

Time	4.00 pm	Public Meeting?	YES	Type of meeting	Partnership Boards
Venue	Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre				

Membership

Karen Preston (Chair)	Academies Sector Representative
Susan Lacey (Vice Chair)	Nursery Sector Head Teacher Representative
Darryl Asbury	Academies Sector Representative
Kirsty Banks	Academies Sector Representative
Rachael Brown	Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher Representative
Ian Browne	16 - 19 Education Representative
Vivienne Bunce	Special School Sector Governor Representative
Linda Campbell	Nursery Sector Governors Substitute
Kate Charles	Primary Sector Substitute
Amarjit Cheema	Academies Sector Substitute
Louisa Craig	Academies Sector Representative
Ben Davis	Academies Sector Representative
Lorraine Dawney	Special School Sector Substitute
Gary Gentle	Diocesan Representative Substitute
Trisha James	Primary Sector Governor Representative
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative
Carroll McNally	Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative
Bhaksho Raj	Academies Sector Representative
Zoe Rollinson	Primary Sector Headteacher Representative
Emma Smith	Nursery Sector Headteacher Substitute
Stephen Smith	Primary Sector Governor Representative
Graham Tate	Academies Sector Representative
Lisa Thompson	Diocesan Schools Representative
Lucia Jayne Turner	Nursery Sector Governor Representative
Samantha Walker	Primary Sector Headteacher Representative
Lindsay Watson	Pupil Referral Unit Sector Substitute
Lisa-Anne Westwood	Academies Sector Representative
Sarah Whittington	Special School Sector Head Teacher Representative
Phil Williams	Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Councillor Chris Burden	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Bill Hague	Head of Business and Support Services
Brenda Wile	Deputy Director of Education

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact:

Contact Shelley Humphries
Tel/Email 01902 554070 shelley.humphries@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website <http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking>
Email democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel 01902 555043

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- | <i>Item No.</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 2 | Apologies |
| 3 | Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality |
| 4 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 1 December 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)
[To approve the minutes of 1 December 2022 as a correct record.] |
| 5 | Matters Arising
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022.] |
| 6 | Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update (Pages 7 - 10)
[To receive an update on current Schools' Forum membership and attendance.] |
| 7 | Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 - 2023 (Pages 11 - 12)
[To note the Schools' Forum Forward Plan for academic year 2022 - 2023.] |

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR DECISION

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2023-2024 (Pages 13 - 34)
[To receive the Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2023-2024 report for approval.] |
| 9 | Commissioning of High Needs Places for September 2023 (Pages 35 - 52)
[To receive an outline of the process and rationale for agreeing high needs places to be commissioned for September 2023.] |
| 10 | High Needs Sub-Group Update
[To receive an update from the Chair of the High Needs Sub-Group.] |
| 11 | Any Other Business |
| 12 | Date and format of the next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 16 February 2023● 29 June 2023 (TBC) |

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<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<p>Schools' Forum Minutes - 1 December 2022</p>
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Attendance

Members of the Schools' Forum

Karen Preston (Chair)	Academies Sector Representative
Susan Lacey (Vice Chair)	Nursery Sector Headteacher Representative
Kirsty Banks	Academies Sector Representative
Rachael Brown	Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher Representative
Vivienne Bunce	Special School Sector Governor Representative
Bhaksho Raj	Academies Sector Representative
Graham Tate	Academies Sector Representative
Lisa Thompson	Non-School Member Diocesan Schools Representative
Lucia Jayne Turner	Nursery Sector Governor Representative
Samantha Walker	Primary Sector Headteacher Representative
Sarah Whittington	Special School Sector Head Teacher Representative
Phil Williams	Academies Sector Representative

Observer Status

Bill Hague	Head of School Business and Support Services
Councillor Christopher Burden	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

In Attendance

James Barlow	Finance Business Partner
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer
David Kirby	Service Manager - School Organisation and Support
Shekera Lodge	School Organisation Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1 **Welcome and Introductions**

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Schools' Forum members Stephen Smith, Zoe Rollinson, Kate Charles, Ben Davis, Lisa-Anne Westwood, Gary Gentle, Stephen Blower and Samantha Kemp-Marshall.

Apologies were also received from Brenda Wile and Helen Bakewell.

3 **Declaration of Interest or Confidentiality**

There were no declarations of interest or confidentiality.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 29 September 2022**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of 29 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

5 **Matters Arising**

In respect of minute 11, members were assured that, as agreed at the previous meeting, work was underway to establish the Early Years Sub-group, along with a Terms of Reference.

A request was made for the increased High Needs Matrix figures to be shared with individual schools; it was noted by James Barlow, Finance Business Partner that this would be actioned shortly.

The Chair moved to take item 10 as part of Matters Arising and James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the Maintained Nursery Supplement Update, highlighting salient points. The report responded to a query raised at the previous meeting and detailed the use of annual surpluses in the Maintained Nursery Supplement (MNS) of the Early Years Block of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). An overview was provided around how the surplus had come about and how it had been agreed at Schools' Forum to utilise the money by allocating it to maintained nurseries; allocations were outlined within the report.

Thanks were extended for the transparency of the content of the report however concerns were raised around budget planning, the uncertainty of monies to be made available by government, and the timeliness with which this was communicated to authorities.

To assist with budget planning, James Barlow, Finance Business Partner offered to examine calculations using pupil roll numbers (once these were made available following the January census) and incorporate this into the Early Years Block Funding report for February 2023.

It was suggested that once the Early Years Sub-group was established, consideration would be given to how this group could have oversight of how monies

were apportioned direct to schools and to explore a methodology to maintain a 'buffer zone.'

Resolved:

1. That High Needs Matrix funding increases be shared with individual schools via email.
2. That a forecast of potential surpluses be explored by the Finance Team using pupil roll census numbers to be included in the February Early Years Block Funding report.

6 **Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update**

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services presented the Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update. It had been requested at the last meeting to record attendance as well as membership and thanks were extended to the meeting Clerk for drawing the information together in a table.

It was noted that Stephen Blower had volunteered to take on the Secondary Sector Headteacher Substitute role, although sent his apologies for this evening's meeting. It was also noted that Peter Merry would be contacted for discussions around attendance from City of Wolverhampton College and steps were being taken to fill other remaining vacancies.

Resolved:

That the Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance Update be received.

7 **Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 - 2023**

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services presented the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 - 2023 and highlighted future agenda items.

Schools' Forum members were invited to suggest any items they wished to receive at future meetings by contacting either Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services or Shelley Humphries, Democratic Services Officer.

Resolved:

That the Schools' Forum Forward Plan 2022 - 2023 be noted.

8 **Growth Fund Update**

David Kirby, Service Manager - School Organisation and Support presented the Growth Fund Update report and highlighted key points. The report provided an update on the deployment of the 2021–2022 Financial Year Growth Fund payment and outlined estimated Growth Fund allocations in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Financial Year.

It was noted that a declining birth rate had been reported in Wolverhampton which would potentially have an impact on pupil roll numbers and growth. It was acknowledged that pupils moving to Wolverhampton schools from out of City in-year could also affect forecasting. It was considered that this emerging trend may need plans put in place to support schools in the long term, therefore it would be helpful to explore the potential impact of the declining birth rates as a future agenda item. It was reported that Falling Rolls funds had been introduced by some schools' Forums in previous years.

Resolved:

To add an agenda item on exploring the potential impact of the declining birth rates to the Forward Plan.

9 **2023-2024 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and Update on Budget Setting**

James Barlow, Finance Business Partner presented the 2023-2024 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and Update on Budget Setting report, highlighting salient points. The report provided Schools' Forum Members with the indicative allocations and the process for setting budgets funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2023-2024.

It was noted that forecasts showed there was not as much growth fund to carry forward into 2023 – 2024 as in previous years. Depending on growth fund allocations which were due to be announced in December, it would not be clear until then if any excess funding would be available for 2023 – 2024.

The DSG Allocation consultation was highlighted, following which options would be formulated which would then be brought to Forum in January 2023 for a decision to recommend to Cabinet.

Resolved:

That Schools' Forum note the indicative allocations and the process for setting budgets funded by the DSG in 2023-2024.

10 **Maintained Nursery Supplement Update**

This item was taken at Matters Arising.

11 **Update on the Impact of the Education MASH Officer - (To follow)**

Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services delivered the presentation providing the Update on the Impact of the Education MASH Officer. The presentation outlined that since the approval of a dedicated school officer within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was gained in January 2019, data had been gathered to understand the impact the role had made. Funded through the Central Services Block of the DSG, the postholder's role was to work in close partnership with schools advising on threshold issues, processes and acting as a communication link between schools and MASH 24.

It was reported that this had resulted in strengthened positive communication and understanding between the Authority and schools and had provided a welcome source of advice, support and information for schools and families.

It was therefore proposed to make the post permanent and for the funding of the post to be reviewed, with funding options being presented to Schools' Forum in January 2023. Possible suggestions were to fund through school contributions, continued use of Central Services Schools Block or hybrid funding models, although a range of solutions would be considered.

The proposals were welcomed and members of Schools' Forum who had dealt with the MASH Officer commended any interactions with them as having been positive.

Members reported that the Officer was considered a valuable source of information which was conveyed in a timely manner and demonstrated a well-rounded understanding from a school viewpoint.

Resolved:

That proposals for the permanent appointment of a dedicated Education MASH Officer and subsequent funding options be presented to Schools' Forum for approval in January 2023.

12 **High Needs Sub-Group Update**

In the capacity of Chair of the High Needs Sub-Group, Sarah Whittington provided a verbal update on work undertaken by the group. The Sub-group met last on 18 November 2022 where James Barlow, Finance Business Partner had provided a financial update for quarter two. It had been forecast that there may be a slight overspend in terms of the High Needs Block, however Wolverhampton was not considered an outlier in this respect when compared with other authorities. The efforts of the Finance team were recognised in obtaining and analysing funding information.

It was reported that the Hub had now ceased and Senstart completely appointed to, however the capacity challenge in migrating Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) paperwork to the new system was ongoing. It was expected that the new portal would go live in March or April of 2023.

It was noted that Mai Gibbons, Senior Commissioning Officer (SEND) had visited all special schools and settings in the City to inform commissioning places for September 2023. It had been highlighted that there had been an unprecedented request for special school places and resource classes within schools and it was being explored how to approach this to support individual settings. Bill Hague noted that there had been some requests made around providing additional spaces within schools and work was ongoing to explore how to provide this.

