



Agenda – School’s Forum 3:30pm – 6:00pm, 17 June 2021 Microsoft Teams

1. Procedural Items
 - 1.1. Apologies
 - 1.2. Substitutes
 - 1.3. Observers
 - 1.4. Declarations of interest
 - 1.5. Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

2. Reports
 - 2.1 Update from Leanne Hornsby, Assistant Director, Learning and Opportunities: Children & Young People Services. 3:30

 - 2.2 School Forum Constitution 2021-2023 *[Stephen Boldry]* 3:50

 - 2.3 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn 2020/21 *[Stephen Boldry]* 4:00

 - 2.4 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) revised budget 2021/22 4:15
[Stephen Boldry]

 - 2.5 High Needs Block – Out of Authority Placements & EHCP Top Up’s
Out of Authority placements –
 - a) DCST *[Belinda Cashman & Lee Golze]* 4:25
 - b) Children with Disabilities / SEN *[Angela Harrington]* 4:35
 - c) EHCP Top Ups *[Derek Brogan]* 4:45

 - 2.6 High Needs Review *[Martyn Owen]* 4:55

 - 2.7 Early Help Strategy Update Verbal Update *[Alison Tomes]* 5:05

 - 2.8 Early Years Sufficiency Review *[Steve Lawson-Chamberlain]* 5:15

 - 2.9 Collaborative Secondary School Improvement Projects 5:25
[Robin MacNeill & Kevin Drury]

3. Any Other Business

4. Date & Time of next meeting:
 - Regular meeting – Time TBC, Thursday 23rd September 2021, Microsoft Teams or The Mary Woollett Centre.

Schools Forum Membership List

Schools Members

Maintained Members

Primary

Main Member

Beverley Lockwood	Kirkby Avenue
David Richardson	Sunnyfields Primary
Karen Fagg	Park Primary

Substitutes

Carolyn Buckley	Travis St Lawrence
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Governor Member

Janine Reid	Barnburgh Primary
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Special School

Headteacher Main Member

Paul Scotting	Stone Hill School
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Governor Member

Geoff Bowley	Stone Hill School
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Pupil Referral Unit

Kath Formby	Maple Medical
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Karen Green	Levett
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Academy Members

Primary

Main Member

Rebecca Austwick	Bentley High Street Primary
Vacant	
Matthew Ridley	Shaw Wood Academy

Governor Members

Vacant	
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Secondary

Main Member

Wendy Adeniji	Trinity Academy
Jamie McMahon	Delta
Richard Brooke	The Laurel Academy

Governor Member

Lesley Bailey	Delta
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Special School

John Coleman	Nexus Multi Academy Trust
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Joel Hardwick	Nexus Multi Academy Trust
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Alternative Provision Academies

Dirk Pittard	St Wilfrid's Academy
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Jo Pittard	St Wilfrid's Academy
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Non-Schools Members

Diocesan Representatives

Philip Patterson	Diocese of Hallam
Philippa Cousins	Diocese of Sheffield

Substitutes

Clare Thorpe	Diocese of Hallam
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Early Years, Private, Voluntary & Independent Sector

Lesley Clark	Little Oaks
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16-19 Providers

Julie Kaye	Doncaster College
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Observers

Robert Barratt	Trade Union Representative NASUWT
Fiona Campbell	NEU
Lani-Mae Ball	Elected Member (Councillor) - Education & Skills
Leanne Hornsby	Assistant Director of Locality and Early Intervention
Riana Nelson	Acting Director of Learning Opportunities and Skills
Stephen Boldry	Local Authority - Finance Manager

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

Minutes of the Schools Forum meeting via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 17 June 2021, commencing at 3:30pm.

PRESENT: B Lockwood, K Fagg, R Austwick, M Ridley, J McMahon, W Adeniji, L Bailey, J Coleman, D Pittard, L Clark, L Pyott.

APOLOGIES: D Richardson.

1 SUBSTITUTES

None

2 OBSERVERS

L Hornsby, S Boldry, L-M Ball, P Ruane, F Campbell, L Golze, S Douglas, A Tomes, R Moore, M Owen, D Brogan, S Lawson-Chamberlain, R MacNeil, K Drury.

3 DECLARATIONS OF BUSINESS INTEREST & OTHER MATTERS

There were no declarations of specific business interest in respect of any item on the agenda or raised at the meeting.

4 MINUTES 11 February 2021

RESOLVED (1)

- a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 be agreed as a true record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Kim and Jamie are leaving their positions on the Schools Forum, thanks were given for their time and input on the Schools forum and a minutes silence was held in respect of the late Nuala Fennelly

With reference to 6.1, Members were informed that the iLAC Ofsted inspection has been completed.

With reference to 9.4, Members will receive a report on this agenda for the places sufficiency for Early years.

6 UPDATE FROM LEANNE HORNSBY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES

- 6.1 Members were informed about the GAIL Pex Global Learning International event that happened in May. The expertise was phenomenal, all the big cities were represented and there were talks of Doncaster the town of the North that hits big. There was interest in the work Doncaster is doing, there will be physical and virtual events on direct work that Doncaster has done. This will bring benefits, challenge and open doors for Doncaster.
- 6.2 As the Education and Skills 2030 Strategy has been signed off, work around this will be stepped up in workshops.
- 6.3 The In-year Fair Access Protocol IFAP is due to be refreshed, this will look at new admissions code.

7 SCHOOLS FORUM CONSTITUTION 2021-2023

Members were presented with a report detailing the membership of the Schools Forum and the latest constitution document.

Discussion took place on the following issues:-

- 7.1 Members discussed the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. B Lockwood agreed to continue as Chair as no other volunteers came forward. L Bailey agreed to take the position of Vice Chair.
- 7.2 Members were informed that the membership would remain the same and if more schools academised the ratio will be revisited.
- 7.3 Members were asked for nominations on the High Needs Block Sub Group (HNBSG), current members agreed to continue. In addition, L Bailey agreed to continue as the representative on the Learning Provision Organisation Board
- 7.4 Members discussed the rate of reimbursement for Head Teachers and concluded that the rate of £200 is still reasonable.
- 7.5 Members also discussed the process for nomination to the positions on the school forum. It was suggested that the secondary representation is agreed at the Secondary Heads meeting. It was however pointed out that the Primary Heads meetings do not represent all primaries so other mechanisms will need to be looked at to engage with primaries. It was suggested that it was raised at cluster meetings when nominations are being sort.

RESOLVED (2)

- a) That the reports be received and noted.
- b) B Lockwood elected as Chair of the Schools Forum with L Bailey elected as the Vice-Chair for the period ending 31 March 2023, or until they cease to hold office.
- c) Current members of the HNBSG would continue (B Lockwood, K Formby, P Scotting, P Cousins, J Coleman L Bailey, & D Pittard)

alongside the relevant LA officers. L Bailey agreed to continue as the representative on the Learning Provision Organisation Board.

- d) The Head Teacher rate of reimbursement for attending Schools Forum meetings would remain at £200 per meeting.
- e) Secondary membership on the schools forum to be agreed at the Secondary Head meetings and primary membership to be raised at cluster meetings when nominations are sort.

8 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) Outturn 2020/21

Members were presented with a report outlining the actual outturn for the DSG in 2020/21.

Discussion took place on the following issues:-

- 8.1 Members were informed the DSG overspend was £9.050m carried forward to 2021/22, of which £3.838m was in-year, detail of which were discussed from appendix A.
- 8.2 Members asked if the shortfall of £9m is in line with the prediction, members were referred to the medium term financial plan attached to appendix A showing how the High Needs Block will be brought back in line.
- 8.3 Members also discussed how Doncaster fairs against other LA's positions on the High Needs Block. They were informed that the pressure is felt everywhere and that it is a national issue. Regionally only two LA's reported an underspend and all others an overspend. A requested was made to see how Doncaster fairs against other LA's of a similar size.
- 8.4 Members were told the Schools Block had underspent by £176k, mainly due to the previously projected underspends on the Growth Fund (£215k) offset by increases in costs for the staff absence compensation scheme.
- 8.5 Members were told the High Needs block had overspent by £3.675m, mainly arisen due to overspends on Schools EHCP (Statementing) Top Up £655k, Pupils Educated Out Of Area – SEN £826k, Pupils Educated Out of Area CWS £519k, Pupils Educated Out of Area DCST £275k, Specialist Post 16 FE & Specialist Post 16 Institutions £1,348k, Recoupment £202k and Specialist AP Provision £331k. This has been offset by underspends as listed in appendix A, including the Contingency budget (£338k) and other Local Authority Services including the HI & VI teams (£182k).
- 8.6 The Early Years block has overspent by £365k which £390k is against the Early Years Nursery Education Fund for 2, 3 & 4 year olds budget, offset by underspends within the Disability Access Fund budget (£52k).
- 8.7 Members were provided with details of school balances at 31/03/2021. Overall, surplus revenue balances held by maintained schools increased by £1.679m. The number of schools with a surplus revenue balance increased by 7. The number of schools with a deficit revenue balance

was 3, a decrease of 9, and the total deficit revenue balances having decreased by £330k from 2019/20 to 2020/21 overall.

- 8.8 Schools with surplus balances above 12% will be contacted and the information provided will be sent to the standards and effectiveness team to work with the school.

RESOLVED (3)

- a) That the report be received and noted.
- b) LH to provide contact details to compare Doncaster's High Needs outturn against other LA's of a similar size.
- c) The LA would write to schools with balances above 12% to be reviewed by the Standards and Effectiveness.

9 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) revised Budget 2021/22

Members were presented with a report to outline the revised DSG budget for 2021/22.

Discussion took place on the following issues: -

- 9.1 Members were reminded that DSG is split into 4 blocks - Schools Block, Central Schools Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block. The schools block only changes when schools convert to academy.
- 9.2 The Central Block includes central schools budgets that have previously been agreed at the schools forum and maintained primary de-delegated budgets.
- 9.3 The High Needs Block is still subject to outstanding queries awaiting confirmation from DfE. The current behaviour and SEN reviews will impact upon the high needs block expenditure budget allocations and these will be revised and brought back to School Forum following these reviews. As previously mentioned the High Needs Medium Term Financial Plan will be presented to the HNBSG and Schools Forum in September.
- 9.4 The Early Years block will be confirmed in June 2021 based on January 2021 census. The Central Early Years budgets were approved by School Forum in November 2020 and February 2021 and account for 4.38% of the estimated 3 & 4 year old DSG funding total.

RESOLVED (4)

- a) That the report be received and noted.

10 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK.

Members were presented with various reports relating to the High Needs Block.

Discussion took place on the following issues: -

- 10.1 **DCST** - Members received an update on the future Placement Strategy. There has been a review of overnight provision, re-established direct payments and standards and quality assurances. The consultation for Oaklands had been paused due to covid but has now restarted with a view to modifying and changing the building. Properties had still not been purchased in relation to Bringing Children Home due to the housing market but other options are being looked at such as renting properties and a new Director has been appointed who has experience in opening homes. Members expressed their concerns that this process needs to speed up.
- 10.2 **Children with Disabilities/SEN** – Members were referred to the report and informed that the pandemic had amplified the overspends. It was felt that this is a very complex area but insufficient information has been provided. It was agreed that more detail would be provided at the next High Needs Sub Group
- 10.3 **EHCP Top Ups** – Members received an update on the service including various statistics to explain the current overspend on EHCP top ups. A briefing note will be attached to the minutes outlining the information/statistics that were discussed.

RESOLVED (5)

- a) That the reports be received and noted.
- b) R Mason and A Harrington to be invited to the next High Needs Sub Group to provide further detail on the Children with Disabilities/SEN paper.
- c) That a briefing note be provided with the minutes to include the information/statistics mentioned at the meeting.

11 SEND & INCLUSION UPDATE

Members received an update on SEND and Inclusion.

Discussion took place on the following issues: -

- 11.1 Members were informed that schools are working well in partnership with the LA. AP provision has been optimised over the past year and there are now 64 providers on the AP framework. Levett has opened its new upper site and there will be 15 SENH places in September.
- 11.2 Members were updated on the SEND strategy, a new governance board is being set up and members were asked to contact M Owen or R Mason if they were interested in being involved.

RESOLVED (6)

- a) That the report be received and noted.

- b) Members to inform M Owen or R Mason if they are interested in being part of the SEND governance board.

12 EARLY HELP STRATEGY UPDATE

Members received an update on the Early Help Strategy.

Discussion took place on the following issues: -

- 12.1 Members received an update on the service including various statistics. Members were informed of the audits, surveys and training in relation to the Early Help Strategy. A briefing note will be attached to the minutes outlining the information/statistics that were discussed.

RESOLVED (7)

- a) That the report be received and noted.
- b) That a briefing note be provided with the minutes to include the information/statistics mentioned at the meeting.

13 EARLY YEARS SUFFICIENCY REVIEW

Members were presented with a report outlining the Early Years Sufficiency Review.

Discussion took place on the following issues:-

- 13.1 Members were given an overview of the position in Doncaster for childcare places and the process that the service provides for new and existing Childcare Providers.
- 13.2 There are around 19k childcare places available and following an audit, it showed there were vacancies for all age ranges in all types of settings. Take up of the early years entitlements has remained high with no reports of parents being unable to find a childcare place.
- 13.2 Members were then informed that Covid has impacted on the demand for childcare, there is a possible risk that demand for childcare may be lower than in previous years.

RESOLVED (9)

- a) That the report be received and noted.

14 COLLABORATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Members were presented with a report detailing the proposal for the Secondary Schools Improvement Project.

Discussion took place on the following issues:-

- 14.1 Members were asked to agree a funding request to support the implementation of the Secondary School Improvement – Implementing Education and Skills 2030 Priority Two (ES2030). The funding was previously opened up for secondary school improvement prior to C-19. The request was for £40k in year one (2021/22) and £40k in year 2 (2022/23) to promote sustainability.
- 14.2 Members were concerned that the report did not state what the money was to be used for and what impact the funding will create.
- 14.3 Members agreed in principle on the condition that a fully costed plan and measured outcomes report is provided before the funding will be released.

RESOLVED (10)

- a) That the report be received and noted.
- b) That a fully costed plan and measured outcomes report is brought to a future schools forum meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Ball expressed her thanks to everyone and is looking forward to working with everyone.

J McMahon also expressed his thanks and sadness at leaving, but leaving knowing that Doncaster is heading in a positive direction.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Schools Forum will be held at 3:30pm on Thursday 23 September 2021, via Microsoft Teams or at The Mary Woollett Centre.



Doncaster Council

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Schools Forum Constitution 2021-2022

Purpose

1. The report provides details on the membership of the Forum and the updated Schools Forum constitution.

Recommendation

2. That Schools Forum:
 - a) notes the report;
 - b) elects to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair;
 - c) considers the draft Schools Forum Constitution, detailed in Appendix A;
 - d) considers reforming sub-groups of the Forum, determines membership of these sub-groups and proposes dates;
 - e) considers whether to increase the Heads' rate of reimbursement.

