

## Schools Forum Agenda Pack – Item 7

<b>Date: 13 January 2022</b>	<b>Item7</b>
<b>Type of report: Decision</b>	
<b>Report title: Dedicated Schools Grant – 2022/23: de-delegations and centrally retained items</b>	
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### 1. Executive Summary

This report asks the Schools Forum to approve the budgets for the top-slices from the schools block, de-delegated funding and centrally retained elements for the 2022/23 financial year. The schools funding formula is considered in a separate paper on this agenda to avoid this report becoming overly complex.

The paper adopts the principle that the Local Authority will not ask schools to increase the level of de-delegation for 2022/23. However, with the potential loss of the government grant supporting the Learning and Achievement team, reductions in services will need to be made and, therefore, the main decision is around the level of the Learning and Achievement budget and the Behaviour Support Services budget used to fund Family Early Help.

This decision is pending the outcome of the consultation (issued on the 29 October 2021) on the phased reduction of the schools monitoring and brokerage grant that supports the Learning and Achievement team. Whilst the outcome is expected in early January, it had not been published at the time of writing this paper and members will be updated verbally at the meeting.

### 2. Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked to agree:

- i) the top-slices to the schools block in **Table 1** in **section 4.3**
  - a) **Growth Fund**  
£100k to be set aside (no change from 2021/22)
  - b) **Falling Rolls Fund**  
£300k to be set aside (an increase of £100k from 2021/22)
- ii) the de-delegated services individually detailed in **Table 3** in **section 5.5** by phase (mainstream primary and secondary representatives only). The proposed total budget is **£3.230m**, which is virtually the same as 2021/22 de-delegation at £3.231m
  - a) Contingency
  - b) School Improvement
  - c) Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help
  - d) Behaviour support services – Summerhouse
  - e) Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)
  - f) Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)
  - g) Staff costs supply cover (trade union)
- iii) that academies and VA secondary schools will be offered the (de-delegated element of) Family Early Help (FEH) services on a buy back or agreed contribution basis, recognising that FEH

service provision to non-maintained primary schools is not covered by the de-delegation of behaviour support services

- iv) the centrally retained budgets of **£1.395m** (to be agreed individually by all schools: maintained/academy and free schools), as outlined in **section 7.1**.
- v) the funding for the Central Education functions of Southwark (to be agreed individually by maintained schools only), as outlined in **section 7.2** The proposed budget is **£16.43 per pupil** which is no change from 2021/22.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The guidance surrounding central retentions and de-delegations are governed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publication [Schools Revenue Funding 2022 to 2023](#).
- 3.2 Under the regulations the schools block of the DSG can only be held centrally for certain services as specified by the DfE and where Schools Forum agree to:
  - de-delegate funding, by phase;
  - centrally retain funding before allocating the formula.
- 3.3 The LA is required to submit to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) the provisional 2022-23 authority pro-forma by 21 January 2022. The pro-forma outlines the details of the local funding formula, including the agreed de-delegated budgets.
- 3.4 Further complications are involved, as generally services are accounted for as a whole rather than a specific funding source. Some of these services are then again sub-divided into statutory and non-statutory services, again each may have different funding sources. There is no clear dividing line and it is not black and white that an officer will be performing a statutory or non-statutory function or that it will relate to one service area. For example one phone call to a school may relate partly to a statutory service and part to a non-statutory service.
- 3.5 The main funding for which the Schools Forum are asked for decisions are from the following:

#### **Schools Block – top-slice**

Local Authorities (LAs) may set aside schools block funding to create a fund for growth and falling rolls. Once the top-slice has been made the remaining funding is distributed to schools. The top-sliced funds are open to both maintained and academy schools

#### **De-delegated services**

De-delegated services are for maintained schools only. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval. De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or PRUs. Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, the presumption is that we will offer the service on a buy-back basis to all schools and academies in Southwark which are not covered by the de-delegation.

The DSG Operational Guide lists the services which can be de-delegated set by the Department for Education (DfE) (paragraph 368).

#### **Central Retentions**

## Central School Services Block

These are funded from the Central School Services Block (CSSB) which is one of the four funding blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant. It is completely separate to the schools block and the schools formula. The funding for 2022/23 is **£1.856m** and is simply calculated by the ESFA as a rate of funding multiplied by the pupil numbers plus a historic element. The rate of funding is different for each authority. Southwark has no historic element. The funding is separate from the schools block and a saving here does not mean that the costs will be added to the schools block

2022/23 funding allocations across Inner London are as follows:

<b>Central school services block (CSSB)</b>					
<b>Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2022 to 2023 central school services block</b>					
		<b>CSSB unit of funding (£s)</b>	<b>CSSB pupil count</b>	<b>Funding for historic commitments (£s)</b>	<b>Total central school services block (£s)</b>
<b>202</b>	<b>Camden</b>	50.72	17,931	362,496	1,271,931
<b>203</b>	<b>Greenwich</b>	45.90	38,855	2,430,897	4,214,350
<b>204</b>	<b>Hackney</b>	46.51	29,662	492,032	1,871,612
<b>205</b>	<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	61.00	16,444	1,813,581	2,816,665
<b>206</b>	<b>Islington</b>	52.14	20,253	421,888	1,477,880
<b>207</b>	<b>Kensington and Chelsea</b>	49.61	11,636	226,304	803,542
<b>208</b>	<b>Lambeth</b>	38.47	31,827	0	1,224,366
<b>209</b>	<b>Lewisham</b>	48.48	34,407	2,025,415	3,693,443
<b>210</b>	<b>Southwark</b>	49.87	37,216	0	1,855,962
<b>211</b>	<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	54.60	38,216	1,424,384	3,510,978
<b>212</b>	<b>Wandsworth</b>	48.14	27,700	1,090,048	2,423,518
<b>213</b>	<b>Westminster</b>	50.82	17,855	90,112	997,478

The CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies in England. The CSSB has been created from two different funding streams: the schools block funding that was previously is held centrally by LAs and the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).

