

Members of the **Schools Forum** are invited to the meeting due to be held at

4pm-6pm, Thursday 22nd June 2023

Will be held **on-line** (via Microsoft Teams)

Agenda

Item

1.	Welcome & Apologies	Chair
2.	Membership, Register of Interests and Declaration of Interests	Chair
3.	Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held 12 th January 2023 and matters arising	Chair
4.	DSG Overview 2022-23 outturn and 2023-24 update and Schools Balances	Yoke Ying Kong Dominique Johnston-Franklin
5.	High Needs Block 2022-23 outturn and 2023-24 update	Adam Yarnold
6.	SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan	Sophie Garner
7.	Early Years Block 2022-23 outturn and 2023-24 update	Kathryn Shaw
8.	Schools Block Update	Yoke Ying Kong
9.	Election of chair and vice-chair for 2023-24 academic year	Andrea Parker
10.	Any other business	Chair
11.	Proposed dates of next meetings and location: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5th October 2023 – 4-6pm• 14th December 2023 -4-6pm• 11th January 2024 – 4-6pm• 20th June 2024 – 4-6pm At present, these meetings will likely be on-line, unless agreed by SF. See outline forward plan of agendas to follow	Chair

Forward Plan for Schools Forum (Academic Year 2022/23)
Summary

Item	5^h October 2023	7th December 2023	11th January 2024	20th June 2024
Election of Chair / Vice-Chair				✓
Standing items (membership issues, declaration of interests, minutes of last meeting, matters arising, AOB etc)	✓	✓	✓	✓
DSG Overview	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schools Block	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central School Services Block			✓	
De-delegated services and Education Functions		✓		
Early Years Block	✓	✓	✓	✓
High Needs Block	✓	✓	✓	✓
Licensed Deficits	✓			
School Places Strategy	✓			
Scheme for Financing Schools	✓			
Updates on HR issues (eg TTO, Annual Leave)				✓
Major contracts affecting all schools				✓
Other issues				

More detail

Meeting	Agenda item	Purpose	Lead officer
5 th October 2023	DSG Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. Any high level indications about funding, based on the usual summer announcement from DfE about 2024-25 funding arrangements. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	Schools Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the emerging shape of the mainstream funding formula, liaising with the sub-group on the formula, the growth fund and the falling rolls fund. Outline the process for 2024-25 budget setting, including any necessary consultation with all schools within the DfE requirements. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	School Places Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the emerging school places strategy that is expected to have been the subject of consultation with schools in the summer term and due to be considered by Cabinet later in the autumn. Considerations of how the mainstream funding formula might need to be adjusted to recognise issues arising from this strategy. 	Abrilli Philip
	High Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. Explore whether the High Needs Block is on track to get back to balance and what further steps may be desirable to achieve this in the medium term. 	Adam Yarnold
	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for 2023-24. Any other information update on the sector. 	Kathryn Shaw
	Licenced Deficits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring a paper to Schools Forum prior to taking it to Cabinet Member, outlining the schools unable to set a balanced budget in 2023-24, where they are seeking a Licenced Deficit for the year. 	Dominique Johnson-Franklin
	Scheme for Financing Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing may change, but there is likely to be a refresh of the scheme at some point and it will have to come to Schools Forum for ratification. 	Dominique Johnson-Franklin

Meeting	Agenda item	Purpose	Lead officer
14th December 2023	Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. Emerging position for 2024-25 and any points about the longer term situation. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	Schools Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back from sub-group on the consultation with schools and recommendations about the formula for 2024-25, the MFG rate, any MFG or other exceptions to seek from the Secretary of State the growth fund. Seek decisions from Schools Forum on these items. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	High Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. Update on whether the stepped increase in funding for 2024-25 will happen as expected, whether the High Needs Block is on track to get back to balance and what further steps may be desirable to get to balance in the medium term. 	Adam Yarnold
	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget monitoring position for 2023-24 to date If DfE / ESFA has issued any guidance on funding for 2024-25, the emerging situation could be outlined here. 	Kathryn Shaw
	De-delegated services and Education Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A paper identifying what services the LA wishes maintained schools to pay for by de-delegation of their budget share – trades union facilities and Education Functions. Decision needed from maintained schools reps. 	Abrilli Phillip

Meeting	Agenda item	Purpose	Lead officer
20th January 2024	DSG Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. • Summary of proposed budget 2024-25, and the strategy that underpins it, for submission to Cabinet then Council, subject to Schools Forum comments / decisions. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	Schools Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of how the formula agreed at the previous meeting would look. Final opportunity for Schools Forum to comment before submission to ESFA of the APT. • Comments from Schools Forum on the formula, but decisions on growth fund. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	High Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring position for the DSG in 2023-24 to date. • Proposed High Needs budget and funding rates for 2024-25. • Comments from Schools Forum on the proposals. 	Adam Yarnold
	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget monitoring position for 2023-24 to date • Proposed Early Years budget and funding rates for 2024-25. • Comments from Schools Forum on the formula, but decisions on the amount retained for central services. 	Kathryn Shaw
	Central School Services Block.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper identifying what setting out what the Central School Services Block would pay for in 2024-25, getting agreement from Schools Forum as appropriate. 	Dominique Johnson-Franklin

Meeting	Agenda item	Purpose	Lead officer
19th June 2024	DSG Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on outturn for DSG overall 2023-24 (comparison with final forecast in March 2024) • Report on individual schools outturn (surpluses / deficits / trends) • Identify overview position for the DSG in 2024-25 and any high level indications for future years. 	Yoke Ying Kong
	Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on outturn for Early Years in 2023/24 • Explain the arrangements for 2024/25 • Update on any issues affecting Early Years funding / providers 	Kathryn Shaw
	Schools Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the outturn position for 2023/24 • Report on any other developments that might affect 2024/25 (or later) Schools Block budget setting (but unlikely to emerge until the summer) 	Yoke Ying Kong
	High Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on outturn for High Needs in 2023/24 • Identify the emerging position for 2024/25, linked to activity • Explain any strategies being pursued or work that needs to be done 	Adam Yarnold
	HR Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary 	Claire Cobbald
	Lambeth School Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously referred to as “Major contracts affecting all schools”, this report will set out the services available to all schools from Lambeth School Services 	Colm Doyle
	Election of Chair / Vice-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of chair and vice-chair for start of the new academic year. 	Abrilli Philip

LONDON BOROUGH OF LAMBETH

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Forum held remotely due to Covid-19 lockdown measures being in place on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 4:00pm – 6.00pm

School Forum Members:

<u>Schools:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Schools:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Alison Moller (AM) Julian's Primary School (Chair)	Present	Joanna Tarrant (JT) Elm Court	Present
Melanie Miah (MM) Lambeth Nursery Schools' Federation – Rep	Present	Coral Hayes Ruskin House School	Absent
David Boyle (DB) Dunraven Educational Trust	Apologies	Michael Holland (MH) Sunnyhill Primary	Absent
Martyn O'Donnell (MOD) (PCA)	Absent	Gay Wenban-Smith (GWS) Henry Cavendish Primary School	Present
Humaira Saleem (HS) Iqra (left at 4.30pm)	Present	Eleanor Donegan (ED) Woodmansterne School	Present
Andrew Chaplin (AC) Walnut Tree Walk Primary School (Vice-Chair)	Present	Linda Collins (LC) Crown Lane Primary School	Present
Headteacher Vacancy	Vacancy	Governor Vacancy	Vacancy
Jayne Mitchell (JM) St. Andrew's Primary	Apologies	Errol Comrie (EC) - City Heights E-Act Academy	Present
Tom Prestwich Jubilee Primary School	Present	Jonathan Harris Archbishop Tenison's School	Absent
Community Secondary Headteacher	Vacancy	Faith Body Governor	Vacancy

PVI Manager	Vacancy	16-19 Partnership Vice-Principal	Vacancy
<u>Officers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent	<u>Observers:</u>	Present, Apologies, Absent
Abrilli Phillip (AP) Director – ELS	Present	Sara Tomlinson (ST) NUT/NEU	Present
Kathryn Shaw (KS) School Quality Improvement Lead	Present	Christine Golding (CG) GMB Union	Absent
Bunmi Idowu (BI) Early Years	Present	Andrew Tullis (AT) Unison Union	Absent
Dominique Johnston- (DJF) Franklin - Finance	Absent	Ryan Foster (RF) NASUWT Union	Absent
Yoke Ying Kong (YYK) (Education Finance Advisor)	Present	Brian Hazell (BH) NAHT Union	Absent
David Tully (DT) - Finance	Present	Lorna Burg (LB) Henry Cavendish	Present
Cllr Ben Kind	Present	Christopher Gyton (CG) Finance	Present
Cllr Marianne Masters	Present	Peter Compton (PC) – Governor Services	Apologies
Claire Cobbold (CC) – HR	Absent	Vinay Gupta (VG) St. Gabriel's College	Absent
Adam Yarnold (AY) - Lead, Special Education Needs & Disability	Absent	Dorte Newman (DN)	Absent
David Goldring (DG) – Finance & Property	Absent	Stella Carefull (SC)	Absent
Sophie Garner (SG) Assistant Director Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion	Present	Gerald Mehrstens (GM) - Interim Assistant Director Standards, Safeguarding and Partnerships	Present
		Andree Smith	Absent

SF Clerk: Maria Gabrielczyk (MGab) mgabrielczyk@lambeth.gov.uk

MINUTES

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed it was quorate.

