

**Schools Forum: 16.30pm, 6 December 2018, Chichester College,
Westgate Fields, Chichester PO19 1SB.**

Please can I draw your attention to the current Schools Forum consultation. Almost all of the consultation refers to Schools' funding but one element is about allocations affecting the High Needs funding block, which is funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN), and the Early Years Block which is the funding we use to pay for the Free Entitlement (2,3 and 4 Year Olds), the EYPP, DAF, Deprivation and Inclusion payments.

I have attached the whole document but I have also extracted below two sections from the full report to help clarify the issues. The first section (paragraph 5) relates to schools included for your information regarding the pressure on High Needs funding (SEN). The second section (paragraph 6) relates to Early Years for you to consider and comment on. The 'underspend' referred to in para 6.4 is a contingency sum reserved to meet potential additional demand which has not materialised this year. You will note in para 6.5 that High Needs is funding an increasing number of early years children. You will know this as our Inclusion grant which High Needs funding is used for once a child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Schools section

- 5 Proposed One-Off Budget Transfer in 2019/20 from the DSG Schools Block to the High Needs Block (affects all maintained schools and academies)
- 5.1 Funding pressures affecting the High Needs block have grown over the last four years since the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 resulting in increased requests for:
- Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNAs)
 - Pre-16 specialist placements (special schools, SSCs and Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS))
 - Post-16 HN placements in special schools, colleges of FE or Independent Specialist Providers (ISP).
 - Personal budgets
- 5.5 Our High Needs expenditure within West Sussex is largely driven by the number of pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). Back in March 2015 we had 3,423 children and young people with EHCPs, and since that time those numbers have risen to 4,912 in March 2018 – an increase of 1,489 (43.5%).

5.8the underlying shortfall next year stands at £8.560m.

Proposal for schools : to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2019/20

Early Years section

6. Proposed One-Off Budget Transfer in 2019/20 from the DSG Early Years Block to the High Needs Block (affects all early year providers)

6.1 The Early Years block funds the free entitlement to 15 hours per week nursery education for three and four year olds and eligible two year olds. The free entitlement is mostly provided in private, voluntary and independent settings but there are also four maintained nursery schools and eleven maintained nursery classes attached to mainstream schools and academies. Since September 2017, the Early Years block has also included funding for the implementation of the 30 hours free entitlement for eligible parents of three and four year olds.

6.2 The indicative 2019/20 funding allocations for the Early Years block in West Sussex has yet to be announced, but its allocation in 2018/19 is set out in the table below.

Funding Streams	2018/19 Allocation £m
Two year old funding	4.702
Three and four year old funding	44.214
Additional funding (MNS, EYPP & DAF)	1.065
Total Early Years Block	49.981

6.3 As with the Schools block, there is also a requirement within the Early Years block for the LA to pass through the majority of the funding it receives to its early year providers. In the case of this block, the LA is required to pass through 95% of the three and four year old funding that it receives.

6.4 In 2018/19, the LA has retained £1.784m (equivalent to 4% of the three and four year old funding) to cover the costs of the Area SENCO role which is fulfilled by the WSCC Early Years Consultants and Advisers, specialist support such as Speech and Language therapy, and other costs including administration and ensuring compliance of the scheme.

6.5 It is currently anticipated that this centrally retained budget will be £0.400m underspent at the end of the financial year. Given that between March 2015 and March 2018 the number of children below school age has more than doubled from 25 to 54, rather than increase its spending in this area next year, the LA is proposing to transfer these currently uncommitted funds to the High Needs block in 2019/20.

Question: What are your views about the proposal to transfer £0.4m of the Early Years Block to the High Needs Block in 2019/20?

Deadline: please email your views to your PVI EY Schools Forum representative Helen Fletcher-Reilly (hfr@btconnect.com) up to **5pm 30th November 2018**. Please also copy WSCC Family Information Service (FIS) so we can support Helen with analysis if required.

Unfortunately Helen is unable to attend the actual Forum this time and we are seeking a PVI provider who could attend this meeting to vote on the matter on behalf of providers based on the responses. Please email FIS if you would be able to help on this occasion.

Many thanks for reading through this briefing and, hopefully, giving your feedback. Regarding general funding levels for next year, we currently have no additional information. The government issue funding allocation details at the end of December 2018 and we will present budget proposals and funding levels at the January 2019, Schools Forum.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Ellis

Service Leader, Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help (IPEH)