

Public Document Pack

Bristol Schools Forum

Agenda Monday, 11th July, 2022 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	2 - 6
4.		Update from Director of Education and Skills		AH	
5.		Proposal for Schools Forum to fund additional capacity to support the sustainability review of maintained nursery schools from the Early Years Block Underspend		RH/ AH	7 - 10
6.		DSG Budget Monitor Update		AL	11 - 15

(*) A = Admin, I = Information, De = Decision required, C = Consultation, Di = Discussion

Clerk: Sam Wilcock email: Sam.Wilcock@bristol.gov.uk Tel: City Hall

Chair: (contact via clerk)

PROPOSED FUTURE MEETINGS

Date (Tuesdays unless indicated)	Items
27 September 2022	
29 November 2022	
12 January 2023 (Thursday)	
28 March 2023	
23 May 2023	
12 July 2023 (Wednesday)	

Bristol Schools Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th May, 2022
at 5.00 pm at Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Melanie Bunce	Maintained Primary Headteacher Rep, St Barnabas
Simon Eakins	Academy Primary Head Rep, Cathedral Primary
Simon Holmes	Nursery Head Rep, St Phillips Marsh Nursery
Tracy Jones	Primary Head Rep, Merchants Academy
Sarah Lovell (Chair)	Academy Secondary Headteacher Rep, Bristol Brunel Academy
Kate Matheson	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, St Barnabas
Aileen Morrison	PRU Head, St Matthias Park
Richard Penska	PRU Governor Rep, Northstar
Chris Pring	Maintained Primary Headteacher Rep, Cabot Primary
Cedric Sanguignol	Maintained Primary Governor Rep, Bishop Road Primary
Simon Shaw	Secondary Head Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple
Stephanie Williams	Academy Primary Head Rep, Bannerman Road Community Academy

In attendance from Bristol City Council:

Denise Murray	Director: Finance
Alison Hurley (AH)	Director of Education and Skills
Angel Lai (AL)	Finance Manager (Children's and Education)
Travis Young (TY)	Principal Accountant
Richard Hanks	Head of Service - Learning City for All
Samantha Wilcock (SW)	Clerk to Schools Forum

	Action
1. Welcome	
SL welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Forum Standing Business	
a. Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from: Cameron Shaw – Secondary Head, Bristol Metropolitan Academy Emma Richards – Head Special Maintained, Claremont School Rebecca Watkin – Head Special Academy, LearnMAT Mick O'Neill-Duff – Primary Governor, Wansdyke Primary Karen Brown - Secondary Governor Rep, St Mary Redcliffe & Temple Councillor Asher Craig – Cabinet Member for Children Services, Education and Equalities	
b. Quorate The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.	
c. Resignations The Clerk reported that there were no new resignations since the previous meeting.	

<p>d. Appointment of New Members The Clerk reported that there were no new members since the previous meeting.</p> <p>e. Notification of Vacancies The following vacancies were noted: 2 Secondary Academy Governor Representatives 1 Nursery Governor Representative 1 Clifton Diocese Representative</p> <p>f. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
RESOLVED – that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.	
Matters Arising (within the minutes)	
<p>Insurance With reference to the action that a breakdown of costs within the Risk Protections Arrangement (RPA) DM confirmed that the contractual arrangement delivered value for money and following analysis, was considered to be the most cost-effective approach. It was agreed that following the meeting, the Risk and Protection Officer would provide the Forum with written summarised analysis along with information from the brokers in terms of the current insurance market. Finance Officers would add commentary regarding the consequent savings contribution. Comments and suggestions would be requested which could then inform whether the action needed to return to the meeting in July.</p>	DM, PD, TY, AL
Director of Education and Skills and Place Planning Presentations	
School Forum members noted that this had been circulated after the previous meeting.	
Matters Arising (not within the minutes)	
Falling Numbers within Primary Schools	
AH agreed to provide further information within the Directors update.	
<p>Task and Finish Groups The Early Years and High Needs Task and Finish Groups would meet during July. They would consider their Terms of Reference and role. Anyone else interested in being involved should contact the Clerk.</p>	ALL
4. Update from Director of Education and Skills	
<p>AH gave a verbal presentation which outlined the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning consent had been granted for an additional two sites for secondary provision on the following basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oasis Academy Temple Quarter in East Central to open permanently in 2025 with temporary accommodation for 2023. Oasis Academy Daventry Road in South Bristol open for 2024 with feasibility work taking 	

