



SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

13TH FEBRUARY 2020

SCHOOLS FUNDING 2020/21

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Government has announced the initial allocations for the Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central Schools Services blocks for 2020/21. This paper updates Schools Forum with the latest information on the changes.
- 1.2 The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for Rutland has been set at **£31.549m** an increase of £2.203m from last year's allocation. The Table Below shows a comparison for each block

	Schools £000	High Needs £000	Early Years £000	Central Schools £000	Total £000
DSG Allocations 2019/20	23,453	3,867	1,863	163	29,346
DSG Allocations 2020/21	25,261	4,248	1,874	166	31,549
Change in Allocation	1,808	381	11	3	2,203
%age Change	7.71%	9.85%	0.59%	1.84%	7.51%

2 SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 2.1 The initial budget allocation for the schools block for 2020/21 has been set at £25.261m compared to 2019/20 of £23.453m (an increase of £1.808m) equating to an increase of 7.71%. This figure is calculated using the October 2019 census data. As agreed at Schools Forum in September, 0.5% has been transferred to the High Needs block which equates to £0.126m. All schools have been issued with indicative allocations for 2020/21.
- 2.2 As with previous years, the schools block will be distributed to schools using the national funding formula as much as possible. Each school has seen a per pupil increase in funding.

3 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 3.1 The initial allocation for high needs for 2020/21 has been set at £4.248m compared to 2019/20 of £3.867m (an increase of £0.381m) equating to an increase of 9.85%. With the transfer of £0.126m from the schools block, the total funding available for high needs is £4.374m.
- 3.2 This funding has been adjusted for the latest information on the numbers of pupils being imported/exported and changes in these numbers will impact the level of

funding received by the authority.

- 3.3 This allocation still leaves the High Needs Block in a deficit position for the year, as per the table below.

Description	Amount £000
Allocation	4,248
Transfer from Schools Block	126
Total Funding	4,374
Academy Recoupment	(178)
Expenditure in Year (includes growth)	(4,350)
Recovery Plan*	60
Surplus / (Deficit)	(94)

*This is (investment)+expected cost avoidance

- 3.4 This position highlights how crucial it is that we continue with the investment into the SEN system as the significant increase in allocation has not yet addressed the potential deficit brought forward from 2019/20 of £549k.

4 CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICE BLOCK

- 4.1 The provisional allocation for the Central Schools Services block (CSSB) is £0.166m for 2020/21 a minor increase on the allocation from 2019/20.

- 4.2 The CSSB pays for the following services:

- Admissions Service
- Nationally agreed copyright licence fees
- The Local Authorities Statutory responsibilities (previously covered by the Education Services Grant)

5 EARLY YEARS BLOCK

- 5.1 The initial allocation for Early Years is £1.863m. This allocation is currently based on the January 2019 census data and will be updated for the January 2020 census data. The Early years sub group has met and provisional rates of £4.25 for 3 and 4 year olds and £5.20 for 2 year olds was agreed. This rates have been kept at the same rate as 2019/20.

- 5.2 The Council retain 5% (£93k) of the allocation to undertake its statutory duties in relation to the early year's sector. These duties include;

- The local authority has a duty to (s6, 7, 9 Childcare Act 2006):
 - a) Secure sufficient childcare places, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children)

- b) Take into account what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area
- c) Report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare, and make this report available and accessible to parents
- Under the Childcare Act 2016 (s2) places a duty on English local authorities to secure free childcare for qualifying children. The Act extends the entitlement to 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks of the year for three- and four-year-olds in families where all parents are working. The local authority has a duty under this act to:
 - a) Provide information, advice and training to childcare providers, and prospective providers (s13 Childcare Act 2006)
 - b) Provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents (s12, amended by s5 Childcare Act 2016).

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the DSG allocations and proposed rates for Early Providers
- 6.2 Schools Forum are asked to approve the 5% centrally retained funding in relation to early years.