

NOTICE OF MEETING

Haringey Schools Forum

THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2025 AT 4.00 pm HRS - MICROSOFT TEAMS.

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 16 OCTOBER 2025 (PAGES 1 - 6)

Matters arising

5. EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2024-25 FINAL OUTTURN AND 2025-26 OPENING UPDATE (PAGES 7 - 12)

Akwai Gill / Jane Edwards

6. EARLY YEARS WORKING PARTY UPDATE (PAGES 13 - 26)

To receive the minutes from the early years working party held on:

- A. 2 October 2025
- B. 16 October 2025
- C. 10 November 2025

7. EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE (PAGES 27 - 32)

Salma Rahman / Jane Edwards

8. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB) SECTION 251 REPORT (PAGES 33 - 40)

Karen Flanagan/ Jackie Difolco / Ali Muhammad

9. SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME UPDATE (PAGES 41 - 50)

Karen Flanagan/ Jackie Difolco

10. SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING CONSULTATION 2026/27 (PAGES 51 - 58)

Ali Muhammad/ Neil Sinclair

11. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025-2026

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

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS



Haringey Schools Forum Minutes

16 October 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)	Sian McDermott (Rowland Hill)	
Primary (6)	(A)Mary Gardiner (West Green)	Bola Soneye-Thomas (Rokesly Junior School)
	(A)Hina Shah (Earlsmead)	(A)Paul Murphy (Lancasterian)
	Lucy Walker-Collins (Stroud Green)	(A)Linda Sarr (Risley Avenue)
Secondary (2)	(A)Paul Bernard (Gladesmore)	(A)Patrick Cozier (Highgate Wood)
Primary Academy (1)		
Secondary Academies (3)	(A)Michael McKenzie (Alexandra Park)	Angela Wallace (Mulberry Woodside Academy)
	(A)Elen Roberts (Heartlands High)	
Alternative Provision (1)	(A)Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP)	
Governors		
Special (1)		
Nursery School (1)	(A)Melian Mansfield (Pembury)	
Primary Maintained (6)	Caroline Schloss (Alexandra Primary)	Dan Salem (Stroud Green Primary)
	Vacancy	Vacancy
	Vacancy	Vacancy
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	(A)Cllr Ibrahim Ali	
Trade Union Representative	(A)Sharon Hodson	
Professional Association Representative	(A)Efe Kurtluoglu	
Faith Schools	(A)Geraldine Gallagher	
CCCG Representative	(A)Adam Beral	
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	(A)Jane Edwards
Director, Commissioning & Programmes	(A)Caroline Brain
Director, Early Help, Prevention & SEND	Jackie Difolco
Head of Service Integrated SEND	(A) Karen Flanagan
Head of Schools Finance	Neil Sinclair
Senior Finance Manager - Schools	Ali Muhammad
Principal Education Welfare Officer	Salma Rahman
Interim Principal Advisor for Early Years	(A)Akwal Gill
Chief Executive HEP	(A)James Page
Lead for Governor Services (HEP)	Anne Etchells
Clerk (HEP)	Corinne David

(A) Absent

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting; introductions were made.

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

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence were received and noted from:

- Paul Murphy (Headteacher: Lancasterian).
- Mike Mckenzie (Headteacher: Alexandra Park).
- Linda Sarr (Headteacher: Risley Avenue).
- Hina Shah (Headteacher: Earlsmead)
- Gerry Robinson (Executive Headteacher HLP).
- Jane Edwards (Director Schools & Learning).
- Karen Flanagan (Head of Service: Integrated SEND)
- Melian Mansfield (Governor: Pembury)

- 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:

- Ian Scotchbrook (Headteacher: south Haringey School).
- Oliver Simms (Governor: Alexandra Primary).

- 2.3 The Chair informed the forum that the following position had been recruited to
- Secondary Headteachers: Paul Bernard (Gladesmore) and Patrick Cozier (Highgate Wood)
 - Secondary Academy Headteacher: Elen Roberts (Heartlands High).

Noted that those new persons will be confirmed onto the forum at the next meeting.

- 2.4 The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was not quorate.

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 3 July 2025 were noted 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.

Actions b and c were noted as completed. Actions a and d were noted as ongoing.

- 4.2.2 Item 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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.3 Item 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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.4 Item 5.2.2 Forum Membership

- 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.

Actions e and f were noted as completed. All other actions were noted as ongoing.

- 4.2.5 Item 7.1 Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

On going action

- 4.2.6 Item 8.2 HNB

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.

Action was closed.

- 4.2.7 Item 9.4 Audit

- 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 Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors).

ACTION Chair to confirm actions had been completed.

4.2.8 Item 10.3

EYB

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.

Action was noted as ongoing

5. EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE

Receipt of the paper was deferred until the next meeting, as the forum was not quorate.

6. 2026-2027 DSG FUNDING MODEL STRATEGY

6.1 Muhammad Ali took the forum through the paper. It was noted that item 2.1 illustrated the provisional factor values for the 2026–27 National Funding Formula (NFF). The structure and funding factors used in the 2026–27 NFF will remain consistent with those applied in the 2025–26 cycle. Noted that the LA continues to have control over the minimum per pupil funding levels. Noted that the drop in pupil numbers further affects the overall amounts coming into the LA.

6.2 The Schools' Forum noted the consultation timeline as detailed within 3.3.

6.3 The Schools' Forum noted the proposed 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, and the transfer of £122,000 from the Schools Block to the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) for the disapplication request to the Secretary of State by the deadline of 17 November 2025.

6.4 The Schools' Block Working Group will meet in November to agree on the funding models to be included in the consultation; with recommendation received at the Schools' Forum meeting in January 2026. The Schools' Forum will review and approve the proposed funding formula and Authority Proforma Tool (APT) based on consultation feedback.

6.5 Noted that Schools' Forum would receive a paper at the January meeting detailing the 2026/27 SEND band fundings. Noted that the SEND team are modelling different financial settlements to establish potential impact, recognising that there are budgetary pressures on schools and therefore would be really challenging to increase the block transfer from the schools block to the high needs block beyond 0.5%. JD highlighted that the Safety Valve agreement was modelled on 3% inflation, however this has fluctuated, and instruction was given to model our DSG management plan on 2.3% for future years. Modelling scenarios include:

- a. Inflation at the same as 25-26 at 7% would mean we should be able to continue with the status quo and bandings remaining the same, however this is dependent on demand and rising costs of independent placements projected.
- b. Lower inflation rates would result in financial amounts attached to bandings being reduced.

Higher inflation rates would result in the banding rates remaining the same.

- 6.6 Schools' Forum agreed, and noted previous year's convention, to delegate to the Schools Block working group the local authority formula models for 2026-27 for consultation with schools in October/November 2025.

7 EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2024-25 FINAL OUTTURN AND 2025-26 OPENING UPDATE

- 7.1 Receipt of the paper was deferred until the next meeting, as the forum was not quorate.

8 UPDATE FROM WORKING PARTIES

8.1 Early Years Working Party.

The Forum was informed that there had been two meetings on 2 October and 16 October. A further meeting had been arranged for 10 November to review possible proposal for the EYWP to fund through the underspend.

ACTION Minutes from the EYWP to be received at the December meeting.

- 8.2 Dedicated School Block working party.
No updates had been received.

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

Agenda item for the next meeting was noted as: procurement working group

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4:50pm

AGENDA

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) 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 HEP
4.2.4	<u>Forum Membership</u> a) Clerk to contact 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.	Clerk/DS Clerk Clerk/CS LP
4.2.5	Election of vice-Chair to be an agenda item at the next meeting.	Clerk
4.2.7	<u>Audit</u> a) Audit to ensure there is alinement between Haringey's finance handbook, Haringey's programme and Mazars audit programme for Haringey Schools. b) Audit to circulate the checklist template provided to Mazar, to all schools (Headteacher's, SBMs and Chair of Governors). ACTION <u>Chair to confirm actions had been completed.</u>	Audit Audit Chair
4.2.8	<u>EYB</u> 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.	NS & AM NS & AM
8.1	Minutes from the EYWP to be received at the December meeting.	Clerk
10.1	Agenda item for the next meeting was noted as: procurement working group	Clerk

**Agenda Item
5**



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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**Schools Forum Early Years Working Group
2 October 2025 on-line at 9am**

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House Nursery School
*Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow Director of Business
Sian McDermott (SMcD)	Nursery Head SF Rep (Rowland Hill & WPNC)
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	V Chair. School Forum PVI Settings Rep
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Ridhwaan Edoo (RE)	Early Years Finance Team
Lucy Walker-Collins (LW-C)	Primary Head Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
*Fiona Crean (FC)	Headteacher Rep (Belmont Infants)
Avril Parker-Roach (AP-R)	Childminder Rep
*Hussain Sofiean (HS)	Strategic Business Lead CYPS
Lewis Anthony (LA)	Early Years Finance Team
Muhammad Ali (MA)	Senior Finance Officer - Schools
Ese Anyia (EA)	Interim Schools Account – Schools
Jane Edwards (JE)	Director, Schools and Learning
Also Present	
Corinne David (CD)	Governance Officer
Will Wawn (WW)	Chair of Schools Forum

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

MM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MM invited all persons present to introduce themselves.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Early Years working group dated June 2023 were received and shared with members. Members discussed the membership and noted:

- JE was standing in for Nick Hewlett.
- Patricia Harvey had left the authority. MA would replace Patricia Harvey.
- Storm Moncur, child minder; had left.
- For Cllr Zena Brabazon to continue as a co-opted member (without voting rights) mirroring Schools Forum set up.

