

**DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM**

Town Hall, Committee Room 1  
 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
 2pm 4pm

**AGENDA**

Item No.	Item	Decision required?	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies  Register/Declaration of business interests	No	Chair
2	Minutes of the meeting 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 and Matters Arising	Yes	Chair
3	Membership Update and Election Procedures	Yes	Clerk
4	Budget Update 2024/25	No	Emma Clennell
5	School Funding Formula 2025/26	Yes	Emma Clennell
6	Budget Setting 2025/26	Yes	Emma Clennell
7	Safety Valve Plan	No	Tony Murphy
8	High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group Summary of meetings 3 <sup>rd</sup> October and 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 Membership and terms of reference update	Yes	Paula Ayto
9	Future Meetings  Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 2pm via Teams Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 2pm Town Hall	No	Chair
10	Any other business		

Date of next meeting  
 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 2pm via Teams

## DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

---

### MINUTES OF MEETING 08 OCTOBER 2024

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair:** P Ayto (Reid Street Primary); J Davidson (Red Hall Primary); H Dummett (Federation of Darlington Nurseries); S Hudson (Rise Carr College); J Armitage (Rydal Academy Primary); S Welsh (Whinfield Primary); J Blackham (Mount Pleasant Primary); P King (Federation of Mowden Schools); K Reid (Polam Free School); D Lythgoe (St Aidan's Academy); M Butler (Education Village Academy Trust); D Leane (Carmel College)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr. N Wallis; T Murphy (Assistant Director of Education & Inclusion) J Littler (Interim Head of SEND Service for SEND & Inclusion); E Clennell (Finance Manager); J Aconley-Foster (Finance Officer); E Marshall (Education Partnerships Officer - Clerk);

**APOLOGIES:** M Kane (Carmel College); T Fisher (QE College); M Fryer (Hummersknott Academy); T Abbott (Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust); J Skirving (St George's CofE Academy); S Gill (Haughton Academy); M Ramsay (St Johns CofE Academy); C Moss (Pierremont Pre School); Elizabeth Baker (Little Acorns);

#### 1. Welcome, Introduction & Register/Declaration of business interests.

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the meeting on apologies.

There were no declarations of business interests.

Any Other Business. TM raised the item of Union Time.

The Vice-Chair requested that special thanks be given to Dean Judson, previous Chair of the Schools Forum for his many years of commitment both to the Schools Forum and his work with the Darlington partnership of schools.

The Vice-Chair handed over to Tony Murphy (TM) to take forward the item relating to election of new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024/25.

#### 2. Schools Forum Membership Update

The Assistant Director (TM) asked Schools Forum to note that following nominations for a new Chair before the Summer break, Mike Butler self-nominated for this role. There were no challenges or objections to this nomination. It was agreed that MB would take over Chair from January 2025. MB thanked colleagues for their support.

TM also asked Schools Forum to elect Vice-Chair, Paula Ayto following her self-nomination. There were no challenges or objections to this nomination.

This document was classified as: OFFICIAL

TM asked the Clerk to update the meeting on membership vacancies. EM confirmed that no nominations had yet been received for

- Secondary Academy representative
- Secondary Academy (Governor) representative

**Action:** Nominations were requested through the Schools Forum and these should be sent to the clerk.

### 3. Minutes of Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and Matters Arising

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

#### Matters Arising

The matters arising from 16<sup>th</sup> January are ongoing:

- **High Needs Block: The Interim Head of SEND to provide data on requests for assessment for discussion at a future high needs subgroup meeting and report to the Schools Forum.**

JL confirmed that the high needs subgroup will consider further at its next and subsequent meetings to inform future budget discussions.

The matters arising from 14<sup>th</sup> May were:

**Item 7 Beaumont Hill Academy Memorandum of Understanding** : Due to commercial sensitivity, TM advised that the core aims and objectives which have been signed up to in the MOU, will be circulated this will provide contextual and strategic position for Schools Forum.

### 4. Budget Update 2024/25

The Finance Manager updated Schools Forum regarding the 2024/25 budget position as per the previously circulated report.

The Finance Manager outlined the key points from the report. Several adjustments have increased the overall funding to £119,843,632. The key changes were highlighted:

- As Darlington is a net importer, the block has increased by £201,000.
- There are two increases to the early years block, £396,382 following the census information and £240,447 for the under 2s part time equivalent estimated hours. This could be subject to clawback in June/July 2025.
- The ESFA have recouped an additional £2,009,771 in relation to the academisation of Whinfield Primary School,
- £20,000 has been recouped for the increased places within Post 16 provision in the high needs block.
- We have received a reimbursement in the early years block for the financial year 2023/24 of £215,270 following the census reconciliation which will offset some of the brought forward deficit in the early years block.
- Following the first two years of the Safety Valve Programme, the closing net position across all the DSG blocks at the end of 2023/24 was a deficit of £1,848,408.

Key points in the Appendix 1 were noted:

### Schools Block

The schools block is estimated to be underspent by £25,047 at the end of the financial year, this is unallocated funding agreed in January Schools Forum to be held in reserve for future years.

### High Needs Block

EC thanked the Finance Officer JA-F for his work, with support from the SEND team on the high needs block budget.

The high needs block is currently projecting an overspend of £120,985, taking into account growth projections and the allowance of £150,000 transfer from the School Block Reserve.

The main movements from the budgeted figures are:

- Pre 16 Independent provision is anticipated to overspend by approx. £251,232, due to placements that have been made where no state funded special school provision was available – Add in this paragraph
- The overall Post 16 provision is projected to be underspent by approx. £178,000 based on the current information, however it was noted that at the time of writing this report the Autumn term payments have not been made and therefore this position should be treated with caution.
- The Teachers 2024 pay award allocations will be published by the ESFA at the end of October.

The Finance Manager highlighted that the main movements in the high needs block were due to the Pre-16 placements as there is no state funded provision and there have been legal challenges where independent specialist provision has been agreed. It was noted that ISP placements are 23.6% of the block spend, at an average cost per placement of £65,457 as compared to £8,556 for a mainstream placement.

TM raised that the DfE have informed Local Authorities of the delay to the timetable for indicative allocations in 2025. This is likely to have an impact on budget setting and the January Forum meeting may be affected. EC highlighted that high needs block budget setting will require the support of the high needs budget sub-group. The Vice-Chair also raised that the implications of the ESFA becoming part of DfE following the secretary of state announcement, may cause additional delays.

These factors were noted by the Schools Forum. The Schools Forum thanked the Finance Manager for the clarity of the report.

### Recommendations

- That Schools Forum noted the current budget position.
- That Schools Forum noted the current high needs block position and the fluidity of this area.
- That Schools Forum noted the ongoing pressures within the SEN Inclusion Funding.
- That Schools Forum noted the split of funding across the Education Sector within the high needs block.

## **5. Safety Valve Plan**

The Assistant Director confirmed that there is positive current position on the deficit management plan which currently sits at 1.4m across all blocks.

This document was classified as: OFFICIAL

The last quarterly report submitted was accepted. This is reflective of the positive partnership working in Darlington. It was noted that the Safety Valve plan will be reviewed in Spring 2025, and the next submission is November 2024. It was re-iterated that the local savings and payments received have reduced the deficit but this needs to continue.

The Schools Forum noted the update.

## **6. High Needs Subgroup Meeting Report**

A summary of the High Needs (HN) Subgroup meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was circulated with the report.

Chair of the sub-group, Paula Ayto (Schools Forum Vice-Chair) provided some background information relating to discussions held by the subgroup which included the affect of lack of secondary places for ASD in a resource base setting. Whilst the Tees Valley school and new Education Village Academy Trust Post 16 provision will bring new places in line, this will be available in the longer term. It was noted that the Local Authority have invited expressions of interest from secondary schools for a secondary phase resource base. The generic culture between primary and secondary schools was discussed and MB also raised the fact that the Inclusion Charter will set a positive culture in settings. It was noted that these are significant priorities.

The Schools Forum thanked the subgroup for its work.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **Union Time**

The Assistant Director (TM) informed the Schools Forum that a meeting with Darlington union representation will identify the demand for union time in Darlington and implications, if any, for the union budget. This was noted as having been underspent for many years (at an annual budget of £10,000). The premise for use of the budget was discussed, being that it should not be used for case work undertaken by union officials. TM and EC confirmed that a fact-finding meeting will inform a paper which will be brought to the Schools Forum in Spring term 2025.

## **8. Time/Location of next meeting:**

The next meeting, subject to the DfE budget setting timetable, will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 2pm at the Town Hall.

The Schools Forum noted that the remainder 2024/25 Academic Year dates are:

Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 2pm	TEAMS
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – 2pm	Town Hall



## Darlington Schools Forum Election Procedures

### 1. School Members

#### 1.1 Primary maintained schools

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors inviting nominations. The Headteachers will agree how their representative Headteacher and/or Governor are selected. Nominations must be submitted to the Clerk to the Forum.

