

Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 15 September 2020

2.00pm

Remote Meeting

Held Via MS Teams

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a) DfE Funding Announcements July 2020

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for April 2021

Date of Next Programmed WSF Meeting: -

Thursday 5 November 2020 at 2.00pm Redditch Room, County Hall or Via MS Teams



MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

Tuesday 15th September 2020
At 2.00pm
Remote Meeting Held Via Zoom

**** PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME IS NOW 2PM****

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interests
With Items on the Agenda
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting 9th July 2020 (attached)
5. Matters Arising
Covid 19 Issues Update
a) School Grant Claims (attached and verbal update)
b) F40 Group Letter (attached)
6. Any Other Business
7. WSF Attendance Academic Year 2019/20 (attached)
8. School and LA Funding Update 2021-22
a) DfE Funding Announcements July 2020 (attached)
b) Local Consultation Process for 2021-22 (attached)
c) DfE MFG Variation Approval Requests (attached)

Phil Rook

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9. Required Changes to the Scheme for Financing
Maintained Schools for April 2021 (attached)

Date of Next Meeting: **Thursday 5th November 2020 at 2.00pm**
Redditch Room, County Hall or Via
MS Teams

Please pass apologies to Andy McHale who can be contacted on
Tel 01905 846285 or e-mail amchale@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

Thursday 9th July 2020
Remote Meeting Held Via Zoom

The meeting started at 2.05 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

WSF Members

Malcolm Richards (Chair)	-	Governor, Bromsgrove
Marie Pearse	-	HT Evesham Nursery School (from 2.15pm)
Paul Essenhigh	-	Executive HT Catshill Middle, Catshill First and Nursery Schools
Vivienne Cranton	-	Principal The Black Pear Trust
Adrian Ward	-	HT Trinity High School
Lorraine Petersen	-	Governor, Bromsgrove
Jeff Robinson	-	Governor, Malvern Hills
David McIntosh	-	Governor, Wyre Forest
John Bateman	-	Governor, Aspire Alternative Provision (AP) Free School (from 2.30pm)
Tim Reid	-	Church of England Board of Education
Stephen Baker	-	Union Representative
Tricia Wellings	-	PVI Sector

Local Authority (LA)

Phil Rook	-	Director of Resources Worcestershire Children First
Sarah Wilkins	-	Director of Education and Early Help Worcestershire Children First (from 3.15pm)
Andy McHale	-	Service Manager Funding and Policy Worcestershire Children First
Rob Phillips	-	Schools Finance Team Worcestershire County Council
Nicky Burford	-	Early Years Worcestershire Children First
Councillor Marcus Hart	-	Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills Worcestershire County Council

Observer

Catriona Savage	-	PVI Sector
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1. MEETING PROTOCOL

1.1 Given the remote nature of the meeting the Chair set the protocol for managing the meeting.

1.2 He would bring in the officers as usual to present and answer WSF members questions and requested WSF members to use the 'hand' button to indicate if they wanted to speak.

2. APOLOGIES

Nathan Jones	-	HT Meadow Green Primary
Bryn Thomas	-	HT Wolverley CE Secondary School
Bec Garratt	-	HT Wyre Forest School
Chris King	-	CEO Severn Academies Educational Trust
Greg McClarey	-	Archdiocese of Birmingham
Edward Senior	-	16-19 Providers
Caroline Brand	-	Schools Finance Manager Worcestershire County Council

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3.1 The Chair advised that Viv Cranton Principal The Black Pear Trust was retiring at the end of the academic year and as such was resigning from the WSF. On behalf of the WSF and the LA he thanked Viv for her valuable support and contributions on the WSF.

3.2 The Chair further advised Tricia Wellings longstanding PVI representative was to stand down from the WSF. On behalf of the WSF he thanked Tricia for her valuable support and contributions on the WSF and confirmed arrangements were being put in place to recruit 2 new PVI representatives.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

5. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (14th January 2020)

Agreed.

7. MATTERS ARISING

None.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Learning and Achievement Services

(a) Phil advised that the transfer of services previously provided by Babcock PLC, back to Worcestershire Children First, had taken place successfully on 1st June 2020. This had been a virtual transfer given the current national situation.

(b) Phil further advised staff had TUPE'd back and that services are now in one place and information and contact details had been circulated.

8.2 Service Level Agreement Charges

(a) The Chair advised a member of the WSF had raised concerns on the pricing structure for services being based upon a banding system which was viewed as being disadvantageous to first, primary and small schools.

(b) Phil advised the structure was set up by Babcock pre-transfer and were adopted as part of the transfer back of services. The service in question was an enhanced safeguarding service to support schools. Councillor Hart confirmed there was a commitment to review the pricing structures.

9. CHANGE TO THE SCHOOLS FORUMS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012

9.1 Andy confirmed the DfE had made a temporary change to the Regulations to enable Schools Forum to meet and make decisions remotely. This was in place until 31st March 2021.

9.2 The WSF noted the changes.

10. COVID-19 ISSUES UPDATE

10.1 WCC Cabinet Reports 4th June 2020 & 25th June 2020

(a) Phil advised on the papers considered by Cabinet which detailed issues for all WCC services. There had also been regular meetings with WCF and school representatives with bulletins sent out.

(b) The WSF noted the issues and to advise the Clerk if they wanted to be included on any circulation lists.

10.2 School Funding: Exceptional Costs Associated with Covid-19

(a) Phil advised on the key issues particularly the processes for claiming of exceptional costs and school's loss of income. A member of the WSF commented on the need to be aware that all pupils returning, staggered starts and flexible school days would all impact and result in additional costs. In response to a question from the WSF, Phil advised it would be difficult to collate information on the amounts reclaimed by schools.

(b) Members of the WSF commented as follows: -

- For EY that WCF had been extremely supportive to settings and parents providing excellent advice and paperwork. There needs to be an appreciation of the difference for Nursery Schools.
- The draft risk assessment paperwork and general advice have been extremely useful.
- Schools need the HR service to be more supportive particularly in dealing with individual issues.
- There is a clear expectation from Government that schools return to normal but with the need to respect social distancing.

11. EXTENSION OF THE DfE RISK PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS (RPA) TO LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

11.1 Andy advised of the extension of the national scheme for academies to LA maintained schools. It is not an insurance scheme per se and LA maintained schools continue in the main to buy back insurance cover from WCC.

11.2 A member of the WSF raised concerns on the WCC scheme and its inability to support schools claims for cancelled residential trips. The school has had to pursue this themselves. Phil agreed to follow up in WCC, however insurance for these issues would not generally be part of the WCC blanket policy.

11.3 The Chair advised that Covid-19 has caused significant anxiety in the insurance industry, which was having the same difficulties as WCC.

12. REQUIRED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

12.1 Andy advised of some minor required changes to the Scheme because of updates to the DfEs statutory guidance.

12.2 The WSF noted and the maintained school members approved the changes.

RESOLVED –

The WSF maintained school members approved the required changes to the WCC Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools and for its publication on the WSF web site

13. SCHOOL BUDGET ISSUES

13.1 Letters to Schools

(a) The WSF noted the issues in the letter to schools on budget allocations for 2020-21. This confirmed the DfE NFF Year 3 parameters including the NFF funding rates, the MFG and no capping.

(b) Andy advised a separate consultation on EY had agreed the financial arrangements for EY settings from April 2020 and that a revised DSG was expected in the Summer Term 2020 to reflect the impact of the January 2020 EY census.

13.2 Final Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for Mainstream Schools

(a) The WSF noted the final APT position for 2020-21 and the comparison to 2019-20.

(b) Andy confirmed this reflected the DfE NFF Year 3 parameters and was just affordable in the Schools Block quantum for 2020-21 as reported at the January 2020 WSF meeting.

13.3 Changes to the Local Formula for Special Schools

(a) Phil advised a change had been approved from April 2020 to remove the funding cap in line with the mainstream schools' formula. It had not been possible to make this change to previous years.

(b) The WSF noted the change and the special school representative reported the appreciation of the special school sector to the change.

14. MAINTAINED SCHOOL BALANCES 2019-20

14.1 Andy introduced the report which detailed the revenue balances position for **maintained schools only** as at 31st March 2020.