Education functions for maintained schools

LAs are able to fund services previously funded from the Education Services grant (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools Forum. The services involved are defined by legislation (*The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations*).

#### 4. Schools Block – top-slice

Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a fund for growth and falling rolls. Once the top-slice has been made the remaining funding is distributed to schools. The top-sliced funds are open to both maintained and academy schools.

- Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy (Growth fund);
- A falling rolls fund

#### 4.1 Growth Fund

These funds are managed by the schools in financial difficulty panel, which comprises three head teachers. The growth fund has been reduced to £100k over the past two years, it is used to contribute to the cost of running of bulge classes where these have been set up. Bulge classes are only funded when need has been identified and agreed with the LA. Some schools are still expanding in the Secondary sector, although most of the funding for this is built into the schools funding formula by using estimated pupil numbers. While the latter is the approach for permanent expansions to year groups, the growth fund is for bulge classes that do not permanently expand all the year groups. It is a one-off class. It is proposed to keep a small amount aside as an emergency provision.

#### 4.2 Falling rolls funds

This fund is also managed by the schools in financial difficulty panel. The criteria for the fund are set by national regulations although there is some limited scope to adjust the criteria locally. The current level of the fund is £200k, with the schools re-organisation programme, some schools in Southwark will start to see their pupil rolls rise. The impact is slightly unknown but it is proposed to increase the fund to £300k

4.3 The proposals are summarised in the following table. **Table 1: Schools block – top-slice**

5. De-	Budget	Approved 2021-22 budget £000	Proposed 2022-23 budget £000	Comments
	Growth Fund	100	100	The funding has been left at the same level for 2021/22 and provides for tow bulge classes in case of emergencies.
	Falling rolls	200	300	The purpose of the fund is to provide support to those schools whose rolls are falling only for them to rise in the following years. With a number of potential re-organisations the funding has been increased to £300k, which means 6 teachers can be potentially funded rather than 4 teachers.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	

#### delegated Services

5.1 This funding is initially allocated to all schools, as part of the Southwark School Funding Formula. For maintained primary and secondary schools funding in some instances can be de-delegated or “returned” to the LA to be held and managed centrally. De-delegation is not applicable to academies, special schools, nurseries or PRU’s. For PRUs, nurseries and special schools to benefit from these services there would need to be “buy back” into the service. Nursery schools and special schools (except hospital schools) agreed to buy back into the fund for contingencies and maternity in this current year (2021/22). Academies can buy into some funds but not others, specifically maternity and contingencies.

- 5.2 The Schools Forum are required to formally agree the de-delegated budgets annually, with members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools required to decide separately for each phase. The decision applies to all maintained schools within that phase.
- 5.3 Funding for de-delegated services is automatically allocated to academies as part of the schools funding formula and they are able to make their own arrangements for these services. Academies may choose to purchase services from the LA, where they are offered.
- 5.4 Last year (2021/22) the Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate funding for the following services:

<b>Table 2 – 2021/22 de-delegated services</b>				
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Actual 2021/22 Budget £000</b>	<b>Actual 2021/22 Primary School Rate £</b>	<b>Actual 2021/22 Secondary School Rate £</b>
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	AWPU	502*	27	27
School Improvement	Lump Sum	198	3,300	0
School Improvement	AWPU	257	14	14
Behaviour support services – contribution to early help	FSM Ever 6	359	64.55	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	FSM Ever 6	1039	187.00	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	FSM Ever 6	55	9.81	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	AWPU	747	40.15	40.15
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	AWPU	74	4.00	4.00
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>		<b>3,231</b>		

\*Schools in Financial Difficulty £466k, Audit £36k.

- 5.5 The proposed funding for 2022/23 is shown in the table below. The overall principle in drawing up this proposal has been to change the budgets in line with the data changes used in the calculation of the schools budgets. Pupil numbers have reduced although free meals eligibility has increased.

This means the total sum de-delegated would be £3.230m which is virtually that same as 2021/22 which was £3.231m.

The rationale for the proposals are shown in the paragraphs that follow the table below

6.

**Table 3 – Proposals for de-delegation of services based on option 3, sharing the loss equally between family early help and learning and achievement (Options 1 and 2 are shown in Annex A and B to this report).**

More details of the options are shown in 6.2 onwards

<b>De-delegated proposed budgets 2022/23</b>					
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Report Section</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Proposed 2022/23 Estimated Budget £000</b>	<b>Proposed 2022/23 Primary School Rate £</b>	<b>Proposed 2022/23 Secondary School Rate £</b>
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	6.1	AWPU	667	38	38
School Improvement	6.3	Lump Sum	274	4,800	0
School Improvement	6.2	AWPU	246	14	14
Behaviour support services – contribution to early help	6.4	FSM Ever 6	275	646	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	6.5	FSM Ever 6	1,114	187.00	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	6.6	FSM Ever	658	9.81	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	6.7	AWPU	526	30	30
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	6.8	AWPU	70	4	4
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>			<b>3,230</b>		

## **6. De-delegation – services analysis**

### **6.1 Contingencies**

This includes funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty and school audits. The Schools in financial difficulty funding is allocated by a panel of three head teachers supported by LA officers. The panel sits at regular intervals and schools put forward applications for funding when considering re-organisations within their school.

The fund is coming under increasing pressure as more schools find it difficult to balance their budgets. Conversely if a school is in financial difficulty and are already making redundancies, it is not always easy or possible for schools to meet the redundancy costs unless they reduce their costs even further. On the other hand it seems unfair on those schools who are managing their budgets well to penalise them by increasing the fund available for the schools in financial difficulty panel.

