

2015-16 DSG Update and Budget Proposals

Schools Forum

Date: 7th October 2014

Author:	Head of Finance – Education and Innovation
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Settings Affected:	As the DSG is ring fenced funding provided by the DfE to meet the educational needs of early years, school age and all 0 to 25 year old high need pupils, any decisions on how the grant is utilised indirectly affects all settings. Issues in this report will specifically affect early years' providers and mainstream schools.

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To provide Schools Forum members with an update on Schools Block and Early Years Block DSG prospects for 2015/16 and the indicative impact of increases to early years and mainstream school funding. The report also includes budget proposals relating to some centrally funded services, options to enhance pupil growth funding for expanding schools and an update relating to de-delegations.
- 1.2 No new Information has been provided relating to the 2015/16 high needs block funding, although the DfE has restated a commitment to review this after the next election and an update will be presented to the January 2015 Schools Forum. This report includes an update arising from the first meeting of the High Needs Task and Finish group at which various issues relating to 2015/16 local funding were discussed.

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note that Swindon expects to receive a total of **£123.691m** in Schools Block DSG in 2015/16
- 2.2 Note that the 2015/16 settlement is expected to include an additional **£4.3m** of Schools Block funding in 2015/16 which, together with **£0.5m** available from elsewhere could be passed on to mainstream schools
- 2.3 Agree to a **4.15%** uplift to the Basic Per Pupil Entitlement factor in the local formula from 2015/16 onwards
- 2.4 Note the indicative impact across Swindon Schools as shown at Annex A subject to final figures being produced for the January 2015 Schools Forum.
- 2.5 Agree that from 2015/16 trigger funding is provided at a value per pupil which reflects sector average funding for that year and that the 21 pupil break even calculation for reception age pupils is retained but kept under review.

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- 2.6 Primary Sector Schools' Forum representatives are asked to give their views on whether primary schools and primary academies will support continued LA commissioning of the primary behaviour support service provided by the Nylands Campus Outreach Team from April 2015.
- 2.7 Note that Swindon expects to receive **£2.788m** of disadvantaged 2 year old and **£8.466m** of 3 and 4 year old early years DSG in 2015/16
- 2.8 Support a 2.7% increased 3 and 4 year old early years hourly rate of **£3.85** payable from 1st April 2015.
- 2.9 Note the further information available regarding the new Early Years Pupil Premium for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds valued at £50m nationally which will be allocated to LAs in 2015/16

3. School Funding Reform Update – Extra Schools Block DSG 2015/16

- 3.1 At the last Forum meeting in July members were advised that the DfE would not be introducing a national fair funding formula for schools until after the next general election but that a significant first step change was planned which would be beneficial to the least fairly funded LAs. DfE will be introducing a new Minimum Funding Level (MFL) for the distribution of the schools block DSG allocations in 2015/16 and, based on October 2013 pupil numbers and pupil characteristics (FSM, EAL etc.) They had calculated whether individual LAs were receiving enough DSG to be able to provide a sufficient level of funding to their mainstream schools. Of the 151 Local Education Authorities 62 were assessed as not receiving funding up to the MFL and would therefore be eligible for DSG increases which would total £350m.
- 3.2 Swindon was listed as one of the eligible LAs and indicative figures were that we would receive a 2.5% increase to our current schools block DSG per pupil value of £4,102.23, which in cash terms would represent an extra £2.9m. A number of LAs including F40 Authorities were however unhappy that they were receiving either low or no increases and that no steps were being taken to fundamentally reform the overall school funding system (i.e. redistribute funding across LAs) Many LAs and would be expressing their concerns in consultation responses. Furthermore those LAs such as Swindon which were experiencing year on year pupil growth would still be disadvantaged due to the lagged basis by which DSG is calculated as no steps were being proposed to alleviate this. Many LAs were also concerned that the high needs block funding needed to be fundamentally reviewed and this was not being addressed.
- 3.3 Changes to non recoupment academies were being proposed which would require all Swindon pupils (other than those school age pupils on the rolls of the UTC and FE Colleges) to be included in LA DSG calculations and for their funding to be determined via the local formula and then recouped. This would mirror arrangements that are in place for all converter and part recoupment

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academies and for Swindon would bring Croft school back into the LA for funding purposes. This is entirely logical but will bring back pupil growth pressure arising from September pupil increases at Croft for the next few years until the school is full.

