



ISLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy
c/o Governor Services
222 Upper Street
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SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING DATE	16 July 2020
AGENDA ITEM 8	COVID-19 Financial Implications update
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the Schools Forum: a) That Schools Forum note the COVID-19 financial updates. b) Agrees the proposal for allocating Schools in Financial Difficulty funding

1 Background

- 1.1 The report to Forum in May set out the financial guides issued by the Government since the start of COVID-19.
- 1.2 This reports provides the changes since that period and offers a funding proposal for allocating a proportion of the Schools in Financial Difficulty budget.

2 Schools

- 2.1 In April the DfE released guidance on Exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020. This guidance informed school what costs could be claimed for plus financial limits, dependant on the size of the school.
- 2.2 Whilst schools have welcomed the opportunity to mitigate some of their additional unexpected costs, as discussed at the May Forum, the main concern is the loss of private income during the COVID-19 period and it was hoped that the government recognised the potential impact on schools financial positions should the guidance not be updated to reflect these concerns.
- 2.3 However, the guidance which was updated on 24 June strengthened the resolve that the grant is to be used for exceptional costs only and would not support loss of income.
- 2.4 The three main changes from the April guidance are:
 - revised the section on the impact of schools' financial reserves on eligibility for this funding:
 - Schools are not eligible to make a claim against this fund if they expect to add to their existing historic surpluses in their current financial year (September 2019 to August 2020 for academies and April 2020 to March 2021 for maintained schools). This means schools cannot claim if they began their current financial year with an accumulated historic surplus and expect to increase that surplus this year and thereby finish the year with a higher level of reserves than they started.
 - Schools are eligible for reimbursement where the additional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) would:
 - result in a school having to use historic surpluses

- increase the size of a historic deficit
- prevent the planned repayment of a historic deficit
- added details of what support schools can access to cover the loss of self-generated income which is not covered by this fund
 - Lost self-generated income is not covered by this grant.
 - Where schools normally provide a service or operation that is wholly or significantly funded by private income, we know this lost revenue will create additional pressure on budgets.
 - Where schools have members of staff delivering these services, which were funded by private income, they should first look to make the necessary savings from their existing budgets or consider options to redeploy these staff. Once having looked to these other options, schools can then consider using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.
- confirmed that schools should proceed with a phased wider opening and any measures associated with it within existing resources, as any costs incurred as part of that process cannot be claimed through this fund
 - Schools are not eligible to make claims for any additional costs associated with more pupils returning to school that are not covered by these categories. We have published guidance on the actions schools can take to open for more pupils in a way that minimises the risks of transmission. We anticipate that schools will typically be able to implement the measures set out in our guidance (including increases to routine cleaning) within their existing resources.

2.5 The guidance has also indicated that schools will be able to make an additional claim in the autumn term for costs relating to the summer holidays that are not covered by the Covid Summer Food Fund. It does not, however, provide further details on the type of costs that can be claimed, this will be shared with schools once the details have been released.

3 Catch-up Funding

3.1 On 19th June 2020, the DfE announced a £1bn one-off grant package to address the impact of lost teaching time throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This is split in to two key areas:

- £650m – for primary and secondary schools to spend on one-to-one or small group tuition. This is to be allocated to the schools and can be used at the Headteachers discretion. Although it is expected that the funding will be used to provide extra support to children who have fallen behind while out of school
- £350m – to subsidise a National Tutoring Programme to help pupils most at need and will support the most disadvantaged pupils to access tutors over the 2020-21 academic year. This funding is expected to reach up to two million disadvantaged pupils.

3.2 The press release at the time stated the £1bn one-off package is in addition to the £14.1bn three year funding settlement announced in September 2019. However, it was further announced to Head Teachers that the existing £55m Year 7 Catch-Up grant funding would cease, with effect from 2020-21. It has been cited the National Funding Formula in primary and secondary schools addresses and meets the needs of lower prior attainment pupils across all year groups 7 – 11 rather than solely focussing on year 7.

3.3 It should be noted that Early years providers and colleges for 16 to 19-year-olds are not included in these financial plans.

£650m one-to-one or small group tuition

The funding allocations to schools have yet to be released but various sources have indicated the following:

- Funding expected to run from September, therefore on an academic year system
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) published a guide to help school leaders decide how to use their £650 million in additional funding
- The DfE have highlighted four areas of recommended spend; intervention programmes, extra teaching capacity, access to technology and summer schools
- Whilst schools are intended to use the funding for additional tutoring, the money can be spent on other activities such as summer schools
- If schools have planned activities during the summer break, this would first be met from existing resources
- This funding is not applicable to nursery schools or colleges

The risk to the schools is the lack of financial details to be able to plan these programmes and interventions effectively. Islington, alongside many other local authorities have requested for the DfE to share this information at its earliest opportunity.

