

Schools Forum

7th October 2021

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Membership - Report

Membership Review

- Review of Schools Forum membership carried out
 - Refer to report
 - Pupil nos: May-21 census used
- No structural changes are required
- Brought update to July meeting detailing 4 vacancies in the Academy sector
 - Since then, elections have been held for 3 of the vacancies
 - 1 election still to be held for the remaining vacancy

Membership

Respresented 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	1
Special Schools	2	2	0	0
Special Academies	1	1	0	0
Maintained Nursery School	1	1	0	0
Pupil Refferal Unit (PRU)	1	1	0	0
Total	23	23	0	1

National Update

20/21 & 21/22 update as @ March 21

Coventry City Council DSG PPR - 2021/22

	Early Years Block (£000)	Schools Block & Growth (£000)	Central Sch.Serv Block (£000)	High Needs Block (£000)	Total (£000)	Movement since January (£000)
1 20/21 Total resources (at budget setting)	22,286	247,110	3,273	46,232	318,901	0
1.1 Removal of one-off reserve funding 20/21		(450)			(450)	0
1.2 Pupil number adjustment (Jan-20)	69			36	105	0
1.3 Pupil number changes (Jan-21)	(320)				(320)	(320)
20/21 DSG (current)	22,036	246,660	3,273	46,268	318,237	(320)
2 Changes to forecast DSG resource						
2.1 Pupil number changes (Oct-20 & Jan-21)	(976)	1,038	4	290	356	(976)
2.2 National funding formula increase	309	5,960	177	5,579	12,025	0
2.3 TPG & TPECG		10,771		857	11,628	0
2.4 Formulaic growth fund allocation change		(671)			(671)	0
21/22 DSG (estimated)	21,368	263,758	3,454	52,994	341,575	(1,296)
3 Additional non-DSG resource						
3.1 21/22 Contribution from DSG reserves*		450			450	0
21/22 Total resources (estimated)	21,368	264,208	3,454	52,994	342,025	(1,296)

2022/23 DSG Update

- National picture: Core Schools Funding
 - DFE: +£2.6bn in 20/21, +£2.2bn in 21/22 and +£2.3bn in 22/23
- Hard National Funding Formula
 - Consultation on transition to hard NFF issued in July
 - Closing date was 30th September
- DFE released Indicative block allocations in July 2021
 - Schools, High Needs and Central Services → next slide
 - Early Years Block and post-16 funding → No updates yet

2022/23 DSG Update (INDICATIVE)

- Coventry Schools Block
 - Increase £6m due to NFF
- Central School Services Block
 - Further 20% decrease for historic commitments (£259k)
 - 2.5% decrease for ongoing responsibilities (£54k)
- High Needs Block:
 - Increase of £4.4m
- Growth Fund
 - Estimating an increase – based on planning estimates
 - No new and growing school. Potential Saving

Schools Block - recap

- NFF produces individual school level allocations, **total of this becomes schools block DSG for LA to allocate...**
 - NFF + protection (funding floor)
 - Premises = historic funding level
 - Growth = separate funding stream
- In 21/22 we funded the higher of 2% MFG or NFF allocation
 - The majority of schools were on the 2% MFG increase – with 30 schools seeing a higher increase (18 in 20/21)
- We had some resource left over: data changes, historic allocations vs cost, this went to the DSG reserve.

2022/23 Schools Block

- Overall School funding through NFF to increase by 3.2%
- Most formula factor values to increase by 3%
 - 2% in FSM Factors
 - 0% on premises factors (except PFI which rises by RPIX)
- Minimum per pupil funding to rise:
 - £4,265 per Primary pupil (£4,180 in 21/22)
 - £5,525 per Secondary pupil (£5,415 in 21/22)
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) range: +0.5% to +2.0%
 - For protection vs 2021/22 per pupil funding
 - Depends on affordability

2022/23 Schools Block continued...

- Despite these figures, key number for the majority of Coventry schools is the funding floor level for 21/22: +2.00%
 - i.e. Most Cov schools are on the funding floor (as losers under NFF)
 - Other changes **may** increase some new schools above the floor
 - But +2.0% per pupil is the max that floor schools could increase
- **Indicative** figures suggest 49 schools on NFF (above floor)
 - i.e. see increase > +2.0%
 - BUT this is all INDICATIVE (based on Oct-20 census)
- Allocation updated for Oct-21 pupil numbers in December
 - Then need to determine affordability... **2.0% floor not guaranteed**
 - allocation may not equal what we want to give out:
 - Cost of MFG; unit rate differences; high needs 0.5% transfer?

