

Notice of Meeting

Schools Forum

Monday 21st June 2021 at 5.00pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

The Council will be live streaming its meetings.

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Date of despatch of Agenda: Tuesday, 15th June 2021

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Jessica Bailiss on (01635) 503124
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Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday, 21 June 2021 *(continued)*

Forum Members: Reverend Mark Bennet, Dominic Boeck, Jonathon Chishick, Catie Colston, Jacquie Davies, Emily Dawkins, Keith Harvey, Michelle Harrison, Jon Hewitt, Brian Jenkins, Hilary Latimer, Sheila Loy, Ross Mackinnon, Maria Morgan, Julia Mortimore, Ian Nichol, Janet Patterson, Gemma Piper, Chris Prosser, David Ramsden, Campbell Smith, Graham Spellman, Jayne Steele and Charlotte Wilson

Agenda

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Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday, 21 June 2021 *(continued)*

Sarah Clarke
Service Director (Strategy and Governance)

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact
Stephen Chard on telephone (01635) 519462.



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Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

SCHOOLS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2021

Present: Reverend Mark Bennet (Church of England Diocese), Councillor Dominic Boeck (Executive Portfolio: Children, Young People and Education), Jonathon Chishick (Maintained Primary School Governor), Catie Colston (Maintained Primary School Governor), Jacquie Davies (Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher), Emily Dawkins (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Keith Harvey (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Jon Hewitt (Maintained Special School Headteacher), Brian Jenkins (Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Provider Representative), Hilary Latimer (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Sheila Loy (Academy School Governor), Councillor Ross Mackinnon (Executive Portfolio Holder: Finance and Economic Development), Maria Morgan (Maintained Nursery School Headteacher), Julia Mortimore (Academy School Headteacher), Ian Nichol (Maintained Primary School Governor), Janet Patterson (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Gemma Piper (Academy School Headteacher), Chris Prosser (Maintained Secondary School Headteacher), Campbell Smith (Academy School Governor), Graham Spellman (Roman Catholic Diocese) and Charlotte Wilson (Academy School Headteacher)

Also Present: Avril Allenby (Early Years Service Manager), Melanie Ellis (Chief Accountant), Ian Pearson (Head of Education Services), Jane Seymour (Service Manager, SEN & Disabled Children's Team) and Jessica Bailiss (Policy Officer (Executive Support))

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Richard Hawthorne and Michelle Sancho

PART I

1 Minutes of previous meeting dated 25th January 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2021 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Actions arising from previous meetings

Actions Jan21 – Ac1, Ac2 and Ac4 were either completed or in hand.

Regarding Jan21 – Ac3 concerning schools missing out on funding for free school meals, Ian Pearson reported that he had discussed this matter with the Department for Education (DfE). The DfE had changed the census date from January 2021 to October 2020. A number of children had become eligible for free school meals between October and January and would continue to do so between January and 1st April 2021. As a result of changing the date of the census schools would lose out on funding for these additional children.

The DfE had responded to the issue and had reported they were looking to bring the census dates in line with each other. Secondly they acknowledged that communication had been poor regarding the change. The DfE had however confirmed that the change would not be reversed going forward.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

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4 Membership

Jessica Bailiss reported that there was still a maintained secondary representative vacancy and an election would take place in the spring to try and fill the position in time for the next round of meetings. No School Forum Members were near reaching the end of their Term of Office.

5 Work Programme 2021/22 (Jessica Bailiss)

Jessica Bailiss introduced the report (Agenda Item 6), that sought approval of the work programme for 2021/22. Jessica Bailiss reported that the work programme largely followed the same pattern as in previous years and was subject to change throughout the year.

Sheila Loy proposed that the Schools' Forum approve the work programme for 2021/22 and this was seconded by Jonathon Chishick. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum approved the work programme for 2021/22.

6 Final High Needs Block Budget 2021/22 (Jane Seymour)

Jane Seymour introduced the report that set out the current financial position of the high needs budget for 2020/21, the position as far as it can be predicted for 2021/22, including likely shortfall, together with recommendation on Invest to Save Projects and a prediction of potential future High Needs Block (HNB) spend and savings.

At the last meeting of the Forum it had been agreed that the invest to save proposals agreed in 2020/21 should continue in to 2021/22. A request had also been made for further invest to save proposals for consideration, to be funded through a further 0.25% of the Schools' Block. The proposals set out under section seven of the report had been discussed at the last meeting of the Heads' Funding Group (HFG) and it was proposed that authority be delegated to the Head of Education Services to determine which invest to save projects would be funded and the level of funding for each project following consultation with the HFG at the 23rd March 2021 meeting.

Jane Seymour drew attention to section 3.8 of the report, which detailed that the net shortfall in the 2021-22 HNB was £4,086,306. This included a predicted 2020/21 overspend of £980,686 and carried forward overspends of £1,279,122 in 2019/20 and of £521,000 in 2018/19. Total carried overspend of £2,780,808). Without the carried forward overspends the shortfall in 2021/22 would be £1,305,498.

Regarding the additional invest to save proposals under section seven of the report, Jane Seymour reported these would be discussed further at the HFG if agreed by the Forum. The main focus of the proposals was children with Autism or Social and Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties as these were the areas where expenditure was highest for external placements. It had also been identified that specialist placements had needed to be provided for children with Autism or SEMH who had become Emotionally Based School Avoiders (EBSA). A range of possible projects were proposed to provide earlier intervention for these cases and achieve better outcomes, whilst reducing spend in the long term. More detail was required regarding the numbers of children and potential savings so this information would be submitted to the HFG on 23rd March.

Jonathon Chishick queried what 'EP' stood for and Jane Seymour confirmed that this stood for 'Educational Psychologist'.

Gemma Piper queried the timescales for when savings could be expected and asked what early tracking to assess impact would take place. Secondly regarding success criteria of the current invest to save proposals, Gemma Piper noted that there was no detail in relation to money contained within the report and queried if financial goals could be added, particularly in relation to areas such as 6.1.3 which involved the recruitment of

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a Therapeutic Thinking Officer. In response to this query, Jane Seymour report that evaluation had already started for the current invest to save projects listed under section six of Appendix A of the report. Some of this evaluation work had been delayed due to Covid-19. It was envisaged that a report would be brought to the Forum in the summer to update on each of the projects and impact. A report would also be brought to the Forum at the end of the financial year. Jane Seymour agreed that financial details needed to be added to the success criteria for each project. Many of the invest to save projects under section seven of the report involved appointments to posts. Impact in these areas could not be monitored until the roles had been recruited to. Draft success criteria including financial success criteria would be added to each proposal under section seven in time for the HFG on 23rd March 2021.

The Chairman drew attention to section two of the report and asked for clarification on each recommendation, particularly recommendation 2.3. Ian Pearson explained that the decision to transfer a further 0.25% to the High Needs Block had been taken at a late stage in the financial year. This had not provided the HFG with much time to consider the proposals and had resulted in the group not reaching a conclusion. It had been felt that further detail was required on each of the areas set out under section seven of the report. It was therefore suggested by the HFG that the Forum could agree in principle to apply the funding to the range of areas listed in section seven of the report, with the detail of the proposals discussed further at a special meeting of the HFG. As the HFG was not a decision making body it was proposed that the decision be delegated to the Head of Education Services following consultation with the HFG at a meeting on 23rd March 2021. This was in line with the Local Authorities constitutional arrangements.

Keith Harvey felt that the deficit in the block of £4m needed to be highlighted before any of the recommendations within the report were considered. He acknowledged that this had been discussed previously and that the necessary plans were in plan such as the SEND Strategy to bring the block back in to balance overtime. Ian Pearson suggested that the Forum might wish to consider agenda items eight, nine and twelve prior to taking a vote on the recommendations set out in the report.

Gemma Piper drew attention to page 36 of the report regarding projected expenditure and income. According to current consultation being conducted by the DfE, there could be a funding shock for the local area and she queried what would happen if this was the case and raised her concern regarding a further funding shock for the HNB. Secondly Gemma Piper referred to point seven on the table featured on page 38 and noted that this related to FE however, this was not shown on the graph. Gemma Piper was concerned that an important piece of data was missing as this accounted for the largest rise.

In response to Gemma Piper's query Lisa Potts confirmed that the data had been pulled together to help show what might happen in the future. It was not yet known what the likely increase in income would be overtime. Lisa Potts reported that the predictions for 2022/23 had been based on the increases that had been awarded in earlier years. Beyond 2022/23 it was anticipated that income could reduce further. Gemma Piper queried if there was a need for the Forum to respond to the DfE's consultation that was currently live. Lisa Potts reported that a response for the wider group could be included. The deadline for responses to the consultation was 24th March 2021.

In response to Gemma Piper's query regarding increases in EHCPs at FE provision, Jane Seymour reported that a footnote should have been added to this section of the report as the figures were slightly misleading. The figures rose from 55 in 2015 to over 100 in 2020, which looked like a significant increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) however, this was due to a transfer of responsibility for children with high needs from the Learning and Skills Council to the Local Authority and

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represented a transitional stage. These numbers did not place as large a pressure on expenditure as it seemed as there had been funding transferred for these young people. Other areas were causing a much larger pressure including young people placed in specialist placements and special schools.

Regarding the consultation referred to be Gemma Piper, Ian Pearson reported that a collective response would be very helpful. Ian Pearson explained that they were still within the time period where the Government had committed £14bn of additional expenditure, which had equated to about £2m of additional funding in West Berkshire. Despite this injection of funding, it had still not been possible to balance the HNB Block budget. The DfE was undertaking conversations with authorities with the highest deficits. Ian Pearson added that this was calculated by looking at a local authority's deficit as a percentage of the overall budget. In West Berkshire the deficit within the HNB was at about £4m against an overall budget of about £25m.

Reverend Mark Bennet asked where the £4m deficit sat and whether this was sustainable in the medium term. Reverend Bennet also noted that it had been suggested that the vote on the item be deferred until other items concerning the HNB had been considered and he stated that he supported this approach. Ian Pearson confirmed that the deficit was currently sitting on the balances. It was agreed that the vote on the item should be deferred until later on the agenda.

(The vote on this item was taken after the Forum had considered agenda items 8, 9 and 12, which also related to the HNB)

The Chairman invited the Forum to consider the recommendations under section two of the report:

- To agree the overall HNB budget for 2021-22. This included a 0.25% schools block transfer to fund the invest to save projects set out in Section 6 of Appendix A of the report.
- 2.2 To agree to invest a further 0.25% schools block transfer in the Invest to Save projects detailed in Section 7 of Appendix A of the report.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Head of Education Services to determine which invest to save projects would be funded and the level of funding for each project following consultation with the Heads Funding Group at the 23 March 2021 meeting.

Jonathon Chishick proposed that recommendations 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above be approved by the Forum and this was seconded by Jon Hewitt. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- Reporting on invest to save projects to be added to the work programme for the cycle of meetings during the summer 2021 and at the end of the financial year. This would need to include financial success criteria for each area.
- Jane Seymour and Lisa Potts to include a view from the Forum in the response to the DfE's consultation that was currently live.
- The Forum agreed the recommendations set out in section two of the report (as detailed above). An update would be provided regarding the outcome of 2.3 at the next Forum meeting in June 2021.

