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To: The Chair and Members
of the Devon Education
Forum

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QD

Date: 14 November 2023

Contact: Fiona Rutley 01392 382305

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DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023

A meeting of the Devon Education Forum is to be held on the above date at 10.00 am at Committee Suite - County Hall to consider the following matters.

Donna Manson
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART I - OPEN COMMITTEE

1 Apologies for absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023, 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/f40

To consider any matters arising from the last meeting where not otherwise covered on this agenda and to report on items considered at the Cabinet.

5 Membership (incl Appointment of Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement)

(a) Appointment of Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement (new position)

To report that following this new DCC position wef 1 September 2023, Councillor Lois Samuel has been appointed to DEF as: Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement, Formal Observer (non-voting).

This position is in addition to that of: Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools, Formal Observer (non-voting).

Urgency procedures have been used following consultation with DCC and all DEF Members (September 2023), to approve this additional DEF position (and with Councillor Samuel invited to this meeting).

(b) Any other membership changes to be reported at the meeting.

6 Education and Learning Update (Pages 9 - 22)
(10.10am)

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures (DEF/23/12), attached.

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS FOR DECISION

7 Finance Update (Pages 23 - 44)
(10.40am)

(a)(i) Minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG), 13 September 2023, attached; and

(a)(ii) Minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG), 6 November 2023*, attached.

Also available at

[Schools Finance Group \(SFG\) – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/schools-finance-group)

*see also separate AWPU agenda item below arising from SFG; and

(b) Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures and Director of Finance and Public Value (DEF/23/13) attached.

8 2024-25 Schools Funding Arrangements Consultation Responses (Pages 45 - 54)
(11am)

Report of the Director of Finance & Public Value and Director of Children and Young Peoples Futures (DEF/23/14), attached.

9 Transfer of AWPU for Reasons other than Permanent Exclusion (Pages 55 - 58)
(11.35am)

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures (DEF/23/15), attached.

10 Update on Devon's SEND Transformation Programme (Pages 59 - 62)
(11.50am)

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures (DEF/23/16), attached.

STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS FOR DEBATE AND INFORMATION

11 Standing (and other) Groups (Pages 63 - 72)
(12.20pm)

To review action and receive minutes for the Forum from its standing groups (excepting Schools Finance Group above) and to receive summary/minutes from other groups:-

(a) Standing Groups

(i) School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023, attached

Also available at

[School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group \(SOCA\) – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-organisation-capital-and-admissions-group-soca-education-and-families)

(ii) High Needs Funding Sub Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023, attached

(b) Other Groups

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12 Correspondence

13 Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings at 10am. Please check venue/arrangements

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

Wednesday 24 January 2024 (revised date)

Wednesday 20 March 2024.

2024/25 Calendar:-

Wednesday 19 June 2024

Wednesday 20 Nov 2024

Wednesday 22 Jan 2025

Wednesday 19 March 2025.

(Close: 12.30pm)

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Induction Loop available



DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

21 June 2023

Present:-

Schools Members

Primary Headteachers

Ms R Saim

Mr C Tribble

Mr P Walker

Cedar Tree Federation

Honiton Primary

First Federation Trust (Academy)

Primary Governors

Mr J Clements

Ms K Brimacombe

Cranbrook, St Martin's CE Primary

Whitchurch Primary, First Fed'n (Academy)

Secondary Headteachers

Ms F Bowler

Ms J Fossey

Mr G Hill

Braunton Academy

West Exe School, Ted Wragg MAT (Academy)

Pilton CC, Ventrus MAT (Academy)

Secondary Governors

Mr A Hines

Ms G Sanders

Mr A Walmsley

Education SW Trust (Academy)

Athena Learning Trust (Academy)

The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (Academy)

Nursery School

Mrs S Baker

Westexe

Special Headteacher

Mr K Bennett

Ms S Pickering

Marland School

Mill Water School, Substitute (observing only)

Special Governor

Mrs F Butler

Marland School (**Chair**)

Alternative Provision

Mr R Gasson

WAVE Multi Academy Trust

Non-Schools Members

Ms H Brown

Mr B Blythe

Mrs B Alderson

Ms G Rolstone

RC Diocesan Schools, Plymouth (Faith)

PETROC, 16-19

Teachers Consultative Committee (TCC)

Early Years, Private & Voluntary Independent

Observer

Councillor A Leadbetter

Cabinet Member – Children's Services and Skills

Agenda Item 2

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DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
21/06/23

Apologies

Mr G Chown
Mrs S Crook
Ms S Channel

Ventrus MAT (Academy)
Tiverton High, Fed'n of Tiverton Schools
Tiverton High, Fed'n of Tiverton Schools

93 Minutes

DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2023 be signed as a correct record.

94 Matters Arising from the Last Meeting and Report back on Issues Raised with Cabinet/f40

-

95 Membership

DISCUSSION:

The following membership changes were noted:-

Mrs Sue Lockwood, Diocesan Director of Education (CE) had been appointed as the faith schools substitute member (replacing Ms Claire Platt, former Diocesan representative).

ACTION:

Legal and Democratic Services (Fiona Rutley)

96 Head of Education Update

DISCUSSION:

The Chair welcomed Ms Donna Manson, DCC Chief Executive to her first Forum meeting.

(a) The Forum considered the Report of the Head of Education (DEF/23/10) on:-

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Attendance, Exclusions, Elective Home Education (EHE) and Children Missing Education (CME)
Alternative Provision
Ofsted
Staffing Changes

SEND Conference
SEMH Partnership Project
School Effectiveness.

Discussions and Members' comments included:-

-whilst the KPI data for Attendance, Exclusions, EHE and CME was stark particularly within the secondary sector, it was important to have this level of detail available to all stakeholders. SEMH was a significant factor within these KPIs and would be included in targets/more detail for the next Forum meeting;

-the Early Years representative advised that working parents were finding the part time timetables for children starting reception (particularly where lengthy and e.g. extending as far as the first half term) were difficult to manage in terms of leave and significantly increased child care costs;

-clarification was required for schools that Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) Basic Entitlement funding, which followed a pupil who needed an Education other than at School (EOTAS) package, was not given to Torlands School (medical provision academy) but used by the Local Authority to commission education packages. Schools remained responsible for examination arrangements for any student who remained on their roll. This should further be reviewed by the Schools Finance Group;

-concern that the most vulnerable pupil groups had the poorest attendance data, both unauthorised and authorised, requiring a consistent approach in cases of authorised absence. (Noting Devon's continuing work and progress to date to improve outcomes for its vulnerable children to address Ofsted concerns, social care provision, Early Help multi-agency working and High Needs DfE Safety Valve intervention);

-assessing both pupils presenting with SEMH/SEN needs in mainstream education and the quality of teaching provision in place;

-SENCO and school bids for improved SEN provision within Devon;

-Devon SEN case studies to be widely communicated; and

-clarity required to concerned school staff regarding the current review of school effectiveness and school structures.

(b) The Forum received the additional SEND Update document as published.

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DEVON EDUCATION FORUM
21/06/23

DECISION:

(i) that the transfer of AWPU (Basic Entitlement) funding to support Education other than at School (EOTAS) be further reviewed by the Schools Finance Group and report back to the Forum; and

(ii) that the Head of Education follow up other points raised by Members above as appropriate.

ACTION:

Head of Education (Rachel Shaw)

97

Finance Update

DISCUSSION:

(a) Schools Finance Group Minutes – 7 June 2023

The Forum considered the above minutes, including the respective minutes relating to the Finance Update Report at (b).

Also available at

[Schools Finance Group \(SFG\) – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/schools-finance-group)

DECISION:

(i) that the minutes of the Schools Finance Group (SFG), 7 June 2023 be received;

(ii) that in respect of SFG note 5, information to all schools on how to access various funding for asylum seeking children, to help reduce the burden on school budgets, would be welcomed.

ACTION:

- (i) Director of Finance and Public Value (Adrian Fox)
- (ii) Head of Education (Rachel Shaw).

(b) Finance Update Report

The Forum considered the report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures and Director of Finance and Public Value (DEF/23/08).

The Report (DEF/23/08) covered:-

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Schools Funding Outturn 2022/23;
DSG Deficit Management Plan;
High Needs;

Early Years;
Carry Forwards; and
Risks.

The draft DSG outturn position was an overspend of £11.5 million prior to transfers to the DSG Adjustment Account and ringfenced balances, comprising Individual School Balances (ISB) of £20.8 million, ringfenced balances of £6.7 million and deficit transfer to the DSG Adjustment Account of just under £39 million. Although an improvement of £1.7 million from month 11 position there was continued demand on SEN placements within the independent sector and the delays in implementing management actions identified within the Safety Valve / Improvement Plan. Of the revised £10 million management action expected to be delivered in 2022/23 just under £5 million of the actions had been achieved, projecting a cumulative DSG deficit to March 2023 of £125.4 million, which was £3.2 million over what was stated in the Safety Valve Submission, February 2022. The Authority had now been invited into discussions to join the next (fourth) tranche of the Safety Valve Intervention Programme, with Devon's management plan being refreshed for submission to the DfE in July 2023. A SEND refresh was held during May 2023 where Senior Officers of the Local Authority as well as school Headteachers and education staff looked at the current safety valve plan and projects aligned with the SEND Improvement plan and improve outcomes for Devon's children. The increasing DSG deficit could have a considerable impact on future education budgets within the DSG as well as impacting on the financial sustainability for Devon County Council.

Forum discussions, together with Members' comments included:-

-this was a particularly challenging time for the schools sector with a number of schools setting deficit budgets. A clear and timely communication to schools to assist them in looking at their structures and systems and in not putting off difficult decisions to produce sustainable budgets would be welcome, noting for example that DCC admissions were encouraging schools to work collaboratively in areas where falling primary school roles were projected to be more significant, to support the longer term sustainability of all schools affected;

-the current and ongoing work with other LAs, including those within the DfE Safety Valve programme, reviewing practices/trends for managing these national SEND pressures;

-noting that progress was being made in some SEND/High Needs budget areas, but recognising that a realistic timescale for more longer term sustainability was projected at 3-4 years and with vigorous ongoing monitoring required to be accepted onto the DfE Safety Valve programme. Further information intended to be shared with all stakeholders was anticipated in the autumn term;

Agenda Item 2

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DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

21/06/23

-balancing successful SEND practice and improved outcomes within Devon schools and ultimately improving Devon's High Needs deficit budget, against challenging school budgets; and

-resources and work streams for Devon's special schools' outreach/inreach provision, to support a reduction in independent school placements.

DECISION:

(a) that the DSG Draft Outturn position (subject to Statement of Accounts sign off) as set out in Section 1 of Report (DEF/23/08) be noted;

(b) that the surplus budget carry forwards for Schools, de-delegated, central school services and High needs as set out in Section 5, table 6 of the Report be noted;

(c) that the Early Years surplus carry forwards as set out in Section 4 and Section 5, table 6 of the Report be approved;

(Vote: Schools, Academies and PVI)

(d) that the Individual School Balances carry forwards as set out in Section 5, table 7 of the Report be noted;

(e) that the DSG Deficit Reserve transfer as set out in Section 5, table 8 of the Report be noted; and

(f) that in noting (a), (b), (d) and (e) above, the Forum continued to recognise the seriousness of the High Needs deficit that had to be reduced as soon as possible as discussed above.

ACTION:

Director of Finance and Public Value (Adrian Fox)

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DEF Proportionality

The Forum received the update that following consultation with DEF Members in May 2023, that in reviewing Forum representation (required to be broadly proportionate, based on pupil census data - projected to September), this remained unchanged excepting for:-

<u>Primary Phase</u>	<u>Maintained</u>	<u>Academy*</u>
Headteacher	2	2
Governor	2 (previously 3)**	2 (previously 1)**

*academy members represent proprietor bodies, not necessarily restricted to HT/Governors.

**primary phase pupil numbers projected 2023/24: Maintained 51.3% and Academy 48.7%

99 Standing (and other) Groups

The Forum received the following from its standing and other groups (excepting Schools' Finance Group (SFG) minutes, (considered under Finance Update minute above):-

(a) Standing Groups

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

(A) Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023; and

(B) The Report (for information) of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport (DEF/23/09) on admissions was withdrawn. (Note: Any questions from Members on this Report to be sent direct to the Report author. This matter arose from SOCA meeting 7 March 2023, note 4).

Also available at

[School Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group \(SOCA\) – Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/soca)

(ii) High Needs Funding Sub Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May and 5 June 2023, together with Note for information, accompanying HNF minutes, re: SEND.

100 Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings at 10am. Please check venue/arrangements

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

Wednesday 22 November 2023

Wednesday 24 January 2024 (date changed from 17 January)

Wednesday 20 March 2024.

NOTES:

1. Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.
2. If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.35 am

Agenda Item 2

Education and Learning Update Report

Report of the Director of Children's and Young People's Futures

Recommendation: That DEF note the report

1. Key Performance Indicators for attendance, exclusions, EHE and CME

Attendance

		2021/22 – Autumn/Spring Terms Combined*	2022/23 – Autumn/Spring (Data until 09/03/2023)**	2023-2024 – To date
Total	% Attendance	91.4	92.3	93.7
	% Authorised Absence	7.1	5.9	4.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.5	1.8	1.8
	% Persistent Absence	26.8	22.0	19.0
Primary	% Attendance	93.2	94.1	95.5
	% Authorised Absence	6.0	5.0	3.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	0.8	0.9	1.0
	% Persistent Absence	20.2	17.0	14.0
Secondary/ AllThrough	% Attendance	89.6	89.7	91.0
	% Authorised Absence	8.3	7.2	6.0
	% Unauthorised Absence	2.3	3.1	3.0
	% Persistent Absence	34.7	29.0	25.0
SEN (E+ K Combined)	% Attendance	87.1	88.2	89.5
	% Authorised Absence	10.4	8.4	6.9
	% Unauthorised Absence	2.5	3.5	3.6
	% Persistent Absence	40.8	34.0	29.0
SEN Support (K)	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	88.7	90.2
	% Authorised Absence		8.0	6.5
	% Unauthorised Absence		3.2	3.4
	% Persistent Absence		33.0	28.0
SEN (E)	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	85.6	86.3
	% Authorised Absence		10.5	9.0
	% Unauthorised Absence		3.9	4.7
	% Persistent Absence		37.0	34.0

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FSM	% Attendance	87.5	87.3	88.8
	% Authorised Absence	9.1	8.5	6.9
	% Unauthorised Absence	3.4	4.2	4.3
	% Persistent Absence	43.8	41.0	34.0
CiN	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	79.4	79.1
	% Authorised Absence		11.7	10.6
	% Unauthorised Absence		9.0	10.3
	% Persistent Absence		52.9	50.0
CP	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	76.2	80.1
	% Authorised Absence		11.9	8.9
	% Unauthorised Absence		11.9	11.0
	% Persistent Absence		62.0	45.0
LAC	% Attendance	DfE Data Not Available	85.4	89.8
	% Authorised Absence		9.3	6.2
	% Unauthorised Absence		5.3	4.0
	% Persistent Absence		36.4	24.0
Male	% Attendance	91.3	92.4	93.8
	% Authorised Absence	6.9	5.8	4.4
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.4	1.7	1.7
	% Persistent Absence	26.0	21.0	18.0
Female	% Attendance	91.3	92.2	93.5
	% Authorised Absence	7.2	6.0	4.5
	% Unauthorised Absence	1.5	1.8	1.9
	% Persistent Absence	27.6	22.0	19.0

* Data Source - DfE (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables>)

** Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools)

Overall attendance

- Overall absence rates have fallen slightly in the last year, both in Devon and nationally. Devon's absence rate for the combined autumn & spring 2022/23 terms was 7.8%, slightly higher than national and statistical neighbours averages (7.3% and 7.5%).
- Primary schools have the lowest overall absence rates, followed by secondary and then special schools. Devon primary and special schools have lower absence rates than nationally, whilst secondary schools have higher absence rates.
- The highest reason for absence was illness, accounting for over half of sessions missed. In Devon, illness rates fell from 6% to 4.7%, compared to a fall from 4.7% to 4.1% nationally. Absences with a reason of unauthorised other rose both in Devon and nationally.

Persistent Absenteeism (missed 10% or more sessions)

- Whilst persistent absentee rates fell in the last year, one in five pupils still miss 10% or more sessions. Devon has slightly higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Rates are lowest in primary schools and highest in special schools. This is also reflected nationally.
- 40.8% of Devon Free School Meal pupils were persistently absent compared to 35.7% nationally.

Severely Absent (missed 50% or more sessions)

- Severely absentee rates rose in the last year. Devon has higher rates than nationally, regionally and statistical neighbours. Primary schools have the lowest rates in Devon with secondary schools having the highest rates. This differs nationally where special schools have the highest rates.

Exclusions

Permanent Exclusions*

	2021/22		2022/23		2023-2024 to date	
	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort
Total	95	0.10%	181	0.19%	33	0.04%
Primary Age	18	0.03%	21	0.04%	7	0.01%
Secondary Age	77	0.20%	160	0.42%	26	0.07%
SEN (E+ K)	72	0.38%	127	0.66%	22	0.11%
SEN Support (K)	64	0.45%	100	0.70%	15	0.11%
SEN (E)	8	0.16%	27	0.55%	7	0.14%
LAC**	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Male	63	0.13%	124	0.26%	22	0.05%
Female	32	0.07%	57	0.12%	11	0.02%

* Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools)

** Students who are in care to Devon County Council

Exclusions

- Permanent exclusions rose by 58% in the last year, with an additional 66 children excluded
- There was an increase of 73% on suspensions from the previous year. However, we do need to take into account that figures for 2020-2021 were affected by the pandemic lockdown measures.
- Pupils eligible for FSM and those with SEN Support have seen the greatest increases in permanent exclusions and suspensions. These pupils also have the highest rates of permanent exclusions.
- Pupils eligible for FSM are five times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those not eligible (exclusion rate of 0.56% compared to 0.09% for non FSM).
- Pupils with SEN Support are nearly nine times more likely to have a permanent exclusion than those with no SEN (0.69% exclusion rate compared to 0.07% for pupils with no SEN). Pupils with an EHCP are nearly seven times more likely when compared to pupils with no SEN (0.53% compared to 0.07%).
- Pupils with SEN Support have the highest rate of suspensions, followed by pupils eligible for FSM, then those with an EHCP.

