



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

11 January 2023

In accordance with the powers granted by Regulation 8(1A) of the Schools Forum (England) Regulations this meeting will be held through remote means.

Lincolnshire Schools' Forum

A meeting of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum will be held on **Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 1.30 pm as a Virtual - Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Access to the meeting is as follows:

Members of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum and officers of the County Council supporting the meeting will access the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Members of the public and the press may access the meeting via the following link: [Agenda for Lincolnshire Schools' Forum on Thursday, 30th June, 2022, 1.00 pm \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#) where a live feed will be made available on the day of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum

SCHOOLS' MEMBERS

Nursery (1)

Amy Stancer (Head Teacher, St Giles Nursery School, Lincoln)

Special (1)

Kyna Adkins (Head Teacher, St Christopher's School)

Primary Maintained (6)

Primary Maintained Head Teachers (3)

Callum Clay, (Head Teacher, Sleaford Church Lane Primary School)

Catherine Stratton (Head Teacher, Saxilby C E Primary School)

1 vacancy

Primary Maintained Governors (3)

Alan Howe, (Governor, Sutton on Sea County Primary School)

Tony Stevens, (Governor, The Holt Primary School, Skellingthorpe)

1 vacancy

Secondary Maintained Head Teacher (1)

Michele Anderson (Head Teacher, Spalding High School)

Secondary Academies (7)

Secondary Academies Head Teachers (4)

Steven Baragwanath (Head Teacher, University Academy, Holbeach)

Frances Green (Head Teacher, Somercotes Academy)

Simon Pickett (Head Master, The King's School, Grantham)

1 vacancy

Secondary Academies Governors (3)

Rachel Barrett FCCA (Governor, North Kesteven Academy, North Hykeham)

Professor Ken Durrands CBE, (Governor, The King's School, Grantham)

Jo Slesser (Governor, Carres Grammar School, Sleaford)

Primary Academies (5)

Primary Academies Head Teachers (3)

Gavin Booth (Head Teacher, Boston St Thomas' C E Primary School) **CHAIRMAN**

Katie Gravil (Head Teacher, Kirkby la Thorpe C E Primary Academy)

Simon Morley (Head Teacher, Boston West Academy)

Primary Academies Governors (2)

2 vacancies

Special Academies (2)

Special Academies Head Teacher (1)

Leandra Mason (Executive Head Teacher, Lincolnshire Wolds Federation)

Special Academies Governor (1)

Dr Stephen Hopkins (Trust Chair of Communities Inclusive Trust)

Alternative Provision Academy (1)

Josh Greaves (Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust) **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

NON-SCHOOLS' MEMBERS

Faith Groups (1)

Peter Tomlinson (Diocese of Lincoln)

Providers of 16 to 19 Education (1)

Heather Marks (Vice-Principal, Boston College)

Staff Trade Unions (1)

Andrew Watts (NEU)

Early Years Providers (1)

Julia Merivale (Trinity Day Nursery, Gainsborough)

LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM AGENDA
THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interest	
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum held on 6 October 2022	7 - 14
4	Chairman's Announcements	
5	School Funding Arrangements 2023/24 <i>(To receive a report by Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager, Schools Finance Team, which informs the Schools' Forum on the school funding arrangements for 2023/24)</i>	15 - 34
6	Early Years National Funding Formula <i>(To receive a report by Geraldine O'Neill, Sustainability & Development Manager – Children's Education, which provides a summary of the Early Years National Funding Formula for 2023/24 and details the funding distribution for early years providers in Lincolnshire in 2023/24)</i>	35 - 50
7	Schools Sector Led Update <i>(To receive a report by Geraldine Willders, Head of Service for Schools Strategy – Children's Education, which provides an update on the sector led system over the past 12 months since the previous report)</i>	51 - 56
8	Academies and Trust Update <i>(To receive a report by Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services, which provides the Academies and Trust Update)</i>	57 - 60
9	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum - Work Programme <i>(This item provides the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently included in the Work Programme)</i>	61 - 64

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

Name: **Emily Wilcox**

Direct Dial **07557 486687**

E Mail Address emily.wilcox@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

All papers for council meetings are available on:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM 6 OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: GAVIN BOOTH (CHAIRMAN)

Amy Stancer (Headteacher, St Giles Nursery School, Lincoln), Kyna Adkins (Head Teacher, St Christopher's Special School), Alan Howe (Governor, Sutton on Sea County Primary School), Anthony Stevens (Governor, The Holt Primary School, Skellingthorpe), 1 Vacancy (Primary Maintained Governors), Callum Clay (Head Teacher, Church Lane Primary School, Sleaford), Catherine Stratton (Head Teacher, Saxilby Church of England Primary School), 1 Vacancy (Primary Maintained Head Teachers), Michele Anderson (Head Teacher, Spalding High School), Rachel Barrett FCCA (Governor, North Kesteven Academy), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's School, Grantham), Jo Slesser (Governor, Carres Grammar School, Sleaford), Steve Baragwanath (Executive Principal, University Academy Holbeach), Frances Green MA (Oxon) (Head Teacher, Somercotes Secondary Academy), Simon Pickett (Head Master, The King's School, Grantham), 1 Vacancy (Secondary Academies Head Teachers), 2 Vacancies (Primary Academies Governors), Lea Mason (Executive Head Teacher, Lincolnshire Wolds Federation, Louth), Josh Greaves (Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust) (Vice-Chairman), Peter Tomlinson (Diocesan Business and Operations Manager, Diocese of Lincoln), Andrew Watts (NEU) and Julia Merivale (Manager, Trinity Day Nursery),

Officers in attendance:- Elizabeth Bowes (Strategic Finance Manager – Schools Finance Team), Mark Popplewell (Strategic Finance Lead – Children's Services), Martin Smith (Assistant Director – Children's Education), Rosemary Akrill (Senior Commissioning Officer), Tony Warnock (Head of Financial Services), Kate Capel (Head of Service for Inclusion) and Thomas Crofts (Democratic Services Officer)

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Katie Gravit and Simon Morley.

15 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

There were no declarations of members' interest made at this stage of the proceedings.

16 MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum meeting held on 30 June 2022 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the Forum aware that the Council had taken the decision to continue using emPSN managed network and had undertaken a process of procuring a new contract for managed services activities. The contract had been awarded and emPSN were engaging with the schools sector directly to secure broadband connectivity from 1st November 2022. As such, the standing item for school broadband arrangements was removed from the work programme.

18 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS - UPDATE 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report from Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager – Schools Finance Team, which provided a summary of the updates from the Department for Education (DfE) relating to the national funding formula for schools, central schools services, high needs and early years for 2023/24. It was explained that there was an increase in per pupil funding for Lincolnshire mainstream schools; however, there were concerns regarding the financial position of schools in relation to proposed pay awards and inflationary pressures.

For the Primary and Secondary sector, formula factors linked to deprivation would increase by 4.3%, all other formula factors would increase by 2.4%. Within the High Needs block the funding floor had been set at 5%, resulting in Lincolnshire receiving protection funding of £8.692m, and an overall increase in funding of c.£6m. The Council planned to meet with the DfE regarding the consultation on the Early Years National Funding Formula. For the Central Schools Services Block, historical commitment funding was set to reduce by a further 20%.

The Forum noted the report, and the following comments were received:

- Pay awards were factored into the formula under the DfE's supplementary funding; however, funding did not cover all of the costs due to higher than anticipated pay settlements. The supplementary funding was also intended to support unforeseen cost rises in energy but the funding was not expected to cover the significant increase that schools are experiencing. No additional funding had been offered to account for this at this point in time. Officers continued to raise concerns to the Department and relevant parties.

- Medium term financial planning estimated that that there would be an 8-10% pay uplift. Work was underway with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to review budget assumptions.
- Supplementary Funding for special schools was being fine-tuned in light of economic changes to ensure a fair allocation of unforeseen costs was allocated to the schools. The special schools representatives felt that reassurance was required on whether they would receive supplementary funding and require to know the funding allocations and that some schools were not in a position where they could wait. Assurances needed to be communicated by the Council as soon as possible so that governors could be informed. The Council confirmed that special schools and alternative provision supplementary funding would be allocated to the sector, and the allocations would be shared in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report and comments be noted.

19 DE-DELEGATION OF MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOLS BUDGETS (2023/24)

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Popplewell, Strategic Finance Lead – Children’s Services, on the Council’s proposals for the de-delegation of the following budgets in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The Forum noted that the government’s decision to implement the national funding formula still allowed for de-delegation arrangements for maintained schools to continue.

Details of the de-delegation position at March 2022 reported a £1.027m cumulative underspend, of which £0.466m remained uncommitted. The de-delegation services underspent by £0.166m in 2021/22. There were a number of variables to the de-delegation budgets, listed on page 27 of the report, therefore prudence was required where unexpected costs arise due to the delivery of services and their demand-led influences, in particular causes from current economic circumstances.

The Forum noted the DfE consultation that concluded the removal of the funding for Local Authority School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant supporting maintained schools. The Council strongly responded to the consultation opposing such a change. The Council considered its investment in the education sector as a strategic priority. The Council had temporarily managed the 50% reduction in funding in the current year, but the current financial position meant that a permanent solution could not be secured through this route. The Council had reviewed opportunities for general efficiencies within the school improvements service. The Council considered it an opportune moment to review existing de-delegation budgets with an option of re-purposing to support the direct work with maintained primary schools. Such an approach would not bear additional financial burdens on schools. Also, the Council considered the Education Locality Leads role to be a priority for maintained primary school improvement, previously funded through the grant.

The Council proposed that the current contingency rate of £29.23 per pupil continued for 2023/24, which supported the hybrid approach of maintaining the support to maintained primary schools from Education Locality Leads.

The Board noted that page 29 of the report provided details of the per pupil rates for 2023/24.

It was highlighted that the charges for 2024/25 (in principle) continued to be at the baseline amounts per pupil for the de-delegation budgets.

The Forum noted the report, and the following comments were received:

- It was anticipated that funding levels would change as more schools became academies, but the Council remained fully supportive of maintained schools. The role of the Council was to be a strategic support to maintained schools and academies, which also required resourcing through the core Council budget.
- Data metrics were being analysed to determine what worked best in supporting schools.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Forum agree the proposals for the use of de-delegation reserves.
2. That the Forum agree the de-delegation of the budgets for the period 2023/24, and 2024/25 in principle, as set out in the report.

20 REVISED SCHOOLS BUDGETS 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Popplewell, Strategic Finance Lead – Children's Services, on the Revised Schools Budgets for 2022/23 and the proposed use of cumulative underspending from 2021/22.

The Forum were reminded that the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was a ring-fenced grant that could only be spent for the purposes as outlined in the Department for Education Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

Page 41 provided details of the carry forward for 2021/22. The Forum noted that the cumulative underspend carried forward as of March 2022 was £11.969m. The uncommitted sum of the underspend was £6.858m. This reflected the net underspends of £3.288m on budgets in 2021/22 held centrally within the DSG. Details of which were shown in Appendix A to the report. The Forum considered Appendix A, which outlined the financial year variances.

The Forum was advised that a thorough review of existing commitments had taken place, and that prudent financial estimates had been made. Details of the existing commitments were shown in Appendix B to the report, which totalled £4.331m. The Forum gave consideration to Appendix B.

The Council sought to utilise DSG funding to contribute towards creating new childcare places in the county for sufficiency reasons. The Council proposes to capitalise £0.780m from the DSG reserve, which had previously been earmarked for Early Years initiatives (£0.977m). This had originated from the government's rollout of the disadvantaged 2-year-old funding. There are areas in Lincolnshire identified through the childcare sufficiency review that require additional childcare places in the immediate future. A development plan has been produced, however capital investment would be required to support the plan.