Thanks were extended to the High Needs Sub-group for work carried out.

Resolved:

That the High Needs Sub-Group Update be received

13 **Any Other Business**

Councillor Chris Burden, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills formally introduced himself to Schools' Forum and invited Members to approach him with any queries and concerns they may have during or outside of formal meetings.

14 **Dates for future meetings**

Resolved:

That the next meeting of Schools' Forum take place on 19 January 2023 and would be hybrid.

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation and wished all a Merry Christmas before closing the meeting at 17:08.

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Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2022 - 2023

Members	Nominated	Term Ends	2021 - 2022					2022-2023				
			Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
			30-Sep-21	09-Dec-21	20-Jan-22	17-Feb-22	07-Jul-22	29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-22	16-Feb-22	29-Jun-22
Primary Headteacher / Representatives												
Samantha Walker (Wodensfield Primary School)	01.02.19	Sep-25	Present	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present	Present			
Zoe Rollinson (Lanesfield Primary School)	24.03.18	Sep-24	Present	Absent - No Sub	Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Apols - No Sub			
Primary Headteacher Substitute												
Kate Charles (Stow Lawn Primary School)	16.09.19	Sep-23	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended			
Primary Governor Representative												
Stephen Smith (Warstones Primary School)	09.09.20	Sep-23	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present	Apols - No Sub	Apols - No Sub			
Trisha James (Dovecotes Primary School)	01.09.20	Sep-23	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Absent - No Rep	Present	Present (v)	Absent - No Rep	Apols - No Sub			
Primary Governor Substitute												
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Rep Vacancy			
Secondary Sector Headteacher / Representative												
Andrea Stephens (Headteacher – Colton Hills Schools)	17.02.21	Sep-24	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub			
Secondary Sector Headteacher Substitute												
Stephen Blower	01.12.22	Sep-25	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Apols - No Rep		
Nursery Headteacher / Representative												
Susan Lacey (Ashmore Park Nursery School) (Vice Chair)	03.09.20	Sep-23	Apols - Sent Sub	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present			
Nursery Headteacher Substitute												
Emma Smith (Bilston and Eastfield Nurseries)	19.01.22	Sep-25	Claire Foster attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended			
Nursery Governors												
Lucia Jayne Turner (Windsor Nursery)	01.09.20	Sep-23	Present	Apols - Sent Sub	Apols - No Sub	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Present (v)			
Nursery Governors - Substitute												
Linda Campbell (Low Hill Nursery School)	13.11.20	Sep-23	Not Required - Rep Attended	Present	Absent - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended			
Special School Headteacher / Representatives												
Sarah Whittington (Tettenhall Wood School)	10.03.18	Sep-24	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present			
Special School Headteacher Substitute												
Lorraine Dawney (Green Park School)	22.10.20	Sep-23	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended			

Schools' Forum Membership and Attendance 2022 - 2023

Members	Nominated	Term Ends	2021 - 2022					2022-2023				
			Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
			30-Sep-21	09-Dec-21	20-Jan-22	17-Feb-22	07-Jul-22	29-Sep-22	01-Dec-22	19-Jan-22	16-Feb-22	29-Jun-22
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy			

Non School Members

Diocesan Schools Representatives (x2)												
Carroll McNally (Holy Trinity Catholic)	15.09.20	Sep-23	Absent - Sent Sub	Absent - No Sub	Present	Present	Present (v)	Present (v)	Absent - No Sub			
Lisa Thompson (St Andrews C of E Primary School)	25.02.21	Sep-24	Apols - Sent Sub	Apols - No Sub	Present	Present	Absent - Other Reps Present	Apols - Other Reps Present	Present			
Diocesan Schools Substitute												
Gary Gentle (Bilston CE)	01.09.20	Sep-23	Present	Apols - No Rep	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep			
Vacancy			Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy			
Early Years (PVI Sector) Representative												
Samantha Kemp-Marshall	27.06.22	Sep-25	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Rep Vacancy	Present	Present	Apols - No Sub			
Early Years PVI Sector Substitute												
Elizabeth Towner	27.06.22	Sep-25	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Sub Vacancy	Not Required - Rep Attended	Not Required - Rep Attended	Absent - No Rep			
15-19 Education												
Ian Browne	13.09.20	Sep-23	Present	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Apols - No Sub	Absent - No Sub	Absent - No Sub			

Observer Status Members

LA Role	Representative
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	Councillor Christopher Burden
Executive Director of Families	Emma Bennett
Deputy Director for Education	Brenda Wile
Head of School Business and Support Services	Bill Hague

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	19 January 2023
Report title	Schools' Forum – Forward Plan 2022 - 2023
Contact Officer	Bill Hague, Head of School Business and Support Services
Telephone number	01902 555100

Summary

This report outlines the Forward Plan for Schools' Forum for Academic Year 2022 - 2023.

It is good practice to have a forward plan to ensure that Forum members are aware of the schedule of reports that need to be considered and decisions made.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to note and comment on the Forward Plan (Appendix 1).

**Wolverhampton Schools' Forum
Forward Plan 2022 – 2023**

Date of Meeting	Item Type	Responsible Officer
16 February 2023		
High Needs Block Funding 2023	Approval Item	James Barlow
Early Years Block Funding 2023	Approval Item	James Barlow
Central Services Block Funding 2023	Approval Item	James Barlow
Schools Block Funding 2023	Approval Item	James Barlow
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington
29 June 2023 TBC		
School Balances Update	Information Item	James Barlow
Dedicated Schools Grant Out-turn	Information Item	James Barlow
Future Resourcing for Wolverhampton Exploitation and Missing Hub - Update	Information Item	Rachel King
Birth Rates / Pupil Roll Item	Information Item	Bill Hague
High Needs Subgroup Update	Information Item	Sarah Whittington

City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	19 January 2023
Report title	Dedicated Schools Grant and School Funding 2023-2024
Contact Officer/s	James Barlow, Finance Business Partner
Email Address:	james.barlow@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Summary

This report considers the indicative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement for 2023-2024 and the proposed local funding formula for the Schools Block in Wolverhampton.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to:

1. Note the indicative DSG settlement for 2023-2024.
2. Endorse and recommend to Cabinet the proposed local funding formula (which uses the same factors as the National Funding formula).
3. Note the resulting growth fund and budget allocations to schools in Wolverhampton.
4. Agree the proposed rates for de-delegation from maintained schools for 2023-2024.
5. Agree the proposed rates for maintained schools' contribution to Education Functions and School improvement for 2023-2024.
6. Note that Schools' Forum will receive further reports in February 2023 detailing the breakdown of High Needs, Early Years and Central Services Blocks budgets along with a Schools Block report detailing final school budget shares.
7. Note that there will be a change to the way National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) are treated for schools in 2023-2024. The funding for this will no longer be allocated to schools and schools will no longer be required to pay invoices for NNDR. This has a net nil effect on School budgets.
8. Note the results of the consultation on the future of the per pupil charge for School improvement in 2023-2024.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As discussed at the December 2022 meeting of Schools' Forum, it will remain the duty of Local Authorities in 2023-2024 to set a local funding formula, in consultation with their Schools' Forum, to determine the allocation of funding from the Schools Block of the DSG to schools in the City. The Schools Block allocation as detailed below (based on the October 2022 census) allows the proposed local funding formula to again mirror the factors of the National Funding Formula (NFF).
- 1.2 As part of the annual process for determining school budget shares, the Council is required to enter the agreed local funding arrangements into the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) and submit this to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The ESFA will then check that the local formula is appropriate. The Council is also required to have the local funding arrangements agreed by Cabinet in February 2023, enabling it to notify schools of their final budget share by the time of the 16 February 2023 Schools' Forum meeting. This means that the school level allocations detailed within this paper remain indicative until final approved is received.

2.0 DSG Allocation 2023-2024

- 2.1 On 16 December 2022, the Department for Education announced the Local Authority's indicative DSG allocation for 2023-2024. The City of Wolverhampton's initial allocation was announced as £333.8 million as set out in the following blocks.

2023-2024 Indicative DSG Settlement	2022-2023 £m	2023-2024 Indicative £m	% Change
Schools Block	236.0	253.6	7%
High Needs Block	52.6	58.2	11%
Central Services Block	2.0	2.0	0%
Early Years Block	19.08	20.0	5%
TOTAL	309.68	333.8	8%

- 2.2 In addition to the DSG allocations above, more details were announced regarding the additional funding for schools set out in the Autumn statement. For High Needs Block this has been included in the above total funding, for Schools this will be an additional in-year grant, however at this stage allocations are only at Local Authority level. It was also announced that pupil premium will increase by 5% for 2023-2024.
- 2.3 Schools' Forum will receive reports at the 16 February 2023 meeting detailing the budgets for High Needs, Central Services and Early Years Blocks as well as the approved Schools Block budget.

3.0 Schools Block Funding

- 3.1 The Schools Block Funding of £253.6 million is made up of the following elements:

Area of Funding	Total (£m)
Primary and secondary per pupil funding	246.4
Premises Factors (Rates and PFI)	5.5
Growth Factor	1.7
TOTAL ALLOCATION	253.6

4.0 Changes to National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) charges to schools in 2023-2024

4.1 There will be a change to the way NNDR charges for schools are treated in 2023-2024. Schools will no longer receive the funding for rates as they have in the past and will no longer be required to pay invoices to the Council. Therefore, although the amount of funding each school receives will reduce by the amount of rates they were due to pay, overall this will have no material impact on an individual school's finances.

5.0 Formula Funding and Preparation of Individual Schools' Budgets for 2023-2023

5.1 At its meeting of 5 December 2019, Schools' Forum agreed to adopt all NFF rates as part of its local formula for 2020-2021 and has continued to do so in subsequent years. The factors are updated each year by the ESFA.

5.2 The NFF includes a minimum and maximum allowable Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG). This ensures that certain schools still get a minimum funding increase where moving directly to NFF may result in a lower increase or even decrease for the per pupil factors included in the MFG. In 2022-2023 the Council set MFG at the maximum possible 2.0%, and for 2023-2024 the intention is to again set this at the maximum which has been reduced by the ESFA to 0.5%. Under the proposed local formula, £781,000 will be allocated through MFG in 2023-2024.