Suspensions (Number of Students)

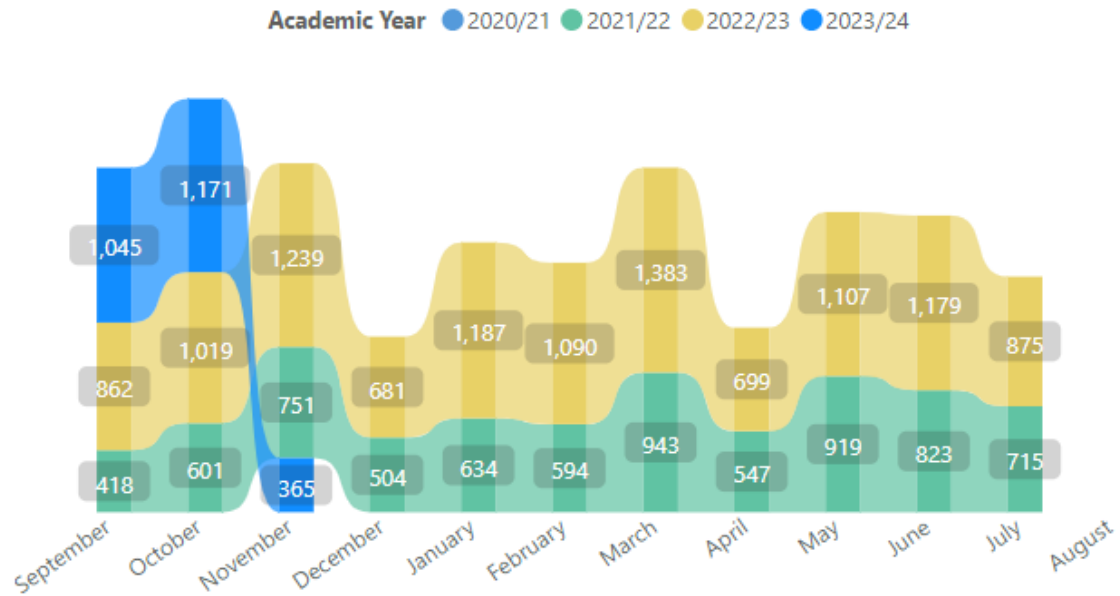
	2021/22		2022/23		2023-2024 to date	
	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort	Number	% of cohort
Total	3263	3.48%	4411	4.70%	1825	1.95%
Primary Age	420	0.75%	555	0.99%	186	0.33%
Secondary Age	2843	7.49%	3856	10.16%	1639	4.32%

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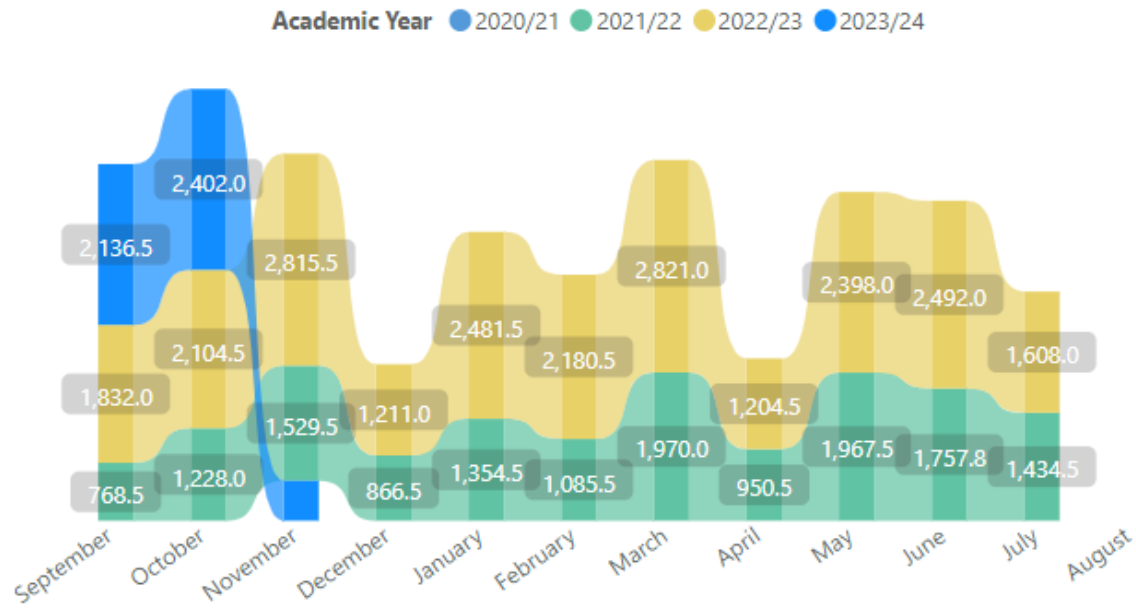
SEN (E+ K)	1666	8.70%	2291	11.96%	1049	5.48%
SEN Support (K)	1186	8.32%	1728	12.13%	828	5.81%
SEN (E)	480	9.78%	563	11.47%	221	4.50%
LAC**	111	12.28%	113	12.50%	42	4.65%
Male	2139	4.45%	2820	5.87%	1144	2.38%
Female	1124	2.46%	1591	3.48%	681	1.49%

* Data Source (Devon County Council Local Data supplied from Devon Schools), numbers as distinct students

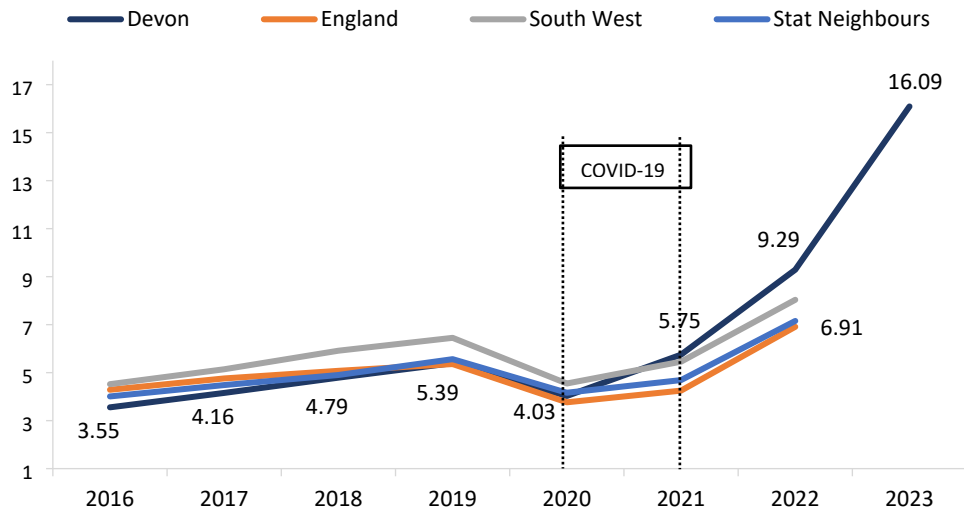
No of Students with Suspensions by by Month & Academic Year



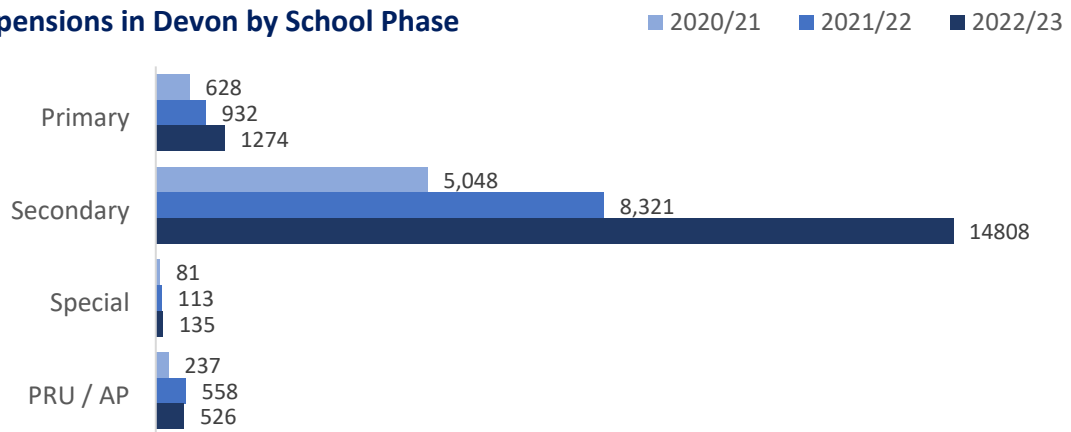
No of Days Lost due to Suspensions by Month & Academic Year



Number of Suspensions as a % of the school population



Suspensions in Devon by School Phase



Data: DfE SFR Permanent Exclusions & Suspensions 2021-22. Julv 2023. DfE LAIT Aug 23. ONE database 18/10/23

2022/23 academic year	Permanent exclusions		Suspensions	
	numbers	percentage	numbers	percentage
Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity			38	0.2
Abuse relating to disability			2	0.01
Bullying	2	1.1	100	0.6
Damage	5	2.8	251	1.5
Drug and alcohol related	10	5.6	394	2.4
Inappropriate use of social media or online technology			112	0.7
Persistent disruptive behaviour	96	53.6	9829	60.6
Physical assault against a pupil	29	16.2	1655	10.2
Physical assault against an adult	17	9.5	612	3.8
Racist abuse			161	1.0
Sexual misconduct			61	0.4
Theft			57	0.4

Agenda Item 6

Use or threaten of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	3	1.7	169	1.0
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against a pupil	5	2.8	428	2.6
Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against an adult	9	5.0	2343	14.4
Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health	3	1.7	5	0.03
Grand Total		179	16217	

Elective Home Education (EHE)

- In 2022/23, 2,951 children were registered as home educated at some point during the year, equating to 3.1% of the population¹ (compared to 2.7% for 2021/22). This is an increase of 449 children (nearly 18%) and is the highest on record for Devon County Council.
- During the last 5 years the number of EHE children have risen each year, except during 2019-20 as schools were closed due to COVID 19.
- The number of primary age children being home educated rose by 1.4% last year whilst secondary age children increased by 29.5%.
- Historically the main reason cited for deciding to home educate was lifestyle and philosophical, however mental health issues are now the main reason reported for home education.
- Of the 1,223 children who started their EHE in 2022/23, nearly 43% were previously in LA maintained schools and 44% were previously in Academies and Free Schools². 3% were in independent schools before starting EHE and less than 1% were in special schools.

	Autumn Census 2022/23	Spring Census 2022/23	Summer Census 2022/23	Autumn Census 2023/24
Total	1714	1911	2173	1988
Primary	616	664	736	610
Secondary	1098	1247	1437	1378
SEN (E+ K Combined)	571	656	778	680
SEN Support (K)	443	508	606	516
SEN (E)	128	148	172	164
CIN	12	7	17	14
CP	6	11	11	3
LAC	1	0	0	0
Male	58	997	1123	1037
Female	38	914	1050	951

Children Missing Education (CME)

	Autumn Census 2022/23	Spring Census 2022/23	Summer Census 2022/23	Autumn Census 2023/24
Total	96	120	101	146
Primary	26	41	29	40
Secondary	70	79	72	146
SEN (E+ K Combined)	52	58	52	66
SEN Support (K)	24	28	29	41
SEN (E)	28	30	23	25
CIN	3	3	8	8
CP	5	9	6	4
LAC	5	10	4	7
Male	58	73	54	86
Female	38	47	47	60

Children receiving EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) packages (Statutory School Age)

	Total	EHCP	VSR	Male	Female
Number of pupils	314	169	23	199	115

Number of pupils receiving EOTAS by year group			
Year 11	77	Year 6	13
Year 10	78	Year 5	9
Year 9	62	Year 4	8
Year 8	39	Year 3	5
Year 7	17	Year 2	5
		Year 1	2
		Year R	0

1. Staffing

- 1.1 Matthew Gould has taken on the role of service lead for inclusion for 12 months, Matt previously worked in the inclusion team so knows the service well. We have also added the attendance team to this service area.
- 1.2 The recent recruitment process for the Deputy Director of Education was unable to secure a suitable candidate for the post. We are now working on establishing transition and interim arrangements as the current interim Head of Education arrangements will not be possible for Rachel and Matthew to maintain into the New Year.

Agenda Item 6

- 1.3 We have welcomed Becky Hopkins and Lise Bird into their new substantive roles as Deputy Director of Children's Social Care and Head of Service for Early Help and Partnerships respectively.
- 1.4 Kellie Knott has taken on the role of SEND Improvement Director on a one year secondment from the DFE. Kellie has previously worked for Devon Local Authority.
- 1.5 Stuart Collins started his substantive post as Director of Children and Young People's Futures in September.

2. Early Help

- 2.1 A proposal has been shared with Schools Finance Group to support the development of a stronger early help service that works closely with families and schools. The LA have put a request to schools through the funding consultation for this work to be supported by a 0.5% transfer from DSG to the high needs block. Becky and Lise attended the DSLS Autumn briefing to share their plans with school leaders. Further details of these can be found in the schools funding consultation document.
- 2.2 Colleagues from Essex County Council, Clare Kershaw (Deputy Director of Education) and Alison (Quadrant Lead) attended the Autumn DSLS briefing and presented their model of working. This involved strong partnership models across education settings and services that wrapped tightly around the schools to support inclusion. We are continuing to work with our Essex partners to design a model that will deliver strong education and SEND services to our Devon schools, children and families. This is a significant piece of design work which will aim to make the best use of the resources we have available across education, SEND and children's social care. We are still committed to a locality-based approach and this has been well supported in our consultation to date.

3. SEMH Partnership Project

- 3.1 Following the announcements to schools of the success or otherwise of their bids we worked collaboratively with DSLS to constitute a governance board: this comprises a primary, secondary and special headteacher (none of which are beneficiaries of the scheme), a representative from the finance team, administrative support and three DCC officers. The scheme has identified 553 pupils who will benefit from this money directly as well as 2,500 pupils who will benefit indirectly. The £1.18 million is also shared between 73 identified schools with the potential for a significant number of others to be involved when the schemes are up and running.
- 3.2 The governance board has already proved itself very effective, considering those bids where more information had been requested and those who had made later bids. They also agreed the payment schedule agreed by the finance team with the suggestion of performance indicators being integral to the granting of further payments. The committee then sent out the funding agreements along with the KPI baselines requested to enable them to judge the performance of the scheme on the children identified.
- 3.3 A future meeting schedule has been agreed where we will have a combination of face to face presentations and written declarations and reports so that we can showcase the positive impact of the programme and begin to share the positive practice with our schools and stakeholders. We have also had significant involvement of officers in the set up of one of our schemes to assist its future success.
- 3.4 We have also submitted the business case to the Safety Valve programme for its potential positive impact and are optimistic about its contribution to this area of LA development at a possible £2,149 per pupil to meet their SEMH needs.

4. School Admissions

- 4.1 We had another successful school admissions round and currently we have the lowest rate of appeals (0.7%) in the South West and are performing better than national (2.6%).
- 4.2 96.7% of Devon pupils were offered a place at their preferred school compared to 92.5% nationally.
- 4.3 Devon is in the top performing quartile for all LAs for meeting secondary and primary school first preference.
- 4.4 The admissions team processed 7,474 in year applications in 2022-2023 (4,946 primary, 2,528 secondary).

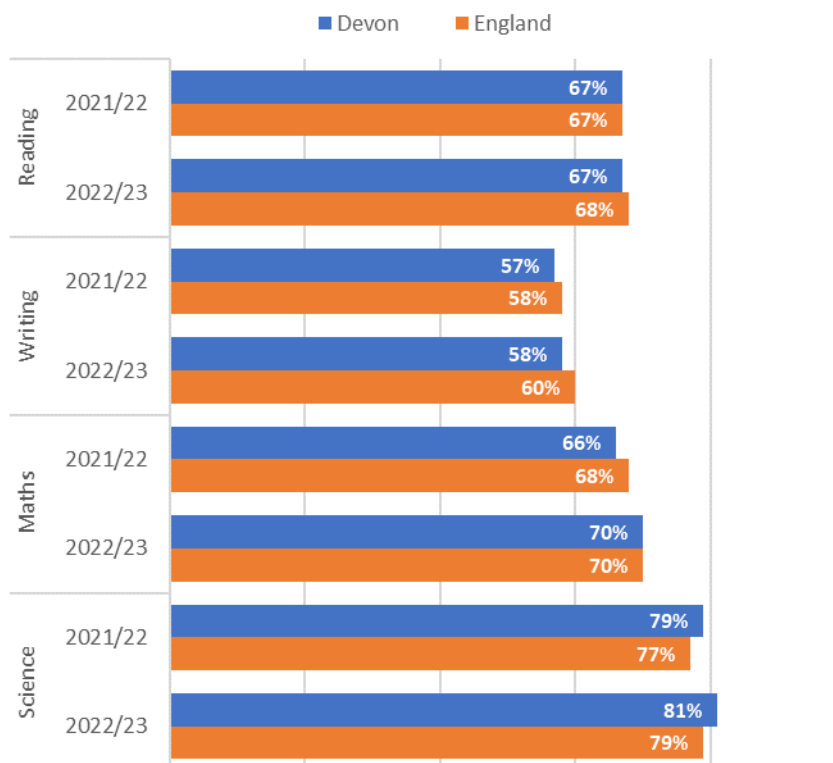
5. 2022-2023 Year 1 Phonics Outcomes

- 5.1 79% of Devon pupils met the phonics check in 2022-2023, this was in line with national.
- 5.2 64% of FSM pupils achieved the expected standard which was slightly lower than national (66%)
- 5.3 Our phonics attainment gap narrowed last year to 19% but this is still higher than national (16%).
- 5.4 24% of pupils with an EHCP met the standard (20% nationally)
- 5.5 49% of pupils with SEND support met the standard (48% nationally).

