

SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information



Brief Description of Item (including the purpose / reason for presenting this for consideration by the Forum)

This report outlines the draft working principles that are being considered for the development of Bradford's formula funding arrangements for 2021/22.

Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum

These principles have not yet been considered specifically for 2021/22 but follow from principles established in the Forum's previous DSG decision making.

Background / Context

This report follows from Document LW (National Funding Formula). These principles are considered prior to the finalisation of the Authority's formal proposals for formula funding arrangements for 2021/22. The Authority expects consultation reports, for the Schools Block, Early Years Block and High Needs Block, to be presented to the Schools Forum at the next meeting, with these consultations being published immediately after. Following this timetable, responses to these consultations will be considered by the Forum at its December meeting. The Schools Forum will be required to make its final recommendations on 2021/22 DSG and formula funding arrangements at its January 2021 meeting.

As we set out in July 2020, we expect that our recent decisions and actions will influence and inform how we will respond to announcements concerning 2021/22 DSG and formula funding arrangements and changes. Locally, recently we have:

- Moved to mirror the DfE's National Funding Formula (NFF) for primary and secondary mainstream formula funding. We would expect to continue to mirror NFF in 2021/22.
- Identified how significant decisions about the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will be going forward for the formula allocations received by individual mainstream schools and academies, especially in the primary phase. This will be a key recommendation for the Forum for 2021/22. Forum Members will remember that we enhanced the value of our MFG in 2020/21 (by 0.5% to 2.34%). Forum Members are also reminded that a sum of £0.540m of primary-phase Schools Block headroom is carried over from 2020/21 and that this could be used to enhance the value of the MFG in 2021/22.
- Identified issues related to falling rolls and under-subscription. The Schools Forum has a sub-group to discuss these issues and has established a primary-phase Falling Rolls Fund in the Schools Block.
- Identified the funding of PFI (BSF) as an area to watch in the development of the Schools Block NFF.
- Introduced a new Banded Model for the funding of top up for EHCPs for schools and other providers.
- Reviewed and re-shaped responsibilities between the High Needs Block and schools in respect of alternative provision.
- Implemented a new Day-Rate funding mechanism for our PRUs.
- Used scope within other DSG Blocks to support high needs provision costs and to release some of the previous pressure on the High Needs Block. The enhanced High Needs Block settlement in 2020/21 (+17% per pupil) enabled the Authority to allocate funding both for the creation of additional specialist places as well as to substantially uplift the values of top up funding delegated to schools, academies and other settings in support of children and young people with EHCPs. Although we enacted a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019/20, of £2m, we did not repeat this transfer in 2020/21.
- Identified the significance going forward of approaches that will ensure the correct minimum level of SEND / AEN funding in schools in relation to the number of children with EHCPs and their element 2 (first £6k) commitments. We responded to the DfE's 'Call for Evidence' in July 2019.
- Identified the significance of the DfE's national SEND / EHCP review in respect of clarifying and resetting the funding of health services in schools.
- Within the Early Years Block, begun to reduce the proportion of our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement, with the intention to reduce this down by April 2022 to the average of our statistical neighbours, which is currently rounded at 6% (5.7%). The % will reduce to 7% in 2021/22. This is part of our strategy to maximise the values of the 2 year old and the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rates for all early years providers. Whilst fully passing onto providers the DfE's increase of our Early Years Block funding rates, we have also continued to deploy reserves (one off monies) to further uplift the value of the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate.
- Implemented a new Early Years Inclusion Fund supporting emerging SEND within the Early Years Block.
- Identified the significance of pending DfE decisions concerning the continuation or cessation of the Maintained Nursery School Supplement after 2020/21.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Each autumn the Local Authority, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, publishes 3 separate consultations on DSG management and formula funding arrangements for the following year:

- Schools Block – this consultation presents proposals for the formulae to be used to calculate budget shares for mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies, for the criteria to be applied in the allocation of the Growth Fund and the Falling Rolls Fund, and also asks for feedback from maintained schools on Schools Block de-delegated funds.
- Early Years Block – this consultation presents proposals for Bradford’s Early Years Single Funding Formula, which is used to allocate funding for the delivery of the 2, 3 and 4 year old entitlements.
- High Needs Block – this consultation presents proposals for Bradford’s Place-Plus funding system to be used to allocate High Needs Block funding, including top-up funding, to schools, academies and other providers.