14.2 The key headlines were: -

(a) From the LA: -

- It is a reducing picture with a significant reduction in balances of £4.0m from £5.3m from the previous year to £1.3m.
- Balances have reduced significantly over the last three-year period.
- It is likely there will be a net deficit on school balances at the end of 2020-21.
- The number of schools in deficit had increased from 33 to 39 and the value of the deficits had increased significantly by from £7.2m to £9.2m, mainly in the primary and secondary sectors.
- The LA is supporting 40 schools that have set deficit budgets.
- The light touch challenge to those schools with excess surplus balances would continue.

(b) The WSF commented: -

- The increase in deficits is a concern and there are several small schools in this position.
- The direction of travel is a significant concern as is the capacity of the LA to support schools in financial difficulty.
- The LA resources are extremely stretched but the support from Caroline Brand and Rob Phillips continues to be excellent.
- The LA could consider the use of HTs as peer support particularly those who have successfully managed down deficit budgets.
- Does the LA need to consider creating a strategic financial service to support and help schools and Governing Bodies?
- Conversely, some schools continue to hold significant surplus balances.
- Some schools are allocating reserves to balance in year budgets, which is not sustainable in the long term.

15. DSG OUTTURN 2019-20

15.1 Phil introduced the report which confirmed the DSG Reserve position as at 31st March 2020.

15.2 With the funding of the HN overspend and other DSG adjustments the DSG reserve was now **£6.23m in deficit**, with a HN structural deficit of £8.7m. The WSF noted this and the allocations made to schools accessing through the Pupil Growth Fund for basic need in **Appendix B**.

RESOLVED –

The WSF: -

- **Noted the details of the DSG Centrally Retained Services in Appendix A.**

- **Noted the DSG C/Fwd position for 2018-19 as at 31st March 2020 and allocations made for the Pupil Growth Fund in Appendix B.**

16. HIGH NEEDS ISSUES 2020-21 AND FUTURE YEARS

16.1 Andy introduced the report which detailed current and future issues relating to the HN DSG. Andy advised: -

(a) The HN budget position as detailed under **Agenda Item 13** and the need for Years 2 and 3 of the 3-year DSG settlement to allocate more to HN to have any chance of managing the issues in the medium to long terms. The DSG deficit is now 1.4% of the gross DSG 2020-21.

(b) The DfE are reviewing the reporting arrangements with current provisions in the DSG conditions of grant and School Revenue Funding Operational Guidance. They are in the process of setting up a series of workshops to gauge opinion and will advise LAs shortly.

(c) The rebasing of the HN budget for 2020-21 taking account of the additional DSG of £8.7m allocated across the budget pressure areas and it not being available to support costs pressures such as additional top up funding. In response to a question from a member of the WSF, Andy confirmed the adjustment for short stay schools and alternative provision reflected an adjustment to the DSG for places commissioned in academies.

16.2 Sarah advised the new Assistant Director for SEND and Vulnerable Learners was drafting a HN management plan building on the previous work on principles to enable the control required over costs and that this will be brought to a future meeting of the WSF.

17. WSF MEETING SCHEDULE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21

17.1 The WSF noted the proposed schedule and potential agenda items.

17.2 The Chair advised that these would likely to be held remotely given the continuing social distancing aspects and as such the 15th September meeting would likely revert to 2pm.

17.3 Under the proposed work programme on national decisions for 2021-22, Andy advised no policy direction had been confirmed by the DfE, so the 15th September 2020 meeting might need to be changed. It is likely the local schools funding formula position in WCC continuing to use the NFF would need to be considered early in the Autumn Term 2020.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

The date of the next WSF meeting is: -

Tuesday 15th September 2020 at **12.30pm or 2pm**
Redditch Room, County Hall, Worcester or Via Remote Meeting Zoom

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund: conditions of funding

1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of State for Education is providing financial assistance to maintained schools, in the form of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

1.2 The eligibility criteria for claiming the funding are set out in [guidance](#).

1.3 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will pay the grant to local authorities on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education on 28 August 2020.

1.4 The following terms and conditions apply to this funding for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

2. Allocation and payment to mainstream schools

2.1 Local authorities must pay to each:

- primary, secondary and all through maintained school
- 16 to 19 maintained school
- maintained special school
- pupil referral unit
- maintained hospital school

which they are responsible for maintaining the amounts shown in ‘school allocations’ tab for each school in the allocations table issued to local authorities alongside these conditions.

2.2. The payments on 28 August 2020 are only for maintained schools who submitted claims within their limit for the total of the three eligible categories of additional costs, and did not claim for other costs outside of those three categories.

2.3 Local authorities must comply with condition 2.1 irrespective of any deficit relating to the expenditure of the school’s budget share.

2.4 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Schools Fund is not part of schools’ budget shares and is not part of the individual schools budget. It is not to be counted for the purpose of calculating the minimum funding guarantee.

3. Terms on which coronavirus (COVID-19) schools fund is allocated to schools

3.1 The funding must be only be spent on the costs submitted by schools in their claim for the fund.

3.2. Schools must have complied with declarations they made when they [submitted the claim for the fund](#) as follows:

- that the claim was made by a person with the authority to submit a claim for the school on the understanding that as a recipient of grant funding the school is responsible for protecting public money
- that the school will retain records to substantiate this claim and make them available to the Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on request, and understand that any funding provided may be recovered in part or in full if any conditions are not met
- that the details the school entered in the claim were correct and accurate, relate only to exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in accordance with the guidance published by DfE and ESFA, and do/will not duplicate any financial support provided from other sources to cover the same costs.

3.2 Schools must be spend the funding in the 2020 to 2021 financial year and cannot carry it forward into the following financial year.

4. Certification

4.1 Each local authority will be required to certify to ESFA that they have complied with these terms and conditions.

4.2 ESFA will set out the arrangements for certification in April 2021.

5. Variation

5.1 The basis for allocation of this funding may be varied by the Secretary of State from those set out above.

6. Overpayments

6.1 Any overpayment of the funding by ESFA to a local authority shall be repaid by the local authority upon on such terms and conditions as ESFA or the Secretary of State for Education shall determine.

7. Further information

7.1 Books and other documents and records relating to the recipient's accounts shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of State and by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

7.2 The Comptroller and Auditor General may, under Section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983, carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the recipient has used its resources in discharging its grant-aided activities.

7.3 Schools and local authorities shall provide information as may be required by the Secretary of State to determine whether it has complied with these conditions.



AGENDA ITEM 5b)
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
15th SEPTEMBER 2020

August 12, 2020

Impact of Covid-19 on school and education funding

Dear Mr Goldman

I hope you are well and managing to navigate your way around the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm sure it has been, and continues to be, a major challenge for the Department for Education.

These are unprecedented times and you have our continued support as you try to work through all of the issues and return schools to some sort of normality.

The f40 group thought it would be beneficial to share with you some of the concerns and feedback we have received during recent weeks, from both local authorities and schools, relating to extra costs and funding pressures during the pandemic.

We appreciate that you are likely to be updating guidance for schools on claiming additional expenses in the coming weeks and thought our insight might be useful.

While the original guidance produced by the DfE was very helpful in the early stages, things have moved on significantly. We have found a number of areas where more clarity is required and where one set of rules cannot apply to all.

Our insight is as follows:

1. Existing issues are exacerbated

f40 is made up of 42 local authorities who are among the lowest funded for education in England.

Our members have expressed concern that existing pressures within the school system, such as lack of funding, insufficient resources for special needs, the need for early intervention, and the impact of MPPFL on rural and small schools and those supporting pupils with greater levels of additional need in low funded areas, have been further challenged by the coronavirus.

Covid-19 has focused a sharp lens on issues that already existed. This is particularly the case with High Needs funding.

In many ways, our members are less able to cope with the additional demands of the pandemic than better-funded schools, further highlighting the need for fairer distribution of budgets.

Similarly, with Early Years, while the inflationary 8p increase in funding this year was welcomed, this was the first increase in funding for a number of years. The sector is under immense strain. The loss of private income to Early Years providers has left the future of many in doubt, which could result in a severe lack of places for children.