- 3.4 At the time of the July Forum DfE were still considering consultation responses and intended to provide final 2015/16 schools block units of funding in the summer. On 17th July DfE announced that all the changes were going ahead as planned and they provided final 2015/16 schools block units of funding (SBUF's) for all LAs which reflected an overall increase of £390m, £40m higher than originally announced. For Swindon our SBUF will increase from £4,102.23 to £4,250.55 an increase of 3.6% per mainstream pupil which is £45.76 per pupil higher than expected. Based on October 2013 pupil numbers of 28,700 this will bring in an extra £4.3m of DSG whereas this was originally expected to be £2.9m illustrating that Swindon has gained a significant share of the extra £40m national allocation.
- 3.5 Our initial estimate is that October 2014 pupil numbers will be approximately 29,100 (400 above October 2013) which, at the new SBUF value of £4,250.55, will generate School Block DSG funding of **£123.691m**.

Increased Mainstream Funding 2015/16

- 3.6 Although we will still need to set aside pupil growth funding from the 2015/16 DSG settlement to provide set up and trigger funding for expanding schools, the overall position is still very favourable. DfE have explicitly stated that, although not ring fenced, they expect those LAs which are receiving additional Schools Block DSG to pass it on to mainstream schools, which is in line with the decision taken at the July Forum meeting.
- 3.7 At the July meeting Forum members were provided with information on how mainstream funding was currently allocated together with a review of all the options available by which the additional DSG of £2.9m could be allocated through to schools including the LA's recommendations that BPPE and lump sums were the most appropriate. Schools Forum did not support the review of lump sums and agreed the following;
- A) That the first call on the additional DSG is to make permanent the primary BPPE increase introduced in 2013/14 of £54.77 (funded from the DSG balance) which will require approximately £1m of the new funding.
 - B) That remaining funds after A) are to be distributed as an inflationary increase on all BPPE rates which would use the remaining £1.9m.
- 3.8 Given the improved DSG settlement and, as reported elsewhere on today's agenda a £0.5m reduction in the historic post 16 high needs subsidy

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requirement, there is scope to enhance BPPE rates with additional funding of approximately £3.6m to £3.8m as follows;

Table 1 – Current and Proposed Mainstream BPPE Rates			
	Current 2014/15 Rates	Proposed 2015/16 Rates	Year on Year Increase
Primary KS1 / KS2	£2,644.65	£2,754.40	+ 4.15%
Secondary KS3	£3,463.50	£3,607.23	+ 4.15%
Secondary KS4	£4,224.98	£4,400.30	+ 4.15%

- 3.9 Attached as Annex A is a statement which provides the indicative impact in 2015/16 of the above increases across all Swindon schools other than Croft which will be added when the October 2014 census information is available. This is however based on October 2013 pupils and their characteristics whereas actual 2015/16 funding will be determined based on the October 2014 census. At this stage the year on year cash changes are therefore indicative although schools will be able to more accurately assess their position in light of their own census information.
- 3.10 Although a standard BPPE increase has been applied other elements of mainstream funding will remain unchanged which will result in marginally different % impacts on schools depending on their level of BPPE funding compared to lump sum, deprivation, LPA, EAL etc. It is also the case that three of the schools currently on MFG (Bishopstone, South Marston and East Wichel) will not receive any benefit as a result of the BPPE increase as this will be less than their current levels of MFG which will reduce accordingly. Wroughton Infants and Holy Rood Junior are also receiving relatively low level of MFG but the BPPE increases will remove this. All these schools will however benefit over the longer term as they will be receiving higher permanent funding and will be less reliant on temporary MFG funding which will phase out in future years. It is emphasised that these are indicative figures and final 2015/16 figures will be provided at the 20th January 2015 Schools Forum.

Schools Forum is asked to note

- **Note that Swindon expects to receive a total of £123.691m in Schools Block DSG in 2015/16**
- **Note that the 2015/16 settlement is expected to include an additional £4.3m of Schools Block funding in 2015/16 which, together with £0.5m available from elsewhere could be passed on to mainstream schools**
- **Agree to a 4.15% uplift to the Basic Per Pupil Entitlement factor in the local formula**

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- **Note the indicative impact across Swindon Schools as shown at Annex A subject to final figures being produced for the January 2015 Schools Forum.**

