

Schools Forum

8th July 2021

National Update

National Update

- Schools have received funding to provide support throughout the pandemic and will continue to into 2021/22
- Funding received in 2020/21
 - Free School Meals during holiday periods and periods of lockdown
 - Additional Costs Grant (March – June 2020)
 - Catch-Up premium (7/12ths)
 - Job Retention Scheme (private income streams)
 - Warm Clothing payment (Winter Grant Scheme)
 - Early years protection

National Update

- Funding to be provided in 2021/22
 - Free School Meals during holiday periods (Local Grant Scheme). Expected to end after the Summer Holiday
 - Catch-Up premium (5/12ths)
 - National Tutoring Programme
 - Job Retention Scheme (private income streams). Due to end in September
 - Mass testing. Secondary and Special Schools
 - Workforce Fund (Staff Absence Claim)

National Update

- 22/23 is the final year of the 3 year settlement announced in 20/21
 - £7.1bn national increase in Schools and High Needs Funding for 22/23
- Indicative allocation and NFF will be released in late July. Settlement released in December?
- Education Recovery Plan. £13.5bn plan rejected, £1.4bn provided instead.
 - 15-hour tutoring courses for disadvantaged children
 - Expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund targeting English and Maths
 - Training and support for Early Years Practitioners and Teachers
 - Funding to give year 13 students the option to repeat their final year

National Update – Early Years

- Previously communicated that the full Early Years rate increase for 3 & 4 Year olds would not be passed on due to concerns over affordability due to COVID-19 but we would keep this under review
- DfE has updated its EY funding methodology for 2021/22
 - Allays many of our affordability concerns
 - Coventry will receive EY funding in-line with the provision delivered each term
 - Passing on full rate increase
 - 3 & 4 Year old base rate = £4.05
 - Deprivation rate = £1.22
 - 2 Year old funding rate had already had the full increase passed on so stays at £5.09
 - Funding increase backdated to the start of the 2021 summer term

2020/21 DSG Outturn & Reserves (refer to report)

Overview Outturn & Reserves

- Centrally held DSG had an underspend of £2m
 - Primarily due to High Needs underspend of £0.85m, underspend on Early Years of £0.75m and underspend on Growth Fund of £0.4m.
- This left a £4.8M central DSG reserve closing balance
 - Central - £4.3m; Other - £0.5m
- After 21/22 reserve contributions this leaves £4.0M
 - Central - £3.5m; Other - £0.5m
- Maintained Schools and PRUs reserve - £22.3m

DSG Outturn Block Analysis

Block	Central £000's	Other £000's	Comments
Schools Block	0	0	
Early Years Block	-765		Underspend on central , 2yr old and 3&4 yr old funding
De-delegated	47		Overspend on Education Standards offset by underspend on New Arrivals
High Needs	-854		Overspend of £1.8m on SEN provision reduced by £0.6 underspend on central areas & the £2m holding pot
Central	-388		Underspend on Growth Fund
Total	-1,959	0	Net £2m underspend

DSG Reserve Position

20/21

	Central £m	Other £m
Opening Balance as @ 01/04/20	-2.9	-0.5
Budget Setting 2020/21- use of reserves	0.5	
In-year under/ overspend	-2.0	
Rounding adjustment	0.1	
Closing Balance as @ 31/3/21	-4.3	-0.5
Budget Setting 21/22	0.5	
Early Years adj - 2 year olds	0.1	
Early Years adj - 3 & 4 year olds	0.2	
Remaining Balance	-3.5	-0.5
General	-3.3	
Earmarked: De-delegated	-0.2	
Earmarked: NNDR		-0.5

High Needs Underspend

- Underspend on the HN block for 20/21 was £0.85m
 - Overspend on provision offset by central underspends and money being put aside for future use.

High Needs Area	(Under)/overspend £000s
High Needs Inclusion	50
High Needs Top Up - Mainstream	500
High Needs Top Up - Special Schools	150
SEN External Placements	800
High Needs Top Up - Further Education	250
Total Provision Overspend	1,750
Total Central Underspend	-550
HN Holding Pot	-2,050
Total High Needs Underspend	-850

Early Years Underspend

- Underspend on the EY block for 20/21 was £0.75m

Early Years Area	(Under)/overspend £000s
Provision*	-300
SENIF/DAF	-100
Central	-250
19/20 DSG Adjustment	-100
Total EY Underspend	-750

- Underspends are mainly due to pupil numbers being lower than budgeted due to the pandemic.
 - Our DSG will be reduced by £320k in 21/22 to compensate for this.
 - Actually a small overspend on provision in 20/21.

2020/21 School Balances (refer to report)

School Balances – Summary by Phase

Total Reported Balances by Phase Including Academies

School Type	18-19	Change	19-20	Change	20-21	20-21 Balance % of budget
	Balance (£000's)		Balance (£000's)		Balance (£000's)	
Primary (inc Nursery)	26,901	-2,133	24,767	+4,100	28,868	19.3%
Secondary	14,352	+737	15,089	-697	14,393	12.6%
Special & PRU's	1,895	+878	2,773	+945	3,718	13.9%
Total	43,148	-518	42,629	+4,349	46,978	16.2%

Age Profile of School Balances – No. of schools & academies by Phase

Reported balances as a % of school budget shares across 3 years

School Type	<5%			5% - 10%			>10%		
	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21	18-19	19-20	20-21
Primary	5	15	14	15	13	14	67	59	59
Secondary	7	6	6	4	4	3	10	11	12
Special & PRU	6	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	3
Total	18	24	23	19	20	20	80	73	74

SEND Strategy Financial Priorities

National Context: SEND Review

September 2019 SEND was high on political agenda – identified system in crisis and that it needed major reform

The response to the review is expected to report “in due course”, with a consultation muted early autumn 21

Likely key themes: “Back Mainstream schools to better meet the needs of the majority of children with SEND”

- Clustering of schools and the promotion of capacity building within mainstream schools/academies (national strategy to reduce special school demand and EHCP volume)
- A national EHC plan approach, which will become a digitalised plan/electronically available (process)
- Greater emphasis upon the Annual review process, and the timeliness of LA updates, which will be measured in SEND data 2 from January 2022 (process)
- Greater emphasis upon preparing for adulthood across the system (strategy – emphasis on health and social care)

NOTE: The review acknowledged flawed system that was unaffordable which would increase expectation and generate demand. There is no indication of the radical reform which was recommended by the Education Committee.

