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North Lincolnshire Council

AGENDA	
Meeting:	Schools Forum
Meeting Date:	6 October 2022
Venue:	Church Square House, Scunthorpe
Time:	2.00 pm

NO.	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	PAPERS	COMMENTS
1.	Welcome/Introductions/Apologies	Chair		
2.	Remit of Schools Forum Members			
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests (if any)			
4.	Minutes and Actions from last meeting for approval	Chair	(Pages 1 - 8)	For agreement
5.	De-delegation of budgets 2023/24	Tracy Elliott	(Pages 9 - 16)	For decision
6.	School Funding Formula 2023/24	Rosie Maughan	(Pages 17 - 22)	For discussion
7.	High Needs Update	Wendy Holmes/Julie Frost	(Pages 23 - 30)	For information

FOR INFORMATION

	<p>Date of the next meeting(s) (all Thursday at 2pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 January 2023 • 23 March 2023 • 15 June 2023
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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

7 July 2022

PRESENT: - B Lawrance (Chairman)

School Representatives

Mr B Lawrance (Chairman), Mrs A Cvijetic, Mrs R Stephenson, Mrs D Senior

Academy Representatives

Mr D Keogh and Mr P Raspin

PVI Representatives

Mrs M Drewery

Local Authority Officers

Ms T Elliott, Mrs R Maughan, Mrs W Holmes and Mrs A Dawson (Secretary)

The meeting was held at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

968 **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Mr D Flowitt, Mrs M Potterton, Mr P Thompson, Mr M Adnitt, Mrs J Flintoff, Mrs A Nuttall, Ms Z Birchall, Mr A Sutherland, Mrs C Williams, Mr L Riley, Mr R Biglands, Mrs P Whittaker and Ms R Abbott.

969 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (IF ANY)**

There were no declarations of Disposable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial interests.

970 **MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING FOR APPROVAL**

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April 2022, having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded, and be signed by the Chair.

Item 960 – Membership update – the Secretary had received an email from Mr P Thompson, he advised that the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education had proposed Dr Hilary Beverley as his replacement on the Forum.

Item 961 - One response had been received from the consultation on the Schools' Scheme of Finance agreeing with the proposals.

Resolved – That Dr Hilary Beverley be nominated as a replacement

SCHOOLS FORUM
7 July 2022

representative for the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.

971 IMPLEMENTING THE DIRECT NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

In 2021 the Department for Education held a first stage consultation on the direct national funding formula (NFF), this consultation focused on the principle of moving to a direct formula, with proposals on how the transition towards that end point should happen.

The current consultation focused further on the detail of the implementation of the direct NFF. An important part of the implementation of the direct NFF was the interaction between it and funding for high needs, which many highlighted in responses to the consultation in 2021. The consultation deadline was 9 September 2022.

Ms T Elliott advised that she proposed to put some answers together and send them round to all members of the Forum, relevant members would also be consulted on some elements.

Discussion ensued on main changes proposed in the consultation.

Resolved – That the proposed consultation responses be emailed to all heads by 1 September 2022.

972 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2021/22 OUTTURN

Ms T Elliott presented the report.

The report updated the Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) outturn 2021/22 and the DSG earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2022.

The final DSG allocation for 2021/22 was £152.590m (£92.128m following academy and high needs recoupment of £60.462m).

Funding deployed to maintained schools amounted to £64.310m. Central expenditure for early years, high needs and central provision amounted to £25.956m.

A breakdown of expenditure for each of the central budgets for early years, high needs and central provision was appended to the report at Appendix 1.

There had been an underspend in the current year; most of which was in the high needs budget. Some reserve was used in 2021 and the same would happen again this year. Additional money could not be put into the formula this year, Mrs J Flintoff was investigating utilising some of the underspend around SEND provision.

Mrs W Holmes advised that she had met with a number of primary and secondary headteachers to discuss inclusion priorities. Mrs Holmes and Mrs Flintoff had visited an alternative provision free school in Doncaster the week previous with regard to them putting in an expression of interest for a KS2 to

SCHOOLS FORUM

7 July 2022

KS4 provision in North Lincolnshire. An expression of interest had also been submitted for a free special school, which was currently being progressed. If both were successful, North Lincolnshire would be in a very good position.

Discussion ensued on inclusion provision and funding.

The Chair felt it was important to have the comparison with previous years in order to see what had been spent each year, so that it could fit with the strategic plan.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted; (b) that comparative figures be submitted to the next meeting, and (c) that Mrs W Holmes prepares a briefing report, including historic data, for the next meeting.

973 SCHOOLS OUTTURN FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22

Mrs R Maughan presented the report.

The report informed the Forum of the outturn of individual school budgets and the overall financial position of North Lincolnshire maintained schools at the close of financial year 2021-22.

Individual school budgets for 2021-22 amounted to £64.310m or maintained secondary, primary and special schools and pupil referral units. In addition, maintained schools carried forward balances of £6.217m from 2020-21.

Actual expenditure by maintained schools in 2021-22 was £63.690m, resulting in an in-year contribution to reserves of £0.638m.

The report gave details of schools' deficit balances.

Overall reserves had been increased, the year had generally been more stable; with lessening effects from the pandemic. Mr P Raspin asked what measures were being taken to help schools with managing budgets in light of current fuel costs.

Mrs R Maughan advised that schools had received a supplementary grant on top of their budget share which was supposed to help with this. The issue would be reviewed in the autumn term, particularly due to the likely increases at that time. The supplementary grant would become a permanent increase from next year and would be rolled into budgets.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

974 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Future meeting dates will be arranged and conveyed to all members by the Secretary to the Forum.

