

AGENDA



SCHOOLS FORUM

Date: Thursday 12 May 2022
Time: 4.30pm
Place: Microsoft Teams

Distribution

Members of the Committee

Sarah Lovell (Chair)	Dave Baker (Vice Chair)
Stuart Evans	Will Roberts
Kim Garland	Fr. Malcolm Strange
Clare Haughton	Bernice Webber
David Jenkins	David Williams
Nicola Jones	Louisa Wilson
Louise Leader	Julia Anwar (Sub)
Kirby Littlewood	Jo Dent
Steve Moir	
Pippa Osborne	
Diane Owen	
Lisa Parker	

Appropriate Officers attending:

Mustafa Salih
Hilary Smith
Caroline Warren
Alison Davies

Councillors attending:

Erica Williams
Trevor Jones

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AGENDA

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**South Gloucestershire Schools Forum
Minutes of Meeting held on
Thursday 03rd March 2022
Microsoft Teams**

PRESENT:

Sarah Lovell (Chair)	Finance Director, Cabot Learning Federation
Dave Baker (Vice Chair)	CEO, Olympus Academy Trust
Julia Anwar	Olympus Academy Trust Representative
Stuart Evans	<i>South Gloucestershire and Stroud College</i>
Kim Garland	Headteacher, Brimsham Green School
Clare Haughton	Page Park Pre-School
Claire Hill	Headteacher, Raysfield Primary School
David Jenkins	Governor, Crossways Schools
Nicola Jones	Representative Special Academies
Louise Leader	Headteacher, Pathways Learning Centre
Kirby Littlewood	Headteacher, Stanbridge Primary School
Steve Moir	Headteacher, Bradley Stoke School
Ross Newman	Early Years Schools Forum Representative
Pippa Osborne	Headteacher Christ Church Junior School
Diane Owen	Chair, King's Oak Academy
Lisa Parker	Headteacher, Warmley Park School
Will Roberts	CEO, Castle School Education Trust (CSET)
Fr. Malcolm Strange	Diocese of Bristol Representative
Susie Weaver	Executive Headteacher, Cabot Learning Federation
Bernice Webber	Headteacher, Old Sodbury CE Primary School

Executive Members:

Erica Williams, Cabinet Member - Schools, Skills & Employment

Officers:

Mustafa Salih, Head of Financial Management and Business Support
Hilary Smith, Head of Education, Learning and Skills
Caroline Warren, Finance Business Partner
Deb Luter, Schools Finance Officer

Others:

Tamsin Moreton, Director of Finance & Operations, Enable Trust (Observer)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees were welcomed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trevor Jones, Erica Williams, Chris Sivers, Bernice Webber, Louisa Wilson, David Williams; Jo Dent not sent Teams link so unable to join - links forwarded for the May and July meetings.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Julia Anwar is a permanent member and no longer a sub.

4. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (Ali Davies)

Two Primary governor vacancies with one expression of interest. Nominations closed on 18th February 2022. Not currently advertised in the newsletter which might be something to consider in the next two weeks.

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT (Sarah Lovell)

None

6. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – 20th January 2022

ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT (Sarah Lovell)

Sarah has a new role and will be standing down as Chair of the Forum at the end of the academic year and again asked if anyone is interested in putting themselves forward to act as Chair, please contact either Sarah, Dave Baker or Mustafa Salih.

Schools Funding Arrangement 2022/23

Action: Mustafa to circulate amended Slide 8 following this meeting. *Completed.*

Remainder of the Minutes recorded as accurate.

7. Banding Proposals – (Mustafa Salih)

MS presented a PowerPoint presentation.

This presentation covers changes relating to Theme 2 of our Transformation Plan and are one element of system wide change and improvement.

Theme 1 is improving inclusion through extra cluster funding.

Theme 3 provides new investment in early years and early help.

Themes 4 and 5 work with our special schools to get the most out of each school sector.

Case for change: Move to one comprehensive and transparent process.

Extra funding for early years and transition from early years to school.

Building on the principles approved by the Forum.

Aimed at enabling us to stay within our funding allocation and benefit from our important work with the DfE on a Safety Valve agreement.

This is also more funding going into schools and our schools are in a much better place to start making these shifts in how we allocate resources across the system.

Key principle is taking manageable steps of change e.g. a 25% movement in top-ups rather than 40% through a phased reduction.

