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To: The Chair and Members
of the Devon Education
Forum

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 12 January 2021

Contact: Fiona Rutley 01392 382305
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DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

Wednesday, 20th January, 2021

A virtual meeting (via Teams) of the Devon Education Forum is to be held on the above date at 10.00 am to consider the following matters.

Phil Norrey
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 attached

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

4 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting and Report back on Issues Raised with Cabinet

To consider any matters arising from the last meeting where no otherwise covered on this agenda and to report on items considered at the Cabinet.

5 Membership

6 Head of Education & Learning Update

10.10am

Head of Education & Learning to report.

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

7 Finance Update (Pages 11 - 16)

10.30am

Joint report of the County Treasurer and acting Chief Officer for Children's Services (DEF/21/01) attached.

8 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2021/2022 - Budget Planning (Pages 17 - 22)

10.50am

Joint report of the County Treasurer and acting Chief Officer for Children's Services (DEF/21/02) attached.

9 Maintained Nursery Schools - De-delegation (DEF minute 157, 17 June 2020) (Pages 23 - 24)

11.10am

Joint report of the County Treasurer and acting Chief Officer for Children's Services (DEF/21/03) attached.

10 SEND 100 Project (DEF minute 170, 18 November 2020) (Pages 25 - 30)

11.30am

Report of the Schools Finance Group (DEF/21/04) attached.

STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS FOR DEBATE AND INFORMATION

11 Standing (and other) Groups (Pages 31 - 42)

11.50am

To review action for the Forum from its groups and to receive minutes:-

(a) Schools' Finance Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2021, attached.

Also available at

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/devon-education-forum/schools-finance-group>

(b) School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020, attached.

Also available at

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/devon-education-forum/school-organisation-capital-and-admissions-group-soca>

12 Correspondence

13 Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings usually held at County Hall, Exeter, at 10am (unless otherwise specified). However please check venue during the current situation:-

Wednesday 17 March 2021 (virtual meeting)

Wednesday 16 June 2021

Wednesday 17 November 2021

Wednesday 19 January 2022

Wednesday 16 March 2022.

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of a third party and of the County Council (as the authority holding that information) and by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

15 Education & Inclusion Contract Update
12.00

Head of Education & Learning to report.

12.20pm CLOSE

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Members of the public may also use social media to report on proceedings.

Declarations of Interest for Members of the Council

It is to be noted that Members of the Council must declare any interest they may have in any item to be considered at this meeting, prior to any discussion taking place on that item.

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Induction Loop available



DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

18 November 2020

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary Headteachers

Mr A Dobson

Marwood Primary

Mr J Stone

Denbury Primary

Ms R Shaw

Exeter Learning Academy Trust

Mr P Walker

First Federation Trust (Academy)

Primary Governors

Mrs A Blewett

Kings Nympton Primary

Mr L Cottrell

Tavistock Primary (Substitute Member)

Mr M Dobbins

Exmouth Marpool Primary

Mr A Hines

Rydon Primary (Education SW Trust)(Academy)

Secondary Headteachers

Mrs S Crook

Federation of Tiverton Schools

Mrs L Heath

Uffculme Academy Trust

Mr G Hill

Pilton CC (Academy)

Ms M Marder

The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (Academy)

Secondary Governors

Ms J Elson

Exmouth CC (Academy)

Mrs J Larcombe

Uffculme Academy Trust (Academy)

Mr A Walmsley

The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (Academy)

Nursery School

Mrs S Baker

Westexe

Special Headteacher

Mrs J Warne

Learn to Live Federation

Special Governor

Mrs F Butler

Marland School (**Chair**)

Non-Schools Members

Mr R Gurney

Teachers Consultative Committee

Ms S Lockwood

Exeter Diocesan Board of Education

Mr B Blythe

PETROC

Observer

Councillor J McInnes

Cabinet Member – Children's Services and Skills

Apologies

Mrs F Wood

Federation of Tiverton Schools (DAG)

Agenda Item 2

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
18/11/20

164 Election of Chair

DECISION: that Mrs F Butler (Special Schools governor) be elected Chair of the Forum (two year appointment, until the Autumn term meeting, 2022).

165 Election of Vice-Chair

DECISION: that Mr A Walmsley (Secondary academy governor) be elected Vice-Chair of the Forum (two year appointment, until the Autumn term meeting, 2022).

166 Minutes

DECISION: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2020 be signed as a correct record, subject to the following change to the attendance list:-

Ms R Shaw Exeter Learning Academy Trust (instead of South Dartmoor).

167 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting and Report back on Issues Raised with Cabinet

DISCUSSION:

In respect of minute 157, Maintained Nursery Schools - Buying into de-delegated services, it was noted that this would be reviewed by the Schools Finance Group at its next meeting.

ACTION:

County Treasurer (Adrian Fox)/Head of Education & Learning (Heidi Watson Jones)

168 Membership

DISCUSSION:

The Chairman welcomed new members following Schools and Academies Autumn Term 2020 elections:-

Ms R Shaw - Primary Academy Headteacher (previously substitute member)
Mr G Hill - Secondary Academy Headteacher
Mrs J Warne - Special School Headteacher (previously served on Forum)
Ms S Lockwood - Interim Diocesan Director, representing Faith Schools.

notes: (a) Mr R Haring had subsequently stood down from the Forum due to his appointment as a Trustee of Devon SLS; (b) DAG membership changes to be confirmed.

169 **Head of Education & Learning Update**

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Education & Learning presented details regarding the review of Education and Inclusion Services, following consultation with schools. Public consultation was in progress.

The review was considering bringing in-house the Education Psychology, Early Years and Children Missing Education services. School responses indicated a majority had no preference, with slightly more support for in-house than continuing to commission out.

When the public consultation had closed, a final business case would be submitted to Cabinet. Prior to this it would be shared with Council's Children's Scrutiny Committee and the Schools Finance Group.

170 **SEND 100 Project**

DISCUSSION:

The Head of Education & Learning provided further information on the costings reported in the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, SEND 100 Project Report.* A study requested by the Forum in January 2020, to identify national good practice; regional and national data to support change; wider transformation work in settings and outreach support to build confidence around the needs of children and young people.

The Head of Education & Learning's document providing further information on the preliminary costed options laid out in the report SEND 100 Report findings together with a report for information "Establishing a Sustainable Outreach Service from Special Schools" by the SW Specialist Schools Teaching Alliance (SW SSTA) November 2019 had been circulated to Forum Members for discussion. A summary of the options was as follows:-

-Option 2(a)

Devon's proposal for a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support Service, to support schools to deliver provision for children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other support needs, to enable them to be re-integrated into mainstream classes, supporting children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) to remain in mainstream education;

-Option 2(b)

Babcock LDP's proposal: SEN Support Outreach Service, reducing the need to escalate to a statutory plan;

Agenda Item 2

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

18/11/20

-Option 2(g)

Babcock LDP to provide a series of 6 online training modules (one per half term) to support a graduated response focused in developing confidence in supporting a range of special educational needs in a mainstream setting. A focus on increased teacher training on SEND in their continuing professional development; developing a common standard for SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) in Devon to ensure they were well trained and understood the level of need for which they should be providing support without an EHCP;

-Option 2(h)

Provide extended SEND telephone support and advice to SENCOs and teachers, with easy access when required.

-Option 3

Outreach support from special schools - the South West Specialist Teaching School Alliance (partnership of special schools working to improve the educational experiences for all learners) supported by other Devon special schools would provide a comprehensive outreach service, tailored to meet individual school SEND needs.

Discussion included:-

-that a detailed report from Officers (e.g. impact of investment on longer term anticipated savings) on options arising from the Forum's commissioned SEND 100 Project Report would need to be presented to the Forum prior to decision;

-that subject to a more detailed report, there was general support for options 2(h) and 3;

-that a competitive tendering process could be appropriate for some of the options; and

-that a cultural change was needed with smart and early intervention to offer excellent provision within mainstream settings to build confidence with maintained school families.

In response to questions the Special School Headteacher representative (leading as a teaching school and within SW SSTA) also explained the greater opportunities and potential for both special and maintained schools and pupils of developing and rolling out increased outreach work, subject to support in backfilling and releasing practitioners.

DECISION:

that a costed report on the potential savings from each option (where appropriate) arising from the SEND 100 Project Report be presented to the Forum's next meeting.

ACTION:

Head of Education & Learning (Dawn Stabb)

*SEND 100 Project Report available at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/supportforschools/finance/consultations>

171

Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of the Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/20/08) regarding the Budget Monitoring Month 6 (2020/21), Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

The Forum also noted the respective minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG) of 4 November 2020.

The report detailed:-

- a net overspend of £27.8m;
- the approved deficit reserve DSG High Needs Block (HNB) had increased to £47.74m (offset by £175,000 additional income to be applied to the deficit at outturn);
- there was an in-year HNB overspend of £5.1m (offset by savings in Alternative Provision of £382,000 and Nursery Plus £133,000);
- there had been an adverse variance of £915,000 since month 5 due to reviewed costings on the new academy year data; and
- the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of students had identified potential additional costs of £307,000, not included in the forecast.

The report also highlighted the risks and uncertainties around:-

- the pandemic impact on the HNB;
- Early Years census;
- budget assumptions for Independent placements; and
- continued demand on funding and need to produce the management plan to bring the HNB to a balanced budget in the coming years and to bring down the deficit reserve.

Members noted that a recent Statutory Instrument placed the HNB deficit outside of Local Authority balance sheets until April 2023.

However, Members were concerned about the uncertainty of how this large deficit would be dealt with longer term and that there would only be the option to reduce school budgets to offset this, unless this national issue was financed by Government.

Officers advised that this was being raised with Devon MPs, the Cabinet Member for Schools & Skills/Chair of f40 continued to raise with Ministers and Officers were working with colleagues nationally. Raising awareness would

Agenda Item 2

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
18/11/20

benefit from a whole partnership approach including schools and Associations.

DECISION:

(a) that the DSG Deficit as at month 6 as set out in section 1 be noted, subject to Members' reservations expressed above; and

(b) that month 6 DSG monitoring position as set out in section 2 be noted.

