF
Basic Entitlement (Primary)	£3,501.80	£3,501.80	£3,316.76	£3,616.04
Basic Entitlement (KS3)	£4,937.55	£4,937.55	£4,676.57	£5,098.18
Basic Entitlement (KS4)	£5,565.65	£5,565.65	£5,270.59	£5,746.88
Free School Meals (Primary)	£559.72	£552.22	£556.23	£497.43
Free School Meals(Secondary)	£559.72	£552.22	£556.23	£497.43
Free School Meals Ever 6 (Primary)	£840.46	£830.31	£724.79	£832.44
Free School Meals Ever 6(Secondary)	£1,227.88	£1,213.06	£1,058.83	£1,218.20
IDACI (P F)	£267.41	£263.51	£265.42	£238.56
IDACI (P E)	£320.96	£316.95	£319.25	£289.32
IDACI (P D)	£506.38	£503.49	£507.14	£451.75
IDACI (P C)	£548.23	£545.15	£549.11	£492.36
IDACI (P B)	£583.29	£580.45	£584.66	£522.81
IDACI (P A)	£768.90	£761.60	£767.13	£690.32
IDACI (S F)	£384.46	£380.81	£383.57	£345.16
IDACI (S E)	£512.22	£509.36	£513.06	£456.83
IDACI (S D)	£716.13	£709.02	£714.16	£639.56
IDACI (S C)	£780.60	£773.38	£778.99	£700.47
IDACI (S B)	£839.01	£832.19	£838.23	£751.23
IDACI (S A)	£1,071.37	£1,060.41	£1,068.10	£959.34
EAL3 (P)	£670.92	£663.64	£668.46	£598.95
EAL3 (S)	£1,799.67	£1,786.75	£1,799.72	£1,609.04
Low Attainment (P)	£1,326.83	£1,316.88	£1,326.44	£1,187.75
Low Attainment (S)	£2,015.27	£1,998.17	£2,012.67	£1,801.93
Primary mobility	£219.19	£219.19	£119.53	£974.56
Secondary mobility	£314.89	£314.89	£173.20	£1,400.93
Lump Sum P	£133,649.08	£139,849.82	£126,627.07	£136,438.85
Lump Sum S	£133,649.08	£139,849.82	£126,627.07	£136,438.85
Sparsity (P)	£12,764.88	£12,764.88	£6,900.54	£57,966.21
Sparsity (S)	18511.74	18511.74	£10,046.38	£84,259.11
Split sites Basic	£53,151.76	£53,151.76	£53,151.76	£54,514.63
Split Sites distance	£26,625.37	£26,625.37	£26,625.37	£27,308.07

Factor	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	For reference
Basic Entitlement	AEN set to maximum apart from FSM6 which is 23/24 value + MSAG + 1.4% increase with remaining funding through lump sum	Lump sum set to maximum with remaining funding through AEN factors	2023/24
Primary	£121,421,413	£121,421,413	£116,103,184
KS3	£67,259,306	£67,259,306	£62,212,411
KS4	£46,706,935	£46,706,935	£43,766,979
Deprivation			
FSM	£9,284,810	£9,160,445	£8,865,353
FSM6	£17,233,682	£17,025,622	£14,605,348
IDACI (F)	£2,093,792	£2,068,465	£2,063,182
IDACI (E)	£2,210,009	£2,190,150	£2,158,650
IDACI (D)	£2,175,638	£2,158,865	£2,117,963
IDACI (C)	£2,592,776	£2,573,609	£2,644,943
IDACI (B)	£4,157,759	£4,130,854	£4,249,728
IDACI (A)	£3,982,292	£3,943,064	£3,882,870
EAL			
Primary	£3,369,782	£3,333,239	£3,058,597
Secondary	£1,702,707	£1,690,488	£1,365,707
Mobility	£108,879	£108,879	£39,800
Low Prior Attainment			
Primary	£14,772,051	£14,661,321	£14,172,084
Secondary	£10,068,362	£9,982,933	£9,875,044
Lump sum	£16,973,433	£17,760,927	£16,102,742
Sparsity			£0
Split sites	£399,069	£399,069	£628,651
Rates	£2,754,604	£2,754,604	£2,410,628
PFI funding	£8,555,424	£8,555,424	£8,194,852
Total excluding MFG	£337,822,723	£337,885,614	£318,518,716
Minimum Funding Guarantee	£70,228	£73,979	£91,924
Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil	£2,710,377	£2,643,735	£3,240,411
Total including mimimum and MFG	£340,603,328	£340,603,328	£321,851,051

