

MINUTES OF MEETING



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Meeting title: Nottinghamshire Early Years and Schools Forum
Date and time: 23rd February 2023, 2pm to 4pm
Location: Microsoft Teams – Virtual Meeting

Membership

'A' denotes absence

	Andrew Rossington	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
A	Ben Waldram	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
	Steve Border	Maintained Primary Head Teacher
	Helen Roberts	Maintained Primary Head Teacher – (Vice Chair)
	David Phillips	Maintained Secondary Head Teacher
	Halina Angus	Academy Representative
	Anne Hall	Academy Representative
	Neil Holmes	Academy Representative
	James Macdonald	Academy Representative - (Chair)
A	Neil Robinson	Academy Representative
	Daniel Moore	Academy Representative
	Matt Rooney	Maintained Special School Head Teacher
	Jamie Hutchinson	Academy Special School Head Teacher
	Colin Barnard	Governor Maintained School Representative
	Andy Palmer	Governor Maintained School Representative
	Laura Gapski	PVI - Early Years Group Member
	Karen Richards	PVI - Early Years Group Member
A	Nigel Frith	Church of England Diocese Representative
	Louise Knott	14-19 Partnership Representative
	Joe Jefferies	Trade Union Representative - NASUWT
A	Jo Myers	Trade Union Representative - UNISON

In attendance:

Cllr Sinead Anderson	Mansfield West Division
Cllr Tracey Taylor	Misterton Division
Colin Pettigrew	Corporate Director Children, Families and Cultural services
Peter McConnochie	Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills
Karen Hughman	Group Manager, Education Access, Standards and Safeguarding
Mandy Stratford	Early Years Strategic Manager
Simon Ray	Team Manager School & Families Specialist Services
Naomi Clark	Senior Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Mark Needham	Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Jason Gooch	Finance Business Partner, Children and Families Finance
Toni Gardner	Assistant Accountant, Children and Families Finance (Clerk)
Patrick Grant	DfE Local Authority Funding Policy Team

Funding Formula (NFF) has been mirrored; Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) was set at 0.5% the formula was unaffordable by £2M approximately and therefore had to reduce the pupil factors within the minimum and maximum values to balance to our funding, reduction was actioned as a percentage of the factor values Appendix A will be updated as we are awaiting the final approval for our Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to reflect actuals before report is uploaded onto the public website, the difference is minimal.

TG

Analysis was carried out on the census data over 3 years, the largest increase this year was on English as an Additional Language (EAL) 67% increase. Second biggest increase was mobility 37%, followed by Free School Meals (FSM).

Budgets for maintained schools will be issued by the 28th if not before.
James Macdonald – a briefing this morning we were advised academies can expect their budgets to be issued by the end of March unless you've joined a trust in February or March this year, in which case it will be by the end of April.

Daniel Moore – will the funding gap be recovered in future years, is the funding gap due to the demographic change, will this close?

Naomi Clark – the amount Nottinghamshire has received per pupil for 2023-24 is based on the characteristics of the pupils on the October 21 census. Funding for 2024-25 should be based on characteristics of pupils on the October 22 census.

A conversation was had around the increase in British Nationals such as families/pupils from Hong Kong and the increase some areas have seen such as Chilwell School with the increase in EAL not a surprise.

Laura Gapski

Query 1 - interesting that we have an increase in pupil numbers given what we know about the current birth rate. Do we expect to see that mirrored in Early Years numbers as at our consultation meeting there's anxiety amongst providers due to low cohorts across the autumn and spring term.

Colin Pettigrew

Nottinghamshire has seen a couple of years of bulge number of pupils going from primary to secondary phase, the live birth data would suggest that numbers entering the primary phase are reducing. The bulge is in years 5,6,7, and 8.

Query 2 – would like to understand more about the 1.43% discrepancy between the percentage increase in the funding allocation to schools as opposed to early years

No data available now but Jason Gooch to investigate further.

JG

Naomi Clark – Growth, table 4 is a list of allocations through the schools funding formula process, Nottinghamshire's APT that has been submitted for approval. £1.34M has been allocated via the APT, the remaining £3.276M we would look to allocate as and when required throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Forum

1. Notes the content of the report – report noted.
2. Approves the amount of growth funding centrally retained for 2023-24, £3.277m – approved by members, unanimous.