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SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN COMPARISON

	DSG Budget (£) 2022/23	DSG Budget (£) 2021/22
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET (ISB)		
Maintained Mainstream Primary & Secondary Schools	63,165,789	60,913,466
Special Schools Place Led Funding	3,331,560	3,307,948
Pupil Referral Units Place Led Funding	0	88,842
TOTAL ISB	66,497,349	64,310,256
HIGH NEEDS BUDGET		
Top Up Funding for Maintained Schools	4,494,000	3,977,000
Top Up Funding for Academies	1,174,000	1,039,000
Top Up Funding for Independant Schools	7,176,000	6,980,034
Top Up Funding Colleges	565,000	500,000
Tuition and Medical Needs	208,000	198,000
Alternative Provision	1,177,000	1,042,000
Special Needs General	460,000	444,000
Autism	404,000	383,000
Portage	176,000	166,000
SEND Education Inclusion	183,000	173,000
EISS	99,000	92,000
SEN Careers & Progression	19,000	19,000
Hearing Support Service	381,000	357,000
Visually Impaired Service	432,000	401,000
Physically Impaired Service	128,000	118,000
Speech & Language Therapy	187,000	178,000
Educational Wellbeing	343,000	338,000
Education Inclusion Team	694,000	660,000
KS2 Provision	450,000	450,000
Early Learning Development Centre	14,000	14,000
Preschool SEND (SENIF)	250,000	150,000
TOTAL HIGH NEEDS BUDGET	19,014,000	17,679,034
EARLY YEARS BUDGET		
3 & 4 yr old funding	7,508,340	7,092,391
Child Ptensp: SEN & Inclusion	47,000	47,000
Sufficiency Team	91,000	88,000
Best Start Early Years Support	133,000	131,000
Family Support	81,000	81,000
TWO YEAR OLD FUNDING	1,308,190	1,442,960
TOTAL EARLY YEARS BUDGET	9,168,530	8,882,351

CENTRAL PROVISION WITHIN SCHOOLS BUDGET (CSSB)		
Learning Networks	72,000	72,000
SIPs	140,000	140,000
LSCB	20,000	20,000
School admissions	91,000	249,814
Servicing of schools forums	19,000	18,000
National copyright licence charge	137,080	130,150
ESG Retained Duties		
Statutory & Regulatory Duties	180,000	175,000
Education Welfare	88,000	177,000
Asset Management	182,000	85,000
Growth Fund	200,000	200,000
Falling Rolls Fund	100,000	100,000
SEN Transport	61,000	61,000
TOTAL CSSB	1,290,080	1,427,964
TOTAL	95,969,959	92,299,605

Outturn (£) 2021/22	Outturn (£) 2020/21
60,913,466	57,340,831
3,307,948	3,117,500
88,842	200,000
64,310,256	60,658,331
4,031,951	3,626,320
861,552	1,222,380
6,186,932	4,625,763
441,152	105,969
82,775	184,967
844,995	1,078,649
457,948	411,431
377,683	391,907
153,849	160,380
143,186	176,673
82,499	76,666
45,058	0
373,767	304,328
404,149	331,198
106,319	140,996
171,440	145,368
318,585	347,541
626,956	528,555
193,577	488,008
0	0
231,388	94,980
16,135,761	14,442,078
7,160,174	7,378,948
65,753	47,000
88,000	88,000
133,883	104,321
81,000	81,000
1,331,286	1,401,096
8,860,096	9,100,365

79,100	167,140
140,000	71,988
20,000	27,000

54,508	69,342
9,837	17,000
130,152	128,883

175,000	168,000
177,000	170,000
85,000	82,000

29,167	29,167
0	0
61,000	61,000

960,764	991,519
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90,266,876	85,192,293
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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

DE-DELEGATION OF BUDGETS 2023/24

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 As part of the Department for Education's School Funding Reforms introduced from April 2013, local authorities were directed to delegate specific budgets to schools and academies.
- 1.2 The regulations allow for the de-delegation of budgets for specific services for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools only.
- 1.3 This paper sets out the details, costs and charges of the services on which maintained school representatives are required to vote annually.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or de-delegated, for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval.
- 2.2 De-delegation does not apply to special schools, or pupil referral units (PRUs). However, those schools and academies will have the option to buyback these services at a cost based on the same amount per pupil as for maintained primary and secondary schools.
- 2.3 In the case of special schools and PRUs, the funding to buy such services will be included in any top-up payments. Any decisions made to de-delegate in 2022 to 2023 related to that year only, new decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2023 to 2024.

- 2.1 Schools forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must decide separately for each phase whether each service should be provided centrally; the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase.
- 2.2 They must decide on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed through the formula before school budgets are issued.
- 2.3 There may be different decisions for each phase.
- 2.4 The following table provides details of services that can be de-delegated and those de-delegated in North Lincolnshire Council

Services which may be de-delegated	De-delegated in North Lincolnshire
additional school improvement services	No
contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)	No
behaviour support services	Yes
support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners	Yes
free school meals eligibility	Yes
insurance	No
RPA	No
museum and library services	No
staff costs supply cover (for example, long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties)	Yes
licences and subscriptions; except for those which are paid for by the DFE	No

- 2.5 The de-delegation of resources provides an opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between the maintained schools sector and the local authority. Building on our shared objectives for safeguarding the positive mental health and well-being and education outcomes of all children and young people within our area. De-delegation provides a mechanism for strengthening mutual accountability for outcomes, reaffirming standards of quality and continuing the discussion on the design and delivery of services.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Decisions made to de-delegate in 2022/23 related to that year only; new decisions are required for any service to be de-delegated in 2023/24.
- 3.2 Maintained school members are asked to consider the de-delegation of the following service budgets.
- Behaviour Support (Social Emotional Mental Health SEMH)
 - Support to Ethnic Minorities and bilingual pupils
 - Free school meals eligibility
 - Staff Costs

