

**Agenda Item  
9**



**Report Status**

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

**Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Report Title: Dedicated School Grant (DSG) 2024/25 and Central Schools Services (CSSB) Block Funding**

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**Purpose:**

1. To update Schools Forum on DSG Central School Services Block (CSSB) usage and indicative budget 2024/25 allocation.

**Recommendations:**

- a) To note the latest DSG published allocations for 2024/25 of CSSB.
- b) To note the central retention within the CSSB for 2024/25.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 As previously reported to Schools' Forum 11<sup>th</sup> January of the latest published DSG allocations for all blocks of the grant including the Central School Services Block (CSSB) for 2024/25.

## 2. Central Schools Services block (CSSB)

- 2.1 Since 2017/18 the CSSB supports the National Funding Formula (NFF) for central school services providing funding for local authorities to carry out central functions or retained duties on behalf of compulsory school age pupils in maintained schools and academies in England. Previously this allocation was top sliced from School Block.

The CSSB continues to have two elements of funding:

- a) **Ongoing responsibilities**, which funds all local authorities (LA) for central functions to deliver central functions to all pupils in maintained schools and academies and have been reduced by 2.5% each year.
  - b) **Historic commitments**, which funds LAs for commitments made prior to 2013/14 and reduced by 20%.
- 2.2 Haringey do not have any historical commitments, therefore have slightly benefitted due to only receiving a reduction in funding since 2013/14 to support mainstream schools based wholly upon census data.
- 2.2.1 The published CSSB allocation for the financial year 2024/25 is £2.630m (£2.719m 2023/24). A reduction in 2024/25 is based upon a reduction in census and table A details CSSB.

Table A - CSSB BLOCK Allocations	2023/24	2024/25 Published Allocations	Movement Favourable / (Unfavourable)	% change
	£'s	£'s	£'s	
No historic allocations	-	-	-	
UNIT of funding	£82.53	£81.06	£- 1.47	-1.8%
Pupil No's	32,834	32,450	- 384	-1.2%
<b>Total CSSB (pupil no's x unit funding)</b>	<b>£2.710m</b>	<b>£2.630m</b>	<b>£(0.079)m</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>

- 2.2.2 Table B reports the year-on-year reduction and estimated 2025/26.

Table B Financial Years	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate (-2.5%)
UNIT of funding rate	£84.65	£82.53	£81.06	£79.03
Pupil Numbers	32,896	32,834	32,450	32,450
<b>Total CSSB funding</b>	<b>£2,784,604</b>	<b>£2,709,790</b>	<b>£2,630,397</b>	<b>£2,564,637</b>
year on year reduction (%)	-4.4%	-2.7%	-2.9%	-2.5%
year on year reduction (£)	-£127,034	-£74,814	-£79,393	-£65,760

2.3 This paper sets out previous years allocations as table C and latest 2024/25 planned expenditure taking into account the 2.9% budget reduction.

2.4 Commissioned services of £438k are with Haringey Education Partnership (HEP) within a 3-year contract, which is due for renewal August 2024, a contract extension up to 31 March 2025 has been negotiated that provides the local authority with short term stability and scoping for 2025/26 budget planning.

Notes	Financial Years	Financial Year 2023-24		Financial Year 2024-25	
	Description of Services	Local Authority Managed Services	Commissioned Services	Local Authority Managed Services	Commissioned Services
a	ESG - Other Statutory & Regulatory Duties	352,851	25,000	339,311	25,000
	ESG - Statutory Education Welfare Service	172,000		165,400	
b	Schools Standards		273,000		273,000
c	Looked After Children Placements	534,100		513,604	
d	Early Help	350,000		336,569	
e	Servicing of School Forum		10,000		10,000
f	Admissions	300,000		288,488	
g	Governor Support		130,000		130,000
h	Music & Performing Arts	168,000		161,553	
i	Supports Costs	192,000		184,632	
j	Copyright Licences *	202,840		202,840	
k	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,271,791</b>	<b>438,000</b>	<b>2,192,397</b>	<b>438,000</b>
l	<b>Total Allocation for the Financial Year</b>	<b>2,709,791</b>		<b>2,630,397</b>	

a) **Education Services Grant (ESG) £530k** *including commissioned services £25k.*

These duties were previously supported via an additional grant ESG which was paid directly to Haringey outside of the DSG in support of regulatory and statutory duties. The grant ceased in 2015/16 after a consultation exercise and was included within the CSSB allocation as part of the NFF journey. Prior to the ESG grant a contribution of Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) was calculated as part of S251 budget.

*ESG Commissioned services - £25k.*

The statutory and regulatory services HEP delivers on behalf of the Council are:

- School Improvement: Ensuring the curriculum is broad and balanced.
- Key Stage 1 moderation and monitoring with training and advice
- Key Stage 2 moderation and monitoring
- SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

b) **Schools Standards – commissioned service £273k**

Commissioned services via HEP in delivery of:

- Support for schools after Ofsted inspections and schools placed into special measures,
- Support the LA to introduce an IEB where appropriate, Professional contact between the Council and each of its schools,

- Attendance at Ofsted inspections and feedback meetings
- Data analysis and target setting
- Advice, guidance, and support for individual school statutory and not statutory performance targets
- Risk assessment of school performance and intervention for school's causing concern
- Safeguarding support and advice

**c) Looked After Children Placements - £514k**

A contribution towards Looked After Children placements budget within Haringey from CSSB and the reduction in funding from last year will impact upon General Fund.

**d) Early Help £337k**

A contribution towards Early Help budgets with delivery of early help and strategies including early intervention working across the borough with settings.

**e) Servicing of School Forum – *commissioned service* £10k**

Commissioned services via HEP in delivery of preparation, administration, and clerking of school forum meetings.

**f) Admissions - £288k**

The admissions budget predominantly covers staffing budgets of the admissions team to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available in the area in terms of number, diversity in provision and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

**g) Governor Support – *commissioned services* £130k**

Support for governing bodies in schools causing concern, and Governor training delivered across schools.

**h) Music and Performing Arts - £162k**

A contribution to Haringey Music Service (HMS) in coordinating individual, group and whole-class instrumental and vocal music tuition in Haringey schools.

**i) Support Costs - £185k**

Back-office functions and per capita costs in reporting and delivery of the statutory reporting to the DfE. This has not increased due to CSSB budgets not permitted to increase within the overall financial envelope published by the DfE.

**j) Copyrights Licences – \* estimated £203k**

The Department for Education (DfE) buys copyright licences for all state-funded primary and secondary schools in England, covering schools for almost all their copyright requirements. Purchasing these licences directly means that DfE can save schools money and the administrative time involved in applying for many different licences. The licence means schools can copy, re-use and share content from a wide range of sources within schools for non-commercial educational purposes.

The local authority is usually notified of cost during March and DSG is top sliced via the monthly DSG instalments made to the local authority. The budget is estimated as 2023/24.

**k) CSSB split of funding.**

£2.192m local authority managed and commissioned services £438k paid to HEP via a 3-year contract.

**l) Total CSSB allocation 2024/25 £2.630m (£2.710m 2023/24)**

**Recommendation/decision**

**Schools Forum to:**

- (a) Note latest DSG published allocations for 2024/25 of CSSB
- (b) Note the central retention within the CSSB for 2024/25