

## **Growth Funding**

### **Key Messages**

Forum members are asked to:

- Note that the growth funding to Sheffield has increased to £2.9m in 2023/24.
- Agree the planned growth funding payments of £2.04m to be made to the Sheffield schools as per Appendix 1.

### **1. Introduction/Background**

1.1. Sheffield's growth funding policy was last updated in June 2022. The policy was established to fund rising levels of population growth driven by high birth rates and increased migration from areas including some pupils where English is not the first language.

1.2. As a result of the new national formulaic methodology of calculating growth funding introduced in 2019/20, the Schools Forum agreed to revise and update the Growth Policy annually.

Growth funding income received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by all LAs in 2023/24 is as follows:

- i. £1,520 for each primary pupil
- ii. £2,275 for each secondary pupil
- iii. £74,700 for each new school that opened in the previous year not appearing on the October 2021 census but on the October 2022 census.

1.3. Local authorities are still expected to have local growth funding policies. It is not a requirement that spending on growth will necessarily match precisely the funding allocated to Sheffield for growth, and we continue to have the ability to locally 'top-slice' our overall Schools Block funding to fund pupil growth numbers.

1.4. One area of growth to note is the number of new arrival asylum seekers entering the city, at the moment this relates particularly to those from the Ukraine. Children arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme/Family Visa Scheme are funded separately by the DfE to others. Schools should not claim for growth funding under this process, growth funding will be picked up by the Homes for Ukraine Scheme/Family Visa Scheme.

- 1.5. In 2022/23 mainstream pupil growth funding available in Sheffield was £2.2m (£1.6m net). Available Growth Income has increased in 2023/24 by £700k to £2.9m.
- 1.6. The Significant Growth Funding Policy continues to incorporate the use of schools' latest published closing reserves, in line with the Falling Rolls Policy. If schools have reserves exceeding 8% in Primary Schools or 5% in Secondary Schools, of their budget share or General Annual Grant (GAG) allocation, then they will be expected to use them prior to any additional funding being awarded, outside payments covering basic needs growth.

## 2. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- i. **Note** that the Growth Funding to Sheffield has increased to £2.9m.
- ii. **Agree** to continue to use the updated Growth Funding Policy for 2023/24.
- iii. **Agree** the planned growth funding payments of £2.04m to be paid to Sheffield schools as detailed in (Appendix 1).

## **Appendix 1**

### **Significant Growth Funding Policy for primary and secondary schools 2023/24**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document sets out Sheffield City Council's (SCC) policy for funding significant pupil growth in schools to support them financially.

The pupil growth fund is established by top-slicing the individual school budget and the overall amount is agreed annually by the Schools Forum. Funding allocations will be made from this fund during the year. Any resulting overspend / underspend will be adjusted from the following year's allocation.

SCC does not receive any additional funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) towards in-year growth until the subsequent financial year.

#### **2. Principles of Growth Funding**

- i. To ensure a fair, simple and transparent funding mechanism to Sheffield schools.
- ii. That funding covers appropriate additional costs for schools.
- iii. That planned growth allocations are published annually.

#### **3. Types of Growth**

The following types of growth funding will be funded.

- i. Planned Basic Need Growth in the city as published on the 2023/24 growth funding schedule produced by the Education and Childcare Commissioning Team by individual school or area.
- ii. The cost of new schools (including preopening, diseconomy and reorganisation costs) will continue to be calculated in accordance with national recommendations.
- iii. Infant class size claims.
- iv. New arrivals to the city – English as an additional language (EAL) claims due to substantial growth from non-English speaking pupils will be funded if these lead to financial pressures.
- v. Awkward Year Group (AYG) claims.
- vi. Unplanned growth claims will be funded if they meet the trigger points described in section four.

#### **4. Growth Funding Criteria**

- 4.1 **Planned Basic Need Growth** in the city as per the published list will be funded at the relevant key stage AWPU rate:

- i. Primary = £3,463 x pupil numbers x 7/12ths (academies will receive a further 5/12ths in the next financial year to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024).
- ii. KS3 = £4,785 x pupil numbers x 7/12ths (academies will receive a further 5/12ths in the next financial year to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024).

4.3 **The cost of new schools** (including preopening, diseconomy and reorganisation costs) will continue to be calculated in accordance with national recommendations. SCC will work in collaboration with schools encountering additional set up costs for new classes and or year groups to ensure they are not placed at financial detriment.

4.4 **Successful Infant Class Size** claims will be paid based on the incremental cost model for a teacher at main scale 5 for 7/12ths (and a further 5/12ths in the next financial year to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024 at the current rate for the financial year).

4.5 Successful claims for **New Arrivals to the city - EAL** claims due to substantial growth from non-English speaking pupils may be funded based on the incremental cost basis for an additional language support assistant over and above any growth in pupil numbers.

4.6 Successful **Awkward Year Group** claims will be paid based on the incremental cost model for a teacher at main scale 5 for 7/12ths (academies will receive a further 5/12ths in the next financial year to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024 at the current rate for the financial year). An additional 5/12ths funding may apply to maintained schools if they can demonstrate that their awkward year group continues. Schools who claim through the falling rolls policy will not be able to access Awkward Year Group Funding at the same time, a schools claim will either be for AYG's or Falling Rolls.

The differentiation between the two for an Awkward Year Group is a school that has a significant shortfall in a particular year group to support the full funding of a teacher.

A school suffering from falling rolls is a school who has a significant surplus in place capacity overall from year groups Reception to Y6, who may also have AYG's but they have hit the Falling Rolls Trigger Point in surplus capacity.

4.7 Any other successful **Unplanned growth** claims will be paid based on the incremental cost model for a teacher at main scale 5 for 7/12ths (academies will receive a further 5/12ths in the next financial year to cover the period April 2024 to August 2024 at the current rates for the financial year). The trigger point to attract additional growth funding for unplanned growth will be paid if the school can demonstrate a significant increase of more than 5% in pupil numbers against the funded numbers (the published October 2022 census data) or at least 30 additional pupils. For this calculation we would use the budget calculated by Sheffield rather than the allocation provided by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA).

4.8 The growth funding relating to the reception uplift (comparing October to January) is funded through the annual school block funding formula.

## **5 Applications for Growth Funding**

**Growth Funding Applications should be made by the Head Teacher by 30 November 2023** (applications received after this date will not be considered) and claims should include the following information:

- i. Details of what the Head Teacher feels the pressures are and how these will be addressed if growth funding is successful.
- ii. The current class structure/organisation plan (including staffing). Planned proposed class structure/organisation plan (including staffing). Schools will be expected to move to mixed staged teaching if not already utilising this method, no claims will be funded unless this structure has been addressed within the claim.
- iii. Current year group numbers across the school.
- iv. Anticipated year group numbers across the school from September 2023.
- v. For claims outside basic need growth, schools should include the school's latest published closing reserves. These should not exceed 8% for Primary schools and 5% for Secondary schools, of their budget share (for the 2023/24 financial year) or GAG allocation for 23/24 academic year and any claim must be signed off by either the LA maintained school Head Teacher or Trustees of academies. This is in line with the Falling Rolls policy which was introduced in 2021/22.
- vi. Governor Approved Spending Plan (GASP) OR for an academy the latest quarterly forecast outturn report.
- vii. FR2 return (Financial Return) or equivalent for an academy.
- viii. Schools must clarify which growth fund they are claiming for, AYG, planned basic need, new schools, infant class size, new arrival to the city, unplanned growth or falling rolls.

Applications can be made by email to:

Email: [Richard.hudson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.hudson@sheffield.gov.uk)