Statutory Growth EHC Plans

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1724	1863 (+7.4%)	2084 (+10.6%)	2145 (+19.6%)	2344 (+8.5%)

Overall growth in 5 year period **26%**

• January 2021 placements

- 51% pupils placed special school
- 31% mainstream
- 13% FE
- 4% other
- Highest % of children in special school in West Midlands yet demand remains unmet
- Distribution of mainstream EHC Plans across mainstream schools is variable – does not necessarily reflect need

Mainstream inclusion – Coventry headlines

1

Total EHC Plans = 2468
(May 2021)

2

Mainstream Primary
School placements- 499

- Average of NOR 1.67%
- Range 0% to 4.29%

3

Mainstream Secondary
School placements - 264

- Average of NOR 1.32%
- Range 0 to 3.06%

Special School Places

Special School Commissioned Placements	As at Sept-20	Increase Sep-21	Total Sep-21
Castle Wood: Primary special school (4 to 11) - generic LD	156	+4	160
Kingsbury Academy: Primary special school (4 to 11) – generic LD	84	+8	92
Riverbank Academy: Secondary special school (11 to 19)- generic LD	179	+9	188
Corley Centre: Secondary special school (11 to 19) - Autism	122	+7	129
Tiverton: Primary special school (4 to 11) - generic LD	95	+15	110
Baginton Fields: secondary special school (11 to 19) - generic LD	116	+2	118
Sherbourne Fields: all age special school (4 to 19) – generic LD	192	+28	220
Woodfield: All age special school (4 to 16) - SEMH	152	0	152
Totals	1096	+76	1169

- In September 2021, special school commissioned placements will increase by 76 (plus reserve of 10 places if required) – significant impact on HN Block
 - 53 Pupils are placed in the independent sector – focus SEMH and ASC ↑ - needs to be stemmed
 - Covid has impacted on post 16 retention, blocking places
- GROWTH IN STATUTORY DEMAND IS ABSORBING FINANCIAL CONTINGENCY

Turning the Tide: SEND Strategy

- **1. Enabling Mainstream Inclusion:**
- **Whole School SEND Approach:**– peer challenge and support programme to increase capacity and capability across the City (September 21)
- **New Banded Funding Matrix:**– co-produced with schools and parents. Clarity of need and provision (criteria) generates a costed provision. Next step to scale up to test affordability with a view to incremental roll-out (from September 21)
- **SEND Early Years:-** expansion of team in response to increased demand includes class based support offer for reception children with high level needs (September 21)
- **Capacity Building:-** skills focus as part of SEND Support offer to include special school commissioning support and training (2021/22)
- **Increased access to KEYS/Gateway:-** expansion within scope, subject to prioritisation and affordability

Turning the Tide: SEND Strategy

- **2. Specialist Community Based Provision:**
- **Increase access to ERPs:-** expand ERP provision for ASC. Alderman's Green ↑8 September 21 – potential for additional provisions as next step
- **Woodfield School (SEMH):-** relocation and expansion, to reduce increasing reliance on out of City placements, reinvest revenue costs in City (2023/24)
- **Review special school model:-** to secure smooth phase transition and improve pathways to adulthood (investing in extending FE opportunity and pathways to employment) – opens potential for expansion

Aim: “increase capacity in the specialist sector to place children close to home, at a sustainable cost” - DfE

Process and Timescales

- Five year SEND Strategy to integrate capital and revenue priorities
- Direction of travel supports Government aims
- Key priorities agreed 2020/21 will be actioned
- Formal consultation Autumn Term 21
- Targets
 - to retain a balanced budget;
 - meet statutory duties;
 - improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND
 - strengthen early identification and effective intervention at all stages of the graduated process through a capacity building approach.

Membership update

Membership Update

- Review of Schools Forum membership carried out
 - Normally just an update ahead of Sept at this stage
- No changes above, existing vacancies remain
 - This will mean 4 academy vacancies
- Also some members' terms temporarily extended
 - Conversations will be had about renewing or holding an election prior to expiration of term
- Membership report at September meeting as usual

Membership Update

Represented sector	Current Membership	Updated Membership	Structural Changes	Vacancies at Sept-21*
Primary Schools	7	7	0	0
Secondary Schools	0	0	0	0
Mainstream Academies	11	11	0	4
Special Schools	2	2	0	0
Special Academies	1	1	0	0
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	0	0
Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	1	1	0	0
Total	23	23	0	4

*Assuming terms are renewed

Format of Future Meetings

Future Meetings

- Schools Forum regulations have been updated to allow virtual meetings to continue
- Ensure meetings continue to be easy to attend, effective and useful
- What would people like to do going forwards
 - Continue with current virtual set up
 - Mix of virtual with some key meetings in person
 - All in person
- Take an interim decision in September and review in 12 months
- Public attendance
 - Currently streamed on YouTube
 - Link to meeting sent to member of public who expresses an interest