

CUMBERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

18 September 2023, Microsoft Teams Meeting, 9.30am

AGENDA

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. **Appointment of Chair**
2. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. **Exclusion of Press and Public**
To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.
5. **Declarations of Interest**
6. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising** (copy enclosed)
- 13 June 2023
7. **Schools Funding Formula 2024-25** (copy enclosed)
8. **Early Years Funding DfE Extension of Entitlements Consultation** (copy enclosed)
9. **Homes for Ukraine Education & Childcare Grant** (copy enclosed)
10. **Maintained School Balances and Outcome of Excess Surplus Balances** (copy enclosed)

11. **High Needs Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 (copy enclosed)**
12. **Delivering Better Value for SEND – Verbal Update**
13. **School Teachers Review Body (STRB) Visit – Verbal Update**
14. **Dates of Future Meetings**
 - i) The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on 2 November 2023. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and is likely to be held via Microsoft Teams. Final arrangements will be circulated prior to the meeting.
 - ii) Proposed Meeting Schedule 2024 (to follow).
15. **Any Other Business**

PART 2: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC



CUMBERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM

Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 June 2023 via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

David Grimshaw (Maintained Primary)
Rhiannon Hughes (Maintained Nursery)
Elaine Lynch (Cumberland Shadow Portfolio Holder – Education, Skills & Training)
Chris McAree (North Secondary Academy)
Nerissa Nicholas (Maintained Primary)
Michael Smillie (Secondary Academy – Cumberland)
Laura Watson (CE Diocese – representing Charlotte Tudway)
Kris Williams (North Secondary Academy)

Officers in Attendance:

Dan Barton (AD – Education and Skills)
Susan Milburn (Group Accountant – People)
Amanda Chew (Finance Manager)
Nicola Shiels (Forum Support)

Observers:

None

Apologies for Absence

Julie Jones (RC Diocese)
Charlotte Tudway (CE Diocese represented by Laura Watson)
Sally Senejko (Senior Manager – SEND & Inclusion)

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

This was the first meeting of the Cumberland Schools Forum.

Dan Barton welcomed colleagues to the meeting and there was a round of initial introductions.

1. Appointment of Chair

It was agreed to defer the appointment of Chair until the next full meeting of the Forum. Chris McAree agreed to chair this meeting.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Michael Smillie was appointed as Vice-Chair for this meeting.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed that all items would be considered in the public domain.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meetings of the Schools Forum held on 16 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. The Schools Forum Constitution and Working Groups

A report was presented that updated Schools Forum members on the constitution for the Cumberland Schools Forum. The Forum was asked to consider whether working groups should be established and if so, to agree how frequently they should meet and terms of reference for the group(s).

Schools Forum were able to set up working groups to discuss specific issues and could make recommendations to the full Schools Forum. Under the former Cumbria Schools Forum arrangements there was a Budget and a SEN working group. Most members of the Schools Forum were either a member of the Budget and/or SEN group. There were 3 meetings of each group per year, however, more recently the meetings had been joint and many of the papers reviewed at the working group meetings had also gone to full Schools Forum for consideration.

Provisional meetings dates for working groups had been set out in the proposed meeting schedule that had been circulated with the agenda and papers.

Several members felt that the dates that had been identified should remain and would be dedicated time that could be used for working groups (if established), to discuss or work through key issues or could be used for training for Forum members. An overview of the work of the Forum, the role of a Forum member and budgets – history, how we got here would be useful for new and existing members. The retention of a SEND/HNB working group would also be welcomed.

Following the discussion, Schools Forum agreed to hold the provisional working group meeting dates for potential task and finish groups that might arise during the year and also for opportunities for training when appropriate.

7. Revised LA Scheme for Financing Schools

Schools Forum received a report that set out an amendment to the Cumberland LA Scheme for Financing Schools and Pupil Referral Units (Scheme) relating to the retention of funds from the sale of land assets.

As the amendment had been led by the DfE, consultation with maintained schools and approval of the Scheme by Schools Forum was not required.

The revised Scheme would come into effect from June 2023 and would be published on the Schools Portal after this meeting.

Schools Forum noted the amendment to the Scheme which applied to all maintained schools and pupil referral units.

8. Provisional Cumbria Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Earmarked Reserves Outturn 2022-23

Schools Forum considered a report that presented the provisional outturn position on the Cumbria DSG Earmarked Reserves outturn for the 2022-23 financial year. There was a deficit balance of £21.031m.

The Cumbria DSG Earmarked Reserves had been disaggregated between the two new councils and the provisional split was £8.741m for Westmorland & Furness and £12.290m for Cumberland. The actual split would be confirmed when the 2022-23 year accounts had been finalised.

The DSG had an overall in-year pressure of £6.339m as at 31 March 2023, comprising of a £8.171m pressure on High Needs offset by an underspend of (£1.832m) on Central DSG. The overall cumulative deficit was therefore £21.031m split as a deficit balance on High Needs of £28.612m offset by a surplus balance on Central DSG of (£7.581m).

There was a (£1.508m) underspend on the Early Years Block but it was expected that this position would be adjusted in July due to the lagged funding for early years.

The deficit on the High Needs Block had increased by £8.171m. Key variances were pressure on special schools due to changes in banding levels and the increase in in-house provision, independent specialist day placements (ISPs), residential placements, Post-16 ISPs and further education, EHCP top-ups and invest to save initiatives.

The growing deficit on the High Needs deficit was not sustainable and Council officers had been working with the Department for Education's (DfE) Delivering Better Value (DBV) for SEND programme. The aim was to reach a balance in-year position going forward. Grants of £1m for each new authority had been applied for and approval had been received. The grants were ring-fenced in support of each authority's DBV improvement plan, the impact of which would be incorporated in their respective DSG management plans.

The methodology for disaggregating the DSG EMRs between the two new authorities had been agreed by the Local Government Reorganisation Management Implementation Board in September 2022. It was agreed that the deficit balance on the High Needs

reserve should be disaggregated using the percentage split for each authority based on the formula allocation of High Needs Block (HNB) funding.

It had been agreed that the surplus balance on the Central DSG reserve, made up of the Early Years Block (EYB) and Central School Services Block (CSSB), should be disaggregated using the percentage splits for each authority based on the formula allocations for each of the EYB and CSSB allocations. For Cumberland, there was a surplus on EYB/CSSB of (£4.305m) 57% and HNB deficit £16.595m 58% resulting in an overall deficit for Cumberland of £12.290m 58%. The actual figure would be confirmed when the 2022-23 year accounts had been finalised.

Following a short discussion, Schools Forum noted the provisional outturn position of the Cumbria DSG Earmarked Reserves and the split of the reserves between the 2 new councils.

9. Provisional Cumbria De-Delegated Contingency Budget Outturn 2022-23

A report presenting the provisional outturn position on the Cumbria de-delegated contingency budget for the 2022-23 financial year as at 31 March 2023 was considered. The budget was underspent by £0.262m and in accordance with the Dedicated Schools Grant conditions, the underspend would be carried forward into the Cumbria Dedicated Schools Grant earmarked reserve which would be disaggregated between Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils.

As this was a de-delegated budget it therefore only related to maintained schools and not academies.

The de-delegated contingency budget for Cumbria in 2022-23 was £0.666m. DfE guidance stated that the contingency budget could be used for three purposes:

- Circumstances which were unforeseen when the school's budget share was initially determined.
- Schools in financial difficulties
- Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools

Circumstances which were unforeseen when the school's budget share was initially determined.

The main areas of expenditure related to St Bridget's, Parton temporary site costs due to the landslip investigations. The remaining costs related to ill health retirements, administration of the Teachers Annual Return, temporary accommodation costs at the Gillford Centre PRU and other miscellaneous costs.

Additional Costs relating to New, Reorganised or Closing Schools

This related to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Cockermouth which closed on 31 August 2022 with a surplus balance. This was offset by costs relating to maintained schools that had converted to academy status.

The figures set out in the report were provisional as the Cumbria County Council accounts for 2022-23 had not yet been finalised.

The maintained schools' Schools Forum members noted the 2022-23 provisional outturn position for contingency budget.

10. Maintained School Balances Outturn 2022-23

Schools Forum considered a report that presented the Cumberland maintained school balances outturn for the financial year 2022-23. The balance was a net surplus of (£4.806m).

As at 31 March 2023, the net surplus balance for maintained schools was (£4.806m). This was a decrease in net balances since 2021-22 and an increase compared to schools' own forecasts as at the October budget submissions.

The number of maintained schools in deficit had increased by 3 and the total value of deficit balances had increased by £0.777m. During the year 1 school closed with a net deficit balance of £0.001m as at 31 March 2022, therefore in terms of the maintained schools both at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 the number of schools in deficit had increased from 15 to 19 with the total deficit for these schools increasing by £0.778m.

In their three-year budget plans for 2022-23, 19 schools had proposed a deficit budget plan totalling £3.272m. Of the 19, 15 had ended the financial year in deficit and 4 schools that had proposed a surplus budget ended the year in deficit.

Maintained secondary schools faced the most significant financial challenges. The number of secondary schools in deficit had increased from 4 to 5 between 31 March 2022 and 2023; the net deficit of the 5 schools was £2.566m as at 31 March 2023.

The number of maintained schools in surplus had decreased from 115 to 108 and the total value of surplus balances had reduced by £1.707m. During the year 3 schools had joined academy trusts with a net surplus balance of £0.464m as at 31 March 2022, therefore in terms of the maintained schools both at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 the number of schools in surplus had reduced from 112 to 108 with the total surplus for these schools reducing by £1.243m.

Although schools received additional funding in 2022-23 the main reason for the overall reduction in net school balances between years was due to increased staff costs including the impact of the teacher and non-teaching staff pay awards, increased energy costs due to the energy crisis as well as rising inflation on food and other supplies and services which more than offset the additional funding available in 2022-23.

36 maintained schools ended the financial year with an excess surplus balance (8% primary and 5% secondary) over the allowable threshold. The total value of the excess balance amount for these schools was £1.544m.

As agreed by the Cumbria Schools Forum the excess surplus balance policy would be applied and schools had been asked to provide justifications for their excess balance amounts. It was expected that schools would be notified of the outcome of this exercise by the end of the Summer term and a summary report would be available at the next Schools Forum meeting in September when the maintained schools' Schools Forum representatives would be asked to consider whether or not the policy should apply against school balances at the end of 2023/24 financial year.

There followed a short discussion about schools in a deficit position. The policy that the LA applied was emphasised and it was noted that there were some schools with a historic deficit where the position was improving and there was a balanced position in-year. The work of the SRBMs was continuing and their work with schools was felt worthwhile and to be of benefit to those schools involved. There was also a pragmatic view about the difficulties and challenges currently facing schools.

Falling rolls and staffing costs were challenging and reducing NORs would soon be feeding through to secondary schools so some work on infrastructure and strategic place planning would be needed.

The maintained schools' Schools Forum representative members noted the maintained schools' balances outturn position for 2022-23 and the application of the excess surplus balances policy.

11. Delivering Better Value for SEND

Issues relating to funding for SEND, High Needs budgets and the growth in demand not being met by funding were impacting LAs nationally. Some additional funding had been provided but there still an upward trajectory in terms of demand.

Government was working with those authorities with the most significant deficits with very strict monitoring and robust interventions.

55 other LAs (including Cumbria) had been identified to work with DfE on the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme which was research led, recognising that there was a national issue and looking to collect evidence that would inform a structural resolution. Working with Newton Europe, DfE's appointed consultant, phase 1 of the programme involved 6 months of work on baselining surveys, triangulation and demand forecasting. Following the initial work, funding to support a 2-year programme of work had been allocated; an implementation plan and 5/6 workstreams were being developed, with schools, parent career networks, CASH and PHA all being updated and involved.

The work would include developing a process for good early intervention to support the whole system at point the need was identified and a plan for AP and RP in schools that was strategic.

Forum members welcomed the update, noting that EHCPs had doubled since statements were replaced by EHCPs and it was good that this was being recognised. Concerns about funding and staffing to support remained; TAs were very difficult to recruit so colleagues were looking at/revisiting a TA academy model. How could Schools Forum help, what there a more formal role for Forum in progressing this work?

A written briefing would be presented to Forum at the November meeting.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Schools Forum would be held on Monday, 18 September 2023. The meeting would begin at 9.30am and was likely to be via Microsoft Teams. Final arrangements would be circulated prior to the meeting.

13. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

E&S/NS
August 2023

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

Report Title: School Funding Formula 2024-25

Meeting date: 18 September 2023

Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In July 2023 the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) announced details of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding for 2024/25 and this paper provides information on the provisional allocations.
- 1.2 For 2024/25 the Department for Education (DfE) have again placed further restrictions on local flexibility as it moves closer towards bringing in a direct national funding formula (NFF) whereby individual school and academy budgets will be set directly through one single NFF.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the Cumberland school funding formula mirrors the NFF in full in 2024/25 impacting maintained schools with effect from 1 April 2024 and academies from 1 September 2024. If there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding after allocating the funding on this basis and after taking into account the Growth Fund budget then it is proposed that this will be managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor in the formula.
- 1.4 However, if there is still a balance remaining within the Schools Block after applying the NFF in full and after taking into account the Growth Fund budget, it is proposed that up to a maximum of 0.5% is transferred to the High Needs (HN) block to support the ongoing budget pressures. Any residual balance remaining to be allocated to schools through the school funding formula by increasing the basic per pupil funding factor.
- 1.5 The paper sets out the rationale behind this proposal and includes an example draft consultation document on the assumption that the proposal is supported by Schools Forum with three recommended questions to ask schools together with the illustrative impact on school budget shares. The consultation once finalised is planned to be launched on 25 September for a period of 3 weeks.
- 1.6 Once the outcome of the consultation is known a report will be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting on 2 November ahead of Executive who will make the final decision on the school funding formula for 2024/25 at its meeting on 12 December.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that schools are funded appropriately is supportive of the Council Plan “to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents” and the priority to “address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals.”

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the provisional school funding settlement;
- support the recommendation to consult all schools on the proposal to apply the National Funding Formula in full in 2024/25;
- support the recommendation to apply the following principles if there is a shortfall or remaining balance after applying the National Funding Formula in full and after taking into account the growth fund budget:
 - if there is shortfall reduce the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula;
 - if there is a remaining balance transfer up to 0.5% to the HN Block and allocate any leftover balance after that, if available, to schools by increasing basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula.
- support the example draft schools consultation documents at Appendix 2 and 3 and the three recommended questions to ask schools.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 A national funding formula was introduced for schools from 2018/19 and since then local authorities have been able to decide in consultation with their schools and Schools Forum whether to use the NFF to allocate funding to schools or to apply a locally determined schools funding formula, within some restrictive parameters set by the ESFA . In 2023/24 the DfE began the first year of transition towards a direct NFF whereby all schools (including academies) will be funded using one single NFF and placed further restrictions on local flexibility.
- 4.2 In 2023/24 the Cabinet members for Cumbria decided that the NFF would be used to allocate funding to schools and academies in Cumberland, as in previous years since the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19. When the final DSG Schools Block allocation for Cumberland was published by the ESFA in December 2022 and after applying the NFF in full and taking into account the Growth Fund budget of £0.343m there was an affordability gap of £0.519m resulting in a small reduction in the basic per pupil funding factor compared to the NFF value of -0.42%. As there was no balance remaining in the Schools Block after applying the funding formula on this basis there was no transfer to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures in 2023/24.