172 2021-22 Schools Funding Arrangements - Devon Consultation Responses

DISCUSSION:

The Forum considered the report of Chief Officer for Children's Services and County Treasurer (DEF/20/09), regarding Schools Funding, including the Local Authority's consultation with schools on Devon's proposals for the 2021-22 schools revenue funding formula.

A total of 114 schools attended online consultation events and only 99 schools (27% of all schools) responding.

In considering section 2 of the Report regarding movement between the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) blocks, Members were mindful of their wish to consider the implementation of some, but not necessarily all, of the SEND 100 Project recommendations (for SEND outreach to schools to improve outcomes and reduce dependency on Special Educational Needs (SEN) placements, as discussed at minute 170 above.

The report indicated a lack of support by schools in the consultation to fund the entire project through transferring 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (HNB), i.e. the unallocated funding (indicative figure £1.4m) and/or for the balance of £740,00 to come from an Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) contribution or by capping and scaling the large increases some schools had seen, although some schools had partly agreed.

The funding was a one-off, one year commitment, but the results of its success would be considered for any future funding. Any project funding was not to plug the gap in HNB funding, but to facilitate better use of funds and ultimately provide the best outcomes for children.

The report provided an alternative to the movement of blocks by the use of surplus growth fund to support SEND 100 Project funding, highlighting that this was a Forum decision as part of the year end process.

The County Treasurer advised that any decision in relation to section 2 taken in principle was not binding and the SEND 100 Project funding options could be reviewed later.

Discussions also included:-

-that the proposed transfer of £1.4m from DSG to HNB was indicative and that any surplus DSG could be considered and would be brought to the January meetings after the Department for Education had advised of the settlement in December;

-that to date £30,000 out of the £100,000 allocated to the SEND 100 Project consultancy work had been spent, so the remaining money could be used on delivery SEND outreach;

-the Forum was considering the funding vote, whilst considering the consultation it was not a vote on the consultation itself;

-that it was envisaged that Devon's special schools would be able to support a big increase in outreach work providing funding was available.

DECISION:

(a) that Cabinet be recommended:-

that the proposals for the 2021-22 schools revenue funding formula as set out in paragraph 1.27 of Report DEF/20/09 be approved i.e:-

(i) that the Minimum Funding Guarantee be set at plus 2% reducing to plus 0.5% depending on affordability;

(ii) that Phase Association funding be top sliced prior to individual school budget allocation;

(iii) that a one-year adjustment be made to the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) for all pupils if funding permits (noting that the final funding rates may change, subject to affordability and confirmation of October 2020 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement in late December 2020); and

(Vote: Schools, Academies and PVI members)

(b) that Cabinet be recommended:-

that the proposals for movement between blocks as set out in paragraph 2.40 of Report DEF/20/09 be approved i.e:-

(i) that the unallocated funding of the National Funding Formula should not be transferred for 2021-22 to the HNB to undertake actions identified by the SEND 100 Report;

(ii) that consideration be given by the Forum to not transfer the additional funding through one of the options proposed in the consultation (as set out in paragraph 2.14 of Report DEF/20/09); and

(iii) that the allocation of growth funding underspend to HNB as part of the 2020-21 year end process be agreed in principle;

(Vote: Schools, Academies and PVI members)

Agenda Item 2

DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
18/11/20

(c) that the de-delegation proposals for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools as set out in paragraph 3.4 of Report DEF/20/09 be approved (noting Appendix C consultation responses) i.e:-

- (i) Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools);
- (ii) Behaviour support services;
- (iii) Support to under-performing ethnic groups and bilingual learners;
- (iv) Maternity; and
- (v) Trade Unions and Public duties; and
- (vi) Licences and subscriptions (not covered by a national licence which DfE charge the Local Authority);

(Vote: Maintained primary representatives)

(Note: Maintained secondary representative approval sought and determined by urgency procedures after the meeting due to no representation at this stage of the meeting)

(d) that the centrally held funding allocations as set out in paragraph 4.22 of Report DEF/20/09 be approved, as endorsed by the Schools Finance Group i.e:-

- (i) that the centrally held funding be retained at the same level per pupil as 2020-21 for the Schools Admissions Service;
- (ii) that contribution of £60,000 for the Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing Service be continued for 2021-22; and
- (iii) that £223,000 be top sliced from the Schools Block to fund the Phase Associations (Devon SLS and DAG) for 2021-22.

(Vote: Schools, Academies and PVI members)

(e) that the local authority's disapplication request (for a one-off uplift in the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) included in 2020-21 School Budget Shares to be excluded from the final baselines) that had been applied for, but was awaiting approval be noted.

ACTION:

County Treasurer (Adrian Fox); (a), (b) County Solicitor (Fiona Rutley)

173

Additional Support for Covid-19 Costs Funding for Schools

DISCUSSION:

The Forum received correspondence sent by Councillor McInnes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Children's Services & Schools, Chair of f40 to Government, 20 October 2020 (responses awaited) and noted the severe financial pressure on as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

174 **Standing (and other) Groups**

The Forum received the following minutes of its standing groups:-

(a) Schools' Finance Group (SFG)

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July, 9 September and 4 November 2020, (considered under finance minutes 171 and 172 above)

(b) School Organisation, Capital and Admissions (SOCA)

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020.

175 **Dates of Future Meetings**

Meetings usually held at County Hall, Exeter, at 10am (unless otherwise specified). However please check venue during the current situation:-

Wednesday 20 January 2021

Wednesday 17 March 2021

Wednesday 16 June 2021

Wednesday 17 November 2021

Wednesday 19 January 2022

Wednesday 16 March 2022

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.50 pm

The Devon Education Forum web is:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/devon-education-forum>

Agenda Item 2

20 January 2021

FINANCE UPDATE

REPORT OF THE COUNTY TREASURER AND DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note the DSG Deficit as at month 8 as set out in section 1
- b) Note month 8 DSG monitoring position as set out in section 2

All to note

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 8 (2020/21) – Dedicated Schools Grant

Executive Summary

- The month 8 outturn forecast for 2020/21 sees the overall DSG having a significant overspend of £30.4 millions which is associated with the continued demand on High Needs and the growing demand on SEN placements within the Independent Sector despite creating more places within Devon's special schools.
- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit continues to increase and has grown by £2.6 millions since month 6 to £30.4 millions. The cumulative deficit has increased to £50.36 millions.
- This could have a considerable impact on future education budgets within the DSG as well as impacting on the financial stability for Devon County Council. An urgent action is still required to reduce the call on EHCPs and Independent placements.
- The demand wave profiling related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of students has identified potential additional costs of £297,000 for this financial year, these costs are currently not included in the forecast (see section 1.7).

1. DSG Deficit Management Plan

1.1. In 2019/20 we reported the High Needs Block (HNB) deficit of £19.7 millions, carried forward as a deficit reserve as per government guidance. This year we are predicting an increase to the deficit of £30.6 millions, this will be carried forward to 2021/22.

Table 1: Summary of DSG Deficit

	£'000
Deficit High Needs Budget Reserve	19,772
Identified funding gap (year 2)	22,848
In-year deficit 20/21	7,735
Total DSG Deficit Reserve	50,355

Agenda Item 7

1.2. Service and Finance colleagues are currently working on a more comprehensive management plan using the template for the overall DSG deficit produced by the DfE with the intention to have the initial draft completed for the end of January 2021, for sign off by the County Treasurer and Director of Services.

1.3. Recommendation

That Schools Forum note the DSG Deficit as at month 8 as set out in section 1
All to Note

2. Schools

2.1. In July the revised DSG settlement allocation stands at £539.97millions including Early Years (before recoupment for academies) based upon pupil numbers as at the October 2019 Schools census and January 2019 Early Years census. The working budget is now inclusive of recoupment adjustments totalling £272.61millions plus other schools grants of £30.2millions.

2.2. The 2019/20 carry forwards total £19.76millions and have been approved by cabinet and included in the report. The Schools' Growth Fund underspends will be ring fenced and carried forward to 2021/22 to in part fund the SEN 100 project outcomes.

Table 2: Summary of Month 8 forecast position and significant variations

	Net Budget	Net spend Mth 8	Forecast at Mth 8	Variance	Deficit / (Surplus) Balance	Movement from Previous Mth		Ringfenced CF included in forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Schools delegated budget	197,386	121,053	197,386	0	0	0		1,740
Academy Grants	314	362	314	0	0	0		0
DSG and School funding	(302,811)	(210,105)	(302,986)	(175)	(175)	0		0
Total DSG	(105,111)	(88,690)	(105,286)	(175)	(175)	0	1.2	
De-delegated budgets	5,969	2,060	5,972	3	3	3	1.3	2,895
Central School Services Block	4,189	2,498	4,189	0	0	1	1.4	0
High Needs Funding	97,702	63,971	105,437	7,735	7,735	1,034	1.5	0
Early Years & Childcare Services	39,859	24,234	39,857	(2)	(2)	(2)	1.6	63
Total DSG central budgets	147,719	92,763	155,455	7,736	7,736	1,036		
Identified funding gap (year 2)	(22,848)	0	0	22,848	22,848	0		0
Overall Net DSG budget	19,760	4,073	50,169	30,409	30,409	1,036		

De-delegated budgets

2.3. The budget covers Copyrights and Licences, Contingencies and exceptional events funds, Babcock contracts budget, Maternity fund and Trade unions.

2.4. The Schools DSG contingency budget has a surplus of £2.2millions due to schools delaying planned redundancies due to COVID-19, whilst Maternity fund forecast to underspend by £700,000 as claims remain low. These balances will be ringfenced for carry forward to 2021/22.

Central School Services Block (CSSB)

2.5. The budget is projected to breakeven. The CSSB continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising two distinct elements:

- ongoing responsibilities
- historic commitments

High Needs

2.6. The High Needs Block remains under significant pressure and is reporting an in-year deficit of £7.7millions. This is in addition to the DSG deficit of £22.8millions for this financial year resulting in a total deficit position of £30.5 millions. The table below explains the £7.7 millions.

