

# Meeting

of the

London Borough of Barnet

# Schools Forum

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 4.00pm

Conference Room 1

North London Business Park

## Agenda, Minutes of the last meeting and Papers

**Dates of next meetings:**

Thursday 4 December 2014 (Conference Room 1)

Thursday 5 February 2015 (Conference Room 1)

Thursday 14 May 2015 (Conference Room 1)

Thursday 2 July 2015 (Conference Room 1)

# Schools Forum Agenda

9<sup>th</sup> October 2014: 4pm – 6pm

Conference Room 1: North London Business Park

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    - 8.5.6. Options for balancing the 2015/16 Schools Budget  
and notes from the special Schools Forum meeting on  
24 September Page 43
9. Draft agenda for next meeting Page 46
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## Members of the Schools Forum

Sector	Type/Position	Name	Representing	Member until
Nursery Schools (1)	Community - Headteacher	Perina Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	n/a
Primary Schools (12)	Community – Headteacher 1	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith	Sep 2016
	Community – Headteacher 2	Helen Schmitz	Cromer Road	Sep 2016
	Community – Headteacher 3	Clare Rees	Sunnyfields Primary	Feb 2017
	Community – Headteacher 4	Sally Lajalati	Colindale Primary	Sep 2017
	Community – Governor 1	Liz Pearson	Holly Park & Livingstone	Sep 2016
	Community – Governor 2	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Apr 2017
	Community – Governor 3	Catrin Dillon	Martin Primary	Dec 2016
	Foundation/VA –Headteacher 1	Maureen Kelly	St Theresa’s (Catholic)	Jul 2017
	Foundation/VA –Headteacher 2	Dee Oelman	St Mary’s & St John’s (CE)	Sep 2016
	Foundation/VA –Headteacher 3	Tim Bowden	Holy Trinity (CE)	Sep 2016
	Foundation/VA – Governor 1	Anthony Vourou	St John’s N11 (CE)	Sep 2016
Foundation/VA – Governor 2	Saul Smus	Pardes House (Jewish)	Apr 2016	
Secondary Schools (3)	Community/VA – Headteacher 1	Seamus McKenna	Finchley Catholic	Nov 2016
	Community/VA – Headteacher 2	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	n/a
	Community/VA – Governor	Patricia French	St Mary’s High CE	Dec 2016
Special Schools(2)	Community – Governer	Gilbert Knight (Chair)	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
	Community – Headteacher	Jenny Gridley	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
Pupil Referral Unit (1)	Headteacher	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion	Sep 2016
Academies(7)	Academy- Principal 1	Michael Whitworth	Wren Academy	Nov 2016
	Academy- Principal 2	Angela Trigg	London Academy	Sep 2016
	Academy- Principal 3	Kate Webster	Queen Elizabeth Girls	Sep 2016
	Academy- Principal 4	Jo Djora	The Hyde	Jul 2017
	Academy- Principal 5	Jane Beaumont	Copthall	Jan 2016
	Academy- Principal 6	Jack Newton	Grasvenor	Nov 2015
	Academy- Principal 7	Derrick Brown	Ashmole Academy	Jan 2016
Stake-holders (3)	Post 16	David Byrne	Barnet and Southgate Col.	Sep 2016
	Private Early Years	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex University	Sep 2016
	Unions	Keith Nason	NUT representative	Sep 2016
Non-Voting Members	Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families	Cllr Reuben Thompstone	Councillor - Conservative	
Barnet Officers (Non Members)	Director of Adult Social Care and Interim Director of Children’s	Kate Kennally	Children’s Service	
	Director Education & Skills	Ian Harrison	Children’s Service	
Barnet Officers (Non Members continued)	Schools Finance Services Manager	Nick Adams	CSG	
	School Funding Manager	Carol Beckman	CSG	
	Deputy School Funding Manager	Claire Gray	CSG	

	Interim Head of Service, Inclusion and Skills	Penny Richardson	Children's Service	
	Head of Finance, Children's	Catherine Peters	CSG	
	Finance Manager, Children's	Farhana Begum	CSG	
	Schools , Skills and Learning Lead Commissioner	Val White	Children's Service	
EFA Observer	Education Funding Agency	Sue Samson / Bev Pennekett	EFA	

## Item 1: Welcome to New Members

No	Name	Representing
1	Maureen Kelly (Head, St Theresa's)	Primary VA/Foundation Heads
2	Sally Lajalati (Head, Colindale, standing for another 3 years)	Primary Community Heads

## Item 2: Apologies for Absence

	Name	Representing
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

## Item 3: Declarations of Interest

	Name	Interest
1		
2		

## Item 4: Annual Election of Chair and Vice-chair

The Chair and Vice chair of the Schools Forum are appointed for one year. Elections are held at the first meeting of the Schools Forum of each academic year. The current chair is Gilbert Knight, and his vice chair is Tim Bowden. Nominations are now invited for these two posts for the coming 12 months.

Following the election, the newly elected chair will conduct the rest of the meeting.

## Item 5: Minutes of the Last Meeting on 8 July 2014

**Minutes of the Schools Forum Meeting**  
**Tuesday 8 July 2014**  
**(4.00 pm, Oak Room, NLBP)**

Attended	Type of Member	Name	Representing	Member until end
<b>Members</b>	Nursery School Headteacher	Perina Holness	Moss Hall Nursery	May 2017
	Primary Community HT (1)	Jeanette Adak	Monkfrith Primary	Sep 2016
	Primary Community HT (2)	Helen Schmitz	Cromer Road Primary	Sep 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA HT(1)	Dee Oelman	St Mary's & St John's CE	Sep 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA HT(1)	Tim Bowden (VICE-CHAIR)	Holy Trinity CE	Sep 2016
	Primary Community Gov (1)	Elizabeth Pearson	Holly Park/Livingstone	Sep 2016
	Primary Community Gov (1)	Lesley Ludlow	Moss Hall Infants	Apr 2017
	Secondary HT (2)	Jeremy Turner	Friern Barnet	Nov 2014
	Secondary Governor	Patricia French	St Mary's CE High	Dec 2016
	Special School Governor	Gilbert Knight (CHAIR)	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
	Academy Representative (3)	Kate Webster	Queen Elizabeth Girls	Sep 2016
	Academy Representative (5)	Jane Beaumont	Copthall	Jan 2016
	Academy Representative	Jack Newton	Grasvenor Infants	Nov 2015
	Academy Representative	Jo Djora	The Hyde Academy	Jul 2017
	Unions	Keith Nason	National Union of	Sep 2016

			Teachers	
<b>LA Officers</b>	LBB Officer	Ian Harrison	Director for Education & Skills	-
	LBB Officer	Catherine Peters	CSG – Head of Finance	-
	LBB Officer	Carol Beckman	CSG – School Funding	-
	Clerk	Claire Gray	CSG – School Funding	-

<b>Did not attend</b>				
<b>Members</b>	Primary Community HT (3)	Claire Rees	Sunnyfields Primary	Feb 2017
	Primary Community HT (4)	Sally Lajalati	Colindale Primary	Sep 2014
	Primary Community Gov	Catrin Dillon	Martin Primary	Dec 2016
	Primary Foundation/ VA Gov	Anthony Vourou	St Johns CE N11	Sep 2016
	Primary Foundation/VA Gov (2)	Saul Smus	Pardes House Jewish	Apr 2017
	Special School Headteacher	Jenny Gridley	Oakleigh	Sep 2016
	Secondary HT (1)	Seamus McKenna	Finchley Catholic	Nov 2016
	Academy Representative	Angela Trigg	London Academy	Sep 2016
	Academy Representative	Derrick Brown	Ashmole Academy	Jan 2016
	Academy Representative (1)	Michael Whitworth/ Marc Lewis	Wren Academy	Nov 2016
	14-19 Non School Provider	David Byrne	Barnet & Southgate College	Sep 2016
	Pupil Referral Unit	Joanne Kelly	Pavilion PRU	Sep 2016
	Private Early Years Provider	Sarah Vipond	Middlesex Uni. Nursery	Sep 2016
<b>Non-members</b>	EFA Observer	Beverley Pennekett	EFA	
	Elected Member	Cllr R Thompstone	Education, Children & Families	
	LBB Officer	Penny Richardson	SEN Manager	

	LBB Officer	Val White	Lead Commissioner	
	LBB Officer	Kate Kennally	Director for People	
	LBB Officer	Nick Adams	CSG – Financial Services	

<b>1. Welcome to new members</b>
GK welcomed Perina Holness (Moss Hall Nursery) and Jo Djora (The Hyde Primary Academy)
<b>2. Apologies for absence</b>
GK noted the apologies received from Saul Smus, Jenny Gridley, Derrick Brown, Joanne Kelly and Sally Lajalati.
<b>3. Declarations of interest</b>
None.
<b>4. Minutes of previous meeting: 7 May 2014</b>
Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
<b>5. Matters arising</b>
<b>6.3 HN funding arrangements.</b> At the time of circulating the Schools Forum papers, a working group had been established and held one meeting that established the brief and remit of the group. Since then, one further meeting has been held, and David Monger is due to produce a summary of the discussions. The main items discussed were for Headteacher representatives to ensure a common understanding of the HN block, and also the need to change in future.
<b>7.1 Funding for new schools, expansion and bulge classes in 2015/16</b> At the last meeting, members deferred a decision on the level of funding in the circumstances described above. However, recent government proposals about the onus on LAs to fund growing free schools have been announced but Barnet has asked for additional clarification. This discussion forms part of the discussion covered under item 6.3 Budget Pressures for 2015/16, and therefore no decision on this will be required at this meeting. TB advised that following Headteacher discussions at the East Network meeting, the consensus was that £48k bulge class funding is a manageable figure, bearing in mind the growth pressures elsewhere, but with a caveat that individual schools' financial circumstances are taken into consideration.
<b>8 Agenda for next meeting</b> The item on nursery funding has been deferred until the October Schools Forum, as this is still under discussion at officer/ committee level.
<b>6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b>
<b>6.1 Schools Budget Monitoring 2013/14</b>
<b>Catherine Peters</b>
There have been no changes to the 2013/14 DSG outturn since the previous Schools Forum, and forms part of the current financial audit. The main areas that have contributed to the £1.3m underspend total are: increased Early Years pupils/ income lower than expected prior year SEN inter-authority recoupment lower than expected take up of the 2 year old Early Years offer TB commented that although the underspend seems a significant amount of money to schools, it is actually only a 0.5% variance against the total DSG budget, and that Finance officers should be congratulated on this level of accuracy.

