

# Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 15 January 2025

3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Remote Meeting

Via MS Teams invite

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## Date of next programmed WSF meeting

To be agreed - remote meeting via MS Teams

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## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF)**

**Wednesday 11 December 2024**  
**Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams**

**The meeting started at 2.30 PM.**

### **In Attendance:**

#### **a. WSF Members**

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Edward Francis (Vice Chair) [EF] | - Headteacher Fort Royal Special School |
| Elizabeth Dixon                  | - Headteacher Franche Primary           |
| Malcolm Richards (Chair) [MR]    | - Governor, Bromsgrove                  |
| Marie Pearse [MP]                | - Headteacher Evesham Nursery School    |
| Phil Hanson [PH]                 | - Headteacher Pershore High School      |
| Vivek Shah [VS]                  | - Nursery Owner                         |

#### **b. Local Authority (LA)**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Daniela Carson     | - Assistant Director for All Age Disability (0 – 25) – Worcestershire County Council         |
| Nicky Burford      | - Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency and Improvement Lead – Worcestershire County Council |
| Phil Rook          | - Chief Financial Officer, Worcestershire County Council                                     |
| Rob Phillips [RP]  | - Finance Business Partner - Schools - Worcestershire County Council                         |
| Sarah Wilkins [SW] | - Assistant Director Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning              |

### **1. Apologies**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Annette Summers [AS]           | - Nursery Owner   |
| Chris King (CK)                | - SEAT  |
| Councillor David Chambers (DC) | - Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education, Worcestershire County Council |
| David Butler [DB]              | - Principle Tudor Grange (Worcester)  |
| Holly Hancock [HH]             | - Senior Finance Business Partner, Worcestershire County Council                  |
| Jo Kelleher [JK] (Resigned)    | - Governor, Bredon Hill Academy   |
| Ruth Bessant                   | - Finance Business Partner - Schools - Worcestershire County Council              |

Steph Simcox

- Deputy Chief Financial Officer,  
Worcestershire County Council

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interests with Items on the Agenda**

None

**4. Minutes of the Last Meeting (12 September 2024)**

Minutes agreed.

**5. Matters Arising from The Minutes**

None

**6. Indicative Designated Schools Grant (DSG) Rates for 2025/26**

RP presented the papers to WSF. It was also noted that the new updated block includes all the previous grants so the increases are welcome but that this will not relieve the pressure that schools have.

The estimated allocation are an increase but the caveat need to be included that this is mainstreaming of the other grants and that this funding includes all the additional money announced by Government.

a. Central Block

RP presented the papers and discussed with WSF that this item should be noted for agenda item 6ai.

EF asked what the reduction of 20% annually to the Family Support Works meant, SW and PR explained that this is a reduction in the funding that the local authority took from the DSG previously, but that the Council had been picking up the additional burden which does mean a further pressure on the Council.

b. School Block

RP presented the papers and talked through the information. It was also confirmed that the Council needed to make sure that they were within 2.5% of the National Funding Formula (NFF), and did not change with any other decision made to either transfer from the school block or not.

Again, it was reiterated that these figures included all the grants that the school had previously received. It was noted that we are expecting a future grant from the government to support schools with the additional cost of the National Insurance changes, but no information on the funding mechanism is not know at present on this.

The forum has agreed that a letter from the Chair should go out to all parties lobbying for additional support for this area. RP to draft a letter for MR to discuss at the next meeting with member to seek feedback before sending.

i. De-delegation for Mainstream schools and Central Block

The forum member from the maintained sector vote unanimously to continue with the de-delegation of the services below.

- Schools Specific Contingency
- Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils/Underachieving Groups
- Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility Checking
- Trade Union Staff Cost and Duties.

It was agreed that the Council would confirm in a letter to schools that the de-delegation have been agreed by WSF and is not a Council decision.

WSF members also agreed unanimously to continue with the current position for the central block and listed expenditures.

ii. Transfer from School Block

RP presented the papers to WSF. PR explained that this would not clear the deficit and at present this amount would be about the equivalent of servicing this deficit.

It was confirmed that we were not able to confirm that any changes to the funding rates could be guaranteed due to this transfer.

DC said a review of the current banding model was going to take place especially the higher levels were between E3 and E4 is over a £10,000 gap but this will not start until after February half-term.

