

# Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 21 January 2021

2.00pm

Remote Meeting

Via MS Teams

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Contact: Andy McHale



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Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interests

Agenda Item 3 Declaration of potential Conflict of Interests with Items on the Agenda

Agenda Item 4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 5 November 2020

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Agenda Item 6 Any Other Business

a) Place Partnership Ltd Update

b) Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS) Update

Agenda Item 7 Cabinet Decisions

a) 10th December 2020 - Fair Funding for Schools 2021-22

National and Local Funding Arrangements for Schools

b) 7 January 2021 - Budget and Council Tax 2021-22

Agenda Item 8 Provisional School Funding Settlement 2021-22

Agenda Item 9 Schools Block Allocations 2021-22 Authority Proforma Tool (APT)

Agenda Item 10 Medical Education Team (MET) Review

Agenda Item 11 High Level Needs Management Plan 2020-21

Date of Next Programmed WSF Meeting

Thursday 25 March 2020 at 2pm Remote Meeting to Be Held Via MS Teams



**MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**  
**At 2.00pm**  
**Remote Meeting Held Via MS Teams**

**A G E N D A**

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interests  
With Items on the Agenda
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (attached)
5. Matters Arising
6. Any Other Business
  - a) Place Partnership Ltd Update (verbal update)
  - b) Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS) Update (verbal update)
7. Cabinet Decisions
  - a) 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (verbal update)

Agenda Item 4 – Fair Funding for Schools  
2021-22 National and Local  
Funding Arrangements for  
Schools

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3173&Ver=4>

**Phil Rook**

Director of Resources

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b) 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (verbal update)  
Agenda Item 4 – Budget and Council Tax  
2021-22

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=3722&Ver=4>

8. Provisional School Funding Settlement 2021-22 (attached)
9. Schools Block Allocations 2021-22  
Authority Proforma Tool (APT) (attached)
10. Medical Education Pathway Proposal (attached)  
(Gabrielle Stacey Assistant Director for  
SEND and Vulnerable Learners  
in attendance)
11. High Level Needs Management Plan 2020-21 (attached)  
(Gabrielle Stacey Assistant Director for  
SEND and Vulnerable Learners  
in attendance)

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 2pm  
Remote Meeting to Be Held Via MS Teams

Please pass apologies to Andy McHale who can be contacted on  
Tel 01905 846285 or e-mail [amchale@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:amchale@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

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**REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**  
**PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2021-22**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To advise the WSF on the provisional School Funding Settlement for 2021-22.

**2. PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2021-22**

2.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) published details of the provisional School Funding Settlement 2021-22 for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Summary details can be found on the following link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2021-to-2022>

**3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2021-22**

3.1 The DSG settlement includes: -

- The DSG schools block allocated based on the new National Funding Formula (NFF) schools block primary and secondary units of funding 2021-22 announced in July 2020.
- The Central Services Schools (CSS) Block allocated on the DfE NFF.
- The High Needs (HN) Block allocated based on the DfE NFF announced in September 2017.
- The Early Years (EY) Block allocated on the DfE NFF arrangements introduced in 2017-18.

3.2 The 2021-22 provisional allocation is detailed in **Table 1** under the notional DSG blocks. **This is prior to the recoupment deduction for Academies and non-LA maintained specialist providers.** It also compares the provisional allocations to the 2020-21 DSG latest settlement.

**Table 1: Provisional DSG Gross Settlement 2021-22**

<b>DSG Block</b>	<b>2020-21 Latest Nov 2020 £'000</b>	<b>2021-22 Indicative July 2020 £'000</b>	<b>2021-22 Initial December 2020 £'000</b>	<b>Variance 2020-21 to 2021-22 £'000</b>	<b>See Note</b>
Schools	339,667	368,200	369,495	+29,828	<b>1A</b>
Pupil Growth Fund	2,319	Not Advised	1,908	-411	<b>1B</b>
S-T Schools	341,986	368,200	371,403	+29,417	
Central Services	3,515	3,343	3,377	-138	<b>1C</b>
High Needs	60,182	67,944	68,401	+8,219	<b>1D</b>
Early Years	35,963	Not Advised	36,476	+513	<b>1E</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>441,646</b>	<b>439,487</b>	<b>479,657</b>	<b>+38,011</b>	

## Notes

**1A.** Schools Block 2021-22 set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017 for Year 4 based upon: -

- The October 2020 pupil census against the Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUF) and (SUF) confirmed in July 2020.
- Provides for NFF year 4 parameters including mandatory sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs), additional October 2020 pupil numbers and historic premises related factors allocation £7.443m.
- Reflects the change in pupil numbers October 2019 to October 2020 of +199 (Primary -141.5; Secondary +340.5).
- Includes the effect of the mainstreaming of specific grants of £16.329m for teachers pay and employer pension contributions in 2021-22.

**1B.** Pupil Growth Fund £1.908m now on DfE formulaic basis in fourth year. Reflects change in pupil numbers between October 2019 and October 2020.

**1C.** Central School Services Block (CSSB) 2021-22 NFF formulaic allocation for centrally retained statutory services £2.417m plus historic commitments £0.960m (**reduced by a further 20% by the DfE from 2020-21 allocation £1.200m as part of their national policy**).

**1D.** High Needs Block 2021-22 reflecting share of national additional £730m for: -

- HN DSG increases £6.0m.
- Effect of the mainstreaming of specific grants for teachers pay and employer pension contributions in 2021-22 £2.2m.

**1E.** Early Years Block 2021-22 provisional based upon Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision census data for 2, 3 & 4-year olds from January 2020. The final allocations will be updated based on January 2020 and January 2021 census data. Reflects an increase to the allocated hourly rates for 2-year olds +8p and 3&4-year olds +6p.

3.3 An analysis of the difference between the NFF 2021-22 for the **Schools, CSSB and High Needs Blocks only** between the **initial allocations in July 2020 and the revised allocations in December 2020** is detailed in **Appendix A**. Also, a **comparison between the total DSG for 2020-21 and 2021-22** is detailed in **Appendix B**.

3.4 The main aspects of **each block** are as follows: -

### **3.4.1 Schools Block**

- There is an overall increase in pupil numbers of +199 between October 2019 and October 2020, which shows a decrease in primary (-141.5) and an increase in secondary (+340.5). This is detailed in **Table 2**.
- The budgetary impact for each school will depend on: -
  - How their individual pupil numbers and other data varies between October 2019 and October 2020.
  - The impact across all schools and the MFG and any capping that might have to be applied.
  - The amount of Schools Block Funding to be allocated in the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) – this is discussed further under **Agenda Item 9**.

**Table 2: Pupil Number Variation 2020-21 and 2021-2**

Phase	2020-21 October 2019 Census	%	2021-22 October 2020 Census	%	Note
Primary	44250.0	60.1	44108.5	59.7	<b>2A</b>
Secondary	29411.5	39.9	29752.0	40.3	<b>2A</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73661.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73860.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Note**

**2A.** There is no longer a reduction adjustment made for pupils in Specialist Provision in mainstream schools. For each LA, the DfE transferred in 2018-19 a relevant amount to the Schools Block DSG from the High Needs Block DSG to fund the additional pupil numbers.