The fund also makes a contribution to the Internal Audit service which is undertaken by an external provider. This is different to the audit of the external accounts that is undertaken on an annual basis. This budget funds the school internal audit programme, to ensure that all schools in Southwark are audited once every three years. This provides assurances to schools, governing bodies and the LA on the financial controls in place in schools. It is not proposed to reduce the funding rates, although discussions will be held on the audit programme.

At the meeting on 17 June 2021 we saw the maternity funding was underspending and the initial look this year's implies that it will continue. It is proposed to re-purpose the funding and transfer £200k from the maternity fund to the Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund.

Special schools and Nursery schools can buy into this fund at rates per pupil of £190 and £72.

### **6.2 Additional school improvement services**

Last year the traded service level agreement with schools came to an end, and a different approach to funding the service was adopted for a temporary period of a year. The funding basis agreed was through the de-delegation process of a standard contribution of £3,300 per primary school. The former intervention fund that had been a long standing de-delegation item continued, but was merged under the school improvement banner.

A consultation was issued on the 29 October 2021 on the Schools Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (£330k), which is used to support the Learning and Achievement team. This is a second consultation on the grant. It was hoped that this consultation would, in particular, allow LAs flexibility in how they carry out their School Improvement functions whilst prioritising educational recovery from Covid. Also it would provide an indication of the types of activity that an LA should undertake in order to demonstrate compliance with the grant conditions. It was somewhat concerning that this was not provided and the plan was that grant would be ceased. As an alternative the consultation allows schools to provide the funding to replace the grant.

The consultation issued by the DfE proposed to cease this grant, subject to the outcome of the consultation, with effect from the start of FY 2023/24, phased so that it would be reduced to 50% of the current amount on a per school basis in FY 2022/23. This means that while the grant this year is £330k, for 2022/23 it will be £165k and then in 2023/24 there will be no grant.

The DfE are proposing that the service funded through de-delegation but there is no funding added to the schools block to meet this new burden on schools.

The timing of this consultation and the continued requirement to return the calculated 2022/23 schools budget to the DfE by the third week in January is not helpful. At the time of writing this

report the outcome of the consultation is not known, documents issue by the Department suggest that the outcome will be published in early January, members will be updated verbally at the meeting.

We are seeking the Schools Forum views on three options within the overriding principle that the overall level of de-delegation will not be increased for 2022/23, within these options services schools receive will be reduced but the LA will look to mitigate the impact.

**Option 1 – Reduce the School Improvement team budget by the loss of grant** (maintain funding for school improvement at 2021/22 rates with no additional de-delegation to cover loss of grant)

If the decision were to reduce the school improvement team budget by the loss of grant, it would reduce the primary team to 2.0 posts. It would not be possible to provide the current level and quality of support, advice and guidance. Priority would be given to schools causing concern in line with statutory duties (see more details in para 6.3.3).

**Option 2 – Reduce the Family Early Help service by the loss of grant** (increase school improvement funding to cover loss of grant, subsidised by reduction in funding allocation to Family Early Help)

This would equate to a 13% reduction in the staffing budget for the Under 11s service and equates to 3.3 FTE staff. This would be achieved through reducing/deleting a Family Early Help Practitioner posts across each of the 4 localities (see more details in para 6.4.5).

**Option 3 - Reduce both the School Improvement team budget and Family Early Help budget by an equal share of the grant.**

Table 4 provides a summary of the allocation rate as under each of the options described above with an analysis of each service and the work and support they provide to schools, together with the likely impact on the service of the reduction is contained in sections 6.2 to 6.4, supplemented by Annex C.

**Table 4 – Summary of financial impact of Options 1 to 3**

<b>Summary of financial impact of Options 1 to 3</b>					
<b>Option</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Actual 2021/22 Budget</b>	<b>Actual 2021/22 Primary School Rate</b>	<b>Proposed 2022/23 Estimated Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2022/23 Primary School Rate</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>1</b>	School Improvement - lump sum	198	3,300	188	3,300
<b>1</b>	Behaviour support services – contribution to Family Early Help	359	64.55	361	61
<b>2</b>	School Improvement – lump sum	198	3,300	359	6,300
<b>2</b>	Behaviour support services – contribution to Family Early Help	359	64.55	190	32



Summary of financial impact of Options 1 to 3					
3	School Improvement – lump sum	198	3,300	274	4,800
3	Behaviour support services – contribution to Family Early Help	359	64.55	275	46

### 6.3 Learning and Achievement

6.3.1 LAs have a duty to promote and act as champions of high standards in education across their schools. Each LA interprets their duties differently and has considerable freedom as to how they deliver their statutory responsibilities. In Southwark, we term our duty for school performance as the universal provision which is interpreted to reflect the Southwark context.

The Southwark Education, Learning and Achievement - Local Authority universal provision offer is regularly shared with all schools for comment.

Interventions are focused on acting swiftly to address underperformance and financial and governance failures and helping schools to deliver the best outcomes for their pupils.

The duties and responsibilities of LAs and the Regional Schools Commissioner are outlined in the **DfE** Schools Causing Concern guidance: [Schools Causing Concern Guidance](#)

The key features of the service provided are outlined in more detail in Annex C and essentially, the additional Advisory offer is designed to support Southwark schools throughout the academic year to:

- Systematically evaluate and develop an aspect of school improvement,
- Reflect on practice and measure impact over time;
- Build capacity at all levels;
- Ensure sustainability and embed change;
- Inspire innovation and facilitate partnerships.

6.3.2 Evidence of the impact of the service is provided in Annex C and can be measured by:

- 95% of primary schools judged as good and better by OFSTED; and
- Pupil outcomes are consistently above national and broadly in-line with London averages in statutory assessments and the expected standard

6.3.3 The risks to current service provision under each option:

**Option 1** (where it is proposed that School Improvement funding is reduced by £165,000 – total loss of grant in 2022/23):

The current primary school advisory team is currently comprised of 3.2 posts already reduced from 5.2 posts in March 2020. A budget cut as detailed, would reduce the primary team to 2.0 posts. It would not be possible to provide the current level and quality of support, advice and guidance. Priority would be given to schools causing concern in line with statutory duties. Most schools would only receive 1 visit a year.

