

# Notice of Meeting

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## Schools Forum

**Monday 14 July 2025 at 5.00pm**

The meeting can be watched live here: [www.westberks.gov.uk/schoolsforumlive](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/schoolsforumlive)

Date of despatch of Agenda: Tuesday 8 July 2025

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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Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at [www.westberks.gov.uk](http://www.westberks.gov.uk)



## **Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday 14 July 2025 (continued)**

**Forum Members:** Kavash Bamfield, Reverend Mark Bennet, Catherine Bernie, Nicolle Browning, Heather Codling, Iain Cottingham, Paul Davey, Jacquie Davies, David Fitter, Mel Godliman, Richard Hand, Michelle Harrison, Keith Harvey (Vice-Chair), Jon Hewitt, Trevor Keable, Jo Lagares, Julie Lewry, Jo MacArthur, Chris Prosser, David Ramsden, Graham Spellman (Chair), Phil Spray, Chloe Summerville, Edwin Towill and Charlotte Wilson

# **Agenda**

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**Agenda - Schools Forum to be held on Monday 14 July 2025** *(continued)*

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 5pm*

Sarah Clarke  
Interim Executive Director - Resources

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact  
Jessica Bailiss on telephone (01635) 503124.

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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 16 JUNE 2025**

**Schools' Forum Members Present:** Kavash Bamfield (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Reverend Mark Bennet (Church of England Diocese), Catherine Bernie (Academy Special Schools), Nicolle Browning (Maintained Secondary School Headteacher), Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder: Children and Family Services), Paul Davey (Maintained Primary School Governor), Jacquie Davies (Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher), Mel Godliman (Early Years PVI Provider), Richard Hand (Trade Union), Keith Harvey ((Vice-Chair) Maintained Primary School Headteacher), Jon Hewitt (Maintained Special School Headteacher), Trevor Keable (Academy School Governor), Jo MacArthur (Maintained Primary Headteacher), Gary Norman (Academy School Governor), Chris Prosser (Maintained Secondary School Headteacher), Graham Spellman ((Chair) Roman Catholic Diocese), Phil Spray (Maintained Primary School Governor), Chloe Summerville (Maintained Nursery School Headteacher) and Edwin Towill (Academy School Headteacher)

**Also Present:** Neil Goddard (Service Director Education and SEND), Elizabeth Griffiths (Interim Financial Consultant Lead for Management Accounting), Claire Denner (Senior Accountant), Rose Carberry (Principal Adviser for School Improvement) and Jessica Bailiss (Democratic Services Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** AnnMarie Dodds (Executive Director - Children Services), Jo Lagares (Maintained Primary School Headteacher), David Fitter (Academy School Headteacher), Julie Lewry (Academy School Headteacher) and Charlotte Wilson (Academy School Headteacher)

#### **PART I**

##### **1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2025/26**

Neil Goddard invited the Schools' Forum to nominate and vote on the position of Chair for the coming year.

**RESOLVED that** Graham Spellman would continue as Chair of the Schools' Forum for the 2025/26 financial year.

Graham Spellman invited the Schools' Forum to nominate and vote on the position of Vice-Chair for the coming year.

**RESOLVED that** Keith Harvey would continue as Vice-Chair of the Schools' Forum for the 2025/26 financial year.

##### **2 Minutes of previous meeting dated 20th January 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved.

##### **3 Actions arising from previous meetings**

It was noted that the action from the previous meeting had been completed.

##### **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**5 Membership**

Jess Bailiss advised that the post-16 provider representative position was currently vacant following the departure of Jamie Morton from Newbury College. She had contacted the new finance director about joining the forum and hoped the position would be filled shortly.

**6 Schools' Forum Work Programme 2025/26 (Jess Bailiss)**

The Chair stated that following a period of change within the Local Authority (LA) and schools, it was a good opportunity to review the Schools' Forum work programme, terms of reference, number of meetings and reporting deadlines. It was proposed that a working group be established to review the terms of reference and work programme for presentation at the July meeting of the Schools' Forum. Trevor Keable and Keith Harvey volunteered to join the group.

Neil Goddard suggested including a review of the Heads Funding Group's (HFG) role in this work.

Trevor Keable suggested including Jess Bailiss in the working group. Neil Goddard confirmed Jess's support and proposed including a local authority finance representative. Elizabeth Griffiths highlighted resource constraints in the finance team at the current time, which might impact its ability to support the working group.

Edwin Towill requested that the group consider the respective roles of representatives from maintained schools and academies. He was aware that some agenda items only applied to maintained schools and therefore it would be helpful if consideration could be given to whether all members needed to be present for particular agenda items at Schools' Forum meetings.

Trevor Keable confirmed that he was from a single academy trust (SAT), which was a secondary school and therefore he would represent both academy schools and secondary schools on the working group.

Neil Goddard proposed emailing all forum members to ensure those that had not been able to make the Forum meeting had the opportunity to form part of the working group.

The Chair proposed that a vote on the work programme be postponed until the July meeting, pending the outcome of the working group's review.

**RESOLVED that**

- A working group be set up to review the work programme, terms of reference, number of meetings and reporting deadlines for both the HFG and Schools' Forum (as detailed above). The outcome of this work would be brought to the next meeting of the Schools' Forum on 14th July 2025.
- An email would be sent out to all Forum Members to ensure those that were not present were given the opportunity to join the working group.

**7 Scheme for Financing Schools Consultation 2025/26 (Elizabeth Griffiths)**

Elizabeth Griffiths introduced the report (Agenda Item 8), which sought approval of the proposed consultation on the updated Scheme for Financing Schools (SFS). It was proposed that the updated SFS go out to consultation with schools from 17<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and return to the next Schools' Forum in July for approval.

## SCHOOLS FORUM - 16 JUNE 2025 - MINUTES

Elizabeth Griffiths drew attention to changes to the SFS detailed in Appendix B to the report on page 55 of the pack. It was proposed that the consultation document be amended to state that responses should be sent to Claire Denner in Lisa Potts absence.

The Chair drew the Forum's attention to the recommendation in section 2.1 of the report, The recommendation was proposed and seconded by maintained school members and at the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the Schools' Forum approved that the proposed SFS go out to consultation with all schools from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, with adoption of the updated SFS following Schools' Forum approval at the next meeting in July.

### 8 DSG Outturn 2024/25 (Elizabeth Griffiths)

Elizabeth Griffiths introduced the report (Agenda Item 9), which sought to inform the Forum 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 31st March 2025 of £16.13m, projected to rise to £31-£37m in March 2026.

Elizabeth Griffiths raised that the key concern was the rate at which the overspend was rising, which was due to increasing pressure on the High Needs Block (HNB). There was currently a statutory override in place until March 2026 however, interest was having to be paid (currently at around £1.5m per annum), which was creating a revenue pressure on the Local Authority (LA). There was no clear direction from Government regarding what would happen to balances once the statutory override was removed in March 2026.

Keith Harvey said that he had written to his MP about the deficit, particularly within the high needs budget, asking for a response from the Secretary of State for Education. He would share the reply when he received it.

Trevor Keable enquired about the impact of the deficit on the overall education budget for West Berkshire. Elizabeth Griffiths reported that they would not be looking to decrease the education budget by £1.5m to compensate the interest being paid however, it was an overall pressure to West Berkshire. Many would be aware that West Berkshire Council had needed to seek exceptional financial support, and this was because the LA no longer had enough funding to cover its expenditure.

Reverend Mark Bennet raised concerns about the Schools' Forum's lack of visibility over the cost of financing the deficit that had been accumulating. He asked what the rationale had been for treating the interest in this way and he queried the amount of interest that had already needed to be covered by other budgets to support the deficit. Elizabeth Griffiths explained that LAs had to balance their overall position, and it was not always possible to attribute costs directly because there was not always capacity to do this. It had been difficult for LAs due to rising social care costs and this inevitably put pressure on other areas. The LA was constantly trying to navigate its way through a difficult situation and it had gone back out to services in the current year asking for further savings.

Reverend Mark Bennet commented that in a sense the Forum had been accountable for the deficit but not for the cost of financing it and he did not feel that this was the right approach.

