

NOTICE OF MEETING

Haringey Schools Forum

THURSDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2025 AT 4.00 pm HRS - INDERWICK ROAD,
CROUCH END N8 9JF.

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

**2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND FORUM
MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Clerk to report.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations are only required where an individual member of the Forum has
a pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3 JULY 2025 (PAGES 1 - 12)

Matters arising

5. EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE (PAGES 13 - 18)

Muhammad Ali / Neil Sinclair

6. 2026-2027 DSG FUNDING MODEL STRATEGY (PAGES 19 - 24)

Muhammad Ali / Neil Sinclair

**7. EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2024-25 FINAL OUTTURN AND 2025-26 OPENING
UPDATE (PAGES 25 - 30)**

Akwai Gill / Jane Edwards

8. UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES (PAGES 31 - 36)

To receive an update from the working parties not covered within the agenda.

~~A To receive the verbal update from the Early Years working party.~~

[including Terms of Reference].

B To receive any updates from the Dedicated School Block working party.
[including Terms of Reference].

9. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025 - 2026

Thursday 4 December 2025 at 4pm.
Thursday 15 January 2026 at 4pm.
Thursday 12 February 2026 at 4pm.
Thursday 19 March 2026 at 4pm.
Thursday 2 July 2026 at 4pm.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

03 JULY 2025 AT 16:00 HRS AT HEP:Inderwick Road, Crouch End N8 9JF

School Members		
Headteachers		
Special (1)	(A)Martin Doyle (Riverside)	
Nursery Schools (1)	(A)Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
Primary (7)	(A)Mary Gardiner (West Green)	(A)Kate Stevens (St Aidan VC)
	Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	(A)Ian Scotchbrook (South Harringay)	(A)Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)	
Secondary (2)	Jo Davey (Fortismere)	Vacancy
Primary Academy (1)	(A)Luke Renwick (Brook House) long term substitute for Simon Knowles (LDBS Academies Trust)	
Secondary Academies (3)	(A)Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	Angela Wallace (Mulberry Woodside Academy)
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	(A)Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
Special (1)	Phil Di Leo (The Vale)	
Nursery School (1)	Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (7)	Vacancy	Dan Salem (Stroud Green Primary)
	(A)Oliver Simms (Alexandra Primary)	
	Helen Froggatt (St Aidan's VC)	(A)Jenny Thomas (Lordship Lane)
	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra Primary)	
Secondary Maintained (2)	Laurence Penn (Highgate Wood)	Sylvia Dobie (Park View)
Primary Academy (1)	Vacancy	
Secondary Academies (3)	(A)Andrea Henry (Greig City Academy)	Vacancy
	Vacancy	
Alternative Provision (1)	Vacancy	
Non-School Members		
Non-Executive Councillor	Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	(A)Sharon Hodson	
Professional Association Representative	(A)Efe Kurtluoglu substitution for Ed Harlow	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
CCCG Representative	(A)Adam Beral substitution for Christine Bianchin	
Early Years Providers	Susan Tudor-Hart	
Independent member	Will Wawn [Chair]	
Observers		

None	
Cabinet Member for CYPs	
Cllr Zena Brabazon	
Also Attending	
Corporate Director of Children's Services	(A)Ann Graham
Director, Schools & Learning	Jane Edwards
Director, Commissioning & Programmes	(A)Caroline Brain
Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Service Integrated SEND	Karen Flanagan
Head of Schools Finance	(A)Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Ali Muhammad
Head of Audit and Risk Management	Minesh Janih
Chief Executive HEP	James Page
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)	(A)Anne Etchells
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions were made.
- 1.2 Special welcome was made to Karen Flanagan and Minesh Janish.

2. APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence were received and noted from:
 - Mary Gardiner (Headteacher: West Green).
 - Sian McDermott (Headteacher: Rowland Hill).
 - Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian).
 - Kate Stevens (Headteacher: St Aidans).
 - Ian Scotchbrook (Headteacher: South Haringay).
 - Mike McKenzie (Headteacher: Alexandra Park).
 - Linda Sarr (Headteacher: Risley Avenue).
 - Martin Doyle (Headteacher: Riverside).
 - Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP).
 - Oliver Simms (Governor: Alexandra Primary).
 - Ann Graham (Corporate Director of Children's Services).
 - Caroline Brain (Director, Commissioning & Programmes).
 - Neil Sinclair (Head of Finance - People (Interim)).
 - Vanessa Bateman (Deputy Head of Audit and Risk Management).
- 2.2 The Chair provided thanks and tribute to the following members for their services to Haringey and Schools Forum as they were stepping down from their position:
 - Phil Dileo (Governor: The Vale).
 - Kate Stevens (Headteacher: St Aidan's VC).
 - Jo Davey (Headteacher: Fortismere).
 - Helen Froggatt (Governor St Aidan's VC).
 - Paul Renny (Trade Union representative) retired in March with Sharon Hodson as replacement.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declaration of interests was made in respect of any of the agenda items.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 The minutes of the Schools Forum meeting held on 13 March 2025 were **AGREED** and **RATIFIED** as a correct record of the meeting.

4.2 Matters arising

- 4.2.1 Item 4.2.1 Vacancies on the School's Forum membership
a) All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions.
b) Will Wawn to follow up with Secondary Academies to try and recruit to vacancies.
c) For each block that had vacancies, elections to take place to select members to the Forum.
d) HEP to continue to email all Governors regarding Governor vacancies on Schools' Forum. Governor Forum members to make request for members at relevant Chairs and Governor meetings.
All actions were noted as ongoing actions.
- 4.2.2 Item 4.2.2 Vice Chair Election
Election of Vice -Chair to be undertaken at the July meeting.
See item 7
- 4.2.3 Item 5.2 An update on the future direction of the High Needs Block Working Party to be received at the next meeting.
See item 8.2
- 4.2.4 Item 6.8 Chair and Vanessa Bateman/ Minesh Jani to follow up regarding financial audit check list.
See item 9
- 4.2.5 Item 6.18 Chair to approach other London Chairs of Schools' Forums regarding a joint approach to DfE on school funding levels.
The Chair had approached other London Schools' Forum Chairs, however there was a lack of appetite to take forward any actions. Noted that Barking and Dagenham had a similar local formula model and may be interested in a joint approach.
ACTION Cllr Ali to provide the details of B&D Schools Forum Chair to Will Wawn to allow approach.
- 4.2.6 Item 6.24a Cllr Brabazon to provide an update at the July meeting in regard to lobbying to DfE from other Lead Members.
See item 4.2.7.
- 4.2.7 Item 6.24b Cllr Brabazon and the Chair to review options of lobbying local Haringey MPs over school funding challenges.
There had been discussions with Kathy West MP; noting the issues with school funding was well known within local and central government. Noted that Cllr Brabazon would continue to lobby at all presenting opportunities. Action was closed.
- 4.2.8 Item 6.29 Finance and LA officers to review with secondary schools the best avenue to proceed.
The matter was referred to the next Schools' Forum for an update.

Secondary school representatives requested that a decision was reached by mid-September (before Q2 return) to allow for financial planning

5. FORUM MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

5.1 The Forum noted receipt of the paper titled “Schools’ Forum Membership and Terms of Reference”. Due to the size and distribution of the pupil population the report recommended the following changes within the primary representative groups:

- A reduction in the number of primary maintained headteacher and governor representatives by 1 to 6 Headteachers and 6 Governors.
- To increase the number of primary academy headteacher and governor representatives by 1 to 2 Headteachers and 2 Governors.
- The proposed changes would decrease maintained members by 2 and increase the number of academy members by 2. No changes in the overall number of places, was proposed.