Key changes: New early years funding streams. New methods of allocation to EHCP so early years will be able to access without any EHCP going through the operational guide to access funding based on description band A, B or C and the new funding for primary schools to help with that transition from early years to primary.

New Top Up Funding Rates

1. Top up level changes will be as follows:

- Prim/Sec: 25% reduction rather than 40%/43%
- Spec: 14% reduction rather than 20%
- Ind/Priv: 10% reduction rather than 21%

2. Taking manageable steps will also be achieved by transitional protection, which will operate in two ways:

(i). The target to achieve in top up reductions is a much lower target than the data would suggest, and we are also doing it in a phased way over 3 years e.g. for primary and secondary schools:

	Mainstream and Resource Bases	Special Schools
2022/23	7%	5%
2023/24	10%	5%
2024/25	8%	4%

(ii) Individual school level: for schools affected by a greater percentage reduction than the percentages shown above they will be protected at the percentages shown above.

Sarah Lovell – Have parents/carers been consulted and involved in the operational guidance? Schools will need assistance with comms messages to reduce anxiety from parents.

HS – Communications will be through the schools to clarify the picture for parents/carers and we are working with the parent/carer forum directly.

SL – Special Schools and Alternative Provisions have written to the forum and officers about a potential challenge with this implementation. Does their point regarding the disapplication of the Minimum Funding Guarantee stand?

MS – We would of course comply with the requirements of the Special Schools MFG. We don't think the MFG will affect the funding changes for special schools, because the DfE guidance states that when you are changing bandings across the whole system, you first place all existing pupils into new bands and then compare that with the next year's funding using those same new bands. We are confirming that position with the DfE but, if it did apply, we could still seek a disapplication request and in the unlikely event that wasn't agreed we would still want to move to the new Bandings as part of our comprehensive banding system and the MFG may then just slow down the movement to those new bandings. The Special Schools MFG wouldn't change what we did. It could just change the way we moved (and the timelines) to that end position.

SL – As we have received a letter from a special schools – are you content to decide on that or delay implementing for Special Schools?

HS – There are valid points in relation to the timing of some of the changes of the deficit recovery plan and what capacity do we need in our special schools until the end of the year, in terms of the planning of places and that being aligned with these changes.

Action: HS to consider the points raised in the Special School letter and bring back a response to forum. Aligned with Theme 5 with an aim to implementation from 1st April 2023 rather than September 2022 for Special Schools.

SL – Year 6 to year 7 protection – issue was raised about the need for a new EHCP for secondary school and pupils transferring from Year 6 to Year 7 may mean they do not get the protection.

Action: Officers to provide a proposed approach to transitional protection for pupil transferring from Year 6 to Year 7.

Agreed:

Schools Forum approved implementing the proposals for Mainstream Schools and Resource bases with the following conditions:

- **added protection for pupils transferring from Year 6 to Year 7**
- **delay implementation for special schools so that the proposals are considered jointly with the Theme 5 developments and covered in future reports coming to Schools Forum as part of plans to implement from 1 April 2023 for Special Schools.**
- **Officers provide regular updates to forum on the implementation and impact**

- **Each year, the transitional protection rates would be approved by forum before implementing**

8. Schools Funding 2022/23 Update

All schools have received a communication regarding their budget shares based on the total schools budget less the £2.2m transfer to the High Needs Block.

Hoping to update on the Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE but this is taking longer to finalise than expected. Further updates in due course.

9. SEND Clusters Update

Hugh Disley represented Ali Ford who was unable to attend.

Needs assessment – we are seeing school assessments going up. 82% of the assessments coming through are Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), Autism and Speech and Language communication and that has an impact in terms of our capacity. The SEND clusters will have a major part to play in getting us to appropriate levels.

Permanent Exclusions – the proportion of suspensions for children at SEND Support will continue to be monitored on a termly basis at a local authority level and the clusters. This includes looking at how we are making decisions and how we can make better-informed decisions.

In the absence of educational outcomes data due to the pandemic, case studies will be included within the end of year evaluation that will be presented to Schools Forum in June 2022.

The clusters are now working with special schools as well and special schools will be part of the cluster boards.

SL – Thanked Hugh for covering.

10. HNWG Update – Susie Weaver

Additional meeting in February to examine the updated reports.

Further detail to be added to the report with rationale for the decision on the specific South Glos banding rate values.

Commentary on the spreadsheet to support analysis and keep the principles at the centre.