While some Early Years providers have been able to apply for grants, others have not been eligible. Without financial help, they may close.

Suggestion: f40 believes short and long-term funding and support measures need to be in place to support schools, the High Needs Block and Early Years.

Clarity as to the department's view on the future of the maintained nursery school sector would also be useful.

2. Clarity of guidance

There was confusion around which additional costs schools and local authorities could reclaim during the pandemic.

For example, it is unclear whether Maintained Nursery Schools were eligible to claim for extra expenses as there was no mention of them in the guidance.

Requests for clarification, either directly with the EFSA or through conversations with Regional Schools Commissioners have thrown up similar contradictions, such as whether extra staffing costs can be reclaimed and how they are recorded and recouped.

Suggestion: We believe schools and local authorities need more clarity on the process for reclaiming expenses in any future claim window, and more recognition of the breadth of extra costs they are facing. One size does not fit all.

3. Breadth of additional costs

The current guidelines have been in place since the beginning of lockdown and, while helpful at the time, they have been superseded by changes to guidance and the length of school closures. We now have the benefit of hindsight and can better understand widespread extra costs, as well as extraordinary costs that may only be relevant to some.

f40 believes that schools should be as flexible as possible in their approach to extra expenditure and should be maximising on areas where they can make savings.

However, there are extra costs that all schools are facing, which we believe they should receive financial support with, such as:

- Additional deep, preventative cleaning
- Extra water usage for hand washing
- Providing hand sanitiser
- Displaying floor stickers and signage
- Using large quantities of PPE in special schools
- Subscription to E-learning platforms

There have also been many exceptional costs, such as:

- Posting of homework to pupils for one school amounted to £7,500
- A small school with only one set of toilets had to hire portable toilets to aid social distancing

- Providing mobile phones to teachers to enable them to carry out wellbeing/safeguarding calls with pupils – especially vulnerable pupils.

Schools and local authorities have experienced a number of funding pressures in recent weeks, but everyone is agreed that these issues will be magnified when schools return in September. The true financial cost of the pandemic to schools may not become clear until next year.

Suggestion: f40 believes schools should not be worse off due to the coronavirus and should receive financial support with extra costs that are common to all.

Suggestion: We believe allowance should be given for schools to recoup extraordinary expenses that may be specific to their situation. At the end of the financial year(s), it should become clearer whether there is a need for any schools to pay back funds.

4. Additional teaching costs

A number of schools have incurred additional teaching costs as a result of the pandemic. The current guidelines do not stipulate whether extra teaching costs will be met.

While many schools have been able to operate a rota system, either internally or with neighbouring schools, to provide on-going teaching to vulnerable children and children of key workers, we know of several instances where this has not been possible.

There are a number of instances where teachers had to work through their Easter and half-term holidays and have been unable to take time off later in the term to compensate, as suggested by the Department for Education.

Special schools, for example, provide specialist care and have not been able to rotate with others for two reasons:

- 1) They were open during the Easter holidays and half-term. Some staff were unable to take holidays and were unable to take time off in lieu during term time as they were required to support the number of small bubbles of children.
- 2) In some cases, pupils with special needs required support from staff they knew well.

Most schools have had reduced numbers of teaching staff, either because of sickness or because some teachers have been shielding, which has put more strain on those teachers available to work.

As a result, the rota system, has not always been a practical option. In some cases, schools have had to rely heavily on the use of supply teachers. The use of supply teachers has added pressure to the budgets of some of the lowest funded schools, with some reporting that their annual budget for supply costs have been spent within the first term.

For low funded schools, many of the staffing flexibilities have been removed in recent years to ensure schools remain viable. The use of teaching assistants in some cases is limited to support named children through an EHCP. Some schools do not even have a supply budget, with the headteacher often having to provide cover (on top of what may already be a regular class commitment).

Many teachers have worked additional hours to set up E-learning platforms for pupils, while continuing to provide homework and ongoing support. This requirement has increased with year groups returning, as in many cases a full teaching establishment has been necessary to cover the returning year groups.

Many support staff required to work in the holidays are on term-time only contracts. They have not been budgeted for or paid during the holidays – but were still needed when the schools were open (e.g. admin/finance/reception and teaching assistants for pupils with EHCPs who were counted as vulnerable.)

All of this has led to additional staffing costs for many schools, which they are now struggling to meet.

Suggestion: f40 believes schools should be able to recoup extra staffing costs where they can show exceptional circumstances, where a rota system could not be utilised, and where staff could not be compensated with time off.

5. Loss of income

The greatest financial concern for many schools has been the loss of income caused by the pandemic. As schools closed, so did many of their private income streams.

Many schools within f40's member authorities struggle financially and rely heavily on private income, such as from breakfast and after school clubs and the hiring out of facilities, to help fund core education delivery.

The DfE has actively encouraged schools to create private income initiatives like these, but those schools that have are now among the hardest hit.

In many cases, while their private income has stopped, some costs have continued. For example, staff who run the breakfast club may have a second contract within the school, so may not be eligible for furlough, and the school must continue to pay their salaries.

And despite school astro-turf pitches and sports facilities being unavailable for hire, some schools may have to continue paying for their leases. This has placed a greater burden on budgets.

Suggestion: f40 believes the DfE should support schools who have lost income by agreeing to subsidise a percentage of it – for example, funding 75% of lost income. This would be in line with the approach taken with local authorities.

6. Catch-up grant

f40 welcomes the Government's £1bn Coronavirus catch-up grant – with £650m going directly to schools and £350m for a tutoring programme.

However, we believe more information and clarity is needed on how the grant will be distributed and how it is to be used in the months ahead.

Concerns have been raised about the long-term loss of funding through the Year 7 catch up, with any gains received through the National Funding Formula being eroded in meeting this loss in revenue. Special schools have raised particular concerns as, depending on need type, this could represent a substantial loss.

f40 believes SEND pupils will remain vulnerable unless a needs-based funding formula is introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Suggestion: The introduction of a needs-led funding formula for High Needs that protects the funding made available through the year 7 catch up grant.

Suggestion: Additional High Needs funding provided to schools to assist with additional pupil need (e.g. emotional support) as a result of the pandemic. This is especially important for pupils in special schools with higher needs which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

7. September return

a. Allowing a phased return

Many local authorities and school leaders believe that when children return to school in September, a number of issues will arise that may require additional support and discretion.

For example, while it is desirable to have all children back in school at the earliest opportunity, there are going to be instances where it is not practical or safe, such as with special schools.

Suggestion: Schools should be encouraged to bring all of their pupils back to school in September at the earliest opportunity but understanding and discretion should be used where particular challenges arise. Schools should be permitted to use phased returns if they can demonstrate the benefits to both staff and pupils.

b. Reassurance to parents

Some parents are understandably concerned about their children returning to school and f40 believes schools, local authorities and the DfE should provide reassurance to encourage all children to attend – rather than threats of prosecution.

c. Early intervention

Many local authorities and school leaders believe there will be a spike in special educational needs and exclusions when schools return in September. The pandemic and school closure will have had an adverse impact on many children, who may require short-term funding and support to assist them.

While some local authorities are expecting the number of EHCP applications to rise, we do not believe this is necessarily the answer to the expected increase in short-term issues. Rather than increasing the number of EHCPs, we believe early intervention programmes should be available to restore emotional well-being and provide additional support where needed.

Local authorities can play a key role in this bringing together large numbers of schools along with other key associated services such as social care. The importance of the role local authorities play has been highlighted during this current crisis and has demonstrated the impact they can have working closely with their local schools and families.

Suggestion: Early intervention funding, over and above the £1bn catch-up grant, should be provided, where needed, to ensure additional emotional and learning support can be accessed – reducing the likelihood of children needing EHCPs and to help children progress.

d. School transport

Many concerns have been raised by local authorities about how school transport will be managed when schools return in September.

Keeping children socially distanced on buses will be near impossible. It will also be extremely difficult for local authorities to timetable the additional school transport required.

While local transport authorities welcome the £40 million funding package dedicated for transport during the autumn term, it is still unclear how children will be able to arrive at school by public transport on time, due to the double running of routes and additional transport arrangements required to cover multiple destinations.

