# DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

Darlington Town Hall, Committee Room 1

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 14.00pm – 16.00pm

# AGENDA

ltem No.	Item	Decision required?	Lead
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	No	Chair
	Register/Declaration of business interests		
2	Minutes of the meeting 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and Matters Arising	No	Chair
3	Membership Update	No	Chair
4	Budget Update Year End 2023/24	No	Emma Clennell
5	High Needs Subgroup Update	No	Vice-Chair
6	Safety Valve	No	Tony Murphy
7	Beaumont Hill Academy Memorandum of Understanding - Presentation	No	Tony Murphy/Mike Butler
8	Any other business		

Date of next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 2pm on TEAMS

Dates for Academic Year 2024/25

Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 - 2pm	TEAMS
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 - 2pm	Town Hall
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 2pm	TEAMS
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – 2pm	Town Hall



#### DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

# MINUTES OF MEETING 12 MARCH 2024 HELD ON TEAMS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** D Judson (Swift Academies Trust (Chair); P Ayto (Reid Street Primary (Vice Chair); H Dummett (Federation of Darlington Nurseries); D Lythgoe (St Aidan's Academy); J Skirving (St George's CofE Academy); S Welsh (Whinfield Primary); J Blackham (Mount Pleasant Primary); L Marron (QE College); M Ramsay (St Johns Academy); P King (Federation of Mowden Schools); K Reid (Polam Free School); K Reid (Polam Hall School); M Ramsay (St John's CofE Academy); M Roe (EVAT); D Leane (Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust)

**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 Butler (Education Village Academy Trust); M Kane (Carmel College); S Hudson (Rise Carr College); T Abbott (Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust); M Fryer (Hummersknott Academy)

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the meeting on apologies and noted substitutes representing the following:

- D Baker substituted E Baker.
- L Marron substituted T Fisher. It was noted that T Fisher has now been appointed as the Darlington 16-19 Education representative of the Schools Forum.
- M Roe substituted M Butler.
- D Leane substituted T Abbott.

There were no declarations of business interests.

There were no items raised under Any Other Business.

# 2. Minutes of Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and Matters Arising

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.



### **Matters Arising**

- 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.
- **IDACI rates: It was clarified that IDACI rates A-F from 2023/24 to 2024/25 have increased as per the NFF rates.** EC confirmed that the 2024/25 data is based on the latest 2019 update and that there is no indication of a review date soon for the deprivation factors. EC would confirm if there were any changes to this position.

#### 3. Schools Forum Membership

The membership updates were:

- one Primary vacancy with substitute, (The Primary Forum voted Shirley Welsh to take this position at the point of Whinfield's conversion to an Academy);
- one PVI vacancy (an expression of interest was sent out at the end of February with a closing date of Friday 22nd March. There has been one expression of interest to date).

It was noted that the last two meetings we have had non-attendance from Pete Norman of St Bede's RC Primary and the LA were asked to identify if Pete was still interested in this membership.

Action: The Schools Forum noted the membership position. The LA would clarify the position relating to St Bede's membership.

#### 4. Budget Update 2023/24

The Finance Manager updated Forum regarding the 2023/24 budget position as per the previously circulated report.

There has been a slight increase to the overall DSG funding of £30,000 into the High Needs block due to Darlington being a net importer of pupils. This has increased the gross budget to £109,685,172 with a net budget after recoupment of £29,728,410. The in-year schools block is estimated to be underspent by £50,000 at the end of the financial year, due to unused growth funding and the in-year central schools block is estimated to be underspent by £44,979.

The High Needs block is also currently projecting an underspend of £777,808. The Finance Manager outlined main points to note:

- The Post 16 provision is projected to be underspent by approx. £457,000.
- Independent provision is facing pressures from anticipated inflationary uplifts in the financial year 2024/25 as well as a number of children and young people who are looked after by the Local Authority who are being placed into independent residential settings with educational provision.
- The Vulnerable Pupil Panel is expected to overspend in year by £70,391. To date we have seen spend of £135,103, approx. two thirds of which relates to permanent exclusions. It was noted that this is a focus for the high needs subgroup to consider.



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- Mainstream school top ups continue to be overspent which has increased to £286,432 based on Spring term payments.
- The PFI is expected to overspend by £125,754 this is due the increase in the affordability gap due to inflationary pressures.

The early years block is projected to be overspent by £350,486. The 3 & 4-year-old Schools nursery budget is projected to overspend by £163,322 and the 2-year-old nursery budget is projected to overspend by £36,564. This is due to an increase in the actual nursery hours provided and will be subject to DSG allocation adjustments in June/July 2024. It was noted that there are significant pressures within the SEN Inclusion funding and although it is in line with the previous report the overspend is expected to be £168,000.

Overall, the DSG in-year budget for 2023/24 is currently projected to be underspent by £522,301. This is worse position of £165,225 from the January report mainly due to the increase in provided nursery hours. The high needs block is broadly in line with budget however there are ongoing challenges of inflationary pressures and EHCP growth, which are likely to have a negative impact on next year's budget and the savings plans.

The estimated year end reserve position for 2023/24 is a deficit of  $\pm 5,025,190$  (an increase from  $\pm 4,815,826$ ), with the brought forward deficit from 2022/23 included, excluding the Safety Valve payments.