Details relating to the proposal for use of the uncommitted sum of £6.858m were shown on pages 42 to 43 of the report and these were considered by the Forum.

In conclusion, the Forum was advised that an increasing number of local authorities continued to incur deficits on their overall DSG account, largely because of overspends on their High Needs blocks, valued at over £1bn nationally with two thirds of LAs overspending their DSG. It was highlighted that Lincolnshire was not in that position, as it had available reserves, however based on current spending levels in the area of SEND and the uncertainty in the financial environment going forward, a prudent approach is to be applied.

The Forum noted the report, and the following comments were received:

- Alternative Provision underspend had been due to the Free School place funding funded through the DfE.
- The capitalisation of DSG funding for early years childcare places has considered the cost of inflation in construction costs being experienced.
- The Council is committed to supporting the unforeseen costs within the special and Alternative Provision schools in 2022/23 from the supplementary funding received.

The recommendations, as outlined in the report, were proposed and seconded. The recommendation to capitalise £0.780m of DSG funding for new childcare places were put to a vote.

VOTE:

13 For 0 Against 5 Abstain

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and comments be noted.
2. That the Forum agree to capitalise £0.780m of DSG revenue monies for childcare sufficiency purposes by securing new childcare places, through the Disapplication Request process for approval by the Secretary of State.
3. That the Forum support the Local Authority's proposed use of the uncommitted sum, as outlined in section 5.
4. That Forum's comments be passed on to the Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement for decision.

21 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES EARLY SUPPORT LEARNING PROVISION

Consideration was given to a report from Rosemary Akrill, Senior Commissioning Officer, which recommended that improved joint working and partnership working across Early Years settings was needed to develop an integrated model with the new Best Start contract alongside widening the scope of the Best Start offer. This aimed to ensure access to the right support, by the right people, at the right time and reduce waiting lists for ESLP.

It was reported that the requested funding was in line with the 2021/22 costs, plus an inflationary uplift of 2% to support supplier delivery.

The Forum noted the report, and the following comments were received:

- Expansion plans championed a move towards integrated care with further mainstream offers and provision for carer respite.

RESOLVED:

That the Forum support the funding of £234,828 per annum from the High Needs block for Early Support Learning Provision starting from 1st October 2023 for up to five years to 30th September 2028.

22 ALTERNATIVE PROVISION ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report from Kate Capel, Head of Service for Inclusion, on Alternative Provision (AP) arrangements. The following was highlighted:

- The Local Authority commissioned 252 places within Springwell Academy.
- Lincolnshire's Ladder of Behavioural Intervention was introduced to provide educational settings with SEND support in mainstream settings. The Ladder provided steps and support to ensure early intervention and avoid escalating needs that

require suspension or exclusion. The Ladder continued to show positive impact within Lincolnshire.

- Attention was drawn to Lincolnshire's exclusions and suspensions rates in comparison to the national picture.
- The Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Pathway was launched to provide schools and stakeholders with clarity about how to respond to the challenge of EBSA pupils. When attendance was compromised because of EBSA there was a statutory duty to deliver education – the Pathway provided partners with clarity around steps to be taken and in this situation.
- An overview of the current stages of the SEND / AP Green Paper was presented.

The Forum noted the report, and the following comments were received:

- There was no evidence to support increasing the needs to AP schools.
- The Behaviour Outreach Support Service (BOSS) programme had proven successful – it had linked special schools with mainstream schools and helped AP schools further develop services. BOSS was to be re-tendered from September 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the report and comments be noted.

23 ACADEMIES AND TRUST UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report from Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager – Schools Finance Team, on the latest number of academies and pupils in academies, and academy trusts. The Forum was guided through the report. It was highlighted that one school had become an academy school since the last report – 51.8% of Lincolnshire schools (72.4% of FTE pupils) were now academies.

RESOLVED:

That the report noted.

24 LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM - WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

That the work programme presented be received.

8
LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
6 OCTOBER 2022

25 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED:

That the following meeting dates be agreed

- Thursday 19 January 2023, 1pm
- Thursday 20 April 2023, 1pm
- Thursday 29 June 2023, 1pm
- Thursday 5 October 2023, 1pm

The meeting closed at 2.36 pm



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	School Funding Arrangements 2023/24

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to brief the Schools' Forum on the school funding arrangements for 2023/24.

Recommendation(s):

The Schools' Forum is asked to:

- (1) Note the contents of the report, and
- (2) Agree the Local Authority's proposals relating to a number of centrally held budgets.

The views of the Schools' Forum relating to the proposed schools funding arrangements for 2023/24 will be reported to Children's Services Directorate Leadership Team and Executive Councillor for Children's Services, for final consideration.

Background

The Government first introduced the national funding formula (NFF) in 2018/19 for mainstream schools, its purpose was to create consistency in funding across all schools nationally ensuring a fairer settlement for each school. Since its introduction, Local Authorities (LAs) have continued to be responsible for agreeing and calculating schools funding allocations however, LAs were strongly encouraged to move to the NFF arrangements so that schools' allocations were on a sensible trajectory towards the 'hard' formula, subject to floors and ceilings due to a re-distribution of funding nationally.

In 2020/21, the Government made available sufficient funding to LAs to replicate the NFF so that all schools would attract at least their full allocations under the formula. Only 78 out of 150 LAs have mirrored the NFF in 2022/23. Lincolnshire is one of those LAs. Since the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19, Lincolnshire has replicated the Government's NFF

due to the increased per pupil funding levels that have been received. It currently remains the LA decision on setting its schools funding formula within the DfE's funding framework.

In 2022/23, Lincolnshire continued to replicate the monetary values of the NFF factors, however due to the significant increase in Free School Meals (FSMs) recorded on the October 2021 census resulting from the pandemic, as LAs are expected to finance this increase through their Schools block allocation, the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) had to be applied at +0.5% (within the MFG range) to support the formula being affordable.

The Government's initial consultation outcomes on how further reforms to the NFF can be implemented for mainstream schools with the intention of moving to a 'hard' formula were published last year, and a report to the Schools' Forum was provided in the April 2022 meeting. The Council responded to this consultation concluding the importance of retaining local flexibility and decision-making powers for all aspects of schools funding. LAs in working with the sector are best placed to respond to local needs and demands on a timely basis within reasonable DfE parameters rather than through a centralised system. The focus of the consultation was on progressively tightening the rules governing LAs' flexibilities over school funding, so that school allocations move closer to the NFF which is being implemented in 2023/24.

On 7 June 2022 the DfE launched a second consultation which considered the next steps in completing the NFF reforms to move all schools onto the 'hard' NFF. The consultation was more future focused rather than for 2023/24. Further details can be found within the National Funding Formula for Schools – update for 2023/24 report to the Schools' Forum in the October 2022 meeting.

School funding announcements

On 20 July 2022, the Government announced its funding intentions for 2023/24 including the publication of the Schools Revenue Funding 2023/24 Operational Guidance and the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2023/24. A report presented to the Schools' Forum in October 2022 meeting provides details of the amendments to schools funding arrangements for 2023/24.

An updated version of the Government's schools NFF funding intentions and DSG settlement were released on 16 December 2022, and as expected there were minimal changes to the version published in July 2022. The DSG settlement included updated datasets.

As part of the spending review the Government announced in 2021, the total core schools budget had planned to increase to £56.8 billion by 2024/25. This included the £4bn funding increase in the current year (including the supplementary grant) to £53.8bn compared to 2021/22 levels. The 2023/24 funding levels would rise by £1.5bn to £55.3bn or a 1.9% increase in per pupil funding. The Autumn 2022 statement announced a further £2bn increase in funding in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25 to respond to increasing costs faced by schools, particularly through staff pay awards and utilities. For Lincolnshire mainstream schools, this new grant equates to an additional 3.4% increase in per pupil

funding, or a total grant allocation of £18.897m for the sector. A share of the £2bn additional grant allocation (£400m) will be directed through Local Authorities High Needs block allocations, which includes conditions of use. For Lincolnshire’s High Needs block, this represents £5.008m.

2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant allocations

The DSG remains a ring-fenced grant that can only be used in accordance with the School's and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

The DSG will continue to comprise of four blocks – Schools block, Central School Services Block (CSSB), High Needs block and Early Years block, each of these blocks continue to be determined by a separate national funding formula.

The Schools block continues to be ring-fenced. LAs are able to transfer up to 0.5% of their Schools block to an alternative block with the agreement of their Schools Forum following consultation with all schools and academies.

The DSG allocations announced by the DfE on 16 December 2022 are set out below:

Table 1: Lincolnshire's 2023/24 DSG allocations:

Block	Lincolnshire (£m)
Schools Block	550.838 ¹
Central School Services Block	4.781 ²
Early Years block	43.833 ³
High Needs block	126.416 ⁴
Total	725.869

Overall Assessment

Lincolnshire's overall funding levels across the four blocks have increased in 2023/24.

The Schools block is allocated to LAs to fund schools delegated budgets. The key NFF Schools block funding updates include: the increase to deprivation formula factor values by 4.3%; all other pupil-led factors increasing by 2.4%, each school receiving 0.5% more for pupil-led factors compared to 2022/23 and an increase in the minimum per pupil formula factor.

¹ This includes Growth and Premises funding of £9.490m.

² This includes £3.642m for the LAs ongoing responsibilities for school central services and £1.139m funding for historic commitments.

³ This includes indicative allocations of £25.561m for 3 & 4 year old funding (up to 15 hours); £11.528m for additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 & 4 year olds; £4.947m for disadvantaged 2 year old funding; £0.799m for early years pupil premium funding; £0.275m of disability access funding and £0.723m supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools.

⁴ This includes the actual High Needs allocation through national funding formula £109.063m; basic entitlement £10.704m, the provisional import / export adjustment of -£1.176m, Hospital education and AP teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant of £2.818m and Additional High Needs Funding £5.008m.

The High Needs block has seen an increase due to the funding floor being set at +5.0% compared to the prior year's funding levels.

The initial DSG allocation for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 has seen an increase of c.4.45% (£679.866m in 2022/23⁵ plus schools supplementary funding received £15.053m).

Schools block

Schools block allocations are calculated by aggregating schools' notional allocations under the NFF. Schools block allocations are expressed as a separate per pupil primary and secondary rate for each LA. The primary ranked positions for Lincolnshire have improved from a national context (out of 150 LAs) for 2023/24, the secondary ranked position remains the same for Lincolnshire when comparing to the national context. Although the rates have increased, they are however still below the England national average, as a result of the indices being used:

2022/23	Lincolnshire's Unit of Funding	England National Average	Difference	Rank
Primary	£4,735	£4,786	-£51	96
Secondary	£5,899	£6,213	-£314	54
2023/24				
Primary	£4,933	£5,014	-£81	103
Secondary	£6,216	£6,542	-£326	54
Difference				
Primary	£198	£228	-£30	7
Secondary	£317	£329	-£12	0

The Schools block will also include funding for premises factors (e.g. PFI and split-site). The starting position for this is based on prior year spend.

LAs will receive growth funding via a formulaic method based on the actual growth in pupil numbers experienced from the October 2022 census and the prior year census. The allocation will however not take into account any known growth in pupil numbers expected in 2023/24.

The funding that LAs receive for growth is to cover two elements of funding:

- Explicit growth – funding that LAs allocate through their growth fund.
- Implicit growth – LAs adjust the pupil count used to allocate funding in the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) when determining school budgets. This will reflect only significant increases in pupil numbers.