Options to increase Pupil Growth Funding 2015/16

- 3.11 Forum Members will recall that the LA is required to formally agree its pupil growth policy and agree the annual values payable to schools arising from this policy. Swindon's policy currently covers pre opening start-up costs, set up costs (infrastructure and classrooms) and trigger funding. No policy changes are proposed regarding pre opening or set up funding but as a consequence of the BPPE increase above, expanding schools will attract 4.15% increases to their part year trigger funding and related issues, including more generous options are described below.
- 3.12 The current trigger funding policy provides part year (7/12) funding based on actual additional pupils in all expansion classes but with break-even protection to ensure schools receive funding for at least 21 pupils (and therefore sufficient cash to cover teaching costs) in their new reception classes. The LA has identified a more generous option which would recognise BPPE and other pupil led funding such as FSM, IDACI, EAL and LPA funding although to keep things relatively simple this would need to be based on Swindon sector averages rather than individual school by school calculations. Over recent years trigger funding has only been applicable to the primary sector although this is likely to become a secondary issue in future years. The table below illustrates the different values and resulting part year (7/12) trigger funding costs for a typical 30 pupil expansion class;

<u>Table 2 – Trigger Funding Options 2015/16</u>			
	<u>Option A</u> Current BPPE Rates	<u>Option B</u> Proposed BPPE Rates	<u>Option C</u> Proposed Pupil led Rates
Primary rate (KS 1/2)	£2,644.65	£2,754.40	£3,336.99
Part year funding (30 pupils)	£46,281	£48,202	£58,397
Increase above current		+4.15%	+26.18%
Secondary (KS 3/4)	£3,463.50	£3,607.23	£4,216.71
Part year funding (30 pupils)	£60,611	£63,126	£73,792
Increase above current		+4.15%	+21.71%

- 3.13 The improved DSG settlement will automatically increase trigger funding up to Option B above whilst the improved schools block DSG settlement would make Option C affordable should the Forum agree this. It is perhaps relevant to

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acknowledge that, as and when additional pupils become recognised for recurrent funding purposes in the local formula, they will attract FSM, IDACI, EAL and LPA funding as well as BPPE funding so paying enhanced rates as shown at Option C would be more consistent. On the other hand, due to the lagged basis by which schools block DSG is calculated, all pupil growth funding has to be top sliced from funds allocated for existing pupils so all other schools are effectively foregoing a small amount of funding to create the Pupil Growth budget.

- 3.14 Provisional indications are that the increased option c rates could be paid from 2015/16 without the LA having to increase its overall pupil growth budget but over the longer term, particularly when growth occurs in the secondary sector this position may change. It is of course possible that a national formula for funding mainstream pupils will be implemented after the election which would supersede local decisions. On balance the LA view is that the option C trigger funding rates should be payable as a result of the improved 2015/16 DSG settlement.
- 3/15 On a related matter the increased BPPE funding alone would generate an additional £1,346 of part year funding which would not necessitate a rethink of the 21 pupil break even calculation which currently applies to reception classes. Increasing the policy to pay higher pupil led funding (option c) would however generate additional part year funding of £8,482 thereby reducing the break even calculation to 17 pupils. On balance the LA is minded to retain the existing 21 pupil break even position to recognise that teaching costs increase each year and also the financial uncertainties faced by expanding schools

Schools Forum is asked to agree that from 2015/16 trigger funding is provided at a value per pupil which reflects sector average funding for that year and that the 21 pupil break even calculation for reception age pupils is retained but kept under review.

4. High Needs Commissioned Services and De-delegation

Nylands Campus Outreach Team (NCOT)

- 4.1 Leading up to the 2014/15 budget setting process Forum Members may recall that the LA was advised by the EFA that it was not possible to continue funding the Primary Behaviour Support Team in 2015/16 without consulting with maintained schools to agree de-delegation. Although classified by the LA as being a service for High Need pupils, the LA accepts that these pupils are not generally statemented and may not cost £10,000 per year to educate. Under the DfE definition the £232,700 of funding used by the LA to support behaviour support is therefore deemed to be schools block DSG and usage must therefore be agreed with the mainstream schools which are benefiting from the service.