3b Central School Services Block Funding 2023-24

Naomi Clark presented the paper.

This block is for the Local Authority (LA) to carry out our central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, a large part of this is the ongoing responsibilities and historical commitments.

Funding received for historic commitments has reduced again by 20% in line with last year. Appendix A details funding use, 2022-23 v's 2023-24.

James Macdonald – would you explain Appendix A line 2.

Mark Needham – previously when teachers retired, they may have been able to retire with their years enhanced, this is no longer permitted (except for widows/ers of existing pensioners). The allocation has always been within the central block and is fixed and previously agreed with the ESFA as a historic cost, there's a much larger budget within the LA that pays for the remaining cost for teachers who retired early and had their pensions enhanced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Forum

1. Approve the Authority's application to centrally retain funding within the Central School Services Block for the services set out at Appendix A – approved by members, unanimous.

3c Early Years DSG Funding Central Expenditure 2023-24

Mandy Stratford presented the paper.

Report is an update to December's paper where we presented the proposals following our consultation. At the time, base rates were not known these were announced 20th of December 2022.

Work has been carried out and the purpose of our report today is to seek approval from the Forum to centrally retain 2.71% of the Early Years Block to provide the functions to support our statutory duties. Local Authorities are permitted to centrally retain up to 5%. We'd like to retain 2.71% to pay for the posts and activities detailed in Appendix A.

There is a ring fence amount of £868,000 for Teacher Pay & Pension, which was approved and agreed in December as were the principals of the hourly rates, we seek approval to publish the final hourly rates payable to Early Years sector for the delivery of their education, entitlements, and supplementary funding.

The report gives a breakdown of how the block has been allocated to the Local Authority (LA), for all children who are eligible for funded childcare entitlement. 2-year-olds, and all 3- & 4-year-olds universal and 30 hours.

Following the consultation and approval at Forum in December, the hourly rates for 2-years-olds is £5.66 the entirety hourly rate passed over, 3- and 4-year-olds is £4.70 from £4.53 (£4.53 includes the additional 5p allocated midyear). Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) goes up by 2p per hour, the deprivation funding for 3- and 4-year-olds, the additional EYPP payment down from 10p to 5p per hour.

Some funding was released to fund eligible children who are recorded under communication and language, those children who are identified early for speech

and language. Deprivation Fund remains the same, and disability access fund has gone up slightly.

With regards the Teacher Pay and Pension we have taken the amount that we were given, which is the £868,000 it will be allocated out to schools and academies delivering early years entitlements in the form of a supplementary funding using a similar methodology for 3- and 4-year-olds but based on part time equivalent numbers and as a percentage of the actual total amount.

Appendix A details the central retained costs which was explained to members.

Karen Richards - attended a meeting with colleagues who are on the Forum for Leicester City who are looking to include the Teacher Pay and Pension allocation into the hourly rate for all providers of Early Years.

The national average daily rate has gone up by 9.7%, hourly rates are up 3.2% for 3- and 4-year-olds and 4.4% for 2-year-olds.

It's additional supplementary funding for those schools who accommodate 3 and 4 years old compared to PVI settings, there's always been a disparity.

There are graduates working in PVI settings, Karen would like forum members to re-look at how we allocate the Teacher Pay and Pension grant going forward.

Mandy Stratford – historically the Teacher Pay and Pension Grant was paid directly to schools, for 2023-24 the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) rolled that allocation into the hourly rate calculation for the LA. The grant to schools is a provision to contribute towards the 23% teacher pay and pension, advice given from government was that it should be used for the purpose for which it was originally introduced, Nottinghamshire have followed this guidance.

Other East Midlands colleagues are following the same model, Leicester City looks to be doing it differently, they have 65 primaries that are delivering early year, Nottinghamshire have 265, so the amount allocated will probably be different with not as much impact.

Karen Richards – understand we are comparing different situations, some City Council make a financial award to PVI's with graduates, acknowledging that we are moving towards a graduate led workforce across all early year's settings. Teachers also work in PVI's and feel it's only fair we look to address this.

Toni Gardner – Do PVI's pay graduates at the level of Teachers Pay and Pension?
Karen Richards – If we had the budget, we would but the budget is not there. They should be entitled to it, it's very different working out a school budget compared to working out a budget for a nursery, private nursery, or a preschool. They couldn't and wouldn't have the funds to allow 23% pension contribution. Leicester City were one of those local authorities that had their amounts cut right back, so they were on 1% increase, with the Teacher Pay and Pension it has allowed a 3.5% increase to the sector.