- 4.3 On 17 July 2023, the Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA) announced details of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding arrangements which, at a national level, will increase by £1.8bn in 2024/25 compared to this year. Of this, £440m is being directed to the High Needs Block.
- 4.4 The DSG funding is allocated in four blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services. As in previous years the ESFA has also published notional school-level allocations. Final allocations will be published in December 2023 and will include Early Years funding.
- 4.5 The table below compares the 2024/25 funding allocations to 2023/24. These figures are provisional and have been based on October 2022 census data and are before recoupment for academies and high needs places. Final allocations will be based on October 2023 census data and other later adjustments.

	(as at Jul 23)		Movement £m	Increase/ Decrease %
	23/24 £m	24/25 £m		
Schools Block (excl Growth Fund)	198.051	211.387	13.336	6.73%
HN Block	38.664	39.682	1.018	2.63%
Central Services Block	1.829	1.788	-0.041	-2.25%
Total	238.544	252.857	14.313	

Schools Block

- 4.6 The Schools Block allocation consists of 3 elements as shown in the table below and compared to 2023/24:

	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	Movement £m
Core NFF	195.729	208.793	13.064
Premises factor	2.322	2.594	0.272
Growth Fund factor	0.849	tbc	tbc
Total	198.900	211.387	13.336

- 4.7 Core NFF funding is calculated by the ESFA by applying the NFF to each school using October 2022 pupil data. They then aggregate the total funding for each local authorities' primary and secondary schools separately and divide it by the total primary and secondary pupil numbers to arrive at a single primary and secondary per pupil unit for each local authority. The table below shows a comparison between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 per pupil unit values:

	Primary (PUF)	Secondary (PUF)	Primary headcount	Secondary headcount	Primary funding	Secondary Funding	Total
2023/24	£5,247	£6,162	19,925	14,799	104,539,302	91,189,810	195,729,112
2024/25	£5,606	£6,561	19,925	14,799	111,703,602	97,089,170	208,792,772
increase	7%	6%			7,164,300	5,899,360	13,063,660

- 4.8 These unit amounts, as published in the provisional allocations for 2024/25 will be the actual unit values used for the final 2024/25 schools block allocation for Cumberland multiplied by the October 2023 pupil numbers.
- 4.9 The ESFA have published notional 2024/25 budgets for each school but it is important to note that these are not reflective of actual amounts receivable by schools in 2024/25 as local authorities continue to have flexibility to set a locally agreed funding formula in consultation with schools and Schools Forum and must ensure that it does not exceed the Schools Block funding available. Also, the notional school level budgets use the 2023/24 notional school level budgets baselines which are not the same as the actual school budget baselines for 2023/24.
- 4.10 Premises Factor is based on the amount spent by local authorities on this factor in the 2023-24 school funding formula. As the funding through this factor is lagged and does not reflect the actual premises costs for 2024/25 this may create a pressure on the Schools Block.
- 4.11 Growth Fund Factor details of which have not yet been published will be based on observed differences between primary and secondary number on roll in each local authority between the October 2022 and October 2023 censuses and will be published at a later date. New for 2024/25 it will also include funding for falling rolls as well as growth.
- 4.12 The 3 elements that make up the School Block are not ring-fenced and local authorities can set a Growth and/ or Falling Rolls Fund budget and transfer up to 0.5% of the total Schools Block to other Blocks but only with the approval of their Schools Forum. Any transfer above 0.5% requires approval from the Secretary of State. From 2024/25 local authorities will need to provide growth funding where a school or academy has agreed with the local authority to provide an extra class in order to meet basic need in the area (either as a bulge class or as an ongoing commitment) that is at least at the value calculated through using the following formula:

$$£1,550 \times \text{number of pupils} \times \text{Area Cost Adjustment}$$

- 4.13 Where local authorities operate a falling rolls fund they will only be able to provide funding where the 2022 school capacity data (SCAP) shows that school places will be required in the subsequent three to five years. Historically Cumbria did not operate a falling rolls fund.

National Funding Formula 2024-25

- 4.14 The increase in the Core NFF includes the roll in of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of which £4,510 has been added to the lump sum factor and the remainder has been allocated on a per pupil basis as follows:

	£
Primary AWPU	119
KS3 AWPU	168
KS4 AWPU	190
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	143
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	195
Primary FSM6	104
Secondary FSM6	152

- 4.15 On top of these increases the basic per pupil funding factor, additional needs factors and the school lump sum have increased by 2.4%. The free school meals (FSM) factor will increase by 1.6%. The minimum per pupil funding levels have been set at £4,655 per primary and £6.050 per secondary pupil. A comparison between the formula factor values used in 2023/24 and the NFF factors for 2024/25 is at Appendix 1.
- 4.16 A new split sites factor which targets extra funding to schools which operate across more than once site has been introduced into the NFF which must be used by local authorities in their local school funding formula. It comprises of a lump sum of £54,300 and for those schools whose sites are separated by more than 100 meters receive distance funding on a sliding scale up to a maximum of £27,100 for sites which are at least 500 metres away from the main site.
- 4.17 The settlement also allows for an increase to the funding floor so that all schools and academies will attract at least 0.5% per pupil gain against their 2023/24 per pupil baselines which have been adjusted to include the MSAG. Local authorities will continue to be allowed to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in local formulae, which must be between +0% and +0.5%.
- 4.18 The DfE continues to be committed to moving towards a 'hard' NFF whereby individual school budgets will be set directly by the ESFA rather than independently through a locally agreed funding formula. In 2023/24 local authorities were required to bring their own formulae at least 10% closer to the direct NFF. This restriction is being applied again in 2024/25.
- 4.19 For the purposes of tightening the criteria, local factor values that were within 2.5% of the respective NFF values in 2023/24 are deemed to be mirroring the NFF. This means that local authorities that had factor values within +/-2.5% in 2023/24 will be allowed to set their 2024/25 factor values anywhere between +/-2.5%. Therefore, for Cumberland the +/-2.5% restriction will apply as its school funding formula is deemed as mirroring the NFF in 2023/24.
- 4.20 The recently announced new Teachers Pay Additional Grant introduced from September 2023 will not be included in the NFF in 2024/25 but will continue to be allocated to schools as a separate grant in 2024/25.

High Needs Block

- 4.21 Cumberland is estimated to gain £0.675m (2.43%) compared to 2023/24 as shown in the table below, which is subject to changes in pupil numbers and other later adjustments:

	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Movement £m	Movement %
Basic Factor	2.344	2.344	0.000	0.00%
Historic Factor	11.188	11.188	0.000	0.00%
Other Proxy Factor Funding	22.871	25.766	2.895	12.66%
Funding Floor	0.459	0.145	-0.314	-68.32%
AP Factor	0.842	0.863	0.021	2.51%
Import/export adjustment	-0.624	-0.624	0.000	0.00%
Additional HN funding	1.585		-1.585	-100.00%
Total	38.664	39.682	1.018	2.63%

- 4.22 The HN national funding formula used to allocate funding to local authorities is broadly unchanged. The additional HN funding of £1.585m received last year has been rolled into the baseline for the purposes of calculating the funding floor protection which allows for a minimum 3% increase per head of

2 to 18 population capped at 5% against the 2023/24 baseline. For Cumberland the per head gain is 3%, however the protection only applies to the proxy factors and the additional HN funding and excludes the basic, Alternative Provision (AP) factor and the import/export adjustment which is why the table above only shows an overall increase of 2.43%.

- 4.23 The historic spend factor within the formula is £11.188m which is the same amount allocated in 2023/24 and equates to 28% of the total funding estimated to be available in 2024/25.

Central Schools Services Block

- 4.24 Cumberland is estimated to lose £0.041m (2.25%) compared to last year. The formula used is broadly unchanged from 2023/24. The block consists of 2 elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. For 2024/25 maximum per-pupil reduction for ongoing responsibilities for each LA is -2.5% and gains are capped at 5.51%. The table below explains the reduction:

	Ongoing Responsibilities	Historic Commitments	Total
	£m	£m	£m
2023/24	1.274	0.554	1.829
2024/25	1.344	0.444	1.788
	0.070	-0.111	-0.041
%	5.48%	-20.00%	-2.25%

- 4.25 The funding for ongoing responsibilities is estimated to increase by £0.070m (5.48%) subject to changes in pupil numbers and other later adjustments. However, the historic commitments funding which the ESFA have been winding down since 2019/20 has reduced by (£0.111m) (20%). It is expected that the historic commitments element will continue to reduce on this basis in future years as there is an expectation that these commitments will eventually unwind completely. However, the historic commitments funding will be protected from dropping below the total value of ongoing prudential borrowing costs which for Cumberland is £0.127m.

School Funding Formula 2024/25

- 4.26 It is a requirement that all maintained and academy schools are consulted on any changes to the local funding formula each year. Even if it is proposed to continue to follow the NFF, if the formula factors and/or the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) is different to that of the preceding year then we must consult with all schools on the changes. Following this consultation, Schools Forum is then asked to make a recommendation to Executive on a proposed approach. Executive will then decide on the final school funding formula for 2024/25 which will impact maintained schools from 1 April 2024 and academies from 1 September 2024..
- 4.27 A timeline for this process is set out below:

Date	Task
18 September 2023	Schools Forum consulted on the proposed basis for modelling the school funding formula for 2024/25 and the format of the consultation

25 September 2023	Launch consultation with schools on arrangements for 2024/25 (incorporating any changes following the schools forum meeting)
16 October 2023	Consultation ends
2 November 2023	Schools Forum members meeting to allow recommendation to Executive, and to meet Executive reporting deadlines
12 December 2023	Executive - report on School Funding 2024/25 presented and Executive decision to be made
Early January 2024	Following call-in period, notify schools of Executive decision on School Funding 2024/25
16 January 2024	Schools Forum Meeting to agree 2024/25 DSG budget
22 January 2024	Deadline for submitting School Funding 2024/25 Proforma to ESFA

- 4.28 Given that it is known that the DfE are moving forward with their plans to transition to a 'hard' formula and due to schools predicting a fall in their net balances in 2024/25 it is proposed that schools are consulted on adopting the NFF in 2024/25 in full, as in previous years. If after allocating the funding on this basis and, after taking into account the budget required for the Growth Fund, there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding it is proposed that this will be managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor (up to a maximum of -2.5% as detailed in para 4.19). It should be noted that if this situation were to arise not all schools would see a reduction in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection funding through the MPL and MFG factors and are protected against losses through these factors.
- 4.29 If it arises that there is a balance remaining in the Schools Block after allocating the funding using the NFF then it is proposed that up to a maximum of 0.5% is transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures and if any residual balance is remaining after that to allocate it to schools through increasing the basic per pupil funding factor (up to a maximum of +2.5%). It should be noted that if this situation were to arise not all schools would see an increase in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection funding through the MPL and MFG factors and therefore unless the increase in AWPU takes them over these levels of protection then they will see no change to their budget shares.
- 4.30 It is estimated that a 0.5% transfer will be a maximum of £1.061m for Cumberland. It is not possible to confirm the actual value of any potential transfer to the HN Block, if any, until the DfE publish the final data set to be used to calculate the school budget shares in December 2023 which takes into account the October 2023 census pupil data and characteristics. The cumulative High Needs Deficit at the end of 2022/23 was £16.595m and this is predicted to rise in 2023/24. Whilst the Council has successfully bid for a £1m grant through the DfE's Delivering Better Value SEND programme the purpose of this grant is to support the LA in introducing changes to reach a balanced in-year position however any new initiatives will take time to have an impact. Therefore, any transfer from the Schools Block to High Needs Block will be used to support the current HN block budget pressures.
- 4.31 The alternative option would be not to transfer any funding to the High Needs Block and allocate any surplus budget, after taking into account the Growth Fund budget, to schools through increasing the basis per pupil unit factor values. This would need to be within the +2.5% factor value threshold range

as detailed in para 4.19 above. However, this option is not recommended as there is a risk that, due to the proposal requiring local authorities to move their local formula closer to the NFF that 'topping up' the NFF factor values by allocating additional funding through the formula would create turbulence for some schools in future years, although they would receive protection against year-on-year changes through the MFG. It could also make applying the NFF in full unaffordable in future years as the additional funding would be built into the schools budget share baselines but the funding for this is not reflected in the notional school budgets used by the ESFA to calculate local authority level core NFF funding.

- 4.32 A shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block after allocating the funding using the NFF can arise due to the way that local authorities are funded as detailed in paragraphs 4.7 and 4.10 above. The actual primary and secondary units of funding at local authority level are based on October 2022 pupil data and changes in pupil characteristics such as eligibility for FSM or changes in attainment levels are not reflected in the primary and secondary units of funding used to allocate the core NFF funding to local authorities in 2024/25, only changes in pupil numbers are taken into account. It is anticipated that the number of children eligible for FSM will have increased between the October 2022 and 2023 census dates and therefore this could mean that applying the NFF in full will be unaffordable in 2024/25 when the final Schools block allocation is confirmed in December as it was in 2023/24.
- 4.33 The Premises factor at local authority level, which is based on the previous year's actual spend will also have an impact on affordability.
- 4.34 The Growth and new Falling Rolls factor within the Schools Block is not ring-fenced and local authorities can decide on the level of growth/falling rolls budgets needed locally in consultation with Schools Forum. This funding can be also used to fund the school funding formula if required which can also impact on whether there is a shortfall or balance remaining to transfer to the High Needs Block.
- 4.35 In anticipation that the Schools Forum support the recommended proposal to allocate funding to schools on this basis proposed in paras 4.28 and 4.29 an example draft schools consultation document has been prepared at Appendix 2 and the illustrative impact of the NFF on school budget shares is available at Appendix 3. The draft consultation asks the following 3 questions:
- 1) Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that the National Funding Formula continues to be used to allocate funding to schools in 2024/25?
 - 2) Do you agree that, if there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding after applying the National Funding Formula in full that this is managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor?
 - 3) Do you agree that, if there is any Schools Block funding remaining (up to a maximum of 0.5%) after allocating the school funding formula to schools using the NFF, it should be transferred to the High Needs Block?
- 4.36 Question 1 about using the NFF must be included in the consultation, however, Schools Forum can if it wishes recommend alternative questions to ask. Once the outcome of the consultation is known the Schools Forum will be asked to make a recommendation to Executive members on school funding formula for 2024/25.