WSF raised that they would like the Council to consider this amount should be used to support the increase the funding rates, especially as this is also causing hardship for schools. It was agreed that Worcestershire have never taken this step before, and this is showing that the major concerns that WSF concern around this issue.

WSF member unanimously agreed to transfer 0.5% of the school block to the high needs block in financial year 2025/26.

## **7. Wraparound and Early Years Expansion Programme**

NB gave a short presentation to WSF on the current position of this programme, the EY funding rates announced on the 10 December and the latest information know on the "Breakfast Club" programme.

NB confirmed that the information concerning funding was regularly sent to all schools and provider through both the "EY Bulletin" and "Education Bulletin" and emails to all schools and providers.

Concerns were raised with the funding for this programme, especially around how this could be made sustainable with the new programme, of free “Breakfast Clubs”, where this has been part of the wraparound offer.

Sustainability going forward for provision is being raised as a concern in the sector with all the changes and the potential of not being able to charge anything additional on top-of the funding received from the Council.

The recruitment of staff for these programmes and especially with the increase of inclusion within maintained schools for pupils with complex needs as that how they can also make this cost effective for the school and the parents.

EF confirmed that when his special school ran a wraparound provision for pupil, which charged as much as they felt they could and used other funding streams it was still costing their school approximately £10,000 a term to run.

It was also felt that Local Member of Parliament should be invited to attend WSF so that members can discuss this with them.

#### **8. Financial Position report to Cabinet**

PR gave WSF an update on the current financial position of the Council still with approximate £12.5 million, with the three big overspending are being, Adult Social, Children Social Care placement and Home to Schools Transport. The Government have set the maximum increase to council tax of 4.99% for 2025/26.

PR confirmed that at present the statutory override is in place and that with the announcement to be made concerning funding will also clarify this.

#### **9. DSG HLN Management Plan**

PR and RP gave WSF an update of the work being carried out to create a robust plan. The council confirmed that this will not lead to reducing the deficit as this is too large a historical deficit and will only at best slow down further increases. The need was felt by WSF that the high-level needs needed to be funded to match the requirement in this area.

WSF requested that this be part of the letter to be produced as part of agenda item 7. This is to include the requirement to continue the statutory override and that sufficient funding to meet the requirements of the legislation is required.

This is going to be added as a regular item for WSF to discuss.

#### **10. Delivering Better Value in SEND**

Provision and Planning is taking place to make sure we have the correct mixture of provision/places to reduce the number of pupils needing to go to out of county provision.

We have opened new provision between Heart of Worcester College and National Staff in September, to allow pupils to attend a local provision, which would have previously attended an out of county independent provision.

Additional efforts are being made on the progress and processes before a young person would go to out of county provision to make sure that it is the correct provision for the pupil or if it would be better to keep them in the local community.

#### **11. DFE SEND AP and Improvement Plan Change Programme Partnership**

DC confirmed that phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 is focusing on AP outreach work, which has started. This will support the young person to be in the correct provision that they need rather than being forced on the pupil due to exclusion.

WSF welcomed the work that is taking place on this.

#### **12. Scheme for Financing Schools**

The paper was presented for WSF to agree on changing the time-period of average weighted interest used after being raised that schools would like this figure at the same time as budget setting.

WSF agreed this unanimously and welcomed this to support schools.

#### **13. Service Level Agreement**

The papers were presented and that this is so the forum of the services available to the schools and what they can expect from the teams selling their services.

The council will be continuing to bring these to WSF for reference so that the forum is aware of services to support schools.

#### **14. Any other business**

##### **a. Vice Chair WSF**

This item was taken out of sequence so that a New Vice Chair could be agreed. It was agreed by WSF that Edward Francis would become the Vice Chair with the previous person leaving the position and their school.

#### **Meeting ended.**

The meeting closed at 16.20 PM.

#### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next WSF meeting: - Wednesday 16 January 2025 at 3.00 PM  
(Remote Meeting - MS Teams)

## Report to the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Cabinet Decision

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 to share the latest information that has been sent to Cabinet.