#### 1.2 Academies

The Clerk to the Forum will write to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors/Trustees of Darlington academies to alert them to the need for nominations. It is for the proprietors/trustees to decide how they will select their representative. It is then for the representative group (11-19 Partnership/Primary Forum without maintained representatives), working together to select their group nominees. There is no requirement for academies members to represent specific primary and secondary phases, but it is encouraged to ensure representation remains broadly proportionate to pupil numbers.

#### 1.3 Special Schools

The Clerk to the Forum will write to the Headteacher and Chairs of Governors, to invite self-nomination. It will then be for the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to decide who to put forward as the representative.

### 2 Non-School Members

#### 2.1 Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers (PVI)

The Head of Education Partnerships will write to all Darlington PVI members to invite self-nominations. A ballot will be undertaken at the Early Years Strategy Group where the representative to put forward will be agreed.

#### 2.2 Further Education

The Clerk to the Forum will write to the Principals of all 16-19 FE colleges which serve the Council.

#### 2.3 Diocesan Representative

The Head of Education Partnerships will write to the Academy Council of all Diocesan schools in Darlington where members are to invite self-nominations.

ITEM 3 MEMBERSHIP

SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERS AS OF 07 JANUARY 2025

Each local authority must make a written record of the composition of its schools forum detailing the numbers of schools members and by which group or sub group they were elected, the number of academies members and the number of non schools members, their terms of office, how they were chosen and whom they represent. This record should also indicate the term of office for schools and academies members. Any vacancies arising during the 4 year term of appointment, will be appointed for the remainder of that term of office. As advised in the Education Funding Agency's 'Schools' Forums: operational and good practice guide for local authorities and members of Schools' Forums', March 2021 para 55.

School Type	Member	Elected by	School	MAT	Voting Rights*	Email Address	Phone Number	Substitute	Email Address	Date appointed	Date reappointment due - 4 year term	Date reappointed
<b>Schools (Maintained) Members</b>			<b>% pupils / 25% representation on SF</b>		<b>Primary school De-Delegation; General Duties and Retained Duties</b>							
1	Maintained - Nursery	Helen Dummett	LA	Federation of Darlington Nurseries		<a href="mailto:helen.dummett@darlingtonnurseschools.org.uk">helen.dummett@darlingtonnurseschools.org.uk</a>	01325 380 802	Cheryl Theakston	<a href="mailto:cheryl.theakston@darlingtonnurseschools.org.uk">cheryl.theakston@darlingtonnurseschools.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
2	Maintained - Primary	Julie Davidson	LA	Red Hall Primary School		<a href="mailto:headteacher@redhall.darlington.sch.uk">headteacher@redhall.darlington.sch.uk</a>	01325 254770	Carly Egglestone	<a href="mailto:cegglestone@redhall.darlington.sch.uk">cegglestone@redhall.darlington.sch.uk</a>	May-24	May-28	
3	Pupil Referral Unit	Sally Hudson	LA	Rise Carr College		<a href="mailto:shudson@risecarrcollege.org.uk">shudson@risecarrcollege.org.uk</a>	01325 348 600	Kerry Loftus	<a href="mailto:K.Loftus@risecarrcollege.org.uk">K.Loftus@risecarrcollege.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
<b>Academy Members - Primary</b>			<b>50% pupils / 30% representation on SF</b>		<b>No voting on De-Delegation or the scheme for financing schools. Can vote on Retained Duties.</b>							
4	Academy - Primary	Shirley Welsh	Primary Forum	Whinfield Primary School	Education Village Academy Trust	<a href="mailto:s.welsh@whinfield.net">s.welsh@whinfield.net</a>	01325 254 770	Carol Hall	<a href="mailto:c.hall@whinfield.net">c.hall@whinfield.net</a>	May-24	May-28	
5	Academy - Primary	Marco Ramsay	Primary Forum	St Johns Academy	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust	<a href="mailto:marco.ramsay@stjohnsacademy.co.uk">marco.ramsay@stjohnsacademy.co.uk</a>	01325 380 725	Richard Gartland	<a href="mailto:rgartland@educationvillage.org.uk">rgartland@educationvillage.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
6	Academy - Primary	Peter King	Primary Forum	Federation of Mowden Schools	Federation of Mowden Schools	<a href="mailto:head@mowden.darlington.sch.uk">head@mowden.darlington.sch.uk</a>	01325 380 820	Paula Strachan	<a href="mailto:pstrachan@bhcet.org.uk">pstrachan@bhcet.org.uk</a>	May-24	May-28	
7	Academy - Primary	Jo Blackham	Primary Forum	Mount Pleasant	Lingfield Education Trust	<a href="mailto:jblackham@mountpleasant.darlington.sch.uk">jblackham@mountpleasant.darlington.sch.uk</a>	01325 244 950	Kath Hull	<a href="mailto:khull@lingfieldeducationtrust.com">khull@lingfieldeducationtrust.com</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
8	Academy - Primary	Paula Ayto (Vice Chair)	Primary Forum	Reid Street Primary	Education Village Academy Trust	<a href="mailto:paayto@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk">paayto@reidstreet.darlington.sch.uk</a>	01325 251 006	Sam Hirst	<a href="mailto:S.Hirst@westparkacademy.org.uk">S.Hirst@westparkacademy.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
9	Academy - Primary	John Armitage	Primary Forum	Rydal Academy	Northern Arch Learning Partnership	<a href="mailto:jarmitage@rydal.nalp.org.uk">jarmitage@rydal.nalp.org.uk</a>	01325 380 784	Katie Turnbull	<a href="mailto:kturnbull@rydal.nalp.org.uk">kturnbull@rydal.nalp.org.uk</a>	May-24	May-28	
<b>Academy Members - Secondary</b>			<b>36% pupils / 25% representation on SF</b>		<b>No voting on De-Delegation or the scheme for financing schools. Can vote on Retained Duties.</b>							
10	Academy - Secondary	Su Gill	11-19 Partnership	Haughton Academy	Education Village Academy Trust	<a href="mailto:sgill@educationvillage.org.uk">sgill@educationvillage.org.uk</a>	01325 254000	Glen Hart	<a href="mailto:ghart@hurworth.nalp.org.uk">ghart@hurworth.nalp.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
11	Academy - Secondary	Melanie Kane	11-19 Partnership	Carmel College	Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust	<a href="mailto:kanem@carmel.bhcet.org.uk">kanem@carmel.bhcet.org.uk</a>	01325 254 525	Stuart McGehee	<a href="mailto:smghee@bhcet.org.uk">smghee@bhcet.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
12	Academy - Secondary	Dean Lythgoe	11-19 Partnership	St Aidan's Academy	Northern Lights Learning Trust	<a href="mailto:dean.lythgoe@nllt.co.uk">dean.lythgoe@nllt.co.uk</a>	01325 373 770	Jo Keane/Chris Henderson/Nathan Smith	<a href="mailto:j.keane@nllt.co.uk">j.keane@nllt.co.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
13	Academy - Secondary	Kate Reid	11-19 Partnership	Polam Hall School	Woodard Academy Trust	<a href="mailto:reid.k@pshs.woodard.co.uk">reid.k@pshs.woodard.co.uk</a>	01325 463 383	Julie Mogridge	<a href="mailto:mogridge.j@pshs.woodard.co.uk">mogridge.j@pshs.woodard.co.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
<b>Governor Member - Secondary</b>					<b>No voting on De-Delegation or the scheme for financing schools. Can vote on Retained Duties.</b>							
14	Academy - Secondary	Mike Fryer		Hummersknott Academy	Advance Learning Partnership Trust	<a href="mailto:h.fryer@live.co.uk">h.fryer@live.co.uk</a>	01325 241 191	VAC		Sep-23	Aug-27	
<b>Special School Academy Member</b>			<b>2% pupils / 5% representation on SF</b>		<b>No voting on De-Delegation or the scheme for financing schools. Can vote on Retained Duties.</b>							
15	Academy - Special School	Mike Butler (Chair)	Special Academy Schools	Education Village Academy Trust	Education Village Academy Trust	<a href="mailto:mbutler@educationvillage.org.uk">mbutler@educationvillage.org.uk</a>	01325 254 000	Marie Roe/Lisa Dunn	<a href="mailto:mroe@educationvillage.org.uk">mroe@educationvillage.org.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:LDunn@educationvillage.org.uk">LDunn@educationvillage.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
<b>Non School Members</b>			<b>25% representation (no more than 1/3 of total members permitted)</b>		<b>No voting on De-Delegation or the scheme for financing schools. ONLY PVI can vote on consultation on funding formula.</b>							
16	Diocesan Representative	Trish Abbott	Darlington Catholic Diocese Schools	Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust	Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust	<a href="mailto:tabbott@bhcet.org.uk">tabbott@bhcet.org.uk</a>	01325 254 525	David Leane	<a href="mailto:leaned@bhcet.org.uk">leaned@bhcet.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
17	Diocesan Representative	Judith Skirving	Darlington Church of England Diocese Schools	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust	Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust	<a href="mailto:djskirving@stgeorges-darlington.co.uk">djskirving@stgeorges-darlington.co.uk</a>	01325 332 230	VAC		Sep-23	Aug-27	
18	16-19 Education	Tim Fisher	Darlington 16-19 Education	Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	Northern Arch Learning Partnership	<a href="mailto:TFisher@nalp.org.uk">TFisher@nalp.org.uk</a>	01325 406 015	Lisa Marron	<a href="mailto:lmarron@nalp.org.uk">lmarron@nalp.org.uk</a>	Sep-23	Aug-27	
19	PVI Early Years	Caroline Moss, Manager	Early Years Settings	Pierremont Pre School		<a href="mailto:pierremontpreschool@icloud.com">pierremontpreschool@icloud.com</a>	07852 512742	Tracey Reed (Sadberge Preschool)	<a href="mailto:tracey.reed7@ntlworld.com">tracey.reed7@ntlworld.com</a>	Mar-24	Mar-28	
20	PVI Early Years	VAC	Early Years Settings					VAC				