5.1.1 The Chair sought agreement from the Forum to adopted the updated Terms of Reference and the Forum membership for 2025/26.

AGREED Forum Members approved the adoption of the allocation of Schools Forum places for 2025/26 and the Terms of Reference for 2025/26.

5.2 Long term vacancies on the Forum

The Clerk informed members that following positions had been vacant for at least one academic year, most cases longer, despite numerous recruitment campaigns:

- Maintained Secondary Headteacher (1 position).
- Academy Secondary Headteacher (1 position).
- Maintained Primary Governor (1 position).
- Maintained Secondary Governor (1 position).
- Academy Primary Governor (1 position).
- Academy Secondary Governor (2 positions).
- Alternative Provision Governor (1 position).

5.2.1 2025/26 vacancies

The Clerk noted that with known members leaving (item 2.2) and the changes to the forum memberships (item 4.1) vacancies for 2025/26 would be:

- Maintained Secondary Headteacher: 2 positions.
- Academy Primary Headteacher: 1 position. further noted that the current member had not be in attendance for over 1 year – this could rise to 2 positions.
- Academy Secondary Headteacher: 1 position.
- Maintained Special Governor: 1 position.
- Maintained Primary Governors: 1 position. Further noted that a current member had not be in attendance for over 2 years – this could rise to 2 positions.
- Academy Primary Governors: 2 positions.
- Academy Secondary Governors: 2 positions
- Alternative Provision Governor: 1 position.

5.2.2 The Chair noted that it was not good practice for Schools’ Forum to continue in maintaining the current level of vacancies and suggested the number of representatives in each category could be reviewed; whilst the proportion within each category was maintained. Members discussed the pros and cons of modifying the Schools Forum membership and strategies to fill current vacancies.

ACTIONS

- a) Clerk to approach Dan Salem regarding a further primary governor nomination.
- b) Clerk to approach all NLCs in advertising the current vacancies to ensure a geographical balance.
- c) Clerk to approach Caroline Schloss regarding interest from Tom Spencer (Ferry Lane) in joining Schools' Forum
- d) Laurence Penn to raise Schools' Forum vacancies at the Secondary Chairs meeting.
- e) Long term vacancies and the Powers of Schools' Forum to be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- f) A short presentation about Schools' Forum at the next available governors briefing.

The Clerk took over as Chair for item 6.

6. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

- 6.1 The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair for 2025/26. Forum Members nominated Will Wawn. No other nominations were made. Will Wawn confirmed that he was willing to stand as Chair for a further year.

All Forum Members voted in favour of re-electing Will Wawn for a further term of office as Chair of Haringey's Schools' Forum.

Will Wawn took over as Chair.

7. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR

- 7.1 The chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2025/26. No Forum members were nominated or volunteered for the position.

ACTION Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

8. UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES

- 8.1 Early Years Working Party.

The Early Years Working Party has not meet since January 2025. A meeting will be arranged before the next Schools' Forum meeting in October.

- 8.2 High Needs Working Party.

There were no further updates received. Noted that the working party had not met, since the onboarding and roll out of the Safety Valve Programme, as the work is now undertaken by the work streams of the Safety Valve Programme.

ACTION Chair to feedback to Martin Doyle that the High Needs Working Party has been superseded by the Safety Valve Programme and for the time being is not required. However, moving forward should there be a requirement then a group could be called for a focused piece of work.

- 8.3 Dedicated School Block working party.

No meetings have taken place since the last meeting.

9. OUTCOME OF INTERNAL AUDIT

- 9.1 Minesh Jani provided the Forum with a synopsis of the paper; noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was a general trend of improved assurance; a summary of outcomes for 2024/24 was noted as:

- 14 schools were scheduled to be audited; however, 1 was cancelled as the school was scheduled to be closed and 1 was deferred at the Headteacher's request.
- No schools received a 'nil' rating.

- Seven schools received limited assurances.
- Five schools received Adequate' or above' assurance rating.
- One school received an improved Assurance from their last audit.

9.2 The priority of the recommendations raised from the 12 audits undertaken were as follows:

- Priority 1 recommendation: 10.
- Priority 2 recommendations: 48.
- Priority 3 recommendations: 71.

9.3 The common themes arising from the audit work were:

- Governors not providing evidence of their DBS certificate, particularly where the previous certificate requires an update.
- Contracts have been rolled over for a number of years and spend on them exceeds the thresholds for going out to tender.
- An Information Asset Register which outlined the data collected and utilised by the schools were not maintained, in line with the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner Office.

9.4 Members expressed their discontent in regard to Mazars practice and information sought by the auditing officers. Members provided an overview of their experiences and robustly shared their concerns of Mazars explaining they were seeking information which did not comply with the Haringey financial framework or mirrored other operational practices in Haringey. Further noted that schools felt that Mazars checklist appeared to be expanded beyond Haringey's requirements to include work practices of other LAs. Minesh Jani reassured members that Haringey has a programme which will be reviewed against Mazars' to ensure Mazars is compliant with Haringey's requirements. Further noted that for the next cycle of audits, auditors will attend the school site at least once. Minesh Jani agreed to share the audit programme and check list.

ACTION a) Audit to ensure there is alignment between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit programme for Haringey Schools.

b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazars, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).

10. DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2024-2025

10.1 Ali Muhammad provided the Forum with a synopsis of the paper; noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There has been a year-on-year decrease in the Central School Services Block rate per pupil of 2.5%. The High Needs Block has seen an increase in the funding rate as well as an increase in the number of pupils funded. However, there is a lag in funding the increased demand and the actual cost of per pupil expenditure currently exceeds the available budget.

10.2 A total budget of £139.86 million was allocated for 2024/25. 100% of the funding was passported to schools as budgeted, after the block transfer of 0.5% from the High Needs Block (£1,167,130), along with the block transfer of 0.05% (£122,000) to the Central School Services Block for the Education Welfare Service, and the allocation of £328,254 to the Growth Fund.

- 10.3 The Early Years Block started the year in a positive position, with a surplus of £742,278. A budget of £30.96 million was allocated, but actual spending came in lower at £29.88 million. The reported underspend was showing as £1.08 million. However, the following caveats on the underspend were noted as:
- a) The 2024/25 claw back total is unknown; but expected to be similar to 2023/24 (£423k).
 - b) The total committed amount from the 2023/24 carry forward (£742k) was yet to be determined pending further financial scrutiny.

ACTION a) LA to confirm current spend, commitments and uncommitted amounts and report to the Chair of the Early Years Working Party ASAP. With a written report to be received at the first meeting.
 b) Schools Forum to receive a written report at the next meeting.

- 10.4 The High Needs Block spend will be monitored as part of the Safety Valve programme.
- 10.5 At the end of financial year 2024-25, 21 schools had a licenced deficit with the total amount outstanding of £2.947m in comparison to financial year 2023/24, 19 schools had a licenced deficit, when the total amount outstanding was £4.231m.
- 10.6 Further noted that Haringey Council will shortly be issuing a Terms of Reference document on "Schools in Financial Difficulty" to all maintained schools, identified as being in financial difficulty. Specifically, schools with a cumulative financial deficit exceeding £100,000 or 5% of their budget for primary schools, and £200,000 or 3% of their budget for secondary schools, will receive support from the "Schools in Financial Difficulty Group." The Terms of Reference will outline the expectations and procedures for these schools, including the requirement to report on and manage the repayment of their cumulative financial deficits in a structured and transparent manner.