Information required to confirm arrangements for additional provision e.g., equipment/therapy.

Update with latest data to show progress made – e.g., 2021 EHCP figures far more in line with all England average – 34.4/34.0.

Consider adding a column to the spreadsheet to show total % of funding via top-up for transparency. In addition – add a column to indicate change to support effective financial planning.

Guidance and support offered to schools to plan for changes.

Clear communication for banding in line with transition for Y7s is essential for the next phase.

Range of options for communication and support as different pathways and outcomes across the LA.

11. Small Schools Rent Disapplication (Caroline Warren)

In accordance with the Schools Operational Guidance, local authorities can apply to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to use exceptional circumstances relating to school premises and a disapplication has gone through for next year but needs Schools Forum approval. We only have one school, and this relates to a lease agreement of property and land for Schools Forum to note the proposal to the APT tool for next year. It will continue to be paid and it will be added into the APT and will be funded through the schools block, which is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Agreed: Schools Forum gave approval.

12. SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

May	12th			
			Place Planning	Hilary Smith
			Q3 Update	Caroline Warren

13. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed

SCHOOL FUNDING 2022/23 UPDATE (Verbal)

South Gloucestershire Council

SCHOOLS FORUM

12th May 2022

Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 Quarter 3

Purpose of Report

1. To update the School Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant 2021/22 Quarter 3 position.

1. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funded budgets

2. The net current DSG budget, excluding academies and High Needs recoupment, is £146,725k. The DSG is forecasting an outturn overspend position of £32,116k a reduced overspend of £721k since Quarter 2. This arises from an in-year forecast outturn overspend of £8,214k and a brought forward deficit balance of £23,902k. Details of the key pressure areas are included in the block summaries below.

3. It should be noted that when the budgets for 2021/22 were prepared, a funding shortfall of £8,997k was identified.

DSG Budget	Net £'000
Original Budget Allocation (December 2020)	239,333
Adjustments and Recoupment	
• High Needs Block Direct Funding By EFA	-5,444
• Academy Recoupment	-86,684
• High Needs Block Adjustment for place change return	-398
• Import / Export adjustment	30
• High Needs Block Import/Export / Free schools / Recoupment funding adjustments	-231
• High Needs Block adjustment to previous Import/Export announcement	120
Total Revised DSG (November 2021)	146,725

4. The forecast overspend position by funding block is provided in the table below.

Funding by Blocks	Gross Budget	EFA / Other Income Budget	Budget Reserve (Approved Q3)	Net Budget (DSG)	Gross Exp	EFA / Other Income	Forecast Outturn Reserve as at Q3	Net Exp	Over / (Under)
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Schools Block:									
Total Schools Block - Primary & Secondary Schools (excluding Academies)	101,163	-10,793	11	90,381	99,416	-9,273	238	90,381	0
Central Schools Services Block:									
Total Central Schools Services Block	3,382	-132	6	3,256	3,360	-114	10	3,256	0
High Needs Block:									
Schools & Independent Providers (including Academies)	43,238	-631	-8,968	33,639	42,502	-434	-8,429	33,639	0
Central Items	2,574	-345		2,229	2,699	-420	-50	2,229	0
Total High Needs Block	45,812	-976	-8,968	35,868	45,201	-854	-8,479	35,868	0
Early Years Block:									
Private, Voluntary & Independent Providers	16,365	17	-17	16,365	16,382	0	-17	16,365	0
Central Items	906	-84	33	855	852	-31	34	855	0
Total Early Years Block	17,271	-67	16	17,220	17,234	-31	17	17,220	0
Total In-Year DSG & EFA Funding	167,628	-11,968	-8,935	146,725	165,211	-10,272	-8,214	146,725	0
Total Forecast DSG In Year Overspend									-8,214
DSG Deficit Reserve B/F									-23,902
Total Forecast DSG Deficit Reserve									-32,116
DSG Unusable Reserve:									£'000s
DSG Deficit Reserve B/F from previous years (Appendix 7 - Unusable Reserve)									-23,902
Approved Budget 2021/22									-5,888
Approved increase draw on DSG Unusable Reserve at Quarter 1 (£2,874k)									-2,874
Approved increase draw on DSG Unusable Reserve at Quarter 2 (£173k)									-173
Request to reduce draw on DSG Reserve at Quarter 3 (£721k)									721
Total DSG Deficit Reserve (Appendix 7 - Unusable Reserve)									-32,116
Total 2021/22 DSG Overspend Reserve									-32,116

DSG Reserve Transfer

5. The approved DSG reserve transfer of £8,935k is £722k more than the Quarter 3 outturn forecast. This is mostly due to a reduction in expenditure within the Schools Block and High Needs Block, and a High Needs Block adjustment within the latest DSG funding announcement.

