

School Forum
19 January 2024
School Funding 24-25

Background to School Budget report

- Must comply with DfE funding regulations
- DSG published on 19 December 2023
- Schools Block £129.9m
- Reductions in National Funding Factor values by 0.7% due to £350m DfE budget error
- 56 fewer primary pupils and 89 more secondary
- Effectively two choices for SEN protection scheme – continue with 0.05% block transfer or terminate with Nil transfer
- BIG expansion of early years provision with new NEF for working families 2YO and Under 2YOs

Preferred option supported by HMI/BWG

- A: cap school gains to 2.45% to create £649,692 to transfer to high needs at DfE limit of 0.05%

Supported by BWG and HMI –preferred outcome

- **Alternative B:** fully fund NFF with no transfer but to effectively close the SEN protection scheme
- Evaluation of the SEN protection scheme by HMI Tonwen Empson confirms that schools rely on the SEN protection scheme
- Reaffirms previous decisions to transfer funding to the high needs block to continue the SEN Protection scheme

Outcome of SEN Protection review

- Headteachers were clear that pupils in their schools directly benefit from having the SEN protection funding
- this funding is crucial in enabling schools to provide for the increasing needs being presented.
- School leaders strongly welcome the protection funding and say that without it, they would not be able to provide some of the crucial resources currently in place for pupils with SEND.
- **Consequently, the case is strong to continue with this arrangement if possible.**

Review of SEN Protection Scheme 2

- Improvements suggested are:
 - Schools are increasingly looking at alternative, creative strategies to ensure that pupils achieve strong outcomes and to promote independence.
 - Need to share this good practice
 - Schools to receive a forecast of SEN protection funding early in the financial year
 - Would welcome faster payment of top-up funding following application

De-delegation Proposals

- **existing services** - approval of 1.9% rise on existing de-delegation items and Education Management costs **BWG supported this**
- **Delegation new services**
 - CLEAPPS 16p
 - Secondary 1 yes and 1 No
 - Primary 3 yes and 4 No
 - Primary Behaviour 4 Yes and 3 No
(plus 1 yes from a secondary school)

No clear mandate so will not proceed – ONLY change to the recommendations in the report

DfE Expansion of EY funding

- From **April 2024**, allowing eligible working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of funded childcare.
- From **September 2024**, allowing eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 4 years old to access 15 hours of funded childcare.
- From **September 2025**, allowing eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 4 years old to access 30 hours funded childcare per week

DfE EY funding rates 2023/24 & 2024-25

34YO funding per hour

2023-24	2024/25
£5.20	£5.47

Increase for 2024/25 is 5.19% on 2023-24 rate

2YO funding per hour – new composite rate

2023	2023-2024 Supplementary rate	2024/25
£5.63	£7.19	£7.19

Increase for 2023/4 is 0% on 2023-24 rate

We have applied same 5.19% increase as 34YOs to disadvantaged 2YOs to calculate the disadvantage supplement

National comparison 2024/25

34YO funding per hour

Herefordshire and 45 Local authorities on £5.47 which is the lowest possible

Average rate is £5.98 & highest is £9.04 for Camden

We are -9% below average

2YO funding per hour

Herefordshire lowest nationally on £7.19

Average rate is £8.48 & highest is £11.88 for Westminster

We are -15.2% below average

Worcestershire get £7.44/hr and Gloucestershire £7.60

Shropshire £7.26/hr

National comparison 2024/25

Under 2YO funding per hour

Herefordshire second lowest nationally on £9.77/hr
only Rutland at £9.45/hr is lower

Average rate is £11.55/hr & highest is £16.21/hr for
Westminster

We are -15.4% below average

Worcestershire get £10.11/hr

Gloucestershire £10.33/hr

Shropshire £9.85/hr

Herefordshire proposals for 2024/25

2YO funding per hour

Disadvantaged 2YOs	£7.34
Working Families 2YOs	£6.85
Under 2YOs	£9.51

34YO funding per hour

From the summer term 2024 our NEF formula will be

£5.00/hr + 42p/hour deprivation + £63 per week rurality

The DfE £5.47 per hour is made up as follows

NEF hour rate	£5.00
£310k rurality lump sum	£0.18
£82k deprivation	£0.06
£393k central spend	£0.23
<u>Total</u>	<u>£5.47</u>

NEF Retention for central spend

- **Recommend a 2.7% retention to 2YO & Under 2YOs to fund**
 - **£150,000 SENIF (1.35%)**
 - **£80,000 additional Early Years advisory staff (0.85%)**
 - **£50,000 free in-county training (0.5%)**
- **Consultation -16 replies and on-line meeting**
- **100% in favour of SENIF retention**
- **80% in favour of free in-county training**
- **Additional staff retention is essential to delivering the NEF expansion**
- **NEF group to review 2YO deprivation supplement and phasing down the 34YO retention over time**