### **2. Links to the meeting information**

a. 16 January 2025 – Fair Funding for Schools 2025/26 National and Local Funding Arrangements for Schools

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56290/5%20Cabinet%20Fair%20Funding%20-16%20January%202025.pdf>

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56291/5a%20Cab%20fair%20funding%20app1.pdf>

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56292/5b%20Cab%20fair%20funding%20app2.pdf>

### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 The WSF notes and discuss

Rob Phillips  
Finance Business Partner - Schools  
January 2025

**Report To The Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF)**  
**Provisional School Funding Settlement 2024/25**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To advise the WSF on the provisional School Funding Settlement for 2025/26.

**2. Provisional School Funding Settlement 2025/26**

2.1 On 18 December 2024, the Department for Education (DfE) published details of the provisional School Funding Settlement 2024/25 for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Summary details can be found on the following link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2025-to-2026>

**3. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2024/25**

3.1 The DSG settlement includes: -

- The DSG schools block allocated based on the new National Funding Formula (NFF) schools block primary and secondary units of funding 2025/26 announced in December 2024.
- The Central Services Schools (CSS) Block allocated on the DfE NFF.
- The High Needs (HN) Block allocated based on the DfE NFF announced in December 2024.
- The Early Years (EY) Block allocated on the DfE NFF arrangements based on forecast with the changes of EY expansion this year.

3.2 The 2025/26 provisional allocation is detailed in **Table 1** under the notional DSG blocks. **This is prior to the recoupment deduction for Academies and non-LA maintained specialist providers.** It also compares the provisional allocations to the 2024/25 DSG latest settlement.

**Table 1: Provisional DSG Gross Settlement 2024/25**

DSG Block	2023/24 Budget £'000	2024/25 Indicative July 2023 £'000	2024/25 Updated January 2024 £'000	Variance 2023/24 to 2024/25 £'000
Schools	424,156	Not Advised	454,796	+30,640
Pupil Growth Fund	2,050		1,995	-55
<b>S-T Schools</b>	<b>426,206</b>	Not Advised	<b>456,791</b>	<b>+30,585</b>
Central Services	3,310	Not Advised	3,525	+215
High Needs	90,173	Not Advised	97,581	+7,408
Early Years	59,336	Not Advised	80,493	+21,157
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>579,025</b>	Not Advised	<b>638,390</b>	<b>+59,365</b>

**Notes**

**1A.** Schools Block 2025/26 set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017 for Year 8 based upon: -

- The October 2024 pupil census against the Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUF) and (SUF) confirmed in October 2024.
- Provides for NFF year 8 parameters including mandatory sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs), additional October 2024 pupil numbers and historic premises related factors allocation £7.516m.
- Reflects the change in pupil numbers October 2023 to October 2024 of -578 (Primary -694.5; Secondary +116).

**1B.** Pupil Growth Fund £1.995m now on DfE formulaic basis in year 8. Reflects change in pupil numbers between October 2023 and October 2024.

**1C.** Central School Services Block (CSSB) 2024/5 NFF formulaic allocation for centrally retained statutory services £3.132m plus historic commitments £0.393m (**reduced by a further 20% by the DfE from 2024/25 allocation by £0.99m as part of their national policy**).

**1D.** Early Years Block 2023/24 provisional based upon Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision census data for 2, 3 & 4-year olds from January 2023. The final allocations will be updated based on January 2024 and January 2025 census data. Reflects an increase to the allocated hourly rates for 2-year-olds and 3- & 4-year-olds. With additional funding for the DfE assumption for take up within the changes of children's eligibility announced in the Autumn Statement in 2022.

3.3 An analysis of the difference between the NFF 2025/26 for the **Schools, CSSB and High Needs Blocks only** between the **initial allocations in March 2024 and the revised allocations in December 2024** is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

3.4 The main aspects of **each block** are as follows: -

#### **3.4.1 Schools Block**

- There is an overall decrease in pupil numbers of 578 between October 2023 and October 2024, which shows a decrease in primary (-694) and an increase in secondary (+116.0). This is detailed in **Table 2**.
- The budgetary impact for each school will depend on: -
  - How their individual pupil numbers and other data varies between October 2023 and October 2024.
  - The impact across all schools and the MFG and any capping that might have to be applied.
  - The amount of Schools Block Funding to be allocated in the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) – this is discussed further under **Agenda Item 8**.

