

Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Education Board

Date: Tuesday, 20th June, 2023

Time: 8.45 am

Place: Johnson Room - Tickfield Centre

Contact: Robert Harris

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2022 (Pages 3 - 6)**
- 3 Membership and Vacancies**
Report from Principal Democratic Services Officer (to follow)
- **** Schools Forum Matters**
- 4 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022/23 Final Outturn (Pages 7 - 16)**
Report from Senior Business Finance Partner attached
- 5 Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24 High Need budget allocations (Pages 17 - 38)**
Report from Senior Finance Business Partner officer
- 6 Dedicated Schools Grant Exceptional Circumstance Funding proposal on Growth (Pages 39 - 42)**
Report of Senior Business Finance Support officer
- **** Education Board Matters**
- 7 Area SEND Inspection Update**
Verbal report from Director Education, Inclusion and Early Years (no papers)
- 8 Minutes of Sub-Groups (Pages 43 - 54)**
(a) Resources Sub-Group – 6 June 2023

(b) Vulnerable Learners Sub-Group – 2nd March 2023

(c) Performance Sub-Group – 10th January 2023
- 9 Date and time of meetings 2023/24**
Dates and time of future meetings to be advised.

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Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Education Board

Date: Tuesday, 13th December, 2022

Place: Johnson Room - Tickfield

2

Present: J Ladner (Chair) – Southend HS for Girls
Dr R Bevan (Vice-Chair) - Southend HS for Boys
Mr J Johnson - Edwards Hall Primary School
Mr S Reynolds - Southchurch High School
Ms L Clark - Hamstel Infant School and Nursery
Ms J Mullan - St Christophers (SEN Trust Southend)
Ms V Wright – Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years

In Attendance: M Marks, C Braun, P Grout, E Hammans, R Harris, S Greaves and M Ammon.

Start/End Time: 8.40 am - 10.30 am

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from S. Ayub, B Williams, D Taylor, L Thorne, D Allen, J Jones, S Tollworthy, D Woollard, M Jordan and Councillor L Burton.

2 Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 18 October 2022

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022, be confirmed as a correct record.

3 Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Item 5: DSG 2023/24 Indicative Budget Allocations (including 2023/24 Individual School Block Allocations)

The Board noted that the letter setting out the concerns of the Board regarding additional costs to schools without any funding increases was sent to the DfE, Secretary of State and the local MPs. There has been no response to date.

4 Education Board Membership and Vacancies

The Board considered a report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer presenting the findings of a review of the membership and composition of the Education Board (formerly referred to as The Schools Forum).

The Board noted the main changes to the membership and composition related to the 'schools' members (maintained, academy primary and secondary) which are set out in Appendix 2 to the report, namely:

- Maintained Primary Schools – 3 places (previously 4)
- Academy Secondary – 6 places (no change)
- Academy Primary – 5 places (previously 4).

Resolved:

1. That the current membership and vacancies set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be noted.
2. That the proposed revised membership and composition set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be agreed and that the Principal Democratic Services Officer make the necessary arrangements to advertise/promote any vacancies arising from the new composition.

5 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2023/24 Budget Planning and 2022/23 Forecast Outturn

The Board considered a report of the Senior Finance Business Partner presenting the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget planning for 2023/24 and the forecast outturn for 2022/23.

Resolved:

1. That the continuation of the exceptional circumstance funding request through to the DfE, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report. be supported.
2. That the de-delegation of funding be centrally retained from the schools block for staff cover costs (public duties), as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the submitted report.
3. That the Early Years funding rates for 2023/24 be planned to be set as set out under the principles at paragraph 7.6 of the submitted report.
4. That a 5% uplift be applied to all Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) banded top up rates and the Pupil Referral Unit top up rates from the 1st April 2023, but it be noted that this may be increased further once the full modelling and annual planning for 2023/24 High Needs budget is undertaken at the June 2023 Education Board meeting, as set out in paragraph 8.5 and 8.6 of the submitted report.
5. That the amounts and services that will continue to be funded centrally from the Central Block, where the local authority holds a statutory responsibility for all schools, as set out in paragraph 9.3 of the submitted report, be approved.
6. That the DSG High Need recommended minimum level of reserves balances be re-stated, as set out in paragraph 11.2 of the submitted report.
7. That on the basis of the decisions undertaken through both this and the previous October 2022 Education Board reports this December 2022 DSG report and the following January 2023 DSG report, be recommended to Council for final approval in February 2023.

6 Review of Inclusion across Southend-on-Sea Schools, Settings, and Services

The Board considered a joint report of the Head of Access and Inclusion and Head of the Virtual School presenting an update on the work of the Southend Education Inclusion Task and Finish Advisory Group and emerging themes for the recommended spend of the annual £1 million High Needs budget from 2022/23.

The Board discussed the report and commented on the role of early years in respect to early identification and the difficulties in getting support for early years children, particularly around SEMH needs.

The Board noted that a proportion of the £1 million funding could be allocated to early years inclusion but the initial focus (as agreed by the Education Board) was to initially focus on schools and disseminate across early years in the future.

The Board noted that further work would be carried out to develop the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), governance and monitoring arrangements and that a financial plan would be devised to map out actual spend and delivery timeline.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed allocation of spend of the annual £1m High Needs budget from 2022/23, and that all schools be required to commit/sign up to the inclusion plan/charter as a condition for the allocation of funding, be approved.
2. That the financial plan, key performance indicators and monitoring arrangements for delivery be developed further with the specific focus on pupil access to education covering pupil attendance, avoiding suspension and access to full time education. The Vulnerable Learners Sub-Group to be responsible for monitoring delivery. The Board requested that VLSG meet earlier (February 2023) than the next planned Board meeting meeting in March 2023 to focus purely on the progress of procuring the actions and agreeing the performance indicators.
3. As part of this work, co-produce an inclusion plan/charter with Southend settings for all provisions to commit to an agreed suite of inclusion expectations. The emphasis must be on collaboration between all settings and services to attend and engage in any area wide training offers which in turn influences the implementation and development of inclusive policies and practice.

7 Report back from Sub-Groups

The Board received and noted the minutes of the Resources Sub Group held on 4th October 2022.

The Board also noted that meetings of the School Performance Sub-Group and Vulnerable Learners Sub-Group had taken place and the minutes of these meetings would be circulated to the Board for information.

The Board discussed the need to align the Sub-Group meetings with the dates of the Education Board so they meet approximately 2-3 weeks before the date of the Board.

8 Any other business

(a) SEND Strategy

The Executive Director (Children and Public Health) informed the Board that the SEND Strategy was currently going through the Council's democratic processes and had been referred up to Council for consideration. The Board noted that the Strategy could be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration on 12th January 2023.

(b) Appointment of Director for Education, Inclusion and Early Years

The Executive Director (Children and Public Health) informed the Board that the Council had appointed to the above-mentioned post and L. Hunt would start on 20th February 2023.

9 Date, time and venue of future meetings

17th January 2023 at 8.45am – Tickfield Centre

21st March 2023 at 8.45am – Tickfield Centre

20th June 2023 at 8.45am – Tickfield Centre

Chair: _____

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Executive Director of Children and Public Health
to
Education Board

On
20th June 2023

Report prepared by:
Paul Grout, Senior Finance Business Partner

Agenda
Item No.

4

Final Outturn for Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23

1 Purpose of Report

To update the Education Board on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) final outturn for the 2022/23 schools budget, high needs, early years and centrally retained.

2 Recommendations

Education Board (EB) are asked to note:

- 2.1 The final 2022/23 outturn.
- 2.2 And the subsequent DSG reserve balances shown for each individual funding block to be carried forward into 2023/24 (as referenced in 4.21).

3 Background

- 3.1 This report sets out the final outturn (spend position) compared to the 2022/23 DSG budget set for schools, high needs, early years, central and the subsequent resulting position for DSG reserve balances and continues to be presented with the EB according principles that each funding block will be self sustaining within its own funding allocation.

4 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant budgets and final outturn

- 4.1 Appendix 1 provides the detail of the allocated DSG Budget, final outturn and final variance for the schools block, high needs, early years, central and DSG income.
- 4.2 The budget and outturn are presented as gross figures which include allocations which are recouped from the Schools and the High Needs Block by the Department for Education (DfE) in order to pass funding directly onto academies, including high need place funding for free schools and further

education colleges. This report summarizes the final spend variances to budget.

Schools Block total – £14,452 in year overspend, of which:

Schools Block individual school block allocations – online

- 4.3 Individual school block allocation reflects the DSG sum available and distributed to schools in accordance with the National Funding Formulae (NFF) principles and as agreed in the January 2022 EB Budget paper.

Schools Block De-delegated – staff cover costs (Public duties) - £4,137 overspend

- 4.4 As forecast and shared in the December 2022 DSG paper an in year overspend of £4,137 on the small fund supporting Public Duties has occurred. Which reflects the final net expenditure claim balance after 4 academy buy ins in addition to the maintained schools de-delegated sum. This small overspend will automatically fall to the isolated DSG reserve balance for de-delegated public duties, reducing the previous positive balance of £12,206 (at the 1st April 2022) to now £7,889 as at 31st March 2023.

- 4.5 It also remains minded that for this fund to remain financially stable and therefore available based on current claims it will need at a minimum the 4 Academy schools to continue to buy in. It therefore remains encouraged more Academy schools do buy in. And as shared and agreed in the December 2022 DSG paper the buy in rate for 2023/24 is £1.00 per pupil.

Schools Block Growth – £10,135 overspend

- 4.6 As previously forecast and explained in detail in the March 2019 EB DSG growth fund paper alongside the 2022/23 rates updated and as shared in the January 2023 EB DSG budget paper, the distribution of available growth funding (funding for new intake classes) from 2019/20 is now modelled over the planned life of the growth. Therefore, this small 2022/23 overspend will be held within the Isolated DSG reserve balance for growth held as a small deficit and which will be recovered in 2023/24.

Early Years (EY) Block – (£332,095 equivalent 3%) underspend against the latest provisional EY DSG funding allocation

- 4.7 The EY block DSG funding for 2022/23 remains provisional until the DfE have updated the final funding allocations for the spring term of 2023 based on the January 2023 early year census, expected to be announced in July 2023. And it remains minded EY funding in is based on both EY January census's for the current and preceding year.
- 4.8 As forecast and shared in the December 2022 DSG paper an underspend was expected. And following the Spring 2023 term head count EY census information enabling an average to be determined across the 2023/24 financial year there has continued to be slight reductions in headcount uptake compared to the previous year for 2 year old and 3&4year old universal entitlement at

respective circa 4% and 5% reductions, and an increase uptake of circa 3% for 3&4 year old extended entitlement funding (with a larger increase in the January 2023 census). EY pupil premium (EYPP) uptake has also continued to increase at circa 9% as an average across the year.

- 4.9 It is not currently expected that the January 2023 EY census once processed by the DfE will materially change the current 2022/23 EY funding allocation as a total, although it is expected 2 year old eligibility and 3&4 year old universal funding will be reduced, it also expected this will be broadly offset by an increase in both 3&4 year old extended entitlement funding and EYPP funding. Therefore, as previously explained, any underspend or overspend for early years providers will be due to either a lower or higher average distribution respectively of PTE* paid out across the year for the 3 terms, compared to the provisional DSG funding currently based on the January 2022 and January 2023 census alone. This is therefore absolutely no case of EY providers not being paid for what is due. Southend also positively administers a very high passport rate of funding (within the DfE funding available) and does not hold any in year funding for contingency.

*PTE (Part Time Equivalent). DfE defined as the number of children taking up 15hours per week over 38 weeks. So 1 PTE = 15 hours per week child care over 38 weeks.

- 4.10 Planned EY Centrally retained funding as a total has broadly and collectively held online to budget, although it is with note that the EY SEND inclusion fund has overspent within this total. The future budget size of the EY SEND inclusion is a positive consideration within the following High Needs DSG 2023 24 paper.
- 4.11 The total EY Provisional underspend of circa (£332,000) will therefore naturally fall to increase the EY DSG reserve balances and be available for future one off use towards EY whereby EY DSG reserve balances overall continue to be positive.

High Needs Block – (£672,131) underspend against allocated service line expenditure. Full underspend of (£3,393,755) including the permanent funding held aside to support long term permanent growth and expansion in high needs.

- 4.12 As referenced Appendix 1 displays the full 2022/23 final outturn for high needs on a line by line basis. And, as referenced in both the previous June 2022 and December 2022 EB DSG papers, an underspend on High Needs funding for 2023/23 was expected and this is in view that it is particularly awaited for new and positive permanent funding provisions to come on stream. Although it should also be noted regardless spend as a total has continued to increase throughout 2022/23 and this is as referenced in the summary table below.
- 4.13 It must also remain noted, that many Local Authorities and School Forums across the country are struggling to contain their High Needs spend within their DSG funding allocations, including Authorities that now have high deficits within their DSG's and therefore effectively requiring financial recovery (a position Southend was in previously up to and including in 2018/19). It is therefore welcome that locally through the combined efforts of the Local Authority, Education Board and respective Schools we have now been able to contain

spend within the increased DfE funding allocations, including the awarding of growth on EHCP banded top rates, expanding provision and continuing to grow the applicable number of children supported by EHCP's. The additional permanent funding received from the DfE is of course much needed and enables High Needs funding locally to expand further in line with demand and the strategic intent for further expansions as has been set within the June 2021 and June 2022 EB DSG high needs paper, and will continue into the following June 2023 EB DSG paper on a permanent basis.