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| <p>place for temporary accommodation in 2023.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Temporary expansions of existing secondary schools had helped meet rising demand to date. IB would discuss future projections with Heads and would return to the Forum in July or September. 3. Schools and school clusters within the primary sector had been supported to manage falling numbers on roll including consulting to reduce PANs if appropriate and develop recovery plans to mitigate impact. 4. The repurpose of underutilised space to meet wider needs in the community was part of the conversation, including as part of Family Hubs and through the Integrated Care System. 5. Capital allocations had been confirmed for the next two years. The Basic Need Grant for 2023/24 would be £14.599m, dropping to £1.776m in 2024/25. High needs provision allocations for 2022/23 would be £6.373m moving up to £8.5m the following year. A paper would go to Cabinet in the summer to outline the priorities and programmes. 6. Recent information had been received in relation to the SEND Best Value Programme. 45 Local Authorities had identified with BCC currently in wave 2 planned for Autumn 2022. Additional support from the ESFA could now be accessed including review and challenge prior to the Autumn. | IB |
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In response to questions, AH confirmed:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With reference to the role of Early Years and the pressure on the sector, AH confirmed that BCC had been identified for funding as part of 75 Local Authorities to roll out Family Hubs. The aim was for a network of provision and organisations working together out of different spaces in the community to support pre-birth and parenting through to post 19. A citywide steering group included a range of representations. Further information would be brought to BSF when available. 2. Assurance was sought regarding clear projections and understanding of future place planning for Secondary Schools with the reduction in demand coming through the Primary sector. AH confirmed that officers were evaluating future provision through analysis. Room for choice needed to be balanced with financial risk and capacity issues. Ongoing discussions with regards to the two new developments would consider pupil projections, use for specialist provision and community spaces. SE highlighted the need to keep academies, trusts and secondary heads associations informed regarding projections. | AH |
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The presentation was noted.

5. DSG Budget Monitor

AL introduced the report and outlined the information contained therein.

DM and TY clarified the carry forward position with regards to the potential underspend and what could and could not be utilised as confirmed by the DfE and outlined in the report. Underspend due to school closures could be identified separately but essentially formed part of the overall Schools Block and in effect could be used within the DSG balance for the High Needs block.

In response to the report, DM clarified that the formula for the initiation of the 'Safety Valve' had not been specified as a deficit figure and it had been established that other elements were considered. As BCC were a part of the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme rather than the Safety Valve programme, discussions therefore focused on sustainability rather than total

historical deficit. The Statutory Override was scheduled to end March 2023 and arrangements with Auditors would take place regarding the next steps along with demonstration of good progress and longer term mitigations. DM confirmed that concerns were shared by Cabinet who continued to review the risk and progress of the Transformation Programme advocating collective ownership in order to reach solutions and move forward.

RH reported that nursery school deficits were a particular risk which currently stood at £5.2m. Work was ongoing with nursery school headteachers and governors to understand the challenges and pressures. Strategic proposals had been formed and shared with those groups and discussions continued around aspects such as non-class based roles, shared resources, SEND and 2 year old funding, co-location and the integrated offer along with family hubs. It was noted that in terms of funding, nurseries had been required to absorb costs associated with COVID as they had not been funded in the same way as schools. A Terms of Reference and strategic proposals would be developed into clear plans. The proposed ring fenced carry forward would be helpful to support the Nursery Schools in the work outlined.