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- 4.2 As highlighted in previous Forum reports and fully explained at the July Forum meeting, to comply with the school finance regulations the LA will therefore need to allocate £232,700 across primary schools next year via a BPPE uplift of approximately £13 per pupil. If there is a consensus view that this service represents good value for money and should continue:
- The LA can arrange de-delegation of funding back to NCOT from maintained primary schools charged at £13 per pupil – this would provide approximately £138,000
 - The LA can administer a basic traded payment service arrangement on behalf of NCOT to collect annual contributions from primary academies at £13 per pupil – this would provide approximately £94,700.
 - The LA can then continue to directly fund the existing service. (Should any primary academy choose not to subscribe to the service the charge to remaining users could be increased to maintain a similar level of funding or the service may need to be slimmed down to reflect the level of support from schools).
- 4.3 Alternatively, the LA could delegate funding across the primary sector and leave the White Horse Federation to establish a school to school traded service on either a subscription or pay as you go basis. As stated in previous Schools' Forum reports, the LA believes that the service is highly effective and represents good value as an integral part of the overall BESD graduated response service. At a meeting of SAPH on 24th September, Head Teachers voted unanimously to keep the NCOT service (51 HTs were in attendance). The Federation is happy to continue providing the service but clearly would not wish this to be administratively onerous. Should it prove necessary to decommission the service, this would have potential redundancy implications and schools would need to seek alternative providers of behaviour support services.

Primary Sector Schools' Forum representatives are asked to give their views on whether the LA should continue to commission the primary behaviour support service provided by the Nylands Campus Outreach Team for the financial year 2015/16.

Other Centrally Commissioned Services

- 4.5 At the July Forum meeting the LA advised that it may also be necessary to take similar steps to de-delegate funding in respect of other centrally commissioned services which were also targeted at mainstream pupils, as opposed to high needs pupils. Of particular concern was the Uplands Assistive Technology service and Millbrook, Specific Learning Difficulties Support Service but the LA is pleased to advise that the EFA have agreed that these services can continue to be commissioned without any need for de-delegation to be considered.

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5. Early Years Proposals and Pupil Premium Update

Early Years DSG Settlements 2015/16

- 5.1 DfE have, as expected, confirmed that all early years funding paid to LAs for 2015/16 will be based on participation as measured by the early year censuses. Funding for 3 and 4 year olds has been based on January census counts since 2013/14 whilst disadvantaged 2 year old funding has so far been linked to a DfE formula with take up targets and trajectory building funding. This change brings in an added degree of uncertainty and a potential financial risk to the DSG should participation on census days be lower than average.
- 5.2 For 2 year olds DfE have also indicated that grant will be allocated for eligible children only, which the DfE has estimated at a maximum of 1,100 children in Swindon. DfE have not announced a 2015/16 funding rate for 2 year olds and at this stage the LA is assuming the current year hourly rate of £4.98 for 570 hours providing £2,838.60 will apply. The DfE partner for the 2 year old project has indicated that there will be an additional census count in October 2015 to take into account the stepped increase in LAs providing places for two year olds although whether this census will be used to determine funding remains unclear.
- 5.3 Initial estimates of 2015/16 Early years funding are as follows:

Table 3 – Estimated Early Years Nursery Funding 2015/16		
	Estimated census	Estimated DSG
Disadvantaged 2 year Olds		
January 2014 census (latest) for information	630	-
January 2015 census x 5/12 x £2,838.60	957(5/12)	£1,131,892
January 2016 census x 7/12 x £2,838.60	1,000 (7/12)	£1,655,850
Totals	982 (FTE)	£ 2,787,742
3 and 4 year Olds		
January 2014 census (latest) for information	2,104	-
January 2015 census x 5/12 x £3,888.06	2,108 (5/12)	£3,415,013
January 2016 census x 7/12 x £3,888.06	2,227 (7/12)	£5,050,914
Totals	2,177 (FTE)	£8,465,927

Schools Forum is asked to note that Swindon expects to receive;

- **Approximately £2.788m in Early Years Disadvantaged 2 year old DSG in 2015/16**
- **Approximately £8.466m in Early Years 3 & 4 year old DSG in 2015/16.**

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Proposed Inflationary Increase to 3 and 4 Year Old Early Years Funding Rates

- 5.4 Forum Members may recall from the 2013/14 outturn report presented in July that the LA was surprised to have received an extra £197,300 of Early Years DSG above budget as a consequence of a higher than expected January 2014 census. This extra income was received despite the LA marginally underspending its £7.5m provider budgets by £88,000 which was one of the reasons which contributed to a higher DSG balance being carried forward at the end of last year. This indicates that the LA was overly cautious in setting the 2014/15 early years budget and that there is scope to fund a modest inflationary increase in 2015/16 with a low risk that a cost pressure could arise which would not be fully funded by an increase in Early Years DSG.
- 5.5 The basic early year's hourly rate of £3.75 per hour has remained unchanged since 2010 in line with the freeze on early years DSG funding per pupil imposed by DfE since 2010/11. Since that time a number of providers, particularly the smaller nurseries and childminders which have less scope to achieve economies of scale have asked the LA if an inflationary increase could be considered but this has so far been resisted. Set out below are the hourly rates currently payable by neighbouring LAs which, with an average of £4.07, supports an increase to SBC funding rates;