Table 2: Summary of High Needs budgets and forecast position as at Month 8

	Budget £'000	Mth 8 Forecast £'000	Deficit / (Surplus) Balance £'000	Variance £'000	Movement Previous Mth £'000	Notes
Alternative Provision	3,282	2,872	(410)	(410)	41	1.5.1
Children in Care and Exclusions	1,367	1,367	0	0	0	
Closing the Gap	1,500	1,500	0	0	0	
Inclusion	334	334	0	0	0	
Nursery Plus	1,164	1,047	(117)	(117)	20	1.5.2
Safeguarding Every Learner	144	144	0	0	0	
SEN Mainstream	12,969	15,968	2,999	2,999	205	1.5.3
FE Colleges	1,318	2,637	1,319	1,319	(27)	1.5.4
SEN Services	871	914	43	43	0	
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	35,635	35,848	213	213	(8)	1.5.5
Hospital Education Services	443	443	0	0	0	
Recoupment	760	760	0	0	0	1.5.6
Other Special School Fees	36,486	40,186	3,700	3,700	807	1.5.7
Support Centre Funding	1,429	1,417	(12)	(12)	(4)	
TOTAL	97,702	105,437	7,735	7,735	1,034	

Alternative Provision – Underspend £410,000

2.7. The budget includes the main AP contract for 160 planned places, forecast assumes 134 average AP placements, giving a total contract saving of £489,000. Since month 6 there has been a favourable shift of £27,000 overall. Reductions in forecast placement numbers for the academic year offset by £41,000 additional costs built in for month 8 including one £27,000 out of county placement.

Nursery Plus – Underspend £117,000

2.8. Expenditure is based on last financial year and assumes redundancy clawback of £96,000 from settings will occur. Settings were notified in February 2020 and formally written to in September 2020. Since month 7 there has been an adverse £20,000 adjustment (£17,000 month 6) to the forecast following revision of the redundancy clawback estimate.

SEN Mainstream – Overspend £3 millions

2.9. This covers personalised education packages and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) as well as the central SLAs which support them. There is currently an overspend at outturn of £3millions, which is an adverse change to forecast of £534,000 since month 6

Service Area	Price variance			Volume variance			Total Over/ (under) spend
	Budget	Actual Average	Total price forecast variance	Budget	Actual Average	Total volume Forecast variance	
	EHCP	£3,259	£3,316	£145,008	2,486	2,544	
Plus Packages	£9,595	£9,585	(£3,420)	210	342	£1,266,540	£1,263,120
Mainstream EHCPs			£141,588			£1,455,562	£1,597,150

Adverse variance on Mainstream Pre-16 EHCPs in total is £2.6millions.

2.10. The mainstream pre-16 EHCP forecast includes lump sums £135,000; prior year payments of £59,000; prior period growth £44,000; invoices paid direct £32,000 as well as the more significant shortfall for element 2 funding at £752,000 overspend. Since month 7 the EHCPs have increased

Agenda Item 7

in volume and cost by a total of £271,000, plus packages had a net increase of £43,000 after removal of 5 Libra students now mapped to Independent provision and all offset by reduction in the allowance that had been made for prior period costs of £120,000 and other minor adjustments for lump sums and prior years £14,000.

- 2.11. Post 16 overspend of £47,000 relates to shortfall of element 2 funding for maintained schools and element 3 funding in maintained and academies compared with demand. Increase of £22,000 from Month 7.
- 2.12. Home Education personal budget was based on 68 pupils at an average cost of £6,779, actual average cost increased to £11,514 resulting in a projected overspend of £340,000.
- 2.13. Tutoring -specialist provision budget was based on 49 pupils, average cost £5,880. Forecast based on current 80 pupils with an average cost of £7,163 seeing an overspend of £283,000. This is a rise of £73,000 from month 7 due to an additional 5 placements and an increase to the average cost.
- 2.14. SEN Therapies budget will save £311,000 after the MSI contract hourly rate was negotiated lower plus reduced commissioning, increase of £98,000 savings from month 7. Additional resources spend of £15,000.

FE Colleges – Overspend £1.32 millions

- 2.15. FE colleges is reporting an overspend of £1.3millions, which is an adverse shift of £687,000 from month 6 (a saving of £27,000 from month 7). Current there are 684 students, which is 110 (19%) more than budgeted with forecast costs seeing a 100% increase. Any savings that were considered to be achievable have been absorbed by students moving into a higher banding.

Maintained Special Schools – Overspend £213,000

- 2.16. The maintained special schools currently have 1,416 on roll compared to the budgeted 1,418 budgeted. The forecast assumes further growth of 16 placements for the academic year and that some of those may well attract additional base payments as they would exceed planned numbers.

Service Area	Price variance			Volume variance			Total Over/ (under) spend
	Budget	Actual Average	Total price forecast variance	Budget	Actual Average	Total volume forecast variance	
Special School top ups	£11,787	£11,769	(£24,924)	1,381	1,370	(£99,207)	(£124,132)
Exceeded places				0	19	£190,000	£190,000
Plus Packages	£11,295	£13,945	£53,004	12	20	£90,360	£143,364
Maintained and Academy Special Schools			£28,080			£181,153	£209,232

- 2.17. There has been a favourable variance of £8,000 since month 7. (£3,000 since month 6). The core offer and residential placements have seen a 2% increase for 2020/21 resulting in £50,000 along with £27,000 enhanced offer payments all which were not budgeted.
- 2.18. In addition, there has been an increase to joint funded residential placements identified since budget prep and further income is expected and included in forecast of £69,000.

Recoupment

- 2.19. Budget is still expected to breakeven as the original base allowed for £385,000 growth in element 2 top slice for net exports. This has been revised to £183,000 to allow for the net export pressure of £96,000 to be covered and the balance vired to the recovery plan for 2020/21 and will be used towards 2021/22 growth next year.

Other Independent Special Schools – Overspend £3.7 millions

- 2.20. The independent budget is reporting an overspend of £3.7 millions, which is a worsening of £807,000 since month 7 (£1.4 millions since month 6). There are currently 863 placements in the

Agenda Item 7

Independent sector, set to rise to 908 by the end of the Spring term. There have been 174 new starters in September 20 which is an 126% increase from the level of starters in September 2019.

Service Area	Price variance			Volume variance			Total Over/ (under) spend
	Budget	Actual Average	Total price forecast variance	Budget	Actual Average	Total volume forecast variance	
Sole Funded	£49,891	£49,268	(£471,611)	673	757	£4,190,844	£3,719,233
Joint Funded	£85,680	£96,015	£227,370	25	22	(£257,040)	(£29,670)
Adults	£52,345	£66,711	£215,490	17	15	(£104,690)	£110,800
Virtual School	£10,000	£10,000	£0	5	2	(£30,000)	(£30,000)
Independent Schools			(£28,751)			£3,799,114	£3,770,363

- 2.21. A task and finish group continues to meet with the top 12 independent sector providers. The aim is to achieve cost savings on placements to help to manage the overspend projected on the High Needs Funding Block.
- 2.22. There are £344,000 of costs identified for students aged 19+ in relation to COVID-19 where placements have been extended for either a further term or an academic year due to the impact of learning for some individuals during COVID-19.
- 2.23. There have been two new high cost sole funded placements this month, of which one placement was previously attending a Devon maintained special school at a top up rate of £11,172 per annum, a tribunal have ruled they should be placed in an independent setting which is now costing the LA £255,000 top up per annum.
- 2.24. The overspend includes £196,000 relating to 5 outreach placements with Libra school now included (previously under Mainstream as students remained on their school roll and funds passported through EHCP to school who commissioned the support) plus two high cost placements of £170,000 and £74,000 (financial year not FYE). Joint funded changes and updates cost a further £79,000 net overall.

Early Years – Underspend £19,000

- 2.25. Take up of all age groups is noticeably lower in the first two terms of the financial year due to the pandemic. Protection funding is in place for autumn (income based on last year's January census) so should not cause budget pressure.
- 2.26. SEND applications for funding for Autumn Term is 50% lower than requests for Autumn 2020 but this could be offset by SEND children deferring their school start date.
- 2.27. There are savings on training and venue hire budgets due to cancelled courses. In year savings plus transitional funding budget will be used to support settings through the second wave and recovery period. Financial support may be required for long term sustainability due to the loss of fee-paying income in settings where they either have temporary closure or send bubbles home due to Covid-19.

Assumptions for the impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health demand (modelling)

- 2.28. The impact of the pandemic on the mental health of students and the support they require for the new academic year have been considered and costed.

Budget		£'000
G8224	AP Medical (10% Rapid rise in demand)	72
G8280	Home Education	17
G8281	Tutoring & specialist provision*	0

Agenda Item 7

Various	Yr0 – Yr11 5% increase in Mental Health EHCP provision (Rapid rise scenario)	193
Various	Yr12 – Yr19 5% increase in Mental Health EHCP provision (flatter rise scenario)	15
	TOTAL:	297

*Assume now in forecast as growth in forecast seen months 7 and 8

- 2.29. £72,000 has been identified for the demand and expected increases where it is assumed WAVE will not have capacity for the level of demand.
- 2.30. The impact on EHCPs has been costed and under the scenario of a rapid rise in demand of 5% for Year 0 – Year 11 Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) related EHCPs (plus 10% on Home Education). Whilst a flatter rise of 5% on post-16 was and is across settings so expected to occur from January – March 2021.