In response to RH, the following points were raised:

1. Following a request, TY undertook to circulate information regarding how the £5m deficit compared to the total income of nurseries.
2. 50-70% of children who were eligible for 2 year old places accessed them with take up reportedly lowest in the two areas of lowest deprivation. To tackle funding for 2 year olds in the City would likely have an impact on deprivation.
3. The role of nurseries in family support had continued despite funding having been removed. The family hub model could assist with that dynamic.

TY

RH

The Schools Forum endorsed the approach of a ring fenced allocation to support Early Years as outlined within the report and requested an update on next steps to utilise that funding as resource to form strategies and support future viability. A report would return to the Schools Forum July meeting.

TY confirmed that of the 15 schools (11 nursery schools and 4 primary schools) that started the year in deficit, 14 of those had ended the year in deficit with one primary school no longer in deficit at the end of the year.

The Schools Forum:

- a) noted the 2021/22 provisional outturn position of £14.647m as set out in Table 1, which was a favourable movement of £2.142m from the forecast position at Period 10 (last reported in March 2022).
- b) noted that the total provisional cumulative DSG deficit carried forward to 2022/23 was £24.650m including brought forward balances of £10.004m from previous years.
- c) noted the maintained schools and children centres provisional end of year balances of £4.258m as set out in Table 2.
- d) noted 14 maintained schools had a deficit balance totalling £2.103m.

6. Any Other Business

Ukrainian Refugees

Following a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that funding arrangements for Ukrainian refugees was for an allocation of £4500 per child. A pool of funding to support SEN could be

applied for by schools on an individual basis.	
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The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

Agenda Item 5

Bristol Schools Forum

Proposal for Schools Forum to utilise the underspend in the Early Years Block to fund:

- additional capacity to support the sustainability review of maintained nursery schools
- development of SEND capacity across the Early Years sector.

Date of meeting:	Monday 11th July 2022
Time of meeting:	5pm
Venue:	Zoom

1. Purpose of report (for decision)

The purpose of the report is to provide Bristol Schools Forum with information about the current financial challenges faced by Bristol's maintained nursery schools and the need to find a sustainable model for the future. The report outlines a request for additional funding to support the schools in developing and implementing financial recovery and re-modelling plans. In addition, the report outlines a request for funding to develop the capacity of setting-based support for children with SEND across the Early Years sector.

2. Recommendations

That Schools Forum:

- Note the key pressures facing Bristol's maintained nursery schools.
- Note the work delivered to date
- Consider the request for £90k funding to be allocated from 2022/23 Early Years underspend to provide key financial, leadership and operational support through the next academic year to support the review of maintained nursery schools.
- Consider the request for £250k funding to develop a settings-based sustainable approaches to supporting pupils with SEND in the Early Years.

3. Maintained Nursery Schools: Context and Background

The 12 maintained nursery schools (NS) in Bristol have a long history of serving their communities and are held in high regard by their communities. They are located in areas of deprivation and give priority in admissions to disadvantaged children, including eligible 2 year olds. NS are often the first point of contact for vulnerable parents and carers within the educational system in Bristol. Expertise is demonstrated in early intervention, family support, child protection and SEND. This is evidenced in the current NS demographic:

- 1,415 nursery aged pupils in total on roll across the 12 maintained nursery schools (Oct 2021)
- 666 (48.1%) live in the top 10% most deprived output areas nationally (IDACI 2019)
- 954 (67.4%) live in the top 30% most deprived areas
- 559 eligible 2s access the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) at Maintained Nursery Schools (32.2%)
- 155 children are receiving SEN support, 17 children with an ECHP (27% on SEN register)
- 456 eligible 3 and 4 year olds are receiving the Early Years Pupil Premium (36.9%)
- 83 nursery pupils known to social care/early help, including 7 subject to a Child Protection Plan and 2 Children in Care.

4. Current Financial Position

As at June 2022, 11 of the 12 maintained nursery schools are in a deficit position totalling £5.192m (a movement of £1.236m in 2021-22). Some of the deficits represent a substantial proportion of their annual budgets.