5.0 Options

5.1 Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the announced changes to the 2024/25 school funding and the timeline for finalising and approving the funding formula for school budget shares;
 - support the recommendation in principle to adopt the National Funding Formula in full in 2024/25:
 - support the recommendation to apply the following principles if there is a shortfall or remaining balance after applying the National Funding Formula in full and after taking into account the growth fund budget:
 - if there is shortfall to reduce the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula;
 - if there is a remaining balance transfer up to 0.5% to the HN Block and allocate any leftover balance after that, if available, to schools by increasing the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula.
 - support the example draft schools consultation documents at Appendix 2 and 3 and the three recommended questions to ask schools per para 4.35 above;
- or
- recommend alternative questions to ask schools

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

6 September 2023

Appendices:

1. Comparison between actual 2023/24 Cumberland school funding formula factors and 2024/25 NFF factors
2. Draft Cumberland School Funding Formula Consultation Document
3. Illustrative Impact of 2024/25 National Funding Formula

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Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

Comparison between Cumberland School Funding Formula values for 2023/24 and the National Funding Formula Values for 2024/25

	2023-24	2024-25	Increase
	Unit Value	Unit Value	%
Basic per Pupil Funding			
Primary AWPU	£3,379	£3,597	6.45%
KS3 AWPU	£4,765	£5,072	6.44%
KS4 AWPU	£5,370	£5,717	6.46%
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	£4,405	£4,655	5.68%
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	£5,715	£6,050	5.86%
Deprivation			
Primary FSM	£480	£490	2.08%
Secondary FSM	£480	£490	2.08%
Primary FSM6	£705	£830	17.73%
Secondary FSM6	£1,030	£1,210	17.48%
Primary IDACI A	£670	£685	2.24%
Primary IDACI B	£510	£520	1.96%
Primary IDACI C	£480	£490	2.08%
Primary IDACI D	£440	£450	2.27%
Primary IDACI E	£280	£285	1.79%
Primary IDACI F	£230	£235	2.17%
Secondary IDACI A	£930	£950	2.15%
Secondary IDACI B	£730	£750	2.74%
Secondary IDACI C	£680	£695	2.21%
Secondary IDACI D	£620	£635	2.42%
Secondary IDACI E	£445	£455	2.25%
Secondary IDACI F	£335	£345	2.99%
Low Prior Attainment			
Primary LPA	£1,155	£1,185	2.60%
Secondary LPA	£1,750	£1,790	2.29%
English as an Additional Language			
Primary EAL	£580	£595	2.59%
Secondary EAL	£1,565	£1,605	2.56%
Mobility			
Primary mobility	£945	£970	2.65%
Secondary mobility	£1,360	£1,395	2.57%
School Led Funding			
Lump Sum	£128,000	£135,700	6.02%
Primary Sparsity (Up to a maximum of)	£56,300	£57,700	2.49%
Secondary Sparsity (Up to a maximum of)	£81,900	£83,900	2.44%
New Split Site Factor	n/a	£81,400	
New Split Site Distance (Up to a maximum of)	n/a	£27,100	
Rates & Rents	Actual cost	Actual cost	



School Funding Formula for 2024/25

Consultation

**Consultation between Cumberland Schools Forum and
Maintained Schools & Academies within Cumberland**

Consultation Commences: Monday 25 September 2023

**Deadline for responding to the consultation at [TBC](#)
: Monday 16 October 2023**

Introduction

National Funding Formula

1. A national funding formula (NFF) was introduced for schools from 2018/19 and as in previous years, in 2024/25 local authorities will continue to decide, following consultation with their schools and Schools Forum, whether this formula is applied or a locally determined formula is used.
2. This document comprises a consultation with all Cumberland mainstream schools/academies and Schools Forum to seek views on the proposed changes to the schools funding formula in 2024/25. The consultation also considers some of the continuing challenges around high needs budget.
3. All schools are encouraged to respond to this consultation using the online survey at [TBC](#). The deadline for responding to the consultation is 16 October 2023. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Schools Forum at their next meeting on 2 November who will, after taking into consideration the consultation results, make a recommendation to Executive members who will decide on the final shape of the school funding formula for 2024/25 in December 2023.
4. Schools can find further detailed information on the national funding formula at: [National funding formula for schools and high needs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Shape of the National Funding Formula in 2024/25

5. In July 2023 the government announced that in 2024/25 the schools and high needs block funding would rise by £1.8bn nationally compared to 2023/24. Of this, £440m is being directed to the High Needs Block to support children and young people with special educational needs.
6. Local authorities will continue to have flexibility to set a local school funding formula in 2024/25 however the government continues to be committed to moving towards a 'hard' NFF whereby individual school budgets will be set directly by the ESFA rather than independently through a locally agreed funding formula. In 2023/24 local authorities were required to bring their own formulae at least 10% closer to the direct NFF. Local authorities whose factor values were within +/- 2.5% of the respective NFF values in 2023/24 are deemed to be mirroring the NFF and will only be allowed to set their 2024/25 local factor values between +/- 2.5% of the NFF. This restriction is being applied again in 2024/25.
7. Changes in the 2024/25 NFF include the roll in of the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) of which £4,510 has been added to each school's lump sum factor and the remainder has been allocated on a per pupil basis as follows:

	£
Primary AWPU	119
KS3 AWPU	168
KS4 AWPU	190
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	143
Secondary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	195
Primary FSM6	104
Secondary FSM6	152

8. On top of these increases, the basic per pupil funding factor, additional needs factors and the school lump sum have increased by 2.4%. The free school meals (FSM) factor will increase by 1.6%. The minimum per pupil funding levels (MPL) have been set at £4,655 per primary and £6.050 per secondary pupil.
9. A new split sites factor which targets extra funding to schools which operate across more than once site has been introduced into the NFF which must be used by local authorities in their local school funding formula. It comprises of a lump sum of £54,300 and for those schools whose sites are separated by more than 100 meters receive distance funding on a sliding scale up to a maximum of £27,100 for sites which are at least 500 metres away from the main site.
10. The settlement also allows for an increase to the funding floor so that all schools and academies will attract at least 0.5% per pupil gain against their 2023/24 per pupil baselines which have been adjusted to include the MSAG. Local authorities will continue to be allowed to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in local formulae, which must be between +0% and +0.5%.
11. As in previous years, local authorities are allowed, with the agreement of their Schools Forum, to transfer up to 0.5% of the School Block funding to support the High Needs Block budget.
12. The below table shows a comparison between the formula factors applied in Cumberland in 2023/24 and the NFF in 2024/25:

	2023-24	2024-25	Increase
	Unit Value	Unit Value	%
Basic per Pupil Funding			
Primary AWPU	£3,379	£3,597	6.45%
KS3 AWPU	£4,765	£5,072	6.44%
KS4 AWPU	£5,370	£5,717	6.46%
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding	£4,405	£4,655	5.68%
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Deprivation			
Primary FSM	£480	£490	2.08%
Secondary FSM	£480	£490	2.08%
Primary FSM6	£705	£830	17.73%
Secondary FSM6	£1,030	£1,210	17.48%
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Primary IDACI C	£480	£490	2.08%
Primary IDACI D	£440	£450	2.27%
Primary IDACI E	£280	£285	1.79%
Primary IDACI F	£230	£235	2.17%
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Low Prior Attainment			
Primary LPA	£1,155	£1,185	2.60%
Secondary LPA	£1,750	£1,790	2.29%
English as an Additional Language			
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Primary mobility	£945	£970	2.65%
Secondary mobility	£1,360	£1,395	2.57%
School Led Funding			
Lump Sum	£128,000	£135,700	6.02%
Primary Sparsity (Up to a maximum of)	£56,300	£57,700	2.49%
Secondary Sparsity (Up to a maximum of)	£81,900	£83,900	2.44%
New Split Site Factor	n/a	£81,400	
New Split Site Distance (Up to a maximum of)	n/a	£27,100	
Rates & Rents	Actual cost	Actual cost	

Cumberland Schools Funding Formula in 2023/24

13. Following consultation with schools and Cumbria Schools Forum the school budget shares were calculated using the NFF in 2023/24 and it was recommended by Schools Forum and agreed by Cabinet members that if there was a leftover balance remaining after allocating the school budgets on this basis that up to 0.5% would transfer to the High Needs Block. When the DfE confirmed the final Schools Block funding for 2023/24 in December 2022, the school funding formula was calculated on the basis agreed and there was an affordability gap of £0.519m resulting in a small reduction in the basic per pupil funding factor compared to the NFF of -0.42%. As there was no balance remaining in the Schools Block after applying the funding formula on this basis there was no transfer to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures in 2023/24.

Cumberland Proposed School Funding Formula 2024/25

14. The DfE have published notional 2023/24 budgets for each school based on the NFF using 2023/24 pupil data and characteristics. The notional budgets are available at: [National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2024-to-2025).
15. The notional budgets, which are based on October 2022 pupil numbers and pupil characteristics, are then used by the ESFA to determine the actual primary and secondary per pupil funding units used to calculate the local authority level allocations for 2024/25. The ESFA calculate these units of funding by separately dividing each local authority's total primary and secondary funding through the NFF by its total primary and secondary pupil numbers. These units of funding form the core NFF funding and together with funding for Premises which is based on 2023/24 costs and Growth funding which also now includes funding for falling rolls comprise the total Schools Block allocation for 2024/25. The DfE have published the provisional Schools Block allocation for Cumberland which is compared to 2023/24 in the table below:

	23/24	24/25	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
Core NFF	195.729	208.793	13.064
Premises factor	2.322	2.594	0.272
Growth Fund factor	0.849	tbc	tbc
Total	198.900	211.387	13.336

16. The actual 2024/25 school funding formula allocations will be based on October 2023 pupil numbers and pupil characteristics. The Cumberland Schools Forum recommends that the NFF is used as the basis for allocating funding to schools in 2024/25 and that if, after applying the formula on this basis and taking into account any budget required to support growth needs there is shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block funding then it is proposed that the following principles are applied:

- if there is shortfall reduce the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula;
 - if there is a remaining balance transfer up to 0.5% to the HN Block and allocate any leftover balance after that, if available, to schools by increasing basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula.
17. This would continue be the most prudent method of allocating the school budget shares in 2024/25 given that it is known that the government are moving forward with their plans to transition to a 'hard' formula in future years and that the majority of local authorities have either adopted the NFF or moved their own local formulae closer towards the NFF in preparation for this change. It will also provide schools with the full funding due to them under the NFF, subject to affordability.
 18. A shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block funding can arise after allocating the funding to schools using the NFF due to the way local authorities are funded as detailed in paragraph 15. The actual primary and secondary units of funding at local authority level are based on October 2022 pupil data and changes in pupil characteristics such as eligibility for FSM or changes in attainment levels are not reflected in the primary and secondary units of funding used to allocate the core NFF funding to local authorities in 2024/25. It is anticipated that the number of children eligible for FSM will have increased between the October 2022 and 2023 census dates and therefore this could mean that applying the NFF in full will be unaffordable in 2024/25 as it was in 2023/24.
 19. The Premises factor at local authority level, which is based on the previous year's actual spend in their 2023/24 school funding formula will also have an impact on affordability as 2024/25 school funding formula will be based on estimated premises costs for 2024/25.
 20. The local authority level Growth Fund which, from 2024/25 also includes funding for falling rolls, is not ring-fenced and local authorities can decide on the level of growth/falling rolls budgets needed locally in consultation with Schools Forum. Historically, since the introduction of the NFF Cumbria has had Growth fund to support schools who have exceeded their PAN on the request of the local authority and this can also impact on the level of funding available to allocate through the school funding formula.
 21. The alternative option would be not to transfer any leftover Schools Block funding to the HN Block but to allocate it, after applying the NFF, to schools through the school funding formula by 'topping up' the AWPU factor values but due to the new restrictions being imposed by government from 2023/24 any increases would be limited to +2.5%. However, it is not yet known how much funding will be available (if any) after applying the NFF as the final Schools Block funding, which will be based on the October 2023 census data, will not be made available until December 2023. Therefore, it is not possible to model the impact of this on individual school budgets with any degree of accuracy.
 22. If any leftover Schools Block funding were to be allocated to schools through the schools funding formula by increasing the AWPU factor values above the level of

the NFF values, not all schools would see an increase in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection through the MPL and MFG factors and therefore, unless the increase in APWU takes them over these levels of protection then they will see no change to their budget shares.

23. There is also a risk that, due to the proposal requiring local authorities to move their local formula closer to the NFF from 2024/25 onwards, 'topping up' the NFF factor values by allocating additional funding through the formula would create turbulence for some schools, although they would receive protection against year-on-year reductions through the MFG.
24. Appendix 1 to this consultation presents a comparison between the actual Cumberland school funding formula in 2023/24 against the proposed school funding formula for 2024/25. This mirrors the national funding formula as applied by the DfE and includes the mandatory MPL of £4,655 per primary and £6,055 per secondary pupil and a MFG of +0.5% per pupil increase against 2023/24 baselines.
25. The school level allocations do not exactly replicate the notional school budget shares as published by the DfE for all schools because the DfE have used the notional NFF baselines for 2023/24 to calculate the MFG for 2024/25 rather than the actual baselines for 2023/24 as submitted to the DfE through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).
26. It is also important to note that the notional budgets published by the DfE are not reflective of actual amounts receivable by schools in 2024/25 as the local authority continues to have flexibility to set a locally agreed funding formula through consultation with schools and Schools Forum and it must also ensure that the final formula is affordable and does not exceed the School Block funding available.
27. The proposed school funding formula for 2024/25 will impact on maintained schools with effect from 1 April 2024 and for academies from 1 September 2024.
28. To enable a like for like comparison the illustrative 2024/25 school funding formula has been based on the same pupil numbers and pupil characteristic data as that used to calculate the actual 2023/24 school funding formula. The 2023/24 baseline school budget shares used to calculate the MFG have been adjusted to include the MSAG.
29. Final allocations for 2024/25 will be based on the December 2023 dataset which will use October 2023 census pupil data.
30. It should be noted that the actual school funding formula figures for 2023/24 and illustrative school funding formula figures for 2024/25 in Appendix 1 are shown before de-delegation has been deducted from maintained schools budgets and include premises factors (rates and rents) which have been based on 2023/24 actual levels for both maintained and academy schools as applied in the APT submitted to the DfE.

Consultation Question 1:

Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that the National Funding Formula continues to be used to allocate funding to schools in 2024/25?

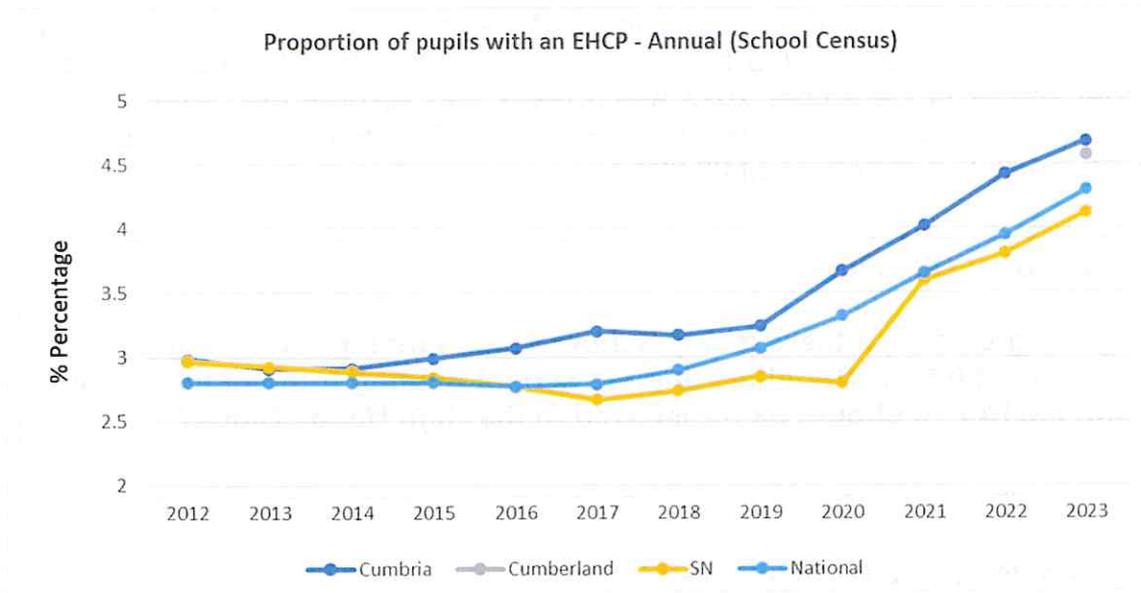
31. As recommended by your Schools Forum, if applying the national funding formula creates an affordability gap within the School Block it is proposed that the basic per pupil funding factor values are reduced down proportionately to a level that it is affordable. It should be noted that if this situation were to arise not all schools would see a reduction in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection funding through the MPL and MFG factors and are protected against losses through these factors.

Consultation Question 2:

Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that if there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding after applying the National Funding Formula that this is managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula?