**Table 2: Pupil Number Variations 2023/24 and 2024/25**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>2023/24 October 2022 Census</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2024/25 October 2023 Census</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Note</b>
Primary	43,226	58.1	42,532	57.6	<b>2A</b>
Secondary	31,154	41.9	31,270	42.4	<b>2A</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,380</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73,802</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Note**

**2A.** There is no longer a reduction adjustment made for pupils in Specialist Provision in mainstream schools. For each LA, the DfE transferred in 2018-19 a relevant amount to the Schools Block DSG from the High Needs Block DSG to fund the additional pupil numbers.

**3.4.2 High Needs Block**

- The allocation of £97.581m reflects the increase in HN DSG allocated in 2025/26.
- The estimated net HN DSG in 2025/26 is £85.749m which is an increase of £7.12m on 2024/25 of £78.629m. This reflects the proposed place deductions from the HN block for SEN units in academies, maintained post 16 and NMSS providers is detailed in **Table 3. These are subject to change during the year.**

**Table 3: Estimated HN Place Deductions**

<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>2023/24 Provisional December 2023 £'m</b>	<b>2024/25 Provisional January 2023 £'m</b>	<b>Variance  £'m</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>HN DSG Gross</b>	<b>90.173</b>	<b>97.581</b>	<b>+7.408</b>	
Place Deductions				
SEN Units Academies Pre and Post 16	(1.014)	(1.102)	<b>(0.012)</b>	
Special Academies Pre and Post 16	(8.040)	(8.040)	<b>(0.000)</b>	
Alternative Provision	(0.990)	(1.160)	<b>(0.170)</b>	<b>3A</b>
Academies Post 16	(0.000)	(0.030)	<b>(0.030)</b>	
FE Providers	(1.500)	(1.500)	<b>(0.000)</b>	
<b>S-T Deductions</b>	<b>(11.544)</b>	<b>(11.832)</b>	<b>(0.288)</b>	
<b>= HN DSG Net</b>	<b>78.629</b>	<b>85.749</b>	<b>+7.120</b>	

**Note**

**3A.** Currently this is only included at the 2024/25 level and does not reflect further adjustments to be made for the any future academy conversions, the full year effect of September 2024 AP places deductions and new AP place deductions from September 2025. So, there will still be a budget pressures for AP in 2025/26 and subsequent years.

3.5 The next steps in terms of the DSG notification are detailed in **Table 4.**

**Table 4: Next Steps Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
18 December 2025	2025/26 Schools Block and Pupil Growth Fund 2025/26 Central School Services Block 2025/26 High Needs Block 2025/26 Early Years Block

	Provisional allocations all announced by DfE
Early to Mid-January 2025	Further consideration by LAs on the 2025/26 Schools Block Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)
22 January 2025	LAs submit final APT for Schools Block LSFF formula 2025/26
February 2025	ESFA publication of 2025/26 HN places at institution level
28 February 2025	Deadline for LAs to confirm School Budget Shares to maintained schools and specialist providers
31 March 2025	Deadline for ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) to academies open by January 2025
April 2025	ESFA confirms 2025/26 DSG to be paid to LAs after recoupment for academies and deductions for HN places in academies and post 16
June 2025	Early Years Block updated for January 2024 Early Years pupil numbers

#### **4. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) Funding**

4.1 The DfE have confirmed that PPG will continue in 2025/26

4.2 For 2025/26 the eligibility criteria for the pupil premium will remain unchanged, but **the DfE will be using October 2024 school census data to calculate pupil premium allocations**. Exceptions to that include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census.

#### **5. Other Grant Funding**

5.1 The DfE have announced that there will be a grant to assist schools with the increase in National Insurance Contributions for Employers, the methodology for this has not yet been published.

5.2 Teacher Pay Additional Grant, Teacher Pension Employer Contribution Grant and Core School Budget Grant will continue for Special Schools and Alternative Provision.