Lincolnshire has schools reorganisation policies to allocate funding to both the primary and secondary sector, copies of these policies were presented to the Schools' Forum in January 2019 meeting as part of the School Funding Arrangements 2019/20 paper. These policies remain live. The policies are important in order to ensure the LA can fulfil its

⁵ The final 2022/23 DSG allocation.

strategic and statutory responsibilities to provide sufficient school places for pupils in Lincolnshire.

Central school services block (CSSB)

The LA is allocated funding via the CSSB for central services provided to schools to reflect the ongoing LA role in education.

Funding will continue to cover two distinct elements which are treated separately within the formula:

- Ongoing responsibilities: distributes funding to LAs using a simple formula which distributes 90% of funding according to a per-pupil factor and 10% of funding according to a deprivation factor. The funding supports: admissions service; servicing the Schools' Forum; nationally agreed schools copyright licences, and Education Service Grant retained duties for all schools. The DfE has continued to fund in the CSSB the cost of centrally employed teachers' employer pension increases. Lincolnshire's CSSB 2023/24 allocation is £3.642m for ongoing responsibilities, which incorporates an increase in unit funding of 2.42%.
- Historic commitments: as previously detailed, the historic commitments category of funding will continue to reduce in line with ESFA expectations that contracts are starting to have reached their natural conclusion. The ESFA confirmed a further 20% reduction compared to the 2022/23 baselines, which will result in a reduction of £0.285m for the LA in 2023/24. This will be a challenge for LAs to ensure a sustainable outcome is achieved for the remaining long-term contract in place, namely PFI school buildings. It is forecast that the 2023/24 funding levels will be sufficient to meet next year's historic commitment for PFI school building. There is no longer a central contract in place for schools broadband arrangements following the contract coming to an end in October 2022.

High Needs block

The basic structure of the High Needs national funding formula for 2023/24 is not changing.

The formula is made up of:

- Basic Entitlement: to provide a per pupil amount of £4,660 for all pupils in special schools taken from the school census data collection in the October prior to the year for which allocations are made.
- Historic funding: to allocate 50% of the 2017/18 actual spend following a recent consultation exercise rather than 2017/18 planned spend.
- Proxy factors: the remaining high needs funding uses a selection of proxy factors, such as population, low prior attainment, deprivation factors etc. Nationally, this funding stream represents 60% of the overall of the High Needs block funding being distributed to Local Authorities.

The Government is continually moving to a basis for distributing funding to LAs for children and young people with high needs, taking into account an up-to-date assessment of the level of need in each area as opposed to funding on the basis of historic spending. LAs will

be protected under the formula by seeing a minimum increase of 5% per head in 2023/24 compared to their 2022/23 funding baseline level⁶. The High Needs block allocation is £126.416m for 2023/24, which is a rise in funding of £11.080m from the prior year. This includes the additional £5.008m through the additional £2bn funding announcement in the Autumn statement. Within the High Needs block allocation, Lincolnshire will receive protection monies of £8.692m. The SEND Green paper acknowledged the unsustainable SEND system and considers ways to address this. The outcomes of the consultation will likely have an impact on high needs funding allocated to Local Authorities and schools.

There are a number of budgets within the High Needs block that are large, demand-led, and can be difficult to estimate (e.g. SEND related budgets, including out of county placements, top up funding for Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for mainstream schools, special school placements, and meeting the education needs for pupils through alternative provision arrangements).

There continues to be a growing trend nationally, and this growth is being experienced in Lincolnshire with more young people requiring specialist support which is having a material financial impact on the High Needs block. This remains a financial challenge. In Lincolnshire, transformational work is considered fundamental to securing further improved outcomes for young people with SEND through a truly integrated approach, whilst also securing an offer for Lincolnshire that is financially sustainable within the central Government allocation. The SEND Transformation Board is governing the transformational process and its key work streams, including of monitoring of progress against our ambitions.

Lincolnshire's special schools funding formula is robust and is underpinned by key cost drivers. The formula has been as a result of extensive consultation with special school leaders and other parties over the years. The underlying principles and formula factors will remain in place for 2023/24 but the formula will respond to the inflationary cost rises facing the sector. Alternative Provision and Hospital Schools that are funded on the basis of the special schools formula will also be considered in this process. The funding requirements will be considered in the context of overall high needs spending priorities and conditions of the grant.

Other areas of high needs funding are being kept under review to ensure appropriate delegations are made.

Early years block

The Government implemented the early years national funding formula in 2017/18. Lincolnshire continues to be funded on the 'minimum funding rate' which has increased in 2023/24 to £4.87 per hour. LAs are required to have a universal rate for all providers of early years entitlement, and a mandatory deprivation supplement.

⁶ The baseline used for the funding floor and gains calculation in 2023/24 is the LA's actual high needs allocations in 2022/23 less the Basic Entitlement of Funding and import / export adjustments.

The Early Years block covers the 15 hours 3 & 4 year old free entitlement; the additional hours for working families up to 30 hours; disability access fund, early years pupil premium, and disadvantaged 2 year old funding.

The underlying principles and formula factors will remain in place for 2023/24, and the increased hourly rate funding from Government has been considered in the context of this and its agreed distribution.

The Schools' Forum paper on the Early Years National Funding Formula paper sets out the funding proposals for 2023/24.

Pupil Premium announcement

Pupil Premium will continue in the 2023/24 financial year. Funding for 2023/24 will increase by 5%:

1. £1,455 per primary pupil who is currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been eligible for FSM in the past 6 years (except where the pupil is allocated the LAC or post-LAC premium).
2. £1,035 per secondary pupil who is currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been eligible for FSM in the past 6 years (except where the pupil is allocated the LAC or post-LAC premium).
3. £2,530 for Looked-after Children. Eligibility criteria includes those pupils who are in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English LA defined in the Children's Act 1989, or; have left care under a special guardianship order, a residency order, a child arrangement order, or because of adoption.
4. £335 per pupil for Service Premium. Eligibility criteria includes one parent serving in the regular armed forces.
5. £0.62 per hour early years pupil premium for each eligible three- and four-year-old up to the full 570 hours of free education entitlement.

The October census will continue to be used as the point upon which the allocations are based.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

The grant for universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) funds a meal rate of £2.41 for the 2022/23 academic year. Rates for 2023/24 academic year have not yet been published.

Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG)

The Autumn 2022 statement announced a further £2bn increase in funding in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25 to respond to increasing costs faced by schools, particularly through staff pay awards and utilities. Schools will have flexibility to prioritise the spending of this grant to best support the needs of their pupils and staff.

Although this funding is categorised as a separate grant for 2023/24. The ESFA have indicated they intend to incorporate the funding into schools core funding from 2024/25 where possible, for primary and secondary schools this will mean incorporating into the NFF for 2024/25.

The base funding rates for 5-16 schools will be:

- Basic per-pupil rate of £119 for primary pupils
- Basic per-pupil rate of £168 for key stage 3 pupils
- Basic per-pupil rate of £190 for key stage 4 pupils
- Lump sum of £4,510 per school
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £104 per eligible primary pupil
- FSM6 per-pupil rate of £152 per eligible secondary pupil

School-level allocations will be published in Spring 2023. The grant does not consider early years or 16-19 providers.

A share of the £2bn additional grant allocation (£400m) will be directed through Local Authorities High Needs block allocations, which includes conditions of use. For Lincolnshire's High Needs block, this represents £5.008m.

DSG School Budgets 2023/24

The LAs proposals are to continue adopting the NFF in 2023/24 (subject to affordability) by adopting the following:

- Free School Meals Ever 6 (FSM6) and IDACI factors will increase by 4.3%
- All other key formula factors will increase by 2.4% in monetary value.
- A positive minimum funding guarantee of +0.50% per pupil protection (subject to affordability). The MFG range is between +0.0% and +0.5% per pupil in 2023/24.
- No gains ceiling cap (subject to affordability).
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,405 for primary schools and £5,715 for secondary schools⁷.
- Schools Supplementary Grant funding that schools received as a separate grant in 2022/23 will be rolled into the NFF in 2023/24 including the funding being added into the schools 2022/23 baseline funding for MFG purposes.
- Continuation of the 'prior' methodology for the payment of Non Domestic rates, in that billing authorities will issue bills directly to schools who will receive funding within their budget. In order for the 'new' payment methodology to be implemented all billing authorities must be in agreement to adopt the new process, this has not been the case in Lincolnshire.

Appendix A provides a funding comparison of the NFF factors from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

The sector and Schools' Forum have supported the decision for Lincolnshire to replicate the NFF due to the increased per pupil funding levels being seen in all mainstream schools. The LA still does however consider local flexibility and decision-making powers important to best respond to local needs and demands on a timely basis within reasonable DfE parameters.

⁷ The minimum per pupil values have been uplifted by the supplementary grants' basic per-pupil values, and an additional amount which represents the average amount of funding schools received from the FSM6 and Lump Sum parts of the grants.

The fundamental principles of the NFF are not changing for 2023/24. In accordance with the 20 January 2021 Executive Councillor decision, and sector support through the consultation exercise to continue replicating the NFF, the LA plans to replicate the NFF in 2023/24, which will include the modest changes identified above. This will of course be subject to affordability of the Schools block, due to the Government's application of lagged funding arrangement for LA Schools block funding.

The latest October schools census information for determining schools budgets was shared with the LA Finance department in late December. The LA is working on completing the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to determine schools budgets and the assessment of affordability, before submitting to the ESFA for compliance by 20 January 2023. This therefore leaves limited time for engagement with the sector on the impact of specific measures to address affordability, if necessary. Schools responses have previously been mixed on affordability matters, however MFG and the ceilings cap have been the preferred solutions, in that order. In 2022/23, the LA decision was to continue with the MFG level (to the lower range of +0.5%) along with considering the use of other DSG funding streams. This was required due to the rise in FSMs eligibility. The reason for the preference to alter the MFG is firstly it is a positive MFG (i.e. all schools receive a per pupil increase) and those schools are being funded above the NFF due to historic funding levels. Another option available is to apply a percentage gains ceiling cap to schools per pupil gains, which was a mechanism the DfE used to incrementally introduce the NFF due to affordability purposes. This does have its disadvantages for those schools impacted, particularly where schools have seen an increase in pupil deprivation levels, such as free school meal eligibility. For the purposes of the DfE's tightening criteria to move to the hard NFF, local factor values within 2.5% of the respective NFF values are deemed to be mirroring the NFF, this means that LA's such as Lincolnshire can establish their NFF values for 2023/24 anywhere within the +/- 2.5% range – this is considered an option to manage affordability through a sector-wide solution, such as an amendment to the 2023/24 AWPU values. The LA will continue to adopt fair approaches and principles, if affordability issues arise for 2023/24. The affordability position will be shared with the Schools' Forum in the January meeting including the mitigating measures to address this and the school impact.

DSG Central Budgets 2023/24

As stated in previous years, it is important that the LA takes a prudent approach to the setting of central budgets within the DSG. It is important to note the following:

1. Since the 2013/14 school funding reforms, the LA has been able to retain far fewer budgets centrally, and so there will inevitably be lower levels of underspendings in future years and therefore less capacity to respond to any significant emerging issues.
2. LAs limitations in movement of funding between blocks to respond to arising cost pressures.
3. There are a number of budgets that are difficult to estimate and control (e.g. SEN related budgets, including out of county placements, top up funding for Education Health Care plans for mainstream pupils, special school pupil placements, and meeting the education needs for pupils through alternative provision placements).