Funding Transfer between Blocks

6. The DSG is funded from four blocks: the Schools Block, the Central Schools Services Block, the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block.

7. There was a funding transfer of £2,200k approved by the Secretary of State from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support demand led pressures and the implementation of new ways of working in line with the DSG recovery plan. The forecast outturn Quarter 3 currently assumes the implementation costs will be incurred during 2021/22, however delays in recruitment and implementing system changes may result in

costs being incurred during 2022/23. An update on the implementation cost will be provided in the Outturn monitor report.

DSG Recovery Plan

8. As reported in Quarter 2, the Department has updated the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) recovery plan using the Department for Education's (DfE's) Management Tool Template. The recovery plan has been based on the budget pressures identified as part of the budget build for 2021/22 to 2025/26 and the revised savings targets based on the High Needs Working Groups latest DSG recovery programme.

9. In 2020/21 a significant new development regarding DSG deficits emerged showing that the DfE had financially supported five local authorities with the highest DSG deficits. On 20th July 2021 South Gloucestershire Council received an invite from the Department for Education to take part in the next round of the Safety Value Intervention work. An introductory meeting was held on 22nd September 2021, following this a letter was received confirming the next steps and timeline for submitting proposals on how the department will get to an in year balanced budget and how quickly this can be achieved.

10. Further meetings with DfE colleagues took place during Quarter 3 and the council submitted a proposal to the Department for Education on 7th December 2021. The proposal will be put forward to Ministers for agreement during December 2021. The outcome of the Safety Value decision will be reported in the outturn report to Cabinet and Schools Forum.

Schools Block

11. The Schools Block is forecasting an outturn underspend of £238k, an increased underspend position of £228k since Quarter 2. This is mostly due to a provision being held for an in-year breach of the pupil admission numbers (PAN) at Downend Secondary, Manorbrook Primary and John Cabot Secondary that didn't materialise.

Central Schools Services Block

12. The Central Schools Services Block is forecasting an outturn underspend of £10k, an improvement of £4k since Quarter 2.

High Needs Block

The High Needs Block is forecasting an outturn overspend of £8,479k before applying the approved reserve transfer, an improvement of £488k since Quarter 2. The main pressures within high needs areas are provided below.

Independent and Non-Maintained Special School Placements

13. The budget area for Independent and Non-Maintained Special School Placements is forecasting an outturn overspend of £469k, a reduction of £32k since Quarter 2. This is due to 4 new placements costing £150k, 7 leavers (£200k), an increase in the contingency provision for future placements (£104k) and price changes resulting in a reduced spend of £86k. The budget required for 2021/22 was £7,450k based on 127 placements at an average weekly cost of £1,544, however based on the funding available, the budget

allocated was £6,291k resulting in an average weekly cost of £1,304. The forecast outturn is based on 101 current learners and a provision for 12 new placements from December to March 2021 at an average weekly cost of £1,574.

Statemented Support (including Other Local Authority (OLA))

14. The budget area for Statemented Support is forecasting an outturn overspend of £3,3477k, a reduction of £138k since Quarter 2. This is due to several learners transferring to either a South Gloucestershire Special School, Post 16 provision or Other Local Authority school and a review of the contingency provision for new placements December to March. The budget required for 2021/22 was £9,395k based on 954 placements at an average weekly cost of £259, however based on the funding available the budget allocated was £5,988k resulting in an average weekly cost of £165. The forecast outturn is based on 844 current learners and a provision for 74 new placements from December to March 2022. The average weekly cost based on 918 placements is £271.

Special Schools and Resource Bases - OLA

15. The budget area for Special Schools and Resource Bases - OLA is forecasting an outturn overspend of £752k, a reduction of £118k since Quarter 2. This is mostly due to a combination of 5 new placements, 8 confirmed leavers or young people moved out of area and a review of the contingency provision for new placements. The budget required for 2021/22 was £1,792k based on 88 placements at an average weekly cost of £536, however based on the funding available the budget allocated was £1,124k resulting in an average weekly cost of £336. The forecast outturn is based on 91 placements made up of 82 current placements and a provision for 9 new placements December to March 2022 at an average weekly cost of £543.

