

SCHOOLS FORUM**31 January 2019****Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services****Central School Services Block (CSSB) budgets 2019-20**1. **Purpose of the Report**

To seek Schools Forum approval to the 2019-20 Central School Services Block budgets.

2. **Information and Analysis**

The 2019-20 Central School Services Block (CSSB) allocation was announced on 17 December 2018. This block of the Dedicated Schools Grant was introduced in 2018-19 to fund local authorities for the statutory duties that they hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:

- funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the former Education Services Grant – see Appendix 1;
- funding for ongoing central functions; and
- historic commitments previously held within the Schools Block.

Where local authorities hold duties in relation to all schools (as set out in Schedule 2, Parts 1 to 5 of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2017), all schools must be treated on an equivalent basis. The CSSB allocation for 2019-20 is as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – CSSB Allocation 2019-20

NFF multiplier	£29.23
October 2018 pupil census count	97,700.00
Total ongoing responsibilities	£2,855,771
Historic commitments	£1,737,000
2019-20 Central School Services Block	£4,592,771
2018-19 Central School Services Block	£4,492,000
Increase	+£100,771

The proposed allocation of funding is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Proposed Central Schools Block spend

	2019-20	2018-19	
Item	£m	£m	
<u>Ongoing responsibilities</u>			
Admissions	0.538	0.527	Inflation
Schools Forum	0.041	0.040	As above
Former ESG Retained duties (App 1)	1.620	1.588	As above
Licences – agreed by DfE	0.602	0.561	Forum approval not req'd
Sub total – ongoing commitments	2.784	2.716	

	2019-20	2018-19	
<u>Item</u>	£m	£m	
<u>Historic commitments</u>			
Contribution to combined budgets	1.737	1.737	
Sub-total – historic commitments	1.737	1.737	
Total Central Services Schools Block	4.521	4.453	

Ongoing responsibilities

Derbyshire's spend in respect of ongoing responsibilities is below the average of other LAs. Our net spend on ongoing responsibilities equates to £24 per pupil (based on 110,000 pupils aged 3-19 in schools and academies) which compares with a shire average of £25 per pupil. The proposed on-going responsibility budgets in Table 1 are £71,000 below the amount allocated in the settlement for these functions. It is not proposed to allocate this residual sum.

Historic Commitments

Derbyshire's £1.737m historic commitments allocation is unchanged from 2018-19 and represents the long-standing contribution to the Authority's early help offer. During 2018 the Authority has engaged in a review of its early help offer and has consulted a range of stakeholders on the arrangements going forward. A report is due to go to Cabinet on 31st January 2019 seeking approval to the changes which would come into effect from September 2019.

If agreed, the proposals would result in the current REHO pooling arrangements for schools and academies ceasing on 31 August 2019. From September 2019 schools will be encouraged to develop their own early help offer in line with Working Together 2018 expectations. Some schools have already stopped re-pooling and by clustering together have developed successful early help offers in their areas. Through transition arrangements Children's Services will be offering support to schools in this area.

The proposals to Cabinet are clear that targeted early help activity by way of individual case work remains an essential role for the Council, to target support to those most vulnerable to family breakdown and reduce the potential for admissions to care which would result in poorer outcomes and high cost placements. The future children's early help service will therefore include some capacity for targeted direct case work. In addition it is proposed to provide a menu of group work support for a broader selection of children and families whose needs have been assessed through an early help assessment by internal and external professionals. The proposals include transition arrangements which will offer support to multi-agency professionals and organisations to make the practice changes.

Notwithstanding the proposed changes, the Authority is seeking permission to retain the full £1.737m in 2019-20 which equates to £17.78 per pupil. A review of the CSSB allocations in Appendix 2 shows that this figure is significantly below the national average (£29.90), the upper tier (shire) average (£29.97) and the average for the East Midlands (£40.15). Derbyshire's figure is 18th highest/10th lowest of 27 shire LAs.

From a purely financial perspective, it is in the Authority's, schools and academies' best interests to commit the resources for early help once again as any reduction in reported

planned spend is likely to reduce future years' CSSB grant allocations. As the name suggests, allocations of grant from the DfE are based on historic spend so if we report a lower spend in 2019-20 the allocation for 2020-21 could be reduced. The arrangements in future years will have to be re-visited as the DfE have stated their intention to start to reduce the historic commitment element of CSSB to LAs from 2020-21.

If the Forum agree to commit the funding for 2019-20 then, for the 5 months April 2019 to August 2019, the resources would continue to be used to underpin the current REHO arrangements, utilising around £0.724m. The balance of the funding would contribute to a time-limited transition team whose role would include focussing on assisting schools and academies to develop their capacity to support children, young people and their families and helping to address issues raised by stakeholders in the consultation. The new arrangements will also have a continued focus on improving school attendance for individual children, tracking Children Missing Education, and providing PA support for 14-19 year olds with SEND.