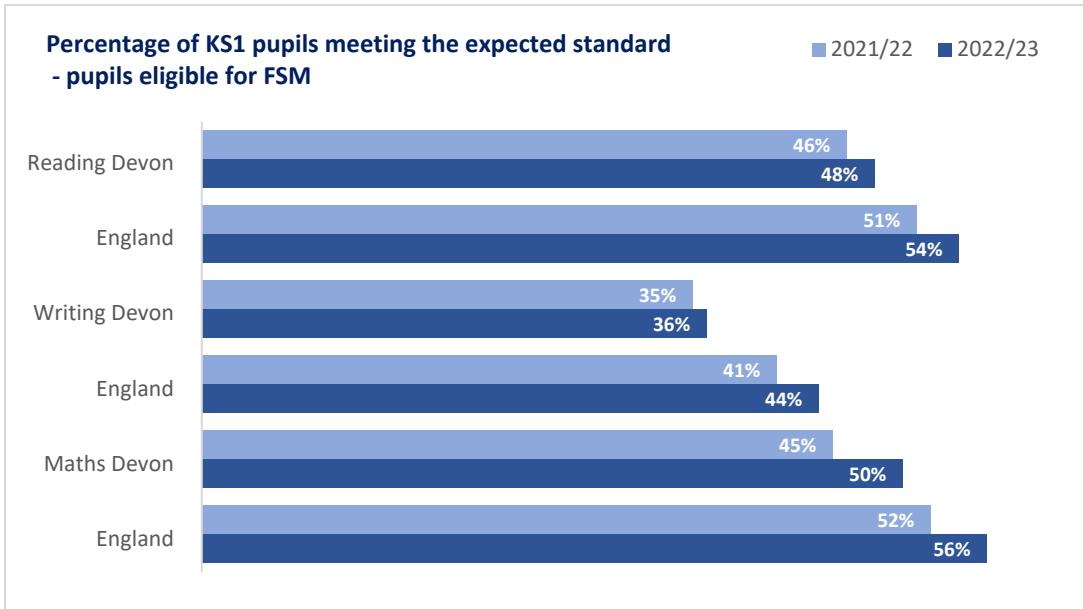
6. 2022-2023 KS1 Outcomes

- 6.1 Whilst we saw slight increases in KS1 attainment, this was also reflected nationally. We were in line with national standards for maths but slightly below in reading and writing. We are achieving better than national in science.
- 6.2 Devon’s FSM pupils are not performing as well as nationally in each of the subjects and our attainment gap is generally wider than national by 2%.
- 6.3 Devon pupils with an EHCP perform significantly better than nationally in all subjects whilst those with SEN Support are not performing as well as nationally.

Percentage of KS1 pupils meeting expected standard by subject

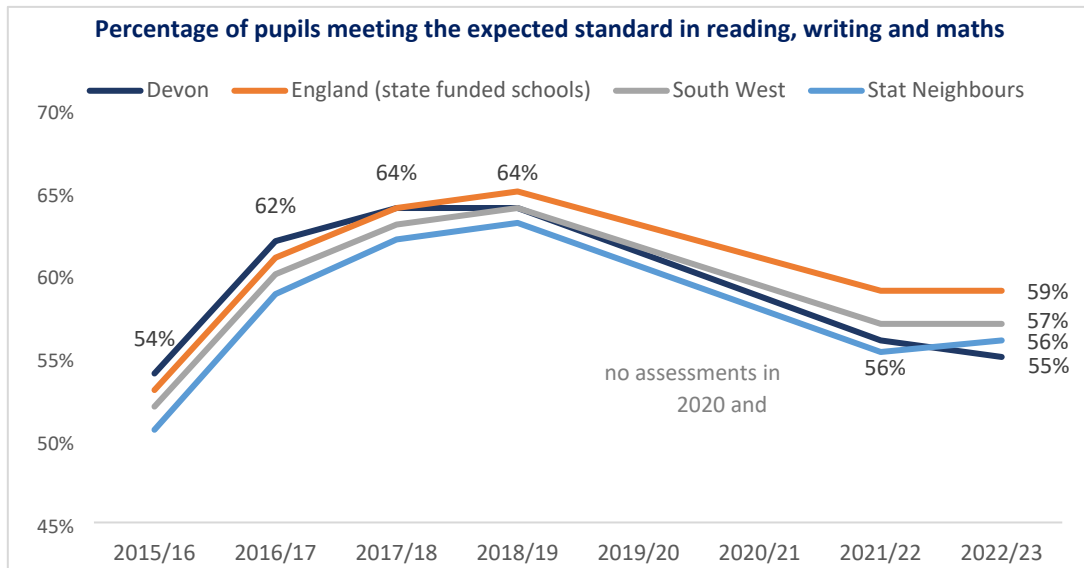


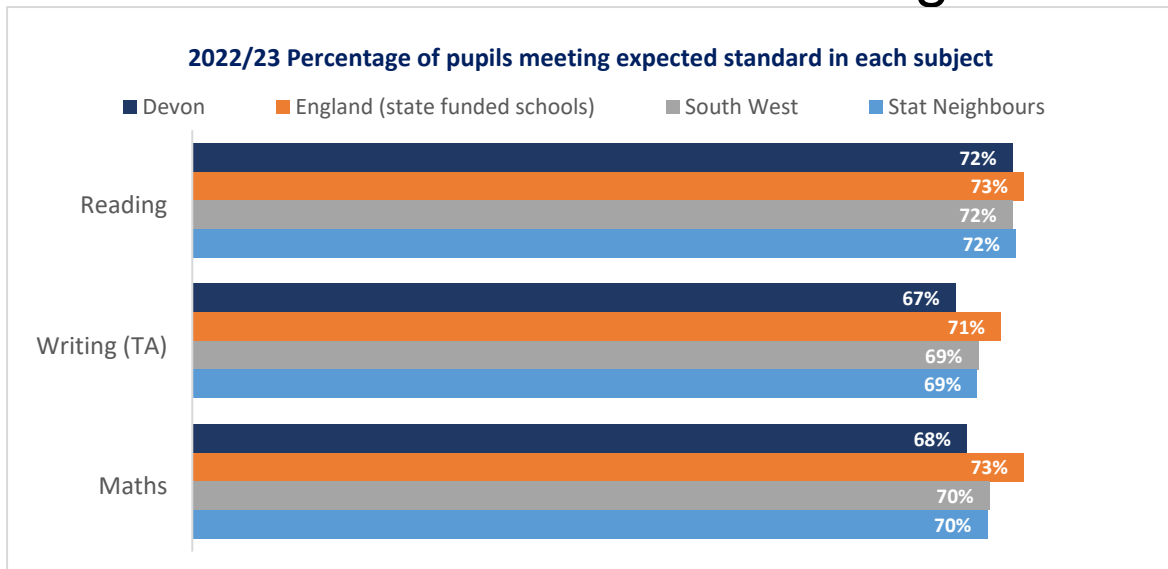
Agenda Item 6



7. 2022-2023 KS2 Pupil Outcomes

7.1 Attainment in the combined reading, writing and maths measure has fallen slightly this year. 55% of Devon’s pupils met the expected standard, down from 56% in 2022. This puts us below our national, regional and statistical neighbours.

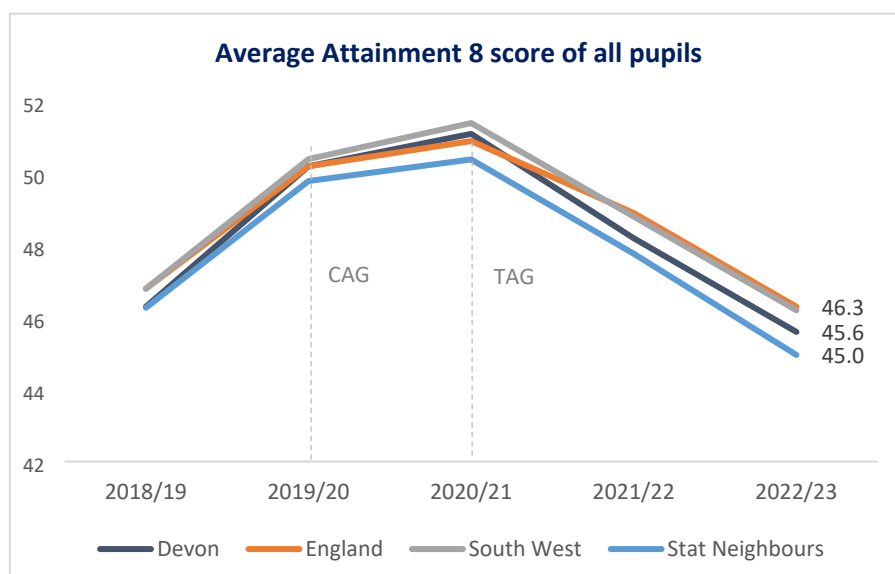




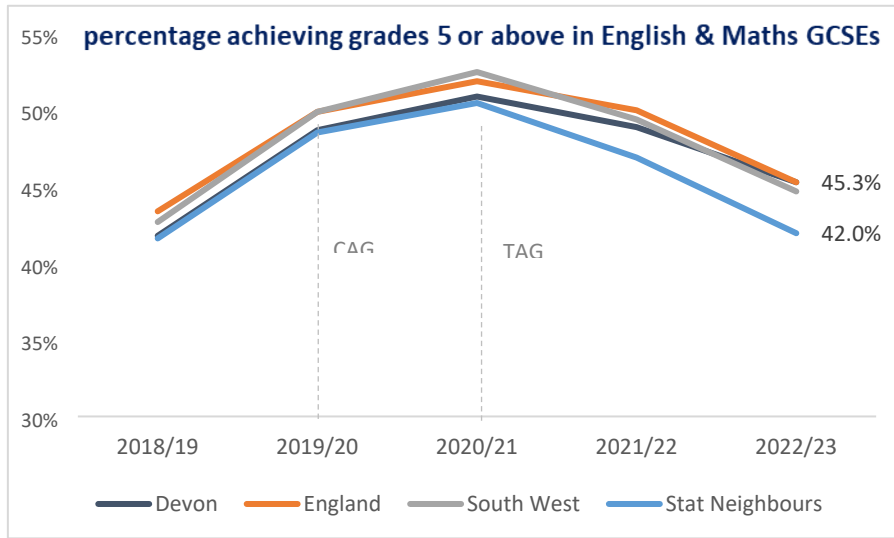
*Please note these are provisional results and will be updated in December

8. 2022-2023 KS4 Pupil Outcomes

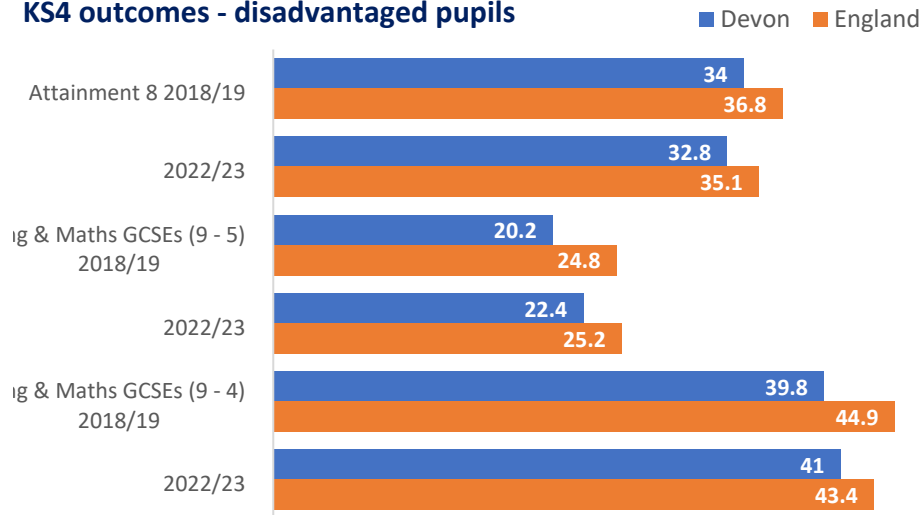
- 8.1 We have seen a more positive set of outcomes for KS4 students
- 8.2 The average Attainment 8 score for Devon pupils is 45.6 which is better than the statistical neighbours average (45.0). Devon pupils are not performing as well as the national average for state funded schools¹ (46.3).
- 8.3 45.3% of Devon pupils achieved grades 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs. This is in line with national¹ (45.3%) and is better than statistical neighbours (42.0%).
- 8.4 65.4% of Devon pupils achieved grades 4 or above in English and Maths GCSEs, better than nationally¹ (65.1%) and statistical neighbours (63.7%).
- 8.5 Devon pupils are not progressing as well as nationally, with an average progress 8 score of -0.09 compared to -0.03 nationally¹. They are progressing at a similar rate as statistical neighbours (-0.10).
- 8.6 Whilst we are seeing encouraging signs of better attainment at KS4, our disadvantaged students are not performing as well as nationally and our attainment gap remains an area for improvement.



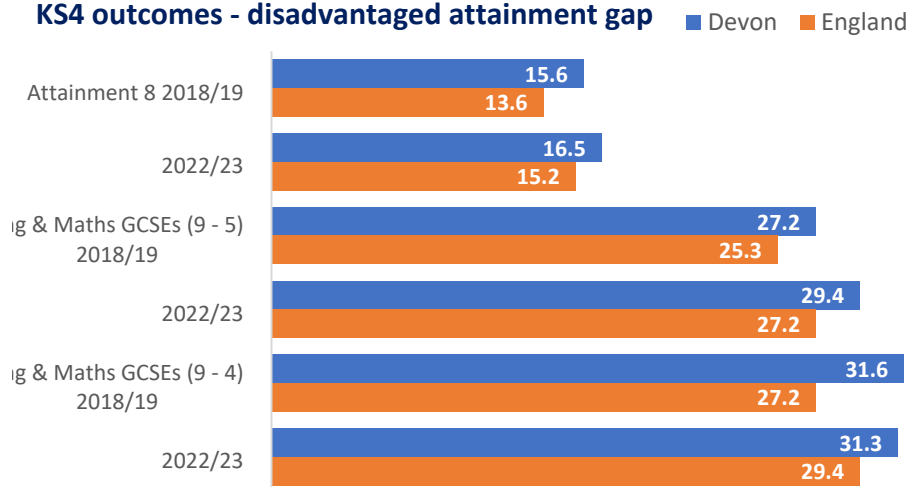
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KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged pupils

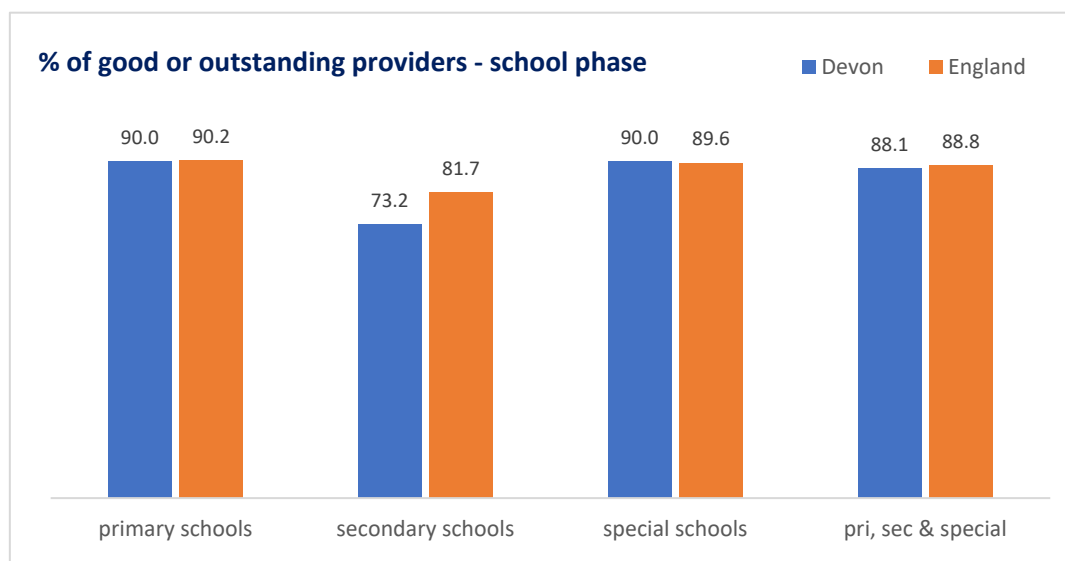


KS4 outcomes - disadvantaged attainment gap



9. Ofsted

- 9.1** 82.1% (81,639) of Devon pupils¹ are attending schools that have been judged as Good or Outstanding. This is an improvement from Sept 2022 (80.3%) but is not as good as nationally (88.4%) or regionally (86.4%). This reflects the fact that some large secondary schools are currently graded as requiring improvement.
- 9.2** 82.5% (4,053) of pupils in Devon with SEN education, health and care plans² are attending Good or Outstanding Schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (79.9%) but not as good as nationally or regionally (89.5% and 86.8% respectively).
- 9.3** 79.4% (17,834) of disadvantaged children³ in Devon are attending Good or Outstanding schools. This is better than Sept 2022 (76.2%). These are pupils who are Free School Meal children, children in care, adopted from care or service children. No national benchmarks are currently available for disadvantage children.
- 9.4** 84.5% of Devon children in care for any period of time attended schools judged as good or outstanding in 2022/23 ⁴ (81% in 2021/22). No national benchmarks are available for children in care.
- 9.5** The LA continue to see an increase in Ofsted complaints with 180 passed to us in 2022-2023. We are thorough in investigating these and assuring ourselves of the safety in our schools. Our schools are supportive in ensuring we have access to the necessary information.