**6.2 Revised Schools Budget 2014/15****Catherine Peters**

No revised budget or quarter 1 monitoring is available at this time, but these will be provided at future Schools Forum meetings.

**6.3 Budget Pressures 2015/16****Ian Harrison**

IH presented item 6.3 but highlighted that these are known current pressures, but further details will become available before the 2015/16 budget is finalised in January/ February 2015.

**Income:**

It is anticipated that income will change in light of the following:

- Barnet will benefit from an additional £6 per pupil in Schools Block income as a result of the DfE decision to defer introduction of a National Funding Formula

However, the following items are likely to have an adverse effect on income:

- A bid for increased in-borough HN places, if it is not agreed by the DfE
- A reduction in 2 year old funding, previously based on target pupil numbers and capacity building, but now participation-led funding – a possible reduction of £2m
- No increase for inflation

**Expenditure:**

The expected pressures on expenditure currently appear to be:

- The Schools Block Unit of Funding (SBUF) income is sufficient to cover primary per pupil funding, but in most cases does not cover the cost of the MFG protection provided to secondary schools.
- In a change to current requirements, the onus to provide growth funding for new and growing schools – including free schools – will now fall on the LA, however it is expected that free school diseconomy funding is likely to remain the responsibility of the DfE/ EFA
- HN block pressures – both for increasing places in-borough and higher placement costs
- MFG protection is expected to remain at -1.5%

Current estimates are suggesting a £3m budget gap, although this does change very rapidly through the summer and autumn. It was suggested Schools Forum members might wish to volunteer to form a small working group to look at the budget projections in greater detail between September and January, or alternatively an Extraordinary Schools Forum meeting could be held with only DSG projections on the agenda. This would need to be held in mid-September (prior to October Schools Forum) to discuss in greater detail the budget pressures and how best to manage these. The LA would be unable to produce papers in advance of this meeting, as the information arriving at this time changes too rapidly to facilitate this. The LA would bring 'latest information' and working documents to the meeting.

Discussion points:

KN. If projected pupil numbers are not achieved, is there a clawback arrangement in place?

CB. Not in-year, but in subsequent years there is.

JN/DO: The new responsibilities for growth funding are likely to be an acute pressure, is this

sustainable? Representation should be made by the Schools Forum to elected members and the DfE to highlight the difficulty this creates in the strategic planning of school places in Barnet. How can schools make representation as forcefully as possible?

KW: Will the DfE implement these arrangements regardless of LA views? If so local MPs need to be involved/ pressurised.

IH: The matter will be raised by officers with both Councillors and the DfE.

It was suggested that Cllr Thompstone be invited to attend a Schools Forum meeting to hear members' views.

JN: Advised that he would also raise the matter with the Children's Trust Board on behalf of Schools Forum.

JD: when does the LA find out about new free schools being established?

IH: Usually once a site in the Borough has been identified/ acquired and the management body/ trust established.

JT: Although there are pressures on growth funding, any discussion should also include identifying unfilled classes and schools with reducing pupil numbers.

**Action agreed:** Officers will make arrangements and email members with dates for an additional Extraordinary Schools Forum meeting for September to discuss budget lines in greater detail and address balancing the DSG.

## 7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 Schools End of Year Balances, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

**Author: Nick Adams. Presented by: Ian Harrison**

Appendix 2 shows both revenue and capital balances for maintained schools covering a 3-year period – March 2012 to March 2014 incl. Total revenue balances overall are £15.2m, which is an increase of £2.1m over the reporting period. A number of primary schools have revenue balances in excess of 15% of 2013/14 budget share with the maximum secondary balance being 13% of 2013/14 budget share. Several schools have maintained or increased this percentage revenue balance year-on-year. The facility for automatically clawing back excess revenue funds has been removed from the regulations, but the DfE has advised that it is still possible to request arrangements for this to be implemented locally.

Members agreed that, considering the pressures on the DSG at LA level, these high balances are surprising, and the schools concerned cannot be spending their funding on current pupils. DO felt that if clawback is only applied to maintained schools, there would be objections to this being re-introduced. Academy members commented that part of their independent audit would prevent high balances being maintained, as there is an audit criterion of 'Appropriate use of public money' and they would be subject to greater challenge and scrutiny in this area.

Members discussed either the option of the LA writing to schools that have had high/ increasing balances for the 3-year period, asking for a detailed explanation of the circumstances behind them, or whether Barnet should request permission to re-introduce clawback arrangements. JD commented that as a collective, the Schools Forum has a part to play in the best use of funding to support education for children in Barnet. JT commented that judgement on the reasons for high balances should not be pre-judged until the schools have been contacted. KN asked if schools with low or no balances are helped to manage their budgets. Low or negative balance schools are supported in

providing a 3-year budget plan to rectify their financial position.

PH commented that any letter should go to both Headteachers and the Chair of Governors, as they should also be involved in challenge/ scrutiny of high balances, and the finance committee minutes should record the intended use of these balances.

**Action agreed:** Members agreed that letters to Headteachers and Chairs of Governors should be sent where schools have had revenue balances of 12% or more over the last 3 years, asking for expenditure plans. Letters will also be sent to those schools with a 2013/14 outturn balance exceeding 20% to the same effect. These 'challenge' letters to be sent out annually.

#### **8. Draft agenda for next meeting**

Addendum: first item, election of Schools Forum Chair and Vice Chair.

Amendment to item 7.4 – Nursery Funding report, replacing Nursery Funding in 2015/16.

Item 7.5 – Funding formula and budget for 2015/16, **including use of 2013/14 underspend.**

#### **9. Any other business**

GK passed his thanks to members for their contribution to Schools Forum over this academic year, and wished everyone a good summer break.

Meeting closed 5:20pm

## **Item 6: Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

**Item 6.3 – Budget Pressures.** Although the initial illustrations from the DfE showed that Barnet could expect to receive an extra £6 per pupil in the DSG schools block, when the final figures were released in June, Barnet's funding per pupil is unchanged for 2015/16 at £4998 per pupil.

**Item 6.3 – Budget Pressures.** An additional meeting of the Schools Forum to discuss the budget for 2015/16 was held for 24<sup>th</sup> September. Minutes will be distributed to members before the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Item 7.1 – End of Year balances.** The first annual 'challenge' letters have been sent to the Heads and Chairs of Governors of all schools with revenue balances of 12% or more over the last 3 years or with a 2013/14 outturn balance exceeding 20%.

## Item 7.1 Budget Monitoring, 2014-15 Quarter 1

**Author: Catherine Peters, Head of Finance**

### Introduction

This report shows the position which was reported as part of the Quarter one Budget and Performance Monitoring 2014/15 to the Performance and Contract Management Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. It is presented to Schools Forum to note. The details are contained in Appendix 1.

### 2014/15 Schools budget

The following budget changes have been made since the budget was reported to Schools Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014:

- Reductions relating to
  - Post 16 funding from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) - £441k
  - Noam school which has not converted to maintained school status - £509k
  - National Copyright Licences (CPL). The DfE purchases a single national licence for all schools/academies. The amount is deducted from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - £140k
  
- Additional funding received for three and four year olds. This is a late funding adjustment relating to 2013/14 - £495k

The changes and S251 line reference numbers can be seen in Appendix 2.

### 2014/15 Schools budget monitoring

The first quarter monitoring position forecasts an overall balanced position as at June 2014.

This is a net position of the following main over and underspends:

S251 Line reference	Main reasons for over/underspend	£'000
1.0.1	Underspend on payments to providers for two year olds	(174)
1.2.1, 1.2.2 & 1.2.3	This is the net position relating to top up funding for high needs in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintained provider schools (nursery, primary and secondary) including those who are out of borough.</li> <li>• academy and free schools and additional funding for high needs pupils in Academy ARPs and</li> <li>• independent and non-maintained special schools, pre and post 16</li> </ul>	140

	This is the net overspend relating to increased top ups.	
1.2.5	Reduced spend on therapies budget for children with high needs	(9)
1.2.6	Transitional funding for Discovery Bay	18
1.4.1	Salary underspends	(7)
1.4.10	Growth – Overspend based on current commitments – higher growth than initially estimated	32

**Previous reports to the Forum:**

- 7 May 2014 noted budget changes

**7.1 Action:** To note the revisions to the budget and the quarter one monitoring position for 2014/15 and to agree to receive further budget monitoring reports at future meetings.