The Finance Manager outlined the areas of spend as percentages of the overall budget, in Appendix 1 relating to % spend according to places in mainstream, post 16, resource bases, special, alternative and independent provision. It was noted that special schools represent 27.4% of the High Needs block spending with independent providers at 25.8%, this will be further interrogated by the high needs subgroup.

The Schools Forum thanked the Finance Manager for the clarity of the report.

# **Recommendations**

Schools Forum noted

- the current budget position;
- the current high needs block position and the fluidity of this area for 2024/25
- the ongoing pressures within the SEN Inclusion service.

# 5. Budget Setting High Needs Block 2024-25

The Finance Manager outlined that the proposed budget was reviewed at the High Needs Block Subgroup meeting on the 15th of March and is in line with the Debt Recovery plan as per the previously circulated report. The following key points were noted:

- The recoupment figure has been increased to £4,877,834 due to additional place change requests in special schools and resource bases, however this is estimated and will be adjusted once the updated DSG recoupment figures are published in due course.
- A transfer of £150,000 is required from the schools block reserve to the high needs block.
- The hold position for the Travellers Service and Low Incidence Needs service are included in the budget in line with the previously agreed School Forum position. All the Outreach services and SCOS service have been built in based on the current models.



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• Growth has been built into the plan to take account of the additional EHCP's levels particularly in mainstream and MNSS provision at 8% which is in line with the Safety Valve monitoring position. Additional top ups have been included for the increased place numbers in Beaumont Hill Academy and the Resource Bases.

The Assistant Director confirmed that under the 5-year safety valve programme an in-year balance has been achieved so far. This progress needs to be continued with a degree of caution relating to the increasing in EHCP demand. The High Needs Subgroup will be interrogating the budgets, and this work will support the overall programme objectives.

The Assistant Director explained that the increase in demand in Early Years in the context of the new Early Years offer has led to a rapid increase in SEND needs over a relatively short period of time. The LA teams are working with the sector to develop a funding model for Early Years SEND funding and there will likely be an update in May 2024.

# ACTION: The Schools Forum will be updated on the Early Years SEND funding model as soon as possible.

#### **Recommendations**

Schools Forum:

- agreed the high needs budget for 2024/25
- noted the ongoing and increasing pressures due to demand within the high needs budget and that the budget proposal is linked to the Safety Valve plan and written statement of action.
- noted a transfer of £150,000 from the reserve to the High Needs Block.

# 6. School Funding Formula 2024/25 and Growth Fund 2024/25

The Finance Manager introduced the report which outlined adjustments to the Schools Budget Share following the ESFA proforma checks for 2024/25.

The Local Authority received the school budget share tool on  $19^{th}$  December using the October 2023 census information. School Forum were presented with the indicative school budget shares and agreed to inflate the PFI premises factor by 4.2%, (the current RPIX rate published at the time of the January forum), and to transfer the remainder of the funding to the School reserve of £7,427.

The Finance Manager introduced Appendix 3 and explained that the ESFA have completed their checks and have requested the following adjustments, these do not have an effect on school net funding.

- a) The Non-Domestic rate revaluations had been allowed for in the indicative school budget shares, but the ESFA have advised that they will be deal with these outside of the school block and adjust directly at source. Therefore, these have been removed from the proforma, but will not adversely affect the school net position.
- b) The PFI premises factor has not been inflated in Darlington before and Forum took the decision to inflate the allowance due to increasing pressures in the affordability gap and set it at 4.2%. The ESFA have advised that a mandatory level must be applied if we are inflating this factor. We have therefore adjusted the proforma to increase this to 10.4%, as advised. The affected schools will have an increase to the school budget share but will be recharged for the full amount by the Local Authority to pay for the PFI contract.
- c) The adjustments for the Non-Domestic Rates and the PFI premises factor mean that there is a small increase to the amount to move to the School Block reserve for future years, which has increased to £25,046.



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The Finance Manager clarified that Sixth Form academisation does not have any impact on the rates.

## **Recommendations:**

Schools Forum:

- Noted the funding formula adjustments for 2024/25.

# 7. High Needs Subgroup Meeting Report

The High Needs Subgroup met on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The main item was consideration of the high needs budget.

Chair of the High Needs (HN) Subgroup, Paula Ayto (Schools Forum Vice-Chair) provided some background information relating to discussions held by the group about the high needs budget.

The group noted the report presented by the Finance Manager at this meeting and agreed to recommend to the Schools Forum, that no changes to the budget were appropriate at this point due to the lack of options within the funding envelope. The Finance Manager confirmed the budget would therefore be presented to School Forum on this basis (as set out in item 5).

The group were reminded that the ringfence to the HN budget deficit will be removed in 2026 and will no longer be a separate reserve in the Local Authority accounts. Additionally, it was noted that the funding to pay the deficit off as part of the Safety Valve programme is subject to maintaining an inyear balance.

The group noted that the strategy to reduce high-cost placements has had an impact, however the system as a whole needs to look at wider solutions which include early intervention. A specific case was discussed, and it was agreed that a placement review/case study would help to see what the overall costs to the system have been.

# ACTION: The Schools Forum requested that minutes of the HN Subgroup meeting be circulated and available on the website.

#### 8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

#### 9. Time/Location of next meeting:

It was noted that meetings are held alternatively on TEAMS and at the Town Hall.