Apologies were received and accepted from: David Boyle.

2. **Membership and Register of Interests and Declaration of Business Interests**

The Chair informed that Chris Toye and Lynette Murphy O'Dwyer have resigned. The Chair thanked Chris and Lynette for their work and contribution on the Schools' Forum. The vacancies will be advertised. **ACTION: MG**

The Declaration of Business Interests form has been sent out.

3. **Minutes from the Schools Forum meeting held on 8th December 2022 and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed off by the Chair.

Matters arising

All actions were completed.

Item 5 – MG sent out an email requesting SF Members to join the sub-committee. AY was copied into the email.

Item 8 – AP sent out the letter to schools on Pupil Place Planning Strategy.

4. **DSG Overview 2022/2023 - Update**

YYK informed that the paper was for information only. It provides an overview and an update on 2022/23 since the December 2022 meeting.

There has been no change to the forecast since the last meeting in December 2022. The HNB is improving currently and the expected overspend will be £1.24m, as an overall of £865K.

The majority of the Schools Block has been allocated and the Grow Fund of £85K.

No variances are expected from the CSS as all the services have been provided.

There is no variance in the allocations for EY from the data in the January census.

The underspend has been allocated to the contingency fund, with a retention of 0.5% of central services.

Funding decreased by £84K for pupils arriving from other boroughs.

Schools Forum Members:

Schools Forum Members **noted** and **commented** on the overarching approach because decisions on each block are set out in separate papers.

5. **High Needs Block 2022/23 update and 2023/24 budget setting - Update**

The paper was for information and consultation.

- The LA determines the budget.
- There was no change to the budget from last year.
- The team is getting through the backlog of EHCPs. There are 30 new cases per month.
- The Chancellor has provided more money for schools in the budget - an additional £3m.
- There have been 3 responses to join the sub-group to remove the deficit in a reasonable time.
- The MFG for special provision reflects a rise of 3%.
- The EFSA has additional money in the HNB and the funding is working its way to schools.
- **Minimum Funding Guarantee.** Funding rates for special schools in 2023/24 must be 3% higher than those which prevailed in the whole school in 2021/22 (ie across 2 years, not one). In 2022/23, Lambeth increased high needs top-ups in specialist provision by 4%, which is sufficient to satisfy the two-year MFG criterion already.
- **Additional High Needs DSG.** Specialist provision (ie special schools and academies and AP academies) must receive 3.4% extra, based on their place numbers for 2022/23. This would be in the form of a lump sum allocation, outside the scope of the MFG, similar to the School Supplementary Grant that mainstream schools will receive.
- There has been a rise in SEN and this has caused pressure. A High Needs sub-group will be formed to review this.

Schools Forum Members:

- a) **Noted** the High Needs Budget position for 2022/23;
- b) **Noted** the key points of the budget build for 2023/24 in Section 6;
- c) **Indicated** the proposed budget set out in Table 3 is agreed and
- d) **Indicated** there are no comments that need to be relayed to Cabinet / Council ahead of their consideration of the budget proposals for 2023/24.

6. **Schools Block 2022/23 update and 2023/24 budget setting**

YYK informed the paper was for decision and consultation.

The DfE released figures in July. There was a consultation with schools on how to set the SFF for this year. At the December SF Meeting it was agreed to take the approach of setting a 0.5% MFG to run the SFF and dedelimited for unions.

In December 2022 the DfE confirmed the settlement made by the government for mainstream. There would be £7m funding for 2022/2023. This also takes consideration of staffing, energy costs and pressures of cost of living and schools will be given priority.

The SF will develop a funding formula which will go to the Cabinet and the Council for their final decisions.

The Schools Block has an underspend of £85K, which has not changed since December 2022.

The 2023/2024 schools APT will be prepared from the data provided to the LA from the October 2022 census.

There has been a 545 place decrease in primary pupils and an increase of 24 students in secondary. Schools rely on MFG for 2023/2024 to protect pupil funding.

There has been £40K set aside for the Woodmansterne expansion.

PP will increase by 5% in 2023/2024.

Schools Forum Members:

- a) **Approved** that the Minimum Funding Guarantee should be set at 0.5% for 2023/24
- b) **Approved** the transfer of £0.824m (0.36%) from Schools Block to High Needs Block
- c) **Approved** that a £40k budget is set for Growth Fund in 2023/24
- d) **Indicated** their support for the funding formula for 2023/24 as set out in section 4 and Appendix 1.
- e) **Identified** any points they may wish to convey to Cabinet as part of their deliberations on the DSG budget for 2023/24.

7. **EY Block 2022/23 update and 2023/24 budget setting**

KS informed that the report was shared at the EY sub-group yesterday at the budget meeting.

There is a £0.7m contingency put aside, and the EY are mindful of the head count numbers. There is a risk of falling rolls in Lambeth. For the current year forecast, as presented in Table 1, it will break even.

The proposed budget plans in 2023/2024, will mean a consultation over the summer and the funding settlement changes made in the consultation results. This is covered in the proposed budget.

KS informed that teachers are being absorbed into the EY NFF and maintained nursery schools with a guaranteed minimum supplement. The 2 year olds hourly rate increase rate has increased by 10%, which works out to 69p. The maintained nursery supplement has increased by 59%, which is an increase of £1. The uplift was 0.9% The teachers' pay award does not elude to PVI who have teachers in their staff.

Table 3 shows the allocations for 2023/2024. Appendix 1 sets out how the formulae will operate. There is an increase in 3-4year olds rates, whilst the deprivation and quality will remain the same.

Schools Forum Members:

- a) **Noted** and comment on the Early Years Budget 2022/23;
- b) **Agreed** to the proposed budget plans for the Early Years Block 2023/24,
- c) **Agreed** to the proposal to retain £1.104m (5%) of the 3 and 4 year olds funding for managing the service and promoting good practice.

d) **Provided** any comments it may wish to make to Cabinet / Council on these proposals.

8. Central School Services Block 2022/23 update and 2023/24 budget setting

DT informed that the report is short and a decision is needed on the proposed budget for CSSB. Short report 1.5m

Lambeth gets the lowest per pupil allocation in London and nothing for historical costs. It supports education welfare services, supports SF, covers statutory and regulatory functions. DT is not requesting anything different. Just a small inflationary increase. This funding is needed for the services.

Schools Forum Members:

Schools Forum **agreed** with the proposed budget for the Central School Services Block for 2023/24.

9. Licensed Deficits

AP informed the paper was for information only.

In 2021/22 a robust and systematic approach was introduced around budgeting and resources. Cabinet agreed for licensed deficits and for 3 year budget plans to be submitted.

At the end of the summer term letters were sent out to schools. The Finance Team were not satisfied with 6 schools and they worked with the schools for clarity around the deficit recovery and on the budget position.

There are 17 schools with cumulative deficit budgets and there are 13 schools that needed further work.

There is some good news as 72% of schools are forecasting a surplus from 21/22.

At present 16 school will have a deficit and get a deficit licence from the LA and 7 schools need to provide more information.

Schools Forum Members:

Schools Forum Members **noted** and **commented** on the content of this report.

10. AOB

There were no items for AOB.

11. Future Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were agreed for the next academic year:

- **16th March 2023 – 4-6pm**
- **22nd June 2023 – 4-6pm**

At present, these meetings will be on-line, but Schools' Forum Members will be advised of location, if it is decided that a physical meeting is safe and practical.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 5.05pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Alison Moller
Chair of the School Forum

Agenda Item 4

Title: Dedicated Schools Grant Overview

Date: 22nd June 2023

Report to: Schools Forum

Report for: Information Decision Consultation Action

Authors: Yoke Ying Kong – Education Finance Advisor ; Dominique Johnston-Franklin – Group manager – Education

1 Background

1.1 This report explains the DSG outturn for 2022/23 and the position on school balances. It then updates on the 2023/24 DSG and the outlook for future years.

2 DSG 2022/23

2.1 **Table 1** sets out the outturn position for each block for 2022/23. The final year-end position was a **cumulative surplus of £2.113m**, an improvement on the forecast deficit of £0.865m reported to Schools Forum in January 2023. The explanations about the position in each of the four blocks and the associated risks then follow.

