

City of Wolverhampton Council

SCHOOLS' FORUM

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Report title	Dedicated Schools Grant – Central School Services Block 2023-2024
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Summary

This report provides an update on the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and seeks approval for a list of items that the Local Authority manages centrally on the behalf of schools and academies.

Decision

Members of the Schools Forum are asked to:

Note and agree the individual lines of the proposed budget allocation of the Central Schools Services Block for 2023-2024, as shown in the table in 2.0.

Schedule of background papers

- [Dedicated Schools Grant allocation tables: 2023 to 2024 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/dsg-2023-2024-allocations-tables.pdf)
- [Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024: Operational Guide – Updated December 2022](#)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. As part of introducing the National Funding formula the Department for Education (DfE) introduced a fourth block of funding within the DSG: the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB). This is to ensure local authorities can continue to carry out their important role in supporting the provision of excellent education for all children of compulsory school age.
- 1.2. CSSB funds local authorities for the statutory duties that they hold for both maintained schools and academies. It brings together:
- Funding for ongoing responsibilities such as admissions, previously top-sliced by each local authority from its Schools Block allocation as centrally retained duties element, and Education Services Grant (ESG) services and;
 - Residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced by the local authority from the Schools Block as centrally retained element.
- 1.3. This paper covers arrangements for CSSB in 2023-2024. It sets out Wolverhampton City Council's funding allocation and presents the planned expenditure for decision.
- 1.4. Schools' Forum approval or consultation is required each year to confirm the use of the CSSB.

2.0 Central School Services Block

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT		2022-2023 allocation	2023-2024 allocation
		£m	£m
CSSB Unit of Funding		39.18	40.08
CSSB Pupils (headcount)		41,726	42,332
		£m	£m
CSSB funding for ongoing responsibilities		1.63	1.70
CSSB funding for historic commitments		0.39	0.31
TOTAL CSSB Funding for 2023-2024		2.02	2.01
ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES		£	£
Provision of School Places	Co-ordinated admissions and statutory place planning activities	408,000	408,000
Servicing of Schools Forum	Funds the costs for the administration of school forum	28,560	28,560
Licences / Subscriptions	All licences that schools need will now be contained in this national agreement	233,122	263,000
ESG Services	Statutory and Regulatory Services	164,177	164,177
	Education Welfare	270,000	270,000
	Asset Management	182,000	182,000
ONE System Manager	0.5 CSSB Funded Grade 7 Post	27,000	27,000
MASH Officer (Seconded Teacher)	Statutory and Regulatory Services – Agreed funding of Safeguarding Officer within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	64,000	66,560
Cover reduction in historic costs	Termination of Employment Costs	17,280	17,280
	Tripartite funding	77,074	106,497
Centrally Employed Teachers	Amount to cover Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Grant for Centrally Employed Teachers	163,593	163,593
		1,634,806	1,696,667

HISTORICAL COMMITMENTS			
Tripartite Funding	Contribution towards the costs of funding arrangements shared between Education, Social Care and Health for Looked After Children	358,400	280,576
Termination of Employment Costs	Support the costs of historical agreements, for severance arrangements for staff as part of school rationalisation and reorganisations.	30,720	30,720
		389,120	311,296
TOTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK		2,023,926	2,007,963

- 2.1 The table above sets out the 2023-2024 DSG Central School Services Block received by Wolverhampton City Council. It also summarises a list of proposed budget allocations to be spent from CSSB for 2023-2024.
- 2.2 The total CSSB grant funding has decreased from £2.02 million in 2022-2023 to £2.01 million in 2023-2024. The grant funding for historical commitments has been reduced by 20% which equates to a reduction of £77,824 whilst there has been an increase in funding for ongoing responsibilities in the region of £61,861. The increase in funding for ongoing responsibilities has been allocated to meet increased costs related for licences. In addition, it is proposed to extend the funding of the Safeguarding Officer within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) until the end of 2023-2024 to allow further analysis of the effectiveness and possible funding going forward.
- 2.3 Copyright licensing - the DfE purchase a single national licence managed by the Department for all state funded schools in England, covering 10 individual licences which includes:
1. **CLA (Copyright Licensing Agency)**
Based on two rates: 5 to 15 (£1.73) and 16+ (£4.19).
 2. **SPML (School Printed Music Licence)**
Flat rate (£0.45), based on total number of pupils, 5 to 16+.
 3. **NLA (Newspaper Licensing Agency)**
Flat rate (£0.03964), based on total number of pupils, 5 to 16+.
 4. **ERA (Education Recording Agency)**
Based on two rates: Primary (£0.51) and Secondary (£1.06)
Primary rate includes under-5s (this is reflected in the lower rate for the licence). Primary rate is also charged for special schools and PRUs/AP.
Secondary rate is used for All Through schools.
 5. **PVSL (Public Video Screening Licence – Filmbank Distribution Ltd.)**
Based on a single, flat rate per school (£138.20), including discount.
 6. **MPLC (Motion Picture Licensing Company)**
Based on a single, flat rate per school (£78.44 for 2023 to 2024), including a 10% discount.
 7. **PPL (Phonographic Performance Ltd.)**
Operates on a banding system according to the number of pupils in the school. Rate is £80.78 for 0-200 pupils, rising by £13.22 for every 50 additional pupils (rounded up).

8. PRS (Performing Right Society Ltd.)

Operates on a banding system according to the number of pupils in the school. Rate is £88.11 for 0-200 pupils, £98.36 for 201-250 pupils, and then rising by £13.95 for every 50 additional pupils (rounded up).

9. MCPS (Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Ltd.)

Based on a single, flat rate per school (£249.66)

10. CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International)

Based on a simplified banding system according to size of school and whether primary/secondary, with varying discounts applied. There is no charge for nurseries. The charges per school are:

Number of pupils	Primary	Secondary	Special
1 – 49.5	£52.35	£41.36	£15.47
50 – 99.5	£80.78	£62.58	£19.72
100 – 249.5	£142.97	£108.99	£29.00
250 – 499.5	£199.84	£151.42	£37.48
500 – 999.5	£263.80	£199.15	£47.03
1,000 - 1,499.5	£324.22	£244.24	£56.05
1,500 - 2,999.5	£398.84	£299.93	£62.92

2.4 ESG Services cover the retained duties element of the old Education Services Grant which Local Authorities (LA) used to part fund statutory services they provide to all schools including academies. These services include statutory and regulatory services such as preparation of the DSG budget, and elements of the Director of Children's Services' time, Educational Welfare and asset management of the LA's capital programme.

2.5 Historical commitments approved by the ESFA are for:

- a. Tripartite budget of £280,576 is the contribution to the costs of funding arrangements shared between Education, Social care and Health for children in care.
- b. Termination costs of £30,720 supporting the costs of historical agreements for severance costs for staff as part of the school rationalisation and re-organisation.

2.6 The DfE requires that Schools Forum approve the use of the CSSB for the purposes shown above.

3.0 Impact

The allocation of CSSB resources has a major impact on the Local Authority's ability to deliver its desired outcomes for all Wolverhampton's schools and as such has implications for all areas within the Education Service.