4. There continues to be a significant growth in the demands for more specialist support for young people, which is having a material financial impact on those centrally held budgets of the High Needs block. Although the Government has responded to the financial demands placed upon the High Needs block in 2023/24, financial sustainability in the medium term is unclear.
5. The Government has agreed to the extension of the DSG statutory override for a one-off period of three years (up to March 2026), affording the short-term financial flexibility needed for Local Authorities as they implement sustainable change, underpinned and reinforced by the Government’s longer-term reforms. LAs are required to carry forward the whole of overspends to the schools budget in future years to address. Therefore, overspends need to be managed within the overall DSG.

DSG Deficits and DSG Management Plans

The DfE now have three programmes offering direct support in respect of the effectiveness and sustainability of LAs High Needs systems. The aim of all three programmes is to secure sustainable management of LA High Needs systems. The Safety Valve Intervention programme will continue to target the LAs with the highest DSG deficits. The new Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) programme will target authorities with less severe but either substantial and/or growing deficit issues. The DfE will support all remaining LAs supporting them to develop appropriate DSG management plans.

Budget Setting Review

The LA has conducted its annual review of the DSG central budgets, although further refinement continues to take place. The area of refinement is focused on those demanded budgets within the High Needs block, which includes analysis of activity data and trajectory planning. The affordability position for all the blocks of the DSG will be finalised over the coming weeks. The LA does not seek to make a Schools block transfer to the High Needs block in 2023/24.

The DfE regulations contain a number of provisions in relation to the setting of central budgets within the DSG:

1. The High Needs block and central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State can be retained by the LA before allocating the DSG to school budgets. Schools’ Forum approval is not required.
2. Funding for significant pre-16 growth to meet basic need can be retained centrally with the agreement of the Schools’ Forum.
3. Budgets for admissions and servicing of the Schools’ Forum can be retained. The Schools’ Forum is required to confirm the amount for each budget line.

In light of these regulations, Tables 2 to 4 below set out the budgets requiring Schools Forum approval.

Table 2: Budgets requiring Schools Forum decisions – Schools Block:

Budget	Key points	Proposed budget 2023/24	Agreed budget 2022/23
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		£	£
	<i>Under DfE regulations, the following budgets can be set at any monetary value.</i>		
Funding for significant pre-16 growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is essential so that the LA can fulfil its strategic and statutory responsibilities to provide sufficient school places for pupils in Lincolnshire. • Schools will not receive funding through this budget in instances where schools simply have the opportunity to offer more places above their PAN. It must be commissioned and supported by the LA. • This budget is to fund both explicit and implicit growth (as detailed above). Implicit growth funding is allocated through the LAs Authority Proforma Tool. • Lincolnshire has a Schools Re-organisational Policy to allocate funding to both the primary and secondary sector. • Funding will be allocated in accordance with these policies. This is when, as part of its strategic planning of places, the LA needs to ask a school to take in additional pupils above its planned admission number (PAN) temporarily or permanently. • It will continue to be the case that funding could be allocated to maintained schools or academies. • DSG funding for increases to pupil numbers is lagged for LAs until the following financial year, therefore earmarked funding is required to meet this obligation. • At the time of writing this report, work is underway in calculating and validating growth allocations to individual schools. The LA has therefore set the budget as per the funding received within the DSG 	£3.437m	£3.480m

	until the position is clear.		
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Table 3: Budgets requiring Schools Forum decisions – CSSB ongoing commitments:

Budget	Key points	Proposed budget 2023/24 £	Agreed budget 2022/23
	<i>Under DfE regulations, the following budgets can be set at any monetary value.</i>		
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LA has a statutory duty to operate the admissions arrangements in county schools. Without this budget, the LA would be unable to fulfil its statutory duties. The increase incorporates the pay award. 	£0.679m	£0.646m
SACRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditure in connection with the LAs functions in relation to the standing advisory council on religious education constituted by the authority under section 390 of the 1996 Act(b). 	£0.030m	£0.030m
LA Retained Duties for all schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This relates to the statutory responsibilities LA's hold for all schools. The retained duties rate includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory & Regulatory Duties: revenue budget preparation, preparation of income & expenditure relating to education; authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met by the schools budget shares; formulation and review of LA schools funding formula; director of children's services duties relating to schools, planning for the education services as a whole, to name the key duties. Education Welfare: functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, and school attendance. Asset Management: management of the LA's capital programme; 	£1.530m	£1.530m

	<p>review of an asset management plan, including private finance transactions, and, general landlord duties for all buildings owned by the LA, including those leased to academies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government transferred £117m for ESG retained duties into the DSG Schools block in 2017/18. Lincolnshire's share was £1.530m, which is now included within the CSSB. 		
Servicing of the Schools' Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, the cost has been very modest. Without this budget, the Schools' Forum would find it difficult to operate effectively. It is proposed that the same budget is set for 2023/24 as set for 2022/23. 	£0.020m	£0.020m
Centrally employed teachers' employer pension contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DfE included funding into the CSSB to fund the increase in the employer contribution rate of teachers' pension scheme from 16.4% to 23.6% (September 2019). This budget supports the additional cost for centrally employed teachers'. At the time of writing this report, work is underway in calculating and validating this budget. The LA has therefore set the budget as per the funding received within the DSG until the position is clear. 	£0.371m	£0.342m

Table 4: Budgets requiring Schools Forum decisions – CSSB historic commitments:

Budget	Key points	Proposed budget 2023/24 £	Agreed budget 2022/23
	<i>Under DfE regulations, the following budgets can only be set at historic costs, they are not permitted to increase.</i>		
Private Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This funds the PFI contractual 	£0.644m	£0.644m ⁸

⁸ As part of the finalising school budgets for 2022/23 the budget was re-stated

Initiative (PFI) Schemes	<p>commitments for the seven schools built under PFI a decade ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without this budget, the LA would be unable to finance the on-going costs of these historic, contractual commitments. • The contract is in place until 31st August 2032. • In response to the Government's changes to historic funding levels, the LA created a mainstream schools PFI formula factor in 2020/21 to support the affordability gap / unavoidable costs. • The remaining sum of £0.644m will meet the affordability gap / unavoidable costs for the four special schools built under PFI. 		
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The budgets proposed above are prudent and have been determined following a detailed review.

Some minor refinements to the overall budgets above may be necessary in light of officers' on-going work. In accordance with established practice, the LA will report to Schools' Forum in June 2023 the final budgets for 2023/24 as set out in the Section 251 budget statement which has to be published by 30 April 2023. Any material changes from the figures reported here will be communicated to the Schools' Forum at that time.

Members of the primary maintained schools section of the Schools' Forum agreed the de-delegation of a number of budgets at its meeting on 6 October 2022. Those decisions will be reflected in the LA APT that will be submitted to the DfE on the 20 January 2023.

Education Services Grant - General Duties

The general duties relate to the statutory responsibilities LA's hold for maintained schools only. The LA continues to make the decision not to retain funding in the Schools block for statutory duties relating to maintained schools only. The LA will continue to review this on an annual basis.

The general duties rate functions include:

1. Statutory and Regulatory Duties: monitoring compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools; consistent financial reporting; investigations of employees or potential employees; HR corporate duties; compliance with duties under health and safety; investigations and resolution of complaints relating to maintained schools.

2. Asset Management: general landlord duties for all maintained schools to ensure the buildings have appropriate facilities; reasonable weather resistance; safe escape routes; adequate water supplies and drainage; playing fields to the appropriate standard; general health & safety duty as an employer for employees etc.
3. Monitoring national curriculum assessments.

The financial outlook for the Council and Children's Service

The Executive is currently consulting on a single year financial plan for revenue and capital budgets. The budget proposal is informed by both the Autumn Statement announced on 17 November 2022 and the Provisional Settlement published on 19 December 2022.

At its meeting on the 4 January 2023, the Executive considered the budget proposals , which has now been put forward as a basis of consultation.

The Autumn statement reflects a more positive outlook for 2023/24 and 2024/25 than anticipated, however the Government has signalled that public spending will increase at a much slower rate after 2024/25.

The Council wide current position reflects a deficit position in all years. The deficit estimate in 2023/24 is currently estimated to be around £10.3m. In closing the gap for 2023/24 and delivering services in a balanced budget, the Council can either utilise available reserves and/or increase council tax, the latter on its own will only partially close the gap.

There are two particular cost pressures relating to Children's Services:

- Children in Care (CiC): a £1.689m proposed cost pressure reflecting the growth in CiC, the increased costs across the composition of placement types supporting this vulnerable group and Special Guardianship Orders.
- Children in Care (CiC): a £1.400m proposed cost pressure for social care legal costs due to the complexity of cases and increase in CiC numbers.

Transformational activity continues to take place in this area.

Next Steps

The LA has received the final version of the APT that includes October 2022 census information including the rise in FSMs through the pandemic and cost of living crisis, including the impact this has on FSM Ever 6.

At the point of writing the report, officers are unable to provide an update on affordability of the NFF, however a further update will be provided at the meeting, including the steps the LA proposes to take should the formula not be affordable. The APT will be submitted to the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 20 January 2023 for compliance.

School budget shares must be published by 28 February 2023.

The Government has conducted its latest consultation on how further reforms to the NFF will be implemented, with the intention of moving to a 'hard' formula. The Government expect to have moved all schools onto the NFF within the next five years, by the 2027/28 funding year. This would remove the LA responsibility in the setting of school budgets. The LA has responded to the latest consultation concluding the importance of retaining local flexibility and decision-making powers for aspects of schools funding, such as schools growth arrangements to support our statutory duty and premise-led factors. What the NFF has achieved is a move to greater consistency in how LAs are funded, which the LA considers to be extremely important in ensuring fair and equitable funding for the schools sector in each area.

Officers will continue to review the Government's publications that implicate 2023/24 funding including amendments to the DfE's School and Early Years Finance Regulations, to ensure full compliance is achieved in 2023/24.

Conclusion

The LA plans to continue adopting the NFF in 2023/24 (subject to affordability).

The LA requires the approval of budgets from Schools' Forum in Tables 2 to 4 in accordance with the DfE regulations. Further budget work will continue in light of on-going work to secure the financial sustainability of the DSG. The LA will report to Schools' Forum in June 2023 the final budgets for 2023/24.

The funding announcements of increased per pupil funding and Mainstream Schools Additional Grant funding are welcomed and positive for Lincolnshire schools.

The High Needs block continues to be an area of concern and will require careful and prudent management.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The affordability of the Schools block in replicating the NFF for 2023/24 will be finalised during the completion of the APT that contains the latest census information. The options for addressing affordability have been outlined in the body of the report.

CSSB Historical Commitment Funding started to reduce by 20% per annum in 2020/21 in line with the ESFA expectations that contracts are starting to have reached their natural conclusion. Officers are continuing to raise this with the department due to the commitment of the PFI contract (due to end August 2032). It is forecast that the 2023/24 funding levels will be sufficient to meet next year's historic commitment.