11 SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 11.1 Jackie Difolco and Karen Flanagan took members through the May 2025 progress report. noting that it had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following highlights were notes:
- a) The SLCN pathway continues to be embedded ensuring consistent approach in all primary settings, the next stage will be to embed this with secondary settings
 - b) ASC resource provision at Earlsmead is being delivered 1 year ahead of schedule with 3 children attending; further 3/4 additional pupils are expected to be phased between now and March 2026 and up to capacity (15) by March 2028.
 - c) Riverside expansion was delivered a year early, with all children successfully phased in.
 - d) The Brook expansion is due for completion by September 2025 with 10 children starting and a further 8 admitted during 2026-2027. There is a slight delay to due capital works with interim plans in place for students starting in September, plan to be fully operational by end of Sept.
 - e) SEMH provision at Alexandra Primary is due for completion by September 2025 with 3 children starting in September. There is a similar situation as The Brook re: slight delay.
 - f) SEMH provision at Park View is expected to be completed by September 2026.
 - g) Within the statutory assessment team, increasing staff capacity has resulted in an increase of annual reviews being completed which is now averaging at 60%. There is work to do with schools to ensure that annual reviews are completed within a timely way.
 - h) SEND Supported Internships - there are 45 interns engaged in the programme. Recent graduation ceremony held for 10 young people with employers, coaches and parents and carers. Some of the young people have already secured part

time employment over the summer. From September there will be over 120 internships available from 8 employers with 40 courses.

- i) The introduction of the Early Years Inclusion Fund is continuing to work well, providing funded support for children aged under 5 without an EHCP. This is being monitored to ensure effectiveness.
- j) HLP post 16 provision has been extended until August 25 to enable provision to be developed. From September 25, HLP will return to being a PRU.
- k) The new bandings model is in place from this academic year. This will be reviewed with a paper brought to Schools Forum in Jan to confirm banding rates from April 26..

- 11.2 As the Safety Valve programme moves into the next phase of works, with a focus on embedding and reviewing the effectiveness of each project The need to report as frequently has reduced; therefore, Schools Forum will receive reports at every other meeting moving forward. Further noted that the programme steering board will now meet every 8 weeks.

12 CONTINUATION OF EAL INTEGRATION FOR YEAR 11 NEW ARRIVALS AND OUTREACH SUPPORT (GROWTH FUND)

- 12.1 Jane Edwards provided an overview of the paper titled 'Continuation of EAL Integration for Year 11 New Arrivals and Outreach Support (Growth Fund)'. There continued to be a significant number of in-year applications from families with Year 11 pupils arriving from overseas. This trend is particularly evident in the months immediately following the end of the Autumn Term. Following collaborative discussions with secondary Headteachers, the commissioning Team and the Schools and Learning Service. It was agreed that a resource provision be set up at Park View.
- 12.2 The curriculum offer at the Park View EAL provision includes ESOL Entry 1, Life in the UK, Mathematics, Reading, Art, E-Learning, ICT, Physical Education, Food & Nutrition, and a social curriculum delivered during form time. To ensure students were adequately prepared for post-16 education, the programme has incorporated career pathways guidance and support with college applications. Between January 2025 and May 2025, the Park View Integration Programme has admitted a total of 14 Year 11 EAL pupils from overseas.
- 12.3 Under the new proposed model, the service will begin accepting referrals through the Fair Access Panel from September 2025 and will operate with a capacity of up to 40 pupils (two classes of 20). the total proposed funding for the provision amounts to £184,594.
- 12.4 The recommended funding model proposes that 11% (£20,000) of the total cost be met from the AP Budget, with the remaining 89% (£164,594) funded through the Growth Fund. The Growth Fund is intended to address in-year pressures, and it is proposed that £164,594 be drawn from the £300,000 allocation reserved by Schools Forum for the 2025/26 financial year to support this provision.

The Chair sought a vote on the recommendation as detailed in 12.3 and 12.4.

Schools Forum UNANIMOUSLY AGREED the allocation of £164,594 of Growth Fund to Park View for the continuation of a Haringey Integration Programme for Year 11 EAL new arrivals and outreach support.

13 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025-2026

- 13.1 The proposed meeting dates for Schools Forum for 2025/26 were noted as:
- Thursday 16 October 2025 at 4pm: face to face.
 - Thursday 4 December 2025 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 15 January 2026 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 12 February 2026 at 4pm.
 - Thursday 19 March 2026 at 4pm.

- Thursday 2 July 2026 at 4pm.

13.2 The Chair noted that the minimum number of meetings required were 5. Noted that there may not be a requirement to hold the December meeting. A final determination on this will be made at the October meeting.

14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

14.1 No AOB items were received.

The Chair closed the meeting at 5:50pm

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT FOR 16 OCTOBER 2025 MEETING

ITEM	ACTION	LEAD
4.2.1	<u>Vacancies on the School's Forum membership</u> a) All members to continue recruitment through all avenues to appoint to vacant positions. b) Will Wawn to follow up with Secondary Academies to try and recruit to vacancies. c) For each block that had vacancies, elections to take place to select members to the Forum. d) HEP to continue to email all Governors regarding Governor vacancies on Schools Forum. Governor Forum members to make request for members at relevant Chairs and Governor meetings.	All WW All HEP
4.2.5	Cllr Ali to provide the details of Barking and Dagenham Schools Forum Chair to Will Wawn to allow approach regarding a joint approach to DfE on school funding levels.	WW & Cllr Ali
4.2.8	Finance and LA officers to review with secondary schools the best avenue to proceed with a verbal updated at the next meeting.	NS & AM
5.2.2	<u>Forum Membership</u> a) Clerk to Dan Salem regarding a further primary governor nomination. b) Clerk to approach all NLCs in advertising the current vacancies to ensure a geographical balance. c) Clerk to approach Caroline Schloss regarding interest from Tom Spencer (Ferry Lane) in joining Schools Forum d) Laurence Penn to raise Schools Forum vacancies at the Secondary Chairs meeting. e) Long term vacancies and the Powers of School Forum to be an agenda item at the next meeting. f) A short presentation about schools Forum at the next available governors briefing.	Clerk/DS Clerk Clerk/CS LP Clerk/WW HEP/ WW
7.1	Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.	Clerk
8.2	<u>HNB</u> Chair to feedback to Martin Doyle that the High Needs Working Party has been superseded by the Safety Valve Programme and for the time being is not required. However, moving forward should there be a requirement then a group could be called for a focused piece of work.	WW/MD
9.4	<u>Audit</u> a) Audit to ensure there is alinement between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit	Audit

	<p>programme for Haringey Schools.</p> <p>b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).</p>	Audit
10.3	<p><u>EYB</u></p> <p>a) LA to confirm current spend, commitments and uncommitted amounts and report to the Chair of the Early Years Working Party ASAP. With a written report to be received at the first meeting.</p> <p>b) Schools Forum to receive a written report at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NS & AM</p> <p>NS & AM</p>

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Agenda Item 5

Report Status

For information/note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For consultation & views	<input type="checkbox"/>
For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 16 October 2025

Report Title: Education Welfare Service

Authors:

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Report authorised by:

Jane Edwards - Director for Schools and Learning
 Contact: 0208 489 3607 Email: Jane.Edwards@haringey.gov.uk

Purpose:

To update Schools' Forum on the continued delivery of the Education Welfare Service (EWS) under the existing model, whereby all schools are provided with an enhanced core offer to reflect the CSSB contribution to the service. Schools are also offered enhanced support through a traded service arrangement.