5.3 Financial modelling through the ESFA's APT calculates that to implement the National Funding formula rates with a MFG of 0.5% and no gains cap would result in a budget requirement of £252.6 million, leaving a Growth Fund allocation of £1.0 million.

5.4 As detailed in 5.3 above, when setting a local funding formula based on NFF factors for 2023-2024, £1.0 million remains to be allocated to the growth fund. Based on current calculations on carry forward this should be sufficient to fund the growth requirements as set out in the paper Schools' Forum received at its meeting in December 2022.

5.5 The growth fund will be monitored closely and Schools' Forum will be kept informed of forecasts, as if a growth fund is required in excess of the level set in this budget, it will have to be borrowed forward from the growth fund in 2024-2025.

5.6 Appendix 1 shows the funding factors included in the proposed 2023-2024 local factors and 2022-2023 rates for comparison. A list of schools and their forecast budget share under the proposed local funding formula is shown in Appendix 2.

6.0 Education Functions

6.1 Where local authorities continue to provide additional services for maintained schools, which were formerly funded through the Education Services Grant, these services are now expected to be funded from school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools' Forum.

6.2 In 2022-2023 the agreed rate of Education Functions contribution for mainstream schools was £31.45. For 2023-2024 the proposed rate is £32.71 which is an increase of 4% and based on the forecast pay award for 2023-2024.

6.3 Differential rates have historically been applied for special schools and PRUs and are calculated on a per place basis. The current agreed multipliers are 3.75 for PRUs and 4.25 for special schools.

7.0 School Improvement

7.1 The ESFA announced in January 2022 that they would proceed with reducing the local authority school improvement monitoring and brokering grant by 50% for the financial year 2022 to 2023, prior to full removal in the financial year 2023 to 2024. The Council was receiving in the region of £160,000 per annum from this grant and applying this to the schools' improvement service. The grant's purpose was to fund a service that is able to monitor the performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision, and exercise their statutory intervention powers.

7.2 The latest ESFA Schools operational guide states that local authorities are now able to deduct funding from maintained school budgets to support the costs of core schools improvement service.

7.3 As part of the 2022-2023 budget setting process it was agreed at Schools' forum that schools would fund the 50% 'lost' grant in 2022-2023, via an additional charge of £5.04 per pupil for maintained mainstream schools (with relevant multipliers for Special Schools and PRUs as detailed above).

7.4 The Council is requesting that rather than increasing the per pupil contribution to cover the total lost grant (i.e. the £160,000), the per pupil contribution for 2023-2024 is maintained at the same level as 2022-2023 (i.e. £5.04 per pupil). The financial position of the service will continue to be reviewed internally to determine future funding requirements. The current Educational Excellence team cost and funding is shown below.

	£
Total controllable Cost of School improvement service	584,600
Funded by Council budgets	(504,600)
Funded by Delegation	(80,000)

7.5 In the event that the continuation of funding is not approved by Schools' forum, this would result in a reduction of capacity in the Educational Excellence team. This would impact on the service responding to school enquiries and requests in the current way and reduce the number of school and subject reviews.

7.6 In January 2023, the Council sent an email to all maintained schools and asked whether the school would agree to continue this contribution at the same rate for 2023-2024. The results of this consultation will be discussed with Schools' Forum at the 19 January 2023 meeting.

8.0 De-delegation

8.1 The Local Authority continue to offer a de-delegation option for the provision of services to maintained primary and secondary schools. As in previous years, special schools, nursery schools, PRUs and academies will need to enter into Service Level Agreement (SLA) arrangements to secure these services.

- 8.2 The only currently de-delegated service is for Under-performing Ethnic Minority Groups. Wolverhampton Citizenship, Language and Learning (CLL) Service supports schools/academies in Wolverhampton before, during, and after the admittance of a newly arrived pupil, for whom English is an additional language and also supports pupils from traditionally under achieving ethnic groups.
- 8.3 The cost of providing the CLL service in 2023-2024 will be £225,000 and the de-delegation funding is topped up by Academy SLAs and Maintained school upgrades. Due to increased costs related to corporate salary increases it is proposed that the cost per pupil is increased by the Authority's budget setting rate for salaries inflation rate of 4.0% to £9.85.

9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - 2023-2024 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and Update on Budget Setting (December 2022)

Appendix 2 – List of schools and their forecast budget share under the proposed local funding formula.

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City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	1 December 2022
Report title	2023-2024 National Funding Formula Provisional Allocations and update on Budget Setting
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Summary

In July 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published the National Funding Formula (NFF) Provisional Allocations for the Schools Block, the High Needs Block and the Central Schools and Services Block for the 2023-2024 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

The purpose of this report is to notify Schools' Forum Members of the indicative allocations and the process for setting budgets funded by the DSG in 2023-2024.

It should be noted that initial modelling on the Schools Block of DSG indicates that it may not be affordable to fully utilise NFF factors without reducing the Minimum Funding Guarantee or introducing a cap on gains. The figures shown in Appendix 2 are indicative of what schools would receive if funding is sufficient and may be subject to change. Further consultation will be undertaken on potential solutions to this issue in January 2023 if required.

The Early Years Block Provisional Allocation is expected to be published by the Department for Education in December 2022, and a report will be received by Forum in February detailing the proposed budget for approval.

1.0 Schools Block Allocation 2023-2024**Background and Indicative Allocations 2023-2024**

- 1.1 For the financial year 2023-2024 it will remain the duty of Local Authorities to set a local funding formula, in consultation with their Schools forum, to determine the allocation of funding from the Schools Block of the DSG to schools in the City. Central government has recently restated its intention to move to a direct National Funding formula (NFF) by 2027-2028 at the latest.
- 1.2 In order to move towards a direct NFF, a requirement has been introduced for 2023-2024 that Local Authorities should move their local funding formula factors 10% closer to the factors used in the NFF. At the January 2020 meeting of Schools' forum, members voted to fully adopt all factors of the NFF and this has continued in subsequent years, so no further movement towards these factors is required.

- 1.3 The Schools Block NFF allocation for 2022-2023 was £236.0 million which included an allocation of £2.0 million for growth funding. In addition to this there was an additional allocation to schools in 2022-2023 of £7.2 via the Schools supplementary grant. The Council has been notified of an **indicative** Schools Block National Funding Formula allocation of £247.7 million for 2023-2024, and at this stage the allocation does not include an element for growth funding. This allocation is based on pupil numbers from the October 2021 census. The actual DSG allocation for 2023-2024 is expected to be published in the third week in December 2022 in line with previous years. This will be based on October 2022 census data and will include an additional element for growth funding.
- 1.4 This results in an indicative increase on the original 2022-2023 allocation of around 5.2%, and an increase of around 2.7% when the supplementary grant is factored in.
- 1.5 The updated NFF factors are shown in Appendix 1, and the overall increase to these factors is an average of 5%.
- 1.6 It should be noted that the allowable Minimum Funding guarantee (MFG) for 2023-2024 must be between 0% and 0.5%, in comparison to the allowable 0.5% to 2.0% in 2022-2023. The MFG is a measure used to regulate the annual change for schools by looking at per pupil factor funding and discounting school level funding elements such as the lump sum and rates. This means that for schools where their current funding per pupil is above the NFF, and implementation would therefore result in a reduction in budget from one year to the next, there is a limit to the amount this element of the budget can reduce between years.

Affordability of the NFF in 2023-2024

- 1.7 The Schools Block element of the DSG is made up of school funding which must be paid directly to schools, and an element for the growth fund, with the split to be determined locally. Whilst the Authority has been able to fully implement the NFF for schools since 2020, this has been affordable by using an element of the funding the government had allocated for growth. For example, in 2022-2023 there was a government allocation for growth of £2.0 million, however only £456,600 was used for this purpose and the remainder was used to 'top-up' the overall allocation to allow full NFF implementation. This was possible as in previous years growth fund underspends had built up, allowing the 2022-2023 growth fund budget to be set at £2.4 million. However, the current forecast is that there will only be £125,000 growth fund carried forward to 2023-2024, meaning that until the growth fund allocation is announced in December, it is unclear if the utilisation of any excess funding will be possible in 2023-2024.
- 1.8 The government provides a modelling tool for Local Authorities to model the impact of potential local funding formulas. The tool has been populated with NFF numbers for 2023-2024 and the total funding required would be £248.5 million, this is £836,000 or 0.34% greater than the indicative allocation of £247.7 detailed above in 1.3. These allocations are shown in Appendix 2, however it must be noted these are indicative and affordability cannot be confirmed until the final allocation is known.
- 1.9 If there is a requirement to consult following the official DSG Allocation in December, then it would be the intention of the Authority to consult with all schools in early January 2023 via an email survey and present the results and options to forum at the January 2023 meeting. This will involve either reducing the MFG for schools or introducing a cap on individual schools gains to make the overall formula affordable. If required, these measures will be detailed in the consultation with examples of the implications for each

option. Schools' forum will be asked to recommend the funding formula to Cabinet at the January meeting, and the final budgets will be published and presented to Schools' Forum at the February 2023 meeting.

- 1.10 In 2023-2024 the government announced, further to a consultation, that it would be ending the Schools improvement grant in 2023-2024, after reducing it by 50% in 2022-2023. Schools forum agreed an uplift to the Education function factor to make up this difference in 2022-2023, and the proposals for 2023-2024 will be detailed in the January schools forum papers. This will also be part of the consultation with all schools in January 2023.
- 1.11 It should be noted that there are currently two government options for schools NNDR, schools can either be allocated budgets and pay invoices to Councils or this funding can be maintained at government level and allocated directly to Local Authorities. At this stage the Council is proposing to continue with current arrangements, i.e schools are allocated funding and invoiced, for 2023-2024 and schools will be advised when the situation is subject to change.

2.0 High Needs Block Provisional Allocation

- 2.1 The total High Needs Block provisional settlement for the City of Wolverhampton Council for 2023-2024 was published in July 2022 is £55.5 million, which is a provisional increase of 5% when comparing to the allocation for 2022-2023. Work will continue to determine a 2023-2024 High Needs Block budget, in conjunction with the School's Forum High Needs Sub-Group, and the final budget will be presented to Forum for approval at the February meeting.

