# NORFOLK SCHOOLS FORUM

# AGENDA

**Meeting on Wednesday 18 May 2022 09:00 – 12:00 noon**

**Venue: South Green Park, Mattishall**

**Members will be asked on the day for their permission to record the meeting.**

Individual members, named below, are asked to provide verbal reports for these items.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **09:00** | **1** | **Welcome and Introductions**  **Apologies** | **Report** |  |
| **09:05 – 09:10** | **2** | **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**   * Alternative Top-Up Funding Maintained Special Schools – timeline and proposal on how to keep the process under on-going review. **Part of agenda item 4c.** * Independent Places Price Increases -Forum to work with other regional Forums to compose a letter lobbying the DfE on price increases. **Part of agenda item 4c.** * Central Schools Services Block – members requested a report from the Authority on the way in which teams are put together in relation to their responsibilities to schools. **This item is deferred to the July meeting in order to allow time to consider the impact of the Government Schools White Paper to enable consideration by Forum of future expectations of LAs.** * Final Pupil Variations in APT – an update was circulated previously and is attached with this agenda | **Information** | **10 - 11** |
|  | **3** | **School Catering Contract** – Andrew Lipscomb/Alison Randall  **Paper to follow** |  |  |
|  | **4** | **Dedicated Schools Grant**   1. Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 Outturn 2. Safety Valve – verbal update by Chris Snudden ([Sustainable high needs systems: learning from the ‘safety valve’ intervention programme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-sustainable-high-needs-systems/sustainable-high-needs-systems-learning-from-the-safety-valve-intervention-programme#:~:text=In%202020%2D21%2C%20the%20Department,a%20short%20space%20of%20time.)) 3. Outcome of National SEND Review/Green Paper – presentation by Michael Bateman | **Information/**  **Discussion** | **12 - 26** |
|  | **5** | **Review Future Meeting Plan** | **Information** | **27 - 28** |
|  | **6** | **Date of Next Meeting****Friday 8 July 2022 09:00 – 12:00 hours** **Venue TBC**  **For reference:** Norfolk Audit Service (NAS) has undertaken 26 audits in 2021/22 and 1 thematic audit on cyber security. The MI Sheet and management letters to school will be issued by NAS in the near future. |  |  |

**Norfolk Schools Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2022**

**09:00 – 11:35 hours**

**Teams Meeting**

**Present: Representing**

Adrian Ball, Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Academies

Trust

Keith Bates, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy Special School Academy

Chris Caddamy, (Vice Chair) City College 16 – 19 Representative

Lacey Douglass Early Years Representative

Mike Grimble, Avenue Junior School Primary Maintained Governors

Glyn Hambling, Unity Education Trust Alternative Provision

David Hicks Academies

Howard Nelson, Diocese of Norwich Diocesan Board of Education

Carol Jacques Maintained Nursery School

Clare Jones, Boudica Schools Trust Academies

Adrian Lincoln National Education Union

Peter Pazitka, SJB CMAT Academies

Joanne Philpott, City of Norwich School Academies

Sarah Porter, The Heart Education Trust Academies

David Shaw, Creative Education Trust Academies

Sarah Shirras, St Williams Primary Primary Maintained Schools

Joanna Tuttle, Aylsham High School Secondary Maintained Schools

Martin White, (Chair) Nebula Federation Primary Maintained Governors

Rebecca Wicks, The Clare School Maintained Special Schools

Vicky Warnes National Education Union

Michael Bateman Assistant Director, SEND Strategic Improvement & Early Effectiveness

Martin Brock Accountant, Schools, SEN, and Early Years

John Crowley Assistant Director Learning & Achievement

Marilyn Edgeley Admin Officer

Dawn Filtness Finance Business Partner

Nicki Rider Head of High Needs SEND

Chris Snudden Director of Learning & Inclusion

**Apologies:**

Sally Cutting Senior Accountant

Bob Groome National Education Union

Sara Tough Executive Director Childrens Services

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Officers said that they hoped that a face to face meeting could take place in May.

Welcome to new Academy representative David Hicks.

Apologies were received from Sally Cutting and Bob Groome – Adrian Lincoln attended.

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Schools Forum**

Chris Snudden chaired the meeting for this item and asked Forum members for nominations for Chair of Schools Forum. Martin White said he was happy to continue as the Chair; Martin was seconded by Mike Grimble. There being no other nominations Martin White was duly elected. Chris Caddamy said he was happy to continue as Vice Chair, seconded by Mike Grimble and there being no other nominations he was duly elected.

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

It was agreed the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

* Joint letter to the government with other School Forums in the Eastern Region on insufficient funding for the High Needs Block.

The reply to this letter from the Secretary of State was circulated with the meeting papers.

* Independent Schools External Evaluation - a link to research on Assisted Boarding Partnership was circulated with the meeting papers
* Finance Training for School Forum members – Sally Cutting has contacted Kirsty Savage with an aim to set training up for June 2022.

1. **Review School Forum Membership**

Officers review this annually in January. Membership must equate to at least two-thirds school members and no more than one-third non-school members. Officers have checked the census data and no changes to membership are required. There is a long-standing vacancy for a Roman Catholic representative, but Officers continue to seek an appointee.

1. **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

No decision on the disapplication request to the Secretary of State made by the LA has yet been received.

**Key events or changes since November 2021 Forum – as paper**

Overall DSG is £729m compared to £699m on latest update for 2021/22.

In addition, nationally, there is an extra £1.6bn of which £2.6bn will go out to schools as a supplementary grant and £325m will go to LAs additional High Needs allocation.

**School Forum noted the information provided for the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Block allocations and other DfE grants.**

**High Needs Block**

It was highlighted that officers are investigating if the Authority should have received more funding due to an ongoing issue with the LA’s January 2021 AP Census submission.

**Maintained Special Schools Alternative Top-up Funding Model**

Officers are proposing to move to the alternative top-up funding model previously provided to Schools Forum in November 2021 along with the outcome of the consultation with schools. The estimated cost of this including protecting schools with the minimum funding guarantee is £1.328m.

**Comments:**

* Regarding further banding review / discussions what is the time line for this to occur?