**3.4.2 High Needs Block**

- The allocation of £68.401m reflects the share of the additional £730m HN DSG allocated in 2021-22 of £8.219m gross.
- This also includes the effect of the mainstreaming of specific grants for teachers pay and employer pension contributions in 2021-22 of £2.165m, which will need to be reflected in the allocations to specialist providers.
- The estimated net HN DSG in 2021-22 is £59.819m which is an increase of £7.956m on 2020-21 of £51.863m. This reflects the proposed place deductions from the HN block for SEN units in academies, maintained post 16 and NMSS providers is detailed in **Table 3. These are subject to change during the year.**

**Table 3: Estimated HN Place Deductions**

DETAIL	2020-21 Latest November 2020 £'m	2021-22 Provisional December 2020 £'m	Variance  £'m	Note
<b>HN DSG Gross</b>	<b>60.182</b>	<b>68.401</b>	<b>+8.219</b>	
Place Deductions				
SEN Units Academies Pre and Post 16	(0.763)	(0.730)	<b>+0.033</b>	
Special Academies Pre and Post 16	(5.208)	(5.400)	<b>(0.192)</b>	
Alternative Provision	(0.962)	(1.000)	<b>(0.038)</b>	<b>3A</b>
Academies Post 16	(0.028)	(0.012)	<b>0.016</b>	
FE Providers	(1.358)	(1.440)	<b>(0.082)</b>	
<b>S-T Deductions</b>	<b>(8.319)</b>	<b>(8.582)</b>	<b>(0.263)</b>	
<b>= HN DSG Net</b>	<b>51.863</b>	<b>59.819</b>	<b>+7.956</b>	

**Note**

**3A.** Currently this is only included at the 2020-21 level and does not reflect further adjustments to be made for the any future academy conversions, the full year effect of

September 2020 AP places deductions and new AP place deductions from September 2021. So, there will still be a budget pressures for AP in 2021-22 and subsequent years.

3.5 The next steps in terms of the DSG notification are detailed in **Table 4**.

**Table 4: Next Steps Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
17 December 2020	2021-22 Schools Block and Pupil Growth Fund 2021-22 Central School Services Block 2021-22 High Needs Block 2021-22 Early Years Block Provisional allocations all announced by DfE
Early to Mid-January 2021	Further consideration by LAs on the 2021-22 Schools Block Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)
21 January 2021	LAs submit final APT for Schools Block LSFF formula 2021-22
February 2021	ESFA publication of 2020-21 HN places at institution level
28 February 2021	Deadline for LAs to confirm School Budget Shares to maintained schools and specialist providers
31 March 2021	Deadline for ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant (GAG) to academies open by 9 January 2021
April 2021	ESFA confirms 2021-22 DSG to be paid to LAs after recoupment for academies and deductions for HN places in academies and post 16
June 2021	Early Years Block updated for January 2021 Early Years pupil numbers
June 2022	Early Years Block updated for January 2022 Early Years pupil numbers

#### **4. PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT (PPG) FUNDING**

4.1 The DfE have confirmed the funding rates for the PPG in the financial year 2021-22 will stay the same as for 2020-21. These are: -

- Primary Pupils £1,345.
- Secondary Pupils £955.
- Looked After Children £2,345.
- Children Ceased to be Looked After £2,345.
- Service Children £310.

4.2 For 2021-22 the eligibility criteria for the pupil premium will remain unchanged, but **the DfE will be using October 2020 school census data to calculate pupil premium allocations**. Exceptions to that include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census.

4.3 The DfE will issue further information about this change in the new year.

## **5. OTHER GRANT FUNDING**

5.1 The specific grants in 2020-21 to **support the costs of teachers pay and pensions have now been mainstreamed into the NFF** – Schools Block DSG (AWPU) and High Needs Block DSG (Basic Entitlement and Supplementary Factors).

5.2 The former ESG grant for retained statutory duties for all maintained schools and academies is now a centrally retained budget in the Central School Services Block DSG.

5.3 The former ESG for general duties for maintained schools only was withdrawn by the DfE from September 2017. The WSF maintained school members resolved at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 **not** to de-delegate resource to support the withdraw of the former grant for ESG general duties.

5.4 The DfE have indicated information about all other grants will follow in the new year.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 The WSF notes and discusses the above allocations.

Andy McHale  
Service Manager Funding and Policy  
Worcestershire Children First

January 2021



<b>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES</b>												
<b>BLOCK (CSSB)</b>												
Formulaic CSS NFF				2.383			2.417				<b>0.034</b>	Includes teachers' pension employers' contributions for centrally funded teachers.
Historic Commitments				0.960			0.960				<b>0.000</b>	Reflects DfE policy to reduce the allocations of all LAs by a further 20%. Significant impact for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS).
	<b>=CSSB</b>			<b>3.343</b>			<b>3.377</b>				<b>0.034</b>	<b>1.02%</b>
<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB)</b>												
Formulaic HN NFF				67.944			68.401				<b>0.457</b>	Effect of NFF Year 4 including share of additional £730m and mainstreaming of former grants for teachers pay and pensions
	<b>=HNB</b>			<b>67.944</b>			<b>68.401</b>				<b>0.457</b>	<b>0.67%</b>
<b>= TOTAL GROSS DSG EXCLUDING EARLY YEARS</b>				<b>439.487</b>			<b>443.181</b>				<b>3.694</b>	<b>0.84%</b>
<b>NOTES</b>												
Historic Premises		20-21 APT Baseline			20-21 APT Baseline							
		Split Site		0.566	Split Site		0.566					
		Rates		3.922	Rates		3.922					
		Exceptional Premises		0.369	Exceptional Premises		0.369					
		PFI	Baseline + RPI(X)		PFI	Baseline + RPI(X)						
			£2.547 + 1.0156%	2.586		£2.547 + 1.0156%	2.586					
				<b>7.443</b>			<b>7.443</b>					

**WORCESTERSHIRE 885 - TOTAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) - SCHOOLS, CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES, HIGH NEEDS AND EARLY YEARS**

**2020-21 LATEST NOVEMBER 2020 VS. 2021-22 INITIAL DECEMBER 2020**

**APPENDIX B**

		-----	<u>2020-21</u>	-----	-----	<u>2021-22</u>	-----	-----	VARIANCE	-----		<u>COMMENTS</u>
			LATEST			INITIAL						
			NOVEMBER 2020			DECEMBER 2020						
		UNITS OF	PUPIL NOS.		UNITS OF	PUPIL NOS.		UNITS OF	PUPIL NOS.			
		FUNDING	OCTOBER 2019		FUNDING	OCTOBER 2020		FUNDING				
		£		£'m	£		£'m			£'m	%	
<b><u>SCHOOLS BLOCK</u></b>												
<b><u>(SB)</u></b>												
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)		4,065.10	44250.0	179.880	4,407.42	44,108.5	194.405	<b>342.32</b>	<b>-141.5</b>	<b>14.525</b>		Updated using the October 2020 pupil numbers. Effect of NFF Year 4 to support changes to NFF units of resource, MFG, cap, sector MFLs and mainstreaming former grants for teachers pay and pensions.
Secondary Unit of Funding (GUF)		5,179.87	29411.5	152.348	5,634.82	29,752.0	167.647	<b>454.95</b>	<b>340.5</b>	<b>15.299</b>		
			<b>73661.5</b>	<b>332.228</b>		<b>73860.5</b>	<b>362.052</b>		<b>199.0</b>	<b>29.824</b>		
Historic Premises				7.439			7.443			<b>0.004</b>		See Below
Formulaic Pupil Growth Fund				2.319			1.908			<b>-0.411</b>		
	<b>=SB</b>			<b>341.986</b>			<b>371.403</b>			<b>29.417</b>	<b>8.60%</b>	
<b><u>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES</u></b>												
<b><u>BLOCK (CSSB)</u></b>												
Formulaic CSS NFF				2.315			2.417			<b>0.102</b>		Includes teachers' pension employers contributions for centrally funded teachers.