High Needs Funding

32. As previously published in last year's school funding formula consultation, schools will be aware, like many other local authorities, that Cumberland is experiencing significant budget challenges in relation to funding high needs provision.
33. The DfE requires all local authorities with a cumulative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit to set out their plans to bring the reserves back to a balanced position. Following disaggregation the opening balance on the DSG reserves as at 1 April 2023 for Westmorland & Furness was a net deficit of £12.290m. The main pressure on the DSG reserves was the deficit on the HN Block of £16.595m this was offset by a surplus on other DSG blocks of (£4.305m). This figure does not include school balances which are reported on separately.
34. The deficit on the High Needs budget continues to relate to specific pressures relating to the growth in demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for pupils with SEN which is directly linked to the SEND reforms of 2014, since which there has been a steep increase in the cumulative numbers of pupils with EHCPs over the last 7 years, which reflects the national picture with many other local authorities also experiencing significant pressure against the High Needs budget.
35. The benchmarking chart below shows that Cumberland's percentage of pupils with EHCPs is higher compared to the national and Cumbria statistical neighbours rates although the rate of increase for Cumbria overall is largely matched by the rate of increase both nationally and against the Cumbria statistical neighbours.



36. In July 2023 the DfE announced the provisional HN block funding allocation for 2024/25. This included a minimum increase per head of 2 to 18 year old population of 3% capped at 5% however this protection only applies to specific factors in the funding formula. For Cumberland the overall provisional increase in HN Block funding is estimated to be £1.018m (2.63% increase) compared to 2023/24 subject to changes in pupil numbers and other later adjustments.
37. Regular budget monitoring reports on the High Needs Block budget and progress against the deficit recovery plan are discussed at Schools Forum meetings. The minutes and reports are available to download from the [Schools Forum](#) page on the Cumberland website. However, despite the impact of a number of invest to save initiatives including early intervention initiatives, school based alternative provision programmes and expansion of special school places all of which over time are expected to reduce reliance on expensive independent providers and improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, there is still a significant gap between funding available and forecast expenditure in 2023/24.
38. Cumberland is being supported by the DfE's Delivering Better Value for SEND programme the aim of which is to achieve a balanced in-year position on the High Needs Block and has successfully bid and received a £1m grant to support its improvement plans the outcomes of which will be incorporated into a new Cumberland DSG management plan in due course, however, the impact will not be achieved in the first year of the programme.
39. The funding regulations for 2023/24 allow a transfer of a maximum of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block with Schools Forum approval. Your Schools Forum recommends that after applying the NFF to calculate school budget shares, if there is any balance leftover it is transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures, capped at 0.5%. Any residual balance after transferring up to 0.5% to the High Needs Block would be allocated through the funding formula by increasing the basic per pupil unit factor value, subject to a maximum of +2.5% as detailed in paragraph 6 above.

40. It is not possible to confirm the actual value of the transfer to High Needs Block, if any, until the DfE publish the final data set to be used to calculate the school budget shares in December 2023 which takes into account the October 2023 census pupil data and characteristics. However it is estimated that up to 0.5% would equate to a maximum of £0.824m.

Consultation Question 3:

Do you agree that, if there is any School Block funding remaining (up to a maximum of 0.5%) after allocating the school funding formula to schools using the NFF, it should be transferred to the High Needs Block?

Areas not impacted by this Consultation

41. It should be noted that the following funding streams are not impacted by this consultation:
- Early Years Funding
 - Special School and Pupil Referral Units
 - Post 16 Education
 - Other government grants including Pupil Premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals, Primary Sport & PE grant.

Responding to the Consultation

24. Schools are invited to respond to the 3 questions in this consultation using the online survey at: [TBC](#) by **Monday 16 October 2023**. Returns submitted after this date will not be included.
25. We encourage every school to respond. We kindly ask that there is only one response per school.

Appendix:

- 1) Illustrative Impact of National Funding Formula 2024/25

Illustrative Impact of the 2024-25 National Funding Formula

(a)	(b)	(c)	2023-24 Actual NFF Allocations per APT submission before delegation (maintained schools) and including premises factors		(e)	2023-24 Adjusted APT Baseline Funding including protected grant		2024-25 Indicative NFF allocations using 2023-24 pupil numbers and data after Minimum Funding Guarantee and before delegation (maintained schools) including premises factors		(h) [(g)-(f)]	(i) [(e)/(h)-1]	Calculation of Minimum Funding Guarantee				
			(d)	(f) [(d)+(e)]		(g)	(j) [(f)-(g)]	(k) [(h)-(j)/(g)]	(l) [(k)-(j)/(g)]			(m) [(l)/(k)-1]	2023-24 Post MFG per pupil	2024-25 Post MFG per pupil	MFG % change	
LAESTAB																
9422001	Allonby Primary School	34,731	198,556,925	6,747,452	205,304,377	210,575,550	5,271,173	2,50%	£196,260,30	£4,413,94	£4,796,58	8.67%				
9422008	Bewcastle School	18	268,331	£7,380.00	£275,711.27	£282,598.70	£6,887.43	2.50%	£196,510.80	£3,858.29	£4,327.81	12.17%				
9422010	Blennerhasset School	62	420,004	£6,265.00	£246,668.63	£252,772.28	£6,103.66	2.47%	£195,677.00	£3,815.00	£3,996.76	4.76%				
9422014	Burgh by Sands School	99	541,113	£17,019.00	£558,131.72	£572,754.70	£14,622.98	2.62%	£185,622.81	£3,762.72	£3,910.42	3.93%				
9422019	Cummersdale School	102	528,486	£18,104.00	£546,590.46	£560,832.97	£14,242.51	2.61%	£147,994.50	£3,907.80	£4,047.44	3.57%				
9422020	Cumwhinton School	193	880,756	£28,621.00	£909,376.53	£933,714.22	£24,337.69	2.68%	£151,330.56	£3,927.70	£4,053.80	3.21%				
9422027	Greatorton Primary School	29	328,161	£9,105.00	£337,265.63	£345,703.47	£8,437.84	2.50%	£200,129.38	£4,728.84	£5,019.80	6.15%				
9422032	Holme St Cuthbert School	33	314,811	£9,269.00	£324,080.34	£332,278.77	£8,198.42	2.53%	£197,586.70	£3,833.14	£4,081.58	6.48%				
9422033	Irthington Village School	58	416,864	£11,932.00	£428,796.21	£439,883.03	£11,086.82	2.59%	£198,991.10	£3,962.16	£4,153.31	4.82%				
9422035	Kirkbride Primary School	69	469,047	£13,449.00	£476,496.02	£488,765.87	£12,269.85	2.58%	£204,063.75	£3,948.29	£4,126.12	4.50%				
9422059	Stonerise School	149	754,296	£24,737.00	£779,032.70	£799,595.47	£20,562.77	2.64%	£147,739.54	£4,223.44	£4,361.45	3.27%				
9422060	Thursby Primary School	104	571,830	£18,238.00	£590,067.85	£605,596.05	£15,528.20	2.63%	£180,014.51	£3,942.82	£4,092.13	3.79%				
9422069	Thomlinson Junior School	233	1,095,531	£35,461.00	£1,130,992.12	£1,161,156.19	£30,164.07	2.67%	£159,513.50	£4,195.19	£4,324.65	3.09%				
9422070	Wigton Infant School	162	808,728	£25,660.00	£834,387.53	£856,350.25	£21,962.72	2.63%	£154,141.25	£4,199.05	£4,334.62	3.23%				
9422071	Richmond Hill School	156	793,157	£27,546.00	£820,703.00	£842,264.63	£21,561.63	2.63%	£153,587.00	£4,276.38	£4,414.60	3.23%				
9422103	Broughton Moor Primary School	55	378,624	£11,783.00	£390,406.77	£400,528.98	£10,122.21	2.59%	£168,902.70	£4,027.35	£4,211.99	4.57%				
9422117	Grasslot Infant School	53	379,081	£12,793.00	£391,873.62	£401,900.80	£10,027.19	2.56%	£142,234.50	£4,710.17	£4,899.36	4.02%				
9422126	Ewanrigg Junior School	124	752,958	£26,858.00	£779,816.28	£799,907.90	£20,091.63	2.58%	£151,632.25	£5,066.00	£5,228.03	3.20%				
9422144	St Michael's Nursery and Infant School	47	342,015	£11,143.00	£353,158.04	£362,136.76	£8,978.72	2.54%	£143,227.00	£4,466.62	£4,657.65	4.28%				
9422146	Victoria Junior School	260	1,388,125	£47,930.00	£1,436,054.87	£1,473,521.33	£37,466.47	2.61%	£142,348.75	£4,438.43	£4,630.29	4.32%				
9422147	Ashfield Infant & Nursery School	177	863,354	£28,277.00	£891,631.12	£915,161.04	£23,529.91	2.64%	£154,426.10	£4,165.00	£4,297.94	3.19%				
9422148	Ashfield Junior School	256	1,223,677	£41,110.00	£1,264,787.34	£1,298,427.79	£33,640.46	2.66%	£153,765.00	£4,339.93	£4,471.34	3.03%				
9422207	Bookwell Primary School	208	971,133	£32,798.00	£1,003,930.82	£1,030,769.43	£26,838.61	2.67%	£148,370.75	£4,113.27	£4,242.30	3.14%				
9422211	Frinton Community Primary School	134	686,738	£23,056.00	£709,793.65	£728,397.18	£18,603.53	2.62%	£150,338.10	£4,175.04	£4,313.87	3.33%				
9422212	Haverigg Primary School	161	788,890	£26,061.00	£814,950.84	£836,562.04	£21,611.20	2.65%	£148,245.00	£4,141.03	£4,275.26	3.24%				
9422216	Lowca Community School	57	403,336	£12,541.00	£415,877.20	£417,265.54	£1,388.34	0.33%	£138,209.00	£4,871.37	£4,895.73	0.50%				
9422219	Willom Community School	76	467,447	£16,154.00	£483,600.85	£496,116.54	£12,515.69	2.59%	£142,850.75	£4,483.55	£4,648.23	3.67%				
9422220	Black Combe Junior School	110	629,266	£21,760.00	£651,025.73	£667,921.66	£16,895.92	2.60%	£147,241.00	£4,579.98	£4,733.46	3.35%				
9422222	Moor Row Community Primary School	105	559,980	£17,877.00	£577,817.06	£593,016.98	£15,199.92	2.63%	£195,201.00	£4,139.98	£4,317.76	4.29%				
9422223	Moresby Primary School	109	632,178	£19,561.00	£651,738.81	£667,838.80	£16,099.99	2.47%	£154,858.93	£4,028.17	£4,172.93	3.59%				
9422224	Seascale Primary School	161	762,114	£25,125.00	£787,239.00	£808,052.97	£20,813.97	2.64%	£154,041.00	£3,932.91	£4,062.19	3.29%				
9422225	St Bees Village Primary School	43	365,790	£10,459.00	£376,249.02	£385,781.05	£9,532.02	2.59%	£200,990.75	£4,075.77	£4,297.45	5.44%				
9422228	Bransby Primary School	207	994,575	£33,823.00	£1,028,397.94	£1,055,731.33	£27,333.39	2.66%	£151,381.75	£4,236.79	£4,368.84	3.12%				
9422230	Kells Infant School	84	515,307	£17,210.00	£532,517.31	£546,231.97	£13,714.66	2.58%	£147,506.50	£4,583.46	£4,746.73	3.56%				
9422231	Monkway Junior School	107	643,090	£22,131.00	£665,221.14	£682,449.77	£17,228.63	2.59%	£148,495.50	£4,829.21	£4,990.23	3.39%				