Reply - In terms of setting a budget, we have until the end of this month for Cabinet to agree it, the Cabinet paper will be published at the end of this week with their decision on the 31/1/21

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* I didn't think the revised model arising from the special schools' funding review was necessarily being adopted.

Reply – decision about the funding model is an LA (Cabinet) decision. However, we seek to advise Cabinet and recommend based on engagement with yourselves. At the last Forum meeting we asked for comments and feedback. Presuming this is supported by Forum, we will recommend that the funding model is adopted as it is an improvement on the current one.

* We had a consultation in November that raised key issues – important we are able to see any responses or actions taken.

Reply – Focus has been on getting to this point. We would look to come back in March with a timeline and proposal on how we keep this process under on-going review.

* We want to continue to encourage people to engage with consultations and have had comments in the past that people have responded and not heard back for some time.

Reply – we do understand

**School Forum is asked to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet as to the funding model used for Maintained Special Schools and academies, including an additional allocation for the Health and Social Care Levy.**

**Forum recommendations:**

* A consultation comment was that this is a cost based funding model – other schools don’t get this. Other main criticism was cost of this and where we are with the HN deficit. With the extra funding coming on board it looks as if this is a step in the right direction.
* Will recommendation include protection for schools losing out with the new formula?

Reply – Yes

The Chair asked if any member was not in favour with this recommendation? As there was no response, it was presumed all members were in favour of the above action.

Officers confirmed that the paper going to Cabinet would contain views from the consultation and the paper will refer to previous School Forum minutes.

The Chair asked that Special Schools are kept in the loop on any developments.

Officers said it would be good if Association Representatives could report back and communications could also go out through Kim Breen.

**Action: Officers agreed to provide some wording for Keith Bates to share at Special School meetings.**

**Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan**

This is the Spring update to the DSG Management Plan. The last update was November 2021 and projected a deficit of £129.680m by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

Based upon the latest information and modelling, the forecast in-year deficit for 2022/23 has now increased from previously forecast £13.100m to £17.924m, and the cumulative DSG deficit by 2025/26 has now increased from a forecast of £129.680m to £154.706m.

The paper shows the reasons for the increase in detail. Officers said they were refining the way they do modelling to give more accurate forecasts.

Comments:

* Independent Special School Places are down in number - is this an aberration or a downward trend?

Reply - Officer said it was probably an aberration as the trend for the previous years has been an increase. Could be a result of Covid, we are still experiencing demand outstripping supply.

**Please note** that following this meeting, the published place number table within the DSG Management Plan has been reviewed and an error has been discovered.  This error had occurred whilst splitting out independent, additional/other provisions, and medical needs/hospital provision in the table for the first time.  Some places had been accidently omitted. None of the other tables, including the forecast expenditure and deficits, were affected by this error.  The corrected table has been provided to Forum Members via email.

* Independent Places price increases - Officers said that they have included a 2% increase across all places going forward.
* Officers said it should be noted that some Independent Places have exploited price increases where as others have held their prices down and do a good job for youngsters without charging exorbitant fees. The Authority has asked the DfE to work with them on this but this has not been taken up. Officers said they still need to keep the pressure up and hope to interest regional colleagues to work with them on a regional framework.

**Action: Schools Forum Members suggested that they work with other regional Authorities at putting a letter together and lobbying the DfE on price increases.**

**Schools Forum noted the latest updates to Norfolk’s DSG Management Plan.**

**Schools Block**

There is a significant increase in funding for the Schools Block the reasons for this are given in the papers.

The authority awaits a decision on their disapplication request.

If this is agreed the total allocation will be £560m; if it is refused it will be £565m.

Officers said they expect to hear from the DfE details on the School Supplement Grant in Spring 2022.

**Schools Forum noted the funding announcements in relation to the Schools Block.**

**Early Years Block**

Changes to funding for the Early Years Block are explained in the paper .

The Nursery School Representative asked if nursery schools would see any benefit from the 9p increase to the Maintained Nursery School Grant.

Reply – We have been on a trajectory of protection being tapered because the Early Years Block does not receive funding to provide protection and so provision of the protection results in a reduction in overall hourly rates for 3 &4-year-olds. If Forum wish to they could recommend a different approach so that Nursery Schools receive a higher level of protection, but the impact of this would be a reduction in hourly rates for all 3 & 4-year-old funding. This is an LA recommendation is based upon previous Forum discussions, i.e. we are proposing to continue down this same line but understand the concerns raised. The protection is from the Early Years Block so any protection results in a loss of funding for the rest of the sector and the hourly rate - it's a very difficult balance.

The Nursery Representative said it was worth noting increased costs of teachers and LA staff would lead to a reduction in the Maintained Nursery School Grant in real terms.

Officers highlighted that nursery schools will receive allocation of £24 per pupil from the Supplementary Schools Grant in the Spring term.

The Nursery Representative said it was worth nothing that nursery schools are treated as schools by the DfE and Ofsted and our framework is the same. We are not the same as the private sector.

**Schools Forum were asked to note the Maintained Nursery Supplement provide by the DSG and comment on the proposal to continue to provide additional protection (£81,160 for 2022/23) from the EY Block.**

**Schools Forum noted the information provided.**

**Early Years Pass-Through/Central Services**

The Authority is expected to pass through a minimum of 95% of funding, i.e. the LA can utilise up to 5% for central services, which equates to £1.8m. This is lower than current year as the overall EY Block of the DSG has reduced.

There is an alternative for 2-year-old funding to make a contribution.

Comments:

* Members said if a review of central services and any required streamlining had happened whilst still maintaining a service this would give people a better insight – that would be our expectation if we were presenting a finance decision.
* Sustainability – would not want to see a reduction in services if the reduction in DSG is temporary.

**Schools Forum is asked to:**

* **Vote on retention of 5% of 3- and 4-year-old allocations for EY central services**

**For 16**

**Against 0**

* **Recommend a preferred option in relation to 2-year-old contribution for EY central services**

**Option 1 15**

**Option 2 0**

**Option 3 1**

**Schools Forum is asked to:**

* **Consider and make recommendations to Cabinet for the allocation of increased hourly rates for Early Years funding in 2022/23**

**Comments:**

* Significant decrease from 17p to 10p – was there not a surplus last year?
* If the DSG goes up can we increase the rate.