Table 1: Summary outturn spend against funding by DSG block 2022/23

Service Group	Brought forward funding 2021/22 £'000	Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 £'000	Net expenditure £'000	In-year variance	Carry forward funding 2022/23 £'000
Schools Block	(85)	(147,022)	147,016	(6)	(91)
Central School Services Block	0	(1,224)	1,222	(2)	(2)
Early Years Block	(271)	(25,102)	24,424	(678)	(949)
High Needs Block	3,196	(56,359)	52,183	(4,176)	(980)
De-delegated budgets	(97)	0	6	6	(91)
DSG managed by LA	2,743	(229,707)	224,851	(4,856)	(2,113)
Schools Block Academies NNDR	0	(716)	716	0	0
Schools Block recoupment by ESFA	0	(73,385)	73,385	0	0
High Needs Block recoupment by ESFA	0	(3,320)	3,320	0	0
DSG held or recouped by ESFA	0	(77,421)	77,421	0	0
Total Lambeth DSG	2,743	(307,128)	302,272	(4,856)	(2,113)

2.2 **Schools Block.** Most of the funding for Schools Block was allocated in accordance with the Authority Proforma Tool exercise on the mainstream schools funding formula in January 2022.

- 2.3 The Growth Fund had £85k brought forward from 2021/22. There was a further underspend of £6k in 2022/23. The carry forward balance of £91k surplus continues to be earmarked for the Growth Fund.
- 2.4 **Central School Services Block.** There was a small underspend of £2k on Admissions in Central School Services Block which also includes School Licences, Schools Forum, Education Functions and Statutory Responsibilities.
- 2.5 **Early Years Block.** There is a separate item on the agenda explaining the estimated underspend of £0.949m in the Early Years Block. Funding for 2022/23 was based on termly counts, so it fluctuated throughout the year.
- 2.6 **High Needs Block.** There is a separate report on this agenda which includes more detail about the pressures in the High Needs Block. The final High Needs Block carry forward is £0.980m which is better than the forecast in January 2023 of £1.249m overspend. This is a consequence of delays in funding decision from panel since January 2023.
- 2.7 **De-Delegated Budgets.** The Vulnerable Schools Fund is no longer being topped-up by DSG funding. £97k was brought forward from 2021/22 and £6k was drawn down during 2022/23. The remaining £91k underspend is carried forward into 2023/24.
- 2.8 **Overall.** The DSG brought forward a deficit of £2.743m into 2022/23 and carries forward a surplus of £2.113m into 2023/24. As two of the components of the carry forward balance are ring-fenced (£91k for Vulnerable Schools Fund and £91k for Growth Fund), the £2.113m net surplus implies a smaller surplus in practice: £1.931m.
- 2.9 **Attribution of year-end balances to blocks.** The £2.113m surplus balance is a DSG balance, but LAs are usually asked to account for how that balance is split across each of the component blocks. The High Needs Block ended the year £0.98m in surplus, but £3.196m of the funding was a brought forward deficit from previous years so the real surplus in the High Needs Block was £4.176m (ie £3.196m + £0.98m). The lag in panel decisions meant 3 months of potential expenditure have yet to be quantified.

3 DSG Funding 2023/24

- 3.1 DSG budget plans for 2023/24 were based on operating with an in-year balanced position. Due to the lag in panel decision data from High Needs Block, it is too early in the financial year to have a clear forecast of the overall 2023/24 DSG financial position. Whilst the overall DSG financial position currently looks favourable, there is still likely to be ongoing pressure within the High Needs Block.
- 3.2 The ESFA has confirmed that the LA's request to disapply the MFG for Heron Academy (The Michael Tippett School) was approved for 2023/24 by the Secretary of State. In summary, that means keeping the top-up rates at Heron Academy cash flat for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but deferring any cash reductions in the top-up rates until 2025/26 and seeking convergence of the Lambeth Standard top-up rates and the rates paid to Heron Academy by 2027/28. Appendix 1 is the confirmation letter from the ESFA to apply this disapplication. The LA will be seeking confirmation from the ESFA for if the disapplication process needs to be applied each year until 2027/28, and we will update Schools Forum when notified.

3.3 **Table 2** sets out the latest DSG budget position for 2023/24.

Table 2: Latest 2023/24 DSG budget position as at Period 2

Block	2022/23 b/f balances £'000	DSG Funding 2023/24	Forecast net LA spend 2023/24 (P02) £'000	In-year variance £'000	2023/24 Forecast c/f balances £'000
Schools Block (not NNDR)	(91)	(148,556)	148,556	0	(85)
Central School Services Block	(2)	(1,275)	1,275	0	(2)
Early Years Block	(949)	(27,238)	27,238	0	(949)
High Needs Block	(980)	(60,688)	60,688	0	(980)
De-delegated budgets	(91)	0	0	0	(91)
DSG managed by LA	(2,113)	(237,757)	237,757	0	(2,113)
Schools Block Academies NNDR	0	(730)	730	0	0
Schools Block recoupment by ESFA	0	(77,281)	77,281	0	0
High Needs Block recoupment by ESFA	0	(4,155)	4,155	0	0
DSG held or recouped by ESFA	0	(82,166)	82,166	0	0
Total Lambeth DSG	(2,113)	(319,923)	319,923	0	(2,113)

4 Maintained school balances as March 2023

4.1 Net balances at the end of March 2022 for the 70 maintained schools were £18m and during the year 15 schools were granted a Licenced Deficit. By the end of March 2023, net balances had reduced to £17.5m. 3 of the 15 schools expecting a deficit had moved into surplus and 4 other schools tipped into deficit, giving a new total of 16 in deficit. Additionally, 2 schools converted to an academy which are no longer part of schools balances: The Michael Tippett school with £1.3m deficit written off to the LA, and Streatham Wells with a £0.12m surplus which went with the school as a convertor Academy.

Table 3 summarises the current position.

Table 3: Summary of maintained school balances at 31st March 2023

	Number of schools in surplus	Number of schools with "excess" surplus	Outturn for all schools in surplus 2022/23 £'000	Number of schools with deficits	Outturn for schools with deficits 2022/23 £'000	Total schools	Total outturn balances £'000
NURSERY	2	1	£518	2	-£1,151	5	-£633
PRIMARY	16	22	£12,554	14	-£4,726	52	£7,828
ALL-THROUGH	0	1	£3,018	0	£0	1	£3,018
SECONDARY	2	4	£4,420	0	£0	6	£4,420
SPECIAL	1	3	£2,874	0	£0	4	£2,874
TOTAL	21	31	£23,384	16	-£5,877	68	£17,507

- 4.2 In the past, the ESFA has indicated that nursery, primary and special schools should be aiming to hold a balance within around 8% of their income, with a lower figure of 5% for secondary schools. Using that metric, 31 schools have surplus balances that would fall into what was once regarded as the “excess balances” category. This is a reduction of 8 schools from 2022 noting that 1 was converted to an academy. Although schools with surpluses have £23.3m in total balances, £19m of that amount is beyond the 5% / 8% indicative threshold for having a surplus.
- 4.3 The emerging picture for Lambeth is that more than half of all schools who have surplus balances (using past DfE criteria) might be regarded as “excess”. Yet, there remain some schools in financial difficulty, often associated with pupil numbers, historic circumstances or operating models that may need to change.
- 4.4 **Appendix 1** sets out the position for each of the 68 schools, showing the change between 2021/22 outturn and 2022/23.
- 4.5 The LA has been supporting and challenging schools in financial difficulties and earlier this month, Governing Bodies will have submitted their 3 year budget plans. It is the intention to again seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to grant Licenced Deficits for schools who are unable to set a balanced budget in 2023/24. A version of the report to the Cabinet Member is expected to be shared with Schools Forum at its meeting in October 2023 before the Cabinet decision is taken later in the calendar year.
- 4.6 The LA is not responsible for the financial position at Lambeth academies and free schools. The ESFA’s Schools Financial Benchmarking website recently refreshed its dataset with Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) information for academies and free schools for the year ending 31st August 2022. The ESFA recognises that the financial position at individual academies can be affected by the way in which Multi-Academy Trusts treat shared costs.
- 5 Recommendations.**
- 5.1 **This is an information item but Schools Forum is invited to note and discuss the issues raised, noting that there are other reports on the agenda where more of the detail can be considered.**