Post 16 Placements

16. The budget area for Post 16 Placements is forecasting an outturn overspend of £935k, a reduction of £72k since Quarter 2. This is mostly due to the budget on post 16 being increased to reflect the latest DSG funding announcement for import/exports. The budget required for 2021/22 was £4,827k based on 456 placements at an average weekly cost of £279, however based on the funding available the budget allocated is £3,683k resulting in an average weekly cost of £213. The forecast outturn is based on 407 learners at an average weekly cost of £289.

Special Schools South Gloucestershire

17. The budget area for Special Schools is forecasting an outturn overspend of £955k, a reduction of £191k since Quarter 2. This is due to 11 new placements, 16 leavers, a review of the contingency held for new placements and a budget re-aligned to reflect the latest DSG funding announcement. The budget required for 2021/22 was £10,322k based on 515 placements at an average weekly cost of £527, however based on the funding available the budget allocated was £9,375k resulting in an average weekly cost of £479. The forecast

outturn is based on 488 current learners plus a contingency for 18 new placements giving a total of 506 learners at an average cost of £543 per week.

Resource Bases South Gloucestershire

18. The budget area for Resource Bases is forecasting an outturn overspend of £543k, an increase of £25k since Quarter 2. This is due to 5 new placements, 6 leavers, beach payments and a re-alignment of the budget to reflect the latest DSG funding announcement. The budget required for 2021/22 was £2,895k based on 139 placements at an average weekly cost of £548, however based on the funding available the budget allocated was £2,545k resulting in an average weekly cost of £482. The forecast outturn is based on 137 current learners plus contingency for 5 new placements giving a total of 142 learners at an average cost of £558 per week.

Pathways Learning Centre

19. The budget area for Pathways Learning Centre (PLC) is forecasting an outturn overspend of £1,148k, an increase of £28k since Quarter 2. The budget required for 2021/22 was £3,217k based on 150 placements at an average weekly cost of £564, however based on the funding available the budget allocated was £2,231k resulting in an average weekly cost of £392. The forecast outturn is based on the planned place numbers of 150 learners giving an average weekly cost of £593 and includes additional 1:1 support for several complex learners currently being supported by PLC.

Other High Needs Areas

20. Other high needs areas are forecasting an outturn overspend of £220k, an increase of £10k since Quarter 2.

21. The table below shows the outturn spend position for the High Needs budget areas that are currently under pressure.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
High Needs Budget Pressure Areas Only	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Outturn £'000	Number placed March 2021
Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools - Placements	3,904	4,264	5,463	5,419	5,976	6,737	6,945	6,760	113*
Statemented Support (including High Incidence Payments)	4,781	5,368	6,121	6,376	6,897	6,570	8,194	9,445	918**
Post 16 High Needs Placements (Gross of ESFA direct funding)	1,949	2,422	3,157	4,549	4,464	4,276	5,180	6,377	407***
South Gloucestershire Special Schools (Gross of ESFA recoupment for Academies and Post 16)	8,949	7,793	8,468	9,186	10,077	11,539	12,698	13,757	506****
South Gloucestershire Resource Bases (Gross of ESFA recoupment for Academies and Post 16)	3,022	3,323	3,467	3,670	3,037	3,216	3,444	3,632	142****
PLC	2,050	1,925	2,080	2,597	2,977	3,649	3,682	3,380	150*****
Total	24,655	25,095	28,756	31,797	33,428	35,987	40,143	43,351	2,236
Annual % Change		1.78%	14.59%	10.58%	5.13%	7.66%	11.55%	7.99%	

* Includes Funding for Non-Maintained Special Schools 2014/15 and 2015/16, from 2016/17 directly funded by the ESFA

** Transfer of £1,000k from Statemented Support in 2020/21 for the SEND Cluster Funding Initiative

*** Post 16 recoupment for FE colleges included from 2017/18, prior to 2017/18 directly funded via ESFA

**** Academy and Post 16 Recoupment included for all years and establishments

***** Based on approved planned places excluding breach

Early Years Block

22. The Early Years Block is reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £17k, an increased underspend of £1k since Quarter 2.

South Gloucestershire council

SCHOOLS FORUM

12th May 2022

High Needs Working Group (HNWG) Update

1. Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the work of the HNWG.