2.2 It was accepted that Headteacher representatives could have a substitute; providing that person had sufficient EYs knowledge.

2.3 Noted that the Chair was elected on a three-year cycle.

3. Local Authority Update

- 3.1 JE provided apologies that there had been no EYWP meetings since January 2025. Noted that wider Haringey nursery circumstances had taken priority coupled which reduced officer capacity had resulted in the current situation.

4. DfE updates

- 4.1 MW provided the group with an update; the following highlights were noted:
- New EYFS Ofsted framework.
 - Further funded entitlements funded by the DfE.
 - Further information on wrap around and school-based nurseries.
 - Noted that PVI's are struggling with funding and pupil numbers.
 - Noted that LWC was on the DfE school-based nursery working group.
 - Information is shared via the school's bulletin, EY strategy group, EY bulletin, PVI group and NLC Chairs group.
 - Year one of the wrap around programme has been completed; a variety of settings have been funded. Moved into year Two of the programme with further places being created with a focus on SEND expansions.
 - Three primary schools have participated in the breakfast club earlier adopter scheme.
 - 18 September the DfE published guidance on establishing school-based nursery provision.

ACTION

- a) Power point on wrap around and school-based nurseries to be circulated to the EYWP.
- b) School-based nursery to be an item at the NLC Chairs meeting.
- c) Officers to provide the detail of the July 2026 EYFS clawback once known.

- 4.2 DfE had circulated details of phase two school nurseries. The DfE are seeking for school-based nursery's to be all day (8am to 6pm) and operate 48 weeks per year. The DfE agenda for the second and third round is a focus on children from the most disadvantaged areas. There have been expansions and additional spaces within the PVI sector and primary schools. Some PVI providers have opened up in primary schools. There are different models available which will allow access to the funding.
- 4.3 Noted that long standing PVI settings are now closing down due to a lack of funding and declining pupil numbers. Further noted that Haringey are committed to a variety of EY settings and childcare; however, it is the DfE / government policy and how the funding is packaged that is driving towards school setting provision. The funding is ring fenced. Reassurances were provided to members that the council and Cllr Brabazon would continue to lobby DfE / government regarding the funding for the whole EY sector including PVI settings.

5. Early Years Block Schools Forum paper

- 5.1 JE shared the Schools Forum paper titled: 'Early Years block 2024/25 final outturn and 2025/26 opening'. The paper provided an overview of why there was a difference in the funding; details of different grant allocations for 2024/25 were provided in paragraph 2.1.

- 5.2 The final July 2025 EY DSG allocation confirms a £166k clawback, resulting in a final closing balance of £1,569,154. The main reason for the low clawback was noted as heavy promotion and marketing of the free entitlement resulting in high numbers of families accessing provision. The EYWP had committed £232k for work with the Anchor project and EY conference. Resulting in a balance of £1,337,154. Once the £912,152 is accounted for (as discussed at previous meetings) the final uncommitted outturn is £425k – which corresponds to the amount the EYWP sought clarification on before moving forward with potential projects.
- 5.3 Discussions were held regarding the reserves with the suggestion that the EYWP made strategic decisions regarding the allocation of £425k, by January 2026. It was further suggested that the £912k, should currently be left untouched until the settlement for 2026/27 is known; with future plans compiled once the funding landscape is known.
- 5.4 Officers noted that the EYB was continuing to contribute to the Safety Valve Programme. For 2025/26 this totalled £360k which had already been passported from the EYB to HNB. The contribution for 2026/27 will be £540k. Further noted that the funding from the DfE for the hourly rates of under 2s and 2YO resulted in a significant uplift. This may not be as generous next financial year. Once the cumulative contribution to the safety valve is applied to the HNB it may impact the base rate. Officers noted that it was prudent accounting to have a contingency to mitigate against current unknown.

6. Impact / evaluation of Anchor project

Item deferred until the next meeting.

7. June conference cancellation and new plans

Due to circumstances within Haringey; the June conference was cancelled. A new conference would be planned for Summer 2026.

8. Spending of the reserve

- 8.1 Discussions on areas to spend the £425k were held with members; the following potential areas were suggested:
- Supporting children from the poorest social circumstances who don't qualify for the additional hours as the parents aren't in work; but need the support.
 - A small fund for social care (children with a CP or LAC or Early Help) to access 30 hours childcare.
 - Small fund for children that do an extra year in EY settings; before going to school.
 - Nursery schools were running an EY conference at a cost £6k offering 85 places to EY practitioners.
 - Leap project funding is dwindling; perhaps continuing to support funding for projects that already have proven successful.

EYWP AGREED to fund £6k for the Nursery Schools EY

- ACTION**
- a) Members to start compiling ideas about how support for families in difficult economic circumstances, to access 30 hours nursery provision would look like.
 - b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supports children doing an extra year in EYs settings.
 - c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.

The next EYWP meeting was AGREED for 16 October at 11am on line via Teams.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:10am

ACTIONS

Item	Action	Lead
4.1	<p>a) Power point on wrap around and school-based nurseries to be circulated to the EYWP.</p> <p>b) School-based nursery to be an item at the NLC Chairs meeting.</p> <p>c) Officers to provide the detail of the July 2026 EYFS clawback once known.</p>	<p>CD</p> <p>JE</p> <p>Haringey</p>
8.1	<p>a) Members to start compiling ideas about how support for families in difficult economic circumstances, to access 30 hours nursery provision would look like.</p> <p>b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings.</p> <p>c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>SMcD</p> <p>Officer</p>

Schools Forum Early Years Working Group
16 October 2025 on-line at 11am

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House Nursery School
*Gladys Baah-Okere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow Director of Business
Sian McDermott (SMcD)	Nursery Head SF Rep (Rowland Hill & WPNC)
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	V Chair. School Forum PVI Settings Rep
Akwai Gill (AG)	Interim Principal Advisor for Early Years
*Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Ridhwaan Edoo (RE)	Early Years Finance Team
Rhonda Scott (RS) AHT Lucy Walker Collins (LW-C) - HT	Primary Head Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
Avril Parker-Roach (AP-R)	Childminder Rep
*Hussain Sofiean (HS)	Strategic Business Lead CYPS
Lewis Anthony (LA)	Early Years Finance Team
Muhammad Ali (MA)	Senior Finance Officer - Schools
Ese Anyia (EA)	Interim Schools Account – Schools
Jane Edwards (JE)	Director, Schools and Learning
Also Present	
Corinne David (CD)	Governance Officer

*denotes absent

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

- 1.1 MM welcomed everyone to the meeting. MM invited all persons present to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 JE introduced AG, who had joined Haringey in an interim capacity and had previously been Head of Service in Hounslow.
- 1.3 CD informed members that Fiona Crean Headteacher Rep (Belmont Infants) had resigned from the group; leaving a primary Headteacher position (whose school had a nursery) vacancy.
- 1.4 Noted that Melanie Widnall was currently on leave.

2. Minutes from 2 October

- 2.1 The minutes from the meeting were reviewed and discussed with the following amendments:
 - Item 5.3 to amend the second and third lines as follows:
 'It was further noted that the £912k, should currently be left untouched until the settlement for 2026/27 is known; with future plans composed once the funding landscape is known'.
 - Item 5.4 to amend the third line as follows:
 'The contribution for 2026/27 will be £540k.'

2.2 Matters arising

- 2.2.1 Item 4.1 a) Power point on wrap around and school-based nurseries to be circulated to the EYWP.
Action completed.
- b) School-based nursery to be an item at the NLC Chairs meeting.
JE noted that the meeting occurs once every half term and had not yet happened.
- c) Officers to provide the detail of the July 2026 EYFS clawback once known.
Noted this is done at year end – information will be provided once known.
- 2.2.2 Item 8.1 a) Members to start compiling ideas about how support for families in difficult economic circumstances, to access 30 hours nursery provision would look like.
See item 4 for details.
- b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings.
- c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.