4.14 The following table summarises the current final spend (col. B) to budget position (col. A) for 2022/23 alongside previous spend forecasts.

Summary Heading	2022/23 Final Budget (A)*	2022/23 Opening Forecast (June 22)	2022/23 Revised Forecast (Dec 22)	2022/23 Final Spend (B)	2021/22 Final Spend
Place funding	£8.666m	£8.519m	£8.517m	£8.546m	£8.197m
Special and PRU/AP top up funding	£7.946m	£7.737m	£7.737m	£7.459m	£6.615m
Subtotal	£16.612m	£16.256m	£16.254m	£16.004m	£14.812m
Schools, early years, post-16 top up funding	£5.318m	£4.680m	£5.100m	£4.916m	£4.040m
Independent Providers	£1.950m	£1.950m	£2.050m	£3.038m	£1.533m
Other Provisions including SLA's	£2.595m	£2.453m	£2.009m	£1.845m	£1.578m
Total services line total	£26.475m	£25.338m	£25.413m	£25.803m	£21.963m
Funding allocations to support required future permanent growth in high need provision	£2.400M	£0.250m	£0.250m	£0.072m	
Remaining balance held aside from service provision to support any in year high need funding pressures	£0.393m				
Total	£29.269m	£25.588m	£25.663m	£25.875m	£21.963m

*Final Budget A – note Southends high need funding allocation has also been increased by a further £0.438M due to an updated import and export adjustment for 73 Post 16 placements, and the resultant funding adjustment was applied to the Post 16 service line.

4.15 To remind, 2022/23 saw our local DSG high need funding grow by a further circa additional £3.7M through the high needs funding formulae, as part of the government's three financial year funding settlement for Schools and High Needs funding covering the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23. It must also be noted that since 2018/19, positively the recurrent budget allocation has increased by 57.1%. And actual spend provision itself upto 2022/23 from 2018/19 has also positively increased by 40.5%.

- 4.16 And, as referenced in 4.12 (and in full in Appendix 1) and as presented in the June 2022 DSG High Needs paper, it was always recognised new permanent funding of £2.4M had been held aside to support the expansion of permanent growth within the high needs block until mobilized. An element of this permanent growth has naturally continued to be considered within the following June 2023 DSG High Needs paper where more detail will be covered and reflects the new funding provisions now mobilized. It must also remain noted Southend has also collectively spent in 2022/23 circa £3.9M more on High Needs funding than in 2021/22.
- 4.17 Focusing on some of the key spend and budget variances (for noting only) in 2022/23:
- 4.17.1 There is always spend volatility in high needs Independent provision budget due to the demand led nature of these budgets and market prices, where 3 or 4 additional residential school placements can add significant additional cost. This budget will also support the independent educational costs of vulnerable children under local authority care. 2022/23 has seen a considerable increase on local authority Residential Care placements due to both complexity of cases and a care market that is stretched and therefore pushing up care prices to some now very high cost placement. An elements of these placements are joint funded where education is applicable (and in some cases also including health), and this has therefore also pushed up the attributable educational costs to the High Needs block and of which are considered through the Multi Agency Placement Panel. Independent provider placements ofcourse remain a high risk spend provision for all high needs blocks and future budget planning.
- 4.17.2 In borough Special Schools, Mainstream Schools, early years, post-16 top up funding. As previously highlighted the number of current Education Health and Care Plans awarded and administered has continued to grow and this does reflect within spend positions across these settings.
- 4.17.3 Other Provisions including SLA's. As displayed in Appendix 1, the main area's of underspend are the Hospital Education provision, Inclusion Services, Individual tuition services and Elective Home Education (EHE) costs Alternative Provision. Again, required Hospital Education provision will be simply based on the need and demands during that year, and obviously welcome that in 2022/23 spend has been lower than budget. The underspends within Individual tuition Inclusion Outreach services and EHE (AP) have been due to difficulties in recruitment to vacant posts and within Inclusion Services there has also been no call in 2022/23 on spend against some of the specific provision within the additional education Inclusion Services budget.
- 4.18 The High Needs underspend for 2022/23 will naturally fall to support the DSG High Need reserve balances, and we need to remain minded of the now agreed approach as set at the October 2021 EB DSG paper whereby one off DSG reserve balances above the minimum recommend level of reserve can be used to support DSG High Needs one off spend with the appropriate agreed consultative governance around that use. Therefore the now updated DSG balances and reminder of agreed approach for the use of one off balance is updated and displayed in paragraph 4.21.

Central block – online to budget

- 4.19 All spend has been attributed in line with expectation of budget. It must continue to remain minded the “Contribution to combined budget” DfE funding does unfortunately continue to unwind and is managed under the conditions agreed in the EB DSG December 2020 paper, and the latest position was reflected in the December 2022 DSG paper in terms of now sustainable current spend commitments until 2025/26 which will be funded by drawing on the remaining DSG central block reserve balances.

DSG funding income – £61,216 additional income

- 4.20 As first shared and explained in the October 2022 DSG Paper, the DfE have awarded an additional circa (£61,000) to DSG funds to Early Years (EY) balances in 2022/23 but of which relate to their final funding adjustment for 2021/22 and is also a small adjustment in consideration to early years funding being circa £10M per annum. The £61,000 will continue to naturally fall to further support EY DSG Reserve balances and therefore be available for future one off use.

Overall Position for the 2022/23 DSG Final Outturn and reserve balances as at the 31st March 2023

- 4.21 As displayed in Appendix 1 and the table below this now reflects the final DSG reserve balances as at the 31st March 2023 which are carried forward to the 1st April 2023. It continues to remain minded, the reserve balance table now also includes as formally agreed through the EB DSG October 2021 paper, the presentation of recommended minimum reserve balances for each block, and where reserve forecast balances are now above those minimum recommended balances the following DSG expenditure conditions apply for the one off use of those reserve balances, with now note to both the reserve balances of Early Years and High Needs:
- 4.21.1 That any one off cumulative use of reserve balances below £50,000 in any one financial year has the required LA lead officer approval to proceed, but on the conditional basis this is reported back through to EB.
- 4.21.2 That any single expenditure item or where the cumulative use of reserve balance was to fall above £50,000 in any one financial year then EB consultation is firstly required. If the item or the matter is urgent, then consultation can be given by an urgent virtual EB agreement but with a subsequent note to the actual and following scheduled EB meeting for formal minuting.

Block	Schools – ISB	Schools - growth	Schools – de- delegate	Early Years	High Needs	Central	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reserves surplus / (deficit)							
1 April 2022 B'fwd	11	121	12	1,287	6,496	473	8,401
Agreed (Issue) to* 2022/23 budget	0	(121)	0	(167)	0	33	(255)
Early years funding adjustments (PY)	0	0	0	61	0	0	61
2022/23 Final variance	0	(10)	(4)	332	3,394	0	3,711
31 March 2023	11	(10)	8	1,514	9,890	506	11,919
Agreed / Planned* Issue to 2023/24 budget				(167)	(2,750)	(59)	(2,976)
Recommended* Minimum Reserve balance	0	(10)	8	500	3,536	506	4,539
One off Funding Available for DSG Conditional Use				847	3,605		4,451

*Agreed / Panned Issue to 202324 budget - EY draw down agreed at the January 2022 Education Board, Central Block commitments at the December 2020 and 2022 EB, and High Needs drawn reflects the proposed draw down allocation in the High Needs 2023 June DSG EB paper.

*Recommended Minimum Reserve balances, now currently set at 5% for Early Years and 10% for High needs of current total in year funding available for both of those blocks. Both these recommended minimum reserves %'s are subject to review and agreement should we see any funding pressures materialize in future years. All other block reserves balances are ring fenced to support those reserve block positions, particularly with note to the Central Block reserve that will be fully utilized to support the unwinding of DfE DSG commitments to Central Block Historic commitment services.

5 Conclusion

5.1 A closing 2022/23 financial position for DSG balances now returning a total final DSG surplus reserve balance of £11.919M (equivalent 6.7% of total 2022/23 DSG funding £178.908M) to be rolled forward into 2023/24 at the 31st March 2023. But with note, after accounting for approved and planned one off funding draw downs in 2023/24 and recommended minimum reserve balances, their currently remains a one off reverse balance of £4.451M available for one off future DSG and available conditional use (equivalent 2.5% of total 2022/23 DSG Funding).

5.2 A healthy and sustainable financial DSG reserve position continues to benefit and maximize available future funding to support all children and their educational development. Whilst, it again, must be highlighted with praise for the collaborative working approach of the Local Authority with the Education

Board and respective sub groups representing all sectors including high needs and early years that the DSG funding itself continues to be maintained and sustained on an affordable basis. This in turn also then continues to lead itself to further due consideration and funding that can be directed to help assist further funding pressures for all educational providers, and particularly continuing to support the educational requirements of children with high needs and Inclusive practice.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 - DSG Final Budget to Spend Outturn 202223

Appendix 1 - DSG 2022/23 Final Outturn
Recommend, if printed, to print in A3 Portrait

