



County Offices
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LN1 1YL

6 January 2021

In accordance with the powers granted by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this will be a virtual meeting.

Lincolnshire Schools' Forum

A meeting of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum will be held on **Thursday, 14 January 2021 at 1.00 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: <https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5899&Ver=4> where a live feed will be made available on the day of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'DBarnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum

SCHOOLS' MEMBERS

Nursery (1)

Joanne Noble (Head Teacher, Gainsborough Nursery School)

Special (1)

1 vacancy

Primary Maintained (6)

Primary Maintained Head Teachers (3)

Martin Kyle (Head Teacher, St Faith & St Martin C E Junior School, Lincoln)

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

Primary Maintained Governors (3)

Penny Davies (Governor, Saxilby C E Primary School)
Anthony 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)
Mrs Frances Green (Head Teacher, Somercotes Academy)
Simon Pickett (Head Teacher, The King's School, Grantham)
Mark Woods (Chief Executive Officer, Stamford Welland Academy)

Secondary Academies Governors (3)

Rachel Barrett FCCA (Governor, North Kesteven Academy, North Hykeham)
Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's School, Grantham)
1 vacancy

Primary Academies (5)

Primary Academies Head Teachers (3)

Gavin Booth (Head Teacher, Boston St Thomas' C E Primary School) **CHAIRMAN**
Katie Grivil (Head Teacher, Kirkby la Thorpe C E Primary Academy)
Simon Morley (Head Teacher, Boston West Academy)

Primary Academies Governors (2)

Daniel Callaghan (Head Teacher, Hartsholme Academy, Lincoln)
1 vacancy

Special Academies (2)

Special Academies Head Teacher (1)

Mrs Leandra Mason (Executive Head Teacher, Lincolnshire Wolds Federation)

Special Academies Governor (1)

Dr Stephen Hopkins

Alternative Provision Academy (1)

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

NON-SCHOOLS' MEMBERS

Faith Groups (1)

Paul Thompson

Providers of 16 to 19 Education (1)

Martin Shelton (Linkage Community Trust)

Staff Trade Unions (1)

Helen Stokes (UNISON)

Early Years Providers (1)

Julia Merivale (Trinity Day Nursery, Gainsborough)

**LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM AGENDA
THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interest	
3	Minutes of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum meeting held on 8 October 2020	5 - 16
4	Chairman's Announcements	Verbal Report
5	National Funding Formula for schools (2021/22) <i>(To receive a report from Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services, which invites the Schools' Forum to consider and comment on the Local Authority's funding formula proposals for 2021/22 following the government's funding announcements on the mainstream schools national funding formula proposals)</i>	17 - 42
6	School Funding Arrangements 2021/22 <i>(To receive a report from Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager, Schools Finance Team, which advises the Schools' Forum on the school funding arrangements for 2021/22)</i>	To Follow
7	Early Years National Funding Formula <i>(To receive a report from Geraldine O'Neill, Sustainability and Development Manager, which provides the Schools' Forum with a summary of the Early Years National Funding Formula for 2021/22; details the funding distribution for early years providers in Lincolnshire for 2021/22; and seeks agreement for the Local Authority's proposals relating to the allocation and distribution of the centrally retained budgets)</i>	43 - 56
8	Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Update - Sector Led System of School Improvement <i>(To receive a report from Sue Williams, Head of Educational Strategy, which provides the Schools' Forum with an update on the work of the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board and sector-led approach to school improvement)</i>	57 - 66
9	Scheme for Financing Schools <i>(To receive a report from Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services, which provides the Schools' Forum with an update in relation to the latest publication by the Department for Education of its revised guidance on the Scheme for Financing Schools)</i>	67 - 70

- 10 Academies and Trust Update** 71 - 74
(To receive a report from John O'Connor, Children's Service Manager, Education Support, which provides the Schools' Forum with information on the latest number of academies and pupils in academies, and academy trusts)
- 11 Lincolnshire Schools' Forum - Work Programme** 75 - 78
(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)

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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
- Copies of reports

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 8 OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:

Joanne Noble (Headteacher, Gainsborough Nursery School), Anthony Stevens (Governor, The Holt Primary School, Skellingthorpe), Martin Kyle (Head Teacher, St Faith and St Martin's Junior School), Ian Randall (Head Teacher, Reepham Church of England Primary School), Catherine Stratton (Head Teacher, Saxilby Church of England Primary School), Michele Anderson (Head Teacher, Spalding High School), Rachel Barrett FCCA (Governor, North Kesteven Academy), Professor Ken Durrands CBE (Governor, The King's School, Grantham), Mark Woods (Chief Executive Officer, Stamford Welland Academy), Gavin Booth (Head Teacher, Boston St Thomas' C E Primary School), Katie Grivil (Head Teacher, Kirkby la Thorpe Church of England Primary Academy), Simon Morley (Head Teacher, Boston West Academy), Josh Greaves (Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Wellspring Academy Trust), Paul Thompson, Martin Shelton (College Principal, Linkage Community Trust), Helen Stokes (Branch Secretary, UNISON) and Julia Merivale (Manager, Trinity Day Nursery).

Officers in attendance:-

Michelle Andrews (Head of Early Years), Elizabeth Bowes (Strategic Finance Manager, Schools Finance Team), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Sheridan Dodsworth (Head of SEND), Nick Harrison (Democratic Services Officer), Mark Popplewell (Head of Finance (Children's Services)), Martin Smith (Assistant Director for Children's Education), Tony Warnock (Operations and Financial Advice Manager) and Teresa Rowson (Finance Team Manager, Schools Finance Team).

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Gavin Booth be elected as Chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum for 2020/21.

GAVIN BOOTH IN THE CHAIR

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Josh Greaves be elected Vice-Chairman of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum for 2020/21.

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LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM
8 OCTOBER 2020

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Penny Davies, (Governor, Saxilby C E Primary School).

4 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

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

5 MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Lincolnshire Schools' Forum meeting held on 16 January 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Paul Thompson (Faith Group Representative) to his first meeting of the Forum.

The Chairman advised that an election would be held in due course to fill the current vacancies on the Forum.

7 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA FOR SCHOOLS - UPDATE FOR 2021/22

The Forum gave consideration to a report from Elizabeth Bowes, Strategic Finance Manager, Schools Finance Team, which provided a summary of the updates from the Department of Education (DfE) relating to the national funding formula (NFF) for schools, central school services, high needs and early years for 2021/22. Page 17 of the report provided the Forum with background information relating as to why the national funding formula was introduced.

The Forum was advised that on 30 August 2019, the Prime Minister had announced an investment of over £14bn in primary and secondary education between 2020/21 and 2022/23. Through this investment and the move towards the 'hard' formula in 2020/21, the DfE had stated that the minimum per pupil levels of funding applied to all schools would become a mandatory factor in 2020/21 and that there would be no ceiling cap, so that all schools would attract at least their full allocations under the formula.

It was reported that on 20 July 2020, the government had announced its funding intentions for 2021/22, including the publication of the Schools Revenue Funding 2021/22 Operational Guidance and the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2021/22. The Forum was advised that for 2021/22, the DSG would continue to comprise of four block – Schools block, Central Schools block, High

Needs block, and Early Years block. Details of the provisional allocations for 2021/22 were shown on page 18 of the report.

Details relating to each of the four blocks were shown on pages 18 to 21 of the report. It was highlighted that the provisional allocation for the Early Years block was still to be confirmed.

The Forum noted that within the Schools block there were two key technical changes for mainstream schools funding, these were:

- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant has been incorporated into the national funding formula for 2021/22. The funding had been added to the basic per pupil entitlement; to the minimum per pupil funding levels, and to the schools' 2020/21 funding baselines so that it was protected through the funding floor for protection purposes; and
- The 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated through the formulae is based on the latest data.

The Forum noted further that the DfE did not require the Local Authority to consult with schools concerning the above technical changes.

Further information within the guidance in relation to the Schools block was detailed on pages 19 and 20 of the report, which included an overall increase in the NFF of 4%, key formula factors monetary values increasing by 3% and pupil-led funding increasing, by at least 2%.

Appendix A (page 25) to the report provided a funding comparison of the NFF factors from 2020/21 to 2021/22.

The Forum noted that published information outlined that within the Central School Services block, the Local Authority (LA) would continue to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising of two distinct elements. These were on-going responsibilities and historic commitments. It was highlighted that the on-going rate per pupil for 2021/22 would be £32.75 (compared to the 2020/21 rate of £31.84). It was noted further that the final allocation would be subject to the October 2020 school census. The report highlighted the further 20% reduction in historical commitment funding and the impact this would have with long term contracts remaining in place.

It was reported that the published information had also outlined that within the High Needs (HN) block the provisional allocation for 2021/22 had increased by £9.507m to £102.449m. The increased allocation also included the Teachers' pay and Teachers' pension grants for high needs establishments. The Forum noted that the increased funding in the HN block was welcomed, however, with the current trajectory of spending and forecasted HN block overspend; and the uncertainty of future years HN block allocations beyond 2021/22 there was still an urgent need for transformation in the SEND arena and support from the schools sector.

It was highlighted that provisional information for the Early Years block had not yet been released, but confirmation had been received that funding had been confirmed for Maintained Nursery schools to the end of 2020/21 academic year. The Forum was advised further that the DfE had confirmed that the LAs autumn term 2020 funding would be based on the January 2020, rather than the January 2021, which would provide more financial certainty for Early Year settings.

It was highlighted that some authorities, despite their best effort still had historic deficits from their DSG. The Forum noted that in these cases, the DfE would be working together with the LA to agree a plan of action to enable the LA to pay off their debt.

In conclusion, the Forum was advised that the funding announcements were again positive news for Lincolnshire; however, there was still a large level of uncertainty at a national level due to a number of factors including Covid-19 and Brexit.

Details of the proposed next steps were included on page 22 of the report. The Forum was reminded that the NFF consultation for mainstream schools 2021/22 funding would be commencing in the autumn, and all schools were encouraged to participate in it.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- How were governing bodies going to maintain accuracy with their planning with the unknowns of Teachers pay and pensions and the extra funding needed to manage Covid-19. The Forum was advised that schools needed to adopt scenario planning to estimate and incorporate such costs into their medium term finance plans. There was recognition that there would be increasing costs, and officers had raised these with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) regarding Covid-19, but had been advised further funding would not be available beyond the summer term to support schools with the on-going costs of the pandemic;
- How Nursery schools would meet the 2020 teachers pay award, when nursery schools would not be receiving a funding increase? Officers advised that this would need to be met from 2021/22 funding levels, which were still to be confirmed. It was highlighted that the government grant to nursery schools would be added to the Early Years block; and that this funding announcement was yet to be received beyond the 2020/21 academic year. Again, scenario planning for the future was encouraged; and
- A question was asked whether the LA was proposing in the consultation for High Needs funding increase for alternative provision and specialist settings to mirror that of mainstream schools. The Forum was advised that full consideration would be taken in relation to this including the assessment of affordability of the HN block. It was highlighted that a review would be taking place of special schools and alternative provision school funding; and that it was hoped to implement measures in April 2021.

RESOLVED

That the National Funding Formula for Schools Update for 2021/22 be noted.

8 DE-DELEGATION OF MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOLS BUDGETS
2021/22 AND 2022/23

The Chairman invited Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services to present the report to the Forum.

The Forum was advised that the purpose of the report was to seek approval from the maintained primary school representatives' of the Forum to the LA's proposals for the de-delegation of certain budgets in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Details of the background to the key features of the de-delegation arrangements were provided on page 27 of the report.

The Forum was reminded that for 2019/20 maintained primary schools had agreed to de-delegate funding for:

- Contingency, i.e. termination of employment costs for schools in financial difficulty, and exceptional unforeseen costs; and
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Education Team (EMTET).

It was confirmed that no funds had been de-delegated for maintained secondary schools.

It was reported that the cumulative underspend at 31 March 2020 was £0.312m after commitments for additional maintained school improvement services.

The Forum noted that the de-delegation budget for 2020/21 had been agreed by maintained primary school representatives at the meeting of the Forum in October 2019. The final per pupil rates using the October census for 'contingency termed' budgets had been set at £29.23 per pupil; and EMTET at £6.01 per pupil. Appendix 1 to the report provided further information regarding current services for the Forum to consider.