Table 2: Maintained School (and Children's Centre) balances 2021/22

	b/f 1/4/2021 £'000	Movement 2021/22 £'000	c/f 31/3/2022 £'000
Nursery	3,956.067	1,236.405	5,192.472
Primary	-6,874.676	598.158	-6,276.518
Secondary	-723.990	-154.314	-878.304
Special	-2,103.566	240.483	-1,863.083
Hub	-850.370	77.144	-773.226
Children's Centre	235.579	104.702	340.281
Total	-6,360.955	2,102.577	-4,258.378

Sustainability

Maintained nursery schools are constituted as schools and are required to employ a headteacher, qualified teachers and a SENDCo. The Early Years National Funding Formula does not fully recognise the associated costs of this requirement and increases the financial pressures on nursery schools. As an interim arrangement, the government provide a maintained nursery schools supplement each year. However, this is insufficient fully mitigate costs.

The situation is further exacerbated because current government base funding levels do not cover costs for the care and education of 2 and 3 year olds, especially in view of the extended 30 hours offer and increased needs and rising costs relating to SEND, Child Protection and safeguarding. The disparity in funding rates for 2 year olds versus 3 and 4 year olds continues to present challenges in view of the financial viability of 2 year old provisions.

The government's recent Spending Review (Nov 21) announced some funding increases to the hourly rates for eligible 2 year olds and 3/4 year olds. In real terms in Bristol, the 3/4 year old funding rate will remain static due to capped funding, although the 2 year old rate will increase by £0.21 per hour per child.

The Spending Review further stated that: '*the government has confirmed continuation of maintained nursery school funding throughout the Spending Review period, providing the sector with long-term certainty. For 2022-23, the supplementary hourly rate for NS will increase by 3.5% - equivalent to the increase in the 3/4 year old hourly funding rates.*'

In summary, national funding arrangements disadvantage nursery schools due to their high staff costs and the fact they provide a significant number of 2 year old places in the most deprived areas of the city.

5. Response to date

In recognition of the sustainability issues, Nursery School headteachers worked collaboratively to look at new models of working. In parallel, the Early Years LA team reviewed the current configuration of the 12 Nursery Schools which included:

- Context setting and review meetings with Nursery School headteachers and governing bodies. City-wide meetings, and meetings as requested by groups of schools working collaboratively.
- Financial modelling and presentation of options, as suggested by stakeholders.
- Revision of individual Nursery School Information and Data packs to inform planning.
- Individual school Context Conversations – held between LA team and all 12 schools (headteachers, governors and bursars/ school finance managers) to capture the current position, unique strengths and challenges for each school. Included discussion relating to demographic features, financials, staffing establishment details and possible future options.
- A commitment to Equalities Impact Assessments to inform emerging new models of provision.
- As part of the financial exercise to develop a sustainable model, review LA services and charges.
- Agreement to allocate LA HR and Governor Services resource to support planning and implementation of any identified actions.

6. Strategic Proposals

The current configuration of NS is not sustainable. Whilst the schools are working to identify further savings, their longer-term viability needs to be considered and what opportunities exist to reconfigure them in a way that would help protect the provision they deliver for the city.

The Early Years Service has been working with NS headteachers and governors to agree terms of reference for this work and have secured a commitment to review current models. Headteachers and governors fully understand the key financial pressures faced by NS and have identified key areas of focus to guide future plans:

- The strategic importance of NS in relation to reducing inequalities and the impact of deprivation on children and families is clear. An analysis of sufficiency demonstrates that NS provision enables the LA to meet its statutory duties in areas of highest need. For example, in the south of the city, without NS provision there would be insufficient PVI provision to meet demand. This would include reduced access to other services within the universal offer with NS providing a universal front door and critical role in prevention and early intervention.
- Current funding for 2 year old provision is insufficient and makes running a BCC maintained 2YO provision virtually impossible based on Bristol grades, without a deficit. The current funding of NS makes it even more challenging to offer this provision. However, many NS are located where there is a high level of eligibility. The schools also support a significant number of pupils with identified SEND. NS budgets do

not include notional SEND funding as in primary schools and so all costs are met from the NS budget. Additional funding can be secured from the Early Years SEND panel and NS are skilled at applying for this for the children in their care. As with 2 year old funding, staff costs mean that SEND provision cannot be offered without incurring some level of cost to the school