			A	B	C = A + B	D	E = D - C
			£	£	£	£	£
			2022/23				
Block	S251 Line ref.	Summary Line	Original Budget	In Year Budget adjustments	Latest Budget	Final Outturn	Final Variance Over / (Under)
Schools Block - Individual School Block allocations	1.0.1	Maintained - Primary	23,003,967	-	23,003,967	23,003,967	-
	1.0.1	Maintained - Secondary	-	-	-	-	-
	1.0.1	Academy Recoupment - Primary	43,641,007	-	43,641,007	43,641,007	-
	1.0.1	Academy Recoupment - Secondary	69,426,095	-	69,426,095	69,426,095	-
	X.X.X	22/23 NNDR - recoupment all schools	945,863	-	945,863	945,863	-
Subtotal Individual School Block allocations			137,016,932	-	137,016,932	137,016,932	-
Schools block - Centrally retained	1.1.8	De-delegated - Staff costs (Public duties)	2,584	-	2,584	6,901	4,317
	1.4.10	Growth Fund	796,231	121,307	917,538	927,673	10,135
Schools Block Total			137,815,747	121,307	137,937,054	137,951,506	14,452
Early Years	1.0.1	2 year old provision	1,231,353	111,757	1,343,110	1,287,841	(55,269)
	1.0.1	3 and 4 y/o provision - Universal	6,600,025	(59,025)	6,541,000	6,252,590	(288,410)
	1.0.1	3 and 4 y/o provision - Additional	1,894,648	162,595	2,057,243	2,092,159	34,916
	1.0.1	Disability Access Fund	68,000	-	68,000	46,890	(21,110)
	1.0.1	Early Years Pupil Premium	153,104	39,240	192,344	200,894	8,549
	1.3.1	Central Expenditure (CE) on Children under 5	138,074	2,866	140,940	81,530	(59,410)
	1.3.1	EY SEND Inclusion Fund	65,000	-	65,000	131,585	66,585
	1.3.1	CE EB Agreed one off investment funded from Reserves	142,000	-	142,000	124,053	(17,947)
Early Years Block Total			10,292,204	257,433	10,549,637	10,217,542	(332,095)
High Needs	1.0.2	Place Funding - Special Schools	-	-	-	-	-
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Special Schools Recouped	6,320,000	-	6,320,000	6,224,167	(95,833)
	1.0.2	Place Funding - PRU	-	-	-	-	-
	1.0.2	Place Funding - PRU Recouped	850,000	-	850,000	850,000	-
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Enhanced Mainstream Units	198,000	36,000	234,000	209,500	(24,500)
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Enhance Mainstream Units Recouped	378,000	(36,000)	342,000	342,000	-
	1.10.2	Place Funding - Free School Recouped	50,000	5,834	55,834	55,834	-
	1.0.2	Place Funding - CCP and FE Recouped	864,000	-	864,000	864,000	-
Subtotal Place Funding			8,660,000	5,834	8,665,834	8,545,501	(120,333)
	1.2.2	Special School (SS) - flexible place funding	40,000	-	40,000	49,621	9,621
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	SS Top ups (pre and post 16)	6,100,000	-	6,100,000	5,918,122	(181,878)
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	SS - teacher pay and employer pension former grant	388,000	-	388,000	387,669	(331)
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	Enhanced Mainstream Units Top ups & compensation place funding	615,000	-	615,000	520,494	(94,506)
	1.2.2	Alternative Pathway (AP) Top ups	425,000	-	425,000	292,943	(132,057)
	1.2.2	AP - teacher pay and employer pension former grant	82,500	-	82,500	82,495	(5)
	1.2.2	Preventative Pathway AP top ups	296,000	-	296,000	207,227	(88,773)
Subtotal Special School and PRU / AP provision top up funding			7,946,500	-	7,946,500	7,458,571	(487,929)
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Early years Top ups	130,000	-	130,000	181,998	51,998
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Inborough Mainstream - Primary Top ups	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	1,868,797	(131,203)
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Inborough Mainstream - Secondary Top ups	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	916,239	(83,761)
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Top ups - out of Borough Mainstream Schools	900,000	-	900,000	814,867	(85,133)
	1.2.2	EHCP Top ups - post 16 providers / schools	850,000	438,000	1,288,000	1,133,797	(154,203)
EHCP top up provision schools and post-16			4,880,000	438,000	5,318,000	4,915,699	(402,301)
	1.2.3	EHCP funding for Independent providers (IP) and Free Schools	1,700,000	-	1,700,000	2,252,558	552,558
	1.2.7	Alternative Provision (non EHCP and LAC Residential Care*) for IP	250,000	-	250,000	785,809	535,809
Independent providers			1,950,000	-	1,950,000	3,038,368	1,088,368
	1.2.4	HN targeted LCHI funding	10,000	-	10,000	-	(10,000)
	1.2.6	Hospital Education provision	100,000	-	100,000	13,890	(86,110)
	1.2.7	Individual Tuition service	418,000	-	418,000	239,621	(178,379)
	1.2.5	SEND team - contribution towards Early Years SENCOs and Specialist teaching	654,000	-	654,000	654,000	-
	1.2.5	SEN Support Services	242,000	-	242,000	209,520	(32,480)
	1.2.8	Inclusion Service	830,000	-	830,000	501,412	(328,588)
	1.2.5	Elective Home Education Costs (EHCP)	20,000	-	20,000	-	(20,000)
	1.2.5	Elective Home Education Costs (Alternative Provision)	221,000	-	221,000	91,482	(129,518)
	1.2.11	Direct payments	100,000	-	100,000	135,139	35,139
Other High Need funding provision including SLA's			2,595,000	-	2,595,000	1,845,064	(749,936)
Total High Need Non-Place funding			17,371,500	438,000	17,809,500	17,257,702	(551,798)
High Needs block service lines total			26,031,500	443,834	26,475,334	25,803,203	(672,131)
	1.0.2 / 1.2.2	Further required enhanced mainstream bases EHCP place based provision and top up funding	700,000	-	700,000	-	(700,000)
	1.0.2 / 1.2.2	Further required Alternative place based provision and top up funding	700,000	-	700,000	-	(700,000)
	1.2.5	Further required service provision for Wider SEND support / Inclusion	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	71,775	(928,225)
Funding allocations for required future service provision			2,400,000	-	2,400,000	-	(2,400,000)
	1.2.3	Balance held aside from service provision to support any in year high need funding pressures (or DFE adjustments to funding)	333,233	60,166	393,399	-	(393,399)
High Needs Block total			28,764,733	504,000	29,268,733	25,874,978	(3,393,755)
Central block	1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	463,304	(33,416)	429,888	429,888	-
	1.4.14	Copyright Licenses	142,987	-	142,987	142,987	(0)
	1.4.2	School Admissions	275,617	-	275,617	275,617	-
	1.4.3	Servicing of School Forums	18,700	-	18,700	18,700	-
	X.X	Protected Centrally Employed teacher employer pension contribution	95,332	-	95,332	95,332	-
	1.5.1/1.5.2/1.5.3	Retained duties*	445,539	-	445,539	445,539	-
Central Block total			1,441,479	(33,416)	1,408,063	1,408,063	(0)
Grand Total			178,314,163	849,324	179,163,487	175,452,088	(3,711,399)
DSG - Funding Income							
		Schools Block - ISB Retained	(23,012,723)	-	(23,012,723)	(23,012,723)	-
		Schools Block - ISB Academy Recoupment	(113,067,102)	-	(113,067,102)	(113,067,102)	-
		Schools Block - NNDR Recoupment All Schools	(945,863)	-	(945,863)	(945,863)	-
		Schools Block - ISB subtotal	(137,025,688)	-	(137,025,688)	(137,025,688)	-
		Growth fund	(790,059)	-	(790,059)	(790,059)	-
		Schools Block subtotal	(137,815,747)	-	(137,815,747)	(137,815,747)	-
		Central Block	(1,441,479)	-	(1,441,479)	(1,441,479)	-
		Early Years Block (2 year olds)	(1,240,196)	(112,560)	(1,352,756)	(1,352,756)	-
		Early Years Block (3&4 yr olds - Universal)	(6,731,510)	60,191	(6,671,319)	(6,671,319)	-
		Early Years Block (3&4 yr olds - Additional)	(1,932,394)	(165,834)	(2,098,228)	(2,098,228)	-
		Early Years Disability Access Fund	(68,000)	-	(68,000)	(68,000)	-
		Early Years Pupil Premium	(153,104)	(39,230)	(192,334)	(192,334)	-
		Early Years DSG - anticipated funding adjustment for 22/23	-	-	-	-	-
		Early Years DSG final funding adjustment 21/22	-	-	-	(61,216)	(61,216)
		Early years subtotal	(10,125,204)	(257,433)	(10,382,637)	(10,443,853)	(61,216)
		High Needs Funding Block	(19,582,085)	(1,350,647)	(20,932,732)	(20,932,732)	-
		High Needs Additional DSG supplementary grant	(1,006,648)	1,006,648	-	-	-
		High Needs Recoupment	(8,176,000)	(160,001)	(8,336,001)	(8,336,001)	-
		High Needs total	(28,764,733)	(504,000)	(29,268,733)	(29,268,733)	-
DSG Funding Total			(178,147,163)	(761,433)	(178,908,596)	(178,969,812)	(61,216)
DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed *			(167,000)	(87,891)	(254,891)	-	254,891
Total Net DSG Budget			-	0	0	(3,517,724)	(3,517,724)
DSG Reserves in totality			8,401,137	-	8,401,137	8,401,137	-
		In Year adjustments	(167,000)	154,723	(12,277)	3,517,724	-
		DSG C/Fwd Surplus / (Deficit) 31st March 23	8,234,137	154,723	8,388,860	11,918,861	-
DSG Reserves 22/23 £'000							
		1st April Surplus / (Deficit) Original	11	121	12	1,287	8,401
		Agreed (Issued to Budget) / Drawn from Budget 22/23	0	(121)	0	(167)	(255)
		Early Years Funding adjustment for prior year	0	0	0	61	61
		1st April Surplus / (Deficit) Revised	11	0	12	1,182	8,207
		In year Final Outturn variance Surplus / (Deficit)	0	(10)	(4)	332	3,711
		Anticipated Early Years Funding adjustment for 22/23	0	0	0	0	0
		Transfer in Year	0	0	0	0	0
H		31st March Surplus / (Deficit) Final	11	(10)	8	1,514	11,919
I		Agreed and Planned (issue to budget for 2023/24)*				(167)	(2,750)
J		Recommended Minimum Reserve balance required *	0	(10)	8	500	506
H + I - J		One off Funding Available for DSG Conditional Use				847	3,605

Retained Duties * - ongoing funding (former ESG) to support LA Statutory duties - Child and Educational Leadership, Planning and Budget planning, monitoring, Education Welfare and Asset Management
 DSG Reserves Funding - EB Agreed* Early years funding 22/23 agreed at the January 2022 Education Board (EB) and Central block historic commitments at the December 2020 EB and December 2022 EB, and updated Growth Fund at Jan 2023 EB
 Alternative Provision (non EHCP and LAC Residential Care*) for IP - educational contribution to children who are looked after by the Authority but who do not have an Educational Health and Care Plan
 Agreed and Planned (issue to budget for 2023/24)* - as previously planned, and with new key planning items to be shared in the High Needs 2023 24 June 23 Education Board paper
 Recommended Minimum Reserve balance required * - Growth, and Central block reserves are all on pre-conditioned Education Board plans to support those area's in future years. Early Years is recommended to maintain a minimum reserve balance of £0.5M (equivalent circa 5% of annual funding) at all times, and High Needs at 10% or annual funding due to the high risk spend nature of service provision (all as agreed in previous Education Board papers).

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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Executive Director of Children and Public Health
to
Education Board

On
20th June 2023

Agenda
Item No.

5

Report prepared by:

Paul Grout, Senior Finance Business Partner – Financial Management

In consultation with:

Liz Hunt, Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years

Gary Bloom, Head of Special Educational Needs (SEND)

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Education Board - Resources Sub Group

High Needs Block detailed budget allocation 2023/24

1 Purpose of Report

To present the High Need's DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) block detailed budget allocations for 2023/24.

2 Recommendations

Education board (EB) are asked to support the proposals of:

- 2.1 To continue the special school flexible place fund allocation scheme from September 2023. (As referenced in section 7.2)
- 2.2 Note, that the conditional and additional 3.4% supplementary grant has been awarded to both special and alternative provision schools (As referenced in 7.4)
- 2.3 The continuation of the compensation place funding scheme for the enhanced mainstream units from September 2023, where that unit was not fall at the point of the October 2022 school census. (As referenced in section 7.5)
- 2.4 The further funding increases applied to bands 1 – 4. (As referenced in section 8.2)
- 2.5 The one off funding proposals (As referenced in Section 12).
- 2.6 And in consideration of recommendations 2.1 to 2.5, combined with the budget requirements as presented in this paper, support and adopt the detailed High need budget allocations for 2023/24.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Department for Education (DfE) announced the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocations for 2023/24 on the 16th December 2022. The Final “Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24 budget paper” was published to the Education Board (EB) on the 17th January 2023, providing the totality of funding for each of the 2023/24 DSG funding blocks including High Needs.
- 3.2 The following points should remain minded:
- 3.2.1 Southend had considerable overspend pressures on its high need block for the two financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18, 2018/19 was the first financial recovery year with a small in year underspend that alleviated some pressure on depleted and deficit high need funding reserves. 2019/20 saw the first sign of full recovery leading to fully restored positive end of year DSG reserve balances including High Needs within. Nationally many local authorities have also since been struggling to contain high needs spending within their allocations, the government and the DfE have responded and awarded additional and welcome higher levels of re-current funding to high needs blocks from 2020/21 and continued into 2023/24, with further expected for 2024/25 (which is the final year of the current governments budget cycle). There are however local authorities that continue to struggle to contain spend within their funding allocations, and as such, are under DSG “safety valve” agreements with the DfE, requiring both high need reforms and financial recovery plans.
- 3.2.2 It is therefore once again welcome to re-confirm that through the joint work of Southend’s Local Authority (LA), Education Board, special schools and schools over the last 6 years, combined with the additional funding received from the DfE that Southend’s High Needs block is now in this strong and healthy financial position. The LA continues to be committed to use this funding to support sector improved provision and outcomes for children and young people with SEND and additional needs.
- 3.3 Risk on funding pressures within the High Needs block remain due to a combination of increased demand and complexity. Nationally there is a significant growth in complex needs and requests for assessment, alongside a recognition to strengthen an inclusive broader SEND/AP system so that children and young people are prepared well for adulthood. To achieve success, so that we provide the right support at the right time for children and young people, the LA will continue to distribute and target High Needs funding to ensure that national expectations for outcomes are achieved by Southend Children and Young people. We will continue to sensibly plan the distribution of available High Needs funding, whilst being mindful that inflation nationally is still very high, adding considerable increase in cost pressures for all sectors.

4 2023/24 High Needs DfE funding allocation

- 4.1 The detailed and proposed high needs budget allocation for 2023/24 is presented in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 As first presented in the October 2022 EB DSG paper, the following were the key headline announcement released by the DfE in relation to High Needs funding allocation for 2023/24.
- 4.2.1 The funding floor – this ensures that all local authorities’ allocations per head of child population will increase by a minimum percentage compared to the baseline. For 2023/24 we are setting the funding floor at 5%, having adjusted the baseline to include the supplementary high needs funding that was allocated to DSG funds in December 2021.
- 4.2.2 The gains cap – the limit on gains per head of the population compared to the baseline. For 2023/24 we are setting the gains cap at 7% which means that local authorities can see an increase of up to 7% before their gains are capped.
- 4.3 And to remind, as first presented and officially known in the January 2023 EB DSG paper, the DfE, also announced on the 16th December 2022 an additional 2023/24 high needs supplementary grant amount to the DSG nationally & locally, and of which included specific conditions that authorities are required to pass on a 3.4% funding increase to maintained special and alternative provision (AP) schools, and special and AP academies (including free schools) with effect from the 1st April 2023.
- 4.4 Therefore, to now remind, for our own local 2023/24 DSG high need funding allocation this has now been set at total allocation of £32.605M, a total additional £3.337M from 2022/23 also incorporating the additional DSG supplementary grant.
- 4.5 The high needs block funding allocation does still remain provisional until July 2023, whereby the DfE will then be updating the final funding allocation in recognition that the authority meets all the high need place funding costs in their home area regardless of the pupil’s own home authority residence (excluding free special schools). And this is known by DfE terminology as the “high need import and export funding adjustment”. Therefore the home authority will be compensated (at £6000 per pupil) in relation to high need place funding, where that authority supports more pupils (than the previous year) who live outside of the home resident authority area than pupils they have been required to place in another local authority area, or on the contrary, a reduction in the local import and export funding adjustment will be applied if the opposite event occurs. Currently Southend’s funding allocation is based on a net import of 143 pupils (based on the July 2022 applied Import and Export adjustment 70 plus 73 further Post 16 amendments applied post July 2022).