Historic Commitments				1.200			0.960			-0.240		Reflects DfE policy to reduce the allocations of all LAs by a further 20%. Significant impact for the Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFS).
	=CSSB			3.515			3.377			-0.138	-3.93%	
<b>HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB)</b>												
Formulaic HN NFF				60.182			68.401			8.219		Effect of NFF Year 4 including share of additional £730m and mainstreaming of former grants for teachers pay and pensions.
	=HNB			60.182			68.401			8.219	13.66%	
<b>EARLY YEARS BLOCK (EYB)</b>												
3 and 4 Year Olds Universal		4.38	8404.22		4.44	8404.22		0.06	0.00			
Weeks		38			38							
Hours		15		20.982	15		21.269			0.287		
3 and 4 Year Olds Working Parents		4.38	4355.49		4.44	4355.49		0.06	0.00			
Weeks		38			38							
Hours		15		10.874	15		11.023			0.149		
2 Year Olds		5.28	1218.26		5.36	1218.26		0.08	0.00			
Weeks		38			38							
Hours		15		3.666	15		3.722			0.056		
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)				0.224			0.224			0.000		
Disability Access Fund				0.138			0.159			0.021		
Nursery School Supplementary Grant				0.079			0.079			0.000		
	=EYB			35.963			36.476			0.513		
<b>= TOTAL GROSS DSG</b>				441.646			479.657			38.011	8.61%	
										38.011		

<b>NOTES</b>													
This is the <b>GROSS DSG</b> indicative allocation <b>PRIOR TO</b> academy and high needs places recoupment.													
Historic Premises													
		19-20 APT Baseline			20-21 APT Baseline								
		Split Site		0.566	Split Site		0.566						
		Rates		3.957	Rates		3.922						
		Exceptional Premises		0.369	Exceptional Premises		0.369						
		PFI	Baseline + RPI(X)		PFI	Baseline + RPI(X)							
			£2.473 + 1.03%	2.547		£2.547 + 1.0156%	2.586						
				<b>7.439</b>			<b>7.443</b>						

**REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)**  
**SCHOOLS BLOCK ALLOCATIONS 2021-22 AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT)**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To update the WSF on the current position for the completion of the final Schools Block Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2021-22.

1.2 For the WSF to endorse and support the submission of the APT for 2021-22.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet: -

- Approved for 2021-22 for the LSFF as supported by the WSF to be based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the DfE National Funding Formula (NFF) parameters for Year 4.
- Authorised the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Education and Skills to make the required submission to the national executive body, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 for the approved LSFF 2021-22 taking account of any impact and change on the approved units of resource, Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping arrangements as a consequence of the October 2020 census and other 2020 data changes and the final 2021-22 Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

**3. APT CURRENT POSITION**

3.1 Now that the DfE have updated for all the data sets for October 2020 and issued provisional DSG allocations for 2021-22. LAs are required to submit their final APT by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

3.2 The final APT for 2021-22 including the revised data sets for 2020 was issued by the DfE on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

3.3 An analysis of the Schools Block DSG funding detailing the estimated amount to be included in the LSFF for mainstream schools is detailed in **Table 1**. This is prior to de-delegation for maintained schools and after adjusting for centrally retained services and functions already approved by the WSF and those prescribed by the DfE.

**Table 1: Analysis of Schools Block 2021-22**

DETAIL	£'000	£'000
<b>Schools Block Allocation</b>		
Primary Unit of Resource £4,407.42 x Pupil Numbers 44108.5	<b>194,405</b>	
Secondary Unit of Resource £5,634.82 x Pupil Numbers 29752	<b>167,647</b>	
+ Premises Costs Historic Costs Allocation	<b>7,443</b>	
<b>= Total LSFF Quantum 2021-22</b>		<b>369,495</b>
+ Pupil Growth Fund DfE Formula Allocation		<b>1,908</b>
<b>= Total Schools Block DSG</b>		<b>371,403</b>
<b>Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) Allocation</b>		
<u>Centrally Retained Budgets (Previously Approved by WSF and WCC Cabinet)</u>		
Contributions to Combined Services – Early Intervention Family Support	960	
Co-ordinated School Admissions	582	
Servicing of the Schools Forum	55	
Former ESG Retained Duties for All Schools	1,262	
<u>DfE Designated Centrally Retained Budgets</u>		
Licenses and Subscriptions – DfE Actual	442	
Mainstream Grant for Teachers Pay and Pensions for Centrally Employed Teachers	27	
<b>= Total Centrally Retained</b>		<b>3,328</b>
- Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) Allocated		<b>3,376</b>
<b>= Projected Surplus/(Deficit) on CSSB</b>		<b>48</b>

3.4 For the LSFF net amount allocated in 2020-21 was £338.880m. A comparison of the position compared to 2021-22 is detailed in **Table 2**: -

**Table 2: Comparison of LSFF Actual 2020-21 and Estimated 2021-22**

DETAIL	£'000
<b>LSFF 2020-21</b>	<b>338,880</b>
<u>Adjustments</u>	
Prior Year – pupil growth fund, growing school, rates and premises	787
Additional DSG for NFF Year 4 for Schools Block October 2020 and for Increase in Pupil Numbers October 2020	13,499
Mainstreaming of former specific pay and pension grants	16,329
<b>= Estimated Amount for LSFF 2021-22</b>	<b>369,495</b>

3.5 Although this seems a significant increase, the additional NFF DSG allocation notified in July 2020 was expected. Also, the net increase in pupil numbers of +199 (Primary -141.5; Secondary +340.5) will require funding in the LSFF 2021-22 together with the requirements of LSFF to be based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the National Funding Formula (NFF) data set and unit of resource parameters for Year 4 together with the mandatory DfE sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs).

3.6 Also, in the Schools Block DSG, there is provision made for Pupil Growth Funding (PGF) based upon the DfE's new formulaic approach. However, there are continuing substantial basic need requirements due to increasing numbers which are now impacting particularly in the secondary sector as well as funding required for the continued effect of the New North Worcester Primary Free School. So, it is anticipated, all the PGF will be required in 2021-22 either as part of the LSFF or the PGF.

3.7 The WSF are reminded that the budgetary impact for each individual school will depend upon: -

- How their individual pupil numbers and all other data varies between October 2019 and October 2020.
- The Schools Block DSG increase between 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- The impact across all schools.
- The impact of the LSFF for the NFF parameters i.e. the MFG requirement and any associated capping level for affordability, together with the mandatory DfE sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs).
- The impact and affordability of the Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) per pupil for the total budget: –
  - Primary increasing from £3,750 2020-21 to £4,180 in 2021-22.
  - Secondary increasing from £5,000 2020-21 to £5,415 in 2021-22.
  - Hybrid MFL rates for schools with 'non-uniform' year groups.
- The MFG of between +0.5% and +2.00% per pupil in 2021-22 and as any associated affordability cap.
- The MFG no longer has to be applied only to the extent that it offsets the cost of the MFG, since that could prevent LAs from coming close to the NFF.

3.8 The WSF are advised that: -

- The increase in the Schools Block reflects both the effect of the NFF and an increase of +199 pupils in mainstream schools between October 2019 and October 2020.
- Although overall numbers have increased, there are also some significant variations with increases and decreases for individual schools, which will result in budgetary impact for those schools.
- Given the additional resource from the NFF in the Schools Block and the LSFF being based as far as is practicable on the NFF parameters, including the per pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection, most schools should see increases in 2021-22.
- However, **the MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of data changes between 2019 and 2020.
- Consequently, some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes mainly due to significant reductions in pupil numbers. Nevertheless, all schools in the DfE NFF parameters will be subject to at least the MFG per pupil increase on their 2020-21 baseline.

3.9 The Schools Block DSG is calculated using the pupil numbers from the October 2020 census using the DfE NFF guaranteed units of funding per sector. The December 2020

Cabinet approved units of resource for the LSFF were set based on the DfE NFF Year 4 parameters.

3.10 Given the DSG settlement and the APT were confirmed just prior to the end of the Autumn Term 2020, assessment and the impact on the APT of all the above together with the data changes for 2020 has been made. This has been based upon the units of resource agreed by the Autumn Term consultation and County Council Cabinet on 10th December 2020, the DfE NFF parameters for 2021-22, the recently provided DfE data sets for 2020 and other required local data sets.

3.11 The results of the impact of the revised DSG and new data sets is attached at **Appendix A** to this report to enable final submission to the DfE by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 as required.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The WSF notes the issues detailed and the estimated amount available for the LSFF for the Schools Block Funding for 2021-22.

