

Schools' Forum

Notes of responses to papers distributed electronically for the 26th November 2019

The total number of responses received were 11 out of 13 voting members by close of play on 26th November 2019

Voting responses

Recommendation	Accept	Reject	Comment
1. Should the LA set the MFG at +1.84% change in pupil funding in 2020-21 compared to the 2019-20 baseline?	11	0	
2. Should the LA not set a Cap on Gains for 2020-21?	11	0	GL - The LA not set a Cap on Gains for 2020-21
3. Should the LA increase the 2020-21 local formula funding core factor values as close as it can to the 4% except for the free school meals factor which will be increased at inflation as described above?	11	0	
4. Do you agree that the LA use the NFF methodology to calculate mobility in the local formula for 2020-21?	11	0	

Recommendation	Accept	Reject	Comment
5. Do you agree to extend the current arrangement of transferring 0.5% of Schools Block funding to the High Needs Block for 2020-21 as recommended by the schools forum?	11	0	GL-Although consideration needs to be given to what proportion of schools are contributing to this transfer due to the protection of funding at the MFL for some schools RL -- Understand that this is the maximum that can be transferred.
6. Do you agree to the request to disapply the MFG for Special Schools for 2020-21?	11	0	KB -a) Does the current disapplication adversely affect any other school?; b) Where does the money come from for this transitional funding?; & c) Has the LA received any objections from other schools et al?
7. Do you agree to expand the ASD Outreach Support Service?	11	0	NS- with reservations - the increased funding comes from an already overspent High Needs Block that already depends on funding from council and school sources, what is being lost to pay for the extra? KB-Given that the new ASC service will cost an additional £90k from the High Needs Block, will this increase the overspend in the HN Block? - and if yes, how will this be covered? SW- Essential increase to provide a reasonable service.

Recommendation	Accept	Reject	Comment
8. Do you agree with the implementation of the new dual placement policy?	11	0	KB- Presumably this has been shared and agreed with schools? DS-Has this policy had any input at school level? CH-My only reservation is whether this is genuinely in the best interests of the pupil or whether it is being done to satisfy parental requirements. Also whether it will be disruptive to the other children in that child's class.

From the voting responses set out above all the recommendations were approved unanimously.

In response the comments received as part of the responses set out below are some answers to the comments and questions received.

Recommendation 5

It is correct that some schools will not see a difference in the funding allocation they receive due to the transfer of funding from the schools block to the high needs block. Initial modelling on the formula for 20-21 suggests that similar numbers of schools will be protected by the MFG as was the case in 2019-20. Modelling suggests that 8 secondary and 10 primary school will be protected on the MFG.

The maximum that can be transferred from the schools block without the Sec of State approval is 0.5%, any level is allowed with such approval.

Recommendation 6

No other school is affected by the disapplication process. The funding from the transitional protection is part of the original special school budget that was paid to the schools through the high needs block. The process simply stops the relatively high funding per pupil currently received by the school from being locked in when the school grows. No objections have been received from any schools

Recommendation 7

The funding for the increased provision is a call on an already overspent high needs block, however officers feel it is essential to expand the provision due to the increased demand for the service in order to limit the numbers of cases being present for EHC plans. The service will act preventatively to support children to maintain educational placements. Without this service more children could need specialist placements incurring more pressures on high needs.

Recommendation 8

The policy in the first instance has been sent to Schools Forums members for approval as representatives of schools in the area. As a parent has a right to request a dual placement, a policy has to be in place to make arrangements for how funding is shared between both establishments.