Tuesday, 14th May 2024 – 2pm at the Town Hall.

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

Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 - 2pm	TEAMS
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 - 2pm	Town Hall
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 2pm	TEAMS
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – 2pm	Town Hall

# DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### **Purpose of Report**

This report summarises the changes to the Schools Forum membership since the last meeting.

#### **Forum Decision Required**

The Forum is asked to:

a) Note the report;

b) Thank members for their contributions to the Schools Forum where appropriate;

c) Welcome new members to the Schools Forum.

#### Schools Forum Membership

- Whinfield Primary School moved to Academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. Following a vote by Primary Forum, Shirley Welsh, Headteacher of Whinfield Primary School becomes Primary Academy sector representative.
- To replace Shirley Welsh, the Maintained Primary School representative has been confirmed as Julie Davidson, Headteacher at Red Hall Primary School.
- John Armitage, Headteacher at Rydal Academy Primary School has been voted Primary Academy School representative.
- Paula Strachan, Headteacher at St Teresa's RC Primary School, was also nominated for a Primary Academy School vacancy, and has been offered a substitute position.
- Caroline Moss, Manager at Pierremont Pre School has joined as a non-schools member, PVI representative.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Schools Forum should:

a) Note the report;

b) Thank members for their contributions to the Schools Forum where appropriate;

c) Welcome new members to the Schools Forum.

#### DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

ITEM NO 4

## **BUDGET UPDATE 2023/24**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To update Forum regarding the 2023/24 final budget position and the reserve balances to carry forward into 2024/25.

#### Background

- 2. Schools Forum was notified at the January 2023 meeting of a Dedicated Schools Grant budget (DSG) allocation of £109,699,424 after recoupment for NNDR and a budget was agreed accordingly.
- 3. We had an Early Years in year clawback of £582,172 and as mentioned in the last Forum we anticipate an adjustment in the block in June/July time when the January census information is completed for 2023/24, relating to this financial year.
- 4. We received in year funding of £54,000 into the High Needs block for the import, export return, because we were a net importer of pupils.

#### **Budget Position – Appendix 1**

#### Schools Block

5. The in-year schools block has an underspend of £50,000 at the end of the financial year. As Forum may recall this is due to the budgeted growth fund not being required in 2023/24. It is proposed that the underspend is rolled forward and added to the school's block reserve, bringing the reserve to £346,026.

#### Central Schools Block

- 6. The in-year central schools block is underspent by £56,456. The funding is to be used to smooth the reduction in the historic central block over future years and brings the reserve to £578,277.
- 7. This is an improved position from the March report of £11,477. The movements are due to the reduction of Early Career Teacher costs, as most of this expenditure is now being paid directly to schools. We were also allowing for Union Cover claims at the budget level of £10,000, but this has not been required.

#### High Needs Block

8. The High Needs block has a year-end underspend position of £865,358. This is largely due to the invest to save projects not taking place generating slippage of £210,000, a number of extended post 16 places coming to a natural end that were budgeted at £371,750, the

previously agreed block transfer of £169,323 from the School's block and £65,000 from the Central School's block to support the Safety Valve programme. The underspend reduces the overall block deficit excluding safety valve payments to £5,557,792.

- 9. This deficit on the block is required by the DfE to be recovered through future years DSG in line with the high need's recovery plan. We have received in year payments from the ESFA of £674,000 to be held towards our deficit, subject to delivery of the Safety Valve plan and as such will be reported separately. To date, including the funding from 2022/23 we have received a total of £3,154,000.
- 10. There is an improved position on the block from the March report of £87,549 which is mainly due to the following:
  - a. In Borough Special Schools, Resource Bases, and the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) are broadly in line with expected expenditure, underspending by £85,578, although expenditure has increased slightly by £5,680 from the previously reported figures.
  - b. The Independent and Special School out of area placements are underspent against the budget by £353,872, this is an improved position from the previous report of £155,466 mainly due to high costs placements that have ended at an earlier date than anticipated.
  - c. The Post 16 placements have a year-end position of £469,129 underspend. As discussed in previous Forum meetings we have seen a number of post 16 placements coming to natural end, with an improved position from the previous report of £11,295.
  - d. Schools Forum agreed an increase to the Travellers service and the movement of £14,000 is for the increase costs of running the service.
  - e. The Vulnerable Pupil Panel spend is showing an overspend of £63,913 due to additional referrals which is slightly lower than previously reported.
  - f. Specialist Equipment is underspent by £38,178 which is a reduction from the March report of £18,178, due to lower than anticipated demand.
  - g. Alternative provision expenditure has increased from the reported March position by £32,908, this is due to an additional direct payment and a further alternative placement arrangement.
  - h. There is an in-year affordability gap in the PFI of £188,765 and due to the improved position of the High Needs block it is proposed that the small PFI reserve of £44,139 is carried forward to support the gap in 2024/25.