Costs, Pressures, Other

- Teachers pay award September 2021
 - 0% for most scale points;
 - +1% for teachers who earn less than £24,000
 - Planning for a larger increase for Sept-22
- Officer's pay award 2021/22
 - Still unconfirmed, could potentially be +2%, planning for similar increase in 2022/23
- National Insurance Levy
 - Government announced a +1.25% from April 2022
 - Funding for public bodies implied, not confirmed.
- General inflation: CPI running at +3.2% (Aug-21)
 - In real terms, this means no change at best for schools
 - Potential for much larger energy price rises

What next?

- Detail still to work through
 - No Early Years operational guidance yet
 - No Early Years indicative allocations
 - October 21 Census
- Need to arrange 2 sub group meetings prior to the next Schools Forum to cover off some of the detail
 - Formula Factor changes
 - School allocations and approach
 - Any MFG Disapplications
 - Central expenditure approval (see next slide)

Current central exp position

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	21/22
	£000	£000	£000	inc/dec
				£000
Centrally Retained Services				
1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets	2,764	1,110	786	-324
1.4.2 School admissions	582	600	625	25
1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums	3	3	3	0
1.4.4 Termination of employment costs	323	323	323	0
1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund	0	0	0	0
1.4.6 Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	0	0	0	0
1.4.7 Prudential borrowing costs	0	0	0	0
1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN	0	0	0	0
1.4.9 Equal pay - back pay	182	182	182	0
1.4.11 SEN transport	310	310	310	0
1.5.1 Education welfare service	306	299	313	14
1.5.2 Asset management	177	175	175	0
1.5.3 Statutory/ Regulatory duties	312	312	319	7
Total	4,959	3,314	3,036	-278
Historic Commitments	3,579	1,925	1,601	-324
NFF (Central Expenditure)	1,380	1,389	1,435	46

Central Expenditure

- What level of review is needed?
 - Schools Forum needs to approve CSSB expenditure
- Undertook a significant review in 2018/19
 - EMAS, School Organisation, Capital Strategy, Attendance, Family Hubs, Education Improvement, LACES
- Not reviewed central services since then
 - Little change to services offered or cost of delivery since 18/19
 - Limited capacity of SF members and LA officers (covid pressures)
- We want to ensure SF feels in a position to approve (Nov)
 - Option 1: SF already happy to approve based on previous reviews
 - Option 2: SF wants SF Sub-group to determine which areas should be reviewed and report outcome of any review at next SF

Fair Funding Consultation

Fair Funding Consultation

- We will consult on formula approach, but as in previous years our intention would be to mirror NFF as closely as possible.
 - Will also include and option should +2.0% be unaffordable
 - Approach will be discussed with funding sub-group
- Consultation will also cover:
 - Minimum Funding Guarantee Disapplications
 - De-delegation options (maintained schools)
 - Reserve contribution for Education Improvement commissioning pot
 - Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation changes
- Consultation to close by mid November
- Report outcomes to Cabinet in early January

National Fair Funding Consultation

National Fair Funding Consultation

- Issued In July 2021
 - Response deadline 30th September
- Sought views on the DFE's approach to moving to a hard NFF
 - Hard NFF – where the DFE calculates and allocates funding directly to schools without local intervention
 - No target date – seeks views on how this transition can be managed from 2023/24
- CCC Consultation response was circulated to Schools Forum members on 24th September.

NFF Reforms – CCC Response

- First 10 questions of the consultation are technical in nature relating to how the hard NFF could operate and the possible transition approaches.
- Coventry Council's response to these questions highlights our disagreement with the direction of travel
 - LAs have knowledge of local factors and understand local requirements of schools and are therefore best placed to distribute funding in the most effective way.
- One proposal is to remove Growth Funding from LA control and make it part of the NFF
 - Response highlights that LAs will lose the ability to negotiate expansions which will hamper LAs in their statutory duty to deliver sufficient places.