3. Terms of Reference

- 3.1 Noted the names of the representative on the group had been changed to reflect the membership.
- 3.2 ST-H noted that in the School Block Working Party (SBWP) terms of reference, the group didn't work on a majority basis to make decisions rather reported recommendations to Schools Forum for decision. The EYWP had traditionally tended to make decisions on a majority basis. ST-H enquired if this was the correct position for the EYWP.
- 3.3 JE suggested that in reports back to Schools Forum, it is made clear what the options were, what was considered, summarised different viewpoints and whether there was a general consensus or preferred option. Noted that the EYWP doesn't have delegated responsibility to make decisions or vote.

4. Proposals for use of underspend.

- 4.1 SMcD noted that potentially the most vulnerable children, wouldn't necessarily be able to access the 30 hours, for example children eligible for EYPP; those that currently have their free for two entitlement, which converts to three-year-old universal entitlement. How this money could facilitate a group of children: potentially SEND, CP or CiN or Early Help, complex family situation. Children that aren't having the best start in life and accessing good EY provision would support them. Mindful of costs associated for children going to nursery; lunch, nappies, staffing. Etc.
- 4.2 SMcD suggested fixed term funding support could be provided to a group of children which meet an agreed set of criteria. There would then have an evolution period to review the impact of the project.

- 4.3 ZB also provided support for a project that supported children from vulnerable families who would benefit from accessing quality EY provision and having good levels of development. ZB made reference to a piece of research which made links between the 20 most prolific young offenders in the borough had adverse early experiences, most significant speech and language delay. Noted that ZB was attending a meeting for London Lead Members for Children, which is on Early Years talking about reaching the neediest and the best start strategy (EY SEND).
- 4.4 Noted that it had been previously agreed that there would be funds made available for settings to access which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings.
- 4.5 JE noted that the DfE has charged the LA to write a local plan, part of which is how the LA will respond to the GLD target. This will require a multiagency response. Further noted that there is around £11k of debt in nurseries where a child is on a plan and is accessing nursery provision as part of that plan; but has gone beyond their entitlement resulting a debt. However, there is a conundrum between supporting the child/family as being in a setting is the most protective factor for the child against the financial factors to the setting. Noted any project would have to have tight budget oversight and framework around it.
- 4.6 ST-H noted that potentially settings could apply for children that they know would benefit to allow any project to fund children rather than funding places. This would allow scale across the whole borough. Further noted that there was 67% identified disadvantage in settings, however there is a fundamental question on whether there is a need to be putting more funding into trying to get the balance or to create more of a balance, as settings are still within the criteria. Noted that any project has to have borough wide impact and not in just one or two settings.
- 4.7 LW-C noted that Stroud Green take children free if they have a CP plan, which is funded through the school's main budget. There are also Islington residents that attend the nursery/ school. Islington have a Panel which providers can apply to for additional funding, for many reasons including social care. Potential a model in Islington and Hackney could use. Similar idea to a SEND emergency fund. Noted that there is an underspend within the EYWP which means funding for this type of panel could be factored in every year.
- 4.8 MM suggested that there was a consensus to move forward to scope out a pilot project which consisted of a Panel that would allow settings to apply for funding to support their most vulnerable children; inline with an agreed framework/ criterion.

ACTION a) LW-C and RS to reach out to Islington to obtain their terms of reference.
b) SMcD to reach out to her Governor on HEYSA who is lead in Islington.

- 4.9 JE noted the next steps as:
a) Review the suggestion of a Panel.
b) Review the terms of reference for Islington and Hackney Panel's
c) Discuss options with the group.
d) Provide a recommendation on funding allocation.

ACTION AG to co-ordinate with LW-C & SMcD to work on a draft Panel proposal.

- 4.10 ST-H enquired if the £425k had to be committed or spent by the end of financial year: 31 March 2026.

ACTION Clerk to email Ridhwaan Edoo and establish if the £425k has to be spend or allocated by March 2026 to prevent any clawback.

- 4.11 ZB enquired if they may be a possibility of funding holiday provision for under 5s as another possible project.
- 4.12 MM sought agreement that work on a proposal is undertaken now for agreement in January 2026.
- 4.13 Members enquired about the funding for Leap project, how much it has cost and likely loses, to receive a short summary on the project's impact. Noted that early access to speech and language therapists is a key part of the safety valve programme; has also had major benefits.

ACTION a) AG to talk to MW about the Leap project funding and summary on the project's impact.

b) Any further project proposals to be emailed to both JE and AG before the next meeting.

5. Capital Grant.

- 5.1 The window within which settings can apply for capital grants was noted as 22 September to 11 December 2025 by 5pm. The grant was noted as £150k for new projects. The capital grant is for school-based nurseries, to allow settings to operate new childcare places from next academic year. The provision can operate either as nursery classes within primary schools, nursery units led by Governors or an Academy Trust, as well as, PVI's, voluntary child minders or private providers contracted to deliver provision either on the school site or operating on the school's behalf. Funding is built on the foundations of phase 1, with an increased focus on disadvantaged families to access EY provision.
- 5.2 Before submission the LA would have to approval of the project. Either signed off by the Corporate Director or Director, Schools and Learning. Decisions would be based on the holistic picture of nursery provision and include details on sufficiency, sustainability of setting, stability, performance, building condition survey etc. An overview of the application form was provided; the following information was required as part of the application:
- Project overview.
 - Local needs impact.
 - Approach to education.
 - Link to the eligibility of the grant.
- 5.3 Noted that providers had been informed via the LA's newsletter and from the DfE. A member enquired about who applied last year with a response provided from the LA either through the newsletter or at the next meeting.

ACTION Overview of successful applications in wave 1 to be provided by the LA.

6. Updates

The EY Local Plan to be circulated to the EYWP.

ACTION To be circulated before the next meeting.

7. Dates of future meetings

The date for the next meeting was agreed as: 10 November 2025 at 2pm via Teams.

7.1 Agenda items

Proposals for use of underspend and allocation of spend.

- EY Vulnerable Childrens' Panel.
- Leap project funding.
- Children doing an extra year in EY setting fund.
- Holiday provision fund for under 5s.
- Any other proposals as received by the LA.

8. A.O.B.

- 8.1 LB noted that capital funded is being directed to LA provision and primary schools, with nothing accessible for the PVI sector. This is leading to the PVI sector becoming unsustainable and declining, with the possibility of a number of provisions having to close in the future.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:30pm

ACTIONS

Item	Action	Lead
2.2.2	b) SMcD to circulate the criteria for settings to access the fund which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings. c) Members to receive a breakdown of funds used to support children doing an extra year in EY settings.	SMcD LA
4.8	a) LW-C and RS to reach out to Islington to obtain their terms of reference. b) SMcD to reach out to her Governor on HEYSA who is lead in Islington.	LW-C & RS SMcD
4.9	AG to co-ordinate with LW-C & SMcD to work on a draft Panel proposal.	AG, LW-C & SMcD
4.10	Clerk to email Ridhwaan Edoo and establish if the £425k has to be spend or allocated by March 2026 to prevent any clawback.	CD
4.13	a) AG to talk to MW about the Leap project funding and summary on the project's impact. b) Any further project proposals to be emailed to both JE and AG before the next meeting.	AG & MW All
5.3	Overview of successful applications in wave 1 capital grant to be provided by the LA.	LA
6	EY Local Plan to be circulated to members	JE & CD

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**SCHOOLS FORUM EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP
10 NOVEMBER 2025 ON-LINE AT 2PM
MINUTES**

Name	Designation/ Representation
Melian Mansfield (MM)	CHAIR. Chair of Pembury House Nursery School
*Gladys Baah-Okyere (GBO)	PVI Settings Rep
Luisa Bellavita (LB)	PVI Settings Rep
Joanna Conroy (JC)	Childminder
Duwan Farquharson (DF)	Willow Director of Business
Sian McDermott (SMcD)	Nursery Head SF Rep (Rowland Hill & WPNC)
Susan Tudor-Hart (ST-H)	V Chair. School Forum PVI Settings Rep
Akwai Gill (AG)	Interim Principal Advisor for Early Years
Melanie Widnall (MW)	Principal Advisor for Early Years
Cllr Zena Brabazon (ZB)	Lead Member
Ridhwaan Edoo (RE)	Early Years Finance Team
Rhonda Scott (RS) AHT Lucy Walker Collins (LW-C) - HT	Primary Head Rep (Stroud Green Primary School)
*Avril Parker-Roach (AP-R)	Childminder Rep
*Hussain Sofiean (HS)	Strategic Business Lead CYPS
*Lewis Anthony (LA)a	Early Years Finance Team
*Muhammad Ali (MA)	Senior Finance Officer - Schools
Ese Anyia (EA)	Interim Schools Account – Schools
Jane Edwards (JE)p	Director, Schools and Learning
Also Present	
Corinne David (CD)p	Governance Officer

*denotes absent

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

MM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MM invited all persons present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for absence were received and noted from LA.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 16 October

2.1 The minutes from the meeting were reviewed and discussed with the following amendment noted:

- Item 2.2.1 c should read July 2025.
- Leap project should read LEEP project.