5 Summary table of proposed budget allocations between 2022/23 to 2023/24 as illustrated in Appendix 1

Summary Heading	2022/23 Final Budget (A)	2022/23 Final Spend	2023/24 Opening Budget (B)	Budget movement Increase / (decrease) (B – A)	2023/24 Opening Forecast
Place funding	£8.666m	£8.546m	£9.040m	+£0.374m	£8.865m
Special and AP top up funding	£7.947m	£7.459m	£9.137m	+£1.190m	£9.137m
Subtotal	£16.613m	£16.005m	£18.177m	+£1.564m	£18.002m
Schools, early years, post-16 top up funding	£5.318m	£4.916m	£5.930m	+£0.612m	£5.930m
Independent Providers	£1.950m	£3.038m	£3.000m	+£1.050m	£3.000m
Other Provisions including SLA's	£2.595m	£1.845m	£3.864m	+£1.269m	£3.614m
Total services line total	£26.475m	£25.803m	£30.971m	+£4.495m	£30.546m
Contribution toward Early Years SEND inclusion Fund	£0.00m	£0.00m	£0.100m	+£0.100m	£0.100m
Funding allocations to support required future permanent growth in high need provision	£2.400m	£0.072m	£1.400m	(£1.000m)	£0.700m
One off funding from High Needs DSG Reserve	£0.00m	£0.00m	£2.750m	+£2.750m	£2.750m
Remaining balance held aside from service provision to support any in year high need funding pressures	£0.393m		£0.135m	(£0.258m)	
Total	£29.269m	£25.875m	£35.356m	+£6.087m	£34.134m

6 Place Funding 2023/24 Academic year

- 6.1 Appendix 2 – provides the place funding allocations and funded pupil numbers for each school/college from September 2023 within Southend, including the commissioned place funded number movement from 2022/23 and this is now a total place number allocation of 994 for 2023/24 (a further net growth of 31 commissioned places from 2022/23).
- 6.2 In accordance with statutory DfE guidance, the place funded numbers from September 2023 to August 2024 have been agreed and revised by the Head of SEND in consultation with the respective special schools, Further Education colleges and enhanced mainstream bases and the Head of Access and Inclusion for the Alternative Provision unit. For Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding recoupment to apply to academy schools, the DfE require that the place numbers are confirmed by November 2022 with the DfE for the start of the 2023/24 academic year. Therefore, the place funded numbers are listed as those that have been updated directly with the DfE i.e. where confirmed with the schools in time for the November 2022 submission, and any additional place fund allocations that will be funded outside of the DfE submission that have subsequently been agreed with those schools.

- 6.3 As result of both the revised and increased place funded numbers as shown in Appendix 2 and Appendix 1, this derives the additional 2023/24 place funding allocation to be awarded of £374,000 compared to 2022/23. And note - the actual place funded amounts per pupil are defined by the DfE and set at £10,000 per annum per place for Southend's special schools, alternative provision schools. Further education post 16 providers, and enhanced mainstream school bases are set at £6,000 per place per annum (with the remaining £4,000 per place funded through the schools block where those applicable pupils are registered in the annual October census).
- 6.4 The final budget allocation awarded to place funding in 2023/24 is therefore £9.040M, an increase of £0.374M from 2022/23. Whilst some of these increases will not come into effect until September 2023, i.e. 7/12ths of the 2023/24 financial year, to aid long term financial planning the budget has been set on a full academic year allocation.

7 Top up funding for Special Schools and Alternative Provision

- 7.1 All top up funding budget allocations have been updated in accordance and inconsideration of the additional place funded numbers from September 2023. Note, the allocations of pupils to bandings are the best estimates known at the time of writing this paper, there will therefore continue to naturally be further smaller movements leading into September 2023 and beyond.
- 7.2 Historically, under a local agreement a flexible place funding top up provision of £40,000 has been set aside to honour an agreement where a special school's actual place numbers rise above their commissioned funded place number. A more equitable distribution model was devised, agreed and administered from September 2021. The formulae is displayed in Appendix 7 and it is proposed to remain as set from September 2023. The current expectation is this model from September 2023 will continue to cost at maximum within the £40,000 budget provision, and this is also in view that there have been more formal commissioned place numbers (As shown in Appendix 2) from September 2023 that should therefore also in turn require less call on this additional funded provision.
- 7.3 The current number of Southend pupils expected to attend a special school in 2023/24, and their associated top up banded amount has been formulated to calculate the estimated overall annual expected amount for distribution. The workings of this calculation are shown in Appendix 3. To remind, these workings also include the previously awarded 5% uplift to all EHCP top up banded rates from April 2023 as shared in the December 2022 EB DSG paper. An additional £0.6M has therefore been awarded to the special school EHCP top up provision to meet the expected costs in 2023/24, bringing the total funding allocation to £6.1M and note this also excludes the additional 3.4% supplementary grant as referenced in 7.4. And, as agreed in the same paper, a 5% uplift was also applied to the local Alternative Provision school top up rates, where overall funding provision has also been set to remain within existing allocations.
- 7.4 As first referenced in the January 2023 EB DSG paper, the DfE instructed (on the 16th December 2022) as a condition of the additional funding high need blocks received, that all authorities are required to pass on a 3.4% funding

increase to take effect from 1st April 2023 to both Special and Alternative Provision Schools (including free schools) within their local area. This additional funding has therefore been calculated as per the conditions of the grant displayed in Appendix 8 attributing a further £475,000 to special schools and £81,000 to the Alternative Provision schools.

- 7.5 Appendix 4, displays the current estimated EHCP top up funding for the Enhanced Mainstream Units (also incorporating the 5% uplift agreed) and the further increases for Bands 1 – 4, as referenced in 8.2 below. It is also proposed, that within the funding for the enhanced mainstream units that the additional arrangement agreed to honour compensation funding of £4,000 per place per annum where that provision was not full at the time of the School's October 2022 census should continue into 2023/24. This in effect allows the enhanced mainstream units to plan and resource the base's appropriately regardless of the fact provision may not have been full at the particular time of the October 2022 census. There is of course a particular requirement where the provision is either new to an academic year or will be expanding in that following academic year where this would apply. A total budget allocation of £650,000 has therefore been allocated to this provision, including maximum anticipated compensation funding or increase top up funding should all places be full, an increase of £35,000 from 2022/23.
- 7.6 And lastly, as also first referenced in previous 2021/22 DSG EB reports, the DfE built within the DSG funding allocations for 2021/22 and an ongoing basis, the teacher pay award and pension grants that prior to 2021/22 were paid by separate grants to the schools. The DfE have instructed that these grant amounts should continue to be paid through the DSG at the same funded levels which they were paid in 2020/21 (and in addition to both place and top up funding). Appendix 6 – therefore displays these 2020/21 grants for the applicable high need schools that will continue to be paid during 2023/24.
- 7.7 The final budget allocation awarded to top up funding for Special Schools / Enhanced Mainstream bases and the Alternative Provision School in 2023/24 is therefore set at £9.137M, which is an increase of £1.190M from the 2022/23 allocation. (& note of which approx. £0.850M is to support increased cost, and £0.340M for further increased demand)

8 Top up funding for early years provider, mainstream schools and post 16 providers

- 8.1 The 2023/24 budget allocation attached to Early Years ages 2 to 5 SEND top ups has been set to £230,000 a further increase of £100,000. There had been an overspend on this provision in 2022/23 (due to significant increases in complexity of needs and demand) and reflecting this it is anticipated that this budget should therefore meet that demand and allow some room for further growth.
- 8.2 Appendix 5, displays the current anticipated banded levels and associated Sept 2023 banded EHCP top up rates. It must be positively noted, in addition to the 5% increase for all EHCP Banded top up rates from April 23 (As applied in the Dec 22 EB DSG paper, which did also state, they will be subject to further review). It is confirmed as displayed in Appendix 9 further increases will now be

applied from April 23 for Bands 1 - 4. A Local Authority review has now been undertaken of the EHCP banded levels and in further recognition of increased cost pressures within mainstream schools and support costs for Children with EHCP's at the lower banded levels. It of course remains a key priority that mainstream schools are sufficiently resourced to continue to meet the needs of those pupils. A scaling increased uplift factor has been applied with further higher increases applied at the lower bands within Bands 1 - 4. This is an additional cost of £0.200M per annum. This cost therefore has been factored within the now updated budget allocations returning a current annual budget allowance of £3.4M per annum (£2.2M Secondary and £1.2M Primary) for 2023/24, both an increase of £0.2M for Secondary and Primary from 2022/23, and also therefore allowing for further additional budget allocation to support the growth in children with EHCP's.

- 8.3 Out of borough Mainstream or Special Schools. Where Southend children are placed in schools in another authority guidance by the DfE expects the top up funding rate of that authority where the child is placed to be honoured. Therefore there is no control in terms of price's to be paid for that child where this occurs. The 2023/24 funding allocation has therefore been increased by £100,000 (from £900,000) to afford a further level of growth in 2023/24 to now a revised allocation of £1M per annum.
- 8.4 Top ups for post 16 providers, although an underspend occurred in 2022/23, this of course remains a priority area of required growth to support the educational needs of EHCP children as they become young adults. The funding allocation has therefore been set to receive a small increase of £12,000 returning a total allocation of £1.3M per annum.
- 8.5 The final budget allocation awarded to this top up funding provision in 2023/24 is therefore set at £5.930M, which is an increase of £0.612M from the 2022/23 budget allocation.

9 Independent providers

- 9.1 School age children whose educational needs are unable to be met through a mainstream school, special school, or Alternative Provision school have to be met through the use of Independent providers.
- 9.2 Independent provider provision is only used where there is no viable alternative available within Southend or where directed by SEND Tribunal and therefore these costs are largely unavoidable. Southend has also experienced a now maintained rise in the required numbers of children in care requiring external residential care placements (which is also being experienced in other authorities nationally) and whereby these residential placements will also include Education provision within. The educational cost of independent provider placements tend to be more expensive than children educated through either a mainstream or special school provision and particularly when they are required to be placed in a residential school. It is therefore a requirement that this funded allocation is increased to fund the current levels of expenditure in 2022/23 that have increased considerably which was as referenced in the "Final Outturn for Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23 paper". It is hoped the costs will be no more than this now updated allocation for 2023/24.

9.3 The total budget allocation awarded to this funding provision in 2023/24 is therefore £3.000M, and provides an increase of £1.050M.

10 Other funding provision including SLA's

10.1 As statutorily required, a budget to support low cost high incidence SEND placements within mainstream school will continue to be set, any required allocation of this funding will continue to be determined by the Head of SEND and in accordance with the DfE guidance. This budget allocation is therefore set to remain at £10,000.

10.2 The budgeted allocation for education services provided to Southend children in hospitals is set to remain at £100,000. This continues to provide head room within this provision compared to 2022/23 spend allocations should that occur.

10.3 The following services have all been set to maintain at their current total funded service provision, with the exception of a 5% increase applied to their total budget allocations to assist in meeting any final and agreed inflationary staff costs in 2023/24 and other inflationary pressures from April 2023:

10.3.1 Interim Tuition Service

10.3.2 Early Years Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO's) and Specialist Teaching within the Local Authority SEND team

10.3.3 SEN Support services, covering Speech and Language, Autism Spectrum Disorder and advisory SENCO's.

10.3.4 Inclusion Services (including Outreach support, and Inclusion Panel Funding)

10.3.5 Elective Home Education (Alternative Provision)

10.4 Elective Home Education (EHE) - EHCPs, it is proposed to maintain the existing small funding provision of £20,000 to support EHE for children with EHCP's as there continues to be no spend activity on this provision currently.

10.5 It is proposed to set the budget provision to £150,000 personal budget payments to the parents/carers of children or to young adults who make an informed choice to receive their EHCP funded support by way of direct payment (An increase of £50,000 from 2022/23). Spend on personal budgets did grow in 2022/23, and this 2023/24 budget allocation enables that growth to be funded.

10.6 A new annual £100,00 budget provision is also proposed to support the educational development for children with significant and complex needs, who in addition to specialist school provision require additional educational training opportunities for the development independence, self-care and life-skills.

10.7 As developed and referenced throughout 2022/23, with the resulting final agreement of allocation of spend presented to Education Board in December 2022 paper named "Review of inclusion across Southend on Sea Schools, Setting and Service". The annual £1M previously held under the "Budget allocations for permanent growth", is now transferred and embedded within active service line expenditure, and to remind, this includes the work of a number of key and high quality focus training area's for schools including inclusion expertise, relational practice and trauma informed approaches,

bespoke training for schools responding to meeting the growing social, emotional, mental health and related medical needs of children and young, and an opportunity for schools to bid for additional bids to provide innovative interventions as part of their effective inclusive offer.

- 10.8 A further and new annual £100,000 budget top up provision towards the Early Years (Special Educational Needs) inclusion fund is also proposed. As per conditions of DSG, high need blocks funds can be used to top up the Early Years DSG SEN (Special Educational Needs) inclusion funds. A review will continue to be undertaken within the Local Authority to ensure early access and an equitable access to these funds is made available for appropriate EY providers for children with SEN. Whilst, these funds will be made available from the High Needs block, the £100,000 budget provision will be added to the Early Years Block.
- 10.9 The final budget allocation awarded to this funding provision is therefore £3.864M + £0.100M for the Early Years (EY) block and the SEN inclusion fund, and this is a total net increase of £1.269M + £0.100M for EY from the 2022/23 budget allocation.