# Early Years

- 11. The early years block is overspent by £444,323 in year, with an increase from the March report of £93,937. The movement is mainly due to increased numbers of eligible 3- & 4-year-olds for funded nursery hours of £67,247 and a shortfall in the funding received from the ESFA for the Teacher's Pay Award for the 3 & 4 year-old provision of £41,849. We have also seen an in year overspend in the 2-year-old eligible funded hours of £41,939 with a further increase from the March report of £5,375
- 12. There has been unprecedented demand in the SEN Inclusion funding which has resulted in an overspend of £148,036, although this is slightly improved from the last report by £20,060.
- 13. We are therefore carrying forward a deficit on the Early Years block for the first time, which will need to be managed in line with the DFE management plan. The overspend is prior to adjustments for the final 2023/24 early years block census data. It is therefore expected, due to higher numbers, that the DfE will provide some additional funding in 2024/25 for the 2023/24 financial year. However, the overspend in the SEN Inclusion Fund will remain, as well as the shortfall on the Teacher's Pay Award. The deficit carry forward will create a deficit reserve on

the Early Years block of £413,058 subject to additional funding from the ESFA following the January Census.

**14.** The overall DSG deficit across the four blocks to carry into 2024/25 is £5,002,408 prior to Safety Valve payments.

# 15. Recommendations

- 16. That Forum notes the year end budget position.
- 17. That Forum approves the carry forward budgets from 2023/24 to 2024/25 as detailed.

