

AGENDA FOR
BURY SCHOOLS' FORUM



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To: All Members of Bury Schools' Forum

Dear Member/Colleague

Bury Schools' Forum

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Bury Schools' Forum which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Monday, 15 January 2024
Place:	Microsoft Teams
Time:	4.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING *(Pages 3 - 8)*

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Schools' Forum held on 2 November 2023 are attached.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 MATTERS ARISING

4 SCHOOLS & ACADEMIES FUNDING 2024/2025 *(Pages 9 - 22)*

- a. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- b. Schools Block
- c. Central School Services Block (CSSB)
- d. High Needs Block
- e. Early Years Block – Funding Consultation Paper attached
- f. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)
- g. Teachers' Pay Grant
- h. Teachers' Pension Grant

5 REVIEW OF DE-DELEGATION *(Pages 23 - 26)*

Report attached

**Bury Schools Forum
Thursday 2 November 2023
Microsoft Teams**

Attendance

Early Years

Rachel O'Neil

Headteacher – Hoyle Nursery

Maintained Primary

Richard Ainsworth,
Simon Waddington,

Governor (Plus Governors Forum)
Headteacher – Hollins Grundy Primary

Maintained Secondary

Tina Owen

Headteacher – Philips High School

Academy Primary

Rachel Pars
Kristie Bloomfield

Bury College Education Trust – Elton Primary
Oak Partnership

Academy Secondary

Paul Johnson

Headteacher – Star Academies

Special

Joanne Hurst
Orienne Langley-Sadler

Headteacher - Millwood Special School
Headteacher - Elms Bank

Pupil Referral Unit

None in Attendance

Non-Schools Sector

Catherine Ainsley
Helena Thom

NASUWT
NEU

Children's Services Department

Isobel Booler

Director of Education & Skills

Paul Cooke

Head of Schools & Academies

Victoria Lambert

Alison Vidler
Finance)

Principal Finance Officer (Schools & Systems

Clare Williams

Observer(s)

Katherine Ashworth

Millwood Special School

Zena Shuttleworth

Elissa Reevel

Patrick Grant

DFE Observer

1c. Central Schools Services Block

The report set out the National Funding Formula for 2024- 25 and the variation 2024 -25 to 2023-24 as:

CSSB Unit of Funding: 5%

Pupil Funding Factor: 5%

Funding for historic commitments: -20%

Funding for historic commitments is subject to a year-on-year reduction.

1d. Early Years Bock

Early Years funding allocations are subject to future announcements. Additional funding has been provided through the Early Years Supplementary Grant to cover the period September 2023 to March 2024. This additional funding will be incorporated into the DSG allocation for 2024-25.

2. Formula Unit Values

Schools' Forum is required to recommend the formula unit values to be applied to all Mainstream Schools & Academies funding allocations on an annual basis. The formula unit values applied to Bury Schools and Academies funding formula already directly mirror the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) unit values. For 2024- 25, the Split Site Factor is compulsory for all local authorities.

Recommendation 1

Schools' Forum (all members) agrees all the unit values specified in the table above, to be applied in compliance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) to Bury's Mainstream schools and academies funding formula for 2024-25

3. De-delegation

For maintained mainstream schools only, the formula mechanism contains options for schools to choose to de-delegate an amount from their formula allocation to contribute to Local Authority services that work to support them. Academies can buy back into any of these services.

Katherine Ashworth asked why free school meals eligibility checking was included and questioned why this could not be offered as a traded service.

Alison explained that the de-delegation only applied to maintained school but academies could buy in to the service. Maintained schools did not currently have that option as it was under de-delegation.

Tina Owen referred to School Improvement and the fact only the maintained schools were paying in.

Isobel explained that the funding had gone to schools causing concern and had only gone to 14 maintained schools for head teacher developmental programme.

It was asked whether a breakdown of how school improvement money was spent could be provided.

Paul Cooke reported that the total value was split 30% / 70% with the vast majority being maintained.

It was asked that a breakdown of figures be brought to the next meeting of Schools' Forum.

Simon Waddington stated that the de-delegation funding was becoming untenable. More schools had gone into deficit last year and this year some schools had a planned deficit. Simon explained that he had calculated the figures and it was becoming unsustainable. Would it be possible to fund through headroom.