Suggestion: f40 believes local authorities should be given more guidance and clarity on how the £40 million funding package will ensure children are able to travel to school while social distancing measures remain in place.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read the insight we have gathered during recent weeks. We hope you find it useful and would be only too happy to discuss it in more detail if you wish.

Don't hesitate to contact either myself or Karen Westcott, Secretary of the f40 group, if you feel a call would be beneficial.

Kind regards

James McInnes
Chairman
F40
07961 275814

cc. Karen Westcott
07545 210067

AGENDA ITEM 7
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
15th SEPTEMBER 2020

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

DETAILED MEMBERSHIP

MEETING DATES

<u>CATEGORY/NUMBER/NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RE-ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>Sept 2019</u>	<u>Nov 2019</u>	<u>Jan 2020</u>	<u>Mar 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>	<u>July 2020</u>
<u>FIRST/PRIMARY SCHOOLS (7)</u>								
<u>HEADTEACHERS (4)</u>								
Marie Pearse	2 nd	31 st August 2020	✓	✓	Ap	C	C	✓
Vivienne Cranton @	3 rd	31 st March 2021	✓	✓	✓	C	C	✓
Nathan Jones	1 st	31 st December 2020	✓	✓	Ap	C	C	Ap
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
<u>GOVERNORS (3)</u>								
Malcolm Richards Chair 1/9/19	8 th	31 st March 2022	✓	Ap	✓	C	C	✓
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOLS (2)</u>								
<u>HEADTEACHERS (1)</u>								
Paul Essenhigh	2 nd	31 st August 2021	✓	Ap	✓	C	C	✓
<u>GOVERNORS (1)</u>								
Vacancy @			V	V	V	C	C	V
<u>SECONDARY/HIGH (6)</u>								
<u>HEADTEACHERS (3)</u>								
Adrian Ward @	2 nd	31 st August 2020	Ap	✓	✓	C	C	✓
Chris King	2 nd	31 st August 2021	✓	✓	Ap	C	C	Ap
Bryn Thomas Vice Chair 1/9/19	3 rd	31 st January 2021	✓	✓	Ap	C	C	Ap

AGENDA ITEM 7
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
15th SEPTEMBER 2020

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

DETAILED MEMBERSHIP

MEETING DATES

<u>CATEGORY/NUMBER/NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RE-ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>Sept 2019</u>	<u>Nov 2019</u>	<u>Jan 2020</u>	<u>Mar 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>	<u>July 2020</u>
GOVERNORS (3)								
Jeff Robinson @	5 th	31 st October 2022	✓	✓	✓	C	C	✓
David McIntosh @	7 th	31 st August 2021	Ap	✓	✓	C	C	✓
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
<u>SPECIAL (3)</u>								
HEADTEACHER (2)								
Debbie Rattley	3 rd	31 st January 2022	Ap	✓	✓	C	C	X
Bec Garratt	1 st	31 st January 2022	X	X	X	C	C	Ap
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
GOVERNOR (1)								
Lorraine Petersen	2 nd	30 th September 2022	Ap	Ap	✓	C	C	✓
<u>PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS (PRU)/ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (AP) (2)</u>								
HEADTEACHER (1)								
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
GOVERNOR (1)								
John Bateman @	3 rd	28 th February 2021	✓	Ap	✓	C	C	✓
<u>NON SCHOOL (6)</u>								
UNION REPRESENTATIVE (1)								
Stephen Baker	7 th	31 st August 2021	✓	✓	✓	C	C	✓

AGENDA ITEM 7
WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM
15th SEPTEMBER 2020

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

DETAILED MEMBERSHIP

MEETING DATES

<u>CATEGORY/NUMBER/NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RE-ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>Sept 2019</u>	<u>Nov 2019</u>	<u>Jan 2020</u>	<u>Mar 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>	<u>July 2020</u>
ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS COMMISSION (1)								
Greg McClarey	2 nd	31 st August 2021	Ap	Ap	Ap	C	C	Ap
CHURCH OF ENGLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION (1)								
Tim Reid	2 nd	31 st August 2021	Ap	✓	✓	C	C	✓
PRIVATE, VOLUNTARY AND INDEPENDENT (PVI) (2)								
Tricia Wellings	4 th	31 st October 2020	Ap	✓	✓	C	C	✓
Vacancy			V	V	V	C	C	V
16-19 PROVIDER (1)								
Edward Senior	1 st	31 st August 2020	Ap	Ap	Ap	C	C	Ap
SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS								
Bec Garratt			N/A	N/A	✓	C	C	N/A
<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE NOS. = ✓</u>			10	12	13	N/A	N/A	12
<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP = 26</u>			26	26	26	N/A	N/A	26
<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE %</u>			40%	46%	50%	N/A	N/A	46%

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE – ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20

DETAILED MEMBERSHIP

MEETING DATES

<u>CATEGORY/NUMBER/NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RE-ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>Sept 2019</u>	<u>Nov 2019</u>	<u>Jan 2020</u>	<u>Mar 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>	<u>July 2020</u>
(QUORUM 40% = 10)								
<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXCLUDING VACANCIES = 18</u>			18	18	18	N/A	N/A	18
<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE % (QUORUM 40% = 7)</u>			56%	67%	72%	N/A	N/A	67%

KEY

✓ = Attended; Ap = Apologies; Ab = Absent; X = Not a member at that point; V = Vacancy; C = Cancelled; N/A = Not Applicable

@ Representatives from the Academy Sector; Plus 1 Observer Seat Education Funding Agency (EFA) representative.

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
DfE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS JULY 2020

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the DfE school funding announcements for 2021-22.

2. DfE CONFIRMED POLICY DIRECTION FOR 2021-22

2.1 On 20th July 2020, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed the pre-16 school's revenue funding for 2021 to 2022. The details are on the attached link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2021-to-2022>

2.2 The following are the key aspects of the national policy arrangements: -

(a) ESFA

- The ESFA have published provisional funding allocations for 2021-22 through the schools, high needs and central school services national funding formulae (NFF). A comparison to the current 2020-21 DSG allocation is attached for information at **Appendix A**.
- The DfE will publish provisional DSG allocations for LAs for 2021-22 in December 2020 based upon the October 2020 census and other 2020 data sets.

(b) Schools NFF

- This will continue to have the same factors as in 2020-21 but the ESFA have made two technical changes: -
 - Funding from the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, including the supplementary fund, has been added to the formulae from 2021-22. This is on a per pupil rate into the AWPU – primary £180 and secondary £265.
 - 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 NFF allocations will provide increases to the funding block in 2021-22 as follows: -
 - School Block DSG funding is increasing by 4% overall, compared to 2020-21, with the funding floor allocating at least 2% more in pupil-led funding per pupil, and higher minimum per pupil funding levels. This will allow the key factors in the NFF to increase by approximately 3%. A comparison of the DfE NFF factors between 2020-21 and 2021-22 is detailed in **Appendix B**.
 - Increased total funding through the sparsity factor from £26m to £42m, as a first step towards expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools from 2022-23.
- Further key aspects of the NFF for 2020-21 are: -

- The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary, £5,215 for KS3, £5,715 for KS4 and £5,415 for standard secondary schools with 5 year groups.
- The NFF funding floor will be set at 2.00% per pupil.
- Premises funding will continue to be allocated at LA level based on actual spend in the 2020-21 APT with the PFI factor increasing by the RPI(X) inflation measure of +1.56%.
- The policy of no gains cap in the NFF will continue so that schools could attract their full core allocations under the formula. This will depend on affordability.
- Growth funding will be based on the same methodology as this year.

(c) Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)

- LAs will continue to have discretion over their LSFF and in consultation with schools, will ultimately determine allocations in their area.
- The DfE will continue to make the use of the national Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs) per pupil, at the values in the school NFF, **compulsory** for LAs to use in their LSFF.
- In addition, two important restrictions will continue: -
 - LAs will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in the LSFF, which in 2021-22 must be between +0.50% and +2.00%. This allows LAs to mirror the real terms protection in the NFF.
 - LAs can only transfer up to 0.5% of their School Block to other blocks of the DSG, with Schools Forum approval. To transfer more than this, or any amount without Schools Forum approval, LAs will have to make a request to the DfE even if the same amount was agreed previously.

