

**Education Resources Group
Schools Forum**

**Meeting Date 30 November 2021
Meeting Date 8 December 2021**

Subject: School Funding Arrangements – 2022/23: Responses to Consultation

Cabinet Member: Cllr Uddin

Report Number: 19

Item: 4b

Purpose of Report

1. This report:

- provides a summary of the responses received to the proposals contained in the consultation document on the school funding arrangements for 2022/23;
- makes recommendations for the local funding arrangements for 2022/23.

Recommendations

2. The Schools Forum are asked to:

- consider and comment on the final recommendations detailed in paragraph 4 for allocating funding from the Schools and Early Years blocks;
- confirm their agreement to the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block to support schools with above the calculated average number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Relevance to the Council's Corporate Plan

3. The Council has an oversight of the DSG and is responsible for the management and allocation of the funding to all schools in their area. The Council has to ensure the local arrangements are in line with the regulations governing school funding and aim to meet the needs of Enfield's children and young people (CYP).

Main Consideration for the Schools Forum

4. BACKGROUND

At the last meeting, the headlines from the Government's announcements on funding were presented to the Schools Forum.

The Forum's view was to maintain stability and predictability and, subject to consultation, the current funding arrangements for mainstream schools be retained for 2022/23. This included:

- To retain the national funding formula unit rates for mainstream schools;
- To transfer of 0.5% from the Schools to the High Needs block to fund schools with high numbers of pupils with EHCPs the element 2, the first £6,000 for pupils with EHCPs for the number above each school's calculated average incident.

The Forum was provided with:

- An update on the special schools place funding review which included Information on principles and options available for calculating place funding;
- Proposals on calculating the hourly rate for early years providers and changes to the make-up of the Inclusion Fund.

The information presented to the Forum was included in a consultation document, which was published on 20 October 2021. At subsequent networking sessions, headteachers, governors and school business managers were alerted to the publication of the document.

This report provides a summary of the responses received and seeks the Forum's views on the final proposals for 2022/23. Once the Forum's views have been received, the approval of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services will be sought.

In providing their view's, the Forum is reminded that the proposals in the consultation were based on October 2020 data and indicative funding information provided by the DfE. Both the data and funding information will be subject to change: use of the October 2021 Census for pupil data, and confirmation of actual funding settlement by the Government. Therefore, the proposals in this document will be subject to the available resources.

5. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

5.1 As stated the consultation document was published on 20 October 2021.

The deadline for submitting responses was Wednesday 17th November and by this date four responses had been received.

One from a secondary school and three from early years provider.

5.2 **Mainstream Schools: National Funding Formula (NFF)**

As agreed with the Schools Forum, the consultation sought confirmation to continue to use the NFF unit rates for the local funding formula. Table 1 summarises the responses received. There were no additional comments with these responses.

Table 1: Response to continuing to use the national funding formula unit rates

2022/23	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	1	-	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	-	-	-
PVIs	-	-	3
TOTAL	1	0	3

Recommendation

The Authority recommends to continue to use, for 2022/23, the NFF unit rates to inform the local funding formula.

5.3 **Funding for Pupils with SEND in Mainstream Schools**

Schools were asked to respond on the proposal to transfer 0.5% funding from the Schools to the High Needs Block to support schools with an above calculated average number of pupils with ECHP. The proposal sought no changes to the current methodology for calculating and allocating the funding.

Tables 2 summarise the responses received to the proposal to continue with the 0.5% transfer from the Schools block to high needs and maintain the current methodology for calculating and allocating the funding. There were no additional comments with these responses.

Table 2: Responses to the transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block

2022/23	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	1	-	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	-	-	-
PVIs	-	-	3
TOTAL	1	0	3

5.4 Special Schools – Place Funding Review

The Forum was updated on progress on the special school and Pupil Referral Unit place funding review. The Forum was advised of the principles supporting the review and the proposed methodology of using a benchmarked average cost model for calculating and allocating place funding. Responses were then sought on the use of the benchmarked average cost model as part this consultation. Tables 3 summarise the responses There were no additional comments with these responses.

Table 3: Responses to the use of an of the benchmarked average cost model

2022/23	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	1	-	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	-	-	-
PVIs	-	-	3
TOTAL	1	0	3

Recommendation

The Authority recommends that work continues on developing the benchmarked average cost model for special schools.

5.5 Early Years Inclusion Fund

The consultation document sought confirmation of the funding formula to be used for allocating the hourly rates for the free nursery entitlement for three and four year olds to early years providers and also for the use of the Inclusion Fund for 2022/23. Table 4 & 5 provides a summary of the responses received.

Table 4: Responses received to the funding formula for allocating hourly rates to providers

2022/23	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	1	-	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	-	-	-
PVIs	3	-	-
TOTAL	4	0	0

Table 4: Responses received to the use of the Early Years Inclusion Fund

2022/23	Agree	Disagree	No Response
Primary	-	-	-
Secondary	1	-	-
Special	-	-	-
Academies and Free Schools	-	-	-
PVIs	3	-	-
TOTAL	4	0	0

Recommendation

The Authority recommends the use of the amended funding formula for calculating the hourly rate for allocating funding to early years providers and the amended use of the Inclusion Fund.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. The local arrangements for delegating funding to schools are in line with statutory, national and local requirements.

Financial Implications

7. The recommendations in this report will be subject to the resources available. The final position will not be available until the DfE have published the budget settlement for 2022/23.

Conclusions and Recommendations

8. The Forum is asked to note and confirm their support to the recommendations detailed in paragraph 4.

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Date of report November 2021

Appendices: None

Background Papers

School funding regulations and DfE operational and guidance documents

School funding consultation document and responses

Schools Forum and Education Resources Group reports from previous meetings