

## Warrington Schools Forum - Agenda

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**Date:** 11 January 2022

**Time:** 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**Venue:** via Microsoft Teams

Item	Enc / Verbal	Decision; Discussion; Information	Entitled to vote	Lead
1. Apologies and Welcome				Chair
2. Trade Union Facilities Time	Enc	Decision		Helen Fleming
3. FMS/ESS Capita/ParentPay (new owners/ contracts/periods)	Enc	Discussion / Information		Jenny Owen
4. EYSFF feedback (hourly rate recommendations)	Verbal	Discussion		Lorna Davies
5. Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising	Enc			Chair
6. DSG settlement and schools funding 2022/23	Enc	Discussion		Garry Bradbury
7. Membership	Verbal	Discussion		All
8. High Needs Update	Enc	Discussion		Louise Atkin / Garry Bradbury
9. AOB				Chair

### Meeting schedule for 2022:

- 22 March 2022
- 21 June 2022
- 11 October 2022

All Tuesdays at 5.15 – 7.00 pm unless held virtually and will then start at 4.30 pm  
(Venue or virtual arrangements TBC)



the recognised Trade Unions over the course of the 2020 academic year and was approved in July 2021 in readiness for the start of this academic year.

- 3.2 A review of the contribution rate has once again been undertaken for 2022/23 under the terms of the revised agreed Teacher Trade Union Time off and Funding Agreement.
- 3.3 The estimated underspend from the 2021/22 budget is £22,735. The underspend relates to unspent contingency built into last years per pupil unit cost (to budget for changes in the costs of representatives), and because a member of support staff was appointed to the additional 0.25 NEU role. Anticipated costs were based on the higher rate of a teaching salary given that the post holder was unknown at the time.
- 3.4 Taking into account the carry forward and the need to retain an element of contingency budget that will cover any potential mid year changes in costs, the per pupil rate for 2022/23 is calculated at £2.27 for those schools currently participating in the pooled arrangements.
- 3.5 If de-delegation from the maintained sectors and the current level of voluntary contributions made by academy schools is sustained in 2022/23, and providing there is no significant change in the elected trade union officials themselves that exceeds the contingency, teacher trade union facility time will be fully funded based on a £2.27 contribution rate.
- 3.6 Should Schools Forum choose not to use the 2021/22 underspend to reduce the per pupil contribution rate, the cost per school would rise to £3.03. The calculation includes an element of contingency as provided for above. In this scenario, consideration would need to be given to how the underspend is addressed. One option would be to reimburse participating schools with their proportion of the total monies.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Schools Forum are requested to agree to carry forward the forecast 21/22 underspend into 22/23 in order that this can be used to reduce the per pupil cost for participating schools and academies for next financial year.
- 4.2 Taking into account the carry forward, it is therefore proposed that Schools Forum agree, on behalf of the maintained school sector to de-delegate £2.27 per pupil for the purposes of teacher trade union facility time in 2022/23. Participating academies are asked to contribute at the same rate.
- 4.3 This reduced rate will apply only to those schools that have supported and contributed to the shared facilities time arrangements in the 2021/22 financial year.

<b>Schools Forum</b> <b>11/01/2022</b>	
Report Title	Position Statement and Guidance for Schools around MIS & FMS software for 2022
Report Purpose	To provide a clear summary of the changes to SIMS & FMS Contracts and the position of the LA in January 2022.  This advice and information is being provided to assist Schools to make informed decisions about the key software they will use from April 2022.
Report on behalf of	Multiple Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools IT Support Service</li> <li>• Education Service</li> <li>• School Finance Service</li> <li>• Procurement Service</li> <li>• Education Data Service</li> </ul>
Report author(s)	Jenny Owen – External Services IT Lead

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Overview

Each school uses two key systems:

- A **Management Information System (MIS)** where pupil and staff information is maintained such as attendance, behaviour, safeguarding information, Special Educational Needs (SEN), examinations, assessments. These systems are vital to the day-to-day running of the School and the fulfilment of statutory duties such as Census Returns.
- A **Finance Management System (FMS)** where the School manages financial information such as chart of accounts, purchase orders, invoices, payments, income, petty cash and budget management. These systems are vital to the day-to-day running of the School and the ensuring an accurate record of financial transactions are kept for audit purposes.

Most Warrington schools currently use the MIS, known as SIMS, previously owned and provided by Capita but recently acquired by the Parent Pay Group under the company name ESS Limited.

All Warrington LA Maintained Schools use the FMS system previously owned and provided by Capita but recently acquired by the Parent Pay Group under the company name ESS Limited. Warrington Academies use a range of different finance packages, procured according to their own requirements.

In November 2021 ESS limited notified WBC of some proposed significant changes to the contracts they offer for the SIMS and FMS software in commercial confidence. WBC have since been working with ESS Limited, other Support Units and other LA's to get a full understanding of the changes and are now in a position to issue some clear guidance to Schools.

## 1.2 Key SIMS & FMS proposed Contract Changes

The Key proposed changes to the Contracts are as follows:

### 1. 3 year sign up

From April 2022 the minimum contract term being offered to all schools and academies for SIMS and/or FMS is 3 years.

### 2. LA Maintained Schools to contract directly with ESS Limited

Historically WBC owned and managed the contracts on behalf of the LA Maintained Schools following regular procurement exercises. ESS Ltd are no longer willing to enter into an agreement like this with LAs and each School that chooses to use these systems from April 2022 will have to sign up for a Contract directly with ESS Limited.

### 3. Different payment method required for Warrington LA Maintained Schools

Historically the license fees for these systems have been agreed in the Contract procured by the LA, divided equally amongst the LA Maintained Schools and charged from the de-delegated funding. From April 2022 each LA Maintained School will be invoiced an annual license fee by ESS based on pupil numbers.

## 1.3 Concerns raised about the proposed Contract Changes

Since ESS Limited wrote to LAs and Academies about these changes in November a number of concerns have been raised by Schools, LAs, SIMS Support Units, competitor MIS companies and through media articles:

- **Timing** – The short timeframe between the announcement of the changes and their effective date has caused concerns about Schools not being given a lot of time to investigate their options.
- **Costing** – The changes for LA Maintained Schools could have a financial impact on the Schools.
- **Legal challenges** – there are reports in the media that legal challenges could be made against the changes by Schools and even competitor MIS companies.

As your LA we have raised these concerns on behalf of all Warrington Schools directly with a Senior Member of the Parent Pay Group. They have considered the concerns and responded with an email to Schools – please see a copy in Appendix 1.

The DfE have published a statement about the changes – please see a copy in Appendix 2.

## 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As it currently stands, the new contract terms are the only ones being offered by ESS Limited and so each School that currently uses SIMS & FMS will need to make a decision by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 as to whether they will continue to use these systems and sign up for a 3 year contract.

All current School and Academy SIMS/FMS customers will be set up with a login to an online portal by ESS Limited in which they can see their contract, confirm pupil numbers, be given a quote and sign the contract, if they wish to do so.

### 3 CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS

Both LA Maintained Schools and Academies have some key considerations to make before taking any action for their MIS / FMS systems:

#### 3.1 Procurement Implications

There has been a lot of conflicting information published in the media about how these changes will need to be managed by a School from a procurement perspective. WBC would like to issue the following guidance to Schools to clarify the position on this:

- Legally a full procurement exercise is only required for Contracts that exceed £213,477.  
*Note: This needs to be the total value over the life of the Contract (i.e. 3 Years) and for Schools buying as a group (i.e. Multi-Academy Trusts) it must take into account the cost for all establishments involved.*
- Each School will have their own Procurement Policies and Thresholds in place and these should be consulted prior to any decisions about these contracts are reached.
- In certain circumstances it may be deemed appropriate by the Governing Body of a School to override their own Procurement policies if a good reason exists for doing so (i.e. there is not enough time to reasonably procure and implement a new system, the cost of change is deemed prohibitive etc....)