Alison Vidler explained that under the funding regulations, it would not be possible to fund these services through headroom.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Schools' Forum (maintained school representatives) does not agree the de-delegated values for 2024-25, summarised as follows: •Schools of Concern @ £6.62 per pupil • Free School Meals Eligibility Checking @ £5.51 per FSM6 • Trade Union Facilities Time @ £4.41 per pupil •School Improvement Brokerage and Monitoring Grant @ £15.75 per-pupil

4. Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

The statutory guidance allows local authorities to set a pre-16 MFG in their local formulae, to protect schools from excessive year-on-year changes. Local authorities will be able to set an MFG between +0.0% and +0.5% per pupil.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Schools' Forum (all members) agrees that the MFG protection is set at +0.5% in line with DfE guidance.

5. Headroom

After all formula factors have been updated as per the above recommendations and in accordance with the National Funding Formula unit values, there is a balance of DSG Schools Block that remains un-allocated. This balance is required to cover any outstanding updates to budget determinations as follows:

- October 2023 census variations
- Growth
- Falling Rolls Fund
- Minimum Funding Level

If, when all items above have been updated to reflect the actual individual schools budget determinations, and any amounts to support growth and falling rolls have been allocated, there remains a balance of unallocated Schools Block funding, the Local Authority will factor a transfer of this balance by way of supporting the deficit recovery to the High Needs Block. Schools' Forum may recommend up to 0.5% transfer of Schools' Block without any disapplication process being required to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education. For information, 0.5% of Bury's 2024-25 indicative Schools Block is circa £791,700. A 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block has been factored into future years as part of DSG Safety Valve Management Plan submitted to the DfE. If there is insufficient Headroom once all other

updates have been completed, then Schools Forum may need to consider how to balance the overall Schools Block by reviewing all formula factors.

The growth fund can only be used to:

- Support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- Support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation.
- Meet the costs of new schools.

The growth fund must not be used to support:

- Schools in financial difficulty.
- General growth due to popularity; this is managed through lagged funding. This includes cases where academies have admitted above the pupil admission number (PAN) by their own choice.

The primary growth factor value for 2024-25 is £1,550.

Funding for maintained schools is provided to cover the period from September to March before the lagged funding system 'catches up' from the subsequent April through the subsequent year's NFF. Since academies are funded on an academic year basis, they would receive additional funding (at a rate of an additional five sevenths of the allocation) to cover a full year's growth funding before the system 'catches up'.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Schools' Forum (all members) agrees the criteria below for allocating growth funding.

Growth fund allocations will be made for LA approved bulge classes in the first year, or for LA agreed expansion classes as the expansion moves up the school.

These will be funded from the centrally retained growth fund. Funding for new classes will be set above the minimum funding expectation set by DfE.

Growth funding will be allocated as follows:

primary growth factor value x number of pupils x ACA

The primary growth factor value will be used for all school types - recognising there is one teacher pay scale and that this funding is a minimum value.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Schools' Forum agrees the use of Headroom to address all outstanding items outlined above and a transfer of any balance, up to a maximum of 0.5%, of unallocated Schools Block Headroom to the High Needs Block, the amount to be confirmed at the meeting of Schools' Forum in January 2024.

6 SCHOOLS WITH EXCESS SURPLUS BALANCES 2022 -2023

Alison Vidler presented a report setting out the schools that had excess surplus balances at the end of the 2022 -2023 financial year.

The report was provided for information.

It was agreed:

That the contents of the report be noted.

7 PROJECT SAFETY VALVE

Isobel Booler gave an update on Project Safety Valve.

It was explained that since the last meeting of the Schools' Forum work had been ongoing to ensure that all strategies were in place to make sure that PSV spending was correct and appropriate.

There had been an increase of 63% of EHCPs and identifying and meeting need earlier was a priority.

The agreement had been signed to eradicate the PSV by 2024/25 but the plan was in the process of being reworked with a revised agreement of 2028/2029 eradication .

The plan had not been signed off to date as it was in the process of being presented to ministers and awaiting an outcome from Government.

It was explained that significant work had carried out to ensure that no spend comes from the high needs block that shouldn't.

Isobel explained that the Schools' Forum could establish a working group to review the PSV Management Plan and report back to the Forum with draft advice and decisions.

The working group would be made up of members of the Schools' Forum and would be supported by officers from the Council. The group could also include wider representation if required.

The group would be required to set its Terms of Reference as its first priority to be agreed by the Forum.

It was agreed:

1. That the update be noted.
2. That any Members of the Forum wishing to sit on the PSV Working Group contact Andrea Tomlinson on a.j.tomlinson@bury.gov.uk

Rachel Parrs
Chair

Note: The meeting started at 4pm and ended at 5pm

Bury Council
Department for Children and Young People

Schools and Academies Funding Update 2024-25

1. Dedicated Schools Grant 2024-25

Following the publication of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations on 19 December 2023, which takes into account the fully validated October 2023 pupil census, the 2024-25 DSG for Bury is summarised in the table below.