Particular reference was made to primary maintained intervention funding, which supported maintained primary schools to make rapid, identified improvements where school finances would otherwise prevent this from happening. It was highlighted that for 2019/20, the budget had funded 67 different schools for specific reasons. The Forum noted that an outcome of this had been that 38 of the schools were now rated green with no known issues; and 26 were now rated as being vulnerable rather than being high risk or being schools causing concern.

The Forum was advised that it was proposed that maintained primary schools de-delegation 'contingency termed' budgets remained and the charges for 2021/22 should continue at the same per pupil rate as in 2020/21 (£29.23 per pupil) and that

the EMTET would require a fixed budget to support staffing, which determined a provisional rate of £6.42 per pupil. Details of what would be financed as a result of the per pupil rates was shown on page 29 of the report.

RESOLVED

That agreement be given by primary maintained representatives to the proposal for de-delegation of the budgets for the period 2021/22 and 2022/23 (in principle) as detailed on page 29 of the report.

9 REVISED SCHOOLS BUDGET 2020/21

The Chairman invited Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services to present the report to the Forum.

The Forum was advised that the purpose of the report was to notify the Forum of the revised Schools Budget for 2020/21 and to seek support for the proposed use of the under spending from 2019/20.

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

It was reported that the cumulative underspend carried forward at 31 March 2020 was £12.618m before accounting for commitment of £7.312m. The Forum noted that the uncommitted sum of £5.306m represented 0.89% of Lincolnshire's overall 2020/21 DSG (£595.282m). This reflected the net under spending of £0.064m on budgets in 2019/20 held centrally within the DSG.

Appendix A to the report provided the Forum with an explanation of the major under and overspendings of the Central DSG Budgets for 2019/20. Particular reference was made to the HN top up funding, which reflected the rise in the number of pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in Lincolnshire. Also highlighted was out of county placements, the Forum noted that EHC plan placements were only made when there was no Lincolnshire school able to take pupils.

Appendix B to the report provided the Forum with details relating to the existing 2019/20 DSG commitments, which totalled £7.312m. Particular reference was made to the temporary rate increase in the early years sector for 3 and 4 year old entitlement; the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Strategy; and Sector-led school investment. It was noted that some commitments could not be fully quantified at this stage, but when work streams were finalised, or the government's position was confirmed, spending would start to take place.

The Forum was advised that it was proposed that the remaining uncommitted sum of £5.306m was held in reserves, due to the current spending levels in the area of SEND and the uncertainty in the financial environment going forward. A full explanation of the LAs position was detailed on pages 38 to 41 of the report.

In conclusion, the Forum noted that the LA did not have a deficit in its overall DSG account, unlike some other LAs, who had large overspends on their High Needs block.

The Forum noted further that the LA proposal to hold the uncommitted sum in reserves was due to the anticipated growth in costs in the area of SEND; and the tighter financial environment expected going forward.

It was highlighted that the LA proposals to retain financial capacity within the DSG reserves was to temporarily manage unfunded cost pressures and transformational activities which were seen as important measures to securing a financially sustainable DSG.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- What measures were being put in place to measure the improved outcomes from the HN block. It was agreed that there needed to be a measurement of the investment made. Reassurance was given that this would be reviewed;
- Multi-faceted approach to mainstream. The Forum was advised best practice supported existing funding, but that checks would need to be done, to ensure that they were achieving targets in the sector led review;
- Whether the Early Years underspend could be used to address Early Years hourly rate. The Forum was advised that the reserves were only a temporary measure, which the LA applied in 2020/21, whilst considering the overall affordability of the DSG. A permanent solution was required on nursery school funding rates.

RESOLVED

1. That the Revised Schools Budget 2020/21 report presented be noted.
2. That support be given to the Local Authority's proposal for the use of the uncommitted sum, as outlined in section five of the report.

10 ANNUAL REPORT ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The Chairman invited Sheridan Dodsworth, Children's Services Manager, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to present the report to the Forum.

The Forum was advised that the purpose of the report was to provide the Forum with an annual update of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as required by the Schools' Forum Regulations.

In guiding the Forum through the report, reference was made to:

- The background information relating to SEND;
- The national context – It was reported that in January 2020 there were 390,109 children and young people (0-25) in England with an EHC plan; this

was an increase of 36,100 (10%) from January 2019. It was noted almost half of the new plans made in 2019 were for those aged between 5 and 10 years of age. Further details were provided on pages 50 and 51 of the report);

- The Context in Lincolnshire – The Forum was advised that 16.3% of pupils on the roll of Lincolnshire schools had a special educational need. As of January 2020, 5,118 children and young people (0-25) had an EHC Plan. It was highlighted that this was a 10% increase from January 2019. The Forum noted that there had been 747 new EHC plans recorded in 2019; and 1,390 requests for EHC Assessments had been made throughout 2019. Further activity data was provided on pages 51 – 52 of the report;
- High Needs Funding Analysis – Page 53 of the report provided the Forum with a table, which highlighted the total funding allocated over the last five years for learners with high level needs who attended mainstream schools and academies; as was information relating to Special Schools and Independent Non-Maintained Specialist Provision and Independent School placements in Lincolnshire;
- Trajectories and risk around SEND activity – The Forum was advised that it was anticipated that if the education sector and partners continued to respond as they currently were to children and young people with additional needs then the authority would be responsible for in excess of 8,000 EHC plans by 2023. At the end of September 2020, the authority already had over 6,000 EHC plans, which was almost a 50% increase over the six years since the introduction of the SEND reforms. It was reported that the HN Budget for 2019/20 was £85.297m. For 2020/21 the budget was £92.943m; and current spending commitments were showing a forecasted overspend. Members were reminded that Building Communities of Specialist Provision strategy approved in November 2018 would create additional capacity through significant capital investment in the Special School estate. It was highlighted that under the current trajectory, indications were that the new places created would be filled in a short space of time, unless steps were taken to support young people to return to mainstream provision when they were ready. It was highlighted further that it was currently rare for a young person to transition from Special School to mainstream despite the fact their outcomes in Special Schools were likely to be poorer. Outcome information for children and young people was detailed on pages 54 and 55 of the report;
- Transformation in Lincolnshire for children and young people with SEND – The Forum noted Lincolnshire had a very well established collaboration with the Parent Carer Forum and colleagues across the health sector; and that using the collaborative approach, the system was working together to change the way in which children and young people with SEND were supported. It was highlighted that an 'Inclusive Ambition' had been co-produced to ensure that change happened. A list showing ten system ambitions and key activities were shown on pages 56 to 58 of the report; and
- Covid-19 – Page 58 of the report provided the Forum with details of the actions undertaken following the government's announcement in March 2020 of school closures. It was reported that eighteen of the nineteen Special Schools had been open throughout lockdown.

In conclusion, the Forum was advised that SEND in Lincolnshire was not without challenge, and that there was a committed and ambitious partnership that was already changing its approach to supporting children and young people with additional needs, to ensure that funding was directed to the right activities to maximise their outcomes.

During discussion, the Forum raised the following points:

- How long would it be before all the places created by the Building Communities of Specialist Provision strategy were filled? The Forum was advised that it was hoped initially that the strategy would future prove SEND places for the next ten years, however, with the current trajectory (4% each year) it was now felt this would now be three/four years;
- The success of the LENS Project in closing the gap. It was highlighted that the LENS project had been successful in embedding educational support for SEND; and that it was hoped it would be continuing as part of the support package for schools; and
- How many children and young people with SEND had to go out of county to receive support? The Forum was advised that currently there were approximately 100 children and young people going out of county to meet their SEND needs. It was noted that there was also some children and young people in independent provision within Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED

That the Annual report on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities presented be received.

11 REPORT ON EARLY YEARS - RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The Chairman invited Michelle Andrews, Children's Services Manager, Early Years to present the report, which provided the Forum with an overview and an update on the progress of the 2019 priorities; and provided information on the response and delivery of Early Years and Childcare support during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and the recovery phase.

The Forum was advised that there were 933 registered childcare providers in Lincolnshire, which included registered child minders, private, voluntary and independent group based provision, and Early Years provision being delivered by schools and academies.

It was noted that childcare provision in Lincolnshire allowed working families to access full day care for children aged 0-5 years, it also offered the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) 15 hours or 30 hours for eligible 2, 3 & 4 year olds and out of school care for school aged children up to 14 years (18 years for children with a Special Educational Need or Disability).

The Forum was advised that the Early Years, Childcare and Children's Support (EYCC) provided information, support, challenge, and training opportunities to all

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Early Years and childcare providers within Lincolnshire. This included academies, schools, private, voluntary and independent providers, registered child-minders and out of school clubs. Page 62 of the report provided details of the EYCC responsibilities.

Pages 63 and 64 provided the Forum with an update on the nine key priorities for EYCC for 2019/20.

Pages 65 to 71 provided the Forum with details of the response to Covid-19 and the response made.

Details of the EYCC key five priorities for 2020/21 were shown on pages 71 and 72 of the report.

RESOLVED

1. That the Report of the Early Years – Response and Recovery be received.
2. That the priorities for Early Years and Childcare for 2020/21 as shown on pages 71 and 72 of the report be agreed.

12 **ACADEMIES AND TRUST UPDATE**

The Chairman invited Mark Popplewell, Head of Finance – Children's Services to present the report, which provided the Forum with information on the latest number of academies, pupils in academies and academy trusts.

It was highlighted that since the effective date of the last report (1 December 2019), three primary schools had converted to academy or sponsored academy status, which meant that 38.8% (109) primary schools were now academies and 49.9% (28,551) of FTE primary pupils were educated in academies.

It was reported that a further two primary schools were intending to be academies by 1 March 2021.

Information relating to the projected six month status of all Lincolnshire State Schools was provided on pages 73 to 75 of the report presented.

The report also provided a list of academy trusts that currently had the greatest number of academies in Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED

- That the Academies and Trust update be noted.

13 **LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS' FORUM - WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman invited comments from members of the Forum relating to the work programme detailed on pages 77 to 80 of the report pack.

The Forum's representative on the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board (Martin Kyle) extended thanks to the LLP for their support and guidance during the Covid-19 outbreak. Thanks were also extended to the Chairman of the LLPB for her support and contribution to the Board.

The Forum was also advised that the LLP and the Strategic Education Group were evolving; and that an update on the Sector Led Approach for School Improvement was scheduled to be considered at the January 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme as presented on pages 77 to 80 of the pack be noted.

14 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED

That the meeting dates as detailed below be agreed:

- Thursday 14 January 2021 at 1.00pm;
- Thursday 22 April 2021 at 1.00pm;
- Thursday 24 June 2021 at 1.00pm; and
- Thursday 7 October 2021 at 1.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.

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

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools Forum
Date:	14 January 2021
Subject:	National Funding Formula for schools (2021/22)

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consult the Schools' Forum on the Local Authority's funding formula proposals for 2021/22 following the government's funding announcements on the mainstream schools national funding formula proposals.

The outcomes of the Local Authority's consultation with mainstream schools (enclosed) have been considered, and the Local Authority is now in a position to present its latest proposals for schools funding in 2021/22, for Schools' Forum consideration.

Executive Councillor approval will be required to agree the schools funding formula for 2021/22.

Recommendation(s):

The Schools Forum is asked to:

1. to note the content of the report, and
2. support the Local Authority's funding formula proposals for 2021/22 including continuing to replicate the national funding formula.

Background

The government first introduced the national funding formula (NFF) in 2018/19 for mainstream schools. Since its introduction, Local Authorities have continued to be responsible for agreeing and calculating schools funding allocations, however Local Authorities were strongly encouraged to move to the NFF arrangements so that schools' allocations were on a sensible trajectory towards the full formula.

The introduction of the NFF was to create consistency in funding across all schools nationally ensuring a fairer settlement for each school.

Local Authority 'Schools block' Funding

The Local Authority Primary and Secondary Units of pupil funding used to finance the Schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which calculates mainstream schools budgets continues to rise in monetary value. Table 1 below outlines Lincolnshire's schools overall funding level for 2021/22 through the implementation of the NFF compared to other Local Authorities.

