



Sefton Schools Forum Report

Date of Meeting:	1st July 2019
Title of Report:	DSG Central Schools Services; Growth Funding 2019/20
Presenting Officer:	Mike McSorley/Kevin McBlain
Reason for Submission to Forum:	(1) ITEMS FOR APPROVAL & (4) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
Executive Summary:	<p>The 2019/20 DSG settlement included £0.577m for Pupil Growth Funding. Schools Forum agreed to increase the central Growth Funding contingency from £0.150m to £0.350m in 2019/20. The rest of the growth funding was delegated out to all schools through the formula funding model to support ongoing pressures within the education system in 2019/20.</p> <p>This current growth funding contingency is used to support Infant Class Size legislation and also expanding schools. However, the funding legislation allows Schools Forum to make provision from the central Growth Funding contingency to provide in-year support to schools with significant pupil increases if they wish.</p> <p>As schools are funded for the financial year based on the previous October census, there are occasions where some schools have seen a significant increase in pupil the following October census. In these circumstances schools have had to meet in-year increases to running costs without any additional funding until the following April settlement.</p>
Budget/Risk Implications:	None
Recommendations :	<p>The Schools Forum is asked to note/ and or agree the following recommendations:</p> <p><u>ITEMS FOR NOTING BY SCHOOLS FORUM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the decision taken at the 14th January 2019 Schools Forum meeting, by unanimous vote of all Members to increase the central Growth Funding contingency to £0.350m to meet basic need provision in 2019/20. <p><u>ITEMS REQUIRING A VOTE OF FORUM REPRESENTATIVES AS NECESSARY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree by a vote, the additional support to schools facing significant increases in pupil numbers being funded from any residual growth funding contingency based on the criteria described in Para 3.2 (ALL Schools to vote)

Appendices (to be attached)	None
Background Papers (available on request)	DSG Funding Allocation Report 2019/20 – 14 January 2019
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SCHOOLS' FORUM POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (DfE can adjudicate where Forum does not agree LA proposal)
- 2 ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION (Forum provides a view on LA proposal but LA decides)
- 3 ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION (Forum provides a view on LA proposal but DfE decides)
- 4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (No formal view of the Forum is sought)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Local authorities are permitted to continue to hold a growth fund contingency from the DSG in advance of allocating school budget shares. The growth fund is ring fenced so that it only used for the purpose of supporting growth in pupil numbers to meet basic need and to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation. It can only be used for this purpose and there must be clear criteria, approved by Forum to identify the circumstances upon which payments are made.
- 1.2 This funding is used to bridge the September-April gap between the additional children arriving on roll in the September and the Pupil Led funding catching up with the new census data in April. This funding is deducted from the DSG as a whole to reduce its impact on budgets overall.
- 1.3 As part of the Schools Block allocations for 2019/20, the DfE have adopted a new method of allocating Pupil Growth funding, based on actual movement of pupils between the last two years, and using the data from the October 2018 school Census, rather than on a historic funding basis. This change has seen Sefton's funding increase by £0.577m in 2019/20.
- 1.4 The DfE are not prescriptive as to whether all this funding should be managed centrally towards pupil growth, or whether a smaller figure is set aside. This is a decision taken between each Local Authorities in conjunction with their Schools and Schools Forum.
- 1.5 The Local Authority is already supporting a number of schools who have been asked to increase their PAN to support additional population bulges within the borough. The implementation of the Sefton Local Plan is now underway and as a result there is a need to increase school places in specific areas to support increasing pupil population numbers.
- 1.6 The Local Authority therefore recommended that Schools Forum agree to increase the current growth funding contingency by £0.200m (from £0.150m to £0.350m) when setting the 2019/20 School Block allocation. The additional £0.377m growth funding was delegated to schools through the local formula funding to support ongoing pressures within the education system.

Regulation 9(7) requires local authorities to put any unspent money from the growth and infant class size funds back into the individual schools' budget, so that it is recycled to schools. As this is fully utilized in 2018/19 nothing was included in the schools formula for 2019/20.

2.0 Current Growth funding criteria

2.1 Infant Class Size Funding

Infant Class Size funding is allocated to schools following an application process in the Spring term. Funding is allocated for the salary cost of: 1 fte teacher (M5) for the period September to March and the cost of up to 0.5fte learning assistant (level 2) plus £5,000 to support additional equipment/teaching resources.