Reply – If it looks as if our model needs tweaking we would do this.

We over allocated last year and this is an attempt to rectify this.

**Action: Communicate with providers how the increase rate was reached.**

**School Forum were in favour of the recommendation to increase the hourly rates.**

**Central Services School Block**

Increase of £193,000 partly due to pupil numbers and part in increase in amount allocated.

**Schools Forum noted the funding announcements in relation to the Central Services Schools Block**

**Action: Members requested a report from the Authority on the way in which teams are put together in relation to their responsibilities to schools.**

1. **Pupil Variation**

Each year we present the variations to Schools Forum to show the budgets affected. This year the paper has two options this is because we are still awaiting a decision on our disapplication request from the government.

**This paper is for information only.**

1. **Possible School Closure/APT Adjustment**

**Schools Forum are asked to make a recommendation from options that the LA could implement, including, if necessary (for option 2) Forum approval (all members) for an increase to the 2022/23 Growth Fund.**

**Votes:**

**Option 1 0**

**Option 2 0**

**Option 3 14**

1. **Monitoring and Improvement Grant Reduction update**

The LA will come back to Schools Forum in the future with proposals as to changes that will need to be made to mitigate the removal of the grant and, if appropriate, there may be future requests for contributions for services through de-delegation / buy-back for future years.

**Schools Forum noted the information provided.**

1. **Future Meeting Plan**

Officers will reflect on requests for information during this meeting and update the plan accordingly.

It was requested that the January meeting next year is held a week later.

1. **Date of next meeting**

16 March 2022 09:00 – 11:30 - MS Teams meeting

**Schools Forum**

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| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **Pupil Variations 2022/23** |
| **Date of meeting:** | **18 May 2022** |

**Executive summary**

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| --- |
| **For information only. To inform Schools Forum of the final pupil variations funded for 2022/23** |

Local authorities are no longer expected to request approval from the Secretary of State to increase the pupil numbers used for calculating funding for specific schools where:

* there has been, or is going to be, a reorganisation, or;
* a school has changed, or is going to change, its admission limit.

Instead, the ESFA expects local authorities to present any pupil variations to their Schools Forum to illustrate the impact to overall funding and specific schools’ budgets.

The exception to this is that any request for a negative pupil variation adjustment would still require a disapplication with compelling evidence as to why it should be approved. Norfolk did not request any negative adjustments for 2022/23.

For new schools, the regulations require that local authorities estimate the pupil numbers expected to join the school in September and fund in the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) submission accordingly.

Indicative pupil variations for Norfolk schools were brought to Schools Forum for information in January 2022. The final pupil number variations submitted on schools’ budget shares for 2022/23 are attached.

The final cost of pupil number variations in 2022/23 has increased from the previously provided January estimate of £784,082 to a final total of £800,506.

In-year growth identified by the Admissions team continues to be funded via the in-year top-sliced growth fund for Sept ’22-March ’23 (and Sept ’22-August ’23 for academies).

**No action required: Information only.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Option 1 from APT - 1.5% transfer, +0.5% MFG & +2.82% cap** | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **School** | **Reason** | **Oct '21 Census NOR** | **Budget based only on** | **Pupils Sept '22** | **Budget using (5/12 x Oct '21 NOR** | **Difference** |
|  |  |  | **Oct '21 NOR** |  | **+ 7/12 x Sept '22 NOR)** | **Due to Pupil** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | **Variation** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **£** |  | **£** | **£** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White House Farm | Growing school | 112 | 560,639.28 | 173 | 698,578.10 | 137,938.82 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wymondham College Prep School | Growing school | 145 | 675,424.55 | 230 | 860,710.19 | 185,285.65 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| St Clement's Hill Primary Academy | Growing school | 132 | 658,410.80 | 192 | 797,785.57 | 139,374.77 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hethersett, Woodside Primary & Nursery | Reorganisation | 335 | 1,449,982.50 | 395 | 1,599,257.50 | 149,275.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hethersett VC Primary School | Reorganisation | 294 | 1,277,363.00 | 334 | 1,376,879.67 | 99,516.67 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Heartwood CofE Primary & Nursery | Reorganisation | 178 | 936,097.48 | 184 | 951,674.79 | 15,577.31 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Swaffham CofE Primary Academy | Reorganisation | 224 | 1,066,500.95 | 254 | 1,140,038.77 | 73,537.82 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **1,420** | **6,624,419** | **1,762** | **7,424,925** | **800,506** |

**Schools Forum**

**Item No. 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **DSG Final Outturn and Balances 2021-22** |
| **Date of meeting:** | **18 May 2022** |

**Executive summary**

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| --- |
| The overall DSG outturn position for all four blocks was £22.179m[[1]](#footnote-2) overspent for 2021-22, including an overspend within the High Needs Block of £21.681m, an overspend within the Early Years Block of £0.829m, offset slightly by underspends within the Schools Block -£0.322m and Central Schools Services Block -£0.010m.  The Dedicated Schools Grant deficit brought forward into the 2021-22 financial year was £31.797m. The combined cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant is now £53.976m as at 31 March 2022.  **This paper is for information only with the NCC’s Cabinet due to approve the final outturn position and balances in June. Comments from Forum are welcome and will be recorded.** |

1. **Introduction**

This report outlines the final outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2021-22.

The Dedicated Schools Grant can only be used for specified purposes and must be accounted for separately from the other Children’s Services spending and funding.

The Dedicated Schools Grant funds the Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block, the High Needs Block, and the Early Years Block.

The Schools Block has two main elements, the amounts delegated to schools and the amounts held centrally for pupil related spending, this includes de-delegated budgets and growth fund. Once funding is delegated to schools any over or underspend is shown within school balances.

The Dedicated Schools Grant Budget and schools local funding formula for 2021-22 was agreed at Norfolk County Council’s February 2021 Cabinet meeting. The agenda papers and minutes can be viewed at:

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/1672/Committee/169/Default.aspx>

1. **Variations on Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Budgets**

The overall DSG outturn position for all four blocks was £22.179m overspend for 2021-22, including an overspend within the High Needs Block of £21.681m, an overspend within the Early Years Block of £0.829m, offset slightly by underspends within the Schools Block -£0.322m and Central Schools Services Block -£0.010m.