Schools Budget 2014/15							APPENDIX 1
Schools Forum May 2014					Quarter 1		
		Gross Budget	Recoupment	Net Budget	Budget changes	Revised budget	Reason for Budget change
EXPENDITURE							
<b>Schools Block</b>							
		£	£	£	£	£	
1.0.1	Individual Schools Budget	243,359,310	(73,264,852)	170,094,458	(455,407)	169,639,051	Reduced funding for (1) Post 16 - £440,913 from EFA (2) Noam School £509,228 and late receipt of 2013/14 additional funding for 3 & 4 year olds £494,734
1.1.1	Contingencies	597,000	0	597,000		597,000	
1.1.2	Behaviour Support Services	76,326	0	76,326		76,326	
1.1.3	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	86,191	0	86,191		86,191	
1.1.8	Staff costs - supply cover excluding cover for facility time	46,518	0	46,518		46,518	
1.1.9	Staff costs - supply cover for facility time	46,518	0	46,518		46,518	
		<b>244,211,863</b>	<b>(73,264,852)</b>	<b>170,947,011</b>	<b>(455,407)</b>	<b>170,491,604</b>	
<b>High Needs Block</b>							
1.2.1	Top-up funding - maintained schools	17,296,449	0	17,296,449		17,296,449	
1.2.2	Top-up funding - academies, free schools and colleges	6,236,399	0	6,236,399		6,236,399	
1.2.3	Top-up and other funding - non-maintained and independent providers	11,138,864	0	11,138,864		11,138,864	
1.2.5	SEN support services	3,073,893	0	3,073,893		3,073,893	
1.2.6	Hospital education services	438,006	0	438,006		438,006	
		<b>38,183,611</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,183,611</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,183,611</b>	
<b>Early Years Block</b>							
1.3.1	Central expenditure on children under 5	1,254,072	0	1,254,072		1,254,072	
		<b>1,254,072</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,254,072</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,254,072</b>	
<b>Central Block</b>							
1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	777,892	0	777,892		777,892	
1.4.2	School Admissions	361,200	0	361,200		361,200	
1.4.3	Servicing of schools forums	34,680	0	34,680		34,680	
1.4.10	Pupil growth / Infant class sizes	1,853,020	0	1,853,020		1,853,020	
1.4.11	SEN transport	400,000	0	400,000		400,000	
1.4.13	Other items	246,500	0	246,500	(140,000)	106,500	Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) - reduced income from EFA due to central national licences being arranged for all schools and academies directly by the Department
		<b>3,673,292</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,673,292</b>	<b>(140,000)</b>	<b>3,533,292</b>	
		<b>287,322,838</b>	<b>(73,264,852)</b>	<b>214,057,986</b>	<b>(595,407)</b>	<b>213,462,579</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>							
1.7.1	Estimated Dedicated Schools Grant for 2014-15	(277,774,365)	73,264,852	(204,509,513)	154,494	(204,355,019)	Reduced funding for (1) Noam School £509,228 and (2) CLA deducted centrally from DSG and late receipt of 2013/14 additional funding for 3 & 4 year olds £494,734
1.7.2	Dedicated Schools Grant b/f from 2013/14	(2,332,981)	0	(2,332,981)		(2,332,981)	
1.7.4	EFA funding	(7,215,492)	0	(7,215,492)	440,913	(6,774,579)	Reduced funding for Post 16 from EFA
		<b>(287,322,838)</b>	<b>73,264,852</b>	<b>(214,057,986)</b>	<b>595,407</b>	<b>(213,462,579)</b>	

2014/15 BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 1		Quarter 1 - Budget Monitoring		Variance		Explanation	
EXPENDITURE		Budget		Projection		Variance	
		£	£	£	£		
<b>Schools Block</b>							
1.0.1	Individual Schools Budget	169,639,051	169,465,051	(174,000)	Underspend on 2 year old free entitlement		
1.1.1	Contingencies	597,000	597,000	0			
1.1.2	Behaviour Support Services	76,326	76,326	0			
1.1.3	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	86,191	86,191	0			
1.1.8	Staff costs - supply cover excluding cover for facility time	46,518	46,518	0			
1.1.9	Staff costs - supply cover for facility time	46,518	46,518	0			
		<b>170,491,604</b>	<b>170,317,604</b>	<b>(174,000)</b>			
<b>High Needs Block</b>							
1.2.1	Top-up funding - maintained schools	17,296,449	17,295,065	(1,384)			
1.2.2	Top-up funding - academies, free schools and colleges	6,236,399	6,719,752	483,353	Increased statement top ups		
1.2.3	Top-up and other funding - non-maintained and independent providers	11,138,864	10,796,697	(342,167)	Reduction in use of more expensive placements and some fees		
1.2.5	SEN support services	3,073,893	3,064,320	(9,573)	Reduced spend on therapies		
1.2.6	Hospital education services	438,006	456,006	18,000	Transitional Funding for Discovery Bay		
		<b>38,183,611</b>	<b>38,331,840</b>	<b>148,229</b>			
<b>Early Years Block</b>							
1.3.1	Central expenditure on children under 5	1,254,072	1,254,072	0			
		<b>1,254,072</b>	<b>1,254,072</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>Central Block</b>							
1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	777,892	771,188	(6,704)	Salary underspends		
1.4.2	School Admissions	361,200	361,200	0			
1.4.3	Servicing of schools forums	34,680	34,680	0			
1.4.10	Pupil growth / Infant class sizes	1,853,020	1,885,495	32,475	Higher growth than initially estimated		
1.4.11	SEN transport	400,000	400,000	0			
1.4.13	Other items	106,500	106,500	0			
		<b>3,533,292</b>	<b>3,559,063</b>	<b>25,771</b>			
		<b>213,462,579</b>	<b>213,462,579</b>	<b>0</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>							
1.7.1	Estimated Dedicated Schools Grant for 2014-15	(204,355,019)	(204,355,019)	0			
1.7.2	Dedicated Schools Grant b/f from 2013/14	(2,332,981)	(2,332,981)	0			
1.7.4	EFA funding	(6,774,579)	(6,774,579)	0			
		<b>(213,462,579)</b>	<b>(213,462,579)</b>	<b>0</b>			

APPENDIX 2

## Item 7.2 SEN Working group progress report

**Author: Penny Richardson / David Monger**

The minutes of the meetings of the SEN Working group on 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June appear below:

### **Schools Forum - High Needs Working Funding Group**

#### **Notes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

##### **Present:**

Helen Schmitz, Cromer Road Primary  
Jo Kelly, The Pavilion PRU  
Jeanette Adak, Monkfrith Primary  
Niamh Arnull, St James High  
Geraldine Pears, Blessed Dominic  
Suzy Stone, Akiva Primary  
Jane Beaumont, Cophthall  
Jack Newton, Grasvenor Avenue Infant and Underhill Junior Schools  
Helena Cohen, Beis Yaakov  
Penny Richardson, Interim Head of Service – Inclusion and Skills  
David Monger- Consultant, Inclusion and Skills

##### **Apologies:**

Teresa Tunnadine, Compton  
Jody McCallum, Hampden Way Nursery  
Rabbi D Meyer, Hasmonian High  
Phil Taylor, All Saints NW2  
Sally Lajalati, Colindale Primary  
Angela Trigg, London Academy

### **1. Terms of Reference**

The following terms of reference were agreed:

*The implementation of the High Needs Funding arrangements in Barnet is largely built on applying a new methodology to the historic distribution of High Needs Funding. Whilst the School Funding team implemented the rules appropriately, the extent to which the strategic leadership of SEN played a part in this was limited.*

*Since November 2013, there has been a systematic approach to ensuring that the Local Authority's responsibilities for the implementation of the HN scheme are developed and applied in a way that:*

- *Supports and complements the statutory process*
- *Deals with demand led approaches to pupil led funding*
- *Moves funding decisions from a culture of hourly worth to funding bands supported with provision descriptors*
- *Is supported with robust, transparent and consistent decision making*

*There are a number of current workstreams that link together, and ensuring the right connections is necessary to provide a coherent framework of top-up funding bands, provision descriptors and guidance to schools and settings.*

*In order to engage dynamically with head teachers with an interest in the overall shape and structure of school funding, the working group, formed from head teachers, many of whom are on the Schools Forum is charged with a brief to:*

- *Provide advice, support and challenge to funding and SEN officers*
- *Support the development work by enabling a focus group with whom officers can explore specific matters that arise*
- *Assist in the drafting of guidance to schools and settings*
- *Assist in the development of structures to support decision making on the distribution of pupil level funding bands to schools*

*It is expected that there will be no more than 5 meetings between June and November, and that a report will be brought to the Schools Forum in the new academic year to set out progress and recommendations for 15/16 financial year.*

## **2. High Needs Funding Models 2015/16**

David Monger spoke to a presentation regarding the work currently underway to review the High Needs Funding arrangements for 2015/16. The rules regarding the determination of place and top-up numbers were explained, including the “lagged learner” approach to additional in-year places.

Top-up allocations are required to change with the real-time movement of pupils. It was agreed that the current system of changes made at the end of each month should be maintained.

It was noted that the new system of bands with descriptors was a significant move away from the currency of TA hours to a system based on the provision required. It was agreed that a robust moderation mechanism involving Headteachers would be required to ensure confidence in the equity of resource distribution.