		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	
		AEN set to maximum apart from FSM6 which is 23/24 value + MSAG + 1.4% increase with remaining funding through lump sum	Lump sum set to maximum with remaining funding through AEN factors	2023/24 funding
LAESTAB	School Name	Budget	Budget	
	NOR			
8012001	Brunel Field Primary School	£1,957,820	£1,957,820	£1,888,004
8012003	Ashley Down Primary School	£1,889,135	£1,889,135	£1,784,731
8012004	Ashton Gate Primary School	£3,712,909	£3,712,909	£3,532,423
8012006	Nova Primary School	£1,411,347	£1,414,179	£1,431,794
8012018	Broomhill Junior School	£1,142,653	£1,146,297	£1,054,154
8012020	Chester Park Junior School	£1,589,828	£1,592,286	£1,356,102
8012021	Chester Park Infant School	£1,325,071	£1,328,108	£1,159,143
8012023	Hillcrest Primary School	£1,905,881	£1,905,881	£1,818,035
8012027	Shirehampton Primary School	£2,250,865	£2,251,616	£2,189,243
8012028	Two Mile Hill Primary School	£2,741,299	£2,741,497	£2,616,236
8012037	Glenfrome Primary School	£2,051,693	£2,053,964	£1,917,214
8012041	Henleaze Infant School	£937,660	£938,455	£1,017,346
8012069	St Anne's Infant School	£917,131	£921,736	£917,918
8012073	Sefton Park Infant School	£875,636	£880,981	£855,168
8012074	Sefton Park Junior School	£1,004,980	£1,004,980	£973,505
8012079	Southville Primary School	£2,856,621	£2,856,621	£2,623,697
8012081	Summerhill Infant School	£951,539	£955,627	£893,979
8012086	Upper Horfield Primary School	£1,163,664	£1,167,019	£1,040,951
8012098	Holymead Primary School	£2,915,700	£2,915,700	£2,717,899
8012109	Brentry Primary School	£1,179,517	£1,182,963	£1,080,802
8012115	Broomhill Infant & Nursery School	£863,190	£867,403	£877,160
8012123	Willow Park CofE Primary School	£898,959	£902,183	£919,134
8012299	Hannah More Primary School	£1,470,286	£1,472,264	£1,368,306
8012312	Bishop Road Primary School	£3,887,373	£3,887,373	£3,775,962
8012314	Blaise Primary and Nursery School	£2,127,633	£2,128,504	£2,101,288
8012326	Fair Furlong Primary School	£2,426,843	£2,425,050	£2,322,111
8012328	Whitehall Primary School	£2,977,889	£2,977,593	£2,816,922
8013000	Avonmouth Church of England Primary School and Nursery	£999,253	£1,003,257	£926,385
8013008	Horfield Church of England Primary School	£1,919,749	£1,922,914	£1,840,314
8013010	St Barnabas Church of England VC Primary School	£0	£0	£514,654
8013014	St Johns Church of England Primary School, Clifton	£2,291,306	£2,291,306	£2,246,590
8013400	School of Christ The King Catholic Primary	£1,188,690	£1,191,427	£1,168,123
8013401	Holy Cross RC Primary School	£1,105,545	£1,108,661	£989,215
8013402	Ss Peter and Paul RC Primary School	£903,764	£908,522	£829,029
8013405	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	£1,035,541	£1,039,963	£934,940
8013412	Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Bristol	£1,156,003	£1,159,846	£1,067,792
8013415	St Bernadette Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School	£1,044,672	£1,049,126	£987,992
8013417	St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School	£1,866,020	£1,866,020	£1,741,920
8013438	Knowle Park Primary School	£2,913,796	£2,914,202	£2,758,710
8013439	Sea Mills Primary School	£1,165,695	£1,169,046	£1,111,981
8013441	Air Balloon Hill Primary School	£3,650,969	£3,649,538	£3,311,707
8013442	St Peter's Church of England Primary School (VC)	£2,185,732	£2,186,646	£2,102,828
8014603	St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School	£7,023,960	£7,018,183	£6,685,229
8014801	St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School	£5,110,987	£5,106,526	£4,821,760
8012002	Cheddar Grove Primary School	£1,908,358	£1,910,676	£1,878,853
8012005	Ashton Vale Primary School	£948,622	£952,747	£948,544
8012010	Fonthill Primary Academy	£1,152,841	£1,155,939	£1,068,584
8012013	Begbrook Primary Academy	£2,418,739	£2,418,739	£2,550,285
8012017	Waycroft Academy	£1,835,945	£1,838,979	£1,799,235
8012019	St Werburgh's Primary School	£2,044,865	£2,046,161	£1,972,543
8012022	Cotham Gardens Primary School	£2,280,616	£2,281,224	£2,430,240
8012029	Ilminster Avenue E-ACT Academy	£1,879,486	£1,879,263	£1,799,285
8012030	St Ursula's E-ACT Academy	£2,516,935	£2,516,935	£2,494,044
8012034	Filton Avenue Primary School	£3,028,218	£3,028,602	£2,956,825
8012038	Oasis Academy Connaught	£2,051,572	£2,050,757	£1,926,753
8012040	Henleaze Junior School	£1,609,884	£1,609,884	£1,630,309
8012044	Hotwells Primary School	£739,636	£744,417	£684,643
8012055	The Dolphin School	£1,269,410	£1,271,976	£1,242,186
8012056	Oasis Academy Bank Leaze	£1,204,561	£1,207,262	£1,099,371
8012061	Parson Street Primary School	£1,529,307	£1,531,371	£1,600,597
8012062	Minerva Primary Academy	£1,864,982	£1,866,013	£1,774,152
8012064	Frome Vale Academy	£1,088,795	£1,088,290	£982,056