High Needs funding continues to see growth in the demand for more specialist support for young people, which is having a material financial impact on those centrally held budgets of the High Needs block. Although the Government has again responded to the

financial demands placed on the High Needs block, spending levels continue to grow. The SEND Transformation Board is governing the transformational process and its key work streams, including monitoring of progress against our ambitions. The High Needs block will continue to require careful and prudent management going forward.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Funding comparison of the NFF factors from 2022/23 to 2023/24

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
De-Delegation of Maintained Primary School Budgets (2023/24) – October 2022	<u>Report Reference: (moderngov.co.uk)</u>
National Funding Formula for Schools – Update 2023/24 – October 2022	<u>Report Reference: (moderngov.co.uk)</u>
School Funding Arrangements 2022/23 – January 2022	<u>Report Reference: (moderngov.co.uk)</u>

This report was written by Elizabeth Bowes, who can be contacted on 01522 554905 or elizabeth.bowes@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Funding comparison of the NFF factors from 2022/23 to 2023/24

	Description	2022/23 Rates		2023/24 Rates *		Percentage Change	
		Amount Per Pupil	Amount Per Pupil	Amount Per Pupil	Amount Per Pupil	Primary	Secondary
1) AWPU	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,217		£3,394		2.4%	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,536		£4,785		2.4%	
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)	£5,112		£5,393		2.4%	
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary	Secondary
2) Deprivation	FSM	£470	£480	£480	£480	2.4%	2.4%
	FSM Ever 6	£590	£865	£705	£1,030	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band F	£220	£320	£230	£335	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band E	£270	£425	£280	£445	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band D	£420	£595	£440	£620	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band C	£460	£650	£480	£680	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band B	£490	£700	£510	£730	4.3%	4.3%
	IDACI Band A	£640	£890	£670	£930	4.3%	4.3%
3) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 3 Primary	£565		£580		2.4%	
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,530		£1,565		2.4%
4) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£925	£1,330	£945	£1,360	2.4%	2.4%
5) Prior Attainment	Primary Low prior attainment	£1,130		£1,155		2.4%	
	Secondary pupils not achieving (KS2 English or Maths)		£1,710		£1,750		2.4%
6) Lump Sum		£121,300	£121,300	£128,000	£128,000	2.4%	2.4%
7) Sparsity		£55,000	£80,000	£56,300	£81,900	2.4%	2.4%
Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level		£4,265	£5,525	£4,405	£5,715	2.4%	2.4%
Minimum Funding Floor		2%	2%	0.5%	0.5%		
Minimum Funding Guarantee		+0.5% - +2.0%		+0.0% - +0.5%			

* 2023/24 NFF monetary values include the 2022/23 supplementary grant allocations before the application of the percentage increase outlined above:

- Primary basic per-pupil £97
- Key stage 3 (KS3) basic per-pupil £137
- Key stage 4 (KS4) basic per-pupil £155
- Primary FSM6 per-pupil £85
- Secondary FSM6 per-pupil £124
- Lump sum £3,680

A schools baseline funding for 2022/23 will incorporate the supplementary grant funding allocations for Minimum Funding Guarantee purposes.



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Early Years National Funding Formula

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a summary of the Early Years National Funding Formula for 2023/24
- Detail the funding distribution for early years providers in Lincolnshire in 2023/24
- Seek agreement for the Local Authority's proposals relating to the allocation and distribution of the centrally retained budgets

Recommendation(s):

Schools Forum is asked to:

1. Note the content of the report
2. Agree the Local Authority's proposals for centrally retained funding

Background

Since its introduction in April 2017, the Government's Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) has set the hourly funding rates that each Local Authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional entitlements for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The spending review provides an extra £180m nationally for early years education in 2023/24 to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the Government's free hours offers. A further £20m nationally of Government funding is being provided in response to the national living wage increasing for 2023/24. National early years education spending is planned to be £3.935bn in 2023/24.

The Department for Education (DfE) published on the 16 December 2022, which was later than planned, the Early Years Entitlement Operational and Technical Guidance for 2023/24; Local Authority funding allocations for 2023/24 and the Early Years funding formulae

consultation response from the Summer 2022 Government consultation. In this short time period, the Local Authority has reviewed these publications in the preparation of this report and will keep them under review in preparing for the conclusion of all early year's funding for 2023/24.

The minimum funding rate for 2023/24 is £4.87 per hour an increase from the 2022/23 rate of £4.64¹ for comparison purposes. This minimum funding rate also includes teachers' pay and pension grant (TPPG) which was previously allocated to Local Authorities through a separate Government grant allocation. Lincolnshire is currently funded on the minimum funding rate.

The starting point for calculating the 2023/24 rates are the EYNFF rates before protections are applied – Lincolnshire's hourly rate is £4.90 without the minimum funding floor, year to year protections or gains cap applied. Lincolnshire's hourly rate is reduced by £0.03 (or c.£0.180m) to £4.87 per hour due to the Government's enforcement of a ceiling cap of 4.9%². This is disappointing for Lincolnshire, and Council representatives did raise these concerns directly with the Early Years funding division at the DfE, since significant protection levels were still in place for some Local Authorities dating back to 2017/18 which should have been on a sensible trajectory for this to be removed, and this was having a direct impact on Local Authorities, such as Lincolnshire who are unable to receive their entitled allocation in the published funding allocations due to its previously funded low baseline. Other matters were also raised with the department and it is hoped that this dialog continues.

The Government provides Local Authorities with six relevant funding streams which together form the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

These are:

- the early years universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- the early years additional entitlement (30 hours) for 3- and 4-year-old children of eligible working parents;
- supplementary funding for Maintained Nursery Schools.
- the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).
- the Disability Access Fund (DAF), and
- the early years entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds.

National Funding to Local Authorities for Early Years Core Funding

The formulaic approach to funding Local Authorities 3- and 4-year-old entitlement uses early year's factors of 'base rate' funding and 'additional needs' factors before applying an area cost adjustment. Lincolnshire will be funded at the minimum funding rate in 2023/24 which is rising to £4.87 per pupil per hour, which is a £0.23p per pupil per hour increase from 2022/23 funding levels. Lincolnshire is one of 35 out of 151 Local Authorities funded

¹ The Teachers' Pay and Pension Grant (TPPG) previously funded through a separate Government grant has been added to each Local Authorities baseline funding rate. For Lincolnshire this is £0.03 per hour plus the original minimum funding rate for 2022/23 of £4.61 per hour.

² Lincolnshire's increase is funding c.5% prior to the application of the Government's ceiling cap.

on the minimum funding rate. The national average hourly rate across Local Authorities is £5.31 per pupil through the formulaic rate. The Area Cost adjustment (ACA) has a significant impact on the hourly rate for Local Authorities, which Lincolnshire is classified as low³.

Lincolnshire's hourly funding rate of £4.87 per pupil will provide indicative funding of £37.089m for 3- and 4-year-old entitlement. This is made up of the universal 15 hours early years entitlement funding of £25.561m and the additional 15 hours for 3- and 4-year-old children of eligible working families of £11.528m.

From 2023/24, the former Government grant for school-based nurseries to support the increased teachers' pay and pension employer contributions is no longer being paid directly to school-based nurseries, and instead this funding has been rolled into the overall quantum of 3- and 4-year-old entitlement funding. The Local Authority will continue to distribute this quantum of funding to designated nursery classes to support the costs for which the original grants were introduced and will be distributed through a separate supplement. This has been identified within the formula as £0.03p per hour, with the total budget allocation of £0.228m.

The early years funding of £37.089m for Lincolnshire is indicative, since final funding allocations for 2023/24 will be based on 5/12th of January 2023 pupil numbers (to cover the April 2023 to August 2023 period) and 7/12th of the January 2024 pupils' numbers (to cover the September 2023 to March 2024 period).

Overview: Early Year's National Funding Formula (EYNFF) to Providers and Schools

The EYNFF continues to require Local Authorities to have a local universal rate across all types of providers, which was a significant shift away from the previous arrangements (pre 2017/18) where cost differences between different types of providers were recognised.

Lincolnshire will continue to receive supplementary funding for the 2023/24 financial year for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS). This funding was introduced to enable Local Authorities to protect their 2016/17 funding rates for the universal 15-hour entitlement for MNS (that is, the rates that existed before the EYNFF).

Nationally, an additional £10m is being invested into MNS supplementary funding from 2023/24 and this has been used to uplift the lowest funded areas and to create a fairer distribution of the funding across all Local Authorities with MNS', which is a positive outcome for Lincolnshire MNS' from the national settlement, and a change from the previously cash-flat funding.

The MNS supplementary funding increases will be channelled through the MNS formula. The Government has also mainstreamed the funding that MNS' previously received through the TPPG, which it has now been rolled into each Local Authority's supplementary funding allocation.

³ Lincolnshire's ACA is 1.04, which considers the Labour Market for Lincolnshire of 1.0 (which applies to 80% of EYE funding) and 1.44 for rates (10% application).

The Local Authority will work with Lincolnshire MNS' to agree the distribution of supplementary funding amounts for 2023/24, in addition to seeking further clarity on aspects of MNS funding.

Other key requirements to the EYNFF for funding providers and schools:

- a single local universal base rate for delivering early years entitlement for both the universal 15 hours and the additional 15 hours for working parents.
- to pass-through at least 95% of 3- and 4-year-old funding directly to providers;
- must have a mandatory deprivation supplement in the local 3- and 4-year-old funding formula, and any other supplements used must fall within one of the allowable categories;
- must ensure that no more than 12% of the total value of planned funding for 3- and 4- year old's goes through supplements funding;
- must have a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund for 3- and 4-year old's;
- to pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3 and 4 year old's, and
- to pass on Disability Access Fund (DAF) funding in full to providers for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.

The DfE will monitor compliance with the above through Section 251 (s.251) returns.

The following DSG Early Years block funding streams are not included in the 95% pass-through calculation:

- funding for the entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds.
- MNS supplementary funding allocation;
- the Disability Access Fund (DAF), and
- the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Lincolnshire's Early Years Funding Formula

When determining the local universal rate per hour, it was important that it is underpinned with detail and that justification can be provided on how the rate is determined.

The Local Authority adopted the following approach:

- Develop a typical cost model approach, based on agreed staffing ratios and setting characteristics.
- The typical cost model considers all activities it takes to provide early years entitlement and costs these.

The theoretical funding model approach was recommended as best practice to Local Authorities by the government when the early year's single funding formula was first established in 2011/12.

For background information, the theoretical model that determined the local universal rate is based on the following:

- A Private, Voluntary & Independent (PVI) sector delivery model. The early year's entitlement is delivered substantially by the PVI sector, therefore the Local Authority has modelled the prescribed local universal rate per hour on a PVI model.
- The staffing ratio is based on a 1 to 8 ratio. The model includes a graduate leader and three nursery assistants for 24 children delivering 15 hours. The graduate leader does not deliver the free entitlement but supports the operations by being a supernumerary to underpin the delivery of quality provision.
- The national living wage is to increase by 9.7% from £9.50 to £10.42 per hour for employees aged 23 and over from April 2023. The financial model budgets for £10.42 per hour within the 2023/24 local universal rate calculation for the nursery assistants.
- The graduate leader starting salary assigned to the current teacher main scale 1 pay scale plus an assumed 2% pay increase.
- Staffing costs include both employer national insurance and employer pension contributions for providers. Employer pension contribution costs have been based on the full basic salary cost of the staff member using a 5% contribution. This is in excess of the current percentage threshold level of 3% prescribed by the Government.
- The roles of staff have remained using previous analysis to assess how many hours are required to support the delivery of the free entitlement, e.g. in terms of set up time, SENCO support, administration, etc. This has then been costed up at the appropriate rates of pay.
- The model supports inclusive practices for children working within the graduated approach to meeting the needs of children with identified delays in the prime areas of learning.
- Non-staffing costs have been increased by 2% from previously analysed cost drivers to ensure that these are funded adequately, e.g. play equipment, administration services, subsidised training rate, etc. Non-staffing costs include rental costs sourced from a Local Authority partner specialising in this area, which are based on a 52-week agreement.