- There is a need to review the costs of operating NS sites. NS host a range of services beyond nursery education. The Children Centres are part of the school estate and the costs of running them are charged to the NS. There is a diverse range of buildings across the NS estate which incur varying costs to operate. Therefore each nursery school requires a bespoke audit of space and associated costs, including opportunities for co-location of services and the sharing of site costs.
- NS leadership skills and expertise should be mapped to inform system leadership responsibilities aligned to LA priorities. Context conversations have been held with each school to capture the uniqueness and strengths of individual NS, including skills and expertise. This could support NS income generation through funded system leadership from headteachers and senior leaders.
- There is a continuing need to review individual schools and agree plans to reduce in-year NS deficits.
- There is real value in developing contractual collaborations or more formal federations across NS as a strategy for reducing costs and making provision more sustainable. There are already several nurseries working collaboratively and whilst previous modelling has not demonstrated that this type of arrangement will completely solve the budget issues for individual schools, the cumulative effect of arrangements such as sharing the Headteacher, senior leadership, School Business Manager and SENDCos roles across schools would make a significant impact on the projected deficit across the NS as a whole.

7. Next Steps

To develop the strategic proposals further, the Early Years Service requires additional capacity to work with school leaders and governors, testing out operating models, identifying and sharing best practice and providing financial support and challenge. This paper requests additional investment to deliver these key areas over the next academic year.

8. Additional Capacity

An outline of how the funding would be used is set out below:

Up to £25k	<p>Provide 2 days per week for 10 months of support (term time only) from an experienced Early Years leader to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with nursery headteachers to review operational models; • work across schools to develop staffing and process structures to realise efficiencies whilst maintaining quality of provision; • support school development planning and training related to remodelling of provision. <p><i>(Either external commission or back fill for existing Early Years leader)</i></p>
Up to £45k	<p>Provide 2 days per week of dedicated finance officer support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review all school budgets; • work with leaders and governors to identify savings and efficiencies; • agree and draw up plans for managing deficits; • provide support and challenge to ensure plans are implemented; • support with modelling and costing operational plans, collaborations and federation models.
Up to £3k	<p>1 day per term (x6) of business manager and governor training and development and support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase capacity within NS to set, monitor and deliver budgets; • Improve governance capacity to scrutiny and challenge NS finances; • identify and work with schools to develop additional income generation; • Support delivery of recovery plans.

Up to £2k	Commission research into effective models of delivery and income generation in other parts of the UK to support development plans and future models.
Up to £15k	Back fill funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide release time for headteachers, senior leaders and business managers to engage with the programme; • provide release time to share best practice and support.
£90k	Total Funding Ask

If approved a delivery plan will be developed with clear actions and timelines. Regular reports will be provided to Schools Forum on progress, use of funding and impact.

9. SEND Capacity Development in the Early Years Sector

Within Early Years, there is increasing demand and pressure on the Early Years SEND panel funding that provides funding for children with emerging needs. In 2021-22 there was an overspend on the panel funding of £600k. Analysis of year on year figures demonstrates a growing demand, particularly as early years settings deal with the impact of Covid on young children's development. This year the Early Years SEND budget has been increased from £1.2m to £1.6m but if demand remains the same or increases, the fund will continue to overspend.

To tackle this issue, additional investment in setting-based training and development of the workforce and the development of more efficient funding models is proposed to improve practice, sustainability and impact of SEND provision in the Early Years.

This work will align with the actions outlined in the transformation programme and the DSG management plan.