2. Background

2.1

The Schools Forum has agreed to transfer £2.2 million of funding from the School Block to the High Needs Block to support investment which will enable improvements to be achieved and which involve more efficient use of resources. It is essential that accelerated progress in addressing the deficit can be demonstrated.

2.2

A deficit recovery programme of work has been formulated with an agreed governance and reporting structure. There are five priority areas of focus, outlined as five themes (see fig.1) which are now providing the framework and opportunity to improve provision, outcomes, efficiency and reduce expenditure. These themes are now clearly feeding into the overall DfE deficit recovery plan underpinning the programme and there are positive impact measures identified through the updates.

2.3

The themes were identified after determining the main causes of the deficit using a cause-and-effect diagram and extensive data analysis on both nationally and locally available data.

3. Programme governance structure and communication

3.1

The governance structure, including communications routines is illustrated in Figure 2. The High Needs Working Group, taking their direction from the Schools Forum, provide consultation, direction and challenge to the HNWG officers where the programme themes are managed and the work is carried out. The new link governor has now worked alongside the HNWG Chair and LA officers to establish the role and has been involved in pre-meeting and several HNWG meetings. This is providing a further reinforcement of the links through Schools Forum and the impact of this is evident. The link governor has worked alongside LA officers to examine and draft communication relevant to role including the Executive Summary detailed below.

3.2

Communication flows continue to be well-understood by the members and officers. The timelines for HNWG and Schools Forum are more closely aligned and there is a clear recognition of the need to regularly update the wider stakeholders on developments from the HNWG. The Executive Summary is in the process of being developed, with the intention that this will support the shared understanding of the current position and future planning of a wider audience, including a specific focus on making the developments clear and accessible for those in governance roles across the Local Authority. Suitable and appropriate opportunities for relevant communications direct to the wider leaders across the LA are considered as part of each HNWG agenda which is supporting the broader system awareness, understanding and engagement.

4. DSG deficit recovery programme plan | Updates

4.1

The deficit recovery programme plan continues to maintain the focus on the required improvements. Colleagues from the Local Authority are providing regular progress update reports and dashboards. Following discussion and sign off within the HNWG, the report will progress to Schools Forum in line with the governance and reporting arrangements.

The focus areas across each theme are explore to depth and in detail by the HNWG – as illustrated below in the **extract from the 27th April 2022 meeting.**

Safety Valve Update

The Government announced relief of £25m for SGC against its historic overspend across SEND. The 'Safety Valve' agreement was signed this month with the DFE, the funding will be delivered over the next four years, with the first instalment of £10.5m this year, tied to the implementation of our DSG programme to improve the quality and efficiency of the way we support pupils with SEND over the next four years.

A smaller representation of the HNWG will meet next term to consider how we dovetail the HNWG meeting with the support and monitoring of the outcomes from the Safety Valve work. An outcomes dashboard is currently being developed and will be shared with the HNWG.

Theme progress and next steps

A detailed presentation was given to the meeting from each theme lead; a high-level summary of key points are below:

Themes	Objectives	Update	Next 6 months
1 - Building Capacity in Mainstream Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in Education, Health and Care Plans & exclusions Improved educational outcomes for children at SEND Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated trend data on No of EHCPs, EHCP requests, Exclusions Statutory assessment data awaited (cut for children at SEN Support) Deep-dive review of outcomes of My Support Plans in sample of primary and secondary schools (Terms 5 and 6) with Integra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Strategy, and cluster-led elements: Vulnerability Tool and Multi-Agency Meetings Primary Metal Health Specialist in every cluster Integra Behaviour Support Specialist in every cluster Specialist Mentoring offer in every cluster Parent Carer Forum Outreach pilots
2 – Top Ups	To implement a fair, transparent and sustainable 'top-up' model based on best practice comparable with statistical neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Guidance approved by Cabinet. Letter gone to schools to distribute to parents New banding system implemented for mainstream schools in September. Resource Bases and Access Centres meetings arranged monthly to work through the issues / address concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to business as usual Monitor impact of new bandings; pick up individual issues where nominal EHCP + 'top-up' is insufficient to meet the need. Appeals Panels will take place in each term SGS College moderation process including appeals will be completed by 31st May 2022 Special Schools working with the LA to have recommendations for banding implementation by December 2022.
3 Early Years	To Reduce the reliance on EHCPs by early identification of need and provision of the required support	<p>EY Inclusions Support Fund & EY Transition Support Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application process live from 12th April. Panels meet from 25th April <p>£200K Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autism Training, SEND Training for Childminders, Inclusion Hubs – well attended, positive feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise EP support process Contract review meetings Decisions to extend 12-month pilots (Inclusion Hubs, Little Treasures Group, EP Support) Monitor, review and analyse new EY fund take-up