Background

3. Under sections 47(1) and 47A of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended) and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012, all Local Authorities are required to implement a body called the "Schools Forum". This body, which must contain Head Teachers, and can also include School Governors and nominated "non-school" members, has a formal legal standing and must be consulted by the LA on issues such as:-
 - The Funding Formulae;
 - Arrangements for pupils with SEN;
 - Pupil Referral Units and education otherwise than at school;
 - Early years provision;
 - Centrally Administered Grants paid to schools via the Council;
 - Issues relating to the Minimum Funding Guarantee;
 - Certain contracts funded from the Schools Budget.
4. Schools Forum also have specific powers, which are as follows:-

- Approve decisions on de-delegation of funding.
 - Approve various centrally retained DSG budgets.
 - Approve changes to The Scheme for Financing Schools.
 - Approve whether to carry forward a deficit on central expenditure DSG to the next financial year.
5. Schools Forums can only exercise their powers in relation to proposals put forward by their local authority.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

6. For the current membership period (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022), decisions will need to be made in respect of the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. All members are asked to consider nominating for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. These positions must be elected from the membership, and in the event of there being more than one nomination for either position, a vote must take place at this meeting. The previous Chair and Vice-Chair are eligible to stand once again.

Membership Arrangements

7. In the current membership the principal groupings of representatives relate to Primary and Secondary Schools/Academies where seats allocated are proportionate to the number of pupils in each group. Representatives include Head Teachers, Head Teachers representatives and School Governors. Representation is also provided from the Special Schools, but this is not necessarily proportionate to pupil numbers. Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision Academies are also represented as per Regulations. There are also some non-school members on the Schools Forum, namely Diocesan Authorities, 16-19 Providers and the Early Years PVI sector.
8. For the new membership period the members on Schools Forum are summarized in the table at 3.1 in appendix A. The Quorum for the Forum is set at 40%, this equates to 8 members based on the membership structure. Any substitutes attending will be counted for quorum, but vacancies and observers will be discounted.
9. The Forum also includes the following observers: Elected Member, Local Authority Officers and Trade Union representative. Executive elected members and officers who are not members of the Schools Forum have a right to attend and speak at Schools Forum meetings. The Education and Skills Funding Agency can also send a representative to observe meetings.
10. The following summarises the current position regarding the appointment of schools members:
- There is currently one vacant primary academy main member position and one primary academy Governor position.

Reimbursement of Expenses

11. The regulations require the Council to fund “reasonable” expenses for Forum Members. In line with other Council bodies all Forum Members are entitled to travel and subsistence payments.

12. For LA Officers, attendance would be considered part of their general working duties and as such they would receive travel and subsistence payments in line with the Council's prevailing expenses policy. The preparation work carried out by LA Officers and clerking of the meetings will be charged to the Schools Forum budget. The cost of producing and distributing papers, room hire and refreshments will also be charged to the Forum budget.
13. For Headteacher representatives (including from Pupil Referral Units & AP academies) it is considered appropriate to fund a degree of supply teacher costs with such payments accruing to the school, not the individual. The current rate of £200 is paid to the school/academy/PRU for each meeting attended, unless Members think the rate needs to be revised.
14. The reimbursement for Heads also applies to sub-group or training attendance as well as the Chair & Vice-Chair pre-meeting reviews.

Constitution

15. Local authorities are required to make a written record of the composition of the Schools Forum. This must include the methods by which each group elects and nominates their representatives and the manner in which the local authority seeks nominations for the non-school member representatives on their Schools Forum. The record includes the numbers of schools members and non-schools members. The proposed constitution document is shown in Appendix A. The document has been updated to reflect all recent changes to the membership and regulations. Future updates shall be made as and when required during the membership period.

Membership Period

16. The current membership period is for two financial years starting on the 1 April 2021. There are no proposals to change this approach at this time.

Sub-Groups of the Schools Forum

17. In the previous year, sub-groups of the Forum included the High Needs Block Review Group. Members should give consideration to the need for this review group, and if it is to be reformed, the membership of the group should be determined. For information, Schools Forum members who were part of this group previously are as follows:-
 - High Needs Block – B Lockwood, K Formby, P Scotting, P Cousins, J Coleman L Bailey, & D Pittard.
18. Consideration should also be given to appropriate dates for the sub-group meetings.

Conclusion

19. For the new membership period the constitution has been revised as a result of changes to the regulations and other updates. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair will be required for the new membership period. The need for sub groups of the Forum is also considered, as is the rate of reimbursement for Headteachers.

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DONCASTER SCHOOLS' FORUM CONSTITUTION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Doncaster Schools Forum was established to meet the requirements of sections 47(1) and 47A of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended) and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2002 (as amended)¹. The constitution and terms of reference of the Doncaster Schools Forum may be amended at any time to meet changes to the primary legislation or to the Regulations. Doncaster Schools Forum has a formal legal standing.
- 1.2. Doncaster Schools Forum aims to provide clear professional advice and strategic direction to the Council to aid decisions regarding education funding, and ensure that optimum value is obtained from the limited resources available for a positive impact on teaching and learning.

2. FUNCTIONS OF THE FORUM

- 2.1. To serve as the main mechanism for consultation on such matters concerning the funding of schools as the Council shall see fit and in particular in relation to the matters specifically detailed below.
- 2.2. To be consulted by the Council on any changes to its school funding formulae (Schools, Early Years and High Needs Blocks). This would include changes to factors and methodology and also in the choice of relative factors within the formulae. The Council shall consult with the Forum in sufficient time to allow the view expressed to be taken into account.
- 2.3. To be consulted annually on financial issues related to the Schools Budget, which will include:
 - 2.3.1. arrangements to be made for the education of pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
 - 2.3.2. arrangements for the education of children otherwise than at School and the use of Pupil Referral Units, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
 - 2.3.3. arrangements for early years provision;
 - 2.3.4. administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the Council;
 - 2.3.5. proposed exclusions from the Minimum Funding Guarantee;
 - 2.3.6. other matters as the Council sees fit concerning funding.
- 2.4. To be consulted at least one month prior to the issue of invitations to tender on the terms of any proposed contract for services or supplies to be funded from the schools budget where the estimated value exceeds the threshold determined under regulation 8 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended).

¹ The latest Regulations to be enacted are the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 No. 2261

2.5. The LA will decide on central spend on licenses negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State and children and young people with high needs, although Schools Forum will be consulted.

2.6. Schools Forum has specific powers, which are as follows:-

2.6.1. Decide on the de-delegation for mainstream schools for:-

- I. Contingencies;
- II. Administration of Free School Meals;
- III. Insurances;
- IV. Licenses & Subscriptions;
- V. Staff Costs – Cover Supply;
- VI. Support for Ethnic Minority Pupils/Under achieving Groups;
- VII. Behaviour Support Services;
- VIII. Library & Museum Services;

2.6.2. Approve central spend on:-

- I. Growth Fund (basic need including pre-opening & diseconomy of scale costs); *(Schools Forum also approves the criteria for allocating funding)*
- II. Falling rolls fund for surplus places in good or outstanding schools; *(Schools Forum also approves the criteria for allocating funding)*
- III. Equal pay back pay;
- IV. Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils;
- V. Early Years Expenditure;
- VI. Admissions;
- VII. Servicing of Schools Forum;
- VIII. Capital expenditure funded from revenue;
- IX. Contribution to combined budgets;
- X. Termination of employment costs²;
- XI. Prudential borrowing costs³;
- XII. SEN transport costs;

2.6.3. The Schools Forum must also approve changes proposed by the Local Authority to The Scheme for Financing Schools, following consultation with all maintained schools.

2.6.4. The Schools Forum also decides whether to carry forward a deficit on central expenditure to the next financial year, to be funded from the schools budget.

² Expenditure in respect of dismissal or premature retirement of, or for the purpose of securing the resignation of, any person employed in a maintained school where the revenue savings that will be achieved are equal to or greater than the costs incurred.

³ Borrowing money for the purpose of facilitating the modernisation and rationalisation of the school estate, where the revenue savings that will be achieved are equal to or greater than the costs that will be incurred in borrowing the money.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. There are currently 21 members of the Forum as follows:-

Type of Member	Group	Position	Places
School Members	Maintained Primary	Primary Heads/representatives	3
		Primary Governors	1
	Maintained Special	Special Head	1
		Special Governor	1
	Pupil Referral Units	PRU Head	1
	Academies	Academy Heads	6
Academy Governor		2	
Special Academies	Academy Heads	1	
AP Academies	AP Academy Heads	1	
Non-school Members	Diocesan Representatives		2
	Early Years PVI Sector		1
	16-19 Providers		1

- 3.2. The number of maintained headteacher members will reflect the proportion of pupils in schools maintained by the LA. The number of Academy members will also be determined in the same manner. There shall be one representative for Special schools.
- 3.3. If the number of academies increases over the duration of the membership period, the membership structure will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended accordingly. The total number of members is not expected to change but the ratio between maintained school members and academy members could alter.
- 3.4. Non-schools members will constitute a maximum of one-third of the total membership of the Forum to represent relevant bodies as defined in the regulations. Any Excepted relevant officers shall be nominated by the Director for Children's Services.
- 3.5. Within one month of the appointment of any non-schools members Doncaster Council shall inform Schools Forum members of the name and the group being represented.
- 3.6. Elected members or relevant officers⁴ of Doncaster Council may not be appointed as a member of Schools Forum.
- 3.7. The Schools Members Headteacher positions (including substitutes) will be elected on the following basis⁵ unless there is only one eligible candidate, in which that candidate is automatically elected to the Schools Forum:
- 3.7.1. Nomination forms circulated by the Clerk of the Schools Forum to all potential candidates four weeks prior to the deadline for nominations to be received.
- 3.7.2. If nominations are equal to the number of places available then all nominations will be endorsed, with no further action required.
- 3.7.3. If there are more nominations than places an email will be sent by the Clerk of the Schools Forum to all Heads in the relevant sector (excluding those nominated)

⁴ Relevant Officer means the Director of Children's Services or representative or any officer whose work involves the management of, or advice on, school funding.

⁵ Full details of the procedure will be distributed with the nomination forms at the beginning of the process.

asking them to vote (a ballot form will be issued with the email). The vote will not be invalidated by a low turnout.

- I. All ballot forms will be counted by the Clerk of the Schools Forum and verified by the Directorate Finance Manager (or representative). The candidate with the most votes will be elected, followed by the candidate with the next most votes and so on until all available positions are filled. Once all positions are occupied any remaining candidates will not be elected to the Schools Forum.
 - II. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates, the successful candidate(s) will be determined by the drawing of lots, which will be undertaken by a member of the Financial Management Team and witnessed by the Clerk of the Schools Forum and the Directorate Finance Manager (or representative).
- 3.7.4. If there are insufficient nominations, all those nominations received will be endorsed. The remaining places will be reviewed to ensure the membership is representative of all types of schools and if necessary there will be a Second stage nominations process to target the areas with low representation.
- 3.8. The Schools Members Governor positions will be elected using the same basis as School Member Headteacher positions and contacted via schools.
- 3.9. The Non-schools members will be elected on the following basis:
- 3.9.1. Diocesan representatives will be nominated by their respective Diocese (Catholic Diocese of Hallam and C of E Diocese of Sheffield).
 - 3.9.2. Early Years PVI representative will be nominated through communication arranged by the Early Years Service.
 - 3.9.3. 16 – 19 providers representative will be determined through communication between the Clerk of the Schools Forum and the eligible candidates.
- 3.10. If nominations for any group do not take place by the date set by Doncaster Council, membership will be determined in a manner deemed appropriate by the Council.
- 3.11. The term of office for schools and non-schools members of Schools Forum shall be 2 years. After which, all members can be re-nominated and re-elected for the next membership period.
- 3.12. Schools and non-schools members shall remain in office until:
- 3.12.1. he/she ceases to hold the office by virtue of which he/she became eligible for appointment to the forum
 - 3.12.2. his/her term of office as a schools or non-schools member comes to an end, or
 - 3.12.3. he/she resigns his/her office as a schools or non-schools member.
 - 3.12.4. Replacement members may be nominated or elected in accordance with the procedures above and will service the remainder of the Term, not the full two years.

4. ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1. A member of the Financial Management (LOCYP) team will act as clerk to Schools Forum, which is an important role ensuring that meetings are well organised and run smoothly. The clerk will notify members of the meeting dates, circulate agendas and reports, record and circulate minutes and process expenses to the Schools Forum budget. The clerk will also be responsible for ensuring the Council website is kept up to date with the relevant Schools Forum information and for circulating a Schools Forum newsletter to all relevant parties following each meeting. All papers for the meetings will be sent to members at least 6 working days prior to a meeting. In some urgent cases the Chair may agree to information being tabled at a meeting.
- 4.2. Notices of appointment, resignation or removal shall be sent to the clerk in writing.
- 4.3. The minutes of the Schools Forum meetings will be formally approved at the subsequent meeting.
- 4.4. The clerk will provide copies of agendas, reports and minutes considered at a meeting when requested. Previous agendas, reports and minutes will be available via the Council's website.
- 4.5. The Council will be responsible for setting the Schools Forum agenda and the dates of meetings. However, members can make suggestions and the views of members will be taken into consideration when finalising agendas and the dates of meetings.

5. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

5.1. Timing and Frequency of Meetings

Meetings of the Forum will take place at least four times a year (generally, one meeting in the spring term, two in the autumn term and one in the summer term). All meetings must be public meetings. When a member of the public requests to attend a meeting they are provided with the 'Information sheet for members of the public attending schools forum' shown at appendix A. The programme of ordinary meetings will be agreed on an annual basis and any changes will be agreed by Forum. The volume of business may require additional meetings to be arranged; these will be notified and agreed with the Forum.

5.2. Extraordinary Meetings

The Chair of the Forum or one third of Forum members may call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Forum. Notification must be sent to the clerk to the Schools Forum, who will arrange the meeting in accordance with the directions received.

5.3. Quorum

In accordance with the regulations, the Quorum of a Forum meeting is 40% of the voting members (10 members if no vacancies); this excludes any observers and the membership count excludes vacancies but includes substitutes in attendance. Inquorate meetings may proceed, but decisions cannot be agreed.

5.4. Substitutes

Members should contact the Clerk to the Schools Forum if they are unable to attend a meeting. The Clerk to the Schools Forum will then contact a substitute, where appropriate, and notify the Chair of the Forum prior to the start of the meeting. If there are no nominated substitutes for a particular group then that member may send an appropriate substitute on their behalf (i.e. a member of their schools management team), but this must only be by exception and must also be agreed by the Chair of the School Forum. The Clerk needs to be informed no later than 6 working days before the meeting. This does not affect any individual's right to attend the School Forum as an observer.

