



Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Guildhall,  
Frankwell Quay,  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 8HQ

Date:

**Committee:  
Schools Forum**

**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2026  
**Time:** 8.30 am  
**Venue:** MS Teams

You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached

Tim Collard  
Service Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

**Members of Schools Forum**

Mark Rogers	Sarah Finch
Marilyn Hunt	Lisa Henshall
Stephen Matthews	Rachel Williams
Reuben Thorley	Sarah Godden
Sandra Holloway	James Pearson
Alison Ashley	James Staniforth
Georgia Moss	John Hitchings
Mark Cooper	Shelly Hurdley
Bill Dowell	Sian Lines
Carla Whelan	Charles Thomas
Sue Lovecy	Andrew Smith
Sarah North	

Your Committee Officer is:

**Samantha Bradley** Performance & Integration Manager, Learning and Skills

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# AGENDA

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Minutes and Matters Arising - 22 January 2026** (Pages 1 - 6)  
Paper A attached.
- 3 Local Authority update (John Rowe)**  
A verbal update will be given.
- 4 Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2025-26 (Stephen Waters)** (Pages 7 - 12)  
Paper B attached.
- 5 High Needs Stability Grant (Stephen Waters)**  
A presentation will be given.
- 6 DSG Management Plan and 'Experts at Hand' offer (John Rowe/Sarah Court)**  
A presentation will be given.
- 7 Primary and Secondary Development Grant Update (John Rowe)**  
A presentation will be given.
- 8 Maintained School revenue premises related costs (Richard Williams/Jo Morris)** (Pages 13 - 14)  
A presentation will be given.  
Paper D attached.
- 9 Schools Forum Work Programme 2026-27 (John Rowe/Jo Morris)** (Pages 15 - 16)  
Paper C attached.

**10 Communication**

**11 Future meeting dates**

Thursday 18 June 2026	9.00 - 11.00	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 10 September 2026	9.00 - 11.00	Microsoft (MS) Teams
Thursday 12 November 2026	9.00 – 11.00	Face to Face TBC

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Date: 22 January 2026

Time: 08.00 to 10.30

Venue: MS Teams

A

Public

## MINUTES OF SCHOOLS FORUM HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2026 – HELD VIA MS TEAMS

NOTES WERE PRODUCED USING AI VIA COPILOT AS AGREED BY FORUM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	William Dowell opened the meeting, welcoming members and noting apologies. Several attendees indicated they might need to step in/out due to operational pressures in their settings.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	
	The minutes from 11 December 2025 were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Opening to Meeting</b>	
	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>Several actions were linked to Samantha Bradley, whose absence meant vacancy-related checks had not been completed. Additional interest had been expressed in the High Needs Monitoring Group, including from members such as Shelly. A meeting date will be arranged later in the term once the LA fully considers the current position and pending contributions from Stephen A. Waters.</p> <p>Modelling of the block transfer had been completed collaboratively by John Rowe, Jo Morris and Stephen A. Waters, ready for Forum consideration later in the meeting.</p> <p>John Rowe confirmed he would present an overview of additional funding streams, such as the GSP and inclusion development grants, in advance of later decision-making as part of this meeting</p> <p>No further matters were identified.</p>	



4	<p><b>Paper B – Schools Block (DSG) 2026–27</b></p> <p>Presented in detail by Jo Morris. Key points:</p> <p><b>4.1 Overall Schools Block</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Schools Block rose by approximately <b>£10 million</b>, reflecting a <b>4.55% increase</b>.</li> <li>• Funding is generated through Primary (PUF) and Secondary (SUF) Units of Funding, which increased by <b>5.06%</b> and <b>5.1%</b> respectively.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.2 Pupil Demographics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total pupil numbers fell by <b>343</b> from the October 2024 census, a factor influencing distribution.</li> <li>• Historical premises spend continues to be factored into the block calculation.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.3 Growth Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth funding rose significantly from <b>£381,000 to £679,000</b> (an 80% increase).</li> <li>• Internal checks confirmed the LA does <b>not</b> require such a high level of growth funding for 2026–27.</li> <li>• The surplus will be recycled back to schools through the NFF.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.4 Additional Grant Roll-ins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Schools Budget Support Grant and National Insurance adjustment grant have been subsumed into the DSG, representing <b>£6.6m</b> (2.98% of the annual increase).</li> </ul> <p><b>4.5 Affordability of NFF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Authority Proforma Tool (APT) demonstrates that the LA can fully fund the National Funding Formula (NFF) values in 2026–27.</li> </ul> <p>Forum noted the paper.</p>	JM
5	<p><b>Paper C – High Needs Block Monitoring 2025–26</b></p> <p>Comprehensive update by Stephen A. Waters.</p> <p><b>5.1 Overall Deficit Position</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-year High Needs deficit: £24.524m.</li> <li>• When combined with carried-forward deficit (£17.566m), total deficit reaches £42.089m.</li> <li>• The centrally retained High Needs budget is £35.48m (excluding £10.867m place funding).</li> </ul>	JR/SB