The following work programme was agreed for future meetings of the Group:

- developing a familiarity with the activity of workstreams on mainstream, ARPS and Special School funding;
  - considering how guidance should be provided to schools;
  - contributing to development of banding levels and consistency between settings;
  - comparing outcomes and funding levels- what are we getting for our money?
  - reviewing the effectiveness of systems, e.g. resource drift, requests for reviews of banding levels, operation of moderation mechanism;
  - distribution of SEN across schools, guidance on acceptable levels of SEN in one class and how this is tracked;
  - LAC, numbers statemented and pattern of provision;
  - potential alternative patterns of provision for SEN generally.
- 

### **Schools Forum - High Needs Working Funding Group**

#### **Notes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

##### **Present:**

Jo Kelly, The Pavilion PRU  
Jack Newton, Grasvenor Avenue Infant and Underhill Junior Schools  
Helen Schmitz, Cromer Road Primary  
Angela Trigg, London Academy  
Carol Smith, Compton  
Denise Bradshaw, Compton  
Penny Richardson, Interim Head of Service – Inclusion and Skills  
Carol Beckman, School Funding Manager  
David Monger- Consultant, Inclusion and Skills

##### **Apologies:**

Jeanette Adak, Monkfrith Primary  
Niamh Arnull, St James High  
Jane Beaumont, Copthall  
Helena Cohen, Beis Yaakov  
Sally Lajalati, Colindale Primary  
Jody McCallum, Hampden Way Nursery  
Rabbi D Meyer, Hasmonean High  
Geraldine Pears, Blessed Dominic  
Suzy Stone, Akiva Primary  
Phil Taylor, All Saints NW2

### **3. Notes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

The notes were agreed.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Carol Beckman reported that work had already started on preparing the budget for 2015/16 and this would be discussed at School's Forum meeting in the Autumn term.

#### **5. Update on the development of High Needs Funding Arrangements 2015/16**

The group received a report dealing with:

- i. Access routes to pupil level funding in the High Needs budget, and
- ii. Progress towards a consolidated framework of top up funding bands for mainstream, special schools and resourced provisions.
- iii. Plans to reduce spending on non-maintained and independent schools and independent special schools
- iv. Plans to improve the contract management of therapy costs and to reduce unnecessary referrals whilst building capacity at school level.

There are a number of decisions that lead, or are likely to lead, to a school being funded for a named pupil through a new allocation from the High Needs budget. These are decisions to:

- i. undertake a statutory assessment / Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment
- ii. make a statement / EHC Plan
- iii. admit a child to a special school
- iv. admit a child to a resourced provision
- v. agree placement in a PRU
- vi. provide home teaching or outreach for a child who is ill and unable to attend school
- vii. provide Early Years Inclusion funding to children in PVI settings
- viii. provide medical pathway funding
- ix. provide specialist equipment
- x. provide funding to a very small number of very high needs pupils who move into Barnet, often from abroad

In addition the SEN Tribunal can determine a change to a name of a school or to the level of support a child needs.

It was proposed to re-institute the SEN Panel with headteacher representation

A finite budget for enhanced support has been allocated to Early Years Specialist SEN services. Following instructions given 12-15 months ago, time limited allocations were given, generally for 3 terms and often for high levels of funding. When these time limited allocations were ended, early years settings have either been advised to or have decided to seek statements to secure recurrent top-up funding. By this time the young child's learning has developed a dependence on very high levels of additional support, in addition to a core

1:8 ratio in the setting. Numbers of new statements for children between Year N2 and Reception increased threefold between 2010 and 2013.

In discussion with the Early Years SEN service the following response is being put in place:

- Introduce an alternative to issuing statements / EHC plans so early by extending the time span over which top-up funding is available without the need for a statement / EHC Plan into Reception year so that there is continuity in education.
- Enable handover liaison and continuing advice from the pre-school specialist teacher into the school setting.
- Put in place mechanisms to alert the EPS earlier about very high needs pupils (currently the first engagement is often through statutory assessment)
- Enable the receiving school to have time to do a proper consideration of the child's learning potential and to monitor the impact of appropriate strategies on learning progress within full time education.
- Align decision making on the allocation of early years inclusion funding with decision making, including the deployment of Early Years specialists, for other top-up funding.

It was noted that there had been 69 requests for statutory assessments in the first three months of this year, of which 39 were agreed. There was an increase in SEN appeals against refusal to assess. The single most common reason for appeals was to secure additional funding and there was typically a strong alliance between parents and schools in these cases, indicating a potential use of the SEN Tribunal system to secure increased allocations from the High Needs budget.

However, there is no right of appeal to the Tribunal against the funding band decision made by a Local Authority. A funding band is the application of the school funding scheme and should be included in related but separate correspondence at the time of consulting a school about a potential placement and when the statement is confirmed. If a school says that it believes the child needs 1:1 support all the time, then this could be written into the statement by the Tribunal, but it would not influence the moderated decision made by the Local Authority about the funding band, and the school would be left with a requirement to make very specific provision but within the same funding band.

A working group of headteachers has been established that will be involved in advising on and moderating of Local Authority decision making processes.

The actions being taken to bring together various access points to the High Needs Budget include:

- i. Introducing mechanisms to sustain enhanced funding for very young children into Reception classes, without the need for a statement, to ensure continuity and phase transfer and in order to allow time for purposeful interventions to take place

- ii. Include decision making for medical top-up funding to be made within the moderated decision making structures of a decision making panel
- iii. Include decision making for exceptional and very high needs pupils who arrive with no notice into Barnet schools to have top-up support pending involvement by specialist fieldwork staff
- iv. Take some areas of ad hoc funding and include these within the developing structure of top-up funding, for example, developing enhanced top-up bands to deal with the specific and high costs issues linked to specialist equipment for hearing and visually impaired pupils and those with mobility support needs.

The majority of High Needs funding is allocated via statements of SEN. For mainstream schools, units of funding equivalent to a number of TA hours are used as funding bands. The next step is to develop descriptors of provision that demonstrate the difference between each funding band. The issue of equipment and the possibility of an annualised allowance to be included in the banding figure were raised.

Currently there is an imbalance in the distribution of funding bands, with all but 20 pupils (2.6% of all pupils with statements supported in mainstream schools) receiving funding bands B to E and two thirds being funded at band E. Members asked for an annual analysis of patterns of the allocation of top-up bands.

The values of top-up bands in Special Schools and Resourced Provisions (RPs) (see below) have emerged from each school's former budget, divided by a fixed number of places after the initial standard £10,000 per place is deducted. There is a significant range in the value of top up bands across resourced provisions and special schools. There are variations in what each special school and resourced provision funds with its delegated budget, including the provision of therapies. An exercise is currently underway to analyse how each RP and special school spends its budget.

In PRUs the number of places does not always equate to the number of pupils at any one time, as pupils can attend for different amounts of time each week. Some provisions (Orion and Danegrove) are funded as PRUs but do not operate as PRUs. Government guidance indicates that schools can commission places in PRUs, with a funding value equivalent to the top-up value. There is a need to develop a clear funding strategy for PRUs to enable the proper determination of places and a compliant and intelligent methodology for managing top-up funding. Work is underway with PRU head teachers.

There have been recurrent increases in spend on non-maintained and independent school and special school placements. Detailed analysis has been on-going and a full day planning meeting took place in early May to:

- v. Allocate officers to review meetings where there may be a possibility of planning for a transition of the young person back to Barnet

- vi. Consider what it is about these schools that is not provided locally and to factor this into the review of future specialist provision needs
- vii. Allocate officers to review meetings where there needs to be consideration of whether out of authority post 16 educational provision is needed, or whether local post 16 provision is suitable.

The Local Authority commissions Speech and Language therapy from the East London NHS Trust for pupils with and without statements. Whilst this arrangement works well most of the time, it is unable to meet all demands and there remains a set of smaller therapy contracts with smaller providers that do not all represent good value for money.

No formal contract exists for occupational therapy (OT), and there is a growing demand. Discussions are taking place with Joint Commissioners and providers to secure a contract that will lead to more predictability in spending. In the area of OT, the number of referrals from schools is increasing significantly and, on review of some of these and through discussion with the service provider, it is clear that some schools are seeking an OT assessment for matters that do not lead to barriers to learning or present classroom challenges that are beyond a teacher to address.

There is agreement with the NHS provider of OT services to work with the Inclusion and Skills Service through enabling the appointment of an OT consultant within Inclusion and Skills, working across schools and settings, to develop enhanced awareness of when a referral for assessment is necessary and what activities can be carried out in schools as part of the everyday classroom curriculum. In year vacancy savings will fund a one year secondment and the aim is to reduce unnecessary and time consuming referrals and build better understanding across schools and settings.

Members of the Schools Forum High Needs Funding Working Group noted the significant amount of work that needs to be undertaken at the same time as implementing legislative reform in SEN.

**Dates of Future Meetings:**

The next meeting will be arranged following the October meeting of the Schools Forum.

**7.2 Action:** *Members to note progress to date and await future reports*

## Item 7.3 High Needs places to be commissioned for the 2015/16 financial year

**Author: Penny Richardson / David Monger**

### 1. Introduction

We have recently completed a project to review the future need for provision for children and young people with special educational needs. This has enabled us to quantify with greater certainty the future demands for specialist places, and to develop plans for how best to provide these. Further work is now underway to develop new models of provision and it is intended that these will be the subject of consultation with Headteachers and Governors during the Autumn and Spring terms.

As the report draws largely on historical data, we have continued to refer to statements of SEN, although these will increasingly be replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans from this month.