Emma Clennell Finance Manager Operations Group

#### BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24

BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24										AGENDA ITE	M 4 - Appendix 1			
Biodgee Area was classified as: OFFICIAL	Budget Reported to	BF Reserve	Recoupment	ESFA Import/Export	Transfer Between	Early Years Block	Revised Budget	Actual	Projected	Total Spend	Variance	Pro rata'd		Movement
	Forum January 2023			Adjust & Early Years 2023/24	Blocks	Adjustment 2022/23		Spend	Spend			Head Count	Variance	
													1	
SCHOOL BUDGETS	-											1	/├───┤	
School Budget Shares (Inc. notional)*	81,295,848		(75,421,428)		(169,323)		5,705,097	5,705,097	0	5,705,097	0		0	(0)
Pupil Growth Fund Total Schools	50,000 81,345,848	0	(75,421,428)	0	(169,323)	0	50,000 5,755,097	0 5,705,097	0	0 5,705,097	(50,000) (50,000)		(50,000) (50,000)	-0.25
CENTRAL BUDGETS										.,,				
Voluntary/Trust Admissions	20,000						20,000	17,580	0	17,580	(2,420)		(2,420)	0
Local Safeguarding Board Contribution Music Service Remissions	10,000 18,000						10,000 18,000	10,000 18,000	0	10,000 18,000	0		0	0
Union Cover	10,000						10,000	18,000	0	10,000	(10,000)		0	(10,000)
Licenses	91,043 240,000						91,043 240,000	91,043 240,000	0	91,043 240,000	(0)		0	(0)
Former funded ESG Retained Services Education Department	189,306						189,306	189,306	0	189,306	0		0	0
Education Department - School Forum	30,000						30,000	30,000	0	30,000	0		0	0
School Placement & Asset Management Unallocated funding	56,700 65,000				(65,000)		56,700 0	56,700 0	0	56,700 0	0		0	0
Early Career Teachers	50,000						50,000	6,331	0	6,331	(43,669)		(42,559)	(1,110)
School Admissions Central Employed teachers TPG/TPEG	130,474 27,893						130,474 27,893	130,474 27,526	0	130,474 27,526	0 (367)		0	0 (367)
Virtual Headteacher	18,000				(65.000)		18,000	18,000	0	18,000	0		0	0
Total Central	956,416	0	0	0	(65,000)	0	891,416	834,960	0	834,960	(56,456)		(44,979)	(11,477)
HIGH NEEDS BUDGETS	2,866,667		(2,866,667)					0	0	0				
Place Funding - Beaumont Hill Place Funding - Heathfield	136,000		(2,866,667) (136,000)				0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Place Funding - Hurworth	84,000		(84,000)				0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Place Funding - Mt Pleasant Place Funding - Northwood	115,667 74,667		(114,000) (74,667)				1,667 0	0	0	0	(1,667)		(1,667)	0
Place Funding - Marchbank	500,000		(500,000)				0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Place Funding - Post 16 Place Funding Commissioned - Rise Carr College	760,000 400,000		(760,000)				0 400,000	0 400,000	0	0 400,000	0		0	0
Place Funding - above 40 places	125,128						125,128	90,081	0	90,081	(35,047)		(37,162)	2,115
Place Funding - Eldon House	190,000						190,000	190,000	0	190,000	0		0	0
Place Funding - Redhall Top Up - Beaumont Hill - Pre 16	108,000 2,452,506						108,000 2,452,506	120,000 2,555,386	0	120,000 2,555,386	12,000 102,880	228	12,000 143,880	0 (41,000)
Additional Beaumont Hill	200,984						200,984	200,984	0	200,984	0		0	(0)
Additional Marchbank Additional PRU	42,500						42,500 45,276	42,500	0	42,500	0		0	0
Additional Eldon	45,276						45,276	45,276 10,982	0	45,276 10,982	0		0	0
Top Up - Heathfield	44,500						44,500	31,910	0	31,910	(12,590)	5	(12,590)	0
Top Up - Hurworth Top Up - Mt Pleasant	103,299 131,923						103,299 131,923	100,745 174,333	0	100,745 174,333	(2,554) 42,410	14 22	(2,554) 42,410	0
Top Up - Northwood	16,000						16,000	7,923	0	7,923	(8,077)	1	(8,077)	0
Top Up - Rise Carr	552,116						552,116	437,231	0	437,231	(114,885)	50	(162,502)	47,617
Top Up - Marchbank Top Up - Eldon House	293,008 128,816						293,008 128,816	251,308 103,513	0	251,308 103,513	(41,700) (25,303)	17 11	(41,700) (22,252)	(0) (3,051)
Top Up - Redhall Unit	118,121						118,121	115,410	0	115,410	(2,711)	12	(2,711)	0
TEPG/TPG Special Schools	217,789						217,789	222,200	0	222,200	4,411		4,411	0
TEPG/TPG PRU Hospital Service	27,192 320,853						27,192 320,853	26,400 320,853	0	26,400 320,853	(792) 0	19	(792)	0
Independent out of area placements Pre 16	3,397,805						3,397,805	3,026,055	0	3,026,055	(371,750)	48	(255,895)	(115,855)
Special Out of Area	363,694						363,694	381,572	0	381,572	17,878	24	57,489	(39,611)
Beaumont Hill Post 16 Colleges	243,500 471,169						243,500 471,169	263,974 382,922	0	263,974 382,922	20,474 (88,247)	22 98	20,474 (111,076)	0 22,829