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Behaviour Support (SEMH)** – Under the SEND Code of Practice 2014, there is statutory need to provide a professional service to support schools to meet their requirements under this code. Provision of de-delegation funding enables the continuation of this professional service.
- 4.2 Educational Psychologists provide a support service to deliver training to staff and schools to enable learning environments to achieve better outcomes for children and young people who may have a range of needs including social, emotional and mental health needs. The service enable and empower parents and staff in learning environments to problem solve complex situations by utilising evidence based interventions and therapeutic approaches and through solution focused approaches, functional analysis and assessment.
- 4.3 Education Psychology support and interventions include:
- Raising achievement through targeted interventions
 - Evaluation of interventions
 - Learning styles and cognitive development
 - Functional analysis of behaviours
 - Social and emotional well-being
 - Psychological impact of a disability on a child or young person
 - Guidance on mental health of children and young people in school settings
 - Whole school development
 - Paths, maps and solution circles
 - Staff professional development and training
 - Working with parents as partners in supporting their children and young people
- 4.4 **Support to Ethnic Minorities, those with English as an additional language and Gypsy/Roma and Traveller children** – this support is provided by the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) through a traded service with academies specifically in the

context EAL (English as an additional language) and BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) pupil and provides a service to maintained schools. EMTAS provides support to pupils at risk of underachieving which also includes Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils. Both EAL and BAME populations have seen a significant increase in North Lincolnshire with approximately 86 different languages being spoken by our bilingual children.

- 4.5 At any given time of year, EMTAS will work with a significant number of primary and secondary schools across North Lincolnshire in a range of different ways dependent on need. The service continues to provide an immediate response to provision of support when highly mobile BAME/EAL/GRT learners move between or into new schools, particularly new arrivals. There is a current and immediate focus on Afghan resettlement families into North Lincolnshire and the support network they will need as they become part of this community. The team are focused upon closing the gaps and raising the attainment and outcomes of BAME groups and supporting schools to demonstrate how they meet the needs of their pupils to OFSTED when required. This is particularly important as the number of BAME pupils has more than tripled in the last six years to over 3500 children. Many of our schools rely upon the support and advice given by EMTAS. In recognition of the need to build capacity in schools EMTAS also delivers a wide range of CPD courses to schools, either centrally, bespoke and more recently via on-line learning platforms to schools and services.
- 4.6 **Free School Meals Eligibility** – de-delegation funds the administration process of free school meals on behalf of schools. The council has access to online DfE Eligibility Checking System, which is populated with Benefits Agency and Tax Credit Agency claim data and can access eligibility information quickly, accurately and efficiently. The system is also used to review claims in large batches instead of manually checking each individual claim. This database is not available to individual schools. Schools would have to set up time consuming manual systems should the Admissions team not undertake this function.
- 4.7 The service continues to work with schools to promote the importance of families continuing to register for free school meals in light of the universal free school meals funding for KS1 children.
- 4.8 **Staff Costs** – this covers the cost of staff nominated as Local Officers undertaking approved teacher union duties. The de-delegation will fund the on-going central approach to reimburse individual schools that employ teachers who need to be released to carry out such union duties..
- 4.9 Having a local/central fund in place means that all staff in our schools have access to experienced union representatives. There is great benefit in having locally based representatives involved in a variety of

procedures and situations. It ensures that an employers' legal responsibilities are covered, that local caseworkers and representatives are available and that staff have easy access to union representation – reducing any waiting times for key meetings and reducing the likelihood of employment matters escalating.

- 4.10 Being part of a locally agreed facility arrangement is also an effective way of meeting employer responsibilities, including under the Trade Union & Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, the Employment Relations Act 1999, the Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations Act 1997 and the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, to release and give access to union representatives. In addition, it ensures compliance with the ACAS Code of Practice which provides for time off for trade union duties and activities. Local Academies are also actively encouraged to contribute to the central fund.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The overall underspend on de-delegated budgets in 2021/22 was £58k
- 5.2 It is proposed not to increase de-delegation costs per pupil for 2023/24 and to use the de-delegated earmarked reserve to finance any cost pressures.
- 5.3 The appendix shows the amount per pupil which is being requested for de-delegation in 2023/24 (at the same rates as for 2022/23).
- 5.4 If school forum members decide not to de-delegate then funding for these services would remain within school budgets and schools would need to pay for such services direct from their own resources.
- 5.5 It should be noted that final data from the ESFA on which our final formula funding for 2023/24 will be based will not be available until December, and as such the sums proposed below are approximations based on the October 2021 census data and assumes that the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals, EAL funding etc is the same as 2022/23.
- 5.6 Any unspent de-delegated funding remaining at the year-end will be reported to School Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period and can be used specifically for de-delegated services. The total de-delegation carry forward as at 31st March 2022 was £450k.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The services that are funded centrally provide support for vulnerable pupils and therefore ensure that there will be the same level of service

available for all children and young people across North Lincolnshire.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Schools Forum members for primary maintained schools decide for the maintained primary phase the de-delegation of budgets as detailed in appendix 1.
- 7.2 Schools Forum members for secondary maintained school decide for the maintained secondary phase the de-delegation of budgets as detailed in appendix 1.

STRATEGIC LEAD (FINANCE)

Hewson House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XB
Author: Tracy Elliott
Date: 27/9/22

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024 Operational Guide

Proposed Values to be de-delegated

	2023-24		2022-23
Value of De-delegation for Maintained Schools (Primary & Secondary Vote)	£per Pupil primary & secondary		Unit Value
Behaviour Support Service	189,743	15.26	15.26
Support for Ethnic Minority	128,443	10.33	10.33
Staff Costs (Trades Unions Facilities Time)	34,691	2.79	2.79
	-	28.38	28.38
Free School Meal Eligibility	13,580	4.02 FSM6 Pupils	4.02
			pupil no's Oct 21 census
De-delegation per primary pupil	28.38	9450	268,191
De-delegation per secondary pupil	28.38	2984	84,686
De-delegation per FSM6	4.02	3378	13,580