Shropshire is the 50th worst-funded LA for High Needs on a per-pupil basis nationally.

## **5.2 Key Cost Pressures**

### **5.2.1 Top-Up Funding – Mainstream Schools**

- Forecast spend: £14.271m, a 45% increase on the previous year.
- Growth is affected by rising numbers of EHCPs but funding increases outstrip EHCP growth, due to improved banding structures, enhanced funding for hubs, and GSP usage.

### **5.2.2 Top-Up Funding – Special Schools**

- Spend increased to £11.932m (excluding TMBSS).
- Reflects full-year impact of previous banding uplifts to support LA strategy to build capacity in local special schools.

### **5.2.3 Independent Special Schools**

- Forecast expenditure: £23.259m — approximately 50% of the entire High Needs Block.
- Though the spend continues to rise, the rate of increase is slowing, following years of steep escalation.

### **5.2.4 Post-16**

- Overspend of £1.47m, largely due to a small number of high-cost placements in independent specialist provision.

### **5.2.5 SEN Support Services**

- Overspend of £1.619m, reflecting increased reliance on agency staffing, rising sensory service costs, and specialist therapy support.

#### **Members raised concerns about:**

- Structural underfunding,
- Rising complexity of need,
- Comparisons with neighbouring LAs (e.g., Herefordshire, Telford & Wrekin).

Stephen A. Waters committed to bringing back comparative data and analysis on the national formula's inequities.

## **5.3 National Context**

- Statutory override for DSG deficits remains until March 2028.
- DfE met Shropshire leaders in July and indicated the LA is focusing on “the right areas” of mitigation (building SEND hubs, reducing exclusions, top-up scrutiny).
- The long-delayed SEND White Paper is expected later this term.

## **5.4 Leadership Commentary**

David Shaw and others stressed:

- Demand is rising at every phase including post-16.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LA is operating within “historic structural disadvantages” in funding.</li> <li>• Although no major national financial remedy is expected in 2026–27, efforts must continue to influence Treasury and DfE.</li> </ul> <p>Members also requested a concise historical context paper to clarify how the deficit position evolved.</p>	
6	<p><b>6. Early Intervention and Inclusion Investment</b></p> <p>John Rowe presented detailed analysis of LA investments aimed at reducing demand on statutory provision.</p> <p><b>6.1 Early Years Intervention Grant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £639k issued April 2025 to early years settings.</li> <li>• Supported by Early Years SEND Officers to improve transition and SEN identification.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.2 Step-Up to School Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £161k invested to prevent funding gaps when children move from nursery to school without an EHCP decision.</li> <li>• Lisa Taylor confirmed this supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children awaiting CDC/MDA assessment,</li> <li>○ Children with no prior early years education but entering Reception with significant needs,</li> <li>○ Smooth transition panels across summer and autumn.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>6.3 GSP (Graduated Support Pathway)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1m of non-statutory targeted support for pupils whose needs do not yet require EHCPs.</li> <li>• 114 children supported in-year.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.4 Inclusion Development Grants (Primary &amp; Secondary)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £633k primary (capital &amp; revenue) + continuation of secondary grants.</li> <li>• Recorded a <b>67% reduction in exclusions</b> since 2024 — attributed to culture change, strong school engagement and targeted funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.5 Forward Outlook</b></p> <p>Much of this provision is funded by the <b>Change Programme</b>, which is time-limited. A sustainable Local Inclusion Support Offer (LISO) is required, aligned to DfE’s high-needs operational guidance.</p>	SW/JR