The deficit brought forward into the 2021-22 financial year was approximately £31.797m, and therefore the combined cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit reserve carried forward at 31st March 2022 has increased to £53.976m.

**2.1 Schools Block (inc. Centrally Retained)**

Schools Block funding of £543.400m (£544.346m less de-delegation of £0.946m) was allocated to schools via the agreed funding formula for 2021-22, based on National Funding Formula methodologies as consulted on with schools and discussed with Schools Forum in autumn 2020.

The agreed top-sliced growth fund of £965k and de-delegated items of £0.946m agreed by Schools Forum were retained centrally. Also, a transfer of 0.5% from Schools Block to High Needs Block, £2.621m, was made with Schools Forum’s agreement.

At the end of the 2021-22 financial year, there was an underspend of -£0.322m against the centrally retained Schools Block elements due to a combination of:

* an overspend on de-delegated budgets;
* lower demand from the growth fund than had been anticipated when setting the original growth fund budget;
* in-year savings from academy conversions due to academy rates relief;
* additional in-year costs of revised rates charges for maintained schools compared to estimates.

Variances against each of the de-delegated budgets are detailed in the ‘Schools Block Centrally Retained’ table below.

The growth fund was the largest variance, an underspend of -£0.595m. The budget requested each year is based upon the best available estimates of anticipated growth at that point in time. The LA’s strategy has to ensure that local children can access a local school and as a result ensuring that there is capacity based on forecast figures generated from place planning and actual demand based on admission applications. However, demand fluctuates based on local demographics and sometimes proves difficult to predict. Growth funding can also be impacted by the pattern of parental preference. For example, despite increased numbers of children in the transfer to secondary school round in September 2021 the number of secondary schools requiring growth funding was low and this had a significant impact on the level of funding authorised. As a result, the level of spend was lower than budgeted, as previously reported to Schools Forum. Subsequently, Schools Forum agreed growth fund budget at a reduced level of £0.500m for 2022-23 in line with future estimated requirements when Schools Forum agreed the de-delegation in November’21.

Although the outturn shows a total overspend of £0.114m against the de-delegated budgets, for technical reasons the budgets do not include contributions from the special schools or nursery buyback which combined covered the shortfall in 2021/22 but are included as part of HN (special schools) and EY Block (nursery schools) outturns.

The -£0.322m total underspend on the Schools Block is to be transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve where it will partially offset the in-year overall DSG deficit.

**Table 1: Schools Block Centrally Retained\***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/Underspend (-)  £m | Over +/Underspend (-) as a % of the budget |
| **Schools Block-Centrally retained items** |  |  |  |  |
| Growth Fund | 0.965 | 0.370 | -0.595 | -62% |
| Supply Special | 0.025 | 0.035 | 0.011 | 44% |
| Maternity | 0.788 | 0.846 | 0.058 | 7% |
| Suspended staff | 0.024 | 0.086 | 0.061 | 254% |
| Disabled staff | 0.010 | 0.000 | -0.010 | -100% |
| Redeployment/Safeguarding | 0.069 | 0.063 | -0.006 | -9% |
| Free Schools Meal Eligibility | 0.030 | 0.030 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Prior year Rates increases |  | 0.168 | 0.168 | n/a |
| Academy conversion savings |  | -0.009 | -0.009 | n/a |
| **Centrally Retained Schools Block** | **1.911** | **1.589** | **-0.322** | **-17%** |

\*All shown to 3 decimal places

**2.2 Central Schools Services Block**

The Central Schools Services Block underspent by -£0.010m attributed to remote meetings being held for Schools Forum meetings, removing venue hire, expenses claims and printing/admin costs.

The underspend of -£0.010m is to be transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve where it will partially offset the in-year overall DSG deficit.

**Table 2: Central Schools Services Block\***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/Underspend (-)  £m | Over +/Underspend (-) as a % of the budget |
| **Central Schools Services Block** |  |  |  |  |
| Education Boarding Pathfinder contribution | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Schools Forum | 0.030 | 0.020 | -0.010 | -33% |
| Termination of employment costs | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Admissions | 0.487 | 0.487 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Director Education Projects | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.000 | 0% |
| SACRE | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.000 | 0% |
| ESG retained | 2.121 | 2.121 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Centrally Employed Teachers TPG/TPECG | 0.180 | 0.180 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Central Licences Scheme | 0.664 | 0.664 | 0.000 | 0% |
| **Central School Services Block** | **3.772** | **3.762** | **-0.010** | **-0.3%** |

\*All shown to 3 decimal places

**2.3 High Needs Block**

The High Needs block overspend at year end was £21.681m.

The High Needs Block budget had been initially set with a deficit budget of £8.635m for 2021-22 based on the DSG Management Plan refresh as at January 2021 (i.e. the LA budgeted for higher expenditure than known DSG HN block income) due to ongoing pressures. This budget variance is included within the overall overspend figure for 2021-22 as it represents a shortfall in income compared to the original budget set. The January 2021 refresh considered substantial, increases in demand since the SEND & AP transformation programme capital investment was originally agreed by Norfolk County Council, and the increased understanding of drivers and the expected timing and impact of changes.

Further updates to the DSG Management Plan have been discussed with Schools Forum each term and with the DfE during the 2021-22 financial year, with placement costs increasing significantly beyond initial forecasts for independent schools and claims for element 3 support in mainstream schools increasing in number and in the level of support required. These amendments to the DSG Management Plan, and their forecast effect on the DSG deficit, have been presented and discussed at Schools Forum during the 2021-22 financial year, and also shared with the Department for Education. In-year financial monitoring also indicated that there would be significant variances to budget at the outturn.

When considering the variances to budgets it should be noted that the final outturn has improved compared to the forecasted position at School Forum’s January 2022 meeting based on period 8 monitoring (end of November 2021 expenditure) when the DSG Management Plan was last reviewed. High Needs Block overspend reduced by £1.030m from the previous plan forecast of £22.711m to an outturn of £21.681m.