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2023-2024

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the local implementation of the school funding formula for the financial year 2023/24.
- 1.2 The DfE has updated the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2023/24 with new factor values. Funding factors remain the same, but some technical changes are being made.
- 1.3 School funding through the NFF is increasing by 1.9% overall in 2023/24.
- 1.4 The NFF will provide a minimum per pupil level (MPPL) of £5,715 for every secondary school and £4,405 for every primary school.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 19th July 2022, the DfE published provisional National Funding Formula (NFF) allocations at local authority level for schools, high needs and central school services funding blocks for 2023/24.
- 2.2 The 2023-24 funding allocation is the second year of the government's three year funding settlement as announced at the spending review last year and is the first year of transition to direct schools NFF.
- 2.3 Local authorities are now being directed to bring their local formulae closer to the NFF. The Schools Forum has been supportive of the North Lincolnshire funding formula being close to the NFF for several years and now it matches where appropriate with some flexibility remaining over the sparsity factor methodology. The table at appendix 1 shows the allowable factor value ranges which local formulae may use.
- 2.4 Key Changes in 2023-24

- 2.4.1 Additional support directed to disadvantaged pupils by increasing the deprivation factors by a greater amount than other factors, up to 4.3%.
- 2.4.2 Core factors such as basic entitlement and the lump sum will increase by 2.4%.
- 2.4.3 The MPPL levels are mandatory ensuring every primary school will receive at least £4,405 per pupil, and every secondary school at least £5,715. This includes £119, £155 and £173 per primary KS3 and KS4 pupil respectively for the rolling in of the School Supplementary Grant plus a further 0.5% increase.
- 2.4.4 The funding floor will ensure that all schools attract at least 0.5% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to its 2022-23 NFF allocation.
- 2.4.5 The School Supplementary Grant (SSG) was introduced to support schools to meet the costs of the Health and Social Care Levy and wider costs in 2022-23. The grant funding in respect of pupils from reception to year 11 is being rolled into schools NFF ensuring this additional funding forms an on-going part of schools' core budgets. Appropriate adjustments have been made to NFF factor values and baselines to reflect this.
- 2.4.6 The NFF sparsity factor values have been set at £56,300 for primary schools and £81,900 for secondary schools. (2022-23 maximum levels were £55,000 and £80,000). Different values can be set in local funding formulae to a maximum permissible value of £100,000.
- 2.4.7 Local authorities have flexibility over the sparsity factor by the option to vary eligibility by reducing the average year group size or increase the distance threshold in their local formulae.
- 2.4.8 Local authorities will have freedom to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in local formulae between +0% and +0.5%.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Illustrative local authority and school level allocations have been published for the schools' block, high needs block and central school services block. The schools block provisional allocation for North Lincolnshire is £131.280m (excluding growth factor).
- 3.2 The Local Authority will implement the mandatory MPPL of £4,405 Primary and £5,715 Secondary for 2023/24.
- 3.3 The LA is able to apply the MFG of +0.5%.
- 3.4 A school is eligible for sparsity funding in the NFF if:
- Its sparsity distance is equal to or above the main distance threshold, or above the tapered distance threshold (Between 1.6 to 2 miles for primary and 2.4 to 3 miles for secondary)

- The average year group size is below the year group threshold. The taper on year group size allows the smallest schools to attract the maximum sparsity funding.
- 3.5 The Sparsity factor can be increased to a maximum of £100,000 and a taper or a fixed sum can be applied through the NFF. In 2022-23 NLC allocated a fixed sum but opted to use the distance taper.
- 3.6 Premises funding in the NFF is based on historic spending at local authority level rather than on up to date costs and needs. This typically includes additional funding for PFI schools, schools with split sites and schools which face costs relating to exceptional circumstances. In advance of the hard NFF the ESFA will consider whether allocations can better reflect the actual costs that schools face.
- 3.7 Last year the LA applied to the ESFA to use the exceptional circumstances factor relating to school premises costs for schools with premises which have listed building status. The request was granted and can be used again in 2023-24.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The illustrative funding allocation is an increase of £6.185m from last years' final allocation (excluding growth funding). Final allocations will be published in December 2022 and will include any funding allocated for growth (£0.521m in 2022/23).
- 4.2 The application of the mandatory MPPL values will benefit three primary schools utilising £257k of funding.
- 4.3 If NLC apply the MFG value at the maximum permitted rate of +0.5% the adjustment would cost £108k benefitting 14 primary schools and two secondaries.
- 4.4 In the NFF schools sparsity allocations are tapered according to average year group size, so that the smaller the school the greater the allocation. Schools with a sparsity distance equal to or greater than the main distance threshold (2 or 3 miles) and an average year group size of less than half the year group threshold receive 100% of the sparsity funding for their phase.
- 4.5 Local authorities can instead determine schools' allocations by a continuous taper or a fixed lump sum. The continuous taper means schools with an average year group size of less than half the year group threshold will not receive 100% of the sparsity funding for their phase. Instead they will receive half the maximum. The fixed lump sum means all schools eligible receive the exact same sparsity amount irrespective of their size.
- 4.6 There are seven schools that could attract sparsity funding (19 in 2022-23).
- 4.6.1 Option 1 - Using NFF values and without the distance taper, six schools will benefit from this factor.

4.6.2 Option 2 - If the distance taper is applied one additional primary school would attract some sparsity funding and the funding via this factor would increase by approximately £8k to £834k which is affordable based on the provisional allocation.

4.6.3 Option 2 sees NLC continuing to use flexibility within the Sparsity factor to benefit more schools and requires marginally less funding via the MFG and is therefore closest to the NFF.

4.7 There are schools in North Lincolnshire that have grade II listed buildings status. These schools face additional cost pressures both in maintenance and energy efficiency. Last year the local authority was granted permission to use an exceptional factor for listed buildings and this has been continued for our local formula in 2023-24.