Finally, we would like to end our report by paying tribute to a wonderful member of staff who we sadly lost earlier this month. Jo Dymond had worked as a Headteacher in Devon, as an English Advisor and most recently as one of our school effectiveness advisors. She dedicated her career to Devon children and schools and worked for many years in North Devon. She was passionate about wanting the best outcomes for all our children and had an amazing character that made her popular, well liked and well respected by her peers. She will be a great loss for Devon. Our condolences go to her family, friends and colleagues grieving her loss along with our gratitude for all she did to our support children and families. She will be greatly missed.

Stuart Collins

Director of Children and Young People's Futures

For information contact:

Rachel Shaw - Interim Head of Education (Delivery) Rachel.shaw@devon.gov.uk

Matthew Shanks - Interim Head of Education (Strategy) matthew.shanks@devon.gov.uk

November 2023

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023

ATTENDANCE

DCC

Mat Thorpe - Apologies	Deputy Director of Finance and Public Value
Adrian Fox - Apologies	Head Accountant (Education & Learning)
Rachel Shaw (chair)	Head of Education (Delivery)
Heidi Watson-Jones	Safety Valve Project Officer

Devon Schools Leadership Services

Primary:

Jamie Stone	Denbury Primary
Paul Walker	First Federation Trust
Penny Hammett	FORT Federation
Christopher Tribble	Honiton Primary

Secondary:

Sammy Crook	Tiverton Federation
Alan Blackburn	Uffculme School
Fay Bowler	Braunton Academy

Alternative Provision:

Rob Gasson	Wave Multi Academy Trust
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Special Schools

Keith Bennett	Marland School
Sarah Pickering	Mill Water School

DAG

Faith Butler (apologies)	Special School Governors
Alex Walmsley	Secondary Governors
Adrian Hines	Primary Governors

Early Years Providers

Gemma Rolstone	Puffins Childcare
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Other DCC Officers

Karlien Bond	Senior Accountant (Schools)
Katrina Harverson	Principal Accountant – Education & Learning
Kellie Knott	SEND Improvement Director
John Rowe	Business Analyst – Future Finance Team

SCHOOLS FINANCE GROUP

1. Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 7 June 2023

- **SN** – To provide update on growth fund allocations for schools experiencing bulge year of admissions prior to next SFG meeting – **circulated post meeting**
- **SN** – to provide update for DEF on H4U prior to Christmas
- Communication and engagement with schools remains important, however with a further change of leadership there has been a review of the whole system and clarity around the new approach will be communicated with stakeholders.
- Noted that SFG had previously sought assurance that the budget set was more achievable and realistic. The group acknowledged that there would

Agenda Item 7

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023

be movement from projected budgetary position depending on the impact of service delivery.

- RS reported that it was felt that there was now more honesty around the budget set for the coming financial year, although school leaders expressed ongoing frustration that key messages and information were not being effectively communicated.
- Heads were concerned about the temporary nature of strategic plans as leadership changes.
- The absence of key DCC finance and service officers at the meeting was raised as a significant concern as it was felt this reduces effective discussion and information sharing.
- The group agreed that an action log be established for the Schools Finance Group to enable clearer tracking of progress.

ACTIONS

- **SN** to provide update on growth fund allocations for schools experiencing bulge year of admissions prior to next SFG meeting - **complete**
- **SN** to provide update for DEF on H4U prior to Christmas
- **HWJ** to establish and share SFG action log.

2. DSG monitoring – month 4

- Month 4 year end projection is currently showing a DSG overspend of £37.7m.
- DSG adjustment account (showing cumulative DSG deficit) is projected to rise to £162m by year end.
- £9.6m management action savings have been identified at risk of not being delivered, which the group discussed. Devon has been invited to submit a draft plan for inclusion in Tranche 4 of the DfE Safety Valve programme, this submission will align with the refreshed SEND Transformation Programme.
- There was discussion around the role and ability of LA services to affect improvement and bring budgets into line. The appointment of substantive leadership roles across Children's services is expected to improve effectiveness. Colleagues reiterated the need for clear communication between LA services and finance to improve accuracy of reporting.
- Regular updates for school leaders are crucial to enable better understanding of the situation and encourage increased support from schools to jointly deliver strategic improvement.
- Noted the pressures emerging around increasing Alternative Provision costs. Improved commissioning and procurement practice in this area is being developed currently.
- The group noted that this area has been demand-led and is under significant pressure – co-production of solutions with schools and providers will be key moving forwards. SFG requested an update at the next meeting outlining the reasons for the increase and strategies to address this.
- SFG felt that the High Needs Sub Group had provided an opportunity for focused joint scrutiny to consider the impact in schools.
- Noted the negative impact of the Growth fund subsequent to the DEF decision to transfer 2023/24 funds to support projects to help address the high needs block deficit.
- Discussed the ceasing of backdated funding to schools where EHCP issue is delayed. SFG shared concerns around the impact of this decision at school level and the possibility of additional pressure being placed on Early Years settings to request an EHCP prior to a child starting at reception.
- It was noted that SEND Improvement Board does not currently have Early Years representation. **KK** to consider this.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023

- Noted positive movement around the reduction in specialist independent provision costs.
- Discussed the revision of management actions as part of the Safety Valve which will have an impact on budget projections.

ACTIONS:

- **KK** to share DCS letter around delayed EHCP funding with DSLS Exec.
- **KK** to consider Early Years representation at SEND Improvement Board.
- Next meeting to consider the reasons behind significant increases in AP costs, and strategies to address. **Simon Niles & Matthew Gould**

3. Future Finance Project

- John Rowe shared information about transition to a new corporate finance system by summer 2024.
- Implementation of the new system into mainstream schools was considered. Maintained school representatives were asked to participate in workstreams working on the implementation planning.
- SFG requested that schools involved in the workstreams are identified to cover a range of size and characteristics.

ACTION:

- **JR** to forward details of request to DSLS (**complete**)

4. Safety Valve Update

- Kellie Knott reported that SEND Improvement Programme has been reviewed; this previously focused on the Ofsted improvement plan but will now be widened to encompass Safety Valve and need for wider system-wide improvement. This will move forward as a refreshed SEND Transformation Programme.
- Safety Valve business cases have been reviewed for inclusion in a new Safety Valve proposal for the DfE for submission in December 2023, in consultation with DfE advisors.
- SEND Transformation Board will include stakeholders and project leads to monitor, track and challenge progress.
- New Cabinet member for SEND (Cllr Lois Samuel) has been appointed.
- SFG members queried how relevant information will be shared and reported to SFG and DEF, particularly around schools funding and the high needs block. Clarity around roles was requested, and KK indicated this will be explored at SEND Board.
- Programme and Project management team has been established to support the transformation programme.
- Schools and other stakeholders will have a role in ensuring management actions are achieved.
- SFG considered how project leads and senior leadership will be held accountable in delivering a consistent plan over the next 3-5 years.
- SFG requested that the structure and vision for SEND Transformation is urgently communicated to schools. Moving forwards, evidence of impact of actions and progress needs to be shared more regularly with schools.
- Heads considered the impact of increased number of parental requests for EHC assessments and how the LA can work more closely with stakeholders and partners in other organisations to better meet needs of children with SEND.

Agenda Item 7

Schools Finance Group:

Notes of meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023

ACTIONS:

- **KK** to plan communications to schools around direction of travel around SEND Transformation.
- **KK** to discuss strategy with Stuart Collins around notification to schools of change of policy re. backdated funding for delayed EHCPs

5. AWPU recovery

- DEF had previously agreed transfer of 100% AWPU where a pupil has been removed from school roll to be educated out of school through an EOTAS arrangement and medical Alternative Provision.
- The LA has recognised that schools need to retain a responsibility for dual-registered pupils for safeguarding and exam arrangements, and as such will require an element of funding to secure this.
- Recommendation remains that 100% AWPU is recovered where the child is removed from the school roll, but that 80% of AWPU is recovered where a dual-registration arrangement remains in place.
- In addition, it is proposed that a proportion of AWPU is recovered where a child leaves the school roll to be electively home educated. A nominal amount of £500 per child would enable investment into the EHE team to provide essential home and education checks.
- Noted that analysis is currently being undertaken on the reasons for moving to EHE and the levels of return to the school environment.
- The LA has identified a significant increase in children electively home educated. The LA has statutory duties to ensure that children have a safe and appropriate education provision.
- SFG suggested that a different approach is required to fund a sufficient and effective EHE team to ensure that provision is appropriate. SFG requested that the legality of considering a collective school-funded proposal be explored.
- **ACTION: RS / SN / Finance** EHE service funding be reviewed as above, along with practice in other LAs, to identify an appropriate way forward to fund capacity in the Local Authority EHE team that does not penalise schools through removal of AWPU and per pupil funding.
- **ACTION: legal team and finance team** to provide assurance that this approach is legally compliant.
- SFG requested that other LAs are consulted to gain information about how their EHE services are funded.
- Correspondence with Chumleigh Community College was shared with SFG members and considered. It was confirmed that clarity had been sought around the legality of AWPU recovery practice, particularly for academy schools.
- **ACTION: AF** - SFG requested that assurance on the legal position around AWPU recovery is provided **prior to DEF**

Agreed:

- SFG recommended to DEF that 100% AWPU and per-pupil funding is recovered where a child is removed from a mainstream school roll to be educated through an EOTAS arrangement.
- SFG recommended that 80% of AWPU and per-pupil funding is recovered where a dual-registration arrangement remains in place (e.g. for S19 medical AP provision)
- SFG recommended to DEF that the LA undertakes a review of possible funding options to help build capacity in the EHE team.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Wednesday 13 September 2023

ACTIONS:

- **ACTION: RS / SN / Finance** review EHE service funding of the current EHE service, along with practice in other LAs, and the legal remit for schools to collectively fund additional capacity in the team.
- **ACTION: legal team and finance team** to provide assurance that the practice of AWPU recover is legally compliant, prior to next DEF meeting.

6. Mutual Fund Board

- Noted current projected overspend of £33k
- If overspend continues the mutual fund will not fully reimburse the second 50% of claims in order to bring the fund back into balance.
- Noted the impact of recent pay awards for teachers. Clarity to be sought on how the reimbursement rate is calculated – as a fixed amount or a sum linked to actual pay.

Agreed:

- **KB** to check whether the reimbursement rates are in line with recently agreed teachers pay awards.

5. Items for DEF

- **SEND service update ACTION: KK**
- AWPU recovery – legal advice and options to explore around funding additional capacity in EHE team.
- Growth Fund update – to be provided prior to DEF with update at next SFG meeting. – **ACTION: SN**

AOB

- Early Years additional inclusion funding to be submitted during half term prior to term the child is eligible for funding
- Concerns that settings will be disadvantaged from April 2024.
- **ACTION: KH and Sam Chapman** to consider

Future meeting dates:

- **Monday 6 November 2023** (14.00 – 17.30) – Teams
- **Friday 12 January 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Wednesday 6 March 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

Key Points for DEF to Note:

Item 1 – AWPU recovery

80% AWPU and per pupil funding recovery to be backdated to September 2023 where children move to an EOTAS or Section 19 education provision.

Item 3 – Alternative Provision

- Strategic review being undertaken of Alternative Providers used by both LA services and schools to inform an improved commissioning and contracting framework with providers.
- **SFG recommended to DEF** that an agreed dynamic process is urgently established between the LA and Schools to reduce the number of exclusions for learners with EHCPs.

Item 4 – Homes for Ukraine Funding

SFG endorsed a further allocation of funding to schools with Ukrainian pupils on roll, with the balance to be allocated in the spring term. Government has confirmed that all grant funds for this group must be spent by the end of the financial year.

Item 6 – Schools Funding Consultation 2024/25

1. **SFG endorsed** the proposals for schools funding for Schools Forum consideration (in line with the results of the consultation):
 - i. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
 - ii. to distribute any unallocated funding in the following order:
 - a. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% **Provided Proposal 4 is agreed.**
 - b. Increase AEN factors by up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - c. Increase all other factors up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - d. Increase the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2024-25 guidance.
 - iii. to bridge any funding gap in the following order:
 - a. Reduced AWPU by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - b. Reduced all other factors by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
2. **SFG requested further clarity** on proposals to transfer up to 0.5% from schools block to high needs block to fund enhance an Early Help education offer.
3. **SFG endorsed** the de-delegation of the services listed in Section 5.1 in line with the results of the consultation. The mainstream maintained schools' representatives of Schools Forum will be required to vote on each service (unless there is unanimous agreement to vote on all services together), with Primary and Secondary voting separately.
4. **SFG endorsed** the funding of central services listed in section 6.1 in line with the results of the consultation.
5. **SFG endorsed** the proposal to submit a disapplication request for exceptional circumstances relating to school premises for 2024-25.

ATTENDANCE

DCC

Mat Thorpe
Adrian Fox
Matthew Shanks (part)

Deputy Director of Finance and Public Value
Head Accountant (Education & Learning)
Head of Education (Strategy)

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

Rachel Shaw - **Apologies**
Heidi Watson-Jones

Head of Education (Delivery)
Safety Valve Project Officer

Devon Schools Leadership Services

Primary:

Jamie Stone
Paul Walker
Penny Hammett
Christopher Tribble

Denbury Primary
First Federation Trust
FORT Federation
Honiton Primary

Secondary:

Sammy Crook
Alan Blackburn
Fay Bowler

Tiverton Federation
Uffculme School
Braunton Academy

Alternative Provision:

Rob Gasson

Wave Multi Academy Trust

Special Schools

Keith Bennett (part)
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Mill Water School

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Faith Butler
Alex Walmsley
Adrian Hines - **Apologies**

Special School Governors
Secondary Governors
Primary Governors

Early Years Providers

Gemma Rolstone

Puffins Childcare

Other DCC Officers

Karlien Bond
Katrina Harverson
Kellie Knott
Simon Niles
Matthew Gould (part)
Stuart Collins (part)
Becky Hopkins
Lise Bird(part)

Senior Accountant (Schools)
Principal Accountant – Education & Learning
SEND Improvement Director
Children's
Strategic Lead for Inclusion / Vulnerable children
Director of Children and Young People's Futures (part)
Deputy Dir for Children's Social Care
Head of Early Help and Partnerships

SCHOOLS FINANCE GROUP

1. Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 13 September 2023

- **KK** confirmed that Early Years providers now have representation on SEND Transformation Board.
- **KK** confirmed a communications strategy is being developed for the SEND Transformation Programme, and is liaising with DSLs.

AWPU Recovery

- Some initial work has been carried out to reconsider funding of the current Elective Home Education service, but this is hampered by lack of officer capacity. SN explained that a small amount of funding following children out of school could significantly improve the capacity of the statutory EHE service. Investigation into funding of other LAs' EHE services taking place; Devon is a statistical outlier for number of children EHE. Noted that the team is currently term time only; full time staffing would be helpful, as would a dedicated EHE officer to cover North Devon.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

- Proposal to be returned to SFG to consider funding of the EHE service.
- AF confirmed that the approach was legally compliant – Understand that the DfE has undertaken to provide clarity on the ambiguity in the operational guidance.
- SFG expressed concerns about proposal to backdate AWPU recovery to September 2023, although it was confirmed there is a precedent for doing so. There were particular concerns around the transfer of Free School Meals funding, with Heads highlighting the need for as much flexibility as possible to ensure provision for vulnerable pupils. SFG agreed that it was sensible that the home school continue to make provision for free school meals as that funding has remained in the school.
- SFG requested that proposals were finalised in advance of Devon Education Forum.
- Noted mutual fund reimbursement rates were last reviewed some years ago.
- All other actions complete or closed.
- Minutes agreed as an accurate record.

ACTION:

- **SN / MG / AF** - to review and finalise AWPU / Pupil Premium / Free School Meal recovery prior to DEF.

2. DSG monitoring – month 6

- Overall position showing £38.1m overspent, predominantly within the High Needs Block.
- Safety Valve plan submission to DfE due 15 December.
- AP, tutoring and specialist provision budgets remain under significant pressure.
- Noted summary of risks: slippage in projects will result in reduced savings. Noted that some SV projects have been ceased, and new projects continue to be developed.
- Kellie Knott confirmed that a risk register is in place covering the wider SEND Transformation Programme, linking into the Corporate risk register. SFG requested sight of the risk register.
- DEF to receive Safety Valve update prior to submission to DfE. SFG members reiterated the importance of ongoing dialogue between the LA and schools to ensure longer term success of projects included in the Safety Valve.