### 2. Pattern of Statements in Barnet

The table below shows that the proportion of statements maintained by Barnet has grown dramatically over 5 years in comparison to national and regional trends. Barnet's general school age population grew by 7.8% over the same period, which is faster than the national average and therefore some discrepancy between Barnet's and the average increase would be expected. However, the rate of increase is almost double that which demographic growth would have predicted. Only two of our London statistical neighbour authorities have seen higher proportionate growth in the number of statements maintained over this period

National & Regional Comparators	2009	2013	% Increase
England	228,895	233,430	2.0
London	36,460	39,165	7.4
Outer London	23,120	24,680	6.7
London Statistical Neighbours	9,025	9,795	8.5
Barnet	1,500	1,710	14.0

Barnet is an inclusive authority. 57% of pupils (997 of a total of 1751) with a statement of special educational needs maintained by Barnet are placed in mainstream settings, a level

which is significantly higher than our statistical neighbours and other Outer London boroughs, where a larger proportion attend specialist provision. Specialist provision is required to meet the needs of the remainder. Some of this is offered by attached resourced provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools, with a greater number of places provided by Barnet's four special schools. Additionally, a number of pupils with statements are placed in the special schools of other local authorities. In February 2014, almost 10% (167) of pupils with a statement issued by Barnet were placed in a non-maintained or independent provision, including 35 in expensive residential settings.

Most of the additional requirements are driven by the increase in the numbers of children with a diagnosis of Autism or identified as having Speech, Language and Communication difficulties. We need to develop a strategy to enable primary and secondary schools to cope better with these children and this may require, in some instances, a small amount of capital investment to enable schools to make physical adaptations to their buildings, e.g. in the creation of appropriate low sensory environments and spaces for the delivery of therapies.

The current pattern of provision of specialist places has grown reactively over time. As a result, it does not meet with the geographic spread of demand across the borough, resulting in a significant and growing transport cost and long journeys for children. There is clear evidence that most parents wish for provision to be as local as possible.

### **3. Implications for Capital requirements**

The review has provided forecasts of levels of specialist places required through to 2040, in order to get a long-term view of future needs as any capital investment needs to be justified over this sort of timescale. It is however a very long timescale in the world of SEN, where patterns can shift in a relatively short period, legislative changes have a significant impact and new practice can suggest radically different models of delivery. Nonetheless, it has enabled us to take a reasonably firm medium term view in planning for additional requirements.

In addition to the demographic changes, investment is also required to support the programme already underway to reduce dependency on expensive placements in independent and residential provision, which are often the result of a lack of suitable local facilities for reasons of lack of space and a suitable physical environment.

Putting the two threads of increased demand, demographic and reducing dependence on the independent sector, the following additional demands need to be planned for before 2020:

Places	Primary ASD/SLCN	Secondary ASD/SLCN	Primary BESD	Secondary MLD
Demography	18	45	2	11
Reduce Dependency on Expensive Placements	10	10	8	5
TOTAL	28	55	10	16

In order to address the issues of providing provision as locally as possible, both to meet parental aspirations and to reduce transport costs, we will be consulting over the Autumn term on models which assume the development of small units rather than, for example, a new special school. This would also provide more flexibility for adapting to changes in future requirements.

#### 4. Statementing Trends

We have assumed as a base point that the level of statements /EHCPs will remain at about the same level as at present. This reflects an assumed balance between tighter gatekeeping that slows the rate of growth witnessed over the past few years and the increasing pressure from the growth in the ASD/SLCN categories.

The resident population, rather than school population, is the most appropriate basis for determining the future number of statements/ EHCPs, as this relates directly to the responsibility for provision. We have therefore calculated the percentage of statements/EHCPs on this basis. The figures therefore may look different from those generally used by the DfE in their statistical analyses. Also, the actual number of statements is higher in secondary schools than primary, as more pupils cope with primary than secondary mainstream provision, but the percentage of statements within the 11-19 population is lower than that for the 5-11 age range, largely as a result of the previously different arrangements for SEN post 16.

The table below applies the current statementing rate by sector to the forecast population numbers:

Year	Primary	Secondary	Total	No of Primary Statements	% of Resident Pop	No of Sec Statements	% of Resident Pop	Total Statements	% of Resident Pop
2011	26,700	37,900	64,600						
2012	27,800	38,100	65,900	<b>715</b>	<b>2.57%</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>2.32%</b>	<b>1676</b>	<b>2.54%</b>
2013	29,000	38,500	67,500	<b>736</b>	<b>2.54%</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>2.27%</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>2.53%</b>
2014	29,900	38,800	68,700	<b>771</b>	<b>2.58%</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>2.28%</b>	<b>1751</b>	<b>2.55%</b>
2015	31,000	39,100	70,100	799	2.58%	893	2.28%	1787	2.55%
2016	31,600	39,300	70,900	815	2.58%	897	2.28%	1807	2.55%
2017	32,200	39,700	71,900	830	2.58%	907	2.28%	1833	2.55%
2018	32,600	40,200	72,800	841	2.58%	918	2.28%	1855	2.55%
2019	32,800	40,900	73,700	846	2.58%	934	2.28%	1878	2.55%
2020	33,100	41,600	74,700	854	2.58%	950	2.28%	1904	2.55%

Based on this analysis, we anticipate that there will be a net increase of about 36 statements/EHCPs to be supported in 2015/16. This will form the basis of our submission to the Department for Education for additional funding through the High Needs Funding Block for 2015-16. The proposed places to be commissioned are set out in the Annex to this report.

##### **5. Implications of Planned Capacities for 2015-16 for the High Needs Funding Block**

The review has looked closely at the places likely to be commissioned in the 2015-16 financial year. This work has been based on the data at the end of the 2013-14 school year and will be revisited for the November meeting of the Forum, when the data for September 2014 is fully available which will give a more accurate picture, particularly with regard to post-16 provision, which is the most volatile. At the moment, it is assumed that the costs of post-16 placements will be static, but there may be some savings to be achieved here, as it is hoped that the opening of the new facilities at Barnet and Southgate College will lead to a reduction in placements with Independent Specialist Providers.

Members of Schools Forum will note in particular that the actions to reduce expenditure on expensive independent specialist provision reported previously to the Forum have already had a beneficial impact. Although it is estimated there will be an additional 36 statements/EHCPs in 2015-16, the movement from more expensive provision to supported

mainstream and a small increase in local specialist provision means that the net result is that, at this early stage of the analysis, we estimate that costs for 2015/16 would be not far from the current level of the High Needs Funding Block.

### **5.1. Special School Places**

An additional 6 places will be provided in 2015-16 as a result of minor capital developments at Oakleigh and Mapledown. These would cost about £240,000 if current levels of top-up funding were maintained.

### **5.2. Resource Provisions**

The capacity of the Resource Provisions will be increased by 15 additional places, at Hendon ASD ARP, J-Coss, Oak Hill Campus and the new provision at Orion. These would cost about £450,000 if current levels of top-up funding were maintained.

### **5.3. PRUs**

The High Needs place return to the DfE will reflect the proposed closure of Discovery Bay and its re-opening as part of the wider Pavilion PRU. The number of places remains as at present.

### **5.4. Mainstream Schools**

We estimate there will be the equivalent of about 15 more statemented children in mainstream schools in 2015-16 than over the course of this financial year. These would cost about £210,000 if current levels of top-up funding were maintained.

## **6. Out of Borough and Independent Provision**

The pattern of use of out of borough and independent schools has grown steadily over the past three years with a slight shift towards the independent sector. This has been mainly the result of the lack of capacity in our maintained specialist provision, particularly for secondary age pupils:

January Census	Maintained Mainstream and Academies	Maintained and Academy ARPs	Maintained and Academy Day Special	Independent Special	Other Independent School	Residential Placement	Total
2012	151	3	41	61	45	35	336
2013	142	3	51	61	48	33	338
2014	139	4	37	76	56	35	347
August 2014	133	4	51	89	66	41	384

### 6.1. Other Local Authority Provision

As shown in the table above, there has been an increase in the use of other local authority (OLA) special schools, largely as our special schools are operating at full capacity. The unit costs of these have increased over the past year, largely as a result of the introduction of new banding arrangements and the placement of children with higher levels of SEN, but this was anticipated in the budget set for 2014-15, as was a continuing increase in the number of placements in all sectors.

Average Notional Unit Cost	OLA Maintained Primary	OLA Maintained Secondary	OLA Maintained Special
<b>2013-14</b>	£ 10,434	£ 8,888	£ 12,953
<b>2014-15</b>	£ 10,102	£ 9,419	£ 17,873

The major reason for the continuing increase in the numbers of placements in OLA provision was a bulge in secondary placements starting in 2012 which has now reached years 11 and 12, as shown below (the data is for the 2013/14 academic year):

Year Group	OLA Maintained		
	Primary	Secondary	Special
N	0	0	0
R	2	0	0
1	2	0	1
2	5	0	0
3	7	0	1
4	5	0	1
5	9	1	4
6	8	0	2
7	10	2	1
8	2	6	4
9	0	9	8
10	0	14	4
11	1	15	6
12	0	16	9
13	0	12	3
14	0	6	6
15	0	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>53</b>

As can be seen, there has been considerable success in challenging demands for additional support which has resulted in fewer cases in the lower year groups. As a result, the budget provision for 2014-15 has proved to be overly cautious.

We anticipate therefore that the numbers will start to fall in 2015-16 and that unit costs will remain broadly as they are.

## 6.2. Non-Maintained and Independent Day Provision and Residential Placements

As shown in the table in para 6 above, the numbers of placements in Non-Maintained and Independent Day and Residential schools have increased substantially over the past few years, largely as a result of a bulge year now entering Year 12, which will leave over the next two school years. The pattern in earlier year groups is for numbers to return to smaller cohorts (see table below). This is the result of a considerable amount of work undertaken to restrict the numbers of such placements, including challenging over 30 cases at tribunal, and to review those already made. It will however take a little while to bear full fruit.