Last Updated:

updated 07/01/2025

\* Apart from exceptions noted, all school, Academy and non-school members can vote on any other schools forum business. As summarised in the Operational Guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-guidance-for-2019-to-2020>





## DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

ITEM NO 4

---

### BUDGET UPDATE 2024/25

---

#### Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum regarding the 2024/25 budget position. The report is for information and therefore no decisions are required.

#### Background

2. Schools Forum was notified at the January 2024 meeting of a Dedicated Schools Grant budget (DSG) allocation of £119,006,003 and a budget was agreed accordingly. Adjustments to the funding were noted at the October Forum bringing the overall allocation to £119,843,832
3. There have been two further adjustments to the DSG allocation which have reduced the overall funding by £84,303 to £119,759,629, (prior to Recoupment) and therefore the budget since the October meeting has altered. These changes are described in the following paragraphs.
4. The revised budget is detailed in appendix 1.

#### Budget Changes

5. Following data collection by the DfE for the new entitlement for working parents of 2-year-olds, we have had a reduction of £76,074 for the estimated part time equivalent numbers, there has also been a reduction to the Early Years pupil premium funding of £15,492 in relation to the estimated number of eligible children. After these adjustments the revised Early Years block is £12,181,034. The block may be subject to clawback in June/July next year, when the January census information is completed.
6. There has been an increase to the Central Schools Block of £7,363 for increased costs of the copyright licences, this adjustment increases the Central Schools Block to £900,370.

7. The table below shows the adjusted DSG Funding prior to recoupment by the Department.

**Summary of Revised DSG Funding Allocation**

DSG Block Allocation	Funding Confirmed at the January 2024 Forum	Adjustments to the DSG reported to the October Forum	Adjustments reported to the January 2025 Forum	Revised DSG Allocation
	£	£	£	£
Schools Block	85,642,394	0	0	85,642,394
Central Schools Block	893,007	0	7,363	900,370
High Needs Block	20,834,831	201,000	0	21,035,831
Early Years Block	11,635,771	636,829	(91,566)	12,181,034
<b>Total DSG Allocation</b>	<b>119,006,003</b>	<b>837,829</b>	<b>(84,203)</b>	<b>119,759,629</b>

**Reserves**

8. Schools Forum were notified in the January 2024 Forum meeting paper, of the year end budget position for 2023/24 with a deficit across all the blocks of £5,002,408 to carry into 2024/25. Two reserve adjustments were reported to the October Forum as shown in the table below:
- **Schools Block.** As previously agreed £150,000 has been transferred from the Schools Block reserve into the High Needs block to support the increased pressures of EHCP demand. The revised reserve on the block is £196,026
  - **Early Years Block.** As reported in the October Forum we had an in-year reimbursement to the 2023/24 allocation following the census reconciliation of £215,874 across the 3- & 4-year-olds and 2 year olds.

**Summary of Reserve Balances for 2024/25 and In year Adjustments**

Reserves	BF into 2024/25	Reserve Adjustments	Balance of Reserve
Schools Block	346,026	(150,000)	196,026
Central Schools Block	578,277	0	578,277
Central Schools Block - PFI	44,139	0	44,139
High Needs Block	(5,557,792)	0	(5,557,792)
Early Years Block	(413,058)	215,270	(197,788)
<b>Total Reserve Balances</b>	<b>(5,002,408)</b>	<b>65,270</b>	<b>(4,937,138)</b>

*NB – Deficits are shown in brackets in red, Surpluses are shown as a positive figure*

9. The DSG brought forward reserve deficit after the Early Years reimbursement for 2023/24 now stands at £4,937,138 prior to Safety Valve payments. To date we have received payments for the Safety Valve programme of £3,669,534 to be held towards the repayment of the High Needs Block deficit. The final payment for 2024/25 of £156,666 has been approved by the DfE but not receipted at the time of writing this report.

## 10. Budget Position – Appendix 1

### Schools Block

11. The in-year schools block is estimated to be underspent by £25,047 at the end of the financial year, this is unallocated funding agreed in January Forum to be held in reserve for future years.

### Central Schools Block

12. The in-year central schools block is estimated to be underspent by £41,328, this is a further reduction from the October report of £13,665, due to fewer school appeals of £5,740 and Early Career Teacher £7,925.

### High Needs Block

13. The High Needs block is currently projected to be online to budget, this is a reduction from the October report of £120,996. The main movements from the October report are:
- a. Beaumont Hill pre 16 placements are projected to be overspent by £180,378 with additional expenditure from the October report of £147,053, this is due to an increase of 16 prorated pupil numbers.
  - b. The Resource Bases are projected to be overspent by £17,994, this is a reduction from the previous report of £4,760, due to a small reduction in pupil numbers.
  - c. Pre 16 Independent provision is anticipated to underspent by approx. £94,099, this is a reduction from the October report of £345,331. We had projected growth of 6 prorated placements due to a lack of state funded special school availability. However, this has been offset by some pupils moving into Alternative provision and to other Local Authority responsibility, overall, the pupil numbers have reduced by 3 to 47. This projection should be taken with caution, as there may be pupils moving into Darlington from out of area, that are not known at the point of writing this report.
  - d. The overall Post 16 provision is projected to be underspent by approx. £419,232 based on the current information, this is a reduction from the October report of £241,583. The pupil numbers haven't moved significantly from the prior report, but we have had a reduction of 4 high cost of out of area placements and an increase of 3 in borough College placements.
  - e. Mainstream school top ups are estimated to be overspent by £276,420, this is an increase from the October report of £127,400. The number of pupils has increased by 36, 11 of which are estimates for growth based on the number of pupils currently in the assessment process. The biggest proportionate increases are in Early Years and Secondary school tops up. This overspend will be subject to further change as the outcomes of the assessments are known.
  - f. Vulnerable Pupil expenditure is projected to be overspent by £142,030, due to the frequency of the panels the overspend was not reported in the previous report and was shown to budget. The projected overspend includes allocations for the vulnerable pupil panel, primary exclusions and 6<sup>th</sup> day provision.
  - g. Alternative provision and Direct Payments are reporting an overspend of £89,803 which is an increase from the October report of £49,119, this is due to an increase of 3 pupils.

### Early Years

14. The early years block is projected to be overspent by £14,348. The upfront PVI payments have been made for the Spring term and the school payments will be made once the census data has been reconciled. Across all the nursery entitlements we are projecting an overall overspend of £31,638, with 3- & 4-year-old provision estimated to be underspent by £261,621, 2 year old provision projected to be overspent by £53,719 and under 2's working parent entitlement projected to be overspent by £239,540. These are subject to change as working parents take up the entitlements, the DfE are carrying out additional data collection exercises and we have already had a in-year adjustment to the Early years block to reflect the actual uptake against the estimated levels. Based on the current information the Disability Access Fund is projected to be underspent by £17,290. Final reconciliation of the nursery entitlements will be made by the Department in June/ July of 2025 following the census and the DSG will be adjusted accordingly.
15. The SEN inclusion expenditure has been shown to budget, the new arrangement is now in place, but it is too early to report any variances as the system will need to run for the Spring term prior to conclusions being drawn.
16. The DfE have provided an additional Early Years grant to fund the teachers' pay award. The funding is being distributed on the same basis as before to all providers, in line with the outcome of the consultation held with the sector last year. The funding equates to an additional 9p per hour for 3- & 4-year-old provision from September 2024, bringing the hourly rate up to £5.27. A backdated payment has been made for the Autumn term and the Spring term payment will reflect the new hourly rate.