* Please note that the 2023-24 baseline shown below includes the Mainstream Additional Grant in the Schools Block and the Early Years supplementary Grant in the Early Years Block. This is for the purpose of demonstrating the actual variance as these have been incorporated into the 2024-25 DSG.

2024 to 2025 DSG allocations, before recoupment and deductions for national non-domestic rates, and for direct funding of high needs places by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)						
Dedicated schools grant (DSG):		Schools block	Central school services block	High needs block	Early years block	Total DSG allocation
351	BURY	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)	(£s)
	2023-24 DSG, including additional grants	154,929,419	1,037,945	45,243,107	14,570,700	215,781,171
	2024-25	157,626,868	1,077,628	46,967,042	22,654,385	228,325,923
	Variance to 2023-24 £	2,697,449	39,683	1,723,935	8,083,685	12,544,752
	Variance to 2023-24 %	1.7%	3.8%	3.8%	55.5%	5.8%

2 Schools Block

The application of the NFF unit values, agreed at Schools Forum in November 2023, across the above factors results in the allocations shown in the table below. The amount of funding distributed to schools, including the centralised Rates payments, equates to almost 100% of the Schools Block Funding. The effect of pupil number variances between the October funding census collections for 2022 and 2023 needs to be noted in respect to the impact on the figures included in the table below.

Primary schools have seen an overall net reduction of 190.5 pupils.
 Secondary schools have seen an overall net increase of 66 pupils.

For both sectors Forum will be aware that there will be individual schools with reductions, and others with gains to pupil numbers. They will all need to financially plan for pupil number changes, in order to sustain their balanced budget positions.

Factor	Sub-level	2023-24	2024-25	Variance £	Variance %
Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary	£54,473,700	£56,504,006	£2,030,306	3.7%
	Key Stage 3	£32,619,345	£34,980,741	£2,361,396	7.2%
	Key Stage 4	£24,338,609	£25,582,059	£1,243,450	5.1%
Deprivation Factors					
Free School Meals	Primary	£1,695,705	£1,693,126	-£2,579	-0.2%
	Secondary	£1,288,800	£1,434,593	£145,793	11.3%
Free School Meals - Ever 6	Primary	£2,552,705	£2,874,437	£321,732	12.6%
	Secondary	£3,100,300	£3,716,695	£616,395	19.9%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Primary	IDACI F	£328,298	£331,136	£2,839	0.9%
	IDACI E	£762,983	£756,521	-£6,461	-0.8%
	IDACI D	£440,552	£440,859	£306	0.1%
	IDACI C	£835,789	£843,627	£7,838	0.9%
	IDACI B	£311,831	£318,970	£7,139	2.3%
	IDACI A	£318,111	£322,286	£4,175	1.3%
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) Secondary	IDACI F	£334,363	£349,061	£14,698	4.4%
	IDACI E	£841,879	£855,135	£13,256	1.6%
	IDACI D	£438,646	£438,418	-£228	-0.1%
	IDACI C	£856,348	£888,689	£32,341	3.8%
	IDACI B	£347,208	£345,696	-£1,512	-0.4%
	IDACI A	£349,188	£377,304	£28,117	8.1%
Additional Educational Needs Factors					
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Primary	£941,927	£1,031,515	£89,588	9.5%
	Secondary	£437,476	£533,990	£96,514	22.1%
Low Prior Attainment	Primary	£5,577,065	£5,969,730	£392,665	7.0%
	Secondary	£4,380,502	£4,509,362	£128,860	2.9%
Mobility	Primary	£89,607	£106,472	£16,865	18.8%
	Secondary	£22,767	£52,187	£29,420	100.0%
School Factors					
Lump Sum	Primary	£8,192,000	£8,467,200	£275,200	3.4%
	Secondary	£1,664,000	£1,960,000	£296,000	17.8%
Total Allocated via NFF		£147,539,704	£155,683,814	£8,144,110	5.5%
Other Factors					
Rates		£1,188,224	£1,538,229	£350,005	29.5%
Minimum Funding Level		£488,365	£341,724	-£146,641	-30.0%
Minimum Funding Guarantee		£94,807	£61,590	-£33,217	-35.0%
Growth fund		£0	£0	£0	-
LA prior commitment to DfE for guaranteed pupil numbers for new high school Sep-24 to Mar-25		£0	-£620,000	-£620,000	-
Available for transfer to High Needs Block		£521,068	£621,511	£100,443	19.3%
TOTAL		£149,832,168	£157,626,868	£7,794,700	5.2%

Note: £621,511 transfer to the High Needs Block is 0.39% of the total Schools Block. This is within the permitted 0.5% which was approved at the last meeting.