4.8 Flexibility on the use of Exceptional Factor - Premises has been the subject of the 2022/23 School Funding Formula Consultation with a proposal to disallow this in future national funding formula

5 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is a projected increase in funding of £6.185m for North Lincolnshire schools based on October 2021 pupil numbers. This will be updated in January 2023 when October 2022 pupil number are known.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Government has consulted on how it will complete its reforms of the NFF, particularly on the following issues:

- The interaction between the NFF and high needs funding.
- Falling roles and growth methodology.
- Exceptional circumstances.
- Use of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and the Minimum Per Pupil Level.
- The funding cycle

6.2 Local variation to the funding formula for mainstream schools continues to be permitted for 2023/24.

7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 All schools will be consulted on funding formula proposals during October and November 2022 and any feedback will be reported at the schools' forum meeting in January 2023.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Schools Forum is requested to:

- 8.1.1 Endorse the application of the MFG at the 0.5% which is the maximum permissible level provided it can be afforded; including use of DSG earmarked reserve if required.
- 8.1.2 Give a view on the sparsity options discussed.
- 8.1.3 Give a view on continuing the exceptional premises factor for listed buildings.
- 8.1.4 Final proposals for schools funding will be brought to the Schools Forum meeting in January 2023 on receipt of the final funding allocations in December 2022.

Strategic Lead – Finance Service Desk

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL
Author: Rosie Maughan/Tracy Elliott
Date: 29th September 2022

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

National Funding Formula for schools and high needs Policy Document 2023-2024
Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024 Operational Guide July 2022
Schools block national funding formula: technical note July 2022
Implementing the Direct National Funding Formula Government Consultation June 2022

Pupil Led Factors	2023-24 NFF		2023-24 Minimum		2023-24 Maximum	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
AWPU - Primary	£3,394		£3,309.15		£3,478.85	
AWPU - Secondary KS3		£4,785		£4,665.38		£4,904.63
AWPU - Secondary KS4		£5,393		£5,258.18		£5,527.83
Deprivation						
FSM	£480	£480	£468	£468	£492	£492
FSM Ever 6	£705	£1,030	£687.38	£1,004.25	£722.63	£1,055.75
IDACI Band F	£230	£335	£224.25	£326.63	£235.75	£343.38
IDACI Band E	£280	£445	£273.00	£433.88	£287.00	£456.13
IDACI Band D	£440	£620	£429.00	£604.50	£451.00	£635.50
IDACI Band C	£480	£680	£468.00	£663.00	£492.00	£697.00
IDACI Band B	£510	£730	£497.25	£711.75	£522.75	£748.25
IDACI Band A	£670	£930	£653.25	£906.75	£686.75	£953.25
English as an Additional Language	£580	£1,565	£565.50	£1,525.88	£594.50	£1,604.13
Mobility - children starting school outside of normal entry dates	£945	£1,360	£921.38	£1,326	£968.63	£1,394
Prior Attainment	£1,155	£1,750	£1,126.13	£1,706.25	£1,183.88	£1,793.75
Other Factors						
Lump Sum	£128,000	£128,000	£124,800	£124,800	£131,200	£131,200
Sparsity	£56,300	£81,900	£54,892.50	£79,852.50	£57,707.50	£83,947.50

Agenda Item 7

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	October 2022
AGENDA ITEM NO:	
SUBJECT:	DSG High Needs Spend
LEAD/AUTHOR:	Julie Frost Julie.frost@northlincs.gov.uk Wendy Holmes wndy.holmes@northlincs.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

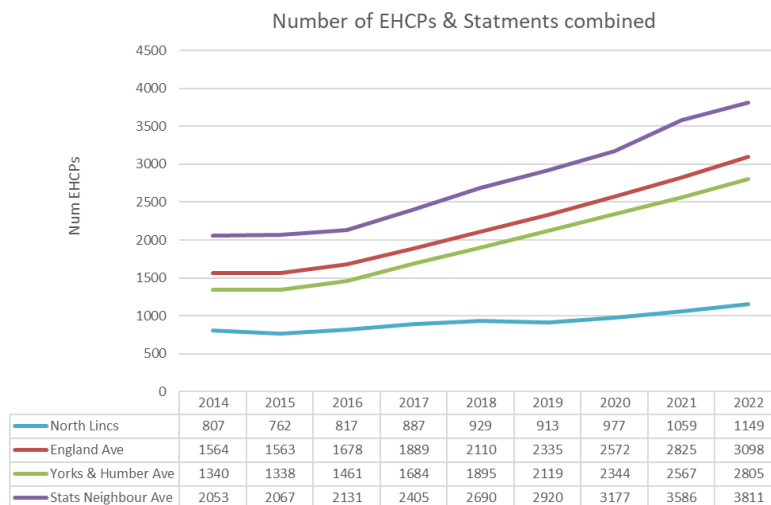
This report provides an update on the DSG High Needs outturn figures for 2021/2022

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

	Budget (£) 2021/22	Outturn (£) 2021/22	Outturn (£) 2020/21	Budget (£) 2022/23
Top Up Funding for Maintained Schools	3,977,000	4,031,951	3,626,320	4,494,000
Top Up Funding for Academies	1,039,000	861,552	1,222,380	1,174,000
Top Up Funding for Independent Schools	6,980,034	6,186,932	4,625,763	7,176,000
Top Up Funding Colleges	500,000	441,152	105,969	565,000
Tuition and Medical Needs	198,000	82,775	184,967	208,000
Alternative Provision	1,042,000	844,995	1,078,649	1,177,000
Special Needs General	444,000	457,948	411,431	460,000
Autism	383,000	377,683	391,907	404,000
Portage	166,000	153,849	160,380	176,000
SEND Education Inclusion	173,000	143,186	176,673	183,000
EISS	92,000	82,499	76,666	99,000
SEN Careers & Progression	19,000	45,058	0	19,000
Hearing Support Service	357,000	373,767	304,328	381,000
Visually Impaired Service	401,000	404,149	331,198	432,000
Physically Impaired Service	118,000	106,319	140,996	128,000
Speech & Language Therapy	178,000	171,440	145,368	187,000
Educational Wellbeing	338,000	318,585	347,541	343,000
Education Inclusion Team	660,000	626,956	528,555	694,000
KS2 Provision	450,000	193,577	488,008	450,000
Early Learning Development Centre	14,000	0	0	14,000
Preschool SEND (SENIF)	150,000	231,388	94,980	250,000
	17,679,034	16,135,761	14,442,078	19,014,000