Details of maintained school balances at 31st March 2023

Appendix 1

Sector	School Name	2021-22 Final Position £,000	2022-23 In year Surplus /Deficit £000	Balance B/F 2023/24	Status	Licenced Deficit Position	Total income 2022-23 (I01 -I18D in CFR) £'000	Surplus as a % of income	"Excess" surplus beyond 8% nur, pri, special and 5% secondary £'000
ALL-THROUGH	WOODMANSTERNE	2,707	311	3,018	Surplus Greater than 8%		12,200	25%	2,776
NURSERY	HOLMEWOOD	402	-45	357	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,161	31%	328
NURSERY	ETHELRED	211	-188	23	Surplus		761	3%	
NURSERY	MAYTREE	257	-119	138	Surplus	LD Deficit 2022-23 Now in Surplus	1,817	8%	
NURSERY	EFFRA	-735	-372	-1,107	Deficit	LD	902	-123%	
NURSERY	TRIANGLE	-18	-26	-44	Deficit	LD	850	-5%	
PRIMARY	ALLEN EDWARDS	707	178	885	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,663	24%	814
PRIMARY	ASHMOLE	1	67	68	Surplus		1,752	4%	
PRIMARY	BONNEVILLE	-223	73	-150	Deficit	LD	2,933	-5%	
PRIMARY	ARCHBISHOP SUMNERS	285	58	343	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,031	11%	315
PRIMARY	CHRISTCHURCH BRIXTON	-617	48	-569	Deficit	LD	1,592	-36%	
PRIMARY	CROWN LANE	233	-202	31	Surplus		2,798	1%	
PRIMARY	FENSTANTON PRIMARY	269	-170	99	Surplus		3,143	3%	
PRIMARY	ELM WOOD	-145	-33	-178	Deficit	New Required for 2023-24	2,897	-6%	
PRIMARY	CLAPHAM MANOR	398	8	406	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,347	12%	374
PRIMARY	GRANTON PRIMARY	1,176	132	1,307	Surplus Greater than 8%		4,910	27%	1,203
PRIMARY	HENRY CAVENDISH	333	-261	72	Surplus		6,115	1%	
PRIMARY	HEATHBROOK PRIMARY	96	229	325	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,009	11%	299
PRIMARY	HERBERT MORRISON	5	59	64	Surplus		1,801	4%	
PRIMARY	HENRY FAWCETT	782	-167	615	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,057	20%	566
PRIMARY	HITHERFIELD PRIMARY	136	-9	127	Surplus		6,118	2%	
PRIMARY	HILLMEAD PRIMARY	409	-71	338	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,138	11%	311
PRIMARY	GLENBROOK PRIMARY	-115	49	-66	Deficit	LD	1,707	-4%	
PRIMARY	IMMANUEL	575	-250	325	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,100	10%	299
PRIMARY	IQRA	1,036	232	1,267	Surplus Greater than 8%		2,064	61%	1,166
PRIMARY	HOLY TRINITY	-350	-76	-425	Deficit	LD	2,130	-20%	
PRIMARY	JESSOP PRIMARY	-219	-16	-235	Deficit	LD	2,944	-8%	
PRIMARY	JULIANS	675	-190	484	Surplus		6,478	7%	
PRIMARY	KINGS AVENUE PRIMARY	-223	277	54	Surplus	LD Deficit 2022-23 Now in Surplus	1,929	3%	
PRIMARY	JUBILEE PRIMARY	-674	52	-622	Deficit	LD	4,145	-15%	
PRIMARY	RICHARD ATKINS	547	-185	362	Surplus Greater than 8%		2,419	15%	333
PRIMARY	ST ANNES	571	312	883	Surplus Greater than 8%		2,536	35%	813
PRIMARY	KINGSWOOD PRIMARY	-787	-556	-1,343	Deficit	LD	5,558	-24%	
PRIMARY	ST BEDES	532	2	534	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,313	41%	491
PRIMARY	ST HELENS	334	-69	265	Surplus Greater than 8%		2,223	12%	243
PRIMARY	LOUGHBOROUGH PRIMARY	-35	46	11	Surplus	LD Deficit 2022-23 Now in Surplus	2,854	0%	
PRIMARY	MACAULAY	133	-26	108	Surplus		1,478	7%	
PRIMARY	ORCHARD	180	-53	127	Surplus		1,656	8%	
PRIMARY	ST ANDREWS RC	47	-33	14	Surplus		2,933	0%	
PRIMARY	ST JOHN'S ANGELL TOWN	70	122	193	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,770	11%	177
PRIMARY	ST JOHN THE DIVINE	61	-13	48	Surplus		1,239	4%	
PRIMARY	LARKHALL PRIMARY	-55	-127	-182	Deficit	New Required for 2023-24	4,124	-4%	
PRIMARY	ST JUDES	132	12	143	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,465	10%	132
PRIMARY	PAXTON	-59	-116	-175	Deficit	New Required for 2023-24	3,877	-5%	

Sector	School Name	2021-22 Final Position £,000	2022-23 In year Surplus /Deficit £000	Balance B/F 2023/24	Status	Licenced Deficit Position	Total income 2022-23 (101 -118D in CFR) £'000	Surplus as a % of income	"Excess" surplus beyond 8% nur, pri, special and 5% secondary £'000
PRIMARY	ST MARYS	117	-80	37	Surplus		2,420	2%	
PRIMARY	ST MARKS	293	64	357	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,738	21%	329
PRIMARY	ST STEPHENS	402	-85	317	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,743	18%	292
PRIMARY	ST ANDREWS CE	-150	-117	-267	Deficit	LD	1,529	-17%	
PRIMARY	STOCKWELL PRIMARY	622	128	750	Surplus Greater than 8%		4,346	17%	690
PRIMARY	SUNNYHILL	423	124	547	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,495	16%	504
PRIMARY	VAUXHALL	266	-192	74	Surplus		1,975	4%	
PRIMARY	TELFERSCOT	583	-203	380	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,226	12%	350
PRIMARY	The REAY	193	-37	155	Surplus Greater than 8%		1,910	8%	143
PRIMARY	WALNUT TREE WALK	460	-83	377	Surplus Greater than 8%		2,580	15%	347
PRIMARY	WYVIL	167	-107	60	Surplus		5,808	1%	
PRIMARY	ST BERNADETTE	159	-304	-145	Deficit	LD	1,611	-9%	
PRIMARY	ST SAVIOURS	-183	18	-165	Deficit	LD	1,602	-10%	
PRIMARY	SUDBOURNE	237	-441	-204	Deficit	New Required for 2023-24	2,689	-8%	
SECONDARY	LA RETRAITE	957	-76	881	Surplus Greater than 5%		10,422	8%	837
SECONDARY	LILIAN BAYLIS	1,128	100	1,229	Surplus Greater than 5%		8,666	14%	1,167
SECONDARY	NORWOOD SCHOOL	475	317	792	Surplus Greater than 5%		10,001	8%	752
SECONDARY	ST GABRIELS COLLEGE	694	191	885	Surplus Greater than 5%		6,213	14%	840
SECONDARY	BISHOP THOMAS GRANT	404	33	437	Surplus		9,929	4%	
SECONDARY	LONDON NAUTICAL	87	111	198	Surplus		6,204	3%	
SPECIAL	ELM COURT	1,110	113	1,223	Surplus Greater than 8%		4,581	27%	1,125
SPECIAL	LANSDOWNE	647	-234	413	Surplus Greater than 8%		4,192	10%	380
SPECIAL	LIVITY	636	375	1,011	Surplus Greater than 8%		3,965	25%	930
SPECIAL	TURNEY	172	55	227	Surplus		4,965	5%	
	TOTAL	18,946	-1,439	17,507			236,748		19,326

Agenda Item 5

Title:	High Needs Block 2022/23 and 2023/24			
Date:	22nd June 2023			
Report to:	Schools Forum			
Report for:	Information x	Decision	Consultation	Action
Authors:	Adam Yarnold -SEND Lead / Sophie Garner - Assistant Director Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion			

1. Purpose of this report.

1.1 This report sets out:

- Key service update and ECP data headlines.
- the outturn for the High Needs Budget position 2022/23;
- the latest monitoring position for the High Needs Block budget for 2023/24

2. Key Service Issues and Pressures

2.1 The SEND Strategy Vision 2021-24 says:

We believe that all children and young people with a special education need and/or disability and all those who are vulnerable learners due to their life circumstance, have the right to a fulfilling adulthood. A life with equality of access to opportunities that improves life chances and empowers them to be the best they can be.

Prevalence – Resident population (2022)

- 2.2 The number of Lambeth **residents with an EHCP rose** from 2,741 in 2021 to 2,940 in 2022, equivalent to 3.31% of 0 - 24 year olds in Lambeth. This was well above England and statistical neighbour averages, placing Lambeth in the top quartile of England local authorities.
- 2.3 In 2021, new EHCPs were issued to one in every 300 (0.33%) 0-24 year olds, a fall from the 0.40% who were issued a new EHCP in 2020. This fall took Lambeth below England and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.4 The age breakdown of Lambeth's EHCP cohort is broadly in line with England and statistical neighbour averages, with a slight skew towards older children. The percentage of the EHCP cohort who are under 10 is slightly below the England and statistical neighbour averages. Conversely, the percentage of the EHCP population who were between 16 and 19 was the second highest among statistical neighbours and slightly above the England average.

Prevalence and primary need – School population (2022)

- 2.5 In 2022, one in twenty (5.5%) Lambeth school pupils had an EHCP, the 4th highest of any England local authority. The percentages of state funded primary and secondary school pupils with an EHCP were also well above England averages, ranking 4th and 5th in England respectively.
- 2.6 At 13.8%, the percentage of Lambeth school pupils with SEN Support was also above both England (12.6%) and statistical neighbour (13.3%) averages.
- 2.7 The percentage of SEND pupils with a moderate learning difficulty decreased again in 2022, down to 6.8% and was one of the lowest proportions in England, 10% points below the England average.
- 2.8 Conversely, the percentage of SEND pupils with social, emotional & mental health continued to grow in 2022 and, at 18.3%, was the second highest amongst statistical neighbours.
- 2.9 At 30.6%, the percentage of SEND pupils with speech, language and communication needs remained considerably higher than the England average of 23.2% in 2022.