3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

Schools' Forum is required to approve the allocation of budgets included under the CSSB, which was created several years ago in place of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) retained functions funding for Local Authorities. The former ESG funding was added to the DSG in April 2018 in order to help sustain the services that it is intended to support.

The overall amount of grant in the 2024-25 CSSB has increased by 3.8%.

The following should be noted:

- funding for historic commitments within the CSSB has been reduced annually with a move towards total removal. Funding for the historic commitment for the Safeguarding in Schools Officer has therefore been built into the CYP Departmental budget;
- The centralised National Copyright Licences cost increases are not yet known but they have increased by more than the standard funding increase in recent years. Therefore provision is made for this in the figures below;
- there is a reduced requirement for the former Teachers' Pay and Pension Grant funding for teachers employed in central services due to the cessation of the Curriculum Language Access Service;
- the other services funded via the CSSB have been increased in line with the overall funding increase.

This leaves an unallocated balance of £100,300.

Movements from the Central Services Block to any other block are not subject to any limit and can be made in consultation with Schools Forum.

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)	2023-24	2024-25	Variance £	Variance %
Section 251 – Central Provision				
1.4.1 Combined Budgets Historical Commitment – Safeguarding in Schools Officer	£49,800	£0	£-49,800	-100.0%
1.4.2 Admissions	£205,800	£213,600	£7,800	3.8%
1.4.3 Schools' Forum	£17,600	£18,300	£700	4.0%
1.4.14 National Copyright Licences	£168,800	£185,000	£16,200	9.6%
Section 251 - Former ESG Services				
1.5.1 Education Welfare	£278,600	£289,200	£10,600	3.8%
1.5.2 Asset Management	£96,100	£99,800	£3,700	3.9%
1.5.3 Statutory / Regulatory inc SACRE	£67,400	£70,000	£2,600	3.9%
Other				
1.4.14 Teachers Pay and Pension Grant	£153,845	£101,428	£-52,417	-34.1%
Transfer to High Needs	£0	£100,300	£100,300	-
Total Central School Services Block (CSSB)	£1,037,945	£1,077,628	£39,683	3.8%

PROPOSAL 1:

Bury's Schools' Forum recommend the allocation of CSSB budgets as outlined to the applicable services for 2024-25 and to transfer the remaining balance to the High Needs Block in support of the DSG Management Plan.

4. High Needs Block

High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the DSG, enabling them to meet their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014.

The overall amount of grant in the 2024-25 High Needs Block has increased by 3.8%.

The final allocations include adjustments for:

- October 2023 Special Schools census data;
- the new Brookhaven School (academy);
- hospital education funding – the 2024-25 allocation is lower than the final 2023-24 allocation which included additional funding in relation to September to March 2022-23.

Further updates on the High Needs position will be brought to future Schools' Forum meetings, including monitoring reports on the delivery of the Safety Valve agreement.

National Funding Formula (NFF) 2024-25	DSG 2023-24	DSG 2024-25 Dec-23	Variation 2024-25 to 2023-24	
High Needs Block				
High needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	£39,948,132	£43,067,032		
Additional High Needs Funding	£1,834,157	0		
Baseline High Needs funding	£41,782,288	£43,067,032	£1,284,744	3.1%
Basic entitlement factor unit of funding (area cost adjusted)	£4,700.08	£4,699.78	-£0	0%
Number of pupils in special schools/academies	613.5	739	125.5	20%
Basic entitlement factor	£2,883,500	£3,473,138	£589,638	20%
Additional funding for new and growing special free schools	£6,000	£6,000	£0	0%
Import/export adjustment (based on January 2023 school census and February R06 2022/23 ILR)	-£282,000	-£282,000	£0	0%
Hospital Education plus historic teachers' pay/pension	£853,318	£702,872	-£150,446	18%
Total High Needs Block before deductions	£45,243,107	£46,967,042	£1,723,936	3.8%
Total High Needs Block after FE/Academy Recoupment	£40,661,107	£42,331,042		

5. Early Years Block

Forum should note that the Early Years Block will be adjusted in-year 2024-25 in respect to fluctuations in Early Years participation. The final funding allocation is based on two sets of January census data:

January 2024 accounts for April 2024 to August 2024 (5/12ths)

January 2025 accounts for September 2024 to March 2025 (7/12ths)

Therefore the funding received from the DfE is based on take up of places as at the two census dates. The Authority funds Early Years providers on actual take up of places, as notified by providers through the Early Years Portal which means that there is inevitably a variance in the funding allocated and the actual costs each year.