#### **Overall**

17. The in-year budget for 2024/25 across all the DSG blocks is currently projected to be underspent by £52,039 however as outlined above, the Early Years block may be subject to clawback or reimbursement, the projected high needs expenditure includes growth projections which may differ from the final agreed plans, and we may have pupils moving into the Borough with additional support needs.
18. The overall estimated budget position for 2024/25 is a deficit of £4,885,099 including the brought forward deficit from 2023/24, prior to the Safety Valve payments.

#### **Recommendations**

19. That Forum notes the current budget position.
20. That Forum notes the current high needs block position and the fluidity of this area.

**Emma Clennell**  
**Finance Manager, Operations Group**

**DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**ITEM NO 5**

---

**SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA 2025/26**  
**AND GROWTH FUND 2025/26**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update and agree the school funding formula and the growth fund for 2025/26.

**Forum Decision required**

Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report
- b) Discuss and agree the proposed budgets for 2025/26 for the School Budget Share and Growth Fund.

**Background**

2. The Local Authority received the school budget share tool on 18<sup>th</sup> December based on the October 2024 census information. This tool and the enclosed datasets are required to be used to set the 2025/26 school budget formula. The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) datasets are based on the 2019 information.
3. The Local Authority also received the DSG allocations for 2025/26 on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The schools block allocation for 2025/26 is £92,094,794 prior to the adjustment for rates, bringing the allocation after the rates adjustment to £91,519,822 **appendix 2**.
4. The school's block allocation for 2025/26 includes £425,650 of funding for growth. We did not set a growth budget in 2024/25 because it was not anticipated that any growth payments would be needed due to reducing pupil numbers, and the growth fund was required to meet the 2024/25 school budget share costs at the National Funding Formula levels (NFF).
5. Mainstream schools received a Core Schools Budget grant of £1,806,612 to support schools with increasing overall costs. The grant covered the period of September 2024 to March 2025, this has been annualised and rolled into the 2025/26 DSG allocation. A breakdown of the equivalent annualised grant has been included in **appendix 2** to allow a like for like comparison of the overall funding. Both the Teachers Pay grant of £1,441,885 and the Teacher's Pension grant of £1,767,808 have been rolled into the DSG formula and also appear in **appendix 2**. After the allowance for the grants the average increase in funding is 0.2%, although this will differ between schools due to changes in pupil numbers and the application of the minimum funding guarantee.
6. There is a new requirement for Local Authorities to set a SEN notional budget at a minimum level of £1,850 per pupil. The Darlington 2024/25 notional SEN per pupil funding was £2,910 and all options for consideration represent an increase in this funding level.

7. The Department have amended the minimum funding guarantee tolerance to be set locally between -0.5% and 0%, we have historically set the local formula at 0.5% which was the highest allowable level in previous years.
8. Local Authorities are required to bring their local formula at least 10% closer to the National Funding Formula (NFF), except where the local formula is already mirroring the NFF. Local Authorities are deemed to mirror the NFF if the factor values are anywhere within +/- 2.5% of the NFF values. Over the past few years, we have been able to afford to set the rates using the NFF values and have used the growth fund allocation to meet the full cost of the budget share.
9. The NFF AWPU rates and lump sum allowance have increased by approx. 8% and the FSM6 rates have increased by 29% with other factors increasing by an average of 0.5%. We have received additional funding of £6,452,400 which is an increase of 7.53%, using our data sets and following the National Funding Formula Factors the additional cost is £6,608,557 which is an increase of 7.72%. This meaning that if we apply the NFF factors values in the same way as in prior years (**shown in the table below**) and apply the maximum allowable minimum funding guarantee the school budget share will not be affordable without using our limited reserves.
10. In order to set a balanced school budget share for 2025/26, there are a few options to consider.

*NB- the school budget share figures in the options below are after the NNDR deductions.*

#### **Option 1**

Apply the full NFF values and the maximum minimum funding guarantee of 0%. This will generate a school budget share cost of £91,650,931 and a shortfall of £131,109, that would be funded from the school block reserve which is currently sitting at £196,026. However, this would use 67% of the reserve and may put future affordability at risk.

#### **Option 2**

Set the FSM6 rates at -2.5% tolerance level to remain within NFF window, this would be a 26% increase for primary and secondary FSM6 rates from the 2024/25 levels as opposed to 29% in Option 1. Keep the minimum funding guarantee at the highest allowable level which is 0% for 2025/26, with all other factor levels in line with the NFF factor values. This approach would generate a school budget share of £91,531,758 and a shortfall of £11,936 to be funded from the School block reserve.

#### **Option 3**

Set the FSM6 rates at -2.5% tolerance level to remain within NFF window, this would be a 26% increase for primary and secondary (the same as option 2) , but also set the minimum funding guaranteed at the lowest allowable level which is -0.5% for 2025/26. With all other factor levels in line with the NFF factor values. This approach would generate a school budget share of £91,526,966 and a shortfall of £7,145 to be funded from the School block reserve.

#### **Option 4**

Reduce the percentage uplift for the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) from 8% to 7.7% and keep the FSM6 rates in line with the NFF, maintain the MFG at the highest level, 0%. This approach would generate a school budget share of £91,514,821 and a small surplus of £5,000 to be held in reserve. This would increase the school block reserve to £201,027

*The table below shows the changes in the Basic Entitlements and FSM6 for each option*

Factor	24-25 Factor Levels	Option 1 in line with the NFF Factors	Option 2 & 3 – set the FSM6 levels to -2.5% of the NFF	Option 4 Inflate the AWPU rates by 7.7%
<b>Primary basic entitlement</b>	<b>£3,562.00</b>	<b>£3,847.00</b>	<b>£3,847.00</b>	<b>£3,836.00</b>
<b>KS3 basic entitlement</b>	<b>£5,022.00</b>	<b>£5,422.00</b>	<b>£5,422.00</b>	<b>£5,409.00</b>
<b>KS4 basic entitlement</b>	<b>£5,661.00</b>	<b>£6,113.00</b>	<b>£6,113.00</b>	<b>£6,097.00</b>
Primary FSM	£490.00	£495.00	£495.00	£495.00
Secondary FSM	£490.00	£495.00	£495.00	£495.00
<b>Primary FSM6</b>	<b>£820.00</b>	<b>£1,060.00</b>	<b>£1,033.50</b>	<b>£1,060.00</b>
<b>Secondary FSM6</b>	<b>£1,200.00</b>	<b>£1,555.00</b>	<b>£1,516.13</b>	<b>£1,555.00</b>
Primary IDACI F	£235.00	£235.00	£235.00	£235.00
Primary IDACI E	£285.00	£285.00	£285.00	£285.00
Primary IDACI D	£445.00	£445.00	£445.00	£445.00
Primary IDACI C	£485.00	£490.00	£490.00	£490.00
Primary IDACI B	£515.00	£520.00	£520.00	£520.00
Primary IDACI A	£680.00	£685.00	£685.00	£685.00
Secondary IDACI F	£340.00	£340.00	£340.00	£340.00
Secondary IDACI E	£450.00	£450.00	£450.00	£450.00
Secondary IDACI D	£630.00	£635.00	£635.00	£635.00
Secondary IDACI C	£690.00	£695.00	£695.00	£695.00
Secondary IDACI B	£740.00	£745.00	£745.00	£745.00
Secondary IDACI A	£945.00	£950.00	£950.00	£950.00
Primary EAL	£590.00	£595.00	£595.00	£595.00
Secondary EAL	£1,585.00	£1,595.00	£1,595.00	£1,595.00
Primary LPA	£1,170.00	£1,175.00	£1,175.00	£1,175.00
Secondary LPA	£1,775.00	£1,785.00	£1,785.00	£1,785.00
Primary mobility	£960.00	£965.00	£965.00	£965.00
Secondary mobility	£1,380.00	£1,385.00	£1,385.00	£1,385.00
Primary lump sum	£134,400.00	£145,100.00	£145,100.00	£145,100.00
Secondary lump sum	£134,400.00	£145,100.00	£145,100.00	£145,100.00
Primary sparsity	£57,100.00	£57,400.00	£57,400.00	£57,400.00
Secondary sparsity	£83,000.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00
Middle-school sparsity	£83,000.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00
All-through sparsity	£83,000.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00	£83,400.00

## Recommendation

11. Due to the lack of time to consult with education colleagues we are recommending that option 1 is adopted for 2025/26 school budget share, ie to remain fully on the NFF factors and fund the shortfall with the School block reserve. A wider consultation will follow to agree a policy approach for 2026/27, as we will not be able to fund this level of shortfall from the remaining reserve, should we find ourselves in a similar position next year

### **The Formula**

12. The revised datasets and modelling tool (APT) were provided by the Department on the 18th December to enable local authorities to submit their revised funding formula in line with the 22nd of January deadline.
13. The final funding formula uses the datasets provided by the ESFA, collected at the October 2024 census. The regulations stipulate that these datasets must be used in completing the funding formula.
14. At this stage the Government has communicated that it still intends to implement the hard formula, though a date has not been fixed for this at present.
15. All academy schools are funded directly by the Department, based upon the budget share calculated by the Local Authority. If there are any special funding arrangements between the Department and the academy, the actual general academy grant (GAG) received by the academy may differ.