4.2 The WSF considers the issues detailed in **Appendix A** for the APT Units of Resource and the potential aspects for the impact on the Schools Block DSG.

4.3 The WSF supports and endorses the submission of the APT final Schools Block Funding 2021-22 to the EFA by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 as required.

Andy McHale  
Service Manager Funding and Policy  
Worcestershire Children First

January 2021

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION ON THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT) 2021-22**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To share with the WSF the current position on the APT.

1.2 To discuss with the WSF the APT outcomes and next stages.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 As detailed in the **Agenda Item 9** report the LA has been working on the APT for final submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

2.2 The main work so far has included: -

- Validating all the 2020-21 baseline information by school has been transferred correctly by the ESFA.
- Adjusting for further academy conversions since 2020-21.
- Verifying as far as practicable the main October 2020 census data i.e. pupil numbers.
- Securing the up to date local data for inclusion e.g. exceptional premises, rates etc.
- Including in the APT the approved local funding formula units of resource for all formula factors in 2021-22 based on the DfE NFF rates, the DfE MFG and sector MFLs.
- Assessing the quantum of funding available from the School Block DSG 2021-22 arising from the School Funding Settlement in December 2020.
- Assessing the affordability or otherwise of the LSFF based upon the DfE NFF Year 4 parameters.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

3.1 The current APT position is detailed in **Annexes A and B**.

3.2 As detailed in **Agenda Item 9** the estimated quantum for the LSFF in 2021-22 is £369.495m excluding the Pupil Growth Fund.

3.3 The current APT position using the approved units of resource, other data and the Year 4 NFF parameters for the MFG, Capping and the sector Minimum Funding Levels is £369.216m – an under **allocation of £0.279m**.

3.4 The WSF are reminded as in 2020-21 in 2021-22, the parameters based on the NFF cannot be fully replicated through the APT due to some of the starting baselines used by the ESFA. Therefore, the draft APT uses the all the DfE advised NFF rates, applied MFG floor at +2.00% per pupil, no capping level and the mandatory sector MFLs.

3.5 The WSF are further reminded the **MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of significant data changes between 2019 and 2020 e.g. reductions in pupil numbers and

other data sets such as FSM, low prior attainment, etc. This data is controlled and supplied by the DfE in the APT and cannot be changed.

3.6 As a consequence some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes. Nevertheless, all schools are subject to at least a +2.00% per pupil increase because of the MFG in the LSFF being based upon the NFF parameters.

3.7 The WSF are advised the new DfE data sets must drive the LSFF allocations and cannot be amended. Varying from this approach is not permitted – as in previous years the DfE data sets are mandatory. These prescribed data sets are then applied to the approved NFF year 4 units of resource together with any local factors and are assessed to compare to the LSFF quantum available. If there is an affordability issue the options available are: -

- Reducing the DfE NFF Year 4 unit of resource levels in specific areas e.g. AWPU, FSM.
- Reducing all the DfE Year 4 NFF unit of resource levels by the relevant percentage.
- Introduce a funding cap at level to draw back the overallocated funding.
- Fund at NFF Year 4 unit of resource levels with the impact being a Schools Block in deficit. However, given the overall DSG position, the DfE would not expect LAs to have the Schools Block in deficit, in order to mirror the NFF factor values precisely.

3.8 The WSF are further advised the APT is draft only and it is not final until the ESFA have approved the APT following their detailed compliance checks – this will take some time following submission. As a consequence school by school data is never shared at this time as is not available until all maintained schools and academies have received their allocations.

#### **4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION**

4.1 Currently there is an **under allocation predicted of £0.279m. The draft APT now includes:** -

- The effect of all the DfE NFF Year 4 units of resource including the MFG and the mandatory MFLs together with the majority of WCC local factors.
- The effect of Year 4 for the new North Worcester Primary Free School. This is a call on the DSG and must be funded on estimated numbers not included in the October 2020 census.
- The sparsity factor currently not based on the tapered model as in previous years and but on the full DfE NFF model to support the DfE policy for additional funding provided in this area.

4.2 There are still some local data sets to be totally finalised e.g. rates, which will all be a call on the currently under allocated funding of £0.279m. However, it is estimated after this the Year 4 NFF on current estimate is affordable from the Schools Block quantum for 2021-22.

4.3 The WSF are requested to consider the detailed comparative analysis of the APT between January 2020 and January 2021 provided in **Annex B**. The key issues are: -

- There is a significant increase of +£24.4m (+9.7%) in the funding allocated via the AWPU. This is a consequence of an increase in the AWPU rate to reflect the NFF Year 4 and the mainstreaming of the specific grants for pay and pensions (primary

+£180 per pupil; secondary +£265 per pupil), together with the increase in pupil numbers between October 2019 and October 2020.

- Not surprisingly there are significant increases in the number of pupils being eligible for FSM, this together with the NFF Year 4 rate has resulted in an increased funding requirement for FSM funding of £1.4m (+9.9%). However, the DfE have confirmed this has not been reflected in the DSG allocations for 2021-22. The SUFs and PUFs are calculated well in advance of the October census becoming available, and the DfE contend this gives LAs enough time to set their own local formulae and distribute funding accordingly. The SUFs and PUFs can therefore have not been amended and LAs are having to manage the change within the DSG quantum available.
- The impact of using the updated 2019 IDACI data in the NFF requires a further +£1.3m (+14.7%).
- The increase in sparsity funding of +£0.3m reflects the DfE's NFF policy to further support schools qualifying for this formula factor.
- The impact of the changes to the mandatory MFLs are significant, with an increased budget requirement of +£2.1m (+61.7%).
- Since the NFF was introduced, the DfE have recognised that the different data sources used for the NFF and for local formulae mean that it is not always possible for LAs to follow the NFF precisely.
- Instead, the DfE expect LAs to manage the fact that they will use more up-to-date data than the NFF by adjusting their local formulae factor values to make their formulae affordable.

**4.4 On the above basis, it is recommended to allocate the LSFF in 2021-22 using the DfE NFF Year 4 parameters as approved by Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

**SUMMARY OF FINAL APT 2019-20 COMPARED TO DRAFT APT 2020-21**

<b><u>FORMULA COMPONENT</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21</u></b> <b><u>APT</u></b> <b><u>£'m</u></b>	<b><u>2021-22</u></b> <b><u>APT</u></b> <b><u>£'m</u></b>	<b><u>VARIANCE</u></b>  <b><u>£'m</u></b>
AWPU	250.8	275.3	+24.5
Deprivation - FSM	14.4	15.8	+1.4
Deprivation - IDACI	8.9	10.2	+1.3
Low Prior Attainment	25.7	25.5	-0.2
EAL	1.5	1.5	+0.0
Lump Sum	26.0	26.7	+0.7
Sparsity	0.2	0.5	+0.3
Split Site	0.6	0.6	0.0
Rates	3.9	4.0	+0.1
PFI	2.5	2.6	+0.1
Exceptional Premises	0.4	0.4	0.0
NFF Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)	3.4	5.5	+2.1
Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)	0.6	0.6	0.0
<b>LSFF Prior to Capping</b>	<b>338.9</b>	<b>369.2</b>	<b>+30.3</b>
Capping	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>338.9</b>	<b>369.2</b>	<b>+30.3</b>

Schools Block DSG Quantum	339.7	369.5
(Under)/Over Allocation	(0.8)	(0.3)
Funded	To PGF	0.4
	Pupil Nos	0.1
	Premises/	
	Rates	<u>0.3</u>
Net		<u>0.0</u>
		<u>0.3</u>
		<u>0.0</u>

**LSFF Formula Parameters****DfE NFF rates for 2020-21 and 2021-22: -**

All Formula Factor DfE NFF Units of Resource

## Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)

Primary	£3,750	£4,180
Secondary KS3 and KS4	£5,000	£5,415
KS3 Only Pupils	£4,800	£5,215
KS4 Only Pupils	£5,300	£5,715