The free childcare offer will be extended so that eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks per year from the term after their child turns 9 months to when they start school.

The initial indicative funding for 2024-25 is therefore significantly higher than in 2023-24:

DSG Early Years Block	2023-24	2024-25	Variation 2024-25 to 2023-24	
3&4 YO Basic Entitlement	£7,766,524	£8,669,976	£903,452	12%
3&4 YO Extended Entitlement	£4,110,961	£4,589,175	£478,214	12%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£1,496,723	£2,021,752	£525,029	35%
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£0	£3,965,723	£3,965,723	-
Under 2s entitlement	£0	£2,733,537	£2,733,537	-
Early Years pupil premium for 3 & 4-year-olds	£147,238	£161,486	£14,248	10%
Early Years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	£0	£87,575	£87,575	-
Early Years pupil premium for under 2s	£0	£4,380	£4,380	-
Disability access fund for 3 & 4-year-olds	£86,112	£123,760	£37,648	44%
Disability access fund for 2-year-olds	£0	£32,760	£32,760	-
Disability access fund for under 2s	£0	£11,830	£11,830	-
Maintained Nursery Supplementary Funding	£214,531	£252,431	£37,900	18%
TOTAL	£13,822,089	£22,654,385	£8,832,296	64%

A separate Early Years Funding Consultation paper is included with the papers for this meeting.

For 2024-25 Local authorities are required to pass-through at least 95% of funding for each of the following funding entitlement streams individually:

- 3 & 4YO entitlements (no change)
- Under 2s
- 2YO disadvantaged offer
- 2YO working parents

This pass-through requirement ensures that most of the government funding reaches providers so that they can deliver the government's free entitlements. Bury has historically passported more than the minimum requirement for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds.

It should be noted that the DfE has indicated that the minimum 95% pass-through requirement is likely to be increased in future years, following the increase in Early Years funding.

The percentage retained by Local Authorities is used to contribute to Early Years SEN inclusion costs, central support services covering advisory support, sufficiency requirements, free entitlement eligibility checking, and management and administration of the complex Early Years Single Funding Formula determinations, allocations, systems, and statutory reporting requirements.

The table below shows the proposed Central Early Years budget.

DSG Early Years Block	2024-25	Proposed Central Budget	%
3&4 YO Basic Entitlement	£8,669,976	£301,151	3.5%
3&4 YO Extended Entitlement	£4,589,175	£159,405	3.5%
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£2,021,752	£57,466	2.8%
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£3,965,723	£112,721	2.8%
Under 2s entitlement	£2,733,537	£137,586	5.0%
Early Years pupil premium for 3 & 4-year-olds	£161,486	£0	£0
Early Years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	£87,575	£0	£0
Early Years pupil premium for under 2s	£4,380	£0	£0
Disability access fund for 3 & 4-year-olds	£123,760	£0	£0
Disability access fund for 2-year-olds	£32,760	£0	£0
Disability access fund for under 2s	£11,830	£0	£0
Maintained Nursery Supplementary Funding	£252,431	£0	£0
TOTAL	£22,654,385	£768,330	3.4%

PROPOSAL 2:

Bury's Schools' Forum approve the above allocation of the Early Years Block.

6. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

School PPG allocations are now aligned to the annual October census used for main school funding purposes.

LAC PPG is still determined using the Local Authority Looked After Children return (SSDA903) as at 31 March each year. This element of the PPG is managed by the Virtual School.

This means that schools may see an in-year reduction in their 2024-25 FSM PPG allocation if a pupil is subsequently identified as LAC on the March 2024 data return. Revised allocations are issued at the end of December each year.

Factor	2023-24 Unit Value	2024-25 Unit Value	Variance £	Variance %
Primary FSM - Ever 6	£1,455	£1,480	£25	1.7%
Secondary FSM - Ever 6	£1,035	£1,050	£15	1.4%
Looked After Children (LAC)	£2,530	£2,570	£40	1.6%
Post LAC	£2,530	£2,570	£40	1.6%
Service	£335	£340	£5	1.5%

7. Teachers' Pay Additional Grant

In July 2023 the government announced £525 million in 2023-24 to support schools with the September 2023 teachers' pay award, with a further £900 million in 2024-25. This is in addition to schools' allocations through the schools national funding formula.