Table 1

	Lincolnshire's Unit of Funding	England National Average	Difference	Rank
Primary	£4,570	£4,666	-£96	80
Secondary	£5,724	£6,048	-£324	49

The unit funding levels are below the England average for each sector, however Lincolnshire's position nationally has improved when making comparisons. Lincolnshire's net primary unit value increase is £206¹, and Lincolnshire's secondary unit increase is £180² for 2021/22.

Schools Funding for 2021/22

The DfE confirmed in July 2020 that the 2021/22 funding settlement announced by the Prime Minister on the 30 August 2019 would remain in place. This included the investment of over £14bn in primary and secondary education between 2020/21 and 2022/23. The funding package for schools (aged 5 to 16) includes £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8bn for 2021/22 and £7.1bn for 2022/23 compared to 2019/20 funding levels. This announcement has provided a level of financial certainty for schools in the short term.

The illustrative 2021/22 funding for Lincolnshire primary and secondary mainstream schools (using October 2019 data) is an overall increase of £18.067m when taking account of the £20.769m added into the Schools block for teachers' pay and pension grant funding.

The announcement of additional funding for mainstream schools and NFF changes require Local Authorities to engage in an open and transparent consultation on their 2021/22 funding formula. The Local Authority has therefore consulted with its local schools and academies on proposed schools funding formula changes for 2021/22.

Details of the funding formula changes and monetary values attached to each formula factor (compared to 2020/21 funding levels) can be found within the Appendix A, which is accompanying this report.

Proposed Lincolnshire's Schools Funding for 2021/22

¹ The overall primary unit value has increased by £386 in 2021/22. This includes £180 of existing funding received by primary schools for the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant, which has been moved into the Dedicated Schools Grant from 2021/22.

² The overall secondary unit value has increased by £445 in 2021/22. This includes £265 of existing funded received by secondary schools for the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant.

Detailed financial modelling work has been undertaken by the Local Authority to understand the government's NFF changes for 2021/22. The government announcement of additional funding into schools will continue to have a positive impact on Lincolnshire schools.

Subject to affordability (and subsequent scaling to a maximum of +0.5%), schools will receive a minimum of +2.00% in per pupil funding through the 2021/22 funding arrangements.

Other key points for 2021/22 funding arrangements include:

- Key formula factors will increase by 3% in monetary value.
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools. This will continue to be a mandatory factor in Local Authorities local formula.
- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (including supplementary funding) have been incorporated into the NFF for 2021/22. The funding has been added to the basic per pupil entitlement; to the minimum per pupil funding levels, and to the schools' 2020/21 funding baselines so that it is protected through the funding floor for protection purposes.
- No gains ceiling cap will continue to be applied.
- Additional funding for small and remote schools through an increase in the sparsity factor value.

The Local Authority has consulted on the proposal to continue replicating the government's NFF in 2021/22, subject to affordability. It is important to make reference to affordability due to the time lag in data used to fund Local Authorities Schools block allocations, which funds schools budgets. This is a pertinent point due to the significant pre-16 increase of 25.20% in Free School Meal eligibility Lincolnshire has experienced as a result of the pandemic, which is recorded on the latest October schools census. The determination of school budgets will be undertaken in January 2021 following the publication of schools census information by the Department for Education (DfE), thereafter affordability will be understood. Affordability options are considered in question 3 of the consultation. and the Local Authority will consider all options available to ensure individual school level implications are minimised.

The Local Authority also consulted on the proposal to continue using targeted funding as an approach to supporting schools, but to use the actual amount of notional SEN determined through NFF to identify whether a school has sufficient notional SEN funding to support pupils that have an EHC plan at their school. The targeted funding supports schools where they have a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs. The planned changes reflect the increased notional SEN allocations held within schools budgets through the introduction of the NFF, which will ensure fair funding is provided to schools through targeted funding.

The schools consultation period covered the period 7 December to the 21 December 2020. The consultation period timescales were tight due to a number of factors, which limited the consultation time and the Local Authority decision-making

process. Schools were however forewarned that a consultation would be taking place in the autumn period. NFF funding formula updates were delivered to Lincolnshire schools through the virtual head teacher briefing sessions.

The consultation document that was circulated to all mainstream schools can be found in Appendix A. As part of the consultation exercise, the Education & Skills Funding Agency required Local Authorities to illustrate the likely financial impact of the proposals upon individual schools. This was enclosed within the supporting documentation using the schools October 2019 census data (due to the October 2020 census data not being available at this time), and the 2020/21 baseline information (including teachers' pay and pension grants) for illustrative funding purposes.

Schools Consultation

Overall, 60 schools responded to the consultation. The response rate to the consultation did improve compared to previous consultation exercises. The response rates however continue to remain low with 15% of primary schools and 26% of secondary schools. The overall response rate of 17% across the sectors was higher than the 2020/21 NFF consultation response rate of 14%³.

The Local Authority set out in the consultation document 5 questions, and these are shown in Appendix A. Also shown is the percentage of schools in favour or against, together with an outline of the key comments that emerged from schools. All of this information has been considered by the Local Authority and Appendix A sets out the Local Authority's current proposals for consideration by the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny committee and the Schools Forum in January 2021.

It is clear from Appendix A, that of the schools that responded the support rate ranged from 93% to 100% across the consultation questions for the Local Authority's proposals to continue replicating the government's NFF in 2021/22, and to use the NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to targeted funding. The SEN related amendments recognise the increased funding going to schools through the NFF therefore providing fair funding (and effective deployment and financial sustainability of the High Needs block), and the application of targeted funding ensures schools are not being financially disadvantaged by having a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs.

The Local Authority's proposals are to continue adopting the NFF in 2021/22 (subject to affordability) by adopting the following:

- Key formula factors will increase by 3% in monetary value.

³ The response rates to consultations are typically below 30%. Since its creation in 2003, the Schools Forum has been responsible for considering school funding arrangements on behalf of schools, and acts an effective consultative body when proposing funding changes. It must also be added that the school funding arrangements are complex, and some schools may have found this difficult to understand.

- A positive minimum funding guarantee of +2.0% per pupil protection (subject to affordability). The MFG range is between +0.5% and +2.0% per pupil in 2021/22.
- No gains ceiling cap (subject to affordability).
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools.
- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (including supplementary funding) will be incorporated into the NFF for 2021/22 (technical adjustment).

The Local Authority proposals are to adopt the following SEN related amendments in 2021/22:

- To use the 2021/22 NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to targeted funding.
- The targeted funding criteria will allocate the first £6,000⁴ where a school has been identified as having insufficient notional SEN within its delegated budget due to the number of pupils with an EHC plan.
- To increase the top up rate for EHC plans subject to affordability of the High Needs block.
- To apply transitional protection funding for 2021/22 where targeted funding and top up rate changes result in the school funding falling below +2.0% per pupil increase (or the final minimum funding guarantee value agreed).

The illustrative 2021/22 funding for Lincolnshire primary schools in comparison to 2020/21 funding levels show overall school gains of 4.3% or £0.034m. Illustrative funding for Lincolnshire secondary schools show overall gains of 2.7% or £0.110m.

The financial impact upon individual schools will depend upon the combination of decisions that are finally taken and the schools October 2020 census information. The position of schools budgets for 2021/22 are to be published by the 28 February 2021.

Tables 2 & 3 below show the monetary gains at school level from continuing to replicate the national funding formula in 2021/22 using October 2019 census data, and the 2020/21 baseline information for comparison purposes, including the SEN changes.

Table 2

Primary Schools (£)	Gains
0 - 9,999	5.36%
10,000 - 19,999	22.50%
20,000 - 29,999	31.43%
30,000 - 39,999	13.93%
40,000 - 49,999	7.14%
50,000 - 59,999	3.93%
60,000 - 69,999	5.36%

Table 3

Secondary Schools (£)	Gains
0 – 19,999	3.78%
20,000 - 39,999	7.55%
40,000 - 59,999	5.66%
60,000 - 79,999	9.43%
80,000 –99,999	16.98%
100,000 – 119,999	18.87%
120,000 – 139,999	9.43%

⁴ Where a school is entitled to targeted funding for an EHC plan pupil starting part way through a financial year, the £6,000 will be pro-rata.

70,000 - 79,999	2.86%	140,000 – 159,999	9.43%
80,000 - 89,999	1.43%	160,000 – 179,999	9.43%
90,000 - 99,999	2.86%	180,000 – 199,999	5.66%
100,000 – 140,000	3.20%	200,000 – 315,000	3.78%

The government's intentions are still to move all schools nationally onto the 'full' NFF. This will be subject to a DfE consultation in 2021. It is important to note that a positive minimum funding guarantee has applied since the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19. A small number of schools will lose funding through the NFF in Lincolnshire but are currently receiving protection funding, therefore they are likely to face reductions in per pupil funding through the operational of a negative minimum funding guarantee at some point in the future. The timing of this however is unclear, and will be subject to central government decisions. This impacts 9 primary schools and 3 secondary schools.

Next Steps – Schools National Funding Formula

The next steps are as follows:

- To table a report at the Schools Forum meeting (14 January 2021) on the consultation findings, and the proposed 2021/22 funding formula for Schools Forum consideration.
- To table a report at the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny committee meeting (15 January 2021) on the consultation findings, Schools Forum comments and the proposed 2021/22 funding formula for the committees' consideration.
- To review Lincolnshire's Dedicated Schools Grant funding for 2021/22.
- To calculate mainstream school budgets based on the proposed funding formula using the schools October 2020 census.
- Executive Councillor approval to agree the schools funding formula for 2021/22 on the 20 January 2021.
- Submission of the Authority Proforma Tool by the 21 January 2021 to the Education & Skills Funding Agency outlining 2021/22 Lincolnshire's schools delegated funding to ensure compliance with the regulations.
- The Local Authority Finance Team to provide further information on the implementation of the NFF to schools and academies to aid their understanding of the 2021/22 school funding arrangements.
- The Local Authority to calculate individual schools budgets by the 28 February 2021.

Direction of travel

The Local Authority will continue to respond to the government's schools funding consultations representing the position of Lincolnshire schools to achieve fair levels of funding, including the Local Authority's role in being responsible for setting its schools funding formula for its mainstream schools.

Key factors to consider in future years:

- For schools forecast to lose funding compared to the full national funding formula, the scale of the downward trajectory of funding through the operation of the minimum funding guarantee will need to be confirmed in the medium term.
- How the government intends to fund school cost increases beyond the current funding settlement for schools (from 2023/24).
- How the government intends to make changes to the historic funding arrangements, such as, split-site funding and rates funding.
- The scale and speed of the reductions in funding for schools historical commitments e.g. schools broadband services.

What will it mean for Local Authorities and schools if a 'hard' NFF was applied and funding for each school is determined by central government e.g. how will annual school funding changes be applied and consulted upon to ensure it supports local needs; Local Authorities influence in representing local needs; pupil number changes for growing schools; local factors such as rents, rates and split-sites, to name a few examples. The government has confirmed that this will be consulted upon in 2021.

Conclusion

The Local Authority's proposals are to continue adopting the NFF in 2021/22 (subject to affordability) by adopting the following:

- Key formula factors will increase by 3% in monetary value.
- A positive minimum funding guarantee of +2.0% per pupil protection (subject to affordability). The MFG range is between +0.5% and +2.0% per pupil in 2021/22.
- No gains ceiling cap (subject to affordability).
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools.
- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (including supplementary funding) will be incorporated into the NFF for 2021/22 (technical adjustment).

The Local Authority proposals are to adopt the following SEN related amendments in 2021/22:

- To use the 2021/22 NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to targeted funding.
- The targeted funding criteria will allocate the first £6,000 where a school has been identified as having insufficient notional SEN within its delegated budget due to the number of pupils with an EHC plan.
- To increase the top up rate for EHC plans subject to affordability of the High Needs block.
- To apply transitional protection funding for 2021/22 where targeted funding and top up rate changes result in the school funding falling below +2.0% per pupil increase (or the final minimum funding guarantee value agreed).

Of the schools that responded to the consultation the vast majority supported the Local Authority's proposals to continue replicating the government's national funding formula in 2021/22, and the SEN related amendments.