3.0 Central School Services Block Allocation

- 3.1 The Central School Services Block provisional settlement for the City of Wolverhampton Council for 2023-2024 published in July 2022 is £2.0 million, with indications that there will be a reduction in the region of £40,000. A report will be presented to School's Forum at the February meeting with a proposed CSSB budget to agree.

4.0 Growth Fund

- 4.1 The required budget for growth funding in 2023-2024 has been estimated to be £1.7 million. The Council will be notified of the DSG allocation in December 2022 and this will be discussed with forum at the January 2023 meeting.

APPENDIX 1

City of Wolverhampton National Funding Formula factors for 2023-2024

Funding Factor			National Funding Formula 2022-2023	CWC recommended rates 2022-2023 (with Area Cost Adjustments)	National Funding Formula 2023-2024	CWC recommended rates 2023-2024 (with Area Cost Adjustments)	Increase in factor %
Basic entitlement	Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary	3,217.00	3,227.87	3,394.00	3,405.47	5.5%
		Secondary: KS3	4,536.00	4,551.33	4,785.00	4,801.17	5.5%
		Secondary: KS4	5,112.00	5,129.28	5,393.00	5,411.23	5.5%
Needs Led Factors							
Deprivation Through a combination of FSM and IDACI Bands	Free School Meals	Primary FSM	470.00	471.59	480.00	481.62	2.1%
		Secondary FSM	470.00	471.59	480.00	481.62	2.1%
		Ever6 FSM: Primary	590.00	591.99	705.00	707.38	19.5%
		Ever6 FSM: Secondary	865.00	867.92	1,030.00	1,033.48	19.1%
	IDACI Band F	Primary	220.00	220.74	230.00	230.78	4.5%
		Secondary	320.00	321.08	335.00	336.13	4.7%
	IDACI Band E	Primary	270.00	270.91	280.00	280.95	3.7%
		Secondary	425.00	426.44	445.00	446.50	4.7%
	IDACI Band D	Primary	420.00	421.42	440.00	441.49	4.8%
		Secondary	595.00	597.01	620.00	622.10	4.2%
	IDACI Band C	Primary	460.00	461.55	480.00	481.62	4.3%
		Secondary	650.00	652.20	680.00	682.30	4.6%
	IDACI Band B	Primary	490.00	491.66	510.00	511.72	4.1%
		Secondary	700.00	702.37	730.00	732.47	4.3%
	IDACI Band A	Primary	640.00	642.16	670.00	672.26	4.7%
Secondary		890.00	893.01	930.00	933.14	4.5%	

Funding Factor			National Funding Formula 2022-2023	City of Wolverhampton recommended rates 2022-2023 (with Area Cost Adjustments)	National Funding Formula 2023-2024	City of Wolverhampton recommended rates 2023-2024 (with Area Cost Adjustments)	City of Wolverhampton recommended rates 2023-2024 (with Area Cost Adjustments)
Low Prior Attainment		Primary	1,130.00	1,133.82	1,155.00	1,158.90	2.2%
		Secondary	1,710.00	1,715.78	1,750.00	1,755.92	2.3%
English As an Additional Language (EAL)	Pupils with a first language other than English attract funding for up to 3 years	Primary	565.00	566.91	580.00	581.96	2.7%
		Secondary	1,530.00	1,535.17	1,565.00	1,570.29	2.3%
Pupil Mobility	Counts pupils entering a school during the last 3 academic years but did not start in August or September)	Primary	925.00	928.13	945.00	948.19	2.2%
		Secondary	1,330.00	1,334.50	1,360.00	1,364.60	2.3%
School/ Premises Led Factors							
Sparsity	Schools located in areas where pupils have to travel; or small schools	Primary	N/a				
		Secondary	N/a				
Lump Sum		Primary	121,300.00	121,709.99	128,000.00	128,432.64	5.5%
		Secondary	121,300.00	121,709.99	128,000.00	128,432.64	5.5%

APPENDIX 2

Indicative Funding per School 2023-2024 and comparison with allocations for 2023-2024

School Name	22-23 MFG NOR	22-23 Post MFG Budget	23-24 Post MFG Budget with FULL NFF MAY NOT BE AFFORDABLE	Post MFG Budget Change
Total cost			248,519,667.47	
Bushbury Hill Primary School	282	1,536,195.51	1,606,354.35	4.6%
Fallings Park Primary School	625	3,145,668.84	3,329,399.24	5.8%
Whitgreave Primary School	415	2,203,830.46	2,278,921.73	3.4%
Graiseley Primary School	204	1,125,485.88	1,185,056.13	5.3%
Springdale Primary School	418	1,923,462.27	2,030,940.22	5.6%
Rakegate Primary School	404	2,020,561.81	2,133,057.45	5.6%
Claregate Primary School	376	1,709,707.67	1,803,763.31	5.5%
Castlecroft Primary School	216	993,579.86	1,049,423.54	5.6%
Westacre Infant School	271	1,213,853.50	1,279,404.63	5.4%
Loxdale Primary School	391	1,942,864.25	2,054,135.76	5.7%
Stowlawn Primary School	323	1,686,300.09	1,781,656.06	5.7%
Long Knowle Primary School	210	1,076,379.31	1,138,095.19	5.7%
Wood End Primary School	206	1,038,321.24	1,095,634.83	5.5%
Stow Heath Primary School	418	2,089,270.82	2,206,751.37	5.6%
Wilkinson Primary School	417	2,036,512.72	2,150,355.18	5.6%
Lanesfield Primary School	296	1,468,229.00	1,549,608.30	5.5%
Spring Vale Primary School	328	1,587,644.41	1,676,852.29	5.6%
Uplands Junior School	379	1,648,428.80	1,738,533.31	5.5%
Merridale Primary School	203	1,070,111.79	1,119,269.59	4.6%
Oak Meadow Primary School	420	1,880,156.72	1,986,670.76	5.7%

Eastfield Primary School	399	2,103,498.48	2,176,230.18	3.5%
Warstones Primary School	414	1,923,001.04	2,031,939.28	5.7%
Wodensfield Primary School	419	2,017,181.44	2,128,403.30	5.5%
Dovecotes Primary School	242	1,307,869.99	1,382,429.02	5.7%
West Park Primary School	281	1,499,485.22	1,585,038.59	5.7%
Bantock Primary School	375	2,049,517.11	2,162,684.81	5.5%
St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	403	2,082,288.11	2,197,709.70	5.5%
Christ Church (Church of England) Infant and Nursery School	166	768,376.24	809,368.53	5.3%
Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School	221	997,661.92	1,052,382.29	5.5%
Bilston Church of England Primary School	434	2,206,902.76	2,332,902.07	5.7%
St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School	421	2,047,042.97	2,159,112.14	5.5%
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	230	1,158,983.80	1,223,916.41	5.6%
St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School	215	1,048,101.10	1,107,170.70	5.6%
St Michael's Church of England Aided Primary School	201	947,853.50	1,002,329.46	5.7%
St Matthias School	857	6,676,369.61	6,898,259.83	3.3%
Colton Hills Community School	881	6,235,246.95	6,593,104.97	5.7%
The King's Church of England School	539	3,794,067.17	4,016,767.40	5.9%
Woden Primary School	423	2,204,066.35	2,283,098.92	3.6%
Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton	415	1,992,256.71	2,102,477.58	5.5%
SS. Mary and John's Catholic Primary Academy	203	1,096,526.10	1,158,704.31	5.7%
St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy	405	1,914,298.55	2,024,112.97	5.7%
Berrybrook Primary School	207	1,124,279.36	1,190,252.33	5.9%
Dunstall Hill Primary School	438	2,268,795.27	2,392,898.45	5.5%
Grove Primary Academy	404	2,118,071.11	2,237,382.73	5.6%
Palmers Cross Primary School	210	1,034,546.76	1,093,531.17	5.7%
Bushbury Lane Academy	188	1,075,304.86	1,136,959.41	5.7%
Hill Avenue Academy	312	1,544,054.24	1,628,941.76	5.5%

East Park Academy	615	2,962,722.04	3,134,072.94	5.8%
Field View Primary School	409	2,128,931.74	2,252,577.50	5.8%
Villiers Primary School	613	2,835,183.62	2,992,348.80	5.5%
St Alban's Church of England Primary Academy	174	907,971.34	951,802.44	4.8%
Deyncourt Primary School	314	1,397,810.14	1,475,712.03	5.6%
Woodfield Primary School	554	2,398,512.31	2,532,572.07	5.6%
Manor Primary School	621	2,654,997.00	2,802,259.24	5.5%
Parkfield Primary School	208	1,097,301.14	1,160,754.38	5.8%
Goldthorn Park Primary School	376	1,806,242.51	1,907,506.13	5.6%
St Patrick's Catholic Primary Academy	206	1,075,681.78	1,135,297.73	5.5%
Perry Hall Primary School	411	1,816,563.07	1,919,755.03	5.7%
Elston Hall Primary School	628	2,789,339.06	2,948,334.26	5.7%
Woodthorne Primary School	388	1,659,798.67	1,716,465.62	3.4%
St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School	356	1,523,356.96	1,573,196.96	3.3%
St Stephen's Church of England Primary School	208	1,128,458.21	1,193,365.94	5.8%
St Thomas' Church of England Primary Academy	206	977,085.31	1,032,502.27	5.7%
St Martin's Church of England Primary School	265	1,348,933.01	1,427,871.51	5.9%
Trinity CofE Primary Academy	610	3,000,508.00	3,171,810.34	5.7%
Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy	194	1,050,909.98	1,107,961.28	5.4%
St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy	312	1,415,299.52	1,493,588.81	5.5%
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wolverhampton	434	2,125,931.03	2,246,165.51	5.7%
St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery	201	926,886.73	978,986.74	5.6%
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy	190	998,440.17	1,057,148.59	5.9%
St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	168	919,939.62	972,770.95	5.7%
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	206	1,085,561.23	1,142,772.70	5.3%
Northwood Park Primary School	573	2,715,602.73	2,869,347.19	5.7%
Edward the Elder Primary School	215	1,091,843.97	1,156,808.66	5.9%