For Mainstream Schools and Academies, the 2024-25 indicative allocation for Bury is £2.6 million. School-level allocations will be published in May 2024.

The funding rates consist of the following 3 elements, which are based on factors already in the schools national funding formula:

- a basic per-pupil rate (with different rates for primary, key stage 3 and key stage 4);
- a lump sum paid to all schools, regardless of pupil numbers;
- a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils.

Grant will be calculated by multiplying the relevant funding rates using data from the October 2023 census. The Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) will then be applied.

Maintained mainstream school budget statements issued in February will include an indicative allocation for this grant.

Factor	Unit Value
Per pupil Primary	£62
Per pupil Secondary KS3	£86
Per pupil Secondary KS4	£98
Lump Sum Primary & Secondary	£2,306
Per eligible FSM6 Primary	£53
Per eligible FSM6 Secondary	£77
Area Cost Adjustment	1.00567

Mainstream academies will receive a further allocation for the period April to August 2025.

Special schools will receive funding at £466 per place plus ACA. The indicative 2024-25 allocation for Bury is £297k. School-level allocations will be published in May 2024.

The TPAG will not continue as a separate grant in 2024-25 for early years as that funding has been rolled into the core Early Years DSG funding.

8 Teachers Pensions Increase from April 2024

The outcome of the valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme confirmed a need to increase the employer contribution rate. The rate has increased by 5% to 28.6% from 1st April 2024, to ensure that the Scheme continues to meet present and future obligations.

DfE has secured additional funding, to cover the increase in the employer contribution rate for directly funded scheme employers for the financial year 2024-25 to be distributed via a separate grant.

Details will be issued to Local Authorities in due course.

Early Years National Funding Formula 2024-25

Local Consultation Autumn 2023

1. Overview

We are seeking views on proposals regarding our approach to funding for early years entitlements from April 2024.

The free childcare offer will be extended so that eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks per year from the term after their child turns 9 months to when they start school.

- From April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks a year)
- From September 2024 this will be extended to parents of 9 month to 3-year-olds
- From September 2025 working parents of 9 month to 3-year-olds will be able to access 30 free hours per week (38 weeks a year).

2. Why your views matter

In light of the introduction of the new entitlements for working parents of children aged 9 months to 2-years, this consultation focuses on the way entitlements funding for 2-year-olds and under will be distributed by the Local Authority to Early Years Providers from April 2024, in addition to the approach for distributing the additional funding for the former teachers pay additional grant in the 3 & 4-year-old element.

3. Introduction

The early years block (EYB) of funding within the dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding framework is allocated to local authorities by application of the early years national funding formula (EYNFF) model.

The current EYNFF model is made up of four components:

- Basic funding entitlement; and
- Three deprivation factors (FSM, EAL and DLA)

The above are multiplied by the local area cost adjustment (ACA) factor applied to each Local Authority (LA) to reflect differential costs in different areas of the country. The LA is then required to determine and administer a local early year's single funding formula (EYSFF) model in line with statutory regulations to determine individual funding allocations to all settings (i.e. nursery schools, school nursery classes and private, voluntary and independent settings).

4. 2023-24

The Early Years Block grant for 2023-24

Universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds	£7,766,524
Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds	£4,110,961
2-year-old entitlement	£1,496,723
Early Years pupil premium	£147,238
Disability access fund	£86,112
Maintained nursery school supplement	£214,531
TOTAL	£13,822,089

The above figures are subject to adjustment by the government based on the annual census data each January.

In addition to the above, linked to the government's March 2023 budget announcement relating to "extension of the EY funding entitlements", the LA received additional funding via the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) from September 2023 to March 2024 which will be passported in full to providers.

The table below shows the hourly rates for each factor.

Factor	Hourly Base Rate APRIL 2023	2023-24 EYSG	Hourly Base Rate SEP 2023
3 & 4-Year-Olds	£4.57	£0.30	£4.87
2-Year-Olds	£5.62	£1.72	£7.34
MNS	£6.17	£0.35	£6.52
EYPP	£0.62	£0.04	£0.66

The LA has also received the Early Years Teachers Pay Additional Grant (EYTPAG) in November 2023. This has been fully passported to providers employing a qualified teacher (based on January 2023 Early Years census data).

5. 2024-25

The EYSG and EYTPAG funding provided from September 2023 will be rolled into the EYB NFF model to determine individual LA baseline DSG allocations from April 2024.