#### 3.2 Suitable Alternative MIS Systems

Schools using SIMS will have had this business critical system in place many years and each School may use different functionality within the system. If a School does want to explore alternative MIS systems it is their responsibility to ensure that the new systems meet the School's individual requirements in addition to some stipulations from the LA:

- **Data flow to Council systems** – In order for the LA to fulfil the statutory duties we have to the children of Warrington and the Schools it is required that key data is maintained in the Council's Capita One system. There is currently an automated process in place for weekly data transfer between SIMS and Capita One. In order to ensure this data flow can continue the School needs to investigate how this would work with other MIS Systems and agree the solution with the Education Data Team.
- **Fulfilment of Statutory Returns** – each year every School is required to complete a number of statutory returns (i.e. Census, Statutory Assessment, Examinations) and most Schools use their MIS as the tool to complete these.
- **Data Protection** – When looking at any software that will contain sensitive information the School has a duty to ensure the new provider offers a suitable level of data protection.

- **Cost of change** – it is important to consider the true cost of change, not just the license fees. Schools should also consider; resource required to migrate data and set up a new system, staff training costs and any ongoing support costs.

The Schools IT Support Service have put together a list of considerations that Schools may wish to refer to when looking at alternative systems – please see a copy in Appendix 3.

## **4 CONSIDERATIONS FOR LA MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY**

There are some key considerations required to be made by LA Maintained Schools:

### **4.1 Finance System**

Currently ALL Warrington LA Maintained Schools use ESS Limited's FMS software to manage their day to day financial activities. As a Local Authority WBC have a statutory duty to monitor the budgets for these Schools. Over the years WBC have built up some robust practices that enable the transfer of data from FMS into the Council's SAP system so that Finance trained staff at WBC have access to the information needed to fulfil these statutory duties.

ESS Limited offer SIMS & FMS as a bundle to LA Maintained Schools, with FMS-Only direct licenses costing more for just the one system. This means historically where LA Maintained Schools have changed MIS Systems they have continued to purchase SIMS & FMS as a bundle, therefore paying for 2 MIS systems and, under the proposals, this would continue to be the situation faced by Schools.

Whilst there are numerous School Finance Packages on the market, most are geared towards managing the finances of Academies and offer more functionality than is required by LA Maintained Schools.

With timescales so tight, WBC are in a difficult position regarding FMS for LA Maintained Schools, there really isn't enough time to look into different systems and implement new processes. At this point we have to strongly recommend that LA Maintained Schools continue to use FMS from April 2022. If any Schools are seriously looking at alternative finance systems please consult with the Schools Finance Service ASAP.

### **4.2 License costs for LA Maintained Schools**

As part of the new Contracting process ESS Limited have offered WBC a Facilitation Agreement that, if signed by WBC, enables the Schools to continue to get SIMS & FMS licenses at a discounted rate, rather than the direct pricing offered to Academies. We are just checking this agreement with our Legal department and are hoping to sign it in January 2022 so that the Schools aren't as financially impacted.

Within this agreement WBC will be specifying the WBC's Schools IT Support Service as an approved support provider. For LA Maintained Schools this simply means that to get discounted software licenses from ESS Limited you must also purchase a Support SLA from WBC. If a School wishes to procure support from another provider for these systems they can do so by buying the direct software licenses offered to Academies.

## **5 THE FUTURE OF SIMS & FMS**

It is widely acknowledged that Capita, the previous owner of these systems, did not invest in their development for the last few years.

ESS Limited are making a promise to invest £40 million over the next 3 years to develop the systems gradually, introducing new functionality in 'Next Generation Slices'. They are developing a hosted offering to facilitate easier access to the systems to be known as 'SIMS Connected'.

## **6 MIS Support from WBC**

The Schools IT Support Service are constantly reviewing their portfolio of services to meet the changing needs of customers. The Team is a well-established SIMS Support Unit (SSU) and plan to sign an SSU Agreement with ESS Limited, allowing the team to continue providing this support going forward.

The Team also supports the Scholarpack system for two of Warrington's Multi-Academy Trusts and, at the request of another of the large MATS, the intention is for the Team to be an accredited support provider for the Arbor system from April 2022.

By developing the Team's offering it gives Schools that want to remain with the support service the opportunity to look at alternative systems. The Team is an impartial MIS Support Unit and will look to support systems chosen by the Schools where there is enough buy-in from Schools to make it a viable service. If your School is looking at any of the other MIS Systems on the market please consult with the Team so they can investigate support options.

## APPENDIX 1 – Email to Schools from ESS Limited explaining their position

Clarity for the future for Local Authority Maintained

Schools



### **SIMS: Clarity for the future for Local Authority Maintained Schools**

See school names at the bottom of this email

**Dear colleague,**

SIMS remains by far the most widely used and functionally complete school Management Information System (MIS) in the UK and is familiar to the majority of UK education professionals.

ESS is planning to invest £40 million into SIMS and FMS over the next three years, to make them even better solutions for all of our customers. That is many times what any of our competitors invest and will allow us to dramatically improve and modernise these products. We call this 'SIMS Next Gen'.

What's more, with the widespread release of SIMS Connected in Q1 2022, we are now able to provide you with 'anytime, anywhere' browser-based access to the whole SIMS suite of products. That means you can now access SIMS and FMS just like you would any other cloud MIS.

Improving outcomes for students is a key goal for SIMS Next Gen. We recognise that time is precious, and that ease of use must have a higher priority. We will focus our development and enhancement work on this basis, building on SIMS' industry-leading feature set and user support network.

**New Agreements for Local Authority Maintained Schools**

Your Local Authority's (LA) Annual Entitlement (AE) agreement with ESS is due to expire on **31 March 2022**.

To continue to receive SIMS Annual Entitlement services beyond **31 March 2022** and to get access to SIMS Next Gen features your school will need to enter into an agreement directly with ESS.

Your new SIMS AE agreement will have a three-year term and includes delivery of a raft of new cloud-based SIMS Next Gen features that will start to be delivered in 2022.

### The contracting process

The process of contracting directly with ESS may be new to you – don't worry. We will provide all the information you need in a timely manner.

We are configuring an online Gateway through which you can confirm your school details, including pupil numbers, should you choose to accept your new agreement. In early January, you will receive an email from ESS containing your unique link to the Gateway.

#### **Please note that:**

- The new AE agreement is for a three-year term and will include a licence to all of the SIMS and FMS modules that are currently sub-licensed to you by your LA at no extra charge.
- We are no longer offering one-year agreements for core SIMS and FMS products.
- We always proceed on the basis that customers may want to compare the benefits of our systems to those on offer from other suppliers and we welcome them doing so. We are confident that on any review, customers will come to the view that ESS, backed by the significant investment we are making in new product development, is the right long-term choice for your MIS.
- If you are concerned that moving to a three-year term might require you to engage in a formal public procurement process you should bear in mind that there is no legal requirement to do so unless the total value of your contract over its three-year term, excluding VAT, exceeds the £189,330 World Trade Organisation Global Procurement Agreement limit. For further information on procurement click [here](#).

### Pricing

Subject to your LA confirming that it will act as a 'facilitator', the 'per pupil' price for SIMS Annual Entitlement will be the same as ESS charged your LA in 2021, save for a 3.5% inflationary increase.

If your LA is acting as a 'facilitator' we will assume that you will want to continue to procure SIMS Support from your existing SIMS Support Unit.

### Timeline

Once open, it will be important you engage via the Gateway in a timely manner to ensure you have access to the software updates you will need for the summer census and other statutory returns.

#### **You should be aware of the following:**

- You can accept your new agreement at any time, but to be confident of being able to undertake the summer census you should confirm acceptance of the agreement via the Gateway by **31 March 2022**, preferably sooner.
- If you can't do that, we will of course be happy to offer you a new agreement after that date. Any new agreement will be backdated to **1 April 2022** and will ensure that you receive all software updates that have been issued since the expiry of your previous agreement, including summer census updates.
- You will only need to provide invoicing details if you're LA has not requested a central invoice. You will still receive a copy of the invoice stating it has been paid by the LA. The invoice will only be for the first year of the three-year term.

### Partnering for years to come

With our heritage, our investment and our commitment to help schools get the best out of their data, we trust you will choose SIMS, the leading school-specific MIS and the most comprehensive data solution for schools.