5.5. Voting

Schools Forum shall aim to arrive at a consensus decision in the first instance. Where consensus agreement cannot be reached any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members voting, present in the room at the time the question was put unless the Chair decides that a secret ballot is appropriate. If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chair will have a second or casting vote. Where considered appropriate by either the Chair or the Clerk, details will be taken of votes cast by constituency (e.g. Primary, Secondary etc). Records of named votes will only be recorded with the agreement of the Forum through a formal vote.

Voting/approval on some items is restricted to certain members. For example, changes to The Scheme for Financing Schools must be voted on/approved by maintained school members only, and apart from the Early Years PVI member, all non-schools members are excluded from voting on/approving matters relating to the funding formulae. Restrictions would also apply to decisions on de-delegation.

5.6. Declarations of Interest

Where a member has a personal or pecuniary interest (either as an individual or as a headteacher/governor of a school) in a matter to be discussed at a meeting of the Forum or a sub-committee, the member concerned must declare the interest at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as the matter in which they have an interest is raised. The Forum will then decide whether the declared interest is of a significant nature and that the member should either withdraw from the meeting during the consideration or remain but have no vote on the matter. Members will have an interest in a number of discussions that take place at Forum but should not have a greater interest than other members of the sector e.g. all primary members will have an interest in discussions on primary school funding.

5.7. Observers and Right of Attendance

The following persons may attend as observers and speak at Schools Forum meetings, even though they are not members of the Schools Forum:-

- 5.7.1. Director of Children's Services or their representative(s)
- 5.7.2. Chief Financial Officer or their representative(s)

- 5.7.3. An elected Member of the Council who has primary responsibility for Children's Services or Education or responsibility for the resources of the Council
- 5.7.4. Any person who is invited by the Forum to attend in order to provide financial or technical advice to the Forum
- 5.7.5. An observer appointed by the Secretary of State
- 5.7.6. Any person presenting a paper or other item to the Forum that is on the meeting's agenda, but that person's right to speak shall be limited to matters related to the item that the person is presenting.

In addition to the above list, the following can attend the Doncaster Schools Forum as observers:-

- Trade Union Representative;
- 3x School Business Managers/Finance Officers – one from each of the primary, secondary and special sectors. Election to these positions will follow the procedure adopted for the Headteacher elections.

5.8. Record of Attendance

Each member of the Forum attending a Meeting of the Forum or of any of its Committees or Sub-Committees of which he/she is a member, shall sign his/her name in the Attendance Book or sheet provided for that purpose.

5.9. Members Conduct

If the Chair is of the opinion that a member has behaved improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructing the business, the Chair may notify the Meeting of that opinion and may take any of the following courses of action either separately or in sequence:-

- 5.9.1. Member not to be heard further
- 5.9.2. Move that the member be not heard further. If seconded the Motion will be voted on without discussion. If carried, the member shall not speak further at the Meeting.
- 5.9.3. Move that the member leaves the Meeting. If seconded, the Motion will be voted on without discussion. If carried the member shall immediately leave the Meeting.
- 5.9.4. Adjourn the Meeting for 15 minutes or such period as he/she considers appropriate.
- 5.9.5. Order the member to leave the Meeting or, if necessary, the member to be removed.

If there was a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chair may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks necessary.

5.10. Sub-groups

Schools Forum may establish sub-groups to work on specific matters as deemed necessary and shall decide the terms of reference and schools membership.

5.11. Chair/Vice Chair

The Forum shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the membership period (two years) at the first meeting of the new membership period by a majority of votes cast. It is not necessary to vote if there is only one nomination.

If the Chair or Vice-Chair leaves during the membership period a new Chair or Vice-Chair will be nominated on the same basis at the next meeting and will serve the remainder of the membership period.

If the Chair or Vice-Chair isn't present at the meeting Forum Members will elect a member to preside.

The Chair or Vice-Chair can not be an elected member or officer of Doncaster Council.

5.12. Invalidation of Proceedings

The proceedings of the Forum are not invalidated by:-

5.12.1 Any vacancy among their number

5.12.2 Any defect in the election or appointment of any member

5.12.3 Any defect in the election of the Chair

6. SCHOOLS FORUM BUDGET/MEMBERS EXPENSES

- 6.1. Each year the Forum will agree its annual budget for the forthcoming financial year, taking into account the estimated number of meetings and all direct costs, plus any special projects that are to be commissioned.
- 6.2. The clerk to the Forum will produce an annual statement showing the cost of the Forum for the previous financial year.
- 6.3. For Headteacher attendance Reimbursement of average main pay scale supply teacher costs payable direct to the employing school in half day blocks based on meetings attended.
- 6.4. Governors are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred; this will be paid at the same rates paid to staff in accordance with the Council's policy.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 7.1. Any change to this constitution will be recommended by Doncaster Council and passed by two thirds majority of the members present in person and voting at a meeting of the Forum of which notice has been given specifying the matter to be discussed. The final decision of any proposed change rests with Doncaster Council.

APPENDIX A

INFORMATION SHEET FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING SCHOOLS FORUM

1. About Schools Forum

The Schools Forum was established to meet the requirements of sections 47(1) and 47A of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2002.

Schools Forum aims to provide clear professional advice and strategic direction to the Council to aid decisions regarding education funding, and ensure that optimum value is obtained from the limited resources available for a positive impact on teaching and learning.

2. Functions of the Forum

To serve as the main mechanism for consultation on such matters concerning the funding of schools as the Council shall see fit and in particular in relation to the matters specifically detailed below.

To be consulted by the Council on any changes to its school funding formulae (Schools, Early Years and High Needs Blocks). This would include changes to factors and methodology and also in the choice of relative factors within the formulae. The Council shall consult with the Forum in sufficient time to allow the view expressed to be taken into account.

The Schools Forum must approve movement of up to 0.5% from the schools block to other blocks.

To be consulted annually on financial issues related to the Schools Budget, which will include:

- arrangements to be made for the education of pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
- arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;
- arrangements for early years provision;
- administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants;
- other matters as the Council sees fit concerning funding.
- exclusions from MFG for application to DfE.

To be consulted at least one month prior to the issue of invitations to tender on the terms of any proposed contract for services or supplies to be funded from the schools budget where the estimated value is in excess of the EU procurement thresholds.

The LA will decide on central spend on licenses negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State and children and young people with high needs, although Schools Forum will be consulted.

Schools Forum has specific powers, which are as follows:-

Decide on the de-delegation for mainstream schools for:-

- Contingencies;
- Administration of Free School Meals;
- Insurances;
- Licenses & Subscriptions;
- Staff Costs – Cover Supply;
- Support for minority ethnic;
- Pupils/Under achieving Groups;
- Behaviour Support Services;
- Library & Museum Services;
- School improvement

Approve central spend on:-

- Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy
- Funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years
- Early Years block provision;
- Funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement;
- Back-pay for equal pay claims;
- Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies
- Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils;
- Admissions;
- Servicing of Schools Forum;
- Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools;
- Capital expenditure funded from revenue;
- Contribution to combined budgets;
- Existing termination of employment costs ;
- Prudential borrowing costs ;

The Schools Forum must also approve changes proposed by the Local Authority to The Scheme for Financing Schools, following consultation with all maintained schools.

The Schools Forum also decides whether to carry forward a deficit on central expenditure to the next financial year, to be funded from the schools budget and any brought forward deficit on de-delegated services which is to be met by the overall schools budget.

3. Rules about members of the public speaking at meetings

Meetings of the Schools Forum are open to the public. A member of the public can attend as an observer. Observers do not have an automatic right to speak at meetings, but the chair may allow contributions where appropriate.

The public and press may however be excluded from the meeting or part of the meeting if confidential information is likely to be discussed or considered.

Everyone in attendance at a Schools Forum meeting will be treated with courtesy and respect.



Doncaster Council

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Outturn Report 2020/21

Purpose

1. This report details the actual outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets for the year 2020/21.

Recommendation

2. That Schools Forum notes the report.

Background

3. All Local Authorities receive a ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from the Department for Education (DfE) for their schools provision. For 2020/21 the DfE funding settlement received in December 2019 was based on October 2019 census.
4. The DSG is split into 4 blocks, as presented in Appendix A:
 - Schools Block
 - Central Schools Block
 - High Needs Block
 - Early Years Block

Issues for consideration

5. The attached report at Appendix A shows the budget, actual outturn and year-end variance for 2020/21.
6. The report shows a final outturn overspend of £3.838m for 2020-21 creating an overall DSG overspend of £9.050m, carried forward to 2021/22.

7. The variances against 2020/21 expenditure budgets, by DSG block, making up the £3.838m in-year overspend are detailed in Appendix A with main variances highlighted below.

Schools Block

8. The Schools Block budget overall is showing a (£176k) underspend for the year which has arisen due to previously reported underspends within growth fund expenditure (£215k) and overspends on the Staff Absence Compensation budget £72k.

Central Schools Block

9. The Central Schools Block budget is showing an underspend of (£26k) due to previously reported underspends against the Schools Forum budget.

High Needs Block

10. The High Needs Block budget overall overspent by £3,675k overspend for the year which has mainly arisen due to overspends on Schools EHCP (Statementing) Top Up £655k, Pupils Educated Out Of Area – SEN £826k, Pupils Educated Out of Area CWS £519k, Pupils Educated Out of Area DCST £275k, Specialist Post 16 FE & Specialist Post 16 Institutions £1,348k, Recoupment £202k and Specialist AP Provision £331k. This has been offset by underspends as listed in appendix A, including the Contingency budget (£338k) and other Local Authority Services including the HI & VI teams (£182k).

Early Years Block

11. The Early Years Block budget overall is showing a £365k overspend, of which £390k is against the Early Years Nursery Education Fund for 2, 3 & 4 year olds budgets offset by underspends within the Disability Access Fund budget (£52k).

School Balances at 31st March 2021

12. A summary of the school balances can be found at Appendix B. Overall, surplus revenue balances held by maintained schools increased by £1.679m from 2019/20 to 2020/21. The number of schools with a surplus revenue balance increased by 7 in this period to 37. The number of schools with a deficit revenue balance was 3, a decrease of 9, and the total deficit revenue balances having decreased by £330k from 2019/20 to 2020/21 overall.
13. School revenue balances, expressed as a percentage of budget share, have increased for all schools from 2019/20 levels.
14. There are now 15 maintained schools with a surplus revenue balance above 12% of budget share at the end of 2020/21 (there were 11 in 2019/20).

15. Of the 15 schools, 9 of these schools also had a balance above 12% in 2019/20. Analysis of these 15 schools' balances can be found at Appendix C.
16. Schools that have a balance over 12% will be written to and asked to provide details of their spending plans, this information will then be sent onto the Standards and Effectiveness team so the lead Standards and Effectiveness Officers can challenge the schools as part of the Standards & Effectiveness function. Those schools which held a balance over 12% as at 31st March 2020 as well as 31st March 2021 will be asked to confirm if their spending plans submitted last year were actioned.
17. The review of this information will also inform the allocation process for payment of Growth Fund which stipulates that a school with a balance greater than 12% must have a plan for their balance which has been agreed by Forum as reasonable in order to receive a payment from the fund.
18. School balances are also planned to be discussed at the school improvement meetings with the schools during the year so that there is further challenge to ensure the funding benefits the children for whom the funding was intended.

Consultation

19. Individual budget holders have considered the outturn. The revenue monitoring position for Children's Services has been reported to the Director of Children's Services and management team through the monthly reporting process for Children and Young People's budgets.

Conclusion

20. The final DSG outturn position for 2020/21 shows an overspend of £3.838m which has been carried forward into 2021/22 alongside previous year overspends giving a total DSG overspend of £9.050m.
21. Surplus School Balances will be reviewed and schools will be written to and asked to provide details of their spending plans.

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APPENDIX A
Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 Quarter 4

Service		DSG Budget for Year	Quarter 4 Actual	Projected DSG Variance	Explanation of Outturn Variance / Change from Previous Quarter	Quarter 3 DSG Budget for Year	Quarter 3 Projection	Quarter 3 Projected DSG Variance	Difference
		£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
SCHOOLS BLOCK DSG									
Individual School Budgets	CN007	39,589	39,589	0		40,560	40,560	0	0
Staff Absence Compensation - Maternity	CN020	297	369	72	A request to increase the rate of de-delegation for this budget is included within the budget setting report for 2021/22.	282	353	71	1
Staff Absence Compensation - TU Facility	CN020	37	37	(0)		37	37	0	(0)
Museums-Art Gallery(Education Service)	NE056	46	46	0		46	46	0	0
EMTAS & GRT Virtual School	CK024/44/61	144	144	(0)		143	143	0	(0)
Other Insurances	CN011	10	10	(0)		10	10	0	(0)
Free School Meals Eligibility	MG002	28	28	(0)		28	28	0	(0)
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty (Causing Concern)	CK032	74	74	(0)		74	74	0	(0)
Growth Fund	CN029	515	299	(215)	Growth fund paid on actual pupil numbers from the October census when actual pupil numbers were confirmed.	388	172	(216)	1
Additional school improvement services (incl. Maths/Literacy Lead)	CK013/50 + CK053	78	46	(32)		79	73	(6)	(26)
Education functions for maintained schools (former ESG general duties)	RF001 / CA009	231	231	0		183	183	0	0
Schools Block Unallocated	CN001	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
SCHOOLS BLOCK Sub-total		41,050	40,874	(176)		41,830	41,679	(151)	(25)
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK DSG									
Servicing of Schools Forum	CN019	35	9	(26)		35	12	(23)	(3)
School Admissions	CK030	314	314	0		314	314	0	0
Miscellaneous Provision (Safeguarding)	CK026	23	23	0		23	23	0	0
Recharges Corporate Services/Management	CK038	91	91	0		91	91	0	0
ICT revenue funding	CB004, CB014	99	99	0		99	99	0	0
National Copyright Licences	CN033	230	230	0		230	230	0	0
Education functions for all schools & academies (former ESG retained duties)	CA009	701	701	0		701	701	0	0
Learning & Behaviour Support Service	CK025	57	57	0		57	57	0	0
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK Sub-total		1,550	1,524	(26)		1,550	1,527	(23)	(3)
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK DSG									
Mainstream EHCP Top Up funding	CN027	5,500	6,155	655	Subject to a separate report to Schools Forum.	5,500	5,651	151	504
Special Schools - ISB	CN026	6,027	6,091	64	Based on spring term 2021 funding. The funding shown for Special Schools is less than previous years due to the Specials Schools that have recently become an academy with place funding being received direct by the academy and top sliced from the LA's allocation.	6,111	6,111	0	64
PRUs Incl. Mulberry Unit	CN032/CS001/CS007(Mul)	2,879	2,957	78		2,879	2,884	5	73
North Bridge Enterprise College	CM007	947	962	15		947	947	0	15
Primary Outreach	CN040	388	442	54		388	425	37	17
Additional Resource Centre's	CN024	18	0	(18)	School now transferred to academy status and the ARC provision has transferred to the LA under the Hearing Impairment Service.	18	18	0	(18)
Big Picture Learning	CB018 / ML002	803	671	(132)	Outcome payments not achieved in 2020-21 due to Covid	803	726	(77)	(55)
Secondary Outreach	CN040	105	105	(0)		106	106	0	(0)
Children's Specialist Equipment	CL016	25	29	5		25	25	0	5
Specialist Post 16 Institutions	CN025	1,483	2,501	1,018	Increase in expenditure for 2020-21 compared to budget. Please see separate Schools Report on this item.	1,483	2,335	852	166
Post 16 FE Colleges	CN042	388	718	330	Subject to a separate report to Schools Forum.	388	562	174	156
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA SEN	CL007	4,415	5,241	826	As per specific reports to School Forum	4,415	5,496	1,081	(255)
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA CWD	CB016, CL015, CS014	744	1,263	519	As per specific reports to School Forum	744	1,262	518	1
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - DCST	CR003	3,184	3,459	275	As per specific reports to School Forum	3,184	3,675	491	(216)
Specialist AP provision	CL022	499	830	331	Overspend resulting from the number of children requiring AP provision and delays in children starting at the Big Picture school.	499	673	174	157
Other LA recoupment	CL004, CL005, CL006	200	402	202	There has been a marginal increase in the numbers of young people placed in other LA special schools, from 18 to 22. This reflects the pressure on DMBC special schools but also geography and the nature of SEN. At the moment Doncaster do not have any provision designated to meet the needs of children with ASD for example whereas RMBC have Milton School. The costs are lower in 2020-21 due to the historic spend relating to previous years in the 2019-20 payments.	200	501	301	(99)
ASD SCHOOLS SUPPORT	CL013, CL008, CK015, CK034(part) E82K	664	616	(47)		664	664	0	(47)

