



Schools Forum

Date: TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: CHEAM HIGH SCHOOL, 78 CHATSWORTH ROAD, SUTTON SM3 8PW
Enquiries: Matthew Stickley
 londongovernanceltd@gmail.com

Members:

Member	Role
Academy Representation (A)	
Bec Allott	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Jamie Bean	Academy Secondary School
James Fisher	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Nathan Cole	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Peter Naudi	Academy Secondary Headteacher
Phillip Hedger	Academy Primary Headteacher
Sharon Roberts	Academy Primary Headteacher
James Kearns	Academy Special School Headteacher
Vacancy	Academy Primary Governor
Emma Bradshaw	Academy Pupil Referral Unit (shared)

Maintained School Representation (B)	
Jenny Sims	Chair; Maintained Primary School Governor
Havard Spring	Maintained Primary School Headteacher
Emma Walford	Maintained Nursery School Headteacher
Bev Williamson	Sutton Tuition and Reintegration Service (shared)

Other Representation (C)	
Vicki Bell	Early Years Provider
Jason Pemberton-Billing	14-19 Provider
Sue Smith	Sutton Teachers Committee
Andrew Theobald	Vice Chair; Archdiocese of Southwark; Maintained Secondary School Governor
Vacancy	Diocese of Southwark

Observers (D)	
Councillor Rob Beck	Vice Chair of the People Committee
Councillor Jane Pascoe	Opposition Spokesperson for the People Committee

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **MINUTES**

to agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 February 2023.

(To Follow)

5. **2022/23 OUTTURN AND REVENUE REPORT**

(Pages 3 - 18)

6. **STRENGTHENING SEND SERVICES IN SUTTON**

(Pages 19 - 26)

7. **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE FUNDING AND GROWTH**

(Pages 27 - 30)

8. **EARLY YEARS DESIGNATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2023/24**

(Pages 31 - 34)

9. **CAPITAL REPORT**

(Pages 35 - 38)

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Report Title	Revenue Report
Meeting	Schools Forum
Date	13 June 2023
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Carol Worne, Strategic Finance Business Partner, Sutton Council
Open/Exempt	Open

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) since the last meeting of the Forum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the outturn position on the DSG for 2022/23.
- 2.2. To note the surplus balance of £1.487m to be carried forward to 2023/24
- 2.3. To note and approve the latest budget for 2023/24.
- 2.4. To note the latest outturn position for 2023/24, as at month 2 (May 2023).
- 2.5. To note the S251 Budget Statement - DSG 2023/24.

3. Background

- 3.1. This report refers to issues that have arisen since the last meeting on 21 February 2023 and provides details of the latest DSG budget for 2023/24.

4. DSG Budget 2022/23 - latest allocation and outturn

- 4.1. The latest DSG allocation for 2022/23 is £112.491m, which includes a final 2021/22 Early Years adjustment of £2.5k.
- 4.2. Confirmation of any adjustment to Sutton's 2023/24 funding, relating to 2022/23, is due to be notified by the ESFA in July 2023 and therefore the 2022/23 adjustment is not guaranteed at this stage.

4.3. The DSG outturn for 2022/23 is an underspend of £616k.

Outturn Table (Variances)		
	2022/23 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Total Funding	112,493	107,478
Schools Block	(717)	(527)
CSSB	11	(30)
High Needs Block	748	737
Early Years Block	(289)	(228)
Early Years 22/23 Accrual	(152)	0
Early Years 21/22 Adjustment	(217)	0
TOTAL	(616)	(48)

- 4.4. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was underspent by £616k. This was made up of an overspend of £748k in the High Needs Block of DSG - primarily associated with the increasing costs of school placements and associated support given the increasing demand for specialist provision in the Borough for pupils with special education needs and disabilities. The overspend in the High Needs Block was mitigated by underspends of £717k on the Schools Block and £289k on the Early Years block. There was also a DSG retrospective funding adjustment of £368k for Early Years, related to changes in pupil numbers through Covid and pupil growth in 2022/23.
- 4.5. The Early Years Block reported an in year underspend, which was due to an allowable 5% contingency to cope with variation in pupil numbers and the unknown take up of the additional 15 hours offered by Early Years settings.
- 4.6. The Schools block funding underspend will be carried forward in DSG balances for use in 23/24. This was generated by exclusions recoupment of £322k that will be used in 23/24 to fund exclusion prevention support, £303k of the SENCo Cluster budget to support specific intervention projects and £61k from the school growth budget that is expected to be required in 23/24, as the growth budget is insufficient
- 4.7. The DSG reserve balance at the start of the year was £1.368m. In-year drawdowns of £497k (21/22 funding carried forward in the reserve for use in 22/23 - SENCo Clusters and Exclusions) and transfer of the underspend of £616k back into balances will give an opening balance of £1.487m for 23/24. The anticipated draw down of the Schools Block underspend carried forward of £383k will reduce the balance to £1.104m in 2023/24.

DSG Reserve Movement	£'000
22/23 Opening Reserve	(1,368)
22/23 Closing Reserve	(1,487)
Total change	(119)
Changes in 22/23	
Clusters	390
Exclusions	107
Tfr to Reserve 22/23	(616)
2022/23 Closing Reserve	(1,487)
Expected Drawdowns 23/24	
Exclusions	322
Growth Contribution	61
Total Reserve Available	(1,104)
Change since y/end 21/22	263

- 4.8. There is no requirement at present to report separately on the blocks. The detailed outturn for 2022/23 is shown at **Appendix A**.
- 4.9. An increasing number of local authorities are now incurring a deficit on their overall DSG account, largely because of overspends on the high needs block. LAs with cumulative deficits are required to provide the ESFA with a DSG management recovery plan over a maximum of 3 years. At this stage Sutton is not in that position, but given the financial forecast for the next financial year it is expected that this is something that the local area will need to consider in future.
- 5. DSG Budget 2023/24**
- 5.1. The latest DSG allocation for Sutton for 2023/24 is £273.190m. After deduction of high needs recoupment (£7.831m) and academy recoupment (including NNDR) (£144.391m), the latest net DSG position is £120.968m.
- 5.2. The draft budget for 2023/24 was agreed at the last meeting of the Forum on 21 February 2023 at £121.024m. Since then the High Needs Block budget has been reduced by £158k, relating to the High Needs deduction value and the CSSB has been increased by £102k, relating to the 20% historic commitment deduction being added back.

- 5.3. The DSG is currently forecasting an overspend at year end of £2.180m at Month 2, as detailed at **Appendix B**.
- 5.4. There is a forecast overspend of £158k in the Schools Block. The value of growth being allocated to schools exceeds the block funding balance remaining after allocation to schools and the transfer to the CSSB to fund historic commitments.
- 5.5. There is a forecast overspend of £2.021m in the High Needs Block. This is due to:
- An increase in applications for new EHCPs, averaging 35.6 new plans per month for the past four months - the budget was originally set on the assumption of 16 new plans per month. Some plans will be taken out as they are no longer required, so the expected average that will impact the budget is 24 plans which is higher than the forecast in the budget.
 - An increase in the number of pupils requiring independent tuition, up by 11 learners since April (from 42 to 53). The average annual cost per placement is c.£20k. Many of these learners are young people that are refusing to attend a school setting, therefore, the normal placement period of 2-3 months is now being extended to 5-6 months. This has significantly increased costs of tuition.
 - Shortage of places in Sutton special schools has led to increased placements in NMI provision and the rising unit costs of NMI provision. The current number of NMI placements is 148, up from 133 in March., at an average cost of c.£55k. Negotiations are in progress to secure placements at less expensive settings.
- 5.6. The High Needs budget includes an allowance for future SEND placements throughout the year of £2m. This budget is based on an average of 16 new plans per month at an average cost of £15k per plan. Based on the above, this is a conservative estimate.
- 5.7. For 2023/24, Local Authorities were required to ensure that special schools receive a minimum funding guarantee of 3% on total funding allocations between 2021/22 and 2023/24 (applicable to their combined place and top-up funding on a per pupil basis, assuming the number and type of places remains the same). In addition to the above, Local Authorities were also required to pass on an additional 3.4% per place in 2023/24, based on the place funding of £10,000 per place, plus the average top-up funding they pay for a pupil placement in the financial year 2022/2023.
- 5.8. Schools Forum agreed in January that we should ensure that all schools received the MFG of 3% on 2021/22 figures but that we should not provide the full 3.4% in comparison to 2022/23 where schools were due to see a reduction in their funding from the revised funding model that was introduced in September 2022. This was on the basis that there would be no practical way of transitioning schools from their historical top up to the new top up that is generated by the new funding model without disapplying from this rule. This affects the Link Academy and Wandle Valley Academy.
- 5.9. On this basis the LA requested a disapplication request following the January Schools Forum meeting. To date the LA is still awaiting notification from the DfE regarding the disapplication submitted last term. The figures presented in Appendix B for 2023/24 are

based on the assumption that the above schools are receiving top-up funding calculated on the basis the disapplication is upheld.