The changes we are making to SIMS will ensure that it remains the UK's best Management Information System for schools. We hope that you will join us for the journey.

For more information on 'SIMS Next Gen' & other matters please see our [FAQs](#).

If you are not an authorised signatory for your school, please update our records [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding this email, in the first instance please contact your LA or SIMS Support Unit.

Regards,

**Mark Brant**

ParentPay Group CEO

**Andrew Neubauer**

ParentPay Executive Chairman

## **Appendix 2 – Statement from the DfE to Schools**

### **Information for schools on the renewal and procurement of management information (MI) system contracts**

On Friday 19 November, we responded to a number of queries received from schools about proposed changes to contracts for their MIS Systems by saying that we would look into the matter as part of our responsibility for providing commercial and procurement advice and best practice guidance to schools and Academy Trusts.

In response to the questions received, our advice is that schools should proceed in connection with the proposed contracts as they ordinarily would when procuring any contract, following the obligations they have as a Contracting Authority (which are there to ensure that schools manage public money compliantly and deliver best value from their budgets).

It may be worth noting that multi-year contracts should be considered as a single total overall sum, rather than based on the annual amount (which means schools moving from single-year to multi-year arrangements should check the spend thresholds that apply – in some cases, a move to a multi-year arrangement may mean the current £189,330 threshold set out in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 is crossed that requires a procurement process).

For advice on best practice buying procedures please refer to our [get help buying for schools guidance](#) or contact [gethelpbuyingforschools@education.gov.uk](mailto:gethelpbuyingforschools@education.gov.uk)

### Appendix 3 – Considerations for new MIS

## MIS Systems – Items for Consideration

When looking at alternative MIS systems, it is important to ask the right questions when liaising with suppliers, so that you can ensure the system fully meets your school requirements. No MIS system will be an exact replica of another, and there will be differences in data items, how these are recorded, and how they can be reported on.

This document is designed to assist you with such considerations, so that you can make an informed decision when looking at MIS Systems. If there is more than one school going into a MAT, it is important to consider how each of the schools uses SIMS independently. A number of data fields will be able to be recreated in a new MIS system if it is not able to be migrated over, and it is important to realise that this may cause office staff extra workload in the initial stages of the conversion, and it is imperative to consider the way each school uses SIMS, and the data held within it, in order to prevent data loss and to ensure a smooth transition to any new system.

Therefore, each school should use the list below to think about how SIMS is currently utilised in school, and then the information for all schools joining the MAT should be pooled together so that no school is disadvantaged when MIS decisions are made. The list of considerations outlined below should be made available to all staff members who use the school's MIS whatever their role.

<b>Data Item</b>	<b>Considerations</b>
Academic Management & Timetabling	Does the MIS system have a timetabling module for the creation & maintenance of staff and student timetables? Does the system allow for academic management e.g. class / set changes / rotations throughout the year etc. Does the system cater for provision of Alternative Curriculum?
Admissions	Does your School use SIMS to manage admission applications? Does the new MIS contain this functionality?
Assessments	Does your school use the SIMS Assessment system? It is more than likely that new MIS systems will only migrate over statutory assessment data, so it is worth considering exporting any in house assessment results from SIMS, so that they can be kept for your records. Does the new MIS system allow for all your assessment reporting requirements for analysis of data etc.?

<p>Attendance / Lesson Monitor</p>	<p>How far back will the new system migrate pupil attendance data? If the system does not migrate historical attendance information, then you may need to export previous years' data from SIMS to retain for your records. Does the new MIS include lesson marks, or just statutory AM and PM sessions?</p>
<p>Attendance Letter Templates</p>	<p>Has your school created Attendance Letter templates within SIMS? Can these be replicated in the new MIS?</p>
<p>Behaviour &amp; Achievements</p>	<p>Does your school use SIMS to record pupil behaviour, achievements, create report cards, and issue detentions? If so, will this information migrate across to the new MIS, and if not, it may be worth exporting your conduct data from SIMS to retain for your records. Does the school use Lesson Monitor codes to record In Class Conduct, and will the new system cater for this functionality?</p>
<p>Cover</p>	<p>Does the new MIS system have a module to enable you to provide cover for absent staff?</p>
<p>Data Exports to the Council</p>	<p>Currently, the extraction of key data from SIMS and the sending of this to the Council's Capita One system happens automatically every week. It is important to find out how this process works for a new MIS as it may need to be extracted and sent manually by a member of School staff</p>
<p>Examinations</p>	<p>Does the new MIS have an Exams module which will allow all of the necessary functionality, e.g. importing basedata, making exam entries / amendments for submission to exam boards, import of exam results, reporting on exam results covering all required areas, analysis by class / subject, progress 8 &amp; attainment 8, headline figures etc.</p>
<p>Historical Pupil Data</p>	<p>How much historical data is transferred into the new MIS system, and can historical data items be reported on? Examples being attendance data, previous years' pupil premium information, statutory assessment data, etc. It is important to obtain a list of data items that the new MIS will migrate, and for each data item, will the historical information be migrated (if so, how far back). If certain data field historical data is not migrated, you may wish to export this information from SIMS to be retained for your records</p>
<p>Medical &amp; Dietary Data Items</p>	<p>Check with the MIS which areas of SIMS medical &amp; dietary information will be pulled from during migration. SIMS is designed to have medical data recorded in specific data field areas, however some schools use the functionality differently to others and record information in different areas, so you need to ensure that all data will be captured</p>

<p>MIS Modules &amp; Chargeable Add-ons</p>	<p>Check with the MIS Supplier which modules come as part of the general system, and which are chargeable add-ons, i.e. is Assessment included?, is there a Communications module?, are there modules for Safeguarding / Concerns?, is there an Interventions module? etc.?</p>
<p>Options</p>	<p>Does your school use the SIMS Options Module to manage Options? Does the new MIS have an Options module?</p>
<p>Permissions</p>	<p>Check with the MIS suppliers what permission groups are available for different users, so that staff do not have access to areas that they shouldn't. GDPR considerations etc.</p>
<p>Personnel</p>	<p>Check how contract information and pay spines, working patterns etc. are managed in different systems so that you can determine the amount of work required at initial migration for office staff. For example, will all information transfer over, or will pay value information, staff roles, contract type etc. need to be added after migration.</p> <p>How will annual pay related information be updated? Will the MIS system provide an auto update to pay amounts upon request each year, or will you need to manually update them yourself?</p> <p>Will historical contract information and historical staff absences be migrated?</p> <p>Are all the staff roles that you currently use available in the MIS? If not, can they be added? Does the system allow for a member of staff to have more than one role? Will staff working patterns copy over, or will they need to be set up after migration?</p>
<p>Profiles</p>	<p>Does your school use SIMS Profiles for sending annual reports to parents? Does the new MIS system include functionality for this?</p>
<p>Pupil &amp; Staff photographs</p>	<p>If you hold pupil and staff photos in SIMS, will these be migrated over?</p>
<p>Reporting</p>	<p>Make a list of SIMS reports that you use on a regular basis, and also ones that you may run annually or termly, so that you can check the alternative MIS system can produce information as required within its reporting functionality</p>

<p>Security &amp; GDPR</p>	<p>Check with MIS suppliers that the data held within the system is stored securely, and is compliant with GDPR regulations. Does the MIS system have a Person Data Output report facility to cater for any Subject Access Requests that the school may receive?</p>
<p>SEN</p>	<p>Does your school record non-statutory SEN data that will need to be replicated in another MIS?</p>
<p>SIMS User Defined Fields</p>	<p>It is very unlikely that if a school has created user defined fields within SIMS e.g. for children of key workers etc. that these will be migrated over to a new system – these would need to be re-created in a new MIS, if the system allows such functionality. It is possible that some systems may already contain data areas for user defined fields that you have created in SIMS, however note that it is highly likely that these will need to be populated from scratch in the new MIS after migration</p>
<p>Support &amp; Training</p>	<p>Is sufficient support for the MIS available? Does the MIS Supplier allow you to remain with WBC support if you wish to do so?</p> <p>What training is available for the MIS, and is it customised to need the needs of different staff roles?</p>
<p>Third Party Software</p>	<p>If your school uses 3<sup>rd</sup> party software products that link to SIMS, check that other MIS systems also have links with these providers for data extraction</p>