The key components of Lincolnshire's early years funding formula builds quality within the model, and considers current and potential cost pressure, e.g. pension auto-enrolment and the national living wage. The new hourly rate is expected to provide financial capacity in the delivery of 3- & 4-year-old entitlement.

The 2023/24 hourly rate has been determined at the following level:

Local universal base hourly rate per pupil £4.42

The hourly rate will increase by £0.22 per hour per pupil in 2023/24 from £4.20 to £4.42. The increase is supported through the Government's additional funding of £0.23 per hour per child for 2023/24.

The Government funds Local Authorities through a January snapshot, which is a different methodology to funding providers on a participation-led basis through monthly payments.

The local universal base rate will fund the direct delivery of early year's entitlement. The same hourly rate will be applied for the additional hours for working families up to 30 hours. Funding to the sector will continue to be based on participation. The term participation

refers to both the number of children accessing the free entitlement along with the number of hours being taken up (i.e. up to the agreed entitlement level) across the agreed funding period. Funding for 2023/24 will be based on monthly data returns made by providers during the summer 2023, autumn 2023 and spring 2024.

The remainder of the funding increase (£0.01 per hour per child) has been included in an uplift to the inclusion fund and increase in deprivation supplementary payments and a small increase in central costs due to staffing cost changes. The contingency fund has also been removed from 2022/23 to support the base rate increase.

Supplements

The Local Authority will continue to use the mandatory Deprivation Supplement and award TPPG through a supplement to designated nursery classes to recognise the Government’s change in the grant arrangements for 2023/24.

A review of deprivation supplements will continue with the early years sector to ensure this is having the greatest impact on those most disadvantaged children and their outcomes. An evaluation of spend in 2022/23 will take place in summer 2023, with any recommendations being considered from 2024/25, if required.

Deprivation supplement

In 2023/24, the Local Authority will continue to use the same deprivation factor that are currently in place in 2022/23. To ensure the Government’s funding increase is proportionately distributed through the EYNFF, 2.5%⁴ of the increased funding will be distributed through the deprivation factor through a £7 increase in Deprivation Band 1. The increase is proportionately applied across the other Deprivation Bands 2-6. The Local Authority will continue to provide advice on its use and monitor its effectiveness in settings. This approach will allocate £0.873m through the deprivation funding formula in 2023/24.

The IDACI deprivation measure determines the probability of a child coming from a deprived area, using the child’s postcode. For example, a child with an IDACI score of 0.2 has a 20% chance of coming from a deprived area; a child with an IDACI score of 0.8 has an 80% chance of coming from a deprived area. The IDACI pupil information has been taken from the October 2022 funding claims. A monetary sum per pupil is assigned to the deprivation bands 1 to 6. Only pupils with an IDACI score of 0.2 or above will trigger deprivation funding, therefore targeting funding at those children deemed to be more deprived.

The following table shows the deprivation scores and associated funding:

Table 1

Deprivation Band	IDACI Score lower limit	IDACI score upper limit	Funding Per Pupil
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⁴ The percentage is determined based on the 2022/23 planned spending through the deprivation funding compared to deprivation and the universal rate funding.

1	0.2	0.25	£164
2	0.25	0.3	£328
3	0.3	0.4	£492
4	0.4	0.5	£656
5	0.5	0.6	£820
6	0.6	1.0	£984

The October 2022 data collection information and IDACI 2019 datasets have been used to determine the 2023/24 annual deprivation funding allocation.

SEN Inclusion Fund

Local Authorities are required to have SEN inclusion funds for all 3- and 4-year-olds with special educational needs (SEN) who are taking up the free entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. This funding is intended to support the Local Authority to work with providers to address the needs of individual children with SEN.

In Lincolnshire, the SEN Inclusion Fund has been reviewed in line with the national guidance and is available through an application process.

The universal base rate is provided to meet the needs of children, including those with mild additional needs which are able to be met within the graduated approach and provision that is routinely available.

The inclusion funding model provides a top-up payment to support providers additional costs. The planned funding allocation using the current protocol is increasing by £0.048m in the financial year 2023/24 to £0.698m per annum, which represents £0.092p per pupil per hour.

Fluctuation Contingency Fund

The Local Authority is required to fund all participation-led funding and therefore a fluctuation contingency fund is required to meet any additional demand above the January average that may occur during the academic year and to avoid overspends occurring on this budget. The Local Authority has been developing a reporting mechanism to review the annual take-up levels against spend. This is being used to calculate the annual budget requirements and allow the fluctuation contingency fund to be reduced, to support a higher base rate for providers. The Local Authority is acutely aware of the current economic circumstances facing the sector, and the Government's ceiling cap for the 3- and 4-year-old for Lincolnshire (removing £0.03p from its hourly rate). The Local Authority wish to maximise the universal rate for providers from the Government funding it is receiving, therefore for 2023/24, the fluctuation contingency fund is to be met from the anticipated underspend in the current financial year's early years participation budget. A provision of £0.200m is to be made. The Government's ceiling cap will be released further in 2024/25, therefore allowing the base budget to be re-established.

Local Authority Centrally Retained Funding

£1.627m

The Government requires Schools' Forums to agree 2023/24 central spend for early years by the 28 February 2023. The Local Authority has conducted its annual review of DSG budgets. An increase of £0.066m is proposed to reflect the current and forecast pay in 2023/24 for the Early Years and Childcare Support team. This includes the pay award and maintenance costs with supporting the monthly payment process to childcare providers.

The DfE places a number of statutory duties upon Local Authorities in relation to the provision of support for Early Years Education and Childcare provision. In order for the Local Authority to fulfil these duties, the Early Years and Childcare Support team provides a range of support services across the sector. The support available includes direct face to face support; the delivery and commissioning of subsidised training; information advice and guidance, and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support to early years providers across the sector e.g. PVI, childminders, schools and academies.

In light of the regulations, the following budgets require Schools Forum approval:

Early Years Entitlement & Securing Sufficient, Sustainable Provision
£522,461

The EYE team ensure the effective delivery of the Early Years Entitlement funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds including the 30 hours entitlement, Early Years Pupil Premium, MNS supplements, Disability Access Fund and Inclusion Funding. This ensures all childcare providers in Lincolnshire receive timely and accurate payments for the delivery of the early year's entitlement. The team manages the system and processes while providing advice, support and guidance to all settings to deliver the offer effectively. The team works closely with other teams including Performance and Finance to ensure providers receive the support they need. Resource levels for this area of work have been maintained to enable the Local Authority to deliver the expectations and requirements set out by national policy including the move to a monthly payment system. The number of early year's providers delivering funded education places in Lincolnshire includes 531 private, voluntary and independent providers, 50 maintained schools and 37 academies.

The Government places a duty on Local Authorities 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). To ensure there is sufficient, accessible, and affordable provision available to support families, the Local Authority continues to monitor the marketplace and support providers to offer additional places where demand is identified.

Following publication of the Local Authority's annual sufficiency report, where any gaps are identified, the team of development consultants work with the sector to address the needs of local families. The team supports expansions and new provision where needed and encourages providers to take a sustainable business approach to place planning, this includes signposting providers to external resources to support them with future sustainability. This team supports the delivery of capital funding applications, investments,

lease and rent agreements and governance arrangements where it is needed across Lincolnshire.

There is a growing concern across the childcare sector regarding sustainability, particularly with the cost-of-living crisis and increasing staff costs across the country. Lincolnshire is in a mixed position currently, with some areas unable to meet the current needs of families. This impacts on the Local Authority's overarching responsibility to improve outcomes for children and ensure that there is sufficient childcare for all working parents. There is an ongoing demand on the service to support providers with their financial concerns and business sustainability. As part of the Local Authority's duty to secure sufficient, accessible places for children and families in Lincolnshire, this area of work will continue to be a priority for the service throughout 2023/24. The DfE representatives of the Early Years finance division have recognised the financial challenges being faced by the sector.

EYFS Quality Improvement, Advice, Support, Workforce & Training for the Sector
£1,021,777

Changes to the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities in September 2014 means that all new early year's providers are able to deliver the early years entitlement upon opening. This supports the Local Authority to meet its sufficiency duty, however the Local Authority is responsible overall for the outcomes of the Ofsted inspection. A programme of support is in place to give new providers the best chance of achieving a good or better judgement at their next inspection and thus maintaining a sufficient supply of good quality funded childcare places.

For providers with a "less than good" Ofsted outcome, there are bespoke targeted quality support programmes made available in line with the Early Education and Childcare Statutory guidance for Local Authorities (June 2018). Providers are also able to self-refer into the EYCC for support with meet identified needs in order to maintain the quality of their provision.

The outcomes for Lincolnshire children at the end of the foundation stage are below the national average and that of our statistical neighbours. In order we do the best for all of our children, this team works with the sector and schools to ensure the provision available is providing children with the best opportunities to reach their full potential, increasing their life chances as they transition to school and then move from reception to year 1.

Support is offered to ensure providers can maintain compliance with EYFS safeguarding, welfare and related requirements and enable children to have maximum opportunities to learn and develop. The service continues to identify the impact on quality following the pandemic and the impact on children's development. This work also supports providers who are either due an inspection or have not been inspected for the longest period, to feel equipped to demonstrate how they have met the challenges and continue to demonstrate good early years practice.

Lincolnshire commissions and provides a comprehensive programme of courses at a subsidised fee to assist the sector to fulfil EYFS and Ofsted requirements, and to provide

and maintain high quality provision. The training includes a range of face-to-face events and e-learning modules to support the learning styles of users and ensures training is accessible. This reduces barriers to learning, contributing to the delivery of improved practice across the county in order that we underpin the professional development of the sector.

SEND Local Offer
£83,346

The Government required all Local Authorities to establish an SEN inclusion fund following the introduction of the revised funding formula to provide top up grants to providers to support the county's children identified as having an additional need. As part of Lincolnshire’s SEND Local Offer, early years inclusion funding supports the Government's strategy by enabling early intervention and removing barriers to learning faced by children with SEND. The system and process for the allocation of inclusion, in conjunction with a review of the funding allocations for children attending early years with a significant and profound SEND as assessed through the Education, Health and Care Plan assessment process. The continued co-ordination and oversight of this is within a dedicated post with management oversight.

Summary of central spend

The proposed funding to be centrally retained for all those services detailed above, that directly support the early years sector in the delivery of early years entitlement is £1.627m. This represents 4.39% of the overall planned early years funding of £37.089m and is below the threshold of 5%.

Lincolnshire therefore meets the pass-through threshold of ensuring that at least 95% of early years funding is passed onto providers in the form of the local universal base rate; mandatory deprivation funding; inclusion funding, and fluctuation contingency fund. The three functions of the service will be maintained in 2023/24 for management purposes. We have distributed the resources and allocated responsibilities across the management team under these key areas - Quality Improvement & Workforce Development, Sufficiency, sustainability and the Early Years Entitlement funding, and Inclusion & SEND local offer.

Lincolnshire's Early Years Funding Distribution for 3- and 4-year-olds

Table 2

Activities	Overall Funding	Hourly Rate
3- and 4-year-old funding for 15 hours early years entitlement	£25.561m	£4.87
3- and 4-year-old funding for additional hours for eligible working families	£11.528m	£4.87
Total Funding	£37.089m	£4.87

Activities	Spending Plan	Hourly Rate
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		Converted
Local Universal Basic Rate	£33.662m	£4.420
Deprivation Funding	£0.873m	£0.115
Inclusion Fund	£0.698m	£0.092
Fluctuation Contingency Fund ⁵	£0.000m	£0.000
Teachers' Pay and Pension grant (Nursery Classes)	£0.228m	£0.030 ⁶
Total Spending Plan for passing onto providers	£35.462m	£4.657
Centrally Retained Funding for Direct Early Years Services	£1.627m	£0.213
Total Spending on Early Years Activities	£37.089m	£4.87

Key government criteria met:

- Pass-through funding of 95.61% to providers in 2023/24 (95.77% in 2022/23).
- The value of all supplements and provider delegations (outside the local universal base rate), as a percentage of the total value of planned formula funding to providers is below the 12% threshold at 5.08%.