9422237	Jericho Primary School	379	1,700,846	£54,187.00	£1,755,033.00	£1,795,596.00	£40,563.00	2.31%	£167,051.00	£4,189.93	£4,296.95	2.55%
9422806	Ingleswood Junior School	251	1,259,141	£43,323.00	£1,302,463.90	£1,336,952.84	£34,488.93	2.65%	£195,772.00	£4,568.49	£4,705.90	3.01%
9422607	Ingleswood Infant School	165	902,757	£93,217.00	£993,988.71	£958,296.70	£24,328.00	2.60%	£157,528.50	£4,705.70	£4,853.14	3.13%
9422609	Norman Street Primary School	336	1,459,527	£49,856.00	£1,509,383.09	£1,547,015.74	£37,632.65	2.49%	£153,775.00	£4,158.31	£4,273.74	2.78%
9422610	Petteril Bank School	130	801,162	£28,404.00	£829,566.31	£850,833.19	£21,266.88	2.56%	£157,032.25	£5,173.34	£5,336.93	3.16%
9422618	Newlithes Junior School	238	1,108,283	£36,472.00	£1,144,755.19	£1,175,331.30	£30,576.10	2.67%	£153,765.00	£4,163.82	£4,292.30	3.09%
9422620	Newlithes Infant School	179	874,493	£28,515.00	£903,008.28	£926,923.70	£23,915.43	2.65%	£153,008.50	£4,189.94	£4,323.55	3.19%
9422622	Belle Vue Primary School	433	1,941,876	£63,525.00	£2,005,401.00	£2,050,126.00	£44,725.00	2.23%	£170,211.00	£4,238.31	£4,341.61	2.44%
9422623	Kingmoor Junior School	328	1,469,680	£48,222.00	£1,517,901.50	£1,551,679.50	£33,778.00	2.23%	£160,539.50	£4,138.30	£4,241.28	2.49%
9422625	Kingmoor Nursery and Infant School	222	1,025,379	£34,048.00	£1,059,427.04	£1,087,537.42	£28,110.38	2.65%	£162,485.00	£4,040.28	£4,166.90	3.13%
9422626	Brook Street Primary School	190	1,045,484	£33,152.00	£1,078,635.70	£1,106,817.51	£28,181.81	2.61%	£157,152.25	£4,849.91	£4,998.24	3.06%
9422703	Silloth Primary School	156	775,833	£26,298.00	£802,130.97	£822,646.79	£20,515.82	2.56%	£154,643.25	£4,150.56	£4,282.07	3.17%
9422706	Fellview Primary School	45	358,847	£10,073.00	£368,920.15	£378,330.36	£9,410.21	2.59%	£200,422.75	£3,744.39	£3,953.50	5.58%
9422707	Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School	82	566,698	£17,804.00	£584,501.63	£599,428.72	£14,927.09	2.55%	£202,687.69	£4,656.27	£4,838.31	3.91%
9422710	Robert Ferguson Primary School	399	1,892,169	£63,847.00	£1,956,016.49	£2,008,003.61	£51,987.11	2.66%	£170,984.00	£4,473.77	£4,604.06	2.91%
9422711	Upperby Primary School	341	1,682,256	£57,153.00	£1,739,409.26	£1,784,967.75	£45,558.48	2.62%	£176,392.00	£4,583.63	£4,717.23	2.91%
9422713	Pennine Way Primary School	509	2,469,680	£82,761.00	£2,552,441.06	£2,619,825.45	£67,295.47	2.64%	£193,355.00	£4,634.92	£4,767.13	2.85%
9422714	Orgill Primary School	221	1,121,207	£39,025.00	£1,160,232.01	£1,190,744.63	£30,512.61	2.63%	£157,831.25	£4,535.75	£4,673.82	3.04%
9422716	Montreal CofE Primary School	128	739,497	£25,566.00	£765,062.96	£784,793.39	£19,730.44	2.58%	£141,469.40	£4,509.49	£4,644.62	3.00%
9422717	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	255	1,247,903	£43,487.00	£1,291,390.83	£1,325,848.68	£34,458.85	2.67%	£177,115.56	£4,590.43	£4,752.46	3.53%
9422718	Distington Community School	103	628,691	£21,239.00	£649,929.79	£666,618.53	£16,688.73	2.57%	£141,314.80	£4,860.71	£5,009.34	3.06%
9422720	Westfield Nursery and Primary School	145	848,236	£31,125.00	£879,361.47	£902,192.33	£22,830.86	2.60%	£150,001.50	£5,030.07	£5,187.52	3.13%
9422721	The Bishop Harvey Goodwin School (Church of England Voluntary Aided)	182	989,708	£36,256.00	£1,025,963.63	£1,053,014.00	£27,050.37	2.64%	£141,314.80	£4,860.71	£5,009.34	3.06%
9423002	Bolton's CofE School	78	478,607	£14,104.00	£492,710.54	£505,526.56	£12,816.03	2.60%	£199,291.38	£3,761.78	£3,926.09	4.37%
9423007	St Michael's CofE Primary School	204	955,848	£30,554.00	£986,402.12	£1,012,746.06	£26,343.95	2.67%	£153,263.00	£4,084.02	£4,213.15	3.16%
9423014	Holm Cultram Abbey CofE School	54	408,206	£12,288.00	£420,493.52	£431,369.65	£10,876.13	2.59%	£197,213.40	£4,134.82	£4,336.23	4.57%
9423015	Houghton CofE School	194	870,188	£28,948.00	£899,135.89	£918,249.75	£19,113.86	2.13%	£150,879.75	£3,856.99	£3,955.52	2.85%
9423017	Ireby CofE School	25	279,727	£7,485.00	£287,211.58	£294,347.33	£7,135.75	2.48%	£197,796.83	£3,576.59	£3,862.02	7.98%
9423020	Kirkcubbin CofE School	94	557,757	£16,424.00	£554,181.06	£568,740.57	£14,559.51	2.63%	£186,213.11	£3,914.55	£4,069.44	3.96%
9423028	Lancroft CofE Primary School	68	453,524	£12,602.00	£466,126.46	£478,166.99	£12,040.53	2.58%	£202,694.25	£3,874.00	£4,051.07	4.57%
9423023	Walton & Lees Hill CofE School	16	261,300	£6,830.00	£268,130.09	£274,810.23	£6,680.14	2.49%	£196,310.20	£4,488.74	£4,906.25	9.30%
9423030	Walton & Lees Hill CofE School	45	349,688	£9,969.00	£359,657.20	£368,901.52	£9,244.33	2.57%	£197,765.30	£3,597.60	£3,803.03	5.71%
9423031	Rockcliffe CofE School	129	631,639	£20,901.00	£652,539.61	£669,763.80	£17,224.18	2.64%	£166,391.00	£3,768.59	£3,902.11	3.54%
9423032	Shankhill CofE Primary School	36	397,151	£9,314.00	£406,465.59	£415,286.64	£8,822.06	2.55%	£197,866.10	£4,127.74	£4,372.79	5.94%
9423112	Bridekirk Dovenby CofE Primary School	143	659,711	£21,391.00	£681,102.24	£699,773.98	£18,431.75	2.71%	£142,715.85	£3,766.62	£3,895.51	3.42%
9423101	St Bridget's CofE School	76	463,251	£14,386.00	£477,636.61	£489,946.79	£12,310.18	2.58%	£172,231.46	£4,018.49	£4,180.46	4.03%
9423102	All Saints' CofE School	185	946,918	£30,789.00	£977,706.56	£1,003,441.82	£25,735.26	2.63%	£157,290.00	£4,434.68	£4,573.79	3.14%
9423103	Crosscanonby St John's CofE School	44	378,719	£10,994.00	£389,713.21	£399,673.09	£9,959.88	2.56%	£198,668.50	£4,341.93	£4,568.29	5.21%
9423112	Manypont CofE Primary School	250	1,155,552	£38,108.00	£1,193,660.26	£1,225,456.37	£31,796.11	2.66%	£156,524.75	£4,148.54	£4,275.73	3.07%
9423114	Plumbland CofE School	55	398,321	£11,679.00	£410,000.15	£420,621.53	£10,621.38	2.59%	£197,228.80	£3,868.57	£4,083.63	1.88%
9423116	Seaton St. Paul's CofE Junior School	207	949,928	£32,783.00	£982,710.74	£998,324.26	£15,613.52	1.59%	£153,012.50	£4,008.20	£4,083.63	1.88%
9423200	Captain Shaw's CofE School	25	282,102	£8,005.00	£290,106.65	£297,457.40	£7,350.75	2.59%	£195,033.65	£3,802.92	£4,096.95	7.73%
9423204	Ennerdale and Kinniside CofE Primary School	54	391,412	£11,248.00	£402,660.50	£413,123.68	£10,463.19	2.60%	£195,507.80	£3,836.16	£4,029.92	5.05%
9423206	Gosforth CofE Primary School	115	584,501	£18,819.00	£603,320.11	£619,171.33	£15,851.22	2.63%	£176,725.54	£3,709.52	£3,847.35	3.72%
9423209	St Bridget's CofE School	65	424,849	£14,533.00	£439,382.38	£450,709.30	£11,326.92	2.58%	£141,310.25	£4,585.73	£4,759.99	3.80%
9423210	St James' CofE Infant and Nursery School	107	568,875	£18,595.00	£587,470.36	£602,893.93	£15,423.57	2.63%	£146,238.00	£4,123.67	£4,267.81	3.50%
9423211	St James' CofE Junior School	159	759,343	£25,511.00	£784,854.04	£805,712.10	£20,858.06	2.66%	£148,119.25	£4,004.62	£4,135.80	3.28%
9423301	Blackford CofE Primary School	45	379,837	£10,905.00	£390,741.91	£400,856.62	£10,114.71	2.59%	£194,419.76	£4,362.71	£4,587.49	5.15%
9423302	Rosley CofE School	61	425,216	£11,769.00	£436,985.02	£448,437.38	£11,452.36	2.62%	£194,430.00	£3,976.31	£4,164.06	4.72%
9423322	St Matthew's CofE School	56	398,899	£11,174.00	£410,072.80	£420,801.92	£10,729.12	2.62%	£193,955.96	£3,859.23	£4,030.82	4.96%
9423324	Wiggonby CofE School	54	385,873	£11,444.00	£397,016.87	£407,380.33	£10,363.46	2.61%	£194,106.72	£3,757.60	£3,949.51	5.11%
9423328	St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School	95	537,490	£19,247.00	£556,737.45	£571,417.67	£14,980.22	2.64%	£138,919.00	£4,398.09	£4,532.62	3.51%
9423400	St Michael's CofE Primary School	45	376,576	£10,905.00	£387,480.55	£397,489.86	£10,009.31	2.58%	£194,559.00	£4,287.15	£4,509.57	5.19%
9423401	Borrowdale CofE Primary School	26	302,812	£8,644.00	£311,456.27	£319,376.25	£7,919.98	2.54%	£194,254.95	£4,507.74	£4,812.36	6.76%
9423414	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	162	902,915	£31,588.00	£934,502.83	£959,154.30	£24,651.47	2.64%	£137,530.80	£4,919.58	£5,071.75	3.05%
9423416	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	202	1,002,262	£33,436.00	£1,035,697.80	£1,063,413.89	£27,716.09	2.68%	£139,640.80	£4,435.93	£4,573.13	3.08%
9423506	Beckermot CofE School	75	477,452	£13,747.00	£491,199.28	£504,136.83	£12,937.55	2.63%	£194,714.16	£3,953.13	£4,125.64	3.18%
9423508	St Bega's CofE Primary School	19	260,067	£7,187.00	£267,254.17	£273,996.44	£6,742.27	2.52%	£193,987.68	£3,856.13	£4,210.99	9.20%

9423510	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	45	321,436	£11,217.00	£332,653.41	£941,259.59	£8,606.18	2.99%	£135,999.80	£4,370.08	£4,561.33	4.38%
9423514	St James' Catholic Primary School	180	899,712	£29,570.00	£929,282.11	£954,114.10	£24,831.99	2.67%	£138,190.60	£4,394.95	£4,532.91	3.14%
9423516	Walthamstow CofE School	51	378,380	£10,995.00	£389,375.42	£994,508.29	£10,132.82	2.66%	£139,359.65	£3,823.84	£4,072.52	5.20%
9423519	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	174	879,897	£30,520.00	£910,417.31	£934,666.39	£24,249.07	2.66%	£139,125.80	£4,432.71	£4,572.07	3.14%
9423520	St Begh's Catholic Junior School	241	1,176,285	£42,445.00	£1,218,730.29	£1,251,390.80	£32,600.51	2.67%	£141,417.20	£4,470.18	£4,605.45	3.03%
9423521	St Gregory and St Patrick's Catholic Infant School	181	897,869	£31,041.00	£928,909.92	£953,698.03	£24,788.11	2.67%	£140,438.40	£4,356.20	£4,493.15	3.14%
9423652	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	203	1,067,198	£34,907.00	£1,102,104.71	£1,131,348.33	£29,243.62	2.65%	£139,099.20	£4,743.87	£4,887.93	3.04%
9423661	Valley Primary School and Nursery	242	1,324,033	£43,500.00	£1,367,533.04	£1,403,985.94	£35,852.89	2.62%	£155,019.50	£5,010.39	£5,158.54	2.96%
9423662	Beckton Primary School	308	1,421,237	£45,946.00	£1,467,182.58	£1,506,073.02	£38,890.44	2.65%	£166,348.00	£4,223.49	£4,349.76	2.99%
9423663	St Herbert's CofE (VA) Primary and Nursery School	258	1,147,341	£37,084.00	£1,184,425.05	£1,206,656.00	£22,230.95	1.88%	£141,366.00	£4,042.86	£4,129.03	2.13%
9425200	Hayton CofE Primary School	121	588,336	£19,325.00	£607,660.65	£623,970.86	£16,310.21	2.68%	£160,564.78	£3,695.01	£3,829.80	3.65%
9425201	Scoby CofE Primary School	246	1,094,637	£36,384.00	£1,131,020.82	£1,161,687.44	£30,666.63	2.71%	£140,207.00	£4,027.70	£4,152.36	3.10%
9425202	Warwick Bridge Primary School	129	652,903	£21,525.00	£674,428.31	£692,492.21	£18,063.90	2.68%	£154,607.00	£4,029.62	£4,169.65	3.48%
9425203	Brampton Primary School	183	909,734	£32,111.00	£941,845.24	£966,939.96	£25,094.73	2.66%	£142,499.40	£4,368.01	£4,505.14	3.14%
9425212	Bowness-on-Solway Primary School	41	348,078	£9,909.00	£357,987.37	£367,234.35	£9,246.98	2.58%	£194,507.80	£3,987.31	£4,212.84	5.66%
9425215	Hallbankgate Village School	55	410,622	£12,095.00	£422,716.80	£433,739.55	£11,022.75	2.61%	£194,079.84	£4,157.04	£4,357.45	4.82%
9425218	Fir Ends Primary School	95	536,943	£16,127.00	£553,070.43	£567,777.78	£14,707.35	2.66%	£180,014.75	£3,926.90	£4,081.72	3.94%
9425226	Oughterside Primary School	54	419,253	£13,640.00	£432,893.38	£444,130.23	£11,236.85	2.60%	£194,120.80	£4,421.71	£4,629.80	4.71%
9424001	Beacon Hill Community School	151	1,252,851	£37,820.00	£1,290,671.33	£1,295,869.59	£5,198.26	0.40%	£251,020.00	£6,885.11	£6,919.53	0.50%
9424008	Solway Community School	136	1,102,065	£36,080.00	£1,138,145.28	£1,167,505.64	£29,360.36	2.58%	£249,291.00	£6,535.69	£6,751.58	3.30%
9424104	Netherhall School	717	4,710,517	£173,350.00	£4,883,867.49	£5,013,802.21	£129,934.72	2.66%	£236,066.07	£6,482.29	£6,663.51	2.80%
9424204	Millom School	471	3,032,598	£103,408.00	£3,136,006.23	£3,219,277.92	£83,271.69	2.66%	£247,782.00	£6,132.11	£6,308.91	2.88%
9424501	The Nelson Thomlinson School	1,010	6,008,606	£204,968.00	£6,213,573.64	£6,380,249.61	£166,675.97	2.68%	£293,043.00	£5,861.91	£6,026.94	2.82%
9424622	St Benedict's Catholic High School	920	5,728,457	£205,552.00	£5,934,008.67	£6,094,669.95	£160,961.27	2.71%	£174,847.00	£6,259.96	£6,434.92	2.79%
9424630	St John Henry Newman Catholic School	601	3,923,698	£140,052.00	£4,063,749.79	£4,173,371.14	£109,621.35	2.70%	£144,108.81	£6,521.87	£6,704.26	2.80%
9422006	Yewdale School	271	1,222,875	£43,103.00	£1,265,977.92	£1,300,186.52	£34,208.59	2.70%	£141,076.00	£4,150.93	£4,277.16	3.04%
9422007	Longtown Primary School	173	836,344	£26,089.00	£866,432.78	£889,729.25	£23,296.47	2.69%	£140,103.20	£4,198.44	£4,333.10	3.21%
9422009	Northside Primary School	62	457,574	£16,152.00	£473,726.01	£485,958.73	£12,232.73	2.58%	£137,108.00	£5,429.32	£5,626.62	3.63%
9422021	Dean CofE School	76	480,458	£13,762.00	£494,219.62	£506,732.49	£12,532.87	2.54%	£195,466.60	£3,930.57	£4,095.47	4.20%
9422024	Caldew Lea School	231	1,259,886	£43,023.00	£1,302,908.89	£1,337,226.18	£34,317.29	2.63%	£147,743.25	£5,000.72	£5,149.28	2.97%
9422024	Hensingham Primary School	132	702,419	£24,898.00	£727,316.57	£746,649.92	£19,333.35	2.66%	£138,951.20	£4,457.31	£4,603.78	3.29%
9422025	Newtown Primary School	119	742,315	£27,823.00	£770,138.12	£790,266.21	£20,128.09	2.61%	£136,618.00	£5,306.89	£5,476.04	3.19%
9422026	Great Corby Primary School	91	499,677	£15,755.00	£515,431.85	£529,143.31	£13,711.46	2.66%	£182,334.43	£3,660.41	£3,811.09	4.12%
9422030	Kirkland Church of England Academy	26	283,317	£7,916.00	£291,233.12	£298,561.67	£7,328.55	2.52%	£197,292.20	£3,613.11	£3,894.98	7.80%
9422100	Bassenthwaite Primary School	27	291,444	£8,139.00	£299,583.20	£307,223.41	£7,640.21	2.55%	£193,850.56	£3,916.02	£4,198.99	7.23%
9422107	Fairfield Primary School	396	1,750,211	£54,962.00	£1,805,178.80	£1,849,216.80	£44,038.00	2.44%	£141,536.80	£4,201.12	£4,312.32	2.65%
9422123	Lorton School	48	369,002	£10,326.00	£379,327.65	£389,176.74	£9,849.09	2.60%	£194,782.40	£3,844.69	£4,049.88	5.34%
9422124	Ellenborough Academy	37	327,311	£10,161.00	£337,471.77	£338,449.39	£977.62	0.29%	£141,948.42	£5,284.41	£5,310.84	0.50%
9422130	Seaton Academy	161	764,332	£25,437.00	£789,769.25	£811,065.34	£21,296.09	2.70%	£138,848.80	£4,042.98	£4,175.26	3.27%
9422200	Arliecion Primary School	39	290,786	£9,879.00	£300,664.87	£301,484.44	£819.58	0.27%	£136,749.60	£4,202.96	£4,223.97	0.50%
9422226	Thornhill Primary School	63	420,422	£14,399.00	£434,821.09	£436,282.76	£1,461.67	0.34%	£142,487.84	£4,640.21	£4,663.41	0.50%
9422612	Starwix School	395	1,747,135	£55,155.00	£1,802,289.65	£1,844,485.47	£42,195.82	2.34%	£141,460.47	£4,204.63	£4,311.46	2.54%
9423037	Stewkley Church of England Primary School	94	526,573	£16,944.00	£543,517.27	£557,913.97	£14,396.71	2.65%	£180,222.11	£3,864.84	£4,018.00	3.66%
9423402	Braithwaite CofE Primary School	32	316,940	£8,734.00	£325,674.33	£334,018.59	£8,344.26	2.56%	£194,403.52	£4,102.21	£4,362.97	6.36%
9423410	Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Maryport	170	917,382	£32,228.00	£949,609.64	£974,682.96	£25,073.32	2.64%	£138,023.60	£4,774.00	£4,921.49	3.09%
9423415	St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Workington	181	984,326	£34,473.00	£1,018,799.33	£1,045,740.21	£26,940.88	2.64%	£139,232.80	£4,859.48	£5,008.33	3.06%
9423653	St Cuthberts Catholic Primary School, Carlisle	122	728,214	£23,916.00	£752,129.76	£771,895.47	£19,765.71	2.63%	£138,132.00	£5,032.77	£5,194.78	3.22%
9423654	St Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School, Carlisle	198	985,508	£35,248.00	£1,020,756.24	£1,047,878.39	£27,122.16	2.66%	£139,335.65	£4,451.62	£4,588.60	3.08%
9425205	Broughton Primary School	131	624,890	£21,763.00	£646,653.46	£664,051.91	£17,398.45	2.69%	£138,146.67	£3,881.73	£4,014.54	3.42%
9425209	Eaglesfield Puddle CofE Primary Academy	185	820,376	£27,149.00	£851,125.28	£866,039.00	£14,913.72	1.75%	£140,564.00	£3,840.87	£3,921.49	2.10%
9425211	Dearham Primary School	217	1,010,150	£34,597.00	£1,044,746.57	£1,072,979.39	£28,232.83	2.70%	£138,823.20	£4,174.76	£4,304.87	3.12%
9425216	Gilliland CofE Primary School	21	263,759	£7,217.00	£270,976.21	£277,839.27	£6,863.07	2.53%	£193,806.98	£3,674.73	£4,001.54	8.89%
9425219	Flimby Primary School	114	659,567	£22,028.00	£681,595.37	£699,594.04	£17,998.67	2.64%	£157,041.30	£4,601.35	£4,759.23	3.43%
9425220	Castle Carrock School	44	355,309	£10,370.00	£365,679.41	£375,124.94	£9,445.53	2.58%	£195,217.60	£3,874.13	£4,088.80	5.44%
9425223	Crosby-on-Eden CofE School	85	486,676	£15,353.00	£502,028.71	£515,325.37	£13,296.66	2.65%	£187,216.13	£3,703.68	£3,860.11	4.22%
9424002	Energy Coast UTC	274	2,032,303	£67,818.00	£2,100,321.02	£2,110,052.23	£9,731.21	0.46%	£154,078.59	£7,103.07	£7,138.59	0.50%
9424003	Workington Academy	1,054	6,755,091	£242,236.00	£6,997,326.77	£7,186,314.83	£188,988.05	2.70%	£154,644.00	£6,492.11	£6,671.41	2.76%
9424015	The Whitehaven Academy	648	4,214,677	£153,606.00	£4,368,282.88	£4,485,791.58	£117,508.70	2.69%	£166,551.22	£6,484.15	£6,665.49	2.80%
9424103	Cockermouth School	1,111	6,455,434	£225,154.00	£6,680,588.31	£6,863,717.92	£183,129.61	2.74%	£172,303.00	£5,858.04	£6,022.87	2.81%