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Themes	Objectives	Update	Next 6 months
		Parent & Carer Support – Little Treasures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly stay and play support sessions now running at Yate and Warmley • Virtual support sessions now running 	
4 – Independent Placement Commissioning	Aims to raise the resilience of mainstream education providers so they are more inclusive and have the capability to cope with CYP who are on the paradigm of needing support for a SEND that is either life-long or temporary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 75 High Cost out of LA Placements assessed with a new EHC Best Value Working Group working through case by case potential for more local provision + exit strategies • Sub-regional Complex Case investment looking at earlier intervention / prevention (CCG / Bristol / N.Somerset / S Gloucestershire) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Value Working Group will have planned strategies for High Costs ensuring we have plan in place especially around transition • ISEND Commissioner working with Commissioning team to look at stronger negotiations over placements within the independent sector • SW Sufficiency Project is being evaluated with SW ADCS Network to look at an ongoing programme • Joint Commissioning across Education, Health & Social Care at CCG level (Bristol / N.Somerset / S Gloucestershire) • Feasibility Study for capital investments – cross boundary building new special education resources / purchasing independent sector provision / etc.
5 - Special Schools / Resource Base Provision	To ensure the right access to appropriate specialist placements by securing the correct number and type of placements across South Gloucestershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand reporting due to start June 22 • Specialist Education Network Meetings + Action Plan in place (Special Schools; Resource Bases; Access Centres) review current capacity and identify options for increase in capacity to meet demand • Special Schools aligned to SEN Support Clusters develop inclusion confidence and support • Capital investment programme defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of placement data capture and reporting (included in Theme 6) • Capacity data capture process to track demand and plan response • Capacity position statement • Gap analysis report • Proposal to sector • Capital investment programme planning for next three / five / ten years (including potential sub-regional potential)

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Themes	Objectives	Update	Next 6 months
*NEW THEME 6- Data Management	To provide accurate information to key stakeholders in SEND and Inclusion to help inform strategic and operational decisions		This will be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining the range of indicators required to inform key stakeholders• Creating an accurate set of Council held SEND and Inclusion data• Co-ordinating and integrating SEND system data from key partners including schools, health and social care• Producing reports to provide oversight of all SEND

5. Next steps

The Executive Summary is to be finalised and shared with a wide range of stakeholders, as led by South Gloucestershire LA Officer and Link Governor. Further focus on the outlined themes as part the HNWG cycle, identified through the termly meetings of HNWG.

HNWG Progress Update on DSG to be shared with Schools Forum on 7th July, following the next HNWG on 16th June.

RECOMMENDATION

Theme leads to pursue the scope of the work outlined in the updates provided to HNWG in September and ongoing and report back to HNWG in the June and November meetings accordingly.