Risk

- 2.31. The SEN placements continue to cause increase in the demand on the High Needs Block. Support from schools to take action to mitigate the growing demand and begin reducing the call on Independent placements is necessary to bring the DSG back in line over the coming years.
- 2.32. Progression of the SEND 100 projects will need to be agreed by Schools Forum in January to enable the projects to commence at the start of the new financial year and put in place for the beginning of the school academic year. Allocations to meet these projects will be taken from the surplus funds within the Growth Fund brought forward to 2021/22.
- 2.33. The Management Plan is being completed in line with the DfE template and assumes average cost savings for the actions being undertaken. Actual savings or reductions may be lower due to the higher cost placements not being removed from the system as actions may take longer to complete.
- 2.34. The Autumn term 2020 for Early years will be based on January 2020 census (normally would be January 2021). Need to consider if we would expect our January 2021 census to be higher. 2-year-old uptake may increase with unemployment yet equally the entitlement to 30 hours may reduce.
- 2.35. **Recommendation:**
Schools Forum is asked to note the update as set out above.
All to note

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County Treasurer

DAWN STABB
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DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2021/22: BUDGET PLANNING

REPORT OF THE COUNTY TREASURER AND DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit as set out in section 1.
- b) Note the DSG 2021/22 announcement on 17 December 2020 as set out in section 2.
- c) Note the Schools Block, Central School Services Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block as set out in section 3 to 9

Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22: Budget Planning

1. DSG Deficit & Management Plan

- 1.1. As part of budget preparation we are projecting to see the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit increase by a further £27.9 millions. This is despite the fact that the DSG has increased by £10.5 millions. The main reason for this increase in the projected deficit is the continued demand being put on the service for SEN placements.

	£'000
High Needs Budget Deficit 2019/20	19,772
Estimated High Needs Budget Deficit 2020/21	30,583
Projected Deficit 2021/22	27,941
Total DSG Deficit	78,296

- 1.2. The Authority is very concerned over the ability to reduce this pressure and bring this back to a balance budget over the coming years. This could have a considerable impact on future education budgets within the DSG as well as impacting on the financial sustainability for Devon County Council. An urgent action is still required to reduce the call on EHCPs and Independent placements.
- 1.3. The service is working on potential management actions that will achieve quick gains, but it is necessary to work with all sectors and stakeholders to make deeper changes to ensure stability of the service long term.
- 1.4. Within the budget for 2021/22 are management actions totalling £2.2 millions, with a further £5.96 millions being considered at present.
- 1.5. Service and Finance colleagues are currently working on a more comprehensive management plan using the template for the overall DSG deficit produced by the DfE with the intention to have the initial draft completed for the end of January 2021, for sign off by the County Treasurer and Director of Services.
- 1.6. **Recommendation**
Schools Forum is asked to note the DSG Deficit as set out in section 1 above.

2. DSG Settlement 2020/21

- 2.1. On the 17th December 2020 the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) announced the Schools Funding allocations for 2021/22.

Agenda Item 8

- 2.2. Note that the final allocations will be adjusted through the year for recoupment academies and the updated early year's census. Individual maintained school budget allocations will be confirmed by 28th February 2021 following ratification by the ESFA; Academies will receive their notifications directly from the ESFA.

Table 1: Notional Block Allocation at 17th December 2020

DSG Schools Block	Per pupil funding rate	No of pupils	2021/22 Allocation £m	2020/21 Adjusted Baseline £m
Schools Primary budgets, including Academies	£4,158.92	55,237	249.612	230.226
Schools Secondary budgets, including Academies	£5,534.85	36,124	200.043	182.264
Growth, Premises & Mobility			8.979	8.808
Notional Block Total			458.634	421.298

Central Schools Service Block	Per pupil funding rate	No of pupils	2021/22 Allocation £m	2020/21 Adjusted Baseline £m
Ongoing Responsibilities	£29.39	91,379	2.686	2.504
Historic Commitments			0.873	0.949
			3.559	3.453

High Needs Block	2021/22 Allocation £m	2020/21 Adjusted Baseline £m
Baseline allocation	86.645	76.122
DSG in-year Settlement - Special Schools growth	0.618	0
Deduction for direct funding of high needs places by EFA	(6.938)	(6.028)
	80.325	70.094

Early Years Block	Per pupil hourly funding rate	Pupil Part time equivalent	2021/22 Allocation £m	2020/21 Final Allocation £m
3- & 4-year olds	£4.44	9,884.78	25.016	24.678
3- & 4-year olds additional 15hrs	£4.44	3,905.04	9.883	9.749
2-year olds	£5.36	1,373.49	4.196	4.134
Maintained Nursery School Supplementary Funding			0.116	0.116
Disability Access Fund			0.171	0.161
Early Years Pupil Premium			0.255	0.255
			39.637	39.093

Total DSG settlement	582.155	533.938
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2.3. Recommendation

Schools Forum is asked to note the DSG 2021/22 announcement on 17 December 2020 as set out in section 2

All to note

3. Schools Block

- 3.1. The Schools Block allocation for 2021/22 is £458.63 millions, which is additional funding of £20.37 millions from the roll-in of the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) along with £16.97 millions received the National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2020/21 and the net reduction in pupils across the sectors of 25 pupils.
- 3.2. As part of the consultation it was agreed that schools would see funding to levels set out per the NFF for 2021/22, meaning that the key factors would increase by 3% (then rounded). Schools which are already attracting their NFF allocations will attract a significant increase in both cash and real terms.
- 3.3. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for 2021/22 is set at plus 2% compared to the plus 1.84% of 2020/21. 44 Schools will receive MFG this year (compared to 36 in 2020/21), of which 18 have an MFG of less than £4,027 (equivalent to less than one pupil's worth of KS3 Basic Entitlement (AWPU))
- 3.4. Minimum per pupil funding Level (MPPL) for 2021/22 has become a mandatory factor and is set at £4,000 for Primary places and £5,150 for Secondary places prior to TPG and TPECG additions.
- 3.5. Surplus funding after allocation through the NFF has meant that the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) has increased by £14.86 per pupil due to schools forum's decision to not transfer between blocks as requested by the authority.

4. Teachers' pay grant (TPG) and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (TPECG)

- 4.1. In the 2021/22 financial year the TPG and TPECG will be rolled into mainstream funding through the schools and high needs national funding formula.
- 4.2. The DfE have added a further £180 for primary pupils and £265 for secondary pupils to the AWPU, to reflect the rolling in of the grants to the NFF, and £660 per High Needs placement within the High Needs Block.
- 4.3. The TPG and TPECG will continue to be paid for academies at the start of their 2021/22 academic year. Details of the grant are set out in the [TPG methodology document and the TPECG methodology document](#).

5. Central School Services Block

- 5.1. The Central Schools Service Block recognises the Ongoing Responsibilities of Education Services Grant (ESG), Admissions, Copyrights and Schools Forum along with Historic Commitments for Termination of Employment Costs.
- 5.2. In 2021/22 the DfE have reduced the Historic Commitments by a further 20%, however after applying a disapplication to remove this reduction they have reinstated the funding to ensure that the Termination of Employment costs remain funded for the coming year of £873,000.

6. High Needs Block

- 6.1. The settlement allocation for 2021/22 is £87.26 millions (including in-year allocation of £618,000) after an additional £10.52 millions being received from the DfE.
- 6.2. The required High Needs Block budget is £122.27 millions for 2021/22 which sees a funding gap of £35.01 millions from that given in the settlement allocation.

Agenda Item 8

- 6.3. The High Needs Block continues to be under considerable budgetary pressure and after taking into account funding from other grants (such as Pupil Premium and PE and Sports Grant) there has been an increase in the deficit for 2021/22 from £23.48 millions to £33.9 millions (before potential management actions of £5.96 millions) to meet the anticipated demands in year.
- 6.4. The budget required to meet the current HNB demand and agreed future growth identified with the service for 2021/22 is summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2: High Needs Budget 2021/22

High Needs budget 2021/22	Budget 2020/21 £'000	Budget Required 2021/22 £'000	Budget Change £'000	Notes ref
Alternative Provision / Hospital Ed.	6,794	6,793	(1)	6.5
Social Inclusion and Children in Care	1,367	1,367	0	
Closing the Gap	1,500	1,500	0	
Inclusion	334	334	0	
Safeguarding Every Learner	144	144	0	
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	33,958	36,870	2,912	6.6
Nursery Plus	1,164	1,164	0	
Other Special Schools Fees	36,486	44,182	7,696	6.7
Recoupment	835	1,705	870	6.8
Mainstream SEN	12,969	19,209	6,240	6.9
Mainstream SEN – FE	3,316	5,914	2,598	6.10
SEN Services	871	932	61	6.11
Support Centre Funding	1,601	2,160	559	6.12
	101,339	122,274	20,935	

Detailed explanation of pressures and planned actions

- 6.5. **Alternative Provision (AP)** includes Hospital Education. The budget for 2021/22 has seen the TPG and TPECG funding of £191,000 included within the settlement and a £20,000 rise in demand for Post-16 AP Medical. This is offset by the removal of ten AP Medical places, additional commissioning of £185,000 and the removal of grant income of £26,000.
- 6.6. **Maintained special schools.** Part of the SEN strategy is to invest in our maintained special schools to increase our own capacity to meet growing demand for placements in this type of provision, with a net increase of £2.91 millions. Overall, the budgeted places have increased to 1,485 in 2021/22 from 1,381 in 2020/21, with an average cost of £22,889. This includes 95 new places planned for September 2021.

The removal of the TPG and TPECG grant income sees a net change built into the base budget of £199,000.

- 6.7. **Other Special Schools Fees.** There remains the overall overspend within the HNB and there continues to be an increase in the numbers on roll in the Independent sector, seeing a rise of £7.7 millions in the budget for 2021/22. This includes growth within the settlement of £674,000 and £285,000 allocated to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (NMSS) for the Pay and Pensions grants roll-in.

The budget has been set on 916 sole funded placements at an average cost of £46,900. This has allowed for the reduction of 92 placements as spaces become available from September 2021 from Mainstream Special School growth and 40 placements in Support Centres. Built into the budget as part of the overall HNB management plan are management actions for 2021/22. These are identified as a minimum 5% reduction to core costs in Independent settings with potential

savings of £1.2 millions and the ceasing of 3-5 year placements at the end of the summer term seeing savings of £975,000.