Councillor Heather Codling agreed with Elizabeth Griffiths' comments and that it was largely a juggling act. Not having the funding was preventing the LA from doing other things. Councillor Codling acknowledged the financial challenges facing LAs and emphasised that it was a national issue. Councillor Codling commended the work undertaken by Officers to keep budgets down.

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Neil Goddard stated that the education department formed part of the overall Council, and savings were expected like they were for other areas of the LA, which had an impact. He noted that the Government's statement on this was that they would produce a fully costed, but not necessarily funded, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) plan in the near future. It was clear that the system was not currently working, and he highlighted that other LAs in neighbouring areas had much higher deficits than West Berkshire. Scrutiny of what was spent against the HNB, particularly having been through Delivering Better Value, continued to be very high to ensure spending was happening in the right way. The vast majority of the HNB budget went to schools so the pressure to create savings in this area would lead to schools being given less money for SEND. He was aware schools were already struggling to balance budgets so having less money for SEND would make this even more difficult. The LA was trying to be as creative as it could be across the LA's budget as a whole however, it was a national issue. The statement from Government might confirm continuation of the statutory override but at least this would provide more certainty that the situation currently, where S151 Officers were having to manage an unreasonable level of risk.

Trevor Keable asked about the legal responsibility of the Schools' Forum on education budgets. Neil Goddard explained that this could form part of the review of the Forum's terms of reference. The Schools' Forum's role has changed significantly, with limited flexibility due to the national funding formula. The HNB was the responsibility of the LA and it was required to consult with the Schools' Forum and take views. The Forum could scrutinise the local authority and make comments regarding how the HNB was used and they were fortunate to have Councillor Codling present at Forum meetings, who was able to communicate and reflect on discussions with the Executive. The aim was to manage all blocks as effectively as possible. Neil Goddard highlighted that the central schools services block was being reduced year on year, so the pressure was increasing in this area too. Neil Goddard commented that the terms of reference for the Forum needed to clearly set out its statutory decision making responsibilities, areas of statutory consultation and areas of joint working across the broader area.

Richard Hand stated that he had read that one option the Government might consider was writing off a portion of the debt and the interest. He was not sure how credible this was due to the size of the situation. Neil Goddard felt that it would be impossible for the Government to write off the debt without some sort of contribution or demonstration of commitment to savings. It was possible the Government might offer a contribution linked to local government reorganisation however, this was not yet confirmed. Elizabeth Griffiths agreed and thought it would be very difficult for the Government to write off the debt. Neil Goddard added that the Government could allow LAs to charge the interest to the DSG itself. This would cause the deficit to increase more quickly however, would take the pressure off LAs. He was not sure this was a route the Government would choose but it could not be discounted. More certainly was need.

**RESOLVED that** the Schools' Forum noted the report.

### 9 **School Balances 2024/25 (Elizabeth Griffiths)**

Elizabeth Griffiths introduced the report (Agenda Item 10), which set out for information purposes the year end balances for all maintained schools, highlighting those schools with a deficit or significant surplus.

Elizabeth Griffiths drew attention to Table 4 on page 71, which listed schools with significant surpluses (balances exceeding 10 per cent of their funding), and noted that Compton had since been removed from the list due to errors in their submission. iCollege had also been removed from the list. The remaining schools on the list had been



## SCHOOLS FORUM - 16 JUNE 2025 - MINUTES

contacted and asked to submit information for review, which would be reviewed by the Heads Funding Group at their next meeting in July.

Reverend Mark Bennet identified inconsistencies in the table in Appendix A on page 72, noting that the final column appeared to show a two-year difference rather than one. He asked about the current state of school budgets and whether schools were planning deficits, given pressures from unfunded pay increases. Elizabeth Griffiths confirmed she would check the numbers in the table in Appendix A.

Regarding the second part of Reverend Bennet's question regarding deficits, Neil Goddard explained that the analysis of maintained school budgets was still ongoing. There were three options when a school submitted its budget to the LA – it could be accepted; accepted with caveats; or rejected. In a meeting the previous week, seven school budgets had been reviewed, and all had been rejected due to deficits not returning to a balanced position. Neil Goddard anticipated a significant increase in the number of schools in deficit compared to the previous year.

Neil Goddard explained that the Forum had agreed a surpluses policy including possible clawback and this needed to be conducted in a timely fashion. A decision on this would be required at the next round of meetings in July to ensure schools were clear in terms of any clawback. Schools would be met with individually to look at their three year budget plan, and a clawback proposal that was in line with the agreed policy would be brought back to the Forum for decision. Neil Goddard added that school budgets had been received in May and the process of reviewing them took some time. He reiterated that more schools were expected to go into deficit due to falling pupil numbers, SEND costs, and unfunded pay rises.

Reverend Bennett asked if there was sufficient capacity to support schools in managing deficits. Neil Goddard reported that support was provided to schools through colleagues in finance. General support was provided through the licensing of deficits, which was essentially an overdraft and provided a school with time to turn a situation around and move back into a surplus position. Historically this had been provided over three years, but now potentially over five or seven years, depending on the risk analysis and level of confidence of turnaround. Neil Goddard acknowledged the increasingly difficult decisions being asked of governors and schools, and the possibility that some schools might not be able to bring their budgets back into balance. Elizabeth Griffiths agreed with these comments. There was staff within the finance team that supported schools. Regarding the Forum's visibility of the matter, it was noted that there was a standing item on each agenda, which looked at schools in deficit and the next report was due to be brought to the HFG and Forum in July.

Neil Goddard commented that he often said that the role of governors was to provide the best education within the resources available. This was a delegated responsibility however, it was noted this was getting increasingly difficult. If a school was not able or willing to set a balanced budget then one tool available was to remove delegation from the school and the LA took control of managing the school's budget. This was not a preferred route as it could be very disruptive but was something that formed part of the Schools' Forum's responsibilities and would require its sign off. He commented that this was not a position anyone wanted to be in, and the main aim was to support schools to reach a sustainable and resilient position with their budgets.

Jo MacArthur commented that she did not disagree with comments about the importance of school governors who played an exceptionally important role particularly regarding finances however, she stressed how difficult it was to recruit governors and that some schools were carrying vacancies.

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Chris Prosser expressed concern about clawing back surpluses from schools that were demonstrating sustainability, arguing that it created more work for both schools and stretched finance teams. It was not massive amounts of money involved, and he suggested that there should be common sense with regards to the claw back when there were bigger priorities that required focus. Neil Goddard acknowledged the point particularly when schools were being asked to budget responsibility. He confirmed that the clawback policy would be discussed at the next meeting and there would be an opportunity to discuss its impact in the broader context of budgets.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- Elizabeth Griffiths would check the numbers under the table in Appendix A in accordance with comments from Reverend Mark Bennet.
- The Forum noted the report and that a further report would be brought back to the meeting in July for decision regarding potential clawback.

## **10 Trade Union Facilities Time - Annual Report for 2024/25 (Richard Hand)**

Richard Hand introduced the report (Agenda Item 11), which aimed to inform members about the activities of the teaching trade unions for 2024/25.

Richard Hand reported that the overall picture was slightly more positive than the previous year, with possible strike action being averted. He hoped that industrial action was not something that would come to pass.

The report highlighted improvements in teacher recruitment however it was important not be complacent in this area.

Richard Hand flagged issues around child poverty because members were increasingly seeing the impacts of this in schools. Schools were having to provide so much more care than they had historically. This was placing pressure on schools.

Richard Hand urged schools to have robust stress management policies and noted the importance of flexible working in attracting and retaining staff.

Richard Hand reported that Private Eye had recently covered SEND, which signified what a major issue it had become. It was being far more widely reported on in the media. He felt that this was a good thing as it served to cast a light on the matter.

Richard Hand raised concerns about the increase in malicious and vexatious complaints, which placed particular stress on headteachers and he stressed the need for schools to have robust policies in place to address these issues. Grievances were an area that was often raised, and Richard Hand reported that they were quite good with dealing with these so that did not escalate.