ACTION:

- **KK** to share SEND Transformation Programme Risk Register with SFG

3. Alternative Provision

- SFG had requested some information on the significant pressures on the AP budget currently.
- Exclusions have increased significantly from 93 in 2018/19 to 190 in 2022/23, with statutory AP provider now at maximum capacity. This leads to the commissioning of more costly bespoke packages while children await places to become available at Wave.
- Section 19 duties exist for children with medical issues, however lack of capacity is leading to Ombudsman penalties where statutory timeframes to provide education are not met.
- £2.9m budget pressure associated with packages for these learners.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

- Exclusion of children with statutory plans is an increasing concern, particularly given the lack of suitable commissioned alternative provision at primary phase. Learners with an EHCP have extended periods of time in Devon's commissioned alternative provision and is therefore reducing the capacity for other students requiring such provision. Devon's current position is a child is 3 times more likely to be excluded with a statutory plan which is 50% above national average. SFG supported the recommendation to develop a process for preventing exclusion for learners with EHCP as soon as possible.
- Proposed that the AP sector is used in a more preventative way through intelligent commissioning of intervention and outreach services.
- Currently looking at a more strategic approach to contracting provision. DSLS has undertaken to request information about AP provision being commissioned by schools and at what cost.
- It is hoped this will lead to a jointly commissioned approach, securing appropriate, good quality provision at a reasonable cost. However, need to identify where early intervention or system change will make the most immediate difference.
- Suggested exploring with schools the primary autumn term exclusions to understand the school experience, and clarify the roles of the SEN statutory team, Inclusion, Virtual School and other colleagues.
- Noted that Inclusion officers are not always made aware of school concerns with individual learners prior to exclusion.
- SFG supported ongoing strategic conversations regarding the short, medium and long term commissioning / delivery of AP.

ACTION:

- **DSL**S to invite **SN / MG** to discuss 2023/24 ac year Exclusions, AP processes and commissioning strategy at DSLS Executive.
- **SFG recommended to DEF** that an agreed dynamic process is urgently established between the LA and Schools to reduce the number of exclusions for learners with EHCPs.

4. Homes for Ukraine funding

- Acknowledge that government have provided no flexibility to carry funding forward beyond March 2024.
- SFG endorsed a final funding release of £2,000 per pupil to schools with Ukrainian children on roll based on April 23 numbers, and a final issue of funds and update to SFG members in February 2024.
- Thanks were expressed to all the schools that have been involved in supporting these children in their schools.
- **Post meeting note:** Schools have been notified of the recommendations supported by SFG.

5. Mutual Fund Board monitoring

- Small deficit currently projected for year end, based on prudent forecasting over winter months.
- Considered reimbursement rates, with concerns that a funding gap has emerged where reimbursement does not match the current teacher pay rates. It was felt that schools would wish to be assured that their budget will be reimbursed at a comparable rate.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

- Felt that it would be appropriate to review the levels of funding that are being provided compared to other packages available on the market – possibly by increasing the premium.
- **ACTION: KB** to model options around premium increase and potentially different levels of cover

ACTIONS:

- **ACTION: KB** to model options around mutual fund premium increase and a range of cover options.

6. Schools Revenue Funding Consultation 2024/25

- Funding consultation responses from schools had been shared with the group.
- 33% of schools responded to the consultation, representing just over 34,600 pupils.
- **Proposal 1 – Minimum Funding Guarantee set at 0%**
- **Proposal 2 – Management of excess funding available**
- **Proposal 3 – Management of a funding gap**
- The majority of schools had agreed with these first three proposals.

- **Proposal 4: Movements between Blocks** – 61% of schools did not agree to transfer funding between blocks.
- KK explained that the development of a clear and consistent Early Help offer is crucial to prevent escalation to statutory services. The LA recognise that Early Help has not been as successful in Devon as we would have wished.
- Lise Bird outlined a vision for a renewed holistic multi-agency Early Help service, which could be pump-primed by an agreed funding transfer.
- Family Hub approach will help navigate families to appropriate support they need to promote resilience. Looking to double the number of teams in an area-based approach to a total of 56 family workers.
- SFG members reiterated their disappointment in the handling of the funding transfer during the 2023/24 financial year, with funds transferred from the Growth Fund ultimately being allocated to fund the Devon Schools Collaborative Inclusion Projects, rather than plans as set out during the 2022 consultation. It was noted that this redirection of funding had subsequently been notified to SFG. The remainder being retained in the Growth Fund to offset the deficit.
- SFG shared concerns around the timing of information being shared with the group, and the schools' community, which was not available during the consultation period.
- **Action: SC / BH / LB** to develop a more detailed, costed business case explaining the proposed way forward, which can be considered by schools via DSLs.
- There were concerns around the LA's ability to recruit; LB explained that with the closure of the Action for Children contract, experienced staff would be available to the LA on a TUPE basis.
- SFG sought to explore the potential risk to the Safety Valve agreement with the DfE; KK confirmed the DfE Safety Valve focus is on meeting need earlier, and system-wide change cannot be delivered without investment in earlier intervention.
- It was felt that schools will want assurance of formal impact monitoring of the investment. It was confirmed that any unspent amount would be re-issued back to the schools' block as a year-end adjustment.

Schools Finance Group: Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023

- Heads highlighted the negative impact that any funding transfer will have at school level to manage early intervention on the ground.
- Heads queried whether DSG is an appropriate funding source for this area of LA social work. The group were reminded that any funding block transfer agreement would be for one-year only..
- Heads raised the Early Help for Mental Health topslice, which was a difficult decision some years ago, but which schools now recognise as a valuable ongoing resource investment.
- Noted that the LA is already funding the current level of provision however additional investment would enable a system-wide approach to Early Help in schools. Without additional funding, there will be a reduction in the level of support available with a focus on step-down from statutory services rather than increasing support to vulnerable children in schools.
- SFG discussed the proposals in great detail and explored issues around timing of information sharing, costings and concerns around robustness of the plan without an opportunity for school leaders to input.
- SFG requested whether a delayed 'mini consultation' could take place in time for the January DEF, allowing time for schools to consider a more detailed proposal around Early Help investment. Finance colleagues confirmed this would be difficult.
- It was suggested that schools could be approached further with a proposal for a transfer of less than 0.5% for 24/25 and a further investment of 0.5% for 25/26 when the benefits of the initial investment could be evidenced.
- **Action: Becky Hopkins** to develop differently costed options which could complement a block transfer request of less than 0.5%.
- Noted DSLS briefing on 9/11 and DSLS Exec on 16/11 could provide opportunities for DCC officers to consult with school leaders and provide assurance that the system is moving in the right direction.

- **Delegation and De-delegation** - Schools supported continued de-delegation of funding for all services.
- The group considered whether it would be appropriate for the LA to follow up on comments within the consultation responses which may not be factually accurate.
- **Central Services** – The majority of schools supported the continuation of funding for all central services for one year only.
- **Disapplication request – exceptional circumstances relating to school premises.**
- Noted Schools Forum agreement must now be sought to move to disapplication from DfE.

Recommendations to DEF:

SFG endorsed the proposals for schools funding for Schools Forum consideration (in line with the results of the consultation):

- i. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
- ii. to distribute any unallocated funding in the following order:
 - a. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% **Provided Proposal 4 is agreed.**
 - b. Increase AEN factors by up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - c. Increase all other factors up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - d. Increase the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2024-25 guidance.
- iii. to bridge any funding gap in the following order:
 - a. Reduced AWPU by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

**Schools Finance Group:
Notes of meeting on Monday 6 November 2023**

b. Reduced all other factors by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

SFG requested further clarity on proposals to transfer up to 0.5% from schools block to high needs block to fund enhance an Early Help education offer. A separate report to be provided to DEF.

SFG endorsed the de-delegation of the services listed in Section 5.1 in line with the results of the consultation. The mainstream maintained schools' representatives of Schools Forum will be required to vote on each service (unless there is unanimous agreement to vote on all services together), with Primary and Secondary voting separately.

SFG endorsed the funding of central services listed in section 6.1 in line with the results of the consultation.

SFG endorsed the proposal to submit a disapplication request for exceptional circumstances relating to school premises for 2024-25.

Action:

- **SC / BH / LB** to develop a more detailed business case explaining the proposed way forward, including a range of costed options which could complement a block transfer request of less than 0.5%.
- **MT / KK** to discuss with DfE advisers the potential impact on Safety Valve of not agreeing a funding block transfer.
- **KK** to provide report on proposals to transfer up to 0.5% from schools block to HNB for Early Help education offer to DEF.

Future meeting dates:

- **Friday 12 January 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Wednesday 6 March 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Wednesday 5 June 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Monday 8 July 2024** (14.00 – 17.00 face to face – venue TBC)
- **Monday 9 September 2024** (all day – face to face – venue TBC)
- **Wednesday 6 November 2024** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Friday 10 January 2025** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)
- **Wednesday 5 March 2025** (09.15 – 12.30 – Teams)

22 November 2023

FINANCE UPDATE

Report of the Director of Finance & Public Value and Director of Children and Young Peoples Futures

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note the DSG Month 6 position as set out in this report.
All to Note

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools Funding Month 6 Report (2023/24)

Executive Summary

- The Month 6 outturn forecast for 2023/24 sees a significant overspend in the overall Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £38.1 million which is associated with the continued demand on High Needs after taking into account management actions savings of £12.2 million identified in the current Safety Valve Intervention management plan.
- The Management Action of £20.2 million reflects the budgeted savings expected to be delivered in 2023/24 and are as per the current Safety Valve submission to the DfE. As at month 6 £9.8 million has been identified as being at risk of not being delivered due to either delays in projects not commencing or no longer happening.
- An additional £2 million savings within the independent sector have been identified from 3-5 year placements ending and Adult Social Care contribution.
- The DSG Adjustment Account, which shows the cumulative DSG Deficit as per government guidance, is projected to rise to £162.5 million by the end of 2023/24.
- The SEN team are continuing to see a high level of requests for EHCP referrals, 1,648 requests have been received for the period January 2023 to September 2023 compared to 1,540 for the same period in 2022, however the number of requests being refused at 6 weeks and 16 weeks has increased since 2022 for the same period. Support from schools is required to take action to mitigate the growing demand
- The increasing DSG deficit 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 interim SEND Improvement Director is 3 months into a 12-month period from the DfE to work with Devon to drive forward the SEND Improvement Plan and the Safety Valve. Programme Management support has also been identified within the LA to help both support and deliver the SEND Improvement Plan and the Safety Valve.

1. Schools

1.1. In July the revised DSG settlement allocation stands at £310.5 million (after recouplement for academies and direct funded places) based upon pupil numbers as at the October 2022 Schools census and January 2023 Early Years census.

Table 1: Summary of Month 6 forecast position and significant variations

Budget projections as at Month 6	Revised Budget for year £'000	Underlying outturn forecast £'000	Management Action pending		Net Forecast Outturn £'000	Forecast outturn variance £'000	Transfer to/(from) deficit reserve £'000	Forecast Adjusted variance £'000	Analysis of outturn variance		Change from Month 5 Forecast Outturn Variance £'000	Change from Month 4 Forecast outturn variance £'000
			In-year Management Action o/s £'000	Savings Plans o/s £'000					Total Forecast Savings Plans £'000	Underlying Forecast Outturn Variance £'000		
Education and Inclusion Services												
Core Services	11,813	14,299	0	0	14,299	2,486	0	2,486	(646)	3,132	(22)	(230)
School Transport	45,137	45,068	(174)	0	44,894	(243)	0	(243)	(2,771)	2,528	(245)	(245)
Traded Services	33	71	0	0	71	38	0	38	0	38	4	35
Reserves	729	729	0	0	729	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total General Fund	57,712	60,167	(174)	0	59,993	2,281	0	2,281	(3,417)	5,698	(263)	(440)
DSG Funding	(132,276)	(131,277)	0	0	(131,277)	999	(999)	0		0	0	0
De-delegated budgets	5,454	5,498	0	0	5,498	44	(44)	0	0	0	0	0
Central School Services Block	4,365	4,287	0	0	4,287	(78)	0	(78)	0	(78)	(10)	(20)
Early Years & Childcare Services	42,989	42,989	0	0	42,989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total DSG central budgets	52,808	52,774	0	0	52,774	(34)	(44)	(78)	0	(78)	(10)	(20)
High Needs Budget	133,150	151,138	0	(7,067)	144,071	10,921	(10,921)	0	0	0	0	0
DSG High Needs 22/23 deficit budget prep	(26,227)	0	0	0	0	26,227	(26,227)	0	0	0	0	0
Total High Needs budget	106,923	151,138	0	(7,067)	144,071	37,148	(37,148)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dedicated Schools Grant	27,455	72,635	0	(7,067)	65,568	38,113	(38,191)	(78)	0	(78)	(10)	(20)
Total Education and Inclusion Services	85,167	132,802	(174)	(7,067)	125,561	40,394	(38,191)	2,203	(3,417)	5,620	(273)	(460)
Total										2,203		

1.2. The working budget is inclusive of other schools grants of £62.5 million.

1.3. The growth fund is forecasting an overspend of £1 million which will be carry forward into 2024/25 as a deficit balance. The overspend is in relation to supporting the Schools Block due to the funding rates not being affordable for Schools due to underlying factors.

2. DSG Deficit Management Plan

Table 2: DSG Adjustment Account

	£'000
DSG Adjustment Account	125,437
DSG High Needs 22/23 deficit	37,148
Total DSG Deficit Reserve	162,585

- 2.1. The DSG Adjustment Account, which shows the cumulative DSG Deficit as per government guidance, is projected to rise to £162.5 million by the end of 2023/24. This is due to the funding pressure identified of £38.1 million and after management actions of £12.2 million.
- 2.2. The DfE and DLUHC have confirmed that no authority across the country will have the ability to borrow to offset their contribution of the Safety Valve. Due to this Devon has now been invited into discussions for tranche 4 of the intervention programme, the draft plan needs to be updated and submitted by mid-December 2023.
- 2.3. This gives the authority the opportunity to update the management plan to reflect the current in year pressures and revisit workstreams in line with the SEND Improvement Plan.

3. High Needs

Table 3: Summary of High Needs budgets and forecast position as at Month 6

	Budget	Mth 6	Variance	Ring	Deficit /	Movement
	£'000	Forecast	£'000	fenced	(Surplus)	Previous
		£'000		C/fwd	Balance	Mth
				£'000	£'000	£'000
Alternative Provision	4,256	6,184	1,928	(1,928)	0	(147)
Children in Care and Exclusions	1,730	1,730	0	0	0	0
Improved Outcomes Disadvantaged Children	1,794	1,763	(31)	31	0	(12)
Inclusion	150	150	0	0	0	0
Safeguarding Every Learner	343	335	(8)	8	0	2
SEN Mainstream	22,121	25,476	3,355	(3,355)	0	135
FE Colleges	4,129	4,111	(18)	18	0	24
SEN Services	2,719	2,719	0	0	0	0
SEN 100 Project	923	923	0	0	0	0
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	40,217	43,018	2,801	(2,801)	0	509
Hospital Education Services	837	837	0	0	0	0
Recoupment	1,767	1,767	0	0	0	0
Other Special School Fees	49,925	53,509	3,584	(3,584)	0	703
Support Centre Funding	2,239	1,549	(690)	690	0	(34)
Total High Needs Funding	133,150	144,071	10,921	(10,921)	0	1,180
DSG High Needs 22/23 deficit budget prep	(26,227)	0	0	(26,227)	0	0
Total High Needs budget	106,923	144,071	10,921	(37,148)	0	1,180

- 3.1. Cost and volume variances are shown in Appendix A

Alternative Provision

- 3.2. Alternative Provision (AP) is currently forecasting an overspend of £1.9 million and predominantly relates to AP Other (forecasting £1.9m overspend) where the number of children being excluded or who are requiring support due to not being able to attend School is rising. This is creating budget

pressures across several High Needs Block budgets but predominantly within Alternative Provision.

- 3.3. 18 Locality Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) partnerships have recently been agreed across Devon to provide school-based inclusion solutions and support children with SEMH and reducing the demand on regulated and unregulated AP Providers.
- 3.4. The main AP WAVE contract is forecasting to overspend by £296,000 which relates to additional special commissioning places being 13 higher than budgeted and costing £407,000, 3.4% additional High Needs Block grant funding that had to be paid to AP Schools, this is in line with High Needs Block operational guidance and totalled £128,000. This was a late change in the guidance and therefore did not form part of the 2023/24 budget setting. The overspend has been offset the average cost being lower than budgeted for both AP Medical and main contract totalling £238,000.

SEN Mainstream

- 3.5. This covers personalised education packages and EHCPs as well as the central SLAs which support them.
- 3.6. Mainstream EHCPs (pre-16) are reporting an overspend of £2.2 million and relates to the non-delivery of Management Action savings out of the identified £4.2 million identified for this financial year. Overall EHCP numbers are currently below the budgeted average 3,415 (vs 3,566 budgeted), resulting in a saving of £186,000.
- 3.7. £186,000 forecast overspend for interim payments where an EHCP has not been issued within 20 weeks.
- 3.8. SEN additional resources is reporting an overspend of £58,000; this is in relation to increase Occupational Health contract and additional resource from September 2023 which will support new ordering of provision in EHCPs which is currently not being delivered.
- 3.9. Children Educated Other than at School is reporting an overspend of £949,000 for Tutoring Specialist provision due to the average cost being £7,189 above the budgeted level. Personalised Budgets are forecasting an overspend of £157,000 due to the average cost being £4,732 above the budgeted level offset slightly by a reduction of 11 pupils (71 vs 82 budgeted).