- 6.8. **Recouplement.** Exports are higher than imports for Devon and budget has been increased by £870,000 to meet the current level of funding required, based on the ESFA adjustment for Mainstream and Special Schools in both Maintained and Academy Sectors.
- 6.9. **Mainstream SEN.** Funding pressures to this budget total £6.24 millions. Pre-16 High Needs Top-up has seen a £5.9 millions increase in demand as a result of an increase in EHCPs to 2,857 (from 2,486 in 2020/21) and an increase in Plus packages to 524 (from 210 in 2020/21). The Personal Budgets and Tutoring organised by the Inclusion Team has a pressure of £623,000 and includes growth in numbers for 2021/22.
- 6.10. **Mainstream SEN – FE.** Part of the strategy to control spend across the HNB is to grow the number of placements in FE colleges for 2021/22 the budget has been built for 712 students seeing an increase of £2.25 millions. In addition, £422,000 growth has been funded within the DSG settlement offset by an element 2 correction for import / export of 13 places (£78,000).
- 6.11. **SEN Services.** Increases are due to the reinstatement of £53,000 to continue funding a post within the Economy, Enterprise and Planning team and £8,000 for the TPECG for the Early Years Complex Needs Service.
- 6.12. **Support Centre Funding.** An increase to the provision for the cost of five new support centres planned of £566,000.

7. Early Years Block

- 7.1. Funding in 2020/21 sees the third year for the additional 15-hour entitlement (the 30-hour childcare policy).
- 7.2. The formula allocates funding to local authorities for the existing 15-hour entitlement for all 3- and 4-year olds and the additional 15 hours for 3- and 4- year old children of eligible working parents. The funding rates for both entitlements have seen a rise of 6p per hour, whilst the 2-year old funding has seen an additional 8p.
- 7.3. From April 2021 Devon will be funded at £4.44 per hour for 3- and 4-year olds (national average of £4.99) and £5.36 for 2-year olds (national average of £5.62).

8. Other Schools Grants

Other Schools Grants are summarised in Table 3 below

Table 3: Other School Grants

Grant	£'000
Pupil Premium	24,266
UIFSM Grant	8,231
PE & Sports Premium	5,631
	38,128

8.1. Pupil Premium

The funding rates for Pupil Premium remain the same as for 2020/21. The illustrative budget is as per 2020/21. Allocations for 2021/22 are expected to be announced in the new year. For 2021/22 this will be allocated based on the October 2020 census rather than January 2021 census.

Agenda Item 8

8.2. **Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) Grant**

The grant for universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) is at a meal rate of £2.34 for the 2021/22 academic year. We will be notified of further details by the ESFA in the new year. The illustrative budget is based on the latest available data for the 2020/21 academic year.

8.3. **PE & Sports Premium**

The illustrative budget is based on the latest available data for the 2020/21 academic year. We will be notified of further details by the ESFA in the new year.

9. **Carry Forward Decisions**

9.1. Carry forward proposals will be taken to DEF meeting on 18th March, as by early March the outturn position will be far more certain than at present.

10. **Recommendation**

Schools Forum is asked to note the Schools Block, Central School Services Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block as set out in section 3 to 9.

All to note

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County Treasurer

DAWN STABB
Deputy Chief Officer of Children's Services

Please ask for: Adrian Fox
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20 January 2021

MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOL – DE-DELEGATION

REPORT OF THE COUNTY TREASURER AND DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) To agree for 2021/22 that Maintained Nursery Schools will continue to buy into the de-delegation services at the Primary School rates.

Vote: Maintained primary representatives

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives

1. Background

1.1. In June 2020 the Schools Forum agreed de-delegation within the Maintained Nursery Schools from 2020/21 and to review annually as per the other phases.

1.2. Maintained nursery schools currently buy into the following de-delegated services:

- Contingency
- Trade Unions
- Maternity
- Copyrights
- Ethnic Minority Achievement

2. Proposal

2.1. Ethnic Minority Achievement is not offered to Maintained Nursery Schools. It is proposed that for 2021/22, Maintained Nursery Schools continue to buy into the contingency, trade unions, maternity and copyrights services only at the 2021/22 Primary School rates:

	2020/21 Rate £	2021/22 Rate £
Contingency	23.92	15.81
Trade Unions	2.53	2.68
Maternity	21.44	10.55
Copyrights	0.30	0.16
Ethnic Minority Achievement	7.61	
Total	55.80	29.20

3. Recommendation:

Schools Forum to agree for 2021/22 that Maintained Nursery Schools will continue to buy into the contingency, trade unions, maternity and copyrights services only at the 2021/22 Primary School rates.

Vote: Maintained primary representatives

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives

MARY DAVIS
County Treasurer

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Deputy Chief Officer of Children's Services

Agenda Item 9

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20 January 2021

SEND 100 Project Options

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS FINANCE GROUP

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) To agree to fund the initial year of the projects and multiples thereof from the underspend from the Growth Fund at the end of 2020/21.
- b) To endorse that they work with LA colleagues to enable continued progress in future years where the projects have been successful.

1. Background

- 1.1. Devon Education Forum requested further costings analysis on the SEND 100 project options that were brought to the November 2020 forum meeting.
- 1.2. The following assumptions have been for calculation of the costings:
 - The average cost of placements within an Independent setting is £45,000
 - The average cost of placements within a Mainstream Special School is £25,000.

2. SEN Support Service

- 2.1. Redirecting some current resources in schools and within the SEN support services into targeted areas of need or geography (such as additional resources for SEMH, ASD, attachment, as identified through the interviews for the SEN 100 review). **Focus supporting children with EHCPs to remain in mainstream education.**
- 2.2. Devon County Council's proposal for SEN Support Service is to support schools to deliver provision for children with SEMH, ASD and other support needs, to enable them to be re-integrated into mainstream classes.

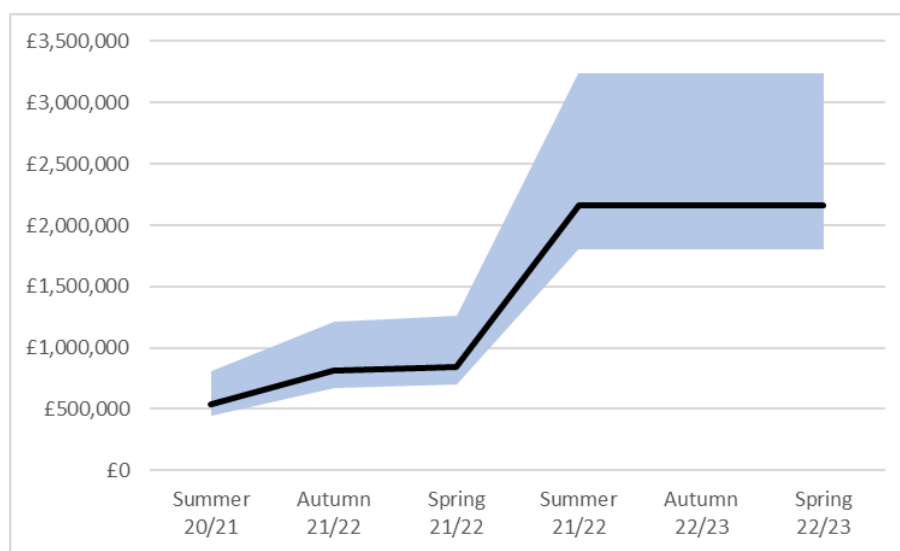
Delivery:
- 2.3. The delivery would involve employing centrally 12 SEN skilled staff to offer support to ensure that the provision being specified in EHCPs can be delivered in schools. For example, play therapy, mental health support, mentoring, counselling, etc. This would be deployed according to the SEN assessment and provision outlined in the Education health and Care plan.
- 2.4. Delivery to be agreed with the school on a per child, per half term, basis and can include one to one work modelling practice, training school staff, working in the classroom alongside teachers, working alongside parents. Element 3 funding may also be available to the school.
- 2.5. Success criteria would be a return to full time attendance in mainstream.

Costings:

- 2.6. Based on current data the cost of 1 member of staff including support costs will be £51,100 in the first year, therefore total costs for the 12 staff will be £613,400.

Agenda Item 10

- 2.7. It is expected that each of the 12 staff will have 1 child for an intensive half term session and would result in a total of 72 children being supported over a full year. It is assumed that 3 in every 12 Children and Young People (CYP) will be going to an Independent setting.
- 2.8. The chart shows the predicted savings for such a support service with the black line being the mix as stated above. The lighter shaded area shows the predicted minimum and maximum saving depending on whether all would have entered a Mainstream Special School placement or Independent Setting.



3. SEN Outreach Support Service

3.1. South West Specialist Teaching School Alliance

3.1.1. The South West Specialist Teaching School Alliance (a partnership of special schools working to improve the educational experiences for all learners) supported by other Devon Special or Alternative Provision schools would provide a comprehensive outreach service that is tailored to meet individual school SEND needs.

3.1.2. Specialist Leaders in Education from across the Alliance, and other appropriate special schools, would be deployed to support schools to meet the needs of their pupils with SEND. Support would be tailored to meet the needs of the school or MATs through the provision of workshops; system and leadership support; targeted intervention; and learning walks.

Delivery:

3.1.3. The Alliance aim to assist teachers to overcome barriers to achievement and participation; utilise a range of teaching approaches to remove these barriers; further build SEND skills, knowledge and strategies; share best practice and resources and improve capacity and excellence for SEND.

3.1.4. Through their Outreach programme, they are able to share with colleagues the knowledge and expertise they have developed in order to support partnership schools with strategies and ideas that work.

3.1.5. £100,000 would enable the alliance to provide a SEND support bespoke service to all Devon schools where the need has been identified, (using the attached triage

process) plus access to our TSSW CPD offer. In addition, they will create bespoke CPD to support meeting the needs of pupils with SEND, particular to individual schools/settings, thanks to the diverse nature of our alliance schools.