7	<p><b>7. Block Transfer Modelling (Schools → High Needs)</b></p> <p>Extensive modelling presented by Jo Morris.</p> <p><b>7.1 Options Analysed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option 1 – 0.5% transfer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Equivalent to £33 per pupil.</li> <li>○ Real terms increase to school budgets (excl. grants): <b>1.34%</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Option 2 – No transfer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Equivalent to £116 per pupil.</li> <li>○ Increase: <b>1.86%</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Option 3 – 1% transfer</b> (<i>not permissible this year due to missed deadline</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase: <b>0.82%</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>7.2 Impact on Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 147 schools modelled; majority remain “gainers”.</li> <li>• 8 schools with static NOR still see increases up to 10.38%.</li> <li>• 24 schools experience reductions linked to NOR decreases, not the transfer itself.</li> <li>• Crucially, <b>minimum per-pupil funding levels remain protected</b>, as confirmed during the meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.3 Vote</b></p> <p>After extensive discussion, Forum approved <b>Option 1 (0.5%)</b> with explicit inclusion of the requirement to maintain <b>national minimum per-pupil funding levels</b>.</p> <p><b>Votes For: 12   Against: 0.</b></p>	SW
8	<p><b>8. Early Years Block 2026–27</b></p> <p>Presented by Dan Steele.</p> <p><b>8.1 Funding Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total EY DSG rises by <b>£9m</b>.</li> <li>• Hourly rate increases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3–4 years: +46p</li> <li>○ 2 years: +55p</li> <li>○ 9 months: +52p</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	JR



	<p><b>8.2 Allocation Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three entitlement blocks totalling c. £48m distributed.</li> <li>• £1.25m retained for SEND support officers and planned Early Years SEND hubs.</li> <li>• £300k retained for sustainability/disadvantage fund. Forum unanimously approved the Early Years allocation.</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>9. Work Programme</b></p> <p>John Rowe confirmed updates would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full review of inclusion grants and their impact;</li> <li>• Contextual papers requested by members (historical funding inequity, modelling explanation). Date corrections were noted.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>10. Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued F40 lobbying.</li> <li>• Forum agreed the long-awaited external letter should only be released once the SEND White Paper is published.</li> <li>• The Chair thanked Forum members for navigating difficult and technical decisions. Appreciation was expressed for the extensive work of Jo Morris and John Rowe, particularly in the absence of Samantha Bradley.</li> <li>• The meeting closed at 10:30.</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>Thursday 19 March 2026 (tbc) MS Teams  Thursday 18 June 2026 (tbc) MS Teams  Thursday 10 September 2026 (tbc) MS Teams  Thursday 12 November 2026 (tbc) Face to Face</p>	



Date: 21 May 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: MS Teams

**B**

Public

## DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING

**Responsible Officer** Stephen Waters  
e-mail: Stephen.a.waters@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 258952

### Summary

This report outlines to Schools Forum members the centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) final outturn position for the 2025-26 financial year.

### Recommendation

That Schools Forum:

- note the report and approve that the £28.090m in-year overspend is added to last year's deficit carried forward of £17.566m with the remaining balance of £45.655m representing the cumulative deficit to be carried forward into 2026-27 financial year.

## REPORT

1. The overall 2025-26 outturn against centrally retained DSG is a £28.090m deficit. It should be noted that this figure is the in-year deficit and needs to be added to the £17.566m revised deficit carried forward from 2024-25 in order to give an overall cumulative DSG deficit position of £45.655m.

### Centrally Controlled Early Years Budget

2. On 24th March 2025, the provisional Early Years Block DSG allocation was updated based on the number of part time equivalents (PTEs) taking up the new entitlements as recorded on the latest termly headcount. This resulted in a £1.113m increase in the overall Early Years Block DSG Allocation from £43.038m as published in January to £44.151m.
3. The outturn position for the Early Years Block reflecting expenditure of £42.757m, is a £1.393m underspend against a provisional budget of £44.151m. Please note that this is a large movement to the Early Years DSG forecast position presented at January's Schools Forum as the forecast expenditure at that time was showing forecast spend to budget against January's previous allocation level of £43.038m.
4. There was an underspend of £1.045m relating to the Under 2's entitlements, where the allocation is £13.249m, however the sum total of payments paid out to providers equalled £12.205m indicating less take up compared to the allocation.