## Warrington Schools Forum

**Minutes – 12 October 2021** (Held via Zoom – due to Covid-19)

Draft to be confirmed January 2022

### Membership

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 26, of whom 22 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues											
Sector Representation (22)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance								
			13 October 2020	19 January 2021	23 March 2021 CANCELLED	22 June 2021	12 October 2021	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC	
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Marcia Atherton (MA) <i>From 19/01/2021</i>	P	P	C	P	P				
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Lucinda Duffy (LD)	P	P	C	P	P				
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Frost (MF)	P	P	C	P	P				
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Lindsay Regan (LR) <i>From 19/01/2021</i>	A	A	C	P	P				
Academy – all phases (8)  Agreed this should be: (5 secondary including UTC) (3 primary)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	C	P	A				
		Tim Long (TL)	P	P	C	A	A				
		John Carlin (JC)	A	P	C	A	A				
		Jon Wright (JonW)	P	P	C	S	A				
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	P	C	P	P				
		Paula Warding (PWa)	P	P	C	P	P				
		Cath Cooke (CC)	P	P	C	P	P				
	UTC	Chris Hatherall (CH) <i>(from 22 June 2021)</i>	A	X	C	P	P				
Maintained Primary School Sector (7)	WAPH and Governors Forum	Vacant <i>(from 12 October 2021)</i>	P	P	C	P	-				
		Kathryn Berry <i>(from 12 October 2021)</i>	P	A	C	A	P				
		Vacant <i>(from 12 October 2021)</i>	P	P	C	P	-				
		Ian Moss (IM)	P	P	C	A	P				
		Janet Lazarus (JL) <i>Governor</i>	P	P	C	P	P				
		Craig Burgess (CB) <i>Governor</i>	P	P	C	A	P				
		Donna Kendal (DK) <i>Governor</i>	-	P	C	A	A				
Maintained Secondary School Sector (2)	WASCL	Chris Hunt (CH)	P	A	C	P	P				
		Ed McGlinchey (EM)	A	X	C	A	A				
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Kelda Willians (KW)	A	X	C	X	P				

Representing	Member	Dates and Attendance							
		13 October 2020	19 January 2021	23 March 2021 CANCELLED	22 June 2021	12 October 2021	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC
<b><u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u></b>									
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jane Griffiths (JG)	P	P	C	P	A			
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Chris Williams (CW)	P	A	C	X	A			
16-19 Institutions (1)	Damian McGuire (DM)	P	P	C	P	P			
Parent Governor (1)	Vacant	-	-	-	-	-			

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Maureen Banner (MB)	P	P	C	P	A			
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Representing		13 October 2020	19 January 2021	23 March 2021 CANCELLED	22 June 2021	12 October 2021	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC	2022 date TBC
<b><u>Warrington Borough Council</u></b>									
Director, Early Help, Education and SEND	Paula Worthington (PWo)	P	P	C	P	A			
Finance Manager	James Campbell (JC)	Z	P	C	P	P			
Senior Accountant (Schools)	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	C	P	A			
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Sarah Hall (from 22 June 2021)	A	A	C	A	P			

### Key

**P** ~ Present

**A** ~ Apologies

**X** ~ Absent with no apologies

**Z** ~ no connection to Zoom

**S** ~ Substitute

- ~ Vacancy

**O** ~ Observer

**C** – Meeting cancelled

### Trades Union

Laura Watson

(NASUWT)

Lucie Humphreys

(NEU)

### Also attending

Louise Atkin (WBC Head of Service – Quality Education and Learning)

Gary Cunningham (Academy Rep) – Chairing today's meeting on behalf of Maureen Banner

### Presenting Item

Stephen McNulty (Presenting Item 2)

### Minutes

Gill Sykes

## 1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

The chairperson (Maureen Banner) gave apologies for the meeting today and Gary Cunningham chaired the meeting on her behalf. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies would be recorded in the minutes.

## 2. TRADED SERVICES

Stephen McNulty presented his paper to provide Schools Forum with an update of SLA buyback for the 2021/22 financial year and a comparison with last year. The following was noted:

- The report doesn't include school meals (paid for by parents or through the government policy for free meals to eligible children) or building services due to the separate contract with Mears.
- The council remains committed to working with the schools for the most effective mode of delivery.
- SLA price rises each year are limited to the consumer price index and anything above that would trigger a consultation with schools. There will be a review in November ready for next year's SLA.

Before the first Covid lockdown there were quarterly SLA meetings with the schools and these are going to be reintroduced in the New Year either face to face or through zoom. We are working with schools to improve service delivery and value for money. These meetings give schools the opportunity to share experiences with the services direct and provide feedback of where there could be improvements. It is also a good opportunity for services to update schools on the different offers and SLAs to purchase and any service changes.

Gary C noted that as schools convert from maintained to academy it is positive that they want to buy into the SLAs. Concern was raised about capacity in the Educational Psychology Service and time lost with the service during Covid. Louise Atkin noted that work is being undertaken around the backlog of EP referrals because of the Covid situation. We are looking at recruitment and retention of EPs as we currently have two EPs leaving and are recruiting to these posts. We recognise schools are asking for EP time and the service is much respected and are trying to build capacity in the service and are looking at our offer for assessment in line with the code of practice and our graduated response.

Questions and comments were invited by the Chair but none were forthcoming.

Recommendations: Schools Forum is asked to:

- (i) Note the progress being made to provide sustainable services that offer schools value for money and consistent levels of service. **Noted**
- (ii) Recognise that the council is an important provider, commissioner and participant in the Warrington education system. **Noted**
- (iii) Encourage colleagues to feedback their views on both SLA's and council services in order to help shape the future of traded services. This can be either via the quarterly schools SLA meetings or by contacting Stephen McNulty: [smcnulty@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:smcnulty@warrington.gov.uk) / 01925 442682. **Noted and suggested feedback could be gained through WAPH and WASCL.**

## 3. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING (22 JUNE 2021)

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.

## 4. 2022/23 FUNDING UPDATE

James Campbell presented the paper on behalf of Garry Bradbury. The report is for information and discussion and gives the indicative funding position for the next financial year 2022/23. The figures are based on current data which will be different after October once we have census information. We try to replicate the NFF model as closely as possible if affordable and the following was noted:

- Appendix 1 provides detail and shows the 2022 NFF values inflated by an area cost adjustment. Some factors have seen an increase in inflation. The main change to note is that schools business rates will be

paid by the EFA to billing authorities in the next financial year for state funded schools. We need more information from the government regarding these rates.

- Appendix 2 is based on current data and we would have a £111k shortfall. Once we use the 2021 census information we would expect the shortfall to increase although we would expect to receive a growth allocation to balance books.
- Point 3.3 in the report asks for a steer from Schools Forum around what we will do if we haven't got enough money in the pot. Reduce one or more of the formula values, reduce MFG or introduce a cap on gains. Also, if we have a surplus Schools Forum needs to consider whether it can be reallocated to blocks in DSG or return on weighted information.
- The local authority is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula and seek to gain approval from Schools Forum. The timeline is very tight as information is usually received close to Christmas Eve. The next Schools Forum is on 11 January 2022 and the deadline for submission of the final APT formula proposal for 2022/23 is 21 January 2022. We are requesting a steer from Schools Forum on the recommendations below in order for Garry Bradbury to prepare the modelling.

Questions/comments were invited by the Chair.