Recommendations:

1. To acknowledge the continued need for a central Education Welfare Service (EWS) to provide schools with expert support in managing complex attendance cases, issuing Penalty Notices (PNs), and implementing timely statutory interventions where appropriate. EWS also is the strategic lead and has drafted an Attendance Strategy and introduced the Attendance Management Board.
2. Enable the service to continue to support schools and families in addressing barriers to school attendance and safeguarding pupils.
3. Continue to draw upon the experience and expertise within the Education Welfare Service (EWS), ensuring that schools receive timely, accurate, and comprehensive guidance on all matters relating to pupil attendance, strategic guidance and boroughwide approach to all attendance related matters.

1. Introduction.

Background and current position

Overall absence and persistent absenteeism (PA) remain areas of concern in Haringey. In the 2024–2025 academic year, the overall absence rate in the primary phase was 5.5%, which is slightly higher than both the London average of 5.4% and the national average of 5.2%. The PA rate for primary pupils in Haringey stood at 15.8%, higher than the London average of 15.1% and the national rate of 13.5%.

The overall absence rate in Haringey's secondary schools is 7.8%, which is higher than the London average of 7.4%, but lower than the national average of 8.6%.

The PA rate in the secondary phase stands at 24.5%, which is above both the London average of 22.3% and the national average of 24.3%.

2. Historically, there were concerns around service delivery and Education Welfare Service (EWS) not meeting the needs of Haringey schools. Since September 2024 significant service improvements have been implemented. All Haringey schools now have an allocated Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and receive an enhanced core offer free of charge.
 - 2.1. The core offer now includes regular advice, guidance and communication of key attendance messages delivered through the EWO. In response to feedback from schools, we have increased EWO presence in schools and EWOs are now regularly holding parent and pupil meetings in schools.
 - 2.2. To assist schools in managing attendance effectively, sample attendance policies and template letters have been shared with schools. Training on day-to-day attendance management has been delivered and continues to be available. Schools may request these sessions on an ad hoc basis, with content adapted to meet individual school need and resource capacity.
 - 2.3. Termly Targeted Support Meetings are held with every school, with follow-up meetings arranged as necessary. These meetings are designed to collaboratively plan and agree on targeted support and actions for cohorts of concern, including persistently absent, severely absent, and vulnerable learners. EWOs work closely with schools to develop reasonable adjustments, and initial attendance plans for these learners, particularly those already known to the EWS. To ensure transparency and consistency, all schools receive a copy of the agreed actions, and a central copy is accessible to the Principal Education Welfare Officer (PEWO) to review as necessary. A need led approach is adopted with priority schools receiving enhanced guidance and input from the EWS through both the core and traded offer. During these meetings, schools and EWOs also discuss and agree on any legal intervention to be pursued.
 - 2.4. Agreed actions may include:
 - direct intervention and casework undertaken by EWOs on behalf of the school, where school-led interventions have been exhausted.
 - appropriate referrals to EWS
 - issuing letters and meeting invitations to families
 - setting up and leading attendance meetings with parental involvement
 - conducting home visits for families known to EWS.
 - supporting schools in signposting families to relevant external agencies and assist with referrals where appropriate,
 - ensuring a holistic approach to improving attendance and supporting vulnerable pupils.
 - multi-disciplinary support to families attending and convening meetings where appropriate.
 - access to the Early Help support team, which delivers intensive, practical, whole-family interventions to address the root causes of absenteeism and remove barriers to attendance.

- Advise the family's lead practitioner on attendance-related aspects of the support plan.
 - Statutory intervention, where necessary.
3. Schools have the option to purchase additional EWS support, which complements and enhances the enhanced core offer. This provision enables schools to access intensive, targeted intervention at both the whole-school and individual pupil level. It allows EWOs to closely monitor and track attendance for pupils with complex circumstances, ensuring timely and effective statutory intervention where required. This tailored support strengthens schools' capacity to address persistent absenteeism and improve overall attendance outcomes. The traded offer is now more flexible in its approach with schools choosing how they wish their time to be spent.
 4. A clear Attendance Strategy is now in place with a robust action plan on improving attendance and key priorities with measurable targets. The Attendance Strategy is in full implementation mode, with a focus on data, data driven targets, support and intervention and accessible data and effective data sharing with all schools.
 5. As part of the local authority's strategic approach to improving attendance, we regularly communicate key national and local messages. Attendance Forums play a central role in this strategy, offering a platform for schools to share good practice, receive updates from LA services, and raise concerns. These forums are well attended and valued by schools across the borough.
 - 5.1. Strategic meetings are held with all schools identified as priority support. These meetings facilitate collaborative working to develop and implement robust attendance improvement plans, including both whole-school strategies and individual pupil interventions. Plans are informed by data analysis, enabling targeted support for specific groups or cohorts. Good practice is actively shared across schools, and school links are encouraged for joint working between schools facing similar challenges.
 - 5.2. All secondary schools identified through the attendance data requiring priority support have had initial meetings with Principal Education Welfare Officer, discussing areas of strength and developments. Follow up meetings are scheduled to develop individual school action plan to improve attendance. The EWS will work collaboratively with each school offering high-level support and guidance through both the core and traded service offers. All primary schools have received invitation letters and initial meetings held in some schools.
 6. A dedicated duty officer is now available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, ensuring prompt, accurate, and appropriate responses to school queries.
 - 6.1. Improved oversight of penalty notices (PN/s) and statutory interventions, where necessary. With strengthened and enhanced support to schools in preparing paperwork for court and feedback and advise where necessary, following prosecution.
 - 6.2. Clear guidance on issuing penalty notices has been circulated to all school, including detailed flowcharts outlining the steps for PNs (both unauthorised holiday and continuous poor attendance) as well as referral pathways. EWS now issue court warnings as per school's request, this shows a clear escalation while enabling schools to maintain a constructive relationship with parents.
 - 6.3. Guidance on off-rolling and Missing pupils was circulated to all schools in October 2024. The revised guidance supports schools to promptly identify pupils who are missing from school and take appropriate action at the school level, escalating concerns to the local authority (LA) via EWS, where necessary. Comprehensive measures such as database checks, home visits, WhatsApp communications, and Border Force and HMRC checks are now in place. Where feasible, a two-week turnaround is maintained, subject to the responsiveness of parents and carers. Schools are advised either to off-roll pupils with confirmed destination details or to retain them on roll, based on the outcome of the investigation.