(d) High Needs NFF

- This will also continue to have the same factors as at present.
- High Needs DSG is increasing by a further £730m, or 10%, in 2021-22, bringing the total high needs budget to over £8bn. The NFF will ensure that every LA receives an increase of at least 8% per head of population, compared to this year, and up to 12%.

(e) Early Years NFF

- Information for the Early Years DSG will be published later in the year.

(f) Central School Services DSG

- This will increase by 4% in 2021-22 for the ongoing responsibilities that LAs continue to have for all schools, while funding for historic commitments within this block will decrease by a further 20% for those LAs in receipt of this funding.
- The latter will have significant implications for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS)

2.3 The ESFA have re-iterated the government's intention to move to a 'hard' NFF for schools, where budgets will be set based on a single, national formula. The DfE recognise that this will represent a significant change and will work closely with LAs, schools and others to make this transition as smoothly as possible.

3. OVERALL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Until the DfE issue the final allocations to be based upon the October 2020 census and other data sets, it is difficult to quantify the impact.

3.2 For 2021-22, the national policy direction looks similar to 2020-21 with the ability of LAs to continue to be able to set a Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) including the continuation of: -

- The mandatory inclusion in LAs LSFF of the national per pupil Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs), at the values in the school NFF.
- No gains cap in the DfE NFF, so that schools could attract their full core allocations under the formula. However, the DfE have confirmed LAs will be able to have a gains cap for affordability, which must be set at least as high as the MFL threshold.

3.3 The above issues have the potential to restrict LAs in their use of the Schools Block, as it is likely, as in previous years, all the funding will be required to implement the above LSFF parameters in particular: -

- For the MFLs in the LSFF for 2020-21 these were a substantial call on the additional Schools Block DSG, so this is anticipated again in 2021-22.
- Although any potential 0.5% transfer to High Needs is still in the national policy, these above restrictions will make that extremely difficult. It is suspected the DfE view is that is what the additional £730m in the High Needs DSG is designed for.

3.4 It is hoped the DfE will construct the PUF and SUF with their policy by increasing the Schools Block DSG for distribution. The funding of the MFLs will be challenging for LAs and LAs will need to assess their need to cap or not if there is an affordability issue.

3.5 The additional HN is welcomed but is only allowing most LAs to meet current demand and for most LAs it is a year behind as the pressures are current and will not cover the DSG deficit.

3.6 There will be a need to consider how to engage schools on the LSFF and other matters for 2021-22 given there is no real change. This is detailed further under **Agenda Item 8b**).

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The WSF are requested to note and discuss the DfE policy direction for 2021-22 detailed in the report.

Andy McHale
Service Manager Funding and Policy
Worcestershire Children First

September 2020

APPENDIX A

WORCESTERSHIRE 885 - DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) - SCHOOLS, HIGH NEEDS AND CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES ONLY

2020-21 LATEST JULY 2020 VS. 2021-22 INITIAL JULY 2020

This is the GROSS DSG indicative allocation PRIOR TO academy and high needs places recoupment.

This analysis excludes the EY DSG.

			<u>2020-21</u>			<u>2021-22</u>			VARIANCE			NOTES
			LATEST			INITIAL						
			JULY 2020			JULY 2020						
		UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NUMBERS OCTOBER 2019		UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NUMBERS OCTOBER 2019		UNITS OF FUNDING	PUPIL NUMBERS			
<u>SCHOOLS BLOCK (SB)</u>		£		£'m	£		£'m			£'m	%	A
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)		4,065.10	44250	179.881	4,407.42	44250	195.028	342.32	0	15.148		A
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)		5,179.87	29412	152.348	5,634.82	29412	165.729	454.95	0	13.381		
			73662	332.228		73662	360.757		0	28.528	8.59%	
Historic Premises				7.439			7.443			0.004		
Formulaic Pupil Growth Fund				2.319			0.000			-2.319		B
	=SB			341.986			368.200			26.213	7.67%	
<u>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES</u>												
<u>BLOCK (CSSB)</u>												
Formulaic CSS NFF				2.315			2.383			0.068		

Historic Commitments			1.200			0.960			-0.240		C
	=CSSB		3.515			3.343			-0.172	-4.89%	
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB)											
Formulaic HN NFF			60.101			67.944			7.843		D
	=HNB		60.101			67.944			7.843	13.05%	
= TOTAL GROSS DSG EXCLUDING EARLY YEARS			405.602			439.487			33.884	8.35%	
Historic Premises Breakdown		19-20 APT Baseline		20-21 APT Baseline							
		Split Site	0.566	Split Site		0.566					
		Rates	3.957	Rates		3.922					
		Exceptional Premises	0.369	Exceptional Premises		0.369					
		PFI	Baseline + RPI(X) £2.473 + 1.03%	PFI							
			2.547			2.586					
			7.439			7.443					

NOTES

A. Yet to be updated using the October 2020 pupil numbers. Effect of NFF Year 4 to support changes to the NFF units of resource, MFG, mandatory sector MFLs and incorporation into the DSG of £16.25m teachers pay and pension grants.

B. Yet to be advised.

C. Reflects DfE policy to reduce the allocation to LAs by 20% - significant impact for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS).

D. Effect of NFF Year 4 including share of additional £730m.

APPENDIX B

COMPARISON OF DfE NFF FORMULA FACTOR UNITS OF RESOURCE
2020-21 TO 2021-22

<u>FORMULA FACTOR</u>	<u>2020-21</u> £	<u>2021-22</u> £	<u>NFF INCREASE</u>
<u>AWPU</u>			
Primary	2,857	3,123	(2020-21 +3%) + £180 Teacher Pay and Pension Grants
KS3	4,018	4,404	) (2020-21 +3%) + £265
KS4	4,561	4,963	) Teacher Pay and Pension Grants
<u>Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)</u>			
Primary	3,750	4,180	£4,000 + £180 Teacher Pay and Pension Grants
KS3	4,800	5,215	) (2020-21 +3% Rounded) +
KS4	5,300	5,715	) £265 Teacher Pay and
Secondary	5,000	5,415	) Pension Grants
<u>Deprivation FSM</u>			
Primary Annual	450	460	) +2% Rounded
Secondary Annual	450	460)
Primary Ever 6	560	575	) +3% Rounded
Secondary Ever 6	815	840)
<u>Deprivation IDACI</u>			
Primary A	600	620	) +3% Average Across Sector
Primary B	435	475)
Primary C	405	445)
Primary D	375	410)
Primary E	250	260)
Primary F	210	215)
Secondary A	840	865	) +3% Average Across Sector
Secondary B	625	680)
Secondary C	580	630)
Secondary D	535	580)
Secondary E	405	415)
Secondary F	300	310)
<u>Low Prior Attainment</u>			
Primary	1,065	1,095	) +3% Rounded
Secondary	1,610	1,660)
<u>English as an Additional Language</u>			
Primary	535	550	) +3% Rounded
Secondary	1,440	1,485)
<u>Lump Sum</u>			
Primary	114,400	117,800	) +3% Rounded
Secondary	114,400	117,800)
<u>Sparsity</u>			
Primary	26,000	45,000	) Reflects Increase to DfE NFF
Secondary	67,600	70,000	) Policy

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
LOCAL CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR 2021-22

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the proposed local consultation process for 2021-22.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 The DfE policy direction for 2021-22 was detailed under **Agenda Item 8a)**.

2.2 Following the announcement of the NFF policy direction by the DfE the LA has for the last 3 years issued to schools a formal consultation document to schools detailing the proposed local policy direction.