11 Budget allocations to support permanent future growth

- 11.1 Whilst this paper sets out a mechanism to allocate a balanced High Needs budget for 2023/24, including growth and or inflation applied throughout on existing funding provision. It is therefore welcome to confirm, given the additional £3.337M funding received for 2023/24 there remains a further £1.4M (reduced from £2.4M in 2022/23) that can be used to support further growth and expansion of current high needs provision. This obviously continues to be welcome news for Southend, the educational community and pupils supported.
- 11.2 Further permanent funding provisions therefore continues to be held aside to support planned and further required EHCP places and top up funding, some of which is currently anticipated to come in on stream from September 2023 (subject to final consultation), and the continual development of an additional alternative provision base (as referenced in the December 2022 - "Review of inclusion across Southend on Sea Schools, Setting and Service"). Permanent allocations of £0.7M per annum for each of these 2 permanent initiatives continues to be held aside, whilst under development.

12 Budget allocations to support One Off 2023/24 proposals

- 12.1 Whilst the budget presented in this paper supports permanent allocation and future permanent growth of high need spend provision, there remains further positive activities and initiatives to be developed and targeted for future educational support and development for children and young people with SEND and additional needs. There will be a focus flagged on improvements in light of the recent SEND Area inspection, including the strengthening of central outreach services, specialist teacher support services and emotional wellbeing. The latter will enable an enhanced educational psychology offer to children and young people. It must also be acknowledged given the continued growth in the number of EHCP's, a system wide review of all SEN support will be undertaken. In order to review and develop these services an initial £0.5M of funds for

2023/24 is targeted from the DSG High Needs reserves. This is presented under the new expenditure line of "SEND local offer". Considerations to the expected and the size of the ongoing permanent funding arrangements will form as these initiatives are developed throughout 2023/24 (and inconsideration further permanent funding will be available in 2024/25) and will be presented back through to the Education Board.

- 12.2 As referenced in the previous "Final Outturn for Dedicated Schools Grant 2022/23" paper, it is positive, despite all the increased permanent growth applied to High need spend provision over the last 4 years, that there does remain at the 31st March 2023 a local high level of one off DSG reserve balance for High Needs, which has been largely driven by the awaited and further permanent expansion of new high needs provisions, most of which are now live in 2023/24 as presented throughout this paper, but with remaining note to section 11 within.
- 12.3 The Local Authority is committed to support early identification and the inclusion of children and young people within their local mainstream schools and colleges. It also recognises that schools have faced unprecedented pressures in offering support to children and young people with emerging and additional needs due to budget pressures. Therefore the Local Authority with the support of the Education Board, and in view of the positive High Needs reserve balance will be awarding an additional one off £50,000 grant to all local mainstream schools paid in July 2023 for matters related to early intervention, emerging needs, enhancing universal and inclusion support. Whilst this funding will be for schools to decide how best to use within their given context, the aim of this funding must be to bring about improved outcomes for pupils. As such schools will be required to demonstrate the impact of this funding in 2024 by a return statement. We look forward to celebrating the impact of this additional one off available resource. The total cost of this one off grant will be £2.250M. It must be noted, that the reason this grant is administered at the same level for every school, is due to the fact that Individual Mainstream Schools budgets themselves are already under Pupil led funding formulae, funded within for SEND support (under notional allocations) linked to the both the size of the school, primary or secondary and pupil led cohort factors within those schools. Therefore, this grant is an additional one off and consistent lump sum to those funding factors to urgently assist and help alleviate mainstream school budget pressures for emerging needs and inclusion support.

13 Budget retained

- 13.1 To continue to aid long term planning, given the risk and volatility of financial risks associated with High Needs funding where many other local authorities are under financial pressure with required financial recovery plans. It is prudent to always ensure a recurrent funding amount is set aside (i.e. a contingency) within a reasonable small tolerance, so that any potential in year overspends on recurrent funding can be absorbed without leading to negative recovery actions in future years. This sum has been reduced significantly for 2023/24 to circa £135,000 (a reduction of £258,000) from 2022/23. Thought will continue to be needed for futures years as to when and whether this sum can be increased and in view of further permanent funding streams coming in on stream.

14 2023/24 Opening Forecast Outturn

- 14.1 The budget allocations have been set on permanent full year effect which therefore ultimately supports long term ongoing planning. The opening forecast outturn reflects that in the 2023/24 financial year there will be expected underspends on some services as some of the new permanent growth will not apply until during 2023/24.

15 Conclusion

- 15.1 After earlier years of funding pressures, it is very welcome that the High Needs Budget allocation for 2023/24, as well as in the last 3 years 2022/23 to 2020/21, continues to presents a paper of growth in funding allocations to support our local children and young adults and therefore their educational outcomes.
- 15.2 However, it must continue to be acknowledged that high needs pupils are those whose educational needs cannot be met by resources delegated via the school's block. Any reductions in inclusive practice, increases in EHCPs, pupil exclusions, parents of SEN pupils electively home educating and placements in special schools all add further cost pressure on the high needs block. Therefore, the long term future of the High Needs budget continues to the need the support of the wider schools community to remain sustainable.

16 Appendices

Appendix 1 – DSG High Need Budget detail allocation 2023/24

Appendix 2 – Place funded pupil numbers per school or college from Sept2023

Appendix 3 – Special school top up funding for 2023/24 est. schedule

Appendix 4 – Enhanced mainstream unit top up funding 2023/24 est. schedule

Appendix 5 – Mainstream top up funding 2023/24 est. schedule

Appendix 6 – Special School Teacher pay and Pension grant (continued)

Appendix 7 – Special School flexible place funding from Sept 2023

Appendix 8 – Special School and Alternative Provision 3.4% Supplementary Grant from April 2023

Appendix 9 – EHCP Banded top up rates

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Appendix 1 - DSG High Need Budget 2023/24 and comparison to 2022/23
 Recommended, if printed, to print in A3 Portrait

Block	S251 Line ref.	Summary Line	A	B	C = A + B	D	E = D - C	F	G = F - C	H	i = H - F	
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
			2022/23					2023/24				
Original Budget	In Year Budget adjustments	Latest Budget	Final Outturn	Final Variance Over / (Under)	Original Budget	Budget Variation from previous year increase / (decrease)	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance Over / (under)				
Early Years	1.3.1	EY SEND Inclusion Fund	65,000	-	65,000	131,585	66,585	165,000	100,000	165,000		
High Needs	1.0.2	Place Funding - Special Schools	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	300,000	175,000	(125,000)	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Special Schools Recouped	6,320,000	-	6,320,000	6,224,167	(95,833)	6,390,000	70,000	6,360,833	(29,167)	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - PRU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - PRU Recouped	850,000	-	850,000	850,000	-	850,000	-	850,000	-	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Enhanced Mainstream Units	198,000	36,000	234,000	209,500	(24,500)	180,000	(54,000)	166,500	(13,500)	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - Enhance Mainstream Units Recouped	378,000	(36,000)	342,000	342,000	-	396,000	54,000	388,500	(7,500)	
	1.10.2	Place Funding - Free School Recouped	50,000	5,834	55,834	55,834	-	60,000	4,166	60,000	-	
	1.0.2	Place Funding - CCP and FE Recouped	864,000	-	864,000	864,000	-	864,000	-	864,000	-	
		Subtotal Place funding	8,660,000	5,834	8,665,834	8,545,501	(120,333)	9,040,000	374,166	8,864,833	(175,167)	
	1.2.2	Special School (SS) - flexible place funding	40,000	-	40,000	49,621	9,621	40,000	-	40,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	SS Top ups (pre and post 16)	6,100,000	-	6,100,000	5,918,122	(181,878)	6,700,000	600,000	6,700,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	SS - teacher pay and employer pension former grant	388,000	-	388,000	387,669	(331)	388,000	-	388,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	SS - 23 24 Supplementary grant	-	-	-	-	-	475,000	475,000	475,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	Enhanced Mainstream Units Top ups & compensation place funding	615,000	-	615,000	520,494	(94,506)	650,000	35,000	650,000	-	
	1.2.2	Alternative Pathway (AP) Top ups	425,000	-	425,000	292,943	(132,057)	425,000	-	425,000	-	
	1.2.2	AP - teacher pay and employer pension former grant	82,500	-	82,500	82,495	(5)	82,500	-	82,500	-	
	1.2.2	AP - 23 24 Supplementary grant	-	-	-	-	-	80,000	80,000	80,000	-	
	1.2.2	Preventative Pathway AP top ups	296,000	-	296,000	207,227	(88,773)	296,000	-	296,000	-	
		Subtotal Special School and PRU / AP provision top up funding	7,946,500	-	7,946,500	7,458,571	(487,929)	9,136,500	1,190,000	9,136,500	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Early years Top ups	130,000	-	130,000	181,998	51,998	230,000	100,000	230,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Inborough Mainstream - Primary Top ups	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	1,868,797	(131,203)	2,200,000	200,000	2,200,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Inborough Mainstream - Secondary Top ups	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	916,239	(83,761)	1,200,000	200,000	1,200,000	-	
	1.2.1 / 1.2.2	EHCP Top ups - out of Borough Mainstream Schools	900,000	-	900,000	814,867	(85,133)	1,000,000	100,000	1,000,000	-	
	1.2.2	EHCP Top ups - post 16 providers / FE providers	850,000	438,000	1,288,000	1,133,797	(154,203)	1,300,000	12,000	1,300,000	-	
		EHCP top up provision schools and post-16	4,880,000	438,000	5,318,000	4,915,699	(402,301)	5,930,000	612,000	5,930,000	-	
	1.2.3	EHCP funding for Independent providers (IP) and Free Schools	1,700,000	-	1,700,000	2,252,558	552,558	2,500,000	800,000	2,500,000	-	
	1.2.7	Alternative Provision (for non EHCP and Children in Care) for IP	250,000	-	250,000	785,809	535,809	500,000	250,000	500,000	-	
		Independent providers	1,950,000	-	1,950,000	3,038,368	1,088,368	3,000,000	1,050,000	3,000,000	-	
	1.2.4	HN targeted LCHI funding	10,000	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	10,000	-	10,000	-	
	1.2.6	Hospital Education provision	100,000	-	100,000	13,890	(86,110)	100,000	-	100,000	-	
	1.2.7	Interim Tuition service	418,000	-	418,000	239,621	(178,379)	439,000	21,000	439,000	-	
	1.2.5	SEND team - contribution towards Early Years SENCOs and Specialist teaching	654,000	-	654,000	654,000	-	687,000	33,000	687,000	-	
	1.2.5	SEN Support Services	242,000	-	242,000	209,520	(32,480)	254,000	12,000	254,000	-	
	1.2.8	Inclusion Service	830,000	-	830,000	501,412	(328,588)	872,000	42,000	872,000	-	
	1.2.3	Additional Educational activities (EHCP)	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	
	1.2.8	SEND Inclusion direct school support	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	750,000	(250,000)	
	1.2.3	Elective Home Education Costs (EHCP)	20,000	-	20,000	-	(20,000)	20,000	-	20,000	-	
	1.2.5	Elective Home Education Costs (Alternative Provision)	221,000	-	221,000	91,482	(129,518)	232,000	11,000	232,000	-	
	1.2.11	Personal Budgets (EHCP)	100,000	-	100,000	135,139	35,139	150,000	50,000	150,000	-	
		Other High Need funding provision including SLA's	2,595,000	-	2,595,000	1,845,064	(749,936)	3,864,000	1,269,000	3,614,000	(250,000)	
		Total High Need Non-Place funding	17,371,500	438,000	17,809,500	17,257,702	(551,798)	21,930,500	4,121,000	21,680,500	(250,000)	
		High Needs block service lines total	26,031,500	443,834	26,475,334	25,803,203	(672,131)	30,970,500	4,495,166	30,545,333	(425,167)	
	1.0.2 / 1.2.2	Further required EHCP place based provision and top up funding	700,000	-	700,000	-	(700,000)	700,000	-	350,000	(350,000)	
	1.0.2 / 1.2.2	Further required Alternative place based provision and top up funding	700,000	-	700,000	-	(700,000)	700,000	-	350,000	(350,000)	
	1.2.8	Inclusion Support (one off funding allocated) - from Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	2,250,000	-	2,250,000	-	
	1.2.8	SEND Local Offer (one off funding allocated) - from Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	500,000	-	
	1.2.5	Further required service provision for Wider SEND support / Inclusion	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	71,775	(928,225)	0	(1,000,000)	-	-	
		Funding allocations for required future service provision	2,400,000	-	2,400,000	-	(2,328,225)	4,150,000	(1,000,000)	3,450,000	(700,000)	
	1.2.3	Balance held aside from service provision to support any in year high need funding pressures (or DFE adjustments to funding)	333,233	60,166	393,399	-	(393,399)	135,008	(258,391)	-	(135,008)	
		High Needs Block total	28,764,733	504,000	29,268,733	25,874,978	(3,393,755)	35,255,508	5,986,775	33,995,333	(1,260,175)	
		DSG - Funding Income										
		High Needs Funding Block	(19,582,085)	(1,350,647)	(20,932,732)	(20,932,732)	-	(24,169,508)	(3,236,776)	(24,169,508)	-	
		High Needs Recoupment	(8,176,000)	(160,001)	(8,336,001)	(8,336,001)	-	(8,436,000)	(99,999)	(8,436,000)	-	
		High Needs total	(28,764,733)	(504,000)	(29,268,733)	(29,268,733)	-	(32,605,508)	(3,336,775)	(32,605,508)	-	
		One off High Need DSG Reserves Funding - attributable to 2023/24						(2,750,000)				