The most significant areas of variances are:

* Independent placements - overspent by **£7.283m.** The cost of new starters in 2021/22 significantly exceeded the costs of leavers. The average cost of placements increased by approximately 13% per-pupil since the budget had been set in January’21, with a shift in pupils from below the budgeted average (just under £40k) to higher cost placements. This increased the average cost of placements to over £45k during the year (at one stage peaking nearer £46k) at an estimated cost of approximately £4.6m. In addition, the number of single and joint-funded placements increased from 789 to 859 during the year, which was an increase of 20 places more than allowed for in modelling and at an average cost of £45k added approximately £0.900m of expenditure not budgeted for. Also included within the final variance was a £1.758m forecasting shortfall in respect of post-16 places that had been reported to Forum in May’21. The overspend on independent placements is an ongoing pressure that the LA, with the wider system, is working hard to resolve over time. Reducing reliance on independent placements through significant investment in new special schools and special unit places is key, along with transformation of existing services as part of the SEND & AP Transformation Programme.
* Mainstream Element 3 – overspent by **£1.969m**. There was a significant increase in the number of applications for support for CYP with and without EHCPs, and an increasing number of children and demand due to special school places not being available. Also funding claimed in respect of backdated claims, and audits by the Virtual School for SEN have resulted in less funding being recouped than had been expected.
* Exceptional Circumstances Fund – overspent by **£2.702m.** This is due to mainstream schools requesting higher support with the majority of requests being for 1:1 TA support including some that are specially trained, and others that are agency support until schools can recruit. There was a higher presentation of need in general and a significantly higher number of applications than in previous years, including requests where Covid lockdowns had affected children who were already high need and funded for EHCP or SEN support. Also, more requests for alternative provision. Children with medical needs or hearing/visual impairment where additional support is needed along with an increasing number of LAC children placed out of county but Norfolk is still responsible for funding. Many of the requests received were considered to be for children that should be in special schools but appropriate places are not available. There were some backdated EHCP claims paid as exceptional circumstances for the previous year where there had been a lack of understanding/communication in the claim process/what could be claimed, and these have come to light through discussions with SEND Advisors.
* Deficit budget set for the year – overspend of **£8.635m**. This represents the estimated shortfall of High Needs Block funding required to meet demand preceding the 2021-22 financial year and was built into the budgeted figures to set a deficit budget based on the DSG Management Plan at the time.

Other notable final variances were:

Special Schools – Overspend of £0.699m against the budgeted figure, due to additional places added and additional pupils requiring 1:1 Support, including 30 for tribunal pupils placed early in the year that had not been expected or budgeted for.

FE and Sixth Forum Element 3 funding – An overspend of £0.407m, ending the year with 753 CYP compared to a budgeted estimate of 690. This was mainly due to a data error at one provider, omitting a batch of pupils’ data, and was only discovered after the budget had been set for 2021-22.

Permanent Exclusions income – There were fewer PEX charges than had been budgeted for as income in 2021-22, and therefore a variance of £0.216m (24%) against this budget line.

SEN Invest to Save - Underspent by £0.084m, -27% against the budgeted figure, due to delay of DfE SEND Reforms, potential project work with schools delayed to 2022-23.

Moving & Handling Contract – The contract showed an overspend variance of 100% against the budgeted figure (£0.040m), however, this was a one-off due to a reconciliation of uninvoiced items from the supplier going back as far as 2018.

Specialist Equipment – The cost of specialist equipment in schools overspent by £0.048m, exceeding the budget by 32% due to increased demand.

**Table 3: High Needs Block\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approved Budget £m | Outturn £m | Over +/  Underspend (-)  £m | Over+  /Underspend (-) as a % of budget | *Variance (Previous Plan to Outturn) £m* |
| **High Needs Block** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special Schools | 40.477 | 40.734 | 0.699 | 2% | *-0.233* |
| Independent Placements | 33.621 | 41.347 | 7.283 | 22% | *-0.551* |
| FE and 6th form Element 3 funding | 7.175 | 7.582 | 0.407 | 6% | *0.099* |
| Mainstream Schools’ Element 3 funding | 8.250 | 10.219 | 1.969 | 24% | *0.538* |
| Exceptional Circumstances | 1.750 | 4.452 | 2.702 | 154% | *-0.108* |
| Short Stay School | 9.071 | 9.015 | -0.056 | -1% | *0.025* |
| Alternative Education | 2.099 | 2.135 | 0.037 | 2% | *-0.007* |
| Specialist Resource Bases | 5.074 | 5.113 | 0.040 | 1% | *-0.127* |
| Section 19 Costs | 1.110 | 1.076 | -0.034 | -3% | *-0.098* |
| Inter Authority Recoupment | 0.830 | 0.714 | -0.116 | -14% | *-0.340* |
| Inclusion and AP Support | 0.527 | 0.483 | -0.044 | -8% | *-0.044* |
| Personal Budgets | 0.501 | 0.405 | -0.096 | -19% | *-0.061* |
| Contribution to Youth Offending Team | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.000 | 0% | *0.000* |
| Contribution to CAHMS | 0.251 | 0.251 | 0.000 | 0% | *0.000* |
| Speech and Language Therapy | 1.100 | 1.045 | -0.055 | -5% | *-0.021* |
| Permanent Exclusions income | -0.900 | -0.684 | 0.216 | 24% | *-0.062* |
| SEN invest to save | 0.307 | 0.223 | -0.084 | -27% | *-0.084* |
| HNB Support Services[[2]](#footnote-3) | 3.363 | 3.363 | 0.000 | 0% | *0.000* |
| PATHS Programme | 0.100 | 0.100 | 0.000 | 0% | *-0.004* |
| Moving and Handling | 0.040 | 0.080 | 0.040 | 100% | *0.000* |
| Specialist Equipment | 0.150 | 0.198 | 0.048 | 32% | *0.048* |
| **Total Budget vs Expenditure** | **115.186[[3]](#footnote-4)** | **128.142** | **12.956** | 11% | ***-1.030*** |
| **Plus: DSG Shortfall (for Deficit Budget set from Reserves)** |  |  | **8.635** |  |  |
| **Plus: DfE Import/Export in-year Adjustment** |  |  | **0.090** |  |  |
| **High Needs Block Budget Vs Final Outturn** | **115.186** |  | **21.681** | **19%** | ***-1.030*** |