- Loss of 1.2 primary advisor posts resulting in less dedicated advisor contact (phone, email) and fewer overall visits to all primary maintained schools.
- Removal of moderation clusters and discounted resources.
- Reduction of intervention projects from four to none.
- Reduced CPD offer including Preparation for OFSTED and new Headteacher induction and coaching.

This is likely to result in:

- More schools causing concern
- More schools judged as RI
- Loss of contextual understanding of individual schools
- Loss of local intelligence and a central point of contact
- Loss of identification of good practise and facilitation of partnerships and federations
- Schools financing their own training, development, external validation and accountability

**Option 2** (where it proposed School Improvement funding is increased by £165,000 – to maintain full service provision):

No risk to School Improvement service provision which will be maintained as loss of grant will be covered by increase in de-delegation from Southwark maintained primary schools. There is a consequent risk to the Family Early Help service as the increase in funding to School Improvement will be subsidised by decrease in de-delegated funding for the Behaviour Support service.

**Option 3** (where it is proposed that School Improvement funding is reduced by £82,500 – 50% of proposed loss of grant in 2022/23):

The primary senior advisory team is currently comprised of 3.2 posts already reduced from 5.2 posts in March 2020. A budget cut as detailed, would reduce the team to 2.6 posts. It would not be possible to provide the current level and quality of support, advice and guidance. Priority for schools visits would be given to schools causing concern, new headteachers and a basic level of preparation for OFSTED.

- Loss of 0.6 primary advisor posts resulting in less dedicated advisor contact (phone, email) and fewer overall visits to all primary maintained schools.
- Removal of moderation clusters and discounted resources.
- Reduction of intervention projects from four to two.
- Reduced CPD e.g. Preparation for OFSTED would be run annually instead of termly

6.3.4 In addition, there are subsequent risks to other council services:

Southwark Education Learning and Achievement team works closely with other services in Education and Children and Adults Services. Senior advisors support headteachers to broker contacts other services e.g. governance, HR, FEH and SEND. Teams come together to work towards shared aims. For example, FEH, Health and Learning and Achievement came together to support schools to get children back into school following the first Lockdown in 2020. Our SELA recovery plan linked with other services in Education. In addition, our risk assessment process includes a wide range of information from across the directorate including finance, exclusions and attendance, HR etc. Teams join together to contribute to the bullet-in and to the HT Breakfast Briefing. This cooperation and collaboration strengthens the quality and timely response of service delivery through shared information and intelligence.

## 6.4 Family Early Help

6.4.1 Following the reorganisation of Family Early Help in 2018 the offer made to schools was either described as standard or enhanced. The standard offer was made to ensure statutory roles were fulfilled by the LA with a focus on attendance and the most vulnerable children who could be referred for support whichever school they attended.

### **Standard offer:**

- Prosecution for non-attendance
- Whole family casework model for all children at risk of permanent exclusion

- Whole family casework with step-down cases from statutory safeguarding
- Whole family casework model where there is persistent absenteeism (less than 90% over 3 terms) **AND** 3 or more Troubled Families criteria are present in the family

**Enhanced offer:**

An Enhanced offer to Maintained Primary Schools was designed to reflect the funding through de-delegation from the DSG within the Behaviour Support allocation, and provides a wider offer for vulnerable children where attendance does not need to be a key factor.

- Team Around the School meetings to identify vulnerable children and respond to local needs
- Whole family casework with persistent poor attenders (less than 90% over at least one term) where whole family work is required to address risk factors **AND/OR** there are at least 3 Troubled Families risk criteria within the family

Academy Schools and maintained secondary schools could choose to buy in the enhanced service.

#### 6.4.2 Funding of the Family Early Help Service within Children & Families in the LA

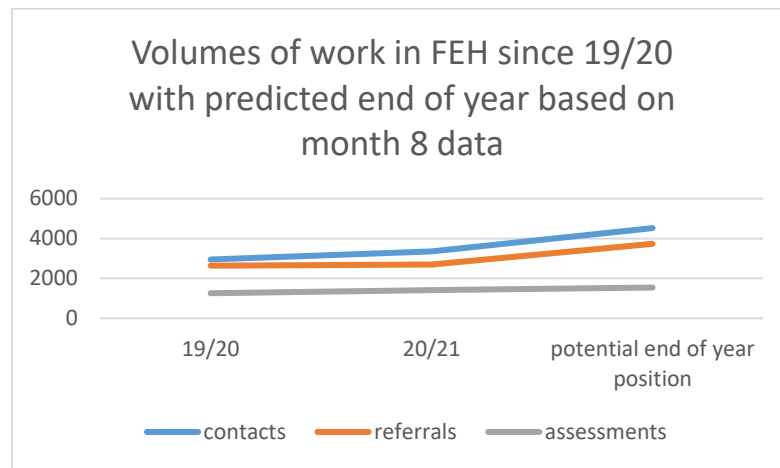
The Dedicated Schools Grant contribution towards the Family Early Help service has reduced over the last 2 years by 16% as shown in the table below:

	19/20	20/21	21/22
<b>Education Support Functions</b>	£58,620	£56,902	£53,179
<b>DSG Central retentions</b>	£195,000	£195,000	£195,000
<b>High Needs</b>	£107,000		
<b>Early Years</b>	£392,000	£392,000	£392,000
<b>Behaviour Support de-delegation</b>	£363,369	£323,800	£298,668
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,115,989</b>	<b>£967,702</b>	<b>£938,847</b>
			-16%

Education Support Functions and DSG Central allocations are used to fund the Education Inclusion team and the statutory work on exclusions and attendance prosecution.