The total number of statements and EHC plans has increased

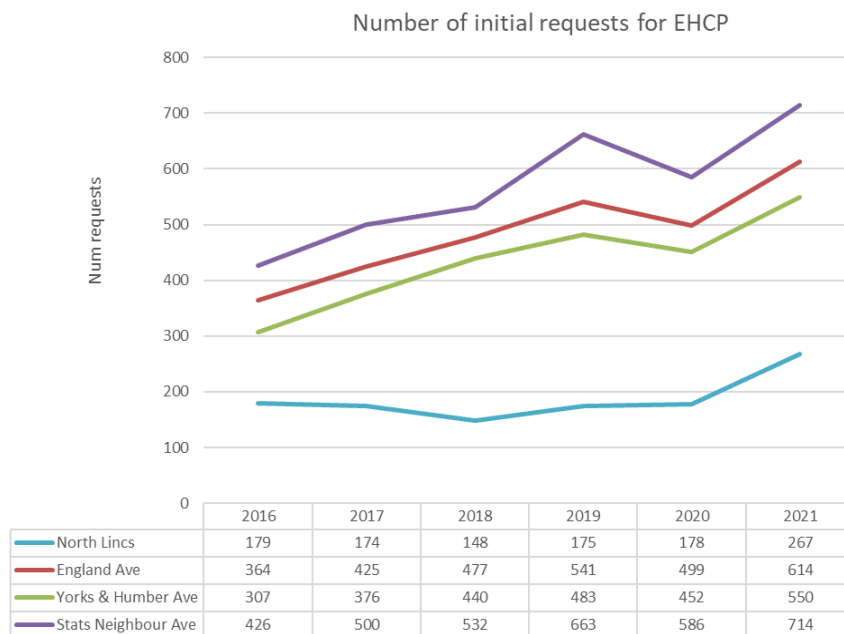
- There were **1,149** children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by North Lincolnshire in **January 2022**. This is an increase of 90 EHCPs from the previous year, when there were 1,059 in place. This is a more stable rise than seen nationally and evidences a positive impact of our SEND and Inclusion strategy, ensuring equity of access and consistency of support at SEN/D Support to prevent exclusion and further improve outcomes.



As of End **August 2022** there are **1257** EHCP although a number will cease during the Autumn term as schools and colleges confirm which young people have moved into employment and training or adult services.

Requests & Assessments

Requests for assessment have continued to rise steadily, in line with the national picture.

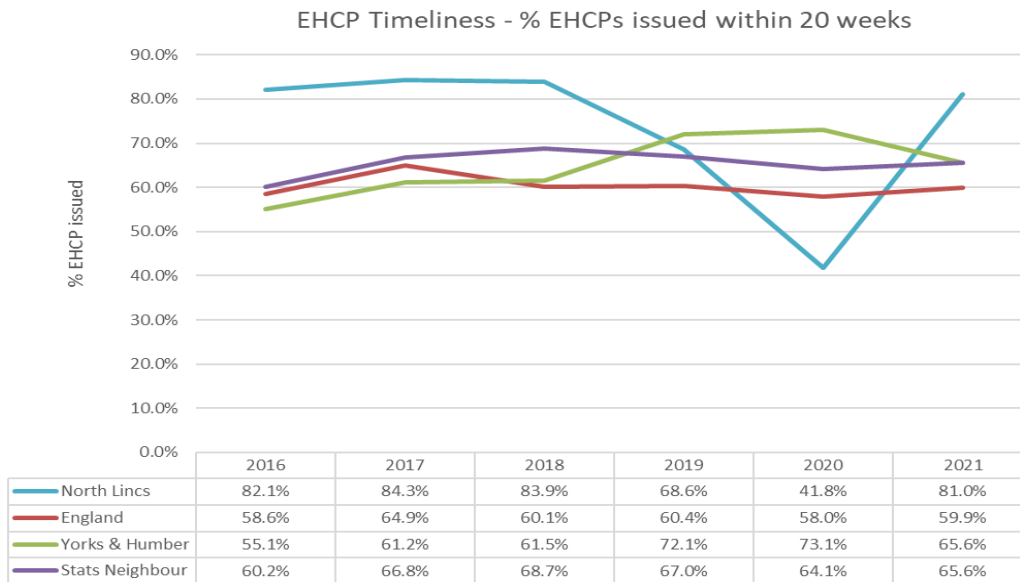


As of End **August 2022** there have been **214** requests for assessment. 55 initial requests did not result in an assessment, although some of these will have been resubmitted with advice from the Special Educational Needs Advisory Panel (SENDAP) and figure within the overall numbers. 169 assessments were started.

In the **last quarter** (June, July, August) there were 74 requests for assessment received (70 in the same period for 2021) and 73 assessments started (50 in 2021).

EHCPs issued within 20 weeks

- Of the new EHCPs made during the 2021 calendar year, 81% were issued within 20 weeks, an increase of 39.2 percentage points from the previous year.
-
- The rate of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks in North Lincolnshire was 21.1 percentage points above the national average & 15.4 percentage points above the regional average in 2021.