- 5.10. Local authorities have a statutory duty to publish their S251 budget statements. The statement is intended to provide a clear picture of the local authority's planned spending on the DSG and children and young people's services. The S251 Budget Statement for 2023/24 was submitted to the ESFA on 30 April 2023. The details of the S251 Budget Statement - DSG is attached at **Appendix C**.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. This report highlights DSG issues that have arisen since the last meeting of the Forum.

7. Influence on the Council's Corporate Core Values and Objectives

- 7.1. One of the core values is partnership working. Setting the budget for the Dedicated Schools Grant, and considering related issues, is an important part of the budget process that fully involves schools as partners and particularly recognises the important role of the Schools' Forum.

8. Appendices

Appendix	Appendix Title
A	DSG outturn 2022/23
B	Latest DSG Budget and Month 2 position 2023/24
C	S251 Budget Statement - DSG 2022/23

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Enclosure 5 Appendix A- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2022/23 Budget Summary - Final Outturn

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	Final Outturn £	Final Variance £	Commentary
Schools Block					
Primary Maintained Funding	36,798,100	37,281,000	37,287,807	6,807	Core funding for maintained primary schools (NFF)
Secondary Maintained Funding	12,752,400	12,847,800	12,826,505	(21,295)	Core funding for maintained secondary schools (NFF)
Primary Growth	40,900	142,000	142,091	91	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Secondary Growth	280,400	280,400	280,331	(69)	Growth funding relating to secondary schools
Clawback - Exclusions	0	0	(404,360)	(404,360)	2021/22 draw down plus additional income in 2022/23
Payments - Exclusions	0	0	125,583	125,583	Non statutory funding paid to Limes or repaid to excluding schools
Growth Fund Balance	120,700	121,300	0	(121,300)	Balance after payment of growth, FAP and EAL payments
Graduated response funding (Clusters)	0	0	(302,755)	(302,755)	SENCo Cluster funding (remaining balance from reserve draw down)
Total - Schools Block	49,992,500	50,672,500	49,955,202	(717,298)	
Central School Services Block					
Historic Commitments					
Contribution to combined budgets	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	Funding to social care - LSCB
Early Retirement Costs (pensions)	480,000	480,200	465,397	(14,803)	Costs of school staff that retired early (historical)
Depreciation of non current assets	218,200	218,200	218,178	(22)	Borrowing re: Opportunity Bases in 2012
Ongoing Functions					
Admissions Services	345,700	345,700	370,700	25,000	Costs of the schools admission service (Cognus). Includes additional funding for new post (agreed for 3 years from June 22)
Schools Forum Costs	16,000	16,000	16,594	594	Costs of Schools Forum including meetings, staffing support etc...
Independent School Fees (non SEN)	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	Contributions to fees for LAC pupils attending independent schools
Copyright Licenses	184,400	184,400	184,365	(35)	Fees set by Copyright Licensing Authority for all schools (paid centrally)
DSG Contribution to LBS Central Provision	614,900	614,900	614,900	0	Contribution from the DSG to support central provision in the LA
Total - CSSB	2,024,200	2,024,400	2,035,133	10,733	
High Needs					
Early Years - (Dragonflies) Place	110,800	110,800	123,600	12,800	Lump sum paid to Thomas Wall for Dragonflies base
Early Years - (Dragonflies) Top Up	70,000	70,000	145,986	75,986	Top up for individual pupils in mainstream EY settings
Portage Service	229,200	249,200	303,344	54,144	Playwise Service (a CIC) who provide portage (home-visiting educational services) for pre-school children with SEND and their families.
Primary mainstream	2,358,100	2,315,100	2,917,058	601,958	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Primary Bases Maintained - Place	578,000	572,000	572,000	0	Place funding for maintained opportunity bases
Primary base - all schools	2,658,200	2,658,700	2,980,369	321,669	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases

Enclosure 5 Appendix A- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2022/23 Budget Summary - Final Outturn

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	Final Outturn £	Final Variance £	Commentary
Primary - OLA	420,100	434,400	590,425	156,025	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Secondary Mainstream	994,100	906,100	1,124,840	218,740	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Secondary Bases - Place and Top Up	1,182,500	1,183,000	1,104,670	(78,330)	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Secondary - OLA	389,100	378,700	386,283	7,583	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Place	1,804,200	1,839,300	1,839,323	23	Place and pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Top Up	3,389,200	3,415,500	3,633,025	217,525	Top up and top up individual funding
Special Schools - Academies - Pension	348,100	356,300	356,657	357	Pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Academies	4,946,900	4,946,900	5,584,604	637,704	Top up, top up individual and place extra funding
Special School - OLA	1,848,500	1,875,000	2,185,153	310,153	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Non maintained Independent Provision	6,920,400	6,920,400	7,549,447	629,047	Non maintained or independent fees - including specialist and AP provision and allowance for future placements
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Place	1,323,200	1,350,700	1,387,535	36,835	Place, top up, year 11 and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Individual	783,600	803,600	803,593	(7)	Top up individual and place extra funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Place	1,238,300	1,236,900	1,238,448	1,548	Place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Individual	83,400	83,400	83,446	46	Top up individual funding
Hospital Provision - (STARS)	266,300	281,500	281,479	(21)	Lump sum paid to STARS for children educated in hospital
Targeted Youth Service	110,000	110,000	110,000	0	Contribution to Targeted Youth Services to support preventative work
Mainstream College	1,118,000	1,118,000	1,071,533	(46,467)	Placement costs related to mainstream college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Specialist College	2,704,000	2,704,000	2,431,368	(272,632)	Placement costs related to specialist college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Therapies (Cognus)	3,213,500	3,213,500	3,213,500	0	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by Cognus
Therapies (Non-Cognus)	230,000	230,000	270,058	40,058	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by other suppliers
SEN Travel Assistance	690,000	690,000	640,000	(50,000)	Contribution to SEN transport including travel training
Social Worker Support for Education	272,700	272,700	272,700	0	Contribution to Children's Social Care for safeguarding leads, Early Help services etc...
Cluster Group Expenses	217,000	217,000	296,858	79,858	SenCo Salary costs and Backfill payments, software licence costs
Other Expenses	85,000	85,000	61,155	(23,845)	External and internal legal expenses and costs of equipment
Cognus Ltd - High Needs Services	1,803,300	1,803,300	1,803,300	0	Commissioning Agreement - HN consultancy services
Allowance for Future Placements	2,498,100	2,182,900	0	(2,182,900)	to cover future costs of placements and EHCPs
Total - High Needs Block	44,883,800	44,613,900	45,361,758	747,858	

Enclosure 5 Appendix A- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2022/23 Budget Summary - Final Outturn