8012067	Fishponds Church of England Academy	330	£1,710,996	£1,713,089	£1,749,467	
8012077	Bannerman Road Community Academy	353	£2,143,898	£2,142,477	£1,970,370	
8012078	Henbury Court Primary Academy	257	£1,514,248	£1,515,864	£1,552,213	
8012080	Summerhill Academy	232	£1,222,886	£1,226,395	£1,173,591	
8012082	The Kingfisher School	116	£768,839	£772,893	£845,003	
8012087	Cathedral Primary School	421	£1,999,598	£1,999,642	£1,947,249	
8012089	Redfield Educate Together Primary Academy	376	£1,920,034	£1,921,797	£1,867,497	
8012091	Westbury Park School	416	£1,922,624	£1,922,624	£1,819,265	
8012092	Oasis Academy Marksbury Road	393	£2,042,944	£2,044,269	£1,895,746	
8012093	Fairlawn Primary School	251	£1,264,709	£1,268,601	£1,238,766	
8012094	Oasis Academy Long Cross	415	£2,387,960	£2,386,365	£2,157,876	
8012099	Headley Park Primary School	405	£1,931,121	£1,933,746	£1,848,433	
8012101	Easton Church of England Academy	362	£2,243,395	£2,243,531	£2,100,341	
8012106	Barton Hill Academy	264	£1,730,071	£1,729,821	£1,821,895	
8012107	Wicklea Academy	240	£1,216,703	£1,220,647	£1,154,652	
8012108	Woodlands Academy	134	£815,730	£819,750	£853,174	
8012110	Hareclive E-ACT Academy	334	£2,179,132	£2,176,930	£2,171,242	
8012112	Elmlea Junior School	362	£1,674,344	£1,674,344	£1,612,612	
8012114	St Mary Redcliffe Church of England Primary School	398	£2,062,299	£2,063,214	£1,909,162	
8012117	Badocks Wood E-ACT Academy	199	£1,246,367	£1,248,499	£1,260,574	
8012118	Perry Court E-ACT Academy	409	£2,216,055	£2,215,978	£2,100,403	
8012119	Luckwell Primary School	96	£553,370	£558,804	£571,860	
8012120	Evergreen Primary Academy	157	£994,089	£997,340	£775,255	
8012121	May Park Primary School	506	£2,671,567	£2,670,159	£2,336,036	
8012125	St Nicholas of Tolentine Catholic Primary School	130	£873,538	£877,101	£790,151	
8012130	Wansdyke Primary School	208	£1,085,346	£1,089,429	£1,039,265	
8012138	Elmlea Infant School	270	£1,247,286	£1,247,286	£1,191,910	
8012139	Cabot Primary School	194	£1,248,198	£1,250,669	£1,145,140	
8012320	Compass Point Primary School	186	£1,154,103	£1,156,726	£993,484	
8012324	Four Acres Academy	350	£2,104,900	£2,103,937	£1,994,454	
8013003	Christ Church Church of England Primary School	316	£1,502,349	£1,506,180	£1,424,714	
8013025	Stoke Bishop Church of England Primary School	399	£1,863,953	£1,867,403	£1,769,066	
8013026	Westbury-On-Trym Church of England Academy	408	£1,904,593	£1,907,689	£1,807,431	