2.1.1 In relation to item 5.1, LB reiterated that the awards within the capital grants for school-based nurseries remained an iniquitous system against PVI settings.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 Item 4.1b Noted that the next NLC Chairs meeting was scheduled for 28 November 2025; where School-based nursery to be an item.

- 2.2.2 Item 4.5 & 6 JE noted that the local plan has to be published by March 2026. Meetings with partner agencies will occur before Christmas.
- 2.2.3 Item 2.2b SMcD noted that the criteria had been shared with the LA; however, due to an emergency situation that took priority; this piece of work is yet to be completed.

ACTION a) JE to take forward the criteria for setting to access funds which supported children doing an extra year in EYs settings and share with the EYWP when available.

b) RE to provide a report on the breakdown of funds used to support placements for children that do an extra year in EY settings; for the next meeting.

- 2.2.4 Item 4.8 & 4.9 The criteria from LB Islington have been received. The funds are larger and incorporates targeted SEND work. AG, LW-C and SMcD will be meeting to agree criteria for Haringey vulnerable learners. Work is ongoing and progressing.
- 2.2.5 Item 4.10 Noted that the £425k had to be committed by March 2026.
- 2.2.6 Item 4.13 LEEP project: see item 3.2
- 2.2.7 Item 5.3 Noted that the overview of successful applications in wave 1 capital grant to be provided by the LA, was an outstanding item.

3. PROPOSALS FOR USE OF THE £425K UNDERSPEND AND POTENTIAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

3.1 EY Vulnerable Children's Panel.

ZB informed members that the new deprivation index has been published. The Stamford Hill area has been highlighted as an area of high deprivation in London. Noted that there are large numbers of young children in Tottenham.

- 3.1.1 LB noted that there are a significant number of places offering 15 hours childcare for disadvantage children; however, they appeared not to be taking in the children for various reasons.
- 3.1.2 The premiss behind the proposal was that there are vulnerable children that either had SEND, their parents had SEND, parents may have low mood, aspects of a child's environment that impact them before their 5th birthday which affects them in later schooling. The idea is around early intervention and accessing settings earlier. Noted that work on the criteria was currently being undertaken by AG, LW-C and SMcD.
- 3.1.3 JE noted that different families may require different support, i.e. extra hours, funding for lunches; which all settings can access. JE suggested that work on the criteria is undertaken to make sure they are right for Haringey, then allocated a sum of money which is reviewed on a quarterly basis. LW-C requested the average cost of 1 day provision for a 1-year-old, 2-year-old and 3-year-old to have some costing baselines.

ACTIONS a) AW to provide baseline childcare costs as reported from the childcare sufficiency report.

b) AG, LW-C and SMcD to draft the Terms of Reference, criteria for Haringey vulnerable learners, identify potentially how many children could access the fund and what that may cost.

3.2 LEEP project funding.

MW provided a verbal report on the reach of the LEEP project which has been delivered over two years with:

- 11 Children centre
- 4 Family Hubs
- 29 Primary Schools
- 32 Childminders
- 107 PVI and LA nursery
- 61 Home visits (HLE)
- 458 Early Years professionals have been training and over 1500 children screened.
- Over 800 parents and carers have had engagement with LEEP
- The project has been very supportive and beneficial in Early Identification and Early Help work.

3.2.1 Family hubs have secured further funded which could be allocated to the home learning strand; which would afford LEEP to continue with the two workers. The funding for the lead officer position still required securing. MW enquired if the post could be secured through the EY underspend. On an annual basis the oncosts for the lead officer was noted as £45k. Noted that there are discussions to be had in the future should the funding only be secured for one year. Noted that the NHS undertook an evaluation of LEEP last year; there hasn't been one this year.

ACTION MW to provide an evaluation for the last year's LEEP work.

EYWP AGREED the allocation of £45k, for one year, to the LEEP Project to ensure the Lead officer and project continues with its current model.

3.3 Children doing an extra year in EY setting fund.

See item 2.2.3. Noted that there was an in-principal agreement within the group, however some further modelling work on costs were required.

ACTION RE to provide a report on the breakdown of funds used to support placements for children that do an extra year in EY settings; for the next meeting.

3.4 Holiday provision fund for under 5s.

The proposal would be for revenue money to provide summer holiday 2026 activities for under 5s who would fit one of the deprivation / vulnerable learner criterions. JE suggested that settings could apply for funding, similar to the way settings apply for HEF funding. To allow equitable access, potentially having an East, Middle and West offer, which would be open for bids. A determination would have to be made on criteria. Noted the funding would be for a period of 4 weeks to each area (equivalent of 12 weeks funding) during the summer holiday period.

ACTION a) LA to provide costing analysis and bidding framework (similar to HEF criteria).

b) JE to invite Charlotte from HEF to support with the bidding framework.

3.5 Disadvantaged two's who are not in settings.

ST-H noted that from previous discussions there were a substantial number of disadvantaged 2's who, for whatever reason, were not in a setting. However, there may be some that could / would benefit from targeted support. ST-H enquired whether officers felt all avenues have been exhausted and if it would be a sensible use of funds. Members enquired if the next steps would be targeting of particular communities.

ACTION AG to ask Christen Yannis to provide an update on the current funded entitlement for 2-year-olds, characteristics of the families not taking up the entitlement, costs, along with a summary of the work undertaken.

3.6 Any other proposals as received by the LA.

No other proposals were received.

3.7 Current agreed allocations of funding were noted as:

- £6k for the nursery conference led by HEYSA.
- £45k for LEEP.

3.8 EYWP agreed that proposals would be shared with Schools Forum at the meeting scheduled for 12 February 2026.

4. ANY UPDATED FROM THE LA

4.1 JE noted that a new EY curriculum was launched on Friday 7 November 2025. Noted that school readiness refers to a child's entry point into Year 1.

ACTION LA to share GLD modelling tool at the next meeting.

5. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The date for the next EYWP meeting was agreed as: 19 January 2026 at 10am. A provisional meeting was agreed for 22 January 2026 at 12pm in case an extra meeting was required.

5.1 Agenda items

- EYs funding formula/rates.
- Funding allocation proposals for the £425k underspend.

6. A.O.B.

6.1 Members suggested that the new deprivation information was modelled within the new funding formula. Noted that RE had sought updated IDACI information to allow the formula to be updated. Noted that the budget setting will take place in the new year. The websites providing information on the new indices of deprivation for 2025 were noted as:

[English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

[England's most deprived areas named - with Jaywick topping list - BBC News](#)

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:30pm

Agenda Item 7

Report Status

For information/note ☒
 For consultation & views ☐
 For decision ☒

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 16 October 2025

Report Title: Education Welfare Service

Authors:

Salma Rahman - Principal Education Welfare Officer
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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 of 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



Report Status

For information/note ☒
 For consultation & views
 For decision

Report to Haringey Schools' Forum – 4 December 2025

Report Title: High Needs Block (HNB) Section 251 and Commissioned Special Places 2025-26.

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Purpose:

1. To note Section 251 (S251) **commissioned specialist places** at Haringey Special schools and Special Free School, Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs), Alternative Provision delivered through HLP, South Grove, The Finch (Fortismere), Haringey 6th form and the Harrington scheme for 2025-26 as part of reporting to the Department for Education (DfE).
2. To note the recoupment deductions made by DFE.
Recoupment is deducted from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), High Needs block and paid to academies and free schools directly for commissioned places and administered by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA).
3. To note the High Needs Budget 2025/26
 The High Needs Budget allocation was last reported to Schools' Forum in January 2025. The latest published allocation is **£59.896m** less recoupment of £2.366m as of 24th November 2025.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report updates Schools' Forum in accordance with the [Schools' Forum Regulations 2012](#) requiring Schools' Forum to meet regularly and the local authority to inform, report and consult with Schools' Forum concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in line with the [Schools Forums Powers and Responsibilities](#).
- 1.2 The [section 251 return](#) is a statutory return that local authorities (LA's) are required to complete under section [251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#). A requirement is for LAs to prepare and submit to the Secretary of State for Education an education and children and young people's services budget statement at the end of April 2025 for the prescribed period. The prescribed period for this budget statement covers **1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026**.
- 1.3 This paper relates to the commissioned specialist places only of the S251 return funded from the High Needs Block (HNB). The HNB is one of the four blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2025/26.
- 1.4 This report is to update Schools' Forum in their role of having strategic oversight of High Needs budget (HNB) funding implications that directly inter-relate with the Safety Valve ongoing work for 2025/26.