- We have always gone for the solution with minimum disruption. We would prefer a model to reduce the per pupil amount or look at the age weighted pupil unit. We would need Garry Bradbury to bring back some options for the next meeting.
- Gary C noted that it feels like we are trying to make a decision based on principles rather than the figures and then we only receive the information a few days before the next Schools Forum. We used to have a formula working group to look at the option appraisals.
- Cath Cooke suggested that Garry Bradbury could send his report to all Schools Forum members as soon as he can to give as much time as possible before the January Schools Forum meeting. James noted that this will depend on how quickly we get the information from the government and how quickly Garry can turn it around into models for the forum to consider.
- Gary C echoed that we have always gone for the route of minimum disruption and with little difference in the budgets. Forum members asked for the report to be a simple clearly understandable paper and brief. James noted he would take this recommendation back to Garry B.

Recommendations:

- (i) That Schools Forum members note the contents of this report. **Noted**
- (ii) Schools Forum should consider giving a steer to the Authority on how: **See comments above**
  - (a) To reduce the "cost" of the funding formula if the actual settlement makes a full implementation of NFF unaffordable; or
  - (b) To utilise remaining funding in the Schools Block settlement, if a surplus remains after implementation of NFF with the new October data
- (iii) That a date for a January Schools Forum meeting is agreed to enable timely submission of the APT to ESFA, for financial year 2022/23. **Agreed**

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

Louise Atkin presented this item on behalf of Paula Worthington regarding the induction process for new members, covering vacancies and the process. The following was noted:

- There is a need for new representatives from maintained schools.
- Janet Lazarus noted that we seem to have lost a few Schools Forum governor members and there are some new governors who would like to come onto Schools Forum. When there is a governor vacancy on Schools Forum it should be Governor's Forum who makes the selection and their sector, academy, secondary, primary or special should be taken into account.

**Action: Louise Atkin to take back the query regarding an overview of members for Schools Forum and whether we need to address the balance of the representative selection across the sectors.**

James noted that pupil data is used to look at the population in sectors to make sure there is a balanced representation for membership at Schools Forum, noting that there needs to be representatives from each sector.

For information the following is an extract from a review of Schools Forum membership presented and agreed at Schools Forum on 06/03/2018:

*It has previously been established that representation will be based on the following:*

- 1) *If a setting type exists, it must have at least one representative.*
- 2) *Otherwise, school membership representation should be broadly representative of pupil numbers.*
- 3) *Academies collectively are treated as a sector (though subject to option 1)*
- 4) *Fixed term membership*
- 5) *Need to agree appropriate points to revisit 2)*

### Setting Representation

*Therefore we should expect the following school settings to be represented:*

- *Nursery*
- *Primary*
- *Secondary*
- *14-19 (UTC)*
- *Special*
- *Pupil Referral Unit*
- *Maintained – Community/Voluntary Aided*
- *Academy*

*Additionally the following settings/stakeholder groups are also represented:*

- *Early Years Providers*
- *Post 16*
- *Governing Bodies (including Parent Governor)*
- *Diocesan Authorities*

With regard to the induction of new members Paula has suggested that any new member could be linked to current members of the forum for a wider understanding of the forum and its responsibilities. We are open to suggestions from the forum for what they would like the induction process to look like.

- Gary C noted that a number of years ago some consultants from Cambridge were employed to give a reminder of the role and purpose of the forum and that when the NFF was established there might not be a need for the forum in the future.
- Gary C noted that there are experienced Schools Forum representatives who may be willing to offer support/advice to new members, including: Gary C himself, Chris Hunt, Tim Long, Janet Lazarus, Mike Frost (names given as examples there may be others who could offer support/advice as well).
- Janet noted that for her induction Garry and James were involved and went through how the funding worked and she was given a folder of information. James noted that this was the process when Ann McCormack was the Assistant Director and she wanted something more formal by way of an induction. Something could be done for new members even if it's signposting.
- James noted that he attends the pre-meetings with Garry Bradbury ahead of Schools Forum. Gary C informed that the pre-meeting is a safe environment to ask a question and have it explained fully and finds these really useful and gives a better understanding.

## **6. AOB – no items**

## 7. PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

The proposed dates for 2022 were agreed and noted that the January meeting will include key votes for funding and budgets.

- 11 January 2022
- 22 March 2022
- 21 June 2022
- 11 October 2022

All Tuesdays at 5.15 – 7.00 pm unless held virtually and will then start at 4.30 pm  
(Venue or virtual arrangements TBC)

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed.

DRAFT

# REPORT

<b>Report to:</b> Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b> 6
<b>Date:</b> 11th January 2022	<b>For:</b> Information/Decision
<b>Title:</b> DSG Settlement and Schools Funding 2022/23	
<b>Author:</b> Garry Bradbury	<b>Presenter:</b> Garry Bradbury

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the last online meeting of Schools Forum (12<sup>th</sup> October 2021), Members were updated on the changes to the National Funding Formula for 2022/23, and advised that they would be updated at the next meeting on whether the final DSG settlement would prove sufficient to allow Warrington to continue to use the NFF as the basis of its local schools funding formula. Indications were that there would be a funding gap in direct funding, but that the calculated growth funding would be sufficient to at least cover that shortfall. Nevertheless, members were asked to consider their recommendations in either eventuality i.e. a way to scale back the formula if there remained a deficit, or what approach to take if some headroom remained after recalculation of the formula.
- 1.2 We received confirmation of the DSG allocations for all four blocks: Schools Block, High Needs Block, Early Years Block and Central Services Block, on 16<sup>th</sup> December, and the purpose of this report is to explain the settlement, considering the effect on education funding, and school budgets, for 2022/23.
- 1.3 The report will also discuss the options for de-delegation for common delivery of certain services, asking Members for mainstream maintained schools to commit their sectors to a binding agreement.

## 2. DEDICATED SCHOOLS BLOCK (DSG) 2022/23 CONFIRMED

- 2.1 Local Authorities' DSG settlements were confirmed by ESFA on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This covered all four blocks of DSG (Schools Block, Early Years Block, High Needs Block and Central Services Block). The allocations are summarised on the table overleaf, with the 2021/22 funding levels shown for comparative purposes.

	<i>£ value</i>	<i>Census Nos</i>	<i>Total</i>	<b>2022/23 DSG</b>	<i>2021/22 DSG</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Schools Block (Primary)	£4,546.85	17,620	£80,115,497		£4,437.85 x 17,572	£77,981,901	
Schools Block (Secondary)	£5,768.86	12,667	£73,071,266		£5,618.69 x 12,384	£69,579,048	
Rates funding (21/22 levels)			£1,296,568			£1,420,546	
Split Site Funding (17/18 levels)			£297,000			£297,000	
Growth Funding			£921,282	<b>£155,701,613</b>		£598,945	£149,877,440
Early Years Block 15 hr offer 3 & 4	£4.61	2,909.05	£7,644,112		£4.44 x 3,137.09	£7,939,348	
Early Years Block extended 15 hr offer 3 & 4	£4.61	1,598.21	£4,199,616		£4.44 x 1,681.01	£4,254,301	
Early Years 2 year old	£5.65	448.71	£1,445,071		£5.44 x 462.03	£1,432,663	
Early Years Pupil Premium			£99,533			£102,624	
Early Years Disability Access Fund			£60,800			£35,055	
Nursery School Protection			£56,613	<b>£13,505,745</b>		£56,020	£13,820,011
High Needs Block				<b>£28,291,175</b>		£25,536,012	
Central Services Block	£34.00	30,287	£1,029,741	<b>£1,029,741</b>	£32.21 x 29,956	£964,867	
<b>Total DSG (before recoupments for Academies, deductions for High Needs Places and NNDR clawback)</b>				<b>£198,528,274</b>		<b>£190,198,330</b>	

2.2 The Schools Block settlement of £155,701,613 continues the mainstreaming of Teachers' Pay Grant and Teacher's Pension Employers' Contribution grant, and also includes a growth element of £921,282. Because the Schools Block funding is calculated using the *current year's* NFF, adjusted only for new-year pupil number changes, if the changes in other factors are significantly different from NOR, this could result in a funding pressure. In Warrington's case, a small increase in NOR is outstripped by larger increases in Free School Meal entitlements, (see below), meaning that more than half of this growth addition needs to be used to fund the

revised formula. Full NFF implementation at 2% Minimum Funding Guarantee requires £155,283,726. Consequently there remains only a small amount of headroom, £417,887. These totals are shown in **Appendix 1**.