- 6.4. The Working Together to Improve Attendance summary guidance was circulated to all schools, summarising respective responsibilities of both school and the LA in promoting attendance and supporting pupils.
7. A new system has been introduced to streamline the process for schools to request the issuing of PNs for unauthorised holidays. This system facilitates timely responses and ensures schools receive appropriate feedback on all matters related to the PN request and its outcome.
- 7.1. A new referral system is implemented to streamline the process for schools when making a referral to the EWS, for poor school attendance concerns. This system will allow prompt receipt and processing of referrals to the service, seamless for schools, ensuring schools receive timely and appropriate responses.
- 7.2. Revised guidance on the use of part-time timetables has been circulated to all schools in September 2025. The updated protocol includes a clearly defined referral process to the local authority (LA), supported by robust procedures for the collation and tracking of part-time timetables, including those involving pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Schools will receive timely advice and guidance from the LA as required, ensuring compliance and consistency across the borough.
- 7.3. An Attendance Management Board was established in May 2025 and we are currently seeking school representations. The objectives of the Management Board are to ensure a strategic and coordinated approach to improving school attendance, underpinned by Early Help principles and a boroughwide framework and establish consistent practices across all attendance related matters, promoting alignment between schools and the LA. All services within Children's Services will be expected to understand and actively contribute to their role in enhancing attendance, thereby reinforcing the shared ethos that 'Attendance is everyone's responsibility.
- 7.4. The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 requires schools to notify the local authority of any pupils who are regularly absent from school (where absences amount to 10 or more days, either consecutively or irregularly and have been unauthorised). The LA has developed a system to support schools to comply with their responsibilities. A simple electronic form will be provided to all schools. Once we receive a notification, where appropriate, an EWO will contact to discuss the situation or suggest further action regarding the pupil's absence or provide support.
- 7.5. Working together to improve school attendance (DfE August 2024) places a requirement on schools to submit a sickness return where pupils of compulsory school age have been recorded as code I (illness) and who the school have reasonable grounds to believe will miss 15 days either consecutively or cumulatively. The LA has developed a system to support schools to comply with their responsibilities. A simple electronic form will be provided to all schools. Once we receive a notification, where appropriate, an EWO will contact to discuss the situation or suggest further action regarding the pupil's absence or provide support.

8. Contextual data on EWS intervention and cases

EWS involvement and cases for academic year 2024/2025	Numbers
No, of referrals to Education Welfare Service	113
No. of Penalty Notice issued	881
No. prosecution (for certain cases, we are still awaiting court outcomes)	20
No. of Missing pupils	122
No. of pupils found	105
No. of pupils untraced	17
No. of EHE (current)	301
No. of EHE closed	58
No. of EHE returned to school	25

9. Next Steps

- 9.1 Moving forward, we aim to facilitate collaboration between geographically close schools and those facing similar attendance challenges. These group discussions will adopt a solution-focused approach to address shared concerns and provide regular attendance data at both borough and individual school levels to support schools with benchmarking and attendance target setting. Joint guidance in partnership with Children's Social Care (CSC), will be issued to schools outlining how the local authority can support pupils with a social worker. Additionally, ongoing work with the Early Help service is focused on strengthening support for families experiencing complex attendance related issues.

10 Risk

- 10.1 Not retaining a central Education Welfare Service could result in reduced early intervention and preventive work with pupils, families and schools. This could result in increased persistent absenteeism and high absence levels. Families may experience delayed access to attendance related support and struggle to identify and address attendance concerns without appropriate support. It could delay efforts to identify and address boroughwide concerns and underlying causes of poor attendance.
- 10.2 Strategic oversight and data driven planning could result in a lack of borough-wide insight, making it difficult to identify trends, target resources effectively, or evaluate the impact of interventions. Attendance Forums and PEWO led initiatives foster collaboration and the sharing of good practice among schools. Without a central service, these opportunities may diminish. Schools may face additional burdens in managing complex attendance cases without specialist guidance. This could divert resources from teaching and learning.
- 10.3 The EWS is responsible for ensuring both schools and the local authority fulfil their statutory responsibilities in relation to pupil attendance. The absence of a centralised EWS could result in delays or, in some cases, a failure to initiate appropriate statutory interventions in a timely manner. This may compromise the effectiveness of attendance enforcement and limit the ability to safeguard pupils through coordinated and legally compliant processes.
- 10.4 There may be potential gaps in safeguarding particularly in cases involving missing pupils, or non-attending pupils. By maintaining close partnerships with schools and other agencies, EWS ensures that unexplained absences are promptly investigated and escalated where necessary. Their involvement helps to ensure that vulnerable children are located quickly and that appropriate support and protection measures are put in place.

11. Recommendation

It is requested that Schools' Forum approve the continuation of the CSSB contribution to the service ensuring that the centralised Education Welfare Service in the current model can be further developed. This will ensure that all attendance related matters are addressed effectively and efficiently, and all Haringey pupils continue to benefit from a dedicated, high-quality provision that effectively meets their educational needs and supports positive outcomes.

Agenda Item 6



Report Status

For information/note ☒
For decision ☒

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 16 October 2025

Report Title: 2026-2027 DSG FUNDING MODEL STRATEGY

Authors:

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Report authorised by:

Jane Edwards

Director of Schools & Learning • Schools & Learning

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Purpose: Approach to consultation with schools on 2026/27 Schools Funding

Recommendations:

- a. Schools's Forum to note 2026–27 Funding Level Adjustments.
- b. Schools's Forum to note LA's intention to submit a disapplication request to the DfE/SoS to transfer > 0.5% out of the Schools Block (0.5% to HNB + £122K to CSSB for EWS functions) by 17th November 2025, prior to consultation with schools and Schools' Forum decision in January 2026.
- c. Schools' Forum to agree to delegate to the Schools Block working group the local authority formula models for 2026-27 for consultation with schools in October/November 2025.

1 Introduction.

- 1.1 This paper outlines the proposed strategy for allocating schools' budget shares through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) formula for the financial year 2026–27.
- 1.2 The structure of the DSG remains unchanged and continues to comprise of four notional blocks: Schools Block, High Need Block, Early Years Block, and Central School Services Block.
- 1.3 The Department for Education (DfE) has not yet fully implemented the transition to National Funding Formula (NFF) values, meaning local authorities continue to exercise some discretion in their funding allocations. However, the DfE's policy guidance for 2026–27 requires all local authorities to move a further 10% closer to the NFF values, as per previous years. It may be worth highlighting that Haringey's Authority Proforma Tool (APT) has already been aligned with the NFF values from the financial year 2024-25.
- 1.4 Graph A below presents Haringey's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations over the past three years. This is provided for information purposes only and reflects historical funding trends.