APPENDIX A
Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 Quarter 4

Service		DSG Budget for Year	Quarter 4 Actual	Projected DSG Variance	Explanation of Outturn Variance / Change from Previous Quarter	Quarter 3 DSG Budget for Year	Quarter 3 Projection	Quarter 3 Projected DSG Variance	Difference
		£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HI SCHOOLS SUPPORT	CL010	826	736	(90)	Allocation includes the Primary ARC provision with budget and staff transferred in on academisation of the school. Underspend based on staffing underspend from the ARC provision.	826	741	(85)	(5)
VI SCHOOLS SUPPORT	CL014	318	341	24		318	314	(4)	28
Pre-School Inclusion - Portage/SEN	CJ004, CF068, CJ007, CK039, CK034(part) £29K, CK059, CK063	933	864	(69)		933	892	(41)	(28)
Learning & Behaviour Support Service	CK025, CL019, CB009, CK034(part) £22K, CK066, CK049	354	353	(0)		353	353	0	(0)
Pupils Educated At Home	CK031	91	77	(14)		91	91	0	(14)
Independent Behaviour Provision (Tops Team)	CM009	133	147	14		133	133	0	14
Contributions to Centrally Retained & De-delegated Budgets	Various	99	71	(27)		98	98	0	(27)
High Needs Contingency/Unallocated	CN001	(319)	(657)	(338)	Contingency budget overspend based on budgets across the high needs block offset by £657k high needs salary costs being badged against a central Contain Covid grant.	(269)	(657)	(388)	50
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK Sub-total		30,703	34,377	3,675		30,837	34,026	3,189	485
EARLY YEARS BLOCK DSG									
Nursery Education Fund - 2 year olds	CG014	3,166	3,331	165	Funding adjusted in line with DfE revised DSG allocations June 20 (based on January 2020 census data). Further funding reduction by DfE (based on January 2021 census data) with providers paid based on 2019 census data or Autumn term 2020 whichever was the highest. The overspend is due to paying providers based on this method with some providers having a greater number of children in Autumn 20 compared to the funding received from the DfE to cover this.	3,287	3,447	160	5
Nursery Education Fund - 3 & 4 year olds	CG027, CN007	15,600	15,825	225	Funding adjusted in line with DfE revised DSG allocations June 20 (based on January 2020 census data). Expect further funding reduction by DfE (based on January 2021 census data) with providers paid based on 2019 census data or Autumn term 2020 whichever was the highest. The overspend is due to paying providers based on this method with some providers having a greater number of children in Autumn 20 compared to the funding received from the DfE to cover this.	15,942	16,087	145	80
Early Years Retained Duties	CF064-68/CB014/CK039/CK041/CB010/	695	694	(1)		695	695	0	(1)
Early Years Pupil Premium	CG055	211	239	28		211	246	35	(7)
Early Years Contingency	CN001	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
High Needs Block transfer to EY Block - Early Help funding	CN001	450	450	0		450	450	0	0
Disability Access Fund	CJ008	71	19	(52)		71	83	12	(64)
EARLY YEARS BLOCK Sub-total		20,193	20,558	365		20,656	21,008	352	13
EARLY YEARS BLOCK DSG									
Grand Total		93,496	97,334	3,838	In-year 2020/21 overspend of £3.838m	94,873	98,240	3,367	471

School Balances at 31st March 2021

Only those schools maintained by the Local Authority as at 2nd April 2021 are included in this analysis.

No. of Schools in Surplus/Deficit - Revenue Balances only	2020/21		2019/20		2018/19		2017,
	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus
Primary Schools	34	3	28	11	37	9	43
Special Schools	1	0	1	0	4	0	4
Pupil Referral Units*	2	0	1	1	2	0	1

Total Value of Surpluses/Deficits - Revenue Balances only	2020/21		2019/20		2018/19		2017,
	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus	Deficit	Surplus
Primary Schools	4,479,591.71	57,595.10	3,031,087.70	347,012.57	2,878,511.91	396,146.06	3,092,505.56
Special Schools	376,523.91	0.00	246,940.97	0.00	914,038.78	0.00	754,827.83
Pupil Referral Units	110,845.51	0.00	10,173.62	41,029.84	41,828.55	0.00	23,689.51

Total balances as a % of Budget Share - Revenue Balances only	2020/21		2019/20		2018/19		2017,
	Balances £	% of Budget Share	Balances £	% of Budget Share	Balances £	% of Budget Share	Balances £
Primary Schools	4,421,996.61	10.56%	2,684,075.13	6.15%	2,482,365.85	4.84%	2,783,735.84
Special Schools	376,523.91	18.68%	246,940.97	12.41%	914,038.78	11.36%	754,827.83
Pupil Referral Units	110,845.51	3.94%	-30,856.22	-1.10%	41,828.55	1.58%	-6,148.75

Schools with a revenue balance above 12%	No. of Schools 2020/21	No. of Schools 2019/20	No. of Schools 2018/19	No. of Schools 2017/18	Schools above 12% in both years
Primary Schools	14	10	7	3	5
Special Schools	1	1	3	1	1
Pupil Referral Units	0	0	0	0	0

/18
Deficit
10
0
1

/18
Deficit
308,769.72
0.00
29,838.26

/18
% of Budget Share
4.86%
9.65%
-0.25%

School Balances Analysis 2020/21

E5 Code	School Name	Sector	School Revenue Balance @ 31/03/2021	Total School Budget Share 2020/21	School Revenue Balance as a % of Budget Share 2020/21	Above 12% in consecutive years (2019/20 & 2020/21)?	Ofsted rating / date of report as published on Ofsted website
DA001	Adwick Primary	Primary	383,264.23	1,798,866	21.31%	Yes	Good - January 2020
DA003	Arksey Primary	Primary	61,275.75	428,347	14.31%	Yes	Good - March 2017
DA015	Bentley New Village Primary	Primary	278,245.18	1,363,663	20.40%	Yes	Good - June 2019
DA039	Hayfield Lane Primary	Primary	224,892.17	1,485,050	15.14%	Yes	Good - February 2018
DA049	Long Toft Primary	Primary	223,311.26	1,406,461	15.88%	No	Good - January 2020
DA056	New Pastures Primary	Primary	328,311.81	1,195,371	27.47%	Yes	Requires Improvement - Nov 18
DA063	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Prim	Primary	117,084.14	656,494	17.83%	Yes	Good - May 2016
DA074	Scawsby Saltersgate Infant	Primary	236,547.67	1,291,766	18.31%	No	Good - June 2018
DA077	Scawthorpe Sunnyfields Primary	Primary	161,679.24	1,259,449	12.84%	Yes	Good - July 2017
DA084	St Mary's Catholic Primary	Primary	165,213.16	861,896	19.17%	No	Requires Improvement - March 18
DA093	Town Field Primary	Primary	234,379.18	1,870,942	12.53%	No	Requires Improvement - Nov 18
DA094	Travis C of E Infant and Nursery	Primary	208,278.21	1,325,403	15.71%	No	Good - December 2016
DA096	Warmsworth Primary	Primary	313,676.69	1,743,258	17.99%	Yes	Outstanding - March 2014
DA100	Windhill Primary	Primary	291,817.20	1,282,160	22.76%	No	Good - March 2017
DC008	Stonehill	Special	376,523.91	2,015,454	18.68%	Yes	Outstanding - July 2019



Doncaster Council

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) Revised Budget 2021/22

Purpose

1. The report is provided to update School Forum on Doncaster's revised DSG budget for 2021/22.

Recommendations

2. That Schools Forum
 - Notes the report;

Dedicated Schools Grant

3. All Local Authorities receive a ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from the Department for Education (DfE) for their schools provision. For 2021/22 the DfE funding settlement was received in December 2020.
4. The DSG budget is split into 4 blocks, as set out in Appendix A:
 - Schools Block (funding allocation based on October 2020 census),
 - Central Schools Services Block (final allocation & deductions confirmed March 2021),
 - High Needs Block (final allocation & deductions confirmed March 2021); and,
 - Early Years Block (final allocations expected to be confirmed June 2021).

Schools Block Budget

5. The Schools Block consists of:
 - the Individual Schools Budget (ISB);
 - Maintained Primary de-delegation; and,
 - Growth Fund.

6. The budgets listed in appendix A will only change as schools convert to Academy (i.e Maintained Primary De-Delegated budgets follow a school when they convert as set out under DfE regulations)

Central School Services Block Budget

7. The Central School Services Block funds those budgets that are retained and managed centrally by the LA, as agreed by School Forum in November 2020 and set out in the DfE operational guide. These budgets are listed in Appendix A.

High Needs Block Budget

11. Revised High Needs Block funding allocations and deductions for place funding are included, however deductions are still subject to outstanding queries awaiting confirmation from DfE.
12. The current behaviour and SEN reviews will impact upon the high needs block expenditure budget allocations, listed in Appendix A, and these will be revised and brought back to School Forum following these reviews. There is currently a contingency budget overspend of £0.661m shown which will increase the overall DSG budget to £9.771m during 2021-22 however this is estimated to reduce to £0.179m overspend by 2024-25.
13. Work is currently ongoing to review the High Needs Block Medium Term Financial Plan with this work expected to be presented back to the High Needs Block Sub Group and full Schools Forum in September 21.

Early Years Block Budget

14. Provisional Early Years Block Funding allocation for 2021/22 totalling £20.483m was advised by the DfE in December 2020. This is shown within appendix A, but is subject to confirmation in June 2021 by the Department for Education. The revised budget allocations for 3 & 4 year olds funding have been adjusted in line with the January 2020 pupil numbers.
15. Central Early Years budgets were approved by School Forum in November 2020 and February 2021 and account for 4.38% of the estimated 3 & 4 year old DSG funding total (with 5% being the maximum allowable).

Risks and Assumptions

16. Whilst the Schools Block funding formula is only subject to formal ESFA approval and the Central Schools Services Block budget has been fully approved previously the High Needs Block budgets are subject to behaviour and SEN reviews and the Early Years funding is still subject to change.

17. The main risks would be on the High Needs Block as the budget allocations are subject to review however there is currently an overspend contingency budget of £0.661m which is increasing the overall DSG overspend position for 2021/22.
18. The LA will monitor and review all aspects of the budget closely throughout the year to ensure the accuracy of these assumptions and will provide quarterly updates at School Forum as well as continuing to have regular meetings of the High Needs Block Forum sub group.

Conclusion

19. Forum members are asked to consider and provide comment upon the revised DSG budget for 2021/22.

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DSG BUDGET 2021-22

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block	High Needs Block (including Post 16)	Early Years Block	Notes
Initial DSG Settlement 21-22	221,726,922	1,624,611	42,128,785	20,483,107	DfE Settlement as at March 2021
Individual Schools' Budgets - Academies Delegation	-179,433,309				
High Needs Places deductions			-6,733,002		subject to change by DfE
Early Years expected adjustments based on January 2020 census TBC June 20					
Transfer from High Needs to Early Years			-450,000	450,000	Agreed at Schools Forum
Funding Available 2019/20	42,293,613	1,624,611	34,945,783	20,933,107	
Individual Schools' Budgets - Maintained Delegation (incl Academies)	40,436,003				Based on Maintained Schools as at 1st April 2021
Centrally Retained Schools Budgets					
Servicing of Schools Forum		35,220			Budget held at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
School Admissions		314,470			Budget held at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Behaviour & Attendance Management		57,130			Budget held at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Recharges - Corporate Services/Management		90,530			Budget for 'Historic Commitment' held at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Miscellaneous Provision		22,820			Budget for 'Historic Commitment' (Education Safeguarding) at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
ICT revenue funding		99,080			Budget for 'Historic Commitment' (Data Team) at 20/21 level as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
National Copyright Licences		274,491			Amount as advised by DfE December 2020
ESG Retained Duties		730,870			Included in DSG from 2018/19, budget as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Growth Fund	983,120				Growth Fund as agreed at Nov 20 Forum.
Maintained Primary De-Delegated Budgets					
Other Insurances	9,490				Per pupil rate held at 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Travellers Service	130,030				Per pupil rate held at 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Museums-Art Gallery (Education Service)	41,710				Per pupil rate held at 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Staff Absence - Compensation Maternity	258,100				Per pupil rate increased from 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Staff Absence - Compensation TU Facility Time	82,930				Per pupil rate increased from 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Free School Meals Eligibility	26,050				Per pupil rate held at 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties	67,140				Per pupil rate held at 2020/21 level in APT, as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Additional school improvement services (Maths/Lit Lead)	86,850				Per pupil rate as approved at November 2020 School Forum.
Education Functions	172,190				Per pupil rate as approved at November 2020 School Forum.