8013403	St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	206	£1,088,724	£1,092,825	£1,010,880	
8013411	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	207	£1,115,616	£1,119,467	£1,040,968	
8013414	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	208	£1,092,217	£1,096,022	£1,059,385	
8013431	Greenfield E-ACT Primary Academy	323	£1,864,685	£1,865,147	£1,934,909	
8013432	Little Mead Primary Academy	406	£2,127,321	£2,128,168	£1,990,486	
8013433	Stoke Park Primary School	208	£1,186,996	£1,190,272	£1,126,773	
8013434	Oasis Academy New Oak	206	£1,185,889	£1,188,848	£1,071,016	
8013436	West Town Lane Academy	605	£2,803,039	£2,803,039	£2,666,967	
8013437	Bridge Farm Primary School	625	£2,921,442	£2,921,442	£2,803,769	
8013440	Victoria Park Primary School	414	£1,926,525	£1,929,472	£1,842,334	
8014014	Avanti Gardens School	269	£1,366,423	£1,370,117	£984,190	
8014001	Bristol Free School	1,027	£6,246,506	£6,245,209	£5,811,367	
8014003	Orchard School Bristol	906	£7,326,750	£7,315,463	£7,109,421	
8014007	Oasis Academy Brislington	1,383	£10,836,641	£10,825,032	£10,074,958	
8014010	The City Academy Bristol	999	£7,719,164	£7,719,403	£7,746,348	
8014011	Ashton Park School	1,074	£6,962,316	£6,956,434	£6,578,613	
8014012	Trinity Academy	802	£5,522,694	£5,516,317	£4,620,575	
8014013	Blaise High School	888	£7,288,154	£7,276,447	£7,060,719	
8014015	Oasis Academy Daventry Road	231	£1,730,832	£1,732,189	£488,832	
8014016	Oasis Academy Temple Quarter	166	£1,221,717	£1,225,195	£488,832	
8014037	Bedminster Down School	1,026	£7,950,829	£7,940,173	£7,827,000	
8014100	Cotham School	1,218	£8,707,902	£8,692,596	£8,164,333	
8014101	Fairfield High School	1,081	£7,222,544	£7,214,166	£6,769,128	
8014602	St Bede's Catholic College	1,037	£6,513,802	£6,511,175	£6,143,994	
8014627	Redland Green School	1,178	£7,117,918	£7,117,918	£6,830,892	
8016907	Bristol Brunel Academy	1,328	£10,759,677	£10,745,615	£10,298,379	
8016908	Bristol Cathedral Choir School	761	£4,934,632	£4,932,609	£4,645,224	
8016909	Montpelier High School	757	£5,033,183	£5,030,196	£4,691,774	
8016911	Oasis Academy John Williams	872	£6,198,590	£6,189,567	£5,916,005	
8016912	Oasis Academy Brightstowe	762	£6,240,441	£6,231,207	£5,795,280	
8016913	Bristol Metropolitan Academy	1,102	£8,712,538	£8,704,181	£8,255,749	
8014005	Bridge Learning Campus	1,156	£9,028,573	£9,007,470	£8,044,937	
8016910	Merchants' Academy	1,177	£8,862,226	£8,836,192	£8,141,823	
Total			56,688	£340,603,327	£340,603,334	£321,851,051