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	Final Outturn £	Final Variance £	Commentary
Early Years Block					
Early Years - 3 & 4 Year olds	13,349,800	13,262,400	12,943,670	(318,730)	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 3 & 4 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - 2 Year olds	1,165,800	1,244,700	1,244,999	299	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - central expenses	161,000	165,000	194,100	29,100	Central provision - EYFE Manager and Predicable Needs funding
Cognus Ltd - Early Years Foundation	510,400	510,400	510,400	(0)	Central provision transferred to Cognus to provide EY advisory services
Total - Early Years	15,187,000	15,182,500	14,893,169	(289,331)	
Total Expenditure	112,087,500	112,493,300	112,245,262	(248,038)	
DSG Funding					
2022/23 Funding Allocation	(112,087,500)	(112,493,300)	(112,490,711)	2,589	includes Early Years final adjustment for 2021/22 (£2,601)
Early Years 2021/22 accrual			(219,420)	(219,420)	Based on census information from Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022
Early Years 2022/23 accrual			(151,622)	(151,622)	Based on census information from Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023
Total DSG Funding	(112,087,500)	(112,493,300)	(112,861,753)	(368,453)	
Final Balance	0	0	(616,491)	(616,491)	
DSG Reserve			(1,367,993)		
SENCo Cluster Groups			390,000		Unspent 2021/22 allocations carried forward to 2022/23
Statutory Clawback - Exclusions			107,195		Statutory exclusion funding recouped in financial year 2021-22
Contribution to Reserve			(616,491)		Final balance transferred to reserve
Total - DSG Reserve			(1,487,289)		
SEN budget 2022/23					

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Enclosure 5 Appendix B- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2023/24 Budget Summary - Month 2

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	M02 Forecast £	M02 Variance £	Commentary
Schools Block					
Primary Maintained Funding	38,910,900	38,910,900	38,910,900	0	Core funding for maintained primary schools (NFF)
Secondary Maintained Funding	13,559,200	13,559,200	13,559,200	0	Core funding for maintained secondary schools (NFF)
De-delegation	(50,800)	(50,800)	(50,800)	0	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Primary Growth	144,500	144,500	144,500	0	Growth funding relating to primary schools
Secondary Growth	420,000	261,900	420,000	158,100	Growth funding relating to secondary schools
Statutory Clawback - Exclusions	0	0	0	0	
Payments - Exclusions	0	0	0	0	
Transfer to CSSB	201,200	99,400	99,400		
Growth balance	(259,900)				
Total - Schools Block	52,925,100	52,925,100	53,083,200	158,100	DSG Allocation £52.925m less £99.4k transfer to CSSB
Central School Services Block					
Historic Commitments					
Contribution to combined budgets	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	Funding to social care - LSCB
Early Retirement Costs (pensions)	475,600	475,600	475,600	0	Costs of school staff that retired early (historical)
Depreciation of non current assets	218,200	218,200	218,200	0	Borrowing re: Opportunity Bases in 2012
Ongoing Functions	0			0	
Admissions Services	378,500	378,500	378,500	0	Costs of the schools admission service (Cognus)
Schools Forum Costs	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	Costs of Schools Forum including meetings, staffing support etc...
Independent School Fees (non SEN)	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	Contributions to fees for LAC pupils attending independent schools
Copyright Licenses	184,400	184,400	184,400	0	Fees set by Copyright Licensing Authority for all schools (paid centrally)
DSG Contribution to LBS Central Provision	616,100	616,100	616,100	0	Contribution from the DSG to support central provision in the LA
Transfer from CSSB	(201,200)	(99,400)	(99,400)		
Total - CSSB	2,053,800	2,053,800	2,053,800	0	DSG Allocation £1.954m plus £99.4k transfer from Schools Block
High Needs					
Early Years - (Dragonflies) Place	191,000	191,000	191,000	0	Lump sum paid to Thomas Wall for Dragonflies base
Early Years - Top Up	100,000	100,000	240,000	140,000	Top up for individual pupils in EY settings
Portage Service	249,200	247,800	247,800	0	Playwise Service (a CIC) who provide portage (home-visiting educational services) for pre-school children with SEND and their families.
Primary mainstream	2,675,000	2,675,000	3,625,000	950,000	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Primary Bases Maintained - Place	564,000	564,000	564,000	0	Place funding for maintained opportunity bases

Enclosure 5 Appendix B- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2023/24 Budget Summary - Month 2

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	M02 Forecast £	M02 Variance £	Commentary
Primary base - all schools	3,114,500	3,114,500	3,114,500	0	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Primary - OLA	550,000	550,000	550,000	0	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Secondary Mainstream	1,225,000	1,225,000	1,415,000	190,000	Top up for individual pupils (legacy) and additional support contracts
Secondary Bases - Place and Top Up	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	0	Additional Place and top up funding for maintained and academy opportunity bases
Secondary - OLA	420,000	420,000	420,000	0	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Place	1,888,500	1,941,000	1,941,000	0	Place and pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Maintained - (Sherwood) Top Up	3,695,000	4,036,300	4,036,300	0	Top up and top up individual funding
Special Schools - Academies - Pension	356,700	369,800	369,800	0	Pay and pension grant funding
Special Schools - Academies	5,585,000	5,585,000	5,585,000	0	Top up, top up individual and place extra funding
Special Schools - OLA	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,335,000	135,000	Top-up funding for Sutton pupils in OLA schools
Non maintained Independent Provision	7,270,000	7,270,000	8,820,000	1,550,000	Non maintained or independent fees - including specialist and AP provision and tuition
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Place	1,442,400	1,442,400	1,442,400	0	Place, top up, year 11 and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (Limes) Individual	853,900	854,000	854,000	0	Top up individual and place extra funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Place	1,283,800	1,283,800	1,283,800	0	Place, top up and pay and pension grant funding
Alternative Provision - (STARS) Individual	92,600	92,600	92,600	0	Top up individual funding
Hospital Provision - (STARS)	281,500	281,500	281,500	0	Lump sum paid to STARS for children educated in hospital
Targeted Youth Service	110,000	110,000	110,000	0	Contribution to Targeted Youth Services to support preventative work
Mainstream College	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	0	Placement costs related to mainstream college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Specialist College	2,600,000	2,600,000	2,600,000	0	Placement costs related to specialist college placements for pupils with an EHCP
Therapies (Cognus)	3,553,500	3,553,500	3,553,500	0	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by Cognus
Therapies (Non-Cognus)	275,000	275,000	275,000	0	Therapies provided to individual pupils (mainstream/base/special schools) by other suppliers
SEN Travel Assistance	690,000	690,000	690,000	0	Contribution to SEN transport including travel training
Social Worker Support for Education	272,700	272,700	272,700	0	Contribution to Children's Social Care: safeguarding leads, Early Help services etc.
Cluster Group Expenses	270,000	270,000	270,000	0	SenCo Salary costs and Backfill payments, software licence costs
Graduates Response Funding (Clusters)	390,000	390,000	390,000	0	
Other Expenses	85,000	85,000	85,000	0	External and internal legal expenses and costs of equipment
Cognus Ltd - High Needs Services	1,817,700	1,817,700	1,817,700	0	Commissioning Agreement - HN consultancy services
Allowance for Future Placements	3,506,700	2,943,400	2,000,000	(943,400)	to cover future costs of placements and EHCPs
Total - High Needs Block	49,958,700	49,801,000	51,822,600	2,021,600	

Enclosure 5 Appendix B- Revenue Report 20230613 - DSG 2023/24 Budget Summary - Month 2

