Appendix 2 (b)
Children and Young People Directorate

Children and Young People Directorate

1.1. The Children and Young People's Directorate include all services for children and young people, including children in care, early help and intervention, youth provision, education services, Schools (funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant) and support for those with Special Educational Needs (SEND).

Directorate Proposed Budgets 2026/27 to 2030/31

1.2. The estimated additional budget requirement for the Children's Directorate in 2026/27 is £13.2m as presented in the table below, details of the proposals are also provided in the sections below. The total estimated additional budget requirement across 2026/27 to 2030/31 is £17.6m, however, it should be noted that work to model demand pressures from 20027/28 onwards is still being undertaken and therefore it is likely that the additional budget required from 2027/28 will increase. Due to the introduction of the fair funding and a change in the way grant funding is received by the council, a number of what is described legacy grants will disappear in 2026/27, this includes the Social Care Grant and a number of small grants, instead they will be incorporated into the Revenue Support Grant. As a result, £8.4m of grant funding will be removed from the Children and People budget and held corporately but leave the expenditure unchanged except from the proposed change

Type	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30**	**2030/31**	**Total**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Starting Budgets *	**69,458**	**82,636**	**83,943**	**85,367**	**87,047**	**408,450**
Previously Approved Budget Pressures	3,496	1,772	1,772	1,680	0	**8,720**
Previously Approved Budget Savings	(520)	(365)	(50)	0	0	**(935)**
New Pressures	2,152	0	(165)	0	0	**1,987**
New Savings	(327)	(101)	(20)	0	0	**(448)**
New Management Actions	0	0	(113)	0	0	**(113)**
Previously Agreed Government & Other Funding Changes	1,330	0	0	0	0	**1,330**
New Government & Other Funding Changes	7,048	0	0	0	0	**7,048**
Total Proposed Changes	**13,178**	**1,307**	**1,424**	**1,680**	**0**	**17,589**
Proposed Revised Budget	**82,636**	**83,943**	**85,367**	**87,047**	**87,047**	**426,038**
**** Based on Draft Budgets***						

1.3. The current assumption is that all of the previously agreed savings included in the March 2025 Council report across 2026/27 to 2030/31 will be delivered in full.

2026/27 Budget Pressures

1.4. £10.7m of budget pressures have been identified across 2026/27 to 2030/31, £5.6m in 2026/27 and summarised in the table below.

Categories	Description	2026/27 (£'000)	2027/28 (£'000)	2028/29 (£'000	2029/30 (£'000)	2030/31 (£'000)	Total (£'000)
Previously Approved	Removal of funding for Safety Valve Delivery Team		(400)				**(400)**
Previously Approved	Home School Transport – additional demand	621	599	636	566		**2,422**
Previously Approved	Increased Service demand for Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPS).	105	52	105	52		**314**
Previously Approved	Increase in the social care placements Costs	2,750	1,521	1,031	1,062		**6,364**
Previously Approved	Subject Access Requests (SARS)	20					**20**
New Proposal	Continuation funding for running costs for Rising Green Youth Hub	165		(165)			**0**
New Proposal	Ongoing costs for the delivery of the Families First Partnership Programme	1,436					**1,436**
New Proposal	Additional staffing to support increase in requests for subject access records	123					**123**
New Proposal	Additional staffing to support SEND tribunals, mediations and complaints	215					**215**
New Proposal	Additional staffing to review direct payments	213					**213**
Overall Total		**5,648**	**1,772**	**1,607**	**1,680**		**10,707**

1.5. £400,000 was added to the Children's budget in 2023/24 to fund a team to work on delivering the agreed Safety Valve programme. It was time limited and the budget is due to be taken back from 2027/28 as that is the end of the programme.

1.6. The SEND Transport Service is facing significant cost pressures due to rising numbers of children with EHCPs requiring transport—including costly out-of-borough routes—as well as substantial inflationary increases driven by London Living Wage, fuel costs, and provider pricing. Despite extensive mitigation and efficiency measures, the statutory nature of the service alongside continued demand growth has resulted in a £621,000 pressure in 2026/27, with further investment required to in subsequent years to meet statutory requirements and maintain a balanced budget.

