

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

CYPS EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

3 SEPTEMBER 2024

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CORE SCHOOL BUDGET GRANT TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION SCHOOLS AND THE EARLY YEARS BUDGET GRANT TO EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

FUNDING CONSULTATION APPROVAL REQUEST

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides an overview of the funding consultation required to be undertaken in respect of the distribution of the Department for Education (DfE) Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) and Early Years Budget Grant (EYBG) for the 2024/25 financial year. CYPS Executive Members, in conjunction with the Corporate Director – CYPS, are asked to provide approval for a consultation to be undertaken with Special Schools, Alternative Provision (AP) Schools and Early Years Providers on the methodology to be used by the local authority for the distribution of the CSBG and EYBG to these establishments for the 2024/25 financial year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The DfE have announced the provision of £1.1 billion to support schools with their overall costs in the 2024/2025 financial year, in particular following confirmation of the 2024 teacher pay award. This funding is being split between mainstream schools, special schools and alternative provision (AP). The split reflects relative pupil and place numbers, and core funding amounts, across these different types of provision. The funding is being allocated through the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) and covers the seven-month period from September 2024 to March 2025 for the 2024/25 financial year. The DfE have stated that the grant funding will be incorporated into core budget allocations for 2025/2026 for mainstream schools with the funding being rolled into the schools national funding formula (NFF) for 2025/2026. The DfE have not stated a position for the high needs element of the CSBG funding for the 2025/2026 financial year,
- 2.2 The CSBG funding for local authority maintained mainstream schools is paid by the DfE to local authorities, who are required to pay the funding to individual schools at the published rates. The DfE pay the grant funding directly to mainstream academies at the published rates.
- 2.3 The CSBG funding allocation for Special Schools and AP (both LA maintained and academies) is paid to local authorities by the DfE. Local authorities have flexibility in how they pass on the funding allocations for special schools and AP schools to individual providers. This flexibility recognises that the teachers' pay costs faced by special schools and AP schools may vary between individual providers, depending in part on the complexity of the pupil needs that they serve. However, the DfE require

local authorities to comply with the following requirements in setting their local methodologies for how they will pass on the additional funding to schools they currently maintain, academies they previously maintained and free schools located in their area. Local authorities must:

- pass on 100% of the CSBG funding allocated in respect of those schools, to those schools.
- ensure that all those schools receive a funding allocation from the CSBG in 2024/2025
- have transparent criteria to distribute funding to individual schools, treating academies and maintained schools the same.
- consult with those schools before deciding their methodology for allocating CSBG funding.

2.4 The DfE CSBG funding rate for the 2024/2025 financial year for special schools and AP schools is £610 per place.

2.5 The DfE are also providing £97 million in respect of early years and post-16 provision. The additional funding for early years settings will be distributed through the early years budget grant (EYBG). At this stage, the DfE have provided limited detail on the EYBG other than stating that distribution will reflect the methodology used in the 2023/24 early years teachers' pay grant (EY TPAG). On this basis, it is anticipated that the key factors of the EYBG will be as follows:

- The local authority will be allocated the grant funding based an amount per hour based on the universal and extended hours for 3 & 4 -year-olds.
- A specific grant funding allocation will be provided for Maintained Nursery Schools
- Local authorities will determine the most appropriate way of allocating the EYBG funding locally.
- Local authorities will be encouraged to consult with early years providers on the distribution methodology.
- Local authorities must pass on the funding in a clear and transparent way, so that providers can understand how allocations have been determined locally.
- Local authorities must ensure that all of the EYBG funding they receive is distributed to their early years' providers.
- The EYBG must not be used for contingency funding or local authority central or administration costs.

2.6. The DfE have stated that the funding for post-16 will be allocated separately, and further information will be published in due course.

3.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 The local authority proposes to consult special schools and AP schools (LA maintained and academies) and early years providers on the methodology for the local authority distribution of the CSBG and EYBG funding to these establishments for the 2024/25 financial year. The indicative timescales for the consultation process are detailed in the table below:

Date	Process
20/09/2024 – 25/10/2024	Consultation with special schools & AP schools and early years providers on the CSBG and EYBG distribution methodology for the 2024/25 financial year.

03/12/2024	Consultation feedback considered CYPS Executive Members in conjunction with Corporate Director and decision of the CSBG distribution methodology for special schools & AP schools and the EYBG distribution methodology for early years providers for the 2024/25 financial year.
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4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding consultation considered in this paper is related to the DfE Core Schools Budget Grant and the Early Years Budget Grant. There is no direct impact on the Council's budget.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No specific legal implications are identified as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

6.0 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken in respect of the consultation detailed in this report.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessments (CCIA) will be undertaken in respect of the consultation detailed in this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 CYPS Executive Members, in conjunction with the Corporate Director – CYPS are asked to provide approval for the consultation to be undertaken with Special Schools Alternative Provision (AP) Schools and Early Years Providers on the methodology to be used by the local authority for the distribution of the CSBG and EYBG to these establishments for the 2024/25 financial year.

STUART CARLTON

Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

Report prepared by: Howard Emmett, Assistant Director - Resources