The initial Early Years Block grant for 2024-25

Universal entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds	£8,669,976
Additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds	£4,589,175
2-year-old disadvantaged entitlement	£2,021,752
2-year-old entitlement for working parents	£3,965,723
Under 2s entitlement	£2,733,537
Early Years pupil premium for 3 & 4-year-olds	£161,486
Early Years pupil premium for 2-year-olds	£87,575
Early Years pupil premium for under 2s	£4,380
Disability access fund for 3 & 4-year-olds	£123,760
Disability access fund for 2-year-olds	£32,760
Disability access fund for under 2s	£11,830
Maintained nursery school supplement	£252,431
TOTAL	<u>£22,654,385</u>

The above figures are subject to adjustment by the government based on the annual census data each January.

The key elements of the local consultation with all Early Years settings will focus on:

- Three and four year olds:
 - the level of any baseline funding increase;
 - The introduction of a quality supplement for providers employing a qualified teacher?
- 2 year old offer:
 - One single base rate for both cohort groups?
 - Deprivation supplement at same rate as current 3&4 years old funding model?
- Under 2s:
 - Deprivation supplement at same rate as current 3&4 years old funding model?

Note(s):

Any options/decisions applied to the universal 3 and 4-year-old funding model, will by default automatically apply to the extended 30hrs funding elements to ensure compliance with regulations.

The LA will continue to exercise its flexibility across all funding streams within the early years block for 2024-25 that permits the LA to retain up to the full 5% allowable to support central service activities and costs.

The LA will determine the base rates once outcomes of consultation are known, and calculation of any central funding retained up to the maximum 5% level permitted.

6 2024-25 LA Proposals / Consultation Questions

6a Local Early Years Funding (3 & 4-year-olds)

The below outlines the local funding model arrangements in place relating to the national 3 & 4-year-old funding provided to Bury from the DfE:

3 & 4-Year Olds	Hourly Rate APRIL 2023
Base rate	£4.57
Deprivation	£0.17
Centrally retained	£0.16
Total	£4.90

The LA proposes the following in relation to core funding rates:

- Maintain the deprivation supplement at the current rate;
- Increase the base rate for all providers in line with the increase in base rate funding provided by the DfE;
- Increase the base rate for all providers for the EYSG element after allowing for the 5% retention for LA central costs.

Q1: Do you support the LA proposals as outlined above? Yes / No

Do you have any other comments?

All providers in Bury currently receive the same base rate. Included in the formula for 2024-25 is a notional increase in respect of the EYTPAG.

The LA proposes two options for the distribution of this additional funding:

- a) Recognise the additional pressure of meeting the costs of the teachers' pay award by distributing the EYTPAG element as a supplement only to providers employing a qualified teacher (in accordance with annual census data);
- b) As all providers are facing significant cost pressures, maintain the same base rate for all providers by distributing the EYTPAG element as an increase to the base rate to maintain the same base rate for all providers thereby maintaining a simple local formula.

Q2: do you support option a) or option b) as detailed above:

Do you have any other comments?

6b Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS)

No LA proposals – any specific additional resource allocated for the MNS from DfE will be ring-fenced and added directly to the base rate funding from April 2024 as additional supplementary funding in line with current arrangements.

6c Two-Year-Old Funding

From April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of free childcare per week (38 weeks a year).

2-year-old funding will be provided to the LA at one base rate for both cohorts (working parents and disadvantaged).

LAs have the flexibility to either treat the two 2-year-old entitlements the same, with a single local 2-year-old formula, or to have separate local formulae for the two entitlements. The government is encouraging LAs to include a deprivation supplement in their local working parent formula, or if they have a single 2-year-old formula.

LA proposal:

Q3 Base rate of funding provided to settings for any 2YO children should be at same funding rate. Do you agree? Yes / No

Do you have any other comments?

Q4 LA funding model should provide additional targeted deprivation funding via a supplement at the same rate (i.e. £0.17 per hour) for any 2YO as per the current 3 & 4-year-old funding model? Do you agree Yes / No

Do you have any other comments?

6d Under 2s

The local funding formula model for the Under 2s cohort (from September 2024) should be in line with other funding stream models and as simple as possible (i.e. one base rate plus a deprivation supplement)

Q5 LA funding model should provide additional targeted deprivation funding via a supplement at the same rate (i.e. £0.17 per hour) as per the current 3 & 4-year-old funding model. Do you agree? Yes / No

Do you have any other comments?

7. Timeline

The consultation period will commence on Friday 22 December 2023 and close at 12pm on Friday 12 January 2024. This short timeframe will enable responses to be reported to Schools Forum on 15th January.