## Floors and Ceilings Per Pupil

Minimum Funding Guarantee	+1.84%	+2.00%
	on 2019-20	on 2020-21
Capping	no cap	no cap
	in 2020-21	in 2021-22

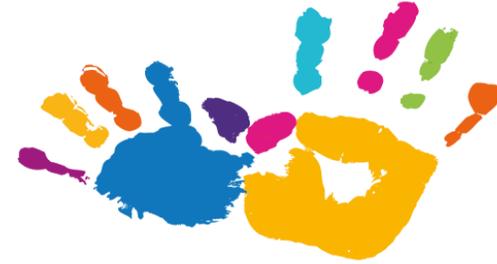
# APT COMPARATOR JANUARY 2020 FINAL TO JANUARY 2021 INITIAL

## APPENDIX A - ANNEX B

		UNIT OF	OCT 2019	JAN 2020		UNIT OF	OCT 2020	JAN 2021		VARIANCE	VARIANCE	VARIANCE	UNIT OF RESOURCE			DATA			TOTAL
		RESOURCE	DATA	ALLOCATION		RESOURCE	DATA	ALLOCATION		UNIT OF	DATA	ALLOCATION	VARIATION			VARIATION			
				2020-21 FINAL				2021-22 INITIAL		RESOURCE									
		£		£	%	£		£	%			£	£	DATA	£	£	DATA	£	£
<b>FORMULA COMPONENT</b>																			
Primary AWPU		<b>2,857.00</b>	44281.50	126,512,246	37.33%	<b>3,123.00</b>	44137.30	137,840,788	37.33%	266.00	-144.20	11,328,542	266.0	44,281.5	11,778,879	3,123.0	-144.20	-450,337	<b>11,328,542</b>
KS3 AWPU		<b>4,018.00</b>	18124.00	72,822,232	21.49%	<b>4,404.00</b>	18342.00	80,778,168	21.88%	386.00	218.00	7,955,936	386.0	18,124.0	6,995,864	4,404.0	218.00	960,072	<b>7,955,936</b>
KS4 AWPU		<b>4,561.00</b>	11290.00	51,493,690	15.20%	<b>4,963.00</b>	11413.00	56,642,719	15.34%	402.00	123.00	5,149,029	402.0	11,290.0	4,538,580	4,963.0	123.00	610,449	<b>5,149,029</b>
	<b>S-T</b>		<b>73695.50</b>	<b>250,828,168</b>	<b>74.02%</b>		<b>73892.30</b>	<b>275,261,675</b>	<b>74.55%</b>		<b>196.80</b>	<b>24,433,507</b>							<b>24,433,507</b>
Primary FSM		<b>450.00</b>	6175.33	2,778,900	0.82%	<b>460.00</b>	7597.06	3,494,647	0.95%	10.00	1421.73	715,747	10.00	6,175.33	61,753	460.00	1421.73	653,994	<b>715,747</b>
Secondary FSM		<b>450.00</b>	3700.00	1,665,000	0.49%	<b>460.00</b>	4530.00	2,083,800	0.56%	10.00	830.00	418,800	10.00	3,700.00	37,000	460.00	830.00	381,800	<b>418,800</b>
Primary FSM 6		<b>560.00</b>	8250.59	4,620,333	1.36%	<b>575.00</b>	8421.50	4,842,365	1.31%	15.00	170.91	222,032	15.00	8,250.59	123,759	575.00	170.91	98,273	<b>222,032</b>
Secondary FSM 6		<b>815.00</b>	6489.36	5,288,825	1.56%	<b>840.00</b>	6367.49	5,348,688	1.45%	25.00	-121.87	59,863	25.00	6,489.36	162,234	840.00	-121.87	-102,371	<b>59,863</b>
Primary IDACI Band F		<b>210.00</b>	3649.76	766,450	0.23%	<b>215.00</b>	4401.03	946,221	0.26%	5.00	751.27	179,771	5.00	3,649.76	18,249	215.00	751.27	161,522	<b>179,771</b>
Primary IDACI Band E		<b>250.00</b>	2219.78	554,944	0.16%	<b>260.00</b>	3223.51	838,111	0.23%	10.00	1003.73	283,167	10.00	2,219.78	22,198	260.00	1003.73	260,970	<b>283,167</b>
Primary IDACI Band D		<b>375.00</b>	2512.82	942,309	0.28%	<b>410.00</b>	2160.33	885,735	0.24%	35.00	-352.49	-56,574	35.00	2,512.82	87,949	410.00	-352.49	-144,522	<b>-56,574</b>
Primary IDACI Band C		<b>405.00</b>	2070.98	838,746	0.25%	<b>445.00</b>	1815.11	807,725	0.22%	40.00	-255.87	-31,021	40.00	2,070.98	82,839	445.00	-255.87	-113,860	<b>-31,021</b>
Primary IDACI Band B		<b>435.00</b>	2227.40	968,920	0.29%	<b>475.00</b>	2520.69	1,197,330	0.32%	40.00	293.29	228,410	40.00	2,227.40	89,096	475.00	293.29	139,314	<b>228,410</b>
Primary IDACI Band A		<b>600.00</b>	917.04	550,223	0.16%	<b>620.00</b>	819.42	508,042	0.14%	20.00	-97.62	-42,181	20.00	917.04	18,341	620.00	-97.62	-60,522	<b>-42,181</b>
Secondary IDACI Band F		<b>300.00</b>	2348.79	704,637	0.21%	<b>310.00</b>	2836.01	879,162	0.24%	10.00	487.22	174,525	10.00	2,348.79	23,488	310.00	487.22	151,037	<b>174,525</b>
Secondary IDACI Band E		<b>405.00</b>	1434.74	581,069	0.17%	<b>415.00</b>	2222.99	922,543	0.25%	10.00	788.26	341,474	10.00	1,434.74	14,347	415.00	788.26	327,127	<b>341,474</b>
Secondary IDACI Band D		<b>535.00</b>	1656.02	885,968	0.26%	<b>580.00</b>	1459.53	846,528	0.23%	45.00	-196.48	-39,440	45.00	1,656.02	74,521	580.00	-196.48	-113,961	<b>-39,440</b>
Secondary IDACI Band C		<b>580.00</b>	1305.56	757,226	0.22%	<b>630.00</b>	1202.69	757,692	0.21%	50.00	-102.88	466	50.00	1,305.56	65,278	630.00	-102.88	-64,812	<b>466</b>
Secondary IDACI Band B		<b>625.00</b>	1399.15	874,466	0.26%	<b>680.00</b>	1682.83	1,144,325	0.31%	55.00	283.69	269,859	55.00	1,399.15	76,953	680.00	283.69	192,906	<b>269,859</b>
Secondary IDACI Band A		<b>840.00</b>	551.10	462,922	0.14%	<b>865.00</b>	531.48	459,729	0.12%	25.00	-19.62	-3,194	25.00	551.10	13,777	865.00	-19.62	-16,971	<b>-3,194</b>
				<b>23,240,938</b>	<b>6.86%</b>			<b>25,962,643</b>	<b>7.03%</b>			<b>2,721,705</b>							<b>2,721,705</b>
Primary Low Prior Attainment		<b>1,065.00</b>	13668.84	14,557,312	4.30%	<b>1,095.00</b>	12603.41	13,800,735	3.74%	30.00	-1065.43	-756,577	30.00	13,668.84	410,065	1,095.00	-1065.43	-1,166,642	<b>-756,577</b>
Secondary Low Prior Attainment		<b>1,610.00</b>	6908.08	11,122,009	3.28%	<b>1,660.00</b>	7049.68	11,702,469	3.17%	50.00	141.60	580,460	50.00	6,908.08	345,404	1,660.00	141.60	235,056	<b>580,460</b>



WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**



**AGENDA ITEM 10**  
**WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**The Medical Education Pathway Proposal:  
Presentation for Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF)**

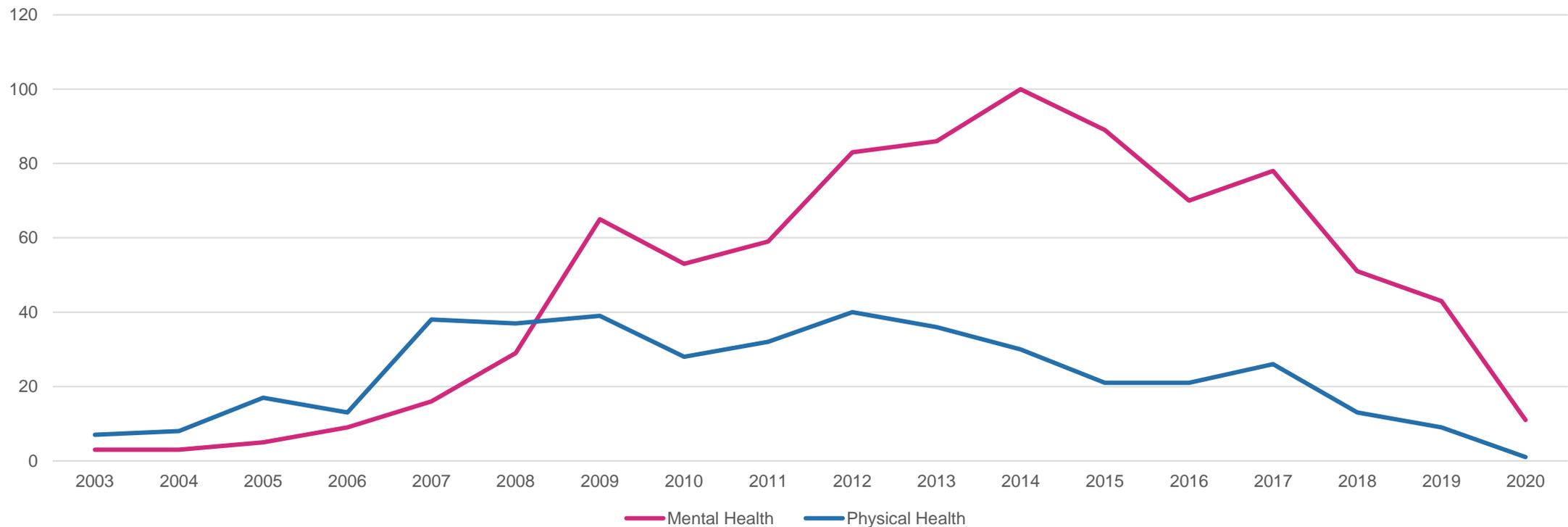
**Gabrielle Stacey, Assistant Director SEND and Vulnerable Learners**

# Medical Education in Worcestershire

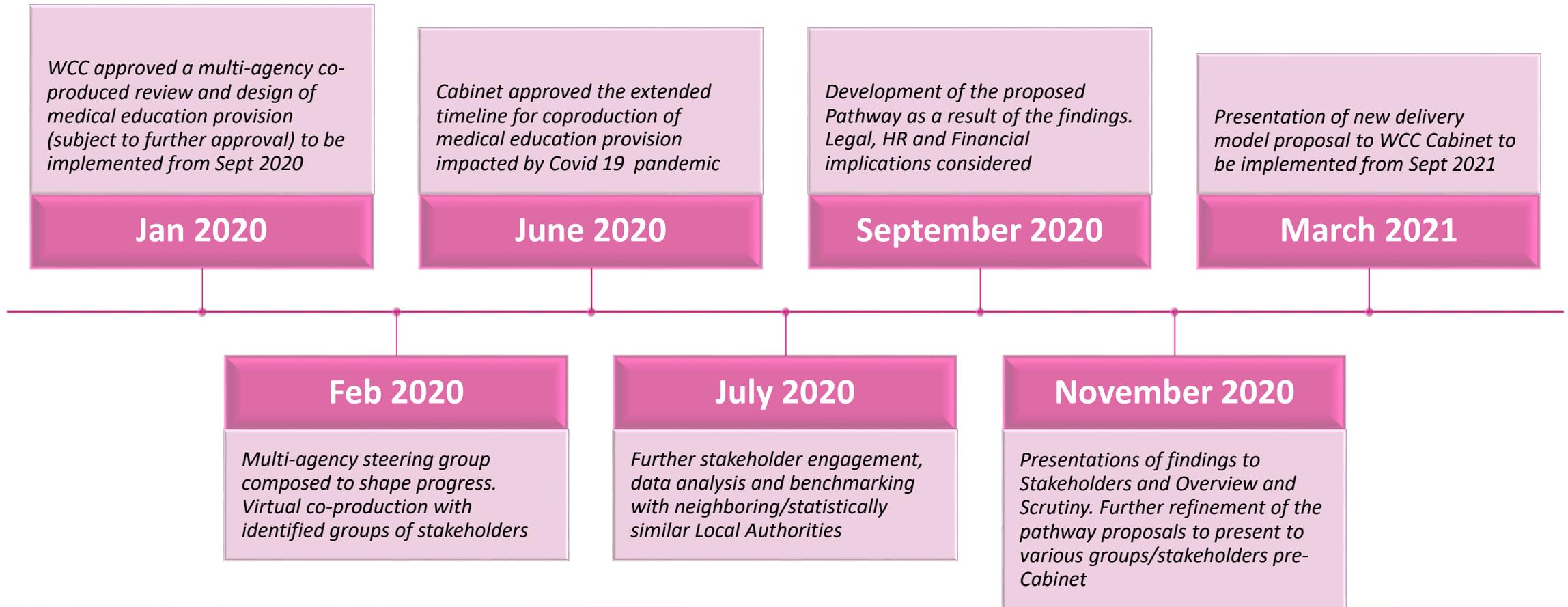
- WCC have a statutory duty to make arrangements to provide education for children who cannot attend school for medical reasons
- Currently this is delivered via the Medical Education Team within WCF (on behalf of WCC)
- The team consists of qualified teachers and teaching assistants who are skilled in teaching pupils of statutory school age providing education through home tuition, online learning and face to face teaching at three locations in the county.

# Mental vs Physical Health

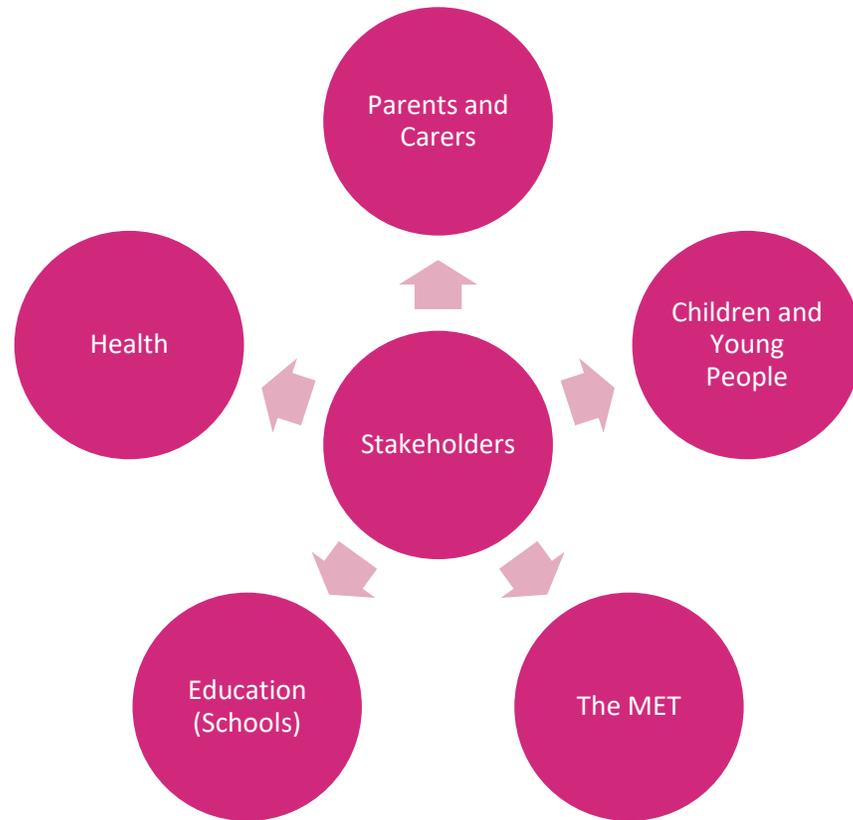
Mental health and physical health referral reasons for assessments undertaken by the Medical Education Service 2003-20