\* All shown to 3 decimal places

The High Needs Block overspend reduced by £1.030m compared to the January’22 DSG Management Plan forecast, down from an estimate of £22.711m overspend to an outturn of £21.681m. The variances between the previous estimate and the outturn are included in the last column of the High Needs Block table above. The most significant changes in either direction were:

* Independent placements, a reduction of -£0.551m, previously over-estimated, mainly due to former TPG/TPECG grant monies budgeted for potential fee increase claims but not required to be automatically distributed to providers (the LA requires evidence of pay/pension cost pressures as part of fee increase requests);
* Mainstream Schools’ Element 3 funding, an increase of £0.538m, due to a further increase in the number and complexity of applications for support through to year end.
* Inter Authority Recoupment, a reduction of -£0.340m, due to a reduction of -£0.327m for 8 ceased places within other LAs (including a place that had been estimated to cost £0.152m and another estimated at a cost of £0.080m), and reduction of -£0.013m for additional recoupment from other authorities discovered after the January 2022 forecast.

**2.4 Early Years Block**

The Early Years Block overspent by £0.829m which will be transferred to the Dedicated Schools Grant reserve as part of the in-year DSG deficit. This outturn includes the DfE’s Early Years Block adjustment for summer’21 and autumn’21 terms of -£3.423m, a final adjustment to the 2020-21 Early Years Block of £0.175m, and a debtor for estimated additional income of £0.561m for the spring’22 final adjustment which is expected to happen after year end in July 2022.

**Table 4: Early Years Block\***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approved Budget £m | DfE Sum’21/  Aut’21  Adjustment  £m | Spring’22 Debtor  Adjustment  £m | **Final 21/22 EY Block Funding £m** | Outturn £m | Over/  underspend (-)  £m | Over/  Underspend (-) as a % of the Final EY Block Funding 21/22 |
| **Early Years Block** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2-Year-Old Place Funding | 4.531 | 0.011 | 0.158 | **4.700** | 4.706 | 0.006 | <1% |
| 3 and 4-year-Old funding | 32.609 | -3.537 | 0.391 | **29.463** | 30.459 | 0.996 | 3% |
| Maintained Nursery Classes | 3.092 | 0.043 | 0.000 | **3.135** | 3.050 | -0.085 | -3% |
| SEN Inclusion Fund | 0.817 | 0.000 | 0.000 | **0.817** | 0.927 | 0.110 | 13% |
| SEN Complex Need | 0.185 | 0.000 | 0.000 | **0.185** | 0.453 | 0.268 | 145% |
| Disability Access Fund | 0.181 | 0.000 | 0.000 | **0.181** | 0.181 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Early years pupil premium | 0.503 | 0.060 | 0.012 | **0.575** | 0.569 | -0.006 | -1% |
| Early Years Funded Services | 1.919 | 0.000 | 0.000 | **1.919** | 1.919 | 0.000 | 0% |
| Early Years Contingency (Covid) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | **0.000** | -0.285 | -0.285 | n/a |
| **Initial 2021-22 Budgeted DSG** | **43.838** | **-3.423** | **0.561** | **40.975** | **41.980** | **1.004** |  |
| Sum’21/Aut’21 Adjustment | -3.423 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Published DSG at March’22** | **40.414** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated Spring’22 Adjustment | 0.561 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final 2020/21 EY Block Adjust | 0.175 |  |  | 0.175 |  | -0.175 | n/a |
| **Final Early Years Block** | **41.150** |  |  | **41.150** |  | **0.829** | **2%** |

\*All shown to 3 decimal places

Due to national arrangements made during the pandemic for the funding of Early Years, the funding from DfE for the EY Block in 2021-22 has been based on:

* May 2021 census hours for the summer’21 term,
* October 2021 census hours for the autumn’21 term,
* January 2021 census hours for the spring’22 term - although this will be updated by the DfE to January 22 census hours after year end in July’22.

This is a change from the normal operation of the EY Block which is usually based on:

* 5/12th x January census preceding financial year for the summer term,
* 7/12th x January census within financial year for the autumn and spring terms.

The initial published EY Block figure of £43.838m from DfE had been based on January 2020 census data for 2021-22 but was subsequently adjusted by the DfE in-year based on May 2021, October 2021 and January 2021 census hours, a reduction of -£3.423m. It is estimated that the final spring’22 adjustment based on January’22 census hours will generate an increase of £0.561m and this has been included as a debtor for additional income within the final outturn position. These adjustments have been split out in the table above to show the final position for each line.

In addition, there is a £0.175m adjustment for additional income within the accounts due to the 2020-21 year-end creditor of £1.100m in respect of the estimated November’21 DfE adjustment being greater than the final 2020-21 DSG claw-back by DfE of only £0.925m. This results in a credit of £0.175m to the 2021-22 financial year accounts increasing final funding to £41.150m in the accounts.

The most significant variance was against 3- and 4-year-old funding, overspent by £0.996m, a variance of 3% of the final income figure. Modelling of the Early Years Block is challenging in ‘normal’ years due to difficulties in estimating take up and the impact of supplements. Data from the 2020/21 financial year was particularly unusual for the Early Years Block due to the pandemic, including in relation to anticipating future patterns of demand for 21/22 budget setting. The model for 21/22 leant towards maximising the rate distributed and minimising the amount of contingency available, and the impact is that providers received excess funding of £0.06p/hr in 2021/22, which based on final funded hours to providers accounts for £0.481m of the £0.996m overspend. The remainder of the overspend is due to:

* Additional take-up of supplements compared to the final reduced EY Block income received, calculated to be approximately £0.061m;
* Increased take-up (claimed hours) for 3- and 4-year-old funding compared to the estimated number of final DSG income funded hours (final adjustment will be in July’22), contributing £0.297m to the overspend;
* Shortfall of DSG income for planned 5% central services[[4]](#footnote-5) due to in-year DSG reduction, adding £0.157m to the overspend – shown here as part of 3- and 4-year-old variance line as the planned contribution is based on the level of 3- and 4-year-old funding preceding the financial year, and the Early Years Funded Services contribution to central services of £1.919m did not change in-year.