James Macdonald – forum members will form a working group to work out whether we can do anything and what the implications are for PVI's, Schools and Academies and feed this back to all members. This will be for 2024-25 as 2023-24 has been consulted on and agreed.

Daniel Moore and Helen Roberts put them themselves forward with Karen Richards and Laura Gapski to form a working group, all other members are invited, and Toni Gardner will send out a meeting to all members to see if they can attend

TG

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Forum:

1. Approves the Authority's proposal to retain £1.464m of early years funding to be used for sufficiency and assessment functions within the Early Childhood Services and Schools and Families Specialist Service.
Approved by members, unanimous.
2. Notes the Authority's proposal to retain £0.868m to be allocated as a supplementary fund to Schools delivering Early Years entitlements as a contribution to Teachers Pay and Pensions in line with DfE guidance issued December 2022. (As approved by the Forum December 2022)
Noted
3. Approves the publication of the hourly rates to be payable to Early Years Providers as detailed above.
Approved by members, unanimous

3d DSG Budget Monitoring Period 10

Mark Needham presented the paper.

There is now an overall underspend of £6.8M. Main areas are an underspend of £5.477M in the High Needs Block, £1.019M in the Schools Block and £259,000 in the Early Years Block.

Each individual block was explained as per the report.

High Needs Block

Payments to our independent providers - £6.4M was added to this budget last year due to previous trends and experiences. The anticipated increases in costs and demand have not really materialised. The demand in the EHCP's have increased, they continued to increase year on year. However, we are in a situation where we've got the demand, but haven't got the places, even the most expensive places in the independent market is at saturation point.

There are further underspends in the partnership team caused by vacant posts and delays appointing to the new posts created last year. The underspends are offset by £0.5M overspend in the placements with other local authorities. There's also an anticipated overspend in the non EHCP specialist provision as there's been an increase in the number of non EHCP pupils who have required the local authority to provide interim support since the COVID lockdowns.

School Block

The underspend is on the Growth Fund, and as per previous years, we will put this into the reserve, ring fenced for future growth.

Early Years

Forecast includes the previously agreed increase of 5p per hour for the 3- and 4-year-olds. Underspend is mainly the disability access fund.

Started the year with a reserve of £7.379M, current forecast suggests we will end the year with a reserve of £15.5M. Of that £6.688M is marked for growth in schools and £8.815M predicted to be in the general reserve.

£2.945M was put back into reserves due to risk of it going bust, this is not the case now but there for future pressures, supplementing the reserve itself.

James Macdonald - it's worth noting that this is a very different picture around High Level Needs than Nottinghamshire had. Since Peter Clark's review and all the work that we've done to try and bring this back in. Ignoring the £6.88M for growth, as this is ringfenced for growth, there is a reserve of about £8.8M, which is just over 1% of the Council's income in terms of DSG which is where it should be in terms of a buffer for when things happen, a much more secure position that may be used in the future. A lot of work has been carried out to ensure we are not having to take money from the school's block.

Colin Pettigrew – There is an issue around supply in the independent sector, if we had places available to us in the last year, we would have probably placed more children. We need to be mindful of this, it's good for this year but perhaps not sustainable.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Forum:

1. That the Early Years & Schools Forum notes the content of the report. – report noted

3e High Needs Presentation

Peter McConnochie - this is the annual overview which is shared with the Forum an excellent opportunity to make sure there's real transparency around the how the High Needs Block is being used.

Page 3 is a complicated and hard to read diagram, which essentially is the funding formula. it's important to mention that historic spend continues to heavily influence the total allocation that's received. In 2023-24 historic spend accounts for about 27% of the overall allocation, a factor which reinforces the inequity of HLN funding across the country.

Nottinghamshire has been underfunded for some time and the following two slides shows by how much in various formats.

The good news, Nottinghamshire have seen an uplift once again this year in the High Needs Block but as mentioned the historic element of 27% continues to impact on our overall funding in comparison with other areas.

SEND Home to School transport graph on page 9 shows this budget has significantly increased over time. Contribution from the High Needs Block is £1.764M which was agreed back in 2011. The amount of contribution has not increased since despite the significant increase in costs for transport, due to restrictions and constraints surrounding the High Needs Block.