5. There was an underspend of £0.159m relating to the 2 year old funding, where the allocation is £11.323m across disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement and 2 year old children of working parents, however the sum total of payments paid out to providers equalled £11.164m, again indicating slightly less take up compared to the allocation.
6. There was an underspend of £0.417m relating to the Early Years SEND Support payments, where the centrally determined allocation is £1.250m but expenditure totalled £0.833m.
7. It is important to note that this position on the Early Years budget is provisional and once the Early Years Block DSG final allocation is published in July, we will report back to Schools Forum with the overall in-year surplus or deficit for the 2025-26 financial year

### **Centrally Controlled High Needs Budget**

8. The centrally controlled High Needs Block for 2025-26 was £35.907m. This budget excludes the place funding element of the High Needs Block totalling £10.584m. The total High Needs Block DSG allocation (before deductions) was £45.872m. It is important to note that Shropshire's 2025-26 High Needs Block DSG allocation has increased by £3.522m compared to the £42.350m allocation in 2024-25. This was an 8.3% increase.
9. In January 2025, Schools Forum members confirmed that the National Funding Formula should be applied to funding factors and agreed that up to a 0.5% transfer from the schools block to the High Needs Block DSG could be applied after fully funding the schools in line with the National Funding Formula. The value available to transfer from the schools block to the High Needs Block DSG was £0.620m. Adding this figure to the £45.872m means that the overall High Needs Block budget for 2025-26 is £46.491m.
10. The overall expenditure of £76.287m (including Place Funding), High Needs Block is an in-year deficit of £29.795m.

### **Lines 1.2.1 & Line 1.2.2 - Top Up funding – Mainstream Schools**

11. On budget lines 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, shown in the Appendix, there was an overspend of £14.504m.

### **Top Up funding - Mainstream Schools**

12. Within this £14.504m overspend, an overspend of £6.979m relates to the top-up funding paid to mainstream schools. Continuing on from the 2024-25 financial year, there has been a large increase in top-up funding to mainstream schools reflecting increasing requests for EHC Needs Assessment and issuing of EHC plans.
13. It is important to note that the top-up funding to SEND hubs attached to mainstream settings is coded to this budget so some of the increase will relate to an increase in capacity in SEND hubs.

### **Lines 1.2.1 & Line 1.2.2 - Top Up funding – Special Schools**

14. There was a £6.907m overspend on top-up funding to special schools.
15. Total expenditure on top-up funding to special schools has increased significantly since 2024-25, due to changes to top-up funding levels payable to 2 Shropshire special schools as reported to Schools Forum in the June 2024 meeting.
16. This review of, and subsequent increase in, banding levels across the Council's special schools aligns with the strategy to build capacity in these settings where appropriate and significantly reduce the numbers of pupils placed in independent special school settings.

17. Another explanation for the increase in expenditure in this budget line is the full-year effect of an increase in numbers at Keystone Special School, to 120 pupils since September 2024.
18. These increases in top-up funding have resulted in total expenditure of £12.608m in relation to top-up funding to state-funded, special schools. This represents an increase of £2.809m compared to the 2024-25 financial year or 29%. This increase in expenditure aligns with the strategy to appropriately fund the Council's special schools. However, work now remains to realise the financial benefits to the DSG High Needs Block by being able to transfer pupils from independent special schools to our state funded special schools, from special schools to SEND Hubs and Hubs to mainstream schools. This is a complicated process that involves the view of parent carers, pupils, schools and the Local Authority but does provide the opportunity to deliver a more sustainable financial position for the DSG overall.

### **Line 1.2.2 - Post 16 Further Education Colleges**

19. There is a budget of £1.859m allocated for Post 16 funding at further education colleges and sixth form colleges. The 2025-26 outturn position was an overspend of £2.565m.
20. For 2025-26, there was a large increase in expenditure compared to 2024-25 outturn. This large % increase is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, a few 2024-25 financial year invoices have been accounted for in 2025-26 as no accrual was processed for them in 2024-25. This had had the impact of lowering the 2024-25 expenditure level and increasing the 2025-26 expenditure figure. Secondly, there are a few relatively new high cost placements at an Independent Special Post 16 provider in 2025-26.
21. It is important to note that Shropshire has seen particularly significant growth in recent years in terms of the number of post 16 EHC Plans.