	Oct-21	Oct-20	Change
NOR	30,289	29,959	1.10%
Primary FSM Units	3,951	3,607	9.54%
Primary Ever 6 Units	4,149	3,808	8.95%
Secondary FSM Units	2,173	1,916	13.41%
Secondary Ever 6 Units	2,615	2,476	5.61%

- 2.3 Although the Early Years Block hourly funding rate has increased from 2021/22 (17p per hour for 3 and 4 year-olds, 21p per hour for 2 year-olds), the actual aggregate of funding has reduced for a second year in succession because of a decline in numbers (assumed to be a consequence of both demographics and the pandemic). This situation, including how much of the increase should be directly passported to settings, has been considered by the Early Years Funding Formula group last week, and its recommendation will be discussed as a separate agenda item this evening.
- 2.4 Unlike the other Blocks, Early Years Block will ultimately be revised for updated numbers from the January 2022 census (presently, January 2021 is used). This normally happens around about June/July, and we will report the impact to Schools Forum.
- 2.5 The High Needs Block, before place deductions, is £2.76 million higher than for 2021/22 (an increase of 10.8%). Clearly this is a welcome increase, though demand-led cost pressures for special and additional needs pupils continue to increase, and changes in the national funding framework require Authorities without DSG reserves to eliminate deficits before April 2024. Consequently, in the light of this, one use of the headroom in Schools Block could be for Schools Forum to mandate a transfer into High Needs Block to help alleviate pressures. The unallocated headroom of £418K represents 0.27% of Schools Block, and such a transfer is therefore within the remit of Schools Forum to agree (being less than 0.5%).

### 3. **SCHOOL BUDGETS 2022/23**

- 3.1 As discussed, individual mainstream school allocations, per National Funding Formula, would require direct allocation of 99.73% of the confirmed Schools Block. We now call upon Schools Forum members to formulate a recommendation for the remaining 0.27% - equivalent to £417,887.

The individual Warrington school allocations using the full NFF are shown in **Appendix 1**. Please note that while this is by far the greatest proportion of funding, it details only Schools Block elements, and excludes the following adjustments:

- Nursery funding
- Element 3 EHCP top-ups
- Designated Provision funding
- Dedelegations to be agreed at this meeting of Schools Forum
- Free School Meals clawback for primary settings

It is this formula which is required to be submitted to the ESFA (deadline 21st January 2022) for their approval - as it will be also be used for the direct funding of mainstream Academies, and recoupment from Warrington's DSG to facilitate this. Agreed de-delegations (see section 4) form part of the required submission.

- 3.2 23 primary schools and 5 secondary schools are protected by the mandatory 2022/23 sector Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL). This is a noticeable decrease on last year (29 and 6) for primary schools and reflects the increase in formula values. All schools have the guaranteed 2% minimum per pupil increase inherent in full NFF. 37% of Warrington schools rely on Minimum Funding Guarantee to a greater or lesser extent.
- 3.3 These allocations, shown as Option 1) in **Appendix 1**, may not be the final funding figures, as these will be informed by the adjustment recommended this evening by Members for headroom. It should be stressed that recycling the headroom back through the formula, in effect *exceeding* NFF, will redraft our formula baseline for future years, 'raising the bar' for future protection calculations. This might conceivably become problematic to service within the allocations to us which will be derived from 'standard' NFF.

Suggested options for headroom:

1. Retain through a transfer to High Needs Block.
  2. Recycle through the formula via an addition to the basic per pupil funding rate. AWPU could be increased by up to £34.83/pupil across the board. This is illustrated as Option 2) in **Appendix 1**.
  3. Recycle through the formula via an uplift to the standard school lump sum. This could be increased by up to £12,003.72. This is illustrated in Option 3) in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 Towards the end of February, we will provide for schools a funding pack detailing the total final school budgets (including those 'missing' elements described in 3.1), individual funding factors and the underlying principles of allocation, as well as greater context regarding the overall Warrington funding settlement. Also, the budget allocations for the special schools and Sandy Lane Nursery & Forest School.

## 4. DEDELEGATIONS

- 4.1 The existing financial framework permits that allocations within the delegated budgets of maintained schools for some centrally delivered school support services may, with appropriate Forum approval, be returned to the LA to enable it to continue to provide the service, via a process known as 'de-delegation'. The decision for each of this range of services must be reviewed annually by Forum members representing each of the maintained school phases. A majority decision for or against de-delegation is binding on each school in the respective phase. Phases may adopt a different decision for each of the potentially de-delegated items.
- 4.2 The process of de-delegation remains available while the National Funding Formula (NFF) is used to calculate the overall funding quantum for local authorities, but not the actual individual school allocations i.e. the period in which NFF is a 'soft' formula. This period was intended to be time-limited but this has now been the case for several years, with no firm timetable for the application of a hard formula (central government calculation of individual school budgets using strict application of NFF).
- 4.3 Ultimately, when a hard formula is in place, any LA services covered by de-delegation will need to be replaced by individual trading arrangements with each participating school, if they are to continue. It may conceivably be prudent to move towards this model, either wholly or in part, before it is effectively imposed by the setting of a hard formula. Services provided to Academies are already delivered in this way, as they are outwith the de-delegation process
- 4.4 Any decisions regarding de-delegation are required to be reflected on the 2022/23 formula submission, which must be submitted to the Department for Education by 21st January, so it is necessary to take the appropriate decisions at this meeting.
- 4.5 A separate paper is being tabled this evening regarding the union facilities agreement, and as schools will know from the ICT briefing on tonight's agenda, individual contracting will now be required for SIMS/FMS, such that the flat rate de-delegation is no longer appropriate.

The remaining outstanding de-delegation decisions relate to:

### Contingency budgets

- Pupil Number Increases: Following the annual (previous) October census on which budgets are calculated, pupils continue to enter and leave schools during the year, with a whole year group moving in and out in September. This contingency allows those mainstream schools that admit exceptional numbers of additional pupils to receive additional funding (triggered by numbers increases of 2.5% and above), with the additional pupils being funded at the basic per-pupil rate. This helps to insulate the school against the attendant cost pressures until the

additional pupils can be reflected in the following year's official budget allocation. De-delegation rate: TBC

- Additional classes: Due to changes in pupil populations there are times at which a school needs to employ additional teachers, or at minimum, deploy additional learning resources. Schools Forum has established a methodology under which schools are reimbursed for above-normal admissions (a standard per pupil rate for up to 5 additional admissions, with funding for a teaching post for additional admissions of 5 and over). De-delegation rate: TBC

The contingencies have not been de-delegated for since 2018/19, as the balances rolled forward from previous years have been considered adequate. Now, however, only around £50K remains uncommitted across the two contingency pots, so primary members may wish to consider a new de-delegation for this year.

#### Miscellaneous Licences

A range of smaller subscriptions and licences including some remaining copyright provision, Health Protection Radiation Protection Adviser Service, Fischer Family Trust, and other *ad hoc* arrangements. De-delegation rate £2.19/NOR:

#### CLEAPSS

This pays for support to schools to ensure that the science curriculum is delivered safely. The Health and Safety at Work Act and subsequent Regulations require employers to protect their employees by, for example, providing safe working conditions, information & training for health and safety, and (model) risk assessments for activities (required under a range of Regulations, including COSHH). Being a member of CLEAPSS enables the local authority to discharge its responsibilities, since member schools have access to high quality health and safety advice, with curriculum support and advice on using high quality practical work for science, design and technology and art. De-delegation rate: £0.35/NOR

#### Free School Meals Assessment

This budget funds the cost of assessing if a family is eligible for free school meals. De-delegation rate: £2.47/NOR

#### Maternity/Paternity/Adoption Costs

This budget covers the cost of staff members' salaries whilst on these forms of leave from school. By de-delegating this budget, schools pick up only the cost of cover arrangements, not the combined total of this **and** the substantive salary. De-delegation rate: £22.35/NOR

- 4.6 The Local Authority agrees that all of the currently available de-delegated services will continue to be provided, if the desire exists on the schools' side to repeat their de-delegation decisions. The de-delegation amounts will be recouped via the current formula methodology, with the exception of the amended rate for facilities time, as discussed separately.