7 Special Schools Additional Funding (Jane Seymour)

Jane Seymour introduced the report, which sought agreement from the Schools' Forum to increase the value of special school funding bands by five percent.

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The funding scheme for special schools was devised in 2013 and since the funding scheme was introduced, the value of the special school funding bands had never been increased. There had been a 0.5% reduction in 2016/17 as part of a range of savings to address the overspend in the HNB.

Jane Seymour reported that there had been no increase in the value of the funding bands for children with EHCPs in mainstream schools and resourced schools. Special Schools were impacted on to a greater extent by this as all other their children had EHCPs and therefore all of their funding was derived from the high needs funding arrangements.

Since 2013, mainstream schools budgets had increased by 13.1% while special school budgets had decreased by 0.5%. The result of this was that special schools had been reliant on carried forward funding which was now reducing and they also had needed to make reductions to their provisions, which were listed under section 4.5 of the report.

Both special schools had reported that they would have to set a deficit budget for 2021-22 to avoid provision for children becoming unsafe if there was no increase in funding. Jane Seymour reported that Reading Borough had taken the decision to increase the value of its special school funding bands in 2021/22 by five percent.

Jane Seymour reported that to maintain the quality of provision and avoid special schools going into deficit it was proposed that the special school funding bands were increased by five percent. The approximate cost of this increase would be about £214k.

Gemma Piper believed that Reading Borough Council were applying a two percent increase to all EHCPs. Jane Seymour reported that she was only aware of an increase of five percent for special schools but she would seek clarity from her contacts at Reading Borough.

The Chairman invited the Forum to consider the recommendation to increase the value of funding bands for West Berkshire mainstreamed special schools by five percent. Keith Harvey proposed that the Forum approve the recommendation and this was seconded by Hilary Latimer. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that recommendation 2.1 to increase the value of funding bands for mainstream special schools by five percent was approved by the Schools' Forum.

8 Resourced Schools - funding bands for children with physical disabilities (Jane Seymour)

Jane Seymour introduced the report, which sought agreement from the Schools' Forum to amend the funding bands for resourced units for children with physical disabilities.

Jane Seymour reported that there were currently three funding bands for children with physical disabilities (PD) and PD resourced schools and these bands were no longer fit for purpose. It was becoming increasingly necessary to provide 'exceptional' funding to PD resourced provision as PD3 was not sufficient to meet the staffing needs of the most complex children. It was therefore proposed that the current Band PD1 was abolished and the value of the current Band PD2 was adopted as base funding for PD Resources. It was also proposed that a new band PD4 was introduced in order to reduce the number of cases where exceptional funding had to be applied.

Jane Seymour reported that the cost implications of the proposal were neutral as children were already being funded at higher levels than the existing funding bands through exceptional funding arrangements.

Reverend Mark Bennet asked if any work had taken place to track the number of children that had been kept out of a higher cost provision and whether this was a useful area of work for the Forum to consider. Reverend Bennet also noted that children with greater

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needs were being accepted into resourced provision and queried if there was scope to expand this further to prevent children having to enter higher level more expensive provision. Reverend Bennet stated that he would abstain from voting on the recommendation as he believed he had a conflicted interest. Jane Seymour reported that they could look at which children might have needed to move to a higher more specialist level of provision if resourced schools had not agreed to accept them. Regarding whether this could be expanded Jane Seymour reported that a whole range of issues would need to be looked at such as physical accommodation. Jane Seymour did not feel that there would be any scope to expand this area in the short term but was something that could be investigated further in consultation with the relevant headteachers. Jane Seymour confirmed that PD was not a group that produced high numbers of pupils like Autism and SEMH and therefore did not have the potential to deliver the same level of savings.

Jonathon Chishick queried if there was any data available to show how funding levels compared with other local authorities and if there were any national standards. Jane Seymour confirmed that there were no national standards for PD. Other local authorities with similar provision had been approached in the past for benchmarking data however, it had been difficult to obtain this as local authorities did not have to provide this data as part of a national return requirement by the DfE. The only way to obtain the data was through cooperation from other local authorities and this had not been successful in the past however, could be revisited.

The Chairman invited the Forum to consider the recommendation to approve that the funding bands for PD resourced units should be amended as set out in the report for 2021-22. Jonathon Chishick proposed that the recommendation should be approved and this was seconded by Catie Colston. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- Jane Seymour to look at data on which children might have needed to move to a higher more specialist level of provision if resourced schools had not agreed to accept them.
- Jane Seymour to look into the possibility of expanding the use of resourced provision for children with high level PD with the relevant headteachers, to avoid the use of higher level more expensive provision.
- Jane Seymour to look into approaching other local authorities to obtain benchmarking data regarding funding levels for PD.
- The recommendation set out in 2.1 of the report proposing that funding bands for PD resourced units should be amended as set out in the report, was approved by the Forum.

9 Early Years Block Budget 2021/22 and Deficit Recovery Plan (Avril Allenby/Lisa Potts)

Avril Allenby and Lisa Potts introduced the report that set out the proposal for the Early Years Budget, which was based on the recommendation of the Early Years Funding Group (EYFG).

Lisa Potts drew attention to section four of the report, which provided a forecast outturn for 2020/21 for the Early Years' Service. There had been a decline in the number of hours in the January 2021 census due to Covid-19 and this had been recognised by the DfE. If uptake was below 85% of the January 2020 census then a top up would be applied. The final census figures were not yet available for West Berkshire although provisional data indicated that uptake was at 89% and therefore top up funding might not be received.

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Regarding 2021/22, Lisa Potts reported that hours fluctuated year on year. Because the uptake for January 2021 was low Lisa Potts stated that she had created a number of options and used an average for the last three years for a basis for the budget for 2021/22. There was also a deficit for the block, which had been carried forward. Lisa Potts drew attention to section 5.1 of the report, which detailed that the EYFG had been consulted on reductions to the funding rates to recover the current deficit on the Early Years Block. A range of options were presented to the EYFG and the option chosen was detailed under the table in section 5.1. Lisa Potts stated that the table showed that a tapered approach to reducing rates would be used over a five year period. The Forum had agreed previously that efforts to recover the deficit should begin from April 2021. The table under section 5.2 estimated how the deficit could be repaid across the different areas and Lisa Potts stressed that this would need to be monitored as it was based on 2019/20 hours and the hours for the current year were slightly lower.

Lisa Potts drew attention to section 5.9 of the report, which provided detail on the reduction of hours in the 2020/21 financial year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This had made it particularly difficult to set the 2021/22 budget. Section 5.10 gave an overview of the budget totals for hours based on the reduced rates for 2021/22. One of the key factors in trying to recover the deficit in the Early Years Block was the pass through rate. Currently in West Berkshire more funds were being passed through than what was being received so the suggestion was to bring this down to 100% for year one and then it would be assessed going forward once further data was available.

Avril Allenby stated that the Early Years Budget had been discussed in great detail. The diversity of the sector made it a particularly challenging area. The Appendix to the report showed the impact on the different types of providers during the first year of recovery. Since drafting the report some funding had been secured, which was Covid grant money and could be given out to providers to support with costs.

Avril Allenby stressed that the context of the Early Years Budget and the uncertainties faced continued to be very challenging for providers, particularly around the uptake of hours. The proposal presented was the best fit approach to getting the budget back in line.

Revered Bennet noted that a Covid grant for providers had been mentioned to help provide support with costs. He highlighted that one of the issues likely to come out of the pandemic was developmental issues for children and he asked if there was likely to be any funding available to support providers with this. Avril Allenby reported that she did not believe that funding for this purpose was available from Government currently.

Ian Nichol noted that a decision had been made regarding the level of reduction in funding for three to four year olds; two year olds and deprivation and choices were clearly made. He noted that the funding for three to four year olds had reduced by 1.82%; funding for two year olds had reduced by 2.73% and deprivation funding rate had reduced by 42%. Ian Nichol was extremely concerned about the reduction in the deprivation rate, particularly at a time when there was concerns about vulnerable children. Ian Nichol was concerned that an equalities impact assessment had not been carried out as part of the report and this would have happened if it had been a Council report. Ian Nichol asked how the equalities impact of the recommendation had been assessed and evaluated by Officers.

In response to Ian Nichols question, Avril Allenby reported that a number of scenarios had been looked at and the impact these had across the different rate changes. Regarding deprivation, the Local Authority had taken a decision in the past to approach it differently to a lot of other authorities by topping up a fairly low base allocation from Government. Avril Allenby stated that in forming the proposal the aim had been to maintain levels of provision across the Authority that were appropriate and this was how

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the choice had been reached. Avril Allenby explained that it would be difficult to say that there would not be some impact on areas of deprivation but this was essentially because the funding to date had been very generous compared to other areas.

Ian Pearson stated that the proposal reduced the deficit budget overtime and the percentages quoted by Ian Nichol represented the reductions at the higher end across the five year period of the recovery plan. Funding for early years was particularly complicated and was very difficult to predict. The proposal which had been thoroughly discussed at the EYFG needed to be a dynamic recovery plan so that if the funding for early years was to change in a positive way then the level of reductions set out in the table could reduce. A starting point for the plan was required and the plan would need to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Maria Morgan reminded the group how the Pupil Premium worked in Early Years and how it differed to how it worked for schools. In Early Years it had to be applied for on a termly basis. In West Berkshire the rate had been topped up significantly. Regarding Reverend Bennet's point regarding children with additional needs, Maria Morgan reported that most of the money in Early Years went on staffing and ensuring ratios were met. The only area where savings could be made was support for children with additional needs and therefore this could have an impact in the long term and would need to be monitored. Maria Morgan highlighted that a large difficulty facing the sector was the pressure the Speech and Language Service was under due to the shortage of therapists and this was causing a 12 month wait for services. Maria Morgan stated that she had little doubt that children starting school in September 2021 and 2022 would be impacted by this.

Ian Nichol referred to the five year projection and stressed that deprivation funding was due to be cut by double what it was to be cut in year one. Ian Nichol asked for clarification that it was only the 2021 cuts that were for consideration and that there would be opportunity in future years to review the level of cuts and how they were distributed across the funding streams. It was felt that it would also be helpful to have a formal equalities impact assessment carried out as part of reporting. The Chairman confirmed that the proposal was to consider 2021/22 budget only. Ian Pearson noted the comments made by Ian Nichol and reiterated that the plan for recovery was dynamic and could be assessed annually against allocations and pressures within the block.

Gemma Piper requested that the number of providers impacted upon negatively, particularly those that had managed to remain open throughout the pandemic be included in future reporting. This would help to show the medium to long term impact. Avril Allenby reported that a Covid related report had been brought to the Forum previously and she felt it would be appropriate to update this.

The Chairman invited Members of the Forum to consider the recommendation to agree the 2020/22 budget as detailed in 5.10 of the report. This was proposed by Brian Jenkins and seconded by Reverend Bennett. At the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that

- Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out in the future when cuts were proposed.
- Avril Allenby would bring a report to a future meeting of the Forum that included detail on the number of providers impacted upon negatively, particularly those that had managed to remain open during the pandemic.
- The Schools Forum agreed the recommendation to approve the 2021/22 Early Years Budget as set out in the report.