2.2 Expanding Schools

This funding relates to basic need provision.

Additional funding will be made available to schools and academies in circumstances where there is an increase in the school's PAN as a result of a formal consultation process by the Council.

Allocated funding will generally be in respect of the period September to March. Where the increase in the school's PAN results in the need for an additional class, the funding allocated will be equivalent to the cost of 1 fte teacher (M5) for the period September to March and where necessary, the cost of up to 0.5fte learning assistant (level 2) plus £5,000 to support additional equipment/teaching resources.

2.2 Exceptional Pupil Growth funding will be provided to a primary school where:

- (a) the Council agree that exceeding PAN (temporarily) or increasing the PAN (permanently) is necessary to meet population growth (not simply popularity growth or one school's desire to increase capacity);
- (b) The Council agree that the creation of an additional class is necessary and is directly related to exceeding PAN;
- (c) The class is additional if it requires a change in the school's current or historical class organisation or number of classes;
- (d) Schools that have historically operated mixed age classes or have a PAN in a multiple of 15 would be normally expected to operate some mixed-age classes. (The growth funding cannot be used only to reduce class sizes.)
- (e) A school's compulsory school-age range is increased the additional classes created would be funded. (e.g. when an infant school is converted into a primary school, it would be funded for each additional junior class created.
- (f) Funding would be provided only for the first academic year that an additional class is created.
- (g) Where one additional class was needed in an area but agreement cannot be reached to fund one school, the funding allocation may be split between two or more schools.
- (h) Schools must comply with the infant class size legislation (and any school funded would not also receive separate infant class size funding).

Growth fund will apply to primary academies on an academic year basis

Schools funded by this method will not be eligible to receive class sizes of 30 funding or significant increases in pupil numbers funding

3. Supporting schools with significant increases in Pupil Numbers

- 3.1 The Local Authority has received requests for support from schools facing financial challenges due to significant increases in pupil numbers. Members will be aware that schools are funded for the financial year based on the previous October census. There are occasions where some schools have seen a significant increase in pupil by the following October census and in these circumstances schools have had to meet in-year increases to running costs without any additional funding until the following April funding settlement.
- 3.2 It is proposed that any residual growth funding available after allocating out funding for Infant Class Size Funding and expanding schools is used to support schools with significant increases in pupil numbers using the following criteria:

Significant Increases in Pupil Numbers

This funding relates to basic need provision.

Schools are funded for the financial year based on the previous October census. If a school's pupil numbers have increased significantly by the following October census, funding will be awarded from September – March based on £2,746.99 per primary school age pupil and £3,862.65 per secondary school age pupil (new NFF per pupil funding allocations) on a pro-rata basis. This may need to be scaled down depending on the number of children who attract this funding.

Schools are entitled to funding if their numbers increase by more than 10 for primary schools, or 20 for secondary schools or if there is an overall increase of at least 10% in a school's pupil numbers. Schools will only receive funding for any pupils over and above the stated thresholds.

Growth fund for 'significant increases in pupil numbers' will be allocated to schools who have had a large increase in total pupil numbers from the previous October headcount compared to the current October headcount. The additional pupils will be funded for 7 months in the current financial year.

If schools have received any other funding for pupil growth this will be captured when calculating significant increases in pupil numbers funding to ensure that schools are not funded twice

- 3.3 A review of the current school population information showed that if this amendment to the growth funding was in operation in 2018/19, then 5 primary schools and 7 secondary schools would have received additional support using the above criteria and it would have cost circa £0.255m without any scaling factor being administered.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Schools Forum is asked to note/ and or agree the following recommendations:

ITEMS FOR NOTING BY SCHOOLS FORUM

- Note the decision taken at the 14th January 2019 Schools Forum meeting, by unanimous vote of all Members to increase the central Growth Funding contingency to £0.350m to meet basic need provision in 2019/20.

ITEMS REQUIRING A VOTE OF FORUM REPRESENTATIVES AS NECESSARY

- **To agree by a vote**, the additional support to schools facing significant increases in pupil numbers being funded from any residual growth funding contingency based on the criteria described in **Para 3.2 above** (**ALL Schools to vote**)