Rose Carberry endorsed Richard Hand's comments regarding malicious and vexatious complaints, highlighting the rise in AI-generated complaints and the importance of schools having a robust vexatious complainant policy. Training on this area had been provided and would be run again either during the summer or into the autumn term. Schools were urged to reach out to the school improvement team who could provide support in terms of the wellbeing of headteachers and advice to boards of governors.

**RESOLVED that** the Schools' Forum noted the report.

## **11 Contracts Forward Plan**

**RESOLVED that** the Schools' Forum noted the contracts forward plan.

**12 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Schools' Forum was scheduled for Monday 14 July at 5pm. The Forum discussed whether future meetings should be in person or virtual, with a range of views expressed. Geographical dispersion was noted as a reason for continuing with virtual meetings however, it was expressed that face to face meetings generated better discussion. A number of Forum Members expressed that they preferred face-to-face meetings however, the challenges around attendance were recognised.

It was suggested that one option would be to have one or two in-person meetings per year. It was also suggested that a requirement for membership, that could be added to the Forum's Constitution, was to include attending one face to face meeting per year. This could be considered by the working group as part of the review.

Exploring alternative locations, hybrid meetings and different more convenient meeting times was also suggested.

Regarding suggestions about hybrid meetings, Edwin Towill referred to his earlier comment about the relevance of agenda items to different members. He felt it would be very difficult to get maintained or academy school members to attend a series of meetings in person if the agenda was only partly relevant to them. He felt that this was where hybrid meetings would work better as representatives could attend for the items they were required for.

**RESOLVED that** it was agreed that the July meeting would take place virtually, with the format of future meetings to be considered as part of the working group's review (detailed in discussions under agenda item seven).

*(The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and closed at 6.21 pm)*

**CHAIR** .....

**Date of Signature** .....

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### Actions from previous meetings

Ref No.	Date of meeting(s) raised	Item	Action	Responsible Officer	Update
Jun25-Ac1	16th June 2025	Work Programme 2025/26	A working group be set up to review the work programme, terms of reference, number of meetings and reporting deadlines for both the HFG and Schools' Forum (as detailed above). The outcome of this work would be brought to the next meeting of the Schools' Forum on 14th July 2025.	Neil Goddard	First meeting took place on 26th June.
Jun25-Ac2	16th June 2025	Work Programme 2025/26	An email would be sent out to all Forum Members to ensure those that were not present were given the opportunity to join the working group.	Neil Goddard	Completed.

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Schools’ Forum Task and Finish Group: Governance Review

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting: 14 July 2025

Report Author: Graham Spellman

Item for: Decision By: All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update from the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group set up to review the governance of the Schools’ Forum including:
- Schools’ Forum Constitution
  - Heads Funding Group Terms of Reference
  - Work Programme for both groups
  - Number of meetings and meeting format

2. Recommendations

- That the revised Constitution and Work Programme are brought to the Schools’ Forum for consideration in October 2025 to allow more time for the review to take place.
- The current Constitution (as agreed in July 2024), membership and draft Work Programme 2025/26 remain in place until October 2025.

Is the Schools’ Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?	
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact:	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Commentary

<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		x		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	Neil Goddard, Trevor Keable, Paul Davey and Keith Harvey			

#### 4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 At the Schools' Forum meeting held on 14th June 2025, it was agreed that a working group would be established to review the Constitution/Terms of Reference of both the Schools' Forum and the Heads' Funding Group (HFG), along with their work programmes, number of meetings, and reporting deadlines.
- 4.2 Forum members were invited to express their interest in joining the group by Thursday, 19th June. The working group is comprised of the following members:
- **Chair:** Graham Spellman
  - **Vice Chair:** Keith Harvey
  - Trevor Keable
  - Paul Davy
  - Neil Goddard

#### 5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The first meeting of the Task and Finish Group took place on 26th June, during which initial discussions were held regarding the work programme, meeting format, and the Forum's decision-making and consultative roles.
- 5.2 Actions have been taken away by the group and it was acknowledged that additional time is required to complete the review thoroughly. A further meeting is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> September, following which proposals will be brought to HFG and Schools' Forum for consideration at their October meeting.

#### 6. Proposals

- 6.1 The Schools' Forum agrees to postpone its decision on the Constitution, membership, and work programme for 2025/26 until its meeting in October 2025. It



is proposed that the current governance arrangements, including the Constitution (last agreed by the Forum in July 2024) and the draft Work Programme for 2025/26, remain in place until this time.

## **7. Appendices**

### **7.1 Draft Work Programme 2025/26**

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## Draft Schools Forum Work Programme 2025/26

	Item	HFG Deadline	Heads Funding Group	SF Deadline	Schools Forum	Action required	Author
Term 5	<i>Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2025/26</i>			10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Decision	
	Work programme 2025/26			10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	School Balances 2024/25	14/05/2025	21/05/2025	10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	Scheme for Financing Schools Consultation 2025/26	14/05/2025	21/05/2025	10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	DSG Outturn 2024/25	14/05/2025	21/05/2025	10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Information	Lisa Potts
	Trade Union Facilities Time - Annual Report for 2024/25			10/06/2025	16/06/2025	Information	Richard Hand
Term 6	Update from Schools' Forum Task and Finish Group - Governance Review			08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Decision	Chair of the Schools' Forum - Graham Spellman
	Scheme for Financing Schools 2025/26	24/06/2025	01/07/2025	08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Surplus Balances and School Balance Statements	24/06/2025	01/07/2025	08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	DSG Monitoring 2025/26 Month 3			08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Information	Lisa Potts/Neil Goddard
	Update on the the DfE's Delivering Better Value Programme	24/06/2025	01/07/2025	08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Discussion / Decision	Neil Goddard/Hannah Geddert
	Deficit Schools	24/06/2025	01/07/2025	08/07/2025	14/07/2025	Information	Lisa Potts
Term 1	Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2026/27	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Schools' Forum - Governance Review	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Decision	Schools' Forum Task and Finish Group (Governance)
	Draft De-delegations 2026/27	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Early Years Budget 2025/26 - In Year Position	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	DSG Monitoring 2025/26 Month 6	24/09/2025		07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Information	Lisa Potts/Neil Goddard
	Vulnerable Children's Fund - Annual Report for 2024/25	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Information	Vanessa Grizzle
	Update on the the DfE's Delivering Better Value Programme	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Discussion / Decision	Neil Goddard
Term 2	Deficit Schools	24/09/2025	01/10/2025	07/10/2025	13/10/2025	Information	Lisa Potts
	Provisional DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	Final De-delegations 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Update on HNB Invest to Save Projects	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Discussion	Neil Goddard
	School Funding Formula 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Budgets for Additional Funds 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Draft Central Schools Block Budget 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	Draft High Needs Budget Proposals 2026/27	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Discussion	Neil Goddard/Kirsty Jinks
	Update on the DfE's Delivering Better Value Programme	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Discussion / Decision	Neil Goddard
Term 3	Deficit Schools	11/11/2025	18/11/2025	25/11/2025	01/12/2025	Information	Lisa Potts
	Final DSG Funding Settlement Overview 2026/27	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	Final School Funding 2026/27	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Information	Lisa Potts
	Growth Fund Applications 2025/26	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	Additional Funds Budget Requirement 2026/27	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Lisa Potts
	High Needs Block Budget Proposals 2025/26	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Neil Goddard/Kirsty Jinks
	Central School Block Budget Proposals 2025/26	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Decision	Lisa Potts
	Early Years Funding Rates to Providers and 2026/27 Early Years Budget	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Lisa Potts/Beth Kelly
	DSG Monitoring 2025/26 Month 9			13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Information	Lisa Potts/Neil Goddard
	Update on the DfE's Delivering Better Value Programme	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Discussion	Neil Goddard
Term 4	Deficit Schools	17/12/2025	07/01/2026	13/01/2026	19/01/2026	Information	Lisa Potts
	Work Programme 2026/27	24/02/2026	03/03/2026	09/03/2026	16/03/2026	Decision	Jessica Bailiss
	Final High Needs Block Budget 2026/27	24/02/2026	03/03/2026	09/03/2026	16/03/2026	Discussion	Neil Goddard/Kirsty Jinks
	DSG Monitoring 2025/26 Month 10			09/03/2026	16/03/2026	Information	Lisa Potts/Neil Goddard
	Update on the DfE's Delivering Better Value Programme	24/02/2026	03/03/2026	09/03/2026	16/03/2026	Discussion	Neil Goddard
	Deficit Schools	24/02/2026	03/03/2026	09/03/2026	16/03/2026	Information	Lisa Potts