Maintained and Academy Special Schools

- 3.10. The average numbers on roll including Plus Packages and Exceeded places are forecast at 1,755 (vs 1,769 budgeted). Plus Packages and Exceeded places are 13 above budget resulting in an overspend of £201,000, however this has been offset by a reduction in top up of 28 places and a saving of £664,000.
- 3.11. Place funding has been reduced by a net 12 due to capacity limitations at Orchard Manor and The Promise Tiverton resulting in net savings of £125,000.
- 3.12. 3.4% additional High Needs Block lump sum funding paid to schools as per the operational guidance costing £1.3 million and not included within the budget due to late notification from this DfE of this new requirement for 2023/24.
- 3.13. Forecast assumes £2.3 million management action savings will be achieved in this financial year with £1.4 million forecast as no longer be achieved in this financial year.

Other Special Schools Fees

- 3.14. The Other Special Schools budget includes Safety Valve Management Action of £12.4 million of which £6.2 million has been identified as not being delivered in this financial year, however an additional £1.0 million Adult Social Care funding and £1.0 million 3-5year savings have been identified, resulting in a forecast Management Action savings to be achieved of £8.2 million of which £4.5 million have been achieved to date.
- 3.15. The current placements forecast to March 2024 is 1,315 (after Management Action) which is 51 above budgeted for the year, resulting in an adverse volume variance of £2.0 million, this has been partially offset by a favourable price variance of £420,000 and £2.6 million income from Social Care. Forecast includes planned growth for the remainder of the financial year as agreed with the 0 -25 team.
- 3.16. A commissioning group has been set up with officers across the authority who have expertise in commissioning contracts to review the independent special school fees to ensure we are receiving value for money and that fees are in line with the EHCP of the young person placed at the school.
- 3.17. All spend is currently being reviewed within Other Special Schools to mitigate the growing demand in this sector.

Support Centres

- 3.18. Support centres are forecasting to underspend by £690,000 which is due to the additional centres planned to be open not opening in this financial year and three of the newest centres not delivering outreach.

4. Management Actions

- 4.1. A breakdown of the budgeted management actions and current revisions are shown in Appendix B

5. Risks

- 5.1. The SEN Placement continue to cause increase in the demand on the High Needs Block. Support from schools to take action to mitigate the growing demand and reduce the call on independent placements is necessary.
- 5.2. Changes in Senior Leadership both within the Service and wider authority could see delays, advances or change in direction to current plans identified.
- 5.3. The Safety Valve savings identified for 2023/24 as part of the previous plan could see significant slippage due to senior staff changes and delays in revisiting projects.
- 5.4. Staff recruitment and retention is a continued problem for Education Services.
- 5.5. Staff structures under review and other service delivery changes ahead will impact the current forecasts.
- 5.6. Rising demand being seen in Section 19 requests for those children not attending school which is creating additional pressure to the High Needs Block
- 5.7. Realigning the Safety Valve plan with the targets and goals set out in the SEND Improvement Plan
- 5.8. Management actions delayed through increased volumes of requests and placements; new high-cost placements moving into the area.

- 5.9. Inclusion in the Safety Valve programme delayed raising uncertainty on ability to achieve outcomes for the children and reduce the overall pressure on the council budget should the deficit form part of the accounts in March 2026.
- 5.10. Quality data being held by the service and being available to be able to track those placements that have an impact on the Management Plan.
- 5.11. Continued stakeholder involvement is key. There is a need to ensure engagement from other directorates of the authority, Members, Health, Schools and the other providers to ensure the mitigation of the identified workstream / projects being achieved. In doing so will increase the children and young people being supported within mainstream settings, whilst reducing the demand currently being seen within the independent sector and stemming the number of EHCPs being required.

6. Recommendations

Schools Forum to

- a. Note the month 6 DSG monitoring position as set out in the report.

All to Note

Angie Sinclair
Director of Finance & Public Value

Stuart Collins
Director of Children and Young Peoples Futures

Please ask for: Adrian Fox
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Education & Health Care Plans – Cost and Volume Analysis

Education & Learning - Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) Cost & Volume Analysis

6

High Needs EHCP Analysis	No of FYE Pupils				Budget 23/24	Forecast outturn	Variation		Budgeted Unit cost	Forecast Unit cost	Variation	Month 6			Month 5		Change to Mth 5		Month 5 No of FTE Pupils	Change to Mth 5 Pupils
	Budgeted 23/24	Month 6	Variation	%			£'000	£'000				£'000	%	£	£	£	Price Var £'000	Vol Var £'000		
Top ups	150	142	(8)	(5.6%)	1,978	1,817	(161)	(8.1%)	13,187	12,796	(391)	(56)	(105)	(161)	(59)	0	3	(105)	150	(8)
Medical Planned Places	90	90	0	0.0%	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%	17,778	17,778	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0
Medical Planned Additional	39	40	1	2.5%	762	683	(79)	(10.4%)	19,538	17,075	(2,463)	(99)	20	(79)	(85)	39	(13)	(20)	41	(1)
AP WAVE Special Commission	13	26	13	50.0%	75	481	406	541.3%	5,761	18,500	12,739	331	75	406	331	75	0	0	26	0
AP Other [Non-WAVE]	286	184	(102)	(55.4%)	725	2,785	2,060	284.1%	3,255	15,136	11,881	2,186	(332)	1,854	1,488	153	698	(485)	333	(149)
Alternative Provision	578	482	(96)	(19.9%)	5,140	7,366	2,226	43.3%	59,519	81,284	21,765	2,363	(343)	2,020	1,675	267	688	(610)	640	(158)
Personalised Packages	82	71	(11)	(15.5%)	1,334	1,491	157	11.8%	16,268	21,000	4,732	336	(179)	157	238	(163)	98	(16)	72	(1)
Home Tutoring	132	132	0	0.0%	1,119	2,068	949	84.8%	8,477	15,667	7,189	949	0	949	949	0	0	0	132	0
Educated Other than at School	214	203	(11)	(5.4%)	2,453	3,559	1,106	45.1%	24,746	36,667	11,921	1,285	(179)	1,106	1,187	(163)	98	(16)	204	(1)
Mainstream Provision (pre 16)	2,448	2,419	(29)	(1.2%)	8,465	8,417	(48)	(0.6%)	3,458	3,480	22	52	(100)	(48)	64	(342)	(12)	242	2,349	70
Mainstream Provision (pre 16) Plus Packages	1,118	996	(122)	(12.2%)	12,044	10,719	(1,325)	(11.0%)	10,773	10,762	(11)	(11)	(1,314)	(1,325)	(24)	(1,271)	13	(43)	1,000	(4)
Mainstream	3,566	3,415	(151)	(4.4%)	20,509	19,136	(1,373)	(6.7%)	14,231	14,242	11	41	(1,415)	(1,373)	40	(1,614)	1	199	3,349	66
Further Education	879	837	(42)	(5.0%)	4,129	4,111	(18)	(0.4%)	4,697	4,912	214	179	(197)	(18)	155	(197)	24	0	837	0
Top Ups	1,731	1,703	(28)	(1.6%)	23,150	22,486	(664)	(2.9%)	13,372	13,201	(171)	(291)	(372)	(663)	(252)	(278)	(39)	(95)	1,710	(7)
Top Ups Guaranteed	0	10	10	100.0%	0	177	177	0.0%	17,556	17,556	0	0	177	177	0	148	0	29	8	2
Exceeded Places	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	100.0%	10,000	0	(10,000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plus Packages	38	41	3	7.9%	528	552	24	4.5%	13,895	13,380	(515)	(21)	45	24	(15)	46	(6)	(1)	41	(0)
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	1,769	1,755	(15)	(0.8%)	23,678	23,215	(463)	(2.0%)	54,823	44,137	(10,686)	(312)	(150)	(462)	(267)	(84)	(45)	(67)	1,760	(5)
Sole Funded	1,240	1,300	60	4.6%	60,198	60,294	96	0.2%	49,078	48,869	(209)	(272)	2,928	2,657	177	(2,311)	(448)	5,239	1,193	107
Joint Funded	19	11	(8)	(74.5%)	1,853	1,054	(799)	(43.1%)	112,280	97,603	(14,677)	(160)	(911)	(1,070)	(45)	(549)	(115)	(362)	14	(3)
Adults	5	5	(0)	(3.5%)	433	438	5	1.2%	86,205	88,856	2,651	13	(15)	(2)	5	(65)	7	50	4	1
Independent Special Schools	1,264	1,315	51	3.9%	62,484	61,786	(698)	(5.9%)	247,563	235,328	(12,235)	(419)	2,003	1,585	137	(2,925)	(556)	4,928	1,211	104
Resource Bases (Topup)	92	87	(5)	(6.2%)	816	816	0	0.0%	8,870	9,423	553	48	(48)	0	58	(44)	(10)	(4)	87	(0)
Reported Forecast Outturn 2023/24	8,270	8,007	(263)	(3.3%)	118,393	119,173	780	0.7%				3,138	(281)	2,857	2,927	(4,715)			8,001	6

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Management Plan Savings / Cost reductions

23/24 DSG Management Plan savings / Cost reductions Workstream / Management Action		23/24 Targeted Savings	Workstream lead	23/24 revised Savings
		£'000		£'000
New Specialist Provision				
	The Promise , Okehampton Opening Sept 2022	(800)	Simon Niles / Gill Loman	(640)
	Glendinning, expanding Sept 2022	(250)		(250)
	Ace Academy, expanding Sept 2022	(225)		(225)
	Lampard additional Opening Jan 2023	(480)		(160)
	Marland East-the-Water additional Opening Sept 2023	(467)		(467)
	Orchard Manor additional Opening Sept 2023	(397)		(397)
	South/West Devon school Opening Sept 2023	(467)		0
		(3,085)		(2,138)
Support Centre Expansion				
	Support Centre Expansion	(1,360)	Gill Loman	0
	Support Centre Expansion total	(1,360)		0
SEN 100 Project				
	Outreach support in special schools - supporting 250 schools across the year (Year 1: supporting 80 children (25 successful); Year 2-5 supporting 160 children (50 successful))	(1,958)	Robyn Emmerson	(1,305)
	SEN Support Service - (Supporting children from to stay in Mainstream Yr1 - Sept 22 - 24 children, Yr 2 - Apr 23 - 48 Children & Sept 23 - 72 Children; Yr 3 forwards Sept intake 72 children)	(918)	Vacant (Jeanette Savage)	0
	Outreach support to reduce need for EHCPs (Year 1-2 : Supporting 80 children; Year 3 supporting 120 children)	(709)		(709)
	SEN 100 Project total	(3,585)		(2,014)
Independent Sector				
	Independent Schools: Ceasing 3-5 yr placements at the end of the summer term	(672)	Sam Plumb	(1,483)
	Independent Sector Total	(672)		(1,483)
Prevention of more Complex Support requirements				
	Prevention of more complex support requirements 5-10 age group and enhanced capacity of 0-25 Team	(2,252)	Vacant	(478)
	Team around the School	(2,105)	Vacant (Jeanette Savage)	0
	Special Teachers Curriculum	(2,188)	Paul Lamana	(1,458)
	Education Key Workers	(984)	Matthew Gould	(984)
	Prevention of more Complex Support Total	(7,529)		(2,920)
Transition to Adulthood				
	Pre-16 transition NCY10 & 11	(1,990)	Sam Plumb	(1,327)
	Post-16 placement	(1,964)		(1,309)
	Transition phase total	(3,954)		(2,636)
Other				
	20 placements - Children's Social Care Funding - Education only costs would see savings for DSG (transfer of costs to LA and Health)	0	Matthew Gould	(1,000)
	Mainstream Schools: Claim AWPU back from mainstream schools if child receiving education other than at a mainstream school (as Exclusions)	(50)		(50)
	Other total	(50)		(1,050)
Total Management Plan Savings		(20,235)		(12,241)

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22 November 2023

2024-25 SCHOOLS FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Report of the Director of Finance & Public Value and Director of Children and Young Peoples Futures

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that DEF:

- a) Specifically approve the proposals for schools funding (in line with the results of the consultation):
 - i. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
 - ii. to distribute any unallocated funding in the following order:
 - a. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% **Provided Proposal 4 is agreed.**
 - b. Increase AEN factors by up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - c. Increase all other factors up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - d. Increase the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2024-25 guidance.
 - iii. to bridge any funding gap in the following order:
 - a. Reduced AWPU by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - b. Reduced all other factors by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

All to Vote

- b) Specifically approve the de-delegation of the services listed in Section 5.1 in line with the results of the consultation. The mainstream maintained schools' representatives of Schools Forum will be required to vote on each service (unless there is unanimous agreement to vote on all services together), with Primary and Secondary voting separately.

Vote: Maintained primary representatives.

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives.

- c) Specifically approve the funding of central services listed in section 6.1 in line with the results of the consultation.

All to Vote

- d) Specifically approve the proposal to submit a disapplication request for exceptional circumstances relating to school premises for 2024-25.

All to Vote

1. Consultation 2024-25.

- a) The consultation documents for [Schools Funding Arrangements 2024-25](#) were published on the Devon County website and 3 online drop-in sessions were held. All schools were invited to respond to the proposals contained within the document by 22nd October 2023.
- b) This report should be read in conjunction with the [consultation documents](#).
- c) The outcomes strive to deliver the fairest distribution of funding for the majority of schools whilst keeping within both the funding envelope and adhering to the NFF guidance.

2. Responses.

- a) 117 out of 352 individual schools (33% of all schools) submitted responses to the consultation and these represent just over 34,600 pupils,

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Responses	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual schools	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual schools %	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%
NOR	6,601	15,403	22,004	11,961	649	12,610	34,614
NOR %	19%	44%	64%	35%	2%	36%	100%

3. Proposals – Schools Funding.

a) A majority of schools agreed with the first three proposals.

b) **Proposal 1 - Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

Do you agree with Devon’s decision to set the MFG at 0% for 2024-25?

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Agree	29	18	47	46	1	47	94
Disagree	6	0	6	10	0	10	16
Neither agree nor disagree	1	1	2	5	0	5	7
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Agree	25%	15%	40%	39%	1%	40%	80%
Disagree	5%	0%	5%	9%	0%	9%	14%
Neither agree nor disagree	1%	1%	2%	4%	0%	4%	6%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

c) **Proposal 2 - Excess funding available**

Do you agree in principle with Devon’s decision to distribute any unallocated funding in the following order?

- i. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% **Provided Proposal 4 is agreed.**
- ii. Increase AEN factors by up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
- iii. Increase all other factors up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
- iv. Increase the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2024-25 guidance.

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Agree	14	6	20	43	1	44	64
Disagree	22	13	35	17	0	17	52
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Agree	12%	5%	17%	37%	1%	38%	55%
Disagree	19%	11%	30%	15%	0%	15%	44%
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

d) **Proposal 3 - A funding gap**

Do you agree in principle with Devon’s decision to bridge any funding gap in the following order?

- i. Reduced AWPU by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

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- ii. Reduced all other factors by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Agree	28	16	44	31	1	32	76
Disagree	1	2	3	23	0	23	26
Neither agree nor disagree	7	1	8	7	0	7	15
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Agree	24%	14%	38%	26%	1%	27%	65%
Disagree	1%	2%	3%	20%	0%	20%	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%	1%	7%	6%	0%	6%	13%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

4. Proposals – Movement between Blocks.

- a) A majority of 61% disagreed with proposal 4.

b) Proposal 4 - Movements into Another Block

Do you agree to transfer funding of 0.5%, for one year only, from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to develop an Early Help (Education) Offer for schools as part of the Safety Valve agreement?

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Agree	14	6	20	17	1	18	38
Disagree	22	13	35	36	0	36	71
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0	0	8	0	8	8
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Agree	12%	5%	17%	15%	1%	15%	32%
Disagree	19%	11%	30%	31%	0%	31%	61%
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	7%	7%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

- c) The proposal for the transfer between blocks will be presented separately as a standalone paper.

5. Delegation and De-delegation.

- a) A majority of maintained primary schools and a majority of maintained secondary schools opted to keeping all the services funded through de-delegation. See [Appendix A](#) for details:
- Social Emotional & Mental Health Support Team (Behaviour Support)
 - Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service: EAL
 - Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service: GRTS
 - Copyrights, Licences and Subscriptions
 - Trade Union Facilitation
 - Jury Service and Magistrate Support
 - Maternity Service
 - Schools in Difficulties and Exceptional Events
 - School Effectiveness

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- b) De-delegation applies to mainstream, maintained schools only and is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or PRUs, but where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, it is the Department's presumption that the Local Authority will offer the service on a buy-back basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation.

6. Central Services.

- a) A majority of schools opted to keeping funding all the central services for 1 year only. See [Appendix B](#) for details:
- Emotional, Psychological & Social Wellbeing Services - £60,000 for 2024/25
 - Phase Association - £223,000 for 2024/25 (This is in addition to the £47,000 pooled from the High Needs Block for Devon Special School Heads (DSSH))
 - Schools Admissions - £569,000 for 2024/25

7. Disapplication request - exceptional circumstances relating to school premises.

- a) We have been advised by the ESFA that they expect Schools Forum to vote on disapplication requests.
- b) As in previous years Devon is proposing to submit a disapplication application request to use exceptional circumstances relating to school premises to allocate funding through the NFF to schools that incur exceptional costs relating to dual use sports facilities, rent and other exceptional premises costs.
- c) For exceptional circumstances relating to school premises, we are only able to submit applications where the value of the factor is more than 1% of a school's budget and applies to fewer than 5% of the schools in the local authority's area (17 school for Devon).
- d) This means that we are only able to submit a disapplication for the 17 schools with the highest total premises costs each year. Cost per school will vary each year based on contractual obligations (for example a large contribution to repairs) so the 17 schools will not be the same schools every year.
- e) The ESFA has been conducting a review of Devon's Exceptional Circumstances relating to school premises (including rents, dual use facilities and other exceptional premises costs). Unfortunately, we have been advised that a number of items that we have requested funding for in 2023-24 should not have been funded. While the ESFA are not proposing to claw back any funding for 2023-24, we will not be able to claim for these items from 2024-25 onwards.
- f) We are not allowed to claim for:
- Any capital costs.
 - Any leasing costs where a copy of the lease is not available.
 - Leasing costs for car parking areas.
 - Maintenance costs.
 - Any costs relating to a nursery site. Funding for mixed year group may still be approved to some extent by the ESFA based on NOR.
 - Leasing costs where the property has been transferred to the legal entity the school is part of.
- g) The above list includes everything we are currently aware of, but it may not be exhaustive.
- h) We are still finalising the data for the submission in conjunction with the ESFA and affected schools.