De-delegation from High Needs block ceased in 2019/20 as part of the recovery plan. Early Years de-delegation has maintained a consistent level recognising the importance of our early help work with under 5s. Behaviour support de-delegation has reduced by 18%.

Despite a reduction in funding from DSG the volume of work undertaken by the Family Early Help Service has increased over the same period as reflected in numbers of contacts, referrals and assessments. The largest increase in need has been seen in the contacts requesting help with a 51% increase predicted if current levels are sustained (2,948 in total for the year 19/20 and 3015 up to November this financial year).

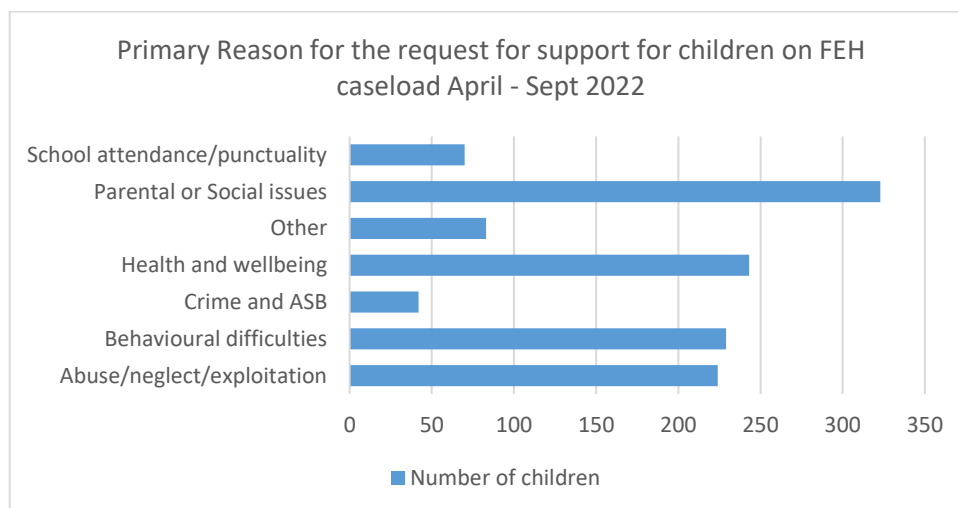


Outcome measures for FEH are reported to members and we are currently reporting 79% of families demonstrate a reduction in Supporting Families risk factors at the point of case closure.

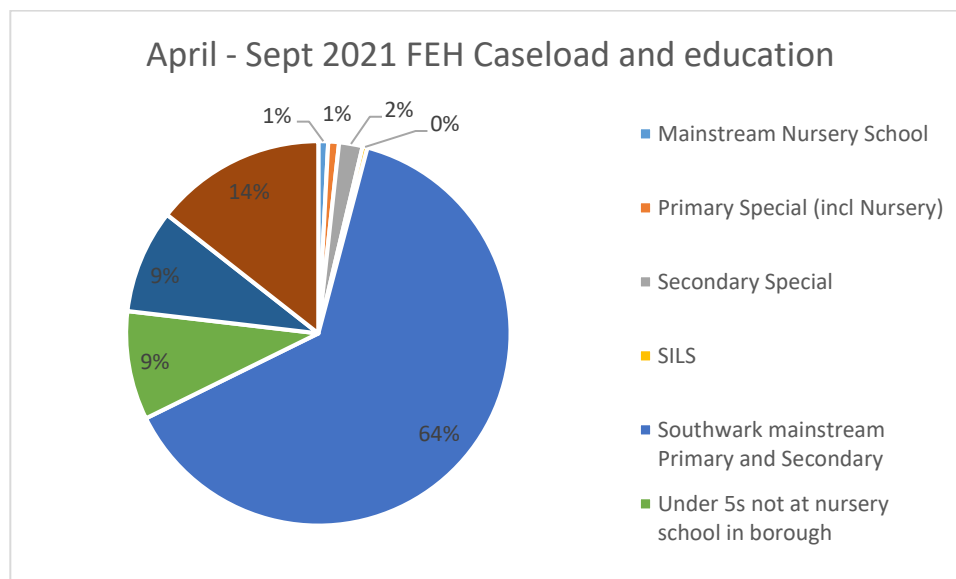
### 6.4.3 Changes during Covid and impact on the enhanced offer

In response to Covid and the focus on vulnerable children's attendance at school, recognising the widening gap in inequalities and safety provided through school attendance, Family Early Help extended its offer during 2020/21 and 2021/22. Team around the school meetings with a stronger multi-agency attendance were offered to all schools from April 2020 and 78% of schools accepted this offer.

Our data indicates that a significant proportion of the 'enhanced offer' is being received by children attending schools who do not provide any funding for FEH i.e. do not trade or agree de-delegation. The core criteria of attendance is only a primary reason in 6% of cases this year which suggests that many of these referrals do not reach the threshold of the standard offer to all children in Southwark (see chart below).



Of the April – September caseload of 1,214 children provided with FEH whole family work 64% (772) of these attend mainstream primary or secondary schools in Southwark.



Of these 772 children 57% attended schools which do not provide funding for FEH by trading or de-delegation (108 Primary phase and 334 Secondary Phase).

Primary Schools contributing through de-delegation had between 0 and 18 children supported by the FEH service during that 6 month period and the average was 6 children.

Using the de-delegation calculation for Primary/Secondary Academies and VA Secondary schools this equates to £477,399 of services which current data evidence indicates is likely to be above the original standard offer. It will not be sustainable to continue this additional work with Academies/VA secondary schools unless they make a contribution of funding.