#### **6. Recommendation**

6.1 The WSF notes and discusses the above allocations.

Robert Phillips  
Finance Business Partner - Schools  
Worcestershire County Council

January 2025

**Worcestershire 885 - Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Schools, Central Schools Services and High Needs Only**  
**2024/24 Provisional December 2024 Vs. 2025/26 Initial December 2024**

	Initial December 2023		2024/25 Initial December 2024		Variance		Comments
	Units Of Funding	Pupil Nos. October 2023	Units Of Funding	Pupil Nos. October 2024	Units Of Funding	Pupil Nos.	
	£	£'m	£	£'m	£'m	%	
<b>Schools Block (SB)</b>							
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	5,005.77	43226.0	216.379	5,402.95	42532.0	229.798	397.18 -694.0 13.419 )
Secondary Unit of Funding (GUF)	6,428.44	31154.0	200.272	6,954.97	31270.0	217.482	526.53 116.0 17.210 )
		74380	416.651		73802	447.280	-578.0 30.629
Historic Premises			7.508			7.516	0.008 See Below.
Formulaic Pupil Growth Fund			2.050			1.995	-0.055
<b>=SB</b>		<b>426.209</b>		<b>456.791</b>		<b>30.583</b>	7.18%
<b>Central School Services Block (Ccssb)</b>							
Formulaic CSS NFF			2.818			3.132	0.313 ) Includes grant for centrally employed staff and additional copyright costs.
Historic Commitments			0.492			0.393	-0.099 ) Reflects DfE policy to reduce the allocations of all LAs by a further 20%.
							) Significant impact for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS).
<b>=CSSB</b>		<b>3.310</b>		<b>3.525</b>		<b>0.215</b>	6.49%
<b>Block (CSSB)</b>							
Formulaic HN NFF			90.173			97.581	7.408
<b>=HNB</b>		<b>90.173</b>		<b>97.581</b>		<b>7.408</b>	8.22%
<b>= Total Gross Dsg Excluding Early Years</b>		<b>519.691</b>		<b>557.897</b>		<b>38.206</b>	7.35%
<b>Notes</b>							
This is the <b>Gross DSG</b> indicative allocation <b>Prior to</b> academy and high needs places recoupment.							
This analysis excludes the EY DSG.							
Historic Premises							
	24/25 APT Baseline		25/26 APT Baseline		23/24 vs 24/25 APT Baseline		
	Split Site	0.347	Split Site	0.347	Split Site	0.000	
	Rates	3.729	Rates	3.788	Rates	0.059	
	Exceptional Premises	0.156	Exceptional Premises	0.029	Exceptional Premises	-0.127	
	PFI Baseline + RPI(X)		PFI Baseline + RPI(X)		PFI Baseline + RPI(X)		
	£2.968 + 10.4%	3.276	£3.276 + 2.3%	3.352		0.076	
		<b>7.508</b>		<b>7.516</b>		<b>0.008</b>	

## **Report to the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Free School Meals (FSM) – Eligibility Schemes**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform WSF on a new scheme to identify pupils who qualify for FSM and sign them up without waiting for parents to do so.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Twenty local authorities have taken actions to identify pupils who qualify for FSM and sign them up without waiting for parents to do so. It is understood that another 40 local authorities are also considering auto-enrolment. The scheme would generate extra funds for schools in pupil premium grants. Peter Lamb, the Labour MP for Crawley has introduced a private member's bill, which is due for its second reading in March 2025, in the hope of introducing a nationwide system in which qualifying families would be automatically registered, and parents would have to opt-out rather than opt-in.
- 2.2 Worcestershire County Council has been contacted by a mainstream secondary school asking if they would be adopting an auto-enrolment scheme.

### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 An Officer from Worcestershire County Council has recently attended the FixOurFood webinar about how other local authorities have implemented the change from parental applications to auto-enrolment.
- 3.2 On the whole, this has been implemented by unitary authorities which have their housing benefit teams working for the same organisation as the free school meals teams. For Worcestershire, this would require collaboration across the 6 district councils housing benefit departments and changes to the consent to share information process. Worcestershire County Council and the District Councils will be looking very closely over the coming months of the impact of the devolution white paper and all areas moving to a unitary authority status. This transition could well lower data collecting/sharing barriers but if it were to happen, would not occur for at least 2 years from now.
- 3.3 The process for implementing the auto-enrolment for FSM was:
- The housing benefit departments gained consent from housing benefit applicants to share their data and so the free school meals team could use the data.
  - Those departments sent through the list of parent's details (national insurance numbers, dates of birth and surnames), and which children lived in the same household as those parents.
  - The data was then compared to the current applications already in the education claims systems.
  - Finally, the information was manually entered onto the local authority education and claims system by the free school meals team, those details were checked against the eligibility check service and contact made with the school to communicate eligibility.

