



Sheffield Education Funding Forum 25 June 2024 Executive Summary

SEND Top-up and Locality Funding

- A resource allocation system called 'Formulate for SEND' has been procured from Imosphere.
- Formulate is a web-based system that supports the allocation of funding for children and young people with Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans.
- Practitioners complete a needs profile within the system for each young person with an EHC Plan and this generates an annual funding band between 1 and 10.
- In April and May 2024, we costed provision for a representative sample of 200 children and young people in mainstream schools and submitted to Imosphere for analysis to develop the basis of a funding model.
- The Local Authority team is now working with partners across the sector to gather further information and undertake moderation activity to build a funding model for EHC Plans for children and young people in mainstream schools.
- An advisory group including parent/carer representatives and colleagues from schools is being established to guide the next steps.
- We plan to start the implementation of the new funding model in the autumn term 2024 for newly issued EHC plans in mainstream schools.
- The total budget for the interim model is £5.9m, which had been retained for the 24/25 school year.

The Forum noted:

- The update including the transfer of additional funding from the high needs budget into the interim funding model.
- The recommendation to include SEND funding as a standing item on the Forum agenda.

Growth Policy and Falling Rolls Update

Forum members:

- Noted that the Council's Growth Policy has changed for 2024/25 due to the reduction in funding and the fact that in the 2024/25 fiscal year, the Department for Education (DfE) has tightened up on guidelines for the administration and distribution of growth funding by local authorities.
- Noted that the Growth Funding to Sheffield has decreased to £1.56m in 2024/25 from £2.95m in 2023/24 - a 47% decrease.
- Agreed the updated local Growth Funding Policy for 2024/25.
- Agreed the planned growth funding payments of £1.35m to be made to the Sheffield schools as per Appendix 3.

- Agreed the updated Falling Rolls Policy for 2024/25 which will continue into 2024/25 as pupil numbers in primary schools continue to decline. The fund will be £250,000 as in previous years.

PFI Expiry Project

Forum members noted the briefing on PFI expiry, and the potential risks involved in effectively managing the expiry process:

- Sheffield had a total of 16 schools rebuilt using PFI contracts. The first of these contracts (Phase I) was signed in 2001; the final (Phase 5) school was completed in 2012.
- The first phase of PFI contracts is due to expire at the end of August in 2026 and this involves six schools.
- On expiry, all of the assets and services will revert to either the academy trust associated with each school, or to the Local Authority, whichever is the Responsible Body for the school.
- The schools should be returned to the Responsible Body in broadly similar condition when they were built, but subject to 'fair wear and tear'.
- SCC has undertaken its own condition surveys.
- Sheffield continues to receive legal advice throughout the expiry process and guidance and advice from DfE PFI colleagues as required.
- The PFI Company proposes to spend £8.5M across the six schools between now and contract expiry in 2026, with £5.6M of those works being proposed in this financial year.
- The major risks highlighted from the remaining lifecycle are therefore twofold: 1) The amount of works (£5.6M) programmed for this financial year and the achievability of that spend in a single financial year, and 2) Whether the total remaining lifecycle "pot" is wholly sufficient to meet the contractual obligations for return of assets.

It was also agreed that any concerns raised at the Forum be discussed in more detail at the Forum Funding Working Group in September.

Early Years Wraparound Update

Forum members were asked to note details of the programme and process for funding allocation and that further updates will be provided in due course:

- The DfE funded Wraparound Programme aims to increase the availability of primary school-age childcare before and after the school day. It will be a universal offer.
- National roll-out of provision will be from September 2024, with the expectation that every family requiring wraparound care will be able to access provision by September 2026.
- Sheffield has been allocated programme funding of £2.68m over three financial years to create new or expand existing wraparound provision, and to consider flexible, creative and innovative approaches to wraparound provision.
- 11% of the allocation is for LAs to build their capacity and increase resource to deliver the programme.

- There is also an allocation of capital funding for both expansions related to the extended entitlement and wraparound. This is £849,000, alongside, £102K Capacity Support Grant to help LAs to deliver the extended free early learning entitlements.
- For wraparound, the programme delivery requires SCC to map provision and demand. In addition, allocate funding to providers, ensure that settings meet quality and safeguarding standards, collate data and set up monitoring and reporting processes and promote wraparound to providers and parents.

Sufficiency Planning 2025-2030

- **For Primary**, Forum members were asked to note:
 - That officers will continue to monitor the impact of falling rolls and provide the sector with latest forecast data.
 - That officers will continue to support schools with surplus places and undertake actions as required, including reduction in published admission numbers where needed.
- **For Secondary**, Forum members were asked to note:
 - That allocation forecasts are utilised and uplifted in order to provide a contingency of additional places in the secondary system, to allow for in-year movement, in-year admissions and to help mitigate demand from variable factors.
 - The need for growth in secondary places from 2025 onwards and that officers are seeking to work with the sector to develop solutions.
 - That citywide places are forecast to return to current levels in the early 2030s.
- **For Post-16**, Forum members were asked to note that officers will continue to work with the post-16 sector and the Department for Education (DfE) to better understand the sufficiency position across the city and identify gaps and solutions to address.

School Balances Update

Forum members were asked to note the update regarding surplus/deficit school balances as at the year-end 2023/24 and that steps are being taken to monitor this:

- Based on the latest financial returns, overall, schools are reporting a total deficit of £5.9m at the year-end, and £12.4m of surplus.
- 12 schools ended 2023/24 with a deficit balance which totalled £5.9m. Ten of these schools were already part of the deficit process for 2023/24 and will continue as part of the process in 2024/25.
- There are now only two schools that are over the permitted threshold for surplus balances, and both have provided detailed spending plans.
- We received a one-off Additional Support Grant for Schools in Financial Difficulty of £517k and it was agreed that it be allocated to reduce the deficit at Holgate Meadows. In addition, a further £60k of funding was shared equally across six other schools.

Forum Membership and Constitution Update

Forum members were asked to:

- Note the updated constitution document and approved the proposed revisions regarding attendance of members.
- Respond to the call for nominations to fill the vacancy of Forum Vice-chair.
- Note the updates to membership – new and retiring members:
 - **Academy Representatives** - David Dennis and Chris French will be retiring at the end of the academic year and therefore standing down from their roles on the Forum. The Chair thanked them, on behalf of the Forum, for their long-standing service and wished them well for the future.

A process is currently underway to seek nominations from the academy sector to fill these roles in preparation for the new academic year.

- **Early Years Representative** - Karen Simpkin's term is due to expire in September 2024 and nominations will be sought from the early years sector. Karen will be expressing an interest to represent the sector for a further term.
- **Special Academy Representative** - Joel Hardwick's term is due to expire in September 2024. However, given that Nexus is currently the only special academy in Sheffield, Joel will remain on the Forum for a further term as their representative.
- **Faith Schools Representative** - Andy Krabbendam, Head Teacher Clifford All Saints CofE Primary School joins the Forum as the new faith sector representative.

Forum papers are available to download via the [Sheffield Education Funding Forum](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/sheffield-education-funding-forum) webpage.

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You can also download a list of Forum members on this page should you wish to raise an issue/ask a question.

If you have any queries about the Sheffield Education Funding Forum, please contact:

amanda.murray@sheffield.gov.uk