As of August 2022 there have been 135 new EHCP agreed. In 93% of these cases, notification of the outcome of the assessment was sent within the statutory 14 weeks (94% overall in 2021) and in 79% of cases the final EHCP was published within the statutory 20 weeks (81% for the calendar year 2021)

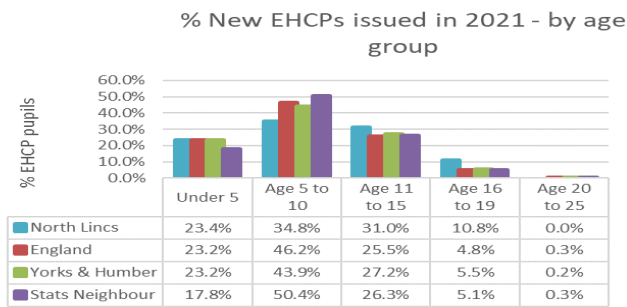
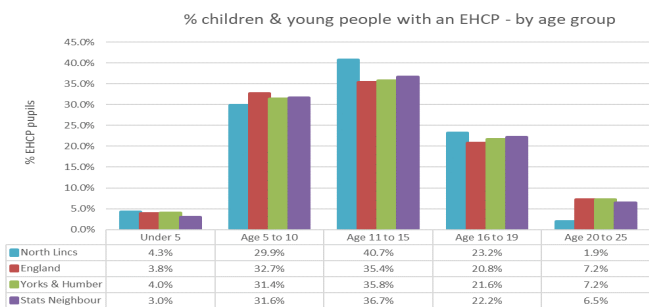
Mediation cases

- There were 5 mediation cases held during 2021. Of these mediation cases, 1 (20%) were followed by appeals to the tribunal during the 2021 calendar year.
- Up to August 2022 there have been 4 mediation cases and one new appeal.

All EHCPs – by age group

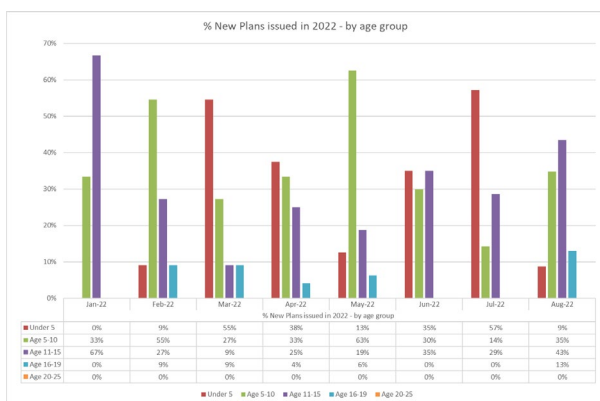
- In 2021, the proportion of EHCP in the 11–15-year-old age group was 40.7% which is above the national average and the Yorkshire and Humber average.
- In 2021 there were proportionately more EHCP issued for 5- to 10-year-olds than for the 11- to 16-year-old age groups. 34.8% of new plans issued were for 5- to 10-year-olds and 31% of new plans were for 11- to 15-year-olds
- The proportion of EHCP in the 16 to 19 age group North Lincolnshire is above national average and Yorkshire and Humber. Average.

Total number of EHCPs as of January 2022 = 1,149



In 2022, of the 135 EHCP issued up to end of August:

- 29% were for under 5's
- 35% for 5-10's
- 32% for 11-15's
- 5% for 16-19's.



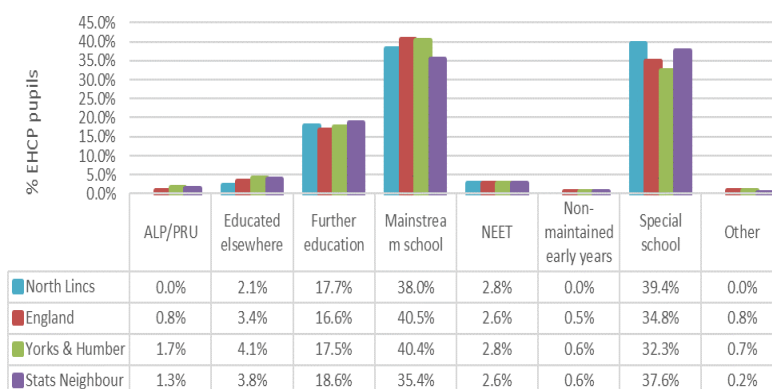
In terms of primary need, of the 135 EHCP issued to the end of August 2022:

- 16% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 33% Speech Language and Communication Needs
- 8% Moderate Learning Difficulties
- 39% Social Emotional and Mental Health
- 1% Hearing Impairment
- 0.5% Visual Impairment
- 1% Physical Disability

All EHCPs - Provision

The majority of our children and young people with SEND are educated in our mainstream early years settings, schools or colleges, most of which are judged good or better by Ofsted. **93%** of our children and young people with an EHCP are educated in north Lincolnshire.

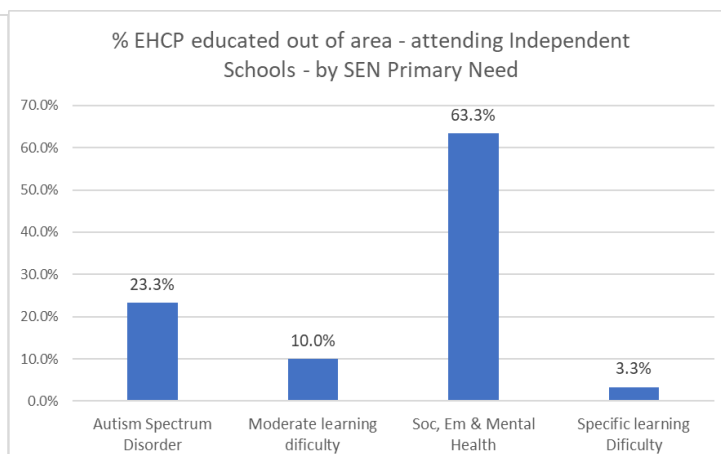
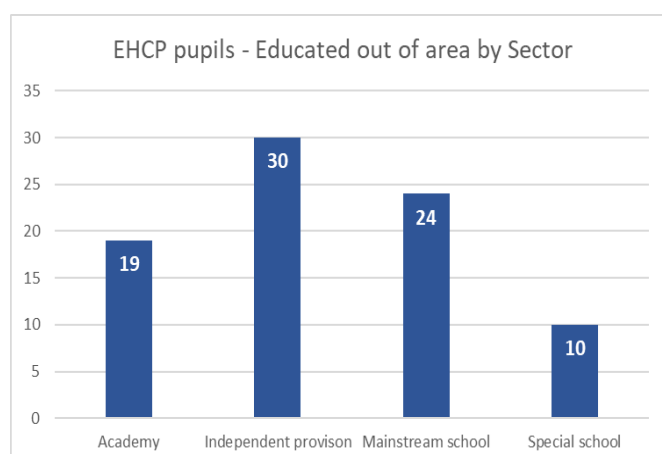
Placement of pupils with EHCP in 2022 (%)