1.7. The number of young people with a EHCP is projected to continue to increase from the current level of 3,100 creating capacity pressures, as Annual Review completion rates remain around 60%, increasing the risk of outdated support packages, higher costs, and legal challenge. Without additional investment in case officers, caseloads will exceed Ofsted-recommended levels, jeopardising delivery of critical Safety Valve savings.

1.8. The placements budget remains under pressure, driven by rising placement costs and increasing complexity of need. Although the overall number of children in care has fallen, complexity has intensified and, alongside previous 23% cost increases in residential and semi-independent provision. This is expected to create continued high-cost pressures over the next three years. Estimated costs are based on a 3.52% inflationary uplift for placements in 2026/27 and 3% thereafter.

1.9. The Rising Green Youth Hub staffing costs of £165,000 has been previously met through the use of grant and reserves which is due to end in March 2026. In September, Cabinet agreed the continuation of extending the lease for Rising Green. If budgets for the running costs from April 2026 are not secured, the Council will still be liable for the rental and associated costs for April and May 2026 alongside dilapidation costs which are unknown at this stage.

1.10. The Families First Partnership Programme pressure relates to the replacement of a 2025/26 grant which was originally passported to the Council as a Section 31 Grant in the 2025/26 settlement, but subsequent guidance has been issued by DfE confirming grant conditions and new service requirements.

1.11. Under the Data Protection Act 2018, individuals have the right to request access to their personal data through Subject Access Requests (SARs), which must be responded to within one month unless extended due to complexity. Due to a sharp rise in SARs and increasing case complexity, the current team is under-resourced, prompting a proposal to add three staff members costing £123,000 to meet demand and maintain compliance, this builds on previous investment of £160,000 over five years from 2022/23 onwards.

1.12. Tribunal appeals and mediation cases in Haringey have risen sharply over the past three years, placing significant strain on the single Dispute Resolution Officer and exceeding acceptable caseload levels compared to neighbouring boroughs. To reduce financial pressures and improve outcomes, there is a need to increase staff capacity within the SEND service with a budget pressure of £215,000, which will support cases being resolved earlier.

1.13. As part of the process of reviewing direct payments, there is a statutory duty to annually review support to disabled children and identify whether needs remain the same. The service has not had the capacity to deliver either the social work aspect of the task or the financial audit function and a small social work team of 3 will be put in place to review between 300-330 short break packages. This entails reviewing children's support plans, needs and completing the audit on spending of personal budgets. The cost of the small social worker team is bringing a pressure of £213,000 to the budget.

2026/27 Budget Savings

1.14. £1.4m of budget savings will be delivered across 2026/27 to 2030/31, of which £0.8m is identified in 2026/27 and summarised in the table below.

Categories	**Description**	**2026/27 (£'000)**	**2027/28(£'000)**	**2028/20 (£'000)**	**2029/30 (£'000)**	**2030/31 (£'000)**	**Total (£'000)**
Previously Approved	John La Rose Bursary	(15)	(15)				**(30)**
Previously Approved	Localities Hub - reduction in children's centre provision	(200)					**(200)**
Previously Approved	Staff savings from a restructure of management across the Directorate		(300)				**(300)**
Previously Approved	Removal of the early help parenting offer	(255)					**(255)**
Previously Approved	Youth Services reduction	(50)	(50)	(50)			**(150)**
New Proposal	Care Leavers Accommodation	(237)	(31)				**(268)**
New Proposal	Introducing specialist foster carer allowances to attract more foster carers	(90)	(70)	(20)			**(180)**
Overall Total		**(847)**	**(466)**	**(70)**			**(1,383)**

Government and Other Funding Changes

1.15. £8.4m of government and other funding changes are identified in 2026/27 and summarised in the table below.