2. Special School commissioned places 2025/26

- 2.1 Table 1 below details the **extract** from the Department for Education (DfE) S251 budget statement submitted May 2025.

Table 1 – S251 Budget HNB Commissioned places 2025/26

School Name	DfE Number	Type of Establishment	Special Educational Needs (SEN) Places		SEN Place Funding	Alternative Provision (AP) Places		AP Place Funding	Hospital Education Places		Hospital Education Place Funding	Total Place Funding
			April 2025 to August 2025	September 2025 to March 2026	April 2025 to March 2026 (£)	April 2025 to August 2025	September 2025 to March 2026	April 2025 to March 2026 (£)	April 2025 to Aug 2025	Sept 2025 to March 2026	April 2025 to March 2026 (£)	April 2025 to March 2026 (£)
Earlmead Primary School	2020	Mainstream	3	6	£28,500							£28,500
West Green Primary School	2051	Mainstream	8	8	£48,000							£48,000
Alexandra Primary School	2078	Mainstream	0	3	£17,500							£17,500
The Mulberry Primary School	3001	Mainstream	24	24	£144,000							£144,000
Haringey Learning Partnership	1101	PRU				£118	£118	£1,180,000	£12	£12	£120,000	£1,300,000
Blanche Neville School	7000	Special	68	68	£680,000							£680,000
Vale School	7001	Special	115	115	£1,150,000							£1,150,000
The Brook Special Primary School	7005	Special	129	129	£1,290,000		£10	£58,333				£1,348,333
Riverside	7006	Special	165	172	£1,690,833							£1,690,833
Grand Total:			512	525	£5,048,833	£118	£128	£1,238,333	£12	£12	£120,000	£6,407,167

Note: The above chart, submitted as the S251 Budget 2025/26, was created from information known at that time (May 2025) since then we have reviewed our commissioned specialist places, which identified some anomalies. These were corrected - see table 2 below.

Table 2 – Updated S251 Budget HNB Commissioned places 2025/26

School Name	DfE Number	Type of Establishment	Special Educational Needs (SEND) Places		SEN Place Funding
			April 2025 - August 2025	September 2025- March 2026	April 2025 to March 2026
West Green Primary School	2051	Mainstream	8	8	48,000
The Mulberry Primary School	3001	Mainstream	24	24	144,000
Earlsmead Primary School	2020	Mainstream	4	6	35,667
Alexandra Primary School	2078	Mainstream	0	3	17,500
Haringey Learning Partnership	1101	PRU	130	130	1,300,000
Blanche Nevile School	7000	Special	70	70	700,000
Vale School	7001	Special	119	119	1,190,000
The Brook Primary School	7005	Special	130	140	1,358,333
Riverside School	7006	Special	169	177	1,743,334
The Grove	7003	Special free school	125	125	1,250,000
		TOTAL	779	802	7,786,834

3.Special School Commissioned places 2025/26

- 3.1 The HNB supports provision for pupils and students with SEND who require additional resources to participate in education and learning, from their early years to age 25 in schools and colleges (excluding students aged 19 to 25 who do not have an EHC plan or students who are over the age of 25) and pre-16 pupils in Alternative Provision (AP) who, because of exclusion, illness, or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream schools.

In support for specialist provision, the HNB supports both **place funding** and **top up funding** for specialist provision. Numbers may fluctuate during the academic year due to demand. Agreement of commissioned numbers between the local authority (commissioner) and the relevant provider for the pupils is necessary to support management of this budget.

- 3.2 Out of Borough (OOB) children may be placed within Haringey special schools. This is important to note because the place funding of £10k is paid for each commissioned place from the HNB where the special school is located, even where the child is the responsibility of another Borough.

“The import/export adjustment reflects the movement of high needs pupils and students between local authority areas, where they live in one authority area (known as the resident local authority) and attend a school or college in another (known as the provider local authority), creating an additional financial cost to the latter authority.

The import/export adjustment is calculated using school census and ILR data. It is not based on commissioned or funded high needs places. A difference between the funded high needs places and school census or ILR data may not mean there is an import/export data error.

The import/export adjustment is calculated as a net figure based on:

- *the number of high needs pupils and students educated at a school or college in the local authority area, minus*
 - *the number of high needs pupils or students living in their area*
 - *this gives the net number of pupils and students, either positive or negative, which is then multiplied by £6,000 for the import export adjustment amount”*

This is why careful monitoring of commissioned arrangements is so important; further analysis will be undertaken to clarify the impact of the import /export grant in Haringey's HNB.

- 3.3 The borough where the child resides is responsible for funding the Top up element to the school.

Special School commissioned places Minimum Funding Guarantee MFG 2025/26

Table 3 below shows the number of special school places funded under the minimum funded guarantee (MFG) budgeted for 25/26 total **place funding** costs (less recoupment).

Table 3 – S251 Special School Place Funding (MFG) Budget 2025/26

Table 3 - HNB Special School budgets 2025-26	S251 Places 2025-26	S251 Place Funding at 10k per place
	No	£
Blanche Neville	70	700,000
Riverside	162	1,620,000
The Brook	130	1,300,000
The Grove*	125	1,250,000
The Vale	119	1,190,000
Plus the following due to expansion		
Riverside (September 24)	7	70,000
The Brook (September 25) – 7/12 months	10	58,333
Riverside (September 25) – 7/12 months	8	46,667
Total before DfE Recoupment	631	6,235,000
DfE Recoupment from the High needs block (HNB) (The Grove)	125	-£1,250,000
Total 25/26		4,985,000

**The Grove place funding is top sliced from DSG and paid via the General Annual Grant (GAG)*

- 3.4 As shown in the S251 budget return to the DfE and the table above, the Local Authority commissions 631 special school places totalling **£4.985m** (less recoupment) for 25/26.
- 3.5 Table 4 below shows the number of funded **Top Ups** under the **minimum funded guarantee** (MFG) budgeted for 25/26.

Table 4 – Special School Indicative Top-up Funding (Including MFG) Budget 2025/26

HNB Special School Top up budgets 2025-26	S251 Top up 2025-26	S251 Top up Funding at per place	HNB 2025-26 Top up Budget £	HNB 2025-26 Top up Budget £	Total HNB 2025-26 Top up Budget
			Apr to Aug	Sept to Mar	TOTAL
Blanche Neville	23	24000	230,000	322,000	552,000
Riverside	147	24000	1,470,000	2,058,000	3,528,000
The Brook	117	24000	1,170,000	1,638,000	2,808,000
The Brook	10	23280		135,800	135,800
The Grove	108	27909	1,255,905	1,758,267	3,014,172
The Vale	93	24000	930,000	1,302,000	2,232,000
The Vale	3	27909	34,886	48,841	83,727
TOTAL			5,090,791	7,262,908	12,353,699

Note: The table above only includes MFG Top ups, this is the minimum amount that a schools should receive in “top up” funding, not the total number of commissioned places.

3.6 Total Special School indicative budgets for 2025/26

Table 5 – Special School Place Funding and Top-up Estimated Budget 2025/26

TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS BUDGET 2025/26				
HNB Special School budgets 2025/26	S251 Places 2025/26	TOTAL PLACE FUNDING	TOTAL TOP-UP FUNDING	TOTAL BUDGET 2025/26
	No	£	£	£
Blanche Neville	70	£700,000	£552,000	£1,252,000
Riverside	162	£1,620,000	£3,528,000	£5,148,000
The Brook	130	£1,300,000	£2,808,000	£4,108,000
The Grove	125	£1,250,000	£3,014,172	£4,264,172
The Vale	119	£1,190,000	£2,315,727	£3,505,727
Expansion				
The Brook	10	£58,333	135,800	£194,133
Riverside from Sept 24	7	£70,000		£70,000
Riverside from Sept 25	8	£46,667		£46,667
Total	631	£6,235,000	£12,353,699	£18,588,699
Recoupment				
The Grove	-125	-£1,250,000		-£1,250,000
Total budget after recoupment		£4,985,000	£12,353,699	£17,338,699

- 3.7 Both place funding and top up place funding/numbers are now being reviewed termly to confirm places, OOB numbers and agreement on any variations due to the monitoring and delivery of the Safety Valve Programme.
- 3.8 A school decision to go over the number of commissioned special school places must be **agreed between the Headteacher and the local authority budget holder**. This is because the local authority does not have to allocate place funding for additional places above that of commissioned numbers as per HNB guidance unless prior agreement has been sought.
- 3.9 Place and top up indicative budget for Haringey special schools from 2025-2026 (less recoupment) is **£17,338,699**.

4. Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs) indicative budgets 2025/26

Table 6 – ARP Indicative Budget 2025/26

HNB Resource Bases budgets 2025-26	2025-26 S251 Place Funding		2025-26 Place funding School block funding (AWPU) (£4k)	2025-26 Place funding High needs block funding (£6k). £10k New	HNB 2025- 26 Top up Budget	Total HNB 2025-26 Budget
	Apr to Aug	Sept to Mar	£	£	£	£
Earlsmead Primary School	4	4	16,000	24,000	80,000	120,000
Earlsmead Primary School		2		11,667	23,333	35,000
West Green Primary School	8	8	32,000	48,000	160,000	240,000
Alexandra Primary School	0	3	0	17,500	35,000	52,500
The Mulberry Primary School	24	24	96,000	144,000	480,000	720,000
			144,000	245,167	778,333	1,167,500

- 4.1 ARPs are enhanced resource provisions within mainstream schools. Pupils attending ARPs are part funded from Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) of c£4,000, plus Element 2 funding (£6k) from the school's block in accordance with the autumn census, based on the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).
- 4.2 Top up payments are paid at Band G rates (£20k) based on actual numbers of pupils, whereas place funding is paid whether or not a pupil is attending.
- 4.3 For pupils starting in September that are not yet on the census, they are paid at £10,000 per place pro rata up to the end of the financial year.
- 4.4 The two new ARPs established during 2025/26 are:
- 15-place ASC at Earlsmead Primary school, with 6 places from September 2025.
 - 10-place SEMH at Alexandra Primary school, with 3 places from September 2025.
- 4.5 ARP Indicative funding from the DSG budget for 25/26 is **£1.167m**.

5. Post 16 Commissioned Places 2025/26

5.1 Table 7 below shows the number and total of post 16 commissioned places

Table 7 Wider Post 16 Commissioned Places 2025/26

High needs block Post 16 Commissioned Places 2025/26			
Provision	Setting	No.	(£)
Post-16 SEN places	SEN places at Haringey 6th Form College	134	£804,000
Further Education (FE) and Independent Learning Provider (ILP) Places	Digital Skills at Harrington	51	£306,000
	Total		£1,110,000

6. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK Deductions (recoupment) 2025/26

6.1 Table 8 details the deductions taken from the HNB Budget and passported directly to Academies, Free Schools and Post 16 Provisions for 2025/26.

Table 8 - High needs block 2025/26 deductions			
Provision	Setting	No.	Deduction (£)
All places	The Grove (Special free school)	125	£1,250,000
Alternative Provision academies and free schools	Pre-16 AP Places	1	£5,834
Post-16 SEN places	SEN places at Haringey 6th Form College	134	£804,000
Further Education (FE) and Independent Learning Provider (ILP) Places	Harrington	51	£306,000
High Needs Deductions July 2025 DSG.			£2,365,834

Table 7 and 9 Source: <https://skillsfunding.service.gov.uk/view-latest-funding/dedicated-schools-grant/funding-breakdown/2025-to-2026/309/24-11-2025?includeHistory=true#high-needs>

7. Legal implications

7.1 The Schools' Forums (England) regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the forum. The Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the local authority must or may consult the school's forum and those in respect of which the school's forum can make decisions. These regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed Early Years provision in England.

- 7.2 Just highlighting to risk to the High needs block funding of the DFE import and export system which could adversely affect future funding, I have detailed this risk in section 2.3 of this paper.

8. Other implications

- a. Risk management – None
- b. Contractual issues – None
- c. Staffing issues – None
- d. Customer impact – None
- e. Safeguarding children – None
- f. Health issues – None
- g. Crime and Disorder - None
- h. Property/Asset Issues - None

Background papers used in the preparation of the report:

High Needs Block DSG Allocations - <https://skillsfunding.service.gov.uk/view-latest-funding/dedicated-schools-grant/funding-breakdown/2025-to-2026/309/24-11-2025?includeHistory=true#high-needs>

Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[National funding formula for schools and high needs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

List of appendices N/A

Haringey Safety Valve Programme Stakeholder Progress Report December 2025

Karen Flanagan
Head of Integrated SEND



Haringey
LONDON

Summary of Safety Valve Projects

Demand management	Commissioning / Capital	Culture, Governance and Leadership
A.1 SLT – Speech, Language & Communication	B1.1 Primary ASC capital	C.1 Core standards
A.2 Autism	B1.2 Secondary and post 16 ASC capital	C.2 Culture change
A.3 SEMH – Social, Emotional Mental Health pathway	B.3 Complex needs capital	C.3 Process mapping
A.4 Thresholds and Annual Reviews	B.4 Alternative Provision (oversight)	C.4 Work Force Development
A.5 SEND Supported Internships	B.2 and B.5 Placements (including post 16)	
A.6 Early Years	B.6 Bandings and Top Ups	

Summary Report for Month End November 2025

The aim of these projects is to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND and through the implementation of an early intervention and graduated approach which will reduce the number of EHCPs to be in line with London and National averages.

Main points of progress:

- **A1: Speech, Language and Communication Graduated Response:** The SLCN pathway is continuing to ensure that all settings are using the graduated response consistently. The LEEP screening has been rolled out to 428 settings. The team are continuing to ensure the pathway is used correctly.
- **A2: Increase capacity in mainstream schools to meet needs of children with Autism:** Children are continuing to be supported with intervention. The Project is business as usual.
- **A3: Increase capacity in mainstream schools to meet needs of children with SEMH:** The pathway to support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs has been established and has been operating since September 2024 in schools. You can refer to it here: [Social, Emotional Mental Health \(SEMH\) Guidance for Schools](#)
- **A4: Thresholds and Annual Reviews (AR) of EHCPs:** The team are currently processing on average 45 annual reviews a week. This is an increase of nearly 50% on last year. Timeliness of annal reviews is currently at 61%. this is an increase of 4% on the previous month.
- **A5: Review of Post 16 offer:** 8 interns have begun their internships with Mencap Training Academy and have begun their first placement rotations. The number of disability confident employers continues to be an area of focus. [send-supported-internship-brochure-2025-v5-compressed.pdf](#)
- **A6: Early Years Funding Review:** The introduction of the Early Years Inclusion Fund is continuing to work well, providing funded support for children aged under 5 without an EHCP.
- **B2 and B.5: Commissioning and Brokerage:** Haringey is continuing to look at its sufficiency strategy and how we work with other local authorities to ensure value for money. Work is progressing with the procurement team to publish a new framework for tuition.
- **B.4 Alternative Provision:** To meet Post 16 cohort needs; a 1-year pilot for Post 16 arts and media places at Big Creative Training (BCT) in Waltham Forest has been commissioned, commencing Sept 25. This service meets both preference and need for a group of new and returning learners. A contract for 14 places has been secured at a lower unit cost per place than the previous cost per place.
- **B.6 Bandings and Top Ups:** Our new bandings model is in place from this academic year ensuring we have an equitable funding system for children to be supported wherever they choose to learn. This will be reviewed Jan 2026.
- **B.8 Transfer from Schools Block:** Secretary of state approved the 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block

Strategic Overview: Safety Valve Capital Update

- **Earlsmead Project RP (ASC) (B1.1)** - delivered one year ahead of schedule with 3 children attending provision, **3/4** additional pupils are expected to be phased into the provision during this financial year, bringing the total number of pupils to **6**. The provision is on track to reach full capacity with **15** pupils by FY 2028/29.
- **Riverside (Complex needs expansion) (B3.1)** - The Riverside project was also delivered a year early, and all pupils have now been successfully phased in.
- **The Brook(Complex needs expansion) (B3.2)** – The Brook project was due for completion by September 25 and has a planned intake of **10** pupils for this financial year, with a further **8** pupils expected to be admitted in 2027/28. These works were completed in October after a slight delay.
- **Alexandra Primary Project RP (SEMH) (B7.1)** - The Alexandra Primary project was due for completion by September 2025. Construction is now expected to complete by January 2026 The children are continuing to be educated at South Grove until the end of this term.
- **Fortismere Project RP (ASC) (B1.2)** - collaboration between the school and Fortismere is productive, The SLA is in the process of being finalised. Discussions are taking place with regard identification of cohort from September 2026 as part of phase transfer. Scheduled to go live in September 2026.
- **Park View Project RP (SEMH) (B7.2)** - Site surrender of St Mary's is all going to plan, in early discussions with Park View with regard additional challenges as a result of being a split site, The ARP is expected to be in place for September 2026 **Total number of Placements: 126**

Safety Valve Measure- Forecast EHCP's to 31st October 2025

The Graph on the next slide compares the number of active EHCP against the Safety valve target and expected number of plans if there had been no mitigations in place.

