

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PUPIL GROWTH FUND (STAFFING AND NON-STAFFING) FOR 2020/21

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Forum on the distribution to schools of additional funding, retained from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), to ensure that infant class sizes are not breached or schools do not experience financial detriment as a result of Basic Need expansion.

Information and Advice

2. The pupil growth fund (staffing and non-staffing) is £1.0m for 2020/21 (£1.0m 2019/20). Criteria for the payment of funds to schools have previously been agreed to ensure that this ring-fenced fund was appropriately distributed to schools with any surplus to be added to the following year's balance.
3. The funding for 2020/21 will also include £251,487 underspend carried forward from 2019/20 which will make the total budget £1,251,487.
4. For 2020/21 the ESFA allocated Nottinghamshire £3.789 million through their growth formula as part of the Schools Block of the DSG. This allocation has been used to fund all pupil growth including the primary pupil growth fund (£1 million), new and growing free schools (£0.437 million) and pupil number variations for secondary schools (including a late adjustment to South Wolds Academy Feb 2020) as a result of basic need (£0.685 million).
5. The unallocated balance of £1.667m has been retained and effectively ring fenced for future growth in the Non-ISB reserve. This approach will protect against the uncertainty around the level of growth funding in future years. The cumulative ring fenced reserve for future growth now stands at £2.936 million.

2020/21 Growth Fund Allocations

6. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 25 for the autumn and Spring terms throughout the lifetime of the growth, i.e. from NCY R to 6.
7. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 15 (1/2 Form of entry) in NCY R, 2, 3 and 5 for the autumn and Spring terms.

8. Schools Forum has agreed previously to revenue fund schools where exceptional or over PAN allocations have taken place resulting in unavoidable breaches of infant classes. The level of funding to be determined on a case by case basis.
9. 5 schools are eligible to receive a 3rd term of PGF support in academic year 2019/20 payable in financial year 2020/21 which was agreed previously. This funding amounts to £73,751(Appendix A).
10. The arrangements for funding growth in academies is such that the ESFA fund the summer term allocation via a reduction in recoupment from the Schools Block of the DSG. When completing the APT, NCC informed the ESFA of the summer term payments for three academies. Therefore a net impact of the summer term payments for academies is £31,276.
11. The Spencer Academy Trust is eligible to receive up to £200,000 to support revenue costs associated with the establishment of the Rosecliffe Free School.
12. 7 schools require lagged funding to mitigate the impact previous basic need expansions either by PAN + 15 (1/2 FE) or by PAN + 30 (1 FE). **Appendix A**. These schools will be funded for the Autumn and Spring terms 2019/20. This funding amounts to £263,068.
13. Schools eligible for PGF due to breaches in infant class size will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2020.
14. Schools expanded previously which are not recruiting to a sufficiently high level to justify lagged funding have been removed.
15. The PGF requirement for commitments in financial year 2020/21 will be £494,344 from a budget of £1,251,487. The expected balance at the end of 2020/21 is £757,143.
16. The ring-fenced fund has been enough to meet current identified need, if any further need arises during the year this will be reported. Any underspend will be reported to Schools Forum and may be considered for carry forward into 2021/22.
17. Recent years have seen the annual total payments from the PGF reduce. This is primarily due to a bulge in pupil numbers having worked their way through primary school year groups. It is possible that an allocation of £1 million will not be required from the Schools Block of the DSG in future years. NCC will carry out work prior to the 2021/22 consultation process to investigate whether a lesser allocation would be sufficient for 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report and agrees the allocations made from the growth fund for Autumn 20 and Spring 21.
2. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2020-21 and considers the level of funding and criteria for future years.

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A 3rd term commitments agreed in 2019 – Summer 2020

		£
St Andrew's Primary	Ashfield	15,638
Lambley Primary	Gedling	15,638
Sir John Sherbrooke Primary	Gedling	15,638
Mapplewells	Ashfield	11,199
Killisick Junior	Gedling	15,638
<u>Total</u>		<u>73,751</u>

Academies recouped through APT x 3
 Mapplewells Primary, Killisick Junior and Sir John Sherbrooke Junior
 -42,475

Net Total **31,276**

B Free School revenue funding

Rosecliffe/ Sharp Hill (SAT) Rushcliffe up to £200,000

Total **£200,000**

C PAN Increase due to basic need – 2 terms support – Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021

Robert Mellors Primary	Gedling	32,325
Brookside (30 to 45)	Rushcliffe	36,793*
Stanhope Primary	Gedling	32,325
Heatherly Primary	Mansfield	32,325
Killisick Primary	Gedling	32,325
Sir John Sherbrooke	Gedling	32,325
Central Junior	Gedling	32,325
Brookside (45 to 60)	Rushcliffe	32,325

*includes £4,468 adjustment from 2019/20

Total **263,068**

Total Forecast Expenditure 2020/21 **494,344**

NB Any ICS breach will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2020