10 Energy Topics (Christopher Harris)

Chris Harris introduced the report which sought to update the Schools' Forum on a number of energy related matters including; the transfer of electricity meters to EDF as part of the Council's central energy portfolio; the Council's current Purchasing Strategy; the current Environment Strategy and also the best ways to engage with schools regarding energy issues.

The purpose of the paper was to provide an update on some changes to the central energy contract. A number of schools were part of this contract and benefitted from economies of scale and the ability to obtain cheaper energy prices. The current framework was provided through Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and there was currently two electricity suppliers including EDF and British Gas. From 1st April 2021 the arrangement with British Gas would cease and meters would be transferred to EDF. There would be no costs associated with the transfer but there would be a process change in the way the billing was carried out. Invoices from EDF would be received centrally at the Council and a process would be put in place whereby the Council sent the information to school sites on a monthly basis.

Chris Harris reported that as part of the EDF contract the Energy Team were looking to do an exercise whereby they benchmarked the CCS framework against alternative providers to ensure value for money was still being offered. A brief benchmarking exercise had been carried out to date and had indicated that the CCS contract was still offering good value for money.

Catie Colston raised a query regarding timescales of the transfer as she noted that some admin work was involved and the 1st April was immediately prior to the Easter holidays which could pose a problem if schools were expected to use a new system. Chris Harris referred to the admin work mentioned and confirmed that he would be completing most of this and it was already underway. All that would be required from schools involved in the contract was clarification of the billing process and who the invoices needed to be sent to. Chris Harris confirmed that he would liaise with schools and EDF.

Ian Nichol raised a query regarding renewable energy and felt that it would be helpful to have more information on this in terms of the progress on the roll out to schools. Chris Harris reported that this was something the Energy Team would be able to provide and he would feed the information back to Phil Newton in this Team.

RESOLVED that:

- Phil Newton would be approached regarding providing an update on the roll out of renewable energy to schools.
- The Schools' Forum noted the report.

11 Impact of Covid 19 on the High Needs Block (Jane Seymour)

Jane Seymour introduced the report, which reported on the impact of Covid-19 on the High Needs Block (HNB).

Jane Seymour reported that it was very difficult to quantify the impact of Covid-19 on the HNB. There had been a significant increase in requests for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) however there had been a rising trend in this area anyway. It was likely that Covid could have caused children to fall further behind. Jane Seymour reported that the upward trajectory in this area needed to be carefully monitored and more detailed analysis undertaken to see how the increase related to Covid.

There was anecdotal evidence that the level of demand relating to EBSA was increasing and although this was a significant issue prior to Covid it was likely to have increased

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difficulties for children already dealing with anxiety issues around attendance due the large period of time out of school.

Jane Seymour concluded that it was not possible to be more specific about or quantify the impact of Covid on the HNB at that time.

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum noted the report.

12 Deficit Schools (Melanie Ellis)

Melanie Ellis introduced the report, which provided details of the five schools which had submitted deficit budgets for 2020/21; the two schools which ended the 2019/20 financial year with unlicensed deficit balances; deficit recovery progress statement from the school outlined above and summaries of schools that had informed West Berkshire Council they now expected to end the 2020/21 financial year with an unlicensed deficit balance.

Melanie Ellis reported that there were five schools with licensed deficits for 2020/21 and two of the five schools were predicting that they would be out of deficit by the end of the financial year. Schools remaining in deficit would need revised plans and would need to be monitored throughout the following financial year.

Section four of the report detailed that two schools had ended the financial year 2019/20 with unlicensed deficits. Both schools had submitted their Period Nine Budget Monitoring and Forecast report, which had been reviewed by the Schools' Accountancy Team and feedback provided. Both schools were predicting to be in a better financial position by the end of the financial year.

Melanie Ellis reported that the main concern was that at the end of Period Nine, six primary schools had informed the Local Authority that they now expected to end the financial year 2020/21 with an unplanned deficit on their Main School Budget, with the total forecast value of £94,002.

Seventeen primary schools also expected to end the year with unplanned year end deficits on their Out of Hours Clubs, with a total forecast value of £170,589. This had been hugely impacted by Covid. The Out of Hours budgets would be transferred to main school budgets at year end so once everything once added together it was possible that there could be 11 schools with deficits totally a value of about £224k. The picture on this would not be fully clear until year end. Melanie Ellis proposed to bring a report to the next meeting of the Forum in June 2021, which set out the final position of schools in deficit.

RESOLVED that:

- Melanie Ellis to bring a report to the next Forum meeting in June 2021, which set out the final position for schools in deficit.
- The Schools Forum noted the report.

13 DSG Monitoring 2020/21 Month 10 (Ian Pearson)

Ian Pearson introduced the report which set out the forecast financial position of the services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any under or over spends, and to highlight the cumulative deficit on the DSG.

Ian Pearson reported that being the month 10 report it was getting close to the end of the financial year and therefore would be fairly accurate. Much of the information contained within the report had been discussed as part of other reports earlier on the agenda, in particular the High Needs and Early Years Blocks. The report set out the in-year position however, the issue was the cumulative deficits in both the High Needs and Early Years Blocks. The aim for deficit recovery was to balance budgets in-year as the first priority and then to recover the deficit with a sensible approach.

SCHOOLS FORUM - 8 MARCH 2021 - MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Schools' Forum noted the report.

14 Date of the next meeting

Monday 21st June 2021 at 5pm.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and closed at 6.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

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Actions from previous meeting

Ref No.	Date of meeting(s) raised	Item	Action	Responsible Officer	Comment / Update
Mar21-Ac1	8th March 2021	Final High Needs Block Budget	Reporting on invest to save projects to be added to the work programme for the cycle of meetings during the summer 2021 and at the end of the financial year. This would need to include financial success criteria for each area.	Jane Seymour / Jessica Bailiss	This has been added to the cycle of meetings in October 2021 and March 2022.
Mar21-Ac2	8th March 2021	Final High Needs Block Budget	Jane Seymour and Lisa Potts to include a view from the Forum in the response to the DfE's consultation that was currently live.	Jane Seymour / Lisa Potts	A joint reponse was submitted.
Mar21-Ac3	8th March 2021	Final High Needs Block Budget	It was agreed that authority should be delegated to the Head of Education Services to determine which invest to save projects would be funded and the level of funding for each project following consultation with the Heads Funding Group at the 23 March 2021 meeting. An update would be provided on this at the next Forum in June 2021.	Ian Pearson	A verbal update will be provided at the Forum meeting in June.
Mar21-Ac4		Resourced Schools - funding bands for children with physical disabilities	Jane Seymour would look in to which children might have needed to move to a higher more specialist level of provision if resourced schools had not agreed to accept them.	Jane Seymour	There are currently 4 children in PD resourced provision who might have needed placement in a specialist PD school if the PD resources had not accepted them with a higher than usual funding package.

Mar21-Ac5		Resourced Schools - funding bands for children with physical disabilities	Jane Seymour to look into the possibility of expanding the use of resourced provision for children with high level PD with the relevant headteachers, to avoid the use of higher level more expensive provision.	Jane Seymour	This is an extremely low incidence group so numbers are likely to be very small. It is not therefore a case of necessarily expanding PD resourced provision in a physical sense, but more a question of negotiating with schools on a case by case basis about additional resources needed when these cases arise, which will be infrequent.
Mar21-Ac6		Resourced Schools - funding bands for children with physical disabilities	Jane Seymour to look into approaching other local authorities to obtain benchmarking data regarding funding levels for PD.	Jane Seymour	Information has been requested through the SE SEND Regional group.
Mar21-Ac7	8th March 2021	Early Years	Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out in the future when cuts were proposed.	Jessica Bailiss	A EIA will be carried out for any report requiring a decision going forward and is included under Appendix A to the Forum report template.
Mar21-Ac8	8th March 2021	Early Years	Avril Allenby would bring a report to a future meeting of the Forum that included detail on the number of providers impacted upon negatively, particularly those that had managed to remain open during the pandemic.	Avril Allenby	This is scheduled for the round of meetings in October 2021.
Mar21-Ac9	8th March 2021	Energy Topics	Phil Newton (Senior Energy Efficiency Officer - WBC) would be approached regarding providing an update on the roll out of renewable energy to schools.	Jessica Bailiss	A written update was circulated to Members of the Schools' Forum on 27th May 2021.
Mar21-Ac10	8th March 2021	Deficit Schools	Melanie Ellis to bring a report to the next Forum meeting in June 2021, which set out the final position for schools in deficit.	Melanie Ellis	This will be included under the Deficit Schools item in June 2021.

School Balances 2020/21

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 21st June 2021

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information **By:** All Maintained Schools Representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out for information purposes the year end balances for all maintained schools, highlighting those schools with a deficit or significant surplus.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the report.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction

- 3.1 The Scheme for Financing Schools states: “In order to control surplus balances, the authority will report the balances held by each school at the end of the financial year to the Schools’ Forum (during the Summer term), alongside the actual balance for the previous three years and any other data deemed to be of relevance. The Schools’ Forum may request individual schools to provide further information and/or attend a meeting of the Heads Funding Group if the data reported raises any concerns regarding their financial management in respect of their balances.”
- 3.2 This report provides an overview of school balances at the end of 2020/21. A separate report provides the detail for those schools either with a licensed deficit or ending the year with an unplanned deficit.

4. Overview of School Balances as at 31st March 2021

- 4.1 The schools’ accounts for 2020/21 have now been closed and the closing balances for each school determined. Table 1 summarises the overall closing balances (all funds) of West Berkshire maintained schools compared to the previous year.

TABLE 1	As at 31st	As at 31st	Increase/(Decrease)	
Total Balances Summary	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Nursery Schools	252	237	(16)	-6.2%
Primary Schools	3,396	4,182	786	23.1%
Secondary Schools	566	1,404	838	148.1%
Special Schools	933	1,611	678	72.7%
Pupil Referral Units	162	418	256	158.4%
Total for all Schools	5,309	7,852	2,543	47.9%

- 4.2 The school balances at 31st March 2021 total £7.85m, an increase of £2.54m from 2019/20. Nursery school balances have decreased, with the balances in the other school

types increasing year on year. Table 2 summarises the balances of West Berkshire maintained schools by fund.

2020/21 Balances by type of fund	Main School Budget	Pupil Premium	Revenue Sports Fund	Resource Units	Revenue Total	Community (Before & After school clubs)	Capital	Total Balances
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Nursery Schools	168	0	0	0	168	4	65	237
Primary Schools	2,917	282	396	(44)	3,551	93	538	4,182
Secondary Schools	1,378	0	0	0	1,378	0	27	1,404
Special Schools	1,407	74	51	0	1,532	12	66	1,611
Pupil Referral Units	353	0	18	0	371	0	47	418
Total for all Schools	6,222	356	466	(44)	7,000	109	743	7,852
2019/20 Balance	3,606	298	354	(9)	4,248	246	814	5,309
Increase/(Decrease)	2,616	58	112	(35)	2,751	(137)	(71)	2,543
%	72.5%	19.5%	31.7%	383.4%	64.8%	-55.6%	-8.7%	47.9%

4.3 In addition to £7m being held in revenue balances, £109k is held in before and after school club funds and £743k in capital balances.