Disability Access Funding (DAF)

The Local Authority must comply with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in finding suitable provision for eligible disabled children.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) was introduced in April 2017 to support disabled children's access to the 3- and 4-year-old entitlements. The national funding rate for DAF will increase by £28, from £800 to £828 per eligible child per year in 2023/24. The funds can be used to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and / or helping with building capacity, be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting.

Children do not have to take up their full early education entitlement in order to receive the DAF. Children will be eligible where they take up any period of free entitlement and receive Disability Living Allowance.

Early years providers are responsible for identifying eligible children and are encouraged to notify the Local Authority using the online Early Years Provider Hub to ensure they receive funding at the earliest opportunity.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) gives providers additional funding to support disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-olds. The EYPP remains distinct from the EYNFF.

⁵ For 2023/24, the Fluctuation Contingency Fund is to be financed from the anticipated underspend in the current financial year's early years participation budget to support a higher base rate for providers.

⁶ Illustrative rate. Approach to be formalised.

The national funding rate for EYPP will increase by £0.02p, from £0.60p to £0.62p per eligible child per hour. We will fund all providers with eligible children at the national rate of £0.62 per pupil per hour for 38 weeks up to a maximum of 570 hours (or £353.40 per year). In the small number of cases where a child is also eligible for the additional 15 hours entitlement for working parents, EYPP is paid on the universal 15 hours only, up to a total of 570 hours in the year.

2-Year-Old Funding

Lincolnshire's funding for the most disadvantaged 2-year-olds in 2023/24 has increased by £0.06p per hour to £5.63 per hour per child from central Government.

Lincolnshire's indicative allocation for 2023/24 is £4.947m using the January 2022 census data. The indicative budget has been adjusted upwards for 2023/24 using the January 2022 pupil census information. This is consistent with the treatment of the 3- and 4-year-old budget. Participation levels are expected to rise during 2023/24. To ensure Lincolnshire receives a 1% year-to-year increase, £0.05p per hour of the increase relates to protection funding.

There is no 'pass-through requirement' for 2-year-olds as s.251 data demonstrates that the vast majority of such funding is already being passed through to providers. There are no compulsory supplements for 2-year-olds, and Local Authorities are encouraged to fund providers on the basis of a flat hourly rate for all providers. In addition, Local Authorities are not required to establish a SEN Inclusion Fund for 2-year-olds.

Fluctuation Contingency Fund

The Local Authority has retained funding for a contingency fund before determining the funding rate to providers to avoid overspends occurring on this budget.

The 2-year-old entitlement does not replicate the same participation trends across the year in the same way as the 3- and 4-year-old entitlement, therefore the January census count that determines the level of funding to Local Authorities is not always representative of the allocations made to providers for 2-year-old participation. In fact, Lincolnshire's analysis continues to identify an increase in take up in the summer and autumn terms, but a lower take up in the spring term. It is therefore necessary to hold back funding to act as a contingency fund for fluctuations in attendance, for passing onto providers later in the year, otherwise the overall 2-year-old funding will overspend.

An annual budget of £0.249m is required, which represents 5.09% of the overall budget. This is a lower amount from that budgeted for in 2022/23 (£0.321m).

The Local Authority continues to make representations to the Government to ensure funding received by the Local Authority is representative of the funded participation levels – this would allow the hourly rate to be retained at a higher level. This will be reviewed annually considering available data to ensure the budget provision is set accurately. The

DfE continues to review the 2-year-old entitlement patterns of take-up across Local Authorities and is considering termly census returns to administer funding more accurately in the future.

Local Authority Centrally Retained Funding

Following the Local Authority's annual review of early year's budgets, a contribution towards central costs has been identified to support 2-year-old funding requirements. The cost is £0.049m which represents 0.99% of the total budget.

2-Year-Old Funded Rate

The 2023/24 hourly rate has been determined at the following level:

Local universal base hourly rate per pupil £5.29

The hourly rate will increase by £0.06 per hour per pupil in 2023/24 from £5.23 to £5.29. The increase is made up of the Government's additional funding of £0.06p per hour per child for 2023/24.

Lincolnshire's Early Years Funding Distribution

Table 3

Activities	Overall Funding	Hourly Rate
2-year-old funding for 15 hours early years entitlement	£4.947m	£5.63

Activities	Spending Plan	Hourly Rate Converted
Local Universal Base Rate	£4.648m	£5.290
Fluctuation Contingency Fund	£0.249m	£0.284
Total Spending Plan for passing onto providers	£4.898m	£5.574
Centrally Retained Funding for Direct Early Years Services	£0.049m	£0.056
Total Spending on Early Years Activities	£4.947m	£5.63

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty, the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified, consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

Conclusion

The Local Authority continues to apply the EYNFF through its hourly rates for 3- and 4-year-olds and for the disadvantaged 2-year-olds, and proposes to increase the hourly rates, as set out in the main body of the paper.

The Local Authority requires approval from the Schools' Forum for those centrally retained early years budgets.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Local Authority has used an indicative participation budget allocation for 3- and 4-year-olds and for the disadvantaged 2-year-olds to reflect the January 2022 pupil census data.

The Local Authority is mindful that the January 2022 census participation levels may be lower than January 2023 census, which will be used for Local Authorities April to August funding levels. It is currently unknown if participation levels will grow significantly throughout 2023/24, however current take-up data shows a steady participation level and population data does not show an upward trend currently.

The Local Authority will monitor deprivation investment through 2023/24, since deprivation data and funding have been based on October data, as is usually the case. The Local Authority will review the deprivation funding to providers to respond to potential increased demands of deprived children, alongside the other supplementary funding for SEND.

There is a growing concern across the childcare sector regarding funded education investment, particularly with the cost-of-living rise and other increases including insurance, energy bills, food and staff costs across the country. This has led to staff choosing alternative career choices and leaving the sector short staffed.

Childcare providers are struggling to maintain quality of provision with limited staff capacity and financial concerns. As financial pressures on childcare providers increase, there is a risk that we will see further closures in the future, ultimately impacting on our statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare.

The Local Authority recognises the financial demands placed on the early years sector through increased costs and has applied a rate increase from the Government's financial settlement to support this. The DfE representatives of the Early Years finance division have recognised the financial challenges being faced by the sector, and they will continue to listen to the sector and Local Authorities, including making representations to policyholders for 2024/25 funding levels to reflect these needs.

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Early Years Funding Publications 2023-24	Early years funding: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This report was written by Geraldine O'Neill, who can be contacted on 077477 57533 or geraldine.o'neill@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director - Children's Services

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Schools Sector Led Update

Summary:

This report is presented to Schools' Forum to give an update on the sector led system over the past 12 months since the previous report. It explains the position in Lincolnshire for outcomes data from validated performance data from 2022 and current data on Ofsted inspections compared with national averages. It goes on to give an update on the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership and Teaching School Hub.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Schools' Forum members note the contents of the report.

Background

Ofsted

School inspection outcomes

Routine school inspections recommenced in September 2021 following the break in routine inspection due to the pandemic. As of 30 November 2022, the proportion of Lincolnshire schools judged as good or better by Ofsted is 82.7% which is below statistical neighbours at 86.3% and the national average of 88.5%.

70.4% of secondary schools and 83.9% of primary schools are judged as good or better. 76.7% of academies are judged as good or better compared with 89.1% of maintained schools.

The highest proportion of secondary schools judged as good or better is in Lincoln with 85.7% judged as good or better with the lowest proportion of secondary schools judged as good or better in Boston at only 40%. The highest proportion of primary schools judged as good or better is West Lindsey with 93.3% compared with the lowest proportion of primary schools judged as good or better in South Holland at 69.4%.

Outcomes

Statutory National Curriculum Assessment and Examinations

As expected, there has been an impact on the outcome of pupils in all statutory testing due to the pandemic. Comparisons between 2022 and 2019 should be approached with caution as different areas of the country will have been impacted differently by the pandemic. Direct comparison between 2019 and 2022 should be avoided due to significant changes to the Framework between these years, comparing Lincolnshire's gap to national between the years is recommended instead.

Early Years (Aged 5)

Good Level of Development (GLD) is used as the key measure to judge outcomes for children at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Children are defined as having reached a 'Good Level of Development' at the end of the EYFS if they achieve at least the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning; personal, social and emotional development, physical development and communication and language, and the early learning goals in the specific areas of mathematics and literacy.

The Good Level of Development in Lincolnshire was 64.1% in 2022 compared to 69.6% in 2019. Lincolnshire closed the gap by 1.1 % against national. For those who achieved the expected level across all early learning goals, the gap closed by 1.3%.

Phonics Screening Check (Aged 6)

The proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard by Year 1 was 74.0% compared to a national figure of 75.0%. This is in line with Statistical neighbours and below national by 1%. The gap remains the same. 87% of pupils met the expected standard in Year 2, in line with national and statistical neighbours.

Key Stage 1 (Aged 7)

The gap between Lincolnshire and national remains broadly the same though widened in writing. The proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in writing, Lincolnshire was 53% compared with national 58%; reading was 63% compared to a national figure of 67%; Maths was 65% compared with national 68%.

Key Stage 2 (Aged 11)

The proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined was 55% compared with the national average of 59.9%. The gap between Lincolnshire and national has remained broadly the same compared to 2019, though the gap closed slightly in Reading and Maths. In Writing the gap with national has widened.

KS2 2022	% EXS (>=) in Reading	% EXS (>=) in Writing	% EXS (>=) in Maths	% EXS (>=) in RWM	% EXS (>=) in GPS	% Higher standard in Reading	% Higher standard in Writing	% Higher standard in Maths	% Higher standard in RWM	% Higher standard in GPS
Lincs Academy	69%	64%	67%	53%	67%	23%	10%	17%	5%	24%
Lincs Maintained	73%	69%	71%	57%	72%	25%	11%	19%	5%	24%
Lincs Overall	71%	66%	68%	55%	69%	23%	10%	18%	5%	24%
National	74%	69%	71%	58%	72%	28%	13%	22%	7%	28%

Key Stage 4 (Aged 16)

A standard pass is deemed a grade 4 and a good pass a grade 5. The subjects are grouped to give Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores. The eight subjects include double weighted English, Mathematics and then a combination of Science or Computer Science, Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language along with a wider choice of subject areas to complete the eight subjects.

Lincolnshire's average Attainment 8 score was 48.5 in 2022 which was in line with national at 48.8.

The Average Progress 8 score in Lincolnshire is -0.02. We are in line with national.

KS4 2022	Progress 8	Attainment 8	EBacc Average Point Score	% Entering EBacc	% 5+ in English & Maths	% 4+ in English & Maths
Lincs Academy	-0.02	48.03	4.19	37%	46%	67%
Lincs Maintained	0.11	59.30	5.66	82%	74%	79%
Lincs Overall	-0.02	48.50	4.24	39%	47%	67%
National	-0.03	48.80	4.28	39%	50%	69%

Data Summary

There remains a wide spread of performance across schools and districts in the county. City Of Lincoln followed by Boston remain the lowest performing districts by most measures for schools and Boston district the lowest for EYFS. North Kesteven generally performs the best at all key stages and measures. Lincoln and Boston are both districts with some of the highest levels of deprivation affecting children and North Kesteven the least.