Description	Draft Budget £	Latest Budget £	M02 Forecast £	M02 Variance £	Commentary
Early Years Block					
Early Years - 3 & 4 Year olds	14,239,900	14,189,900	14,189,900	0	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 3 & 4 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - 2 Year olds	1,347,700	1,377,700	1,377,700	0	Core funding to schools, PVI, nurseries to deliver 2 yr old free entitlement (EY NFF)
Early Years - central expenses	190,000	210,000	210,000	0	Central provision - EYFE Manager and Predicable Needs funding
Cognus Ltd - Early Years Foundation	510,400	510,400	510,400	0	Central provision transferred to Cognus to provide EY advisory services
Total - Early Years	16,288,000	16,288,000	16,288,000	0	
Total Expenditure	121,024,400	120,968,500	123,148,200	2,179,700	
DSG Funding					
2023/24 Allocation	(121,024,400)	(120,968,500)	(120,968,500)	0	£56k change - £102k to CSSB less £158k increase in High Needs Deduction
Total DSG Funding	(121,024,400)	(120,968,500)	(120,968,500)	0	
Final Balance	0	0	2,179,700	2,179,700	
DSG Reserve			(1,487,289)		
SEN budget 2022/23					

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Description	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	SEN/ Special Schools	AP/ PRUs	Post School	Gross	Income	Net
1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget (before academy recoupment), including sixth form grant for maintained schools, but excluding high needs place funding	£15,264,800.00	£87,732,312.06	£112,197,981.27				£215,195,093.33		£215,195,093.33
1.0.2 High needs place funding within Individual Schools Budget (before academy recoupment), excluding funding for 16-19 academies and free schools and FE colleges and independent learning providers	£191,000.00	£1,467,000.00	£847,000.00	£6,410,833.00	£2,150,000.00		£11,065,833.00		£11,065,833.00
1.1.1 Contingencies		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.2 Behaviour support services		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.3 Support to UPEG and bilingual learners		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.4 Free school meals eligibility		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.5 Insurance		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.6 Museum and Library services		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.7 Licences/subscriptions		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.8 Staff costs – supply cover excluding cover for facility time		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.1.9 Staff costs – supply cover for facility time		£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.1 Top-up funding – maintained schools	£1,464,674.67	£1,680,485.00	£387,100.00	£6,033,500.00	£626,400.00		£10,192,159.67	£0.00	£10,192,159.67
1.2.2 Top-up funding – academies, free schools and colleges	£1,344,765.24	£2,109,015.00	£2,627,900.00	£5,954,800.00	£2,175,100.00	£1,100,000.00	£15,311,580.24	£0.00	£15,311,580.24
1.2.3 Top-up and other funding – non-maintained and independent providers	£65,560.09	£0.00	£0.00	£10,605,800.00	£0.00	£2,600,000.00	£13,271,360.09	£0.00	£13,271,360.09
1.2.4 Additional high needs targeted funding for mainstream schools and academies	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.5 SEN support services	£37,910.88	£151,643.52	£151,643.52	£37,910.88	£0.00	£0.00	£379,108.80	£0.00	£379,108.80
1.2.6 Hospital education services				£0.00	£281,500.00		£281,500.00	£0.00	£281,500.00
1.2.7 Other alternative provision services	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.8 Support for inclusion	£249,200.00	£1,185,708.80	£1,185,608.80	£0.00	£121,300.00	£0.00	£2,741,817.60	£0.00	£2,741,817.60
1.2.9 Special schools and PRUs in financial difficulty				£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.10 PFI/ BSF costs at special schools, AP/ PRUs and Post 16 institutions only				£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.11 Direct payments (SEN and disability)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.2.13 Therapies and other health related services	£0.00	£1,986,800.00	£1,841,700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,828,500.00	£0.00	£3,828,500.00
1.3.1 Central expenditure on early years entitlement	£923,200.00						£923,200.00	£0.00	£923,200.00
1.4.1 Contribution to combined budgets	£0.00	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£0.00	£0.00		£15,000.00	£0.00	£15,000.00
1.4.2 School admissions	£0.00	£189,200.00	£189,300.00	£0.00	£0.00		£378,500.00	£0.00	£378,500.00
1.4.3 Servicing of schools forums	£800.00	£6,400.00	£6,400.00	£1,600.00	£800.00		£16,000.00	£0.00	£16,000.00
1.4.4 Termination of employment costs	£0.00	£262,000.00	£206,700.00	£6,900.00	£0.00		£475,600.00	£0.00	£475,600.00
1.4.5 Falling Rolls Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.4.6 Capital expenditure from revenue (CERA)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.4.7 Prudential borrowing costs	£0.00	£96,200.00	£122,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		£218,200.00	£0.00	£218,200.00
1.4.8 Fees to independent schools without SEN	£0.00	£75,000.00	£75,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		£150,000.00	£0.00	£150,000.00
1.4.9 Equal pay - back pay	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.4.10 Pupil growth	£0.00	£144,500.00	£261,900.00	£0.00	£0.00		£406,400.00	£0.00	£406,400.00
1.4.11 SEN transport	£0.00	£373,000.00	£152,000.00	£115,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£640,000.00	£0.00	£640,000.00
1.4.12 Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.4.13 Infant class sizes		£0.00					£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.4.14 Other Items	£0.00	£99,500.00	£82,200.00	£2,700.00	£0.00	£0.00	£184,400.00		£184,400.00
1.5.1 Education welfare service							£107,900.00	£0.00	£107,900.00
1.5.2 Asset management							£76,000.00	£0.00	£76,000.00
1.5.3 Statutory/ Regulatory duties							£381,363.00	£0.00	£381,363.00
1.6.1 Central support services							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.2 Education welfare service							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.3 Asset Management							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.4 Statutory/ Regulatory duties							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.5 Premature retirement cost/ Redundancy costs (new provisions)							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.6 Monitoring national curriculum assessment							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.6.7 School Improvement							£50,837.00	£0.00	£50,837.00
1.7.1 Other Specific Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.8.1 TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGET (before Academy recoupment)	£19,541,910.88	£97,566,264.38	£120,341,933.59	£29,169,043.88	£5,355,100.00	£3,700,000.00	£276,290,352.73	£0.00	£276,290,352.73
1.9.1 Estimated Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023-24 (before academy recoupment), excluding high needs place funding for 16-19 academies and free schools and FE colleges and independent learning providers							£273,190,744.00		
1.9.2 Dedicated Schools Grant brought forward from 2022-23 (please show a deficit as a negative)							£1,487,289.53		
1.9.3 Dedicated Schools Grant carry forward to 2024-25 (please show a deficit as a positive)							-£1,487,289.53		
1.9.4 Grant for maintained school sixth forms							£3,099,610.50		
1.9.5 Local Authority additional contribution							£0.00		
1.9.6 Total funding supporting the Schools Budget (the sum of lines 1.9.1 to 1.9.5)							£276,290,354.50		
1.10.1 Academy recoupment from the Dedicated Schools Grant of schools block funding (show as a negative)							-£144,025,338.91		
1.10.2 Academy recoupment from the Dedicated Schools Grant of high needs place funding shown under line 1.0.2 (show as a negative)							-£7,831,668.00		
2.0.1 Central support services							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.0.2 Education welfare service							£245,035.00	£0.00	£245,035.00
2.0.3 School improvement							£227,503.00	£0.00	£227,503.00
2.0.4 Asset management - education							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.0.5 Statutory/ Regulatory duties - education							£257,117.80	£39,700.00	£217,417.80
2.0.6 Premature retirement cost/ Redundancy costs (new provisions)							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