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

School illustrative financial modelling has been undertaken and shared with all schools through the Local Authority consultation exercise on the funding formula proposals for 2021/22 in light of the government's funding announcements on the mainstream schools national funding formula (NFF) proposals, and local SEN funding amendments. The school illustrative allocations will have assisted schools in understanding the changes and to help inform their consultation response.

The DfE confirmed in July 2020 that the 2021/22 funding settlement announced by the Prime Minister on the 30 August 2019 would remain in place. This included the investment of over £14bn in primary and secondary education between 2020/21 and 2022/23. The funding package for schools (aged 5 to 16) includes £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8bn for 2021/22 and £7.1bn for 2022/23 compared to 2019/20 funding levels. This announcement has provided a level of financial certainty for schools in the short term.

The illustrative 2021/22 funding for Lincolnshire primary schools in comparison to 2020/21 funding levels show overall school gains of 4.3% or £0.034m. Illustrative funding for Lincolnshire secondary schools show overall gains of 2.7% or £0.110m.

Subject to affordability (and subsequent scaling to a maximum of +0.5%), schools will receive a minimum of +2.00% in per pupil funding through the 2021/22 funding arrangements. Those losing schools through the NFF due to their historic funding levels will not see a reduction in per pupil funding due to the government's positive minimum funding guarantee of +0.5% to +2.00%.

Schools are required to respond to pupil number and pupil characteristic changes, which is currently the case for schools.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Schools National Funding Formula consultation document and school responses

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
National Funding Formula for Schools –	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=166&MIId=5610&Ver=4

update for 2021/22 (Schools Forum – item 7): 8 October 2020	
Schools National Funding Formula - Announcement	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2021-to-2022
Schools Funding Update 2020/21	Decision paper: I019234
Schools Funding Arrangements 2020/21 (Schools Forum – item 28): 16 January 2020	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5607&Ver=4
Schools Funding Arrangements (Schools Forum – item 83): 24 January 2019	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5316&Ver=4
Schools Funding Arrangements (Schools Forum – item 5): 18 January 2018	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5160&Ver=4
National Funding Formula for mainstream schools: 10 January 2018	Decision paper: I014788

This report was written by Mark Popplewell, who can be contacted on 01522 553326 or mark.popplewell@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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To: The Chair of Governors and Headteachers of all Lincolnshire maintained schools and academies

7th December 2020

Dear colleague

**Mainstream Schools National Funding Formula 2021/22
Lincolnshire County Council's consultation with all maintained schools and academies**

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the launch of the Local Authority's (LAs) consultation on mainstream schools funding with all of the county's maintained schools and academies in light of the government's funding announcement this summer on the national funding formula (NFF) proposals for 2021/22.

The government first introduced the NFF in 2018/19 for mainstream schools. Since its introduction, 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 full formula.

The introduction of the NFF was to create consistency in funding across all schools nationally ensuring a fairer settlement for each school. To enable a managed transition to take place nationally, the government adopted a funding floor and ceiling approach to enable incremental steps for schools to move towards the full formula allowing for a financially sustainable re-distribution of funding across the country.

The Local Authority Primary and Secondary Units of pupil funding used to finance the Schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which calculates mainstream schools budgets continue to rise in monetary value through the transition to the full national funding formula. Although sector unit funding levels are below the England average, Lincolnshire's position nationally has improved when making comparisons. Considering Lincolnshire funding position in 2018/19 to 2021/22, Lincolnshire's primary unit value has increased by £759, and Lincolnshire's secondary unit by £791.

2020/21	Lincolnshire's Unit of Funding	England National Average	Difference	Rank
Primary	£4,184	£4,337	-£153	62
Secondary	£5,279	£5,606	-£327	52
2021/22				
Primary	£4,570	£4,666	-£96	80
Secondary	£5,724	£6,048	-£324	49
Difference				
Primary	£386	£329	£57	18
Secondary	£445	£442	£3	-3

Lincolnshire County Council consulted schools and academies in November 2017 on the LAs proposals to replicate the government's NFF in 2018/19 for mainstream schools, and support the direction of travel to adopt the government's full NFF. The LA funding formula proposals and responses from schools were considered at the Schools Forum and Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny committee meetings, before the Executive Councillor on the 10 January 2018 gave approval to replicate the schools national funding formula for 2018/19.

In 2019/20 and 2020/21, Lincolnshire's mainstream primary and secondary schools continued to receive funding using the same formula factors and monetary values as the NFF, alongside the government's agreed funding floors and ceilings approach.

On 30 August 2019, the Prime Minister announced an investment of over £14bn in primary and secondary education between 2020/21 and 2022/23. The funding package for schools (aged 5 to 16) includes £2.6bn for 2020/21, £4.8bn for 2021/22 and £7.1bn for 2022/23 compared to 2019/20 funding levels.

Through this investment and to move towards the 'hard' formula, the DfE outlined that the minimum per pupil levels of funding applied to all schools would become a mandatory factor in 2020/21 and there would be no ceiling cap so that all schools would attract at least their full allocations under the formula.

The 2021/22 announcement of additional funding for mainstream schools and NFF changes require Local Authorities to engage in an open and transparent consultation on their 2021/22 funding formula. The LA is therefore consulting with its local schools, academies and Schools Forum on its proposed schools funding formula changes for 2021/22.

The targeted funding criteria also requires consulting on for 2021/22. The targeted funding supports schools where they have a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs. The planned changes reflect the increased notional SEN allocations held within schools budgets, which will ensure fair funding is provided to schools through targeted funding, and the effective deployment and financial sustainability of the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The policy documents released in July 2020 by the department can be found from the links below.

[Schools Revenue Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guidance](#)

[NFF - Schools Block Technical Note](#)

The latest Schools Forum paper on the national funding formula was presented on the 8 October 2020:

[National Funding Formula for Schools - Update for 2021/22](#)

Schools had been advised that a consultation would be taking place on mainstream school 2021/22 funding arrangements in this term. On 3 December 2020, an email was sent to maintained schools and academies advising them that this would be launched on the 7 December. The LA has worked through the governments NFF announcements and guidance

documents, including technical notes. There are two technical changes for mainstream schools funding that the LA is not required to consult on:

- Funding from the teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (including supplementary funding) have been incorporated into the NFF for 2021/22. The funding has been added to the basic per pupil entitlement (£180 for primary and £265 for secondary); to the minimum per pupil funding levels, and to the schools' 2020/21 funding baselines so that it is protected through the funding floor for protection purposes.
- The 2019 update to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated through the formulae is based on the latest data.

The technical notes and guidance from the DfE have enabled detailed modelling work to be undertaken by the LA to understand the government's proposed changes.

The timescales for consulting are tight (with a deadline of 21 December 2020) due to the requirement for the LA to table the outcomes of the consultation for consideration at the Schools Forum (14 January 2021) and Children's & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee (15 January 2021) before a final decision is made by the Portfolio Holder on the 21 January 2021. The Local Authority is required to submit the agreed funding formula for 2021/22 based on the latest October 2020 census information to the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by the 21 January 2021 for approval. The deadline for confirming schools budgets is the 28 February 2021.

The Local Authority is consulting on the proposal to continue replicating the NFF in 2021/22. There are a series of questions that schools are asked to respond to that will help shape the formula for 2021/22. As part of the consultation exercise, the ESFA requires LAs to illustrate the likely financial impact of its proposals upon individual schools. This is enclosed within the supporting documentation, which is based on the schools October 2019 census data (due to the October 2020 census data not being available at this time), and the 2020/21 baseline information for illustrative funding purposes. The financial impact upon individual schools will depend upon the combination of decisions that are finally taken and the schools October 2020 census information. An outstanding matter is with the ESFA on how the LAs can respond financially to the increase in Free School Meal eligibility as a result of the pandemic when 2021/22 LA Schools block funding uses prior year 2019 pupil-led datasets. The position will of course be clear when final budgets for 2021/22 are published by the 28 February 2021.

To ensure openness and transparency, and to aid schools' understanding, the LA has provided a sufficient level of detail (including links to government pages) and illustrative school allocations to assist schools in this process, and to help schools respond to the consultation by completing and returning the enclosed proforma by 21 December 2020.

Yours sincerely

Mark Popplewell BSc (Hons) FCCA
Head of Finance – Children's Services
Lincolnshire County Council

MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22

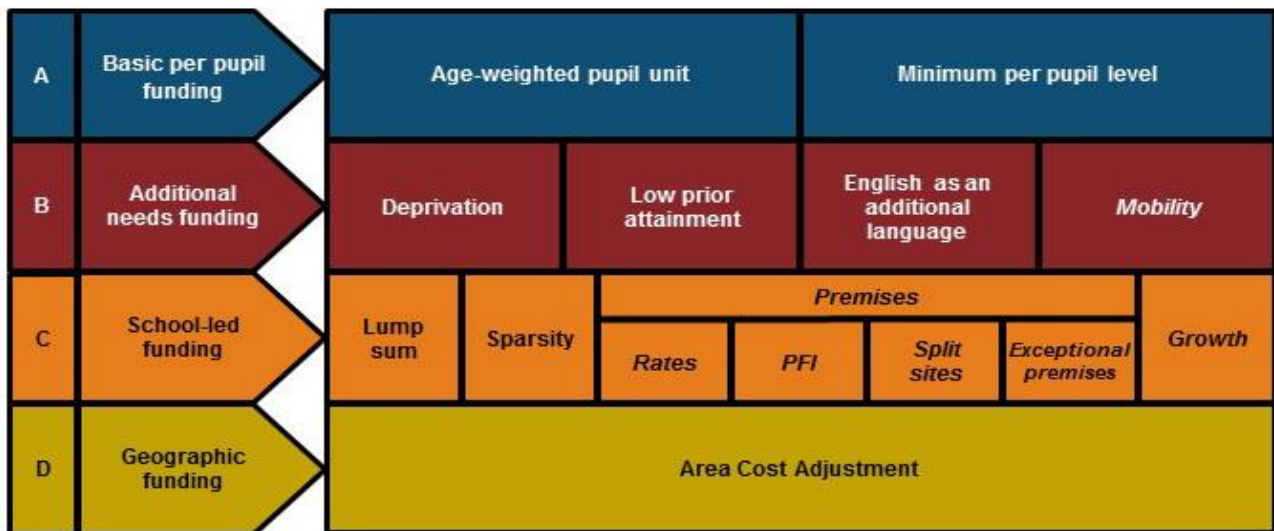
LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION WITH ALL MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Background

The government first introduced the mainstream NFF plan in 2018/19. The government plan has been to transition to the NFF through a 'soft' approach in the periods 2018/19 to 2021/22, whereby LAs continue to be responsible for calculating schools funding allocations.

The overall Schools block funding is determined at a LA level by the government's NFF by calculating notional budgets for each school. LAs have been encouraged to move towards the NFF so that schools' allocations are on a sensible trajectory towards the move to the full formula.

The government's building blocks of the schools national funding formula continue to include the following for 2021/22:



The key points from the government's schools national funding formula announcement for 2021/22:

- Each LA will continue to set the local schools formula for 2021/22 except for the minimum per pupil funding levels which will continue to be a mandatory factor in LA's local formula.
- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary schools (currently £3,750) and £5,415 for secondary schools (currently £4,800). The minimum per pupil funding levels include the incorporation of teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (primary £180, secondary £265).
- School funding through the NFF will increase by 4% overall in 2021/22. Key formula factors in the NFF will increase by 3%.
- Every school will be allocated at least 2% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to their 2020/21 NFF baseline, i.e. the Minimum Funding Floor. This means that every school will attract an increase in their pupil-led funding of at least 2% per pupil, if the NFF is replicated. The application of this will be subject to affordability.
- LAs will continue to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0.5% and +2.0%.