	Schools Block	Central School Services Block	High Needs Block (including Post 16)	Early Years Block	Notes
High Needs Block Provision					
Statementing (formerly High Cost / Low Incidence)			6,200,000		Budget increased based on 2020-21 outturn to reflect rising costs in this area.
Special Schools			7,079,237		Costs based on top up rate for academies & place funding + top up for mainstream.
Contributions to Centrally Retained & De-delegated Schools Budgets			85,608		
Primary & Secondary Outreach			461,290		
Alternative Provision			500,000		
Key Stage 4 Support for BESD pupils - North Bridge Enterprise College			636,840		Contract with Keys for NBEC
PRUs Incl. Mulberry Unit			2,886,040		Budget for both Maple and Levett
SpED - HI / VI / ASD Teams			1,731,150		LA teams including additional funding for inflation
SEN Pre School Inclusion, Portage, Seedlings & Early Intervention Allowance			1,021,970		LA teams including additional funding for inflation
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA/SEN			5,675,830		Expected costs of SEN placements
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA/CWD			1,300,000		Based on the Future Placements strategy
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - Trust			2,896,000		Trust education costs
Pupil Educated At Home			92,410		LA teams including additional funding for inflation
Learning & Behaviour Support Service			338,057		LA teams including additional funding for inflation
SEN Statemented Pupils - Recoupment			500,000		Expected costs of recoupment
TOPS Team			148,960		LA teams including additional funding for inflation
Post 16 - Element 3 Top Up's for FE College and ISP's			3,200,000		Budget increased based on 2020-21 outturn to reflect rising costs in this area.
Childrens Specialist Equipment			24,500		
Big Picture Learning			828,890		Based on latest revised funding profile.
High Needs Contingency (Unallocated)			-660,999		
Early Years Block Provision					
Early Years ISB - Maintained & Academy Delegation				8,448,003	Budget revised based on January 21 pupil numbers and 21/22 rates
Nursery Education Fund - 3 & 4 year olds				4,584,377	Included above.
Early Years - additional 3 & 4 year olds funding (eligible working parents)				3,313,120	Budget revised based on January 21 pupil numbers and 21/22 rates, less central EY budgets
Nursery Education Fund - 2 year olds				3,128,346	Budget revised based on January 21 pupil numbers and 21/22 rates
Early Years Service - Retained Duties				88,290	As approved at November 2020 School Forum for 21/22 financial year.
Early Years Service - Sufficiency, Capacity & Planning				88,440	As approved at November 2020 School Forum for 21/22 financial year.
Early Years Service - Inclusion Team				543,080	As approved at November 2020 School Forum for 21/22 financial year.
Early Years Pupil Premium				211,346	Figure based on funding settlement.
Early Years Disability Access Fund				78,105	Figure based on funding settlement.
Childrens Centre Funding (Early Help Strategy)				450,000	Funded by transfer from High Needs Block (above)
Early Years Contingency				0	
	42,293,613	1,624,611	34,945,783	20,933,107	
	0	0	0	0	



**Doncaster
Council**

School's Forum Meeting

17th June 2021

Future Placements Strategy

Lee Golze & Belinda Cashman

Future Placement Strategy – Introduction & Aims

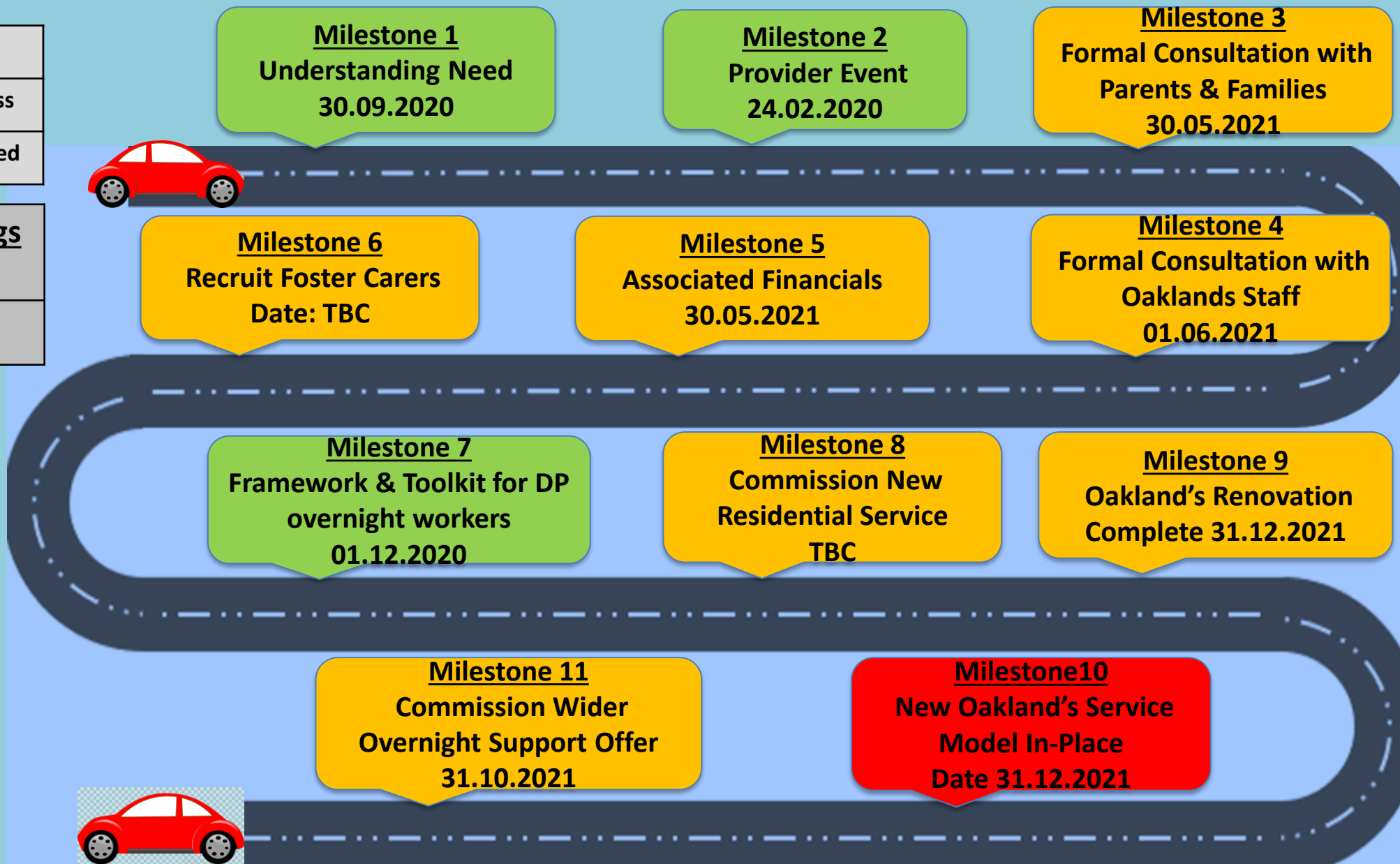
- Future Placement Strategy: Current Position, Milestones & Financial update for the three theme areas of the Strategy:
 - Short Breaks
 - Bringing Children In Care Home / 16+
 - Fostering & Staying Put
- Areas of Focus and Strategic Priorities



Future Placements Strategy – Theme: Short Breaks

	Complete
	In Progress
	Not Started

Associated Savings Short Breaks:
£600,000



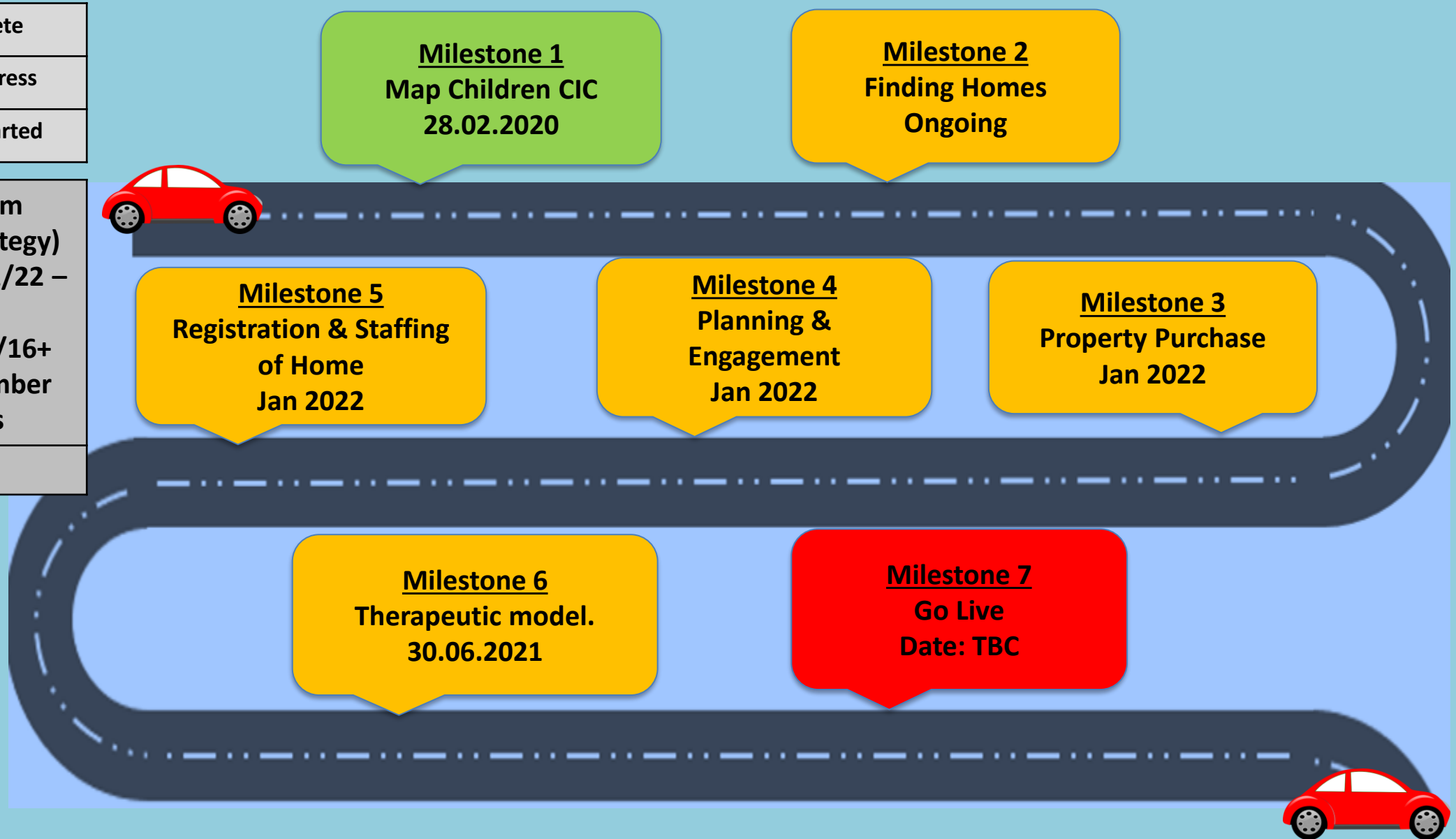
Short Breaks Theme: Milestone Changes

Milestone Number	Original Milestone (April 20)	Original Milestone Due Date	Short Breaks Milestone Review (Summer 2020)	FPSG Milestone Review (Autumn 20)	Short Breaks Milestone Review (Spring 21)	Status
1	Understand Need	01.04.2020	30.09.2020	x	x	Complete
2	Provider Event	24.02.2020	x	x	x	Complete
3 (New Action)	Formal Consultation with Parents & Families	x	x	x	30.05.2021	In progress
4	Formal Consultation with Oakland's Staff	01.07.2020	30.11.2020	31.03.2021	01.06.2021	In progress
5	Associated Financials	30.04.2020	31.10.2020	28.02.2021	30.05.2021	In progress
6	Recruit Foster Carers	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	In progress
7	Framework and toolkit for DP overnight workers	31.05.2020	31.10.2020	01.12.2020	x	Complete
8	Commission New Residential Service	01.09.2020	No Change	01.12.2020	TBC	In progress
9	New Short Breaks Home (Open and Complete) - Go Live	01.10.2020	No Change	01.06.2021	x	In progress
	Oakland's Renovation Complete (REVISED ACTION: 11.05.21)	x	x	x	31.12.2021	In progress
10	Final Milestone: Closure of Oakland's	TBC	TBC	01.09.2021	x	Not Started
	New Oakland's Service Model In-Place (REVISED ACTION: 11.05.21)	x	x	x	31.12.2021	Not Started
11	Commission Wider Overnight Support Offer	TBC	TBC	01.06.2021	31.10.2021	In progress

Future Placements Strategy – Theme: Bringing CIC Home / 16+

	Complete
	In Progress
	Not Started

DCST MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) savings target 2021/22 – 2023/24:
 Bringing CIC Home/16+ & reducing the number of OOA placements
 £1,100,000