# The Timeline



# Co-produced with?



# Researched via?



# Education (School) feedback

- To be the leaders
- Direction from medical professionals
- Response centred around Individual Health Care Plan
- Focus on maintaining learning in English and Maths
- Art/Craft for therapeutic elements
- Short and long-term provision
- Knowledge and expertise as well as direct support
- Family support/social care supporting reintegration
- Support for mental health needs and physical health needs

# Children and Young People feedback

Children want to continue to...

- Feel settled and make academic progress
- Have friendly and respectful staff
- Do small group work and 1-1s
- Have a quiet environment
- Be transported to and from bases
- Have involvement from CAMHS
- Feel safe and confident
- Have social opportunities to make friends
- Be away from mainstream school
- Be in a welcoming environment

Children want to see improvements in...

- Outdoor and physical activities on the curriculum
- Non-core curriculum items like design & technology, languages being offered
- School trips and other similar opportunities
- Lighting and layout of premises improved
- Be academically challenged

# Parent/Carer feedback

- Integration and joint working
- Support
- Upskilling
- Flexibility and collaboration between home school and MET
- Small and nurturing /1to1 tuition/online learning/face to face
- Education and life skills
- GCSE completion
- More than mainstream education offer, but not a special school

# Medical Education Team staff feedback

- Access to external/additional funding
- Standard and more permanent contracts for staff with admin support
- Schools to provide facilities and resources
- MET going into home schools to prevent, delay or reverse school refusals and non-attendance
- Home schools taking responsibility for medium to long term education of their pupils
- Multi-agency ownership
- Registered provision
- A credible and well-resourced remote/online learning offer
- Physical bases
- Provision for post-16yrs to Years 12 to 13

# Health feedback

- Multidisciplinary team approach
- Parental involvement/upskilling
- A focus on maintaining engagement and attendance at school and reintegration
- Support for mental health needs and physical health needs
- A jointly commissioned approach
- A special school for children with high anxiety – long term provision
- A recovery model
- Exit planning
- A similar approach and model adopted by Perryfields

# Social Care feedback

- Parental involvement
- Multidisciplinary team approach
- MET as a support service within a multi-agency approach focusing on reintegration back into home school
- MET providing advice before referral
- Involvement at point of reintegration, working with the family
- To be part of the strategic partnership

# A Multi-Agency Education Pathway for Children and Young People with Medical and Emotional Needs

<b>PREVENTION</b> Providing a learning environment and network which promotes attendance and positive engagement in education	<b>EARLY INTERVENTION</b> Early identification and provision of tools to prevent regular/chronic non-attendance and engagement in education.	<b>INTERIM INTERVENTIONS</b> Additional help and support provided to schools, children/young people	<b>RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION</b> Provision of a safe, nurturing and therapeutic environment to assist re-engagement with education	<b>RETURN AND REINTEGRATION</b> Long term education and permanent placements
<b>Protocol and pathway and an information and advice toolkit</b> to equip schools, parents and supporting agencies with the knowledge, expertise and skills to promote school attendance and engagement of ‘at risk CYP’	<b>Multi-agency strategic commitment to implementing the steps.</b> <b>Adoption of “Individual Healthcare Plans”</b> as a vehicle for developing school-led, partnership practice	<b>A Multi-Agency Assessment Panel</b> to consider referrals requesting help and support to maintain school attendance and/or engagement. Inclusive of a <b>fast-track referral process under specific situations.</b>	<b>Home schools lead</b> partnership working with registered providers to determine the short-term provision required, as well as plans for returning pupils to long-term provision.	<b>A multi-agency commitment to a return to permanent education placement</b> supported by the <b>Outreach Workers</b> where required with exception of some Year 11s (due to benefit to GCSE curriculum and examinations)
<b>Multi-agency training and learning networks</b> for schools and supporting agencies to help grow the capacity of schools to support children and young people	Completion of <b>Early Help Assessments.</b> <b>Schools to liaise with appropriate professionals</b> to ensure minimal delay in arranging appropriate provision for the child	<b>Outreach Workers</b> providing short term additional support to maintain attendance at the home school	<b>Registered commissioned provision</b> offering a short-term full-time curriculum to meet the needs of the individual child. Therapeutic nurturing approach embedded in the curriculum.	<b>The Multi-Agency Assessment Panel determine</b> the help and support required to aid a successful return and reintegration
<b>Help and support for parents,</b> providing information, advice and advocacy to be able to engage with schools and supporting agencies	<b>Proactive monitoring of school attendance</b> relating to medical conditions and ill-health, where non- attendance of 10 days or more is identified .	<b>Top Up Funding for schools</b> to provide short term additional support beyond existing financial resources . Accessible, regularly updated <b>menu of alternative provision</b>	Delivery of <b>remote learning</b> where a need is identified i.e., hospital-based condition/illness. <b>Capital investment in physical base(s)</b>	<b>Home/new schools lead the assessment, planning and provision</b> for the return of their pupils

# Outcomes

## Children & Young People

- Maintain engagement in education, principally in school
- Engaged and enjoying learning and education
- Maintain academic progress
- Prepared for exams and achieving qualifications
- Feel safe confident and supported in new environment
- Increased confidence and self-esteem
- Able to maintain routine and structure
- Able to maintain social contact with peers and form friendships
- Have their education and support needs clearly identified
- To be prepared and ready for the next stages and life and education
- Able to build resilience and life skills to manage conditions and disabilities throughout life
- Feel confident and able to successfully return to mainstream education

## Parent / Carers

- Feel informed included and engaged in decision making about their child

## Schools

- Feel informed and supported by other agencies, are leading multiagency approach and able to find alternative education arrangements to meet CYP's needs

# Funding

- The pathway puts a greater focus on prevention and early intervention than currently exists. This is with the intention of keeping more children and young people in mainstream schools over a longer period, therefore avoiding more costly long-term placements in alternative and specialist provision.
- Current funding for the service is a combination of Council funding (through both the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, and some base budget funding) and contributions direct from schools.
- Increased contributions from schools could potentially cover the additional funding required to resource the educational aspects of the pathway.
- MET provision is a statutory requirement of the Council. Therefore, if lower school contributions result in a budget shortfall to the service, the Council will need to ensure that the service is funded, which would be an additional pressure on the High Needs budget.
- The therapeutic elements of the Medical Education Pathway require investment from the CCG and local health service providers. Discussion is ongoing about whether this investment will involve additional funding, or redirection of current staff activity and resources.