9423510	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	45	321,436	£11,217.00	£332,653.41	£941,259.59	£8,606.18	2.99%	£135,999.80	£4,370.08	£4,561.33	4.38%
9423514	St James' Catholic Primary School	180	899,712	£29,570.00	£929,282.11	£954,114.10	£24,831.99	2.67%	£138,190.60	£4,394.95	£4,532.91	3.14%
9423516	Walthamstow CofE School	51	378,380	£10,995.00	£389,375.42	£994,508.29	£10,132.82	2.66%	£139,359.65	£3,823.84	£4,072.52	5.20%
9423519	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	174	879,897	£30,520.00	£910,417.31	£934,666.39	£24,249.07	2.66%	£139,125.80	£4,432.71	£4,572.07	3.14%
9423520	St Begh's Catholic Junior School	241	1,176,285	£42,445.00	£1,218,730.29	£1,251,390.80	£32,600.51	2.67%	£141,417.20	£4,470.18	£4,605.45	3.03%
9423521	St Gregory and St Patrick's Catholic Infant School	181	897,869	£31,041.00	£928,909.92	£953,698.03	£24,788.11	2.67%	£140,438.40	£4,356.20	£4,493.15	3.14%
9423652	St Bede's Catholic Primary School	203	1,067,198	£34,907.00	£1,102,104.71	£1,131,348.33	£29,243.62	2.65%	£139,099.20	£4,743.87	£4,887.93	3.04%
9423661	Valley Primary School and Nursery	242	1,324,033	£43,500.00	£1,367,533.04	£1,403,985.94	£35,852.89	2.62%	£155,019.50	£5,010.39	£5,158.54	2.96%
9423662	Beckton Primary School	308	1,421,237	£45,946.00	£1,467,182.58	£1,506,073.02	£38,890.44	2.65%	£166,348.00	£4,223.49	£4,349.76	2.99%
9423663	St Herbert's CofE (VA) Primary and Nursery School	258	1,147,341	£37,084.00	£1,184,425.05	£1,206,656.00	£22,230.95	1.88%	£141,366.00	£4,042.86	£4,129.03	2.13%
9425200	Hayton CofE Primary School	121	588,336	£19,325.00	£607,660.65	£623,970.86	£16,310.21	2.68%	£160,564.78	£3,695.01	£3,829.80	3.65%
9425201	Scoby CofE Primary School	246	1,094,637	£36,384.00	£1,131,020.82	£1,161,687.44	£30,666.63	2.71%				

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

Report Title: Early Years Funding – DfE Extension of Entitlements Consultation

Meeting date: 18 September 2023

Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In Spring 2023 the government announced that they will be extending the early years free entitlements meaning that all working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child turns 9 months old to when they start school. The extension of free entitlement will be rolled out in stages starting from April 2024.
- 1.2 The DfE launched a consultation seeking views on their proposal to introduce a new funding formula from April 2024 for distributing funding to local authorities for 2-year olds and under free entitlements. They also propose to extend the eligibility for the early years pupil premium (EYPP) and the disability access fund (DAF) and introduce changes to the local funding rules.
- 1.3 The DfE have published illustrative modelling which indicates that the hourly funding rate for Cumberland is significantly below the average national rate. The final funding rates for 2024/25 will be published in the autumn. Appended to this paper is the LA response to the consultation which closed on 8 September.
- 1.4 The extension of the early years entitlements and the changes to the local funding rules means that consideration needs to be given to how early years providers are funded at a local level. From 1 April 2024 LAs must pass-through at least 95% of the new 2-year old and under funding its receives to early years providers. It is recommended to Schools Forum that an element of this funding is centrally retained to support the delivery of the roll out of the new entitlements.
- 1.5 Modelling of the proposed new local funding formulae for 2-year olds and under and draft consultation with Cumberland early years providers and schools will brought to the next Schools Forum meeting in November for consideration. The consultation outcome will be presented at the 16 January 2024 meeting when the Schools forum will be asked to make a

recommendation to Cabinet who will decide on the final new funding formulae at its meeting in February 2024.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that early years providers are appropriately funded is supportive of the Council Plan “to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents” and the priority to “address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals.”

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the extension of early years entitlements for 2-year olds and under and the changes to the local funding rules and the LA’s response to the DfE’s consultation;
- note the recommendation that a portion of the new funding is centrally retained to support the rollout of the new free entitlements;
- note the requirement to consult early years providers and maintained schools on the new local funding formula and timeline for doing this.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

Background

- 4.1 Currently all parents of 3-4 year olds can access 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year and working parents can access an additional 15 hours of free entitlement. Parents of disadvantaged 2-year olds can access 15 hours of free entitlement. The extension of the free entitlement means that all working parents will be able to access 30 hours of free entitlement for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child turns 9 months old. This will be rolled out in stages:
- From April 2024 all working parents of 2-year olds can access 15 hours per week
 - From September 2024 all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 15 hours per work extending to 30 hours from September 2025
- 4.2 Funding for free entitlement is allocated to local authorities through a separate funding formula for 2-year olds and 3-4 year olds through the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The DfE are not proposing to make any changes to way funding is allocated to local authorities for 3-4 year olds or the maintained nursery school (MNS) supplementary funding. However, the current funding formula for 2-year olds, which comprises of an hourly base rate multiplied by an area cost adjustment, is designed to fund disadvantaged 2-year olds only and the DfE are proposing new funding formulae that is

suitable for a 2-year old and under cohort which includes working parent families.

Proposed New 2-Year Olds and Under Funding Formulae

- 4.3 The DfE's proposal is to allocate funding at local authority level using the same shape of their existing 3-4 year old funding formula for both the new 2-year olds and the under 2-year olds funding formulae which will comprise of:

(base rate + additional needs) x area cost adjustment (ACA) = LA hourly funding rate

- 4.4 The funding rates will vary by age, with higher rates for under 2-year olds reflecting the difference in costs due to higher staffing ratios. The proposed new additional needs factor is to reflect the relative differences in general levels of disadvantage between areas. This factor is weighted at 10.5% of the total funding available at a national level of which 8% is targeted to deprivation with the remaining 89.5% of funding through the base rate. However, in a difference to the 3-4 year old funding formula, which only uses FSM eligibility as measure of deprivation, it is proposed to use a combination of both FSM and IDACI in the new 2-year olds and under funding formulae as follows:

- 4% Free School Meals eligibility (FSM)*
- 4% Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
- 1.5% English as an additional language (EAL)
- 1% Disability Living Allowance

*a proxy measure is used based on FSMs in nursery and primary schools

- 4.5 The DfE believe that the introduction IDACI, which measures the proportion of children in an area living in income-deprived families, would target more funding towards more densely deprived areas as it looks at smaller geographical areas. This means that areas with generally low levels of deprivation will still receive deprivation funding if they have 'pockets' of deprivation. They also believe that taking a 'basket of measures' approach more accurately reflects relative differences between local authority areas.

- 4.6 Although the DfE are not proposing to make changes to the current 3-4 year old funding formula at this stage they have committed to review the additional needs factor and consider whether to also introduce IDACI there.

- 4.7 As with the 3-4 year old funding formula the ACA cost adjustment will comprise of:

- 80% General Labour Market (GLM)
- 10% Nursery & Infant Primary Rates Cost Adjustment (premises costs)
- 10% Costs assumed not to vary from authority to authority

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) % Disability Access Fund (DAF)

- 4.8 Currently only 3-4 year olds are eligible for EYPP and DAF funding. The proposal is to extend eligibility so that from 2024/25 children accessing any of the free entitlements who met the existing criteria for EYPP and DAF funding will be eligible.

Impact on Funding Rates

- 4.9 The current funding rate, for disadvantaged 2-year olds in Cumberland is £5.63. The DfE have published illustrative hourly funding rates at LA level for 2024/25 as summarised in the table below:

	Cumberland	National Average	National Range
Under 2-year olds	£9.84	£11.06	£9.33 - £16.17
2-year olds	£7.25	£8.17	£6.89 - £11.86

- 4.10 Cumberland has the sixth lowest funding rates out of 151 authorities. The following table shows the composition of the hourly rates for Cumberland:

	Under 2-year olds	2-year olds
Basic	£8.98	£6.64
FSM	£0.35	£0.25
IDACI	£0.36	£0.25
EAL	£0.03	£0.02
DLA	£0.12	£0.09
Total	£9.84	£7.25

- 4.11 Final rates will be published in autumn along with the rates for 3-4 year old funding. The illustrative figures demonstrate that the proposed introduction of the new IDACI measure into the 2-year olds and under funding formulae has had a very limited positive impact on Cumberland's under 2-year olds rate. The illustrative rates for Cumberland are also significantly below the national average.

Proposed Changes to Rules for Local Funding Formulae

- 4.12 Currently the following rules apply to the 3-4 year old local funding formula:
- LAs must plan to pass-through at least 95% of the funding that it receives to early years providers.
 - LAs local authorities are required to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund to support children who are taking up the 3-4 year old free entitlements, targeted at children with lower level and emerging SEN.
 - LAs can use a restricted number of supplements in their 3-4 year old funding formula to channel additional funding (up to a cap of 12% of planned formula funding to providers) meeting criteria set by the LA.
- 4.13 The DfE are proposing to apply these same rules to the 2-year old and under funding formulae. The pass-through rate will continue to be 95% for 2024/25 but they intend to increase the pass-through rate to 97% as the quantum of funding into the early years block will increase when the fall roll out of the new entitlements has been reached. Local authorities can continue to apply for a

disapplication within defined purposes to disapply the pass-through rate which will be considered by the DfE on a case-by-case basis.

- 4.14 This change in the local funding rules should not have an impact on Westmorland & Furness as currently 99.14% of the 3-4 year old funding is planned to be passed to 3-4 year old early providers in 2023/24 and historically, Cumberland (and previously Cumbria) has not retained any of the disadvantaged 2-year old funding centrally and the full hourly rate has been planned to be passed onto providers. Going forward, there will be central costs associated with the delivery of the new childcare offers and it's recommended to Schools Forum that a portion of the new entitlement funding is centrally retained. Further details will be available at the next Schools Forum meeting.
- 4.15 Cumberland currently only uses the mandatory supplementary Deprivation factor and a Quality factor to distribute the former teacher pay and pension grants to school-based providers in its 3-4 year old funding formula. Other allowable factors include:
- Flexibility: to support providers offering flexible provision for parents – e.g. out of hours / wraparound;
 - Rurality / Sparsity: to enable local authorities to support providers serving rural areas less likely to benefit from economies of scale;
 - English as an additional language: to recognise differences in attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage between children whose first language is English, and those who have English as an additional language (EAL).

DfE Consultation

- 4.16 The DfE sought views on their proposed changes in how local authorities are funded for the new entitlements and launched a consultation on 21 July with a closing date for responses of 8 September. Appended to this paper is a copy of the Cumberland responses to the consultation questions (in blue). The LA broadly agrees the proposals but the formula does not take into account rurality and this may impact on viability of early years providers as they will have fewer paying parents to subsidise free entitlement.

Local Consultation

- 4.17 The LA is obliged to consult with Schools Forum, schools and early years providers on any changes to the existing local funding formulae for 3-4 year olds, and the new 2-year olds and under 2-year olds local funding formulae.
- 4.18 Consideration will need to be given as to whether the same supplementary factors are introduced for the 2-year olds and under local funding formulae as for the current 3-4 year old funding formula or if new supplementary factors should be introduced. It is not yet known when the outcome of the DfE consultation will be published however the timescales for consulting and finalising the shape of the funding formula will be tight as the 2024/25 Dedicated Schools Grant budget, which will include the proposed centrally retained Early Years budget for which the authority must receive Schools

Forum approval for, is due to be presented on 16 January 2024 to meet with DfE deadlines.

