

To Members of the Schools Forum

Commercial Services Directorate

Schools Finance Team
Level 13, Civic Centre
West Street, Oldham OL1 1XJ

Tel: 0161 770 4058
Fax: 0161 770 4077

Dear Colleague

Re: SCHOOLS FORUM

Please find attached the agenda and papers for the next meeting of the Schools Forum, to be held at **5.30pm** on Wednesday 13 March 2019 in Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham. Tea and Coffee will be available. On arrival can colleagues report to Rochdale Road reception where there will be someone available to show you to the meeting venue.

Car parking passes will be available as usual from Rochdale Road reception.

If you are unable to attend this meeting could you please send your apologies to Vicky Gibbons 0161 770 1104 or email to Vicky.Gibbons@oldham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Samantha Smith

Senior Finance Manager

Agenda

SCHOOLS FORUM - PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION RE HIGH NEEDS SPENDING

Wednesday 13th March 2019 5.30pm
Lees Suite

	<u>Approx duration</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Papers</u>
1 Welcome and Apologies Apologies/Declarations of Interest		Chair	-
2 Minutes and Matters Arising Minutes of meeting held on 17 th January 2019	10 mins	Chair	Attached
3 Introduction – setting the context of the workshop	5 mins	Andrew Sutherland	
4 Presentation/Discussion	45 mins	Social Finance	
5 Facilitated review of High Needs budget reductions options and decisions on priorities from the High Needs Block	30 mins	Social Finance	
6 Any other Business			

Any other business – Must be notified to Liz Caygill @ liz.caygill@oldham.gov.uk or on telephone 0161 770 1012 24 hours before the meeting

- 1.3 Members were requested to declare any business, pecuniary and personal interests. No declarations were made.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3 2018-19 DSG UPDATE AND 2019-20

Ms Liz Caygill gave members an update on the 2019-20 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and explained the changes in the actual 2018-19 budget.

Main points referred to:

- 3.1 The DSG settlement for 2019-20 of £245.086m was received on 17 December 2018. The DSG comprises four funding blocks which are:
- 3.1.1 The schools block totalling £190.488m, is allocated based on the National Funding Formula (NFF) plus funding for premises, mobility and growth. The primary unit of funding per pupil (PUF) is £4,201.57, and the secondary unit (SUF) is £5,306.58. The unit of funding is multiplied by the number of pupils based on 2018-19 numbers. The number of pupils in the primary sector has increased by 53 and in the secondary sector by 351.
- 3.1.2 The provisional notional Early Years Block funding is £18.76m and is based on the January 2018 census numbers. The funding will be adjusted following the July 2019 census, and will be finalised in July 2020. The Early Years rates of funding are unchanged at £4.35 per pupil. In addition, there is £4m of funding for two-year olds which will be updated in July 2019. The Early Years Pupil Premium and Early Years Disability Access Fund are £225,000 and £87,000 respectively.
- 3.1.3 The High Needs Block provisional total allocation is £32.839m which is partly based on the population of Oldham multiplied by a per head rate, whose increase is capped at 6.09%, and added to this is hospital education funding. This is then adjusted for the number of high needs pupils coming in and going of the authority. Oldham is a net importer and receives

an additional £56,000 which is included in the allocation. The authority was informed on 17 December 2018 that it would receive additional funding of £622,000 for 2018-19 for cost pressures. The factors that determine the high needs allocation are population, health and disability, low attainment and deprivation in the following split 50%, 15%, 15% and 20%. The historical spending is based on the August 2017 spend of £29.919m, which is then reduced for resourced places (transferred to the Schools Block), special basic entitlement, hospital education and baseline hospital education.

Challenge: A member asked when the cap on gains to the budget would cease. Ms Caygill responded that she was not aware that a date had been set, but that the additional funding of £622,000 covered the shortfall.

- 3.1. The Central School Services block is confirmed at £2.999m.
4 This budget covers historical commitments and the retained duties of the Education Services Grant. The allocation is based on £33.57 per pupil, multiplied by the number of pupils at October 2018 (39,920), plus £1.658m for historic commitments
- 3.1 Ms Caygill summarized the changes in that the forecast deficit
5 for 2018-19 is now £3.9m, this has decreased by £745,000 mainly due to the £622,000 being allocated to the DSG. Ms Caygill warned that there may be additional pressures from the Special Schools of an estimated £125,000. The estimated deficit for 2019-20 is £4.0m; but there is an increase of £2.2m for schools for additional pupils, and £164,000 for schools for high needs services. There has been a decrease in the budget for statements and resourced places of £500,000.

In the Schools Block the existing formula is being used, moving towards the NFF values, with a minimum funding guarantee of 0.1% and 0.84% being moved to the High Needs Block.

Challenge: A member asked if officers had considered if there was still a need to transfer the 1% to the High Needs Block as there was additional funding being received. Ms Caygill replied that it had been considered, but that there are still significant needs in the High Needs Block and there is still a need to work on a recovery plan. Mr Andrew Sutherland added that the recovery plan should be ready to be consulted on by March 2019 and it is hoped that the budgets would enable a move towards a situation where schools would not be

contributing the 1% to the High Needs Block. Members were also asked to note that some of the High Needs Block funding is allocated to mainstream schools.