## Next Steps

- Any feedback on the proposed model can be sent to:
  - [sendimprovement@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendimprovement@worcestershire.gov.uk)
- Submission of a WCC Cabinet report seeking approval on the proposed pathway and funding model- March 2021
- Implementation of the recommendations - February – August 2021
- Aim for 'Go Live' start of academic year 2021/22 however Covid-19 may impact upon



# High Level Needs Management Plan 2020-21

AGENDA ITEM 11

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021

PRESENTATION FOR WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

GABRIELLE STACEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SEND AND  
VULNERABLE LEARNERS (WCF)

# Context

- High Needs funding for children and young people with SEND and vulnerable learners is an area of significant national concern.
- Worcestershire's High Needs block is currently forecast to spend £56.5m in 2020/21. This is an overspend of £4.6m on a £51.9m budget. This is an increase on the 2019/20 outturn of £52.3m, and £44.6m in 2018/19.
  - The High Needs overspend in 2019/20 was £8.7m with the accumulated deficit at 31 March 2020 of £6.2m. This deficit must be carried forward and be recovered future DSG income. A sustainable financial position has not yet been achieved for 2020-21 with the deficit budgeted to grow by a further £4.6m from the forecast high needs overspend deficit of around £10.5m at the end of March 2021 and is forecast to rise despite additional funding.
- This is not unusual as a large number authorities have significant deficits.

# DSG SUMMARY POSITION

## WCC Summary position for dedicated schools grant

	£M
<b>Accumulated Deficit 1 April 2020</b>	<b>6.2</b>
High Need shortfall 2020/21 period 8	4.6
Projected savings on other blocks	-0.3
School Funding position	0.0
<b>Projected Deficit 31 March 2021</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Projected High Need shortfall 2021/22	4.5
<b>Projected Deficit 31 March 2022</b>	<b>15.0</b>

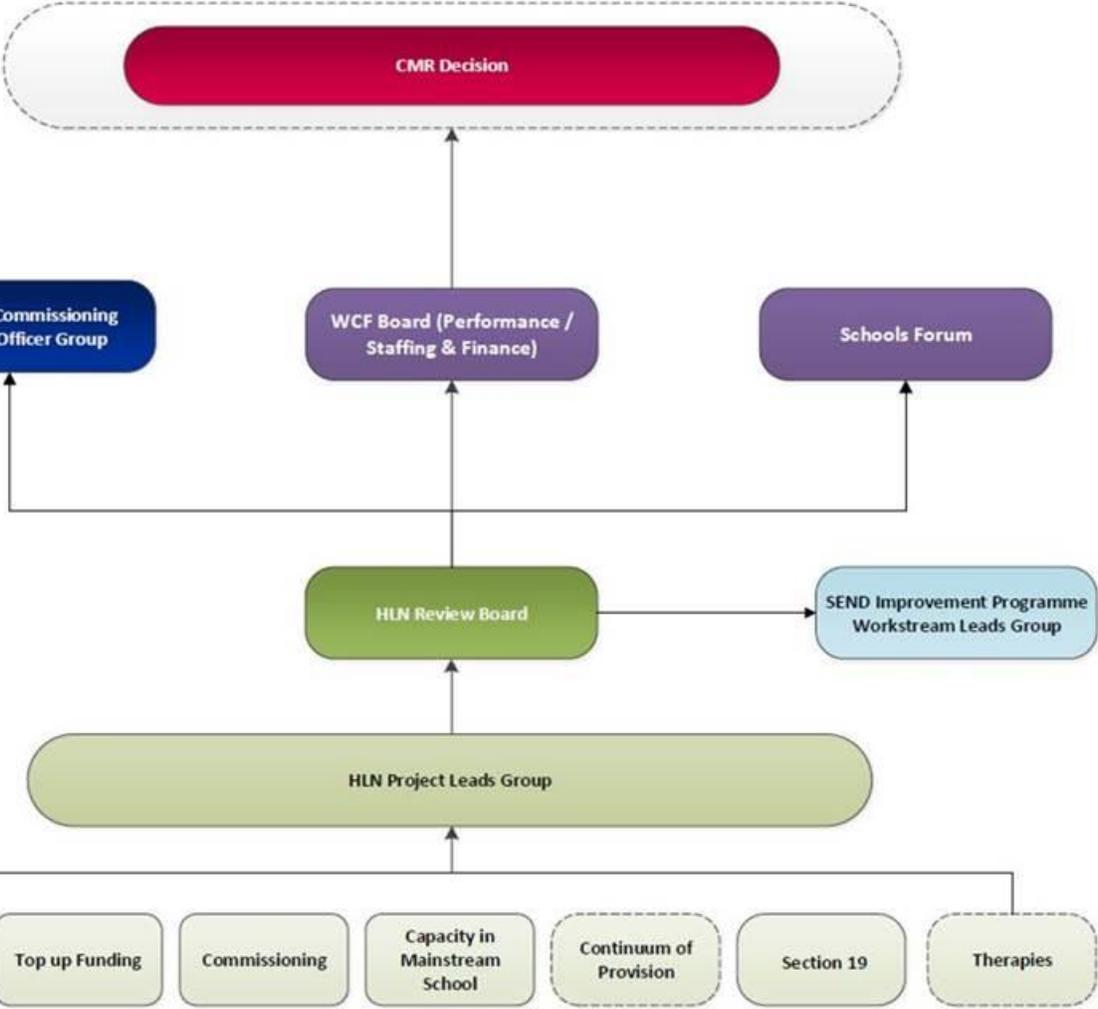
# Context ctd

- In November an amendment to the accounting treatment for DSG overspends was made in law due to the significant increase in number of Councils with significant deficits. The Regulations require that the overspend be shown as a negative reserve and that this is not the responsibility of the Council. However, this is only for a time-limited period and after three years, any residual defection the DSG overspend will revert to the Council.
  - The Council with CCN / SCT / f40 continue to lobby and assess actions to address this area of spend.
- Over the last 5 years the number of learners with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Worcestershire has increased by 62%. This increase parallels national trend in the prevalence and complexity of SEND as well as the SEND reforms in 2014 which increased the age range for SEND provision to 0-25.
- These suggests that need in Worcestershire is not going to decrease, and that in order to mitigate pressures on the DSG High Needs block going forward, relative spend per child would have to reduce.

# Aims of HLN management plan

- 1) Increased transparency and visibility of the spend from the HLN budget
  - ▶ 2) Improved outcomes for Children and Young People
    - ▶ 3) Change in spend per pupil
  - ▶ In cases where activities result in increased spend per pupil these are planned in order to reduce spend in other areas or to ensure that statutory responsibilities for vulnerable learners are fulfilled.

# High Level Needs Management Plan Governance Model



- KEY**
- Overall Approval
  - Ownership & mitigation with other partner commissioners
  - Joint ownership (oversight & assurance for Council) & (Culture & Practice)
  - Oversight, monitoring & deployment of expertise
  - Information Only

# Governance

# Workstreams

- Accounting
- Top up funding
- Commissioning
- Capacity in mainstream schools
- Continuum of SEND provision
  - Section 19 provision
  - Therapies

# Accounting: progress to date

- Review of budget holders, authorisation thresholds, reporting schedule and budget categories

# Top Up Funding: progress to date

- Consultation Survey for Mainstream Schools
- Focus groups with special schools and Aps
- Research other Local Authority Models and consider feedback from engagement survey

# Commissioning: progress to date

Joint work with social care commissioning to  
consider new and existing placements at Out of  
County Schools

# Capacity in mainstream schools: progress to date

- Currently reviewing SEND Services staff capacity, core vs traded offer
- Recruitment to Educational Psychologist Team job
- Ongoing development work through SEND Written Statement of Action focused on graduated response, training , challenge and support for inclusive practice

# Continuum of SEND provision: progress to date

- Ongoing development work through SEND Written Statement of Action focused on review of Mainstream Autism Bases
- Initial analysis of gaps in SEND provision based on population changes and specific areas of need

# Section 19 provision: progress to date

- Ongoing development work through SEND Written Statement of Action focused on review of Medical Education Team and Exclusions and Alternative Provision Review
- Progression of recruitment of a Monitoring Officer to identify children where provision needs to be made

# Therapies: progress to date

- ▶ Ongoing development work through SEND Written Statement of Action focused on joint commissioning with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
  - strategic approach and priority outcomes for Section 75 funding

# Challenges to delivery

- Impact of Covid-19 on capacity to progress plan
- Political decision making in coming months impacted by pre-election 'purdah'