Up to £250k	<p>It is proposed to create a setting-based programme of activity designed to support and drive early years settings in Bristol to meet a higher level of need in a more cost-effective way, whilst maintaining the quality of provision and developing a culture in which demand is more effectively managed throughout the authority.</p> <p>The programme would seek to develop models that can deliver measurable and scaleable change. Suggested themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention & Support • Workforce Development & Capability • Models of funding SEND places and support • Demonstrates value for money, community/locality impact • Sustainability (exit strategy) <p>Proposals would be assessed by a panel – drawn from LA officers, parent carer representation and setting leaders. A programme lead would be responsible for the monitoring of the overall programme, including dissemination of learning from successful work across the sector.</p>
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If approved a delivery plan will be developed with clear actions and timelines. Regular reports will be provided to Schools Forum on progress, use of funding and impact.

Bristol Schools Forum **DSG Budget Monitor 2022/23 Quarter 1**

Date of meeting:	11 July 2022
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Virtual meeting

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides information of the forecast financial position for the DSG overall as at Quarter one (to end of May 2022 extrapolated).

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) note the in-year 2022/23 position for the overall DSG.

3 Background

- 3.1 This is the first budget monitor paper for 2022/23 to be presented to Schools Forum.
- 3.2 The report updates Schools Forum on the position at Quarter 1 (Q1, to end of May extrapolated) 2022/23.

4 Budget monitoring 2022/23

- 4.1 The DSG ended the 2021/22 financial year with a cumulative deficit of £24.650m including deficit brought forward from the previous years of £10.004m.
- 4.2 This first quarter forecast is showing the in-year forecast deficit of £15.618m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit of £40.267m to carry forward at the end of the year. The main area of concern is the High Needs block which is forecasting an in-year overspend of £14.813m (excluding transformation programme), this is despite an increase in funding in this block.

The Quarter 1 position is set out in **Table 1** with more detail set out in **Appendix 2**.

Table 1: Forecast position on overall DSG for 2022/23 at Quarter 1 (to end of May 2022 extrapolated)

All figures £'000	End of year b/f Deficit	Transfers	b/f Deficit	DSG Funding 2022/23	Forecast Outturn Quarter 1 2022/23	In-year variance	Forecast Carry- forward Quarter 1 2022/23
Schools Block	(1,517)	1,517	0	304,661	304,661	0	0
De-delegation	(504)		(504)	0	(0)	(2)	(506)
Schools						0	8
Central Block	8		8	2,742	2,742		
Early Years	(472)		(472)	34,388	34,455	66	(406)
High Needs							
Block	27,876	(1,517)	26,358	78,214	93,028	14,813	41,172
Education							
Transformation	(740)		(740)	1,531	2,271	740	0
Funding	-		-	(421,537)	(421,537)	0	0
Total	24,650	0	24,650	0	15,618	15,618	40,267

- 4.3 **Schools Block (nil balance).** All of the formula funding for maintained mainstream schools and academies has been allocated. Scope for variation is in the growth fund, or if schools close during the year. P02 forecast is anticipating budget will be fully spent.
- 4.4 **De-delegated resources (Nil variance).** At this stage of the year it is anticipated that this will be in a balanced position. Any variance will be carried forwards to future years.
- 4.5 **School Central Services Block (Nil Variance).** It is expected that all of the services in this block will spend to budget.
- 4.6 **Early Years Block (£0.066m forecast overspend).** Early Years income and expenditure is based on participation throughout the academic year, so the reported position will change in subsequent reports.