- For the second year there will be no gains ceiling cap. All schools will attract at least their full allocations under the formula. LAs will still be able to use a cap in their local formula. The application of this will be subject to affordability.
- Additional funding will be available for small and remote schools through an increase in the Sparsity Factor value. Schools will be able to attract up to £45,000 (currently £26,000). The increased sparsity funding is intended to be the government's first step towards expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools following an announcement by the DfE that this was to be reviewed at a national level.
- Premise funding will continue to be allocated to LAs on the basis of actual spend in the 2020/21 APT. This will continue to create a financial pressure for LAs each year due to the lag in funding which will need to be managed within the overall Schools block. The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) factor will increase in line with the RPIX measure of inflation (1.56%) to reflect PFI contracts.
- Growth funding will continue to be allocated to LAs based on the formulaic approach introduced in 2020/21 based on the growth in pupil numbers between October 2019 and October 2020 census. The government's growth funding applies a lagged approach rather than forecasting future growth expected therefore the Schools block will need to absorb any additional growth in 2021/22.
- Rates funding is based on schools actual rates bills from the prior financial year. The LA agreed through its schools consultation exercise to continue in 2020/21 to undertake a rates funding adjustment to ensure schools are funded the actual rates cost they incur in that financial year. No future agreement has been made to meet this cost from the DSG underspend.

Please refer to page 12 for the national funding formula factors monetary amounts planned for 2021/22 and page 13 refers to those in place for 2020/21.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

Enclosed within the supporting documentation is the schools illustrative financial impact based on the proposals of adopting the government's national funding formula (NFF) changes for 2021/22. The illustrative funding for schools is based on the schools October 2019 census data (due to the October 2020 census data not being available at this time), and the 2020/21 baseline information. The financial impact upon individual schools will depend upon the combination of decisions that are finally taken and the updated schools October 2020 census information. The position will be clear when final budgets for 2021/22 are published by the 28 February 2021.

Replicating the National Funding Formula in 2021/22

The Local Authority has replicated the government's National Funding Formula (NFF) since its introduction in 2018/19. All Lincolnshire mainstream schools are receiving at least the NFF allocations following the government's removal of the gains cap.

For 2021/22, funding received for teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension employer contribution grant (including supplementary funding) has been added into the NFF baseline school funding and the Age Weighted Pupil Unit value. This is considered to be a DfE technical adjustment. Other school funding formula changes are explained in the key points of the background section.

Question 1

Do you support the Local Authority in continuing to replicate the NFF in 2021/22? Please see Appendix B for 2021/22 funding formula factors and monetary values in comparison to the 2020/21 position.

Yes / No

If the answer is **no**, please outline the reasons why, and alternatives for directing funding to schools through the government agreed formula factors.

School responses	Schools' comments	Local Authority comments	The Local Authority's latest proposal
<p>Primary: 43</p> <p>Yes 95%</p> <p>No 5%</p> <p>Secondary: 14</p> <p>Yes 100%</p> <p>No 0%</p> <p>Other Sectors: 3</p> <p>Yes 100%</p> <p>No 0%</p>	<p>Two primary schools responded 'no' explained: one would have liked to have seen an alternative to consider, and the other school added that their growth numbers were not built into the modelling¹.</p>	<p>97% of responding schools supported the proposal that mainstream schools should continue to replicate the NFF in 2021/22</p> <p>The approach will continue to create consistency in funding across all schools ensuring a fair settlement for each school.</p> <p>The Local Authority has replicated the NFF since its introduction in 2018/19 with increased funding levels, and this proposal is to continue with this approach. The Local Authority would find it difficult to justify a deviation from this, which would result in redirecting funding from one school to another.</p> <p>The government's mainstream school funding arrangements have all but removed local flexibilities since the NFF introduction, as the government drive is to move all mainstream schools funding onto the 'hard' formula.</p>	<p>The Local Authority's proposal is to continue to replicate the NFF in 2021/22, subject to affordability.</p>

¹ The financial modelling for the consultation exercise was based on the schools October 2019 census data (due to the October 2020 census data not being available at the time of the consultation). The financial modelling is for illustrative funding purposes only. The 2021/22 funding will be based on the schools October 2020 census.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

The Local Authority is currently required to set a minimum funding guarantee² (MFG) per pupil between +0.5% and +1.84% against the schools existing per pupil baseline. The MFG ensures all schools are protected against per pupil funding changes from one year to the next. The 2020/21 MFG level is +1.84%, which provided schools with a minimum increase of +1.84% per pupil through the implementation of the NFF 2020/21 changes.

The government has announced in 2021/22 that Local Authorities are required to set the MFG between +0.5% and +2.0% per pupil. A decision is required to set the level of MFG for 2021/22.

Question 2

Do you agree that the Local Authority (subject to affordability) should adopt the government's proposal of a +2.0% MFG per pupil protection in 2021/22?

Yes / No

If the answer is **no**, please outline the reasons why and the level of MFG to be set at, and where the funding should be re-distributed through the NFF.

School responses	Schools' comments	Local Authority comments	The Local Authority's latest proposal
Primary: 43 Yes 100% No 0% Secondary: 14	No primary or secondary school comments received.	All responding schools supported the proposal that the Local Authority (subject to affordability) should adopt the government's proposal of a +2.0% MFG per pupil protection in 2021/22. The approach will ensure all schools receive at least a +2.0% per pupil increase	The Local Authority's proposal (subject to affordability) is to adopt the government's proposal of a +2.0% MFG per pupil protection in 2021/22.

² To protect schools from significant budget reductions, the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) ensures that no school loses more than a certain percentage per pupil compared to its prior year per pupil budget. A negative MFG allows school budget reductions to be set in a more sustainable way.

Yes 100% No 0% Other Sectors: 3 Yes 100% No 0%		compared to its 2020/21 per pupil baseline. The delivery of +2.0% will be subject to affordability of the Schools block, which funds schools delegated funding through the agreed formula.	
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Affordability

It is crucial that the overall funding delegated to schools is affordable based on the allocation made through the Schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant to the Local Authority from central government. There remain a number of uncertainties that impact affordability.

- The Local Authority Primary and Secondary Units of Funding used to finance the Schools block, which funds schools budgets are based on the previous years' data / characteristics. This therefore does not take account of up to date pupil characteristics and any associated costs that are used to fund the new year's schools funding allocations. Previously, such cost differences have had to be managed within the Schools block. This is a pertinent point due to the significant increase in Free School Meal eligibility as a result of the pandemic, which will be recorded on the latest October schools census. This has been raised with the DfE for consideration due to the affordability risk of replicating the NFF - the Local Authority is waiting for their final response to the matter.
- Growth funding for planned reorganisations is allocated to Local Authorities using a formulaic approach based on the growth in pupil numbers between the October 2019 and October 2020 censuses. The government's growth funding applies a lagged approach rather than forecasting future growth expected, which does create financial uncertainty when meeting planned school growth future needs.

Question 3

If affordability was an issue in setting schools budgets for 2021/22 based on the government's Schools block Local Authority allocation, where would you take the monies from and please explain the reasons why:

- Reduce or remove the funding floor to a minimum +0.5% gain for all schools? (**Option 1**)
- Apply a percentage gains ceiling cap to schools per pupil gains? (**Option 2**)

- Reduce the monetary amount of age weighted pupil unit funding? (**Option 3**)
- Other.

School responses (count)	Schools' comments	Local Authority comments	The Local Authority's latest proposal
Primary: 43 Option 1 10 Option 2 15 Option 3 4 Other 3 No answer 11 Secondary: 14 Option 1 10 Option 2 3 Option 3 0 Other 1 Other Sectors: 3 Option 1 1 Option 2 2 Option 3 0 Other 0	<p>There were a mixed response from schools on the measures to address affordability issues. The solution of Option 1 (reducing the funding floor (MFG) from +2.0% to a minimum amount of +0.5%) represented 35% of schools responses, and Option 2 (having a percentage ceiling cap to schools per pupil gains) represented 33%.</p>	<p>Affordability of the Schools block that funds the NFF will only be known when school budget calculations are carried out using the October 2020 pupil census information. This work will be undertaken in January 2021 following the publication of schools census information by the ESFA.</p> <p>Local Authorities must ensure affordability within the government funding received. A time lag in data used to fund Local Authorities is the main reason for this, e.g. increase in pupil needs (such as free school meals, deprivation, or prior attainment) or an increase in fixed costs (such as rates and rents).</p> <p>The government's funding announcements (December 2020) did not refer to additional funding to Local Authorities where they have experienced a significant increase in free school meal eligibility as a result of the pandemic. A matter raised by many Local Authorities. This is extremely disappointing, since the Local Authority and schools are supportive of replicative the government's NFF, but this may not be deliverable.</p>	<p>If affordability is an issue due to the government's application of lagged funding arrangement for Local Authorities Schools block funding, the Local Authority will consider all options available (including taking account of schools views) to ensure individual school level implications are minimised.</p>

Targeted Funding

The government introduced the approach of 'Notional SEN', which required schools to contribute the first £6,000 of an Educational Health & Care (EHC) plan. The Local Authority through this implementation in 2015/16 transferred £2.4m from the High Needs block to the Schools block to delegate through schools budgets to meet these higher level pupil needs. The Local Authority also introduced the Targeted Funding approach, to support schools with a higher number of EHC plans compared to a similar size school, Lincolnshire provided additional funding through the High Needs block of £6,000 (less 5% of the AWPU) for those above the agreed threshold – this was to ensure that schools were not being financially disadvantaged by having a disproportionate number of pupils with more complex needs.

The NFF has brought in significant funding to Lincolnshire mainstream schools since its implementation in 2018/19. This therefore means more notional SEN is within schools budgets (published in the schools budget shares calculation) to not only meet high incidence low level SEN, but also the first £6,000 for a pupil with an EHC plan. The targeted funding criteria requires updating to reflect the increased funding going to schools to ensure fair funding is provided to schools, and the effective deployment and financial sustainability of the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

The Local Authority is to continue using targeted funding as an approach to supporting schools, and to use the actual amount of notional SEN determined through NFF (based on pre-determined percentage amounts assigned to each formula factor) to determine whether a school has sufficient notional SEN funding to support pupils that have an EHC plan at their school. Where they have insufficient funding, targeted funding will be allocated. The percentage of notional SEN applied for higher needs pupils with an EHC plan is 30%. This percentage was established prior to the delegation of funding for School Action and School Action Plus and bands 1-5 statements, therefore reflect the full spectrum of support to be delivered through notional SEN.

The Local Authority is proposing to increase the top up rate for EHC plans to more reflect the costs being incurred by schools for delivering a wide variety of support to pupils. The planned c.14% increase in the rate will be subject to affordability of the High Needs block, therefore may require flexing downwards once the 2021/22 budget requirements are confirmed.

It is important that appropriate transitional protection is provided to schools through these planned funding changes. The Local Authority has adopted such a practice previously in supporting schools and will continue to do so. To ensure mainstream schools receive at least a +2.0% increase in per pupil funding for 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 (as set out through the NFF) including the funding changes for targeted and top up funding, the Local Authority will provide protection funding to ensure all schools achieve the +2.0% level for 2021/22 as a one year transition protection arrangement.

Question 4

Do you agree that the Local Authority's should use the 2021/22 NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to Targeted Funding?

Yes / No

If the answer is **no**, please outline the reasons why.

School responses	Schools' comments	Local Authority comments	The Local Authority's latest proposal
<p>Primary: 43</p> <p>Yes 91%</p> <p>No 9%</p> <p>Secondary: 14</p> <p>Yes 100%</p> <p>No 0%</p> <p>Other Sectors: 3</p> <p>Yes 100%</p> <p>No 0%</p>	<p>Schools acknowledge the complexity of the government's concept of 'notional SEN' in delegated schools budgets.</p> <p>Schools should not be financially disadvantaged by having more EHC plan pupils.</p> <p>This could reduce targeted funding for some Lincolnshire schools.</p> <p>Schools require a targeted approach when notional SEN is insufficient.</p>	<p>93% of responding schools supported the proposal that the Local Authority should use the 2021/22 NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to targeted funding.</p> <p>The Local Authority fully supports inclusive practice, and the continued operation of the targeted funding approach will maintain this.</p> <p>This approach will ensure targeted funding is reflective of the schools characteristics, and where their notional SEN is insufficient to meet the first £6,000 for pupils with an EHC plan, targeted funding will be allocated to ensure a school is not financially disadvantaged. The approach is fair, equitable, transparent, efficient, and aligns to the NFF.</p> <p>The Local Authority will (subject to affordability) ensure mainstream schools receive at least a +2.0% increase in per</p>	<p>The Local Authority's proposal is to use the 2021/22 NFF as the basis for determining the notional SEN amount per school when identifying whether a school is entitled to additional financial support through targeted funding.</p> <p>The percentage of notional SEN applied for higher needs pupils with an EHC plan is 30%.</p> <p>The targeted funding criteria will allocate the first £6,000 where a school has been identified as having insufficient notional SEN within its delegated budget due to the number of pupils with an EHC plan.</p>

		pupil funding for 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 (as set out through the NFF) – the Local Authority will also provide transitional protection funding for 2021/22 where targeted funding and top up rate changes result in the school funding falling below +2.0% per pupil (or the final MFG value) when these funding streams are combined.	
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Question 5

Do you agree with the Local Authority's aspirations to increase the top up rate for EHC plans subject to affordability of the High Needs block?