Actual expenditure on SEND Home to School transport last year is forecast to be £13.5M, essentially funded by the Local Authority with £1.764M contribution from the High Needs Block. If the High Needs Block was meeting the full cost of SEND Home to School transport, reserves we're now beginning to see would certainly be more challenging.

Throughout presentation we'll talk through some of the emerging challenges and opportunities that we're facing, utilising the High Needs Block as we move increasingly towards a much stronger position of locality working that we've discussed previously at Forum.

Karen Hughman – Page 11 At the last Forum meeting we had talked about the DfE's guidance of a 3% Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) increase and the fact that we wish to seek to disapply some of our schools from this 3% due to inequality historic band funding in Nottinghamshire special schools.

Special schools and the County Council have worked together to try and equalise this over the last few years. This has been successful up to a point, we were still in a position where three of the schools have been paid more for their banned funding than the other special schools. At the last meeting we had been seeking to disapply the 3% MFG, our conversations with the DfE resulted in the LA unable to proceed with the disapplication and unable to avoid increasing the disparity between the special schools.

A different route and decision has been taken. We will seek to apply the 3% to the school's second highest on the list and all schools below this banding will be uplifted to match these rates, these schools in effect will receive more than the 3%. Fountaindale, which is the one outlying school, through no fault of their own, will also receive a 3% uplift on their banding rates. NCC will continue to work towards achieving the same rate for all special schools but it's important to note that Fountaindale's top up rates are still 15.5% above the new standard rate.

In terms of how that banned funding works, there's five bands and all of our special schools work together to ensure that band funding is reasonably shared between the children whose needs are assessments in a fair and equitable way.

In December, the DfE increased the High Needs Block further, providing an additional lump sum of 3.4% for each of our special schools. That money will be going directly to the special schools, teachers' pay, and pension grants are paid separately, which is calculated on a per pupil basis.

NCC have made progress with increasing special school places by negotiating some additional school places with some of our schools such as St. Giles without expansion to the school, and then by expanding other schools such as Orchard and Derrymount school. There are plans in place for expanding Bracken Hill, it's in the early stages but work has started.

Historically there has been two separate budgets, one around equipment and staffing for special schools, originally paid for by the health service £350K and £500K for therapies. This year we will combine the two into one pot of money to support special schools for equipment and therapies, which can make an enormous difference in supporting children and ensuring that our special schools fulfil the requirements contained in their Education, Health, and Care Plans. The pot is on a bid basis by our special schools.

We have set up several enhanced provision units across the Authority. Five secondary enhanced provision units on one primary enhanced provision unit. Budget for this is £1.276M approximately. The budget allocated for each unit is based on the cost of employing one teacher and two teaching assistants.

The purpose of the units is to support some of our most troubled, traumatized children, those with social, emotional, and mental health needs, while supporting the children to function long term in a mainstream setting.

There is an intention to set up further enhanced provision units this year and bids will be sought from interested parties. Different to previous years where there has been the offer of some capital monies as well. The focus is very much on schools that have space to set these provision units up, with the revenue funding mentioned.

Partnership funding £6.608M, an increase this year on last year in two parts. A 10% permanent increase to support all school, primary and secondaries across Nottinghamshire to help to prevent exclusions, and a further temporary one off additional 10% has been added in acknowledgement of the additional pressures that schools have been facing to support pupils with social, emotional, and mental needs post Covid.

David Phillips - The initial data review of EPU's undertaken in summer of 2022 was shared with locality areas. Further evidence was gathered in autumn 2022 by Jane Starbuck to ensure there was a fuller picture of the impact of the EPU's. The forward plan shared in locality groups this month suggested no further review would take place until Autumn 2023. Can the full report from autumn 2022 be shared to inform planning and try to reduce exclusions across the county?
Karen Hughman to share full report as requested.

KH

There is an intention to create several new posts. Two posts to monitor children who are placed by the local authority (LA) in alternative provision focusing particularly on placements made by the Fair Access Team. The focus will also be on Looked After Children who are in alternative provision. Then on a short-term basis two officers to work with our secondary schools around pupils with Social Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) who are at risk of exclusion. Our secondary schools are at this moment, finding it increasingly difficult to support those children and we've seen higher numbers of fixed term and permanent exclusions this year than we have done before and that's a trend that we would like to put some time and effort into reverse in partnership with schools.