Moseley Park	952	6,296,671.49	6,669,354.25	5.9%
Wednesfield High Academy	880	5,719,133.87	6,052,538.25	5.8%
The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	633	4,063,972.99	4,291,192.11	5.6%
Moreton School	856	6,514,408.70	6,738,907.10	3.4%
Thomas Telford University Technical College	545	3,842,449.35	3,978,825.71	3.5%
Ormiston SWB Academy	1050	7,049,788.24	7,471,178.36	6.0%
Coppice Performing Arts School	904	5,425,835.47	5,741,963.58	5.8%
Ormiston NEW Academy	659	4,662,150.00	4,942,348.08	6.0%
Highfields School	1351	9,841,561.40	10,512,305.58	6.8%
Smestow School	611	4,184,020.89	4,425,355.85	5.8%
Heath Park	990	7,268,236.98	7,747,541.01	6.6%
St Peter's Collegiate Academy	1081	6,370,346.43	6,736,677.64	5.8%
St Edmunds Catholic Academy	898	5,665,903.64	5,997,473.56	5.9%
Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	1009	6,770,728.70	7,179,166.31	6.0%
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	790	4,386,361.52	4,538,213.19	3.5%
Aldersley High School	1022	6,519,192.44	6,879,259.60	5.5%
The Royal School, Wolverhampton	1218	6,256,040.97	6,600,877.58	5.5%
Wednesfield Technology Primary	50	200,470.13	360,742.53	N/a - part year

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Year	2022-2023			2023-2024					
School Name	22-23 Post MFG Budget £	22-23 NOR	2022-2023 Post MFG per pupil Budget	23-24 Post MFG Budget £	23-24 NOR	2022-2023 Post MFG per pupil Budget	Post MFG per pupil % change	23-24 NFF NNDR allocation £	Allocation after deduction of NNDR £
Bushbury Hill Primary School	1,536,195.51	282	5,447.50	1,534,095.54	264	5,810.97	7%	36,533.76	1,497,561.78
Fallings Park Primary School	3,145,668.84	625	5,033.07	3,341,608.89	630	5,304.14	5%	35,247.36	3,306,361.53
Whitgreave Primary School	2,203,830.46	415	5,310.43	2,312,593.83	418	5,532.52	4%	15,044.85	2,297,548.98
Graiseley Primary School	1,125,485.88	204	5,517.09	1,228,582.57	214	5,741.04	4%	16,549.34	1,212,033.23
Springdale Primary School	1,923,462.27	418	4,601.58	1,960,092.19	397	4,937.26	7%	30,101.76	1,929,990.43
Rakegate Primary School	2,020,561.81	404	5,001.39	2,172,428.16	412	5,272.88	5%	60,203.52	2,112,224.64
Claregate Primary School	1,709,707.67	376	4,547.09	1,942,229.61	399	4,867.74	7%	33,446.40	1,908,783.21
Castlecroft Primary School	993,579.86	216	4,599.91	1,048,204.42	215	4,875.37	6%	16,925.46	1,031,278.97
Westacre Infant School	1,213,853.50	271	4,479.16	1,204,611.14	259	4,651.01	4%	14,292.61	1,190,318.53
Loxdale Primary School	1,942,864.25	391	4,968.96	2,026,338.59	390	5,195.74	5%	23,798.40	2,002,540.19
Stowlawn Primary School	1,686,300.09	323	5,220.74	1,780,835.36	317	5,617.78	8%	41,422.08	1,739,413.28
Long Knowle Primary School	1,076,379.31	210	5,125.62	1,110,075.67	202	5,495.42	7%	19,934.43	1,090,141.24

Wood End Primary School	1,038,321.24	206	5,040.39	1,104,457.63	206	5,361.44	6%	31,388.16	1,073,069.47
Stow Heath Primary School	2,089,270.82	418	4,998.26	2,212,457.35	419	5,280.33	6%	27,271.68	2,185,185.67
Wilkinson Primary School	2,036,512.72	417	4,883.72	2,135,913.22	415	5,146.78	5%	54,028.80	2,081,884.42
Lanesfield Primary School	1,468,229.00	296	4,960.23	1,594,230.53	300	5,314.10	7%	27,271.68	1,566,958.85
Spring Vale Primary School	1,587,644.41	328	4,840.38	1,804,478.97	359	5,026.40	4%	16,549.34	1,787,929.64
Uplands Junior School	1,648,428.80	379	4,349.42	1,741,159.51	376	4,630.74	6%	28,300.80	1,712,858.71
Merridale Primary School	1,070,111.79	203	5,271.49	1,170,115.41	209	5,598.64	6%	22,567.28	1,147,548.13
Oak Meadow Primary School	1,880,156.72	420	4,476.56	2,010,995.27	424	4,742.91	6%	49,397.76	1,961,597.51
Eastfield Primary School	2,103,498.48	399	5,271.93	2,191,349.90	402	5,451.12	3%	22,191.15	2,169,158.75
Warstones Primary School	1,923,001.04	414	4,644.93	1,993,755.07	410	4,862.82	5%	27,271.68	1,966,483.39
Wodensfield Primary School	2,017,181.44	419	4,814.28	2,132,965.08	417	5,115.02	6%	35,504.64	2,097,460.44
Dovecotes Primary School	1,307,869.99	242	5,404.42	1,309,841.62	231	5,670.31	5%	30,359.04	1,279,482.58
West Park Primary School	1,499,485.22	281	5,336.25	1,438,772.27	253	5,686.85	7%	19,056.81	1,419,715.46
Bantock Primary School	2,049,517.11	375	5,465.38	2,190,973.08	374	5,858.22	7%	26,242.56	2,164,730.52
St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	2,082,288.11	403	5,166.97	2,222,887.32	408	5,448.25	5%	24,949.38	2,197,937.94
Christ Church (Church of England) Infant and Nursery School	768,376.24	166	4,628.77	819,690.10	165	4,967.82	7%	9,779.15	809,910.94

Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School	997,661.92	221	4,514.31	1,086,498.36	232	4,683.18	4%	17,050.83	1,069,447.53
Bilston Church of England Primary School	2,206,902.76	434	5,085.03	2,344,345.69	435	5,389.30	6%	37,562.88	2,306,782.81
St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School	2,047,042.97	421	4,862.33	2,177,038.31	424	5,134.52	6%	-	2,177,038.31
Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School	1,158,983.80	230	5,039.06	1,128,911.86	211	5,350.29	6%	-	1,128,911.86
St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School	1,048,101.10	215	4,874.89	1,122,633.56	213	5,270.58	8%	-	1,122,633.56
St Michael's Church of England Aided Primary School	947,853.50	201	4,715.69	1,047,236.84	211	4,963.21	5%	-	1,047,236.84
St Matthias School	6,676,369.61	857	7,790.40	7,009,854.93	876	8,002.12	3%	135,834.91	6,874,020.03
Colton Hills Community School	6,235,246.95	881	7,077.47	6,829,757.13	918	7,439.82	5%	114,232.32	6,715,524.81
The King's Church of England School	3,794,067.17	539	7,039.09	4,063,463.11	535	7,595.26	8%	-	4,063,463.11
Woden Primary School	2,204,066.35	423	5,210.56	2,299,294.19	426	5,397.40	4%	6,380.54	2,292,913.65
Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton	1,992,256.71	415	4,800.62	2,111,012.74	419	5,038.22	5%	1,286.40	2,109,726.34
SS. Mary and John's Catholic Primary Academy	1,096,526.10	203	5,401.61	1,153,262.19	203	5,681.09	5%	3,061.63	1,150,200.56
St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy	1,914,298.55	405	4,726.66	2,140,787.91	426	5,025.32	6%	11,114.50	2,129,673.41
Berrybrook Primary School	1,124,279.36	207	5,431.30	1,170,661.66	201	5,824.19	7%	4,631.04	1,166,030.62
Dunstall Hill Primary School	2,268,795.27	438	5,179.90	2,335,991.46	431	5,419.93	5%	3,884.93	2,332,106.53
Grove Primary Academy	2,118,071.11	404	5,242.75	2,287,314.64	414	5,524.91	5%	6,174.72	2,281,139.92

Palmers Cross Primary School	1,034,546.76	210	4,926.41	1,052,611.18	206	5,109.76	4%	2,907.26	1,049,703.92
Bushbury Lane Academy	1,075,304.86	188	5,719.71	1,169,661.54	196	5,967.66	4%	3,460.32	1,166,201.23
Hill Avenue Academy	1,544,054.24	312	4,948.89	1,608,159.34	310	5,187.61	5%	4,476.67	1,603,682.67
East Park Academy	2,962,722.04	615	4,817.43	3,158,562.85	618	5,110.94	6%	8,438.78	3,150,124.07
Field View Primary School	2,128,931.74	409	5,205.21	2,247,119.74	409	5,494.18	6%	6,020.35	2,241,099.39
Villiers Primary School	2,835,183.62	613	4,625.10	3,025,698.86	615	4,919.84	6%	7,512.58	3,018,186.28
St Alban's Church of England Primary Academy	907,971.34	174	5,218.23	974,736.59	179	5,445.46	4%	2,675.71	972,060.88
Deyncourt Primary School	1,397,810.14	314	4,451.62	1,471,327.85	310	4,746.22	7%	3,756.29	1,467,571.56
Woodfield Primary School	2,398,512.31	554	4,329.44	2,493,775.49	541	4,609.57	6%	8,027.14	2,485,748.36
Manor Primary School	2,654,997.00	621	4,275.36	2,807,032.21	623	4,505.67	5%	6,432.00	2,800,600.21
Parkfield Primary School	1,097,301.14	208	5,275.49	1,150,764.57	208	5,532.52	5%	2,495.62	1,148,268.95
Goldthorn Park Primary School	1,806,242.51	376	4,803.84	1,967,551.75	380	5,177.77	8%	7,409.66	1,960,142.08
St Patrick's Catholic Primary Academy	1,075,681.78	206	5,221.76	1,134,787.39	208	5,455.71	4%	3,138.82	1,131,648.57
Perry Hall Primary School	1,816,563.07	411	4,419.86	1,954,264.40	418	4,675.27	6%	5,917.44	1,948,346.96
Elston Hall Primary School	2,789,339.06	628	4,441.62	2,962,972.73	634	4,673.46	5%	9,622.27	2,953,350.46
Woodthorne Primary School	1,659,798.66	388	4,277.83	1,704,200.35	385	4,426.49	3%	4,836.86	1,699,363.48