4.19 The timeline for this is as follows:

Date	Task
2 November 2023	Schools Forum consulted on the proposed new 2-year olds and under early years funding formulae for 2024/25 and the format of the consultation
9 November 2023	Launch consultation with early years providers and schools (incorporating any changes following the schools forum meeting)
30 November 2023	Consultation ends
16 January 2024	Schools Forum Meeting to agree 2024/25 DSG budget including Early Years centrally retained funding and make recommendation to Cabinet on new 2-year old and under funding formulae for 2024/25
tbc February 2024	Cabinet – to decide on new 2-year old and under funding formulae for 2024/25
29 February 2024	Confirm school budget shares for maintained schools including early years funding
tbc April 2024	1 st funding payment to early years providers

5.0 Options

5.1 Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the extension of early years entitlements for 2-year olds and under and the changes to the local funding rules and the LA;s response to the DfE’s consultation;
- note the recommendation that a portion of the new funding is centrally retained to support the rollout of the new free entitlements;
- note the requirement to consult early years providers and maintained schools on the new local funding formula and timeline for doing this.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

6 September 2023

Appendices:

1. Cumberland Response to the DfE Early Years Funding – Extensions of Entitlements Consultation

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Westmorland
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Consultation Questions:

Section 1: National funding distribution for entitlements for children aged 2-years-old and under

Introduction:

These questions relate to proposals regarding the national funding formula that will be used to distribute funding to local authorities for 2-year-olds and under from April 2024 in light of the new entitlements. There are also questions in this section relating to proposals to extend eligibility for the disability access fund (DAF) and early years pupil premium (EYPP) to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024.

Q1: Do you agree that we should introduce IDACI as a new proxy, and use it alongside FSM as a basket of measures for deprivation in the additional needs factor in the new national funding formula for 9-month-olds to 2-year-olds?

No, the illustrative modelling shows that in the main urban local authorities benefit from the introduction of IDACI whereas the use of IDACI has a very marginal positive impact for a small number of rural authorities but the majority would benefit if the FSM measure alone is used. Also, by using IDACI this will be inconsistent with the current 3-4 year old funding formula which only uses FSM.

If the DfE proposes to use the IDACI then the approach should be consistent across the 2-year olds, under 2-year olds and 3-4 year olds funding formula and local authorities negatively affected by the change should be protected.

Q2: Do you agree that we should continue to use EAL and DLA as proxies in the additional needs factor in the new funding formula?

Yes, in principle agree that the funding formula should be consistent with the existing 3-4 year old funding formula methodology.

Q3: Do you agree with our proposed approach to the area cost adjustment in the new national funding formula?

No.

In principle agree use of an ACA in the new funding formula, consistent with existing 3-4 year olds funding formula.

GLM data used for calculating each local authority's ACA is proposed to be based on 2013 to 2014 data it does not reflect current geographical variations in costs.

ACA doesn't recognise additional cost pressures faced by providers in rurally sparse authorities who are unable to benefit from economies of scale available to urban providers, and where, as numbers are lower, small fluctuations in take up can result in closure and lack of access to local good quality provision. Consideration should be given to recognising this additional cost in the ACA.

As one of the lowest funded local authorities, minimum funding rates should apply and be nearer to the national average. Our early years providers struggle to recruit and retain skilled practitioners on the level of funding available for free entitlement resulting in staff leaving the sector, and many providers struggle to remain financially viable as they need high numbers to be sustainable.

The funding rates provided to LAs are too low and don't reflect the additional cost of providing discretionary rural or sparsity supplements in their local funding formula.

Q4: Overall, do you agree with our proposed approach of following the same structure and weightings for the new national funding formula as in the existing 3-and-4-year-old formula?

Yes, in principle agree that the funding methodology used should be consistent with the existing 3-4 year old funding formula.

Q5: Do you agree that we should extend DAF eligibility to all children accessing the entitlements from April 2024?

Yes

Q6: Do you agree that we should extend EYPP eligibility to all children accessing a free childcare entitlement from April 2024?

Yes, however EYPP eligibility excludes working parents on low incomes. The number of eligible children in this authority is declining due to the income threshold not being increased for a number years meaning that low income working families who are struggling with the cost of living are not eligible.

Section 2: Impact of proposals

Introduction:

Alongside the consultation document, we have published modelling which provides illustrative 2024-25 funding rates and allocations for the entitlements for 2-year-olds and under.

We propose to give each local authority rates in 2024-25 for the 2-year-old and 9-month-old up to 2-year-old entitlements calculated using the formula set out above. These funding rates are for a new working parent entitlement for under 2s, and for a new mixed cohort of the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlement for 2-year-olds, and they will be calculated using a new funding formula. This means that there is no baseline against which they should be compared.

Year-to-year protections for these funding rates may be desirable in future years. We will keep this under review and consider whether any protections are appropriate when we are setting rates for 2025-26.

Q7: Do you agree with this approach?

No, in principle the approach is agreed however the baseline funding rate is too low and does not provide sufficient funds particularly to small providers in this authority who struggle to remain financially viable.

Year on year protections are absolutely essential.

Section 3: Local authority funding formulae for childcare entitlements

Introduction:

With the expansion of the entitlements, we are proposing to extend the current framework of rules for the distribution of entitlements funding by local authorities to the existing offer for disadvantaged 2-year-olds and to the new offers for working parents of children aged 2-years-old and under. The questions in this section focus on the key features of this framework as well as seek views on the current processes around SEND funding and options for change.

Q8: Do you agree a pass through rate of 95% should be applied to each funding stream in 2024-25: the 3-and-4-year-old universal and 30 hours offer; the two-year-old disadvantaged and working parent offers; and the 9 months to two-year-old offer?

Yes

Q9: Do you agree that the same list of allowable supplements should be applied to every entitlement funding stream, capped at a maximum 12 percent of planned funding for that entitlement?

Yes

Q10: Do you agree that the deprivation supplement should be mandatory for every entitlement funding stream?

Yes

Q11: Do you agree with our proposal that local authorities should establish a special educational needs inclusion fund for children aged 9 months to 2-years-old who are taking up the entitlements?

Yes, in principle however due to high incidence of SEN this will impact on the base rate we can pass onto providers. The introduction of a separate additional funding factor for SENIF at LA level is desirable.

Q12: What more can be done to support local authorities and providers to reduce bureaucracy and streamline SENIF processes whilst also ensuring the system remains fair and financially sustainable?

The introduction of a separate factor within the funding formula for SENIF like the DAF and EYPP so that base funding rates for providers are not impacted. The sharing of examples of best practice linked to evidence of improved outcomes would be helpful.

Q13: Would local authorities and providers find it helpful for the Department to be more prescriptive about the operation of local SENIFs?

No, the current guidance is sufficient.

Section 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction:

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

Public authorities include the Department for Education, local authorities, governing bodies.

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

Q14: Do you have any comments about the potential impact, both positive and negative, of our proposals on individuals on the basis of their protected characteristics? Where any negative impacts have been identified, do you know how these might be mitigated?

Early years providers rely on privately funded places as a significant proportion of their income. When parents of younger children access the funded places, this will result in a net decrease in income for providers. We feel this will also potentially risk sufficiency of provision in some of our rural areas in particular. This could make access to childcare for families with protected characteristics more challenging and impact on children's outcomes.

Any Other Comments

Q15: Are there any other comments that you would like to make about our proposals set out in this consultation?

A significant number of rural local authorities are on the minimum funding levels. The formula doesn't take into account additional challenges faced by rural counties: the need to provide EY provision in sparsely populated areas so parents can access childcare locally; disproportionately higher running costs for small rural providers.

The proposed rates are far too low. EY providers report financial pressures as free entitlement funding doesn't cover costs of provision with staffing accounting for up to 90% of costs. The continued rising costs of food and energy and a significant recruitment crisis in which providers can't compete with the pay rates of other sectors means more settings will close resulting in placement sufficiency and educational outcomes issues.

There is a risk that providers will prioritise working families to increase fee income therefore disadvantaging more vulnerable children.

The proposals don't address this underfunding issue. The hourly rate needs to be increased significantly to prevent a childcare sufficiency crisis.

Revenue and capital funding should be made available to local authorities, particularly for the 9 months to 2-years olds provision, to develop new places in areas where sufficiency has been identified as an issue due to the extension of the free entitlements.

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: Homes for Ukraine Education & Childcare Grant
Meeting date: 18 September 2023
Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 During financial 2022/23 local authorities were able to claim a government grant to help support the education of children that arrived into the UK via the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme. Grant totalling £0.824m has been received relating to HfU children living in Cumberland. The funding must be spent by 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 This paper informs the Schools Forum of the actual spend to date against the grant of £0.646m relating to Cumberland and the Schools Forum are asked to support the proposal to allocate the remaining balance of £0.178m by increasing each school's/early years provider's existing HfU grant allocation by 27.6%.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that schools are appropriately funded is supportive of the Council Plan "to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents" and the priority to "address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals."

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are asked to:
- note the balance remaining against the grant of £0.178m and;
 - support the proposed methodology for allocating the remaining balance to schools and early years providers by uplifting each school/early years provider's allocation by 27.6% as shown in the modelling at Appendix 1.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

4.1 A new one-off grant to support the education and childcare costs of children arriving into the UK via the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) visa scheme between 1 March and 28 February 2023 was made available to local authorities.

4.2 The grant allocation is based on an amount per child per submitted claims by the local authority, the level of which depends on when the child arrived into the UK, as shown in the below table:

Phase (Age)	Q1 arrivals (between 1 Mar – 31 May 22) Funding Per Child	Q2 arrivals (between 1 Jun – 31 Aug 22) Funding Per Child	Q3 arrivals (between 1 Sep – 30 Nov 22) Funding Per Child	Q4 arrivals (between 1 Dec 22– 28 Feb 23) Funding Per Child
Early Years (2 - 4)	£3,000	£2,250	£1,500	£750
Primary (5 - 10)	£6,580	£4,935	£3,290	£1,645
Secondary (11 - 18)	£8,755	£6,566	£4,378	£2,189

4.3 The grant conditions, which are available [here](#), state that the grant must only be used for the provision of education and childcare for children ages 2 – 18 and for any funding passed onto the child's education or childcare setting the process should be as simple as possible.

4.4 For Cumberland the total amount of grant received was £0.824m of which £0.646m has been allocated to schools and early years providers based on the per pupil rates in the table at para 4.2 and when they were admitted to a school/early years provision. This leaves a balance remaining of £ £0.178m which must be spent by 31 March 2024.

4.5 The under allocation has arisen due to a number of reasons including not all children for which funding has been claimed for have attended school or early years provision during their stay in the UK either because they were not at compulsory school age or for other reasons; they did not start attending school as soon as they arrived into the UK and some children have returned to the Ukraine.

4.6 Given that the grant needs to be spent by 31 March 2024 and feedback from schools has indicated that the costs associated with supporting the education costs of HfU children has invariably been more than the grant allocation they have received it is proposed that the remaining grant allocation is distributed to those schools/early years providers that have already received HfU funding and uplift each school's total allocation by 27.6%. As the grant received is based on the guest home address where the child is living this will include payments to schools/early providers for HfU children living in Cumberland but attending schools/early years provision in Westmorland & Furness.

4.7 Appendix 1 shows the total grant funding paid to date to each school/early years provider relating to HfU children living in Cumberland and the proposed impact of the additional grant uplift of 27.6%.

4.8 Examples of the use of the grant include:

- to provide a place for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds accessing the 2-year-old, universal or 30 hours entitlements
- the provision of a suitable place for all other children up to the age of 18 (including time for staff resource and travel)
- funding placement of larger clusters of children into schools and registered early years settings, including the costs of additional and specialist teaching, non-teaching and administrative staff
- providing suitable travel arrangements, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school or suitable provision
- the provision of specialist and bespoke services, such as support for children with additional needs, and resources (this may include education materials for schools)
- free school meals and school uniform (including school bags, provisions for example, water bottles, etc.)
- to provide access to extra-curricular activities for example, sports
- on community services whose provision benefits the children
- any other reasonable costs associated with the provision of support for the children

4.9 Some schools/early providers may no longer have HfU children in attendance, however, the proposed additional grant can be used to offset costs already incurred. As with all other specific grants, schools must retain records of spend relating to the grant for audit purposes and evidence of compliance with the grant conditions.

5.0 Options

5.1 Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the balance remaining against the grant of £0.178m and;
- support the proposed methodology for allocating the remaining balance to schools and early years providers by uplifting each school/early years provider's allocation by 27.6% as shown in the modelling at Appendix 1.

or

- not support the proposed methodology and suggest an alternative methodology for allocating the remaining balance of £0.178m.

5.2 Any alternative methodology would need to be simple and straight forward so that the grant can be allocated to schools/early years providers in a timely manner particularly as there is a requirement to spend the grant by 31 March 2024.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

6 September 2023

Appendices:

1. Summary of Cumberland Proposed Additional HfU Grant Allocations to Schools and Early Years Providers

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SF 180923 Homes for Ukraine Grant - Appendix 1

Summary of Cumberland Proposed Additional HfU Grant Allocations to Schools and Early Years Providers

DfE	School	Number of HfU Children	Total Grant allocated to date	Additional to allocate (27.6%)
	1001 Cleator Moor Nursery	1	£750	£207
	2006 Yewdale	1	£6,580	£1,814
	2007 Longtown Primary School	1	£3,290	£907
	2022 Caldew Lea	1	£3,290	£907
	2026 Great Corby School	2	£9,580	£2,641
	2027 Great Orton School	3	£14,805	£4,082
	2030 Kirkland CE Academy	1	£0	£0
	2069 Thomlinson Junior School	1	£6,580	£1,814
	2107 Fairfield Primary School	5	£19,740	£5,442
	2144 Victoria Infant, Workington	2	£6,580	£1,814
	2148 Ashfield Junior School	1	£4,935	£1,361
	2224 Seascale Primary School	1	£1,500	£414
	2227 Thwaites School	3	£14,515	£4,002
	2228 Bransty Primary School	1	£2,250	£620
	2230 Kells Infant	1	£0	£0
	2237 Jericho School	1	£3,290	£907
	2612 Stanwix	7	£31,255	£8,617
	2618 Newlathes Junior	1	£0	£0
	2622 Belle Vue Primary	1	£4,935	£1,361
	2625 Kingmoor Infant School	2	£11,515	£3,175
	2703 Silloth Primary	2	£6,580	£1,814
	3015 Houghton CE School	1	£4,935	£1,361
	3017 Ireby	3	£8,225	£2,268
	3020 Lanercost	2	£3,290	£907
	3101 Crosscanonby St John's CE School	1	£4,935	£1,361
	3102 All Saints CofE School	1	£1,645	£454
	3132 Broughton Cof E School	3	£12,120	£3,341

3206 Gosforth CE School	2	£13,160	£3,628
3322 St Matthews	1	£1,645	£454
3453 St Cuthberts, Windermere	1	£0	£0
3500 Beckermert CE Primary School	1	£6,580	£1,814
3508 St Bega's CE School	3	£13,910	£3,835
3514 St James RC Millom	1	£1,645	£454
3516 Waberthwaite	1	£0	£0
3521 St Gregory & St Patrick's Catholic Infant School	2	£6,580	£1,814
3653 St Cuthberts, Carlisle	2	£6,580	£1,814
3654 St Margaret Mary's	1	£4,935	£1,361
3663 St Herbert's	3	£8,975	£2,474
4007 Workington Academy	2	£13,132	£3,620
4008 Solway	1	£4,378	£1,207
4103 Cockermouth School	8	£54,719	£15,085
4204 Millom School	1	£6,566	£1,810
4501 The Nelson Thomlinson School	9	£45,964	£12,672
4622 St Benedict's Catholic High School	5	£24,078	£6,638
5200 Hayton CE Primary School	1	£3,290	£907
5203 Brampton Primary School	3	£14,805	£4,082
5205 Broughton Primary Academy	2	£8,225	£2,268
5209 Eaglesfield Paddle CE Primary School	4	£13,160	£3,628
5211 Dearham	2	£13,160	£3,628
5220 Castle Carrock	1	£3,290	£907
5223 Crosby on Eden	2	£6,580	£1,814
5226 Oughterside Primary School	2	£4,500	£1,241
5402 Trinity School	3	£15,322	£4,224
5405 Dallam	1	£6,566	£1,810
5412 William Howard School	13	£72,231	£19,913
5413 Caldew School	2	£13,132	£3,620
5414 Keswick School Academy	1	£6,566	£1,810
5414 Keswick School Academy	5	£35,020	£9,655
6906 Central	2	£15,321	£4,224
Austin Friars	2	£9,580	£2,641

Little Jems Nursery	1	£3,000	£827
Mary Platt Pre-School	1	£2,250	£620
Grand Total	142	£645,965	£178,084

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

Report Title: Projected Maintained School Balances and Excess Surplus Balances Outcome

Meeting date: 18 September 2023

Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the maintained schools projected net surplus balance position of (£0.721m) as at 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 It also presents the outcome of the excess surpluses balance policy which was applied against maintained school balances as at 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 The maintained schools representatives of the Schools Forum are asked to consider whether the excess surplus balances policy should continue to be applied in future years.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Managing the level of school balances is supportive of the Council Plan “to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents” and the priority to “address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals.”