Bristol Schools Forum
2023/24 DSG forecast report as at October 2023 (Period 07)

Date of meeting:	16 th January 2024
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Virtual

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides information of the 2023/24 DSG position as at Period 07 (P07) to end of October 2023.

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) note the P07 forecast position for the DSG as at end of October 2023
- b) note that the forecast position for maintained schools remains as reported at November School Forum.

3 2023/24 DSG forecast position

The DSG ended the 2022/23 financial year with a cumulative deficit of £39.680m including £24.650m deficit brought forward from the prior years.

As illustrated in Table 1 (with further details set out in Appendix 1), the 2023-24 gross allocation for DSG is £452.3m (net amount £196.6m after deduction for academies recoupment, NNDR and direct funding of high needs places by ESFA) per ESFA announcement on 20th July 2023.

The DSG continues to forecast an overspend of £16.396m in 2023/24, this being no change from the P6 reported position. The main driver of forecast overspend remains High Needs top-up and Independent non-maintained placement costs resulted from increasing EHCP, complexity of Children with SEN and lack of sufficiency. The mitigated cumulative deficit forecast position at the end of 2023/24 could reach £56.076m.

Early Years continues to forecast an in-year overspend of £0.912m, and is driven from increasing demand in EY's SEN £0.640m and the EY & Nursery Improvements programme overspending of £0.269m. The programme overspend is intended and will be mitigated with use of the EY transformation funding carried forward from 2022-23.

Summary DSG position as at 2023/24 Period 7 (P7)

Table 1 - Bristol Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24	2022/23 B/f balance	Gross DSG funding / Budget 2023/24*	P07 Gross DSG forecast outturn	In-year variance as at P07	Cumulative C/f forecast position as at P07
	£'000				
Schools Block	(787)	323,851*	323,851**	(0)	(787)
De-delegation	(527)		(1)	(1)	(528)
Central School services Block	8	2,717	2,709	(8)	
Early Years	(605)	37,432	38,344	912	307
High Needs Block	42,520	86,675	103,230	16,555	59,075
High Needs Transformation	(928)	1,627	2,677	1,050	122
Funding	0	(452,302)	(452,302)	0	0
Total (Unmitigated position)	39,680		18,508	18,508	58,188
Mitigations (budget vs. forecast in 2023-24)		(3,180)	(2,112)		(2,112)
Total - Mitigated position	39,680		16,396	18,508	56,076

* Bristol gross DSG Allocations, including recoupment and deductions for NNDR, and for direct funding of high needs places directly passported to schools by ESFA totalling £255.752m as of 20th July 2023.
**Following the closure of St Barnabas the schools block is likely to underspend by £283,653, work is underway to ascertain the final schools balances in 2023/24.

LA Maintained Schools forecast position.

As reported to September School Forum, 2022/23 was challenging for the sector, and the financial health of LA maintained schools deteriorated by £5.279m during the 2022-2023 year, and ending with £1.765m cumulative deficit.

As reported in November, the 2023/24 LA maintained schools' forecast financial position has deteriorated from the position as reported at Q1. Q2 forecasts show an overall worsening movement of £1.258m from the Q1 reported position, with outturn forecast at deficit of £4.834m. The summarised position is shown in Table 2 below.

Please note that school balances are distinct from the DSG and so these figures are NOT included within DSG Schools' Block figure in Table 1 above.

Table 2

Table 2 2023/24 Bristol LA Maintained Schools Financial Summary	2023/24 Closing Balance forecast as at Q2	2023/2024 In Year balance forecast as at Q2	Number of Schools with cumulative deficit as at 31/3/2024	Number of Schools with deficit variance to Q1
Nursery	7,215,354	165,269	11 of 12	no change
Primary	-1,907,703	998,676	5 of 28	no change
Primary with Nursery Class	-275,696	461,531	3 of 12	up one
SECONDARY	-21,118	370,547	1 of 2	up one
SPECIAL	-491,730	297,665	2 of 5	up one
PRU	-325,124	178,822	0 of 1	no change
Sub Total	4,193,983	2,472,511	22 of 60	
Bristol LA CC	640,499	99,167	1 of 1	no change
Sub Total inc CC	4,834,482	2,571,678	23 of 61	
Total	4,834,482	2,571,678		

Information provided by LA Maintained Schools at Quarter 2, projects an in-year deficit position of £2.572m (including Children’s Centres).

As reported to November School Forum the deterioration between Q1 and Q2 Maintained Nursery Schools in-year forecast positions was in part due to schools adopting a more prudent position following emerging pressures over the Summer, despite the uplift in the MNS supplement for 2023/24 and the enhanced rates from September 2023. Recovery plans are being prepared to address the accumulated deficits.

Maintained Primary and Secondary schools identified greater pressures in their positions. With Q2 forecasting a cumulative closing position of £2.205m surplus, down £1.831m.

Special schools and PRUs also reported deteriorating positions, with forecast cumulative closing positions of £0.817m, a decrease of £0.476m from 2022-2023.

All schools forecasting deficit position have been notified to produce robust recovery plans to secure their long-term financial sustainability. Meetings are being held with schools' leadership team and schools' governing bodies to explore solutions. Education and Financial Service colleagues are working closely with the schools on their recovery programmes.

The schools in difficulty funding reported in November provides the necessary sources to bridge temporarily the financial gap in the concerned LA maintained schools, including planning the use of the £0.675m additional grant being made available to support LA maintained schools.