Independent and Non-Maintained				
Year Group	Independent Special	Other Independent School	Residential	Total
N	0	0	0	0
R	1	0	0	1
1	2	1	0	3
2	2	0	0	2
3	2	1	0	3
4	3	5	1	9
5	7	4	0	11
6	6	2	0	8
7	7	5	1	13
8	8	4	2	14
9	8	8	3	19
10	5	3	6	14
11	8	5	5	18

12	14	11	10	35
13	6	8	3	17
14	7	6	5	18
15	3	3	5	11

Independent Mainstream Primary	Independent Mainstream Secondary	Independent Special Day	Non-Maintained Special Day	Independent Special Residential	
£ 17,523	£ 19,642	£ 38,256	£ 47,057	£ 151,419	
£ 18,479	£ 19,034	£ 39,016	£ 50,999	£ 153,926	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>196</b>

The trend in recent years has been for the unit costs for these placements to increase substantially, but we have challenged robustly any requests for fee increases this year. As a result, costs have been more stable this year.

The end result is that the increase in the number of places has been slightly less than anticipated. Given the expensive nature of such placements, this has a substantial effect on the budget.

## 7. Summary

It should be noted that these are provisional figures which will be revised in November. Taking the changes noted above into account, the position is not far from the current level of these elements within the High Needs Funding Block.

Decisions regarding whether to constrain the changes within the current or a lower level of funding or whether to meet the costs of additional pressures will of course depend on the wider budget deliberations of the Forum and the impact of the data for actual numbers this term.

### 7.3 Action:

- a) The Schools Forum is asked to note the current estimated position for the High Needs Funding Block for 2015-16.
- b) The Schools Forum is asked to note the proposed consultation with Headteachers and Governors on future models of delivery of specialist provision over the Autumn and Spring terms.
- c) The Schools Forum is asked to note the proposed number of places in Barnet's specialist provision for 2015-16 and the intention to bid to the Department for Education for the additional places to be reflected in Barnet's High Needs Funding Block.
- d) The Schools Forum is asked to note that a zero-base review of numbers and costs of SEN placements will be undertaken and a revised budget forecast will be reported to the Forum in December.

	CC	CC Desc	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Difference
<b>Ind &amp; NMSS Res</b>	11415	Ind. SS Res.	£3,000,000	£2,900,000	£-100,000
	11414	NMSS Res.	£810,000	£810,000	£0
<b>Ind &amp; NMSS Day</b>	11444	Nurseries	£89,340	£96,000	£6,660
	11445	Ind. Mainstream	£1,174,300	£1,180,000	£5,700
	11427	NMSS Day	£750,000	£750,000	£0
	11429	Ind. SS Day	£3,170,000	£3,000,000	£-170,000
<b>Maint &amp; Acad OOB</b>	11437	OOB Maint Primary	£620,000	£450,000	£-170,000
	11440	OOB Maint Secondary	£760,000	£600,000	£-160,000
	11413	OOB Maint Special	£1,298,100	£1,100,000	£-198,100
	11418	OOB Academy Primary	£17,218	£26,500	£9,282
	11417	OOB Academy Secondary	£190,000	£220,000	£30,000
	11420	OOB Academy Special	£43,000	£130,000	£87,000
<b>Other</b>	10199	Children's centres	£39,737	£35,000	£-4,737
	10194	Therapies (spot purchase)	£200,000	£230,000	£30,000
		Therapies (block contract)	£500,000	£475,000	£-25,000
	11410	Specialist packages	£450,000	£450,000	£0
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>			£13,111,695	£12,452,500	£-659,195
Additional Requirements		Special School Places			240000
		ARP Places			450000
		Mainstream			210000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>					£900,000
<b>TOTAL CHANGE</b>					£240,805

### 7.3 High Needs Places



## **Item 8.1 – Pupil Premium for Looked after Children 2014/15**

**Author: Ian Harrison / Glinys Weller**

Pupil Premium Looked after Children funding is provided to Local Authorities to help improve the attainment of looked after children and to close the attainment gap between this group and their peers. The grant allocation is managed by the Virtual School head. This is a statutory requirement (Children and Families Act 2014).

From 1 April 2014 the Pupil Premium can provide up to £1900 for each looked after child of statutory school age. However, some children may get more and some less depending on an assessment of their needs. Children and young people will be eligible as soon as they enter care.

Each looked after child should have a personal education plan (PEP). This is part of the care plan and should specify the details of the pupil premium spend and the expected impact on the child's progress and attainment. The social worker will initiate the PEP and the detail will be decided through consultation with the designated teacher, supported by the Virtual School. Contributions from the carer and other relevant professionals will be an important part of the process of formulating and reviewing the PEP.

The pupil premium will only be allocated to meet the needs identified in a high quality PEP with clear educational and other measurable targets for improvement. For example:

- Raising the level of achievement and progress through individual tuition.
- Supporting achievement in an area where a child is gifted and talented. E.g. music lessons, maths challenge
- Improving attendance
- Supporting a smooth transition to the next key stage or new place of learning.

The Council is planning to allocate a flat rate of £500 per term for each looked after child although this will be reviewed on a case by case basis in the light of PEP monitoring. The PEP will usually be managed in school by the designated teacher with the governing body providing strategic oversight of the arrangements. PEPs will need to be monitored closely by designated teachers, Virtual School staff, social workers and reviewing officers.

The centrally retained element of the Pupil Premium will be used to provide extra support for children and young people who require it. Some of the funds will also be used to commission high quality training for designated teachers across the authority and to identify effective practice which will be shared in the form of case studies. The central fund will also provide for children and young people coming in to care. In these cases the school will receive the initial grant immediately. This will be at the flat rate of £500 and not pro-rata to the remaining proportion of the term.

The Council is proposing that before Looked after Children pupil premium is paid to schools (whether in-Borough or out-Borough), the school must complete and return a form showing outcomes and achievements against the child's personal education plan and details of expenditure. It is proposed that if PEP objectives are being met, additional payments are made of £500 for the second and each subsequent term. That will leave £400 per pupil per year to be managed by the Virtual School Headteacher for the purposes indicated above (training, sharing good practice etc.).

Children educated in Barnet but looked after by another local authority, will have their Pupil Premium paid through the authority that looks after them (not by Barnet).

The Interim Virtual School Headteacher is Glinys Weller: [Glinys.weller@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Glinys.weller@barnet.gov.uk)

Please address any queries regarding the spending of LAC PP, the PEP or the role of the designated teacher /Governing Body directly to Glinys.

**8.1 Action: Members to comment on the proposed arrangements for allocating the looked after children pupil premium for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.**

## Item 8.3 – Nursery Schools 2015/16

**Author: Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director**

In 2012 the Council set up a 'Task and Finish Group' to review early years' provision in the borough. The initial focus was on children's centres but the review was widened to encompass other aspects of early years provision. The findings of the review were reported to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2013 and to Cabinet in February 2014. One of the recommendations of the review was that the Council should develop a sustainable funding solution for nursery schools and that the Schools Forum be informed of the view of this Task and Finish Group.

The recommendations have informed a review of Early Years provision across the Borough, including the position and funding of the nursery schools. Officers have been liaising with the four nursery schools in order to try to identify a sustainable funding solution for nursery schools that maintains current levels of provision and ensures the continuation of high quality nursery school education.

Nursery Schools are a valued part of Barnet's Early Years provision and they have proved themselves to be outstanding providers. However, they are relatively expensive, compared with other forms of Early Years provision. Currently the four nursery schools are paid a premium of £890,000 over and above the income generated from 'free entitlement' places. This represents 70% more per place than is paid through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) to other Early Years providers (nursery classes and the PVI sector).

The subsidy is currently funded from an underspend in the 'Dedicated Schools Grant', the funding provided by central government for schools and early years provision. This has been possible mainly because funding for Early Years places for two-year-olds has been

based on target numbers and actual numbers have lagged behind the targets. In 2015/16 funding will be based on actual numbers at the time of the January census and so there will not be any underspend in this area of the budget. There are also various other pressures on the DSG budget which mean that the current level of subsidy is not sustainable. The Council's non-DSG budget is under even greater pressure, with an identified need to make savings of £72million between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

It will therefore be necessary to end the subsidy or to phase it out over a couple of years.

The Schools Forum received a presentation on the preparations for the 2015/16 Schools Budget at its Special Meeting on 23 September. A copy of the presentation is being circulated with the agenda for this meeting. It was clear from the presentation that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is unable to sustain current rates of funding to Barnet's four maintained nursery schools. It is also clear, from discussions with the nursery schools, that the current model of provision (through four separate nursery schools) is not sustainable in the long term if the current subsidy is removed.

Council officers have been discussing this challenge with the headteachers and chairs of governors of the four nursery schools, in order to identify a solution that maintains excellent standards of nursery education in the future without the current subsidy.

Three of the schools – Brookhill, Hampden Way and St. Margaret's - working in collaboration with Council officers, have developed an outline proposal to amalgamate the three schools into one 'School of Early Years Excellence'. The other nursery school, Moss Hall, was invited to take part in this development but has chosen not to do so and has indicated that it will develop its own alternative proposals for its own future without the subsidy. Separate discussions will therefore take place between the Council and Moss Hall Nursery Schools on its proposals.

A report on the outcomes of the Early Years review, including proposals in relation to the future provision and funding of nursery school education, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on 28th October.

The report will include proposals for the amalgamation of Brookhill, Hampden Way and St. Margaret's Nursery Schools into a single school, a 'School of Early Years Excellence', operating across the existing three sites, with a single management structure and governing body. If they continue as separate schools, each school would have to make significant cuts to staffing, in order to be able to manage without the subsidy. That in turn would threaten the quality of nursery education at the three schools. By amalgamating the three schools, it is felt that a combination of management efficiencies and growth in services will enable us to maintain excellent nursery school provision, to develop new early education services and to reduce the potential for job losses.