For Primary Academies this is the data from the April – September cohort analysis:

Primary Academy	De-delegation equivalent	Number of children supported by FEH Service April - Sept 2021	Team Around School held
1	£3,545	4	YES
2	£8,707	8	YES
3	£1,449	2	YES
4	£3,227	6	YES
5	£10,555	8	NO
6	£1,875	3	YES
7	£7,845	10	YES
8	£6,643	9	YES
9	£3,854	2	NO
10	£6,483	4	YES
11	£8,324	6	YES
12	£2,053	2	YES
13	£8,974	1	NO
14	£6,457	6	YES

<b>Primary Academy</b>	<b>De-delegation equivalent</b>	<b>Number of children supported by FEH Service April - Sept 2021</b>	<b>Team Around School held</b>
15	£6,762	9	YES
16	£10,662	13	YES

For Secondary Academy/VA schools this is the data from the April – September cohort analysis (which includes one all through school):

<b>Secondary Academy/VA School</b>	<b>De-delegation equivalent</b>	<b>Number of children supported by FEH Service April - Sept 2021</b>	<b>Team Around School held</b>
1	£13,480	11	YES
2	£17,232	10	NO
3	£13,851	17	NO
4	£11,762	12	YES
5	£18,400	17	NO
6	£17,952	15	NO
7	£13,755	12	YES
8	£26,699	23	YES
9	£10,539	10	YES
10	£19,956	6	NO
11	£9,487	20	NO
12	£14,578	15	NO
13	£14,375	4	NO
14	£36,320	35	YES
15	£18,130	19	YES
16	£22,837	19	YES
17	£17,699	23	NO
18	£24,986	31	YES
19	£17,221	20	YES
20	£40,724	30	YES

The FEH service is currently predicting a £143k overspend this year owing to increased staffing costs required to respond to Covid and the volume of work.

#### **6.4.4 Impact of further reductions in the de-delegation to FEH from DSG in 21-22**

Given the evidence that the volume of work delivered differs between Primary schools and the range is 0 – 18 children in the April – September period we will propose maximum ranges based on the school's contribution to ensure fairness of access to the enhanced offer.

#### **6.4.5 The risks to current service provision under each option:**

**Option 1** (where it is proposed that there is no change to the de-delegated funding to FEH):

No risk to the FEH service provision. There is a consequent risk to the School Improvement service as this proposal can only be supported by no increase in funding to School Improvement to cover the proposed loss of grant in 2022/23.

**Option 2** (where it is proposed that FEH funding is reduced by £165,000 to subsidise the School Improvement service for the total loss of grant in 2022/23):

- This would equate to a 13% reduction in the staffing budget for the Under 11s service and equates to 3.3 FTE staff. This would be achieved through reducing/deleting FEH Practitioner posts across each of the 4 localities.
- Based on April – Sept data on workload this would mean reducing the number of children supported by 83 over a 6 month period.
- The reduction in capacity will impact on the referrals accepted and there will need to be clear evidence of the minimum 3 risk factors present in order to manage the reduction in capacity.

**Option 3** (where it is proposed that FEH funding is reduced by £82,500 – 50% of proposed loss of grant in 2022/23)

- This would equate to a 7% reduction in the staffing budget for the Under 11s service which would equate to 1.7 FTE staff. This would be achieved through reducing/deleting FEH Practitioner posts across 2 localities.
- Based on April – Sept data on workload this would mean reducing the number of children supported by 41 over a 6 month period.

#### **6.5 Behaviour support services - Summerhouse**

Summerhouse Behaviour Support Service and Provision is the Local Authority Service which offers SEMH intervention for primary pupils at risk of permanent exclusion from Southwark mainstream schools. Interventions are tailored specifically to the individual pupil by specialist staff who have proven expertise and skills in this discrete area. It is directly responsible for the reduced number of fixed term exclusions and eliminating the need for primary permanent exclusions within the borough.

Growing pressures in recent years are affecting schools' capacity and ability to identify and support an increasing number of pupils' complex needs (particularly SEMH and developmental difficulties). Summerhouse has a track record of providing early interventions for pupils, school staff and parents to support stakeholders with the complex needs of its pupils. Referrals to Summerhouse have steadily increased for its specialist knowledge, skills and support in house and outreach. Summerhouse continues to respond to the changing landscape of mainstream school challenges ensuring permanent exclusions remain a very rare occurrence and pupils are better prepared emotionally and academically for the next phase of their education. At least 85% of children return to their mainstream schools following their placement at Summerhouse and the remaining children go on to a specialist educational setting after obtaining an Educational and Health Care Plan.

Throughout the pandemic Summerhouse remained open to children and continued to support the greater needs of the most vulnerable children. Pupils could no longer only attend Summerhouse on a part time basis due to the crossing of bubbles, so their placements became full time in order to meet their high level of SEMH and keep them safe. This change provided pupils with increased security and stability at a time when there were many unknowns in the world around them.

Summerhouse is one of the services that is currently being reviewed as part the inclusion and exclusion work stream suggested in the High Needs Sub Group report. It is right that all SEND services are reviewed as part of the high needs deficit recovery plan. It would be advisable to allow that review conclude and determine the shape of the service going forward rather than to hastily make changes at this point in time which may be counterproductive going forward.

It is with this in mind it is proposed to continue on with the delegation at its current funding rate.

## **6.6 Free School Meals Eligibility Team**

The Free School Meals (FSM) service provides confirmation of families eligible for free school meals using the Central Government (DWP) Benefit Hub for 70 maintained schools through de-delegation and a further eight on a traded service basis. As at October 2020, 13,173 Southwark children were eligible for FSM – 1,600 more than recorded in the January 2020 Census. This has included a significant uptake linked to Covid where either, families applied so that they would be able to receive support with meals through the first lockdown or, they became eligible due to a drop in family income.