The current number of Plans at 31st October 2025 is 3,054.

- **The Green line:** This shows the estimated increase in EHCP as of 31 March 2026, had there been no mitigations in place would have been 3,544 plans.

Assumption:

Haringey are using the agreed rate of growth at 10% whereas the LGA National Growth percentage between 2024 and 2023 stands at just over 11% as at LGA 23rd April 25.

- **The Blue line:** As of March 2026, Haringey's Estimated number of EHCP will be **3,102**.

Assumption:

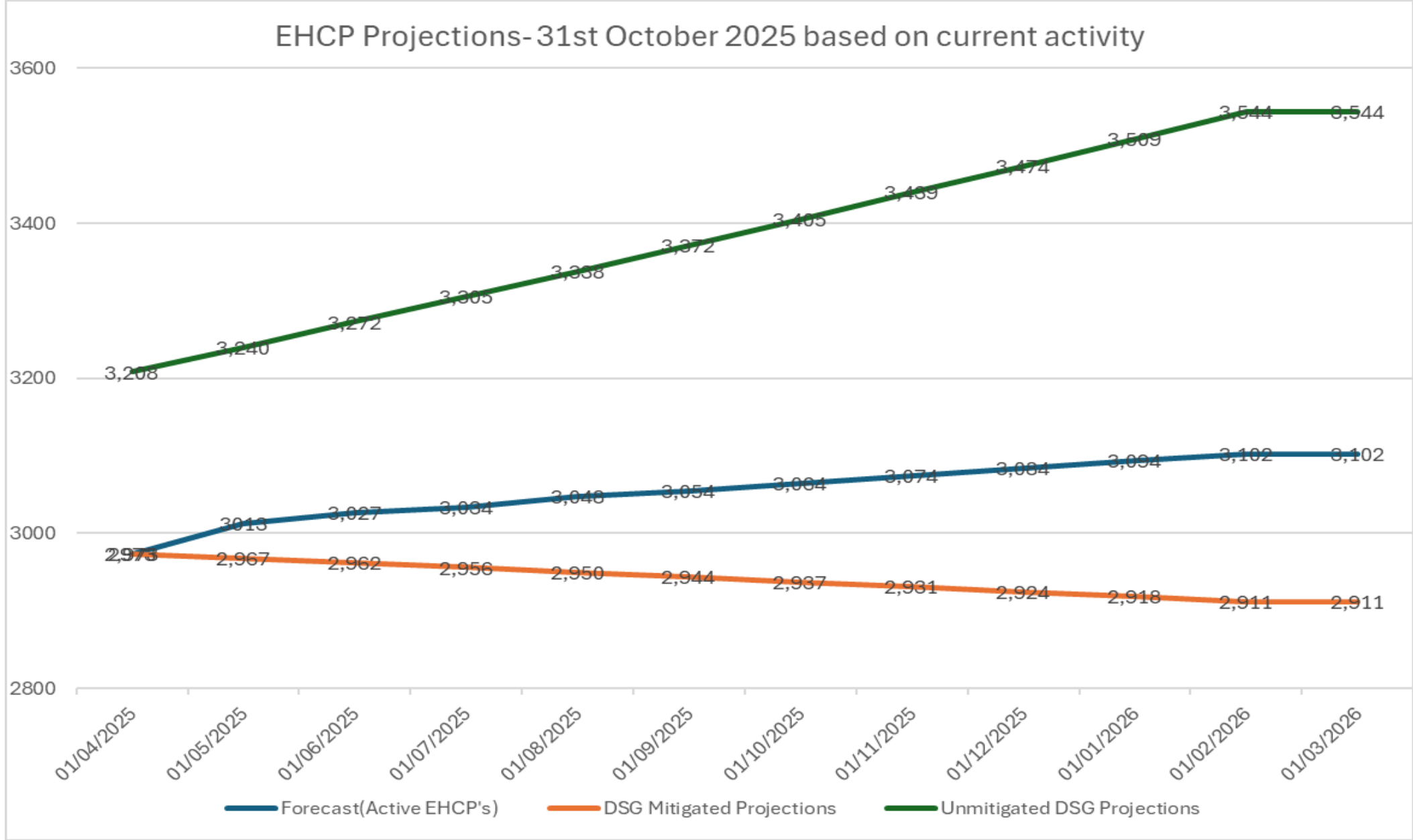
This is subject to change, projections based on actual as of 31 October 2025, plus 4% growth.

- **The Orange line:** This shows the revised target for EHCP of 2,911.

Assumption: This is the target set at the beginning of the programme with an amount factored in for Growth which is projected at 4% up to the end of the financial year 2026.

Had we done nothing we predict we would have had 3,544 plans as of 31 March 2026, the safety valve target was to have 2,911 plan at that time. Our estimated number of plans is 3,102. This is 191 over the SV target, but 442 less than if we had not put in place the mitigations.

This Graph shows the estimated number of EHCP (mitigated, unmitigated and actual number)



2) Financial analysis as at 31st October 2025

This slide is to offer a more detailed explanation of the 3 following Slides that contain financial information, based on the Estimated financial Forecast for the Safety Valve Programme as at 31st October 2025 therefore subject to change.

TABLE 1

The Safety Valve Programme Targets and the Delivery to date. The items highlighted in Green are the items that we expect to achieve their targets. Please note the the majority of the targets are Cost Avoidance rather than Cash Savings. For example, in the B Projects, we are creating additional capacity in our Mainstream schools which will avoid the need for independent Placements.

TABLE 2

The Graph shows the estimated Unmitigated forecast, Mitigated forecast and the Safety valve target from the beginning of the programme to the end of the SV programme.

This Graph also shows as at P7 31st October 2025, for this financial year 25-26. The Estimated Unmitigated Forecast of £42.86m, the estimated mitigated forecast is £32.48m and the Safety Valve Target is £30.80m for this financial year. The variance between the Unmitigated and Mitigated is £10.38m and the variance between the Mitigated and the Target is £1.68m.

TABLE 3

This Slide shows the following:

- Actual Spend in 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25.
- Estimated forecast in 25/26, 26/27 and 27/28 as per Period 7 and is subject to change.
- It shows the information in Table 2 in figures, with more financial information including the Estimated expenditure and DSG income allocation, estimated in 26/27 at 3% and 27/28 at 2.3%.

Safety Valve Programme Targets and Delivery to Date as at 31st Oct 25

Green-
Savings
at or
above
delivered

Amber -
Partial
delivery
of
savings

Blue-
Early
Delivery/
of
savings

Safety Valve Programme Targets	2024/25	2025/26 Revised as at Oct 25	2026/27 Revised as at Oct 25	2027/28 Revised as at Oct 25	Total
	In Year Forecast £000	Revised Forecast '£000	Revised Forecast '£000	Revised Forecast '£000	Revised Total '£000
A1. Review Therapeutic Support for Speech & Language Communication	-133	-158	-167	-176	-633
A2. Increase Capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs of children with Autism	245	£728	£683	£694	1,682
A3. Increase Capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs of children with SEMH	0	168	288	400	856
A4: Threshold and Annual Reviews of EHCP	774	£1,280	£1,648	£1,275	4,977
A5. Increase Supported Internships for young people with EHCP's	0	541	1,024	1,789	3,354
A6. Early Years Funding Review	286	£417	£784	784	2,871
Total Demand management Reviewed	1,173	2,976	4,260	4,766	13,107
B1.1 Develop primary and ASC Resource Units in mainstream schools.	-17	180	375	266	575
B1.2 Develop secondary and ASC Resource Units in mainstream schools.	0		139	1,353	2,203
B2: Ensure cost-effective commissioning & brokerage of services	403	348	643	1,118	2,512
B3. Complex needs	382	732	1,270	1,466	2,151
B4. Review of Alternative provision and funding model	349	349	349	349	1,396
B5. Commissioning post 16 learners	123	197	830	920	2,070
B.6 Remodel financial support\top ups to mainstream schools.	400	-568	-437	-521	-1,075
B.7.1 Develop primary resource SEMH Resource Units in mainstream schools	0	-42	91	379	884
B.7.2 Develop secondary resource SEMH Resource Units in mainstream schools	0	0	139	287	1,788
B.8. School Block Transfer to High Needs Block	1,129	1,167	1,167	1,167	4,630
Total Commissioning Reviewed	2,769	2,363	4,566	6,784	17,134
SV Programme Total	3,942	5,339	8,826	11,550	30,241

Stakeholder and Comms Engagement

The latest updates on key milestone events and timelines regarding the Safety Valve programme can be accessed on the [Safety Valve Programme webpage](#).