Due to the source of this data, this would not include any of the no recourse to public funds families.

- 3.4 Worcestershire County Council currently manages FSM through one part time staff member who works diligently to ensure every eligible claim is dealt with quickly and efficiently. At this point, we do not have the capacity to take this project on, under this model of delivery.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 For the School Forum to note the context for Worcestershire and to consider if they wish to lobby for support for a nationwide system in which families qualifying for FSM would be automatically registered.

Sarah Wilkins  
Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning  
Worcestershire County Council  
January 2025

## Report to the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Nursery Education Funding (NEF) Rates 2025/26

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the WSF on the planned funding rates for financial year 2025/26.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The consultation last year set in principle for the method for calculating the funding rates for future years.
- 2.2 The consultation agreed that the local authority would reduce the 3&4 central amount from 5% to 4% in 2025 and 3% in 2026. That the local authority would hold centrally 3% of both the under 2's and 2-year-olds funding, to fund the services for early years within the local authority, and back-office services supporting the sector.
- 2.4 Graduated response would be supported by £0.01 per hour from the funding rate and transferred to the HLN block.
- 2.5 The local authority would also have 1% for contingency and 1% for deprivation. From the contingency the local authority would set up a scheme to support providers with short-terms support, on the condition they were in an area of sufficiency and that they are a viable going concern in the long-term.
- 2.3 Funding for NEF is based on hours per week. The number of weeks any child is available to receive is either 15 or 30 hours depending on eligibility multiplied by 38. This then gives any pupil a maximum number of hours in a year of either 570 or 1140 hours, this can be stretched over the 52 weeks but cannot be used in less than the 38 weeks.

### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 The funding rates to the local authority for financial year 2025/26 will be the following:

Funding Area	Rate 2024/25	Rate 2025/26	Increase (%)
3&4-Year-olds	£5.47	£5.71	4.39%
2-Year-olds	£7.44	£7.71	3.63%
Under 2's	£10.11	£10.45	3.36%
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	£0.68	£1.00 <sup>1</sup>	47.06%
Disability Access Funding (DAF)	£910	£938 <sup>2</sup>	3.08%
Maintained Nursery School Supplementary	£4.64	£5.57 <sup>3</sup>	20.04%

*Table 1 - Funding Rates to Local Authority*

- 3.2 EYPP to match the amount received at £1.00 per hour, for eligible pupils for a maximum of 15 hours per week or stretched alternative amount.
- 3.3 DAF is paid out as the lump sum to eligible children once a year. The parent has the decision on which provision receives this funding.

<sup>1</sup> For eligible children only

<sup>2</sup> For eligible children only

<sup>3</sup> For children 3&4-year-olds for their universal entitlement, as per the school census.

- 3.4 Table 1 gives the funding rates that the council is going to fund for financial year 2025/26.

<b>Funding Age Group</b>	<b>Hourly Rate 2024/25</b>	<b>Hourly Rate 2025/26</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
<b>3&amp;4 Year Olds</b>	£5.09	<b>£5.37</b>	+5.5%
<b>Two Year Olds</b>	£7.05	<b>£7.33</b>	+4%
<b>Under Two's</b>	£9.59	<b>£9.93</b>	+3.5%

*Table 2 - NEF Funding Rates 2025/26*

- 3.5 The funding for deprivation is calculated using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), this is based on the child's home postcode. Table 2 gives the funding rates for financial year 2025/26. This funding is given on all the NEF hours the child attends.

<b>IDACI Band (using child's home postcode)</b>	<b>Hourly Supplement</b>
A	£1.50
B	£1.10
C	£0.60
D	£0.20

*Table 3 - IDACI - Deprivation Funding Rates*

- 3.6 The Maintained Nursery School Supplementary grant is updated through the financial year based on the nursery schools school census. The local authority transfers the full amount to the nursery school in March each year.
- 3.6 We are planning to send out a letter to all providers of NEF funding sharing these rates early next week so they can plan for the changes.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 This is for forum to note and discuss.

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 January 2025