Out of Area Post 16	296,257						296,257	332,383	0	332,383	36,126	31	61,653	(25,527)
Post 16 Independent Travellers Service	857,277 86,000						857,277 86,000	419,794 100,000	0	419,794 100,000	(437,483) 14,000	9	(428,885)	(8,598) 14,000
Low Incidence Needs Service	221,000						221,000	259,733	0	259,733	38,733		38,733	14,000
Autism Outreach	82,500						82,500	82,500	0	82,500	0		0	0
Outreach - Mt Pleasant RBU Outreach - Northwood RBU	10,000 10,000						10,000 10,000	10,000 10,000	0	10,000 10,000	0		(0) (0)	0
Outreach - Beaumont Hill	58,000						58,000	56,000	0	56,000	(2,000)		(0)	(2,000)
Neurodevelopment	5,000						5,000	1,167	0	1,167	(3,833)		0	(3,833)
Vulnerable Pupil Panel SCOS Post	100,000 23,953						100,000 23,953	163,913 26,808	0	163,913 26,808	63,913 2,856		70,391 1,600	(6,479) 1,255
SEN Team	130,602						130,602	127,823	0	127,823	(2,779)		0	(2,779)
Specialist Equipment Primary Top Ups	80,000 1,302,278						80,000 1.302.278	41,822 1.462.816	0	41,822 1,462,816	(38,178) 160.538	216	(20,000) 160,538	(18,178)
Secondary Top Ups	749,428						749,428	857,795	0	857,795	108,367	149	108,367	0
Out of Area Mainstream SEN Transport	118,897 525,000						118,897 525,000	132,051 525,000	0	132,051 525,000	13,154	17	17,527	(4,373)
School Forum Officer	52,537						52,537	52,537	0	52,537	0		0	0
Invest to save - 14-16 AP	100,000						100,000	0	0	0	(100,000)		(100,000)	0
Invest to save - Inclusion support Other SEN/Alternative Provision	110,000 459,410						110,000 459,410	0 448,036	0	0 448,036	(110,000) (11,374)	10	(110,000) (41,756)	0 30,382
SEN Direct Payment	5,300						5,300	12,732	0	12,732	7,432	2	4,906	2,526
PFI element charged to high needs Unallocated	177,591			54.000	234.323		177,591 288,323	366,356	0	366,356	188,765 (288,323)		125,754 (288,323)	63,011
Total High Needs	20,103,191	0	(4,535,334)	54,000	234,323	0	15,856,180	14,990,823	0	14,990,823	(865,358)	1,005		(87,549)
EARLY YEARS BUDGETS														
Nursery School Lump Sum Early Years Team	282,447 113,754			2,599			285,046 113,754	285,046 113,754	0	285,046 113,754	0		0	0
SEN Inclusion (EY)	220,000						220,000	368,036	0	368,036	148,036		168,096	(20,060)
3/4 Nursery funding - PVI	3,637,719			(305,364)			3,332,355	3,347,740	0	3,347,740	15,385		(10,664)	26,049
3/4 Nursery funding - Schools 2 Year old funding	2,425,146 1,089,907			(203,576) (75,831)			2,221,570 1,014,076	2,467,938 1,056,015	0	2,467,938 1,056,015	246,368 41,939		163,322 36,564	83,046 5,375
Disability Access Fund (EY)	38,916		-	(	26,546	_	65,462	58,058	0	58,058	(7,404)		(6,831)	(573)
Total Early Years	7,807,889	0	0	(582,172)	26,546	0	7,252,263	7,696,586	0	7,696,586	444,323		350,486	93,837
Total In Year	110,213,344	0	(79,956,762)	(528,172)	26,546	0	29,754,956	29,227,465	0	29,227,465	(527,491)	[]	(522,301)	(5,190)
Reserves													il T	
Early Years - 3&4 Year Old Early Years - DAF		276,566 95,790			(26,546)	(283,781)	(7,215) 69,244			0	7,215 (69,244)		7,215 (95,790)	0 26,546
Early Years - 2 Year Old	1	12,578			(20,3%0)	(43,750)	(31,172)			0	31,172		31,172	20,348
Early Years - Lump Sum PFI		(669) 44,139				1,077	408			0	(408) (44,139)		(408)	0
PFI High Needs		44,139 (6,423,149)					44,139 (6,423,149)			0	(44,139) 6,423,149		(44,139) 6,423,149	0
Central School Block	1	521,821					521,821			0	(521,821)		(521,821)	0
Schools Block Total Reserves	0	296,026 (5,176,898)	٥	0	(26,546)	(326,454)	296,026 (5,529,898)	0	0	0	(296,026) 5,529,898		(296,026) 5,503,352	0 26,546
GRAND TOTAL	110,213,344	(5,176,898)	(79,956,762)	(528,172)	(==,= :=)	(326,454)	24,225,058	29,227,465		29,227,465	5,002,407			
FUNDED BY In Year Allocations										all underspend	(527,491)	-		
DSG Allocation 22/23 - Schools	81,345,848		(75,421,428)				5,924,420		Over	an underspend	(527,491)			
DSG Allocation 22/23 - Central	956,416						956,416							
DSG Allocation 22/23 - High Needs DSG Allocation 22/23 - Early Years	20,103,191 7,807,889		(4,535,334)	54,000 (582,172)			15,621,857 7,225,717			(5,002,407)	(527,491)			
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			(302,172)			7,223,717							
Reserves Carry Forward - High Needs	1	(6,423,149)					(6,423,149)							
Carry Forward - Schools		296,026			0		296,026							
Carry Forward - Central		565,960			0	/ar	565,960							
Carry Forward - Early Years Total Resources	110,213,344	384,265 (5,176,898)	(79,956,762)	(528,172)	0	(326,454) (326,454)	57,811 24,225,058							
NET	0	0	0	0	0	(320,434)								