Report Author Susie Weaver/Claire Brown/HNWG

Figure 1

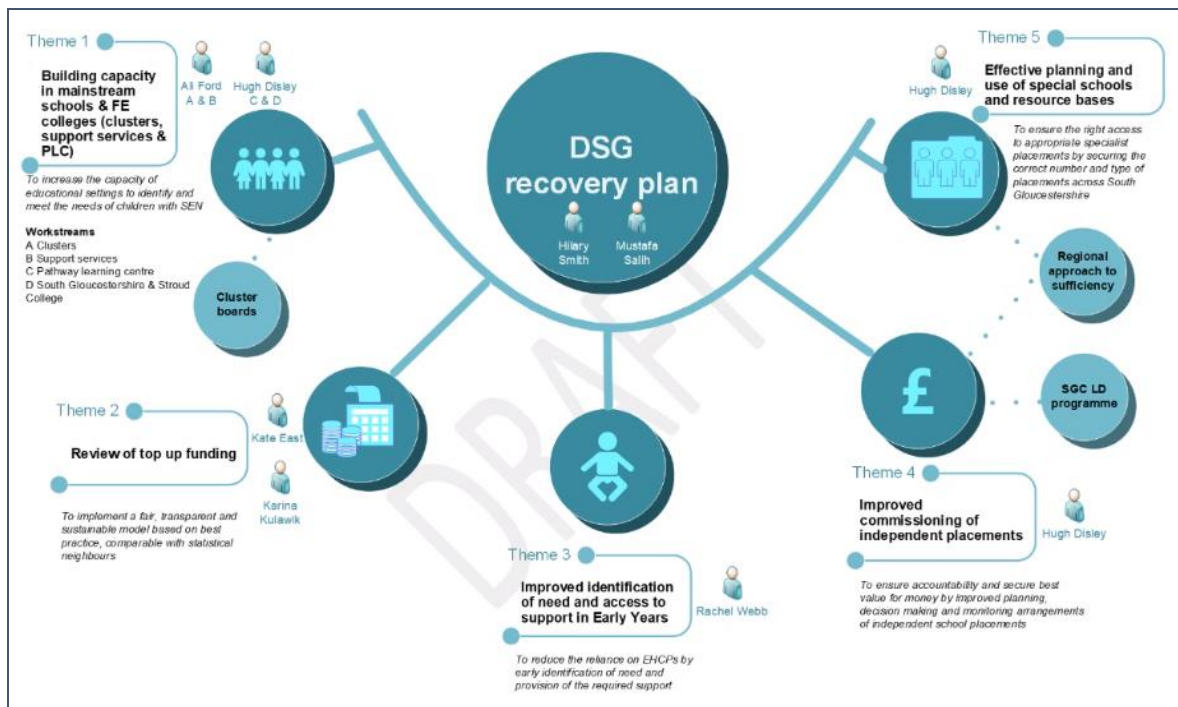
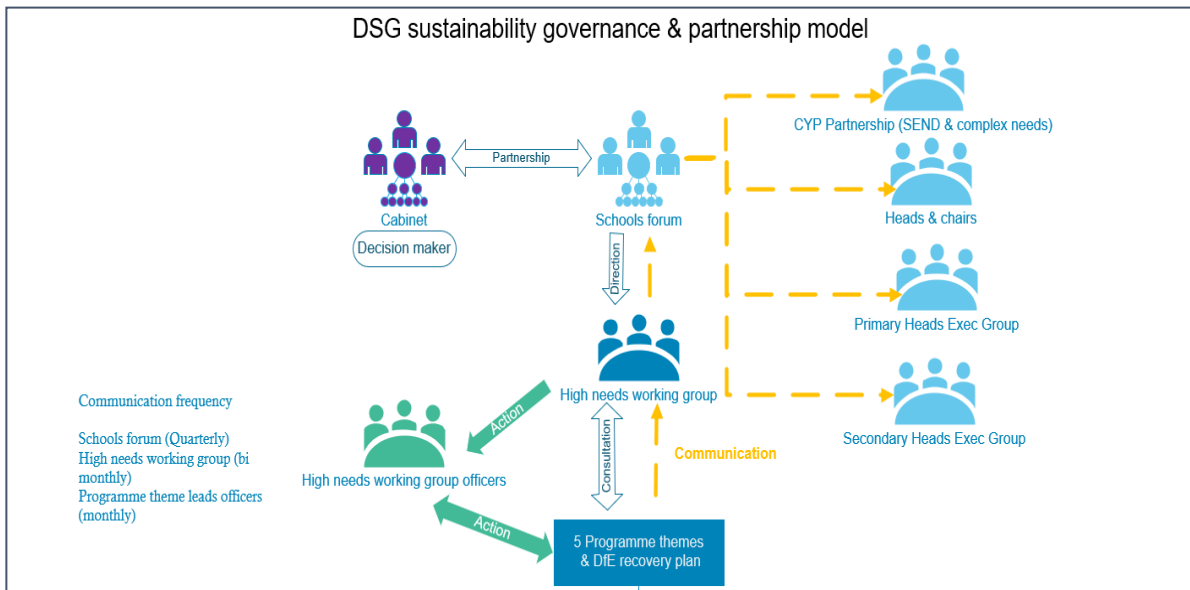


Figure 2



SCHOOLS FORUM FORWARD PLAN

July	7th			
		7	Place planning	Hilary Smith
		8	Financial Regulations for Schools	Justine Poulton
		9	HNWG Update	Susie Weaver
		10	Schools Forum Membership, Constitution & Self-Assessment	Ali Davies

ANY OTHER BUSINESS