

SCHOOLS' FORUM

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Report title	Dedicated Schools Grant – Central School Services Block 2024-2025
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Summary

This report provides an update on the Central Schools Services block 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 2024-2025, as shown in the table in 2.0.

Schedule of background papers (If applicable)

- Dedicated Schools Grant allocation tables: 2024 to 2025 (www.gov.uk)
- Schools Revenue Funding 2024 to 2025: Operational Guide – Updated December 2023

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 School 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 2024-2025. 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		2023-2024	2023-2024 revised allocation	2024-2025
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK		£m	£m	£m
CSSB Unit of Funding		40.08	40.08	41.41
CSSB Pupils (headcount)		42,332	42,332	42,949
		£m	£m	£m
CSSB funding for ongoing responsibilities		1.70	1.70	1.78
CSSB funding for historic commitments		0.31	0.31	0.25
TOTAL CSSB Funding		2.01	2.01	2.03
ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES		£	£	£
Provision of School Places	Co-ordinated admissions and statutory place planning activities	408,000	408,000	408,000
Servicing of Schools Forum	Funds the costs for the administration of school forum	28,560	28,560	28,560
Licences / Subscriptions	All licences that schools need will now be contained in this national agreement	263,000	263,000	290,000
ESG Services	Statutory and Regulatory Services	164,177	315,604	291,258
	Education Welfare (includes use of grant from previous years)	270,000	307,090	315,100
	Asset Management	182,000	182,000	182,000
ONE System Manager	0.5 CSSB Funded Grade 7 Post	27,000	27,000	30,000
MASH Officer	Statutory and Regulatory Services – Agreed funding of Safeguarding Officer within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	66,560	66,560	70,000
Cover reduction in historic costs	Termination of Employment Costs	17,280		0
	Tripartite funding	106,497		0

Centrally Employed Teachers	Ringfenced amount to cover Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Grant for Centrally Employed Teachers	163,593	163,593	163,580
		1,696,667	1,761,407	1,778,498
HISTORICAL COMMITMENTS				
Tripartite Funding	Contribution towards the costs of funding arrangements shared between Education, Social Care and Health for Looked After Children	280,576	280,576	224,437
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	24,600
		311,296	311,296	249,037
TOTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK		2,007,963	2,072,703	2,027,535

- 2.1 The table above sets out the 2023-24 DSG Central School Services Block received by Wolverhampton City Council, as well as in year virements required to reduce budgets for tripartite funding and termination of employment costs and allocate the difference across Statutory and regulatory services. It also details the proposed budget allocations to be spent from CSSB for 2024-2025.
- 2.2 The total CSSB grant funding has increased from £2.01 million in 2023-2024 to £2.03 million in 2023-2024. The grant funding for Historical commitments has been reduced by 20% which equates to a reduction of £62,259 whilst there has been an increase in funding for ongoing responsibilities in the region of £81,831. The increase in funding for ongoing responsibilities has been allocated to meet increases to costs as detailed in the table above. As approved by Schools forum in December 2023, the Education Welfare budget has been increased to cover a post within the Partnership exploitation and missing Hub.
- 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)
 2. SPML (School Printed Music Licence)
 3. NLA (Newspaper Licensing Agency)
 4. ERA (Education Recording Agency)
 5. PVSL (Public Video Screening Licence – Filmbank Distribution Ltd.)
 6. MPLC (Motion Picture Licensing Company)
 7. PPL (Phonographic Performance Ltd.)
 8. PRS (Performing Right Society Ltd.)
 9. MCPS (Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Ltd.)
 10. CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International)

- 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:
1. Tri-partite budget of £224,437 is the contribution to the costs of funding arrangements shared between Education, Social care and Health for looked after children.
 2. Termination costs of £24,600 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.