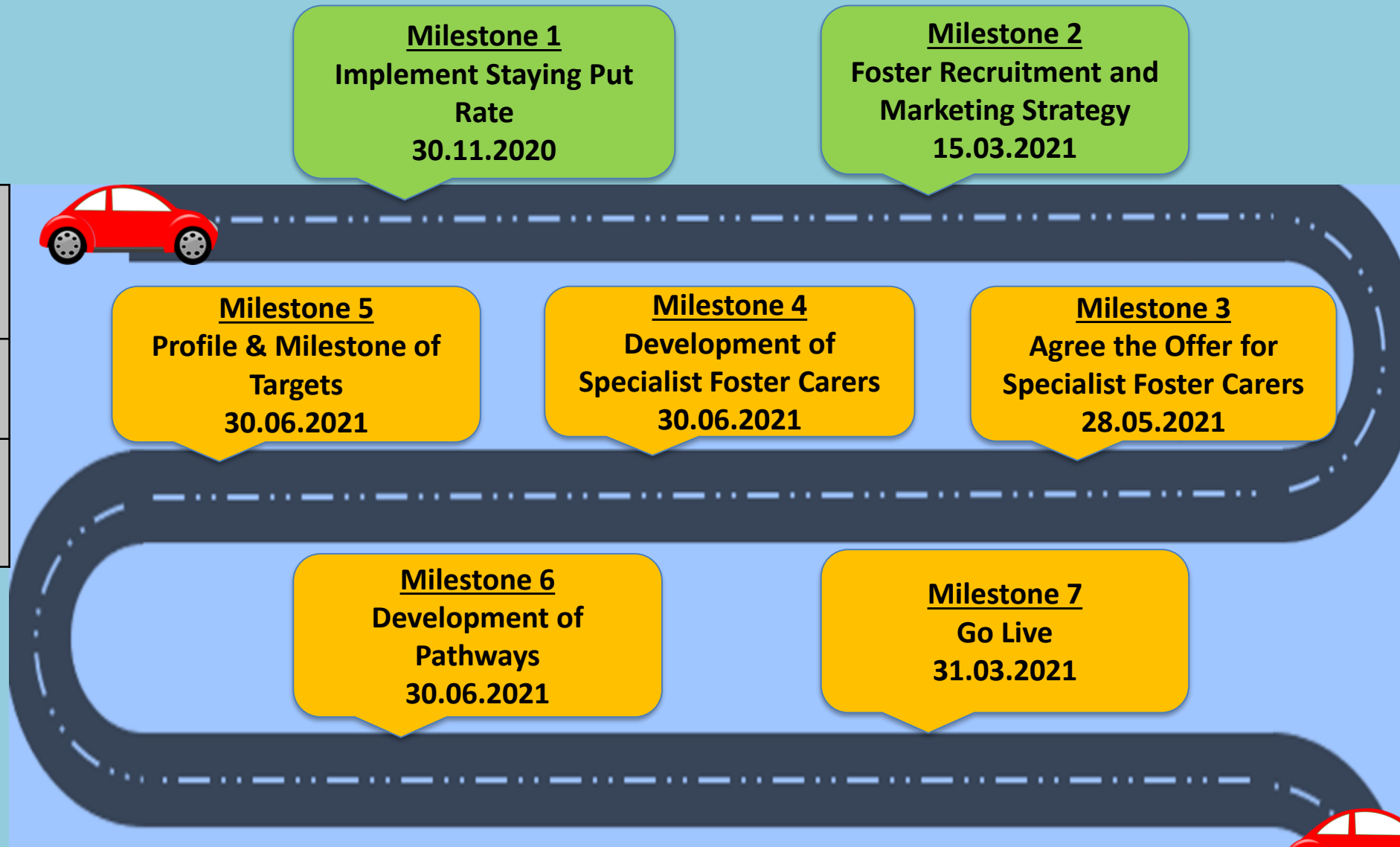
Bringing CIC Home / 16+ Theme: Milestone Changes

Milestone Number	Original Milestone (April 2021)	Original Milestone Due Date	FPSG Milestone Review (Autumn 20)	Bringing CIC Home Milestone Review (Spring 21)	Status
1	Map Children CIC	28.02.2020	x	x	Complete
2	Finding Homes	01.09.2020	Ongoing	Ongoing	In progress
3	Property Purchase	ASAP	31.01.2021	January 2022	In progress
4	Planning & Engagement	TBC	31.01.2021	January 2022	In progress
5	Registration & Staffing of Home	TBC	31.03.2021	January 2022	In progress
6	Therapeutic Model	TBC	30.04.2021	30.06.2021	In progress
7	Go Live	TBC	30.04.2021	TBC	Not Started

Future Placements Strategy – Theme: Fostering & Staying Put

	Complete
	In Progress
	Not Started

Associated Savings Fostering & Staying Put:
Fostering: £1,700,000
Staying Put: £70,000 (Investment)



Fostering & Staying Put Theme: Milestone Changes

Milestone Number	Original Milestone (April 2021)	Original Milestone Due Date	FPSG Milestone Review (Autumn 20)	Fostering & Staying Put Milestone Review (Spring 21)	Status
1	Implement Staying Put Rate	31.03.2020	30.11.2020	x	Complete
2	Foster Recruitment and Marketing Strategy	15.03.2020	31.01.2021	x	Complete
3	Agree the Offer for Specialist Foster Carers	18.06.2020	31.01.2021	28.05.2021	In progress
4	Development of Specialist Foster Carers	01.10.2020	31.01.2021	30.06.2021	In progress
5	Profile & Milestone of Targets	01.10.2020	31.03.2021	30.06.2021	In progress
6	Development of Pathways	30.04.2020	31.03.2021	30.06.2021	In progress
7	Go Live	01.10.2020	31.03.2021	31.03.2021	In progress

Current Theme Milestones & Financials

- Continue arrangement of regular FPSG Meetings to ensure milestones / timeframes remain on target to deliver project outcomes
- End of 2023/24; financials on target to be delivered (pushed back one year from COVID19 delays)
- DCST two bed homes to be open by January 2022
- 16+ regulated home by January 2022
- 75/25 In house fostering to IFA split target is now to be achieved by March 2024.

Thank-you





Doncaster Council

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Out of Authority Education Placements

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the out of authority outturn for the 2020/21 financial year end; an update on the position reported at the February 2021 School's Forum.

Recommendation

Note the current level of spend and the actions to mitigate future placement costs.

Background

Children with Disabilities

The Council's spend on Children with Disabilities Out of Authority placements in financial year 20/21 was £2,682,836 of which the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block funded £1,091,811 of these costs; an increase of £19,753 from the projected spend reported at February 2021 School's Forum.

The outturn position was an over spend of £504,811 against an allocation of £587,000 for the placements for 11 children due to increased demand, complexity of children and delays in implementing the Future Placement Strategy due to the impact of Covid-19.

Year	1st April	New Placements	Projected Growth	Total New Placements	Leavers	Due to Leave In Year	Total Leavers	31st March
2018/19	10	6		6	6		6	10
2019/20	10	4		4	5		5	9
2020/21	9	2		2	0		0	11

The Future Placement Needs Strategy links to the review of CWD placements with the intention to bring Out of Authority placements back to Doncaster, and to reduce the costs to

the High Needs Block from 2021/22 onwards. The budget for 2021/22 has been increased to reflect the current level of Children in placement and therefore spend.

Special Education Needs

The Council's spend on Special Education Needs placements in financial year 2020/21 was £5,308,687 of which the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block funded £5,249,952; a reduction of (£246,058) from the projected spend reported at February 2021 School's Forum. The outturn position is an over spend of £834,951 against the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block allocation of £4,415,000.00 for these placements.

At the start of quarter 4 there were 100 SEN out of authority placements; this has increased by 5 with 0 leavers throughout the quarter. The total number of placements at the 31st March 2021 is 105

Between January 2020 and January 2021 there was around a 12% increase in Education Health and Care Plans in Doncaster. This has led to increased demands on the SEND service which has been difficult to meet within the current staffing structure. In addition this has increased the High Needs spend particularly in terms of out of authority placements and provision for children and young people with more complex needs.

In light of the increase in Education Health and Care Plans over the last 12 months and based on national data it is likely the demand for statutory assessment will continue to increase. This in turn will continue to apply pressure on places within Doncaster special schools and within mainstream schools and settings. Therefore, it is likely that there will be a continued increase in preferences and placements out of authority..

A proposal has been submitted to increase the current staffing model within the SEND team as high quality case work has a proven track record in reducing costs and enabling children and young people to remain in their community. A number of recent cases have shown the impact of longer term case work. In all these cases children and young people would have either been placed or are in high cost out of authority placements, but due to robust and high level case work they are now placed in borough. All children and young people still required bespoke packages but this was achieved at a lower cost than placing out of authority and had the advantage of being delivered in their own community. Staff time to achieve this level of case work is significant and in all cases is ongoing with an average input of over 90 hours per year spent on each case.

With the proposed increase in capacity across the service there is a projected reduction in the high needs spend.

Example cost savings:

Average cost of out of authority placement (including transport and based on the recent examples)	£90,000 per year per child
Average cost of current package in borough	£35,727 per year per child
• 1 Year saving - £54,723	
• 5 Year saving - £271,365	

SEN	Year	1st April	New Placements	Projected Growth	Total New Placements	Leavers	Due to Leave In Year	Total Leavers	31st March
	2018/19	47	23		23	16		16	54
	2019/20	54	36		36	8		10	80
	2020/21	80	37		37	12		12	105

SEN	Year	Net Increase / Decrease in children	Gross Spend £
	2018/19	8	2,910,274
	2019/20	28	4,418,762
	2020/21	25	5,308,687

Issues for consideration

- Joint Resource Panel**
This multi-agency panel provides appropriate challenge and review of placements and Individual Funding Requests against need. SEND packages over £500 a week continue to be referred to this panel for multi-agency challenge but will soon move to a dedicated SEND Placement Panel. A chair has been identified and Terms of Reference will be developed in the coming weeks. Joint funded education placements, including those brought to Schools Forum by DCST, will remain within the Joint Resource Panel remit. Both panels will review placement trends, looking at gaps in Doncaster provision to support future commissioning decisions.
- Future Placements Needs Strategy**
There has been a delay in purchasing homes to provide in-house provision for children with disabilities due to COVID. Milestones have now been reviewed and work has recommenced in this area. The specialist foster care model continues to be developed as an alternative to residential home placements for Children with Disabilities. This will include a holistic model of wrap around therapeutic support for both the young people and the Foster Carers.
- White Rose Framework**
The council is part of a regional framework to facilitate the commissioning of SEND education with or without residential care for children and young people where these arrangements are provided by external Contractors. Work is underway with the consortium to review tender evaluations for the SEND framework refresh and then to confirm which providers have been successful in joining the framework. It is anticipated that through this arrangement Contractors will support the ability to manage fluctuations in demand and generate capacity across the participating member authorities taking advantage of economies of scale by commissioning as a region and the capping of annual price uplifts.
Work is also underway with the consortium to develop a regional hub model for the quality assurance process.

Author and Contact Officer(s):

Angela Harrington- Interim Head of Commissioning and Transformation

EHCP Expenditure Analysis

	2016/17	2017/18	Difference (16/17-17/18)	2018/19	Difference (17/18-18/19)	2019/20	Difference (18/19-19/20)	2020/2021	Difference (19/20-20/21)	Comments
Total	£ 2,580,646.43	£ 3,113,713.46	£ 533,067.03	£ 3,418,058.50	£ 304,345.04	£ 5,498,073.30	£ 2,080,014.80	£ 6,155,445.82	£ 657,372.52	
Statement	A	£ 465,900.00	£ 239,195.00	-£ 226,705.00	£ -	-£ 239,195.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	B	£ 475,365.00	£ 202,410.00	-£ 272,955.00	£ -	-£ 202,410.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	C	£ 352,140.00	£ 197,215.00	-£ 154,925.00	£ -	-£ 197,215.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	A1	£ 15,680.00	£ 24,720.91	£ 9,040.91	£ 37,352.20	£ 12,631.29	£ 27,000.00	-£ 10,352.20	£ 19,858.05	-£ 7,141.95
	A2	£ 48,839.00	£ 78,684.03	£ 29,845.03	£ 94,119.40	£ 15,435.37	£ 64,010.00	-£ 30,109.40	£ 52,994.81	-£ 11,015.19
	A3	£ 51,370.50	£ 109,752.22	£ 58,381.72	£ 142,940.00	£ 33,187.78	£ 115,606.07	-£ 27,333.93	£ 92,937.83	-£ 22,668.24
	A4	£ 109,556.80	£ 187,968.32	£ 78,411.52	£ 228,239.00	£ 40,270.68	£ 193,131.26	-£ 35,107.74	£ 164,186.48	-£ 28,944.78
	B5	£ 84,754.50	£ 171,473.71	£ 86,719.21	£ 225,299.00	£ 53,825.29	£ 299,949.50	£ 74,650.50	£ 320,600.40	£ 20,650.90
	B6	£ 207,343.80	£ 429,661.74	£ 222,317.94	£ 538,955.00	£ 109,293.26	£ 681,272.75	£ 142,317.75	£ 778,394.16	£ 97,121.41
	C7	£ 127,152.78	£ 265,925.82	£ 138,773.04	£ 343,418.00	£ 77,492.18	£ 540,505.33	£ 197,087.33	£ 592,093.22	£ 51,587.89
	C8	£ 216,511.20	£ 389,261.94	£ 172,750.74	£ 445,381.00	£ 56,119.06	£ 1,123,292.91	£ 677,911.91	£ 1,439,651.81	£ 316,358.90
	Back Dated Support	£ 69,494.11	£ 12,758.00	-£ 56,736.11	£ 63,015.22	£ 50,257.22	£ 43,729.91	-£ 19,285.31	£ 49,315.03	£ 5,585.12
	Additional Funding									
	EIA continuation (in mainstream schools)	£ 89,032.80	£ 362,524.00	£ 273,491.20	£ 616,155.38	£ 253,631.38	£ 621,510.50	£ 5,355.12	£ 489,015.95	-£ 132,494.55
	Bespoke provisions agreed for mainstream schools/academies				£ 23,498.48	£ 23,498.48	£ 158,198.00	£ 158,198.00	£ 189,756.92	£ 31,558.92
	Banding - Mainstream out of area / Independent. (E.G Hill House, Misson Primary)	£ 53,374.43	£ 84,905.31	£ 31,530.88	£ 110,837.99	£ 25,932.68	£ 100,498.54	-£ 10,339.45	£ 132,656.85	£ 32,158.31
	Hearing Impaired Support - Independent School (Some of this is backdated)	£ 71,640.15	£ 23,825.75	-£ 47,814.40		-£ 23,825.75	SEN DON'T HOLD THIS INFORMATION			
	Banding in Private Day Nursery's	£ 5,547.76	£ 11,705.24	£ 6,157.48	£ 34,343.17	£ 22,637.93	£ 273.26	-£ 34,069.91	£ 32,255.00	£ 31,981.74
	State Funded Special Schools Additional Funding Named Children	£ 67,088.50	£ 194,269.46	£ 127,180.96	£ 409,238.00	£ 214,968.54	£ 509,570.00	£ 100,332.00	£ 464,174.94	-£ 45,395.06
	Levett + Haxey Personalised programmes for named children	£ 38,597.86	£ 88,957.00	£ 50,359.14	£ 45,590.00	-£ 43,367.00	£ 108,055.51	£ 62,465.51	£ 10,800.00	-£ 97,255.51
	Mediation and Tribunal	£ 10,226.24	£ 14,113.55	£ 3,887.31	£ 17,500.00	£ 3,386.45	£ 19,157.52	£ 1,657.52	£ 18,950.00	-£ 207.52
	Additional Services (I.E Translation and interpretation)	£ 90.00		-£ 90.00		£ -				
	Personal Budget	£ 20,941.00	£ 21,975.46	£ 1,034.46	£ 23,641.00	£ 1,665.54	£ 23,641.00	£ -	-£ -	£ 23,641.00
	Educated other than at school		£ 2,411.00	£ 2,411.00	£ 18,535.66	£ 16,124.66	£ 817,721.24	£ 799,185.58	£ 1,281,194.37	£ 463,473.13
	OTHER - Transport arrangements						£ 1,950.00	£ 1,950.00	£ 14,610.00	£ 12,660.00

As at 15/03/2017 we maintained 1518 Statements/EHCP's.
 As at 04/04/2018 we maintained 1674 EHCP's.
 An additional 156.
 Total Overall increase between Statements and EHCP's = £141655.11. As at
 09/04/2019 we maintained 1900 EHCP's (increase of 226) with 646 in mainstream placements with an increase
 from previous year's total (£1,657,448.60 to £2,055,703.60) of £398,255 As at 19/03/2020
 we maintained 2041 EHCP's (increase of 141) with 631 in mainstream placements with an increase of £989,064.32
 from last years total As at 19/03/2021 we
 maintained 2277 EHCP's (increase of 236) with 689 in mainstream placements with an increase of £418,948.84
 from last years total

This includes the introduction of High Needs Funding at SEN Support Level, which was introduced February 2017.
 Exceptional Health Funding. Prevention of OOA Placements. 2019/2020 & 2020/2021
 includes additional, HNF and exceptional funding
 EIA continuation (in mainstream schools)
 Agreed at senior management level - **not child specific**
 Children who have an EHCP and we are financially responsible attending a school outside of Doncaster and or
 independent E.G Hill House, Misson Primary.