2,480,000 674,000 3,154,000

(2,022,898)

#### Expenditure by Type

Row Labels	Sum of Total Spend	Sum of Pro rata'd Head Count	Average Cost	% of Spend
Mainstream	£3,873,780	447	8,666	25.8%
Other	£525,000			3.5%
Post 16	£979,280	151	6,485	6.5%
Resource	£310,000			2.1%
Special	£4,076,305	269	15,154	27.2%
Alternative Provision	£1,780,609	81	21,983	11.9%
Independent	£3,445,849	57	60,453	23.0%
Grand Total	£14,990,823	1,005		

The table excludes place funding that is recouped directly from the ESFA

#### BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2024/25

AGENDA ITEM 4 - Appendix 2

BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2024/2											EM 4 - Appendix 2			
BiodgetrAnea was classified as: OFFICIAL	Budget Reported to Forum January 2023	BF Reserve	Recoupment	Transfer Between Blocks from Reserve	ESFA Import/Export Adjust & Early Years 2024/25	Early Years Block Adjustment 2023/24	Revised Budget	Actual Spend	Projected Spend	Total Spend	Variance	Pro rata'd Head Count	Year End	Movement
SCHOOL BUDGETS												1		
School Budget Shares (Inc. notional)* Pupil Growth Fund	85,642,394 0		(79,377,619)	0			6,264,775 0	0	6,264,775 0	6,264,775 0	0		5,705,097	559,678 0
Total Schools <u>CENTRAL BUDGETS</u>	85,642,394	٥	(79,377,619)	0	0	0	6,264,775			6,264,775	0		5,705,097	559,678
Voluntary/Trust Admissions	20,000						20,000	0	20,000	20,000	0		17,580	2,420
Local Safeguarding Board Contribution	10,000						10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0		10,000	0
Music Service Remissions Union Cover	18,000 10,000						18,000 10,000	0	18,000 10,000	18,000 10,000	0		18,000 0	0 10,000
Licenses Former funded ESG Retained Services	101,057 240,000						101,057 240,000	0	101,057 240,000	101,057 240,000	0		91,043 240,000	10,014 0
Education Department	189,306						189,306	0	189,306	189,306	0		189,306	0
Education Department - School Forum	30,000						30,000	0	30,000	30,000	0		30,000	0
School Placement & Asset Management	56,700 26,826						56,700 26,826	0	56,700 26.826	56,700 26.826	0		56,700	0 26,826
Early Career Teachers	10,000						10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0		6,331	3,669
School Admissions	134,388						134,388	0	134,388		0		130,474	3,914
Central Employed teachers TPG/TPEG Virtual Headteacher	28,730 18,000						28,730 18,000	0	28,730 18,000	28,730 18,000	0		27,526 18,000	1,204 0
Total Central	893,007	٥	0	0	0	(	893,007	0	893,007	893,007	0		834,960	58,047
HIGH NEEDS BUDGETS Place Funding - Beaumont Hill	3,154,167		(3,154,167)				0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Place Funding - Heathfield Place Funding - Hurworth	190,667 84,000		(190,667) (84,000)				0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Place Funding - Mt Pleasant	131,500		(131,500)				0	0	0	0	0			0
Place Funding - Northwood Primary - place change	35,833 (7,166)		(35,833) 7,166				0	0	0	0	0			0
Place Funding - Marchbank Place Funding - Post 16	500,000 782,500		(500,000) (782,500)				0	0	0	0	0			0
Place Funding Commissioned - Rise Carr Place Funding - above 40 places	400,000 130,000						400,000 130,000	0	400,000 130,000	400,000 130,000	0		400,000 90,081	0 39,919
Place Funding - Eldon House Place Funding - Redhall	190,000 136,000						190,000 136,000	0	190,000 136,000	190,000 136,000	0		190,000 120,000	0 16,000
Top Up - Beaumont Hill - Pre 16	2,671,463						2,671,463	0	2,671,463	2,671,463	0	262	2,555,386	116,077
Additional Beaumont Hill Additional Marchbank	219,587 42,500						219,587 42,500	0	219,587 42,500	219,587 42,500	0		200,984 42,500	18,603 0
Additional PRU Additional Eldon	45,276 12,382						45,276 12,382	0	45,276 12,382	45,276 12,382	0		45,276 10,982	0 1,400
Top Up - Heathfield	67,333 103.000						67,333 103.000	0	67,333 103.000	67,333 103.000	0	10 14	31,910 100,745	35,423 2,255
Top Up - Hurworth Top Up - Mt Pleasant	156,669						156,669	0	156,669	156,669	0	21	174,333	(17,664)
Top Up - Northwood Top Up - Rise Carr	485,797						0 485,797	0	0 485,797	0 485,797	0	0 53	7,923 437,231	(7,923) 48,566
Top Up - Marchbank Top Up - Eldon House	285,000 146,292						285,000 146,292	0	285,000 146,292	285,000 146,292	0	19 16	251,308 103,513	33,692 42,779
Top Up - Redhall Unit TEPG/TPG Special Schools	135,958 241,175						135,958 241,175	0	135,958 241,175	135,958 241,175	0	15	115,410 222,200	20,548 18,975
TEPG/TPG PRU	27,192						27,192	0	27,192	27,192	0		26,400	792
Hospital Service Independent out of area placements Pre	320,853 3,288,540						320,853 3,288,540	0	320,853 3,288,540	320,853 3,288,540	0	19 46	320,853 3,026,055	0 262,485
Special Out of Area Beaumont Hill Post 16	383,004 283,000						383,004 283.000	0	383,004 283,000	383,004 283,000	0	19 22	381,572 263,974	1,432 19,026
Colleges Out of Area Post 16	472,087						472,087	0	472,087	472,087	0	121 22	382,922	89,164
Post 16 Independent	620,674						620,674	0	620,674	620,674	0	11	419,794	200,880
Travellers Service Low Incidence Needs Service	100,000 259,733						100,000 259,733	0	100,000 259,733	100,000 259,733	0		100,000 259,733	0
Autism Outreach Outreach - Mt Pleasant RBU	82,500 10,000						82,500 10,000	0	82,500 10,000	82,500 10,000	0		82,500 10,000	0
Outreach - Northwood RBU Outreach - Beaumont Hill	10,000 58,000						10,000 58,000	0	10,000 58,000	10,000 58,000	0		10,000 56,000	0 2,000
Neurodevelopment Vulnerable Pupil Panel - 6th Day Provisio	0 100,000						0 100,000	0	0 100,000	0 100,000	0		1,167 163,913	(1,167) (63,913)
Vulnerable Pupil Panel	50,000						50,000	0	50,000	50,000	0			50,000
SCOS Post SEN Team	25,553 130,602						25,553 130,602	0	25,553 130,602	25,553 130,602	0		26,808 127,823	(1,255) 2,779
Specialist Equipment Early Years Top Ups	60,000 59,500						60,000 59,500	0	60,000 59,500	60,000 59,500	0	8	41,822 0	18,178 59,500
Primary Top Ups Secondary Top Ups	1,477,667 961,475						1,477,667 961,475	0	1,477,667 961,475	1,477,667 961,475	0	225 158	1,462,816 857,795	14,850 103,680
Out of Area Mainstream	143,237						143,237	0	143,237	143,237 525,000	0	16	132,051 525,000	11,186
SEN Transport School Forum Officer	525,000 52,537						525,000 52,537	0	52,537	52,537	0		52,537	0
Other SEN/Alternative Provision SEN Direct Payment	439,633 5,000						439,633 5,000	0	439,633 5,000	439,633 5,000	0	9 1	448,036 12,732	(8,403) (7,732)
PFI element charged to high needs Total High Needs	227,515 20,834,831	0	(4,871,501)	0	0		227,515 15,963,330	0	227,515 15,963,330	227,515 15,963,330	0	1,087	366,356 14,990,823	(138,841) 972,508
EARLY YEARS BUDGETS				0					] [			-		
Nursery School Lump Sum Early Years Team	348,056 133,754						348,056 133,754	0	348,056 133,754	348,056 133,754	0		285,046 113,754	63,010 20,000
SEN Inclusion (EY) 3/4 Nursery funding - PVI	312,900 3,578,144						312,900 3,578,144	0	312,900 3,578,144	312,900 3,578,144	0		368,036 3,347,740	(55,136) 230,404
3/4 Nursery funding - Schools 2 Year old funding	2,591,069 3,309,502						2,591,069 3,309,502	0	2,591,069 3,309,502	2,591,069 3,309,502	0		2,467,938 1,056,015	123,131 2,253,487
Under 2 Year old Disability Access Fund (EY)	1,526,353 76,440						1,526,353 76,440	0	1,526,353 76,440	1,526,353 76,440	0		0 58,058	1,526,353 18,382
Total Early Years	11,876,218	0	0 0	0	0		11,876,218	0		11,876,218	0		7,696,586	4,179,632
Total In Year	119,246,450	0	(84,249,120)	0	0	(	34,997,330	0	28,732,555	34,997,330	0	0	29,227,465	5,769,865
<u>Reserves</u> Early Years - 3&4 Year Old		1417 0001								_	417.002			
Early Years - DAF		(417,003) 76,648					(417,003) 76,648			0	417,003 (76,648)			
Early Years - 2 Year Old Early Years - Lump Sum		(73,111) 408	5				(73,111) 408			0	73,111 (408)			
PFI High Needs		44,139 (5,557,792)					44,139 (5,557,792)			0	(44,139) 5,557,792			
Central School Block Schools Block		578,277 346,026	1				578,277 346,026			0	(578,277) (346,026)			
Total Reserves	0	(5,002,408)	) 0	0	0		(5,002,408)	0		0	5,002,408			
GRAND TOTAL FUNDED BY	119,246,450	(5,002,408)	(84,249,120)	0	0	0	29,994,922	0	28,732,555	34,997,330	5,002,408			
In Year Allocations DSG Allocation 22/23 - Schools	85,642,394		(79,377,619)				6,264,775		c	verall underspend	0			
DSG Allocation 22/23 - Central	893,007						893,007			10 000 000				
DSG Allocation 22/23 - High Needs DSG Allocation 22/23 - Early Years	20,834,831 11,876,218		(4,871,501)				15,963,330 11,876,218			(5,002,408)	0			
Reserves														
Carry Forward - High Needs Carry Forward - Schools		(5,557,792) 346,026	)	0			(5,557,792) 346,026							
Carry Forward - Central Carry Forward - Early Years		622,416 (413,058)	i l	0			622,416 (413,058)							
Total Resources	119,246,450	(413,058)	(84,249,120)	0			(413,058) 29,994,922							
NET	0	0	0	0	0	(	0							