During 2020/21 the DfE gave LA’s permission to use the DSG EY Block differently to support providers to ensure sufficiency and sustainability as a result of the pandemic.  At the 2020-21 year-end, due to sufficiency claims received by the LA, a £0.500m contingency was allowed to support Covid sufficiency claims made in 2021-22, however only £0.215m of claims were approved during 2021-22 and this has left £0.285m within the accounts to offset against the in-year deficit.

Based on the number of eligible children, the early education take up for 3- and 4-year-olds in each term of the 2021-22 financial year remained consistently around 90% or over, and throughout 2021-22 2-year-old take up increased from 68% to 76%.

The number of claims for funding to support children with additional need increased significantly in Spring 2022. The number of SEN Inclusion Fund claims were 844 for summer term and 811 for autumn term, whereas in spring 2022 that number increased to 1,096 claims. In general, SENIF claims made during 2021-22 showed an increase in the level of support required, shifting from low and emerging to more complex needs. The number of EHCP claims for SEN Complex Need funding stayed constant at over 100 in both summer and spring, with the expected fall in autumn (down to 79 claims) as children transitioned to school.  The outturn still resulted in an overspend for both budgets, totalling £0.378m despite the local authority being able to maximise the Disability Access Fund (DAF) in line with the principles and aims of DAF as advised by the Education Funding Agency.

1. **Schools Balances**

The Scheme for Financing Schools in Norfolk sets out the local framework within which delegated financial management is undertaken.

Schools accounts have been closed; however, balances are in the process of being reconciled. This paragraph sets out in summary terms the position of Norfolk schools balances at 31 March 2022 and compares them with balances at 31 March 2021. The total of all maintained school balances is £17.684m.

It should be noted that the balances shown in this paper are still draft as there needs to be a final reconciliation to the schools’ submission of balances to be held under the scheme for financing schools. Appendix 1 provides details of the Balance Redistribution Mechanism for information.

Table 5 compares the value of school balances at 31 March 2022 with 31 March 2021:

**Table 5: School Balances – values of balances £000’s**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **at 31/03/2021** | | |  |  | **at 31/03/2022** | | | **Change between years** | |
| **School type** | **Surplus Balance (£'000)** | **Deficit Balance (£'000)** | **Total (£'000)** | **Balance b'fwd for schools Academised during year** | **Balance b'fwd for schools Closed/ Amalgamated/ Federated during year** | **Surplus Balance (£'000)** | **Deficit Balance (£'000)** | **Total (£'000)** | **Surplus Balance (£'000)** | **Deficit Balance (£'000)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nursery | 154 | 65 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 252 | 0 | 252 | 98 | -65 |
| Primary | 14,569 | 352 | 14,216 | 105 | 0 | 15,112 | 551 | 14,561 | 648 | 199 |
| Secondary | 243 | 0 | 243 | 0 | 0 | 144 | 0 | 144 | -99 | 0 |
| Special | 2,184 | 0 | 2,184 | 0 | 0 | 2,711 | 0 | 2,711 | 527 | 0 |
| Cluster | 11 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Totals** | **17,161** | **417** | **16,743** | **105** | **0** | **18,236** | **551** | **17,684** | **1,180** | **134** |

The balances in the grey columns are no longer part of the overall balances but were included as at 31st March 2021. Therefore, the surplus balance figure as at 31st March 2022 has moved for LA maintained schools by £1.180m as follows:

Surplus Balances as at 31st March 2021 **£17.161m**

Academies no longer within balances at 31st March 2022 - £0.105m

Closed/Federated/amalgamated no longer in balances - £0.000m

Balance as at 31st March 2021 for comparison **£17.056m**

Surplus Balances as at 31st March 2022 £18.236m

**Change of surplus balances between years £1.180m**

Table 6 shows the average level of positive and negative balances held by Norfolk schools analysed by school type as at 31 March 2022**:**

**Table 6: Average balance per sector £000’s**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of school** | **Average Surplus Balance (£'000)** | **Average Deficit Balance (£'000)** |
| Nursery | 84 | 0 |
| Primary | 109 | 138 |
| Secondary | 144 | 0 |
| Special | 301 | 0 |
| Clusters | 16 | 0 |
|  |  |  |
| **Total** | **119** | **138** |

Table 7 shows the average value of balances by each type of school (the percentage of balances compared with the overall budget):

**Table 7: Comparison of level of balance to budget share**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of School** | **Position at 31/03/2022** |
|  | **(%)** |
| Nursery | 28.54 |
| Primary | 9.02 |
| Secondary | 1.78 |
| Special | 9.40 |
| Clusters | 0.00 |
|  |  |
| **All Schools** | **8.87** |

Table 8 compares the number of schools with surplus and deficit balances at 31 March 2022 with 31 March 2021:

**Table 8: School Balances – number of schools**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **at 31/03/2021** | | |  |  | **as at 31/3/2022** | | | **Change between years** | |
| **School type** | **Surplus Balance** | **Deficit Balance** | **Total** | **No. of schools Academised during 2021-22** | **No. of schools Closed/ Amalgamated/**  **Federated**  **During**  **2021-22** | **Surplus Balance** | **Deficit Balance** | **Total** | **Surplus Balance** | **Deficit Balance** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nursery | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | -1 |
| Primary | 144 | 3 | 147 | 2 | 2 | 139 | 4 | 143 | -1 | 1 |
| Secondary | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Cluster | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Totals** | **157** | **4** | **161** | **2** | **2** | **153** | **4** | **157** | **0** | **0** |

The number of LA maintained schools with deficits at 31st March 2022 remains at 4, and the number of LA maintained schools with surplus balances compared to 31st March 2021 remains the same at 153 (after excluding 2 in-year academy converters and 2 closed/amalgamated/federated schools from the 31/3/21 data).

1. **Financial Implications**

Overall, the Dedicated Schools Grant was overspent by £22.179m in the 2021-22 financial year.

The deficit brought forward into 2021-22 was £31.797m.

The combined, cumulative year-on-year overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant which is carried forward to the 2022-23 financial year is now £53.976m.

**Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, e.g. equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

**Officer Name: Tel No: Email address**:

Martin Brock 01603 223800 martin.brock@norfolk.gov.uk

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| IN TRAN logo | If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help. |

**Appendix 1: Balance Redistribution Mechanism**

The Scheme for Financing Schools in Norfolk sets out the local framework within which delegated financial management is undertaken.