### **Growth Fund**

16. It is proposed that a specific growth fund budget is not set for 2025/26 due to the falling pupil numbers, but the criteria will remain in line with that agreed by Forum in 2022/23:
  - i. Schools/Academies will only be able access the fund where they have had an increase in their PAN at the request of the Local Authority to meet a lack of available space in the local area as part of the planned changes covered in the SOP.
  - ii. The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased places on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN.
  - iii. For agreed growth in one year group, the additional number of places will be determined from the number of pupils on roll on the autumn census taking up a place in the additional class(s).
  - iv. For agreed growth across a number of year groups, the additional number of places will be determined by comparing the number of pupils on the roll at the census for each term in comparison to the number of pupils funded in the individual school budget share (i.e. the last October census).
  - v. All places are funded once the increase in the pupil admissions (in line with the PAN) reaches 10 places.
  - vi. The amount to be funded per a pupil will be based on the “Basic Entitlement Funding” (AWPU) for the age group of the pupil.
  - vii. Funding will be made for each term within that financial year, the school/academy has not received funding for this growth in places. (i.e. not funded within their existing school budget share).
  - viii. It is proposed that any increases in admissions that fully meet the agreed criteria are funded automatically, rather than to be considered by School Forum.



- ix. It is proposed that where a growth fund application requires a different approach, that these applications are presented to Forum with additional information in order that a separate decision can be made concerning that's schools access to the growth fund.
- x. Where there is a dispute over the funding amount, this will be presented to Forum for a final decision.
- xi. Schools Forum will be presented with updates on the spend against budget in year to allow budget monitoring and to inform for future years growth fund budget builds.

### **Recommendations**

- 17. That Forum notes the funding formula budgets for 2025/26.
- 18. Forum discusses and agrees option 1 for the Funding formula for 2025/26

**Emma Clennell  
Finance Manager  
Operations Group**



**DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**ITEM NO 6**

**BUDGET SETTING 2025/26**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The report summaries the Dedicated School Grant funding block allocations and details proposed budgets within the blocks for 2025/26.

**Forum Decision required**

Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the report
- b) Discuss and agree the proposed budgets for 2025/26 for the individual DSG blocks

**Background**

2. DSG is paid in four funding blocks, following the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF).
3. The school's block is ring fenced to the school budget share/growth fund, except for the ability to transfer 0.5% of the total value to another funding block with School Forum agreement.

**Funding for 2025/26**

4. Darlington received their DSG allocation on the 18th of December as follows,

<b>Block</b>	<b>Allocation £</b>	<b>Note</b>
School Block	£92,094,794	This is the allocation before recoupment and deduction for non-domestic rates of £574,972
Central Schools Block	£883,462	Reduction of £16,908 from 2024/25
Early Years Block	£16,525,445	This allocation will be updated for the January 2024 & January 2025 census
High Needs Block	£22,397,661	This figure is provisional and will be updated for the place change notifications and import/export adjustments This figure is before place funding recoupment which is taken at source by the Department - Direct placement funding of £5,062,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£131,901,372</b>	Prior to Recoupment

## Schools Block

5. The school’s block is calculated by the Department using the NFF, based upon the October 2024 census data. Details of the use of the school’s block, the school budget share calculation and the proposed growth fund are included in **agenda item 5**.

## Early Years Block

6. The provisional early years block allocation is made up as follows

Area	Allocation £	Note
Universal 3- & 4-Year-old	£4,701,317	Funded by DfE @ £5.71 per hour
Extended 30 hours 3- & 4-Year-old	£2,408,218	Funded by DfE @ £5.71 per hour
2-Year-old Entitlement	£1,385,927	Funded by DfE @ £8.09 per hour
2-Year-Old Working Parents	£2,931,128	Funded by DfE @ £8.09 per hour
Under 2s Entitlement	£4,349,054	Funded by DfE @ £11.02 per hour
Early Years Pupil Premium 3- & 4-Year-Old	£145,350	Funded by DfE @ £1.00 per hour
Early Years Pupil Premium 2-Year-Old	£64,251	Funded by DfE @ £1.00 per hour
Early Years Pupil Premium under 2s	£5,780	Funded by DfE @ £1.00 per hour
Disability Access Funding 3- & 4-Year-Old	£66,598	Funded by DfE @ £938 per child
Disability Access Funding 2s	£30,016	Funded by DfE @ £938 per child
Disability Access Funding under 2s Year Old	£3,752	Funded by DfE @ £938 per child
Maintained Nursery Lump Sum	£434,064	Funding for two schools
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,525,455</b>	

7. As Forum will be aware the early years allocation is updated throughout the year based upon the January census, therefore the allocation provided is provisional at this stage. The Early Years block will be updated for the January 2025 and 2026 census. There will also be additional headcount data collections for the new entitlements with the final allocation for the early years block will not be known until June/July 2026.
8. The DfE have increased the minimum pass-through rates to providers in 2025/26 from 95% to 96%, with the intention to increase this to 97% in future years. The passthrough rate applies to each entitlement separately and can’t be combined.
9. There is an expectation in the operational guidance that Local Authorities should calculate and notify providers of their funding rates by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025, from 2026/27 this will be mandatory.
10. The current entitlements are:
- 15 hours for eligible working parents of children 9 months to 2 years, due to extend to 30 hours from September 2025.

- 15 hours for eligible working parents of 2 years olds due to extend to 30 hours from September 2025. 15 hours for families receiving additional support for 2-year-olds.
  - 15 hours of universal entitlement for all 3- & 4-year-olds and an additional 15 hours for working parents of 3- & 4-year-olds.
11. The Department announced additional Early Years budget grant funding for 3- & 4-year-old entitlement of 9p per hour, effective from September 2024 to March 2025. This funding has been rolled into the formula for 2025/26 and is included in the base figure of £5.27. The grant also included additional funding for Maintained nursery schools of £0.50p per hour and this has been included in the base figures in **table 2**, (funding formula table)
  12. The DfE have announced the funding rates for 2025/26, the 3- & 4-year-old formula has increased by 13p per hour to £5.71 for the universal and extended entitlement. As Forum will be aware the 3-& 4-year-old funding formula must cover all of the following elements:
    - a. The hourly rate
    - b. Mandatory deprivation supplements
    - c. Mandatory SEN inclusion funding
    - d. Centrally held funding
    - e. Other supplements (Darlington does not use any non-mandatory supplements)

It is proposed that the 3- & 4-year-old hourly rate is set at £5.36 per hour, passporting 9p of the 13p increase to all providers. The remainder of the funding is required to maintain the existing deprivation arrangements which have risen to an approx. cost of £84,000 as well as maintaining the SEN Inclusion fund at £220,000, this area has also seen increased pressures and although the new SENIF model is now operating it is too early to see the impact of the changes.

13. The 2-year-old formula for 2025/26 has increased by 23p per hour to £8.09. It is proposed to set the hourly rate at £7.81 and passport 21p of the 23p to all providers. The remainder of the funding is required to set a SEND inclusion fund of £52,000 and fund the deprivation arrangements in line with the consultation with the sector last financial year i.e. to operate the same arrangement for all age ranges and maintain the centrally retained proportion to administer the increased entitlements. The Deprivation budget has been set at £45,000 based on the Autumn term payments.
14. The under 2 working parent entitlement formula has increased by 31p to £11.02. It is proposed to set the hourly rate at £10.31 and fully passport all the increase. The remainder of the funding is to cover deprivation payments with a budget set at £45,000, and a SEN Inclusion fund of £44,000 and centrally held funds. The actual uptake of the entitlements is likely to differ from the estimated figures and we are likely to have a clawback relating to this financial year, this is reflected in a higher contingency level for this age range.
15. Centrally held funds are proposed to be set at £178,754 for all funding elements to accommodate the increased entitlements, this equates to 1.13% of the Early Years block. It is unclear what the level of demand will be, but there will be additional admin costs to support the increased service delivery. These levels will be reviewed once the new

entitlements are embedded into the market, and these may need to increase in future years. This is an overall increase of £45,000, but a reduction in the percentage that is centrally held from 1.21% to 1.13% of the Early Years block.

16. The Disability Access Fund has increased by £28 per pupil and the Early Years Pupil Premium rates received in the early years block have increased by 32p and are proposed to be fully passported to the early years providers.