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The maintained schools’ Schools Forum representative members are asked to:
 - note the maintained schools’ balances projected net surplus position for 2023/24 of (£0.721m);
 - note the outcome of the excess surplus balances policy;and

- decide if the excess surplus balances policy should continue to be applied in future years.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

Projected Maintained School Balances

- 4.1 As at 31 March 2023 the net surplus balances on maintained schools was (£4.806m). The net surplus balance position represented a decrease of £2.484m from the position as at 31 March 2022.
- 4.2 Based on school submitted May budget plans for 2023/24 a net surplus balance of (£0.721m) is projected as at 31 March 2024. The table below shows a breakdown of this projection separately by surpluses and deficits:

	2022/23 Actual		2023/24 Forecast		Change in value (£)
	Number of Schools	Total Value (£)	Number of Schools	Total Value (£)	
Schools with Surpluses	108	(£8.010m)	106	(£5.208m)	£2.802m
Schools with Deficits	19	£3.204m	21	£4.487m	£1.283m
Total	127	(£4.806m)	127	(£0.721m)	£4.085m

- 4.3 One school is expected to convert to academy status in the Autumn term and the surplus for this school at the end of 31 March 2023 was (£0.065m) and if they convert this will have a further negative impact on the overall net surplus position.
- 4.4 The 21 schools (17%) that have proposed deficit budgets for 2023/24 are required to submit a deficit recovery plan. Eight schools have complied with this mandatory requirement however 13 schools have not yet submitted their plans and have been requested to submit their recovery plans with their revised October budget plan submission.
- 4.5 Whilst maintained schools are predicting significant budget pressures, subsequent to the submission of their May budget plans the government have announced details of the new Teachers Pay Additional Grant to help schools meet the costs of the 2023/24 teacher pay award. The total expected grant for Cumberland mainstream and Special/PRUs schools is (£1.194m) therefore after taking this into account the revised projected net surplus balance as at 31 March 2024 is (£1.915m).
- 4.6 The DfE have also announced details of the schools funding settlement for 2024/25 which reflects inflationary increases for schools in the National Funding Formula of 2.4% and a minimum funding guarantee of 0.5% against their previous year's funding baselines, although the final school funding formula for Cumberland is subject to consultation and has not yet been confirmed. Despite this additional funding given the inflationary pressures that schools are faced with it is likely that school balances will continue to fall and this position is not sustainable.

- 4.7 Maintained schools are responsible for managing their own budgets and taking the necessary decisions to ensure that they maintain a healthy balance position although at times it is recognised that this can be extremely challenging. The school balances are being closely monitored by the finance team and support is available for those schools that are struggling to balance their budgets however the capacity to do this work is limited as the team is only small and currently supporting both Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness authorities. Schools are also encouraged to make use of the schools resource management webpages and tools.
- 4.8 The government have also recently announced that nationally £40m will be available to support maintained schools in financial difficulty although at time of writing this paper the details of how this funding will be targeted has not yet been published.

Outcome of Excess Surplus Balance Policy

- 4.9 As reported to Schools Forum June, 36 schools that ended the financial year 2022/23 with an excess greater than 8% (primary, nursery, special schools) and 5% (secondary schools) of their total delegated budget shares were required to provide justifications and supporting evidence for the excess amount about these thresholds. The total value of the excess amount was £1.544m.
- 4.10 The returns have been reviewed by the finance team. The majority of justifications met the criteria in the policy with 48% of the total excess balance relating to schemes of building work, furnishing or equipping, 24% for schemes of repair, 12% relating to expenditure planned for in 22/23 but occurring early in 23/24, 10% relating to unspent grants, and 6% for other reasons. The returns were reviewed by the Assistant Director for SEND, Education & Inclusion, 20 schools have received approval to retain their excess balance and 10 schools have received conditional approval subject to providing further evidence by 30 September.
- 4.11 DfE considers the holding of small surplus balances by schools to be part of sensible financial planning but also that school budget shares should be spent for the benefit of pupils in school at that time. The surplus school balances policy puts appropriate challenge on to schools with excess surplus balances. However, given the amount of resource time taken up by schools in preparing and collating their evidence for their justifications and the finance team in reviewing each justification and preparing the report for the Assistant Director against the low value of the excess claw back amount the maintained schools representatives of the Schools Forum are asked to consider whether completing this exercise on an annual basis is still of benefit in terms of managing the levels of maintained schools surpluses balances.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 Maintained schools representatives of the Schools Forum are asked to decide whether to:

- continue to apply the excess surplus balances policy in future years;

or

- not apply the excess surplus balances policy in future years.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

6 September 2023

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CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

Report Title: High Needs Budget Monitoring Q1

Meeting date: 18 September 2023

Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the High Needs (HN) Block deficit position as at 1 June 2023 which is forecast to be £17.975m as at 31 March 2024, an increase of £1.380m compared to the closing deficit at the end of financial year 2022/23 of £16.595m.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 The utilisation of the HN Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is supportive of the Council Plan “to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents” and the priority to “address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals.”

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are recommended to note the current projection on the HN budget as at 1 June 2023.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

Background

- 4.1 A balanced High Needs budget has been set for 2023/24 with no planned transfer to or from reserves. The initial budget available for the HN Block was £35.881m based on the provisional HN Block allocation from central government as confirmed in December 2022. There were no transfers from the Schools Block.

Budget Revisions

- 4.2 Since the initial budget was set the HN block allocation has been updated to reflect adjusted recouplement for HN places as shown in the table below:

	2023/24
	£m
High Needs allocation before recoupment for place funding in academies and FE institutions	38.757
Less recoupment for high needs places in academies and FE institutions	(2.876)
Initial Budget	35.881
DfE Recoupment adjustment for HN places AY 2023/24	(0.277)
Total High Needs Budget Q1	35.604

Projected Outturn

- 4.3 Performance against the High Needs Block budget is monitored monthly with reports presented to senior management and to Executive on a quarterly basis, as well as to each Schools Forum meeting.
- 4.4 The table below presents the projection against the budget as at Q1. This shows that the budget is projected to overspend by £1.380m at 31 March 2024:

Description	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
Special Schools - High Needs	9.945	10.302	0.357
Schools -Resourced Provision	0.351	0.367	0.016
Independent & Other Placements	4.640	4.181	(0.459)
Central SEN (Equipment, BVI, Audio etc)	0.043	0.033	(0.010)
SEND Residential Placements	1.975	1.503	(0.472)
High Needs - Invest to Save	0.000	0.209	0.209
High Needs - Post 16 ISPs	0.907	0.642	(0.265)
High Needs - Post 16 FE	0.939	0.570	(0.368)
High Needs - Top Up	9.783	12.157	2.374
Virtual School (CLA Inclusion)	0.205	0.205	0.000
Inclusion Teams	1.625	1.625	0.000
PRU Budgets	5.150	5.150	0.000
Mobility and Independence Contract	0.012	0.012	0.000
Share of de-delegated (special schools)	0.029	0.029	0.000
Total DSG to transfer to DSG HNB reserve	35.604	36.984	1.380

4.5 The key Variances are:

- Special Schools £0.357m. The pressure mainly relates to new and amendments to EHCP top-ups since the start of the year of £0.308m and the remaining balance relates to pre-existing budget pressures of £0.049m.
- Independent Specialist Placements (ISPs) & Other Placements (£0.459m). The forecast is based on current and known new day ISPs coming through the system. The forecast expenditure for day ISPs is predicted to be £2.792m. The overall number of ISPs has reduced by 2 from 52 to 50 as at Q1 and the average full year cost of a day ISP is £54,767 as at Q1. There have been 3 new placements and 4 ended placements and one transfer to a residential placement since March 2023. Also included within this budget line is forecast EHCP top-ups for children placed in Westmorland & Furness schools of £0.590m,

children placed in other local authorities of £0.255m and forecast costs associated with children being educated other than at a school (EOTAS) of £0.544m.

- Residential placements (£0.472m). The forecast is based on current and known new placements. The overall number of residential placements as at Q1 is 19. Since March 2023 there have been 3 new placements and one transfer to an independent day placement. The average full year cost of a residential placement is £80,414 as at Q1.
- Post-16 ISPs (£0.265m). The forecast is based on current and known new placements. The overall number of Post-16 ISPs at Q1 is 21. There has been one new and one ended placement since March 2023. The average cost of a post-16 ISP is £34,314 as at Q1.

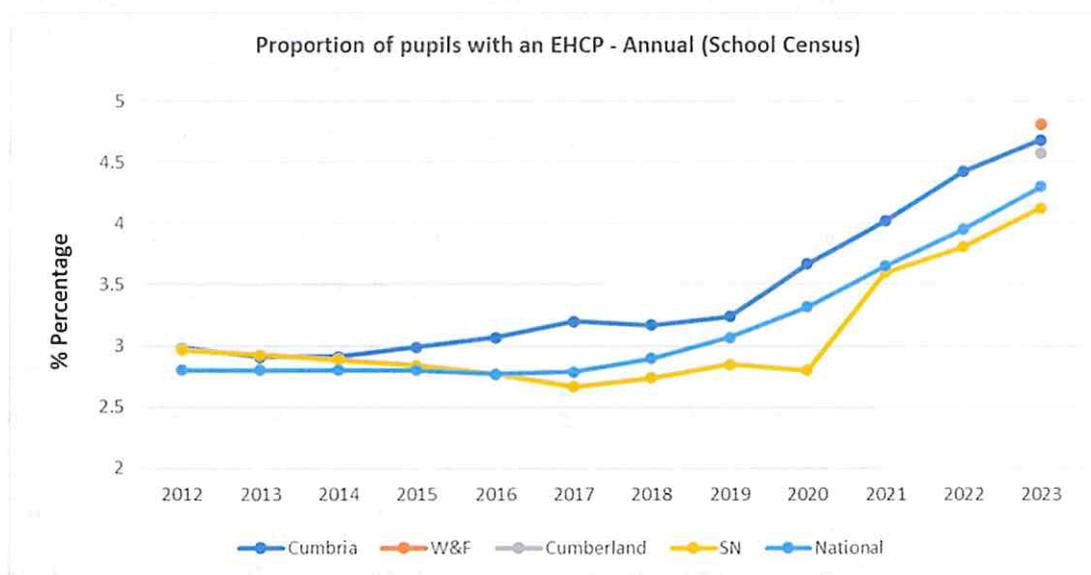
The below table summarises the number of pupils in ISPs by provider type:

Number of Children and Young People with EHCPs in Independent Special Placements 2023/24

Placement Type	Number of Children							2023/24 Forecast Spend £m	Average Annual Cost of Placements		
	2022/23 Outturn	New	Ended	Placement Changes		Total Change	2023/24 Q1		2023/24	2022/23	
				In	Out						£
ISP - Day	52	3	-4			-1	-2	50	2.792	54,767	55,758
ISP - Residential	15	3			1		4	19	1.503	80,414	81,345
ISP - FE Colleges	21	1	-1				0	21	0.642	34,314	34,673
Total	88	7	-5	1	-1	2	90	4.937			

- Post-16 Further Education (FE) Colleges (£0.368m). The forecast here includes estimated top-up payments to FE Colleges of £0.546m, other FE education providers of £0.012m and top-ups in mainstream post-16 schools of £0.012m.
- High Needs Invest to Save Initiatives £0.209m. The forecast expenditure here relates to the Early Intervention Programme which was rolled out to Mayfield and James Rennie in academic year 2022/23. The forecast includes a re-charge for the leadership provided by Sandgate School in Westmorland & Furness for the two Hub schools of £0.031m.
- EHCP top-ups for pupils in mainstream schools and Early Years Providers £2.374m. The forecast is based on current EHCP costs and predicted number of new and amended EHCPs in-year. Since the start of the year there have been amendments to existing EHCPs of £0.148m, payments to PVIs of £0.273m, and new and forecasted new EHCPs based on known children coming through the system totalling £1.797m. The forecast also includes the additional net cost of restoring the notional SEN to £6,000 after removing the Targeted SEN funding with effect from September 2021 of £0.199m and pre-existing budget pressures of £0.043m.
- The remaining balance relates to individually non-material variances totalling a net overspend of £0.004m.

- 4.6 The pressure against the High Needs Block continues to be due to specific budget pressures relating to the growth in demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people with SEN. The number of children with EHCPs as at Q1 is 2,567. This figure provisional pending the completion of the disaggregation of cases between the two new authorities.
- 4.7 The benchmarking chart below shows that Cumberland's percentage of pupils with EHCPs is higher compared to the national and Cumbria statistical neighbours rates although the rate of increase for Cumbria overall is largely matched by the rate of increase both nationally and against the Cumbria statistical neighbours:



- 4.8 In 2023/24 local authorities have seen an increase in their High Needs Block funding of at least 5% per head of population and additional High Needs funding to reflect likely cost increases for local authorities and schools of £1.585m resulting in total funding of £35.604m as at Q1. However, 29% of the total allocation is still based on historic 2017/18 actual spend. There has been no transfer of funding from the Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2023/24. Cumbria took part in the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value for SEND programme and successfully applied and received approval for a £1m grant for each new authority to support their improvement plans the impact of which will be incorporated into Cumberland's DSG management plan in due course.

5.0 Options

- 5.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to note the current projection against the High Needs Block budget.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

- 6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report.

REPORT AUTHOR

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Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

CUMBERLAND SCHOOLS FORUM **PROVISIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE 2024**

Meetings likely to be held via Microsoft Teams. Start times are shown as 9.30am but these may be adjusted slightly from meeting to meeting.

Cumberland Schools Forum

Tuesday, 16 January 2024, 9.30am

Thursday, 21 March 2024, 9.30am

Wednesday, 12 June 2024, 9.30am

Monday, 16 September 2024, 9.30am (Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair)

Tuesday, 5 November 2024, 9.30am

Wednesday, 15 January 2025, 9.30am

Dates for Working Group Meetings, Training, Other

The following dates have been identified for any working groups that are established, for training for Schools Forum members or any other use. If not required, they will be cancelled. These dates may change.

Thursday, 22 February 2024, 9.30am

Tuesday, 7 May 2024, 9.30am

Thursday, 10 October 2024, 9.30am

Nicola Shiels
September 2023