£350m National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

- The funding will be allocated to and run by a number of organisations; Education Endowment Foundation (EEF); Sutton Trust, Impetus and Nesta, and will be split into two strands:
 - NTP Partners - schools will get access to heavily subsidised tuition sessions for their pupils from an approved list of organisations. The sessions will be subsidised by as much as 75 per cent for the first year, meaning they will cost circa £12 per session.
 - NTP Coaches - recent graduates will be trained up and then employed by schools to provide intensive catch-up support to pupils, with their salaries paid for by the programme.
- Schools to decide how to deploy the tutoring, and whether to use it for individual pupils or small groups.
- Schools will be able to decide whether to use tuition sessions in addition to their pupils' normal school day, or during their timetabled day.
- The EEF gives the example of a pupils getting one hour of tutoring per week for a course of 12-15 weeks.

4 Schools in Financial Difficulty funding proposal

- 4.1 The DfE have confirmed Local Authority maintained schools (including pupil referral units) and academies (including free schools) will continue to receive their budgets for the coming year, as usual, regardless of any periods of partial or complete closure. This will ensure that they are able to continue to pay their staff, and meet their other regular financial commitments e.g. payments to their regular contracted suppliers; cleaning; catering.
- 4.2 It is recognised by the local authority that whilst schools are able to reclaim certain costs through the Exceptional Costs relating to COVID-19 grant, this is not exhaustive and the financial impact on some schools may cause unintended consequences of schools entering in to a deficit position.
- 4.3 It is therefore proposed to allocate a proportion of the centrally held Schools in Financial Difficulty budget to support schools in readiness for the wider opening to all children in September.

- 4.4 This will initially be based on a third of the budget at both primary and secondary phases and will be reviewed again in the autumn and spring terms as the impact of the wider opening becomes fully understood. This funding is not ring-fenced to the schools but is expected to be used to mitigate some of the additional costs relating to PPE or new signage.
- 4.5 To target the funding to those schools that are already experiencing financial difficulties, a flat rate of £500 or £1000 is to be allocated to schools that are reporting a 2020-21 ratified balance which is less than 5% of their 2020-21 Individual School Budget (ISB). Furthermore, all primary and secondary schools will receive £2 per pupil. Appendix A sets out the proposal in detail.

5 Early Years

- 5.1 As reported at the May Forum, the government will continue to pay local authorities throughout the summer period for free early years entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to support providers through the COVID-19 period irrespective of partial or full closure.
- 5.2 A number of measures have been taken by the local authority to ensure both the longer term financial sustainability across all providers as well as the continuation of providing sufficient places across the borough. These measures were reported at the May Forum.
- 5.3 There has been no further guidance on the financial aspects of early years funding although it is expected that an announcement will be made before the end of term.
- 5.4 The primary concern for Local Authorities is the 2020-21 funding adjustment which uses both January 2020 and 2021 census points to inform retrospective adjustments. Whilst the DfE have not released its decision on how this will be treated, it is of the opinion that no funding adjustments at all will take place for 2020-21 and, rather, the focus will be on how to fund for futures years. Schools Forum will be kept updated with details as they arise.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Schools Forum note the COVID-19 financial updates.
- 6.2 That Schools Forum agree to the summer term financial allocation of Schools in Financial Difficulty funding with a view to a similar process in the autumn and spring terms.

Contact

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Appendix A – Schools in Financial Difficulty