- (1) The £109k balance in the before and after school clubs is significantly overstated, reflecting only those schools who ended the year with a credit balance. Any deficit balances on this fund are required to be met by the main school budget (MSB). 13 schools ended with a deficit balance totalling £143k. These deficit balances were transferred to the MSB.
- (2) Of the revenue balances, £356k is unspent pupil premium grant (though note that not all schools account for this separately and include within the MSB) and £466k is unspent sports premium grant. This grant is based on an academic year and the deadline to spend carried forward funding from 2019/20 academic year has been extended to the end of the 2020/21 academic year.
- (3) The deficit balance on the resource units has increased by £35k.

4.4 Table 3 summarises the main school balances.

Main School Balances	As at 31st March 2020	As at 31st March 2021	Inc/(Dec)	Balance as a % of funding
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Nursery Schools	162	168	6	15%
Primary Schools	2,078	2,917	839	5%
Secondary Schools	467	1,378	911	6%
Special Schools	792	1,407	614	14%
Pupil Referral Units	106	353	246	13%
Total for all Schools	3,606	6,222	2,616	7%

- (1) Primary school balances have increased by £839k to £2,917k. This represents 5% of the main school funding. 39 primary schools have seen an increase in balances (£1.19m), 14 with a decrease (£352k). A detailed breakdown per school is shown in Appendix A.
- (2) All three of the maintained secondary schools have increased balances in 2020/21 totalling £911k.

- (3) PRU's, special schools and nursery all have increased main school balances. Appendix B provides details of these.

4.5 Covid-19 has obviously had a significant impact upon schools, both operationally and financially. Schools received over £1.2m in grants related to Covid-19 from the DfE, £775k of which was the Covid-19 Catch Up Premium. For many schools the majority of the planned expenditure for this grant is in 2021/22, thereby increasing their carry forward balances. Although many primary and secondary schools were negatively impacted with loss of income from lettings and lack of fundraising events, overall this was significantly offset by reduced planned expenditure. This includes delayed replacement for staff vacancies, postponed training, reduced maintenance costs and planned work.

5. Schools with Significant Surpluses

The Schools' Forum previously agreed to remove the claw back scheme for schools with excess surplus balances with the understanding that information on high surplus balances would still be reviewed. Table 4 shows those schools with a surplus greater than 10% of their funding in 2020/21.

TABLE 4 Main School Surplus Balances	As at 31st March 2020	As at 31st March 2021	Percentage of %	Balance in excess of 10%
<u>Nursery</u>				
Victoria Park Nursery	118,983	119,985	22%	64,232
<u>Primary</u>				
Curridge Primary School	36,595	60,163	12%	9,133
Englefield Primary School	48,436	73,497	15%	23,112
Falkland Primary School	166,124	273,962	14%	82,564
John Rankin Federation	298,129	387,427	14%	118,270
Robert Sandilands	125,878	177,063	15%	58,458
Springfield Primary School	81,296	154,633	11%	10,397
St Paul's Primary School	93,651	181,504	14%	52,661
<u>Special</u>				
Brookfields Special School	425,991	879,012	15%	279,015
The Castle School	366,436	527,828	13%	119,926
<u>Pupil Referral Units</u>				
icollege	106,385	352,757	13%	85,838

6. Conclusion

6.1 Overall balances have increased from last year. Covid-19 has obviously had a significant impact upon schools, both operationally and financially. Although many primary and secondary schools were negatively impacted with loss of income from lettings and lack of fundraising events, overall this was significantly offset by reduced planned expenditure. Grant funding was received relating to Covid-19, and for many schools the majority of the planned expenditure against these grants will be in 2021/22, thereby increasing their carry forward balances.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Primary Schools
- 7.2 Appendix B – Main School Budget Balances Maintained Other Schools

School Balances 2020/21

Appendix A

Primary Schools	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
	£	£	£	£	£
Aldermaston Church of England Primary School	45,363	36,601	29,263	72,607	43,343
Basildon Church of England Primary School	2,952	10,918	(6,040)	(3,831)	2,209
Beedon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School	26,861	35,048	19,149	28,605	9,457
Beenham Primary School	(64,783)	(40,676)	(33,847)	(363)	33,484
Birch Copse Primary School	25,169	51,130	501	18,018	17,517
Bradfield Church of England Primary School	4,077	19,157	(1,779)	11,100	12,879
Brightwalton Church of England Aided Primary School	9,232	16,577	33,336	17,760	(15,577)
Brimpton Church of England Primary School	3,506	11,053	15,396	21,845	6,449
Bucklebury Church of England Primary School	25,631	6,565	(20,418)	22,471	42,889
Burghfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School	16,310	34,333	34,627	40,061	5,434
Calcot Schools Federation	129,103	197,284	116,363	151,376	35,013
Chaddleworth Shefford Federation Cof E Primary School	47,448	38,077	47,900	59,199	11,298
Chieveley Primary School	36,876	34,848	31,702	49,504	17,802
Cold Ash St Mark's Church of England Primary School	100,210	50,414	11,915	12,464	549
Compton Church of England Primary School	34,629	37,270	(26,608)	59,055	85,663
Curridge Primary School	26,022	31,964	36,595	60,163	23,568
Downsway Primary School	48,100	44,558	25,049	54,571	29,522
Enborne Church of England Primary School	14,962	(3,167)	2,446	15,184	12,738
Englefield Church of England Primary School	35,110	36,071	48,436	73,497	25,061
Falkland Primary School	133,531	116,175	166,124	273,962	107,837
Garland Junior School	52,629	36,014	41,281	53,059	11,777
Hampstead Norreys & The Ilsleys	(729)	42,026	(3,825)	10,311	14,137
Hermitage Primary School	11,226	11,233	26,971	19,019	(7,952)
Hungerford Primary School	52,054	73,899	103,085	87,029	(16,056)
Inkpen Primary School	22,427	28,399	15,767	8,819	(6,947)
John Rankin Schools Federation	(189,992)	48,646	298,129	387,427	89,298
Kennet Valley Primary School	27,068	35,467	25,522	48,726	23,204
Kintbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School	(12,317)	16,372	47,570	30,085	(17,486)
Long Lane Primary School	(17,060)	3,459	26,597	13,849	(12,748)
Mortimer Federation	60,008	73,236	63,176	35,100	(28,076)
Mrs Bland's Infant School	9,150	17,275	(32,526)	(12,613)	19,913
Pangbourne Primary School	26,901	28,584	19,379	15,341	(4,038)
Parsons Down Schools Federation	(22,432)	5,673	58,879	88,012	29,132
Purley Church of England Infant School	38,203	63,249	40,562	54,329	13,766
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	53,018	82,041	125,878	177,063	51,185
Shaw-cum-Donnington Church of England Primary School	32,043	35,057	25,140	5,407	(19,733)
Springfield Primary School	47,541	89,060	81,296	154,633	73,336
Spurcroft Primary School	52,785	211,676	103,681	(40,624)	(144,305)
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	(31,909)	(56,722)	(40,599)	(20,657)	19,942
St John the Evangelist Cof E Infant and Nursery School	(37,759)	3,462	487	27,893	27,406
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	49,633	9,730	7,606	11,678	4,071
St Nicolas Church of England Junior School	35,737	43,776	45,825	38,218	(7,608)
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	47,990	91,767	93,651	181,504	87,854
Streatley Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	105,998	87,502	32,757	31,501	(1,256)
Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CofE VA Primary School	(5,514)	2,944	10,525	13,630	3,105
Thatcham Park Church of England Primary School	76,275	79,123	41,932	81,345	39,413
The Kite Federation	4,625	(39,106)	6,467	59,369	52,902
The Willows Primary School	(212,694)	37,892	154,239	138,622	(15,617)
The Winchcombe School	96,787	71,213	95,590	40,408	(55,182)
Theale Church of England Primary School	7,723	23,669	5,747	38,018	32,271
Westwood Farm Schools Federation	(82,753)	(26,786)	6,502	62,307	55,805
Woolhampton Church of England Primary School	17,985	6,809	1,588	13,505	11,917
Yattendon Church of England Primary School	11,832	20,205	18,877	27,037	8,160
Total Primary Schools	1,026,791	2,021,041	2,077,868	2,916,597	838,729

School Balances 2020/21

Appendix B

	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
	£	£	£	£	£
Nursery Schools					
Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families	35,172	17,765	43,514	48,209	4,694
Victoria Park Nursery School	85,766	71,006	118,983	119,985	1,001
Total Nursery Schools	120,939	88,772	162,498	168,193	5,696
Secondary Schools					
The Downs School	290,539	173,786	30,622	151,869	121,248
Little Heath School	287,347	354,518	340,875	644,072	303,197
The Willink School	(98,684)	(151,086)	95,498	581,741	486,243
Total Secondary Schools	479,201	377,217	466,994	1,377,682	910,688
Special Schools					
Brookfields Special School	19,738	117,903	425,991	879,012	453,021
The Castle School	346,254	335,535	366,436	527,828	161,392
Total Special Schools	365,992	453,438	792,427	1,406,840	614,414
Pupil Referall Units					
iCollege Alternative Provision	252,095	53,871	106,385	352,757	246,372
Total PRUs	252,095	53,871	106,385	352,757	246,372
Total for all Schools	2,245,017	2,994,339	3,606,172	6,222,070	2,615,898

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Financial Impact of Covid 2020/21

Report being considered by: Schools' forum on 21st June 2021

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Discussion **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To outline the financial impact Covid has had on schools during 2020/21.

2. Recommendation

2.1 For discussion.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction/Background

3.1 2020/21 has been a difficult year financially due to the impact of Covid-19. This has had different impacts on schools, with some making cost savings, some incurring additional costs and some facing income losses, in particular from Out of Hours Clubs.

3.2 In order to fully assess the financial impact and to report to the Heads Funding Group and Schools Forum, we asked all maintained schools/nurseries to provide a statement regarding the financial impact, both positive and negative, that Covid-19 has had on the 2020/21 financial year. These statements form the basis of this report. At this meeting we will be seeking guidance on the process and support we can offer schools in 2021/22.

3.3 Statements were received from all maintained secondary and nurseries, and from 43 primaries. No statements were received from 10 primaries.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Schools were asked to report on their Main School Budget (MSB), Out of Hours clubs, PPG and Sports funds regarding:

- (1) Additional unbudgeted costs
- (2) Cost savings
- (3) Lost income
- (4) Additional funding received

5. Primary Schools

5.1 Main School Budget

MSB	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income	6,059	(2,238)	321,862	(641,882)	(316,199)
Staffing	381,003	(145,303)	90	-	235,790
Other costs	360,582	(411,465)	14,223	(1,041)	(37,701)
	747,644	(559,006)	336,175	(642,923)	(118,110)

Overall the unbudgeted costs and lost income were more than offset by cost savings and additional funding received, with an overall saving of £118k. Note, MSB also includes nursery provision. Key areas are highlighted below.