### **Lines 1.2.3 - Top Up funding - Non-Maintained and Independent Providers**

22. The 2025-26 budget of £15.016m for Independent Providers has been increased by £2.984m compared to the 2024-25 budget level of £12.302m. The increase in budget reflects that Shropshire experienced a significant increase in expenditure in this budget area in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, highlighted by actual expenditure totalling £18.259m in 2024-25. Increasing the budget to £15.016m, while increasing the budget by £2.984m still resulted in a budget that is £3.243m less than last year's outturn figure. This emphasises the need to bring down expenditure in this area and not only reduce the increase in expenditure.
23. Expenditure for 2025-26 totalled £26.405m, resulting in an overspend of £11.390m.
24. There are several explanations for this large budget pressure in 2025-26. Firstly, the Council has continued to experience a sharp increase in demand year on year for Independent Special School placements as evidenced by the number of new placements. There also continues to be a more frequent use of independent alternative providers, particularly in relation to children who are post 16. This trend has continued in 2025-26.
25. The £26.405m expenditure represents a 45% increase in expenditure on Independent Special School placements relative to the 2024-25 financial year. Please note that while the majority of spend relates to Independent Specials School placement costs, it also includes SEND Nursery placements, education contributions to joint funded, Social Care led placements and Independent Alternative provision which has been a high growth area.
26. The Council has established a SEND Commissioning and Procurement Panel to review requests and make decisions on high needs funding for Independent Special Schools and Mainstream Special Schools. The panel also acts as a forum to ratify and respond to fee uplifts from all settings in conjunction with and accounting for decisions made at the West Midlands Price Review Panel on behalf of the 14 local authorities including Shropshire.

## Lines 1.2.5 – SEN Support Services

27. There was an overspend of £0.754m against the SEN Support Service budget of £1.947m. Similarly to 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, the overspend in 2025-26 relates to staffing where additional staff have been employed, sometimes as agency workers to support the wider increase in demand. Some of these employees are working with the Educational Psychology Service to address increasing demand.

### Overall position

28. The Council's DSG financial position of a cumulative deficit of £45.655m as at the end of the 2025-26 financial year reflects a continuing pressure on the total High Needs budget as expenditure continues to increase sharply year on year. This increase has been particularly pronounced in this financial year, evidence by the £29.795m in-year deficit against the High Needs Block DSG allocation continuing the trend of the last 3 financial years.
29. As it stands, there is a DSG Deficit statutory override in place. The government announced in June that it has extended the statutory override to keep councils' spending deficits for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) off their books for another two years until March 2028.
30. Council Officers met with representatives of the Department for Education (DfE) in July 2025 to focus on addressing the DSG deficit. This meeting focused on progress with the DSG management plan. DfE Officers confirmed that the forecast DSG funding income assumptions that were forecast for 2026-27 and beyond were the correct approach and therefore no increase in funding beyond that level is expected. They also confirmed that the mitigations proposed on the expenditure side including increased capacity in Resourced or SEN Units, a reduction in Independent Special School placement numbers, full occupancy at Council Special Schools, and a planned reduction in Permanent Exclusions were the sorts of areas that we should be addressing and that they would continue to work alongside the Council to review the plan going forward. The internal review and monitoring of this DSG management plan can form part of the work that the new High Needs Block monitoring group will undertake.
31. In February, the Government announced that it will write off 90% of the High Needs deficits accrued by Local Authorities up to the end of the 2025/26 financial year.
32. To achieve this, all Councils will receive a High Needs Stability Grant in Autumn 2026 equal to 90% of eligible High Needs Expenditure so will exclude any of the DSG deficit relating to the Early Years or Central Schools Service Block DSG. The remaining 10% of the deficit is expected to be funded by Councils themselves.
33. The Government has stated that future support may be available for new deficits arising in 2026/27 and 2027/28 but warned that such support will not be unlimited, only appropriate and proportionate.
34. For Shropshire, 90% of the accrued deficit of £45.655m would equal a High Needs Stability Grant of £41.090m, with a remaining balance of £4.566m to be funded by the Council's General Fund.
35. From 2028/29, SEND spending is expected to be brought within the government's standard Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budgets. At this point, Local authorities will be required to meet the cost of any residual deficits from their own resources.