Assessment & Provision

Implementation (2021)

- 2.10 In 2021, there were 549 requests for an EHCP assessment, equivalent to 0.62% of the 0-24 year old population in Lambeth. Following the England trend, this was an increase from 0.45% in 2020 and was above England and statistical neighbour averages.
- 2.11 Of the initial requests for an assessment, around a third (32.2%) were refused. This was the second highest refusal rate among statistical neighbours and well above the England average of 22.3%.
- 2.12 Excluding exceptional cases, around four in five (80.6%) EHCPs were issued within the 20 week timeline. This was also the second highest among statistical neighbours and well above the England average of 59.9%.
- 2.13 The percentage of appealable decisions that resulted in appeals to the SEND Tribunal continued to decrease to 0.9% (29 appeals), half the England rate of 1.8%.

Provision for EHCP pupils (2022)

- 2.14 Lambeth had relatively high proportions of EHCP pupils in state-funded mainstream schools, both in and not in resourced provision or SEN units. In both cases, Lambeth ranked in the top quartile of England local authorities.
- 2.15 The percentage of EHCP pupils at a state-funded special school fell to 23% in 2022, below both England and statistical neighbour averages and placing Lambeth in the bottom quartile of England local authorities.
- 2.16 The percentage of EHCP pupils at Independent or non-maintained stays low at 3.8%, well below both England and statistical neighbour averages and placing Lambeth in the bottom quartile of England local authorities.

- 2.17 The proportion of the EHCP cohort attending a post-16 institution has been growing year-on-year since 2020, reaching a high of 18.8% in 2022. This was the second highest among statistical neighbours and placed Lambeth in the top quartile of all England local authorities.
- 2.18 Lambeth's percentage of pupils living in the LA and attending state special schools in other LAs is the highest of all statistical neighbours, and in the top quartile nationally.

Cross border movement of special school pupils (2022)

- 2.19 Lambeth continued to have large proportions of pupils travelling into and out of the local authority to attend state special schools. This partially reflects the number of special schools near Lambeth's borders.
- 2.20 Despite a 1% point decrease from 2021, at 23%, Lambeth still has the highest percentage among statistical neighbours of special school pupils attending schools in other local authorities. This is also much higher than the England average of 8.9%.
- 2.21 Similarly, at 21%, the percentage of Lambeth special school pupils who live in other local authorities is 12.1% points higher than the England average.

Finance (2022/23 financial year)

- 2.22 Lambeth's gross budget per capita for top up funding for maintained providers increased to £357, the 5th highest in England, far higher (£189 more) than the England average. The budget for top up funding for academies and free schools was also above the England and statistical neighbour average.
- 2.23 Despite an increase from 2021/22, Lambeth's top up funding for independent providers budget remains well below the England average. This is partly driven by the relatively small proportion of Lambeth's EHCP pupils placed in independent provision.
- 2.24 At £32 per capita, Lambeth's gross budget for SEN administration, assessment and monitoring was higher than the England average, despite being below the statistical neighbour average.

3. High Needs Outturn 2022/23

- 3.1 Council agreed in March 2022 that the High Needs budget could balance in-year for 2022/23 and that the £3.196m deficit brought forward would be reduced in the medium term. At the January 2023 Schools Forum meeting, this forecast deficit had decreased to £1.947m. The final outturn of £0.98m underspend is a £4.176m (£3.196m + £0.98m) improvement on that forecast position. **Table 1** below indicates an improvement of £2.229m since the previous meeting.

Table 1. High Needs DSG budget 2022/23 and outturn

Component	Final Budget 2022/23 £'000	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Final Variance £'000	Previous Variance P08 2022/23 £'000	Movement £'000
1. Places only	£11,619	£11,261	(£358)	(£319)	(£39)
2. SEND Top-Ups	£44,613	£41,161	(£3,452)	(£1,332)	(£2,120)
3. AP Top-Ups	£1,392	£1,218	(£174)	(£296)	£122
4. Other High Needs provision	£2,055	£1,863	(£192)	£0	(£192)
Total Commitment (gross)	£59,679	£55,503	(£4,176)	(£1,947)	(£2,229)
Balance brought forward	(£3,196)	(£3,196)	£0	£0	£0
Funding transferred from Schools Block	£1,111	£1,111	£0	£0	£0
High Needs DSG Funding (gross)	£58,568	£58,568	£0	£0	£0
Total funding	£56,483	£56,483	£0	£0	£0
Net position	£3,196	(£980)	(£4,176)	(£1,947)	(£2,229)

- 3.2 **Appendix 1** sets out the details supporting this position.
- 3.3 **Funding.** There has been no change since March 2022.
- 3.4 **Places (-£0.358m).** Agreed additional funding of FE places outside recoupment at Lambeth College was lower than budgeted by £78k. The budget included a contingency for 30 new places of which 28 were unutilised, amounting to £280k.
- 3.5 **SEND Top-ups (-£3.452m).** Comprised of £933k savings on in-borough special schools & resource bases, £618k in independent schools, £1.270m for Further Education, £314k of out-of-borough schools, £110k for AP top-ups, £210k on home tuition & therapies. FE variance is primarily due to 136 pupils leaving education.
- 3.6 **Alternative Provision Top-Ups (-£0.174m).** Uptake of AP places was lower than budgeted for, with 60 places budgeted and only 45 places on average utilised during the year.
- 3.7 **Other High Needs Provision (-£0.192m).** Savings here are primarily due to delays recruiting to outreach positions created using repurposed inclusion fund budget.
- 3.8 **The Michael Tippett School academy conversion.** This school converted on the 1st February 2023. As part of the academy conversion guidance being a sponsored academy, the closing deficit of £1.3m was written off against the General Fund and has no impact on the 2022/23 High Needs Block outturn.

4. High Needs budget 2023/24

- 4.1 The summary budget and forecast position on the DSG High Needs Block for 2023/24 is set out in **Table 2**. At present, the forecast shows an in year balanced budget plan for 2023/24. Whilst there is a carried forward surplus balance in High Needs Block from 2022/23, there is continuous ongoing pressures on the High Needs Block and once the lagged panel decision data is made available, a more accurate financial forecast can be determined.

- 4.2 **Heron Academy MFG.** The ESFA has confirmed that the LA's request to disapply the MFG for Heron Academy (The Michael Tippett School) was **accepted** for 2023/24. **Appendix 2** is the Secretary of State approval.

Table 2. Summary of High Needs Budget position 2023/24

Component	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Forecast spend 2023/24 (£'000)	Difference
1. Places only	£11,261	£11,677	£11,677	£0
2. SEN Top-Ups	£41,161	£50,567	£50,567	£0
3. AP Top-Ups	£1,218	£1,283	£1,283	£0
4. Other High Needs provision	£1,863	£2,140	£2,140	£0
Total Commitment (gross)	£55,503	£65,667	£65,667	£0
HNB Balance brought forward	(3,196)	£980	£980	£0
Funding transferred from Schools Block	£1,111	£824	£824	£0
High Needs DSG Funding (gross)	£58,568	£64,843	£64,843	£0
Total funding	£56,483	£66,647	£66,647	£0
Net cumulative balances position	(£980)	(980)	(980)	£0

5. Risks

- 5.1 The High Needs budget is very volatile, so it is never entirely risk free.
- 5.2 Provisions have been built in for expected additional pupil numbers, but it is difficult to know whether this will be sufficient. Sometimes a few very expensive extra placements can put pressure on the high needs budget. This may adversely impact the budget.
- 5.3 Commitments have been identified on the range of activities supported by the High Needs Block, but some are more certain than others. In particular, rates and numbers on Further Education and out-of-borough high needs placements are sometimes only firmed up a few terms after the provision began. While forecasts try to anticipate that, there are inevitably risks that such forecasts will be insufficient.
- 5.4 In the context of falling rolls, it ought not to be the case that numbers of EHCPs continue to rise. Numbers of EHCPs have been rising across the age ranges. If that continues, it will be very difficult to contain costs within the High Needs DSG.
- 5.5 Having set a balanced in-year budget position for 2023/24 gives some space to identify other initiatives that can address the future demand on EHCPs and for the LA to work on processes that can support schools in delivery of the SEND Strategy. The areas that the LA will continue to explore include:
- **Demand Management.** Why do we have rising numbers of EHCPs across the age-ranges? What can be done to meet statutory responsibilities and the needs of young people, while slowing down the demand? Is the LA ceasing EHCPs appropriately when circumstances indicate that this is necessary?

- **Tight controls.** Are the processes for agreeing EHCPs or agreeing the resources associated with them sufficiently robust?
- **Cost effective provision.** Are there any initiatives or services or practices where money could be better spent to meet the needs of young people? Are there any specialist settings with consistently empty places that ought to be removed?
- **Capital Investment.** Are there any initiatives or expansions that might require some capital investment before they can happen? What might they be?
- **Seeking out best practice.** Are there practices that colleagues have been effective elsewhere that Lambeth could adopt or adapt for local circumstances?
- **Early Intervention.** Some benefits (both financially and for the outcomes for individual young people) may require some spending now to save in the future. What sort of initiatives that are not being done now might be beneficial locally?
- **Top-up rates.** Rates for 2023/24 have been agreed, but top-up rates need to be kept under review.
- **Partner funding.** Is there more that partners (mainly social care and health) should be doing to share the costs of supporting EHCPs? Or are the current arrangements sufficient?