Description	2026/27 (£'000)	2027/28 (£'000)	2028/29 (£'000)	2029/30 (£'000)	2030/31 (£'000)	Total (£'000)
New Children's Social Care Delivery Grant - assumed one year only	1,330					1,330
Removal of previous Grant income rolled into Revenue Support Grant through the Fairer Funding Assessment	8,484					8,484
Funding for Social work prevention grant (Families First Partnership Programme)	(1,436)					(1,436)
Overall Total	**8,378**		**0**			**8,378**

2026/27 - 2030/31 Draft Capital MTFS (GF) CAPITAL MTFS BUDGET

1.16. Following consultation, new or deleted schemes compared to the Capital Programme that was last agreed in March 2025 are noted in the table below.

Directorate	Capital Scheme No	Description	2026/27 Budget (£'000)	2027/28 Budget (£'000)	2028/29 Budget (£'000)	2029/30 Budget (£'000)	2030/31 Budget (£'000)	2025/26 - 30/31 Total (£'000)
ADDITIONS / NEW SCHEMES								
Children's Services	101	School Conditions Surveys – the completion of these surveys will determine the essential investment required	230					**230**
Children's Services	102	Schools Capital Programme – immediate essential repairs for 8 schools (6 primary and 2 secondary) that can't be contained within previously approved capital programme	2,902	2,902	2,902	2,902	2,902	**14,512**
DELETION / REDUCTION			**3,132**	**2,902**	**2,902**	**2,902**	**2,902**	**14,742**
Children's Services	124	In-Borough Children's Respite Services – reduction as a result of change in how services and support will be delivered	(2,630)	(2,630)				**(5,260)**

Directorate	Capital Scheme No	Description	2026/27 Budget (£'000)	2027/28 Budget (£'000)	2028/29 Budget (£'000)	2029/30 Budget (£'000)	2030/31 Budget (£'000)	2025/26 - 30/31 Total (£'000)
			(2,630)	**(2,630)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**(5,260)**
NET MOVEMENT			**502**	**272**	**2,902**	**2,902**	**2,902**	**9,482**

1.17. The proposed Capital programme and funding sources across the five years from 2026/27 to 2030/31 is set out in full in the table below (2025/26 budgets shown for information)

SCHEME REF	SCHEME NAME	2025/26 Qtr.2 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	2030/31 Budget	2026/27 - 30/31 Total
		(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
101	Schools - essential and planned repairs and maintenance to the primary schools portfolio	3,723	2,345	2,000	2,000	2,000		**12,068**
102	Schools - modernisation and improvements to the primary schools portfolio (including SEND provision)	3,496	13,232	5,402	5,402	5,402	2,902	**35,838**
104	DFE - Childcare Expansion Capital Grant	25	0	0	0	0		**25**
105	Replacement of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in schools across the borough	251	0	0	0	0		**251**
110	Schools - capital budget fully passported to schools for capital works	504	531	531	531	531		**2,628**
114	Schools - modernisation and improvements to the secondary schools portfolio (including SEND provision)	2,210	0	0	0	0		**2,210**
121	Essential repairs and maintenance for Pendarren House Activities Centre	229	228	0	0	0		**457**
124	Expansion of In-Borough Residential Care Facilities	381	472	17	0	0		**870**
125	Expansion of SEND provision across the borough's schools in line with the Safety Value Programme	3,446	2,937	4,640	0	0		**11,023**

SCHEME REF	SCHEME NAME	2025/26 Qtr.2 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	2030/31 Budget	2026/27 - 30/31 Total
		(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
126	Upgrade and developments required to the early years and social care case management systems (Liquid Logic)	220	250	1,780	0	0		**2,250**
127	A grant to provide musical instruments to Haringey schools and adjacent borough schools	579	0	0	0	0		**579**
Children's Services		**15,064**	**19,995**	**14,370**	**7,933**	**7,933**	**2,902**	**68,198**

Source of Funding	2025/26 Qtr.2 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget	2028/29 Budget	2029/30 Budget	2030/31 Budget	2025/26 - 30/31 Total
Core Capital Programme Borrowing	5,440	13,896	4,699	2,902	2,902	2,902	**32,743**
Capital Grants from Central Government Departments	9,045	6,099	9,671	5,031	5,031	-	**34,876**
Grants & Contribs from Non-departmental Public Bodies	579						**579**
Total Funding	**15,064**	**19,995**	**14,370**	**7,933**	**7,933**	**2,902**	**68,198**