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School	1,523,356.96	356	4,279.09	1,581,982.00	358	4,418.94	3%	5,016.96	1,576,965.04
St Stephen's Church of England Primary School	1,128,458.21	208	5,425.28	1,196,375.49	210	5,697.03	5%	3,704.83	1,192,670.66
St Thomas' Church of England Primary Academy	977,085.31	206	4,743.13	987,970.63	197	5,015.08	6%	2,932.99	985,037.64
St Martin's Church of England Primary School	1,348,933.01	265	5,090.31	1,312,255.98	243	5,400.23	6%	4,785.41	1,307,470.57
Trinity CofE Primary Academy	3,000,508.00	610	4,918.87	3,263,769.74	622	5,247.22	7%	13,378.56	3,250,391.18
Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy	1,050,909.98	194	5,417.06	1,151,734.79	202	5,701.66	5%	2,752.90	1,148,981.89
St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy	1,415,299.52	312	4,536.22	1,510,899.74	312	4,842.63	7%	4,373.76	1,506,525.98
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wolverhampton	2,125,931.03	434	4,898.46	2,179,004.74	427	5,103.06	4%	7,049.47	2,171,955.27
St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery	926,886.73	201	4,611.38	990,692.94	201	4,928.82	7%	4,193.66	986,499.28
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy	998,440.17	190	5,254.95	1,015,685.66	183	5,550.19	6%	3,216.00	1,012,469.66
St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	919,939.62	168	5,475.83	951,378.75	163	5,836.68	7%	2,830.08	948,548.67
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	1,085,561.23	206	5,269.71	1,144,270.64	208	5,501.30	4%	3,884.93	1,140,385.72
Northwood Park Primary School	2,715,602.73	573	4,739.27	2,849,962.17	568	5,017.54	6%	5,763.07	2,844,199.09
Edward the Elder Primary School	1,091,843.97	215	5,078.34	1,135,854.51	214	5,307.73	5%	6,895.10	1,128,959.41
Moseley Park	6,296,671.49	952	6,614.15	6,605,673.19	949	6,960.67	5%	25,729.11	6,579,944.08
Wednesfield High Academy	5,719,133.87	880	6,499.02	6,433,836.57	931	6,910.67	6%	19,450.37	6,414,386.20

The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton	4,063,972.99	633	6,420.18	4,328,439.79	636	6,805.72	6%	28,043.52	4,300,396.27
Moreton School	6,514,408.70	856	7,610.29	7,308,548.08	930	7,858.65	3%	19,964.93	7,288,583.16
Thomas Telford University Technical College	3,842,449.35	544.5	7,056.84	4,860,900.16	670.08	7,254.21	3%	24,643.23	4,836,256.93
Ormiston SWB Academy	7,049,788.24	1050	6,714.08	7,668,981.75	1076	7,127.31	6%	39,012.27	7,629,969.48
Coppice Performing Arts School	5,425,835.47	904	6,002.03	5,719,712.19	894	6,397.89	7%	25,728.00	5,693,984.19
Ormiston NEW Academy	4,662,150.00	659	7,074.58	5,695,689.28	766	7,435.63	5%	30,359.04	5,665,330.24
Highfields School	9,841,561.40	1351	7,284.65	10,741,837.66	1381	7,778.30	7%	48,111.36	10,693,726.30
Smestow School	4,184,020.89	611	6,847.82	4,265,427.33	601	7,097.22	4%	23,669.76	4,241,757.57
Heath Park	7,268,236.98	990	7,341.65	7,679,102.23	986	7,788.14	6%	40,789.75	7,638,312.47
St Peter's Collegiate Academy	6,370,346.43	1081	5,893.01	6,766,814.94	1073	6,306.44	7%	27,271.68	6,739,543.26
St Edmunds Catholic Academy	5,665,903.64	898	6,309.47	6,299,341.12	944	6,673.03	6%	25,872.82	6,273,468.30
Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy	6,770,728.70	1009	6,710.34	7,435,892.70	1045	7,115.69	6%	22,846.46	7,413,046.23
Wolverhampton Girls' High School	4,386,361.52	790	5,552.36	4,782,099.00	833	5,740.82	3%	21,611.52	4,760,487.48
Aldersley High School	6,519,192.44	1022	6,378.86	7,089,378.67	1059	6,694.41	5%	25,419.26	7,063,959.41
The Royal School, Wolverhampton	6,256,040.97	1218	5,136.32	6,672,129.38	1220	5,468.96	6%	41,988.10	6,630,141.28

City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Date	19 January 2023
Report title	Commissioning of High Needs Places for September 2023
Contact Officer	Mai Gibbons, Senior Commissioning Officer SEND
Contact Details	Mai.gibbons@wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 555509

Summary

This paper explains the process and rationale for agreeing the high needs places which are to be commissioned for September 2023.

Decision

Members of the Schools' Forum are asked to note:

1. The high needs places already agreed and reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on the 18 November 2022.
2. The timetable of work underway to complete the consultation on places for September 2023 which is due January 2023.
3. That a further update on established pupil data and progress with the Transformation project will be provided after Easter 2023.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the members of Schools' Forum with an update regarding the commissioning of high needs places which are being commissioned for the academic year 2023-2024.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 High Needs funding is managed via an annual planning cycle which is described in High needs Funding: 2023 to 2024 Operational Guidance published by the Department for Education. A detailed timetable is contained in Section 19 of the Operational Guidance but the key stages are summarised below.

- 2.2 There are two points at which the local authority can influence their funding for the following year, Stage 1 and Stage 4:

1. 18 November 2022 - deadline for local authorities to submit their 2023 - 2024 high needs place number changes and requests to the ESFA (Education Skills and Funding Agency) for Further Education and Post 16 providers, academies and local authority hospital education.
2. December 2022 - Department for Education publishes 2023 to 2024 DSG allocations for schools, central school services and high needs block allocations.
3. January 2023 – The 2023 to 2024 high needs place change notification outcomes are published.
4. January 2023 - Deadline for local authorities to submit the final 2023 - 2024 authority proforma tool (APT) to ESFA. This covers all mainstream maintained schools and academies: including pupil numbers on the October 2022 census in resourced provision (RP); and special educational needs (SEN) units to support the calculation of funding for occupied and unoccupied places.
5. February 23 - Review of, and amendments to, education, health and care (EHC) plans must be completed by 15 February for pupils moving into, or between, schools in that calendar year.
6. February 2023 - 2024 budgets issued to maintained mainstream schools, special schools and PRUs.
7. March 2023 - Publication of the 2023 to 2024 high needs place numbers for schools and colleges.

8. 31 March 2023 – review of and amendments to, education, health and care plans for pupils moving into post 16 providers, or between post 16 providers, in the new academic year.

3.0 Consultation on Place Numbers

- 3.1 Consultation with high needs providers commenced in early October with priority being given to academies, post 16 providers and the hospital school (see Stage 1 above).
- 3.2 The feedback from the meetings has been captured on a proforma which contains a wider range of information than previously considered (see example at Appendix 1). These meetings are intended to be the start of an ongoing dialogue between Commissioning, the Providers, Senstart, Education Operational Teams and the wider Partnership regarding future trends and needs in order to inform a future Commissioning and Sufficiency Plan for Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) in our City.
- 3.3 All high needs providers have been consulted for the submission date of 18 November 2022. Following consultation with colleagues, the place changes for the maintained settings will be submitted in January 2023 (Stage 4). Relevant reports agreed between Commissioning and School Business and Support will be submitted to Children’s Leadership Team and Schools’ Forum.

4.0 Approach to Place Planning

- 4.1 It is acknowledged and owned by our Education Partnership that the key to successful commissioning and the effective use of resources is a thorough understanding of the needs of the children, young people and families in the local area. This when combined with robust, reliable data will allow the generation of a Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for SEND which will demonstrate the high needs of pupils and the required services and provision to deliver against those identified needs.
- 4.2 The conversations with our Providers for the ESFA return resulted in key messages or Key Line of Enquiries being presented with the most prominent including:
 - Increased complexity of children and young people.
 - Early intervention needed in Early Years/Mainstream to reduce demand for Special Schools.
 - Increased consultations from OOC authorities.
 - Need for Post 16 move on establishment that would include preparation for adulthood and life skills.
 - Capacity in resource bases and special schools

These key Line of Enquiries are captured in the “You Said We Did” document which is referred to in Section 6.0 of this report.

- 4.3 Over the last 18 months a change and improvement programme to deliver the SEND Written Statement of Action requirements has been implemented across the SEND agenda which in turn is improving what we know about the needs of our children and young people and more importantly what we know about those pupils in our early years settings. This will enable a future forecast of trends and needs to be established by Commissioning together with School Business Support to change our reactive approach to place planning to a more proactive consultation, planning and Partnership Send Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy endorsed by all Partners.
- 4.4 An important part of the change and improvement programme has been the need to improve data and what we know about the future trends and needs of our children and young people with SEND. Significant progress has been made in this area which is still being improved and the appendices at 2,3,4 gives a demonstration of how we are collating data and information to inform future commissioning and place planning.
- 4.5 However, we are not there yet and whilst we plan a Transformation Project to achieve our ambition to be proactive and not reactive, we already know that we have a need to manage expectations regarding more special school places and the need for possibly more Resource Bases in our mainstream provision to mitigate the demand for special school places. This is being further endorsed by our Inclusion Agenda and Graduated Approach Agendas.
- 4.6 In light of the above transformation work needed, the approach this year has been to maintain the status quo unless our Special Providers have agreed to increase places within either their current building capacity or on a condition that any capital requirements are presented to the Council and able to demonstrate a value for money option as opposed to Out of City provision costs.
- 4.7 This does not preclude the option to place children in a setting in line with the SEND Code of Practice.
- 4.8 On a positive note which will aid our ambition there is a good news story; there is additional capacity focussed on SEND which has been put in place as a result of a restructure of the Commissioning Team. This has to date secured a Senior Commissioning Officer, two Commissioning Officers (one was a teacher), one Service Development Officer and a yet to be appointed Quality Assurance Officer. This has never been in place for SEND, so this is a very positive message to all our Partners in particular our Head Teachers.