Challenge: A member expressed concern that if the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) top-ups are to be reduced from September 2019, as has been suggested, then schools need to know exactly what the funding would be for the pupils with EHCPs prior to the start of the new academic year so that support staff can be employed or deployed to meet the pupils' needs. Mr Sutherland responded that the medium-term strategy is to support pupils, where possible, in mainstream schools, but this involves a culture change across the services.

Ms Caygill proposed that the movement between the Schools and High Needs block be reduced by a value of half of the £622,000 in the 2019-20 budget. The proposed movement between the Schools Block and the High Needs Block would therefore be £1.594m rather than £1.9m or 0.84%.

- 3.1. The change in the funding formula allocation between 2018-19
6 and 2019-20 totals £3.1m which will all be passported to schools.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that members note the settlement of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20; and
- (ii) that members approve the deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2019-20.

- 3.2 The Central Schools Services Block for 2019-20 was presented to the Schools Forum for confirmation. The local authority requests that the Schools Forum confirm the retention of £2.276m, a reduction of £17,000. The main change is the reduction in the spending on school transport. The Education Services Grant spending is included in the Central Schools Services Block.

Ms Caygill itemised the spending in the Central Schools Services Block, which includes funding for ICT Strategy of £125,000.

Challenge: A member asked about the use of the ICT Strategy money as schools are also separately billed for ongoing ICT work in schools. Ms Caygill was unable to respond immediately to the query but agreed that she would find out the details and respond to the

Schools Forum.

ACTION: Ms Caygill

RESOLVED: (iii) that members approve the allocation for each service area, **except ICT Strategy**, of £2.276m funding from the Central Schools Service Block; and

(iv) that members approve the retention of £571,211 retained duties funding in the Central Schools Block.

- 3.3 Members from maintained schools were consulted on the de-delegated funding. The primary representatives requested that the information about de-delegated functions be circulated earlier so that schools have sufficient time to consider the costs and functions.

ACTION: Ms Caygill

RESOLVED: (v) that members of the maintained Primary sector approve the de-delegation of School Improvement and under performing schools, Teacher Union Duties and Insurance for 2019-20; and

(vi) that members of the maintained Secondary sector approve the de-delegation of Teacher Union Duties and Insurance.

- 3.4 The Growth Funding allocations are as presented to the Schools Forum at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: that members approve the Growth Funding of £960,000 for 2019-20.

- 3.5 In summary, Ms Caygill noted that the surplus of £38,000 in the Schools Block is to go towards the deficit and the remainder is passported directly to schools.

RESOLVED: (vii) that members note the 2019-20 budget which shows the projected DSG deficit which requires urgent and significant recovery action; **but also request that the recovery plan, informed by the Social Finance Report, is available and decisions made on the actions, which directly affect schools' budgets are made prior to the end of the current financial year if they are to be**

implemented in September 2019;

(viii) that members note that a recovery plan must be prepared that will look to bring the overall DSG into balance within a maximum of three years; and

(ix) that members note that given the current position, Oldham will be required to submit a report to the DfE outlining the DSG recovery plan and the action proposed within the report should ensure DfE requirements are satisfied.

4 EARLY HELP CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr Bruce Penhale and Ms Debbie Holland presented a briefing paper on the Early Help Service.

Main points referred to:

- 4.1 The cost of the service is £3.4m per year, with approximately £1.9m from a range of services, £1.1m directly from the local authority and £350,000 from the DSG.
- 4.2 The year on year referral rates are increasing, and schools are the second highest for the number of referrals. There has been a fall in the number of referrals for Early Years pupils. When families are referred to the service, they may not have been able to access services like Healthy Young Minds, but when referred they are provided with help for their issues.
- 4.3 The service is developing and now have a team of ten workers who are able to work in the community, and with schools. The team works alongside other services and is moving to work with the Children's Social Care team. A common referral form is being developed for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Social Care Team.
- 4.4 The service is reacting to the Public Service Reforms in Greater Manchester and is adopting the Stockport Family Model of working in clusters.
- 4.5 **Challenge:** A member asked if the Police contributed to the running costs of the service. Mr Penhale replied that there was no financial contribution, but that there are 14 police officers within the MASH.
- 4.6 **Challenge:** A member requested that a summary of the impact of

the service is provided to members so that the evidence can be assessed. Members also agreed that the service played a valuable role in dealing with issues arising with pupils in schools, enabling schools to concentrate on teaching and learning.

RESOLVED: that members of the Schools Forum approve the contribution of £350,000 from the DSG to the Early Help Service.

6 **FORWARD PLAN**

The proposed agenda items for future Schools Forum meeting were provided to members.

The proposed dates of future meetings are Wednesday 13 March, 15 May, 11 September, 27 November 2019 and 15 January 2020.

(There being no further business, members were thanked for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 19.16pm).

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____