Final decisions on the level of CSSB spend are a matter for the Schools Forum. The LA is now seeking formal approval to be allowed to retain the amounts set out in Table 2 for 2019-20. If Forum approval is not granted then the Authority would have to consider making an application to the Secretary of State for Education for permission to retain the funding.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have been considered: social value; prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, finance, human resources, legal & human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Held in Children's Services Finance.

5. Strategic Director's Recommendation

That the Schools Forum agree to the CSSB allocations requested by the Authority as set out in Table 2 of the report.

JANE PARFREMENT
Strategic Director for Children's Services

Statutory and regulatory duties

Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)

Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)

Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)

Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)

Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)

Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)

Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)

Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public/voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)

Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)

Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21)

Education welfare

Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)

School attendance (Sch 2, 16)

Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18)

Asset management

Management of the LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)

General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b)

Central support services

No functions

Premature retirement and redundancy

No functions

Monitoring national curriculum assessment

No functions

Therapies

No functions

Other ongoing duties

Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8) – this does not require schools forum approval

Admissions (Sch 2, 9)

Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)

Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)

Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)

Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)

Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (new addition to CSSB, to be included in 2018-19 regulations).¹

Historic commitments

Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)

Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))

Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))

Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c))

Dedicated schools grant: 2019-20 Schools block and CSSB		2019-20 DSG central school services block (CSSB)				Appendix 2		
		2019-20 CSSB unit of funding (£s)	2019-20 CSSB pupils (headcount)*	2019-20 CSSB funding for historic commitments (£millions)	2019-20 total CSSB block (£million)	Historic CSSB per pupil £s	Rank (of 149 LAs)	Rank (of 27 upper tier (shire) LAs)
		[H]	[I]	[J]	[K]	[L]		
			= [C] + [D]		= ([H] * [I]) + [J]	= [J] / [I]		
ENGLAND		33.64	7,357,476	219.969	467.510	29.90		
825	Buckinghamshire	37.50	73,903	4.654	7.425	62.97	24	6
873	Cambridgeshire	29.14	80,315	5.770	8.110	71.84	20	4
909	Cumbria	30.40	61,614	3.129	5.002	50.78	32	7
830	Derbyshire	29.23	97,700	1.737	4.593	17.78	79	18
878	Devon	26.87	91,237	1.186	3.638	13.00	92	20
838	Dorset	34.57	43,870	0.384	1.901	8.75	101	23
845	East Sussex	31.88	63,097	6.155	8.167	97.55	9	1
881	Essex	37.10	193,647	5.005	12.189	25.85	60	13
916	Gloucestershire	31.94	80,115	0.000	2.559	0.00	125	26
850	Hampshire	30.49	172,554	3.014	8.275	17.47	81	19
919	Hertfordshire	34.15	167,709	0.000	5.727	0.00	125	26
886	Kent	32.09	209,075	6.983	13.692	33.40	50	10
888	Lancashire	30.16	162,354	1.695	6.592	10.44	95	21
855	Leicestershire	26.75	91,433	0.923	3.369	10.09	96	22
925	Lincolnshire	31.75	95,602	2.780	5.815	29.08	56	11
926	Norfolk	29.66	105,132	0.240	3.358	2.28	120	25
815	North Yorkshire	33.23	74,152	1.788	4.252	24.11	63	14
928	Northamptonshire	31.26	106,157	7.777	11.096	73.26	19	3
891	Nottinghamshire	28.28	108,519	3.700	6.768	34.09	49	9
931	Oxfordshire	29.31	84,830	1.631	4.117	19.23	76	17
933	Somerset	31.44	66,894	6.192	8.295	92.57	11	2
860	Staffordshire	30.61	110,652	3.190	6.577	28.83	57	12
935	Suffolk	23.90	92,824	6.620	8.839	71.32	21	5
936	Surrey	35.80	143,790	1.087	6.235	7.56	105	24
937	Warwickshire	37.48	74,888	1.598	4.405	21.34	68	15
938	West Sussex	32.25	106,492	5.190	8.624	48.74	33	8
885	Worcestershire	31.46	72,886	1.500	3.793	20.58	70	16
LONDON		41.29	1,123,965	37.194	83.605	33.09		
METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES		31.31	1,707,563	48.316	101.784	28.30		
UNITARY AUTHORITIES		34.34	1,738,382	50.914	110.608	29.29		
UPPER TIER AUTHORITIES		31.56	2,787,567	83.545	171.513	29.97		
London		41.29	1,123,965	37.194	83.605	33.09		
East of England		32.54	827,861	22.753	49.687	27.48		
East Midlands		30.09	636,975	25.575	44.744	40.15		
North East		31.45	340,759	10.893	21.609	31.97		
North West		31.58	1,003,750	23.807	55.508	23.72		
South East		33.86	1,166,827	31.421	70.932	26.93		
South West		31.45	686,638	19.982	41.577	29.10		
West Midlands		32.84	823,897	29.738	56.793	36.09		
Yorkshire and the Humber		32.74	746,806	18.606	43.055	24.91		

* Pupil numbers include pupils in academies going through recoupment. The DSG Pupil Number Tool shows how the pupil numbers have been derived.

[DSG allocations tables 2019_2020.xlsx](#)