2.0.7 Monitoring national curriculum assessment							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.1.1 Educational psychology service							£559,648.00	£0.00	£559,648.00
2.1.2 SEN administration, assessment and coordination and monitoring							£1,261,794.00	£0.00	£1,261,794.00
2.1.3 Independent Advice and Support Services (Parent partnership), guidance and information							£181,179.00	£0.00	£181,179.00
2.1.4 Home to school transport (pre 16): SEN transport expenditure	£0.00	£821,358.65	£210,463.20	£2,741,388.72	£479,327.96		£4,252,538.53	£44,418.24	£4,208,120.29
2.1.5 Home to school transport (pre 16): mainstream home to school transport expenditure	£0.00	£169,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£169,600.00	£0.00	£169,600.00
2.1.6 Home to post-16 provision: SEN/ LLDD transport expenditure (aged 16-18)			£68,258.33	£1,310,260.47	£0.00	£197,939.01	£1,576,457.81	£16,466.28	£1,559,991.53
2.1.7 Home to post-16 provision: SEN/ LLDD transport expenditure (aged 19-25)			£5,688.19	£358,029.46	£0.00	£508,986.01	£872,703.66	£9,115.49	£863,588.17
2.1.8 Home to post-16 provision transport: mainstream home to post-16 transport expenditure			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.1.9 Supply of school places							£155,500.00	£0.00	£155,500.00
2.2.1 Other spend not funded from the Schools Budget							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.3.1 Young people's learning and development			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.3.2 Adult and Community learning							£5,676,700.00	£5,608,100.00	£68,600.00
2.3.3 Pension costs							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.3.4 Joint use arrangements							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.3.5 Insurance							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.4.1 Other Specific Grant							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2.5.1 Total Other education and community budget							£15,435,776.80	£5,717,800.01	£9,717,976.79
3.0.1 Funding for individual Sure Start Children's Centres							£367,800.00	£0.00	£367,800.00
3.0.2 Funding for local authority provided or commissioned area wide services delivered through Sure Start Children's Centres							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.0.3 Funding on local authority management costs relating to Sure Start Children's Centres							£6,600.00	£0.00	£6,600.00
3.0.4 Other spend on children under 5							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.0.5 Total Sure Start children's centres and other spend on children under 5							£374,400.00	£0.00	£374,400.00
3.1.1 Residential care							£8,699,900.00	£0.00	£8,699,900.00
3.1.2a Fostering services (excluding fees and allowances for LA foster carers)							£990,733.33	£0.00	£990,733.33
3.1.2b Fostering services (fees and allowances for LA foster carers)							£5,910,000.00	£0.00	£5,910,000.00
3.1.3 Adoption services							£1,030,433.33	£0.00	£1,030,433.33
3.1.4 Special guardianship support							£1,529,400.00	£0.00	£1,529,400.00
3.1.5 Other children looked after services							£1,845,600.00	£0.00	£1,845,600.00
3.1.6 Short breaks (respite) for looked after disabled children							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.1.7 Children placed with family and friends							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.1.8 Education of looked after children	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.1.9 Leaving care support services							£3,156,333.33	£0.00	£3,156,333.33
3.1.10 Asylum seeker services children							£323,400.00	£0.00	£323,400.00
3.1.11 Total Children Looked After	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£23,485,799.99	£0.00	£23,485,799.99
3.2.1 Other children and families services							£2,073,500.00	£0.00	£2,073,500.00
3.3.1 Social work (including LA functions in relation to child protection)							£7,562,295.00	£0.00	£7,562,295.00
3.3.2 Commissioning and Children's Services Strategy							£2,701,059.44	£0.00	£2,701,059.44
3.3.3 Local Safeguarding Children Board							£109,000.00	£0.00	£109,000.00
3.3.4 Total Safeguarding Children and Young People's Services							£10,372,354.44	£0.00	£10,372,354.44
3.4.1 Direct payments							£847,600.00	£0.00	£847,600.00
3.4.2 Short breaks (respite) for disabled children							£1,407,500.00	£0.00	£1,407,500.00
3.4.3 Other support for disabled children							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.4.4 Targeted family support							£1,718,305.00	£0.00	£1,718,305.00
3.4.5 Universal family support							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3.4.6 Total Family Support Services							£3,973,405.00	£0.00	£3,973,405.00
3.5.1 Universal services for young people							£210,500.00	£0.00	£210,500.00
3.5.2 Targeted services for young people							£176,800.00	£0.00	£176,800.00
3.5.3 Total Services for young people							£387,300.00	£0.00	£387,300.00
3.6.1 Youth justice							£530,700.00	£0.00	£530,700.00
4.0.1 Capital Expenditure from Revenue (CERA) (Non-schools budget functions and Children's and young people services)							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
5.0.1 Total Schools Budget and Other education and community budget (excluding CERA) (lines 1.8.1 and 2.5.1)							£291,726,129.53	£5,717,800.01	£286,008,329.52
5.0.2 Total Children and Young People's Services and Youth Justice Budget (excluding CERA)(lines 3.0.5 + 3.1.11 + 3.2.1 + 3.3.4 + 3.4.6 + 3.5.3 + 3.6.1)							£41,197,459.43	£0.00	£41,197,459.43
6 Total Schools Budget, Other education and community budget, Children and Young People's Services and Youth Justice Budget (excluding CERA) (lines 5.0.1 + 5.0.2)							£332,923,588.96	£5,717,800.01	£327,205,788.95
7 Capital Expenditure (excluding CERA)	£45,000.00	£1,950,000.00	£3,200,000.00	£2,150,000.00	£120,000.00		£7,465,000.00	£0.00	£7,465,000.00
8a.1 Substance misuse services (Drugs, Alcohol and Volatile substances) (included in 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 above)							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
8a.2 Teenage pregnancy services (included in 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 above)							£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
1.8.1a DSG Block Planned Expenditure							Allocated DSG funding	Planned Spend	Net
Schools (before academy recoupment)							£197,315,620.00	£197,144,420.00	£171,200.00
Central School Services							£1,954,444.00	£2,125,644.00	-£171,200.00
High Needs (excluding post school)							£57,632,683.00	£57,632,683.00	£0.00
Early Years							£16,287,997.00	£16,287,997.00	£0.00
Total							£273,190,744.00	£273,190,744.00	£0.00

Report Title	Strengthening the SEND Service in Sutton
Meeting	Schools Forum
Date	17 January 2023
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Carol Worne, Strategic Finance Business Partner, Sutton Council
Open/Exempt	Open

Purpose

1. This paper summarises a case for investing in SEND services in Sutton to meet the increasing pressures that are currently impacting on the ability/capacity to deliver high quality SEND services in the Borough.
2. It makes a recommendation to repurpose a historical budget contribution of £272k currently used to support Children's Social Care (CSC) budgets from the High Needs Block into the Central Services Block to be invested as 'retained duties' to support the SEND Service and related statutory responsibilities currently being delivered by Cognus Ltd.

Recommendation(s)

3. To endorse the proposal to reallocate £172,000 currently used to support Children's Social Care budgets from the High Needs Block to the Central Services Block.
4. To endorse the proposal to retain £100,000 for Children's Social Care, subject to Sutton Council providing the Schools Forum with clarity about its future use and how the Forum may evaluate the effectiveness of this investment.

Background

5. Demand for SEND Services in Sutton has significantly increased in recent years as a result of increasing demand for specialist provision in the Borough (and nationally) which is impacting on a number of key services in Sutton.
6. The SEND Service in Cognus is under significant pressure for a variety of reasons including:
 - Recent data for 2022 (collected in March 2023) indicates a significant reduction in the number of Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs) completed in 20 weeks (dropping to 53% from a three year average prior to that of 91%). This is in part because of increasing demand within the resources available.
 - A significant increase in EHCNA requests (with associated pressures on Tribunals, Educational Psychology, Therapies etc).
 - High turnover of EHC Coordinators ('EHCCos') in Cognus (13 in the last financial year) which is impacting on the ability of the service to function effectively
 - Recent data from exit interviews indicates that the main reasons for leaving include pay and conditions (ie the interim market is more attractive), and workload pressures due to high caseloads
 - Increasing sickness amongst staff in the service at all levels
 - Increasing caseloads in terms of the number of EHCPs that the service is now managing (including Annual Review, Emergency Reviews) - the average caseload as at May 2023 is 170 EHCPs per FTE) which is in addition to the volume of Education Health and Care Needs Assessments each month which the caseworker oversees through the 20 week process (to note there were 458 requests in 2022 - a significant increase on last year where there were 390). There have been 182 in the January to April 2023 year to date period).
 - A lack of capacity for senior leaders in the service to undertake Quality Assurance and service development functions .
7. The underlying data in support of the points identified above are set out in Appendix A.
8. With pressures on the High Needs Block, it is a difficult time to invest in strengthening the service. However, the service is carrying a number of risks which cannot be mitigated easily without providing additional capacity into the service.