Appendix 2 - Place funded pupil numbers per School or College from Sept-23
For 2023/24 Academic year

ESFA Registered*	To be paid by	Category	School name	No. of Places funded		Annual amount per place £'s	Total Annual Amount £'s
				incr / (dec) from 2022/23	Total No. funded		
Yes	ESFA	Special School	St Christophers (pre 16)	-	228	10,000	2,280,000
No	LA	Special School	St Christophers (pre 16)	15	15	10,000	150,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	St Christophers (post16)	-	7	10,000	70,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	St Nicholas (pre16)	-	92	10,000	920,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	Lancaster (pre 16)	-	38	10,000	380,000
No	LA	Special School	Lancaster (pre 16)	9	9	10,000	90,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	Lancaster (post 16)	-	82	10,000	820,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	Kingsdown (pre16)	-	120	10,000	1,200,000
No	LA	Special School	Kingsdown (pre16)	6	6	10,000	60,000
Yes	ESFA	Special School	Sutton House (pre16)	7	72	10,000	720,000
			subtotal	37	669		6,690,000
Yes	ESFA	PRU	Victory Park	-	85	10,000	850,000
			subtotal	-	85		850,000
Yes	ESFA	AP Free School*	YMCA	-	6	10,000	60,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Secondary	Chase	-	12	6,000	72,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Secondary	Shoeburyness	-	18	6,000	108,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Secondary	Southend High School for Boys	3	9	6,000	54,000
No	LA	Special base Unit - Secondary	Southend High School for Boys	(3)	3	6,000	18,000
			subtotal	-	42		252,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Primary	Temple Sutton	-	12	6,000	72,000
Yes	LA	Special base Unit - Primary	Fairways	-	15	6,000	90,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Primary	Hamstel	-	3	6,000	18,000
No	LA	Special base Unit - Primary	Hamstel	-	3	6,000	18,000
No	LA	Special base Unit - Primary	Greenways	-	9	6,000	54,000
Yes	ESFA	Special base Unit - Primary	Blenheim	-	12	6,000	72,000
No	LA	Special base Unit - Primary	Blenheim	(6)	(6)	6,000	(36,000)
			subtotal	(6)	48		288,000
Yes	ESFA	Further Education	South Essex College	-	99	6,000	594,000
Yes	ESFA	Further Education	Adult College / Westcliff Centre	-	45	6,000	270,000
			subtotal	-	144		864,000
			Grand Total	31	994		9,004,000

* AP Free School YMCA is funded at 50 places paid directly by the DfE outside of Southend's High Need block allocation - confirmed by the DfE (on the 24th April 2023) that there are 6 places funded by Southend for the 23 24 academic year

* ESFA Registered - To be formally registered with the ESFA the place change notification for 2023/24 would have to be confirmed to the ESFA by November 2022. Therefore those not registered were in planning stage at that time and not formally confirmed.

Appendix 3 - Special School top up funding for 2023/24 est. schedule

If printed, recommend to print in A3 Landscape

Data set updated May 2023

Months funding applicable in each term:

5% Uplift applied to all bands from April 23

Months funding applicable in each term:	Band 10				Band 9				Band 8				Band 7				Band 6				Band 5											
	summer	autumn	spring	summer	summer	autumn	spring	summer	summer	autumn	spring	summer	summer	autumn	spring	summer	summer	autumn	spring	summer	summer	autumn	spring	summer								
	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	3	5								
Southend home resident pupil numbers only																																
	Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25			Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25			Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25			Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25			Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25				
	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3				
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Pre 16)	2	2	2	2	29	27	27	27	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	80	79	79	79	34	35	35	35	37	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
Top up Funding - SP - St Nicholas Special School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	-	-	-	75	77	77	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top up Funding - SP - Kingsdown Special School	10	9	9	9	24	23	23	23	25	24	24	24	46	46	46	46	7	11	11	11	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Pre 16)	5	4	4	4	6	9	9	9	9	8	6	6	6	9	13	13	13	13	9	9	9	9	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Post 16)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	7	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Post 16)	5	5	5	5	-	1	1	1	4	9	9	9	13	10	10	10	27	28	28	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Top up Funding - SP - Sutton house - Special School	18	16	16	16	10	9	9	9	31	33	33	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total	summer	autumn	spring	summer				
	5	4	3	5				
	Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25			
	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3
203	203	203	203	203				
81	81	81	81	81				
112	114	114	114	114				
41	41	41	41	41				
10	9	9	9	9				
49	53	53	53	53				
59	58	58	58	58				
Total	555	559	559	559				

FYI	Total Place no.s
	Sep-23
	243
	92
	126
	47
	7
	82
	72
Total	669

Rates	Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25			
	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3				
	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24				
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Pre 16)	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - St Nicholas Special School	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - Kingsdown Special School	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Pre 16)	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Post 16)	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Post 16)	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				
Top up Funding - SP - Sutton house - Special School	17,634	17,634	17,634	17,634	13,823	13,823	13,823	13,823	12,742	12,742	12,742	12,742	11,299	11,299	11,299	11,299	9,898	9,898	9,898	9,898	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289	8,289				

Total	a	b	c	d	e = a + b + c	f = b + c + d		
	Apr-23 to Mar-24			2024/25				
	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3 <th>Term3</th> <th>Term1</th> <th>Term2</th> <th>Term3 </th>	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3
937,859	746,131	559,598	932,664	2,243,588	2,238,393			
339,965	271,038	203,279	338,798	814,282	813,114			
589,868	473,121	354,841	591,402	1,417,830	1,419,364			
209,754	169,121	126,841	211,402	505,716	507,364			
53,092	35,257	26,443	44,072	114,792	105,772			
230,530	202,268	151,701	252,835	584,499	606,805			
354,435	275,679	206,759	344,599	836,873	827,037			
Total	2,715,502	2,172,616	1,629,462	2,715,770	6,517,580			

Total Top up funding £'s - New	Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25				Apr-23 to Mar-24				2024/25			
	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3	Term3	Term1	Term2	Term3				
	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24	Sept-23 to Aug-24				
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Pre 16)	14,695	11,756	8,817	14,695	167,028	124,407	93,305	155,509	111,493	89,194	66,896	111,493	376,633	297,540	223,155	371,925	140,222	115,477	86,608	144,346	127,789	107,757	80,818	134,696								
Top up Funding - SP - St Nicholas Special School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,237	16,989	12,742	21,237	9,416	-	-	-	309,313	254,049	190,537	317,561	-	-	-	-								
Top up Funding - SP - Kingsdown Special School	73,475	52,902	39,677	66,128	138,230	105,976	79,482	132,470	132,729	101,936	76,452	127,420	216,564	173,251	129,939	216,564	28,869	36,293	27,220	45,366	-	2,763	2,072	3,454								
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Pre 16)	36,738	23,512	17,634	29,390	34,558	41,469	31,102	51,836	42,473	25,484	19,113	31,855	42,371	48,962	36,722	61,203	53,614	29,694	22,271	37,118	-	-	-	-								
Top up Funding - SP - St Christopher's Academy (Post 16)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,092	29,731	22,299	37,164	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,526	4,145	6,908								
Top up Funding - SP - Lancaster Special School (Post 16)	36,738	29,390	22,043	36,738	-	4,608	3,456	5,760	21,237	38,226	28,670	47,783	61,203	37,663	28,248	47,079	111,353	92,381	69,286	115,477	-	-	-	-								
Top up Funding - SP - Sutton house - Special School	132,255	94,048	70,536	117,560	57,596	41,469	31,102	51,836	164,584	140,162	105,122	175,203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								

Appendix 4 - Enhanced main stream units est. top up funding 2023/24 schedule

2023/24 Academic Year from Sept 23

Data set updated in May 23

School	2023/24							Total No.s	Total Annual cost £'s
	Band7 Profile*	Band6 Profile*	Band5 Profile*	Band4 Profile*	Band3 Profile*	Band2 Profile*	Band1 Profile*		
Chase			4	1	3	4		12	68,781
Shoeburyness	2		3	4	5	2		16	108,387
Southend High School for Boys			4					4	33,156
Subtotal - Secondary Schools								32	210,324
Temple Sutton		4	8	1				13	113,427
Fairways				1	1	1	6	9	28,137
Blenheim		1	4	1				6	50,577
Greenways		1	3	1				5	42,288
Hamstel	1	2	3	1				7	63,485
Subtotal - Primary Schools								40	297,914
Grand Total	3	8	29	10	9	7	6	72	508,238

Appendix 5 - Main Stream Schools est. top up funding from Sept 23

Data set updated in May 23

'Recommend, if printed, to print in A3 Landscape

School	2023/24											Estimated cost £'s for Sept 23- Aug 24
	Band10 Profile	Band9 Profile	Band8 Profile	Band7 Profile	Band6 Profile	Band5 Profile	Band4 Profile	Band3 Profile	Band2 Profile	Band1 Profile	Total No.s	
Barons Court Primary School and Nursery					2	1	2	5	1	3	14	76,726
Belfairs Academy							4	8	6	4	22	97,284
Blenheim Primary School					1	1	6	3	1		12	81,137
Bournemouth Park Primary School				1	1		1	4	1		8	51,326
Bournes Green Infant School						1	1		1		3	19,242
Bournes Green Junior School						1	1	1		1	4	22,671
Cecil Jones Academy			1			1	5	7	3	1	18	104,559
Chalkwell Hall Infant School						1	4	1			6	43,175
Chalkwell Hall Junior School							3	3		1	7	39,016
Chase High School			1			3	7	12	5	3	31	171,143
Darlinghurst Academy					2	1	1	1			5	40,402
Earls Hall Primary School	1			1	2	2	7	4	2		19	144,004
Eastwood Primary School and Nursery					2		1	1		1	5	34,178
Edwards Hall Primary School						1	3	3	2	1	10	54,165
Fairways Primary School				1			1	2		1	5	30,475
Friars Primary School and Nursery								1	1	1	3	10,289
Greenways Primary School				1	3	1	10	6	2	2	25	164,266
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery						4	1				5	40,679
Hamstel Junior School							3	5		2	10	50,669
Heycroft Primary School					2		4		1		7	53,318
Hinguar Community Primary School											-	-
Leigh North Street Primary School				1		1	4	3			9	64,062
Milton Hall Primary School and Nursery				1		2	5	4	1	2	15	92,228
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School				1	1		2	2		1	7	47,896
Porters Grange Primary School and Nursery						3	7	2		1	13	89,181
Prince Avenue Academy and Nursery							1	2		1	4	19,176
Richmond Avenue Primary School					1		1	2	1	1	6	32,504
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery							2				2	15,046
Shoeburyness High School			1	3	2		15	12	9	3	45	273,873
Southchurch High School					1	2	2	5	7	2	19	93,632
Southend High School for Boys					1		1	1			3	22,215
St Bernard's High School						1	1	2	3	3	10	41,885
St George's Catholic Primary School						1	2	1			4	28,129
St Helen's Catholic Primary School					2	1	3		1		7	54,084
St Mary's, Prittlewell, CofE Primary School				1		3	1				5	43,689
St Thomas More High School				1	2		5	10	4	6	28	142,760
Temple Sutton Primary School				1	3	2	4	7	2		19	128,081
The Eastwood Academy					1	2	10	12	1	11	37	185,379
The Westborough Academy				1	1	2	3	1		1	9	67,203
Thorpedene Primary School					1	2	3	2			8	58,633
West Leigh Infant School						3	1	1			5	37,184
West Leigh Junior School								2			2	9,588
Westcliff High School for Girls	1				1						2	27,532
	2	-	3	14	32	43	138	138	55	53	478	2,902,684

Appendix 6 - 2020/21 DfE Teacher pay and employer pension grant allocations (to be paid out through DSG in 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24)

School	A			B			A + B
	Original Teacher pay grant allocation 2020/21			Original Teacher pay grant allocation 2020/21			To be paid out Total
	April 2020 to August 2020			September 2020 to March 2021			
Places	Rate	Allocation	Places	Rate	Allocation		
The St Christopher School	230	£72.91	£16,770.00	235	£102.08	£23,989.00	£40,759.00
Southend YMCA Community School	50	£72.91	£3,646.00	50	£102.08	£5,104.00	£8,750.00
Victory Park Academy	75	£72.91	£5,469.00	75	£102.08	£7,656.00	£13,125.00
Sutton House Academy	50	£72.91	£3,646.00	60	£102.08	£6,125.00	£9,771.00
St Nicholas School	92	£72.91	£6,708.00	92	£102.08	£9,392.00	£16,100.00
Kingsdown School	120	£72.91	£8,750.00	120	£102.08	£12,250.00	£21,000.00
Lancaster School	82	£72.91	£5,979.00	90	£102.08	£9,188.00	£15,167.00
			£50,968.00			£73,704.00	£124,672.00