(1) Additional unbudgeted costs:

(a) Staffing:

- £184k teaching staff
- £109k supply staff
- £47k cleaners
- £26k lunchtime controllers to maintain bubbles

(b) Other costs:

- £117k property costs mostly cleaning
- £86k learning resources for home learning
- £75k out of hours
- £45k professional services such as extra tuition support
- £28k admin costs

(2) Cost savings:

(a) Staffing:

- -£63k teaching staff mostly from vacancies not covered
- -£22k supply staff
- -£13k other staff
- -£45k other mostly training

(b) Other:

- -£134k property costs from utilities and maintenance
- -£184k professional services mostly catering
- -£77k learning resources (books, stationary, visits, bus)
- -£12k admin

(3) Lost income:

- £199k lettings
- £73k out of hours / nursery
- £21k fundraising and clubs
- £15k catering

(4) Additional funding was all from Covid catch up funding/grants.

5.2 Out of Hours Clubs

Out of Hours Clubs/ ASD resource	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income	-	(51,745)	686,747	(6,294)	628,708
Staffing	8,012	(5,589)	-	-	2,423
Other costs	1,022	(114,306)	2,344	(28,236)	(139,176)
	9,034	(171,640)	689,091	(34,530)	491,955

Overall this is the area of biggest financial impact with a loss of £492k.

- Cost savings were made from property £56k, admin £10k, professional services £77k.
- Lost income ASD resource £24k, out of hours clubs £662k (22schools).
- Additional funding received was from furlough.

5.3 PPG and Sports

PPG & Sports	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income	-	(1,405)	1,520	-	115
Staffing	6,267	(13,675)	-	-	(7,408)
Other costs	1,936	(30,874)	-	-	(28,938)
	8,203	(45,954)	1,520	-	(36,231)

5.4 Total

Total	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income	6,059	(55,388)	1,010,129	(648,176)	312,624
Staffing	395,282	(164,567)	90	-	230,805
Other costs	363,540	(556,645)	16,567	(29,277)	(205,815)
	764,881	(776,600)	1,026,786	(677,453)	337,615

5.5 Overall the cost of Covid to primary schools amounts to £338k. It can be seen from the school balances report, that overall MSB balances have increased by £839k for primaries, however, within that, there are 39 schools showing an increase in balances of £1.19m and 14 showing a decrease of £352k. The 14 schools with a decrease in balances amounting to £352k reported Covid losses totalling £371k.

6. Secondary Schools

MSB Secondary Schools	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income			267,438	(273,518)	(6,080)
Staffing	101,995	(176,268)			(74,273)
Other costs	165,493	(388,449)			(222,956)
	267,488	(564,717)	267,438	(273,518)	(303,309)

Secondary schools are reporting savings overall due to Covid.

(1) Additional unbudgeted costs:

- £47k cleaning/caretaking staff
- £36k catering staff
- £14k supply staff
- £83k property
- £35k learning resources
- £20k admin
- £22k professional services

(2) Cost savings

- -£29k training
- -£42k casual, overtime, supply
- -£63k vacancies
- -£20k exam invigilators
- -£144k property
- -£150k learning resources
- -£39k admin
- -£54k professional services

(3) Lost income was from lettings, catering sales, contributions

- (4) Additional funding was from furlough, catch up funding, additional cost funding.

6.2 I-College showed savings overall and no additional costs. The I-College did its own cleaning and admin, and ran five separate site bubbles saving on transport.

7. Nursery schools

Nursery MSB/Fund 30	Additional Unbudgeted Costs	Cost Savings	Lost Income	Additional Funding Received	Total
Funding and Income			78,527		78,527
Staffing	14,634				14,634
Other costs	28,067	(27,690)			377
	42,701	(27,690)	78,527	-	93,538

8. Options for Consideration

8.1 To consider what support can be provided to those schools impacted financially by Covid.

9. Proposals

9.1 To discuss.

10. Conclusion

10.1 Primary schools and nursery schools have seen overall losses from Covid. Secondary schools and I-College have seen savings.

11. Consultation and Engagement

11.1 All schools were asked to submit a Covid impact statement.

12. Heads Funding Group Recommendation

N/A

Appendix A

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which states:

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;*
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;**
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.**
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.*
 - (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.*

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality (the relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected, but on the significance of the impact on them):

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the Council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Schools' Forum to make:	
Name of Service/Directorate:	
Name of assessor:	
Date of assessment:	

Is this a ?		Is this policy, strategy, function or service ... ?	
Policy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	New or proposed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Function	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is changing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Service	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

(1) What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	
Objectives:	
Outcomes:	
Benefits:	

(2) Which groups might be affected and how? Is it positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this?			
<i>(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation)</i>			
Group Affected	Potential Positive Impacts	Potential Negative Impacts	Evidence
Age			
Disability			
Gender Reassignment			
Marriage and Civil Partnership			

Pregnancy and Maternity			
Race			
Religion or Belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			
Further Comments:			

(3) Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer:	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide an explanation for your answer:	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a EqIA 2.

If an EqIA 2 is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the EqIA guidance and template – <http://intranet/index.aspx?articleid=32255>.

(4) Identify next steps as appropriate:	
EqIA Stage 2 required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Owner of EqIA Stage Two:	
Timescale for EqIA Stage Two:	

Name:

Date:

Please now forward this completed form to Pamela Voss, Equality and Diversity Officer (pamela.voss@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website

2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant: Year End Outturn Report

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 21st June 2021

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outturn of the services funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), highlighting any under or over spends, and to highlight the cumulative deficit at 31 March 2021.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced specific grant which can only be spent on school/pupil activity as set out in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018. There are four DSG funding blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services.
- 3.2 The Local Authority and Schools' Forum are responsible for ensuring that the DSG is deployed correctly according to the Regulations. Monitoring of spend against the grant needs to take place regularly to enable decision making on deficits and surpluses and to inform future year budget requirements.
- 3.3 Deficits must be carried forward to be dealt with from future DSG income.

4. Year End Outturn

DSG Summary Outturn 2020/21	Amended Budget 2020/21	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit/ (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds available	(97,037)	(97,037)	0
Total expenditure including SSR's	98,415	96,890	(1,525)
In-Year Deficit Recovery Target	(1,378)	0	1,378
Net in year (surplus) / deficit	0	(147)	(147)
Deficit / (surplus) balance b/f	1,607		1,607
Cumulative (surplus) / deficit	1,607	(147)	1,460

- 4.1 The 2020/21 DSG expenditure budget was set £1.98m higher than available funding, and this was treated as an in-year deficit recovery target against the High Needs and Early Years blocks. An adjustment to the Early Years funding reduced this target to £1.4m.
- 4.2 Overall DSG spend for 2020/21 was £1.5m less than budgeted, helping to off-set the in-year deficit, resulting in a small overall underspend of £147k.
- 4.3 From previous years, there was a cumulative deficit of £1.6m. The 2020/21 outturn position has reduced the cumulative deficit position to £1.46m. This will be carried forward against the relevant DSG blocks in the 2021/22 budget.
- 4.4 The year end position by block is shown in the chart below:

Table 1 - DSG Block outturn 2020/21	Original Budget 2020/21	Budget Changes	Amended Budget 2020/21	Quarter 1 Forecast	Quarter 2 Forecast	Quarter 3 Forecast	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit/ (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block (inc ISB)	65,221	149	65,370	65,221	65,221	65,221	64,491	(879)
Early Years Block	10,381		10,381	10,381	10,381	10,564	10,346	(35)
Early Years Block In- Year deficit recovery	(795)	577	(217)	0	0	0	0	217
Central School Services Block	834		834	883	880	813	856	23
High Needs Block	21,387		21,387	21,343	21,566	21,313	20,753	(634)
High Needs Block In-Year deficit recovery	(1,185)	24	(1,161)	0	0	0	0	1,161
Total Block Expenditure	95,843	750	96,593	97,828	98,049	97,911	96,446	(147)
Support Service Recharges	444	0	444	444	444	444	444	0
Total Expenditure	96,287	750	97,037	98,272	98,493	98,355	96,890	(147)
Funded by:								
DSG Grant	(96,287)	(750)	(97,037)	(96,287)	(96,287)	(97,037)	(97,037)	0
Net In-year Deficit	0	0	0	1,985	2,205	1,319	(147)	(147)
Deficit Balance b/f	1,607		1,607	1,607	1,607	1,607	1,607	1,607
Cumulative Deficit at 31.3.21	1,607	0	1,607	3,593	3,813	2,926	1,460	1,460

5. Schools Block

Schools Block 2020/21	Gross budget	Academy & High Needs	Draft Budget	Budget Changes	Amended Budget	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit / (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds available	(105,311)	39,611	(65,700)	149	(65,551)	(65,700)	(149)
Expenditure	105,245	(39,611)	65,221	0	65,221	64,491	(730)
SSR	67	0	67	0	67	67	0
Net in year (surplus) / deficit	0	0	(412)	149	(263)	(1,142)	(879)
Surplus b/f							(1,033)
Cumulative (surplus) / deficit at 31.3.21							(1,912)

NB rounding may apply to nearest £1k

- 5.1 The 2020/21 budget was funded from DSG grant of £65.7m. At year end, overall DSG funding received was £149k more than budgeted, and expenditure was underspent by £730k, mainly from unspent growth fund. The table below shows the cumulative surplus balance.

Schools Block (surplus)/deficit	1.4.2020	Outturn 2020/21	31.3.2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Growth Fund	(666)	(835)	(1,501)
Schools in Financial Difficulty	(181)	11	(170)
School Improvement	(41)	0	(41)
EMTAS	(41)	(55)	(96)
Therapeutic Thinking	(2)	(25)	(27)
CLEAPPS	0	(1)	(1)
Trade Union	0	4	4
Schools (re rates adj)	(102)	22	(80)
Total Surplus Balance	(1,033)	(879)	(1,912)

6. Early Years Block

Early Years Block 2020/21	Gross budget	Draft Budget	Budget Changes	Amended Budget	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit / (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds available	(9,652)	(9,652)	(577)	(10,229)	(10,229)	0
Deficit Recovery Target	(795)	(795)	577	(217)	0	217
Expenditure	10,381	10,381	0	10,381	10,346	(35)
SSR	66	66	0	66	66	0
Net in year (surplus) / deficit	1	1	0	1	182	182
Prior year deficit held b/f						788
Cumulative deficit at 31.3.21						970

- 6.1 At year end, overall DSG funding received was £577k higher than budgeted as a result of the 2019/20 final grant notification. Expenditure was underspent by £35k, resulting in a year end position of £182k deficit.
- 6.2 The Early Years Block is difficult to predict due to the volatile nature of both the funding (the final grant allocation is determined by the January 2021 census), and payments to providers (payments are made according to actual number of hours of provision each term).
- 6.3 A deficit recovery programme is in place to reduce the current deficit over a 5 year period.