As shown in Document LW, the development of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for the Schools and High Needs Blocks is critical to our medium to longer term DSG financial planning as well as to how we shape formula funding decisions for 2021/22.

The purposes of this report are to set out the principles that are being developed for formula funding and DSG Block management for 2021/22, to check with the Schools Forum that ‘we are on the right lines’ and to allow Forum members to provide feedback and direction in advance of more formal consultation documents being presented to the next meeting.

Forum Members are invited to attend a ‘Formula Funding Working Group’ session, on Tuesday 29 September (8am) or Wednesday 30 September (8am) or Tuesday 6 October (8am). These sessions will enable Forum Members to consider in more detail the impact of formula funding decisions and to explore and guide the proposals for 2021/22 that will be set out for consultation in October.

Members are also invited to attend an Early Years Working Group meeting to be held before the next Schools Forum meeting.

The Authority will continue to work with the District Achievement Partnership in our development / refinement of the High Needs Block EHCP Banded Model for 2021/22.

Early Years Block & the Early Years Single Funding Formula 2021/22

At the time of writing this report, the national Early Years Block arrangements for 2021/22, including the position of the funding of maintained nursery schools from September 2021, are still to be announced. This means that we cannot begin yet to formulate final plans for EYSFF arrangements. However, we can set out the principles we expect to follow and action we expect to take, where we are continuing to progress changes that began in 2020/21. We expect to discuss our proposals, in the light of the DfE’s guidance, with the reformed Early Years Working Group early in October.

We are currently developing our approach for 2021/22 on the basis that:

- As in the other DSG blocks, we will need to incorporate the transfer of the Teacher Pay Grant and the Teacher Pension Grant into main core early years formula funding for schools. We expect further guidance on this to be provided by the DfE. This may require an adjustment to funding rates or the addition of a new specific funding supplement.
- We are continuing to explore the introduction of a new single Bradford Provider Gateway for all providers to use to submit all their entitlement delivery information to the Authority. For schools and academies, this Gateway would replace the use of the DfE’s termly censuses. We aim to pilot this Gateway during 2021/22. However, there will be no technical changes to our operation of our Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) in 2021/22. This means that we will continue in 2021/22 our current termly headcount methodology (and 2nd headcount for the 2 year old offer). Although we do not propose to revisit for 2021/22 the option suggested previously to move to a monthly counting arrangement (a ‘starters and leavers’ approach), the introduction of a single Gateway for the collection of delivery information, will provide further opportunities for us to explore with providers the pros and cons of moving at a point in the future to a counting arrangement that is more sensitive to the movement of children and fluctuations in numbers during the year. We anticipate that changes in our EYSFF related to the new Gateway may be proposed within our consultation for the 2022/23 financial year.
- We aim to retain the current value of the contribution made by the Early Years Block to early years high needs activities (£0.318m in 2020/21), with this contribution only increasing for pay award / inflation.
- Regarding the Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund (EYIF):