2.3 For 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 schools and the WSF have supported the following: -

- The LSFF being based upon the DfE NFF parameters as far as is practicable and affordable subject to the Schools Block DSG available.
- No transfer of Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block DSG to support cost pressures.
- Support the arrangements for delegation and de-delegation as detailed in **Table 1** subsequently approved by WSF maintained school members: -

Table 1: Delegation/De-Delegation Decisions for Maintained Mainstream Schools

Phase/Service	Primary Delegation	Primary De-delegation	Secondary Delegation	Secondary De-delegation
[Formula Factor for De-delegation indicated]				
School Specific Contingency (SSC) [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	Yes	No	Yes	No
Behaviour Support Services [Low Prior Attainment]	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
14-16 Practical Learning Options [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils/ Underachieving Groups –	No	Yes	No	Yes

English as an Additional Language [EAL 3 Years] Traveller Children [Low Prior Attainment]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility [FSM Annual]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schools Insurance [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	Yes	No	Yes	No
Staff Costs/Duties Supply Cover –				
Civic	No	Yes	No	Yes
Trade Union	No	Yes	No	Yes
HR Related	No	Yes	No	Yes
[Per Pupil (AWPU)]				
Additional School Improvement Services	No	No	No	No
Former General Duties Previously Funded by the Former Education Services Grant (ESG)	N/A	No	N/A	No

- Support the arrangements for centrally retained services as detailed in **Table 2** subsequently approved by the WSF: -

Table 2: Centrally Retained Services Decisions for All Maintained Schools and Academies

For the LA to decide WSF approval is not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Needs Block provision • Central Licences negotiated by the Secretary of State
CSSB WSF approval is required on a line by line basis NOT LIMITED by previous budget provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Admissions • Servicing of Schools Forum • Services previously funded by the ESG retained duties that LAs hold for all schools
Other Services WSF approval is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central early years block provision • Any movement of funding out of the schools' block • Any deficit from the previous funding period that reduces the amount of the school's budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any brought forward deficit on de-delegated services which is to be met by the overall school's budget
<p>CSSB services</p> <p>WSF approval is required on a line by line basis LIMITED by previous budget provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to Combined Budgets Historic Commitments (Early Intervention Family Support Service)
<p>Approved to be centrally retained before allocating formula</p> <p>Subject to WSF approval including criteria where appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth to meet basic need and to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement
<p>No current provision made as no historic budget commitment or this has now time expired</p> <p>WSF approval is required on a line by line basis LIMITED by previous budget provision where NO NEW COMMITMENTS can be now entered into</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back-pay for equal pay claims Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools/academies Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils Prudential borrowing costs SEN transport costs Funding to support falling rolls to prepare for future population growth meeting specific criteria for good or outstanding schools where growth in pupil numbers is expected within 3 years Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue (CERA) Existing Termination of Employment/ Redundancy Costs <p>[Note – there is no central budget provision for any of these areas]</p>

2.4 These have then been reported to the WCC Cabinet with all the consultation feedback for formal decision as required.

3. PROPOSED PROCESS FOR 2021-22

3.1 Given there is no significant change proposed by the DfE for 2021-22 and that previously there has been local support for the decisions detailed above, it is proposed that the usual full consultation document is **not** issued.

3.2 To support the required process for implementation for 2021-22 it is recommended: -

- The WSF approve the continuation of the 2020-21 arrangements detailed above into 2021-22.
- A communication is sent to schools to that effect giving brief details of the continuing DfE policy for 2020-21 continuing into 2021-22 and that no change is proposed to the current local policy. As part of this schools will be given the opportunity to comment. A draft letter is detailed at **Appendix A**.
- A brief report is considered by WCC Cabinet at their meeting on 10th December 2020 to approve continuing with the current arrangements into 2021-22.
- The WSF at its meetings in November 2020 and January 2021 formally approve the arrangements as required for de-delegation and centrally retained services together with the endorsement of the completion of the APT for 2021-22 to the ESFA by 21st January 2021 as required.

3.3 The timeline is detailed in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Timeline

DETAIL	DATE
Meeting of the WSF to discuss and agree continuing with the current arrangements in 2020-21 into 2021-22	15 September 2020
Meeting of the WSF to consider their decisions for de-delegated and centrally retained services	5 November 2020
Report to Cabinet making recommendations for the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF), de-delegated and centrally retained budgets for 2021-22	10 December 2020
Confirmation by the DfE/ESFA of: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2020 census data and other 2020 data sets • Final LSFF Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2021-22 • DSG Allocations for 2021-22	) Late) December) 2020
LA to consider impact of the new October 2020 data sets for LSFF APT submission for 2021-22	Late December 2020/Early January 2021
Meeting of the WSF to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider impact of the new October 2020 data sets • Agree submission for the final LSFF APT 2021-22 to the ESFA	) 13 or 21) January 2021
LA to submit final data for Schools Budget DSG LSFF APT for 2021-22	21 January 2021
LA to confirm School Budget Shares 2021-22 for their maintained mainstream schools	By 28 February 2021
LA to confirm initial School Budget Shares 2021-22 for their maintained specialist providers	By 28 February 2021
ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) 2021-22 to academies	By 31 March 2021

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The WSF notes and discusses the issues detailed in the report.

4.2 The WSF approves the recommended approach and timeline detailed in section 3 above.

Andy McHale
Service Manager Funding and Policy
Worcestershire Children First

September 2020

Andy McHale
Service Manager – Funding and Policy
Worcestershire Children First

PO Box 73
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Date: September 2020

Our ref: AMcH/NFF
21-22

APPENDIX A

Dear Colleague,

SCHOOL FUNDING LOCAL POLICY DIRECTION 2021-22

The purpose of this letter is to share the DfE policy direction for school funding for 2021-22 and recommend the local policy direction for 2021-22.

On 20th July 2020, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed the pre-16 school's revenue funding for 2021 to 2022.

The details are on the attached link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs-2021-to-2022>

Details of the arrangements are summarised at **Appendix 1** and confirms there are **no significant changes to the national policy direction for 2021-22**.

Given this position, and that for the 3 years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, schools have supported the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) to be based on the NFF parameters, de-delegation for maintained mainstream schools and for centrally retained services for all schools, **the LA is proposing to continue with the current arrangements for a further year for 2021-22.**

This approach was approved by the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) at its meeting on 15th September 2020.

The details of the current arrangements for 2020-21 to continue into 2021-22 are attached at **Appendix 2** together with the timeline for implementation.

If you have any comments on the proposed local policy for 2021-22 please do not hesitate to contact me on my e-mail address below.

With very best wishes,

Office: 01905 846285 | Mobile: 07971998978
amchale@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. McHale". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long, horizontal, slightly upward-sloping line that extends to the right.

Andy McHale
Service Manager – Funding and Policy
Worcestershire Children First

THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (ESFA) POLICY FOR SCHOOL'S REVENUE FUNDING FOR 2021 TO 2022

1. Schools NFF

- This will continue to have the same factors as in 2020-21 but the ESFA have made two technical changes: -
 - Funding from the teachers' pay grant and the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, including the supplementary fund, has been added to the formulae from 2021-22. This is on a per pupil rate into the AWPU – primary £180 and secondary £265.
 - 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 NFF allocations will provide increases to the funding block in 2021-22: -
 - School Block DSG funding is increasing by 4% overall, compared to 2020-21, with the funding floor allocating at least 2% more in pupil-led funding per pupil, and higher minimum per pupil funding levels. This will allow the key factors in the NFF to increase **by approximately 3%**.
 - Increased total funding through the sparsity factor from £26m to £42m, as a first step towards expanding the support the NFF provides for small and remote schools from 2022-23.
- Further key aspects of the NFF for 2020-21 are: -
 - The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,180 for primary, £5,215 for KS3, £5,715 for KS4 and £5,415 for standard secondary schools with 5 year groups.
 - The NFF funding floor will be set at 2.00% per pupil.
 - Premises funding will continue to be allocated at LA level based on actual spend in the 2020-21 APT with the PFI factor increasing by the RPI(X) inflation measure of +1.56%.
 - The NFF policy of no gains cap in the NFF will continue so that schools could attract their full core allocations under the formula. This will depend on affordability.
 - Growth funding will be based on the same methodology as this year.