Matt Rooney - maintain special heads absolutely recognise, support, and endorse the decision to try and reduce the widening of that gap using the MFG. Really pleased that the Secretary of State and the letter that was written for the 3.4% is on top of the continued commitment of the local authority to right size the funding to make it fairer.

First question - I'm assuming the local authority is still committed to trying to produce a bit of a plan or strategy that will show us over time how they plan to bring the rest of the schools up to that one remaining outlying school?

Second question - Stubbin Wood is listed in the costings as a maintained school. Is this because it's a maintained Derbyshire school? Is it an Academy?

Why are they shown in the Nottinghamshire Special school line? and how many children are currently in that provision? I note it's funded at £660K for 24 places.

Karen Hughman – Question one this is something NCC and special schools can do together within the special schools' trust board. To come up with a plan of what that might look like.

Peter McConnochie – at the last forum meeting, the discussion had was behind the decision to take this opportunity to close the gap as much as possible within the uplift requirements.

Karen Hughman – Stubbin Wood Mansfield, is part of an Academy Trust. It's based within Nottinghamshire and opened to children in January. It has a maximum capacity of 24, 11 children have started, and the intention is for it to be full by September if not before. It's a gradual build up due to the nature of the children that they are working with.

A discussion was had around who's on roll these pupils appear on and if Stubbing Wood would be inspected as a school of 24 children. Karen Hughman to get back to Matt Rooney.

Peter McConnochie - the next slide is Post 16 High Needs Funding. This budget has been increased this year, to ensure we're able to pay for the education of pupils in colleges and other Further Education (FE) settings, for SEND employability, supporting 16+ and 18+ into employability pathways in schools and colleges. An increase of £1.8M due to increase demand and increase costs.

Independent Specialist Provision (EHC Plan & LAC) budget has increased again this year; the budget is used to make provision for children where they require independent specialist places. The graph on the left shows the total number of EHCP's, the number of new EHCP's which continues to increase. It is here where we have a challenge in terms of the ability to secure places.

Those who require provision via the independent sector it's either through needs because we can't seek the right support or in some cases through tribunal.

We have plans to increase special school capacity as previously mentioned, we're also seeking to develop and support provision of alternative provision free schools to mitigate demand, this is still an area which requires budget to fund what we would see as an increase in the foreseeable future. The following slide shows budget versus spend on the provision.

Forecast indicates and Mark Needham mentioned this earlier we may not spend all this year's increased budget but previously the budget was insufficient.

Last year was the first time this budget was increased to the point where it could meet demand, but supply wasn't there to meet this.

Continuous increase in demand and saturation of the market continues to be a challenge, there is a recommissioning and procurement activity with regards to frameworks and contracts seeking to increase both the INM and the AP placement but in the right places.

Karen Hughman - Slide 22, this budget is for children who don't have an EHC Plan, but who do need the LA to make interim alternative provision for them. Children coming in through Fair Access, children who have SEND needs but no current school place, LAC pupils who need urgent education provision.

Budget overspent this year due to an increasing number of children and young people not quite ready to be in a school place for a range of reasons to mitigate an overspend this year £567k has been added.

A conversation was had around what alternative provision was, that the LA as a list of approximately 70 settings, that could meet the needs of children, there is a whole range of providers, some focus round animals, some focus very much on an academic offer.

KH

Simon Ray presented slide 26 – This funding supports teams that sit within schools and family specialist services as well as the seven district SENCOS that were established following the High Needs consultation back in 2018-2019.

Contributes to specialist equipment for children and young people with visual impairments, or those who are deaf or hearing impaired, inclusive technology scheme which promotes access to the mainstream curriculum for identified pupils with special educational needs and then finally, a proportion of that funding contributes to the overall educational psychology service budget.

Additional Family Needs (AFN) is the funding that's devolved to families of schools to enable schools to make additional provision for named pupils with special educational needs and or disabilities. This is over and above the notional £6K that schools provide from their own budget. An additional £3M has been allocated to this budget for 2023_24, which represents an increase of 31.66%.

Modelling will be taking place during financial year 2023_24 and the implications of what that might be for allocations in 2024_25.