In addition to FSM eligibility checks, the service includes:

- Confirmation to schools of children included on the FSM protection scheme until 31 March 2023
- Provision of FSM and Census training package to school based staff
- Information and advice to schools regarding checks, returns and changes to legislation/process.
- Responding to parent queries relating to vouchers/support through the Covid period
- Processing of clothing grants/vouchers
- Support with Southwark Stats and assistance linked to Census data matching.

As this service is provided by the LA and linked to the Census, school claims are not subjected to audits by the DfE, neither do they need to manage investigations with the DWP when eligibility queries arise – this is all included in the service.

Benchmarking the provision Southwark's was in past years high in relation to other authorities, the rate has now been reduced to the average level across London.

## **6.7 Supply Cover (Maternity cover)**

This allows a school to claim back some of the cost for replacing when staff go on maternity & adoption leave. It acts as an insurance scheme. Payments for the following categories of staff where classroom based

- Deputy Head (with classroom responsibilities)
- Teachers
- Special schools' support assistants
- Learning Support Assistants for specific statemented pupils only
- Nursery nurses

The payout rate is currently set at 70%, the fund has of recent years balanced.

As we saw above it is proposed to transfer £200k of this fund to the schools in financial difficulty fund and the funding rates adjusted accordingly. Special schools and Nursery schools can buy into this fund at rates per pupil of £106 and £17.



While it is suggest to transfer this underspend to the contingency, alternatives would be to increase the maternity contribution rate of 70% or to reduce the overall de-delegation from schools.

## 6.8 Trade union duties

The amount de-delegated is slightly reduced at £74k for 2022-23 and this is supporting the release of teachers to undertake trade union duties. The funding pay out rate will continue as agreed previously with Schools Forum at £280 per day.

## 7. Central Retentions

The funding for statutory and regulatory duties for all schools is met from the central schools service block, while those services for maintained schools are funded by an adjustment to each schools budget.

### 7.1 Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 7.1.1 The CSSB forms one of the four spending blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant. It provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies.
- 7.1.2 The CSSB was created from two different funding streams: the schools block funding that was held centrally by local authorities and the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) which no longer exists. While the LA proposes how much is spent on the headings the Schools Forum decides. In the event of a dispute the DfE adjudicates where a Schools Forum does not agree with the local authority. If the Schools Forum disputes the amounts it would need to consider the areas with the defined legislation where the Local Authority needed to refocus its attention.
- 7.1.3 Similar to Learning and Achievement, there is a cross-over of funding streams for services around the central retained budgets and the Education functions budget. Expenditure is not match against one or the other.
- 7.1.5 For summary purposes the CSSB funded services and proposed budgets for next financial year are set out in the tables below. Table 5 details the proposed allocations for elements of the CSSB that require School Forum approval with Table 6 outlining the remaining allocation as determined by the LA (and not subject to Forum approval).

**Table 5 centrally retained items**

Service Area	2021/22 Budget £'000	2022/23 Budget £'000	Comments
LA retained duties	600	600	This relates to statutory and regulatory for all schools duties for all schools in in the borough regardless of whether they are maintained, free or academies.
Admissions (restated)	486	486	LA proposes to continue to top-slice the schools budget to contribute towards the educational costs of looked after children that Southwark is responsible for
Places in independent	294	294	Admissions is a statutory LA

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>2021/22 Budget £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Budget £'000</b>	<b>Comments</b>
schools for non-SEN pupils			responsibility and therefore funding cannot be delegated to schools to carry out this function.
Servicing of Schools Forum	15	15	LA proposes to continue to retain funding of £15,000 in 2020-21 to cover the costs of servicing the Schools Forum operation including clerking and working groups. It is not proposed to increase this contribution.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,395</b>	

**Table 6 additional centrally retained items**

<b>Additional centrally retained items</b>		
<b>CSSB Funding</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,856</b>
<b>Allocation, as above</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>1,395</b>
<b>Balance remaining, allocated to:</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>461</b>
Licences	213	213
Teachers' pension	69	69
Social care Levy / pay awards		53
<b>Transfer to high needs block</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,856</b>

## **7.2 Education functions for maintained schools**

- 7.2.1 LAs are be able to fund services previously funded from the Education Services Grant (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum. As we have seen there is a cross over with the central support services block expenditure.
- 7.2.2 The 2021/22 budget amounts to £327k, which is an amount per pupil of £16.43. The overall level of funding has reduced since the start of the fall in pupil numbers and schools converting to academies.
- 7.2.3 These duties continue into 2022/23. The LA is asking maintained schools to approve the continuation of this central retention in 2022/23 by maintained schools at £16.43 per pupil (the same as in the previous year) although the funding would fall in line with the reduction in pupil numbers to £288.2k.

## **7.3 Combined Expenditure Analysis**

- 7.3.1 The funding is used in a number of ways and covers some of the costs the Education Management Team, Family Early Help, Education Welfare Service , National Curriculum assessment, Standing

advisory council on religious education SACRE, Finance Team, Corporate overheads, Human Resources, Data analysis, Property Management.

- 7.3.2 Since the introduction of the CSSB, where funding for 'other ongoing duties' and 'retained duties' was combined as a single allocation to LAs, the Council's specific allocations to support central LA expenditure for all schools have broadly remained the same as agreed by the School Forum in 2017/18 – with the exception of Admissions which has been restated to the level of spend.
- 7.3.3 A review is currently underway to look at the detail of the services provided in relation to the legislation and to consider whether costs are at the right and appropriate level. The outcomes of this review will be shared with the Schools Forum and will form the basis of discussion for proposed budgets for top sliced funding, de-delegation and centrally retained budgets leading into the 2023/24 financial year.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1 The principle established that the amount de-delegated from schools should not rise due to the financial difficulties schools face does mean that difficult choices have to be made, due to the decision made by central government to potentially withdraw the grant for Learning and Achievement. It is disappointing that any confirmation of the grant ceasing has still to be made, when schools budget have to finalised by 21 January 2022.