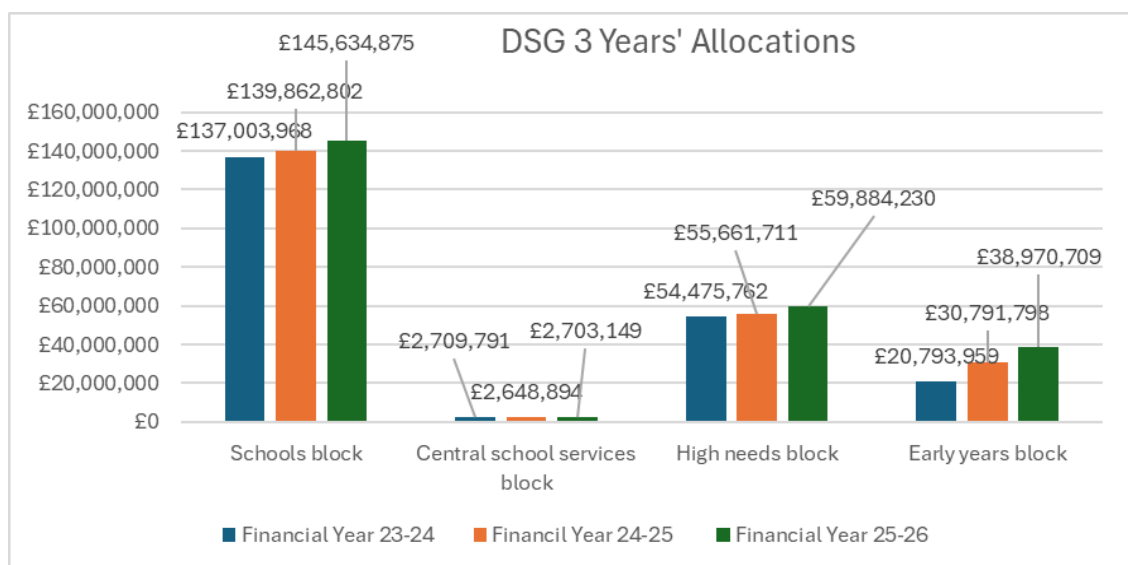


Table A: Dedicated Schools Grant Year on Year Allocations

Funding breakdown	Financial Year 23-24	Financial Year 24-25	Financial Year 25-26
Schools block *	£137,003,968	£139,862,802	£145,634,875
Central school services block	£2,709,791	£2,648,894	£2,703,149
High needs block	£54,475,762	£55,661,711	£59,884,230
Early years block	£20,793,959	£30,791,798	£38,970,709 (indicative)
Total	£214,983,480	£228,965,205	£247,192,963

* Schools block increased in 2024/25 due to CSSBG grant being rolled into DSG

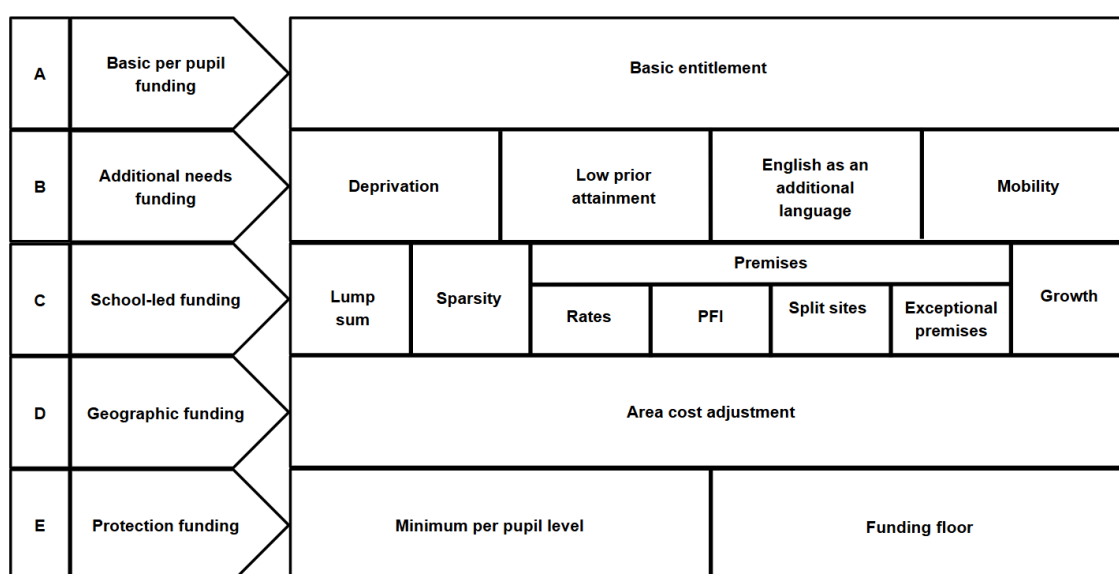
** Schools block increased in 2025/26 due to TPAG, TPEG & CSBG grants being rolled into DSG

- 1.5 The Department for Education (DfE) published its summary policy document for the financial year 2026-27 on the National Funding Formula (NFF) on 4th August 2025. This document provides the context and guiding principles for school funding under the NFF and is available at:

Website Link: [Schools national funding formula \(NFF\) summary policy document for 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

2 Overview of the Schools National Funding Formula (NFF) Policy.

- 2.1 The summary policy for the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) sets out the framework for its application in 2026–27. The structure and funding factors used in the 2026–27 NFF will remain consistent with those applied in the 2025–26 cycle. **Figure 1** illustrates the provisional factor values for the 2026–27 NFF.



2.2 National Funding Formula (NFF) Updates:

- **Increased Factor Values:** The NFF will see an uplift in factor values to boost the overall funding available to schools.
- The minimum per pupil funding levels (**MPPLs**) have not been published in the current summary policy documents. The policy document confirms that the Schools Budget Support Grant (SBSG) and the National Insurance Contributions (NICs) grant will be incorporated into NFF for 2026–27. Changes to factor values for 2026–27 are presented in Tables 1.
- **Table 1** below outlines the additional amounts incorporated into the core factor values of the 2026–27 NFF, reflecting the integration of relevant grants.

Table 1: Factor value uplifts from the rolling in of grants

Factor	NICs	SBSG	Total
Primary basic per-pupil	£78	£55	£133
Key stage 3 basic per-pupil	£68	£78	£146
Key stage 4 basic per-pupil	£77	£88	£165
Primary FSM6 per-pupil	£75	£49	£124
Secondary FSM6 per-pupil	£60	£72	£132
Lump sum	£2,400	£2,086	£4,486

- **Table 2** below presents the amounts applied to the minimum per pupil funding levels (MPPLs) within the 2026–27 NFF, reflecting the integration of relevant grants.

Table 2: Minimum per pupil (MPPL) funding uplifts

MPPL	NICs uplifts	SBSG uplifts	Total
Primary MPPL	£93	£66	£159
Secondary MPPL	£83	£91	£174

- **Funding Protection:** Schools will continue to be safeguarded against sudden changes in per-pupil funding through the MPPLs and Funding floor mechanism.
- **Expansion of Free School Meals (FSM):** In June 2025, the government announced that, starting from September 2026, free school meals (FSM) will be extended to all children in households receiving Universal Credit. For the 2026–27 financial year, no changes are proposed to the NFF to reflect this expansion. Instead, the additional funding required will be provided to schools through a separate grant allocation.

3 **Approach to consultation with schools on 2026/27 Schools Funding**

- 3.1 **Delegation of Responsibilities:** The Schools' Forum to delegate authority to the Schools Block Working Group to review potential funding formula models for 2026–27, in preparation for consultation with schools and subsequent Schools Forum approval in January 2026
- 3.2 **Recommendation of Funding Model:** Following the consultation, the Schools' Block Working Group will present a recommended model to the Schools' Forum. This will align with Department for Education (DfE) grant requirements.
- 3.3 **Proposed Consultation Timeline for the 2026–27 DSG Formula**
- **October 2025:** The Schools' Forum to:
 - Note the proposed 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, for disapplication request to the Secretary of State in November 2025.
 - Note the proposed £122,000 transfer from the Schools Block to the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB), for disapplication request to the Secretary of State in November 2025.
 - The Schools' Block Working Group to agree on the funding models to be included in the consultation.
 - **November 2025**
 - The Schools' Block Working Group will: Meet to finalise the funding models for consultation.
 - Schools Finance team will submit a disapplication request for a transfer above 0.5% for approval by the Secretary of State.
 - The Schools Finance team will launch the consultation with schools.
 - **December 2025**
 - Consultation responses will be collated and analysed.
 - Recommendations will be prepared for presentation to the Schools' Forum in January.
 - **January 2026**
 - The Schools' Forum will review and approve the proposed funding formula and Authority Proforma Tool (APT) based on consultation feedback.
 - Subject to Lead Member approval, the APT will be submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

4 **Schools Block DSG Funding formula 2026-27 proposed models**

- 4.1 Due to the timing of this report, it is not yet possible to present potential funding formula models for 2026–27. This is because the Department for Education (DfE) has not yet announced the funding allocations or any changes to the National Funding Formula (NFF) for that year.
- 4.2 The **table B** below sets out the values for block transfers and de-delegation as agreed by the Schools Forum for the 2025–26 financial year. These figures will be reviewed by the Schools Block Working Group as part of the development of funding models for consultation with Haringey schools. Following consultation, the proposed models will be submitted to the Schools Forum for final approval.