Yes / No

If the answer is **no**, please outline the reasons why.

School responses	Schools' comments	Local Authority comments	The Local Authority's latest proposal
Primary: 43 Yes 98% No 2% Secondary: 14 Yes 100% No 0% Other Sectors: 3 Yes 67% No 33%	One school asked how the increased costs would be financed.	97% of responding schools supported the Local Authority's aspirations to increase the top up rate for EHC plans. The proposal to increase the top up rate for EHC plans is to more reflect the costs being incurred by schools for delivering a wide variety of support to pupils. The increased cost will be met by the targeted funding changes.	The Local Authority's proposal is to increase the top up rate for EHC plans for 2021/22 (subject to affordability of the High Needs block).

HOW TO RESPOND

The consultation closes on 21 December 2020. Schools are asked to complete the consultation response on MS Forms (link detailed below). Please ensure you complete the DfE number and name of school / academy should we need to contact you regarding your response.

[MS Forms - schools consultation response template](#)

Should you have any queries regarding these proposals, schools are to address correspondence to schools_finance@lincolnshire.gov.uk with the email titled 'Schools National Funding Formula Query' for the Schools Finance Team to respond to.

As indicated at the beginning of this document, the results of this consultation exercise will be reported to various groups. That information will also be made available to all schools.

Mark Popplewell BSc (Hons) FCCA
Head of Finance – Children's Services
Lincolnshire County Council

Proposed National Funding Formula – 2021/22

Formula Factors	Primary Rates		Secondary Rates	
<u>Basic per-pupil funding</u>	KS1 & 2	£3,123	KS 3 KS 4	£4,404 £4,963
<u>Additional needs funding</u>				
Ever 6 FSM		£575		£840
Current FSM		£460		£460
IDACI F (Rank 9033 to 12316)		£215		£310
IDACI E (Rank 5748 to 9032)		£260		£415
IDACI D (Rank 4106 to 5747)		£410		£580
IDACI C (Rank 2464 to 4105)		£445		£630
IDACI B (Rank 822 to 2463)		£475		£680
IDACI A (Rank 1 to 821)		£620		£865
Low Prior Attainment		£1,095		£1,660
English as an additional language		£550		£1,485
Mobility		£900		£1,290
<u>School-led</u>				
Lump Sum		£117,800		£117,800
Sparsity (NFF)		£45,000		£70,00
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level		£4,180		£5,415

Funding for premises factors such as Rates, Split-site and Rents will continue in line with the current year.

National Funding Formula – 2020/21 (for comparison purposes)

Formula Factors	Primary Rates		Secondary Rates	
	KS1 & 2	£2,857	KS 3 KS 4	£4,018 £4,561
<u>Basic per-pupil funding</u>				
<u>Additional needs funding</u>				
Ever 6 FSM		£560		£815
Current FSM		£450		£450
IDACI F (Between 0.2 and 0.25)		£210		£300
IDACI E (Between 0.25 and 0.3)		£250		£405
IDACI D (Between 0.3 and 0.35)		£375		£535
IDACI C (Between 0.35 and 0.4)		£405		£580
IDACI B (Between 0.4 and 0.5)		£435		£625
IDACI A (Between 0.5 and 1)		£600		£840
Low Prior Attainment		£1,065		£1,610
English as an additional language		£535		£1,440
Mobility		£875		£1,250
<u>School-led</u>				
Lump Sum		£114,400		£114,400
Sparsity (NFF)		£26,000		£67,600
Primary Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level		£3,750		£5,000



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

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	14 January 2021
Subject:	Early Years National Funding Formula

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Provide a summary of the Early Years National Funding Formula for 2021/22
2. Detail the funding distribution for early years providers in Lincolnshire in 2021/22
3. 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 £44m for early years education in 2021/22 to increase the hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the government's free hours offers. This is on top of the £66m increase confirmed at the spending review 2019. This government announcement has ensured an uplift to the minimum funding rate by £0.06 to £4.44 per hour for 2021/22. Lincolnshire is currently funded on the minimum funding rate. This announcement will see the vast majority of Local Authorities receiving a rate increase of this value.

The starting point for calculating the 2021/22 rates are the EYNFF rates before protections are applied – Lincolnshire's hourly rate is £4.24 before such protection. Rates are then uplifted from this starting point by £0.06. The government then top up all rates to an increased minimum funding floor of £4.44.

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 2021/22 which is rising to £4.44 per pupil per hour, which is an £0.06 per pupil per hour increase from 2020/21 funding levels. Lincolnshire is one of 47 out of 149 Local Authorities funded on the minimum funding rate. The national average hourly rate across Local Authorities is £4.99 per pupil through the formulaic rate.

Lincolnshire's hourly funding rate of £4.44 per pupil will provide indicative funding of £35.529m for 3 and 4 year old entitlement. This is made up of the universal 15 hours early years entitlement funding of £24.598m, and the additional 15 hours for 3 and 4 year old children of eligible working families of £10.931m.

The early years funding of £35.529m for Lincolnshire is indicative, since final funding allocations for 2021/22 will continue to be based on 5/12th of January 2021 pupil numbers (to cover the April 2021 to August 2021 period) and 7/12th of the January 2022 pupils numbers (to cover the September 2021 to March 2022 period). Indicative allocations are presently based on the January 2020 census information.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the government recognises that the number of children accessing their early year education places has reduced nationally. Based on this reduction, an additional measure has been introduced to elevate spring 2021 census data following an increase in spring term attendance. Where attendance is below 85% of the January 2020 census levels, and where the LA can provide evidence for increased attendance during the spring term, the DfE will provide a top-up to the January 2021 census. In Lincolnshire completing a monthly data collection will allow the Local Authority to report updated figures to the DfE if this is below 85% of January 2020 figures. The Department will be following up early in the new year on their plans for summer term funding but anticipate that this will return to a usual process as outlined above.

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 where cost differences between different types of providers were recognised.

Since the introduction of the EYNFF, Local Authorities have received supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools (MNS) on top of their EYNFF allocation. This is to protect their MNS funding at their 2016-17 level for the universal 15 hours.

In 2021/22, the Government is providing c.£55.8m of supplementary funding for MNS. The government's commitment to the long-term funding of maintained nursery schools is unchanged. For 2021/22, part of the supplementary funding allocations are published as indicative, and part as conditional. Lincolnshire's indicative allocation is £0.476m for 2021/22. The government has confirmed its commitment to the long-term funding of MNS, however the government has not confirmed MNS funding levels beyond 2021/22, and the MNS hourly rate remains cash flat at £5.93 per child, before applying the teachers' pay and pension grant allocations that are being mainstreamed in 2021/22.

The supplementary funding rate is the difference between the 'provider equivalent rate' and the 2016/17 MNS baseline.

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 10% of the total value of planned funding for 3 and 4 olds goes through supplements funding;
- must have a Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund for 3 and 4 year olds;
- to pass on Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) in full to providers for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, 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;
- payments to MNS from the 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 was 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 government's original direction of travel was to increase the national living wage up to £9 per hour, and has since moved to the government's target of the national living wage reaching two-thirds of the median of earnings by 2024. The national living wage is to increase by 2.2% from £8.72 to £8.91 per hour for employees aged 23 and over from April 2021. The government confirmed that they had previously 'front loaded' funding into Local Authority funding levels for national living wage rises, therefore the Local Authority built this £9 per hour rate within the formula for nursery assistants in preparation for the rate increasing over the coming years. This provided extra flexibility for providers until the rate reaches that level.
- The graduate leader starting salary assigned to the teacher main scale 1 pay scale.
- 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.

- An increase in costs has been included in the 2021/22 funding formula as a result of the qualified staff pay increase in September 2019 using the Local Authority Teacher's main salary pay scale.
- The roles of staff have been analysed 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 analysed in detail 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 2021/22 hourly rate has been determined at the following level:

Local universal base hourly rate per pupil £4.04

The hourly rate will increase by £0.06 per hour per pupil in 2021/22 from £3.98 to £4.04. The increase is made up of the governments additional funding of £0.06 per hour per child for 2021/22.

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. From reviewing historic participation-led data, it has been identified that the level of contingency funding to meet any additional demand above the January average can be reduced, however it is not able to be removed fully due to the risk associated with funding based on a snapshot measure.

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 2021/22 will be based on monthly data returns made by providers during the summer 2021, autumn 2021 and spring 2022.

Supplements

The Local Authority will continue to only use the mandatory Deprivation Supplement.

Providers were requested since 2019/20 to complete a monitoring forms to provide details of how funding was utilised to understand the impact the deprivation supplement.

In July 2018, the Secretary of State for Education explained that 28% of children finish their reception year still without the early communication and reading skills they need to thrive. The ambition is to cut that number in half over the next ten years. Tackling this must be a shared priority, as explained further here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-vision-for-boosting-social-mobility>. The Local Authority has advised providers to consider this when determining the use of the deprivation supplement funding.

A review of deprivation monitoring previously identified a lack of understanding regarding the most vulnerable children attending. The Local Authority planned to change to the way deprivation funding was allocated to providers in future, using a child-led approach to support the effective use of this funding. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Local Authority chose to postpone the engagement with the sector during 2020/21. This review will be revisited with providers in the summer 2021, if appropriate, with a view of implementing changes from 2022/23.

Deprivation supplement

In 2021/22, the Local Authority will continue to use the same deprivation factor and deprivation monetary values that are currently in place in 2020/21. The Local Authority will continue to provide advice on its use and monitor its effectiveness in settings. This approach will allocate £0.914m through the deprivation funding formula in 2021/22.

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 2020 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
1	0.2	0.25	£150
2	0.25	0.3	£300
3	0.3	0.4	£450
4	0.4	0.5	£600
5	0.5	0.6	£750
6	0.6	1.0	£900

The October 2020 data collection information and IDACI 2019 datasets have been used to determine the 2021/22 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 based upon a percentage increase of the universal base rate, for every hour the child attends the setting for their early years entitlement (up to a maximum of 30 hours based on a child's eligibility). A two-tier approach which comprises 50% top up for emerging 1 needs and 100% top up for emerging 2 needs has been in place since the review in 2017/18.

The rates for 2021/22 are as follows:

- Emerging 1 needs - £2.02
- Emerging 2 needs - £4.04

The planned funding allocation using the current protocol is remaining the same for the financial year 2021/22 at £0.650m per annum, which represents £0.081 per pupil per hour.

Fluctuation Contingency Fund

Local Authorities are able to hold back funding to act as a contingency fund, this is to support the Local Authority to fund providers throughout the year. Early years funding to Local Authorities is usually funded based on 5/12th of January 2021 pupil numbers (to cover the April 2021 to August 2021 period) and 7/12th of the January 2022 pupils numbers (to cover the September 2021 to March 2022 period), which is a different methodology to funding providers on a participation-led approach on a monthly basis. The government approach to funding Local Authorities identifies the January count as the average across the year, however local participation may not replicate this. 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 annual budget of £0.129m is required, which equates to £0.016 per pupil per hour.

Local Authority Centrally Retained Funding

£1.508m

The government requires Schools Forums to agree 2021/22 central spend for early years by the 28 February 2021. The Local Authority has conducted its annual review of DSG budgets.

The Department for Education (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. This support was redesigned to meet the reducing levels of resources available to Local Authorities and was implemented in 2016. 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

£519,191

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, EYPP, MNS supplements, DAF 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 us 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 591 private, voluntary and independent providers, 51 maintained schools and 34 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 market place 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. Due to the on-going concerns from the sector regarding sustainability, business management, advice and financial planning will become a key part of the work going forward.