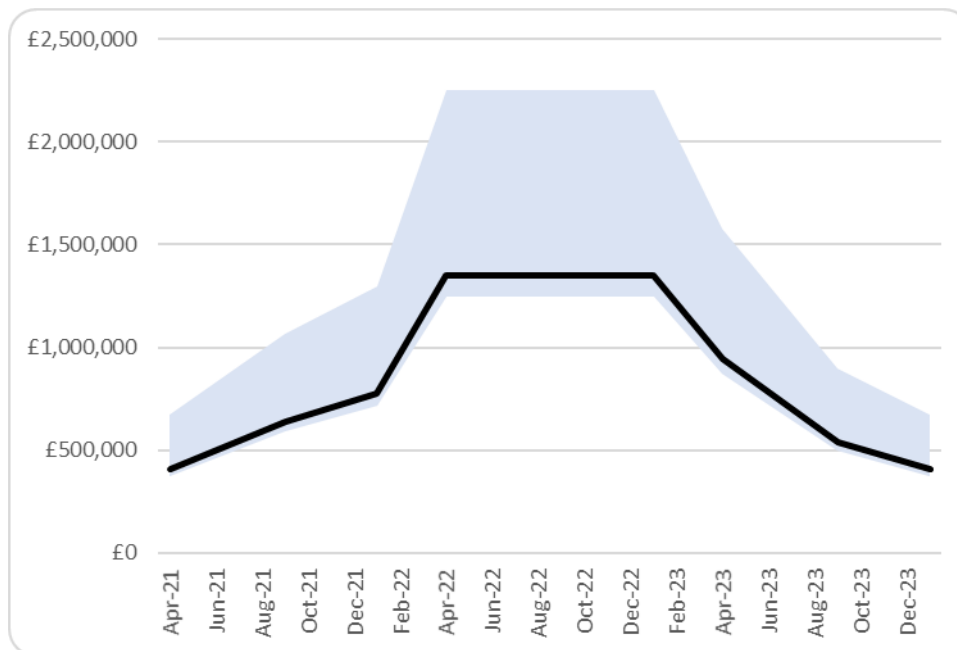
3.1.6. The capacity generated by this level of funding would allow us to support at least 250 schools/settings across the academic year.

Costings:

3.1.7. The cost to undertake this work as identified by the Alliance is set at £100,000.

3.1.8. Based on the potential to support 250 schools/settings it expected that it could enable 50 pupils per year to remain within the mainstream settings. It is assumed that 5 of these would have gone into an Independent setting.

3.1.9. The chart shows the predicted savings for such an outreach service with the black line being the mix as stated above. The lighter shaded area shows the predicted minimum and maximum saving depending on whether all would have entered a Mainstream Special School placement or Independent Setting.



3.2. Babcock

3.2.1. A team of specialist support assistants (SSA) who would undergo an intensive training programme. They would have a range of knowledge and skills to be able to support children and young people with SEMH (including anxiety), Communication and Interaction and have an understanding of the impact of attachment and developmental trauma.

3.2.2. The SSA would implement strategies and approaches that best work to support young people and their families in challenging circumstances. **They would provide support in schools to the CYP to enable them to access education at SEN support without escalating to a statutory plan.** If their needs were not able to be met during this time the team around the CYP would support the statutory process.

Agenda Item 10

3.2.3. The SSA would be trained in working with CYP with Autism and undertake the AET tier two training in order to be able to demonstrate their ability to meet competency standards. The service would also receive input from qualified psychologists to support high-quality practice in SEMH, Behaviour and Attachment.

Delivery:

3.2.4. This would be undertaken by 12 teachers to provide advisory hours and 24 Teaching Assistants for the locality areas. This time would be requested by schools through existing channels and triaged half termly by representatives.

3.2.5. It is expected that this can support 80 children per year.

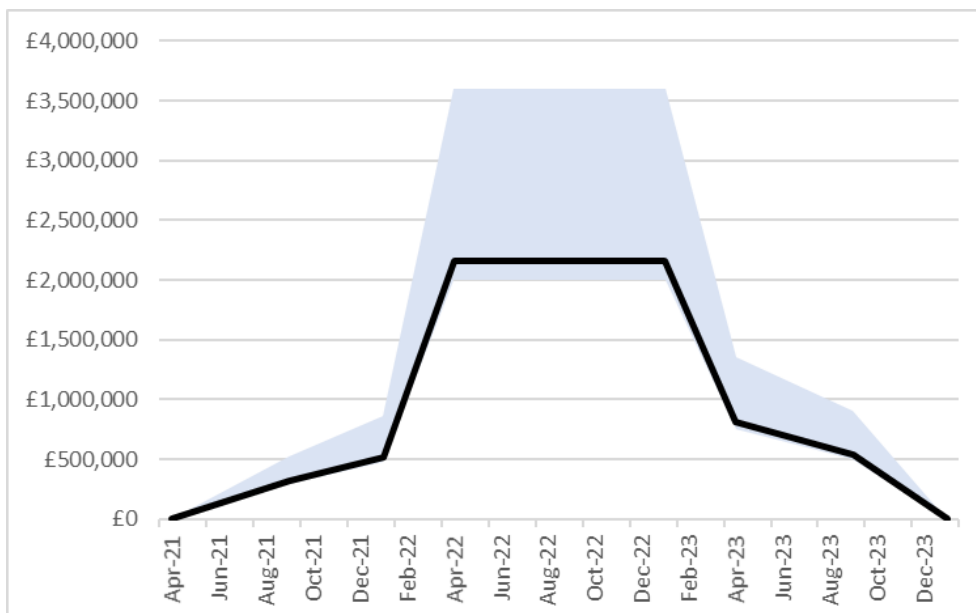
Costings:

3.2.6. The cost to undertake this service by Babcock has been calculated at £759,100 per annum.

3.2.7. As there will be the need to initially train the SSAs it is not expected to see support with the children until the start of the new academic year (September 2021)

3.2.8. Based on the potential to support 80 children per year it has been assumed that 8 of these would have gone into the Independent sector whilst the remained into the mainstream special schools.

3.2.9. The chart shows the predicted savings for such an outreach service with the black line being the mix as stated above. The lighter shaded area shows the predicted minimum and maximum saving depending on whether all would move onto an EHCP and subsequently mean the SEN team need to secure a Mainstream Special School placement or Independent Setting.



4. Further Actions

4.1. Within the SEND 100 report there we also the following recommendations:

- Provide SEND telephone support and advice to SENCOs and teachers five days a week
- Increase in SEND teacher training for CPD through 6 online training modules.

4.2. Both of these have been costed at £34,200 and £37,500 respectively, but it is not so clear what the final impact will be on providing such facilities within the system. We do however know that the quicker a SENCo can get support the sooner the child can be supported or the teacher/ SENCo reassured. This in turn prevents escalation through other routes. Only three children would need to remain in mainstream school to offset both of these costs.

5. Potential savings for 2021/22 & 2022/23

5.1. Based on the calculations the table below shows the impact of these projects during initial set up in 2021/22 and full year effects for 2022/23 if we were to take the mix across each option.

	2021/22			2022/23		
	Costs	Savings	Net	Costs	Savings	Net
SEN Support Service	£613,400	(£840,000)	(£226,600)	£627,900	(£2,160,000)	(£1,532,100)
Outreach Support (SWSTSA)	£100,000	(£776,250)	(£676,250)	£102,800	(£1,350,000)	(£1,247,200)
Outreach Support (Babcock)	£759,100	(£517,500)	£241,600	£780,000	(£2,160,000)	(£1,380,000)
Online Training	£37,500	Unknown	Unknown	£38,500	Unknown	Unknown
SEND Helpline	£34,200	Unknown	Unknown	£35,100	Unknown	Unknown
	£1,544,200	(£2,133,750)	(£661,250)	£1,584,300	(£5,670,000)	(£4,159,300)

6. Funding of Costs

6.1. The initial funding of these projects (Year 1), and multiples thereof, will be met from the underspend identified within the Growth Fund at the end of 2020/21 currently projected to be £1.7 millions.

6.2. Going forward Schools Forum and the LA will need to work together to consider how funding will be achieved in future years for those projects that have proven to have an impact on High Needs Block spend. They will also need to consider any increase in the capacity they are supporting and/or expanding to meet local requirements geographically on an invest to save basis.

7. Monitoring and evaluation of Impact

7.1. Monitoring reports will be provided to SFG at each meeting for each project. This will cover

- numbers of children/young people being supported, numbers of schools, type of SEN.
- the resulting impact in sustaining attendance and the placement in school
- a comparison of actual costs against the potential costs if intervention had not occurred.

7.2. Success criteria will be measured by actual learners against targeted, immediate costs savings and sustainability of ongoing school place one term and one year following support in schools.

7.3. The SEN support service is targeted at children in mainstream schools with EHCPs, based on the information following an EHCP review to reduce need for children to move to specialist settings; the Babcock Specialist Support Assistants is

Agenda Item 10

targeted at children on SEN support in mainstream schools to reduce numbers requiring EHC assessments and maintain confidence in mainstream school provision, ultimately resulting in less children needing specialist provision.

7.4. SFG shall make recommendations on any adaptations to each project following each report, and annually to Schools Forum, the proposed continuation of projects.

8. Risks

8.1. Project timeline.

Current saving assumptions are based on projects commencing from the 1st April 2021 any delay to this will postpone potential savings and impact.

8.2. Recruitment

While having to recruit to fixed term contracts is identified as a risk much of the work will use existing staff with backfill in place. There has been no difficulty recruiting to fixed term contracts (of at least a year) recently.

8.3. School / Parent engagement

A resistance from either School or Parent to adopt the support given through the project to prevent escalation into higher costed settings.

8.4. Capacity within settings

The ability to accommodate these children within mainstream settings.

8.5. Future funding

The ability for future years has yet to be confirmed and will be reliant on budget review in the coming 12 months. The success of the first year will help to identify any invest to save funding.

8.6. Joint working

Requirement that all stakeholders work to achieving the savings to bring a balanced DSG budget in coming years.

9. Recommendation

Schools Forum

- c) To agree to fund the initial year of the projects and multiples thereof from the underspend from the Growth Fund at the end of 2020/21.
- d) To endorse that they work with LA colleagues to enable continued progress in future years where the projects have been successful.

SCHOOLS FINANCE GROUP

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

Items for DEF to Note:

Item 3 - De-delegation for Maintained Nursery Schools

- SFG recommends DEF approve the proposal for de-delegated funding rates for services to be provided to maintained nursery schools.