In order to facilitate the transition to this new model, it is proposed to continue to pay the subsidy for two further years at a reducing rate (50% in 2015/16 and 25% in 2016/17) as a transitional measure. For the amalgamated school, the transitional, reduced subsidy would be used to fund staff posts that are critical to the viability of the new model. After a period of two years these posts would become self-financing. The envisaged posts are crucial to generating income, principally through the provision of high-quality training for early years' providers across the borough.

It is also proposed to allow the closing schools to transfer their outstanding balances to the amalgamated school in order to fund transitional costs, including any redundancies.

Although discussions with Moss Hall Nursery School are continuing and there is not yet agreement on a viable proposal for a new model that enables the continuation of the school without the subsidy, the school has indicated that it is developing a proposal that achieves this. It is therefore proposed, provided that there is a sustainable solution agreed by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, to extend the same offer of two further years of subsidy at a reducing rate to Moss Hall Nursery School.

### **8.3 Action:**

- To note view of the Task and Finish Group that the Council should develop a sustainable funding solution for nursery schools
- To note that the Council's Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee will consider a report on the outcomes of the Early Years review, including proposals in relation to the future provision and funding of nursery schools, at its meeting on 28 October 2014.
- To agree, provided that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approves the proposed solution for Brookhill, Hampden Way and St.Margaret's Nursery Schools:
  - that the three nursery schools - Brookhill, Hampden Way and St.Margaret's - should be allocated fifty per cent of this year's subsidy for 2015/16 to facilitate transition to a new sustainable model of delivery, and that this should be paid from the carried forward DSG underspend from 2013/14.
  - in principle that the three nursery schools should be allocated twenty-five per cent of this year's subsidy for 2016/17 from the DSG and this be considered as part of the preparation of the budget for 2016/17.
- To agree, provided that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee approves a proposed solution for Moss Hall Nursery School:
  - that the school should be allocated fifty per cent of this year's subsidy for 2015/16 to facilitate transition to a new sustainable model of delivery, and that this should be paid from the carried forward DSG underspend from 2013/14.
  - in principle that the school should be allocated twenty-five per cent of this year's subsidy for 2016/17 from the DSG and this be considered as part of the preparation of the budget for 2016/17.
- To agree that any outstanding balances of nursery schools that close as part of the process of moving to new models of delivery should be transferred to the successor bodies that take over the provision.

## Item 8.4 – Independent Schools applying to become voluntary aided

**Author: Val White**

Independent schools wishing to join the maintained sector can be considered under section 11 of the EIA Act 2006. For such applications, the local authority is the decision maker and to assist, the Government has issued guidance setting out the range of factors to be considered. Within this guidance, there are a number of factors that need to be considered for all school organisational changes and then some specific factors in relation to Independent faith schools joining the maintained sector. One of the main factors that need to be considered in this revised guidance, other than curriculum requirements etc., is for the local authority to consider 'value for money'.

A number of Barnet schools have joined the maintained sector through this route and at present, Noam primary school is in the process. In the last three months, the council has been approached by a further 5 schools expressing an interest. In recent months the Schools Forum has been discussing the need to identify a significant growth fund and in view of the financial implications of new VA schools joining the sector we would like to develop a new framework for considering applications from independent schools in consultation with the Schools Forum. The framework would be used to provide advice to Elected Members who are the decision makers in the final instance.

We are seeking two School Forum members who would be willing to work with Val White and Alison Dawes to develop a draft framework to bring back to the Schools Forum.

**8.4 Action:** The Schools Forum to agree two members to work with local authority officers to develop a new framework for considering applications from independent schools wishing to join the VA sector, to inform decision making by Elected Members.

## Item 8.5.1 – Authority Pro-Forma Tool 2015/16

**Author: Carol Beckman / Claire Gray**

The Authority Pro-Forma Tool (APT) is a suite of programs provided by the DfE to enable local authorities to build their main school funding formula.

The APT includes both maintained and academy primaries and secondaries, academies, and also, for the first time in 2015/16, free schools and non-recouped academies. A draft version must be submitted to the DfE at the end of October with the final version at the end of January.

The draft version is built using the October 2013 census adjusted for the expected pupil numbers on the October census. By January, the actual autumn census is available.

Apart from the inclusion of free schools, there are no significant changes to the funding formula for Barnet and the minimum funding guarantee remains the same (-1.5%). The hope is that the cap on gains will be set at +0.5% but is shown as 0% for the present. Barnet is proposing the same funding rates as for the 2014/15 financial year, as follows:

	<b>Primary Rate</b>	<b>Secondary Rate</b>
Age Weighted Pupil Unit	3,339	4,786
Free School Meals (Ever 6)	1,384	1,375
Lump sum per school	122,000	122,000
Deprivation: IDACI 4	215	247
Deprivation: IDACI 5	717	819
Deprivation: IDACI 6	4,205	2,917
English as Additional Language 2	530	1,378
Mobility	423	619
Cap gains at	+0% per pupil	+0% per pupil

Please note that the additional £23 provided to schools in 2014/15 from the 2012/13 underspend will not be available to schools in 2015/16.

**8.5.1 Action:** Schools Forum members are asked to approve the provisional funding formula for 2015/16.

## Item 8.5.2 – De-Delegation for 2015/16

**Authors: Ian Harrison / Carol Beckman**

The local authority is required to consult the primary and secondary LA maintained schools of the Schools Forum every year about de-delegation of the following budgets:

- 1.1.2 Behaviour support services
- 1.1.3 Support to UPEG and bilingual learners (“Narrowing the Gap”)
- 1.1.4 Free school meals eligibility
- 1.1.5 Insurance
- 1.1.6 Museum and Library services
- 1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions
- 1.1.8 Staff costs – supply cover (special leave and salary safeguarding)
- 1.1.9 Staff costs – supply cover for (trade union) facility time

Academies, free schools, special school and nurseries cannot de-delegate and primaries and secondaries must decide separately.

When consulted in the autumn of 2013/4, Barnet schools agreed to de-delegate Narrowing the Gap, Salary Safeguarding and Trade Union time budgets. Primaries, but not secondaries, de-delegated the Behaviour Support budget. This was the same as the previous year’s decision.

1.1.2 The Behaviour Support budget funds the high incidence support team work with maintained primary schools. The budget in 2014/15 is £76,326 and the de-delegation rate is £3.01 per pupil

1.1.3 The Narrowing the Gap budget funds the Narrowing the Gap team. The budget in 2014/15 is £86,191 and the de-delegation rates are £9.55 (Primary) and £16.34 (Secondary) per pupil

1.1.8 Staff Costs funds all or part of claims by schools for salaries safeguarded by agreement with the LA and for absences for magistrate duties, etc. If the total available is insufficient, payments will be reduced pro-rata. The budget in 2014/15 is £46,518 and the de-delegation rates are £1.66 (Primary) and £1.02 (Secondary) per pupil

1.1.9 Staff Costs for trade union duties funds the salaries of officials of the various unions representing staff in schools. The budget is supplemented by income from the traded service which academies can buy into. The budget in 2014/15 is £46,518 and the de-delegation rates are £1.66 (Primary) and £1.02 (Secondary) per pupil

For all these budgets, the total amount de-delegated depends on the number of LA maintained schools in Barnet, and how many pupils they have on roll. The budget available

will fall if more schools convert to academies, but rise if maintained schools expand, or independent schools join the maintained sector.

**8.5.2 Action:** Schools Forum members representing maintained primary and secondary schools are asked to separately vote on their de-delegation preferences for 2015/16.

## Item 8.5.3 – Funding for Growth in 2015/16

**Authors:** Ian Harrison, Carol Beckman, Val White

**Note:** This paper should be read in conjunction with the minutes of the last meeting – 5 Matters Arising, and 6.3 Budget Pressures 2015/16

In May 2014 the Schools Forum discussed the funding for expanding schools. Since then further guidance has become available from the DfE.

The DfE provides three types of funding for new free schools:

1. A lump sum for startup costs prior to opening
2. Formula funding based on estimated pupil numbers as the school grows
3. 'Diseconomies of scale' funding to support the disproportionate infrastructure costs as the school grows.

New schools can be one of only two types – free schools or basic needs academies. The DfE funds free schools entirely in their first year of opening, but the cost of the formula funding (2. above) of the growing school falls to the local authority thereafter. All the costs of basic needs academies are charged to the local authority's budget as they become 'recouped academies'.

There are 4 other ways that school places can increase:

1. School opens a temporary bulge class which works through the school
2. School opens permanent extra classes each year so that eventually every year group is larger than before
3. School opens a new phase of education (primary to a secondary school or vice versa)
4. Independent school converts to maintained (or academy) status – most join when the school is still filling its year groups but this need not be the case.

In all cases, the expansion funding that the local authority pays the school is not balanced by additional income until a year later when the extra children appear on the school census. This cost is rising rapidly and unlikely to reduce for several years as a number of additional free schools are expected to open.

In order to be fair and consistent, Barnet's funding scheme for each of the types of expansion listed above should match the DfE methodology. We propose the following general principles:

1. Bulge classes will receive a lump sum per class, regardless of size
2. Permanent expansions of schools with a complete set of year groups will receive a lump sum per new class opened.
3. Schools which are opening new year groups to fill will be funded on estimated pupil numbers each year until the school is full. This will be done by looking at the latest census and adding the number of pupils expected to be admitted to the new year group in the coming September (as agreed between the school and LA).
4. No additional funding will be provided to any school which admits (over admits) additional pupils to existing year groups unless this involves opening a new class as agreed in advance with the local authority.
5. Lump sum startup costs will be provided to new basic needs academies, or any school opening a new phase. This is revenue, not capital funding.
6. No startup lump sum will be available to independent schools which become maintained.
7. Diseconomies of scale funding will be available to new basic needs academies and schools opening new phases until there are pupils in every year group. No diseconomies of scale funding will be available to independent schools which become maintained.
8. These principles do not apply to nursery or special schools, nursery classes or 6<sup>th</sup> forms.