5.0 Agreed Place Changes

- 5.1 With respect to the formal return to the ESFA (Education Skills and Funding Agency) submitted 18 November 2022, the following changes were included:
- a. Westcroft Special School – increase of 10 places in Primary;
 - b. Aldersley High Schools increase of five places (yet to be confirmed as substantial change);
 - c. Pine Green Academy – reduction of 10 places;
 - d. Juniper Training – minus 76 places (challenge that this provision is located in Staffordshire);
 - e. City of Wolverhampton College- increase of four places;
 - f. Wolverhampton Vocational College – minus five places;
 - g. Penn Hall Special School – increase of eight plus 10 new places in new post 16 provision;
 - h. St Martins Resource Base – 20 places. (Resubmitted due to late submission of Deed of Variation last year).
- 5.2 These submitted changes will be confirmed or otherwise in January 2023. Other changes agreed include:
- a. Tettenhall Wood increase to 164 (including Hubs).

6.0 You Said/We did

- 6.1 As part of Commissioning’s conversations with our Headteachers and their staff, commissioning gave a commitment to capturing their ongoing issues/concerns in a “you said/ we did” paper which is attached as Appendix 5.
- 6.2 There has been an attempt to respond positively to some of the actions listed in this paper but most of the areas raised are more of a “we are going to do” response at this time as they need to be captured in the Transformation agenda referred to earlier in this paper. However, it is a record of the issues raised which can be reported back to this forum as and when timetabled.

7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation Proforma

Appendix 2 - SEND Performance Dashboard

Appendix 3 - SEND Partnership Dashboard

Appendix 4 - School SEND Census Dashboard - April Edition

Appendix 5 - “You Said, We Did” Document

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High Needs Place Planning for 2023-2024 – Meeting Record

1	Name of provision:		Date of meeting:											
	Attendees:	Names:	Position:											
2	Description of provision:													
	Commissioned HN places 2022-23:		Age range:											
	Total EHCPs (as % of total on roll)		Primary needs met:											
	Total SEN %	-	% FSM											
3	Profile – Commissioned places													
	YG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	School Census)/ILR													
	Sep'22 – SENSTART/ School													
	Please can school complete the September 22 boxes													
4	Needs – Trends and Analysis <i>(This analysis is for CWC provision as a whole)</i>													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall school capacity is static – 0.3% over next 2 years Primary pop is reducing gradually and secondary still increasing in line with the national pop curve % of EHCPs has increased significantly from 3.1 to 3.5% 2019-2020 – in line with rest of country <u>LA Comment</u> – Increase likely to be inflated, due in part to Covid, but should not be assumed. % of new EHCPs placed in mainstream schools is increasing and reducing for special schools <u>LA Comment</u> – this is positive provided the right support is available in schools % of CYP with SEN Support is static, in line with national picture Prevalence of ASD and SLCN has increased over last two years, whilst the prevalence of SEMH has dropped slightly <u>LA Comment</u> – increase in ASD is expected but could be overstated due to incorrect or late diagnoses – further investigation needed. Increase in SLCN needs further investigation via case reviews to understand the causes. 													

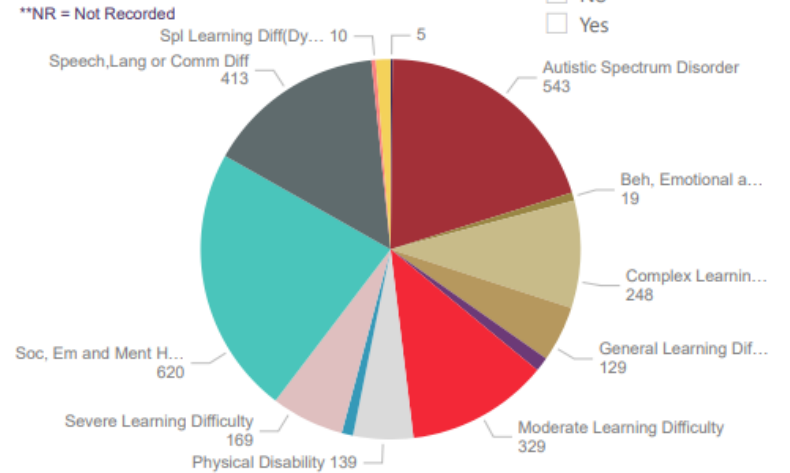
		EHCPs	2020/21	% share	2021/22	% share	Year on year							
		ASD												
		MLD												
		MSI												
		Other												
		PD												
		PMLD												
		SEMH												
		SLCN												
		SLD												
		SpLD												
		Total												
5	SENSTART Comments													
	Vacancies													
	Quality of provision, standards/outcomes													
	Pressures													
	Trends in needs													
	Forecast intake Sep'23													
	Future demand													
	Other comments													
6	Meeting Notes													
8	ACTIONS													
9	PREDICTED PROFILE													
	Age	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	Sep'23													
	Sep'24													
	Sep'25													
	Sep'26													
	Sep'27													

SEND Performance Dashboard Current EHCPs

Funding LA: Resident LA: CYP in Care:

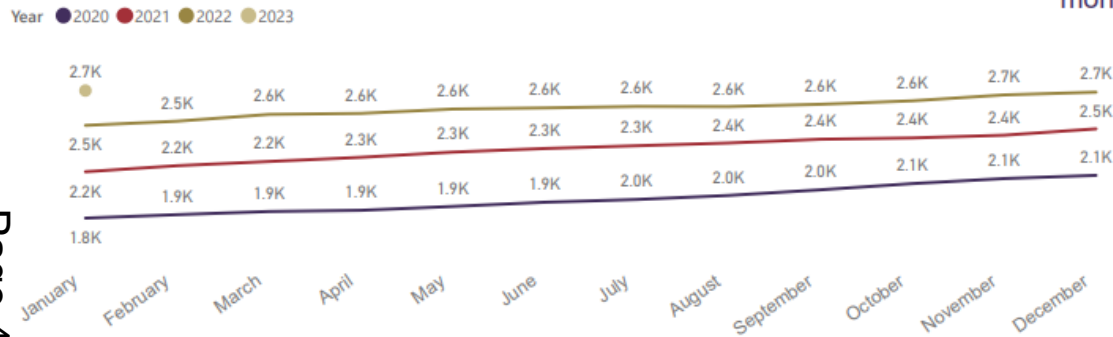
EHCPs - Total
2717 current 2706 at last month end

Primary Need

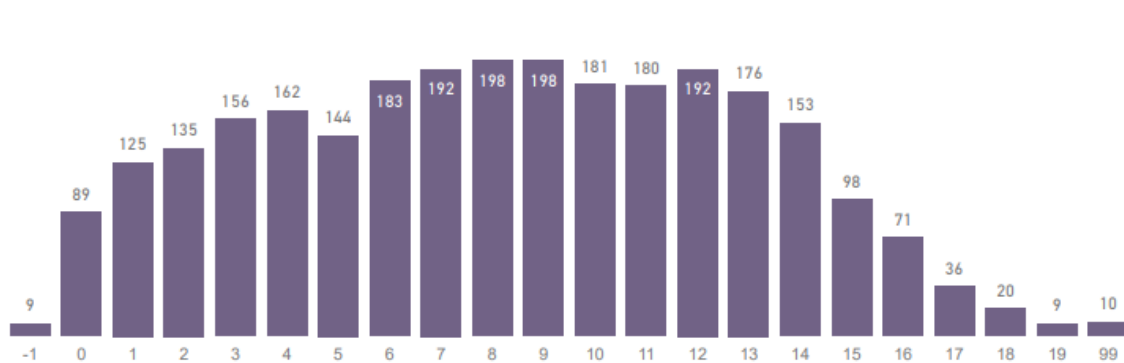


Any Exceptions
 No
 Yes

EHCPs by Month



EHCPs by NCY



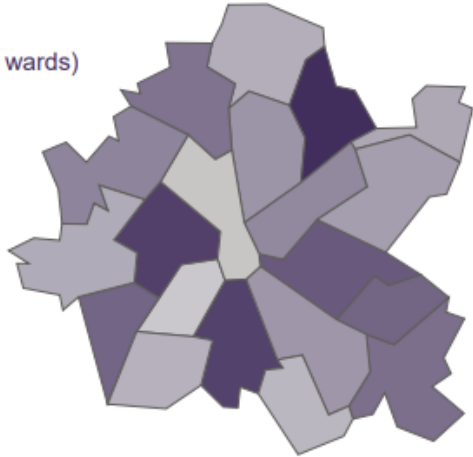
Establishment Type	Count
Mainstream	1080
Special School	1004
Post 16	242
No Placement Recorded	114
NEET	74
AP/PRU	56
Further Education	49
Other LEA Arranged - DfES	17
Other	15
Awaiting Provision	14
Apprenticeships	10

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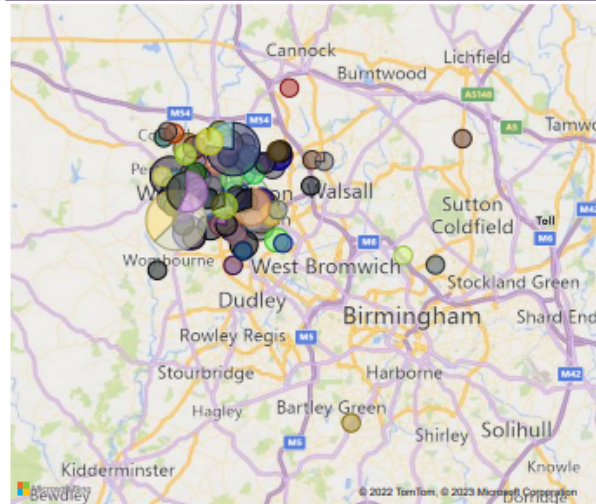
Pupils by School Ward

Wolverhampton (all wards)