(c) Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)

- LAs will continue to have discretion over their LSFF and in consultation with schools, will ultimately determine allocations in their area.
- The DfE will continue to make the use of the national Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs) per pupil, at the values in the school NFF, **compulsory** for LAs to use in their LSFF.
- In addition, two important restrictions will continue: -
 - LAs will continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) in the LSFF, which in 2020-21 must be between +0.50% and +2.00%. This allows LAs to mirror the real terms protection in the NFF.
 - LAs can only transfer up to 0.5% of their School Block to other blocks of the DSG, with Schools Forum approval. To transfer more than this, or any amount without Schools Forum approval, LAs will have to make a request to the DfE even if the same amount was agreed previously.

(d) High Needs NFF

- This will also continue to have the same factors as at present.
- High Needs DSG is increasing by a further £730m, or 10%, in 2021-22, bringing the total high needs budget to over £8bn. The NFF will ensure that every LA receives an increase of at least 8% per head of population, compared to this year, and up to 12%.

(e) Early Years NFF

- Information for the Early Years DSG will be published later in the year.

(f) Central School Services DSG

- This will increase by 4% in 2021-22 for the ongoing responsibilities that LAs continue to have for all schools, while funding for historic commitments within this block will decrease by a further 20% for those LAs in receipt of this funding.
- The latter will have significant implications for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS)

2.4 The ESFA have re-iterated the government's intention to move to a 'hard' NFF for schools, where budgets will be set based on a single, national formula. The DfE recognise that this will represent a significant change and will work closely with LAs, schools and others to make this transition as smoothly as possible.



School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations Local Authority Application to Disapply Regulations Form General Requests

TO BE SUBMITTED TO ESFA BY 11/10/2020 OR 20/11/2020

Please complete this form to apply to the Secretary of State for Education to disapply the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, or to vary conditions in the dedicated schools grant.

Please complete all fields. **If sections are not satisfactorily completed, we may request further information or REJECT YOUR REQUEST.**

Return the completed form along with any supporting documentation to LA.DISAPPLICATIONS@education.gov.uk

Please do not embed files, please attach supporting documentation. Where documents are attached separately, for example spreadsheet calculations, please reference in the relevant box on the form.

Local Authority number	885
Local Authority - <i>auto populated</i>	Worcestershire
Funding year request relates to	2021/22
Type of request	Use of reserves to offset overspend
Regulations or condition of grant the request relates to - <i>auto populated</i>	
Has relevant modelling been completed for the request?	

What is the latest date a decision is needed by? (DD/MM/YY)	
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Number of schools directly affected	
Have the schools directly affected by this request been consulted?	
What are the views of the schools directly affected by this request?	

Has the schools forum been consulted?	
Does the schools forum agree with this request?	
Has the schools forum voted?	
Which groups of representatives voted? <small>(maintained schools, academies, etc)</small>	
What was the split in votes?	
What was the date of the schools forum meeting? (DD/MM/YY)	
Was the meeting quorate?	
Please provide link(s)/attach to the minutes showing schools forum agreement, or details of where this can be found in attached documentation.	
If this has not yet been discussed with Schools forum, what date will this be? (DD/MM/YY)	

Assessment of the equalities implication

Please provide us with your detailed equality analysis demonstrating your compliance with the public sector equality duty in s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to your request.

If attached separately, please provide details of where this can be found in supporting documentation.

Should we consider your analysis to be inadequate we may request further information or REJECT YOUR REQUEST.

Stating that there are no equality implications will generally be deemed to be inadequate.

[Section 149](#)

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Detailed information about the request not included above.

For any references made to documents supplied separately, please provide details (e.g. page numbers) of where relevant information can be found within the supporting documentation.

- You should include, where appropriate:
- What is the rationale for the proposal?
 - What is the impact on the schools concerned? Do they benefit from the proposal?
 - What is the potential impact on other schools in the area?
 - Will maintained schools and academies be affected in the same way?
 - What is the potential impact on other educational functions and services in the area?

Please include any modelling that support the request.

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Name of requestor	
Job Title	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Date (DD/MM/YY)	

For Official use only

Request number	
ID	
Decision outcome	
Details of the decision (including any conditions)	

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Name	
Date (DD/MM/YY)	
Type of notification	
If this notification type is listed as 'intention to approve' the department will notify you when the regulations are laid.	

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY

1. For 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 schools and the WSF have supported the following: -
- The LSFF being based upon the DfE NFF parameters as far as is practicable and affordable subject to the Schools Block DSG available.
 - No transfer of Schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block DSG to support cost pressures.
 - Support the arrangements for delegation and de-delegation as detailed in **Table 1** approved by WSF maintained school members: -

Table 1: Delegation/De-Delegation Decisions for Maintained Mainstream Schools

Phase/Service [Formula Factor for De-delegation indicated]	Primary Delegation	Primary De-delegation	Secondary Delegation	Secondary De-delegation
School Specific Contingency (SSC) [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	Yes	No	Yes	No
Behaviour Support Services [Low Prior Attainment]	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
14-16 Practical Learning Options [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils/ Underachieving Groups –	No	Yes	No	Yes
English as an Additional Language [EAL 3 Years] Traveller Children [Low Prior Attainment]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility [FSM Annual]	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schools Insurance [Per Pupil (AWPU)]	Yes	No	Yes	No
Staff Costs/Duties Supply Cover –				

Civic	No	Yes	No	Yes
Trade Union	No	Yes	No	Yes
HR Related	No	Yes	No	Yes
[Per Pupil (AWPU)]				
Additional School Improvement Services	No	No	No	No
Former General Duties Previously Funded by the Former Education Services Grant (ESG)	N/A	No	N/A	No

- Support the arrangements for centrally retained services as detailed in **Table 2** approved by the WSF: -

Table 2: Centrally Retained Services Decisions for All Maintained Schools and Academies

For the LA to decide WSF approval is not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Needs Block provision • Central Licences negotiated by the Secretary of State
CSSB WSF approval is required on a line by line basis NOT LIMITED by previous budget provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Admissions • Servicing of Schools Forum • Services previously funded by the ESG retained duties that LAs hold for all schools
Other Services WSF approval is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central early years block provision • Any movement of funding out of the schools' block • Any deficit from the previous funding period that reduces the amount of the school's budget • Any brought forward deficit on de-delegated services which is to be met by the overall school's budget
CSSB services WSF approval is required on a line by line basis LIMITED by previous budget provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to Combined Budgets Historic Commitments (Early Intervention Family Support Service)

<p>Approved to be centrally retained before allocating formula</p> <p>Subject to WSF approval including criteria where appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth to meet basic need and to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement
<p>No current provision made as no historic budget commitment or this has now time expired</p> <p>WSF approval is required on a line by line basis LIMITED by previous budget provision where NO NEW COMMITMENTS can be now entered into</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back-pay for equal pay claims • Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools/academies • Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils • Prudential borrowing costs • SEN transport costs • Funding to support falling rolls to prepare for future population growth meeting specific criteria for good or outstanding schools where growth in pupil numbers is expected within 3 years • Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue (CERA) • Existing Termination of Employment/ Redundancy Costs <p>[Note – there is no central budget provision for any of these areas]</p>

2. These have then been reported to the WCC Cabinet with all the consultation feedback for formal decision as required.

3. Given there is no significant change proposed by the DfE for 2021-22 and that previously there has been local support detailed above, it is proposed that the above current arrangements continue for 2021-22.

4. The timeline for implementation is detailed in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Timeline

DETAIL	DATE
Meeting of the WSF to discuss and agree continuing with the current arrangements in 2020-21 into 2021-22	15 September 2020
Meeting of the WSF to consider their decisions for de-delegated and centrally retained services	5 November 2020
Report to Cabinet making recommendations for the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF), de-delegated and centrally retained budgets for 2021-22	10 December 2020
Confirmation by the DfE/ESFA of: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2020 census data and other 2020 data sets • Final LSFF Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2021-22 • DSG Allocations for 2021-22	) Late) December) 2020
LA to consider impact of the new October 2020 data sets for LSFF APT submission for 2021-22	Late December 2020/Early January 2021
Meeting of the WSF to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider impact of the new October 2020 data sets • Agree submission for the final LSFF APT 2021-22 to the ESFA	) 13 or 21) January 2021
LA to submit final data for Schools Budget DSG LSFF APT for 2021-22	21 January 2021
LA to confirm School Budget Shares 2021-22 for their maintained mainstream schools	By 28 February 2021
LA to confirm initial School Budget Shares 2021-22 for their maintained specialist providers	By 28 February 2021
ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) 2021-22 to academies	By 31 March 2021



School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations Local Authority Application to Disapply Regulations Form Schools Block Movement

TO BE SUBMITTED TO ESFA BY 20/11/2020

Please read the operational guide (LINK) prior to submitting this request, we have specified the criteria for requests we will consider within this document. If you do not feel you meet the published criteria, please do not submit your request.

