



## **Sheffield Schools Forum 14 December 2022 Executive Summary of Decisions**

### **Procurement of Gas and Electricity Supply - Update**

Further to the item at the September Forum. An update was given on progress of the briefing document which is due to be shared and which will give schools the option to opt-in/out of the energy contract. This will be circulated shortly, in advance of the sign-up document, and a response will be required by the end of February 2023.

### **Alternative Provision (AP) Review**

The Forum noted the following:

- We are currently reviewing the AP provision and how we fund it to ensure sustainability.
- The review is underpinned by two bids for new AP free schools (two trusts are bidding) and the fact that the existing framework only goes up to the end of this academic year.
- We will also be considering sufficiency as part of the review.

### **SEND/Locality Review (including proposed £1.5m transfer to High Needs Block)**

- We have been transferring £1.5m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for several years, and last year we directed these funds to contribute to locality funding rather than funding for inclusion as in previous years.
- Children on Education, Health and Care Plans receive top-up funding via the High Needs Block via locality funding.
- A consultation was carried out to seek views on transferring the £1.5m in 2023/24 and 90% of the 66 respondents were in favour.
- A multi-agency steering group has been set up to review high needs funding and the group has agreed a set of principles. There are plans to expand this group as of January to review high needs funding for early years through to post-16.

**The Schools Forum approved** the transfer of £1.5m from Schools Block to High Needs Block in 2023/24.

### **DSG Overview and Indicative Schools Budgets/National Funding Formula (NFF)**

- We are awaiting final confirmation of the settlement which is due by the end of December, and we cannot therefore share specifics on school budgets until after that date.
- Slides presented to the Forum are based on the indicative allocation and the October 2021 Census. The additional funding announced in the Chancellor's autumn budget is not included – this may be included as a supplementary grant on a per pupil basis.

- Early years funding is expected to increase by 1% for hourly rates across both age ranges paid to providers and there is an indicative budget increase of £261k for maintained nurseries (including TPPG).  
The Forum expressed their dissatisfaction with the national funding settlement and agreed to continue to lobby by writing to the Government again.
- High Needs Block funding will increase by £5.9m, but there is still pressure regarding demand so this increase will be required to support growth.
- Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) – funding for historic commitments will decrease by £610k and it is likely that Sheffield City Council (SCC) will again provide substitute funding.
- Capital Allocation – an additional allocation of £447m is available in 2022 to 2023. This is to be spent on capital projects that improve energy efficiency by the end of March.
- The Schools Block:
  - The provisional allocation for 2023/24 indicates a variance of just over £11m (plus £11.9m for the Supplementary Grant).
  - Various modelling work has been undertaken and will be completed when we know the final allocation.
  - A decision is required to be made on the final model by 6 January and the Forum therefore **agreed to delegate this decision to the Funding Working Group** who will meet again prior to this date.

## Forum Chair arrangements

Paul Stockley of Bradway Primary will be stepping down from his role as Chair after the February meeting. The Forum thanked Paul for his contribution and **ratified the proposals** for Keith Crawshaw of Sheffield South East Trust to replace him and Nigel Brooke-Smith of Greystones Primary to take on the role of Vice-Chair.

Other membership updates are detailed on Paper 6.

*Forum papers are available to download via [Sheffield Schools Forum](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/sheffield-schools-forum)  
(<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/sheffield-schools-forum>)*

*You can also download a list of Forum members on this page should you wish to raise an issue/ask a question*

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