The following amounts are intended to cover the autumn and spring terms and are based on the amounts paid in 2014/15.

Please note: Academies and free schools have a different financial year. They will also receive 5/7 of the first two categories (\*) cover the following summer term as well. There will be no net cost to the local authority of this additional funding as the DfE will reduce academy recoupment to match.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Primary R-Y6</b>	<b>Secondary Y7-Y11</b>
Bulge class *	£58,000	n/a
Permanent expansion (per class) *	£48,000	£61,000
New school startup (in year of opening)	£220,000	£300,000
New phase startup (in year of opening)	£50,000	£90,000
Diseconomies of scale (per empty year group, paid from year after opening until pupils in all year groups)	£7,000	£20,000

**8.5.3 Action:** The Schools Forum is asked to approve the principles of school expansion funding and the proposed rates to be used from April 2015.

## Item 8.5.4 – Free Schools and non-recouped academies

**Author: Ian Harrison, Carol Beckman**

**Note:** This report should be read in conjunction with the minutes from the last meeting – Item 6.3, Budget Pressures 2015/16.

Free Schools and non-recouped academies have until now been funded directly by the DfE. Non-recouped academies are those academies whose budget share is not included in the local authority's Dedicated Schools Grant. The London and Wren academies are the only non-recouped academies in Barnet, but the 5 Free schools (Etz Chaim, Alma, Rimon, Archer and St Andrew the Apostle) are treated in the same way. All the other academies are recouped academies, i.e. their funding is in the DSG and then passed back to the DfE to pay the schools.

From 2015/16 Free Schools and non-recouped academies will become recouped academies for funding purposes in that their funding will be included in the Dedicated Schools Grant, and appear on the Barnet APT with other schools. The intention is for this change to be cost neutral.

However, the DfE will no longer fund the free schools' annual intake as they fill from the bottom after the first year, and it becomes the responsibility of the local authority to provide this funding from the DSG until the school is full. For Barnet, the impact of our two 5 form secondary Free Schools will be considerable.

The DfE consulted on this issue earlier in the year and Barnet sent a negative response to this proposal and further representations have been made to ministers since then.

The DfE's belief appears to be that the funding of Free Schools as they grow has resulted in double funding because the pupils who join Free Schools each year are already accounted for in the DSG. Barnet does not agree because this argument does not take account of:-

- Population growth - the numbers joining in Reception each year are much higher than those leaving Year 11.
- In London where there are no 'gaps' between local authorities, children are likely to be attracted to new Free Schools from neighbouring local authorities. Alternatively, if places become available in schools which had previously been full, this may result in the 'import' of more pupils from outside Barnet.
- If a new Free School attracts children from other schools in Barnet, the funding effect is not felt for at least a year because of lagged numbers.
- The ethos (e.g. faith-based) of some Free Schools can attract (or has been set up for) a particular group of parents who previously would have chosen an independent school. Four of the five free schools established in Barnet so far are faith schools – three offering a Jewish ethos and one Greek Orthodox.

We have calculated the potential impact of the proposed change in funding on Barnet's Schools' Budget, based on Free Schools we know are in the pipeline and with an assumption based on approvals so far. Free Schools have hitherto been cost neutral as far as other

schools are concerned but the change in funding arrangements will place an extra demand on our Schools' Budget, ranging from an extra £1.2m in 2015/16 to an extra £2.4m in 2017/18.

This will mean less for other schools and will create even greater pressure on our overall Schools' Budget at a time when it is under considerable strain due to the cost of funding locally commissioned school places to meet basic need and to the rising costs of meeting the needs of the pupils with Special Educational Needs.

GROWTH FUNDING FOR 2015/16	Funded from		Total
	APT	Growth Fund	
Filling free schools	1,041,661	-	1,041,661
Expanding Non Recouped Academies - new phases	310,535	182,000	492,535
Basic Needs / New phases in maintained schools	531,637	102,000	633,637
Continuing expansions in maintained schools and academies	-	445,000	445,000
Bulge classes in 5 primaries	-	232,000	232,000
<b>Total estimated growth funding</b>	<b>1,883,833</b>	<b>961,000</b>	<b>2,844,833</b>

**8.5.4 Action:** *Members to note changes in free school funding and representations by the council regarding the costs of new free schools opening in Barnet.*

## Item 8.5.5 – Use of underspend from 2013/14

**Author: Ian Harrison**

The DSG underspend from the 2013/14 financial year has been finalised at £1.333m. On the assumption that there is no overspend in 2014/15 to impact on this brought forward figure, Barnet proposes that the money should be distributed as follows:

Transitional support for nursery schools (50% of 2014/15) - £445,000

Support for the cost of increases in pupil places - £888,000

Whilst it has been the custom in the past to return underspends to all schools on an equal basis, in view of budget pressures and the level of school balances, this more targeted approach supports the specific schools during their period of transition.

**8.5.5 Action:** *To agree the use of the 13/14 underspend in 15/16.*

## Item 8.5.6 – Options for balancing the budget in 2015/16

**Author: Ian Harrison**

The table overleaf shows the first draft budget of the 2015/16 Schools Budget compared with that set for 2014/15. The budget is shown gross (ie including academies) and net (ie

excluding academy budget shares and ARP base funding). The table shows a budget gap of £2.8m

A special meeting of the Schools Forum was held on 24 September to consider the preparation of the Schools Budget for 2015/16. The Education and Skills Director made a presentation to the meeting and a copy of the presentation is included with this agenda.

The presentation highlighted the key funding elements and expected budget pressures, currently suggesting a budget gap of £2.8m.

Schools Forum members were then invited to give their views on the management of budget pressures in order to set a balanced DSG budget.

Particular concerns were expressed about the possibility of cuts in budgets relating to pupils with Special Educational Needs.

**8.5.6 Action:** *Members are recommended to agree to the following approach to balancing the budget:*

- 1. The 2013/14 underspend should be used to support the budget gap (growth fund and nursery school transitional subsidy).*
- 2. Officers should complete a zero-base-review of the number and costs of SEN placements in independent and non-maintained schools and produce revised budget forecasts for 2015/16 and report on this to the Schools Forum in December.*
- 3. Re-assess the budget gap in December and, if necessary re-visit options for decreasing expenditure*

## Schools Budget Preparation 2015/16

25/09/2014 14:19

S251	S251Desc	2015/16	2015/16	2014/15
		Gross	Net	Budget Net
<b>Schools</b>				
1.0.1	Individual Schools Budget before	263,045,262	173,596,844	169,639,050
1.1.1	Contingencies	600,000	600,000	599,611
1.1.2	Behaviour Support Services	76,326	76,326	76,326
1.1.3	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	86,191	86,191	86,191
1.1.8	Staff costs - supply cover excluding cover for facility time	46,518	46,518	46,518
1.1.9	Staff costs - supply cover for facility time	46,518	46,518	46,518
		263,900,815	174,452,397	170,494,214
<b>High Needs</b>				
1.2.1	Top-up funding - maintained schools	16,244,016	16,244,016	17,296,449
1.2.2	Top-up funding - academies, free	6,263,335	6,263,335	6,236,399
1.2.3	Top-up and other funding - non-	11,468,831	11,468,831	11,138,864
1.2.5	SEN support services	3,077,562	3,077,562	3,073,893
1.2.6	Hospital education services	407,004	407,004	438,006
1.2.8	Support for inclusion	0	0	0
		37,460,747	37,460,747	38,183,611
<b>Early Years Central</b>				
1.3.1	Central expenditure on children under	979,072	979,072	1,254,072
		979,072	979,072	1,254,072
<b>Central</b>				
1.4.1	Contribution to combined budgets	777,892	777,892	777,892
1.4.13	Other items	106,500	106,500	106,500
1.4.2	School Admissions	361,200	361,200	361,200
1.4.3	Servicing of schools forums	34,680	34,680	34,680
1.4.5	Carbon Reduction Commitment	0	0	0
1.4.10	Pupil growth / Infant class sizes	961,000	961,000	1,853,020
1.4.11	SEN transport	400,000	400,000	400,000
		2,641,272	2,641,272	3,533,292
		304,981,906	215,533,488	213,465,189
<b>Income</b>				
1.7.1	Dedicated Schools Grant	(295,313,016)	(205,864,597)	(204,357,630)
1.7.2	Balance b/fwd	0	0	(2,332,981)
1.7.4	Post 16 allocations from EFA	(6,774,578)	(6,774,578)	(6,774,578)
	8.5.6 Balancin	(302,087,594)	(212,639,175)	(213,465,189)
<b>Balance</b>				
		2,894,313	2,894,313	0
1.8.1	Academy Recoupment	89,448,418	89,448,418	73,264,852

## **Item 9: Draft agenda for next meeting: 4 December 2014**

1. Welcome to new members
2. Apologies for absences
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes of previous meeting: 9 October 2014
5. Matters Arising
6. Items for information
  - 6.1. Budget monitoring 2014/15 (as at Month 6 – September 2014)
  - 6.2. Responses from schools with large revenue balances
  - 6.3. Progress of the SEN working group and review
7. Items for decision
  - 7.1. Draft Schools budget 2015/16
8. Draft agenda for next meeting: 5 February 2014
9. Any other business