Following the coronavirus pandemic, there has been an increased 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 has been increasingly demanding and a priority area for the service. This work is expected to continue throughout 2021/22.

EYFS Quality Improvement, Advice, Support, Workforce & Training for the Sector
£911,069

Changes to the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities in September 2014 means that all new early years 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).

In addition to this the statutory EYFS framework requires the EYFS profile assessment to be carried out in the final term of the year in which a child reaches age 5, and no later than 28 June in that term. The main purpose of the EYFS profile is to provide a reliable, valid and accurate assessment of individual children at the end of the EYFS. In summer term 2021, the Local Authority has the responsibility to undertake EYFS profile external moderation visits and this will be coordinated and managed by the early years quality improvement team. 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. In September 2021 the EYFS reforms will be implemented and EYCC Improvement Advisers will be disseminating training, advice and guidance on these reforms to both the early years sector and Children's Services colleagues and partners during spring and summer 2021.

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. Following positive feedback from the sector there

will be face to face best practice days delivered free of charge each term, with a thematic approach to the events. This will reduce 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

£77,400

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 funding has been fully reviewed and a new system implemented, 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 £1.508m. This represents 4.24% of the overall early years funding of £35.529m 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 previous 5 areas have been regrouped into 3 functions for management purposes. We have redistributed the resources and allocated responsibilities differently across the management team. We have regrouped this under 3 key areas - Improvement Advice, Sector Support and Workforce Development have been brought together. The sufficiency and sustainability functions have been brought together with the Early Years Entitlement funding and Inclusion & SEND local offer remains the same.

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	£24.598m	£4.44
3 and 4 year old funding for additional hours for eligible working families	£10.931m	£4.44
Total Funding	£35.529m	£4.44

Activities	Spending Plan	Hourly Rate Converted
Local Universal Basic Rate	£32.328m	£4.040
Deprivation Funding	£0.914m	£0.114
Inclusion Fund	£0.650m	£0.081
Fluctuation Contingency Fund	£0.129m	£0.016
Total Spending Plan for passing onto providers	£34.021m	£4.252
Centrally Retained Funding for Direct Early Years Services	£1.508m	£0.188
Total Spending on Early Years Activities	£35.529m	£4.44

Key government criteria met:

- Pass-through funding of 95.02% to providers in 2021/22.
- 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 10% threshold at 4.98%.

Previous one-off underspend from the DSG

In January 2020, the Schools Forum supported the Local Authorities proposal for a one-off release of c.£1.000m of the DSG 2018-19 underspend to the early years sector during the financial year 2020/21 through a temporary rate increase of £0.12 per hour per child. This additional one-off funding aimed to give providers greater resources to provide the best opportunities for Lincolnshire pupils to reach their potential, and increase their life chances as they transition into school. This was one-off funding and will not be continued in 2021/22.

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. Providers receive £615 per eligible child per year. This remains the same for 2021/22. 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.

Local Authorities will continue to fund all providers with eligible children at the national rate of £0.53 per pupil per hour for 38 weeks up to a maximum of 570 hours (or £302.10 per year). This is the same rate as 2020/21. 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 2021/22 has increased by £0.08 per hour to £5.36 per hour per child.

Lincolnshire's indicative allocation for 2021/22 is £5.750m.

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 £0.310m is required, which represents 5.39% of the overall budget.

N/A

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 2021-22	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-funding-2021-2022

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



Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Martin Smith - Assistant Director for Education

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	14 January 2021
Subject:	Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Update - Sector Led System of School Improvement

Summary:

This report provides the Schools Forum with an update on the work of the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board and sector-led approach to school improvement.

Recommendation(s):

To note the contents of the report.

Background

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board (LLP) consists of representative headteachers and senior leaders elected from Lincolnshire schools including primary, secondary, special schools, stand-alone academies and those within Multi-Academy Trusts. There are also co-opted positions with officers of Lincolnshire County Council and other partners including Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together and the Church of England Lincoln Diocesan Education Board. The LLP is led by Suzanne Scott, Principal of Ellison Boulters Church of England Academy who is currently seconded up to one day a week for this purpose.

The LLPB was set up as part of the sector-led system following the decision of the Executive to cease the funding for a school improvement contract.

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership's 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.

Previously, 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. To date Schools Forum has allocated £2m to the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board.

The LLP currently have an approximate balance of uncommitted funds (as of October 2020) of £0.560m.

Role of the LLPB

The role of the LLPB is to:

- Champion learners and leaders to shape their own futures.
- Promote successes, innovation and evidence practice to benefit all.
- Empower schools to meet the needs of their communities.
- Challenge all schools to keep getting better.

The LLPB achieves these aims through monitoring the performance of Lincolnshire schools, commissioning key projects to develop teaching and learning, by promoting school to school challenge and support as well as through ensuring the continual promotion of best practice and the use of evidence-based research.

The LLPB have funded or endorsed the following programmes and projects in partnership with and supported by the Lincolnshire County Council Education Team and other delivery partners.

Mobilise

Mobilise is the largest of the LLP commissions and began in 2016. It uses research to inform practice in schools. Initially the focus was to use research to develop the practice of teaching assistants, in the subsequent years schools had a wider range of research projects to choose from. In 2019-20 the projects included strands focusing on English and mathematics, the development of cognition and thinking, well-being and curriculum design.

The board funded Mobilise to enable it to move to a fully traded mode within three years starting from September 19.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, activity was initially paused when schools formally closed. LCC officers and the Mobilise team worked together to deliver a well-being offer for pupils' return to school.

Peer Review/Peer Improvement Pathway

The foundation of the sector-led approach to school improvement was Peer Review. To support headteachers in being equipped to carry out peer review,

training was provided to all headteachers on how to carry this out successfully. Through this process, we can identify and share excellent practice as well as establish priorities for improvement across the system. This, along with school data and inspection information supports the board in making decisions to support schools.

The LLP Board commissioned further work commencing at the start of the 2019/20 academic year to refresh and invigorate peer review in Lincolnshire schools. This project is called the Peer Improvement Pathway. Similarly to Mobilise, the Peer Improvement Pathway will become a fully traded project available for schools to purchase in January 2021.

Annual Conference

The LLP organises an annual conference to ensure that school leaders in Lincolnshire have access to high quality inspirational speakers, national policy updates and leaders of the sector sharing best practice. In January 2020, 160 delegates attended the conference.

The title of the conference in 2020 was 'Leading Learners; Connecting Communities'. The following feedback was given by delegates:

'As a new headteacher in Lincolnshire, I wanted to connect. I have done that and happily been inspired!'

'Great to hear views of people outside of education – very refreshing'

'The best one yet!'

Leadership Briefings

Leadership briefings have continued to take place three times per year for headteachers and school leaders to ensure they have the most up-to-date information about the Lincolnshire system and national updates to assist them in their role. During the 2018/19, 19/20 academic years over 250 schools attended each round of the briefings.

Feedback from headteachers and school leader continues to be positive and includes:

'As I am new to Lincolnshire it was all very helpful.'

'The Ofsted update was brilliant.'

'Many valuable key messages condensed into one meeting as a whole.'

'All relevant and well delivered, always clear and concise.'

In response to the global pandemic and to respond to the needs of Lincolnshire Schools, the LLP working in partnership with the Local Authority, have provided the regular Leadership Briefing content via virtual platforms. The 'LLP and LCC Virtual Offer' has seen a coordinated approach to provide all school leaders with one common offer providing information, updates but also opportunities to engage in school improvement activity; a one stop shop for all key information.

This offer will be maintained throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

Governor Partnership Meetings

Governor briefings take place three times a year following the leadership briefings and ensure that the main critical leaders in schools are provided with the same important information as school leaders. Around 80 delegates attended each round of briefings.

Feedback from governors is positive and includes:

'A good range [of content] covered and update information is very useful.'

'It was superb to meet governors from other schools.'

For the 2020/21 academic year all Governor Partnership Briefings have been included in the LLP and LCC Virtual Offer with the number of Governors attending the Briefings increasing compared to the running of non-virtual meetings. Over 180 governors attended the autumn briefings.

Stronger Governance

The LLP successfully commissioned the Stronger Governance offer which has been delivered in partnership with the Local Authority, Lincolnshire Teaching Schools, The Lincoln Anglican Diocese and Leaders of Governance.

The offer available in Lincolnshire includes national approved training sessions, e-learning, governor development programmes, guidance on performing Headteacher Performance Management, external reviews of governance and a dedicated governor support service at the local authority.

The first Stronger Governance governor conference was run for the benefit of all Lincolnshire governors in 2019 with the title of Governance for the Future: Lincolnshire and Beyond. A further conference is planned for 2021/22.

LeadLincs

The LLP is keen to invest in the development of leaders and funded 45 places on the LeadLincs programme over a 3 year period which supported aspiring leaders to consider applying for headship. Participants have had sessions on different aspects of headship and support in how to prepare their application and interview practice. The funding has also enabled a session for previous participants to have further leadership training and to work with them to engage them in opportunities for leadership development in the future in Lincolnshire schools.

The Leadlincs programme has been developed to have eight levels and creates a pathway for aspiring school leaders in Lincolnshire at all stages of their career. Schools now purchase programmes directly as required.

Caring2Learn

The LLP supports a wider range of programmes than those that they commission themselves. For example, the LLPB has supported Caring2Learn which is a project to improve outcomes for Lincolnshire's looked after and previously looked after young people, as well as other vulnerable children and young people. The project aims to develop an effective learning and support network and provide innovative training in Restorative Practice and Social Pedagogy for foster carers, education and social care professionals.

Confident Choices

The LLP and LCC have supported the development of Confident Choices which has established networks of schools and partner organisations to develop careers provision across schools in Lincolnshire.

Early Years

The LCC Early Years offer has been enhanced with a focus on curriculum development, reading, writing, assessment and transition to improve outcomes, in particular for the schools where the proportion of children reaching a good level of development is in the bottom 20%. This is being delivered between 2019 - 2022.

Small Schools

LCC established a programme of support for small schools to develop curriculum planning in English and mathematics. This has continued to be supported through the sector in the partnership work with Teaching Schools.

LEAP/LAMP/LENS

These three programmes were established through successful bids to the DfE Strategic School Improvement Fund and covered support for English, mathematics and special educational needs. These programmes continue to be available for schools to purchase and through support from LCC in its contracted work with Teaching Schools.

Education Locality Leads

LCC employed Education Locality Leads continue to engage directly with schools to support, monitor and challenge schools where standards are not strong enough in line with the Strategy for School Improvement.

DfE Hub Initiative

Subject specialist hubs are already established in English, mathematics, science, computing, music and there is also a Research School in Lincolnshire. To ensure schools are aware of the specialist subject-specific advice and training that is on offer, the local authority has started to engage directly with subject-specific hubs so Lincolnshire schools can benefit from DfE funded initiatives. From September 2021, the designation of Teaching Schools and their strategic position nationally

will cease. A number of these functions will move to the Teaching School Hub including initial teacher training and designation of NQTs as well as training for teachers at all stages of their career.

One Plan

The Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board, Lincolnshire County Council officers, Multi Academy Trust leaders and Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together reviewed the needs of the sector-led self-improving school system. The strength of partnerships has benefitted the county by providing all schools the opportunity to engage and participate in professional development and school improvement activity. The co-ordinated approach to working in Lincolnshire has enabled an alignment in vision, values and aims of the whole system to create a shared vision of:

- Every learner and school deserves to be known, valued and supported to achieve
- Our focus is on the learner; therefore no school is more important than an individual learner's needs
- All partners will work together relentlessly to unlock our potential and deliver our shared goals.

This shared vision for improvement across the county has led to the development of the 'One Plan', highlighting our shared vision to address priority areas in order to achieve system goals.

Financial resources were agreed and allocated by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board to develop strategies that will impact on four priority areas:

1. System and infrastructure
2. Great leaders and great teachers
3. Improving the quality of education
4. Wider conditions

The focus of these areas is to ensure that the system works well and works in a way so that every school and every child thrives with outcomes improving at all key stages. This is an exciting next stage of the sector-led system with all partners working to the same shared goals.