8. Recommendations

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- a) That DEF specifically approve the proposals for schools funding (in line with the results of the consultation):
 - iv. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
 - v. to distribute any unallocated funding in the following order:
 - a. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% **Provided Proposal 4 is agreed.**
 - b. Increase AEN factors by up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - c. Increase all other factors up to the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - d. Increase the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2024-25 guidance.
 - vi. to bridge any funding gap in the following order:
 - a. Reduced AWPU by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.
 - b. Reduced all other factors by up the allowed maximum of 2.5%.

All to Vote

- b) That DEF specifically approve the de-delegation of the services listed in Section 5.1 in line with the results of the consultation. The mainstream maintained schools' representatives of Schools Forum will be required to vote on each service (unless there is unanimous agreement to vote on all services together), with Primary and Secondary voting separately.

Vote: Maintained primary representatives

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives

- c) That DEF specifically approve the funding of central services listed in section 6.1 in line with the results of the consultation.

All to Vote

- d) That DEF specifically approve the proposal to submit a disapplication request for exceptional circumstances relating to school premises for 2024-25.

All to Vote

Angie Sinclair
Director of Finance & Public Value

Stuart Collins
Director of Children and Young Peoples Futures

Please ask for: Adrian Fox
Adrian.fox@devon.gov.uk

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Appendix A

1. Delegation and De-delegation

1.1. Social Emotional & Mental Health Support Team (Behaviour Support)

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	51	1	52
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	10	0	10
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	82%	2%	84%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	16%	0%	16%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.2. Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service: EAL

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	46	1	47
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	15	0	15
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	74%	2%	76%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	24%	0%	24%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.3. Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service: GRTS

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	46	1	47
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	15	0	15
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	74%	2%	76%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	24%	0%	24%
Total	98%	2%	100%

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1.4. Copyrights, Licences and Subscriptions

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	61	1	62
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	0	0	0
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	98%	2%	100%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	0%	0%	0%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.5. Trade Union Facilitation

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	55	1	56
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	6	0	6
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	89%	2%	90%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	10%	0%	10%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.6. Jury Service and Magistrate Support

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	58	1	59
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	3	0	3
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	94%	2%	95%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	5%	0%	5%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.7. Maternity Service

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	61	1	62
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	0	0	0
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	98%	2%	100%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	0%	0%	0%
Total	98%	2%	100%

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1.8. Schools in Difficulties and Exceptional Events

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	54	1	55
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	7	0	7
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	87%	2%	89%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	11%	0%	11%
Total	98%	2%	100%

1.9. School Effectiveness

	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained
Individual Schools:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	48	1	49
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	13	0	13
Total	61	1	62
Individual Schools %:			
Option 1 - De-delegate	77%	2%	79%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	21%	0%	21%
Total	98%	2%	100%

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DEF/23/14
DEVON EDUCATION FORUM

22 November 2023

Appendix B

2. Central Services

2.1 Emotional, Psychological & Social Wellbeing Service

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Option 1 - De-delegate	19	3	22	54	1	55	77
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	17	16	33	7	0	7	40
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Option 1 - De-delegate	16%	3%	19%	46%	1%	47%	66%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	15%	14%	28%	6%	0%	6%	34%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

2.2 Phase Association

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Option 1 - Maintain Phase Association funding for 2024-25	20	10	30	13	1	14	44
Option 2 - As Option 1, but for a 3-year term (2024-25 - 2026-27)	8	6	14	25	0	25	39
Option 3 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	8	3	11	23	0	23	34
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Option 1 - Maintain Phase Association funding for 2024-25	17%	9%	26%	11%	1%	12%	38%
Option 2 - As Option 1, but for a 3-year term (2024-25 to 2026-27)	7%	5%	12%	21%	0%	21%	33%
Option 3 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	7%	3%	9%	20%	0%	20%	29%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

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2.3 Schools Admissions

	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Total Academy	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Total maintained	Total Schools
Individual Schools:							
Option 1 - De-delegate	30	19	49	59	1	60	109
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	6	0	6	2	0	2	8
Total	36	19	55	61	1	62	117
Individual Schools %:							
Option 1 - De-delegate	26%	16%	42%	50%	1%	51%	93%
Option 2 - Monies remain in schools' budgets	5%	0%	5%	2%	0%	2%	7%
Total	31%	16%	47%	52%	1%	53%	100%

Transfer of AWPU for reasons other than permanent exclusion

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures

Recommendations:

Further to the report presented to SFG on 13 September 2023, DEF is asked to endorse:

- i) The transfer of 100% of AWPU and per pupil funding (e.g. Pupil Premium) for pupils who are removed from a mainstream school roll, for reasons other than permanent exclusion, and are receiving education funded by the local authority other than at a school (EOTAS).
- ii) The transfer of 80% of AWPU and per pupil funding for each term that the pupil is in alternative provision funded by the LA, while remaining dual registered with the main school.
- iii) Proposed changes to take effect from the beginning of the 2023-24 academic year.

1. Context

AWPU is the rate set to allocate basic entitlement funding for pre-16 pupils in mainstream schools. Basic entitlement is a compulsory factor which must be used in the funding formula. This is paid to all mainstream schools but can be reclaimed in certain circumstances. The purpose of this paper is to reconsider the LA reclaiming this funding for pupils where their education is provided for under section 19 of the Education Act, 'illness or otherwise'. The LA already reclaims AWPU plus per pupil funding for pupils who are permanently excluded.

Where the child remains on a school roll (dual-registered), 80% of AWPU and per-pupil funding will be reclaimed by the local authority to enable education provision to be sourced. This recognises that the school will continue to have statutory duties to perform for the pupil such as safeguarding, monitoring attendance and supporting students through the exam process, and provision of free school meals where appropriate (see below).

The main school should ensure that:

- They have a named contact for the parents/pupil
- The pupil remains part of their community
- They send newsletters home
- The pupil has the same opportunities that are as their peers
- Offered access to school work or if requested by parents/pupil
- The pupil and parents are offered to come into the school periodically either inside of outside of school hours.
- They maintain regular contact with the alternative provision
- They share important information with the alternative provision – particularly in relation to safeguarding

The funding will follow the child back as they are reintegrated back into school.

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2. EOTAS

There are increasing numbers of children and young people for which an education package out of school is being required. This results in the Statutory SEND team not only securing the EHCP under the SEND legislation but also ensuring they are in full time education under the Education Act legislation. The latter is a wider council responsibility under Section 19 of the Education Act. This places a duty on LAs to make suitable alternative education for children of statutory school age who cannot attend school because of illness, exclusion or any other reason.

If it can be shown that it is not reasonably practicable for the child to attend, then the LA's duty to provide suitable alternative education arises. In situations like this it is important that the parent makes every effort to work with the school and LA to facilitate their child's attendance at school.

Educated other than at school (EOTAS) is a term used to describe this package of education. This is not a choice for parents to make but is an arrangement made by the local authority when a school place is not possible.

In accordance with the Schools' revenue funding guidance, it proposed that Devon County Council seeks the transfer of AWPU for those learners who are removed from school rolls to alternative arrangements as described above.

Schools' revenue funding operational guidance 2023 to 2024 states:

Redetermination of budgets where pupils have been excluded

Where pupils are excluded, funding should flow in-year from the school that has excluded the pupil to the provision that takes responsibility for the pupil. If a school subsequently admits a pupil who has been permanently excluded during that financial year, it should then receive additional funding.

The provisions here also apply to pupils who leave a mainstream school for reasons other than permanent exclusion and are receiving education funded by the local authority other than at a school.

The provisions also act independently of whether a particular pupil has been on the census in the first place, and whether the school has received funding for them.

3. Medical Provision

Devon County Council is mindful of the increase in the number of Section 19 referrals being made, particularly for KS3/4 students. DCC commissions provision with two providers: Torlands Academy part of the Wave Multi Academy Trust [Home - Wave MAT](#) and Devon Hospitals Short Stay School [Devon Hospitals Short Stay School - Home \(devonhospitalschool.org.uk\)](#) to provide alternative provision in line with its statutory duty placed on the LA by 'Ensuring a good education for children who cannot attend schools because of health needs – Statutory guidance for local authorities. (January 2013) and [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) [p18] (September 2022)

Whilst Torlands and DHSSS are both full, the LA commissions packages with a range of other alternative providers. The proportion AWPU and per-pupil funding recovered from schools as proposed could be used to increase capacity within the Education Wellbeing Team and support within the Medical Wellbeing Team for schools and settings.

Schools have indicated the value of these teams in supporting children back to school.

5. Other Authorities

There are currently an increasing number of authorities which seek to support children by ensuring that per pupil funding is withdrawn from the registered school to support the placement and current educational offer. These include Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Dudley and more locally Torbay.

We understand that there are others who have these arrangements in place to ensure that support underwrites the services supporting the student and reduces the demand on the High Needs Block.

Stuart Collins
Director of Children and Young People Futures

Please ask for:

Matt Gould – Interim Inclusion Lead – matthew.gould@devon.gov.uk

Julia Foster – Service Lead – SEND Statutory Team – Julia.foster@devon.gov.uk

UPDATE ON DEVON'S SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND) TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures

Recommendations:

- a) Note the revised approach to SEND improvement to enable system wide change.
- b) Note the current position in developing Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) management plan (Safety Valve).

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an update on Devon's partnership approach to SEND improvement and the development of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) management plan, as part of Safety Valve negotiations with the Department for Education (DfE).

2. A revised approach to SEND Improvement

- 1.2. The Devon local area was inspected by Ofsted/CQC in December 2018 and were required to produce a Written Statement of Action to address four areas of significant weakness. In May 2022, the local area was revisited by Ofsted/CQC and were found to have made no progress. The Department for Education (DfE) issued an improvement notice in September 2022 and the local area produced an Accelerated Progress Plan.
- 1.3. Whilst there is a commitment to delivering the SEND improvements, as a response to Ofsted/CQC findings in 2018 and 2022, that alone is not going to drive the significant change required to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Devon. This is supported by feedback from parents, young people and professionals, and from analysis of partnership data and intelligence.
- 1.4. The Children and Families Act 2014 places a strong emphasis on schools, local authorities, health, care and any commissioned service providers working closely together to meet children and young people's needs, rather than as separate entities. To improve the support for children and young people with SEND in Devon, partnership working is crucial, but it is not yet effective.
- 1.5. The Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection guidance, published in January 2023, sets out a new framework for inspecting with a stronger emphasis on the local area partnership's arrangements and their impact on the experiences and

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outcomes of children and young people. The next inspection in Devon will be using this framework.

- 1.6. In September 2023, the Council and its partners agreed a new approach to delivering improvements through the SEND Transformation Programme which takes a system wide approach to delivering positive change and is broadly set out under seven key strands (see Annex A), bringing Ofsted/CQC improvement work and Safety Valve activity together in one place. Updated governance arrangements have been agreed to support the new programme and new reporting arrangements are in place.

3. Work to develop DSG deficit management plans

- 1.7. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit Reserve is expected to increase to £162.6 million by the end of 2023/24 after management actions of £12.2 million identified through the current SEND Improvement plans. This is a reduction to those proposed as part of the SEND Improvement plans to the DfE in February 2022 of £8.1 million as some workstreams have not progressed or strategies have changed through different personnel.
- 1.8. The DfE have invited Devon into discussions for tranche 4 of the Safety Valve Intervention programme. The aim of the programme is to agree a package of reform to improve the performance of our high needs system whilst bringing our DSG deficit under control. Devon is required to submit an initial proposal by 15 December for review. There will be an opportunity to make any final amendments before submitting the final proposal on 12 January 2024.
- 1.9. As part of the refresh of our DSG management plans, a full review of all existing Safety Valve Business Cases was completed, and all were RAG rated in relation to feasibility and deliverability. A further detailed analysis of existing data and intelligence was also completed to understand the challenges that need to be addressed.
- 1.10. Increased project management is now in place to oversee delivery of the work (1FTE Programme Manager, 1FTE Project Manager and 2FTE Project Officers). SRO'S have been assigned to each strand and leads have been assigned to projects and workstreams, and reporting arrangements are in place.
- 1.11. Cost savings and cost avoidance figures are being finalised, alongside project delivery plans. Detailed work has been done to look at the mitigated and unmitigated data in relation to the Safety Valve projects. We are also considering a request for capital investment from the DfE.
- 1.12. Addressing the challenges in the SEND System
- 1.13. Delivery of SEND services is under significant pressure nationally. However, in Devon, the data shows that the local area is a significant outlier in many areas compared to regional, national and statistical neighbours. This suggests that the partnership approach to meeting the needs of children and

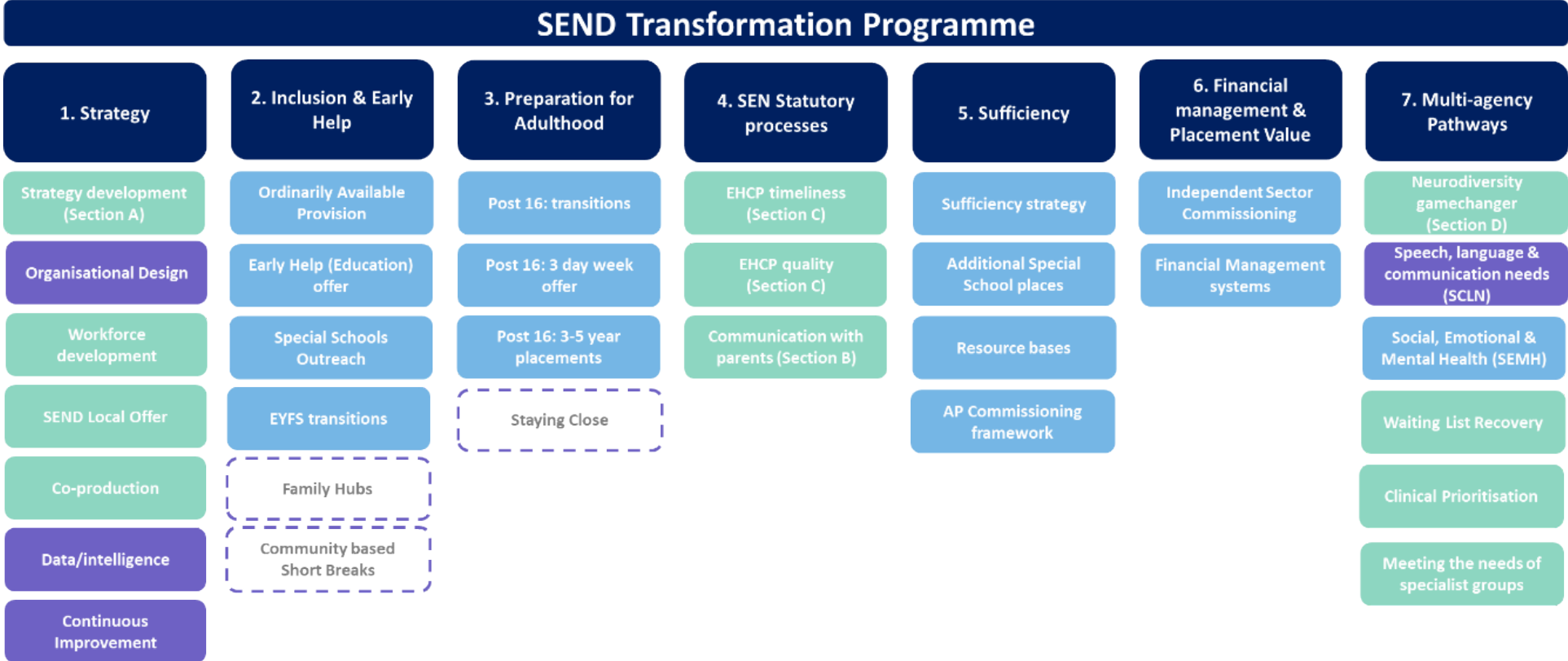
young people with SEND and the view of 'significantly greater difficulty in learning' may differ from other areas.

- 1.14. **SEND cohort:** Devon has a much larger EHCP cohort than statistical neighbours, as well as many LAs regionally and nationally. This is driven by an extremely high request rate for EHCPs (6th highest nationally from 152 LAs). The demand for statutory assessment is just one area that has put pressure upon the services that support children and young people with SEND. The Council's statutory assessment team, educational psychology service and social care teams are the recipient of referrals for assessment and have no control over the demand. In 2022, Devon budgeted a 25% larger per capita spend on SEN administration, assessment and monitoring than the England average and 15% larger than statistical neighbours.
- 1.15. **Primary needs:** Devon has a higher proportion of school pupils with Speech Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs compared to England and statistical neighbours. Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and SLCN are more likely to have an EHCP in Devon compared to their peers across England. The secondary school SLCN rate is approximately twice the national average.
- 1.16. **School provision:** Devon school pupils with an EHCP are more likely to be educated in an independent setting compared to other LAs. In 2023, Devon budgeted £289 per capita for top up funding to independent providers, which is double the England average of £141. The current annual spend on independent specialist provision is c£55 million.
- 1.17. **Outcomes:** Devon has high rates of overall absence and persistent absentees for both primary and secondary school pupils and a very high rate of permanent exclusions for EHCP primary pupils. SEN exclusion rates in secondary are significantly higher than England average.
- 1.18. The Council alone cannot address the system wide issues - though it recognises its own weaknesses - but is keen to work with partners to understand what is driving this demand. Partnership work with schools will be crucial in ensuring the right support is in place for children at the right time.