Capacity required to strengthen the service

9. The following support provides *options* for how the SEND Service could be supported.

	Proposal	Staffing / Cost est.	Rationale
1	Implement an increase to existing and future EHCCo salaries	£93,102	To improve staff retention by being able to be more competitive, create a more experienced workforce, reduce burden on managers to train staff/cover vacancies/caseload pressures
2	Increase no. of EHCCos to reduce caseloads	1FTE: £42,885 2FTE: £85,770	To bring caseloads in-line with other local areas, to enable a focus on the commissioning of SEND places and the management of EOTAS. To strengthen the ability to continue supporting schools and families
3	Develop a dedicated QA and training resource	Band 3, SCP 46, 1 FTE: £45,711.77	To have a dedicated Coordinator who would oversee the QA function for EHCPs across teams involved in the drafting process (including SEND, EPS, Therapies), and coordinate and report on QA activity, findings and learning for the service. To develop and maintain Standard Operating Procedures and dip sample cases on a monthly basis for reflective learning.
4	Develop a dedicated data function	Midpoint EHCP Coordinator scale 1 FTE: £41,379.58	To have a dedicated Coordinator who would oversee the SEND database and reporting data errors and gaps, to develop and maintain database training and recording Standard Operating Procedures, to triangulate data with SEN Finance and new statutory SEN2 reporting for DfE
	TOTAL	£265,963	

NB All posts proposed are new/additional roles to the existing team structure and will add capacity to the service.

Funding Options

10. Generally speaking, there are two broad sources of funding that could be used to fund the above provision:
 - (i) The Council General Fund,
 - (ii) The Dedicated Schools Grant (Central Services Block).
11. Option (i) is not considered viable in the current financial context given that Children's Services (of which education/Cognus is a part) is currently £4m overspent in-year with 15% savings to make over the next four years. A significant reduction in spend will be required over this period.
12. Option (ii) is equally difficult. The High Needs Block was overspent by £750k in 2022/23 and is expected to be under greater pressure in 2023/24 and for the foreseeable future as the number of EHCPs continues to rise.
13. A variation on option (ii) could be considered. Currently, the High Needs Block contributes £272k to the delivery of Children's Social Care in Sutton. This arrangement is not unique, however this approach is not universal and some members of Schools Forum have expressed doubts as to whether this arrangement should continue into the future. Option (ii.a) would be to remove some or all of the £272k contribution that is currently provided to Children's Social Care and move some, or all, of this funding into the Central Services Block to be 'retained' by the Local Authority to provide the support identified.
14. Discussions have taken place between the Acting Strategic Lead for Education and Interim Assistant Director for Children's Social Care (CSC) and the following has been agreed in principle subject to discussion at Schools Forum:
 - Remove £172k from the CSC contribution to invest in Children's Social Care and use this to invest in the SEN Service in Cognus
 - Retain £100k for CSC but for the LA to be clearer on what this funding is being used for and how Schools Forum can evaluate the effectiveness of this investment in future
15. Agreement to this would still have a financial impact on the Council's General Fund because the £272k contribution to Social Care would be removed, but it would have the following broad benefits:
 - The current contribution from High Needs Block has been questioned by Schools Forum and the current Acting Strategic Lead for Education, Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services and Director for Children's Services would like to remove this over time.
 - Schools Forum have increasingly scrutinised the £272k contribution from the High Needs Block to Children's Social Care. It has been reluctantly accepted by the Forum to date, but only on the basis that high needs overspends and the overall position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has remained broadly balanced. As pressures on the DSG continue in future years, this is unlikely to remain their position and therefore it would be wise to seek another way that the funding can support the LA

General Fund given it would be funding services that support vulnerable young people with SEND.

- The removal of the £272k contribution could be phased out over time to allow budgets in CSC to adjust.
- Whilst the DSG is under pressure, there is additional funding coming into the budget for FY 2023/24, which means that there is a small contingency budget in FY 2023/24 that could be used to allow for the budgets to be adjusted over time.

Recommended funding option to propose to Schools Forum

16. Whilst decisions relating to the deployment of the High Needs Block is a decision for the Local Authority, Schools Forum are regularly consulted on decisions relating to the deployment of high needs funding. To this end, this proposal was discussed at the Education Leadership Group where it was agreed that the proposal has strong merit and should be considered by Schools Forum formally.
17. To provide Children's Social Care with some time to adjust to the reduction in funding the following phasing is envisaged:

Year	CSC contribution from DSG High Needs	Reduction in funding to CSC (cumulative)	Funding to be provided to support SEND services	Net impact on High Needs DSG
2023/24	£272k	£0k	£172k	£172k
2024/25	£186k	£86k	£172k	£86k
2025/26	£100k	£172k	£172k	£0k
TOTALs				£258k

18. The table above proposes the following:

- a. High Needs Block funds support for SEND Services from 2023/24 with a total cost of £358k over three years to 2025/26
- b. As part of the above, the DSG Social Care contribution is reduced from £272k in 2023/24 to £100k in 2026/27
- c. The in-year impact on the DSG (as opposed to the cumulative) would reduce back to £0 by 2025/26

19. Having an effective and high performing SEND Service has significant benefits for education settings, local children and families. The processes by which pupils with SEND are placed in education settings has a direct impact on schools. Primary and secondary heads have been working with LA leaders and have identified a number of issues with consultation and placement processes that they would like the LA/Cognus to work on. Currently, there is insufficient capacity in the service to implement service development opportunities effectively hence this proposal being developed. The capacity in the service also represents a risk to local area inspection activities which are expected to take place in the next 6 months.

20. In terms of how the £172k would be used, proposals 2-4 in the table in paragraph 8 would be funded (which totals £173k). Proposal 1, to 'implement an increase to existing and future EHCCo salaries' will not be funded as part of this proposal.
21. Subject to agreement, the recruitment process would commence and to enable roles to be in place for the new Academic Year (potentially). Given that this is the earliest any additional appointments could be made, the actual costs to the high needs block of this proposal in 2023/24 will be less than that identified in the illustrative table in para 16 (given that the costs will only have a part-year effect).

Appendix A - Key SEND Statistics in the Local Area

Key SEND data

	2019	2020	2021	2022 (prov)
EHCPs (total)	1816	1927	1955	2077
EHCPs (under 5s)	69	65	100	104
EHCNA requests	282	295	390	458
New EHCPs	142	191	204	297

Requests for Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment increased between 2020 and 2021

Proportional to our population they were higher in 2021 than the London and England average; requests for assessment in 2022 were **458** and year to date in 2023 are **182**