7. Central Schools Services Block

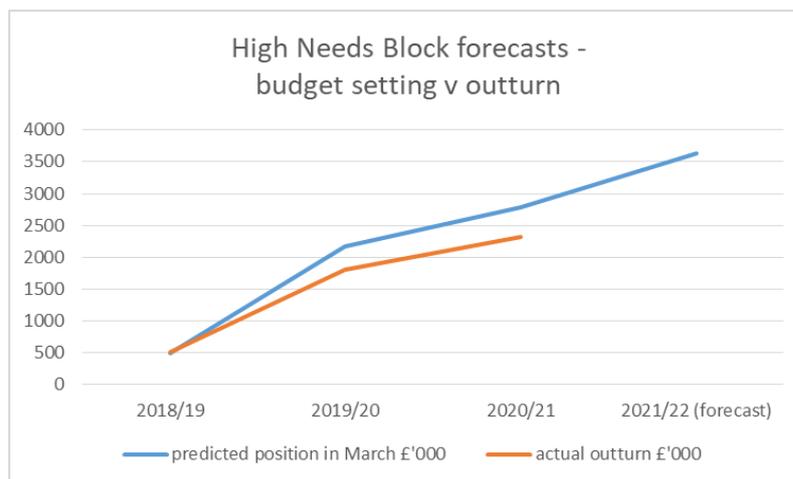
Central School Services Block 2020/21	Gross budget	Draft Budget	Budget Changes	Amended Budget	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit / (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds available	(959)	(959)	0	(959)	(959)	0
Expenditure	834	834	0	834	856	23
SSR	125	125	0	125	125	0
Net in year (surplus) / deficit	0	0	0	0	23	23
Prior year deficit b/f						49
Cumulative deficit at 31.3.21						72

- 7.1 At year end, overall DSG funding received was on budget and expenditure was overspent by £23k. The over spend was due to an in year efficiency target against the grant, which was only partly met.
- 7.2 The cumulative deficit on this block is £72k. Options will be explored to reduce this deficit when setting the 2022/23 budget.

8. High Needs Block

High Needs Block 2020/21	Gross budget	Draft Budget	Budget Changes	Amended Budget	Quarter 4 Outturn	Deficit / (surplus)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Funds available	(21,667)	(21,667)	(24)	(21,691)	(21,691)	0
Deficit Recovery Target	(1,185)	(1,185)	24	(1,161)	0	1,161
Expenditure	21,387	21,387	0	21,387	20,753	(634)
SSR	186	186	0	186	186	0
Net in year (surplus) / deficit	(1,279)	(1,279)	0	(1,279)	(752)	527
Prior year deficit b/f						1,800
Cumulative deficit at 31.3.21						2,327

- 8.1 At year end, overall DSG funding received was £24k higher than budget due to a higher than predicted import export adjustment.
- 8.2 The 2020/21 budget was set with a £1.2m deficit recovery target. The block made expenditure savings of £634k, leaving an in-year deficit of £527k. The main variances against expenditure are as follows:
- £331k saving from 1 successful tribunal and children being placed in local mainstream and local specialist provision.
 - £132k savings have been achieved on the Disproportionate High Needs costs and the Medical Home Tuition service, which transferred in-house in Sept 2019.
 - £255k savings on the Special Schools and Further Education Top Up Funding.
- 8.3 The cumulative deficit against this block is now £2.3m at the end of 2020/21.
- 8.4 The graph below shows the cumulative deficit position that was forecast during the budget setting period, compared to the actual deficit cumulative position at the end of the financial year.



9. Total Reserve Balance and cumulative deficit

9.1 The DSG now has a cumulative deficit of £1.46m. The High Needs Block deficit has increased but a surplus in the schools block is reducing the overall total for the authority. The Department for Education have issued a template for authorities to complete to enable them to plan how the deficits can be managed. This is currently being reviewed by the finance and SEN teams. At the present time there is no definitive deadline for this work to be completed for the Department for Education, but anything we can learn from the process will help towards the 2022/23 build in the autumn.

DSG (Surplus)/deficit balance	1.4.2020	Outturn position	31.3.2021 Est
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools Block De-delegated	(265)	(66)	(331)
Schools Block - growth fund	(666)	(835)	(1,501)
Schools Block - other	(102)	22	(80)
Early Years Block	788	182	970
Central School Services Block	49	23	72
High Needs Block	1,800	527	2,327
Grant changes	3	0	3
Total Deficit Balance	1,607	(147)	1,460

10. Conclusion

10.1 The cumulative deficit on the DSG blocks now totals £1.46m. A recovery plan is due to the Department of Education and guidance is awaited on when to submit this. Over spends in the High Needs Block are the most significant with a total deficit against this block of £2.3m and this will remain the area of focus going in 2021/22 and beyond.

11. Appendices

Appendix A – DSG 2020/21 Budget Monitoring Report: Outturn

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2020/2021 Budget Monitoring Outturn								
Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2020/21	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2020/21	Outturn	Adjustment	Variance	Comments
90020	Primary Schools (excluding nursery funding)	47,677,060		47,677,060	47,698,988		21,928	Pressure on Theale business rates
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Primary	0		0	0		0	
90025	Secondary Schools (excluding 6th form funding)	16,115,140		16,115,140	16,114,898		-242	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Secondary	0		0	0		0	
90230	DD - Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary schools)	19,000		19,000	30,179		11,179	
90113	DD - Trade Union Costs	47,090		47,090	50,940		3,850	
90255	DD - Support to Ethnic minority & bilingual Learners	224,660		224,660	160,000		-64,660	
90349	DD - Behaviour Support Services	216,390		216,390	191,616		-24,774	Large savings on staff due to a restructure following a retirement
90424	DD - CLEAPSS	3,070		3,070	2,101		-969	Saving on staffing costs
90470	DD - School Improvement	0		0	0		0	
90423	DD - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	172,930		172,930	172,926		-4	
90235	School Contingency - Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	756,100	148,845	904,945	69,836		-835,109	
90054	Efficiency Target	-10,070		-10,070	0		10,070	
	Schools Block Total	65,221,370	148,845	65,370,215	64,491,485	0	-878,730	
90583	National Copyright Licences	140,190		140,190	140,190		-1	
90019	Servicing of Schools Forum	43,940		43,940	43,885		-55	
90743	School Admissions	176,270		176,270	175,652		-618	
90354	ESG - Education Welfare	170,790		170,790	146,319		-24,471	Saving on staffing costs
90460	ESG - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	351,590		351,590	350,360		-1,230	
90054	Efficiency Target	-49,000		-49,000	0		49,000	
	Central School Services Block DSG	833,780	0	833,780	856,407	0	22,627	
90010	Early Years Funding - Nursery Schools	938,110		938,110	898,890		-39,220	
90037	Early Years Funding - Maintained Schools	1,650,420		1,650,420	1,671,389		20,969	
90036	Early Years Funding - PVI Sector	6,423,350		6,423,350	6,550,088		126,738	
90052	Early Years PFG & Deprivation Funding	188,380		188,380	231,085		42,705	
90053	Disability Access Fund	23,370		23,370	12,300		-11,070	
90018	2 year old funding	756,830		756,830	628,344		-128,486	
90017	Central Expenditure on Children under 5	258,450		258,450	261,459		3,009	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	51,950		51,950	48,965		-2,985	
90238	Early Years Inclusion Fund	90,000		90,000	71,658		-18,342	Reduced spend due to Covid
various	Additional payment re Autumn term	0		0	0		0	
90054	Efficiency Target	-794,570	577,447	-217,123	0	-28,671	188,452	
	Early Years Block Total	9,586,290	577,447	10,163,737	10,374,179	-28,671	181,771	
90026	Academy Schools RU Top Ups	948,280		948,280	1,016,637		68,357	
90546	Special Schools - Place Funding Post 16	790,000		790,000	790,000		0	
90539	Special Schools - Top Up Funding	3,986,360		3,986,360	4,014,247		27,887	
90548	Non WBC Special Schools - Top Up Funding	1,194,300		1,194,300	862,361		-331,939	One tribunal saving; children placed in local special schools and local independent
90551	Mainstream Maintained - post 16 SEN places	0		0	30,000		30,000	
90575	Non LEA Special School (OofA)	1,068,200		1,068,200	986,016		-82,184	
90579	Independent Special School Place & Top Up	2,797,000		2,797,000	2,636,088		-160,912	
90580	Further Education Colleges Top Up	1,087,730		1,087,730	993,861		-93,869	
90617	Resourced Units top up Funding maintained	313,650		313,650	285,803		-27,847	
90618	Non WBC Resourced Units - Top Up Funding	130,600		130,600	191,997		61,397	
90621	Mainstream - Top Up Funding maintained	779,450		779,450	790,047		10,597	
90622	Mainstream - Top Up Funding Academies	389,600		389,600	412,090		22,490	
90624	Non WBC Mainstream - Top Up Funding	70,590		70,590	138,703		68,113	13 new placements
90625	Pupil Referral Units - Top Up Funding	818,400		818,400	807,074		-11,326	
90627	Disproportionate No: of HN Pupils - NEW	100,000		100,000	33,550		-66,450	
90628	EHCP PRU Placement	557,520		557,520	581,965		24,445	
	High Needs Block: Top Up Funding Total	15,031,680	0	15,031,680	14,570,439		-461,241	
90320	Pupil Referral Units	660,000		660,000	660,000		0	
90540	Special Schools	2,860,000		2,860,000	2,860,000		0	
90584	Resourced Units - Place Funding (70)	230,000		230,000	222,000		-8,000	
	High Needs Block: Place Funding Total	3,750,000	0	3,750,000	3,742,000		-8,000	
90240	Applied Behaviour Analysis	136,580		136,580	146,790		10,210	
90280	Special Needs Support Team	308,130		308,130	306,671		-1,459	
90281	SEND Strategy (DSG)	61,060		61,060	40,137		-20,923	
90282	Medical Home Tuition	205,000		205,000	138,626		-66,374	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	51,950		51,950	48,965		-2,985	
90288	Elective Home Education Monitoring	28,240		28,240	20,291		-7,949	
90290	Sensory Impairment	227,590		227,590	250,944		23,354	
90295	Therapy Services	261,470		261,470	259,327		-2,143	
90372	Therapeutic Thinking	58,000		58,000	51,214		-6,786	
90555	LAL Funding	116,200		116,200	114,900		-1,300	
90565	Equipment For SEN Pupils	15,000		15,000	25,972		10,972	
90577	SEN Commissioned Provision	567,650		567,650	558,395		-9,255	
90582	PRU Outreach	61,200		61,200	61,200		0	
90585	HN Outreach Special Schools	50,000		50,000	50,000		0	
90610	Hospital Tuition	39,050		39,050	19,850		-19,200	
90830	ASD Teachers	208,390		208,390	141,735		-66,655	
90961	Vulnerable Children	179,400		179,400	175,204		-4,196	
90581	Dingleys Promise	30,000		30,000	30,000		0	
	High Needs Block: Non Top Up or Place Funding	2,604,910	0	2,604,910	2,440,220	0	-164,690	
90054	Efficiency Target	-1,184,910	24,000	-1,160,910	0		1,160,910	
	High Needs Block Total	20,201,680	24,000	20,225,680	20,752,658	0	526,978	
	Total Expenditure across funding blocks	95,843,120	750,292	96,593,412	96,474,729	-28,671	-147,354	
	SUPPORT SERVICE RECHARGES	444,000	0	444,000	444,000	0	0	
	TOTAL DSG EXPENDITURE	96,287,120	750,292	97,037,412	96,918,729	-28,671	-147,354	
90030	DSG Grant Account	-96,287,120	-750,292	-97,037,412	-96,918,729	-118,683	0	
	NET DSG EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	-147,354	-147,354	

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Schools: Deficit Recovery

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 21st June 2021

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information **By:** All Maintained Schools Representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outturn position of the four schools that set a deficit budget in 2020/21, and to report on schools closing 2020/21 with an unlicensed deficit.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction

- 3.1 Schools are permitted to set a deficit budget if they meet certain conditions. This is termed a licensed deficit. The conditions of a licensed deficit are set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools (the legal contract the Council has with schools) and include the following statement, “The recommended length over which schools may repay the deficit, i.e. reach at least a zero balance, with appropriate mechanism to ensure that the deficit is not simply extended indefinitely, is three years. The maximum length of repayment is five years.”
- 3.2 If the conditions are not met by the school, the Council has the power to issue a Notice of Concern, which ultimately could mean removal of a school’s delegation.
- 3.3 Four schools set a licensed deficit budget for 2020/21 totalling £98.5k. A fifth school operated with licensed deficit budget in 2019/20 and set a recovered budget for 2020/21 forecasting a year end surplus of £0.1k. During 2020/21 the school was supported as if operating with a licensed deficit.