6. Recommendations

Schools Forum is invited to note and comment on the High Needs Budget position for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Summary High Needs Budget position 2022/23 and 2023/24

Component	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 (£'000)	Forecast Spend 2023/24 £'000	Difference £'000	Comment
1. Places only	£11,261	£11,677	£11,677	£	Forecast budget requirement for 2023/24 based on all known agreed places, including agreements for FE / free schools outside recoupment. There is provision included for 12 further £10k places from September 2023.
2. SEN Top-Ups	£41,161	£50,567	£50,567	£	Reflects updated pupils on roll in Lambeth settings, with 4.23% uplift on rates for high needs provision. New cases from now to March 2024 have been forecast at a rate of 30 new ones each month, with 175 leavers in summer 2023, all at an annual average top-up rate of £15.6k. It further includes provision of 1% possible inflation for cost drift across all settings.
3. AP Top-Ups	£1,218	£1,283	£1,283	£	Reflects participation levels in AP settings, with 4.23% uplift on rates, compared to 2022/23.
4. Other High Needs provision	£1,863	£2,140	£2,140	£	Includes funding for Outreach teams, Inclusion Fund, Disproportionate SEND and equipment, all increased by 4.23% in line with increases for schools.
Total Commitment (gross)	£55,503	£65,667	£65,667	£	
Brought forward	(£3,196)	£980	£980		
Funding transferred from Schools Block	£1,111	£824	£824	£	Schools Forum agreed up to £1.1m in Dec 2022, but in the final formula there was only £0.824m left after allocating MFG of 0.5%.
High Needs DSG Funding (gross)	£58,568	£64,843	£64,843	£	DSG funding for 2023/24, announced in December 2022.
Total funding	£56,483	£66,647	£66,647	£	
Net cumulative balances position	(£980)	(£980)	(£980)	£	

1. Core Place Funding 2023/24

Appendix 1.2

	Outturn 2022/23 (£'000)	Budget 2023/24 (£'000)	Backdated (£'000)	No of place April 2023	No of places Sept 2023	Rate (£)	Forecast 2023/24 (£'000)
Special Schools (Pre-16)	£6,708	£6,978		692	702	£10,000	£6,978
Special Schools (Post-16)	£90	£60		6	6	£10,000	£60
Academy Places outside recoupment	£21	£0		0	0	£10,000	£0
Resource Bases (Pre-16 filled)	£1,558	£1,386		231	231	£6,000	£1,386
Resource Bases (Pre-16 unfilled)	£359	£628		61	64	£10,000	£628
Resource Bases (Post-16)	£0	£0		0	0	£6,000	£0
FE Places	£1,252	£1,350		225	225	£6,000	£1,350
FE Places outside recoupment	£112	£60		10	10	£6,000	£60
Pupil Referral Units	£963	£900		90	90	£10,000	£900
Hospital Funding	£198	£198		10	10	£19,825	£198
Provision for new £10k cases	£0	£117		0	20	£10,000	£117
Provision for new £6k cases	£0	£0		0	0	£6,000	£0
Total allocations	£11,261	£11,677	£0	1,325	1,358		£11,677
Retained for LA allocation	£7,940	£8,285					£8,285
Recouped by ESFA	£3,320	£3,392					£3,392
Total source of funding	£11,261	£11,677					£11,677

2. Top-ups SEND 2023/24

Appendix 1.3

Component	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Current number of pupils (fte)	Average cost £	Direct activity forecast £'000	Backdated amounts £'000	Reallocatio n of indexation £'000	Reallocatio n of new cases £'000	Forecast 2023/24 (£'000)	Difference £'000	Comment
Special Schools	£11,232	£14,426	557.00	£22,439	£12,499	£0	£945	£982	£14,426	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Special Schools (TPG £785 per place)	£606	£553	703.83	£785	£553	£0	£0		£553	£0	Planned places for 2023/24 at £785 per place.
Resource Bases	£2,770	£3,135	227.00	£11,748	£2,667	£0	£258	£210	£3,135	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Mainstream Schools	£9,952	£11,587	949.00	£10,519	£9,982	£0	£820	£784	£11,587	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Out of Borough Special	£3,551	£4,419	157.00	£24,428	£3,835	£0	£283	£301	£4,419	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Out of Borough Mainstream	£1,974	£2,476	210.00	£10,148	£2,131	£0	£177	£167	£2,476	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Further Education SEND	£3,690	£5,729	386.00	£12,848	£4,959	£0	£380	£390	£5,729	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Pupil Referral Units (SEMH)	£381	£406	19.00	£18,451	£351	£0	£28	£28	£406	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Independent and non-maintained schools	£5,401	£6,127	168.00	£32,248	£5,418	£0	£283	£426	£6,127	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Home Tuition	£1,132	£1,179	41.00	£25,439	£1,043	£0	£55	£82	£1,179	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Personal Budgets	£392	£384	23.00	£14,749	£339	£0	£18	£27	£384	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Other AP (SEND)	£0	£0	1.00	£250	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Therapy	£80	£147	32.00	£4,055	£130	£0	£7	£10	£147	£0	Activities up to the end of Febuary 2023 SEND Panel
Provision for new cases	£0	£0	206.86	£15,650	£3,237		£169	-£3,406	£0	£0	This amount will be spread over other top-up budgets for operational purposes in 2023/24.
Provision for indexation?		£0			£3,424		-£3,424	£0	£0	£0	Based on 4.23% uplift on top-up rates (and fixed place funding) for all settings and an assumption of 1% further cost drift across all provisions.
Total allocations	£41,161	£50,567	£3,681	£203,756	£50,567	£0	£0	£0	£50,567	£0	

3. Top-up Alternative Provision 2023/24

Component	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 £'000	Current number of pupils (fte)	Average cost £	Direct activity forecast £'000	Backdated amounts £'000	Reallocatio n of indexation £'000	Reallocatio n of new cases £'000	Forecast 2023/24 (£'000)	Difference £'000	Comment
Pupil Referral Units	£439	£554	45	£11,400	£513		£41		£554	£0	2023/24 based on 10 primary / 35 secondary
Pupil Referral Units (TPG £785 per place)	£76	£71	90	£785	£71				£71	£0	Linked to current places and it includes SEMH places.
Other Alternative Education	£704	£659			£632		£27		£659	£0	Includes cost of the team and any ad hoc commissioning.
Total allocations	£1,218	£1,283	135	£12,185	£1,216		£67	£0	£1,283	£0	

4. Other High Needs functions and activities 2023/24

Appendix 1.4

2023/24	Outturn 2022/23 £'000	Budget 2023/24 (£'000)	Forecast 2023/24 (£'000)	Difference Comment
Disproportionate SEN (mainstream)	£100	£100	£100	£0 Allocations made for those with more than 4% EHCPs in Oct 2022.
HN Fund for mainstream pupils below EHCP threshold	£69	£0	£0	£0 Ceased
Hearing / Visual Impairment Outreach	£865	£800	£800	£0 4.2% increase, consistent with schools.
Autistic Spectrum Disorders Outreach	£254	£340	£340	£0 4.2% increase, consistent with schools.
Early Years SEN Team	£108	£360	£360	£0 4.2% increase, consistent with schools.
SEN Specialist Equipment	£94	£140	£140	£0 4.2% increase, consistent with schools.
CENMAC Service	£373	£400	£400	£0 4.2% increase, consistent with schools.
Total allocations	£1,863	£2,140	£2,140	£0



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
5 Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

Tel: 0370 000 2288

www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

31/03/2023

By email: DTully@lambeth.gov.uk

Dear David,

Request to disapply the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG): Conditions of Grant

Thank you for your request to disapply the 3% minimum funding guarantee budget protection set for special schools.

After careful consideration of your application, and supporting evidence, the minister has approved this request for the 2023-24 financial year.

This will allow the London Borough of Lambeth to start its longer-term plan for the convergence of the top-up rates paid to all other special schools in the authority and the rates paid to Heron Academy by 2027-28.

If you, or interested parties in your area, require further information or clarification on this decision, please contact us at LA.Disapplications@education.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Choi'.