2016/17 This included previous years that had not been invoiced for.
 Prevention of Out Of Authority Placements.
 20/21 Includes new special school Bader Academy
 Specialist personalised Programmes of education and support includes Coritani (OOA AP/PRU) In 20/21
 Commissioning took over payments for Haxey Study Centre



Doncaster Council

Inclusion/ SEND Update:

Behaviour / Inclusion

- Despite the many challenges of the current situation, schools are working well in partnership with the L.A. to prevent permanent exclusions. These have reduced by over 80% over the last year, with 20 being prevented.
- Over the past year we have optimised and increased the options around AP, and now have over 60 AP providers to broaden the range of therapeutic placements on offer across the borough, responding to local needs through analysis. We are now the only local area in the region to have an outreach, transition, parental advocacy and AP offer.
- The Transition Team continue to offer support and guidance for transition to all schools, settings and colleges and are working directly with over 200 young people identified for further support through 2021. The Transition Steering Group covers all ages and phases and co-ordinates a common calendar of activity. The group are piloting a set of curriculum resources for use in KS2-3 transition, focussed on student wellbeing.
- As part of our strategy for 2021-2022, we will create a feasibility study around Enhanced Resources for Visually Impaired students, in response to an anticipated growth in need over the coming years.
- The Attendance Service continues to deliver advice and guidance directly to schools through its locality teams. The service has fielded a much increased volume of EHE notifications and CME referrals over the last year, but has achieved 21% closure of EHE cases and over 80% closure of CME cases over this period.
- We have trained over 600 professionals in trauma informed practices, including three Trauma Awareness seminars, with a post-lockdown focus provided to school and early years practitioners over 5 days. Several schools have received whole school trauma training delivered by council teams and many of our secondary & PRU leaders attended 'Trauma Leadership in Covid-19 times' virtual CPD & briefing in February. Training is ongoing for 30 'trauma champions who are currently accessing the Level 5 course in trauma informed approaches in schools. The 'Mental Health in Schools and Settings' group have created a 'one stop shop' for training and support resources for schools.
- Levett PRU has opened in its new upper site. Officers are currently working with the school in order to deliver the proposed new model of 'turnaround' and SEMH places for later this year.

SEND Strategy

- Graduated approach training now taken up by 98% of schools and vast majority of council officers. The full graduated approach toolkit and supporting documents are now published on the Local Offer web page.
- Following the completion of consultation with parents, agencies, schools, young people and the High Needs sub-group over the last year by The Premiere Advisory Group we will be re-launching the SEND strategy which began delivery just before the start of the pandemic. This will form an opportunity to refresh the ambition and vision with stakeholders as this work re-commences.
- Key delivery elements for the SEND strategy will include a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, the development of in- borough SEMH provision improvements to outreach and training. A new sufficiency report and consultation on a new Element 3 methodology this Summer. A new governance board is being set up, and any schools who wish to participate in this are invited to do so.



Doncaster Council

REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS FORUM

Early Years Sufficiency Review – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and Sustaining the Doncaster Childcare Market 2021

Purpose

1. This report outlines the statutory duty and Doncaster's methodology for measuring and reporting childcare sufficiency. It also covers local authority support for establishing new and sustainability of existing childcare provision.

Recommendation

2. That Schools Forum:
 - a) Notes the report;
 - b) Provides comments on the content of the report.

Background

3. Part B of the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance prescribes that local authorities are required by legislation to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment measures the nature and extent of the demand and supply of childcare within a local authority area. It identifies where there are gaps in the childcare market and informs a market management action plan to ensure there are sufficient childcare and early education places. The government has set a number of factors, which can be regarded as the benchmark of sufficiency:

- There are sufficient childcare places overall in each pyramid
- Provision is flexible and accessible to fit in with working patterns
- There is a range of childcare provision that is affordable and of a high quality

Childcare sufficiency is not just about having the right number of childcare places to meet the needs of working and training parents, it is about ensuring: the provision is of a high quality; it improves the outcomes for children; narrows the gap in attainment; prepares

children for school; and is inclusive and flexible to meet families' needs. The provision needs to ensure continuity of care and service by being a sustainable business with affordable fees. A sufficient, sustainable, quality childcare market underpins the poverty agenda, supports local economic development and the Councils Starting Well Service early intervention and preventative strategies.

Assessment of childcare sufficiency needs to take into account the following elements

Formulation of a Gap Analysis:

- The current status of childcare supply including levels of occupancy
- The needs of families across the local authority area
- Costs of provision
- Deprivation
- Quality
- SEND and Inclusion

Consideration of contributing factors

- Economy and demographics
- Ethnicity and Migration
- Sustainability of existing and new provision
- Additional contributing factors (COVID-19 and the Floods)

Issues for consideration

Context and Demographics

4. Doncaster has in the region of 18,875 childcare places available for children aged 0 - 14 years (and up to 18 years for children with SEND). Provision is available in a variety of childcare types, including childminding, full day care, sessional care and out of school provision including before and after school and during school holidays. Provision is available from early in the morning and in the evening, with childcare available at weekends and to support shift work. This provides parents with choice across all age ranges.

Findings

5. An audit of childcare settings in October 2020 showed vacancies for all age ranges in all types of settings. Take up of the early years entitlements has remained high across Doncaster with no reports of parents being unable to find a childcare place if they need one. The conclusion is, there is sufficient childcare to meet need and that Doncaster is delivering against its childcare duty.
6. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on demand for childcare. In the first national lockdown (March 2020), childcare providers were required to close their doors to all but vulnerable children and children of key workers. This coincided with the introduction of Government financial support schemes which meant many parents were placed on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furloughed). Where possible people worked from home, immediately reducing the need for childcare for many. Childcare settings were able to take advantage of Government financial support and many chose to close or furlough some staff in response to dramatically reduced demand for childcare. Many

childminders (and others self-employed and working in the sector) were able to access the Self-employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to at least partially if not fully offset lost income if they did not care for keyworkers’ children or had to shield for their own or family members’ health.

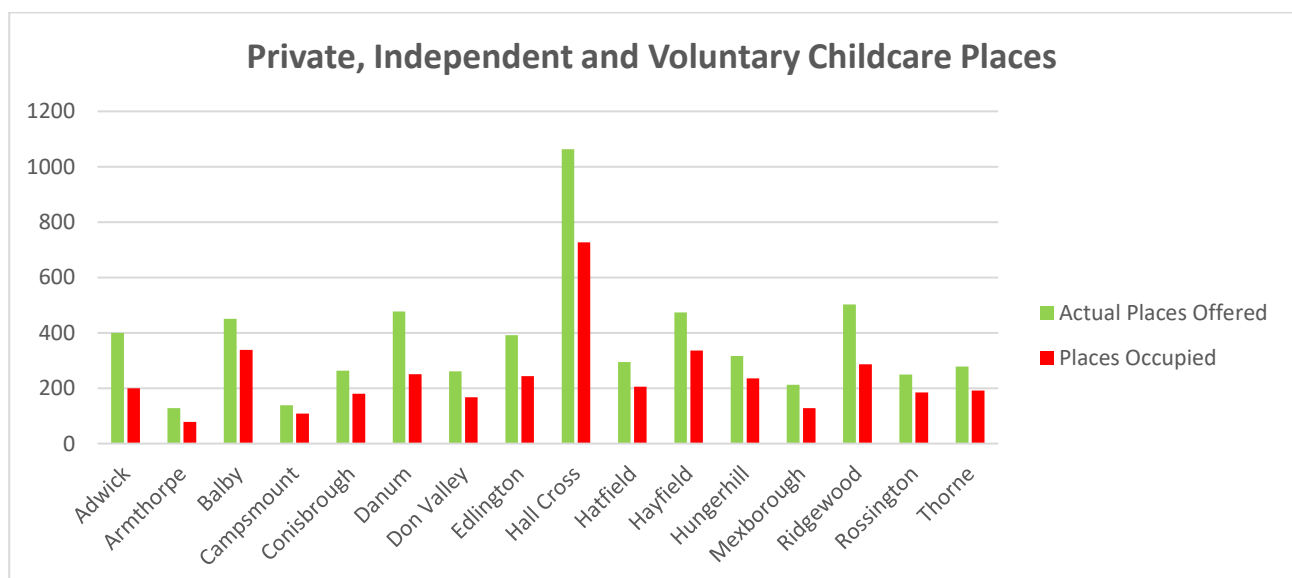
Settings delivering funded early years entitlements continued to receive early years funding at expected levels and this will have further supported the financial security of those settings. As the pandemic continued to impact, the Government extended the financial support, including early years funding. Demand for childcare continued to be low, anecdotally impacting most on paid-for childcare. It is likely this will have had a greater impact on the financial sustainability of settings that derive a large proportion of their income from fees. There have also been issues for out of school providers being able to continue to operate, particularly where located on a school site, as schools introduced restrictions to maintain COVID-safe practices.

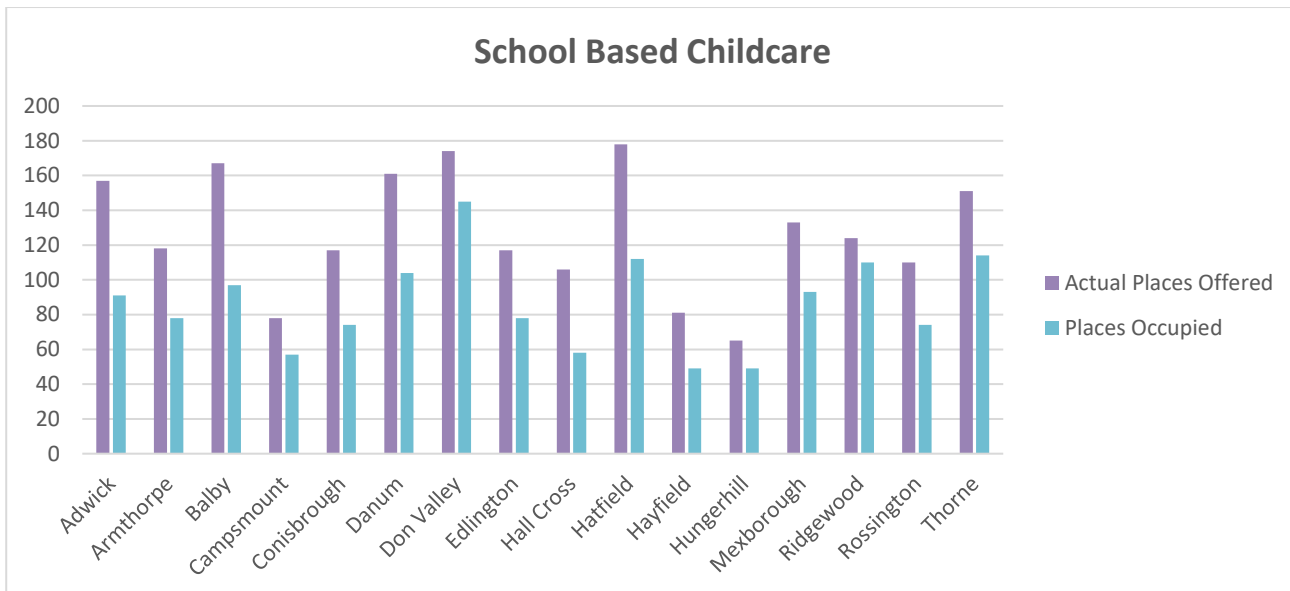
Doncaster has supported early years and childcare settings throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and this support has been warmly received. Childcare settings have adapted their provision, introduced enhanced health and safety protocols and supported families throughout, including vulnerable and key worker children, and continue to do so. The concern is that demand for childcare will remain low for some time – as a combination of parents’ changing their working patterns, furlough, rising unemployment and parents’ anxieties around using childcare during a pandemic.

A key focus of this childcare sufficiency assessment is on identifying risks to the childcare market and Doncaster’s continuing delivery of sufficient childcare to meet need.

Reporting

- The childcare sufficiency data forms part of the Local Area Plans produced by the Learning Provision Organisation Service, it is also reported annually via the Learning Provision Organisation Board in the form of the statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Data is reported at local and borough wide level, below is an example of locality level data for a school pyramid area





Support for New and Existing Childcare Providers

8. We offer private providers and schools with early years provision a range of business sustainability support. This is available to both potential new and existing provision.

Where a new potential provider wishes to set up in Doncaster, we offer a comprehensive range of advice, guidance and support. We also offer local intelligence showing where any gaps exist to avoid oversupply of provision. Although we cannot dictate where provision is established, we provide clear guidance to ensure any provision is financially viable and that it does not impact the sustainability of established provision.

When working with potential new providers we assess the following factors:

- Sufficiency of current provision in the local pyramid area
- Assess demographic factors including birth rates and local housing growth
- Sustainability of existing provision, will additional provision be feasible long term
- Would any planning permissions be required

We would then provide advice on:

- Market research
- Consultation
- Business planning
- Financial forecasting

Experience shows that most new potential providers welcome this support and we work closely with existing providers around marketing, financial and business planning.

Statutory guidance has limited our authority to manage the childcare market and where providers choose to establish provision in an area contrary to our advice we are unable to prevent this, making early engagement even more vital.

Early Years Entitlements – Government Funded Places

9. Where a new provision is established they are automatically eligible to access early entitlement funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds up until the point of their first Ofsted grade is announced at which point they must achieve good or outstanding to continue providing places for 2 year olds.

Schools can also opt to lower their age range to either develop early years provision that didn't previously exist or to take on two year olds to enhance their offer. Maintained schools are required to undertake a 'prescribed alteration' for academies this is a 'significant change'. The process is simpler for academies, but both maintain the requirement for engagement with the local authority, for which we provide a comprehensive range of advice and guidance.

Conclusion

In all localities we have places available within childcare provision. Our main areas for concern are around flexibility, in terms of childcare before 8am, after 6pm, weekends and shift patterns / irregular working patterns.