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## Scheme for Financing Schools

**Report being considered by:** Schools' Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Griffiths

**Item for:** Decision **By:** All Maintained School Members

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To discuss the responses to the consultation on the updated Scheme for Financing Schools.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To recommend to Schools Forum to approve the suggested amendment and publish and adopt the updated Scheme for Financing Schools by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?**

Yes: ☒

No: ☐

### 3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Equalities Impact:	Positive	No Impact	Negative	Commentary
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		

<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	All maintained schools			

#### 4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools which set out the financial relationship between the local authority and the schools they maintain.
- 4.2 The Department for Education (DfE) issues statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools. The DfE guidance lists the provisions which a local authority must, should or may include. Local schemes need not follow the exact format used in the DfE guidance, except for the text of directed revisions. The DfE guidance is updated annually.
- 4.3 Issue 16 was published on 27 March 2025 and can be found at:

[Schemes for financing local authority maintained schools 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

- 4.4 In making any changes to the scheme, a local authority must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools.
- 4.5 The local authority has reviewed the current scheme to ensure that all sections are still appropriate. The proposed Scheme for Financing Schools (2025 update) and Appendix B highlighting the proposed updates were both emailed to schools.

#### 5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 Two responses have been received both of which were happy with the changes and had no comments to make.

#### 6. Appendices

- 6.1 None

## Delivering Better Value (DBV) Close Down Report

**Report being considered by:** Schools' Forum  
**Date of Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
**Report Author:** Hannah Geddert; SEND Strategy Officer  
**Item for:** Information **By:** All Forum Members

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the progress achieved through the Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme. This report also outlines the anticipated cumulative cost avoidance on the high needs block, next steps and priorities for sustaining improvements beyond the programme's formal end.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Note the progress made through the DBV programme, including anticipated cumulative cost avoidance on the high needs block.
- 2.2 Endorse the proposed next steps.

**Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?**

Yes: ☐

No: ☒

### 3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>The financial impact of the DBV programme was never expected to be immediate, however, we are already beginning to see some encouraging signs of positive financial outcomes.</p> <p>The DBV programme has already generated an additional in-year saving of <b>£534,716</b> through the enhancement of the Early Years Transition programme. This programme's funding is replicated for 2025/26, and similar levels of savings are anticipated year on year. This is in addition to DBV savings already predicted (cumulative additional total: <b>£4,490,864</b></p> <p>Further additional mitigations have also been identified and have been included in the Deficit Management Plan (DMP) in</p>

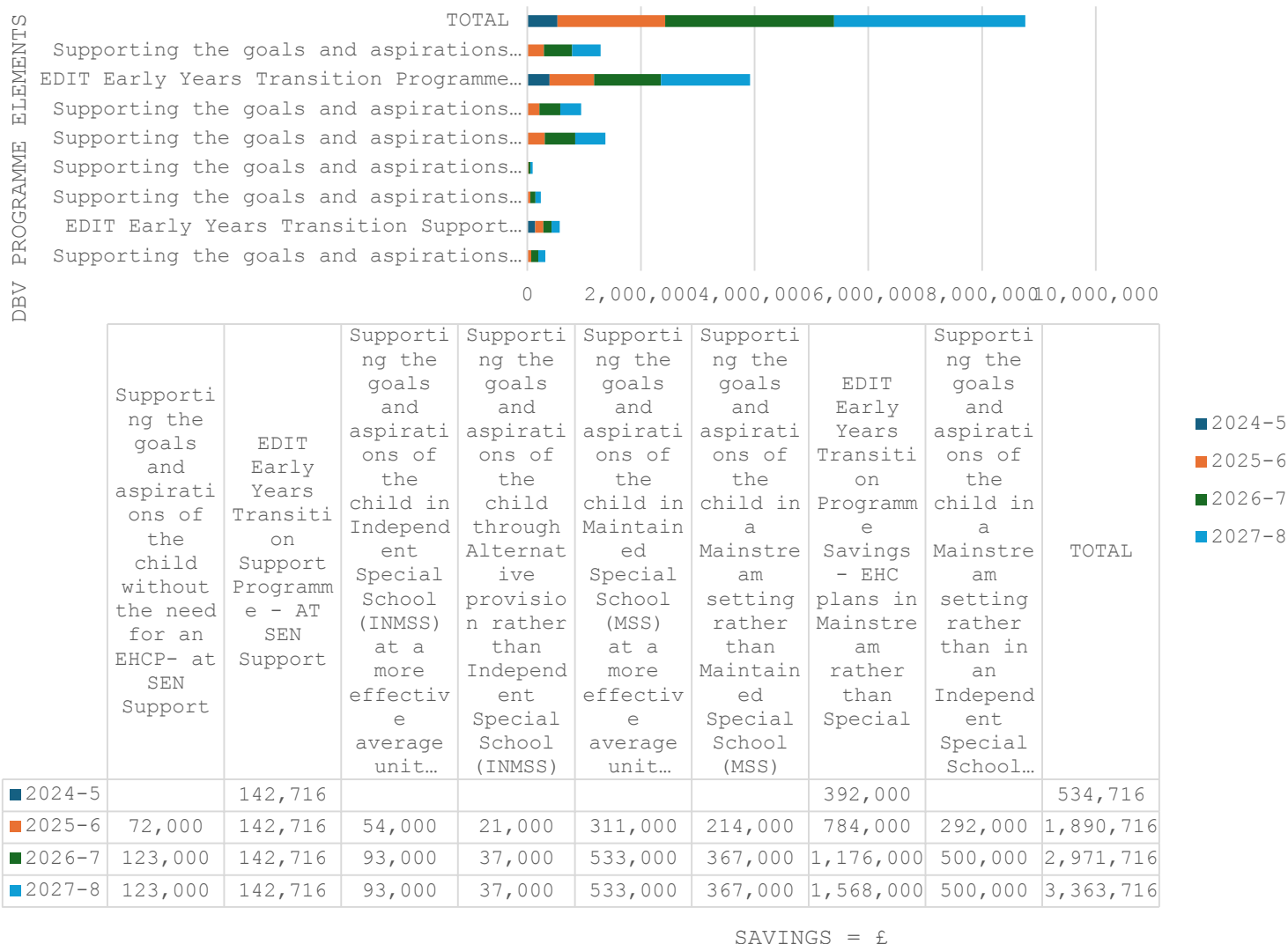
	relation to specialist capacity development to reduce dependence on Independent Non-Maintained provision.			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	X			While this paper is intended as an update rather than a decision, it is important to note that the DBV programme and SEND & Inclusion Strategy (Innovation in SEND Programme) are designed to reduce inequalities by improving access to support and services for children and young people with SEND and their families.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	X			By promoting earlier intervention, more inclusive practices, and a better understanding of local need, the programme aims to positively impact those with protected characteristics – particularly children and young people with disabilities – ensuring they receive the right support at the right time in a way that promotes equity, inclusion and improved life outcomes.
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<p>Although still in its early stages, the newly formed West Berkshire Parent/Carer forum has been actively involved in the Innovation in SEND Programme (DBV and SEND &amp; Inclusion Strategy).</p> <p>The DBV programme has helped to refresh and strengthen engagement with parents, carers, and families, as well as with partner agencies – including health and schools. This has included the development of the Innovation in SEND blog, which shares key updates and progress of the work undertaken as part of the Innovation in SEND programme.</p>			



## 4. Introduction/Background

- 4.1 This report marks the closure of the DBV programme. The DBV programme has provided the impetus to drive transformation in SEND which now needs to be consolidated and developed over the lifetime of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy.
- 4.2 The mitigations anticipated by Newton Europe and the DBV Programme are due to commence in **September 2025**, with a cumulative impact over the next 5 years and informed the deficit management plan (DMP).