APPENDIX

**CENTRALLY RETAINED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FUNDING PERIOD (2025-26)**

	2025-26 Budget £	2025-26 Spend £	2025-26 Variance £
<b>DEDELEGATED ITEMS</b>			
1.1.1	-	-	-
1.1.2	-	-	-
1.1.3	-	-	-
1.1.4	-	-	-
1.1.5	-	-	-
1.1.6	-	-	-
1.1.7	-	-	-
1.1.8	424,970	286,176	- 138,794
1.1.9	27,980	21,858	- 6,122
1.1.10	113,030	113,030	-
<b>DEDELEGATED ITEMS SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>565,980</b>	<b>421,064</b>	<b>- 144,916</b>
<b>CENTRALLY CONTROLLED EARLY YEARS BUDGET</b>			
1.3.1	595,100	566,936	- 28,164
1.0.1	43,555,570	42,190,523	- 1,365,047
<b>CENTRALLY CONTROLLED EARLY YEARS SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>44,150,670</b>	<b>42,757,459</b>	<b>- 1,393,211</b>
<b>CENTRALLY CONTROLLED HIGH NEEDS BUDGET</b>			
1.2.1	4,287,580	5,949,771	1,662,191
1.2.2	11,211,520	24,053,128	12,841,608
1.2.2	1,859,300	4,424,555	2,565,255
1.2.3	15,015,590	26,405,438	11,389,848
1.2.4	400,000	924,400	524,400
1.2.5	1,947,250	2,700,973	753,723
1.2.6	170,190	104,672	- 65,518
1.2.7	153,500	192,263	38,763
1.2.8	862,020	947,204	85,184
1.2.9	-	-	-
1.2.10	-	-	-
1.2.11	-	-	-
1.2.12	-	-	-
<b>CENTRALLY CONTROLLED HIGH NEEDS BUDGET SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>35,906,950</b>	<b>65,702,405</b>	<b>29,795,455</b>
<b>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK</b>			
1.4.1	-	-	-
1.4.2	322,150	362,414	40,264
1.4.3	10,000	9,280	- 720
1.4.4	756,330	756,330	-
1.4.5	-	-	-
1.4.6	-	-	-
1.4.7	295,350	295,350	-
1.4.8	-	-	-
1.4.9	-	-	-
1.4.10	-	-	-
1.4.11	-	-	-
1.4.12	-	-	-
1.4.13	317,980	359,970	41,990
1.5.	866,200	743,139	- 123,061
<b>CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK BUDGET SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>2,568,010</b>	<b>2,526,482</b>	<b>- 41,528</b>
<b>TOTAL CENTRAL DSG</b>	<b>83,191,610</b>	<b>111,407,410</b>	<b>28,215,800</b>
<b>SCHOOLS BLOCK GROWTH FUNDING (PART OF ISB)</b>	<b>381,130</b>	<b>254,934</b>	<b>- 126,196</b>
<b>TOTAL CENTRAL DSG + SCHOOLS BLOCK GROWTH FUNDING</b>	<b>83,572,740</b>	<b>111,662,344</b>	<b>28,089,604</b>

	£
<b>DSG DEFICIT CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</b>	<b>17,638,514</b>
2024-25 EARLY YEARS DSG ADJUSTMENT	72,900
<b>REVISED DSG DEFICIT CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2024-25</b>	<b>17,565,614</b>
2025-26 IN YEAR DEFICIT	28,089,604
<b>CUMULATIVE CENTRAL DSG DEFICIT</b>	<b>45,655,219</b>

<b>High Needs Budget - Place Funding</b>	
Post 16 FE Colleges	980,000
Pre and Post 16 SEN Places - Special Academies	5,061,670
Pre-16 Special Free Schools	1,200,000
Pre and Post 16 SEN Places - Resourced Provisions	855,040
<b>Total deduction to 2025-26 High Needs Block for direct funding of places by ESFA</b>	<b>8,096,710</b>
TMBS	1,560,000
Maintained School SEND Hubs	295,167
Additional Commissioned Place Funding at Special Academies	62,500
Additional Commissioned Place Funding at SEND Hub Academies	398,335
Teachers Pay/Pension for Special Academies	171,600
<b>Total deduction to 2025-26 High Needs Block for central funding of places</b>	<b>2,487,602</b>
<b>HIGH NEEDS BUDGET - Place Funding</b>	<b>10,584,312</b>