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Bristol | £3.69 to £5.57 (average £4.64) |
| • Wiltshire | £3.71 to £6.07 (average £4.89) |
| • South Gloucestershire | £3.53 to £4.00 (average £3.77) |
| • Oxfordshire | £3.90 |
| • BANES | £3.55 |
| • Gloucestershire | £3.39 |
| • Devon | £3.62 |
| • West Berks | £3.70 to £5.92 (£4.81 average) |

Schools Forum is asked to approve a 2.7% inflationary increase bringing the 3 and 4 year old hourly rate up from £3.75 to £3.85 with effect from 1st April 2015.

Early Years Pupil Premium

- 5.6 In the July Schools Forum papers the LA reported that DfE had announced that funding of £50m has been set aside in national spending plans to introduce a new Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds in 2015/16. Full details had yet to be announced as they were subject to a consultation process but key issues identified were;
- The indicative EYPP funding for Swindon is estimated at £164,619.

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- In addition to the hourly rate payable by LAs (currently £3.75 per hour in Swindon) there will be a national rate of £0.53 per hour per child. This equates to £300 per annum per child accessing the full 570 hours entitlement per year
 - The eligibility of parents for EYPP will be the same as school age Pupil Premium (PP), but the allocation does not include 2 year olds as the funding is already targeted at the most disadvantaged.
 - 4 year olds in reception classes will not receive EYPP as they already receive school age PP.
 - Similar to the Universal Infant Free School Meals and school age PP, the providers will be responsible for collating the parental information and the LA carries out an eligibility check, and pays the national rate.
- 5.6 The consultation closed on the 22nd August 2014 and the DfE are analysing the feedback. It is expected that an announcement on further information relating to the new Early Years Pupil Premium will be made by the end of 2014.

Schools Forum is asked to note the information relating to the new Early Years Pupil Premium for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds which will be allocated to LAs in 2015/16

6. High Needs DSG 2015/16 Update

- 6.1 Forum Members will be aware that DfE confirmation of the 2014/15 High Needs Block DSG value was very late and that this delayed the LA from finalising high need funding allocations to specialist settings. Whereas Early Years and Mainstream Funding for 2014/15 was able to be agreed at the January 2014 Schools Forum meeting, Special School and SRP funding was not agreed until the March 2014 Schools Forum whilst there was still a considerable degree of uncertainty. As reported elsewhere on today's agenda, this year's post 16 funding was not finalised until August and post schools high need funding for the 2014/15 academic year is to be agreed at today's meeting.
- 6.2 The DfE delays in finalising High Need Block grant values seem to be linked to the process by which place numbers are agreed and guidance so far is that 2015/16 places and funding will be based on 2014/15 with only a review in exceptional circumstances. At this stage the LA must therefore plan on having a similar level of high needs funding in 2015/16 as is currently available in 2014/15, regardless of changes in overall high need pupil numbers or their needs. DfE have acknowledged that there is a need to fundamentally review how High Needs funding is determined and have expressed a commitment to address this after the next general election. The only announcement made so far is that DfE intend raising place funding for Alternative Provision settings from £8,000 to £10,000 which would bring them in line with Specialist settings. For Swindon this

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would mean increasing EOTAS place funding at Stratton and Riverside with corresponding reductions to the top up rates payable. Further updates will be provided to the Forum as and when information becomes available.