The Strategy for School Improvement

As in the last academic year, The Strategy for School Improvement endeavours to ensure that all maintained schools receive at least one termly visit from their Education Locality Lead to ensure that every school is in a strong position moving forward within our sector led system.

Locality Leads also support schools to engage with and benefit from the Government's range of programmes and funding to support recovery in schools, which include:

- Training for Early Years Staff
- Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)

- Catch Up Premium (Summer catch up)
- Recovery Premium (Disadvantaged pupils)
- HAF Programme (Holiday Activity and Food Programme)
- National Tutoring Programme
- Early Career Framework Training and new suite of NPQs
- CPD for teachers
- 16 to 19 Tuition fund.

Education Locality Leads are supporting school leaders to ensure they adopt or construct a curriculum that is ambitious and designed to give all pupils, particularly disadvantaged pupils and including pupils with SEND, the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Termly agendas support, monitor and challenge leaders in their evaluation against the OFSTED framework. The extent to which the curriculum meets the needs of learners is prioritised, with a particular emphasis on how the curriculum is adjusted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

The Education Team continues to work with a range of partners in the sector led model to ensure that schools are signposted to access the right support at the right time.

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP)

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP) is a vital part of a sector-led model of school improvement. All Lincolnshire schools and academies are part of the LLP.

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board (LLPB) is a strategic board of Lincolnshire headteachers from a range of schools and academies, who alongside colleagues from Lincolnshire County Council and the Diocese of Lincoln, represent a partnership of over 360 Lincolnshire schools and academies.

The LLPB mission is that:

- All children and schools in Lincolnshire are our collective responsibility
- Every child and school is known, valued and supported to achieve
- No school is more important than an individual child's needs

The LLPB acts as our governance of the system and has been instrumental in driving policy change in Lincolnshire and in ensuring that headteachers have a collective voice. Catherine Stratton, Headteacher of Saxilby Church of England Primary School, chairs the board and has endeavoured to develop the way the board functions, refreshing its work for the next stage of our sector-led system in Lincolnshire.

To support the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board (LLPB) fulfil its ambition of making a positive contribution to the education system in Lincolnshire, the Schools' Forum supported the Local Authority proposals to use Dedicated School Grant (DSG) underspends in two separate requests of £0.5m in April 2015 and October 2016. In addition, a further proposal was supported by Schools' Forum to fund sector-led school improvement by an additional £0.5m in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Due to the pandemic,

allocation of remaining funds (£0.673m) was delayed. At the November 2022 LLPB meeting, it was agreed to allocate funds to implement four projects with particular focus on leadership development, SEND and a locality project. These are in the planning stages.

LLPB, supported by the Local Authority, provides regular leadership briefings for school leaders which continue to be well attended by leaders in both maintained schools and academies.

We are proud of the relationships across the sector with both maintained schools and academies. Chief Executive Officers in national academy groups are positive about the relationships with the Local Authority in Lincolnshire. The LLPB is continuing to work alongside the Local Authority education team, LEAD Teaching School Hub and the CEO network (who represent our Multi Academy Trusts) to review the progress we have made in developing a sector-led system of education provision, and school improvement.

L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub Lincolnshire

Our Teaching School Hub continues to work strategically in partnership with the Local Authority and LLPB to ensure joined up working and to respond to the needs of the sector. They engage with partners to provide a central front door for access to DfE programmes such as Early Career Teachers (previously NQTs) and the new National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) which span specialist NPQs such as NPQLT which is for leading teaching or NPQLBC focussing on leading behaviour and culture to the NPQH for headship and NPQEH for Executive Headship. The Teaching School Hub is also the central place for schools to access other curriculum hubs and nationally designated specialist centres. The Hub also provides DfE approved and quality assured additional professional development programmes for teachers. Beyond the DfE remit, the Teaching School Hub have been central in the sector led school improvement arena and continue to respond to the needs of the sector and Local Authority identified priorities.

A Local Authority officer sits on the strategic group for the Teaching School Hub to ensure joined up working in the authority. The Local Authority, LLPB and the Teaching School Hub are working closely together to ensure that we build on the strengths of the sector led system moving forward against a strategic plan which aims to collectively raise outcomes for pupils through the development of the education workforce across Lincolnshire.

Conclusion

The service that the Local Authority provides in partnership with LLPB and the Teaching School Hub remains an essential and effective provision in the landscape of education and school improvement.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

This report was written by Geraldine Willders, who can be contacted on 07827 829247 or Geraldine.willders@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Open Report on behalf of Martin Smith, Assistant Director - Children's Education

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	19 January 2023
Subject:	Academies and Trust Update

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the latest number of academies and pupils in academies, and academy trusts.

Recommendation(s):

The Schools' Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

Background

The Schools' Forum asked for an update to be provided to each meeting on the number of academy conversions.

This is the position as at the 1 January 2023. The pupil figures are based on the October 2022 census data (i.e. the latest published). The national academy trust data is the latest available from "Get Information About Schools".

Since the effective date of the last report (1 September 2022), one school, Old Leake Primary and Nursery School joined Voyage Education Partnership on 1 November 2022. This means that 78,965 (72.5%) FTE pupils are now educated in non-maintained schools.

Current Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		366	
Maintained	5	100.0%	366	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Primary				
All	281		57,343	
Maintained	162	57.7%	26,601	46.4%

Academy	119	42.3%	30,742	53.6%
Secondary				
All	54		48,766	
Maintained	2	3.7%	2,204	4.5%
Academy	52	96.3%	46,562	95.5%
Special				
All	18		2,148	
Maintained	5	27.8%	713	33.2%
Academy	13	72.2%	1,435	66.8%
PRU				
All	5		227	
Maintained	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Academy	5	100.0%	227	100.0%
Total				
All	363		108,850	
Maintained	174	47.9%	29,885	27.5%
Academy	189	52.1%	78,965	72.5%

There are currently no schools formally seeking or being required to become an academy. Therefore, the six month projected situation remains the same.

Projected Six Month Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		366	
Maintained	5	100.0%	366	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Primary				
All	281		57,343	
Maintained	162	57.7%	26,601	46.4%
Academy	119	42.3%	30,742	53.6%
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Total				
All	363		108,850	
Maintained	174	47.9%	29,885	27.5%
Academy	189	52.1%	78,965	72.5%

Voyage Education Partnership has increased its number of academies to nine, to become the joint fourth largest trust operating in Lincolnshire, following the conversion of Old Leake Primary and Nursery School.

	Total	FTE Pupils
1 Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust	15	2752
2 Community Inclusive Trust	12	2130
The Priory Federation of Academies	12	7474
4 Infinity Academies Trust	9	2110
Voyage Education Partnership	9	3836
6 The David Ross Education Trust	8	2743
7 Greenwood Academies Trust	7	2585
Keystone Academy Trust	7	2082
Wellspring Academy Trust	7	1178
10 Anthem Schools Trust	5	2677
University of Lincoln Academy Trust	5	2594

There are thirty-five active multi-academy trusts operating within Lincolnshire and a total of 150 Lincolnshire academies that are members of multi-academy trusts. This represents 79.4% of all Lincolnshire Academies. Thirty-nine (20.6%) of Lincolnshire academies are single-academy trusts and are not members of multi-academy trusts. Eight multi-academy trusts have just one Lincolnshire academy as a member; three of these are single Lincolnshire academy multi-academy trusts. The other five also have academies that are not within Lincolnshire. Seven multi-academy trusts have two academies; four of these trusts are currently based entirely within Lincolnshire. There are forty-nine academy trusts in Lincolnshire that have less than four schools.

	National	Lincs
1 Academies Enterprise Trust	57	2
2 Greenwood Academies Trust	37	7
3 The David Ross Education Trust	34	8
4 Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust	32	4
5 The Enquire Learning Trust	30	1

The largest academy trusts nationally that operate within Lincolnshire are Academies Enterprise Trust (Fifty-seven Academies, two in Lincolnshire), Greenwood Academies Trust has thirty-five academies, seven in Lincolnshire, and The David Ross Education Trust has 34, eight within Lincolnshire. Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust has taken on four Lincolnshire Schools and now has 32 academies nationally and the Enquire Learning Trust has thirty Academies, one in Lincolnshire,

Conclusion

The Schools' Forum is asked to note the contents of the report.

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The academy conversion process is fully understood and has been in place for a number of years. There are services funded either by the number of maintained schools (e.g. School Improvement government grant) and the number of maintained school pupils (e.g. de-delegation services). Future anticipated funding levels are considered through the annual detailed budget setting exercise.

The actual split between Local Authority maintained and academies has no financial risk to the Council from the Dedicated Schools Grant schools delegation budget perspective.

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the writing of this report.

This report was written by Ady Clarke, who can be contacted on 01522 553216 or ady.clarke@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 9

Lincolnshire Schools' Forum Work Programme

19 January 2023 – TBC

School Funding Arrangements 2023/24	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide an update on school funding arrangements for 2023/24
Early Years National Funding Formula	Geraldine O'Neill	To provide a summary on the early years national funding formula for 2023/24, and to seek agreement relating to the allocation and distribution of the centrally retained budgets
Sector Led Approach for School Improvement	Geraldine Willders	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the Sector Led Approach for School Improvement
Academies and Trust Update	Mark Popplewell	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the latest position regarding the number of Maintained Schools and Academies and the pupils in them
Lincolnshire Schools' Forum – Work Programme	Emily Wilcox	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

20 April 2023 – TBC

Building Communities of Specialist Provision: Update	Eileen McMorrow	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the SEND Strategy
Academies and Trust Update	John O'Connor	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the latest position regarding the number of Maintained Schools and Academies and the pupils in them
Lincolnshire Schools' Forum – Work Programme	Emily Wilcox	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

29 June 2023 – TBC

Election of Chairman		
Election of Vice-Chairman		
Review of LSF Constitution and Membership	Mark Popplewell	For the Schools Forum to consider and update its Rules of Operation
Section 251 Budget Statement 2023/24	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide an update to the Schools' Forum regarding the budget statement for 2023/24
Annual Report - Special Educational Needs	Sheridan Dodsworth	To receive an annual report on Special Educational Needs
Annual Report on Early Years	Geraldine O'Neill	To receive an annual report on Early Years' Service
Alternative Provision Arrangements	Mary Meredith	To provide a update on how alternative provision arrangements are working
Academies and Trust Update	John O'Connor	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the latest position regarding the number of Maintained Schools and Academies and the pupils in them
Lincolnshire Schools' Forum – Work Programme	Emily Wilcox	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

5 October 2023 – TBC

National Funding Formula for schools - update 2024/25	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the mainstream school funding
De-delegation of Maintained Primary Schools Budgets (2024/25)	Mark Popplewell	To seek approval from the maintained primary school representatives approval to the Local authority's proposals
Revised Schools Budgets 2023/24	Mark Popplewell	To provide information on the revised Schools Budget for 2023/24 and to seek support
Schools Broadband Services	Mark Popplewell	To provide an update to the future schools broadband arrangements available for all

		Lincolnshire schools
Academies and Trust Update	John O'Connor	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the latest position regarding the number of Maintained Schools and Academies and the pupils in them
Lincolnshire Schools' Forum – Work Programme	Emily Wilcox	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme
Future Meeting Dates	Emily Wilcox	For the Schools' Forum to agree their future meeting dates

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