Teacher employer pension grant allocation 2020/21

34

School	April 2020 to August 2020			September 2020 to March 2021			Total
	Places	Rate	Allocation	Places	Rate	Allocation	
The St Christopher School	230	£202.06	£46,474.00	235	£282.89	£66,480.00	£112,954.00
Southend YMCA Community School	50	£202.06	£10,103.00	50	£282.89	£14,145.00	£24,248.00
Victory Park Academy	75	£202.06	£15,155.00	75	£282.89	£21,217.00	£36,372.00
Sutton House Academy	50	£202.06	£10,103.00	60	£282.89	£16,974.00	£27,077.00
St Nicholas School	92	£202.06	£18,590.00	92	£282.89	£26,026.00	£44,616.00
Kingsdown School	120	£202.06	£24,248.00	120	£282.89	£33,947.00	£58,195.00
Lancaster School	82	£202.06	£16,569.00	90	£282.89	£25,461.00	£42,030.00
			£141,242.00			£204,250.00	£345,492.00
							£470,164.00

Appendix 7 - Special School flexible place funding from Sept 2023

		% Point above core place funded number and additional place number									
Core place funded number		1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
Kingsdown	126	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	10	11	12
Lancaster	129	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	10	11	12
St Christopher	250	2	5	7	10	12	15	17	20	22	25
St Nicholas	92	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Annual amount honoured for each school above when the criteria is met (pro'rata'd to the applicable months in the academic year) :-		£4,000	£8,000	£12,000	£16,000	£20,000	£24,000	£28,000	£32,000	£36,000	£40,000
Sutton House	72	0	1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	7
Annual amount honoured for Sutton House when the criteria is met (pro rata'd to the applicable months in the academic year) :-			£6,000	£14,000		£20,000	£24,000	£30,000		£36,000	£40,000

Appendix 8 - Special School and Alternative Provision 3.4% Supplementary Grant

Recommend, if printed, to print in A4 Landscape

From April 2023

	A	B	C = (A / 12 * 5 + B / 12 * 7) * £10,000	D	E = (A / 12 * 5 + B / 12 * 7) * D	F	G	H = C + E + F + G	I = H * 3.4%
	Funded Place no.		Total Place Funding	2022-23 Avg. EHCP top up rate (Southend) *	Total Top up funding	Add't continued top up grant		Grand Total for the 3.4% calculation	3.4% Supplementary Grant awarded
	From Sept 22	From Sept 23				20/21 Teacher Pay grant	20/21 Teacher employer pension grant		
SP - St Christopher's Academy	235	250	£2,437,500	10,277	£2,505,019	£39,545	£109,589	£5,091,653	£173,116
SP - St Nicholas Special School	92	92	£920,000	9,393	£864,156	£16,100	£44,616	£1,844,872	£62,726
SP - Lancaster Special School	120	129	£1,252,500	10,664	£1,335,666	£4,803	£13,310	£2,606,278	£88,613
SP - Kingsdown Special School	120	126	£1,235,000	11,859	£1,464,587	£21,000	£58,195	£2,778,782	£94,479
SP - Sutton house - Special School	65	72	£690,833	13,278	£917,289	£9,771	£27,077	£1,644,970	£55,929
	632	669	£6,535,833		£7,086,716	£91,219	£252,787	£13,966,555	£474,863

2022/23 Avg. EHCP top up rate (Southend) * based on the average actual Southend top up rate paid for the 2022/23 financial year

AP - YMCA Community School

AP - Victory Park academy

	Grant Income *	3.4% Supplementary Grant awarded
	£826,000	£28,084
	£1,541,573	£52,413
	£2,367,573	£80,497

Grant Income * based on the Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) data 2021 to 2022, and academy accounts return (AAR - 2020 to 2021) data

Appendix 9 - EHCP Banded top up rates

	A	(A - C) / C	A - C	A - B	B	C
Band	Final and updated in	% uplift from	Total Amount	Further increase per	Updated in Dec-22	
	June 23	Sept-22	increased per band	band applied to band	(5% applied to all)	
	From April-23		from Sept-22	1 - 4	From April-23	From Sept-22
	£ Annual	%	£ Annual	£ Annual	£ Annual	£ Annual
10	17,634	5%	840	-	17,634	16,794
9	13,823	5%	658	-	13,823	13,165
8	12,742	5%	607	-	12,742	12,135
7	11,299	5%	538	-	11,299	10,761
6	9,898	5%	471	-	9,898	9,427
5	8,289	5%	395	-	8,289	7,894
4	7,523	11%	766	428	7,095	6,757
3	4,794	17%	707	503	4,291	4,087
2	3,430	25%	679	541	2,889	2,751
1	2,065	46%	649	578	1,487	1,416

37

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Southend-on-Sea City Council

Executive Director of Children and Public Health

To
Education Board

On
20th June 2023

Report prepared by: Chrissy Papas, School Place Planning and
Admissions Manager

In consultation with
Cathy Braun, Head of Access & Inclusion
Paul Grout, Senior Finance Business Partner
Resources Sub Group

Agenda
Item No.

6

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE FUNDING PROPOSAL: Dedicated Schools Grant – School Block growth funding

1. Purpose of Report

To present a proposal for the provision of funding for the unexpected intake of asylum seeker pupils, as an exceptional circumstance.

2. Recommendations

Recommendations Education Board (EB) are asked to specifically agree for 2022/23 and 2023/24 funding years:

2.1 To agree to an exceptional circumstance funding request, through School Block Growth Fund for schools that have admitted/admit pupils that have come into the UK via a Home Office led asylum seeker route (such as the residents of the Skylark Hotel).

2.2 To agree the following funding model:

2.2.1 Funding will be offered for primary schools that admit 3 or more pupils, and for secondary schools that admit 5 or more pupils in any one year. Access to additional financial assistance will be awarded when meeting the below criteria:

2.2.1.1 Admitted on roll any asylum child (recognised by the home office and not already attracting funding covered under any existing government education funding scheme) who take a place at a Southend school post the Oct 22 census.

2.2.1.2 Only for compulsory school age (not Post 16 as not covered by DSG)

2.2.1.3 Payments relate to the number of asylum seeker admissions at the point of reaching the threshold and beyond.

2.2.2 For example, if a primary school admits 5 asylum seeker pupils meeting the above criteria. They will receive a one off payment for the third, fourth and fifth admission (3 payments). If a secondary school admits 7 pupils in years 7-11, they will receive a payment for the fifth, sixth and seventh admission (3 payments in total). A primary school admitting 2 asylum seeker admissions will therefore receive zero payments, due to not meeting the threshold.

2.3 To agree that this is a one off payment for each additional pupil only above the thresholds and therefore up to the point these pupils are then formally funded through their annual School Block allocation.

2.4 To agree that payments will be made whilst the child is on roll at the school.

2.5 The annual rates of payment must be inline with the annual growth fund rates (As , previously approved through the Education Board):

2.5.1 Pupils placed on roll after Oct 22 census and before 31 March 2023 paid at £3,923 per primary pupil, and £4,652 Per secondary pupil.

2.5.2 Payments for pupils after April 23 will be paid £3,923 per primary pupil, and £4,652. This is based upon the set growth funding per pupil for 2023/24.

2.5.3 Payments are to be paid out from the School Block Growth Fund and will stop from April 2024 for a maintained school and September 2024 for an academy school, as by those dates provided those pupils remain on roll at the October 2023 census, will then be automatically funded through the Schools annual School Block allocation.

3. Background

3.1 The home office is placing asylum seekers in Hotels as the asylum centres have no capacity.

3.2 The home office has not to date placed asylum seekers in Southend however, they have placed families in the Skylark Hotel which is situated on the Essex/Southend border. The closest schools to this hotel are situated in Southend.

3.3 There is no additional funding to support schools/education for asylum seekers as there has been for some refugee schemes.

3.4 There are limited school places in Rochford, where the Skylark is located and where there are school places in Southend families have gained admission to Southend Schools.

3.5 The number of pupils that are currently attending schools in Southend, namely:

- 11 pupils aged 11-18 at Chase High School
- 7 pupils to Heycroft Primary School and
- 2 pupils at Eastwood Primary

3.6 Schools are reporting a high level of deprivation and a significant impact on the school.

3.7 The main challenges reported by schools focus on demand for small group work, meeting needs (access to clubs and trips), engaging teaching, staffing and resources. Resources are stretched and resources are required for intervention planning, including for induction, the early stages of learning English, and supporting more advanced learners. Ensuring that all the different groups of pupils with english as an actional language (EAL) at school make this kind of progress has clear implications for staffing needs. Short-term intervention for EAL learners outside the classroom is focused on learner needs and curriculum content but all of this is a cost on teaching time, staffing and resources.

3.8 Schools report that funding would be used to support small group work, EAL support in lessons, tech support for translation of material, where possible tablets would support learning, where possible funds would support pupils with access to clubs, trips and activities. Funds would be used for literacy intervention packages such as LEXONIC.

- 3.9 Essex County Council took a proposal to the Essex Schools Forum about schools who have admitted a 'significant' number of asylum and refugee children since the October 2022 census, and agreed Growth Funding could be awarded to support schools.
- 3.10 The Essex Threshold for awarding financial assistance is:
- 3.10.1.1 6 or more placed at one primary; and
 - 3.10.1.2 11 or more placed at one secondary
- 3.11 Although the skylark residents are residents under Essex County Council, growth funding can not be allocated to schools outside their local authority.
- 3.12 Southend has also lowered the threshold agreed by Essex, due to the number accessing Southend schools being a lesser number.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 There are no other avenues for funding support for this group of children for schools, so it simply falls for the schools to fund directly.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The children admitted after the October school census do not generate funds for the schools for this year (2022/23).
- 5.2 The children requiring school places are part of the asylum seeker housing strategy by the home office. The initial number of families housed at the Hotel were unexpected and more children are expected in the coming months.
- 5.3 There are no other available school places in Rochford.
- 5.4 The children have a high level of deprivation and need with many having suffered trauma. The funding would support schools with the children's integration into school, identify and support early interventions for additional needs and provide positive learning opportunities including EAL.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Whilst it is not standard practise to offer growth funding for increased Numbers on Roll (NOR) as growth funding is administered for new intake classes. This request is considered because of its exceptional circumstance and whereby no additional funding has been awarded from Government for these particular cohort of pupils. The increased numbers over a threshold will undoubtedly have an impact on a schools existing resource given the background nature of these pupils requiring additional supported integration into a mainstream school environment. As previously explained, in Education Board DSG Growth fund papers, growth funding awarded to DSG blocks is based on a positive increase in Middle Super Output area (MSOA) school pupil census numbers between historic years. It is therefore anticipated, given the numbers on roll will increase for these schools that will in turn award additional fundings to the growth fund to support. There is risk on this approach, given other schools in that MSOA area may decrease NOR, but considering, it is a relatively small cohort effecting a small number of schools, the financial risk will need to be managed and contained within the growth fund over the current continued life of growth for all schools.

MSOA* - is defined by the office for national statistic, as a small enough geographical area to detect pockets of growth, based on school post codes grouped within a particular area.

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Southend Education Board (EB), Resources Sub Group (RSG)

6th June 2023, 4.15pm-6.00pm, (SHSB – in person)

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting

8

Membership of the sub group for Resources	(nominations received) representation
3 nominations from the Education Board (Headteacher/Governor)	Robin Bevan (secondary) CHAIR Jane Ladner (secondary, governor) Vacant (secondary/primary or governor)
4 other members nominated from the four associations	Andy Douglas (primary) Vacant (early years) Jackie Mullan (special) Nicki Kelly (post 16)
1 school business manager nominated from the RSG	Simon Oxenham (SHSB)
Council Officer representation as required for the papers	Paul Grout (Senior Finance Business Partner) Liz Hunt (Director of Education, Inclusion and Early Years) Gary Bloom (Head of SEND) Cathy Braun (Head of Access and Inclusion)

Time	Agenda item	Decision? Action
4.15	<p>Membership Apologies</p> <p>And council officer representation as required for papers</p> <p>Officers present:</p> <p>Paul Grout Liz Hunt Gary Bloom Cathy Braun</p>	<p>Apologies from Nicki (Post meeting – urgent matter)</p> <p>All others present</p>
	Membership Vacancies	<p>2 vacancies now present following Stuart’s resignation (EB member vacancy) and Vicky’s retirement (Early Years representation).</p> <p>RSG, acknowledge and thank both Stuart and Vicky for previous contributions to the group.</p>

		<p>Robin – to first offer the 2 Vacancies at the Education Board (EB). 1 Vacancy is a required EB member, the other an optional EB member but seeking early years representation.</p> <p>Further required actions to follow pending EB response.</p>
4.20	Minutes of the last meeting 28.11.22	<p>One amendment:</p> <p>Acknowledging – no cap was applied to the Section 5.3 Public duties conditional claims in 2023/24 (but remains under continual review), as per the final December 2022 EB DSG paper.</p> <p>And on noting this amendment. RSG minutes of the 28.11.22 now Final.</p>
4.25	<p>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Exceptional Circumstance Funding proposal: Growth (DRAFT Paper supplied)</p> <p>Officer Lead – Cathy Braun, Supported by Paul Grout</p>	<p>Discussion through the paper.</p> <p>DRAFT paper amendment agreed:</p> <p>Exceptional Growth funding not to be offered for all places once the current DRAFT thresholds were reached as per the current DRAFT paper, but instead offered for each additional place above that threshold and those thresholds to receive funding to be lowered.</p> <p>Officers will therefore rework the final paper for this agreed sensible amendment.</p>
4.35	<p>DSG 2022/23 Final Outturn (DRAFT Paper supplied)</p> <p>Officer Lead – Paul Grout</p>	<p>Discussion through the paper, and no paper amendments required.</p>
5.00	DSG 2023/24 High Need detailed budget allocations (DRAFT Paper supplied)	<p>Discussion through the paper, paper amendments agreed:</p>