Establishment type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total number EHCPs	929	913	977	1059	1149
Alternative provision/Pupil referral unit	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Educated elsewhere	1.4%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Further education	18.1%	15.6%	16.1%	18.6%	17.7%
Mainstream school	41.0%	39.5%	40.5%	40.0%	38.0%
NEET		2.1%	1.8%	0.9%	2.8%
Non-maintained early years	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other		0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Special school	39.5%	41.0%	39.5%	38.3%	39.4%

Wherever possible children and young people with EHC plans attend their local, mainstream school to receive the support identified within their EHC plan. Where this is not appropriate we work with families and young people with an EHCP to identify suitable specialist or independent provision. This includes fee paying private mainstream schools where the families pay the day fees and North Lincolnshire pay a top up to meet additional SEND provision. Independent provision placements increased from **10.2%** of the total number of EHC plan placements in 2017/18 to **12%** in 2020/2021.

Whilst placement out of area has reduced significantly, some children and young people do attend provision in a neighbouring authority. 2 young people attend residential provision at a distance as they required a very specialist provider. The greater proportion of children and young people attending an independent provision out of area have a primary need of social, emotional and mental health.



Timeliness of Annual Review processes

Timeliness of the annual review process, amendment of an existing EHCP following review and finalising a draft EHCP is measured using statutory indicators and locally agreed indicators. The SEND Code of Practice sets out 2 statutory key performance indicators (KPI) for amending EHCPs:

- Education providers to return Annual Review information within 2 weeks of review - currently 39% (40% in last quarter)
- Decision to amend, cease, maintain within 4 weeks of review - currently 48% (45% in last quarter)

Up to August 2022, there have been 534 EHCP's amended following a review. The locally agreed indicator is for a finalised EHCP to be issued within 16 weeks of the review meeting.

In 2021 12% of EHCP were finalised within 16 weeks of review. In the last quarter, 30% of amended EHCP were finalised within this timeframe, rising to 40% in August.

EHCP Coordinators have a focus on timeliness and which EHCPs can be completed within the 16 week timeframe. However this is balanced by ensuring that EHCP's we recognise cannot be finalised within this locally agreed timeframe, are also completed as quickly as possible.

Training and development

Improving timeliness and writing high quality EHCP is a partnership between education, health and care professionals and families. We continue to work together in the best interests of children, young people and their families.

We have provided updated guidance on EHCP assessment and reviews and this has been sent to all education settings and published on the local offer, along with a video from the refresher training and other guidance videos.

A workshop event is being held with the Parent Forum in September with a specific focus on annual reviews for parents and carers whose children already have an EHCP and may be experiencing the Digital EHC Hub for the first time.

There has been additional training held for SENCOs and education, health and care professionals to ensure they are confident in using the EHC digital Hub for Reviews.

Training was also provided for health and care professionals with a focus on writing outcomes.

Additional training, specifically on EHC reviews, has been held for SENCOs and school leaders in March 2022.

Health and social care professionals have been signposted to an e learning programme and further training was provided in June 2022.

Alternative Provision and SEND Capital Projects

Inclusion budget areas have largely finalised as near full spend. There has been savings in the last year on a couple of budgets, however this is due to changes in alternative provision – i.e. closure of Darley Centre, Coritani top up funding for key stage 2.

A number of unregistered provisions are seeking Ofsted registration. One provision has moved out of North Lincolnshire causing a further potential deficit in available placement opportunities.

One primary provider is currently in the process of moving to significantly larger premises and expected to expand into key stage 3 by September 2023.

SEND Capital projects in secondary are nearing completion. Currently Headway at Baysgarth and Frederick Gough have their study hubs open and supporting our most vulnerable young people. Winterton has completed this month for opening, Sir John Nelthorpe will be completed during the autumn term and St Lawrence is expected this term also. South Axholme have expressed an interest in a hub to cover the Isle area and this is subject to a feasibility study currently.

In the primary sector, a potential building and site for a primary hub has been identified and currently subject to a feasibility study and possible planning. Due to its potential size, this hub would potentially provide support for all primary schools.

An expression of interest has been submitted to the DfE in support of an SEMH special free school.

Discussions continue to consider a request for an AP free school for SEMH with interested trusts. The expression of interest has now opened by the DfE.

Further discussions on revenue funding models for the hubs is expected during October.

3. NEXT STEPS

- To consider the expression of interest for an AP SEMH free school
- To finalise revenue funding model for school hubs
- To move forward with the primary hub through SEND Capital funding

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCHOOLS FORUM

- Partners to support the developments to EHC planning and review outlined in this report and the recommendations for next steps.
- further develop local inclusion opportunities (SEND Capital Funding) so there will be continued opportunity for schools to bid for support – in particular within the primary phase
- Partners to support the consideration for an AP SEMH Free school bid
- Partners to support the Special Free School Expression of Interest

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