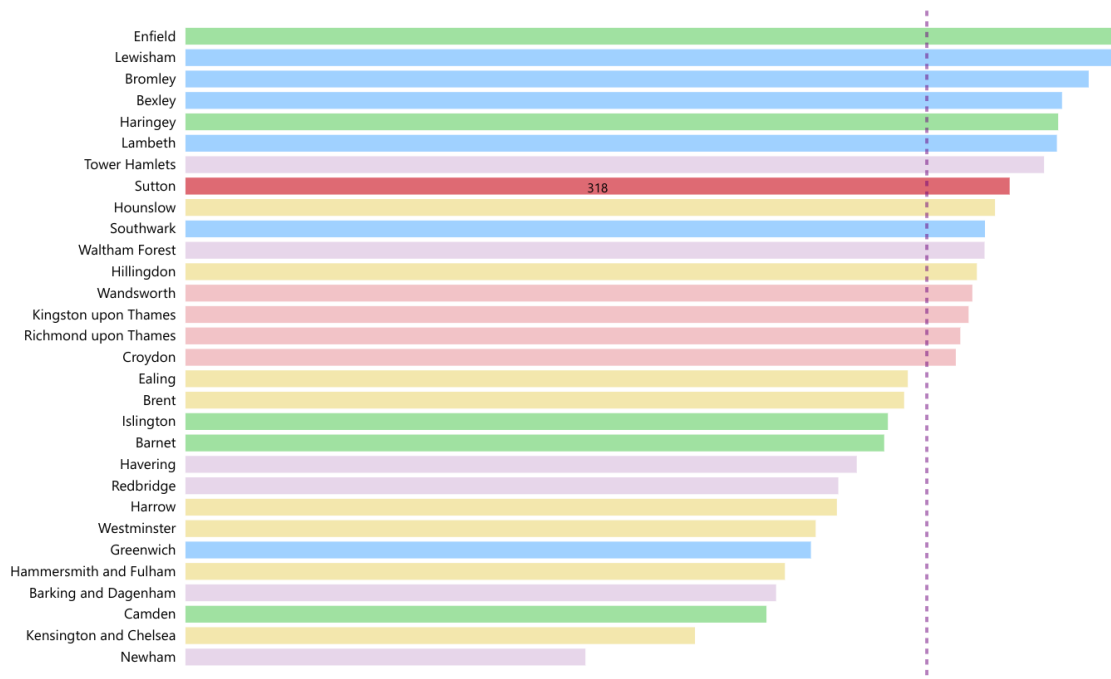
Rates of EHCNA Requests

Rate of Requests	2019	2020	2021
Sutton	45.52	47.33	62.20
London	47.98	43.37	53.63
England	49.09	45.20	56.64

SEN2 (2021) Number of request divided by the Mid-Year Estimates from ONS, of 0-24 population

Rates of EHCPs Maintained

Based on our resident population Sutton supports proportionally more pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (318 per 10,000 0-24 population) than the London average (292) & national average (280)



Timeliness of EHCPs Issued

	EHCPs issued within 20 weeks			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sutton	98%	96%	79%	52%
London	65%	62%	64%	
England	60%	58%	60%	

Report Title	English as an Additional Language (EAL) funding and Growth Funding
Meeting	Schools Forum
Meeting Date	June 2023
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
Open/Exempt	Open

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on payments that have been made, and are scheduled to be made in relation to in-year pupil growth, pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL), and those arriving through either the Homes for Ukraine, or Afghan Refugee schemes.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. To note the summary of developments against these payments.

3. Background and Key Information

- 3.1. This report provides a brief update on the payments that have been made, or that are due, to schools in relation to the above pupils.

EAL payments

- 3.2. Additional funding was identified from the growth fund 2021/22 and 2022/23 for payments to schools to support both in-year pupil growth and the higher than usual level on EAL needs of these children.
- 3.3. £30k was identified to support children with EAL in primary schools. A £15k payment was allocated across schools in April 2022, and a further payment of £15k is now due and will be distributed to schools early June 2023.
- 3.4. Regarding Secondary schools, the payment schedule in Appendix A has been made to cover the Autumn 22/23 term.
- 3.5. In addition to these payments, a further £27,000 has been allocated to Primary schools in the Autumn term to support in year placements, made after the October census date. A schedule of these payments has been provided in Appendix B.

Homes for Ukraine (HfU) Payments

- 3.6. The Local area has received just over £500k to support children arriving through the Homes for Ukraine scheme between March - April 2022/23.
- 3.7. The intention is to provide a weighted average payment to schools based on Homes for Ukraine children attending schools according to the most recent three school censuses. This is on the basis that the funding the LA has received has also been weighted according to which academic school term the child arrived into the borough. These initial payments will be made to schools in June 2023.
- 3.8. The projected total allocation to schools through application of the age phase rates agreed at the December 2022 schools forum is £400k. This results in £100k to contribute towards central expenditure on these children incurred across the 22/23, and 23/24 financial years. High Needs funding for children with an EHCP or undergoing an EHCNA is likely to make up the majority of these central payments. Any remaining funding will be distributed between schools according to the Autumn 2023 census HfU pupil numbers will be distributed to schools in January 2024.
- 3.9. All funding must be allocated by the end of March 2024; the DfE reserves the rights to reclaim any unspent funds after this date.

Afghan Refugee Scheme Payments

- 3.10. The number of children eligible through this scheme is approximately one-tenth of those eligible through the HfU scheme. The intention is to fund those schools receiving children arriving through this scheme in an identical manner to those arriving through the HfU scheme. Initial payments will also be made in June 2023.
- 3.11. This scheme is ongoing, and there is no deadline of 31st March 2024 after which the DfE may reclaim any unspent funds.

4. Implications

- 4.1. The report covers the payments that will be made to schools. There are no further financial implications covered in this report.

Appendix A - Secondary Growth and EAL payments Autumn term 22/23

Autumn Term 22/23	1200	600	1800	
	EAL HR	EAL LR	Growth	Total
Carshalton Boys Sports College			1	1800
Carshalton High School for Girls			3	5400
Cheam High School			1	1800
Glenthorne High School			1	1800
Greenshaw High School			2	3600
Harris Academy Sutton	1	1	4	9000
NONSUCH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS			0	0
Oaks Park High School			6	10800
Overton Grange			0	0
ST PHILOMENA'S			2	3600
Sutton Grammar School			0	0
The John Fisher School			1	1800
WALLINGTON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL			0	0
Wallington Girls High School			0	0
Wilson's School			0	0
				39600

Appendix B - Primary Growth Payments Autumn term 22/23

	1800	1200	600	
	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Total
All Saints Benhilton	1			1800
Avenue	2			3600
Culvers House	1			1800
Dorchester	1			1800
Harris Junior Academy Carshalton	1			1800
Muschamp	2			3600
Rushy Meadow	1			1800
St Dunstan's Cheam CofE	2			3600
Wood Field Primary	1			1800
Devonshire	1			1800
Manor Park	1			1800
Tweeddale	1			1800
				0
				0
				0
				27000

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Report Title	Early Years Designated Schools Grant 23/24 update
Meeting	Schools Forum
Meeting Date	June 2023
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Laura Byrnes, Early Years Pupil Commissioning Manager
Open/Exempt	Open

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the changes to the Early Years block allocations of the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) following the Chancellors spring statement.
- 1.2. This report is for information only.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the anticipated updates to the Early Years DSG allocations for the financial year 2023/24.
- 2.2. To note that at the time of writing this report, the Council has not yet received confirmed allocations.
- 2.3. To note that the Council's Early Years budgets will be amended at a later date to reflect the new funding allocations.

3. Background and Key information

- 3.1. On 15 March, the Chancellor announced, as part of the Government's spring budget, to invest a further £204 million from this September rising to £288 million next year (financial year 2024 to 2025) to increase the funding rates paid to early years providers for the free childcare entitlements.
- 3.2. The investment into the Early Years will allow the national average rate for local authorities for 2-year-olds to increase by 30% from the current national average rate of £6 per hour to around £8 per hour from September 2023 and the national average for the 3 & 4-year-old rate for local authorities will rise in line with inflation from the current national average rate of £5.29 per hour to over £5.50 per hour from September 2023.
- 3.3. Whilst the national average figures have been published, the rates provided to each local authority have not. This means that an updated 23/24 DSG allocation is expected imminently.