#### 2,480,000 674,000 Safety Valve funding 2022/23 Safety Valve funding 2023/24

3,154,000 Total Safety Valve Funding

(1,848,408)

Expenditure by Type

Row Labels	Sum of Total Spend	Sum of Pro rata'd Head Count	Average Cost	% of Spend
Mainstream	£4,144,437	483	8,586	26.0%
Other	£525,000			3.3%
Post 16	£1,076,683	165	6,528	6.7%
Resource	£326,000			2.0%
Special	£4,128,244	300	13,760	25.9%
Alternative Provision	£1,853,751	82	22,612	11.6%
Independent	£3,909,215	57	68,631	24.5%
Grand Total	£15,963,330	1,087		

The table excludes place funding that is recouped directly from the ESFA



# Schools Forum High Needs Monitoring Sub-Group

# Summary of Meeting

# Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024: 3 pm – 5 pm

Attendees and Apologies:

Paula Ayto (Chair)	Primary Academy	Reid Street	
	Vice-Chair Schools Forum	Primary School	
Alex Nelson	Primary Academy	West Park	Apologies
		Primary School	
Deb Hindson	Primary Academy	Heathfield	
		Primary School	
Caroline Green	Special School	EVAT Beaumont	Represented by Nicole
		Hill &	Gilbert
		Marchbank	
James Keating	Secondary Academy	Hummersknott	
		Secondary	
		School	
Sally Hudson	Maintained	Rise Carr (PRU)	Apologies
Andy Gilpin	Non School/Post 16	Darlington	
		College	
Vacancy	Secondary Academy		

Local Authority:

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

Item Discussion
Welcome, introductions and apologies
Register/Declaration of business interests – None
Any Other Business – None
Nicole Gilbert, Deputy Head at Beaumont Hill Academy introduced herself as substitute for Caroline
Green.
Minutes of meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.
Subject to :
Item 4: to be reworded.
Item 4
The group noted the report and recommended to Schools Forum that no changes to the budget were
appropriate at this point due to the lack of options within the funding envelope, it would therefore be
presented to School Forum on this basis.



	Matters Arising Vulnerable Pupil Panel funding Action: Calvin Kipling and Dianne Gage will bring a paper for JL to present at a future meeting outlining allocation of funding to settings awarded through VPP. Social Care Case Study
	Case study to be conducted to analyse where early intervention may have prevented escalation resulting in high-cost placement in independent educational sector.
3	Resource Base Update
	<ul> <li>Significant change DFE decision for changes to Heathfield base expected by mid-May.</li> <li>Expansion of secondary Resource base offer, discussions ongoing.</li> </ul>
4	Outreach Review
	A school's consultation will be open shortly that closes Easter. Noted that outreach not ordinarily or consistently available post 16.
5	High Needs Budget Risks
	Reasons discussed included: Attendance, Poor Mental Health, Early Years in context of post covid world
	Immediate Risks agreed - numbers of pupils with EHCP continue to rise, lack of capacity in local specialist provision, OOA children placed in Darlington provision. Rising costs of Independent Placements. Limited RB Offer at secondary.
	The members discussed mitigations of risks.
6	Meeting Schedule/next meeting
	Dates of meetings – Hummersknott Academy
	• Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 10am
	• Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 11am
	<ul> <li>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – 10am</li> </ul>
	Any other business
	None