Item 4 – SEND 100 Project Proposals

- DEF to agree to fund the initial year of the SEND 100 projects and multiples thereof from the underspend from the Growth Fund at the end of 2020/21.
- DEF to endorse that it works with LA colleagues to enable continued progress in future years where the projects have been successful.

Item 5 – Mutual Fund

- DEF to note proposed rebate of £164k to current mutual fund members, with a remaining £450k carry forward to 2021/22.
- Premiums to be reduced by 5% from the 2020/21 levels.

Attendance

DCC

Karlien Bond (apologies)	Senior Accountant (Schools)
Adrian Fox (chair)	Head Accountant (Education & Learning)
Dawn Stabb	Head of Education & Learning
Heidi Watson-Jones (notes)	Service Support Officer (E&L)

Devon Schools Leadership Services

Primary:

Alun Dobson	Marwood Primary
Jamie Stone	Denbury Primary
Paul Walker	First Federation MAT

Secondary:

Sammy Crook	Tiverton Federation
Andrew Davis	Exmouth Community College
Lorraine Heath	Uffculme Academy

SENtient Heads

Keith Bennett	Marland School
Sarah Pickering	Mill Water School

DAG

Faith Butler	Special School Governors
Malcolm Dobbins	Primary Governors
Alex Walmsley	Secondary Governors

Early Years Providers

Dianne Roberts (apologies)	Early Years / PVI providers
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Other DCC Officers

Julia Foster	Senior Manager SEND
Katrina Harverson	Senior Accountant (Education)
Matthew Thorpe	DCC Finance

Agenda Item 11

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 4 November 2020

- Recovery Plan timetable to be circulated (AF)
- Month 6 report on Plus Packages to be circulated (JF)
- Minutes agreed as an accurate record.

2. DSG Month 8 Report 2020-2021

- DSG overall overspend £34m associated with continued demand on High Needs Block and growing demand for independent special school placements. Cumulative year end deficit projected at £50.36m.
- This could have a considerable impact on future education budgets within the DSG as well as impacting on the financial stability for Devon County Council. Urgent action is still required within the HNB.
- Comprehensive management plan template being worked up.
- De-delegated budgets – surpluses identified due to delay in planned redundancies (due to Covid) and forecast underspend in Maternity cover.
- SEND 100 proposals to be agreed at January DEF – to be allocated from surplus Growth Funding of £1.7m brought forward to 2021/22.
- Learning being taken from other LAs regarding their High Needs Block situations. Devon is an outlier, due to high number of children with EHCPs. Noted that some other LAs have a higher number of special schools, some have a higher level of funding and wrap around support from other services (e.g. Health) is more effective and accessible in other LAs than in Devon.
- Significant pressures identified in Devon relating to provision for children with autism and SEMH needs.
- Noted learning from recent Tribunal case resulting in a high cost independent placement, linked to lack of appropriate local wrap around adult care. Further discussion required with adult social care regarding funding implications; Tribunal legislation is only able to hold education to account. DCC legal team planning to appoint a lawyer with SEN specialism.
- Considered information available to parents on SEN and funding arrangements. SEND 100 proposals aim to increase parental confidence in mainstream provision to reduce escalation to EHCP and specialist school placements. Heads felt that in many cases EHCPs are sought as a means of unlocking access to other specialist services for individual support.
- It is felt that the impact of earlier additional support from other health services would provide improved confidence in provision and reduce the number of EHC assessment requests. Mindful of funding constraints in Health services to facilitate an earlier, more flexible response; SEND Transformation discussions will consider this.
- Considered how the shape of the curriculum put in place by schools to meet individual SEN needs is judged by Ofsted against Progress 8 curriculum measures. Considered how EHCP outcomes are articulated within the plan and can affect Ofsted judgement – **JF to follow up with SEN colleagues.**

Independent Special School Placements

- Update report noted. LA is now dealing with fewer independent providers, however individual placement costs are increasing. KS3 and post 16 learner placements increasing significantly.
- LA are officers involved in discussions with independent providers to move towards more affordable, block contracting arrangements.
- New SEMH special school to be developed for opening in Okehampton in September 2022.
- Renewed focus on Post 16 learners being prepared for adulthood, and moving away from education.

Agenda Item 11

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

- Noted Magdalen Court School has changed status to an independent special school. Current learners were placed into a mainstream environment; LA working with the school to consider the ongoing offer for these learners.

Action

- **JF** to consider how EHCP outcomes are articulated within the plan, and the impact on Progress 8 measures being scrutinised by Ofsted.

3. DSG Funding 2021/22 (incl. de-delegation Maintained Nursery Schools)

- Projecting £78.3m deficit; implications for future education budgets as well as the stability of the local authority.
- Minimum Funding Guarantee set at +2%.
- Basic entitlement AWP set at £14.86 per pupil following DEF decision not to transfer between blocks.
- Noted teachers' pay and pensions grants will be rolled into the national funding formula. SFG noted the position regarding pay and pensions funding for non-maintained special schools (not independent).
- High Needs Block settlement £87.26m.
- SFG considered how achievable the 2021/22 budget will be to balance. Discussed how in-year growth will be projected, and noted the budget presented is based on the funding required to achieve the provision and growth in year (£122.27m), rather than the funding expected to be received into the authority.
- SFG requested further clarity on the difference between the required and allocated funding, and the projected in-year funding gap to illustrate how the budget being set is not being met by the HNB settlement. **KH/AF to provide additional detail.**
- Noted increases in Early Years block funding.
- Pupil premium funding rates to remain the same as for 2020/21.
- Noted early years concerns around funding linked to October 2019 census or attendance expectations linked to continued opening of nursery provision in primary schools. Concerns have been escalated to DfE.
- Understand that some other LAs are not using headcount funding – noted issues around funding of alternative places where the child's registered provision is closed due to Covid.
- Concerns to be escalated with DfE re. impact on special school funding based on January census headcounts, mindful of impact of lockdown on on-site school attendance.

De-delegation for maintained nursery schools

- SFG noted proposals for de-delegated funding rates for services to be provided to maintained nursery schools.
- Noted that Ethnic Minority Achievement as well as Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement will not be included in this arrangement as these services are not provided to the early years age range. **AF to amend DEF proposal.**
- Reductions have been made to funding rates where appropriate, while still allowing for surpluses within specific budgets.
- **SFG agreed to recommend the amended proposal for DEF agreement.**

Action:

- **KH / AF** to provide additional clarity to illustrate the HNB in year funding gap
- **AF** to amend proposal to DEF relating to list of de-delegated services to maintained nurseries.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

4. SEND 100 Project Options

- Further costings had been prepared for SFG consideration as requested by DEF for the following proposals:
 - **SEN Support Service**
 - **SEN Outreach Support Service**
 - **Babcock: SEN support service**
 - **Helpline support**
 - **Increased online teacher training CPD modules**
- Noted that year 1 funding is expecting to be met by identified Growth Fund surplus of £1.7m. Any ongoing commitment beyond year 1 will need to be agreed; SFG noted that majority of savings have been projected in years 2 and 3. Mindful of difficulty in quantifying savings from implementing further CPD training and SEN support helpline expansion.
- SFG considered how projected savings are based on identifying the most appropriate learners to be targeted for intervention. In-year monitoring of the impact on the children's destinations will be important to demonstrate cost savings and determine ongoing investment. **DS/JF to provide additional detail on impact monitoring for DEF consideration.**
- Considered how the EHCP Review process will be used to identify the target group by highlighting appropriate additional intervention which can be put in place immediately, whilst plan is being amended.
- Ongoing agreed investment for further years to be represented as one of the mitigating solutions within the HNB recovery plan.
- SFG agreed that a minimum 3-year investment proposal should be considered with additional proposals for funding sources in years 2 and 3. **DS/AF Draft report to be circulated to SFG members prior to submission to DEF.**
- Formal SFG recommendation to DEF will need to be a one-year agreement, based on deployment of identified Growth Fund surplus, but, should the model evidence savings, would seek to secure investment beyond first year based on an invest to save model.
- SFG felt that a commitment from Babcock DCC and special schools for an initial one-year project would be important.

Action

- **DS/JF** to provide additional detail on SEND 100 impact monitoring for DEF report.
- **DS/AF** to provide additional proposals for sustainable investment in years 2 and 3
- Amended report for DEF to be circulated to SFG members for agreement prior to circulation to DEF.

5. Mutual Board and Appeals

- Noted projected underspend of £613.9k prior to any rebates.
- Proposed rebate of £164k to current mutual fund members, with a remaining £450k carry forward to 2021/22.
- Recommendation to be amended as should read: 'Propose to reduce the premiums by 5% from the 2020/21 levels as stated in Option 2, while also allowing a rebate to members to address the current Fund surplus.'

6. CONFIDENTIAL PART 2 DISCUSSION

Learner Services Contract Recommissioning

- SFG was updated on the current position.

Agenda Item 11

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 6 January 2021

7. Any Other Business

Items for January DEF:

- SEN 100 report (with addition detail on monitoring impact and formal recommendations on further years' investment)
- Month 8 DSG report
- Funding proposal for 2021/22 (with clarity on in-year deficit)
- De-delegation for maintained nursery schools.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 3 March 2021 (9.15 – 12.45pm) – tbc – possibly Larkbeare Knightshayes

Wednesday 26 May 2021 (09.15 – 12.00 – venue TBC)

Wednesday 14 July 2021 (09.15 – 12.00 – venue TBC)

Wednesday 8 September 2021 (09.15 – 16.00 – venue TBC)

Wednesday 3 November 2021 (09.15 – 12.00 – venue TBC)

Wednesday 5 January 2022 (09.15 – 12.00 – venue TBC)

Wednesday 2 March 2022 (09.15 – 12.00 – venue TBC)

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 1 December 2020

Key Issues for DEF to Note:

Item 2 – Proposed Admission Arrangements

- Schools to be reminded of the expected requirements and timeframes to determine their admission arrangements and publish on school websites

Item 3 – Admissions Appeal Hearings

- DEF to note the successful running of remote admissions appeal hearings during Covid and the positive response by families.