Please return your responses to A.Vidler@bury.gov.uk

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For Decision

Review of De-delegation of the Dedicated Schools Grant

For maintained mainstream schools only, the formula mechanism contains options for schools to choose to de-delegate an amount from their formula allocation to contribute to Local Authority services that work to support them. Academies can buy back into any of these services.

Schools' Forum (Maintained Mainstream only) is required to recommend the de-delegated items each year. A paper was presented at the last Schools' Forum meeting on 2 November 2023 which proposed to continue with the de-delegated items as in 2023/24, however members did not approve the recommendations and it was agreed to come back to a future meeting with some proposals on each of the areas included.

Free School Meals Benefits Checking (per FSM6)

This service is provided by the Revenue and Benefits team within the Local Authority and completes Free School Meals Benefits checks on behalf of maintained schools. The number of children who are entitled to Free School Meals has a direct correlation with the amount of Pupil Premium Grant and school budget deprivation funding that a school can be allocated, with a reduction in numbers meaning a reduction in grant and school budget funding received.

Recommendation 1 - Schools' Forum are asked to agree one of the options detailed below:

Option 1 – continue to provide de-delegation funding for this service at £5.51 per FSM6 (£5.25 in 2023/24).

Option 2 – Do not continue to provide de-delegation funding for the service which will result in the service no longer being provided.

Trade Union Facilities Time

The de-delegated funding for Trade Union Facilities funds the entitlement to time off for teacher trade union duties and activities.

Employees who are union representatives of a trade union recognised by their employer are entitled to reasonable time off, during working hours and without loss of pay, to carry out union duties and undergo relevant training.

Trade union duties include:

- negotiations with the employer, or other functions connected with the subjects of collective bargaining, such as terms and conditions, redundancy and dismissal arrangements;
- preparations for negotiations, including attending relevant meetings;
- informing members of progress and outcomes of negotiations;
- matters of discipline (e.g. accompanying employees to internal hearings); and
- attending training in aspects of industrial relations relevant to carrying out their trade union duties. This training must be approved by the Trades Union Congress or by the trade union of which he/she is an official.

In Local Authorities where the Schools' Forum has decided not to de-delegate funding, individual schools manage their own facility time budget. This allows flexibility: schools may choose to organise their own facility time arrangements, buy into local authority services or pool funding with other schools.

In Bury, currently 31 of the 33 academies buy into the local arrangements.

Without de-delegation, or a high level of buy-back from maintained schools and academies, it is possible that there would not be sufficient funds for a locally co-ordinated arrangement and schools may need to organise their own facility time arrangements.

Recommendation 2 - Schools' Forum are asked to agree one of the options detailed below:

Option 1 – continue to provide de-delegation funding for this service at £4.41 per pupil (£4.20 in 2023/24).

Option 2 – Do not continue to provide de-delegation funding for the service with schools managing their own facility time or choosing to buy into a traded service for the locally co-ordinated arrangement, if this remains viable.

Local Authority School Improvement

The way in which the Local Authority School Improvement service is funded has changed with the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage grant received from government removed, and the ability for de-delegation of funding to be used when approved by Schools' Forum.

This funding was agreed by Schools' Forum in 2023/24 and it is proposed to continue with this funding at a value of £15.75 per pupil for 2024/25 (£15.00 in 2023/24).

The funding provides for the following:

- 2 School Assurance Officers
- Headteacher mentoring programme
- Headteacher conferences (academy schools are charged)
- Contribution to Headspace programme
- Secondary School Improvement
- Universal Quality Assurance (QA) Visit

Academies do not benefit and are charged separately apart from the universal QA visit, however not all academies take this up.

Recommendation 3 - Schools' Forum are asked to agree one of the options detailed below:

Option 1 – continue to provide de-delegation funding for this service at £15.75 per pupil for 2024/25.

Option 2 – Do not continue to provide de-delegation funding for the service with maintained schools managing their own school improvement service by way of individual buy back with the Local Authority.

Schools Causing Concern

As a local authority, the service works within the "Schools Causing Concern" guidance (updated Jan 2024). This details schools that are eligible for intervention. In addition to this the Schools' Assurance Team use information from quality assurance visits to analyse where there is need.

Funds are then allocated to maintained schools to address specific needs. Early intervention is a key use of this fund for maintained schools.

Recommendation 4 - Schools' Forum are asked to agree one of the options detailed below:

Option 1 – continue to provide de-delegation funding for this service at £6.62 per pupil for 2024/25.

Option 2 - Do not continue to provide de-delegation funding for the service.

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