## Annex A

### Option 1 – Reduce Learning and Achievement budget by the full

<b>Reduce Learning and Achievement budget by the full</b>						
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Report Section</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 estimated Budget £000</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 Primary School Rate £</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 Secondary School Rate £</b>	
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	6.1	AWPU	667	38		38
School Improvement	6.3	Lump Sum	188	3,300		0
School Improvement		AWPU	246	14	14	
Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help	6.4	FSM Ever 6	361	61		N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	6.5	FSM Ever 6	1,114	187.00		N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	6.6	FSM Ever 6	58	9.81		N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	6.7	AWPU	526	30		30
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	6.8	AWPU	70	4		4
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>			<b>3,230</b>			

## Annex B

### Option 2 – Reduce Family Early Help by the full Amount.

<b>Reduce Family Early Help by the full Amount</b>						
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Report Section</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 estimated Budget £000</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 Primary School Rate £</b>	<b>Proposed 2022-23 Secondary School Rate £</b>	
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	6.1	AWPU	667	38		38

<b>Reduce Family Early Help by the full Amount</b>						
School Improvement	6.3	Lump Sum	359	6,300	0	
School Improvement		AWPU	246	14	14	
Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help	6.4	FSM Ever 6	190	32	N/A	
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	6.5	FSM Ever 6	1,114	187.00	N/A	
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	6.6	FSM Ever 6	58	9.81	N/A	
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	6.7	AWPU	526	30	30	
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	6.8	AWPU	70	4	4	
<b>Total Proposed de-delegated budget</b>			<b>3,230</b>			

## **Annex C**

### **Learning and Achievement**

#### **Key features**

- Provision of opportunities for Head teachers and senior leaders to share their expertise to strengthen and improve other schools, by working in formal partnerships, such as federations.

#### **Robust quality assurance of school to school working and partnerships**

- A wide range of opportunities for career development within the borough to support the retention of talent.
- Support for structural change and development through close collaborations with key stakeholders, such as Trade Unions, the Catholic Commission and the Diocesan Board, and the sharing of local intelligence.
- Supportive interventions to raise standards and improve quality of provision.
- Close in-service working relationships that facilitate the triangulation of key information to ensure accurate advice and guidance.

#### **Dedicated time from the team**

- A named Senior Advisor and Early Years Consultant to advise, empower and challenge.
- A named advisor and consultant to discuss your individual needs and to plan how best to develop and improve.
- The brokering of advice and guidance for your school with established traded services such as Human Resources, Governor Services and Education Business Alliance.
- Online, telephone and email access to a named advisor and consultant, who have direct access to a range of Southwark Council services and expertise.

#### **Specialist advice**

- Support and guidance from a Senior Advisor for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), beyond the statutory requirements.
- Access to a specialist school data team via your Senior Advisor.
- Support and guidance from school based Champions with expertise in a range of areas.

#### **Communications and updates**

- Bi-weekly Education bullet-in emailed to all schools.
- Briefing papers and updates on national policy, including Ofsted.
- Notification of special initiatives and opportunities, e.g. Champions initiatives.

- Full access to the Leadership and Management and EYFS sections of the Southwark Schools website.
- Records to provide evidence of external challenge and validation.
- Access to an experienced, knowledgeable and professional Business Support Team.

### **Recruitment and retention**

- Range of borough wide opportunities to support the retention of experienced staff including Headteacher induction, coaching and leadership development.
- Initial advice and guidance to school leaders when considering recruitment and retention issues, including the brokering of other services.
- Representation at university recruitment fairs.
- Signposting to Southwark Council recruitment incentives e.g. leisure and cycle to work schemes.

### **Continuing professional development (CPD)**

- The opportunity to take part in a range of Champions initiatives.
- Preferential rates for CPD.
- Ongoing network support and advice for Head teachers in their second year of headship.
- Assigned credits to be redeemed against selected high quality CPD.
- Offer of free network meetings facilitated by the EYFS Team and Champions.
- Opportunity to be part of termly cluster meetings to moderate Year 2 and Year 6 in an informal and supportive capacity

### **Resources**

- Discounted resources through The Key, ASE, Super School Profile

### **Impact**

- All primary maintained schools have named advisor who knows their school context individually.
- All new headteachers of primary maintained schools were offered induction and coaching.
- All primary maintained schools were supported to prepare for OFSTED inspection.
- All primary maintained schools in need of additional support were helped to improve through advice and guidance from their senior advisor and the learning and achievement team.
- All maintained schools remained connected during Lockdown through their school improvement senior advisor.
- 95% of primary schools judged as good and better by OFSTED. See table below.

OFSTED Ranking								
Month Year	Southwark			National	London	Inner London	SNs	
	Rank – National (152 LAs)	Rank – London (33 LAs)	Rank – Inner London (14 LAs)	%	%	%	% %	
Aug 2021	93.5%	22 <sup>nd</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	86.4%	93.0%	94.1%	92.8%
Sept 2021	94.3%	18 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	86.5%	93.3%	94.4%	93.1%
Oct 2021	94.3%	19 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	86.6%	93.3%	94.4%	93.1%
<b>Nov 2021</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>94.6%</b>	<b>93.2%</b>

- Pupil outcomes are consistently above national and broadly in-line with London averages in statutory assessments and the expected standard. See 2019 table below.

	GLD	PSC	KS1 R	KS1 W	KS1 M	KS2 R	KS2 W	KS2 M	KS2 RWM
<b>Southwark</b>	74%	84%	79%	73%	78%	75%	81%	80%	68%
<b>London</b>	74%	84%	77%	73%	78%	76%	81%	82%	69%
<b>National</b>	72%	82%	75%	69%	76%	73%	78%	79%	65%