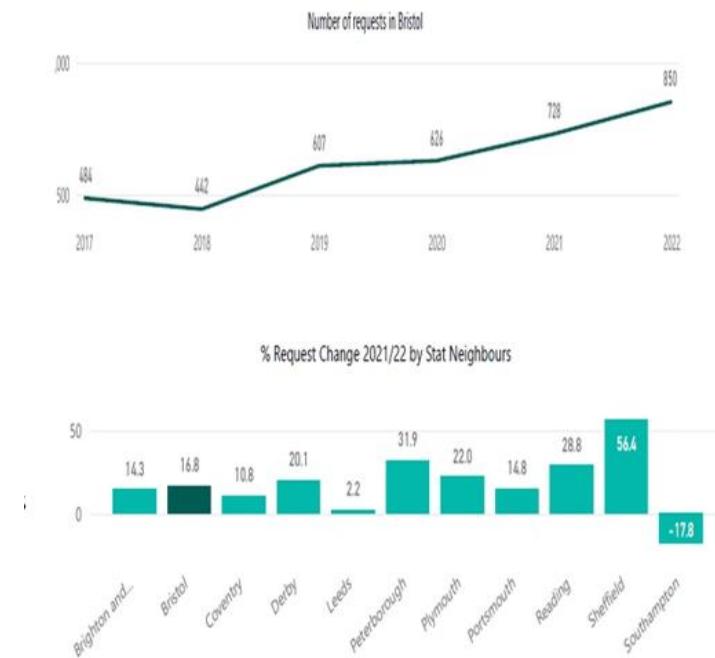
Early Years is experiencing significant pressure in emerging SEN; the current overspend in this area is £0.2m. The Service is currently developing mitigation proposals following agreement in principle with the Forum in May 2022 to utilise some of the £0.472m carry forward fund for delivering mitigation programmes. A separate paper detailing resources requirement was presented by Early Year's Head of Service.
- 4.7 **High Needs Block (£14.813m forecast overspend).** The High Needs block is forecasting an in-year overspend of £14.813m at this stage of the year. This means at the end of this financial year the cumulative overspend in High Needs Block will reach £41.172m when adding

cumulative brought forward deficit balance of £26.358m after partially offset by £1.517m underspend transferred from the Schools' Block which was agreed with the Schools' Forum in May 2022 meeting.

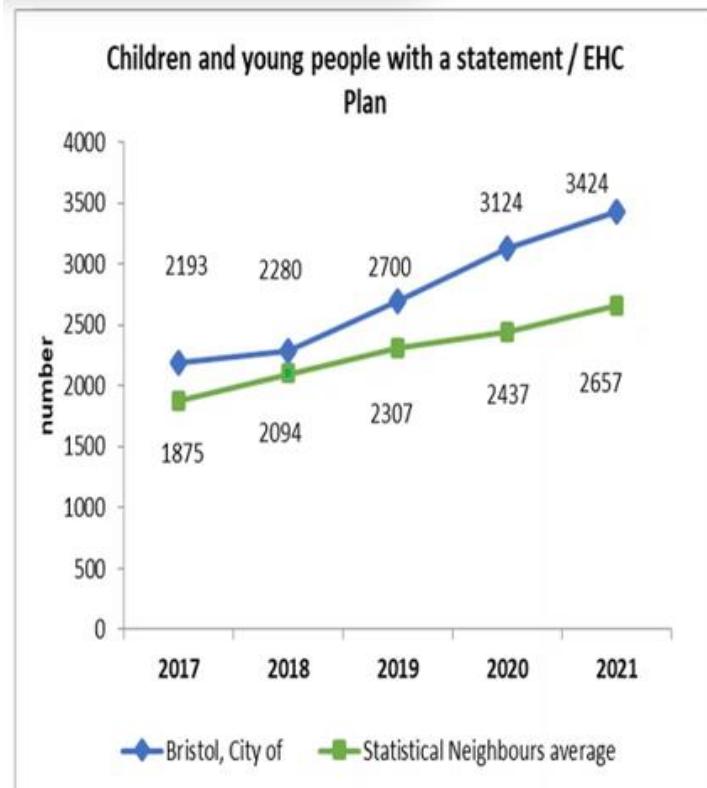
- 4.8 Top-up funding remains the single greatest pressure, with a significant forecast in year overspend of £10.687m in 2022/23. Current forecast is based on 2021/22 panels outcome which may result further deviation from this present outturn.
- 4.9 Detailed reports relating to SEND demand, forecasting and short to longer term changes in spend are being developed, these will be presented at future meetings, alongside the DSG Management Plan. Graphs outline current trend of Children and Young People requiring EHC plans is available in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.10 **The Education Transformation Programme** commenced in 2020-21 and is primarily concerned with SEN and consequently the High Needs Block, this will need to reduce future cost pressures in the block and make it more sustainable. Nationally High Needs continues to be challenging and in Bristol this has been exacerbated by work to clear the backlog of EHCP.
- 4.11 Following agreement of the Forum, the amount transferred from the Schools Block in 2022/23 is being used to contribute towards delivering the DSG Management Plan. We are currently forecasting that this funding of £1.531m will be fully utilised in 2022/23, and any underspends will be ring fenced and carried forward for this programme.
- 4.12 **Funding (Nil Variance).** £421.537m is the latest DSG amount notified by the ESFA as of 30th March 2022.