- 3.4. The 2024/25 Early Years DSG allocations will be published in the autumn as per the current arrangements.
- 3.5. The current Early Years DSG allocations Sutton received are between 15-17% higher than the national average hourly rates.
- 3.6. Calculated on a 15 % above the national average the estimated hourly rates provided to Sutton from September are;
- £9.20 for the 2-year-old entitlement an increase of £2.28 on the current allocations
 - £6.33 for the 3&4 year old entitlement an increase of £0.17 on the current allocations
- 3.7. The new hourly rates provided to the council will increase the hourly rates paid to providers from September 2023 to the following once the local funding formula is applied;
- £ 9.05 per hour an increase of £2.44
 - £5.47 per hour an increase of £0.11
- 3.8. Sutton's Early Years block DGS is expected to increase by £600K this financial year from £16.2m to £16.8m.
- 3.9. The increase to the place funding allocations will also increase the centrally retained budget this financial year by approximately £14K from £720K to £733K. The council can only retain funding from the 3&4-year-old place allocation
- 3.10. In addition to the investment in the Early Years this financial year and next, the Chancellor announced an expansion to the free childcare entitlement, whereby working parents with children from 9 months will be able to access up to 30 hours of free childcare a week by 2025. This expansion will be rolled out in phases starting from April 2024 and will result in an increase to the Early Years block of the DSG;
- From **April 2024**, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of childcare.
 - From **September 2024**, 15 hours of childcare will be extended to all children from the age of 9 months
 - From **September 2025**, working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare per week.
- 3.11. There is no indication as to whether further revenue or capital funding will be made available to local authorities to implement the reforms, nor is there an indication of changes to funds the council is able to retain to support the delivery of the free childcare entitlements.
- 3.12. An updated EY DSG budget will be shared with the forum later in the year.

4. Implications

- 4.1. A delay in confirming the increase of funding for early years providers limits their ability to financially plan effectively for September and beyond. Many providers are term-time only and will close in mid to late July.
- 4.2. Early Years providers are experiencing workforce and financial challenges which impact on the capacity of places locally and the sustainability of the sector.
- 4.3. Without the updated DSG allocations and updated guidance, the council's decisions regarding how to allocate resources to plan for the new reforms are delayed. This creates a challenge for the centrally retained budget to meet the increasing demand.
- 4.4. There is a risk that the increase in funding continues to be insufficient to meet the cost of delivery which could lead to providers closing or limiting the number of free childcare places they offer and in turn threaten the council's sufficiency duties.
- 4.5. The 23/24 budgets will need to be reviewed and updated and the additional funding in the centrally retained budget allocated.
- 4.6. Close monitoring and reporting of the Early Years DSG allocations are required as the indicative budget will be based on an assumed demand for the new entitlement that starts at two points in the financial year (April and September) that may result in an under or overspend at year-end.

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Report Title	Capital Report
Meeting	Schools Forum
Meeting Date	June 2023
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
Open/Exempt	Open

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on capital funding and further information on pupil place planning and any capital implications arising.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. To note the summary of developments against the primary, secondary and special expansion programmes.

3. Background and Key Information

- 3.1. This report provides a brief update on the capital implications of decisions made to ensure a sufficiency of school places for the forthcoming year.

Basic Need Capital

- 3.2. The overall expansion programme costs (below) have been adjusted to reflect the latest position but remain similar to those last reported to Schools Forum in January.

	Previous estimate (Jan '23) £m	Current estimate (May '23) £m
Primary expansions	81.0	81.1
Secondary expansions	94.7	95.2
SEN expansions	13.5	13.8

Capital Maintenance Programme

- 3.3. The programme for 2022-23 was progressed over the Spring term.
- 3.4. The 23/24 Capital maintenance programme was agreed by the Schools Forum in January 2023, and presented to the People Committee on 9th February, and is now being implemented.
- 3.5. There remains an unallocated contingency sum of £110k to cover any emergency condition issues that may arise during the remaining winter months, and a budget of £110k set aside to contribute towards substantial building repair/ replacement projects anticipated to be required within the next 5 years period.

Secondary Programme

- 3.6. The following additional places have been agreed for September 2023; these schools have already offered these places.
- Glenthorne High School - 43 places
 - Carshalton Boys - 30 places
 - Carshalton Girls - 40 places
 - Cheam High School - 20 places
 - Oaks Park High School - 50 places
 - Overton Grange High School - 60 places
 - St. Philomena's high School for Girls
- Total - 273 places**
- 3.7. Pupil numbers in secondary schools continue to rise; pupils numbers in year 7 are forecast to peak in 2023/24, before starting to fall back again. However, numbers are not forecast to reduce back to levels that can be accommodated within current school PANs until 2028/29.
- 3.8. Due to the relatively low level of surplus places in Sutton, higher than usual levels on in-year applications is placing pressure on a number of year groups, in particular the current year 7 year group. Whilst we anticipate that schools will continue to admit over-numbers where they are able to do so, it may be that in the future the LA requests a school to open a bulge class to release some of the pressure resulting from pupil number growth resulting from these in-year admission.
- 3.9. An additional 10 places above the 263 places that have already been agreed across existing Sutton Secondary Schools have been secured for September 2023. This will provide sufficient places to meet projected year 7 pupils in 2023/24.

Primary Programme

- 3.10. Officers continue to plan for permanent reductions in primary places and are working with primary schools across the Local Area to consider options based on a variety of different factors including where pupils live, where birth rates have fallen most significantly, parental preferences and the location of delivered and planned housing developments..
- 3.11. Despite the above, the significant pressure for in-year places that was seen last year continues into 2022/23, and in particular over the summer holiday period. The level of in-year applications is particularly high in the primary phase compared with levels pre 2022/23. These pressures are in large as a result of families arriving in the local area through overseas resettlement schemes, for which Sutton is proving to be a popular destination for families to relocate, no doubt in part due to the very high standard of state education our schools have to offer.
- 3.12. These pressures are particularly acute in years 3 and 6, where the area has vacancies remaining in only a few schools that are not necessarily located a reasonable distance from the residential addresses of children seeking an in-year school place.
- 3.13. Whilst it has been possible to allocate school places to year 2 via making central offers, it has been necessary to open a further additional 'bulge' class into year 5 at the Avenue Primary School, year 3 at Avenue Primary School and year 2 at Devonshire Primary school. The schools will receive the usual level of growth funding support for opening a 'bulge class', which is £58k in the first year and £29k in the second year, as well as reasonable capital funding to support the additional furniture and ICT resources required for this.
- 3.14. No further in-year bugle classes are planned for September 2023; however applications in particular to year 6 will continue to be monitored and the positions reviewed as appropriate.

SEND Programme

- 3.15. Additional 'temporary' specialist places have been agreed at the following schools for September 2023:
- 9 places- Sherwood Park school
 - 6 places - Oakfield Resource Base (Woodfield Primary)
 - 8 places (Avenue Primary Resource Base)
- 3.16. Some minor capital funding has been agreed with schools to support these additional places; Expenditure against these projects will be reported against the SEND expansion programme.
- 3.17. Since 20218 the government has made specific SEND Capital funding allocations to support the development and provisioning of SEND places, and community infrastructure and support for SEND pupils. In March 2022, the government announced further allocations of £4.6m for 2022-23 and £3.2m for 2023-24.

- 3.18. To date £3.6m has been allocated from the Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF) to support SEND projects, with £5.8m remaining unallocated, to be distributed through future funding allocations and LA managed central projects.
- 3.19. A further application round (round 5) opened in May 2023; conditions for grant funding carried forward from those of Autumn 2022 round 4. The application window closes for this round on Friday 16th June. Based on previous spring round allocation, it is anticipated a further circa £1m will be approved through this funding round.
- 3.20. The new 'Carew Academy' free school (the school is currently located at Carew Manor) to be built on the Sheen Way site still continues to be progressed by the DfE. This project does not deliver any additional places at the school (beyond those already on roll at the school). The DfE are currently working on the next stages of the project (pre construction). This school is expected to open in new accommodation for January 2025.
- 3.21. Sutton Free School 2 continues to be progressed by the DfE, with a planning application due to be submitted in July 2023. Planning will be for a 96 place Autism special school, to be operated by Greenshaw Learning Trust. There has been some slippage in the delivery timescale, which is now anticipated for October 2024; the LA are exploring options for accommodating the pupils who would move to the new school in September 2024 until the school is in a position to open. Officers are meeting regularly with the DfE for project progress update reports on both the above free schools.

4. Implications

- 4.1. The Council's capital budgets have been updated to reflect committed expenditure.