4. West Berkshire Strategy for Schools in Deficit

- 4.1 The Council has adopted a strategy aimed to minimise the number and size of deficits. It is in two parts:
- (1) Procedures to support schools to reduce/eliminate or avoid a deficit
 - (2) Intervention for schools not meeting their deficit recovery plan.
- 4.2 Approval of a licensed deficit requires the school to do the following:
- (1) Submit monthly budget monitoring reports (M3 and then M6 to M11 inclusive)

- (2) Submit a copy of draft and final governor meeting minutes (including Part 2) where the budget is discussed
- (3) To attend meetings with the local authority when requested to address any budget concerns
- (4) Submit deficit recovery progress reports when requested.
- (5) Submit five year detailed deficit recovery plan.

4.3 The council's Schools Finance team includes a dedicated resource to work with the schools that are operating in a deficit and to offer support to those who are likely to enter a deficit position.

5. 2020/21 Outturn Position - Licensed Deficit Schools

5.1 Four schools had a Main School Budget (MSB) licensed deficit in 2020/21, totalling £98.4k. The final outturn position for these schools was a closing deficit of £11.9k. A summary is shown below:

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit	P9 Forecast # P10 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
1 Bradfield	£8,380	(£1,984)	(£11,100)	£19,480	£9,116
2 Hampstead Norreys & The Ilsleys #	£18,870	(£2,668)	(£10,311)	£29,181	£7,643
3 Mrs Blands Infant & Nursery	£36,820	£47,573	£12,613	£24,207	£34,960
4 St Finians	£34,310	£35,240	£20,657	£13,653	£14,583
TOTAL	£98,380	£78,163	£11,862	£86,521	£66,302

5.2 The final outturn of the fifth school which had planned to recover in 2020/21 was unable to do so. A summary is shown below:

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Surplus	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Beenham	(£110)	£6,372	£363	(£473)	£6,009

5.3 The combined final outturn of all five schools is shown below:

	Original MSB Deficit/Surplus	P9 Forecast # P10 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	3-1=4	3-2=5
SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	£98,380	£78,163	£11,862	£86,521	£66,302
SCHOOLS PLANNING TO RETURN TO SURPLUS 2020/21	(£110)	£6,372	£363	(£473)	£6,009
TOTAL	£98,270	£84,535	£12,225	£86,048	£72,311

5.4 The overall improvement from budget to year end is £86k which is an excellent outturn, with two of the schools ending the year in surplus. Each school is covered in detail below:

(1) Bradfield

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£585)	Surplus
2017/18	(£4,077)	Surplus
2018/19	(£19,157)	Surplus
2019/20	£1,779	Deficit
2020/21	(£11,100)	Surplus

The final outturn position was a £11.1k surplus balance, which is a £19.5k improvement on the original budgeted deficit of £8.4k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Bradfield	£8,380	(£1,984)	(£11,100)	£19,480	£9,116

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

Bradfield MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£612,290	£616,974	(£4,684)	Overspend
Non Staffing budget	£104,530	£113,188	(£8,658)	Overspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£716,820	£730,161	(£13,341)	
Income	(£11,700)	(£16,025)	£4,325	Additional Income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£715,120	£714,136	£984	
Balance Brought Forward	£1,780	£1,779	£1	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£673,640)	(£674,723)	£1,083	Underbudgeted
SEN funding	(£12,570)	(£16,943)	£4,373	Underbudgeted
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£667)	£667	Not in budget
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£7,380)	£7,380	Not in budget
Additional Grant for Schools	(£22,310)	(£27,302)	£4,992	Underbudgeted
Total Funding	(£706,740)	(£725,236)	£18,496	
TOTAL	£8,380	(£11,100)	£19,480	

(2) Hampstead Norreys and The Ilsleys

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2017/18	£729	Deficit
2018/19	(£42,026)	Surplus
2019/20	£3,825	Deficit
2020/21	(£10,311)	Surplus

The final outturn position was a £10.3k surplus balance, which is a £29.2k improvement on the original budgeted deficit of £18.9k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit	P10 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Hampstead Norreys & The Ilsleys	£18,870	(£2,668)	(£10,311)	£29,181	£7,643

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

The Federation of Hampstead Norreys and The Ilsleys MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£651,000	£646,146	£4,854	Underspend
Non Staffing budget	£219,880	£202,013	£17,867	Underspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£870,880	£848,158	£22,722	
Income	(£15,250)	(£17,913)	£2,663	Additional Income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£855,630	£830,245	£25,385	
Balance Brought Forward	£3,830	£3,825	£5	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£817,620)	(£817,615)	(£5)	Rounding
SEN funding	(£3,600)	(£3,598)	(£2)	Rounding
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£907)	£907	Not in budget
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£7,050)	£7,050	Not in budget
Additional Grant for Schools	(£19,370)	(£15,212)	(£4,158)	Overbudgeted
Total Funding	(£836,760)	(£840,557)	£3,797	
TOTAL	£18,870	(£10,311)	£29,181	

(3) Mrs Blands

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£6,444)	Surplus
2017/18	(£9,150)	Surplus
2018/19	(£17,275)	Surplus
2019/20	£32,526	Deficit
2020/21	£12,613	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £12.6k deficit balance, which is a £24.2k improvement on the original budgeted deficit of £36.8k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Mrs Blands Infant	£36,820	£47,573	£12,613	£24,207	£34,960

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

Mrs Blands Infant & Nursery School MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£925,380	£907,237	£18,143	Underspend
Non Staffing budget	£225,040	£234,380	(£9,340)	Overspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1,150,420	£1,141,617	£8,803	
Income	(£84,550)	(£65,787)	(£18,763)	Less income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£1,065,870	£1,075,830	(£9,960)	
Balance Brought Forward	£32,530	£32,526	£4	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£923,940)	(£934,512)	£10,572	Underbudgeted
SEN funding	(£6,590)	(£10,476)	£3,886	Underbudgeted
Pupil Premium	(£61,490)	(£66,538)	£5,048	Underbudgeted
Job Retention Scheme	£0	(£10,298)	£10,298	Not in budget
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£5,482)	£5,482	Not in budget
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£8,220)	£8,220	Not in budget
Additional Grant for Schools	(£69,560)	(£60,217)	(£9,343)	Overbudgeted
Total Funding	(£1,029,050)	(£1,063,217)	£34,167	
TOTAL	£36,820	£12,613	£24,207	

4) St Finians

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£7,714	Deficit
2017/18	£31,909	Deficit
2018/19	£56,722	Deficit
2019/20	£40,599	Deficit
2020/21	£20,657	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £20.7k deficit, which is a £13.7k improvement on the budgeted deficit of £34.3k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
St Finians	£34,310	£35,240	£20,657	£13,653	£14,583

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

St Finians MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£640,370	£647,191	(£6,821)	Overspend
Non Staffing budget	£195,170	£188,705	£6,465	Underspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£835,540	£835,895	(£355)	
Income	(£21,140)	(£16,657)	(£4,483)	Less income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£814,400	£819,238	(£4,838)	
Balance Brought Forward	£40,600	£40,599	£1	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£769,580)	(£772,247)	£2,667	Underbudgeted
SEN funding	(£9,590)	(£12,186)	£2,596	Underbudgeted
Pupil Premium Grant	(£8,730)	(£10,070)	£1,340	Underbudgeted
Job Retention Scheme	£0	(£686)	£686	Not in budget
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£9,060)	£9,060	Not in budget
Additional Grant for Schools	(£32,790)	(£34,930)	£2,140	Underbudgeted
Total Funding	(£780,090)	(£798,580)	£18,490	
TOTAL	£34,310	£20,657	£13,653	

5) Beenham

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£34,357	Deficit
2017/18	£64,783	Deficit
2018/19	£40,676	Deficit
2019/20	£33,847	Deficit
2020/21	£363	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £0.4k deficit, which is £0.5k worse than the budgeted surplus of £0.1k.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Surplus	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Beenham	(£110)	£6,372	£363	(£473)	£6,009

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

Beenham MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£249,650	£256,810	(£7,160)	Overspend
Non Staffing budget	£89,980	£92,342	(£2,362)	Overspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£339,630	£349,152	(£9,522)	
Income	(£10,250)	(£6,893)	(£3,357)	Less income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£329,380	£342,259	(£12,879)	
Balance Brought Forward	£33,850	£33,847	£3	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£346,790)	(£346,804)	£14	Rounding
SEN funding	(£760)	(£756)	(£4)	Rounding
Pupil Premium Grant	(£8,070)	(£12,105)	£4,035	Underbudgeted
Job Retention Scheme	£0	(£3,307)	£3,307	Not in budget
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£1,041)	£1,041	Not in budget
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£2,520)	£2,520	Not in budget
Additional Grant for Schools	(£7,720)	(£9,210)	£1,490	Underbudgeted
Total Funding	(£329,490)	(£341,896)	£12,406	
TOTAL	(£110)	£363	(£473)	

6. Schools ending 2020/21 with unplanned deficits

- 6.1 Two schools ended the financial year 2020/21 with an unlicensed deficit. At the time of writing neither school have been asked to submit a Licensed Deficit Application as the deficits are wholly attributable to the financial impact of Covid-19.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH UNLICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Deficit / Surplus	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
1 Basildon	(£7,790)	(£6,122)	£3,831	(£11,621)	(£9,953)
2 Spurcroft	(£13,470)	£49,961	£40,624	(£54,094)	£9,337
TOTAL	(21,259)	43,841	44,458	(65,715)	(616)

(1) Basildon C.E. Primary School £3.8k deficit

Balance at end of financial	Main School Budget	
2016/17	(£1,123)	Surplus
2017/18	(£2,952)	Surplus
2018/19	(£10,918)	Surplus
2019/20	£6,040	Deficit
2020/21	£3,831	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £3.8k deficit, which is £11.6k worse than the budgeted surplus of £7.8k.