Christina Choi,
Head of the Funding Policy Implementation Unit

Agenda Item 6

Title:	SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan			
Date:	22nd June 2023			
Report to:	Schools Forum			
Report for:	Information x	Decision	Consultation	Action
Authors:	Sophie Garner - Assistant Director Education Strategy, Access and Inclusion			

1. Purpose of this report.

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the latest policy paper from the Department for Education on the “SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan: Right support, right place, right time” published in March 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have been aware of the acute financial difficulties being faced by local authorities in trying to resource the requirements of the existing High Needs budget within the SEND Code of Practice. Stepped increases in funding have helped, but a review of the overall system has been necessary and the recently published White Paper on SEND provides a basis for future improvements.
- 2.2 The “Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision improvement plan: right support, right place, right time” proposes a unified system for SEND and alternative provision, driven by new national standards.
- 2.3 There are no immediate plans to amend existing legislation, although the Government does intend to underpin the new national standards with legislation once they have been rolled out, which is planned to begin in 2025. This is a long-term plan with very little to take place before 2025 and beyond, so schools need to continue to follow the legislation and guidance set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015 until such time as any changes are statutory.
- 2.4 Alongside new national standards, the improvement plan sets out the Government’s intention to:
 - Create local SEND and alternative provision partnerships to lead change and commission provision.
 - Set up a National SEND and Alternative Provision Implementation Board to oversee the implementation of the plan.
 - Develop a standard template for Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), and digitise the plans.
 - Create a three-tier alternative provision system, focused away from long-term placements.
 - Develop options for providing parents and carers with a tailored list of SEND educational settings.

- Support a SEND and alternative provision change programme to oversee the reforms.
- Improve skills in the SEND workforce, with a particular emphasis on early intervention.
- Strengthen accountability, including with a new local and national inclusion dashboard and refocused inspections of local SEND provision by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.
- Explore options for strengthening mediation between schools and local authorities, before deciding on whether to make mediation mandatory.
- Introduce a new national framework of banding and price tariffs for high needs funding, with more details on this to follow later in 2023.

2.5 The Policy paper is found on the link below but is also provided as an appendix 1 and 2 to this paper.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1139561/SEND_and_alternative_provision_improvement_plan.pdf

3. High Needs Provision Capital Funding Allocations

- 3.1 The high needs provision capital allocations are provided to local authorities to support the provision of new places and improve existing provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or requiring alternative provision HNPCA funding has been allocated to LAs proportionally, based on each local authority's estimated share of future growth in the high needs pupil population.
- 3.2 Lambeth has been allocated £8.6m from 2021 – 2024. Lambeth received £2m from the 1st tranche of High Needs Provision Capital Allocations
- 3.3 The previous allocation of this SEND Capital Grant ran from 2018-2021, and Lambeth spent £1.8m which was allocated both special schools and resource bases. The main focus then was on ASD resource bases and expansion of provision ins Wyvil - Aurora House, Jubilee Primary School and Elm Court Special School.
- 3.4 High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) are being provided as an un-ringfenced grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, subject to conditions detailed in the associated Grant Determination Letter on GOV.UK.
- 3.5 The process for identifying the schools in Lambeth that would be suitable for High Needs Provision Capital funding in the 1st trach of Funds and agreeing as per **Table1** from 2021-2024 followed:
- Data Scoping completed to identify key areas of need included use of under 5 data for SEN diagnosis
 - Scoping Meetings undertaken with all schools (mainstream and special) in Summer 2021
 - Scoping Bids open to all settings with weighting for key areas of SEMH, ASD and state maintained special schools
 - Bids received – Decision on hold due to PPP Strategy
 - Following PPP Strategy publication in November 2022, all bids followed up and meetings offered for key areas of ASD, SEMH and state maintained special schools

- Visits to Special Schools undertaken and meetings with Executive Heads and Chair of Governors
- Cleared with Finance
- Consultation with Schools through SENCo Network
- Consultation with families through Lambeth Parents Forum
- Pending SEND Strategic Board which is the governance for decision making
- Phase funding process due to PPP strategy but due to demand for places in September 2023, first phase of funding needs to be agreed as soon as possible

Table 1 : Agreed Distribution of 1st part of Capital Allocations 2021-2024

Provision	Special provision fund investment in facilities £
Lambeth Nursery School's Federation	£79,000
Elm Green SEMH RB	£180,000
Allen Edwards Primary School	£650,000
Larkhall	£175,000
Van Gogh	£170,000
Richard Atkins	£190,000
Hitherfield	£10,000
Lansdowne	£111,000
Livity	£400,000
Turney	£706,800
Total	£2,671,800

4. Recommendations / Updates

4.1 Schools Forum to:

- a) Note the Policy paper on the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan.**
- b) Note the Alternative Education Provision Strategy will be embedded as part of the Education & Learning Strategy 2023**
- c) Be aware of the proposal that has been made to have an LGA SEND Peer Challenge in November, which will also review SEND finances.**
- d) Note the update - the Inclusion Fund that was repurposed and previously presented to Schools Forum. The new roles of Senior Strategic Area SENCo, Area SENCo, Early Years ASD outreach worker have been appointed. The recruitment of Early Years SENCo, Autism Advisory teacher, Behavior Outreach teachers are ongoing.**
- e) Note the High Needs Capital Funding Allocations**

Agenda Item 7

Title: Early Years Update

Date: 22nd June 2023

Report to: Schools Forum

Report for: Information X Decision Consultation Action

Author: Kathryn Shaw - Early Years and Out of School Quality Improvement Lead,
Dominique Johnston-Franklin – Group Manager – Education Finance

1 Purpose of this paper

1.1 This paper explains the current outturn position of the Early years Block 2022-23 and some service context regarding the Early Years block plans for 2023-24 following recent announcements of the expansion of Free child care provision in future years.

2 Outturn 2022-23

2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) will confirm the final position of the Early Years Block of the DSG 2022-23 in July 2023. As highlighted in previous forums the adjustment will be based on 5/12th based on Spring 22 (the January 2022 Census) and 7/12th on Spring 23 (the January 2023 Census). Table 1 shows what the LA are anticipating in the final settlement for Early Years for 2022-23 based on our central headcount.

2.2 The current trend of participation demonstrates a continued decline in 3&4 Universal entitlement pupil hours, with stability within the pupils accessing the Additional 30 hours for working parents. The 2 year old funding numbers have seen some stabilisation, but overall there is continued expected decline in line with the projected birth rates in Lambeth.

2.3 There is an indicative underspend of £0.678m in the Early years block for 2022-23 based on a combination of factors. We are finalising this and will confirm the final position to the next Forum. The EY funding profile of income is to be adjusted as anticipated in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Final 2022-23 Early years block income

Income component	Initial Early Years Block 2022-23	Anticipated Final Early Years Block 2022-23	FINAL 22-23 Adjustment
Amount LA allocated for universal 3-4 year old entitlement funding	£16,415	£15,461	-£954
Amount LA allocated for additional hours for 3-4 year olds	£6,159	£6,159	£0
Total funding to LAs for 2-year-olds	£2,807	£2,672	£-135
Early Years' Pupil Premium	£252	£252	£0
Disability Access Fund	£82	£82	£
Maintained nursery school supplementary funding	£429	£451	£22
Total	£26,144	£25,077	£1,067

- 2.4 In the past, the LA used 2 separate profiles of weeks per term to fund Schools and PVI/Childminders. All School provisions were funded on 12.6 week summer term, 12.8 Autumn term and 12.6 weeks for Spring term. In contrast, PVI / Childminder provision were funded on 13 weeks Summer term , 14 weeks Autumn term and 11 weeks Spring term.
- 2.5 In 2019-2020, which was the year of covid. the LA adjusted this to ensure all providers were being funded on the same basis. After consultation with the EY sub group it was agreed that the current profile supported the PVI provision, so all schools moved to 13 weeks summer term, 14 weeks autumn and 11 weeks spring term. This change has created a disparity in the amount of funding overall being distributed to providers compared to the 5/12ths and 7/12ths profile of how the funding is received from the Dfe.
- 2.6 Although there was a Carry forward underspend in 2021-22, which has now increased, this anomaly was not identified until the post covid pupil stabilisation which has now been identified as part of outturn analysis. This is now being reviewed with the Early years team to ensure we can ensure that we can distribute appropriately as part of the 2024-25 budget plans.
- 2.7 The LA will review the Early Years clawback and underspend position, in conjunction with discussions with the Early Years Subgroup, once the Dfe provide the final 2022-23 Early years block funding allocations (due July 2023) and update forum of the outcome in the next meeting.