The board committed the following amounts of funding in the 19-20 academic year:

- Mobilise 4 - £192k - moving to a traded model
- Peer Improvement Pathway - £85k - moving to a traded model
- Stronger Governance - £8k
- Total £285k

The LLPB is currently working alongside the County Council, Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together (LTT) 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. This will inform the future strategic direction of the board and the role it plays in the system.

The education system in Lincolnshire currently awaits changes to national education policy and guidance particularly the role out of the Teaching School Hub with announcements expected in January 2021. The LLPB will play a full role in both supporting the system also embracing its role to be the 'voice of the system'. The board is performing the essential role of Governance in the education system.

Covid-19 Learning

The pandemic in terms of information management, support and guidance to the system has well and truly put the Local Authority and LLP at the centre of guiding and steering the sector-led system. The pace at which this has occurred has secured and established a belief, trust and desire to be connected to the Local Authority and LLP board to ensure we work together as a collective.

In order to respond effectively to the needs of schools and manage the pandemic, new approaches were established to ensure that the impact on learning was minimised. These included:

- Running LLP Board meetings online and more frequently to ensure sector representation
- Briefings were coordinated and presented in a single virtual offer from LCC and the LLP
- Addition specialist briefings were run for the following groups: Multi Academy Trusts CEO's, primary, secondary and special school leaders to enable bespoke support
- Additional briefings and workshops were delivered by specialists from Public Health, Lincolnshire Recovery Forum and from senior members of staff from the Local Authority
- The Local Authority Education Leads set up locality based support networks for heads to share ideas and support each other through the crisis.

Through this work, we have achieved great successes in terms of attendance in schools being above national comparisons and we have seen the vast majority of schools engage with Locality Leads more than ever before. This needs to be built upon, as we move out of the response and recovery phases, to target our collective energies on school improvement activity.

Conclusion

The LLPB is essential to the education system in Lincolnshire for the role it performs offering challenge to the system whilst working in partnership and collaboration with Lincolnshire County Council and other partners.

In addition to the board's £0.280m existing funding commitments, the County Council has also committed £0.670m to address identified schools needs at a system-wide scale. This has meant that the LLPB has not utilised its remaining

funds of £0.560m at this stage. The LLPB board are aware of the pressure schools leaders are facing due to the pandemic. Adaptions have already been made to the partnership contract to support Lincolnshire schools in recovery from the pandemic with 'Recover Lincolnshire' which covers aspects such as resilience for school leaders and support to get pupils back on track with learning. There is an awareness of not burdening school leaders with further new initiatives at this stage.

A decision not to commit all remaining funds at this point allows the LLPB to act, as required, to maintain the improvements in the sector-led approach once the true impact of Covid-19 is established and the national DfE Hubs initiative has been rolled out.

In summary, the LLPB working with the LA, will consider the impact of the pandemic, the work of Recover Lincolnshire and the use of the Covid-19 Catch Up Premium funding and the National Tutoring Programme, and what additional support schools require to support their recovery and further improve educational outcomes.

Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable.

Background Papers

No background papers, as defined by Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, were used to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Sue Williams, who can be contacted on 07785922706 or suee.williams@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	14 January 2021
Subject:	Scheme for Financing Schools

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to the latest publication by the Department for Education of its revised guidance on the Scheme for Financing Schools.

Recommendation(s):

Schools Forum is asked to note the content of the report.

Background

Schemes for Financing Schools were first introduced under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Local Authority (LA) is required to publish a Scheme for Financing Schools. This sets out the financial relationship between the LA and the schools it maintains. Any amendments to the schemes must be consulted on with all maintained schools and be approved by the Schools Forum. The Scheme is not relevant to academies. They have their own arrangements with the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Department for Education (DfE) Changes

The DfE review the scheme on an annual basis and directs LAs to amend their scheme in accordance with the DfE revisions. The LA has updated the Scheme in those instances and has reported the changes to the Schools Forum. The LA undertook a fundamental review of its Scheme compared to the DfE version and published an updated version in June 2018. On 5 August 2020, the DfE directed LAs to make further revisions to the Scheme. Due to coronavirus the scheme changes have been kept to a minimum and do not come into effect until 1st April 2021. Details of the DfE's Scheme guidance are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools/schemes-for-financing-local-authority-maintained-schools>

From Lincolnshire's perspective, there are no significant amendments to the Scheme, however the most relevant revisions to the Scheme are:

- **Financial Management:** The scheme currently states schools are required to submit an annual Budget Return and medium term financial plan to the LA by 31 May. This will be expanded to include that each school must submit a three year budget forecast each year. Although the Scheme states three years, Lincolnshire have had five years in place for a number of years now and it is felt that this is a more robust approach.
- **Planning for Deficit Budgets:** Schools must submit a recovery plan to the LA when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. LAs may set a lower threshold than 5% for the submission of a recovery plan if they wish. The 5% deficit threshold will apply when deficits are measured as at 31 March 2021. The LA Scheme currently includes any school that plans to overspend requires a deficit recovery plan and these schools are supported and monitored closely through the Monitoring and Intervention Policy. The LA does not plan to change its position when schools are required to submit a recovery plan.
- **Insurance:** The scheme currently states that specified insurance cover is offered by the Local Authority. This will be expanded to include the option of a school joining the Secretary of State's risk protection arrangement (RPA) but this should be discussed with the LA Insurance team before opting for the RPA cover.

Conclusion

The LA will publish revisions to the scheme by April 2021 – this will be accessible from the link below:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3101/scheme-for-financing-schools>

Next Steps

Officers will continue to review announcements from the ESFA regarding further amendments and updates to the Scheme

Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

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
Scheme for Financing Schools - October 2019	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=5319&Ver=4

This report was written by Teresa Rowson, Finance Team Manager, Schools Finance Team, who can be contacted at teresa.rowson@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Regulatory and Other Committee

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

Report to:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
Date:	14 January 2021
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 December 2020. The pupil figures are based on the January 2020 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 October 2020), no further schools have converted to academy status so the situation remains as shown in the table below.

Current Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		266	
Maintained	5	100.0%	266	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Primary				
All	281		56,895	
Maintained	172	61.2%	28,562	50.2%
Academy	109	38.8%	28,332	49.8%

Secondary				
All	54		46,979	
Maintained	2	3.7%	2,184	4.6%
Academy	52	96.3%	44,795	95.4%
Special				
All	20		2,031	
Maintained	6	30.0%	656	32.3%
Academy	14	70.0%	1,375	67.7%
PRU				
All	5		184	
Maintained	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Academy	5	100.0%	184	100.0%
Total				
All	365		106,355	
Maintained	185	50.7%	31,669	29.8%
Academy	180	49.3%	74,686	70.2%

By 1 June 2021, if current conversions and sponsored conversions proceed according to their current target dates the position will be:

Projected Six Month Status of All Lincolnshire State Schools

	Schools		FTE	
Nursery				
All	5		266	
Maintained	5	100.0%	266	100.0%
Academy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Primary				
All	281		56,895	
Maintained	167	59.4%	27,314	48.0%
Academy	114	40.6%	29,581	52.0%
Secondary				
All	54		46,979	
Maintained	2	3.7%	2,184	4.6%
Academy	52	96.3%	44,795	95.4%
Special				
All	20		2,031	
Maintained	6	30.0%	656	32.3%
Academy	14	70.0%	1,375	67.7%
PRU				
All	5		184	
Maintained	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Academy	5	100.0%	184	100.0%

Total				
All	365		106,355	
Maintained	180	49.3%	30,421	28.6%
Academy	185	50.7%	75,934	71.4%

A further five primary schools are intended to be academies by 1 June 2021. These are Surfleet Seas End Primary which will be an academy sponsored by Keystone Academy Trust, Stamford The Bluecoat School which will become a converter academy with Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust. Pinchbeck East Church of England Primary School and Spalding Primary School will become converter academies with Infinity Academies Trust and Friskney All Saints Church of England (Aided) Primary School will join Lincoln Anglican Academies Trust as a converter academy.

The total number of all academies will rise to 185 (50.7%) and 75,934 (71.4%) FTE pupils will attend those academies. The number of primary academies will rise to 114 (40.6%) educating 29,581 (52%) FTE pupils.

Below is a list of the academy trusts that currently have the greatest number of academies and free schools in Lincolnshire.

	Total	FTE Pupils
1 Community Inclusive Trust	13	1622
2 Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust	12	2341
The Priory Federation of Academies	12	6902
4 St Therese of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust	8	1922
The Boston Witham Academies Federation	8	3339
The David Ross Education Trust	8	2550
7 Greenwood Academies Trust	7	2519
8 Wellspring Academy Trust	6	779
9 Anthem Schools Trust	5	2766
Infinity Academies Trust	5	1118
The Lincolnshire Educational Trust Limited	5	2420

There are thirty-five active multi-academy trusts operating within Lincolnshire and a total of 139 Lincolnshire academies that are members of multi-academy trusts. This represents 77.2% of all Lincolnshire Academies. Forty-one (22.8%) of Lincolnshire academies are not members of multi-academy trusts. Nine multi-academy trusts have just one Lincolnshire academy as a member; three of these are single Lincolnshire academy multi-academy trusts. The other six also have academies that are not within Lincolnshire. Seven multi-academy trusts have two academies; six of these trusts are currently based entirely within Lincolnshire.

	Total	Lincs
1 Academies Enterprise Trust	57	2
2 Greenwood Academies Trust	36	7
3 The David Ross Education Trust	34	8
4 The Enquire Learning Trust	29	1
5 L.E.A.D. Academy Trust	25	3

The largest academy trusts nationally that operate within Lincolnshire are Academies Enterprise Trust (Fifty-seven Academies, two in Lincolnshire), Greenwood Academies Trust has 36 academies, seven in Lincolnshire, and The David Ross Education Trust has 34, eight within Lincolnshire. The Enquire Learning Trust has twenty-nine Academies, one in Lincolnshire. There is fifty-five academy trusts in Lincolnshire that have less than four schools.

Conclusion

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

Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not relevant

Background Papers

No background papers, as defined by Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, were used to a material extent in the preparation 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 11

Lincolnshire Schools' Forum Work Programme

14 January 2021

National Funding Formula for Schools (2021/22)	Mark Popplewell	To consult the Schools' Forum on the Local Authority's funding formula proposals for 2021/22
School Funding Arrangements 2021/22	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide an update on school funding arrangements for 2021/22
Early Years National Funding Formula	Geraldine O'Neill	To provide a summary on the early years national funding formula for 2021/22, and to seek agreement relating to the allocation and distribution of the centrally retained budgets
Sector Led Approach for School Improvement	Sue Williams	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the Sector Led Approach for School Improvement
Scheme for Financing Schools	Mark Popplewell	To provide an update on the Scheme for Financing Schools that come into effective from April 2021
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	Katrina Cope	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

22 April 2021

Annual Report - Special Educational Needs	Sheridan Dodsworth	To receive an annual report on Special Educational Needs
Building Communities of Specialist Provision: Update	Eileen McMorrow	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the SEND Strategy
Annual Report on Early Years	Michelle Andrews	To receive an annual report on Early Years' Service
Schools Broadband Arrangements	Mark Popplewell	To provide an update on schools future broadband arrangements
Lincolnshire Schools Forum – Rules of Operation	Mark Popplewell	For the Schools Forum to consider and update its Rules of Operation
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	Katrina Cope	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

24 June 2021

Election of Chairman		
Election of Vice-Chairman		
Section 251 Budget Statement 2021/22	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide an update to the Schools' Forum regarding the budget statement for 2021/22

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	Katrina Cope	To provide the Schools' Forum with an opportunity to discuss potential items for future meetings, which will be subsequently, included on the Work Programme

8 October 2021

National Funding Formula for schools - update 2022/23	Elizabeth Bowes	To provide the Schools' Forum with an update on the mainstream school funding
De-delegation of Maintained Primary Schools Budgets	Mark Popplewell	To seek approval from the maintained primary school representatives approval to the Local authority's proposals
Revised Schools Budgets 2021/22	Mark Popplewell	To provide information on the revised Schools Budget for 2021/22 and to seek support for the proposed use of the DSG underspend
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	Katrina Cope	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	Katrina Cope	For the Schools' Forum to agree their future meeting dates

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