15667



Pupils by School Postcode and School



Filter schools by Ofsted rating

All

Select an Ofsted rating

Schools with this Ofsted rating

Select a school

School Name

Select a School

Current Ofsted Rating

0

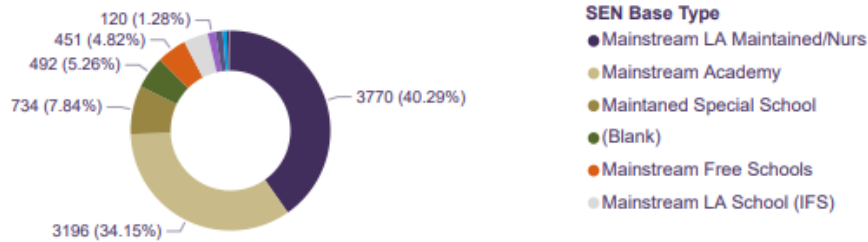
Number of Pupils

Age Gender Ethnicity

Number of State Funded Pupils by Setting

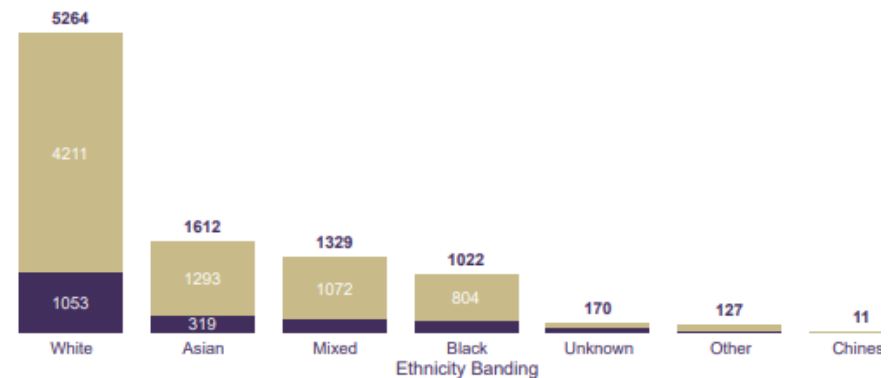


Pupils by SEN Base Type



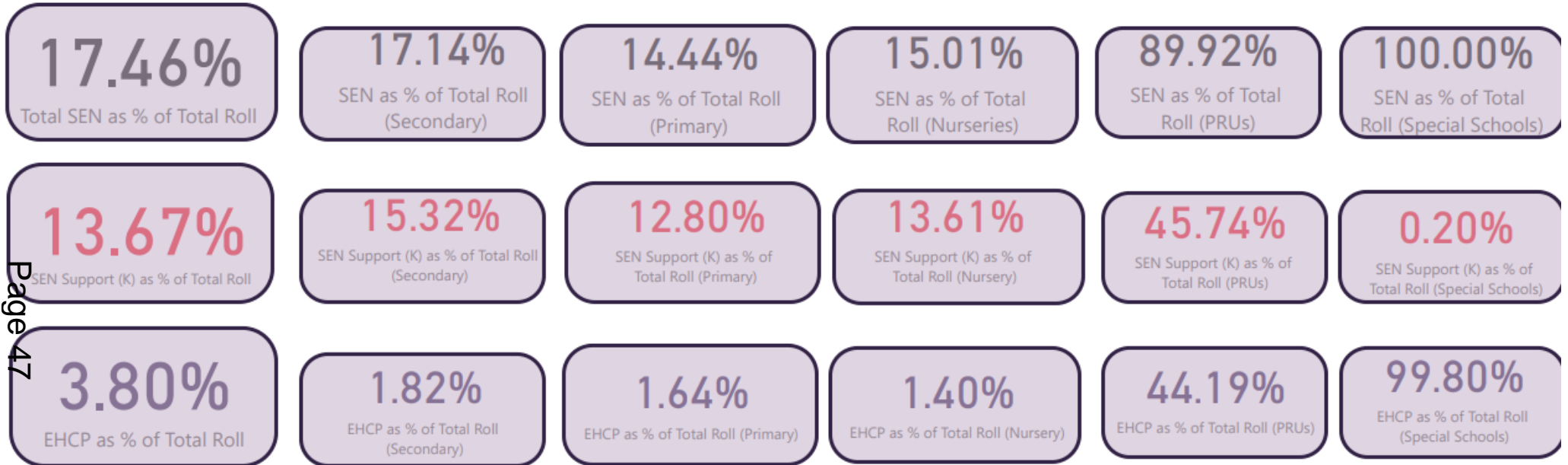
Pupils by Ethnicity Banding and SEN Stage

SEN Stage ● Education Health and Care Plan ● SEN Support

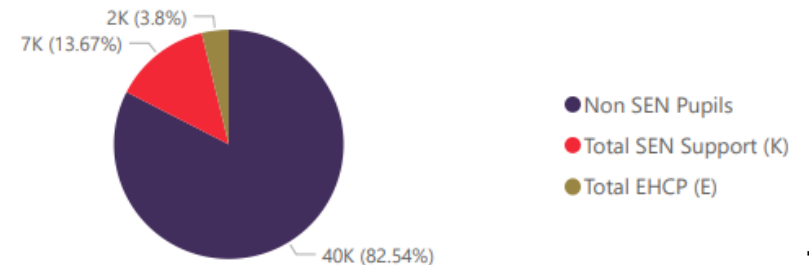
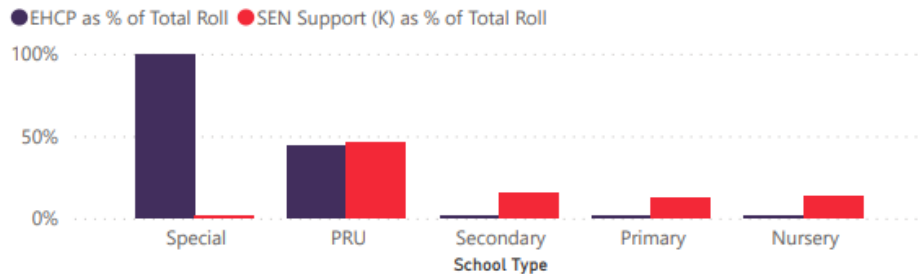


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Wolverhampton Pupils by SEND - Spring Census 2022



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FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL HIGH NEEDS CONVERSATIONS WITH SPECIAL SCHOOLS, RESOURCE BASES, PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS and POST 16 ESTABLISHMENTS -

YOU SAID/WE DID.....

As part of the annual cycle of High Needs Returns to the Education Skills and Funding Agency each of our Special Schools, Resource Bases, Pupil Referral Units and Post 16 establishments were invited to meet with SEND Commissioning to discuss place numbers, trends, pressures, and other feedback that the Headteachers considered important for future management of their establishments.

The following is a capture of the areas discussed so that feedback can be shared on what can be done and what will need further consideration by our Heads of Service and Commissioning by working in Partnership with our Special Schools, Resource Bases, Pupil Referral Units and Post 16 Establishments.

YOU SAID.....	WE DID.....
<p>Increased complexity of children and young people.</p>	<p>The increased complexity of our children and young people is acknowledged by all partners in Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Our recently introduced Graduated Response statement is intended to identify children with SEND needs earlier which in turn will enable those with more complex needs to be supported by a multi-agency response to include Health, Education and Social Care.</p>

	Our Family Hubs will work alongside other services to support early identification and intervention.
More teaching staff needed to support personal needs of some pupils.	The renewed vigour and attention given to the assessment and preparation of Education Health and Care Plans will ensure that Social Care and Health are involved in the assessment and delivery of support requirements based on need.
Early intervention needed in Early Years/Mainstream to reduce demand for Special Schools.	<p>In addition to the Graduated Response our Inclusion agenda will aim to enable our pupils to stay in mainstream provision with the support required to achieve the best outcomes for each pupil.</p> <p>Our Family Hubs will work alongside other services to support early identification and intervention.</p> <p>There will always be those pupils who will need the excellent and experienced offer of our Special Schools.</p>
Increased consultations from OOC authorities.	We will aim to work with our commissioning colleagues as well as Senstart colleagues to develop a more centralised process for consultations from other local authorities whilst keeping in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.
Timely consultation and feedback re school placements.	We will aim to work with Senstart to ensure timely consultations and timely feedback whilst keeping in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.
Timing of consultation over 6 week summer break –Wolverhampton and other Local Authorities in the Black Country.	We can apply an exception over the summer when schools are closed for 4 weeks. We perhaps need to be more robust with the application of exemptions in these situations around consultations for EHCPs that could have otherwise been compliant.

	<p>As we have been largely non-compliant that has not been possible in recent years but moving forward this is not going to be the case.</p> <p>This will need to keep in mind the legal requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.</p>
Inappropriate referrals – work with Senstart.	<p>The improvement work implemented across the development of the Education Health and Care plans has an aim to improve the quality of all referrals and Education Health and Care plans.</p> <p>All referrals will require a multi-agency response and there may be professional differences regarding outcome of referrals.</p>
Increased requests for consultation/visits for parent/carers - Tribunal implications. (Support with Tribunal process)	<p>Senstart have amended the consultation form which schools hopefully find it easier to complete.</p> <p>Senstart officers carefully consider what schools they consult with to reduce the consultations to individual schools.</p> <p>Senstart will support In City schools with the tribunal process.</p> <p>In City Schools are requested to manage parental/carers expectations in relation to request to visit schools.</p>
<p>Pay awards- in particular Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Request that High Needs Sub Group could consider an uplift in funding to cover pay awards?</p>	<p>Pay awards are allocated through the HNB as per the High Needs Block funding allocation. This is a set amount in relation to % pay increase set by ESFA, as such uplift beyond the suggested income would not be possible without implications to the wider HNB budget.</p>
Difficulty in recruiting of quality staff – in particular teaching assistants	<p>Training is currently being developed in conjunction with the University to develop SEND relevant qualifications for teaching assistants.</p>
Need for Post 16 move on establishment that would include preparation for adulthood and life skills. This would release capacity /space down the special schools.	<p>Commissioning and School Business and Support to have a discussion with Wolverhampton City College regarding their expansion plans including new builds.</p>

	<p>Preparing for Adulthood and life skills agenda to be part of the discussion.</p> <p>The Culture of Inclusion Programme has a designated workstream to develop opportunities around Preparation for Adulthood and Transition to adulthood.</p>
Transport for Inclusive Nurseries.	As requests for EHCPs are being completed earlier, children requiring transport to inclusive nurseries for their reception year should be able to have this facilitated through their EHCP.
School having difficulty employing signers - cost increasing. Difficult to assess need as youngsters coming into City all the time.	As part of the transformation project, it will be important that the true costings of resource bases, particularly for those who deliver support for children and young people with a sensory impairment is reviewed.
Matrix Banding review.	This is awaiting the outcome of the Government's Green paper regarding SEND and their intention to introduce a National Matrix Banding.
Capacity in resource bases and special schools – capital cost of space expansion.	The offers of capacity expansion in our resource bases and special schools to be part of the Transformation project towards the end ambition of a Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy for SEND.