6.3 Against this financial backdrop the LA recently reconvened the High Needs Task and Finish group to progress the workplan approved by Schools Forum at the July Forum meeting. Three task group meetings have been scheduled during 2014 and the following matters were discussed on the 22nd September;

- Therapy supplements are to be reviewed with a view to establishing three levels of eligibility with three levels of funding. The current methodology recognises only High and Low needs and the consensus view of the group was that the addition of a middle option was appropriate for Speech and Language, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy supplements.
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Supplement in Special Schools – at present a supplement of £1,000 is payable in respect of Band 1 pupils in special schools whilst all SRP pupils with ASD attract £6,000. This is essentially to acknowledge that smaller SRP settings require higher levels of funding as they are unable to achieve the economies of scale of a special school. There was a view that an ASD supplement should be payable for all special school pupils.
- The current band values are based on a model whereby band 2 to 6 funding is based on % ages of band 1 funding. At present Band 2 attracts 90% of band 1 whilst band 3 attracts 50% of band 1 with gradual reductions through to band 6 of 37.5%, 30% and 15%. The consensus view of the group was that the gap between 2 and 3 was too large and that band 3 should move from 50% to 60% of band 1
- In constructing a harmonised funding model which, from the start of 2014/15 was used to determine Special School and SRP funding levels, the LA had to bring together two different formulas within an overall funding envelope. This inevitably resulted in changes to per pupil funding across these settings and whilst the LA was to a large extent able to minimise year on year reductions for individual settings there are a few remaining anomalies. The current model provides the same level of funding for 6 of the 9 prime SEN needs used for banding purposes and the views of the group with regard to band and supplements were as follows;
 - Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD) – due to historic anomalies funding for these pupils had to be set marginally lower than the other 6 prime needs. Band 1 pupils attract £12,800 (compared to £13,300) whilst Band 2 attract £11,500 (compared to £12,000) and Band 3 pupils attract £6,400 (compared to £6,700) before bands 4 to 6 are harmonised. The consensus view of

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the group is that MLD and SLD funding levels should be fully harmonised with the other prime needs.

- Behaviour Emotional Social Difficulties (BESD) – The level of BESD funding has been a subject of deliberations over recent years. Prior to the DfE school funding reform changes the LA developed a new local formula approach to special school funding which was implemented in 2012/13. At that time the issue of higher funding for BESD pupils was discussed culminating in an acceptance by ASSSH that this needed to reduce down from what was at the time a 35% premium above other special school pupils down to 20%. This is the current position as overall funding for BESD pupils in 2014/15 (Place and Top up) is set to be 20% above other SEN pupils for Bands 1, 2 and 3 pupils. Moving forward the consensus view of the group is that rather than identifying BESD as a prime need this should be funded as a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) supplement in line with the latest SEND reform guidance. This would enable all band values to be harmonised whilst still enabling relevant settings to attract additional funding via either a fixed SEMH supplement or with different supplement values for different bands or via a High, Medium, Low approach.

- 6.4 The LA will model all the above options based on an assumption that the existing funding envelope will remain in place for 2015/16. This will therefore inevitably require minor reductions to existing band values in order to redistribute necessary funds although the LA will be seeking to ensure individual settings are not excessively disadvantaged by any changes. It is important to recognise that the above mentioned items have been identified for review and that no firm proposals are being made at this time. The LA will model various options and will provide this to the next Task and Finish group on 21st October. Should a consensus view emerge from the group proposals relating to 2015/16 will be presented at the 20th January 2015 Schools Forum.

Schools Forum is asked to note that

- ***The LA is currently expecting that 2015/16 High Needs Block DSG will be broadly sufficient to cover current overall levels of expenditure and that updates will be provided to the Forum as and when further information becomes available***
- ***A range of High Need band and supplements have been identified for review and the LA will undertake modelling on various options via the task group with a view to presenting proposed 2015/16 changes to the January 2015 Schools Forum***

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7. Alternative Options

- 7.1 There are various alternatives on how the additional DSG could be distributed as were described in the July Forum report. The LA has a statutory duty to manage and distribute the DSG in accordance with prevailing grant conditions and the school finance regulations. Although under the school funding reform programme DfE are more prescriptive in terms of options and approaches in most cases funding values are locally determined.

8. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 8.1 Various financial implications are included in this report relating to management of the retained DSG budget

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 8.2 There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 8.3 This report does not make any recommendations that affect these areas.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 8.4 Utilisation of the DSG has a direct link to two of the Council's five priorities – "Right skills, right jobs in the right place" and "Make the best use of Swindon's resources inside and outside the Council".

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 8.5 As there are no proposals in this report, a DIA has not been completed.

Risk Management

- 8.6 There are no specific risk management implications not highlighted in the body of the report.

9. Consultees

- 9.1 The Board Director Resources (Section 151 Officer), Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) and Board Director Commissioning (Director of Children Services) are consulted in respect of all reports.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 Previous reports to the Schools Forum and documents posted on the DfE web site.

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11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Indicative impact of 2015/16 mainstream school funding increases