Details of the Item for Consideration

- EYIF will continue to be fully funded from the Early Years Block.
- We will continue to apply the 2020/21 Inclusion Fund approach. Depending on the content of the DfE's Early Years Block and High Needs Block guidance, and what this says about changes to the value of element 2 (currently £6,000), we will review the hourly funding rate (currently £6.32).
- 2 year olds will continue to be eligible for EYIF with the cost of this continuing to be met from the 3&4 year old Early Years Block budget supported by one off monies (rather than by topslicing the 2 year old rate of funding that is passed through to providers).
- We expect to continue to seek to maximise the values of the 2 year old and 3&4 year old Universal Base Rates (UBRs). Recognising the financial pressure that has resulted from COVID-19, we will investigate with the Early Years Working Group the options that are available to enhance UBR funding in support of all providers in 2021/22. This may include our deployment of Early Years Block reserves.
- Regarding the 2 year old entitlement, providers in 2021/22 will continue to be funded on a single flat rate per hour with no additional supplements. This rate was £5.28 in 2020/21, which meant that 100% of the rate of funding the Authority receives from the DfE for the 2 year old entitlement, was passed through to providers. The DfE has not yet confirmed Bradford's rate of funding for 2 year olds in 2021/22 so we are not yet able to indicate by how much our funding rate might increase.
- Regarding funding the 3 & 4 year old entitlement, as stated above, we began in 2020/21 to reduce the proportion of our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF that is allocated via the Deprivation & SEND supplement, with the intention to reduce this down by April 2022 to the average of our statistical neighbours, which is currently rounded at 6% (5.7%). As per our stated plan, we expect to reduce from 8% to 7% in 2021/22. This is part of our strategy to maximise the values of the 3&4 year old Universal Base Rate for all early years providers. Alongside this:
 - We expect to continue to employ one off monies to help maximise the 3 & 4 Year Old Universal Base Rate (UBR). Our UBR in 2020/21 was £4.19. The DfE has not yet confirmed Bradford's rate of funding for 3&4 year olds in 2021/22 so we are not yet able to indicate by how much our funding rate might increase.
 - We will not to introduce any more supplements into our 3 & 4 year old EYSFF, unless required to do so to absorb the transfer of the Teacher Pay Grant and the Teacher Pension Grant. New supplements, other than for these grants, would dilute further both the Universal Base Rate and the Deprivation & SEND rates at a time when we see our priority to be to maximise the value of the UBR for all providers.
- We are currently still waiting for information on the position of the funding of maintained nursery schools, which is needed in order for us to consider and to develop a full formula funding response for the 2021/22 financial year. To date the DfE has announced the continuation of protection until the end of the 2020/21 academic year (to August 2021) and has indicated that further transitional arrangement might come into place after this. We anticipate being in a position to present a fuller picture for 2021/22, and a work-through of options and proposals, to the Forum in October.

High Needs Block

At the time of writing this report, although the NFF-level arrangements have been announced, the DfE's High Needs Block operational guidance for 2021/22 is still to be published, as are the outcomes of the DfE's 'Call for Evidence' and EHCP / SEND / AP system and funding reviews. On the one hand therefore, there may be changes for 2021/22 still to be announced within the High Needs Block and the national place-plus system that we will need to respond to. These changes might extend, for example, to amendments to the place-plus thresholds (the £4000, £6,000 and £10,000) and notional SEND arrangements. However, on the other hand, the DfE clearly is acting cautiously in the changes it is making to arrangements for 2021/22 across the DSG in the light of COVID-19. So we might expect the bigger changes that might come from wider review to be pushed back.

As set out in Document LW, on current estimates, our High Needs Block allocation in 2021/22 is expected to increase by £10.65m (an increase of 13.1% in cash terms but with c. £1.18m of this related to the transfer of the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants). This represents a continued (2nd year of) substantial increase in the funding available to us to meet high needs pressures. This growth, as in 2020/21, will be allocated to cover three main pressures a) growth in the cost of provision (from inflation and pay award) funded through the top-up, b) growth in the needs of pupils with EHCPs and in placement costs reflected by higher banding (and stacking) and c) continued expansion of high needs places capacity. How the increase will be allocated to these pressures will be further discussed with the Schools Forum across the autumn term.

Details of the Item for Consideration

We are currently developing our high needs funding formula approach for 2021/22 on the basis that:

- We have just introduced a new Banded Model for the funding of top up for EHCPs for schools and other providers. The focus of our review work for 2021/22 will be aimed at ensuring this new banded system, including the descriptors behind it, are fully embedded. We are working with the District Achievement Partnership on this. We do not expect to make significant technical construction changes to the Banded Model itself, unless these are directed by the DfE through its guidance or unless changes are required because the DfE adjusts the national £6,000 threshold. On a like for like basis, we do expect to uplift the Banded Model funding values at least in line with pay award / inflation. How the Model now works (in relation to the fixed £6,000 value) will mean that individual band points will increase by different percentages, but we expect to set a minimum percentage increase. We also expect to uplift the values within the PRU Day Rate funding model.
- We expect to consolidate the other changes to the funding model we implemented in 2020/21, including support funding for specialist equipment.
- We do not expect the High Needs Block to fund school-led Alternative Provision i.e. AP that is not related to permanent exclusion. The Forum is still to consider recommendations that may be put forward by the AP working group on how such provision could collectively be financed (within the Schools Block).
- As in the other DSG blocks, we will need to incorporate the transfer of the Teacher Pay Grant and the Teacher Pension Grant into High Needs Block formula funding. Further guidance from the DfE is to be published but, on current indications, we expect that these grants will continue to be allocated to special schools and AP providers separately from top-up funding.
- We will also need to incorporate the transferred Teacher Pension Grant funding into the High Needs Block's allocations for centrally managed services, including the LA-led resourced provisions and teaching support services. In this respect, there may continue to be some cross over with the Central Schools Service Block, and a transfer of funding between these two blocks. We also expect to increase the centrally managed High Needs Block budgets, including for the teaching support services budgets, at least for pay award / inflation on a par with the uplift in values within the Banded Model.
- We expect to continue unchanged the setting needs-led factors within our specialist setting model e.g. small setting protection, split sites, with the values of these uplifted for inflation where appropriate.
- Unless we are directed to do so by the DfE, we do not propose to amend our definition of notional SEND in 2021/22. We do expect that the DfE will provide further guidance and possible prescription for this definition at a point in the future. The benchmarking of APT data from 2020/21 continues to evidence how disparate local authority definitions of notional SEND currently are. We do not see merit in adjusting our definition now when it is highly likely that the DfE will soon prescribe one.
- We have previously taken the same view in respect of our SEND Funding Floor. However, as stated earlier in this report, and in the report to the Forum presented in July 2020:
 - We have identified the significance going forward of approaches that will ensure the correct minimum level of SEND / AEN funding in schools in relation to the number of children with EHCPs i.e. that primary and secondary schools and academies with higher proportions of pupils with EHCPs have sufficient resources to cover the cost of 'element 2' (currently £6,000) without this detracting (in a way that is disproportionate from the position found in other schools) from the amount of funding available to them for use in support of their wider SEND and AEN.
 - Our current SEND Floor arrangement was substantially affected by our movement to NFF at April 2018. Since then, the values of SEND Floor allocations received by individual primary and secondary schools and academies have been protected at 2017/18 cash levels. We have not progressed a review locally because we have anticipated that the DfE's national SEND and EHCP reviews would very likely result in a more prescriptive approach, possibly from April 2021. We did not see merit in adjusting our system for this to be immediately changed by a new national policy.
 - However, we are starting to see a greater number of issues being raised by schools and academies in respect of the sufficiency of their element 2 funding in relation to their numbers of EHCPs. These issues are expanding as the numbers of pupils with EHCPs continue to grow.
 - The status of the DfE's review is not confirmed. However, we feel it is appropriate to begin to more seriously consider our local review of the SEND Funding Floor, to ensure that it is fit for purpose from April 2021 should the DfE not prescribe a national methodology. We are beginning to develop an option for a new approach, which we would like to discuss with the Schools Forum within the FFWG meetings and then more formally in the next meeting, prior to wider consultation.

Details of the Item for Consideration

Central Schools Services Block

Our strategy in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) since April 2018 has been to use the headroom available within this block, present as a result of National Funding Formula gain, to support the financial position of the High Needs Block.

Whilst the cost of national copyright licencing, on behalf of all state funded primary & secondary schools and academies, is met from this block with this cost set by the DfE each year, in 2018/19 and 2019/20 we retained all other existing CSSB budgets at their previous values, without uplift for inflation, in order to maximise this headroom. We did increase CSSB budgets for inflation in 2020/21. We also added a new £15,000 allocation for SACRE.

We expect in 2021/22 to:

- Continue existing CSSB budgets and to uplift these for pay award and inflation. Forum Members should note that the increase in cost to the CSSB relating to copyright licences will be set by the DfE and is expected to be confirmed in December.
- Continue to apportion the copyright licencing cost for early years and high needs providers to their respective blocks, so that the CSSB only picks up the cost related to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies.
- Apportion the transferred Teacher Pension Grant monies, related to centrally employed teachers, across the relevant CSSB budgets. If the DfE adds into the CSSB the proportion of the grant that is related to centrally employed teachers within High Needs Block funded services, we will need to transfer these monies from the CSSB to the High Needs Block to make sure the funding is in the right block.
- Continue our policy of adding any net overall under-spending in CSSB budgets to the brought forward balance retained within the Schools Block at the end of the financial year, available for allocation to Schools Block expenditure.