							Proposed funding from Schools in Financial Difficulty to support COVID-19 costs		
							£2.00	£500.00	
DfE No.	School	2020-21 Pupil Nos	2020-21 ISB	2020-21 Ratified Budgets	2020-21 Balances as a % of ISB	Below 5% Y / N	Per Pupil rate	Add'l £ if balance below 5%	Total
2062015	Ambler Primary School	416	2,539,602	271,154	10.7%		832		832
2062809	Ashmount Primary School	406	2,394,046	72,442	3.0%	Y	812	500	1,312
2063643	Blessed Sacrament RC Primary School	147	955,780	0	0.0%	Y	294	500	794
2062854	Canonbury Primary School	411	2,302,918	51,709	2.2%	Y	822	500	1,322
2063633	Christ The King RC Primary School	284	1,716,258	178,744	10.4%		568		568
2062128	Copenhagen Primary School	144	1,026,647	93,618	9.1%		288		288
2062166	Drayton Park Primary School	261	1,579,860	-407,270	-25.8%	Y	522	500	1,022
2062170	Duncombe Primary School	362	2,375,623	-7,649	-0.3%	Y	724	500	1,224
2062251	Gillespie Primary School	207	1,304,388	29,162	2.2%	Y	414	500	914
2062261	Grafton Primary School	429	2,587,232	4,410	0.2%	Y	858	500	1,358
2062279	Hanover Primary School	302	1,790,570	10,543	0.6%	Y	604	500	1,104
2062282	Hargrave Park Primary School	292	1,943,577	137,903	7.1%		584		584
2062805	Highbury Quadrant Primary School	285	1,806,809	-173,273	-9.6%	Y	570	500	1,070
2062855	Hugh Myddelton Primary School	416	2,768,973	119,527	4.3%	Y	832	500	1,332
2062379	Laycock Primary School	377	2,744,095	92,335	3.4%	Y	754	500	1,254
2062852	Montem Primary School	315	2,117,885	-10,718	-0.5%	Y	630	500	1,130
2062429	Moreland Primary School	269	1,906,627	114,757	6.0%		538		538
2062853	Newington Green Primary School	372	2,329,604	69,719	3.0%	Y	744	500	1,244
2062455	Pakeman Primary School	286	1,884,448	71,36	3.8%	Y	572	500	1,072
2062856	Pooles Park Primary School	269	1,721,615	25,03	1.5%	Y	538	500	1,038
2062850	Prior Weston Primary School	340	1,995,429	-302,53	-15.2%	Y	680	500	1,180
2062515	Robert Blair Primary School	191	1,412,946	45,57	3.2%	Y	382	500	882
2062857	Rotherfield Primary School	355	2,089,778	50,87	2.4%	Y	710	500	1,210
2063384	Sacred Heart RC Primary School	419	2,573,229	162,66	6.3%		838		838
2063606	St Andrews (Barnsbury) Church of England Primary School	193	1,091,553	-62,48	-5.7%	Y	386	500	886
2063631	St Joan of Arc RC Primary School	412	2,174,409	72,04	3.3%	Y	824	500	1,324
2063456	St John Evangelist RC Primary School	268	1,612,457	123,94	7.7%		536		536
2063471	St Johns Highbury Vale CofE Primary School	206	1,057,568	83,81	7.9%		412		412
2063465	St Johns Upper Holloway CofE Primary School	186	1,234,314	81,29	6.6%		372		372
2063483	St Josephs RC Primary School	407	2,282,595	297,91	13.1%		814		814
2063488	St Judes & St Pauls CofE Primary School	174	1,104,485	55,21	5.0%	Y	348	500	848
2063495	St Lukes CofE Primary School	208	1,292,415	9,03	0.7%	Y	416	500	916
2063501	St Marks CofE Primary School	201	1,344,821	146,29	10.9%		402		402
2063527	St Marys CofE Primary School	202	1,131,829	116,78	10.3%		404		404
2063575	St Peters & St Pauls RC Primary School	195	1,206,781	4	0.0%	Y	390	500	890
2062596	Thornhill Primary School	412	2,384,284	249,65	10.5%		824		824
2062803	Tufnell Park Primary School	308	1,915,870	7,14	0.4%	Y	616	500	1,116
2062624	Vittoria Primary School	170	1,227,078	11,93	1.0%	Y	340	500	840
2062646	Winton Primary School	210	1,524,987	27,07	1.8%	Y	420	500	920
2062666	Yerbury Primary School	415	2,090,718	102,22	4.9%	Y	830	500	1,330
	Total Primary	11,722	72,544,105	2,021,86			23,444	13,500	36,944
							£2.00	£1,000.00	
DfE No.	School	2020-21 Pupil Nos	2020-21 ISB	2020-21 Ratified Budgets	2020-21 Balances as a % of ISB	Below 5% Y / N	Per Pupil rate	Add'l £ if balance below 5%	Total
2064614	Central Foundation	807	6,697,114	271,310	4.1%		1,614		2,614
2064324	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	893	7,036,807	1,036,982	14.7%		1,786	1,000	1,786
2064307	Highbury Fields School	659	6,009,360	91,250	1.5%	Y	1,318	1,000	2,318
2064112	Beacon High	502	4,444,693	-578,502	-13.0%	Y	1,004	1,000	2,004
2064325	Arts & Media School Islington	636	5,140,285	-176,752	-3.4%	Y	1,272	1,000	2,272
2064651	St Aloysius' College	768	5,922,188	822,873	13.9%		1,536		1,536
	Total Secondary	4,265	35,250,446	1,467,161			8,530	4,000	12,530
	Total	15,987	107,794,550	3,489,027			31,974	17,500	49,474