At the end of 2020/21 a deficit balance of £12,958.91 was transferred from the school's Out of Hours Club to the Main School Budget-Non Staffing, if this had not been necessary the school's Main School Budget would have ended the year with a surplus balance of £9,127.91.

The school's Covid-19 impact statement shows a financial cost to the school's Main School Budget of £1,450, if this is also adjusted for, the Main School Budget would have ended the financial year 2020/21 with a surplus balance of £10,577.91.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Surplus	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Basildon	(£7,790)	(£6,122)	£3,831	(£11,621)	(£9,953)

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

Basildon MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£502,020	£505,090	(£3,070)	Overspend
Non Staffing budget	£186,690	£221,474	(£34,784)	Overspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£688,710	£726,564	(£37,854)	
Income	(£15,070)	(£22,271)	£7,201	Additional income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£673,640	£704,294	(£30,654)	
Balance Brought Forward	£6,040	£6,040	£0	
Funds delegated by the LA	(£659,740)	(£659,738)	(£2)	Rounding
SEN funding	(£3,480)	(£3,499)	£19	Rounding
Pupil Premium Grant			£0	
Job Retention Scheme	£0	(£3,109)	£3,109	Not Budgeted
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£5,564)	£5,564	Not Budgeted
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£7,050)	£7,050	Not Budgeted
Additional Grant for Schools	(£24,250)	(£27,543)	£3,293	Underbudgeted
Total Funding	(£681,430)	(£700,463)	£19,033	
TOTAL	(£7,790)	£3,831	(£11,621)	

Action by Local Authority: Deficit due entirely to Covid-19, await outcome of School Balances report/Covid-19 Impact on Balances report going to SF 21st June

(2) Spurcroft Primary School £40.6k deficit

Balance at end of financial year	Main School Budget	
2016/17	£7,842	Deficit
2017/18	(£52,785)	Surplus
2018/19	(£211,676)	Surplus
2019/20	(£103,681)	Surplus
2020/21	£40,624	Deficit

The final outturn position was a £40.6k deficit, which is £54.1k worse than the budgeted surplus of £13.5k.

At the end of 2020/21 a deficit balance of £ 33,204.11 was transferred from the school's Out of Hours Club to the Main School Budget-Non Staffing, if this had not been necessary the school's Main School Budget would have ended the year with a deficit balance of £7,419.89.

The school's Covid-19 impact statement shows a financial cost to the school's Main School Budget of £22,235, if this is also adjusted for, the Main School Budget would have ended the financial year 2020/21 with a surplus balance of £14,815.11.

SCHOOLS / FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2020/21	Original MSB Budget (surplus)	P9 Forecast	P13 Closing Balance	Variance Original MSB to P13 Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
	1	2	3	1-3=4	2-3=5
Spurcroft	(£13,470)	£49,961	£40,624	(£54,094)	£9,337

The main variances to original budget are shown in the following table:

Spurcroft MSB Summary 2020/21	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
Staffing budget	£1,817,540	£1,882,949	(£65,409)	Overspend
Non Staffing budget	£405,530	£469,361	(£63,831)	Overspend
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,223,070	£2,352,310	(£129,240)	
Income	(£42,400)	(£71,209)	£28,809	Additional income
Net Revenue Expenditure	£2,180,670	£2,281,101	(£100,431)	
Balance Brought Forward	(£103,680)	(£103,681)	£1	Rounding
Funds delegated by the LA	(£1,907,060)	(£1,914,422)	£7,362	Underbudgeted
SEN funding	(£30,400)	(£26,124)	(£4,276)	Overbudgeted
Pupil Premium Grant	(£74,000)	(£72,563)	(£1,437)	Overbudgeted
Job Retention Scheme	£0	(£19,664)	£19,664	Not budgeted
Covid Exceptional School Costs	£0	(£7,015)	£7,015	Not budgeted
Covid Grants for Schools	£0	(£21,000)	£21,000	Not budgeted
Additional Grant for Schools	(£79,000)	(£76,008)	(£2,992)	Overbudgeted
Total Funding	(£2,194,140)	(£2,240,476)	£46,336	
TOTAL	(£13,470)	£40,625	(£54,095)	

Action by Local Authority: Deficit due entirely to Covid-19, await outcome of School Balances report/Covid-19 Impact on Balances report going to SF 21st June.

7. Other options for Consideration

7.1 None

8. Proposals

8.1 None

9. Conclusion

9.1 None

10. Consultation and Engagement

10.1 Schools included in the report have been consulted.

11. Heads Funding Group Recommendation

N/A for information only

Vulnerable Children's Grant

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 21st June 2021

Report Author: Michelle Sancho

Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 Review of Vulnerable Children's Fund 2020/2021

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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2. Introduction/Background

2.1 The Vulnerable Children's Grant (VCG) is a highly appreciated, relatively small fund, for schools who have unexpected additional financial pressures due to in-year admissions or where children's needs have dramatically increased (e.g. due to a new medical condition, a crisis in the home). It is specifically devised to promote social inclusion, reduce exclusions and reduce the pressure on SEN budgets by providing temporary funding.

3. Supporting Information

3.1 The budget for 2020-2021 was £50,000.

3.2 This period covered three national lockdowns due to the Covid 19 pandemic. From March 2020, schools were only open to children considered vulnerable and children of key worker parents. Between March 2020 – July 2020, no VCG requests were received. There was a steady flow of applications for the rest of the financial year, despite the second school closure between January and March 2021.

The table below explains that 56 children and young people were supported through this grant, with most applications being received from primary schools. As with previous years, most applications (84%) requested funds to support through use of a TA, though a small number (16%) required funds to buy equipment for pupils. Only four applications were refused with this either being due to a second request (where the VCG is meant to provide a one-off payment) or because the pupils' needs could have been predicted and therefore not considered to be in need of emergency funding.

Number of settings accessing the grant	27 (1 Early Years, 22 Primary, 4 Secondary)
Number of children supported through the grant	56

Children's primary need	73% Social Emotional and Mental Health 25% Learning <1% Medical
Number of applications refused	4
Type of financial support	84% TA support 16% Equipment
Total spend	£49955

Schools who received funds were invited to provide feedback through a survey monkey questionnaire – 60% of schools provided feedback.

Schools reported the following in terms of progress made by pupils:

A lot of progress	24%
Some progress	57%
No progress – stayed the same	10%
No progress – got worse	9%

The VCG appears to be impactful, such that most pupils make some or a lot of progress. Themes that emerged highlighted how the TA enabled a pupil's inclusion through:

- Modelling of strategies to support emotional regulation
- Running intervention programmes
- Using strategies and interventions as recommended by outside agencies

This also meant that:

- Exclusions and a reduced timetable were less necessary
- Incidents by the pupil reduced
- The pupil could remain in class for longer
- The pupil was more likely to access the curriculum and academic tasks
- The pupil could access a 'small garden' (often a provision outside of the class)
- Staff had a better understanding of the need and level of support that a pupil required

54% of responses indicated that staff were still worried about the pupil's needs and amount of progress. Reasons for this included:

- Current and possible future impact of the pandemic and lockdowns on the pupil
- Pupils were likely to have complex and long-term needs that could require an Education and Health Care Plan.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The VCG aims to be fair, equitable and simple to request. Feedback from schools indicates that it is valued and has significant impact.

5. Consultation and Engagement

All settings who received funding were asked to complete a survey monkey questionnaire about the impact of the funds. 60% of schools in receipt of VCG completed the survey.

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Agenda Item 12

Schools Forum Work Programme 2021/22

	Item	HFG Deadline	Heads Funding Group	SF Deadline	Schools Forum	Action required	Author
Term 6	Schools' Forum Membership and Constitution from September 2021			13/07/21	19/07/21	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	Growth Fund 2021/22: Exceptional Payment	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Early Years Block Budget - update on deficit recovery plan	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Information	Avril Allenby
	The impact of Covid on the Early Years Sector	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Information	Avril Allenby
	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 3			13/07/21	19/07/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Trade Union Facilities Time - Annual Report for 2020/21	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Information	Gary Upton
Term 1	SENDIASS – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Services Contract (To be considered under Part II due to (Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person) and (Paragraph 6 – information relating to proposed action to be taken by the Local Authority).	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Decision	Thomas Ng
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	29/06/21	06/07/21	13/07/21	19/07/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools Funding Formula Proposal 2022/23	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Draft De-delegations 2022/23	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Deficit Recovery Plan for the DSG	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Discussion	Melanie Ellis / Ian Pearson
	Additional Funding Criteria 2022/23	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Scheme for Financing Schools 2021/22	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Update on HNB Invest to Save Projects	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Early Years Block Budget - update on Deficit Recovery Plan	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Information	Avril Allenby
	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 6			12/10/21	18/10/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
Term 2	Deficit Schools (standing item)	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	29/09/21	06/10/21	12/10/21	18/10/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	School Funding Formula 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Final Additional Funding Criteria 2021/22	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Final Scheme for Financing Schools 2021/22	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Final De-delegations 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Draft Central Schools Block Budget 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	Draft High Needs Budget 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	High Needs Places and Arrangements 2022/23	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	High Needs Block - Resourced Units	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Outline Early Years Forecast 2021/22	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Discussion	Avril Allenby
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 7			30/11/21	06/12/21	Information	Melanie Ellis
Term 3	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	16/11/21	23/11/21	30/11/21	06/12/21	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2022/23	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Discussion	Melanie Ellis
	Final School Funding Formula 2022/23	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Final Central School Block Budget Proposals 2022/23	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	iCollege Review	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Decision	Michelle Sancho
	High Needs Block Budget Proposals 2022/23	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Growth Fund 2021/22	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 9			18/01/22	24/01/22	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	05/01/22	12/01/22	18/01/22	24/01/22	Decision	Melanie Ellis
Term 4	Work Programme 2022/23	22/02/22	01/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	Final DSG Budget 2022/23 - Overview	22/02/22	02/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Decision	Melanie Ellis
	Update on HNB Invest to Save Projects	22/02/22	04/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Discussion	Jane Seymour
	Final High Needs Block Budget 2022/23	22/02/22	03/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Decision	Jane Seymour
	Final Early Years Block Budget 2022/23	22/02/22	04/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Decision	Avril Allenby
	Early Years Block Budget - update on Deficit Recovery Plan	22/02/22	04/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Discussion	Avril Allenby
	Deficit Schools (standing item)	22/02/22	05/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Information	Melanie Ellis
	DSG Monitoring 2021/22 Month 10			08/03/22	14/03/22	Information	Melanie Ellis
	Schools in Financial Difficulty Bids (TBC)	22/02/22	01/03/22	08/03/22	14/03/22	Decision	Melanie Ellis

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