On current estimates, we don't expect there to be a significant amount of CSSB headroom remaining for possible transfer to the High Needs Block. It is also evident that, due to the higher High Needs Block settlements in 2020/21 and 2021/22, it is less necessary to seek to transfer monies from the CSSB to meet high needs pressures.

Schools Block - Primary and Secondary Formula Funding

It is helpful to summarise briefly the key Schools Block decisions we have taken since the introduction of National Funding Formula (NFF) at April 2018.

1. In 2018/19, we replaced our local formula with the DfE's NFF, using this to calculate individual formula allocations for both primary and secondary phases. We also adopted a principle for the clearer 'earmarking' of primary-phase and secondary-phase funding within the Schools Block i.e. we sought to spend primary Schools Block resource on the primary phase and secondary on the secondary phase. We have continued this mirroring policy in 2019/20 and 2020/21, adopting all incremental changes in the NFF construction and uplifts in formula variable values.
2. We have retained unchanged our existing local approaches in the areas of formula funding that NFF does not yet cover. These are:
 - a. Business rates (actual cost).
 - b. Split sites.
 - c. PFI (Building Schools for the Future).
 - d. Growth Funding (at individual school level)
 - e. The definition of Notional SEND.
 - f. The SEND Funding Floor
3. The DfE established a new pupil mobility NFF factor in 2020/21, which we adopted in full for the secondary phase. For the primary phase, whilst we adopted the new methodology, we did not fully adopt the reduced NFF variable value (but we reduced towards it), with the intention that we would move to the NFF variable in 2021/22.
4. We set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (protecting individual schools and academies year on year):
 - a. 2018/19 at positive 0.4% per pupil
 - b. 2019/20 at 0% per pupil
 - c. 2020/21 at positive 2.34% per pupil (we applied to the Secretary of State to do this)

Details of the Item for Consideration

1. In 2018/19, we retained a ceiling (capping gains for individual schools year on year) at positive 3.0% per pupil. However, we removed this ceiling in 2019/20 and did not apply one in 2020/21.
2. In 2018/19, we established the DfE's new minimum level of per pupil funding factor (MFL) at the full phase values of £3,500 (primary) and £4,800 (secondary). At this time, and in 2019/20, these were optional minimums. In 2020/21, however, these minimums were uplifted to £3,750 for primary and £5,000 for secondary, and became mandatory.
3. We established a Falling Rolls Fund in 2019/20 and have continued to have this in place in 2020/21.
4. We did not transfer any monies from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2018/19. This was primarily because we transferred a significant amount (£5.7m) in 2017/18, which was then 'locked in' to our DSG block allocation going forward. We did transfer £2m (0.48%) in 2019/20 but we did not transfer any monies in 2020/21. In setting the MFG at 2.34% in 2020/21, which was 0.5% higher than permitted under the normal regulations, our intention was to 'give back' the 2019/20 transfer.

The combination of our transfers from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, our mirroring of the DfE's NFF, and the DfE's mandatory minimums, has created the following landscape in Bradford in 2020/21:

- Primary phase: 121 out of 156 schools (78%), including academies, were funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 2.34%) at a total value of £6.00m. 25 (16%) schools were funded at the £3,750 minimum level, receiving £1.91m in total via this factor. All other schools were funded above £3,750 per pupil.
- Secondary phase: 11 out of 31 schools (35%), including academies, were funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 2.34%) at a total value of £1.37m. 3 schools were funded at the £5,000 minimum level, receiving £0.71m in total via this factor. All other schools were funded above £5,000 per pupil.
- All through schools: 1 out of the 4 academies (25%) was funded on the Minimum Funding Guarantee (at 2.34%) at a total value of £0.21m. All of these academies were funded above the £4,271 minimum level.

From these summary statistics, it is easy to see how important decisions regarding the Minimum Funding Guarantee will be, especially for the primary phase, in 2021/22.

As stated in Document LW, there are two main amendments to the Schools Block NFF announced so far that are applicable to Bradford for 2021/22. These are:

- The transfer of the Teacher Pay and Teacher Pension Grants into the DSG. This means that formula funding arrangements within the Schools Block will need to respond to continue to allocate this funding. This is done in 3 ways by a) increasing the NFF base rate per pupil (the AWPU rate – please see Document LW Appendix 2), b) increasing the minimum levels of per pupil funding and c) adding 2020/21 actual grant allocations to the MFG baselines for each school and academy so that previous grant allocations continue to be protected through the MFG, where necessary.
- The update of the IDACI data for 2019. The DfE has absorbed this change in the NFF by amending the IDACI banding and the variable values attached to each band. Individual school and academy allocations will automatically be adjusted in the light of this without any additional 'local' action.