Item 4 – Flexi-Schooling guidance

- Draft guidance to be amended to include procedures for children with EHCPs
- Schools to be encouraged to flag any flexi-schooling arrangements with the LA to ensure any safeguarding issues have been appropriately considered.

Item 5 - Early Years Update:

- DEF members to be aware that the Nursery Admissions documentation has been updated and that schools with early years provision are encouraged to use the refreshed documents – Community and VC schools must follow the DCC policy.
- Schools with concerns about ongoing viability of governor run provision are encouraged to discuss their situation with the DCC Early Years team.

Attendance

DCC

Neil Pateman (chair)	Built Environments Capital Programme Manager
Andrew Brent	Policy Officer
Fran Butler	Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Lead
Christine McNeil	School Organisation Policy Manager
Heidi Watson-Jones (notes)	Service Support Officer (E&L)

Devon Schools Leadership Services

Primary

Colin Butler	Otter Valley Federation
Penny Hammett	FORT Federation

Secondary

Phil Randall	St Peters C of E VA School
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SENTient Heads

Sam Barham	Lampard Community School
Stuart Allman	Pathfield School

DAG

Ian Rogers

Diocesan Representatives

Tbc	Plymouth CAST
Christina Mabin (part)	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Admissions)
Richard Power (part)	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Capital)

Union Representative

Nigel Williams	Corporate Forum (Education) NASUWT
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In Attendance

Nigel Coleman (part)	NPS
Simon Niles	DCC – Education Strategic Manager

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 1 December 2020

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 22 September 2020

- Minutes agreed as an accurate version.

ACTION:

- Fair Access Protocol working group to be convened by **Andrew Brent**.

2. Proposed Admission Arrangements 2022-23

- Consultation now live – until 8 January 2021. Additional complexity around Admissions Code revision which will require changes to admissions policies in the summer term.
- Changes have been drafted to include children who appear to have been adopted from state care abroad to be included in the first priority group. Revised model admissions policies will not include this change until the revised Admissions Code is in force, but anticipate that amendments will be required in the spring/summer term. Further guidance has been requested from DfE around provision of evidence of care status.
- Devon Admission Service to update the policies.
- Oversees applications following end of Brexit transition: DfE have provided clarity – noted proposed amendment to all admissions policies from 2020 to 2023 – all schools will need to ensure that websites reference the correct documentation. Admissions Service will amend policies for schools
- Considered change regarding Children new to the area with no school place requiring to be placed after 4 weeks – Devon is suggesting either an amendment to Devon's in-year coordinated admissions scheme or an addition to the Fair Access Protocol to ensure that a child does not need to be out of school for 4 weeks before being allocated under Fair Access.
- Noted that Own Admission Authority Schools must have determined their admissions policy by the statutory deadline of the end of February. Reminders and summary of key changes to be circulated to schools by **AB**.
- Policies to be published on school websites by 15 March.
- Report noted

ACTION:

- **AB** to circulate reminder to schools of requirements and timeframes for determining admissions arrangements.

3. Admissions Appeals under emergency regulations

- Noted recent changes during Covid allowing remote admissions appeals hearings. This has been a positive arrangement for many families, particularly for those living in rural areas who may be less able to take the time and expense to travel to Exeter. Parents have reported that they feel more comfortable having such a meeting from home.
- DCC is expecting the temporary arrangement to be extended until 30 September 2021.
- SOCA supported the continued use of remote appeals beyond that timeframe if possible.
- It was noted that schools are working hard to support families to ensure internet access is available to facilitate blended learning opportunities, and that the increasing virtual interaction with parents is working successfully.
- Discussed how schools and libraries may be able to facilitate internet access should that be a barrier to taking part in a remote appeal hearing.
- The group considered the data.

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 1 December 2020

ACTION:

- **AB** to provide admissions appeal data for 2019-2020. Done.

4. Flexi-schooling - guidance

- Guidance covers arrangements where a full time school place is offered off the school site for part of the week at parental preference.
- DfE guidance is clear that flexi-schooling should be a transitional arrangement to full time school education.
- Devon County Council does not encourage schools to offer such an arrangement but notes that this is lawful in particular circumstances, where the school considers it to be in the best interests of the child.
- Noted that parents of a child with an EHCP may also request a flexi-school arrangement. Such requests for children in special schools would need to be made in conjunction with the 0-25 team and Inclusion teams.
- SOCA noted the distinction between Annex R part time schooling arrangements and flexi-schooling.
- Agreed that it is good practice for the LA to be informed of any agreed flexi-schooling arrangement (via Elective Home Education and Education Welfare teams).
- SOCA requested information on the number of schools currently engaged in flexi-schooling arrangements. Concerned that there may be safeguarding issues where children's attendance is being recorded as 'education off site'.
- Report noted.

ACTION:

- **AB** to amend policy to include appropriate procedure through 0-25 SEN team and Inclusion team for flexi-schooling arrangements of children with EHCPs. Policy to also include explicit description of flexi schooling and part time timetables. Has been shared with 0-25 and Inclusion for a further view
- **DSLS** to request schools to notify LA if they are currently running any flexi-schooling arrangements.

5. Early Years Update

- Noted updated nursery admissions documentation drafted – any comments to be sent to Fran Butler prior to sign off.
- Concerns around increasing number of schools who do not appear to be following the current policy guidance or using the correct application form. Early Years team following up directly with schools when known.
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report has been published – no particular concerns have been highlighted. Noted move to academic year reporting from 2020, and that providers will now be surveyed on a termly basis to enable earlier identification of any changes. Parents will also be surveyed.
- Early Years attendance is being tracked by the DfE during Covid. Noted that many schools are not completing attendance returns for their early years children.
- Noted that the number of eligible 2-year olds has dropped slightly, and the take up of places for eligible 2 year olds has also reduced. Ongoing eligibility will be monitored as the impact of the Pandemic becomes clearer.
- Early Years Pupil Premium – providers are being encouraged to apply for the additional funding, although it was acknowledged that the application process is complex and the additional funding level is relatively low.

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 1 December 2020

- Noted that there is little national evidence of the impact of EYPP – Ofsted will request information on how the funding has been used and what outcomes have been achieved.
- Noted lack of coherent criteria for eligibility across EYPP, Free School Meals, Disability Access Funding and 2-year old funding.
- Noted increase in the number of under-5s coming into care in Devon over the last 2 months.
- SOCA discussed concerns, raised through DAG, around the sustainability of extended services run by Governors – (Governor-Run pre-schools, breakfast and after school clubs, and holiday clubs). Devon currently has 50 Governor-run pre-schools.
- Concerns were raised around financial viability, and it was noted that Governors may consider different models of running and staffing early years provision, particularly in smaller schools.
- The increase in home working due to Covid has reduced parental demand for wrap-around care.
- Many schools have benefitted greatly from bringing preschool provision in to establish an Early Years Foundation Stage Unit – both financially, and in terms of better monitoring of standards, and increased confidence in the children being integrated into the wider school.
- The group was reminded that decisions to change school provision must be made on a sound financial basis, mindful of the overall reducing primary demographic.
- Schools with any concerns around the viability of their governor-run pre-school provision should make contact with the Early Years team for advice in the first instance.

ACTIONS:

- **ALL** to provide feedback directly to Fran Butler re. Nursery Admissions documentation.
- **DSLS** requested to highlight that schools are required to complete DfE attendance returns for early years children where applicable.
- **DSLS** requested to highlight that primary schools with concerns around viability of governor-run preschool provision should make contact with the EY team for support and guidance.

6. NPS Update

- Noted improved outcomes in Devon Maintenance Partnership inspections
- VA schools – noted reporting lag re. maintenance of heating plant
- Devon Academies Maintenance Agreement scheme – noted there have been some amendments to the report in areas which reflect opt-outs for specific maintenance being sourced elsewhere by academy schools. Mindful of NPS restrictions around access to academy data and therefore reduced control around call-off reporting.
- Upward trend in contractor performance, particularly during the Pandemic conditions was noted and has been appreciated.
- Noted that Covid restrictions impacting on access to school sites had caused some initial concerns for allowing contractor access which has affected performance reporting.

ACTION:

- **NC** to review trend data, particularly for DAMA performance.

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 1 December 2020

7. Capital Programme Update

- Thanks were extended to schools in facilitating access to contractors for the maintenance programme, which has been challenging during Covid.
- SOCA noted that the Capital Maintenance programme has been delivered this year largely according to plan.
- Draft Capital Programme for 2021-22 was shared with the group confidentially. To be ratified by Cabinet.
- 2021 Basic Need capital programme will be on a smaller scale than usual. Noted DCC investment in SEN capital projects, which will overall lead to the creation of around 300 new special school places.
- New sites being sought in preparation for new free school programme announcements.
- DfE expected to roll out the round 2 condition data collection exercise during 2021.
- Public Sector de-carbonisation grant – corporate bid has been submitted which includes 3 schools with significant energy inefficiency.
- VA school bid has also submitted by Diocese, with wider assessment of all VA schools for de-carbonisation planned to prepare for potential future grant funding rounds.
- Understand that individual schools, academies and MATs have also been able to bid for de-carbonisation grant funding.

8. School Organisation Update

- Links with Local Learning Communities have been re-established during the Pandemic which has been of benefit to schools and the LA. Mindful that this is an effective emergency support arrangement, but that established routes remain in place for ongoing communication.
- Noted current advert for proposer for new SEN school in Okehampton.
- Analysis of primary surplus capacity was shared with the group. This information is gathered annually.
- Considered the SW Exeter development, noting that Free Schools are not allocated catchment areas.
- Report noted.

Future meeting dates:

- **Tuesday 2 March 2021** (9.30 – 11.30)
- **Tuesday 25 May 2021** (9.30 – 11.30)
- **Tuesday 21 September 2021** (9.30 – 11.30)
- **Tuesday 7 December 2021** (9.30 – 11.30)
- **Tuesday 1 March 2022** (9.30 – 11.30)