	<p>Officer Lead – Paul Grout, in consultation with Liz Hunt, Gary Bloom and Cathy Braun</p>	<p>Simply expand further 7.7 – that additional top up budget allocation funding for Special and AP Schools and AP is attributable to both price increase and demand.</p> <p>Within 8.2 – Paul and Gary led discussion on further increased review and reasons for why of Bands 1 – 4 EHCP top up funding and in recognition of cost pressures within Schools (RSG supported the position). Paper and proposed amendments will be applied to the final paper.</p> <p>Within 12.3 – Welcome addition, but with Paul and Liz to further strengthen the statement as to why this is being awarded as a one off universal inclusion grant at the same level for all mainstream schools. Also, in addition – expand that from the school return statements this can celebrate the impact of this one off funding.</p>
5.50	<p>Overall funding context for Mainstream Schools (Discussion item) lead Robin Bevan</p>	<p>Robin will raise at the EB.</p> <p>Jane and Liz to determine/possible further escalation routes</p>
5.55	<p>AOB</p> <p>FYI only:</p> <p>Date of next meetings and current forward plan</p> <p>Future RSG meeting dates – MS Teams or Southend High School for boys 4:15 pm to 5.30/6.00 pm current planned papers ahead of Education Board (EB):</p> <p>October 2023 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2024/25 Indicative budget allocations including 2024/25 	<p>5 mins</p>

	<p>Individual School Block (ISB) allocations.</p> <p>December 2023 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG 2024/25 Final Budget planning including ISB allocations and Forecast Outturn 2023/24 <p>March 2023 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tbc <p>June 2023 (Date tbc ahead of EB date tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSG Final Outturn 2023/24 • DSG High Need detailed budget allocations 2024/25 <p>Meeting close</p>	
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DRAFT

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA EDUCATION BOARD, VULNERABLE LEARNERS SUB GROUP

MINUTES – Thursday 2nd March 2023

Date:	Thursday 2 nd March 2023
Time:	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Place:	Tickfield – Evolution Room

Membership:	Representation	Other attendees:
Amanda Champ, SBC	School Improvement	Jana Fewkes
Jackie Mullan, St Christophers School	Education Board	
Julia Jones, Barons Court	Education Board	
Lisa Clark, Hamstel Infants School	Education Board	
Mark Ammon, Early Years, SBC	Early Years	
Cathy Braun, Access and Inclusion, SBC	Access and Inclusion	
Bev Williams – Legra Academy Trust	Secondary	
Englantin Muca – Victory Park Academy	Special/AP	
Vacancy	Academy Trust	
Sue Walsh– Safeguarding Manager SEEC	Post 16	
Steve Cornwall – SBC Social Care	Social Care	
Sarah Greaves, Virtual Headteacher, SBC	Virtual School	
Gary Bloom, Head of SEND, SBC	SEND	
Julie Hollingsworth, SEND, SBC	SEND	
Richard Warren, Operational Performance and Intelligence Team	Data Team	
Wendy Hackett – Youth and Connexions	Youth and Connexions	
Taz Sayed – Chair of the Clinical Group	CCG	
Helen Rudman – Southend Children’s Services	Mash SCC	

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Cathy Braun, Bev Williams, Gary Bloom and Helen Rudman. Helen sent Sally Hixon as a representative at the meeting. It was noted that there were some technological difficulties experienced at the meeting, however some members were able to attend part of the meeting virtually.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS / ORDER OF MEETING

There were no late items of business, not on the agenda, discussed at the meeting.
There were no changes to the order of the agenda noted.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 02/02/23 were agreed. It was noted that these minutes would be sent to the Clerk of the Education Board for inclusion in the relevant document pack sent to members of the Education Board.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- a) **JF – to add Englantin Muca (Landi) to the membership** – It was noted at the meeting that an invite would be sent for subsequent meetings.
- b) **JJ to raise at Education Board and recommend board agrees to award the funding for EYFS Inclusion funding** – This had been actioned at the previous Education Board meeting.

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE EYFS INCLUSION FUNDING

It was outlined to the group that MA and EH had met with Paul Grout on Tuesday and the paper for the Education Board would be presented in June and that early years funding is continuing to be investigated. With regards to the recent survey MA advised that 63% of settings had responded with 84% identifying the graduated response. The next step is working with the SEND team and Paul Grout to produce an inclusion report for June Ed Board. MA advised that he is meeting with the new Director for Learning to ascertain who is leading on this inclusion work. Inclusion panels are new and have evolved and are working well. JM advised the level of need in early years has increased and there are a significant number of consultations for children looking for schools in September 2023. It was agreed that early intervention is needed to find a creative solution in supporting early years inclusion.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION – INCLUSION REVIEW

Following the meeting of the VLSG in February 2023 and update of actions was outlined by SG. It was outlined that the survey has been shared with Trust partners and the Services for Schools teams were establishing links so that feedback can be provided. The KPIs have been reviewed following the scrutiny of the VLSG and the redraft was shared at the meeting. The Task and Finish group will be reporting on the KPIs and outcomes and there is a detailed workbook behind the KPIs and it will be reported to VLSG as the report given in line with annual planning and beyond. It was agreed that the timeline would be provided to the VLSG as an overview. A detailed discussion regarding Assessment

Tools was implemented at the meeting so that this could also align to assessment tools being implemented by the SEND team. It was outlined that there is a need for consistency across schools and settings with training provided and that toolkits are evaluated to ensure comparable standardised scores. It was outlined that the Inclusion Review would be looking at developing a Southend assessment tool that is the same for all schools to ensure consistency. A discussion took place regarding ensuing access to Early Years providers and that this is supported through SENDOPs through partnership work with the Early Years statutory team and the Early Help team to develop wider workstream working with Early Years and Post 16. The VLSG agreed the outcomes from reviews and assessments should be presented at the Task and Finish Group and that the VLSG will then scrutinise the outcomes. The VLSG formally minuted the recognition of the hard work implemented by the Task and Finish Group in response to the VLSG scrutiny in February 2023.

Future Actions:

- SG and JJ to set up a joint meeting for colleagues from the Task and Finish to come and present at VLSG so that clear lines of delegation and Terms of Reference can be established.
- JH and SG to bring to the next VLSG the resources provided so that tools could be evaluated to ensure a common approach across all schools and settings and to ensure that resources are used in collaboration.
- SG to present an update on the KPIs and outcomes from assessment toolkits working in partnership with the SEND Team.
- CB to look at how admission information is recorded and captured for review against outcomes and provide feedback to the group.
- SG and JJ to meet to discuss the partnership working between the VLSG and the Task and Finish Group.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION – ANNUAL PLAN

The VLSG reviewed the reports provided in advance of the meeting which included: The Alternative Provision Pathway document, The Inclusion Outreach Report and the CME Annual Report. It was outlined that the reports were extremely detailed and that further deep dives into the KPIs and outcomes were needed. It was requested that in future reports that headlines were provided and that members of the team attend the VLSG meetings to outline the impact of the work undertaken within each of the KPIs.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION – ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

A detailed, strategic discussion was implemented at the meeting regarding the work of the VLSG and the valuable contribution they made to the oversight of vulnerable learners during the global pandemic, however further annual planning is required to ensure a clear delegation of the work of the group. It was agreed at the meeting that one area of the work of the group would be scrutinised throughout the course of the year and that a programme would be established to focus on an area such as SEMH for all groups of vulnerable learners. It was agreed that in order to effectively implement such scrutiny that the following actions would need to be implemented:

- The Terms of Reference need to be reviewed to ensure that groups across the Education Board are not overlapping with further services – the group are requesting a current delegation scheme to be presented at the next VLSG meeting in June.
- A request to LH and MM would be made to attend the meeting to provide an overview and annual plan for the future work of the VLSG.
- JJ would meet with the Chairs of other subgroups to look at the clarity of roles.
- JJ to request from the Education Board an overview of the boards and the lines of delegation and scrutiny.

The group received an update on the shared care records from TS who outlined that the ICS are creating shared care records which are currently undergoing procurement with a graduated roll out to be implemented.

Southend Education Board

School Performance Sub Group (SPSG) Agenda

10th January 2022 at 1-3:00pm, [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Membership

Position	Name	Email
Primary Rep	Darren Woollard (Chair)	darren.woollard@lihtrust.uk
Primary Rep	Matt Badcock	headteacher@earlshallprimary.co.uk
Secondary Rep	David Struthers	d.struthers@setsa.info
Special Rep	VACANCY	
Governor Rep	VACANCY	
Education Board Nominee	Jim Johnson	Jim.johnson@lihtrust.uk
Education Board Nominee	Lisa Clark	headteacher@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk
Education Board Nominee	Lee Thorne	leethorne@ymca.southend.sch.uk
Early Years	Vicky Wright	vickywright@southend.gov.uk
Post 16	VACANCY	
Director of Learning	TBC	TBC
Head of school performance and provision services	Amanda Champ	amandachamp@southend.gov.uk
RSC		rsc.eastnelondon@education.gov.uk

*denotes attendance

Terms of Reference

- To advise Council/Cabinet and subsequently own a School Performance Strategy for Southend.
- To implement the School Performance Strategy in order to improve performance in all schools.

- To work with schools to periodically collect and analyse performance data (subject to data sharing protocol and agreement on high level data dashboard KPIs).
- To advise Council/Cabinet on the appropriateness of future priorities, targets and measures used to determine progress.
- To advise, monitor and challenge the commissioned support for schools, including core programmes and specific targeted interventions in order to ensure impact and value for money.
- To ensure that the Education Board has the appropriate information about the effectiveness of commissioned support in order to make informed decisions about future expenditure.
- To keep the Regional School Commissioner updated about developments in Southend.

Agenda for the meeting

Agenda Item	Lead	Notes
Welcome and apologies	JJ	Apologies received from Darren Woollard
Minutes of the meeting held on 01.11.22	JJ	Minutes agreed.
Matters arising	JJ	<p>All actions agreed at the meeting are covered in the agenda.</p> <p>Action: Amanda Champ will contact the maintained schools and will send a message to governors and trustees via Governor Services.</p> <p>Action: Amanda Champ to contact the identified schools and offer a conversation about further support/challenge.</p> <p>Action: Amanda Champ to present a report [on the school performance strategy] at the next meeting, possibly in partnership with the new director.</p>
SPSG Membership	JJ	<p>Welcome Matt Badcock, Headteacher at Earls Hall Primary as Primary Rep.</p> <p>To note that we still have vacancies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special School • Governor and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post 16 <p>Action: AC to contact Trustees and Governors re: the ongoing vacancy.</p> <p>Action: DW to approach Special and Post 16 regarding possible membership of SPSG.</p>
<p>Report on School Performance Strategy and the effectiveness of commissioned support</p>	<p>AC</p>	<p>AC shared the draft school performance and improvement outcome based commissioning framework.</p> <p>A discussion took place around the role of the board and the rigour of its approach re: the interrogating performance data and the Risk Register.</p> <p>AC requested that board members review the Risk Register prior to each meeting and offer suitable challenges if they felt that risks were not being mitigated.</p> <p>It was noted that, while the Risk Register is a live document, the vast majority of risks relate to attainment data updated annually. Key termly updates relate to Ofsted status and the appointment of a new headteacher.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the school performance and improvement outcome based commissioning plan appendices, specifically regarding the specific support received by schools considered to be due an Ofsted. Members sought clarification about how the plan could be cross referenced with the Risk Register.</p> <p>As strategies are yet to be agreed and implemented for schools highlighted by the Risk Register, the effectiveness of commissioned support could not be discussed.</p> <p>Action: AC to compile a summary for each of the schools highlighted for support following interrogation of the Risk Register.</p>

		Action: members of the group to revisit the Risk Register prior to the next meeting.
Report on school readiness in Early Years	AC / VW	<p>A report was not presented due to a lack of clarity about the nature of the information required.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the many and increased challenges faced by both PVI and school settings and a perceived increase in the number of children not school ready, either emotionally, physically or developmentally. It was agreed that this will have significant long term repercussions for settings including outcomes and progress.</p> <p>Action: VW to invite Mark Ammon (Southend BC Early Years Project Manager) to report to the group at the next meeting regarding increasing challenges and lack of school readiness and activity taking place to mitigate the risks related to this.</p>
Southend Risk Register: conversations with primary heads and review of KS4	AC	<p>AC has made 13 approaches to Schools and or Trusts flagged on the risk register. Discussions have taken place regarding possible support 2 schools a further 9 have agreed to a conversation many of which have been booked in for January 2023.</p> <p>Action: AC to ensure all SPSG members have access to the KS4 data.</p>
Dates of future meetings	JJ	<p>TBA</p> <p>Items for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of changes to the Risk Register ● Report from AC on the levels of engagement of schools / Trusts approached regarding possible support. ● Review of action Plans for schools receiving support.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report on school readiness in Early Years
AOB	All	A maintained primary school recently had an inspection deferred due to changes of leadership. Following work in the school by external consultants, on Southend BC's behalf, the LA have decided to put in place an IEB effective Feb 2023.

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