### Delivering Better Value Programme - Mitigated Savings - 2024-2028



- 4.3 Although progress towards these mitigations has been good, the demand for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) continues to increase, as does the need for further specialist SEND provision.
- 4.4 Early identification and intervention will continue to drive down the need for EHCNAs to access appropriate support. Working in partnership with families and wider service providers, including the ICB, will improve access to targeted SEND support.

- 4.5 Implementing the findings from the co-produced SEND funding review will support schools in accessing appropriate levels of funding in a timely fashion to support SEND pupils.
- 4.6 Developing capacity in mainstream and special schools, and alternative provision, is a priority to drive down the costs of specialist provision and the requirement to place in high-cost independent non-maintained schools. Additional, short, medium and longer-term specialist provision is in development commencing between September 2025-2028.
- 4.7 Instigated Transition Programmes have already demonstrated significant cost savings and incorporating these into longer term programmes around inclusion would be beneficial.
- 4.8 However, pressure remains, whilst Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) numbers continue to increase so early identification and intervention remains a priority to drive down costs.
- 4.9 Revisions in commissioning arrangements are necessary to drive down costs of high-cost placements; essential activities include:
- **Establishing an integrated multi-agency inclusion surgery with quorate representation from the ICB and commissioned services as well as education and social care:** to ensure joint discussion and decision-making for pupils with SEND (EHCP and SEN Support level)
  - **Work to clarify the commissioning of Paediatric Therapy jointly with the ICB across the various contractual arrangements**

## 5. Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.1 The DBV programme was a £1million grant funded programme operating between April 2024 and March 2025. West Berkshire was one of 52 Local Authorities identified to receive support from the DfE, through this programme, to drive improvements in services and efficiency, to reduce the pressures on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, whilst continuing to meet the needs of the local community through a sustainable programme.
- 5.2 The DBV Programme was incorporated into the overarching SEND & Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029, to ensure that the momentum and direction of transformation was sustained over the following years, once the grant programme ceased.

### Background

- 5.3 The four task groups of the DBV programme have now been incorporated into the six priority groups of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy.
- 5.4 The SEND & Inclusion Strategy Delivery Plan 2024-2025 has been reviewed and updated to inform the delivery plan for the year 2025-2026. There are several incomplete actions from the DBV programme which have been carried over into this delivery plan and incorporated into the workflow. These are:

- **The SEND Funding Review:** expected completion date for mainstream July 2025 with implementation in September 2025. For specialist the expected implementation is September 2026.
- **Development of Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) guidance:** arising out of the funding review, expected completion is July 2025 and is contingent on the outcome of the funding review.
- **Development of review of decision making:** arising from the funding review with an expected completion of July 2025.
- **Year 6/7 Transition Support Programme:** extended until December 2025, part-funded by West Berkshire Council.
- **Mental Health Project in Schools:** extended to July 2025 due to delays in recruitment.
- **Development of a combined Local Area dashboard:** delayed due to national health data reporting initiatives.

5.5 The Governance Structure for SEND has been revised to ensure continued scrutiny of SEND Transformation. The multi-agency SEND Strategic Improvement Board will now be supported by an internal Local Authority SEND Operational Group.

### Proposals

- 5.6 Addressing parental confidence in the system remains paramount. It is important that Local Authority systems remain agile and responsive. The use of data to support evidence-based practice and development is now more robust, modelled through DBV initiatives undertaken over the past year. However, there remain very significant risks in the system.
- 5.7 Data gathering has demonstrated that Annual Reviews are not undertaken in a timely way. A significant percentage of EHCPs are not updated within statutory timeframes to reflect progress and changing provision/funding requirements. This impacts on successfully placing children and young people at point of transfer and delays may impact on tribunal rights of parents and carers whilst amendments to EHCPs are agreed. The development of capacity for Annual Reviews is a key priority identified within the SEND & Inclusion Strategy Delivery Plan and must be recognised as a strategic priority given it is a statutory duty which is not currently being met.
- 5.8 Completed data cleansing activities have improved accuracy in relation to recording placement types, need and other information vital for sufficiency planning. It is important that this is monitored and maintained to ensure continued good practice in this area. Ongoing training and induction for staff will ensure the effective use of Capita ONE to deliver functions and will support productivity in this area.
- 5.9 The use of data to inform evidenced-based practice is imperative to drive performance. Data dashboards already shared at the strategic level could be used regularly to inform team meetings and appraisal targets so there is a collective ownership and understanding of team outcomes. It is imperative to ensure resource to the maintenance and development of the data dashboard continues to ensure

accurate, up-to-date insights that inform strategic decision-making and enable effective monitoring of progress against SEND priorities.

- 5.10 Capacity in teams remains an issue as demand on services continues to increase. By streamlining services, through revised structures, and making use of additional technologies, resources can be targeted to support teams.
- 5.11 A revised quality assurance programme in relation to EHCPs is now underway. Annual Reviews will also be part of this programme as it develops. Multi-agency input into this process is vital, at all levels, to ensure that improvements and understanding is expanded across the workforce contributing to EHCNAs.
- 5.12 As an outcome of the SEND Funding Review, decision-making processes will need to be revised to support proposed new systems. These should be transparent, and evidence driven.

## 6. Other options considered

- 6.1 It is important to highlight the proposed next steps to ensure the momentum gained through the DBV programme is not lost. With the programme now concluded, there is a risk that focus on SEND transformation could diminish. Continued strategic commitment is essential to build on the strong foundations laid and to drive forward lasting, meaningful change and financial sustainability.

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 This report outlines the progress achieved through the DBV programme and sets out clear next steps and priorities to sustain and build upon this progress now that the formal programme has concluded.
- 7.2 The DBV programme has acted as a catalyst for our SEND Transformation, helping to drive forward key areas of improvement with renewed energy and focus.
- 7.3 To maintain this momentum, it is essential that the work continues to be strategically supported and embedded into ongoing service development.

## 8. Appendices

- 8.1 None

## Schools: Deficit Recovery

**Report being considered by:** Schools Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Griffiths

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

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report on the outturn position of the ten schools (Aldermaston, Brimpton, Hermitage, Kennet Valley, Pangbourne, Spurcroft, St Finians, St John & St Nicolas Federation, St Josephs and Woolhampton) that set a deficit budget in 2024/25.
- 1.2 To report on four schools (Bucklebury, Enborne, The Kite Federation and Theale) closing 2024/25 with an unlicensed deficit.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 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 This report provides details of ten schools which set a deficit budget for 2024/25. There are an additional four schools that ended 2024/25 with unlicensed deficits.
- 3.4 Ten schools set a licensed deficit budget for 2024/25 totalling £873.5k deficit.
- 3.5 Four schools ended the financial year with unplanned deficits on their main school budgets totalling £343.7k.
- 3.6 The total value of deficit balances on main school budgets at the end of 2024/25 was £995.8k (£652.1k licenced + £343.7k unplanned).

### 4. West Berkshire Strategy for Schools in Deficit

- 4.1 In the financial year 2024/25 the Council operated 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 required the school to do the following:**

- (1) Submit monthly budget monitoring reports (M3 and then M6 to M11 inclusive) and supporting documents.
- (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.
- (6) Take part in:
  - a) any review the Local Authority commissions on the school's budget deficit position and recovery plan, including a Schools Resource Management Advisor deployment and,
  - b) the introduction and use of any additional analysis and data tools deemed appropriate including Integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP).

**4.3 In 2024/25 the Council's Schools Finance team provided resource to work with the schools that were operating in a deficit and to offer support to those who were likely to enter a deficit position.**

**5. 2024/25 Outturn Position - Licensed Deficit Schools**

- 5.1 Ten schools had a Main School Budget (MSB) licensed deficit in 2024/25, totalling £873.5k deficit. The final outturn position for these schools was a closing position of £591.4k deficit. A summary is shown in the table below.
- 5.2 The combined position at year end is £282.1k better than budget. Two school ended the year with a surplus rather than a deficit; a difference of £129.8k. Five schools ended the year with a lower deficit than budgeted, a reduction of £183.1k. The remaining five schools ended the year with deficits £30.7k higher than planned.