17. The following table shows the provisional funding formula funding rates for 2025/26.

Provision	2024/25 Actual Rate Including Additional Early Years Budget grant	2024/25 Proposed Rate	Change
<b><u>3- &amp; 4-Year-Old Children</u></b>			
Nursery School – Per hour per child	£5.27	£5.36	£0.09
School Nursery Class – Per hour per child	£5.27	£5.36	£0.09
Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector – Per hour, per child	£5.27	£5.36	£0.09
Deprivation – Top 10% most deprived post codes – Per term, per child – <b>All age ranges</b>	£50	£50	£0.00
Deprivation – 11 - 20% most deprived post codes – Per term, per child – <b>All age ranges</b>	£25	£25	£0.00
Deprivation – 21 - 30% most deprived post codes – Per term, per child – <b>All age ranges</b>	£12.50	£12.50	£0.00
<b><u>2-Year-Old Children</u></b>			
All Providers – Disadvantaged Entitlement Per hour per child	£7.60	£7.81	£0.21
All Providers – Working Parents Per hour per child	£7.60	£7.81	£0.21
<b><u>All Providers – Under 2 Entitlement per hour</u></b>	£10.00	£10.31	£0.31
<b><u>Early Years Pupil Premium</u></b>			
All Providers – Per hour per child	£0.68	£1.00	£0.32
<b><u>Disability Access Fund</u></b>	£910.00	£938.00	£28.00
<b><u>Central Early Years Team – all funding *</u></b>	£133,754	£178,754	£45,000
<b><u>Maintained Nursery School Lump Sum**</u></b>	£372,080	£434,064	£61,984

\*This represents 1.13% of the total funding. DfE rules stipulate a maximum of 4% can be held centrally

\*\* Lumps sums as per the 2024/25 allocation, which is subject to change.

18. The central schools block allocation is split into two areas by the Department. The first element is the amount of central funding that is allocated to Darlington through the per pupil funding formula. The second element is for “historic commitments”, which was added to the central school’s block by the Department in recognition of existing commitments to services procured centrally.
19. For 2025/26 the central schools block allocation is made up of £628,657 formula-based funding and £254,806 for historic commitments, in total the allocation is £883,462.
20. The historic element of the block has decreased by 20% as expected. This is a decrease of £63,701 on the 2024/25 allocation. Rules concerning the use of historic commitments, prevent new areas of expenditure being made from this budget or any increases in expenditure. The formula-based element has had an 8% inflationary uplift applied.
21. As Forum members will recall from last year there is a requirement to consult with School Forum on the proposed use of the central school’s block. Attached at **appendix 3** are the proposed budgets allocated under the central school’s block for 2025/26. There is an unallocated amount of £28,382 within the formula-based element and a pressure in the historic element of the block of £49,201, together this is an overall pressure of £20,819. As per previous school forum agreement the reserve will be used to fund the fund the budget shortfall. The reserve on the block has a current balance of £578,277 and with the current profile of spending there is enough to cover the existing commitments to 2029/30.
22. The areas of expenditure proposed to be funded under the formula- based element of the central school block are the same in 2025/26 as in 2024/25.
23. The copyright license fee is top sliced by the Department from the DSG allocation and is set in line with the cost of contracts held centrally by the Department. At the time of writing this report the contract values have not been published; therefore, an inflationary uplift has been applied and this will be updated once the actual costs are known.

### **High Needs Block**

24. The high needs block is calculated by the Department on a formula basis. The allocation received includes an adjustment for export/import places between authorities, however the current allocation received is based upon 2024/25 pupil numbers. Therefore, the high needs allocation will be updated during the year for the 2025/26 pupil numbers.
25. The allocation received for 2025/26 is £22,397,661 this includes £5,062,000 of place funding for academies and post 16 colleges which will be topped sliced at source by the Department. The recoupment amounts will be updated following place change requests. The overall allocation has increased by £1,361,827 (6.47%), prior to recoupment.
26. As Forum members are aware there are significant pressures against the high needs budget allocation due to growing demand for high needs support generating increasing numbers of requests for statutory assessment year on year, as well as inflationary pressures from ISP/NMSS and providers of outreach services. There has been a rise in the

numbers of plans maintained that name an Early Years Provider in Section F from 3 in January 2024 to 10 in Jan 2024, with a linked increase in demand for specialist provision, as these children start their primary education. The majority of these children have communication & interaction as their broad category of need which includes speech & language needs and social communication difficulties (with or without a diagnosis). This correlates with budget pressures seen in the SEN Inclusion fund within the Early Years that has resulted in recent changes to the allocation of support to settings in this area. Going forward we need monitor closely the interplay between SEN Inclusion Funding, how it is utilised and how the EYFS sector is supported through the High Needs Block following settings implementing the graduated response to meeting need

27. The high needs block budget for 2025/26 will be brought to the March forum for approval, after discussion in the high needs subgroup meeting.

### **Recommendations**

28. That Forum notes the budget allocations for 2025/26 from the Department.
29. That Forum notes the proposed Early Years funding rates for 2025/26.
30. Forum agrees the central allocation from the Early Years block.
31. That Forum agrees to the proposed usage of the Central School's block in 2025/26.
32. That Forum notes the pressures in the historic commitments in the Central Schools block.

**Emma Clennell  
Finance Manager  
Operations Group**



**AGENDA ITEM 6 - APPENDIX 3**

<b>Central Schools Block</b>	<b>Budget 24/25</b>	<b>Budget 25/26</b>	<b>Change</b>	1.03	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>	<b>2029/30</b>
<b>Formula Based</b>								
Voluntary/Trust Admissions	20,000	20,000	0		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Licenses	128,165	142,263	14,098		149,376	156,845	164,687	172,922
Former ESG funded retained services	240,000	240,000	0		240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
School Admissions	134,388	138,420	4,032		142,572	146,850	151,255	155,793
School Forum	30,000	30,000	0		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Centrally Employed TPG & TEPG	28,730	29,592	862		30,479	31,394	32,336	33,306
			0		0			
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>581,283</b>	<b>600,275</b>	<b>18,992</b>		<b>612,428</b>	<b>625,089</b>	<b>638,278</b>	<b>652,020</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>581,864</b>	<b>628,657</b>	<b>8.04%</b>	1.02	<b>641,230</b>	<b>654,055</b>	<b>667,136</b>	<b>680,479</b>
<b>Shortfall (surplus)</b>	<b>-581</b>	<b>-28,382</b>			<b>-28,802</b>	<b>-28,966</b>	<b>-28,858</b>	<b>-28,458</b>
<b>Historic Commitments</b>								
Union Cover	10,000	10,000	0		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
LSCB Contribution	10,000	10,000	0		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Service Remissions	18,000	18,000	0		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Virtual Headteacher	18,000	18,000	0		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Early Career Teachers	10,000	2,000	-8,000		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
School Placements & Asset Management	56,700	56,700	0		56,700	56,700	56,700	56,700
Education Department	189,306	189,306	0		189,306	189,306	189,306	189,306
			-8,000					
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>312,006</b>	<b>304,006</b>			<b>304,006</b>	<b>304,006</b>	<b>304,006</b>	<b>304,006</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>318,506</b>	<b>254,805</b>			<b>203,844</b>	<b>163,075</b>	<b>130,460</b>	<b>104,368</b>
<b>Shortfall (surplus)</b>	<b>-6,500</b>	<b>49,201</b>			<b>100,162</b>	<b>140,931</b>	<b>173,546</b>	<b>199,638</b>
<b>Total Budget Central Schools Block</b>	<b>893,289</b>	<b>904,281</b>			<b>916,434</b>	<b>929,095</b>	<b>942,284</b>	<b>956,026</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>900,370</b>	<b>883,462</b>			<b>845,074</b>	<b>817,130</b>	<b>797,596</b>	<b>784,847</b>
<b>Total Shortfall (surplus)</b>	<b>-7,081</b>	<b>20,819</b>			<b>71,360</b>	<b>111,965</b>	<b>144,688</b>	<b>171,180</b>
<b>Estimated BF Reserve</b>	<b>578,277</b>	<b>605,103</b>			<b>584,284</b>	<b>512,924</b>	<b>400,959</b>	<b>256,271</b>
<b>Estimated movement in reserve surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>26,826</b>	<b>-20,819</b>			<b>-71,360</b>	<b>-111,965</b>	<b>-144,688</b>	<b>-171,180</b>
<b>Estimated Closing Reserve</b>	<b>605,103</b>	<b>584,284</b>			<b>512,924</b>	<b>400,959</b>	<b>256,271</b>	<b>85,091</b>

NB 4.22% inflation to Formula Based Element  
20% reduction to Historic Element

Assumed 11% inflation Copyright Licences  
3% Admissions Team & TPG  
Assumed 2% increase in the Formula based element for future years

## **DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM**

### **HIGH NEEDS MONITORING SUB-GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **PURPOSE**

The high needs block budget has a significant deficit budget position leading to the LA entering into a Safety Valve agreement with central government.