## 5. OTHER FUNDING

5.1 Pupil Premium rates have increased a little from 2021/22, and will be as detailed below:

Primary pupils: £1,385

Secondary pupils: £985

Looked-after children: £2,410

Children who have ceased to be looked-after: £2,410

Service children: £320

Preliminary calculations suggest that this will aggregate to around £9.18 million for all Warrington pupils.

5.2 In the Spring, Local Authorities will receive Supplementary Grant funding designed to cover new cost pressures such as national insurance rate increases, other inflation and teacher minimum salaries. The intention is in future years to subsume this within the DSG, raising its annual baseline. This will be an additional £4.5 million for mainstream schools, and £1.1 million extra for High Needs. The basis for the additional funding into schools will be:

£24/£97/£137/£155	per pre-school/primary/KS3/KS4 pupil
£85/£124	per primary/secondary FSM6 pupil
£3,680	lump sum per school

All these figures will be multiplied by the LA Area Cost Adjustment factor (1.00363 in Warrington's case). Indicative allocations for individual schools are illustrated in the final column of **Appendix 1**.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum members representing mainstream schools:

- i) Note the contents of the report, including the materiality of the forthcoming Supplementary grant;
- ii) Agree an appropriate use of the allocation of headroom funding;
- iii) For maintained sector representatives, agree de-delegations, where appropriate, for the various services discussed in **section 4.5**.

	OPTION 1) WBC NFF BASIS					OPTION 2) AWPU + £34.83					OPTION 3) LUMP SUM + £12,003.72					Estimated Supplementary Grant
	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	
Appleton Thorn	£823,865	£808	£2,343	£3,151	<b>£827,016</b>	£830,448	£0	£0	£0	<b>£830,448</b>	£835,869	£0	£0	£0	<b>£835,869</b>	£23,799
Barrow Hall	£2,442,545	£322,224	£0	£322,224	<b>£2,764,769</b>	£2,464,593	£300,176	£0	£300,176	<b>£2,764,769</b>	£2,454,549	£310,220	£0	£310,220	<b>£2,764,769</b>	£69,753
Bewsey Lodge	£1,538,505	£0	£146,275	£146,275	<b>£1,684,780</b>	£1,549,511	£0	£135,269	£135,269	<b>£1,684,780</b>	£1,550,509	£0	£133,421	£133,421	<b>£1,683,930</b>	£48,117
Birchwood	£874,131	£0	£0	£0	<b>£874,131</b>	£879,669	£0	£0	£0	<b>£879,669</b>	£886,135	£0	£0	£0	<b>£886,135</b>	£27,534
Bradshaw	£862,486	£0	£0	£0	<b>£862,486</b>	£869,139	£0	£0	£0	<b>£869,139</b>	£874,490	£0	£0	£0	<b>£874,490</b>	£25,359
Brook Acre	£1,109,352	£0	£84,314	£84,314	<b>£1,193,666</b>	£1,116,632	£0	£77,034	£77,034	<b>£1,193,666</b>	£1,121,356	£0	£71,892	£71,892	<b>£1,193,248</b>	£34,369
Callands	£1,592,508	£41,852	£0	£41,852	<b>£1,634,360</b>	£1,605,604	£28,756	£0	£28,756	<b>£1,634,360</b>	£1,604,512	£29,848	£0	£29,848	<b>£1,634,360</b>	£45,928
Cherry Tree	£862,298	£11	£5,457	£5,468	<b>£867,766</b>	£869,194	£0	£0	£0	<b>£869,194</b>	£874,301	£0	£0	£0	<b>£874,301</b>	£24,421
Christ Church	£1,373,925	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,373,925</b>	£882,349	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,385,036</b>	£1,385,929	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,385,929</b>	£41,659
Cinnamon Brow	£1,337,626	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,337,626</b>	£1,347,901	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,347,901</b>	£1,349,630	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,349,630</b>	£41,455
Culcheth	£903,835	£0	£19,090	£19,090	<b>£922,925</b>	£910,976	£0	£11,950	£11,950	<b>£922,925</b>	£915,839	£0	£7,361	£7,361	<b>£923,200</b>	£27,063
Dallam	£1,233,691	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,233,691</b>	£1,241,319	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,241,319</b>	£1,245,695	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,245,695</b>	£36,873
Grappenhall Heys	£875,070	£46,267	£0	£46,267	<b>£921,337</b>	£882,349	£38,988	£0	£38,988	<b>£921,337</b>	£887,074	£34,263	£0	£34,263	<b>£921,337</b>	£24,733
Latchford St James'	£803,087	£0	£23,504	£23,504	<b>£826,591</b>	£808,625	£0	£17,966	£17,966	<b>£826,591</b>	£815,091	£0	£11,847	£11,847	<b>£826,938</b>	£23,617
Locking Stumps	£1,741,283	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,741,283</b>	£1,754,901	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,754,901</b>	£1,753,286	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,753,286</b>	£52,422
Newchurch	£845,592	£0	£0	£0	<b>£845,592</b>	£852,140	£0	£0	£0	<b>£852,140</b>	£857,595	£0	£0	£0	<b>£857,595</b>	£25,152
Our Lady's	£793,949	£0	£0	£0	<b>£793,949</b>	£799,418	£0	£0	£0	<b>£799,418</b>	£805,953	£0	£0	£0	<b>£805,953</b>	£24,181
Sacred Heart	£902,159	£0	£8,369	£8,369	<b>£910,528</b>	£908,498	£0	£2,030	£2,030	<b>£910,528</b>	£914,163	£0	£0	£0	<b>£914,163</b>	£26,018
Sankey Valley St James'	£801,834	£0	£138,846	£138,846	<b>£940,680</b>	£808,103	£0	£132,577	£132,577	<b>£940,680</b>	£813,838	£0	£126,869	£126,869	<b>£940,706</b>	£23,697
St Alban's	£878,340	£0	£0	£0	<b>£878,340</b>	£884,052	£0	£0	£0	<b>£884,052</b>	£890,344	£0	£0	£0	<b>£890,344</b>	£23,418
St Andrew's	£1,068,750	£0	£21,301	£21,301	<b>£1,090,051</b>	£1,075,925	£0	£14,126	£14,126	<b>£1,090,051</b>	£1,080,754	£0	£8,814	£8,814	<b>£1,089,568</b>	£33,558
St Ann's	£998,771	£0	£0	£0	<b>£998,771</b>	£1,005,284	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,005,284</b>	£1,010,775	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,010,775</b>	£30,691
St Augustine's	£742,793	£0	£18,567	£18,567	<b>£761,360</b>	£747,460	£0	£13,900	£13,900	<b>£761,360</b>	£754,797	£0	£6,043	£6,043	<b>£760,839</b>	£21,265
St Barnabas'	£864,669	£0	£0	£0	<b>£864,669</b>	£870,102	£0	£0	£0	<b>£870,102</b>	£876,672	£0	£0	£0	<b>£876,672</b>	£26,394
St Benedict's	£967,072	£0	£495	£495	<b>£967,567</b>	£974,143	£0	£0	£0	<b>£974,143</b>	£979,076	£0	£0	£0	<b>£979,076</b>	£28,501
St Bridget's	£1,042,857	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,042,857</b>	£1,049,544	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,049,544</b>	£1,054,860	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,054,860</b>	£30,319
St Elphin's	£1,629,730	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,629,730</b>	£1,642,234	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,642,234</b>	£1,641,734	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,641,734</b>	£49,394
St Joseph's	£1,100,438	£75,995	£0	£75,995	<b>£1,176,433</b>	£1,110,017	£66,416	£0	£66,416	<b>£1,176,433</b>	£1,112,442	£63,991	£0	£63,991	<b>£1,176,433</b>	£32,683
St Lewis'	£619,706	£0	£23,713	£23,713	<b>£643,419</b>	£624,477	£0	£18,941	£18,941	<b>£643,419</b>	£631,709	£0	£12,530	£12,530	<b>£644,240</b>	£18,315
St Margaret's	£1,900,364	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,900,364</b>	£1,914,679	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,914,679</b>	£1,912,367	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,912,367</b>	£55,850
St Matthew's	£854,352	£45,036	£0	£45,036	<b>£899,388</b>	£861,666	£37,722	£0	£37,722	<b>£899,388</b>	£866,356	£33,032	£0	£33,032	<b>£899,388</b>	£25,758
St Monica's	£759,833	£19,008	£12,941	£31,949	<b>£791,782</b>	£766,172	£12,669	£12,941	£25,610	<b>£791,782</b>	£771,837	£7,004	£12,900	£19,903	<b>£791,741</b>	£22,265
St Oswald's	£943,768	£0	£0	£0	<b>£943,768</b>	£951,291	£0	£0	£0	<b>£951,291</b>	£955,771	£0	£0	£0	<b>£955,771</b>	£26,854
St Paul of the Cross	£701,598	£0	£0	£0	<b>£701,598</b>	£706,544	£0	£0	£0	<b>£706,544</b>	£713,602	£0	£0	£0	<b>£713,602</b>	£20,850
St Peter's	£903,100	£30,177	£0	£30,177	<b>£933,277</b>	£910,693	£22,584	£0	£22,584	<b>£933,277</b>	£915,104	£18,173	£0	£18,173	<b>£933,277</b>	£26,366
St Philip's	£2,208,869	£268,604	£0	£268,604	<b>£2,477,473</b>	£2,229,036	£248,437	£0	£248,437	<b>£2,477,473</b>	£2,220,873	£256,600	£0	£256,600	<b>£2,477,473</b>	£63,558
St Stephen's	£1,024,527	£0	£5,663	£5,663	<b>£1,030,190</b>	£1,031,737	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,031,737</b>	£1,036,531	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,036,531</b>	£30,329
St Thomas'	£905,570	£0	£5,359	£5,359	<b>£910,929</b>	£912,885	£0	£0	£0	<b>£912,885</b>	£917,574	£0	£0	£0	<b>£917,574</b>	£26,952
St Vincent's	£627,392	£0	£0	£0	<b>£627,392</b>	£632,094	£0	£0	£0	<b>£632,094</b>	£639,396	£0	£0	£0	<b>£639,396</b>	£17,689
St Wilfrid's	£1,597,809	£174,301	£0	£174,301	<b>£1,772,110</b>	£1,612,228	£159,882	£0	£159,882	<b>£1,772,110</b>	£1,609,812	£162,298	£0	£162,298	<b>£1,772,110</b>	£46,045
Stockton Heath	£1,622,282	£107,874	£0	£107,874	<b>£1,730,156</b>	£1,636,074	£94,082	£0	£94,082	<b>£1,730,156</b>	£1,634,285	£95,871	£0	£95,871	<b>£1,730,156</b>	£46,681
The Cobbs	£1,064,659	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,064,659</b>	£1,072,914	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,072,914</b>	£1,076,663	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,076,663</b>	£31,144
Thelwall Junior	£773,641	£0	£6,797	£6,797	<b>£780,438</b>	£779,597	£0	£841	£841	<b>£780,438</b>	£785,645	£0	£0	£0	<b>£785,645</b>	£22,388
Twiss Green	£870,683	£20,608	£0	£20,608	<b>£891,291</b>	£877,823	£13,468	£0	£13,468	<b>£891,291</b>	£882,687	£8,604	£0	£8,604	<b>£891,291</b>	£25,357
Winwick	£827,151	£0	£11,403	£11,403	<b>£838,554</b>	£833,838	£0	£4,716	£4,716	<b>£838,554</b>	£839,155	£0	£0	£0	<b>£839,155</b>	£23,921
Woolston CE	£923,381	£14,443	£0	£14,443	<b>£937,824</b>	£931,009	£6,815	£0	£6,815	<b>£937,824</b>	£935,385	£2,439	£0	£2,439	<b>£937,824</b>	£27,658

