



Sheffield Schools Forum February 2022 Executive Summary of Decisions

Integrated Resources (IR) Funding Arrangements

The Forum approved the implementation of the revised funding formula from April 2022:

- The current model has not been reviewed for some time, is difficult to understand and requires alignment with national expectations.
- The proposed, simplified model allocates £10k base funding from the High Needs Block, plus average pupil funding top-up from Schools Block. It would amount to an increase of £1,200 per place in 2022/23.
- The number of places to be funded each year will be agreed by Sheffield City Council (SCC) with the school or academy. Any additional placements will be funded outside the annual funding process through the SEND Growth funding allocation.

Funded Early Learning (FEL)

Rate and Allocation 2022/23

- We expect to receive an increase of £1.1m in 2022/23 (the final allocation will be confirmed in July 2023).
- The Forum agreed to pass through 100% of the additional allocation to providers by increasing the funding for 2-year-olds by an additional 21p per hour to £5.31 per hour, and an additional 17p per hour for 3&4-year-olds, increasing the base rate to £4.43.
- Sheffield is expected to receive an additional £26k funding for our two maintained nursery schools.
- An additional £24 per pupil is payable to public sector employers via the Early Years Schools Supplementary Grant.
- The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) rate has increased by 7p per eligible pupil hour from 53p to 60p.
- The Disability Access Fund (DAF) for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance can attract £800 per pupil per annum – an increase of £185. Providers are encouraged to ensure take-up of this funding for eligible children.

Early Years Investment Funding

The Forum agreed to distribute a £500k contingency fund and £544k (from a positive variation in the 2020/21 final year outturn) to providers as soon as possible to help ease pressure on the sector.

School Improvement Grant

- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is proceeding with reducing the local authority School Improvement Grant by 50% in 2022/23 and by 100% in 2023/24.
- SCC recently launched a consultation to seek views from maintained schools on how best to mitigate this reduction.

- Based on the outcome of the consultation (75% of the respondents agreed with option 3), maintained school representatives on the Forum voted for option 3: restructure the commission and de-delegate to August 2023, followed by a traded model.
- Learn Sheffield worked with SCC to develop the options and feels that this option is the lowest cost option to schools as well as providing stability for Learn Sheffield.

School Budgets 2022/23

- The Forum approved the 2022/23 budget for primary and secondary schools set at £395.9m (the principles and approach used to calculate the school budgets can be found in paper 5b):
- In comparison to 2021/22 Sheffield has received an increase of £13.2m Schools Block (£2.7m was due to an increase in pupil numbers).
- We will receive an additional £12m Supplementary Fund Grant to support the Health and Social Care Levy, plus other cost pressures which will be provided as grant funding in 2022/23 and rolled into the base funding from 2023/24.
- The increase in funding equates to 5% for primary and 5.9% for secondary.
- Local authorities are still being encouraged to move towards the NFF.
- Growth funding is £2.29m with 1.61 available for in-year growth.
- Sheffield has now introduced the Sparsity factor with two primary schools benefiting from a total of £20k.
- No changes to de-delegation are being proposed.
- Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) - a reduction of £759k has been applied to historic commitments in 2022/23.

High Needs Block Funding Allocation 2022/23

- The Forum noted the overall High Needs Block funding arrangements, including the resource allocation of £39.8m for 2022/23.
- There continues to be an increase in demand for places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- There is a £12m increase in allocation, but we still have a legacy shortfall of £3.3m funding.
- The Supplementary Grant of £3.29m is not separate funding – it is being distributed as part of the overall funding allocation.
- Funding for special schools is being increased by £994 per place – an average of 5%.
- Places have increased by 168 which equates to an additional £4.5m.
- Integrated resources (IR) funding will increase by £0.9m as per the revised funding model.
- A provision of £4m has been identified to fund additional specialist places in pre and post-16 provision.
- An allocation of £2.3m has been made for post-16 provision delivered through Longley Park, Sheffield College and Sheaf Training.
- Investment in the Locality model is being increased by £1.5m.
- The budget for Sheffield Inclusion Centre (SIC) is being increased in line with special schools by 5% per place and we will continue to commission 250 places (this will be reviewed at the June Forum).

School Balances

- Maintained schools held a surplus balance of £16m as at March 2021 and academies held £36m as at August 2020. This total equates to approximately 12.5% of school budgets.
- Further work has been undertaken to review the balances and spending plans of the 10 schools with the highest balances. Some schools have committed to undertake building work which has been delayed, but there are still substantial balances remaining.
- The agreed next steps include further analysis around site costs, site visits and regular monitoring.

SEND Top-up Funding

Locality Funding Review

- A review is in progress regarding how SEND Element 3 funding is allocated to ensure that plans are appropriately resourced to meet children's needs in mainstream and to ensure that we meet our statutory duties.
- A multi-agency group has been established to steer and guide the review.
- Officers are currently attending locality meetings and a full consultation will be held over the summer.
- Various funding models are being considered, with a view to implement by September 2022.

Exclusion Prevention Fund – Impact and Delivery Report

The Forum was updated on the impact of work funded by the previous £1.5m transfer to the High Needs Block:

- Case studies and feedback are included in paper 8b to highlight the impact as well as next steps, including a regular review/commissioning cycle.
- The funding has enabled us to set up the infrastructure, provide staff training and invest in a number of direct interventions.

Rates Bills

Schools are reminded not to pay rates bills directly as of April 2022 and to cancel any direct debits after the final payment for this year. For further details, please refer to section 2.1.1 of Schools Forum paper 5b.

All Forum papers and other meeting information is available to download at

www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolsforum

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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