Stuart Collins
Director of Children and Young People's Futures

Please ask for:
Kellie Knott
SEND Improvement Director
Kellie.knott@devon.gov.uk

ANNEX A – SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME



Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

Key Issues for DEF to Note:

2. RAAC:

DEF to note the excellent coordination across SW Norse, working with maintained schools, Diocese and DCC colleagues in ensuring swift inspections of all schools where presence of RAAC was a possibility.

3. SW Norse Update:

Noted a number of maintenance areas appear to be out of tolerance within the Devon Academies Maintenance Agreement, due to a number of MATs using premises management software which is not linked to the central C2 system, which generates compliance reports.

4. In-Year Admissions – Moving to Direction:

SOCA recommends to DEF that it endorses the LA proposal to move to direction for in year admission applications where a decision to admit has not been made within statutory timeframes – non determination.

8. Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education

DEF to note intention that SOCA considers wider issues around Access to education.

9. SCAP Commentary

DEF to note that the Local Authority does not have a statutory right to access vacant school places within a school's premises where own admissions authorities do not increase PAN to address rising admission applications.

School Organisation:

Admissions:

Attendance

DCC

Simon Niles (chair)	Strategy, Schools Planning and Admissions
Shona Meek	Senior School Organisation Officer
Andrew Brent	Senior Policy Officer
Fran Butler	Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Lead
Heidi Watson-Jones (notes)	Service Support Officer (E&L)

Devon Schools Leadership Services

Primary

Penny Hammett	FORT Federation
David Perkins	Littletown Academy

Secondary

Graham Hill - Apologies	Pilton Community College
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Special School Heads

Stuart Allman- Apologies	Pathfield School
Jennie Harvey	Lampard School

DAG

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Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

Ian Rogers

Diocesan Representatives

Vacancy	Diocese of Plymouth
Christina Mabin	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Admissions)
Richard Power - Apologies	Exeter Anglican Diocese (Capital)

Union Representative

Nigel Williams	Corporate Forum (Education) NASUWT
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In Attendance

Nick Cook - part	South West Norse
Clare Breckin - part	Chief Engineer (Highways & Built Environments)

Minutes of Previous Meeting – 23 May 2023

Outstanding actions:

- Noted issues nationally ref LAs not being able to access vacant capacity being held within schools who are their own admissions authority. Discussion on SCAP included in this agenda.

Non Pupil days

- It was noted that schools are not always sharing their term dates with the LA for publication, and changes late in the term can impact on individual members of staff who may already have booked holidays.
- NW raised concerns around expectation that school days lost to poor weather or exceptional circumstances are made up. It was felt this could have an impact where staff are expected to work additional hours above those contracted. NW agreed to raise this concern at Corporate Education Forum.
- SOCA considered practice since pandemic around delivery of online learning during in adverse circumstances. Mindful of statutory duty on maintained schools to provide 190 days of learning. Heads felt that there were very few exceptional circumstances that would lead to a complete school closure given the ability to provide remote learning
- Noted Early Years settings are asked to make up any days lost wherever possible, and where this is not feasible, parents are offered provision in another setting to make up lost hours.
- Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

ACTION:

- **NW** to raise issues around making up school days lost to exceptional events at Corporate Education Forum.
- **Bill Aplin / Fran Butler** to review compliance expectations around lost school days to be set out in a further report to SOCA.
- Updates to be circulated through DSLs and Headteacher update
- **Devon SLS** to encourage schools to remind their parents that individual school term dates may differ from those stated on the LA website.
- **Shona Meek** to review messaging on school term dates website.

2. RAAC Update

- SOCA noted excellent coordination across SW, schools, diocese and DCC colleagues.

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

- Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) was feasible in 139 maintained schools which have now all been inspected.
- 23 where inaccessible spaces (e.g. outbuildings, roof areas) require further inspections, or fuller surveys which may be complicated with asbestos – these schools have been notified. The risk of RAAC being identified is considered extremely low -a 'belt and braces' approach is being taken.
- Understand VA schools are also now inspected and are RAAC-free.
- Own admissions authorities (Academy chains etc.) are reporting back on their own due diligence. Colyton Grammar have identified presence of RAAC.
- Diligence question around RAAC will be included in CTA for future transfers of schools into or between Multi Academy Trusts.
- SOCA formally thanked SW Norse colleagues for their professional and thorough approach to undertaking RAAC inspections in a very short timescale.

ACTION

- **SW Norse** - Update on 23 follow up surveys at November SOCA
- **DEF** formally recognise professional input into management of RAAC by SW Norse

3. SW Norse Update

- DMP (Devon Maintenance Partnership) numbers reduced slightly due to academy conversions.
- DAMA (Devon Academies Maintenance Agreement) numbers stable but SW Norse to look at different arrangements as academies are now mainly in a MAT, which generally have well-established property maintenance functions.
- Noted a number of maintenance areas appear to be out of tolerance within DAMA, and it is likely to be due to a number of MATs using premises management software which is not linked to the C2 system, with reports reliant on MATs engaging with that central system.
- Lift service contractors have undertaken to improve their performance – linked to issues around access during summer holidays. Automatic Doors contractor is working with DCC compliance officers to get back on track.
- New service contracts to be issued from October for 1 April onwards. Current contracts all terminate end March 2024.
- Report noted.

4. Admissions: Compliance

- The admission authority for a school must reach a lawful decision within statutory timeframe whether a place can be offered.
- Schools are asked to respond to an application within 5 days to enable coordination of any preference for more than one school and send confirmation to the parents. A written response must be sent to parents within 15 school days. The Admissions Code sets out a framework for such decision-making.
- The LA has found that decisions appear to be increasingly outside of the statutory timeframe and sometimes in breach of the Admissions Code.
- The LA proposes to move to direction for in-year applications where a decision has not been timely (non-determination). This will ensure parents are able to appeal any refusal in a timely fashion.
- After 25 school days the LA will assume that admission is being refused (no decision has the same impact on a child as a refusal which is challengeable as non-determination. This may then result in placing the child on roll (community or voluntary controlled schools), to direct the

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Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

school to admit (foundation and voluntary aided schools) or to request a direction to admit (academies).

- Diocese is keen to work with the LA to ensure that offers and refusals are managed in a timely manner.
- Data is now being collected by the LA on timeframes for all admissions.
- SOCA noted that the LA is expecting this to be outlined and agreed in the in-year coordination policy.
- Mindful that there will still be circumstances where admission decisions remain complex, challenging and time consuming.
- Noted that smaller schools are not automatically notified of online admission applications.
- **Subject to feedback from secondary representatives at DSLS Schools Executive Committee, SOCA agreed to make the recommendation that DEF support the LA approach.**

ACTION:

- **SOCA recommends to DEF that it** endorses decision to move to direction for in year applications where a decision has not been timely – non-determination.
- **AB** to look at how smaller schools are notified of in-year online admissions applications.

5. Admissions: Admissions Round 2023

- Noted surplus places now emerging in Primary schools.
- Local Learning Community data has been shared with all schools with discussions and briefings being offered with school planning officers.
- LA is engaging with LLCs, encouraging schools to look strategically across their areas to consider issues, particularly where there are small rural schools.
- Noted concerns around Early Years sufficiency - additional places will be required for 9mth – 2 year olds, particularly with rise in entitlement from 15 to 30 hour provision.
- Noted that there can be discrepancies between available data, and the pupil numbers that subsequently come through. It was felt that the information available has generally improved and is accurate, but it is important for schools to continue to strategically plan how capacity can be most effectively used.
- Currently predicting a bulge in Y6. Discussed particular pressures on grammar school places, and whether there were trends away from the independent sector.
- Report noted.

6. Admissions: Admissions Policies for 2025-26

- Report noted

7. Children offset from the normal year group

- Report noted

8. Elective Home Education and Children Missing Education

- Keen for SOCA to consider wider issues around Access to school in the future.
- CME strategy and reporting to be developed.

Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

- EHE policy to be reviewed. Devon is a clear outlier with high levels of elective home education as a % of total school population.
- Discussed the impact of schools offering flexi-school offers where this supports parental lifestyle choices. Understand the LA does not formally record flexi-schooling, and queried how absence is being recorded by the school.
- Understand that the LA and many Heads do not generally support flexi schooling arrangements. This has wider consequences around attendance, safeguarding duties, impact of move to secondary phase and blocking school places which could be allocated to another child.
- SOCA discussed issues around ongoing safeguarding responsibility for a child whose parent refuses to engage further with a school.
- In these circumstances it is the LA's intention to challenge the parent to discharge their legal responsibilities around school attendance, and this will be laid out in a refreshed policy.
- It was agreed a clear DCC policy position would be useful for all schools, fully endorsed through DEF/Cabinet

ACTIONS:

- **SN / AB** to revisit a DCC flexi-schooling policy and provide update on flexi-schooling to next SOCA.

9. SCAP Commentary

- Noted that the Local Authority does not have a statutory right to access vacant school places within a school's premises where own admissions authorities are not willing to exceed PANs to accommodate rising admission applications.
- The Growth fund is being reviewed to encourage schools to make additional places available where there is local need but is currently in a deficit position.
- SCAP return to DfE had been shared with SOCA members.
- Noted similar issues being experienced with Early Years capacity, with heavy reliance on private sector investment to create new places.
- SEND sufficiency currently being developed and will be considered further at a future meeting.

10. School Organisation Update

- Noted delay in Matford Brook opening due to need for remedial work. Hoping new site to be opened by Sept 2024. Children are being temporarily accommodated at St Luke's site. Early Years and KS1 offer to be confirmed by DfE which could have implications for the emerging new community
- Noted that DfE have formally been asked to confirm there are no longer term issues regarding the Free/PSPS schools built in Devon reference issues experienced in schools in Cornwall and Somerset and off site modular construction methods.
- Engagement events for Cranbrook Special Free School has resulted in 3 applications begin submitted (all from MATs already providing education in Devon) which the DfE will consider. LA will have involvement in the evaluation process. Land negotiations for the site moving forward.
- Noted objections received to proposal to increase places at Mill Water special school. Schools Adjudicator to make a decision.
- Glendinning proposal to remove post-16 offer has completed consultative process and decision awaited from Regional Director.

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Schools Organisation, Capital and Admissions Group: Notes of meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023

- Noted proposals and approvals to lower age range at Landkey, Lady Seawards, Langtree, Highweek, Denbury and Georgeham.
- Proposal to close hearing support centre at Clyst Vale to be considered by Regional Direction following consultation; no children will be displaced.
- Still awaiting RD decision on Axminster Primary proposal to increase places.
- SOCA noted changes to Multi Academy Trusts, and school conversions to academy status.
- Considered reasons behind school decisions to move into a multi academy trust.

9. Any Other Business

Items for next meeting:

- CME
- Flexi schooling
- Updated nursery admissions policy
- Admission appeals update
- Appeals to Tribunal and directions to place in special schools

- Agreed renewed focus on purposeful discussion and debate.
- Considered importance of Early Years data monitoring which can inform future patterns of admission and attendance at school. Identification of demographic trends is useful.
- Requested report on admission appeals to provide an overview of schools oversubscribed, and appeal outcomes.
- Noted that current SOCA is primarily mainstream focused. Issues around tribunal directions and appeals can impact on special schools re. capacity place allocation and safeguarding duty.

Future meeting dates:

- **Tuesday 5 December 2023** (9.30 – 11.30)
- **Tuesday 5 March 2024** (9.30 – 11.30)

Notes of High Needs Funding Sub Group

Tuesday 17 October 2023 – 15.30 – 17.00

Present: Paul Walker (Chair), Kellie Knott, Adrian Fox, Alex Walmsley, Jamie Stone, Heidi Watson-Jones (notes)

Apologies: Rob Gammon, Adrian Hines, Rob Gasson, Bill Blythe, Penny Hammett, Gemma Rolstone, Keith Bennett, Alan Blackburn, Fay Bowler, Sammy Crook

		Actions:
1	<p>Finance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Month 6 monitoring not yet complete, will be available for 6/11 SFG and will expect to see impact of beginning of new academic year. Month 5 position slightly improved from month 4, which had included recognition of £10m pressure from unachievable savings, including full year effect of ceased Safety Valve projects. Savings have been achieved linked to ceased EHCPs for young people in 3-5 year post 16 placements. Noted recent DfE notification of funding formula error relates only to Schools' Block and not High Needs. AP Task and Finish Group established to identify and address pattern of use of unregistered provision. Highest risk area remains spend on independent sector placements. Looking at solutions around block contracting, and establishing new provision to avoid independent sector placements, particularly at key transition points. SEND Improvement Plan includes Sufficiency strand, led by Simon Niles, with focus on moving provision down the continuum of learning to more inclusive, mainstream placements. Discussed clarity of messaging around a broader approach to an Early Help offer and wraparound support for schools. 	
2	<p>SEND Transformation Programme Update (Safety Valve)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Valve timeline: DSG management plan to be submitted by 15 Dec 23. All Safety Valve projects have been reviewed, some ceased and some new areas identified for delivery. DfE priority is that LA demonstrates that it can deliver the programme, with each project outcome supported by data to move towards a balanced in-year budget. DfE seeking confirmation of how LA will meet its contribution to the Safety Valve agreement. Hoping DfE contribution currently would be at around £100m, which could be invested to generate interest. DCC contribution of £80m proposed to be raised from capital receipts, and £5m year on year savings. Currently planning for DSG deficit to be back in balance by March 2026. Noted Kent CC safety valve funded by DfE at £140m, with £80m LA contribution. Considered concerns around ongoing increase in volume and complexity of additional needs in schools. Agreed Early Help offer is key to stem the escalation. DfE looking to the LA to ensure strong leadership will demonstrate improvement of practice and strategic partnership working; financial improvement will follow this. Emerging government SEND and AP Improvement plan is hoped to start to shape a wider change in national policy. Optimistic that this final tranche of safety valve funding will be successful for Devon. 	

Notes of High Needs Funding Sub Group

Tuesday 17 October 2023 – 15.30 – 17.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming schools briefing – will be important for DCC leadership to articulate to school leaders how the refreshed approach will see more success, and how schools will feel this difference, and by when. Any pilot projects to be run in schools should be chosen to demonstrate a diverse landscape of schools and need. Discussed sector-led school improvement approach to SEND improvement. Improved sharing of Data and intelligence could inform a more targeted approach supported by a robust LA commissioning framework. <p>Alternative Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA currently assessing the scale of use of unregistered AP providers, and LA capacity to quality assure provision. Unsure how schools are QA-ing AP providers they are commissioning. Recognise that this is an area of significant spend for both the LA, and schools. The group felt that schools are keen to work with the LA to map out use of AP providers with a view to a more strategic and jointly commissioned approach. Schools keen to develop a 'preferred provider' register for the LA of quality assured schools which could stimulate the market to provide more cost effective and good quality commissioning options. ACTION: KK / Finance to consider sharing of intelligence across LA and Schools to map use of AP providers across the county. <p>Resource Bases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key to building sufficiency of SEND provision; re-launched approach to expand the number of places available in Devon in resourced provision. 5 schools currently engaged in statutory process for significant change with a view to opening new provision by September 2024, and an ongoing programme for next 3 years. Considered how school effectiveness team could support resource bases in inadequate schools; Suggested SLA could include criteria around Ofsted judgement slippage. 	<p>KK / Finance</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Schools Funding Consultation: 0.5% Block Transfer proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current financial year – requested detail around how the £2.4m passported for Team Around the School has been allocated. Confirmed that £1.2m has been allocated to SEMH partnerships with funding due to be released to schools after Oct half term when SLAs are agreed with schools. Any surplus will remain in the Growth Fund to mitigate the current deficit position. Understand that no additional funding outside of the HNB was available at the time Donna Manson announced the initiative to school leaders in Spring 23. 2024/25 Position – Mindful of DfE formula accounting error - which will potentially double the impact on school budgets, along with the 0.5% transfer. Discussed the planned allocation of the funds to establish a more robust early help offer. Noted that some of this work is already in place, but could not be expanded to provide an adequate wrap around support without the additional funds. Requested an internal briefing for DSLs outlining the difference in the range of support that could be provided with and without the funding agreed. ACTION: KK to brief DSLs Executive and share Early Help paper to be submitted to SEND Partnership Board. 	<p>KK</p>

Notes of High Needs Funding Sub Group

Tuesday 17 October 2023 – 15.30 – 17.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Simon Bissett to draft report for future SFG updating on the progress of the SEMH Partnership developments.	Simon B
4	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future meetings to be scheduled close to SFG to feed in, avoid duplication of discussion and identify key points to feed into DEF alongside SEND Board updates.• Arrangements for Chair to be reviewed at next meeting.• Schools representation and involvement in SEND Transformation project strands: noted that most MATs have a SEND / Inclusion lead who could usefully engage and contribute to discussions – ACTION: KK to consider which areas would best benefit from involvement of school leadership and SENDCOs.	