Upcoming

- Schools Forum 4 December
- SEND Executive 9 December
- Safety Valve Steering Group 10 December
- Special Heads 12 December



Ways to get involved and learn more about the programme



- [Overview of the Safety Valve Programme which supports children and young people with SEND in Haringey](#)
- [Monthly Highlight reports published on Local Offer](#)
- [Sign up to our SEND newsletter for regular updates](#)
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- If you would like to be part of developing this programme going forward, please register your interest at sendcomms@haringey.gov.uk

Schools Block Funding Formula Consultation

Financial Year 2026 - 2027

Start Date: 05:00pm, 28th November 2025

Deadline: 05.00pm, 12th December 2025



School Finance
London Borough of Haringey

Schools Block of Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Funding Formula

2026 - 2027

Funding Consultation between
Local Authority
&
Academies, Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools

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Contact us:
s-SchoolsReturns@haringey.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOLS FUNDING CONSULTATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

As part of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, local authorities must consult with providers on the proposed funding formula for the upcoming financial year. This includes input on the factors and criteria considered, as well as the methods, principles, and rules applied. This ensures transparency and allows stakeholders to provide feedback before final decisions are made.

Process Overview:

1. **Consultation Stage**: The draft funding formula is shared with settings for comments and input. This is a mandatory step to gather views and ensure the formula reflects sector needs.
2. **Schools' Forum Review**: Following the consultation, the proposed formula is presented to the Schools' Forum for discussion and approval. The Forum plays a key role in shaping and endorsing the funding approach.
3. **Final Approval**: Once approved by the Schools' Forum, the funding formula is ratified by the Lead Member for Children's Services.
4. **Submission to DfE**: After ratification, the final formula is submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) in line with statutory deadlines.

This document serves as the basis for consulting with all Haringey schools and the Haringey Schools' Forum on the proposed changes to the school funding formula for the 2026 - 2027 financial year. The consultation also addresses the strategic oversight of current challenges within the high needs block funding.

We invite all schools to take part in this consultation by completing the survey. Click Here: [online survey](#)

Alternatively, you can type this address directly into your web browser:

<https://forms.office.com/e/L3qsP4EUKR>

The deadline for submitting responses to this consultation is **5:00 p.m. on 12th December 2025**. This timeline ensures that the Schools' Forum can consider schools' feedback ahead of its meeting scheduled for **4:00 p.m. on 15th January 2026**.

CHANGES FOR THIS YEAR 2026 - 2027

Due to delays in receiving provisional allocations for the 2026–2027 financial year, the Department for Education (DfE) has not yet released the draft Authority Proforma Tool (APT), which local authorities use to model schools block allocations.

As a result, this year's consultation is based on the principles applied in last year's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding formula. Specifically, we will adopt 100% of the National Funding Formula (NFF) factor values, including Area Cost Adjustments, along with the proposed amounts and percentages for block transfers and de-delegation. Please refer to **Table 3 on page 7** for details.

The DfE is expected to publish the APT in **December 2025**, leaving insufficient time to delay consultation until after its release. Therefore, we are required to proceed with this consultation in advance of receiving the APT.

Next Steps and Approval Process

Once the APT and indicative DSG allocations are published, the Schools Block Working Group (SBWG) will review the figures, expected in the final week of the autumn term. Individual school allocations will then be presented to the Schools' Forum for approval in January 2026 meeting. Following this, Cabinet Member approval will be sought.

The final APT will be submitted to the DfE on **22nd January 2026** for validation checks. After DfE approval is confirmed, indicative allocations will be shared with schools, and final allocations will be issued by **28th February 2026**.

The DfE published general guidance on the indicative National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools and high needs for 2026 – 2027 on **19th November 2025**.

Schools Operation guide for 2026- 2027 is available at the following link: [Schools operational guide: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

NATIONAL CHANGES IN FUNDING LEVEL FOR 2026 - 2027

The basic structure of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools will remain largely unchanged in 2026 - 2027, with only a few national adjustments.

The DfE has confirmed that the School Budget Support Grant (**SBSG**) and the National Insurance Contributions (**NICs**) grant will be incorporated into the 2026 – 2027 funding by:

- Adding the amounts currently received through these grants into schools' baseline allocations.
- Including the value of the lump sums, basic per-pupil rates, and Free School Meals Ever6 (FSM6) elements of the grants within the corresponding factors of the National Funding Formula (NFF)

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

Factor per pupil	SBSG (annualised)	NICs grant	Total
Primary basic	£55	£78	£133
KS3 basic	£78	£68	£146
KS4 basic	£88	£77	£165
Primary FSM6	£49	£75	£124
Secondary FSM6	£72	£60	£132
Lump sum	£2,086	£2,400	£4,486

Table 2: Minimum per pupil (MPPL) funding uplifts due to grants

MPPL	Uplifts for 2025-26 SBSG and NICs grant	MPPL Values 2026 - 2027
Primary	£160	£5,115
Secondary	£175	£6,388 for KS3 £7,018 for KS4

The Minimum Per Pupil Level (MPPL) ensures that every pupil receives a guaranteed minimum amount of funding. Schools whose formula allocation falls below this threshold receive a top-up to meet the required minimum level.

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.

Key Areas to consider locally:

- Local authorities will be able to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in local formulas, which for 2026 - 27 must be between 0% and -0.5%.
- Local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their total Schools Block allocation to other blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), subject to Schools Forum approval. Transfers above 0.5% or any transfers without Schools Forum approval will still require a disapplication request to the Secretary of State (SoS).
- Schools with split sites will remain eligible for basic funding, including a lump sum for each site, and additional funding for sites more than 100 metres from the main site.
- Growth and Falling Rolls funding will continue to be incorporated into the formula, with the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) addressing these changes within the formula.

PROPOSED FUNDING MODELS

After collecting feedback from schools, the proposed 2026 – 2027 funding formula will be finalised and presented to the Schools' Forum for consideration at its meeting on **15th January 2026**. The Forum will review consultation responses before approving the formula.

For 2026–2027, Haringey will adopt 100% of the National Funding Formula (NFF) values. Having converged with NFF values since 2024-25, the LA is unable to diverge from these values.

As mentioned the Schools Block Working Group (SBWG) will review the modelling once the APT and Haringey's indicative Schools Block allocation for 2026-27 are published in December. As in previous years the SBWG will work to the principle of setting an MFG as high as possible within the permitted range.

Schools are being consulted on a single model aligned with these NFF values, with the proposed allocations detailed in **Table 3 below**.

Table 3: Proposed allocations from the Schools Block DSG

Allocation type	Schools Affected	Description	Proposed Amount (£)
Block Transfer	All Schools	HNB transfer at 0.5%	*TBC
Top Slice	All Schools	Growth Fund/Falling Rolls Fund	**£300,000
Block Transfer	All Schools	CSSB for Education Welfare	£122,000
De-Delegation	Maintained only	Trade Union Facility	£210,000

*Block transfers subject to disapplication request and Secretary of State approval

** The figure is subject to the final DSG settlement.

High Needs Block: All schools: A 0.5% block transfer will be made to the HNB to support SEND growth and as part of the Safety Valve Programme Agreement with the DfE.

Growth/Falling Rolls funding: All schools: The growth/falling rolls fund allocation will be set at £300K, based on current projections for potential growth in schools. This amount remains the same as last year and will be allocated within the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) in line with the changes to the 2026 - 2027 school funding formula.

Education Welfare Charge: All schools: A block transfer of £122K will be made to the Central School Services Block (CSSB), the same amount as last year. Schools' Forum Paper published in October 2025: [Item 5 - Education Welfare Service.pdf](#)

Trade Union Facility: Maintained schools only: The budgets for maintained schools will include de-delegated amounts to cover trade union duties. For the financial year 2026 - 2027, the allocation will remain at £210K, the same as for 2025 -2026. Any unused funds will be ring-fenced for the Schools Block.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Feedback questionnaire for Haringey School Funding Formula 2026 - 2027		
Question 1: To support High Needs Block Transfer of 0.5% from Schools Block (as part of Safety Valve Program)	Yes	No
Question 2: To support Growth/Falling Rolls Funding budget of £300k	Yes	No
Question 2: To support Block Transfer of £122k for Education Welfare	Yes	No
Question 4: MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY To support de-delegated budget from maintained schools for Trade Union Facilities time of £210K	Yes	No
Any further comments you would like to make with regards to the consultation:	Comments	
<i>Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.</i>		

SCHOOLS VOTING RIGHTS

Each school will have two votes:

1. Headteacher
2. School Governor (Chair of Governor or Chair of Resources Committee)

CONSULTATION DEADLINE

We invite all schools to take part in this consultation by completing the survey. Click Here: [online survey](#)

Alternatively, you can type this address directly into your web browser:
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