SCHOOLS/FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS IN 2024/25		Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)		1	2	3	3-1	3-2
1	Aldermaston Primary School	(£78,670)	(£63,632)	(£47,526)	£31,144	£16,106
2	Brimpton Primary School	(£26,190)	(£31,740)	(£24,864)	£1,326	£6,876
3	Hermitage Primary School	(£50,810)	(£19,522)	(£40,499)	£10,311	(£20,976)
4	Kennet Valley Primary School	(£34,620)	(£37,578)	£1,800	£36,420	£39,378
5	Pangbourne Primary School	(£154,450)	(£113,970)	(£88,050)	£66,400	£25,920
6	Spurcroft Primary School	(£228,260)	(£168,254)	(£154,340)	£73,920	£13,914
7	St Finian's Primary School	(£66,930)	(£78,377)	(£75,444)	(£8,514)	£2,933
8	St John Infant & St Nicolas Junior Federation	(£34,440)	(£2,516)	£58,895	£93,335	£61,411
9	St Joseph's Primary School	(£180,930)	(£188,629)	(£182,853)	(£1,923)	£5,776
10	Woolhampton Primary School	(£18,230)	(£45,175)	(£38,500)	(£20,270)	£6,675
Total		(£873,530)	(£749,394)	(£591,382)	£282,148	£158,012

(1) Aldermaston

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Aldermaston Primary School	£94,133	£76,480	£2,263	(£47,526)	(£49,789)

The final outturn position was a £47.5k deficit, which is £31.1k better than the original budgeted deficit of £78.7k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Aldermaston Primary School	(£78,670)	(£63,632)	(£47,526)	£31,144	£16,106

(2) Brimpton

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Brimpton Primary School	£11,308	(£30,834)	(£14,162)	(£24,864)	(£10,703)

The final outturn position was a £24.9k deficit, which is £1.3k better than the original budgeted deficit of £26.2k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Brimpton Primary School	(£26,190)	(£31,740)	(£24,864)	£1,326	£6,876



(3) **Hermitage**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Hermitage Primary School	(£7,151)	£1,911	(£13,311)	(£40,499)	(£27,188)

The final outturn position was a £40.5k deficit, which is £10.3k better than the original budgeted deficit of £50.8k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Hermitage Primary School	(£50,810)	(£19,522)	(£40,499)	£10,311	(£20,976)

(4) **Kennet Valley**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Kennet Valley Primary School	£82,901	£50,592	£3,875	£1,800	(£2,075)

The final outturn position was a £1.8k surplus, which is £36.4k better than the original budgeted deficit of £34.6k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Kennet Valley Primary School	(£34,620)	(£37,578)	£1,800	£36,420	£39,378

(5) **Pangbourne**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Pangbourne Primary School	£3,804	£520	(£77,778)	(£88,050)	(£10,272)

The final outturn position was a £88.1k deficit, which is £66.4k better than the original budgeted deficit of £154.5k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Pangbourne Primary School	(£154,450)	(£113,970)	(£88,050)	£66,400	£25,920



(6) **Spurcroft**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Spurcroft Primary School	(£79,302)	(£138,281)	(£199,639)	(£154,340)	£45,299

The final outturn position was a £154.3k deficit, which is £73.9k better than the original budgeted deficit of £228.3k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Spurcroft Primary School	(£228,260)	(£168,254)	(£154,340)	£73,920	£13,914

(7) **St Finians**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
St Finian's Primary School	£0	(£33,935)	(£87,161)	(£75,444)	£11,716

The final outturn position was a £75.4k deficit, which is £8.5k worse than the original budgeted deficit of £66.9k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
St Finian's Primary School	(£66,930)	(£78,377)	(£75,444)	(£8,514)	£2,933

(8) **St John & St Nicolas**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
St John & St Nicolas Federation	£74,283	£11,214	(£47,172)	£58,895	£106,067

The final outturn position was a £58.9k surplus, which is £93.3k better than the original budgeted deficit of £34.4k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
St John Infant & St Nicolas	(£34,440)	(£2,516)	£58,895	£93,335	£61,411

(9) **St Josephs**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
St Joseph's Primary School	(£7,173)	(£85,585)	(£158,621)	(£182,853)	(£24,233)

The final outturn position was a £182.9k deficit, which is £1.9k worse than the original budgeted deficit of £180.9k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
St Joseph's Primary School	(£180,930)	(£188,629)	(£182,853)	(£1,923)	£5,776

(10) **Woolhampton**

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Woolhampton Primary School	£23,094	£39,782	(£133)	(£38,500)	(£38,367)

The final outturn position was a £38.5k deficit, which is £20.3k worse than the original budgeted deficit of £18.2k.

Schools with a Licensed Deficit in 2024/25 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Woolhampton Primary School	(£18,230)	(£45,175)	(£38,500)	(£20,270)	£6,675

**6. Schools ending 2024/25 with unplanned deficits**

6.1 Four schools ended the financial year 2024/25 with an unlicensed deficit.

Schools ending 2024/25 with an Unplanned Deficit Surplus / (Deficit)		Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
		1	2	3	3-1	3-2
11	Bucklebury Primary School	£40	(£10,994)	(£3,790)	(£3,830)	£7,204
12	Enborne Primary School	£9,880	£509	(£14,048)	(£23,928)	(£14,557)
13	The Kite Federation	£3,360	(£77,471)	(£91,131)	(£94,491)	(£13,660)
14	Theale Primary School	£9,870	(£114,993)	(£234,747)	(£244,617)	(£119,754)
Total		£23,150	(£202,949)	(£343,717)	(£366,867)	(£140,767)

## (11) Bucklebury

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Bucklebury Primary School	£2,712	(£18,734)	£21,238	(£3,790)	(£25,029)

The final outturn position was a £3.8k deficit, which is £3.8k worse than the budgeted surplus of £40.

Schools ending 2024/25 with an Unplanned Deficit Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Bucklebury Primary School	£40	(£10,994)	(£3,790)	(£3,830)	£7,204

## (12) Enborne

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Enborne Primary School	£3,574	£0	(£32,598)	(£14,048)	£18,550

The final outturn position was a £14k deficit, which is £23.9k worse than the budgeted surplus of £9.9k.

SCHOOLS/FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2023/24 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Enborne Primary School	£9,880	£509	(£14,048)	(£23,928)	(£14,557)

## (13) The Kite Federation

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
The Kite Federation	(£37,097)	£73,182	£58,193	(£91,131)	(£149,324)

The final outturn position was a £91.1k deficit, which is £94.5k worse than the budgeted surplus of £3.4k.

SCHOOLS/FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2023/24 Surplus / (Deficit)	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
The Kite Federation	£3,360	(£77,471)	(£91,131)	(£94,491)	(£13,660)

## (14) Theale

School Balance History	Main School Budget Balance				Inc/Dec 23/24 to 24/25 £
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£	£	£	£	
Theale Primary School	£37,384	£8,626	(£39,994)	(£234,747)	(£194,753)

The final outturn position was a £234.7k deficit, which is £244.6k worse than the budgeted surplus of £9.9k.

SCHOOLS/FEDERATIONS WITH LICENSED DEFICITS 2023/24	Budget (Main School Budget)	P9 Forecast	Closing balance	Variance Original MSB to Closing Balance	Variance P9 Forecast to P13 Closing Balance
Surplus / (Deficit)					
Theale Primary School	£9,870	(£114,993)	(£234,747)	(£244,617)	(£119,754)

## 7. Decisions 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

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## Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Report 2025/26 – Quarter One

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**Report being considered by:** Schools Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
**Report Author:** Elizabeth Griffiths  
**Item for:** Information **By:** All Forum Members

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### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report 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

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3. Introduction/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 2025. 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 over spends/under spends and to inform future year budget requirements.
- 3.2 There are four DSG funding blocks: Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Schools Services Block. The funding for each of the four blocks is determined by a national funding formula.

### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The 2025/26 Dedicated Schools Grant allocation is £203.1m. This includes £64m which funds Academies and post-16 high needs places which is paid direct by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to schools. The DSG budget for 2025/26 has been built utilising the remaining grant.
- 4.2 The Schools block is ring fenced but the Local Authority can transfer up to 0.5% of the funding out of the schools block with Schools Forum agreement. The other blocks are not subject to this limitation on transfers For the 2025/26 budget, no balances were transferred between the blocks.
- 4.3 The DSG expenditure budgets required for 2025/26 total £156.3m, which is £14m more than the funding available. This is due to a rising demand for high needs provision, there is a lack of sufficient maintained SEN places and so more use is having to be made of independent non maintained schools, with significant cost implications. There are also pressures on top up funding allocations. As a result, a

£14m in-year efficiency target has been set against the High Needs Block, in order to balance the DSG budget.

- 4.4 There is a brought forward deficit on the DSG of £16.1m.
- 4.5 The forecast position at the end of June is shown in Table 1. A more detailed position per cost centre is shown in Appendix A.

Prior Years			Table 1 - DSG Block forecast 2025/26	2025/26				Deficit/ (surplus)
2022/23 Outturn	2023/24 Outturn	2024/25 Outturn		Original Budget	Budget Changes	Final Budget	Quarter 1 Forecast	
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
			<b>Expenditure:</b>					
73,090	77,070	77,955	Schools Block (inc ISB)	84,640	0	84,640	84,640	(0)
10,240	11,325	19,878	Early Years Block	27,240	0	27,240	27,204	(37)
967	935	950	Central School Services Block	1,068	0	1,068	1,063	(5)
26,456	31,157	36,344	High Needs Block	43,421	0	43,421	43,044	(377)
0	0	0	High Needs Block In-Year deficit recovery	(14,040)	0	(14,040)	0	14,040
<b>110,754</b>	<b>120,487</b>	<b>135,127</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>142,329</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142,329</b>	<b>155,951</b>	<b>13,622</b>
			<b>DSG Grant Income:</b>					
(72,937)	(77,005)	(78,106)	Schools Block	(84,640)	0	(84,640)	(84,640)	0
(10,102)	(11,115)	(20,214)	Early Years Block	(27,240)	0	(27,240)	(27,240)	0
(992)	(973)	(951)	Central School Services Block	(1,068)	0	(1,068)	(1,068)	0
(24,983)	(26,892)	(27,750)	High Needs Block	(29,381)	0	(29,381)	(29,381)	0
<b>(109,014)</b>	<b>(115,985)</b>	<b>(127,020)</b>	<b>Total DSG Income</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>0</b>
(53)			In-year adjustments					
<b>(109,067)</b>	<b>(115,985)</b>	<b>(127,020)</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>(142,329)</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>In year net deficit/(surplus):</b>					
153	65	(151)	Schools Block	0	0	0	(0)	0
138	210	(335)	Early Years Block	0	0	0	(37)	0
(25)	(38)	(2)	Central School Services Block	0	0	0	(5)	0
1,474	4,265	8,594	High Needs Block	0	0	0	13,663	0
(50)	39		Grant adjustment (re PPG)					
<b>1,689</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>8,107</b>	<b>Net In-year Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,622</b>	<b>0</b>
2,964	4,761	9,450	Deficit Balance in reserves	16,133		16,133	16,133	16,133
108	148	94	In year reserve movement	0	0	0	57	0
0	0	(1,518)	Clawback from Schools	0		0		0
<b>4,761</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>Cumulative Deficit</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>29,811</b>	<b>16,133</b>

- 4.6 The Quarter One forecast shows an in-year forecast deficit of £13.6m versus budget, this includes the in-year efficiency target. When added to the cumulative deficit of £16.1m, the forecast year end deficit on the DSG is £29.8m.
- 4.7 With new funding streams in 2025/26 within the Early Years Block it is difficult to forecast accurately so early in the year. However, some savings have been identified against the service manager post and some vacancies, totalling £36k.
- 4.8 The High Needs Block is currently showing a £377k underspend at Quarter One against the budget. This is mainly due to vacant posts.
- 4.9 The High Needs Block in year deficit recovery target of £14m is a balancing figure between the budget set and the funding received. There is currently no savings being forecast against this. The service are reviewing to determine what further mitigations can be developed.

- 4.10 The table below shows the forecast position for the end of 2025/26 by block. The surplus balance on the Schools Block of £1m is supporting the forecast overspend position on the other blocks.

Reserve Balances (surplus)/deficit	1.4.2025 Actual	Change in reserves	In-year Deficit/ (Surplus)	31.3.2026 Forecast
Schools Block - growth fund	(729)	0	0	(729)
Schools Block De-delegated	(321)	57	0	(264)
Schools Block - other	(97)	0	0	(97)
Early Years Block	926	0	(37)	890
Central School Services Block	(1)	0	(5)	(5)
High Needs Block	17,872	0	13,663	31,534
Clawback from Schools	(1,518)	0		(1,518)
<b>Total Deficit Balance</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>13,622</b>	<b>29,811</b>

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The total forecast deficit on the DSG amounts to £29.8m, comprising £16.1m from previous years and a further £13.6m forecast overspend in year. The forecast position will be kept under review and updates provided to Schools' Forum.

## 6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – DSG 2025-26 Budget Monitoring Report Month 3

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2025/2026 Budget Monitoring Month Three							
Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2025/26	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2025/26	Actual	Variance	Comments
90020	Primary Schools (excluding nursery funding)	60,640,630		60,640,630	60,640,630	0	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Primary	0		0	0	0	
90025	Secondary Schools (excluding 6th form funding)	23,012,980		23,012,980	23,012,980	0	
DSG top slice	Academy Schools Secondary	0		0	0	0	
90230	DD - Schools in Financial Difficulty (primary schools)	0		0	0	0	
90113	DD - Trade Union Costs	66,270		66,270	66,270	0	
90255	DD - Support to Ethnic minority & bilingual Learners	170,500		170,500	170,500	0	
90349	DD - Behaviour Support Services	261,330		261,330	261,330	0	
90424	DD - CLEAPSS	3,420		3,420	3,420	0	
90470	DD - School Improvement	310,390		310,390	310,390	0	
90423	DD - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	135,820		135,820	135,820	0	
90235	School Contingency - Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	0		0	0	0	
90054	De-delegated funding from reserves	-56,850		-56,850	-56,854	-4	
	SSR	95,227		95,227	95,227	0	
	<b>Schools Block Total</b>	<b>84,639,717</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84,639,717</b>	<b>84,639,713</b>	<b>-4</b>	
90583	National Copyright Licences	184,100		184,100	184,100	0	
90019	Servicing of Schools Forum	50,590		50,590	50,590	0	
90743	School Admissions	214,210		214,210	214,210	0	
90354	ESG - Education Welfare	214,440		214,440	210,220	-4,220	
90460	ESG - Statutory & Regulatory Duties	313,920		313,920	313,920	0	
90054	Surplus budget to off-set cumulative deficit	470		470	0	-470	
	SSR	90,210		90,210	90,210	0	
	<b>Central School Services Block DSG</b>	<b>1,067,940</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,067,940</b>	<b>1,063,250</b>	<b>-4,690</b>	
90010	Early Years Funding - Nursery Schools	1,239,660		1,239,660	1,239,660	0	
90037	Early Years Funding - Maintained Schools	2,375,750		2,375,750	2,375,750	0	
90036	Early Years Funding - PVI Sector	7,783,440		7,783,440	7,783,440	0	
90052	Early Years PPG & Deprivation Funding	341,800		341,800	341,800	0	
90053	Disability Access Fund	107,870		107,870	107,870	0	
90018	2 year old funding	6,371,460		6,371,460	6,371,460	0	
90023	Under 2's	8,009,290		8,009,290	8,009,290	0	
90017	Central Expenditure on Children under 5	442,390		442,390	416,960	-25,430	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	77,565		77,565	66,434	-11,131	
90238	Early Years Inclusion Fund	108,000		108,000	108,000	0	
90054	Early Years adjustment re grant funding	297,450		297,450	297,450	0	
	Early Years Budget Grant			0	0	0	
	SSR	85,642		85,642	85,642	0	
	<b>Early Years Block Total</b>	<b>27,240,317</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,240,317</b>	<b>27,203,756</b>	<b>-36,561</b>	



# Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Report 2025/26 – Quarter One

## Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2025/2026 Budget Monitoring Month Three

Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2025/26	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2025/26	Actual	Variance	Comments
90026	Academy Schools RU Top Ups	1,297,350		1,297,350	1,321,400	24,050	
90539	Special Schools - Top Up Funding	6,601,730		6,601,730	6,504,400	-97,330	
90548	Non WBC Special Schools - Top Up Funding	257,870		257,870	291,520	33,650	
90554	Non WBC free schools	504,750		504,750	694,690	189,940	
90556	SEMH provision at Theale	1,901,700		1,901,700	1,901,700	0	
90557	Kennet Valley Resource Unit	655,840		655,840	655,840	0	
90575	Non LEA Special School (OofA)	1,456,230		1,456,230	1,556,140	99,910	
90579	Independent Special School Place & Top Up	11,425,820		11,425,820	11,316,080	-109,740	
90580	Further Education Colleges Top Up	1,726,810		1,726,810	1,376,710	-350,100	
90617	Resourced Units top up Funding maintained	725,120		725,120	725,120	0	
90618	Non WBC Resourced Units - Top Up Funding	43,720		43,720	60,050	16,330	
90621	Mainstream - Top Up Funding maintained	2,039,520		2,039,520	2,100,000	60,480	
90622	Mainstream - Top Up Funding Academies	1,199,630		1,199,630	1,169,380	-30,250	
90624	Non WBC Mainstream - Top Up Funding	124,980		124,980	144,440	19,460	
90625	Pupil Referral Units - Top Up Funding	1,196,370		1,196,370	1,196,370	0	
90627	Disproportionate No: of HN Pupils NEW	200,000		200,000	200,000	0	
90628	EHCP PRU Placement	1,255,470		1,255,470	1,255,470	0	
	<b>High Needs Block: Top Up Funding Total</b>	<b>32,612,910</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32,612,910</b>	<b>32,469,310</b>	<b>-143,600</b>	
90320	Pupil Referral Units	860,000		860,000	860,000	0	
90540	Special Schools	3,410,000		3,410,000	3,410,000	0	
90546	Special Schools - Place Funding Post 16	790,000		790,000	790,000	0	
90551	Mainstream Maintained - post 16 SEN places	48,000		48,000	48,000	0	
90552	Special Schools and PRU Teachers Pay and Pension	334,600		334,600	334,600	0	
90584	Resourced Units - Place Funding	304,000		304,000	304,000	0	
	<b>High Needs Block: Place Funding Total</b>	<b>5,746,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,746,600</b>	<b>5,746,600</b>	<b>0</b>	
90240	Applied Behaviour Analysis	0		0	0	0	
90573	Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	279,470		279,470	271,910	-7,560	
90574	Spot Purchases - Alternative Provision	376,090		376,090	370,710	-5,380	
90280	Special Needs Support Team	395,110		395,110	365,570	-29,540	
90281	SEND Strategy (DSG)	75,140		75,140	70,920	-4,220	
90282	Medical Home Tuition	403,760		403,760	285,780	-117,980	
90237	High Needs Contingency	289,910		289,910	289,910	0	
90286	Early Years Speech & Language	0		0	0	0	
90287	Pre School Teacher Counselling	151,355		151,355	129,636	-21,719	
90288	Elective Home Education Monitoring	72,360		72,360	56,310	-16,050	

Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring Report 2025/26 – Quarter One

Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) 2025/2026 Budget Monitoring Month Three							
Cost Centre	Description	Original Budget 2025/26	Net Virements in year	Amended Budget 2025/26	Actual	Variance	Comments
90290	Sensory Impairment	251,220		251,220	251,220	0	
90295	Therapy Services	614,680		614,680	614,680	0	
90372	Therapeutic Thinking	76,700		76,700	65,630	-11,070	
90373	Emotional Based School Avoiders (EBSA)	144,520		144,520	144,520	0	
90374	SEMH Practitioner	54,240		54,240	39,020	-15,220	
90555	LAL funding	183,920		183,920	183,920	0	
90565	Equipment For SEN Pupils	20,000		20,000	20,000	0	
90577	SEN Commissioned Provision	722,340		722,340	722,340	0	
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	36,180		36,180	36,180	0	
90830	ASD Teachers	326,130		326,130	321,390	-4,740	
90961	Vulnerable Children	179,400		179,400	179,400	0	
90581	Dingleys Promise	125,000		125,000	125,000	0	
	<b>High Needs Block: Non Top Up or Place Funding</b>	<b>4,888,725</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,888,725</b>	<b>4,655,246</b>	<b>-233,479</b>	
90054	Efficiency Target	-14,039,870		-14,039,870	0	14,039,870	
	SSR	172,921		172,921	172,921	0	
	<b>High Needs Block Total</b>	<b>29,381,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,381,286</b>	<b>43,044,077</b>	<b>13,662,791</b>	
	<b>TOTAL DSG EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>142,329,260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142,329,260</b>	<b>155,950,796</b>	<b>13,621,536</b>	
90030	DSG Grant Account	-142,329,260		-142,329,260	-142,329,260	0	
90054	Clawback from Schools			0		0	
	<b>Net In-year Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,621,536</b>	<b>13,621,536</b>	
	<b>Deficit Balance brought forward</b>	<b>16,132,638</b>		<b>16,132,638</b>	<b>16,132,638</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<b>In year reserve movement</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>56,854</b>	<b>56,854</b>	Funding from reserves for de-delegations
	<b>Cumulative Deficit</b>	<b>16,132,638</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,132,638</b>	<b>29,811,028</b>	<b>13,678,390</b>	

## Schools' Forum - Contracts - Forward Plan

The Schools' Forum must be consulted when the local authority is proposing a contract for supplies and services which is to be funded from the Schools Budget (Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)) and is in excess of the EU procurement thresholds (£170,781.60).

Contract Title	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date (initial term)	Contract End Date (Including any Extension)	Contract Term in years (in brackets maximum possible extension)	Contract Total Value (£) based on Initial Term	Contract Amount (Total Value inclusive of Contract Extension Agreed)	Supplier name	WBC Responsible Officer	Notes
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)	01/08/2021	31/07/2024	31/07/2025	3 (4)	£164,850	£239,500	Rose Road Association	Gerard Strong / Kiki Hurford (supports procurement process only)	This contract is not funded from the DSG and is an Information item only. June 2025 Update: Following Procurement Board approval for a one-year extension, the provider submitted a revised proposal to reduce contactable hours. The final agreed changes include a reduction in term-time telephone hours (Fridays shortened to 10:00–15:00) and holiday cover limited to Mondays and Tuesdays only. This represents an overall 10% annual reduction in contact hours, with holiday coverage reducing by 57.5%. Voicemail and contact response time standards are maintained. The variation has been accepted, and the contract will continue until July 2025. Further procurement will be required for delivery beyond this point.
West Berkshire Schools Meals Service	24/07/2020	23/07/2023	23/07/2025	3 (2)	£600000approx	£1,000,000	Caterlink	Kiki Hurford (supports procurement process only)	Schools involved have been contacted and informed that that this will be handed back to schools to procure individually once the contract comes to an end.
Education Packages for Young People with Severe Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties	01/09/2020	31/08/2023	31/08/2025	3 (2)	£1,674,000	£2,790,000	Engaging Potential LTD	Hannah Geddert / Rebecca Page (supports procurement process only)	It has been agreed that this contract will continue however, details including costs are in the process of being finalised. A further update will be provided to the Forum in October.
Energy Framework - CCS framework RM6011 - Electricity	01/04/2017 (rolling contract since 2008)	01/10/2023	31/03/2025		£5,421,522		EDF (HH)	Sarah Wood	The central energy contract is a non-mandated contract that maintained schools can access for provision of their gas and electricity.
Energy Framework – CCS Framework RM6011 - Gas	01/04/2017 (rolling contract since 2008))	01/10/2023	31/03/2025		£1,325,589		Total	Sarah Wood	
Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)	01/04/2023	31/08/2028	31/03/3031	5 (3)	£2,348,480	£3,757,568	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	Kiki Hurford / Thomas Bailey (supports procurement process only)	A report was brought to the Schools' Forum meeting in October 2022 and the new therapy contract was agreed.

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