Early Years Block	44,150,672
High Needs Block	45,871,665
0.5% Transfer from Schools Block	619,600
CSSB	2,568,006
Schools Block less 0.5% transfer from Schools Block	223,541,099
<b>TOTAL DSG Allocation (Updated March 2026)</b>	<b>316,751,042</b>

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## Historical Annual LA maintained schools' premises related costs paid for by Central DSG (2025.26 figures)

### School A

School house rent £3663.25 twice yearly <i>to £8,310)</i>	£7,327 ( <i>current negotiations could increase this</i> )
Woodland rent	£100
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£104,802

### School R

School building lease	£1,334
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£44,514

Please note the payments for land and the schoolhouse at School A and School R need to be paid as this is the rental for the LA to offer a school in the location. These will need to be paid on an ongoing basis by the LA as there is no suitable alternative in the locations.

### The following will be pushed back to schools to pay from 2027-28:

#### School A

Car park rent	£839
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#### School B

Severn Trent rent of land for access to school	£50
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£19,807

#### School C

Rent of play area required for education delivery	£200
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£89,705

#### School M

Hall hire for curriculum PE	£1208
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£66,297

#### School N

Field maintenance	£180
2025-26 Carry forward surplus	£175

<b>Total premises costs paid for 6 Schools in 2025-26</b>	<b>£11,238</b>
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### Application for Exceptional Circumstances funding through DSG Schools Block for school A.

#### The schools operational guidance states the following;

##### 18. Exceptional circumstances

This is an optional factor. Local authorities can apply to us to use exceptional circumstances relating to school premises, for example rents, or joint-use sports facilities. Local authorities should only submit applications where the value of the factor is more than 1% of a school's budget and the factor applies to fewer than 5% of the schools in the local authority's area. Local authorities should submit requests annually for approval. Even where local authorities received approval in the current year,

they should re-apply to us, if the criteria are still being met. Local authorities should submit requests for all exceptional circumstances in 2026 to 2027 by the disapplication deadline dates, setting out the rationale for the factor, and demonstrating that the criteria are met. The deadline date, as previously communicated, for local authorities to submit a request for exceptional circumstances was 17 November 2025. This is to ensure decisions are communicated back to local authorities prior to the APT submission deadline. Exceptional circumstances that have previously been approved include:

- **rents**
- **joint use of leisure facilities by contractual agreement**
- **building schools for the future (BSF) schemes (additional contribution to lifecycle maintenance costs)**
- **hire of PE facilities**
- **school with a farm included as part of its educational provision**

A further update will be presented to confirm the outcome of the exceptional circumstances' application.

## Schools Forum Work Programme 2026-27

Indicative programme. Other reports will be added on topical issues and/or commissioned by Schools Forum.

Meeting	Report
22 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Funding Arrangements 2026-27 Update</li> <li>• Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2025-26</li> <li>• Early Years Funding 2026-27</li> <li>• Schools Forum Work Programme 2026-27</li> </ul>
19 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2025-26</li> <li>• Shropshire Schools Forum Constitution and Membership</li> <li>• Impact of the AP/Inclusion Development Fund (Jan 25 - Jan 26)</li> </ul>
18 June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduated Support Pathway (GSP) and EHCP Top Up Funding</li> <li>• Updated Dedicated Schools Grant 2026-27</li> <li>• School Balances as at March 2026</li> <li>• Growth Fund Allocations 2025-26 and 2026-27</li> <li>• Early Years Block Allocation 2026-27</li> <li>• Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2026-27</li> </ul>
10 September 2026 (tbc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Dedicated Schools Grant 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated Dedicated Schools Grant 2026-27</li> <li>• School Revenue Funding Update 2026-27</li> <li>• Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2026-27</li> </ul>
12 November 2026 (tbc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2027</li> <li>• Dedicated Schools Grant Monitoring 2026-27</li> </ul>
10 December 2026 (tbc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Funding Arrangements 2026-27</li> <li>• Consultation on the Central Retention of Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2027</li> <li>• Central School Services Block 2026-27</li> </ul>

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