3 Early Years 2023-24

- 3.1 The formula allocation for 2023-24 is based on 5/12th Jan 23 and 7/12th of the Jan 24 census. Although the impact of COVID on participation levels seems to now have realigned, Lambeth continue to see a decrease in overall pupils numbers by 6% in 2 year olds and 9% in 3 and 4 year olds.
- 3.2 The Early years block allocation for 2023-24 is still awaiting update for the Jan 23 headcount, so is currently based on Jan 22 headcount and is anticipated to be £27.238m, This is set out in **Table 2**. The current Early years projections based on anticipated headcounts is projecting similar headcounts trends which will therefore lead to a reduction in the overall funding. The EY block is, however, funded on participation, so any reduction in funding should follow through to funding passported to providers.
- 3.3 The brought forward underspend from 2021-22 of £0.271m plus the £0.678m in 2022-23 has now been allocated to contingency. This will continue to support any un-anticipated changes in headcount which are outside of the normal 2% expected to be sustained with Early years block management between headcounts. As highlighted in section 2 the early years team are continuing to review the formula and will update forum in conjunction with Early years subgroup regarding contingency for future sufficiency work in line with the expected new guidance on the expansion of the Early years offer.
- 3.4 The risk to these assumptions is the projections of falling rolls in Lambeth and how this will impact the Early years headcount, particularly in the 3&4 year old numbers across the borough. There is an anticipation that 2 year old numbers will stay relatively stable and that there will be a push in publicity across the sector, with the hope this will sustain numbers for 2023-24 and moving into 2024-25

Table 2: Provisional Early Years DSG allocations 2023-24

Planned spending component	PTE pupils Jan 2022 (570 hours)	2022-23 Rate per hour (£)	2023-24 Rate per hour (£)	Total Planned 2023/24 £'000
2 year old funding	716.7	£6.87	£7.56	£3,088
3 & 4 YO Universal & Extended rates	5,410	£6.27	£6.33	£19,520
Deprivation Supplement	5,410	£0.33	£0.32	£1,002
Quality 1 (OFSTED) Supplement	5,410	£0.14	£0.14	£416
Quality 2 (TPPG) Supplement	5,410	£0.00	£0.11	£339
Maintained Nursery Supplement	5,410	£0.12	£0.12	£377
SEND Inclusion Fund	5,410	£0.11	£0.12	£370
Retained central support	5,410	£0.36	£0.36	£1,104
Contingency for variations in pupils etc	5,410	£0.000	£0.00	0
Total for 3 and 4 year olds		£7.33	£7.50	£23,129
Maintained Nursery Supplements (national)	315	£2.39	£3.80	£682
EY Pupil premium				£261
Disability Access Fund				£78
Total spend at the same participation level				£27,238

4. Early Years Funding announcement from 2024 onwards

- 4.1 As part of the Government Budget announcement there has been a commitment to expand the 30 hours free childcare offer to support working parents from their return to work after parental leave. This therefore will mean that working parents of all children over the age of nine months will also be entitled to free 30 hours of childcare.
- 4.2 The expectation is that there will be a staggered approach to this implementation to allow childcare providers to prepare for the change to ensure they can meet the demand. The current published timeline is:
- **April 2024** – Working Parents of Two year olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare.
 - **September 2024** – 15 hours of free childcare will be expanded to include children from the age of 9 months.
 - **September 2025** – Working parents of children under the age of five will be entitled to 30 hours of free childcare.
- 4.3 Following the consultation in Summer of 2022, the guidance has increased the number of children a member of staff can look after at the same time. This is known as the staff-to-child ratio. It means that from September 2023, one member of staff will be allowed to look after five children, up from four children under the current rule. These changes to ratios are optional, giving providers more flexibility in how they run their businesses, and will also bring ratio requirements in line with those of other comparable countries.
- 4.4 This change should support some childcare settings in expanding the offer, but will still require work from the EY sufficiency team to ensure there are enough places for expanded provision to offer parent choices.

- 4.5 Lambeth are one of the nine LAs which are still being protected by the loss cap, meaning they are being funded (at a higher level) by reference to historic funding decisions, rather than in line with the funding formula. The reforms will result in some changes to local authorities' funding rates. Some local authorities would see their funding rate decrease if their relative levels of need have decreased compared to other areas. In order to mitigate the impact, the Dfe have introduced year-to-year protections to ensure that local authorities can manage the changes at a local level.

5. Risks

- 5.1 Pupil numbers are continuing to see a downward trend, and this, in conjunction with inflationary pressures, is impacting sufficiency in the EY sector. There is also the impact of cost of living and recruitment shortages driving up costs for delivery. The small increases in hourly rate continue to impact provisions, particularly in the Maintained nursery sector.
- 5.2 The proposals of the expansion of free childcare provision needs scoping with the providers and EY service to ensure sufficiency for take up. Additional capacity will be required centrally to ensure there is support for providers in place early to ensure support is offered to all.
- 5.3 As with all of Education provision in Lambeth, there is a continued risk of any headcount's movement higher than 1 -2 % up or down being unsustainable in future years. There is now a healthy contingency to manage this in the current year. Moving forward, the aim is to ensure that this is utilised to support providers which will impact on the ability to fund children outside of headcount.
- 5.4 The Sector continues to have recruitment issues which impacts the ability expand their provision in future.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Schools Forum to note this report.

Agenda Item 8

Title:	Schools Block Update			
Date:	22nd June 2023			
Report to:	Schools Forum			
Report for:	Information x	Decision	Consultation	Action
Authors:	Yoke Ying Kong – Education Finance Advisor			

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum of ESFA's 2024-25 National Funding Formula (NFF) Proposals on the future of the NFF for mainstream schools as well as all other latest matters arising in relation to schools.
- 1.2 To ask Schools Forum to note the emerging proposals on the 2024-25 National Funding Formula as presented by ESFA at a recent Finance Officer Group.
- 1.3 To ask Schools Forum to note the closure of Archbishop Tenison School and possible part closure (Year 7 - 9) of St Martin in the Fields from September 2023.

2. Emerging proposals on the 2024-25 National Funding Formula

- 2.1 The Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have been working towards a direct National Funding Formula (NFF) for mainstream schools over many years. The formula has stayed a local one, but with fewer options for variations and with incremental changes to align all LAs and schools onto a single NFF.
- 2.2 For 2022/23, Lambeth, following consultation with all schools, decided to adopt the National Funding values and factors. This led to every school requiring an uplift through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2022/23 and this was again applied in 2023/24, with individual schools getting to a purely NFF-driven formula allocation. Lambeth is classed by the DfE as one of the 42 local authorities that mirrors the National Funding Formula.
- 2.3 The change made in Lambeth simplified much of the transitional arrangements that arise from the implementation locally of the NFF. The ESFA did still have some practical issues to consider on non-pupil related funding factors (ie splits-sites, NNDR, PFI, growth and falling rolls). They held a consultation, to which Lambeth responded during 2022, and they have considered the responses and have advised they will be consulting again on the next steps for the NFF.
- 2.4 At a recent regional Finance Officer Group meeting, the ESFA presented the following proposals under consideration for the 2024-25 National Funding Formula:

Key changes in 24-25

We will announce the 2024-25 NFFs (Schools and High Needs) in July, in line with the usual timetable

Key changes to the formula will include:

- **Growth funding** - standardisation of how LAs can operate growth funding and minimum expectations.
- **Falling rolls** - removal of the requirement that a school must be G/O. LAs must use SCAP data to ensure places will be needed in the next 3-5 years.
- **Surplus** - LAs will be able to use growth funding to meet the revenue costs of repurposing and removing excessive surplus places.
- **Split sites** - introduction of a national split sites formula factor in the NFF - made up of a basic eligibility and distance eligibility element.
- **Pace of transition** - we will confirm the approach to tightening in the 2024-25 policy document.

Split Sites

From 2024-25 the Department will introduce a national formulaic approach to split sites. This will be made up of a 'basic eligibility' element which all eligible sites attract, and a 'distance eligibility' element based on the distance between sites (which will include a taper, to mitigate cliff-edges). This will replace the current local authority led approach.

Split sites are defined as:

- To be separated from the school's main site by a public road or railway.
- To be used primarily for the education of 5 to 16-year-olds.
- To share a unique reference number (URN).
- To have a building on a site that is maintained by the school.

We used the split sites data provided to us by local authorities through the 2023-24 Authority Proforma Tools to identify schools (and sites) eligible for split sites funding.

[Schools block national funding formula: split sites funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-block-national-funding-formula-split-sites-funding)

We have published a preliminary list of schools which are eligible for funding under the new criteria.

We welcome feedback on whether any eligible schools are missing from the list, and/ or whether any school has been included in error.

Future Plans for transition

There are outstanding policy questions we need to answer - and we will be engaging with the sector to develop policy as we approach the transition to the direct NFF

Areas which we will continue to engage with stakeholders on:

- Process of block transfers to High Needs under a direct NFF.
- The design and operation of a national approach to calculating schools' indicative SEND budgets.
- Aligning the SEND and AP Improvement Plan with views on consequent reforms to high needs funding arrangements.
- Work with the sector on how funding for schools with Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements could operate under a direct NFF.
- Reforming the exceptional circumstances factor.
- Funding for popular growth - to determine the limited circumstances in which schools should be able to access funding adjustments for popular growth.
- Developing a calculator tool which schools can use to estimate funding each year, in advance of direct NFF school-level allocations being confirmed.

3. School Closures

The ESFA and Lambeth are currently in discussion on the possible closure of Archbishop Tenison's School and part closure (Year 7 – 9) of Saint Martin in the Fields High School for Girls from September 2023. Schools Forum will be informed once details have been agreed and finalised with the schools block funding distribution with the ESFA.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Schools Forum is invited to note:

- a) **The emerging proposals 2024-25 National Funding Formula proposals under consideration.**
- b) **The closure of Archbishop Tenison's School and possible part closure (Year 7 – 9) of St Martin in the Fields High School for Girls.**