In summary the DSG is forecasting an in year overspend of £15.618m in Quarter 1 2022/23 against annual funding of £421.537m (per ESFA announcement on 30th March 2022), or a cumulative forecast overspend of £40.267m when including £24.650m deficit balance brought forward from previous years. As there is no indication of extending statutory overwrite by DfE or ESFA, therefore we will work on the assumption that this will end by 31/3/2023. This means delivering DGS management plan and mitigations will remain to be one of the key priorities for 2022-23. Detailed plans will be shared with the Forum in future meetings to bring High Needs overspend to a sustainable footing.

Appendix 1a: Number of initial EHCNA requests in Bristol and request increase benchmarking with neighbouring cities:



Appendix 1b:



Appendix 2 - Forecast position for Overall DSG 2022/23 as at Quarter 1 (to end of May 2022 extrapolated)

Bristol DSG Forecast Outturn position as at Quarter 1 2022/23	Brought forward 1.4.22	Funding 2022/23	Quarter 1 Forecast Outturn	In-year movement	Carry forward 31.3.23	2021/22 Outturn	Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Maintained Schools		82,610	82,610	0		82,672	(82,672)
Academy Recoupment		219,162	219,162	0		209,874	(209,874)
Growth Fund		2,889	2,889	0		2,420	(2,420)
Schools Block	0	304,661	304,661	0	0	294,966	(294,966)
De-delegation Services	(504)	0	(2)	(2)	(506)	49	(51)
Admissions	6	557,581	558	0	6	532	(532)
Centrally Retained	1	2,185	2,185	0	1	2,102	(2,102)
Schools Central Services	8	2,742	2,742	0	8	2,634	(2,634)
National Formula		26,675	26,615	(60)		27,523	(27,583)
2 Year Old Funding		3,088	3,087	(1)		3,562	(3,563)
Pupil Premium (EYPP)		356	339	(18)		288	(306)
Additional Support Services		500	500	0		499	(499)
SEN Top up		1,600	1,800	200		1,774	(1,574)
Staffing		2,029	2,014	(15)		1,980	(1,995)
Disability Access Fund		140	100	(40)		56	(96)
Early Years Block	(472)	34,388	34,455	66	(406)	35,681	(35,615)
Commissioned Services		2,612	3,548	936		3,069	(2,133)
Core Place Funding		8,950	8,950	0		8,499	(8,499)
Staffing		1,202	1,232	30		2,178	(2,148)
Top Up		38,679	49,365	10,687		42,845	(32,158)
Placements		10,396	13,113	2,717		12,264	(9,547)
Pupil Support		936	1,294	359		1,241	(883)
HOPE Virtual School		236	321	85		269	(184)
Academy Recoupment		15,204	15,204	0		13,415	(13,415)
Education Transformation		1,531	2,271	740		1,472	(732)
High Needs Block	25,619	79,745	95,298	15,554	41,173	85,252	(69,699)
Funding		421,537	421,537			(403,936)	
Total	24,650	(0)	15,618	15,618	40,267	16,788	(1,171)