However, apart from these changes, there is significant technical continuity:

- The construct of the NFF is basically the same as it was in 2020/21 and the values of NFF variables (excluding the AWPU base rate and IDACI, which are adjusting differently) have been uplifted using the same basic approach, albeit that the uplifts in 2021/22 range between 2.2% - 3.3%, depending on the formula factor and the impact of the ESFA's rounding to the nearest £5, rather than ranging between 3% and 4% as in 2020/21.
- The factors that were not included in NFF are still not included in 2021/22 e.g. split sites, PFI.
- The minimum levels of per pupil funding remain mandatory, uplifted to £4,180 (primary) and to £5,415 (secondary).
- Authorities continue to have scope to set the MFG within a prescribed range, which is between 0.5% and 2.0%.

Details of the Item for Consideration

- The controlling framework for other Schools Block matters, including de-delegation from maintained schools, the Growth Fund and the Falling Rolls Fund, is unchanged. Authorities also continue to be permitted to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2021/22 with the approval of the Schools Forum, albeit that the 0.5% now must exclude the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants that have been transferred in.

The DfE has specifically stated that the changes in 2021/22 to incorporate the transfer of the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grants, and the new updated IDACI data, do not in themselves require local consultation. The per pupil minimum funding levels remain mandatory and therefore, are also not subject to local decision.

So there are 5, probably rather straightforward, decisions that we need to take on Bradford's 2021/22 Schools Block mainstream primary and secondary funding formula arrangements. These are:

1. Whether we continue to closely mirror the DfE's NFF, as we have done since April 2018. (Yes).
2. Whether we continue our existing local approaches to the factors not yet covered by the NFF. (Yes).
3. Whether we transfer budget from Schools Block to the High Needs Block and, if we do, the value of this transfer. (*We did not put forward a proposal for transfer in 2020/21 and, in the context of our High Needs Block settlement, we do not anticipate proposing a transfer in 2021/22*).
4. The value of Minimum Funding Guarantee. (*We would seek to set this at the highest value that is possible and affordable (likely 2.0%)*).
5. Whether we retain, with their existing criteria and methodologies, the funds currently managed centrally within the Schools Block. (Yes).
 - a. Growth Fund
 - b. Falling Rolls Fund (primary phase)
 - c. Funds de-delegated from maintained primary and secondary schools

We would add to this:

- Forum members will recall that a sum of £0.540m is carried over from the primary phase £GUF funding not spent in 2020/21. This should be allocated, on a one off basis, within the 2021/22 DSG decisions round. The Forum will be asked to consider how it wishes to use this balance.
- The Forum is still to conclude its discussions on whether and how the DSG can / should support undersubscribed schools not covered by the Falling Rolls Fund. These discussions may have implications for both the Falling Rolls Fund and for de-delegated funds related to Schools in Financial Difficulty / Exceptional Circumstances.
- The Forum is still to consider recommendations that may be put forward by the AP working group on how school-led AP could collectively be financed (within the Schools Block).
- The Authority is currently looking at an amendment to the timetable used for the calculation of funding adjustments following permanent exclusion in an academy setting. We are minded to wrap any final proposals on this into the Schools Block consultation this autumn.
- The Forum has previously agreed to closely monitor developments within the NFF in respect of PFI (BSF) funding. The Forum may wish to further discuss this in relation to our 2021/22 formula funding arrangements.

Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)

As set out in the report (this is an item for information)

Recommendations

- (1) The Schools Forum is asked to consider the working principles.
- (2) Members are invited to attend a 'Formula Funding Working Group' session.
- (3) Members are invited to attend an Early Years Working Group meeting.
- (4) Members asked to discuss how best to communicate as early as possible this term with schools and other providers, and collect feedback, about arrangements for 2021/22 (in advance of more formal consultation beginning in October).

List of Supporting Appendices / Papers (where applicable)

None

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