Family Network Funding (FNF) is devolved to families of school alongside the AFN. It can be used to support schools with SEND training and development to support mainstream transitions for pupils with complex needs, and for responding to in year admissions. In addition, it currently funds the equivalent of 23 days of family SENCO time per year, we're proposing to review that over the course of the coming year to see whether that number of days needs to be increased going forward. For 2023_24 financial year, the FNF is going to be uplifted by a by 10%.

High Level Needs (HLN) funding £7.523M pays for additional targeted provision for individual children and young people with the most severe and complex need, funding over and above the notional £6K plus the highest level of AFN funding. Funding decisions around HLN allocations are made by a countywide panel, which includes both school and LA representation, this funding is being increased by 10% across all three funding bands.

Finally, there's an allocation of £500K for costs arising from the fact that Notts is a net exporter of children to neighbouring authorities.

Peter McConnochie – £2.95M has been allocated to replenish the non ISB reserve from previous overspends in High Needs, which meant that the entire allocation in 2022_23 wasn't providing just services. Starting position for the next financial year there's a considerable amount of additional funding available, so are planning to hold £654K as a contingency budget, critical as there's lots of moving parts to supporting through our High Needs block the contingency fund will be used for that as opposed to moving into reserves. There are a few bullet points on the slide with a lot of detail, but some of the significant things are additional special school places if delivered and when delivered, funding those places at the current place costs which can be quite significant. The hope is that at least one if not two special school provisions, 144 place full year cost would be approximately £3.8M, therefore a part year cost would need to be met through some of this contingency budget.

There are pressures on LA budgets some of those pressures that are increasing will be for areas where there is direct support any recharging arrangements the intention is that it will be met from the contingency budget, work around the AP free school bids, and were we are proactively working with several multi academy trusts that have applied for AP free schools.

Slide 31 finishes with important key principles taking on board carers and parents voices and the voice of children in shaping and delivering services and provision in

	<p>Nottinghamshire. Enabling children to prepare for adulthood, to have the best outcomes, to achieve what they want through the work that we do, and we want to be in a position where we can respond in an agile and rapid manner, we are pleased to have had the additional uplift to achieve all this, it's really positive to be in a position where the budget is being well managed and it's having an impact, not putting us into a deficit position.</p> <p>Helen Roberts – thanked the team for all the work, James Macdonald 2nd this – we should keep this presentation going for the next couple of years, it's important that we have sight of this budget, with the extra money being used wisely.</p> <p>Colin Pettigrew - one of the things that is worth recognizing is Nottinghamshire remains a relatively low funded local area for High Needs Block even with the additional funding, it's still not enough supporting children from early years up to 25. This was put on track by Marion Clay something we always want to recognise, all agreed that we would continue to lobby but see first what the next round of consultation brings.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Ukrainian funding – Mark Needham updated members, money has been received into the LA, work has been carried out on how we should distribute this putting into place a set of rules and guidance that would be fair. The data has been a little sporadic and we haven't got a great deal of resources to do the work, apologizes for the delay but it is coming it's not been forgotten.</p> <p>Venue for June meeting – Neil Holmes put forward Retford Oaks as a venue this was agreed and accepted by all. The meeting would be an in person only meeting.</p> <p>Colin Pettigrew – some of our schools received phone calls from account managers from our catering department, regards in year charging for the additional cost of catering. Politicians and senior officials met this morning in County Hall and have agreed that we are pausing this. If there's been any concern, or distress caused, Councillor Taylor has asked to pass on our apologies for that. Unfortunately, we will want to have conversations with schools going forward and into the new year. The price of food has gone up, price of catering has gone up as we all know everything as increased including living wage this is a positive thing, but the catering department is incurring this cost. How this is managed with our customers will need to be resolved we will have to consider how those costs are passed on to any customers or look at the provision provided by the LA.</p> <p>Laura Gapski – can the early years team be copied into any work around the cost of catering and for the LA to share ideas, early years setting have also seen an increase for this budget and it would be good to share ideas of ways to reduce cost but maintaining quality.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Confidentiality</p> <p>There were no confidential items.</p>	

6. Date and time of next meeting		
	Thursday 15 June 2023	2-4pm In person – Diverse Academies Trust, Education Centre, Head Office, Old Hall Dr, Retford DN22 7EA

DRAFT