The legitimate purposes that balances may be held for are: -

* To provide the school with contingency funding, the amount not exceeding 8% of the final budget share or £20,000 whichever is the greater.
* Surpluses derived from sources other than the budget share e.g. contributions from parents for school trips where expenditure will not be incurred until the following year or surpluses arising from providing community facilities
* In exceptional circumstances with authorisation of the Finance Business Partner (Children’s Services), where an individual allocation amounting to more than 1% of the final budget share and was allocated after the 1st February.
* Voluntary Aided schools are allowed to hold revenue monies to fund governors’ liabilities towards DfE grant aided capital works. Evidence of the cost and timing of the project will be required to support this.
* Surpluses derived from Pupil Premium funding - this would mean that, for the purposes of calculating the contingency sum of 8% of the final budget share, the Pupil Premium would be excluded, but would be shown as a separate category in its’ own right.

• The amount of Pupil Premium allowed to be carried forward should not exceed the sum received in that financial year.

• The Analysis of Surplus Revenue Balances form would be pre-populated, after the year-end closure of accounts, with the maximum sum allowed under this category for each school.

* A school-by-school justification for an additional exception, subject to the submission of justification data by the 28 February and approval of the exception by the Head of Finance, Leadership and Governance.

Any balances falling outside these categories will be returned to the Authority for redistribution to schools. The actual balances each school has at the end of 2021-22 and subsequent financial years will be analysed and any surplus over and above monies falling into one of the legitimate categories above will be redistributed in the following financial year.

Schools not in the maintenance contract (Full Membership) of the Building Maintenance Partnership scheme (BMP5) may lodge monies with the Local Authority up to a maximum of £250,000 or £450 per pupil whichever is the lower (i.e. schools purchasing the BMP Compliance Only membership may lodge monies with the Local Authority for maintenance). This money will be released at any time on production of an appropriate invoice for maintenance or building work that would have been covered by the BMP5 scheme. Interest will be payable on monies lodged in this way. Funds lodged must be transferred before the financial year-end, or they will be deemed to be part of the school’s surplus balance for the purposes of the analysis of balances mechanism.

SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

**I – Information D- Decision**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Autumn Term |  |  | Spring Term |  |  | Summer Term |  |
| **29/09/21**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12:30 | **September (MS-Teams)**  Dedicated Schools Grant   1. SEND Strategic Improvement (inc. Capital update) 2. Special Schools’ Funding Review 3. Indicative DSG/Schools Block Fair Funding Consultation | **D**  **D** | **19/01/22**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12:30 | **January (MS-Teams)**  Election of Chair/Vice Chair  Review Membership  Proposed Schools Budget including central costs  Estimated Pupil variations 2022-23  Possible school closure – APT adjustment required | **D**  **I/D**  **D**  **I**  **D** | **18/05/22**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12:00 | **May (Mattishall)**  Renewal of Group Catering Contract  Dedicated Schools Grant   * Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 Outturn * Safety Valve * Outcome of national SEND review/Green Paper | **I/D**  **I**  **I**  **I** |
| **17/11/21**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12.30 | **November (MS-Teams)**  Dedicated Schools Grant   1. Early Years Block 2. De-delegation/CSS Block 3. Schools Block (inc. consultation, Schools Block transfer & update to DSG Recovery Plan) 4. Special Schools Review (consultation) | **D**  **D**  **D**  **I/D** | **16/03/22**  (Wed)  09:15 – 11:45 | **March (MS-Teams)**  Agree next year’s plan  Final pupil variations  Decarbonisation  Updates on Scheme for Financing Schools  (Financial Regulations) | **D**  **I**  **D**  **D** | **08/07/22**  (Friday)  09:00 – 12:00 | **July (Remote/Venue TBC)**  DSG Management Plan  Consultation on Scheme Changes  Central School Services Block  Post-16 Sufficiency Planning for the Future | **I**  **D**  **I**  **I** |

SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

**I – Information D- Decision**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Autumn Term |  |  | Spring Term |  |  | Summer Term |  |
| **30/9/22**  (Friday)  09:00 – 12:00 | **September (Remote/Venue TBC)**  Indicative DSG/Schools Block Fair Funding Consultation | **D** | **27/01/23**  (Friday)  09:00 – 12:00 | **January (Remote/Venue TBC)**  Election of Chair/Vice Chair  Review Membership  Proposed Schools Budget including central costs  Estimated Pupil variations 2023-24 | **D**  **I/D**  **D**  **I** | **17/05/23**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12:00 | **May (Remote/Venue TBC)**  Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 Outturn  Annual Audit Report (Norfolk Audit Service) | **I**  **I** |
| **16/11/22**  (Wed)  09:00 – 13:00 | **November (Remote/Venue TBC)**  DSG Management Plan  Early Years Block  De-delegation/CSS Block  Schools Block (inc. consultation outcomes and, if necessary, Schools Block transfer) | **I**  **D**  **D**  **D** | **15/03/23**  (Wed)  09:00 – 12:00 | **March (Remote/Venue TBC)**  Agree next year’s plan  Final pupil variations | **D**  **I** | **07/07/23**  (Friday)  09:00 – 12:00 | **July (Remote/Venue TBC)**  DSG Management Plan  Updates on Scheme for Financing Schools  (Financial Regulations) | **I**  **D** |

1. All figures rounded to 3 decimal places [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. High Needs Block Support Services includes: Services to Home Educators, Sensory Support, Learning Support, Access Through Technology, Critical Incident and Medical Needs Co-ordination, Specialist Learning Teachers and SEMH Practitioners. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Budget made up of: Final HN Block DSG income £103.840m plus 0.5% transfer from Schools Block of £2.621m, plus deficit budget of £8.635m set based on forecast of HNB requirement for 2021-22 (included in the budgeted figure), and DfE in-year import/export adjustment of £0.090m not known at time of initial budgeting (reducing income and increasing budgeted deficit to £8.725m). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The LA planned for 5% of the initial 3-and-4 year-old DSG funding allocation to be retained for central services, as agreed at Schools Forum in November’20, £1.919m based on Dec’20 EY Block allocation. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)