The role of the high needs monitoring sub-group is to work in partnership with the local authority to ensure appropriate steps are taken to address the current financial position. The focus of work for this authority, and for Schools Forum is to reduce this funding gap as much as possible, without compromising outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

This will mean work is focussed on ensuring children and young people with SEND achieve optimum outcomes in the most cost-effective way and that local provision is the first choice for children, young people and their families.

#### **The review will:**

- Consider the ongoing pressures / issues facing the high needs expenditure.
- Consider the targets of the safety valve programme.
- Ensure links into the local area written statement of action and safety valve are monitored and reported to Schools Forum

The high needs monitoring sub-group will make recommendations to Schools Forum including any funding changes.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The high needs monitoring sub-group will support the local authority to interrogate and provide professional challenge to:

- a) Review the financial impact of existing national SEND policy locally.
- b) Review and monitor the use of high needs funding to ensure that funding is allocated appropriately to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- c) Identify savings and pressures on the high needs block including any areas where immediate savings can be made.
- d) Review and prioritise proposed work programmes focusing on priority areas and arising issues (as agreed by Schools Forum).
- e) Provide regular updates to Schools Forum, offering advice and recommendations to Schools Forum regarding the use of high needs funding (through clear reporting) so that:
  - i. There is ongoing cognisance of issues related to the high needs block; and
  - ii. Schools Forum members have greater opportunity to take a proactive role in high needs budget decision-making, thereby improving transparency.
- f) Review and make recommendations to Schools Forum on directing the allocation of high needs funding in relation to:
  - i. Top-up rates, number of places and other specific financial pressures or issues identified by the high needs monitoring sub-group.
  - ii. The wider strategic agenda to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

## Underlying Principles

The high needs monitoring sub-group will ensure that: –

- The level and usage of high needs funding is appropriate and proportionate to need.
- The local authority has sufficient resource to meet any statutory functions.
- Funding is used efficiently and effectively (time limited where appropriate).

## MEMBERSHIP

Schools Forum sub-groups can be wider than the constituent Schools Forum members, this reflects the specialist needs of that group. Groups should also ensure balanced representation of all members as well as wider representatives and observers.

The Chair should be voted by Schools Forum. Each member shall be elected or appointed for a period not normally exceeding one academic year.

The Local Authority will seek representation from Head Teachers.

Substitutes are permitted. The substitute must be from the same membership category. Substitutes should be elected by their constituent bodies. Substitutes do not need to be from the same school as the lead member. It is the members responsibility to arrange for a substitute and inform the Clerk prior to the meeting.

Academy reps 3 Primary	Paula Ayto – Principal, Reid Street Primary School (Chair) Deborah Hindson – SENDCO, Heathfield Academy Alex Nelson – SENDO, West Park Academy	
Academy reps 2 Secondary	Rachel Somerville – Headteacher, Hurworth Academy VACANCY	
Special School rep (1)	Caroline Green, Executive Principal, Beaumont Hill Academy	
PRU/Maintained sector	Sally Hudson – Rise Carr College	
Non-school rep	Andy Gilpin - Darlington College	
Other		
<b>Local Authority</b> The following local authority officers shall also be observer members of the high needs monitoring sub-group and provide professional technical support to assist the consideration and work of the group.	Emma Clennell - Finance Manager Jo Littler - Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion Helen Watson – Childrens Services Commissioning Manager  Eleanor Marshall – Clerk/Education Partnerships Officer	

Please note:

- These representatives would each in turn be able to delegate attendance to a representative should they be unable to attend.
- It is open to a Schools Forum to set up working groups of members to discuss specific issues, and to produce draft advice and decisions for the Schools Forum itself to consider.
- To meet these responsibilities, the local authority will ensure the group have access to good quality, up-to date data.

### **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The high needs monitoring sub-group will meet on a half termly basis as a minimum and with extra-ordinary meetings as required.

Meetings will be announced on the [Darlington Schools Forum website page](#) and all papers, agendas and minutes will be published in accordance with ESFA guidance and where papers are confidential publication will follow advice provided by democratic services.

### **REPORTING**

The Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion will capture responses/write a report on behalf of the sub-group setting out the content and recommendations to Schools Forum. This will be shared for sub-group approval prior to recommendations being made. The Chair of the sub-group (normally the Schools Forum Vice Chair) will provide updates to the Schools Forum, and where appropriate a nominated sub-group member if this is not possible.

### **APPENDIX 1 FROM EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY GUIDANCE**

1. It's open to a Schools Forum to set up working groups of members to discuss specific issues, and to produce draft advice and decisions for the Schools Forum itself to consider.
2. The groups can also include wider representation, for example, an early year's reference group can represent all the different types of provider to consider the detail of the early years single funding formula.
3. The reference group would then be able to give its considered view on the local authority's proposals to the Schools Forum.
4. The Schools Forum should not delegate actual decisions or the finalisation of advice to a working group, as this may have the effect of excluding legitimate points of view. These have proved effective for larger local authorities; examples of some working groups are for high needs and early years.

**Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group  
Thursday 03 October 12-2pm  
Hummersknott Academy**

**Summary of Meeting**

**Attendees and Apologies:**

Paula Ayto ( <b>Chair</b> )	Primary Academy Vice-Chair Schools Forum	Reid Street Primary School	Attended
Alex Nelson	Primary Academy	West Park Academy	Attended
Deb Hindson	Primary Academy	Heathfield Academy	Apologies
Caroline Green	Special School	Beaumont Hill Academy & Marchbank Free School	Apologies
James Keating	Secondary Academy	Hummersknott Academy	Apologies
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr College (PRU)	Attended
Andy Gilpin	Non School/Post 16	Darlington College	Attended
Rachel Somerville	Secondary Academy	Hurworth School	Apologies

**Local Authority:**

Joanne Littler	Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion	Attended
Emma Clennell	Finance Manager	Attended
Helen Watson	Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children/Young People and SEND	Attended
Eleanor Marshall	Education Partnerships Officer	Attended

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item Discussion</b>
1	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>Register/Declaration of business interests – None</p> <p>Any Other Business – None</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the June meeting it was noted that CAMHS should not be recommending AP provision (HHTS) and this will be raised with the team. JL updated the group that a new neuro-pathway lead will start end November.</li> <li>• SH updated on the transitional EBSA pilot ‘steps to secondary success’. All pupils are currently attending their current setting with some regularity. The aim is to run this project again in 2025 subject to budget agreement.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Item 4 – OT update</b></p> <p><b>Action: JL to liaise with Anne Davidson for further SENCo support.</b> It was confirmed that Anne will invite the service to feedback on this item to SENCos.</p> <p><b>AOB item – WSOA</b></p> <p>The WSOA monitoring visit is due in October. The focus will be on key points behind schedule as opposed to a whole review. The DfE have specifically requested an update on resource base and outreach review, amongst other areas, including SEND Strategy, The Local Offer, Post 19 Offer.</p> <p><b>Summary of Minutes</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes summary was suitable for the website and Schools Forum.</p>
3	<p><b>Membership update</b></p> <p>Membership was noted.</p>
4	<p><b>Resource Base Update</b></p> <p><b>The Heathfield base</b> is open from September. DH updated that Anne D is monitoring referrals before consideration at MAPP for allocation. Two observations have been run by Heathfield – neither met criteria. It is more likely to have more applications by December. DH confirmed that there are already children to observe for 2025 Academic Year.</p> <p><b>Hurworth</b></p> <p>JL confirmed that capital funding is committed to the expansion of Hurworth resource base. A delivery model has been created.</p> <p><b>A Year 6 Place Planning Meeting</b> with resource bases and special schools/units is going to take place. It is the strategic plan not to name secondary provision until February 2025.</p>
5	<p><b>Outreach Review Update</b></p> <p>All specifications have been refreshed for September 2024. There are no major changes proposed at this point with services. The focus however is to reaffirm the baseline in term one, obtain key case studies and impact and outcome evidence in the Autumn term. Developing a clear public domain overview as to the outreach offer, how to refer and first line responses is a key priority for the Autumn term.</p>
6	<p><b>Forward Work Programme</b></p> <p>The following areas were discussed:</p> <p><b>Inclusion Charter</b> – mainstream inclusion is a priority for the LA. The Education Psychology service is supporting embedding the principles in schools, visiting individual schools relating to embedding practice in CPD, school development plans etc and in the use of the inclusion toolkit. This project to be taken forward considering regional work taking place on inclusion. The reaction to the OFSTED framework may also have an impact following ‘big listen’ and</p>