Please complete this form to apply to the Secretary of State for Education to disapply the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, or to vary conditions in the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Please complete all fields. If sections are not satisfactorily completed, we may request further information or REJECT YOUR REQUEST.

Return the completed form along with any supporting documentation to LA.DISAPPLICATIONS@education.gov.uk

Any supporting documentation which is attached separately, for example spreadsheet calculations, should be referenced in the relevant box on the form.

Please do not embed files, please attach supporting documentation. Where documents are attached separately, please reference in the relevant box on the form.

Local Authority number	
Local Authority	
Funding year request relates to	2021/22
Type of request	SCHOOLS BLOCK MOVEMENT

What percent of the provisional schools block allocation are you requesting to transfer?	
What is the cash value you are requesting to move? (please specify if this is an estimate in the any further information box below)	
Would you like the request to be based on the percentage or fixed cash value above?	
Where do you propose to transfer funding to? (High needs block, CSS block)	
What do you propose setting your minimum funding guarantee (MFG) at if the transfer is allowed?	
Has teacher pay and pension grant been removed from this? (the % should not be from the whole DSG, please review the operational guide paragraph xx for the relevant calculation/formula)	
Are you still able to meet the MPPL with this transfer?	

Once actual DSG figures are released in December, the cash value of a given percentage will likely change. Therefore please specify whether you wish the cash value or the percentage to be fixed.

DSG forecast carry forward to 2021/22. Deficits to be shown as a negative value/surplus as a positive	
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Has the schools forum been consulted?	
Does the schools forum agree with this request?	
Was the meeting quorate?	
What was the date of the schools forum meeting?	
Please provide link(s) to the minutes showing schools forum agreement, or details of where this can be found in attached documentation.	
If this has not yet been discussed with schools forum, what date will this be?	

Have all maintained schools and academies been consulted?	
What was the response rate of the consultation?	
What was the outcome of the consultation?	

Local authorities must consult with all local maintained schools and academies if they propose to allocate schools block money to other items. The schools forum must take into account the outcome of that consultation before deciding whether to give their consent (DSG conditions of grant)

Assessment of the equalities implication	
Please provide us with your detailed equality analysis demonstrating your compliance with the public sector equality duty in s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to your request. If attached separately, please provide details of where this can be found in supporting documentation. Should we consider your analysis to be inadequate we may request further information or REJECT YOUR REQUEST. Stating that there are no equality implications will generally be deemed to be inadequate. Section 149	



Please complete the table below to provide evidence for your request.
 If evidence is attached separately, please provide details of where this can be found in supporting documentation.

Category	Description	Details/documents
Previous block movement	Details of all previous movements between blocks (including those that did not require a disapplication request) and what pressures those movements covered. Include details of why those transfers have not been adequate to counter the new cost pressures.	
2020/2021 block movement request	Was there a request for 2020/2021? If so, please provide details of this: what was the value of the request? was it approved? how much (cash and % value) was transferred following the decision? Also provide details if this request represents a longer term plan agreed previously, details of any consultation with schools and voting.	
Breakdown of specific budget pressures that led to the need to transfer	A full breakdown of the specific budget pressures that have led to the requirement for a transfer. This would include the changes in demand for special provision over the last 3 years, and how the LA has met that demand by commissioning places in all sectors. It is particularly important that any changes in the provision for mainstream school pupils with high needs are highlighted so those schools can understand both why a transfer of funds from the schools block might be needed, and how future transfers might be avoided.	
Assessment of why the high needs costs are exceeding funding levels	Full assessment of funding costs and plans to change the pattern of provision where necessary to reduce these costs.	
Strategic Financial Plan (A) – balancing and sustaining the high needs block	The LA should demonstrate an assessment and understanding of why the high needs costs are at a level that exceeds the significant final high needs funding allocation for 2021 to 2022, and that plans are in place to change the pattern of provision where this is necessary, as well as to achieve greater efficiency in other ways.	
Strategic Financial Plan (B) – DSG Recovery and Schools' Forum	The LA should give details of whether the cost pressure is such that they would anticipate the need to seek schools forum approval for a transfer in subsequent years, and how they are planning ahead to avoid such transfers in the longer term (note that the schools forum can only give approval for a one-off transfer of funding out of the 2021/22 schools block.) The local authority should also include here the forecasted DSG brought forward figure for the next 3 years. We would also expect a good level of support from local schools and the schools forum for a transfer, including outcomes of local consultations, please provide evidence of this here.	
Strategic Financial Plan (C) – collaborative planning and partnership working	We expect evidence of effective partnership between the local authority, those institutions offering special and alternative provision (including mainstream schools), and parents; and between the LA and neighbouring authorities. In addition specific and detailed plans which demonstrate that the transferred funding would	
Health and social care budget	Details and evidence of any contributions coming from the health and social care budgets towards the cost of specialist places.	

Funding HN pupils in mainstream provision	Details of how any additional high needs funding would be targeted to good and outstanding mainstream primary and secondary schools that provide an excellent education for a larger than average number of pupils with high needs, or to support the inclusion of children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. Examples that illustrate how the LA would support such inclusive practice are also useful.	
Impact of transfer on schools block	Details of the impact of the proposed transfer on individual schools' budgets as a result of the reduction in the available funding to be distributed through the local schools funding formula.	

Any further information about the request not included above.

For any references made to documents supplied separately, please provide details (e.g. page numbers) of where relevant information can be found within the supporting documentation.

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Name of requestor	
Job Title	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Date	

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Request number	
ID	
Decision outcome	
Details of the decision (including any conditions)	

Name	
Date	
Type of notification	
If this notification type is listed as 'intention to approve' the department will notify you when the regulations are laid.	

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)
REQUIRED CHANGES TO THE SCHEME FOR FINANCING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS
FOR APRIL 2021

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the current position on required changes to the above scheme for maintained schools.

1.2 For the WSF maintained school members to approve a revised version of the scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The DfE issue from time to time changes to their Statutory Guidance for Schemes for Financing Maintained Schools.

2.2 The latest update was issued on 5th August 2020 and the details are contained in the attached link: -

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools?utm_source=79cbf573-005d-421c-b11a-8785ef3f3ae1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate#history

2.3 LAs are required to incorporate any changes into their local schemes.

3. CHANGES FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CURRENT SCHEME

3.1 On 17th July 2020, the DfE published the 'Financial transparency of LA maintained schools and academy trusts' consultation response.

3.2 Due to delays caused by COVID-19, and in order to provide schools with enough notice to comply with the new requirements, these changes to the scheme for Financing LA Maintained Schools will take practical effect from 1st April 2021.

3.3 The changes are as follows: -

The Secretary of State directs the text below shall be incorporated into the schemes of all LAs in England.

'Section 4.3: Submission of financial forecasts

From the 2021 to 2022 funding year each school must submit a 3-year budget forecast each year, at a date determined by the local authority between 1 May and 30 June.

Local authorities should consider the extent to which such forecasts may be used for more than just confirming schools are undertaking effective financial planning or not. For instance, they could be used as evidence to support the local authority's assessment of

schools' financial value standards or used in support of the authority's balance control mechanism.

Local authorities must inform schools of the purposes for which they intend to use these 3-year budget forecasts: such a forecast may be used in conjunction with an authority's balance control mechanism.'

'Section 6.5: Planning for deficit budgets

Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. Local authorities 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.'

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The WSF notes and discuss the above changes.

4.2 The WSF maintained school members approve the required changes and for the posting of the revised version on the WSF website from April 2021 as required.

Andy McHale
Service Manager Funding and Policy
Worcestershire Children First

September 2020