Table B: Allocation type	Schools Affected	Description	Proposed Final Amount
Block Transfer	All Schools	HNB transfer at 0.5%	£1,167,130
Top Slice	All Schools	Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	£300,000
De-Delegation	Maintained only	Trade Union Facility	£210,147
Block Transfer	All Schools	CSSB for Education Welfare	£122,000

- 4.3 **Funding Formula Models:** As referenced in paragraph 3.3, the Schools Block Working Group will develop initial funding formula models for consultation with Haringey schools, ahead of submission to the Schools Forum for approval.
- 4.4 **Scope for Changes in School Funding:** There is limited scope for changes to school funding, as Haringey's Authority Proforma Tool (APT) was aligned with the National Funding Formula (NFF) values in the previous years. The only areas where adjustments can be made to the schools funding are through Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) variations, de-delegation decisions, and Growth Fund allocations.
- 4.5 **Timing of DfE Funding Announcements and APT Release:** The timing of the DfE funding announcements and the release of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) is a critical factor in the Schools Block Working Group's ability to effectively model Haringey's funding for 2026–27.

**Agenda Item
7**



Report Status

For information/note ☒
 For consultation & views
 For decision

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 16 October 2025

Report Title: Early Years Block 2024-25 final outturn and 2025-26 opening update.

Authors:

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Purpose:

1. To update Schools' Forum of the final Early Years Block position for 2024/25
2. To update Schools' Forum of the opening Early Years Block published allocations for 2025/26
3. To update Schools' Forum of the Early Years Block reserves position

Recommendations:

- 1) To note the final Early Years Block outturn for 2024/25
- 2) To note the Early Years Block reserves
- 3) To note the Early Years Block latest published allocations for 2025/26

1.0 Early Years Block

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) provides local authorities with early years funding streams which together form the early years block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). They are:
- Funding for the 15 hours universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds
 - Funding for the additional 15 hours for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds
 - Funding for the 15 hours for 2-year-olds of families receiving additional support
 - Funding for the 15 hours or 30 hours for eligible working parents of 2-year-olds
 - Funding for the 15 hours or 30 hours for eligible working parents of 9-month-old up to 2-year-old children
 - Funding for the early years pupil premium (EYPP) for 3 and 4-year-olds, 2-year-olds and under 2s
 - Funding for the disability access fund (DAF) for 3 and 4-year-olds, 2-year-olds and under 2s
 - Supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools (MNS)

2.0 Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations 2024/25

2.1. Table A below sets out Haringey's EY DSG allocations for 2024/2025

Table A – EY DSG Funding Allocations 24/25	December 2023	July 2024	November 2024	March 2025	July 2025
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Universal entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds	13,401	12,909	12,909	12,909	12,924
Additional 15 hrs for 3 & 4 year old working parents	4,757	4,636	4,636	4,636	4,772
2 year old disadvantaged entitlement	3,745	3,777	3,777	3,777	3,343
2 year old entitlement for working parents	4,349	4,349	3,836	3,911	4,003
Under 2s entitlement	3,556	3,556	3,556	3,825	3,890
Early years pupil Premium for 3 & 4 year olds	254	224	224	224	234
Early years pupil premium for 2 year olds	149	149	94	115	105
Early years pupil premium for under 2s	9	9	9	2	2
Disability access Fund for 3 & 4 year olds	94	94	94	94	94
Disability access fund for 2 year olds	30	30	30	30	30
Disability access fund for under 2s	11	11	11	11	11
Maintained nursery school supplementary funding	1,591	1,423	1,423	1,423	1,380
Total	31,948	31,167	30,599	30,957	30,791

- 2.2. The Early Years 2024/2025 DSG allocations are driven by pupil census numbers from the Early Years census, Schools census and termly data counts
- 2.3. The 2024/25 allocations were **indicative** and the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) have updated these allocations at specific points within the financial year 2024/25.

The 3-and-4 year-old funding allocations and the 2 year old families receiving additional support funding allocations were updated in:

- July 2024 based on January 2024 PTE census numbers.
- July 2025 based on five-twelfths of the January 2024 PTE census numbers (to cover the April 2024 to August 2024 period), and seven-twelfths of the January 2025 PTE census numbers (to cover the September 2024 to March 2025 period).

The final allocations for each of these funding streams are based on (five-twelfths January 2024 PTE census numbers) + (seven-twelfths January 2025 PTE census numbers)

The funding allocations for 2-year-old working parents and EYPP for 2-year-olds were updated in:

- November 2024 - the indicative funding allocations for the financial year 2024 to 2025 (published in December 2023) were updated and based fully on the summer 2024 term PTE numbers
- March 2025 - these allocations were updated to reflect the adjustment for the autumn 2024 term. The March adjustment were based on twelve-thirty-eighths of the summer 2024 term PTE numbers (to cover the April 2024 to August 2024 period) and twenty-six-thirty-eighths of the autumn 2024 term PTE numbers (to cover the September 2024 to March 2025 period)
- July 2025 - the final funding allocations were updated to reflect the adjustment for the January 2025 census

The funding allocations for under 2's working parents and EYPP for under 2's were updated in:

- March 2025 - the indicative funding allocations for the financial year 2024 to 2025 (published in December 2023) were updated and based fully on the autumn 2024 term PTE numbers
 - July 2025 - the final funding allocations were updated to reflect the adjustment for the January 2025 census
- 2.4. The final July 2025 EY DSG allocation confirms a £166k clawback and Table B below illustrates the impact of this clawback on the EY block

Table B – EY Reserve position as at 31/03/2025	Closing balance before clawback (£)	ESFA Clawback July 2025 (£)	Final Closing Balance (£)
Early Years Block	1,735,154	166,000	1,569,154
Anchor Project & Early Years Conference			232,000

- 2.5 The decision to allocate further reserves will be discussed and agreed in future early years working group meetings.