	<p>government statements. The ‘Sutton Trust map’ relating to inclusion is an identifying sign of the direction.</p> <p><b>SEND Ordinarily funded provision / reasonable adjustments</b> - Co-production with parents/SENCOs on what is ordinarily funded provision will take place. This will intend to include differentiation of personalised curriculums in secondary schools and preparedness for Post 16 education.</p> <p><b>Supporting inclusion in mainstream for more complex needs pupils</b> – this involves discussions on joint commissioning and funding.</p> <p><b>Expansion of secondary resource bases</b> – a gap in secondary provision has been identified, expressions of interest for a new secondary resource base(s) will be released imminently. Deadline for place planning is 10<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Review of all outreach services</b> – working from baseline data and identifying current impact this piece of work will build and support earlier graduated response through the local offer through a phased approach, to training materials and podcasts. Resource and training can be developed through outreach development and resource bases.</p> <p><b>SEND notional budget</b> monitoring was discussed, role of SENCOs in monitoring the budget(s) and evidence of impact.- The group agreed this would be supportive of future scrutiny by the high needs subgroup.</p> <p><b>Alternative Provision</b> – this can support a review of AP to support pupils to remain in mainstream. A 3-tier model of AP is required for the LA. The review of capital funding for AP will also be included.</p> <p><b>Scrutiny of ‘VPP Budget’</b> (a high needs budget line) includes day 6 cover for primary exclusions. The LA will trial a potential pilot / trialling of 6<sup>th</sup> day provision over next 6 months. A request to review other schools’ models, where pupils are being kept out of special education e.g. for nurture provision was suggested.</p> <p><b>Update on Tees Valley Free School</b> – The new build is delayed as the DfE are required to re-tender for a building contractor. The LA will ensure that Darlington are involved in joint commissioning discussions for future years to maximise impact for Darlington SEMH young people.</p> <p><b>Beaumont Hill expansion to 6<sup>th</sup> Form (children’s centre)</b> – The DfE statutory consultation is live. Planning consultation is separate to the DfE process.</p> <p>It was noted that all the above projects and updates need to be included in the safety valve plan.</p>
6	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beaumont Hill Memorandum of Understanding is in place – sharing of this is being considered as a formality.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- EC confirmed that the LA has received two Safety Valve payments to date this financial year, and with prior payments received last financial Year the deficit on the High Needs Block is £2.4m.</li><li>- Although we are on track with the Safety Valve programme future payments are subject to maintaining an in-year balance.</li></ul>
7	<p><b>Meeting Schedule/next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12-2pm</li></ul>



**Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group**  
**Thursday 05 December 12-2pm**  
**Hummersknott Academy**

**Summary of Meeting**

**Attendees and Apologies:**

Paula Ayto ( <b>Chair</b> )	Primary Academy Vice-Chair Schools Forum	Reid Street Primary School	Attended
Alex Nelson	Primary Academy	West Park Academy	Attended
Deb Hindson	Primary Academy	Heathfield Academy	Attended
Caroline Green	Special School	Beaumont Hill Academy & Marchbank Free School	Attended
James Keating	Secondary Academy	Hummersknott Academy	Apologies
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr College (PRU)	Attended
Andy Gilpin	Non School/Post 16	Darlington College	Apologies
Rachel Somerville	Secondary Academy	Hurworth School	Attended

**Local Authority:**

Joanne Littler	Interim Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion	Attended
Emma Clennell	Finance Manager	Attended
Helen Watson	Senior Strategic Commissioning Manager – Children/Young People and SEND	Attended
Eleanor Marshall	Education Partnerships Officer	Attended

Item No.	Item Discussion
1	<p><b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b></p> <p>Register/Declaration of business interests – None            Any Other Business – None</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH updated on the transitional EBSA pilot ‘steps to secondary success’ project.</li> <li>• <b>OT update</b> It was confirmed that Anne Davison will invite the service to feedback on this item to SENCos. The Sensory SMART families support programme is valued, however, because this is for the family and parents, the group have some further feedback for the commissioners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: HW to raise at joint commissioning group meeting January 2025</b></p>

	<p><b>WSOA</b> - The WSOA monitoring visit took place, with acknowledgement that good progress has been made.</p> <p><b>Summary of Minutes</b> - It was agreed that the minutes summary was suitable for the website and Schools Forum.</p>
3	<p><b>F/W Programme</b></p> <p>VPP spending is a pressure in the high needs block. Funded support includes for primary pupils on 6 day exclusions; and funded packages of support, of these some end dates needs to be confirmed. The group agreed the need for accountability of alternative provision placements. Placement planning for specialist placements in 2025 is on track, subject to consultations.</p> <p>A report on Beaumont Hill placements following the implementation of the memorandum of understanding relating to a minimum funding guarantee needs to be available for Schools Forum consideration at a future point.</p>
4	<p><b>Membership update</b></p> <p>James Keating sent apologies for the meeting but also due to his change of role in the Academy he will be vacating the secondary rep on the high needs subgroup. The vacancy will be taken to the Schools Forum in January 2025.</p> <p><b>Action: Clerk and Chair</b></p>
5	<p><b>Resource Base Update</b></p> <p><b>Heathfield base</b> - Opening referrals for reception and nursery in January 2025. Dual registration benefits were discussed. Two full time pupils start in the New Year. SALT support is headlining the agenda of joint commissioning groups.</p> <p><b>Hurworth</b></p> <p>JL confirmed that conversations continue relating to the model of the base and outreach.</p> <p><b>Other</b> - Expressions for interest for an ASD resource base have not been progressed as the LA are in discussions with Hurworth already.</p>
6	<p><b>Outreach Review Update</b></p> <p>All specifications have been refreshed for September 2024. There are no major changes proposed at this point with services. The review of services and monitoring of data is vital for developing a clear offer that is relatable to current needs. The LA are working towards an offer where schools are able to meet most needs in mainstream with enhanced offer which will include outreach.</p>
7	<p><b>Safety Valve</b></p> <p>The next report is due to be submitted for 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Current pressures in the main relates to VPP overspend as reported to Schools Forum already. This sets the priority for the VPP work. The SV Programme runs for another 3 academic years.</p>

6	<p><b>Forward Work Programme</b></p> <p>The following areas were discussed:</p> <p><b>Inclusion Charter</b> – there is 100% signup to the charter. The group discussed how the data, intelligence and pilots / knowledge need to be pulled together. The group discussed regional inclusion data.</p> <p>EM updated on the EEF inclusion programme. A project team has been brought together and a launch meeting and first workshop will take place in January 2025.</p> <p>The group discussed other pilots/potential models for development including EBSA and AV1 ‘robot’ pilot ‘AVA’.</p> <p><b>EHCP placements</b> EC confirmed that EHCPs are just under 12% increase, weighted mostly to nursery. There is however a 20% increase in mainstream. JL confirmed that LA are moving towards more jointly funded packages to support EHCP pupils in mainstream.</p> <p><b>Post 19 PLP offer</b> JL confirmed that there is not a need for a funding model until September 2026. Pupils may be eligible for continuing care funding and adult social care. Independent support outcomes are as important as development of wrap around support.</p>														
7	<p><b>High Needs budget setting</b></p> <p>EC provided an overview of the current high needs budget. High needs block budget setting is normally set at the March Schools Forum. It was noted that the school block, central budget share and Early Years funding will come to Schools Forum in January.</p>														
8	<p><b>Meeting Schedule/next meeting</b> All future meetings will be at the Town Hall.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1417 1294 1865"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="304 1417 740 1487">• <b>High Needs Sub Group</b></th> <th data-bbox="740 1417 1294 1487">• <b>Schools Forum Meeting date</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1487 740 1576">• Thu 5<sup>th</sup> December 12-2pm at the Town Hall COR3</td> <td data-bbox="740 1487 1294 1576">• 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1576 740 1621">• Thu 16<sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm</td> <td data-bbox="740 1576 1294 1621">• 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1621 740 1688">• Thu 13<sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm</td> <td data-bbox="740 1621 1294 1688">• 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1688 740 1778">• Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> April 12.30-2.30pm</td> <td data-bbox="740 1688 1294 1778">• 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1778 740 1823">• Thu 8<sup>th</sup> May 1.30-3.30pm</td> <td data-bbox="740 1778 1294 1823">• 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 1823 740 1865">• Thu 19<sup>th</sup> June 3-5pm</td> <td data-bbox="740 1823 1294 1865">• 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	• <b>High Needs Sub Group</b>	• <b>Schools Forum Meeting date</b>	• Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> December 12-2pm at the Town Hall COR3	• 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	• Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm	• 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	• Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	• Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 12.30-2.30pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	• Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> May 1.30-3.30pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	• Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> June 3-5pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
• <b>High Needs Sub Group</b>	• <b>Schools Forum Meeting date</b>														
• Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> December 12-2pm at the Town Hall COR3	• 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025														
• Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm	• 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024														
• Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025														
• Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 12.30-2.30pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025														
• Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> May 1.30-3.30pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025														
• Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> June 3-5pm	• 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025														
9	<p><b>Any other business</b> None</p>														