To date three schools have approved licenced deficit plans, the rest are continuing to develop satisfactory recovery plans. The three approved plans, and repayment profiles, are summarised in Table 3 below:

Table 3

Bristol Schools Licenced Deficit Plans (LD)								
			Repayment Profile					
Type of Setting	No of schools approved for Licenced Deficit	Licenced Deficit Approval	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Balance
Nursery	2	£437,917	-£87,583	-£87,583	-£87,583	-£87,583	-£87,583	£0
Primary	1	£103,100	-£36,445	-£33,328	-£33,328	£0	£0	£0
Total	3	£541,017	-£124,028	-£120,911	-£120,911	-£87,583	-£87,583	£0

With regard to the Dedicated Schools Grant Block forecast position:

- 3.1 **De-delegated resources (Nil variance).** 2023/24 budget is forecast to be fully utilised.
- 3.2 **Central School Services Block (Nil Variance).** 2023/24 budget is anticipated to be underspent by £8k to offset carry forward overspend from previous years.
- 3.3 **Early Years Block (£0.307m overspend).**

As indicated earlier in the report, Early Years is experiencing pressure in emerging SEN which is anticipated to overspend by £0.645m during the financial year, plus the planned use of the allocated EY / MNS improvement fund carried forward from previous year to support EY transformation work in 2023/24.

- 3.4 **High Needs Block (£17,604m overspend).** The High Needs block is forecast to overspend overall by £17.6m in 2023/24. This is mainly driven by the increasing numbers and complexity of cyp with EHCPs in the city, as evidenced by pressures on top-up and placement budgets. Additionally there is a planned overspending in the Education Transformation programme to utilise funding carried forward from 2022/23.
- 3.5 **Funding (Nil Variance).** £452.302m as at July 2023 announcement, which will be subject to Early Year's adjustment where funding is calculated in arrears based on actual participation.

Appendix 1 - 2023/24 DSG P07 forecast position as at October 2023

Bristol DSG Outturn position as at Period 7 (P07) 2023/24	Brought forward 1.4.23	Funding 2023/24	P07 Forecast position	In-year movement	Carry forward 31.3.24	2022/23 Outturn position
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Maintained Schools		80,857	80,857	(0)		77,821
Academy Recoupment		240,206	240,206	0		223,990
Growth Fund		2,788	2,788	0		2,063
Schools Block	(787)	323,851	323,851	(0)	(787)	303,874
De-delegation Services	(527)	0	(1)	(1)	(528)	(23)
Admissions	6	575	575	0	6	529
Centrally Retained	1	2,142	2,134	(8)	(7)	2,213
Schools Central Services	8	2,717	2,709	(8)	(0)	2,742
National Formula		29,523	29,503	(19)		27,105
2-Year-Old Funding		2,914	2,912	(2)		3,172
Pupil Premium (EYPP)		386	386	0		317
Additional Support Services		500	500	0		457
SEN Top up		1,686	2,326	640		2,074
Staffing		2,116	2,113	(3)		1,892
Disability Access Fund		152	181	29		105
SEND Support		156	155	(1)		
EY & Nursery improvement work		0	269	269		74
Early Years Block	(605)	37,432	38,344	912	307	35,196
Commissioned Services		2,653	4,673	2,019		3,422
Core Place Funding		9,289	9,235	(54)		9,102
Staffing		1,237	2,558	1,321		2,272
Top Up		46,390	51,665	5,275		48,610
Placements		10,349	17,609	7,260		14,485
Pupil Support		975	1,708	733		1,402
HOPE Virtual School		236	235	(0)		235
Academy Recoupment		15,547	15,547	0		15,099
Education Transformation		1,627	2,677	1,050		1,343
High Needs Block	41,592	88,302	105,907	17,604	59,196	95,972
Funding		452,302	470,810			437,761
Total	39,681	0	18,508	18,508	58,189	15,031

Appendix 2 - High Needs Block top up funding breakdowns by settings as at P7: September 2023

Appendix 2 - High Needs Block top up funding breakdowns by settings as at P6:	Funding 2023/24	P07 Forecast Outturn	In-year movement	Carry forward 31.3.24	2022/23 Outturn position
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
HNB: Top Up Special Schools	23,796	21,957	(1,839)		23,226
HNB: Top Up OLA	2,107	2,459	352		2,501
HNB: Top Up GFE	3,714	4,370	656		4,556
HNB: Top Up - Resource Bases	2,359	3,551	1,192		2,351
HNB: Top Up - Mainstream Schools	11,755	16,217	4,462		17,180
HNB: Top Up - PRUs	2,658	3,112	453		2,543
HNB: Top Up	46,390	51,665	5,275		52,357