In some areas there is limited access to out of school provision (breakfast clubs, after school care and school holiday provision) although this is needs led and at present in Doncaster we have no areas of identified unmet demand (cases where families have reported that they are unable to secure suitable childcare provision)

Our next steps:

Action	Target Date
Next scheduled childcare supply data collection	Summer 21
Completion of annual parent demand survey	Summer 21
Undertake gap analysis of supply and demand	Autumn 21
Formulate action plan	Autumn 21
Compilation of 2021 childcare sufficiency assessment	Autumn 21
Presentation of CSA at learning provision organisation board	Autumn 21
Publication of CSA	Autumn 21

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Doncaster Council

SCHOOLS FORUM – FUNDING PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Required Information	<i>To be completed by Lead Officer:</i>
LA Lead Officer / Commissioner	Robin MacNeill / Kevin Drury
Proposal Title	Secondary School Improvement – Implementing Education and Skills 2030 Priority Two (ES2030)
Proposal Summary	<p>Cabinet approved the Education and Skills 2030 strategy in February 2021. It sets out an ambitious agenda for the coming decade based on extensive analysis and consultation.</p> <p>The implementation of this strategy will take significant energy and commitment from the sector and skilful facilitation and agency from the Council. Through an initial auditing process configured around the aims and actions outlined in the ES2030 framework we will identify where provision is already making a significant contribution towards the key associated measures, where under performance and regression needs addressing and any barriers to progress that need to be overcome. We will have the skills and expertise to achieve much of this already here in Doncaster but we will also need to bring in a wider scope of educational support, so we can learn from the best.</p> <p>This proposal requests £80,000 of Schools Forum funding to support that implementation. This is funding that was previously opened up for secondary school improvement prior to C-19, that we now want to utilise to support the implementation of this crucial strategy.</p>

<p>Proposal Summary cont.</p>	<p>The scale and nature of the challenge means that at this point in time the precise details for how the funding will be proportionately utilised cannot be given. However, what this proposal does set out is the principles that will drive the implementation, as well as a range of potential areas for expenditure.</p> <p>In accordance with the principles set out in the Education and Skills 2030 Strategy, a collaborative and distributed systems leadership approach will guide this implementation. We will share the strategy with the sector and work with them to turn it into an action plan that we will deliver in partnership. To be clear, this is not a neatly-definable short-term programme; rather, it is an ambitious long-term vision that we need to work through collectively, with timely milestones and anticipated adaptations, in order to ensure long-term success.</p> <p>The sector will guide the use of this funding and we will keep the Schools Forum informed as the strategy and actions develop, thus providing ample opportunity for the Forum to provide significant influence throughout the life time of the spend and the implementation programme.</p>
<p>Number of Schools / Areas / Pyramids affected</p>	<p>This will benefit all secondary schools, post-16 providers, secondary facing PRUs and special schools within locality and across the Borough.</p>
<p>Financial Value of Proposal</p>	<p>The value of the proposal is £80,000 over two years (£40k 2021/22; £40k 2022/23)</p>
<p>Funding Source</p>	<p>Funding for School Improvement by School Forum leaning towards the Secondary phase totalling £80,000.</p>
<p>Availability of Funding</p>	<p>As above. This was funding originally ear-marked for secondary school improvement prior to C-19 so therefore due to these mitigating circumstances not planned for. [recognise this is an interesting notion against an overspent budget line so happy to be guided by you on language here.]</p>
<p>Impact Analysis</p>	<p>There will be reports on the progress of this project at every schools forum.</p>

Expected Outcomes.	<p>Aligned to the key progress indicators outlined in the Education and Skills 2030 strategy, the proposal will support the delivery of outcomes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving KS4 progress and attainment headline measures, and greater consistency of outcomes for identified pupil groups across schools, in localities all against National standards. • A higher % of pupils achieving at least a standard pass within English and Maths (Basics) at Key Stage 4 • Reduced rates of fixed term and permanent exclusions • Increasing numbers of secondary schools with Ofsted grades of Good and Outstanding
Value for Money Analysis	<p>This funding would be matched with funding being released through the Opportunity Area (OA), bringing additional value. This year the OA has £100,000 allocated to secondary school / post-16 improvement.</p> <p>There are a number of other factors that would drive VfM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the impact of the funding, by impacting the whole sector, including through the dissemination of knowledge and best practice. This engagement would be encouraged by ensuring the project was sector led, in line with the priorities identified in the strategy. • The embedding of practice into business as usual sector led improvement would ensure the legacy of the investment. • VfM would be a key consideration in future decisions around the use of this funding.
Sustainability	<p>The ambition here is to fundamentally shift practice in the system over the next decade. This investment is about pump-priming that change.</p>
Linkages with other Partners	<p>But not limited to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole secondary sector • Multi-academy trusts • School Improvement Service • Opportunity Area Programme • DfE Regional Schools Commission • Teaching School Hub

Alternative Options Considered	There is an option not to allocate additional funding to the implementation of ES2030 at secondary. This is not recommended due to the scale of the ambition, it will be hard to achieve without funding.
Proposed reporting timeframe to School Forum on project	Update to be brought back to the June 2022 Schools Forum meetings.

Full Project Outline

Background

Education & Skills 2030 is our long-term strategy for the future of lifelong learning in our borough. It sets out the strengths and challenges of the system as it is now, and then provides an ambitious, progressive vision for the future, including details of what an even more effective and forward-looking system will look like.

We want a system that provides the best possible start, accelerates achievement for all, including vulnerable people and places, leading to fulfilling careers and better, more satisfying lives, both professionally and personally, not least in terms of health and happiness.

Educational settings are more than just places of learning: they are places of community, places of safety, and places where people can fulfil their aspirations. 2020 has been year of hardship, of sadness, of lost time – but it has also brought out the best in people. Education and skills colleagues and partners have been at the absolute forefront of that: with innovation, with dedication, and, above all, with kindness, courage and compassion.

Team Doncaster has transformed its approach to the delivery of learning provision over the past four years, undertaking key transformational projects such as developing the borough as a University City, undertaking an ambitious Inclusion Programme, and implementing the Social Mobility Opportunity Area Delivery Plan.

Such activity has been instrumental in raising standards and outcomes in learning. Despite these achievements, outcomes must continue to improve at pace – to make sure, not just that we close the gap between ourselves and the national average, but also so that we close the gap between disadvantaged learners and their peers and aspire to consistently perform above national benchmarks. Not enough of our young people leave school with the required grades in English and maths at GCSE, too many of our residents have no formal qualifications to their name, and too few of our residents manage to access highly skilled, highly paid employment.

The international, national, regional, and local strategic context is also changing, and the education and skills system in Doncaster must adapt to reflect these changes.

Employment and society in the 21st Century increasingly requires a solid foundation in traditional core academic skills and knowledge, as well as technical skills and essential life skills. Our younger generations are facing longer working careers which may require them to re-skill a number of times. How we deliver learning and how we skill our residents needs to adapt and respond to these changes – ensuring that learning is cross-disciplinary, personalised, and focussed on transferable and human skills to ensure future resilience. In addition to this, the Covid-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history. The impact on employment could also hardly be starker – particularly for our young, minority, and disadvantaged residents – with a jobs recovery not expected until after 2021. On the other hand, the pandemic has acted as a catalyst for innovation. New, innovative approaches to education and training have emerged, with provision for distance and digital learning progressing rapidly. As a society, we have also been reminded of the essential role of educators and educational settings play within the community. There is therefore a pressing need to address the widening levels of disparity and develop resilience for future challenges through capitalising on these innovations and opportunities – championing lifelong learning as a crucial way to raise levels of wellbeing across the borough.

This is why we are taking a long-term view for Education and Skills, through this co-produced and co-owned ten-year plan for learning in Doncaster. We know that we need to deliver a system fit for the future, that benefits everyone, and we believe that we can achieve this through working collaboratively to leverage our community assets and raise both expectations and aspirations within the place. This is a key strategic moment for Doncaster to go beyond simply ‘catching up with the national average’ – and to forge its own path as a leading location for innovative learning.

While this is undoubtedly an ambitious strategy it’s not one we come at from a standing start, there is a huge amount of activity underway across the Council, the sector and in partnership the Opportunity Area programme. In many areas we are making positive progress, although COVID and the resulting lockdown has obviously slowed this and seen some measures go backwards.

The DfE recently announced that the Opportunity Area programme will be funded for a further year. The expectation of those leading the programme locally is that this will be its final year. It is important therefore that we use this coming year to build on the successes of the programme to date and to transition the most impactful activities into the new Education and Skills programme.

This bid requests funding to work with the secondary sector to refine the clear call to action set out in the E&S Strategy into a well-defined, sector led programme of change, focussing around *Priority 2: Accelerating Achievement*, and within that the explicitly school improvement related actions.

What we are looking to achieve

Education and Skills 2030 sets out a broad and ambitious agenda, centred around five key priorities. The focus of Priority Two is to ensure every child in Doncaster achieves the full potential at Key Stages 2 to 4. Within this priority, school improvement is crucial. The focus of this proposal is to deliver against this objective, and in particular commits to deliver against the following:

Priority 2 aims	Aims supported by this proposal
Establish a broad curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning that develop the whole person	
Raise levels of achievement and ensure pupils reach their full potential at Key Stages 2 to 4	✓
Nurture an outstanding educational workforce	✓
Priority 2 key areas for action	Areas supported by this proposal
Improve delivery of the 'basics' (English and Maths), with an increased focus on narrowing the gender gap	✓
Reduce the number of permanent and fixed term exclusions, and the numbers of those electively home educated	✓
Work with parents to support their children's learning outcomes and career pathways	
Recruit and retain the best teachers and leaders who are committed to equity and diversity	✓
Provide high quality Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers, and promote teacher wellbeing	✓
Work collaboratively to shape evidence-based best practice - particularly in relation to reducing educational disparities	✓
Prepare all pupils to participate in a global society, through problem based learning and activities that promote development of Essential Life Skills	
Address the health and social care barriers to learning and encourage schools to attain Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives accreditation	
Promote a broad and creative curriculum offer that links to local arts, heritage and culture	
Improve transitions planning and support, particularly between Key Stages 2 and 3	

Approach

The consultation that took place in developing the E&S2030 strategy also gave us a clear steer on how the work should be approached, in the form of a set of clear principles.

These follow:

- ✓ *improve communication*
- ✓ *streamline governance*

- ✓ *provide effective mechanisms for delivery and prioritisation*
- ✓ *understand where we can add value by working together*

The following supporting delivery principles were also identified.

Learners for life:

- Learning that develops the whole-person
- Opportunities to learn across the whole life course
- Education that is learner-centred

Expert & collaborative professionals:

- A system that is expert-led
- Innovative teachers and leaders
- Collaborative learning professionals

Diverse & committed partners:

- Strong partnerships that embed a whole-system approach
- A system with distributed leadership
- Place-based learning connected to culture and heritage, communities, and families,

Taken together these are an exacting suite of aspirations, we must not underestimate how significant a commitment we're making when we set these standards out.

The original document was developed through extensive collaboration and discussion including a number of large workshops drawing attendance from across Doncaster partners, including many from outside of the usual collaborations. COVID rightly delayed publication and Michael Stevenson (senior advisor for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Economic Development) was engaged to further refine the document including developing the notion of a Talent and Innovation Ecosystem.

A key next phase in implementation will be the socialisation of the new version of the strategy to re-establish the buy in and commitment developed through the initial consultation process.

This crucial re-engagement will enable the sector to identify and prioritise activities to bring the ambitions about, this will include:

- Information sharing sessions with heads and school senior and middle leaders;
- Clear ongoing communications about the programme, it's aspirations and next steps;
- a sector led forensic examination of the identified challenges at secondary and post 16 provision, to come to a view on causes and solutions;
- Identification of where we have existing interventions in place, that will drive requisite change and crucially where we do not;
- The commissioning of new interventions / CPD / collaborative research based school improvement to fill identified gaps;
- the establishment of networks and governance to drive improvement at a leadership and practitioner level;

- Potential refinement of existing interventions to ensure they adequately meet identified need;
- Development of an ongoing process of sector led self-evaluation to monitor progress against key performance indicators, targets and bellwether measures;
- The effective embedding of all this activity into the system, so it becomes how the sector collaborates rather than an additional ask.

Indicative Timeline

The timeline for implementation of the strategy is still being developed, but a provisional timeline for this strand of activity is set out below.

Dates	Activity
June '21	Identification of priority Governance & Co-leads
July '21	Socialisation of strategy at Doncaster Association of Secondary Heads
July '21	Development of communications strategy
June – September	Commissioning of initial support
October '21 [November maybe?]	Secondary Heads away day
September – December	Identification of key year 1 areas of focus through consultation with the sector
January '22 – March '22	Commissioning of additional support aligned to agreed focus
January '22 – July '22	Focus on year 1 activities
July '22	Stock take of progress and next steps, to set year 2 agenda.
September '22	Secondary schools review data

Potential resource requirements

The following section looks at potential areas of expenditure over the coming two years. These are aligned to the areas for action set out above.

System facilitation

While there is significant willing to work collaboratively in Doncaster and to lead change the level of support required to drive this agenda may require funded consultancy support from an ex or current senior leader or change manager. Someone with the capacity and gravitas to draw the system together in addressing the challenges set out in the E&S strategy and supporting them in shaping an action plan and forming task and finish groups to deliver on it.

Programme Management

The coordination of this strand of the programme will take significant time particularly ensuring coherence both within this strand but also across wider strands and the wider system changes being led from elsewhere (schools themselves, wider Council initiatives and nationally by central government.)

This post could also take ownership of comms across the strand to ensure a consistency of message and ongoing engagement of key stakeholders.

Data collection / system establishment

The effective delivery of this programme will be significantly aided by access to regular reliable data. More broadly, collaborative system led school improvement will significant benefit from greater access to shared live data. The development and implementation of such a system would be a long term investment in school improvement in Doncaster and a foundation stone for the rest of the ambitions. [We have been in discussions with the teaching school hub about something in this space.]

Focussed CPD

There will be a requirement for CPD to raise standards both across the system and in specific schools, this should be preceded by; diagnostic work, data analysis, consultation and timely intervention, particularly at schools in the Ofsted window.

The establishment of practice sharing networks

A way of supporting the sector in collectively raising standards is the establishment of networks to develop and share practice. We have seen this happen organically and there are a number of strategic networks now sharing practice and approaching shared challenges collectively. These networks could be extended into more aspects of teaching and learning, for example around the teaching of English and maths.

Supporting wider collaboration with schools and their communities, including employers

A key strand of E&S 2030 is the development of a Talent and Innovation Ecosystem (TIE) and the greater alignment of the cultural capital of Doncaster with the education system. A greater alignment with business and education is one of the key enablers for TIE to be successful. Funding could be spent supporting this engagement.