NFF Reforms – CCC Response (Continued)

- Proposal also discusses ‘popular growth’, where funding for schools that increase in size due to popularity would only be provided to academy’s not an LA maintained school.
 - Highlighted that this could be viewed as discriminatory
- Recognises that changes to NFF factor eligibility levels could create affordability issues for LAs during the transition period
 - Funding allocated to LAs may not be sufficient to cover the funding increases for gaining schools under the NFF as well as the protection for losing schools.
 - Proposed solution of allowing greater flexibilities over MFG levels for losing schools implies a reduction in protection levels is likely for schools whose NFF funding is less than historic funding.
 - Responded by stating that reducing the minimum level of funding protection would not be welcomed by an education system which is working hard to recover pupils’ education from a period of national crisis.

NFF Schools Central Services – CCC Response

- Consultation also covers;
 - An ambition for a fully academized system
 - Multi-Academy Trusts, not LAs are the primary driver of school improvement
 - How schools should be given maximum control over their funding
 - All of which suggests further reductions for central school services.
- Expressed concern that dividing schools from LAs or removing funding from central education services would result in further fragmentation of the education system which would impact (amongst others);
 - Asset Management
 - Children's services
 - Place planning

NFF Funding Year – CCC Response

- Consultation asks if maintained schools should be funded on a academic year basis rather than a financial year
 - As long as funding allocations for the financial year are clear, no accounting issues.
 - Increases the funding lag between allocations being calculated vs when they are received
 - Growth fund used to cover the period from expansion (Sept) to when the new allocation kicks in (April). Moving to academic year funding would mean growth funding would need to cover 12 months, not 7.

MFG Disapplication Requests - Report

MFG Disapplications

- MFG disapplication process allows LAs to apply to the DfE to adjust the funding that the MFG calculation applies to
 - So the MFG is calculated on a like for like basis preventing the inclusion/exclusion of a specific budget leading to an inappropriate amount of protection.
- The LA wishes to continue the operation of the Coventry Education Improvement Strategy commissioning pot into 2022/23
 - If agreed, the additional budget required to fund this will be funded from DSG central reserve. This money will be allocated in the same manner as 2021/22.

MFG Disapplications

- Reserve money utilised is one-off and therefore it is important that this does not become part of the MFG baseline.
 - Inappropriate amount of protection
 - Schools funding formula could become unaffordable.
- Intention is to apply for MFG disapplications to ensure the inclusion of this funding does not distort the level of MFG protection.
- Submission deadline
 - 11th October
 - Second deadline on 19th November

Approval / Ratification

- **The Schools Forum should give it's support for the LA to apply for the two MFG disapplications set out**

Voting: All

Covid-19

Covid-19 - Grants

- Catch up Premium
 - April-August final payment of grant
- Recovery Premium
 - One off grant to support education recovery
 - £145 per PPG eligible child, £290 in Special
 - Primary schools will not receive less than £2k
 - Secondary schools will not receive less than £6k
- Spent on activities including those that:
 - Support the quality of teaching, E.G. staff professional development
 - Provide targeted academic support E.G. tutoring
 - Deal with non academic barriers E.G. attendance, behaviour etc

National Tutoring Programme

- National Tutoring Programme
 - Tuition partners
 - Schools access subsidised tutoring from an approved list of tutoring providers
 - Subsidy rate for the 2021/22 academic year is 70%
 - For 22/23 will be 50%
 - For 23/24 will be 25%
 - Academic Mentors
 - Mentors work alongside teachers as salaried members of staff in eligible schools to support students
 - Subsidy rate for the 2021/22 academic year is 95%
 - For 22/23 will be 50%
 - For 23/24 will be 25%

National Tutoring Prog - Continued

– School Led Tutoring

- New ring fenced grant to fund locally sourced tutoring provision for disadvantaged pupils.
- Could include existing staff or external resources
- Provides subsidy towards the equivalent of 15 hours of tuition for 60% of pupils eligible for pupil premium
- Schools notified of allocations in September
- Don't need to apply but there are conditions including completion of a year end financial return.

	21/22 AY		21/22 AY		21/22 AY	
	Amount per PP Pupil for 60% of eligible pupils	Equivalent % subsidy of cost of 15 hours provision	Amount per PP Pupil for 60% of eligible pupils	Equivalent % subsidy of cost of 15 hours provision	Amount per PP Pupil for 60% of eligible pupils	Equivalent % subsidy of cost of 15 hours provision
Mainstream	£202.50	75% of £18 per hour	£162.00	60% of £18 per hour	£67.50	25% of £18 per hour
Special	£578.75	75% of £47 per hour	£423.00	60% of £47 per hour	£176.25	25% of £47 per hour