3.0 Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant allocations 2025/26

- 3.1 Table C below sets out Haringey's EY DSG allocation based on July 2025 update from the EFSA

Table C – EY DSG Funding Allocations 25/26	December 2024	July 2025
	£'000s	£'000s
Universal entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds	13,281	13,308
Additional 15 hrs for 3 & 4 year old working parents	4,770	5,010
2 year old disadvantaged entitlement	3,923	3,150
2 year old entitlement for working parents	6,183	6,183
Under 2s entitlement	9,284	9,284
Early years pupil Premium for 3 & 4 year olds	328	356
Early years pupil premium for 2 year olds	138	138
Early years pupil premium for under 2s	12	12
Disability access Fund for 3 & 4 year olds	106	106
Disability access fund for 2 year olds	39	39
Disability access fund for under 2s	6	6
Maintained nursery school supplementary funding	1,447	1,373
Total	39,522	38,970

- 3.2 The Early Years DSG 2025/2026 allocations are driven by pupil census numbers from the Early Years census, Schools census and termly data counts
- 3.3 Future Early Years DSG allocations will be updated by the ESFA in November 2025, March 2026 and the final allocation for the year will be confirmed in July 2026

Recommendation/decision

- (1) To note the final Early Years Block outturn for 2024/25**
- (2) To note the Early Years Block reserves**
- (3) To note the Early Years Block latest published allocations for 2025/26**

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Early Years Schools Forum Working Group
Terms of Reference: June 2023

Name of Group

Early Years Schools Forum Working Group

Functions of the Working Group

- To review funding allocations within the Early Years DSG Block ensuring that funding enables statutory obligations and local policy and strategic objectives to be met.
- To advise, inform and make recommendations to the Schools Forum on Early Years DSG Block funding.
- To review the implications of statutory requirements and the implementation of central and local government policy decisions of on Early Years DSG Block Funding
- To consult colleagues within the Early Years sector on issues relating to Early Years DSG Block funding decisions; ensuring members undertake this between Working Group meetings and report back to the group on the views of other Early Year providers at the subsequent working group meetings, where appropriate.
- To liaise with other Schools' Forum working groups as appropriate

Overall Objectives of the Early Years Schools Forum Working Group

- To act as representatives of all early years providers affected by Early Years Block funding decisions, considering proposals objectively and impartially and so far as possible making recommendations based on evidence and in the overall best interests of all Haringey children.
- To work together as a group, with Council officers, to devise fair and transparent proposals for the allocation of early years block funding that ensure best fit with the needs of children and their parents.
- To ensure a fair, equitable and transparent methodology for the allocation of funding among all Early Years providers within the borough.
- To act as a consultation group for early years block funding
- To liaise with other relevant partners and groups, as appropriate.
- To undertake any pieces of work assigned to it by the Haringey Schools Forum.

Membership and Appointment

The membership of the group shall include representatives from all types of providers affected by Early Years DSG Block funding decisions. It will normally be drawn from Schools Forum members; additionally, it will be possible to co-opt membership from outside of that group to ensure balanced representation, adequate attendance or access to specialist knowledge or expertise.

Officers of Haringey Council will be non-voting members.

The membership of the group shall be reviewed and reconfirmed on an annual basis. and representatives will be reelected on a three year cycle in alignment with Schools Forum. The Working Group will elect a chair, on a three year cycle from its membership.

Core Members of the group will be appointed by the Haringey Schools Forum and shall comprise;

Core Members (voting rights)			
Body/sector	Number	Role	Nomination
Private, Voluntary and Independent providers	1	Schools Forum - Non School Member (Early Years Providers Rep)	Susan Tudor-Hart
Nursery Schools - Governor	1	Schools Forum - Governor Member (Nursery School & Children's Centre)	Melian Mansfield
Nursery Schools	1	Schools Forum - Head Teacher Member (Nursery School & Children's Centre)	Sian McDermott
Primary Schools – Governor	1	Schools Forum - Member (Primary School)	Vacant
Total Core Members	4		
Co-opted Members			
Body/sector	Number	Role	Nomination
Primary Schools	2	Headteacher	Grant Bright Lucy Walker-Collins
Private, Voluntary and Independent providers	1	Playgroup or Preschool Representative	Luisa Bellavita
Private, Voluntary and Independent providers	1	Playgroup or Preschool Representative	Gladys Baah-Okyere
Childminding	1	Childminder Representative	Storm Moncur/Joanna Conroy

Primary Schools	1	School Business Manager	Duwan Farquharson
Nursery School	1	School Business Manager	Vacancy
Total Co-opted Members	7		

The following Haringey Council officers have the right to attend Early Years Working Group meetings:

1. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) or designated representative
2. The Chief Financial Officer or designated representative

The Haringey officers listed below are deemed regular attendees at Early Years Working Group meetings.

Regular attendees			
Local Authority	2	Principal Advisor for Early Years Quality	Nick Hewlett/Melanie Widnall
Local Authority	1	Funding Manager	Ridhwaan Edoo
Local Authority	1	School Finance Manager	Patricia Harvey

Frequency of Meetings

The Working group will meet regularly in advance of school forum meetings. . Dates will be established once School's Forum have set their dates ensuring sufficient time prior to each SF meeting for consideration of information to be presented.

There will be a minimum of six meetings in the academic year.

The frequency may be increased by the Working Group when necessary.

Where possible, meetings will be formally clerked through arrangements with Governor Services in Haringey.

Governance

The Early Years Working Group will be accountable to the Haringey Schools Forum.

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Schools Block Working Group Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The working groups of Haringey Schools forum make recommendations to the main Schools Forum meetings related to areas within their remit, described in 'scope' below. They **do not vote** but make recommendations based on consensus. Where no consensus can be reached by the working group two or more alternatives are presented to the main Schools Forum. The chair and the vice chair are appointees of the main Schools Forum and shall always be elected members of Haringey Schools Forum.

2. Scope

- 2.1 The Schools Block Working Group (SBWG) supports the funding of school aged children other than children who come under the High Needs Block or Early Years Block. Included in the scope of SBWG are children in maintained and academy schools.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Anyone from the Schools Forum who has declared their interest in this working group is able to be a member of the group. The membership representation under the "Schools' Colleagues" membership is limited to a maximum capacity of 8.

LA Officers

- a) Assistant Director, Schools and Learning
- b) Head of Finance, People
- c) Finance Manager, Schools and Education
- d) Schools Finance Business Partner, Schools and Education
- e) Principle Accountants, Schools and Education

Schools Colleagues

- a) Academy representative (maximum 1)
- b) Primary maintained Headteacher representatives (maximum 3)
- c) Secondary maintained Headteacher representatives (maximum 2)
- d) Governor representation (Maximum 2)

Haringey Education Partnership

- a) Chief Executive officer, HEP

This list is not exhaustive and other interested parties may also attend and contribute if invited to do so by the Chair.

4. The working group will:

- 4.1 Assimilate, analyse and debate information provided by the LA finance officer and other LA officers to make informed recommendations to the Schools Forum on treatment of the funding formula for the schools block. This is to ensure the schools formula is fit for purpose and working in line with agreed principles

- 4.2 Develop work plans for future meetings and work with Early Years Block and High Needs Block groups when required to ensure plans are aligned and that there no overlaps or duplication
- 4.3 Discuss and agree responses of DfE consultation documents that impact schools' block funding
- 4.4 Monitoring progress and implementation of statutory funding requirements
- 4.5. To monitor, evaluate and recommend to schools forum on all school based financial issues, such as school balances, growth funding, PFI, rates and central costs

5. Administration

- 5.1 HEP will provide a clerk for the meeting
- 5.2 Papers for the meeting will be circulated 5 days prior to the meetings
- 5.3 Minutes from the meeting will be circulated 5 days after the meeting
- 5.4 Approved minutes will be sent to the clerk of schools Forum for uploading onto the Schools Forum website
- 5.5 Meetings will be held at least termly but more frequently when required and when papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum. Where papers are to be presented to the Schools Forum, meetings will be scheduled prior to the Schools Forum pre meeting which is normally two weeks before the main Schools Forum meeting
- 5.6 Where members do not attend 3 meetings without apologies membership will be withdrawn
- 5.7 The working group make recommendations to the Schools Forum
- 5.8 The Chair of the Schools Forum may attend SBWG meetings as a matter of course