	OPTION 1) WBC NFF BASIS					OPTION 2) AWPU + £34.83					OPTION 3) LUMP SUM + £12,003.72					Estimated Supplementary Grant
	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	BASIC	MPPFL	MFG	PROTECTION	TOTAL	
Alderman Bolton	£1,292,409	£0	£14,444	£14,444	<b>£1,306,853</b>	£1,301,360	£0	£5,492	£5,492	<b>£1,306,853</b>	£1,304,413	£0	£2,525	£2,525	<b>£1,306,937</b>	£53,666
Beamont	£1,742,083	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,742,083</b>	£1,754,587	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,754,587</b>	£1,754,087	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,754,087</b>	£41,280
Broomfields	£1,422,400	£59,076	£0	£59,076	<b>£1,481,476</b>	£1,434,452	£47,024	£0	£47,024	<b>£1,481,476</b>	£1,434,404	£47,072	£0	£47,072	<b>£1,481,476</b>	£28,817
Bruche	£924,197	£0	£8,935	£8,935	<b>£933,133</b>	£931,651	£0	£1,481	£1,481	<b>£933,133</b>	£936,201	£0	£0	£0	<b>£936,201</b>	£37,079
Burtonwood	£917,068	£0	£0	£0	<b>£917,068</b>	£924,173	£0	£0	£0	<b>£924,173</b>	£929,071	£0	£0	£0	<b>£929,071</b>	£39,469
Chapelford Village	£2,362,167	£199,152	£0	£199,152	<b>£2,561,319</b>	£2,382,995	£178,324	£0	£178,324	<b>£2,561,319</b>	£2,374,171	£187,148	£0	£187,148	<b>£2,561,319</b>	£37,554
Croft	£886,200	£17,582	£1,560	£19,142	<b>£905,342</b>	£893,550	£10,232	£1,560	£11,793	<b>£905,342</b>	£898,204	£5,578	£1,143	£6,721	<b>£904,925</b>	£14,385
Evelyn Street	£1,381,042	£0	£206,937	£206,937	<b>£1,587,979</b>	£1,391,769	£0	£196,210	£196,210	<b>£1,587,979</b>	£1,393,046	£0	£194,367	£194,367	<b>£1,587,412</b>	£25,337
Glazebury	£479,203	£0	£36,081	£36,081	<b>£515,284</b>	£482,477	£0	£32,807	£32,807	<b>£515,284</b>	£491,207	£0	£23,433	£23,433	<b>£514,640</b>	£86,705
Gorse Covert	£1,078,536	£7,225	£2,834	£10,059	<b>£1,088,595</b>	£1,087,348	£0	£1,247	£1,247	<b>£1,088,595</b>	£1,090,539	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,090,539</b>	£26,820
Great Sankey	£1,262,945	£102,056	£0	£102,056	<b>£1,365,001</b>	£1,274,021	£90,980	£0	£90,980	<b>£1,365,001</b>	£1,274,949	£90,052	£0	£90,052	<b>£1,365,001</b>	£47,787
Meadowside	£1,220,793	£0	£33,618	£33,618	<b>£1,254,411</b>	£1,228,455	£0	£25,955	£25,955	<b>£1,254,411</b>	£1,232,796	£0	£21,752	£21,752	<b>£1,254,548</b>	£42,154
Oakwood Avenue	£2,780,868	£0	£0	£0	<b>£2,780,868</b>	£2,802,532	£0	£0	£0	<b>£2,802,532</b>	£2,792,872	£0	£0	£0	<b>£2,792,872</b>	£47,872
Old Hall	£1,482,329	£42,830	£0	£42,830	<b>£1,525,159</b>	£1,494,729	£30,430	£0	£30,430	<b>£1,525,159</b>	£1,494,333	£30,826	£0	£30,826	<b>£1,525,159</b>	£16,217
Oughtrington	£1,653,321	£155,648	£0	£155,648	<b>£1,808,969</b>	£1,667,845	£141,124	£0	£141,124	<b>£1,808,969</b>	£1,665,325	£143,644	£0	£143,644	<b>£1,808,969</b>	£26,710
Park Road	£868,654	£21,486	£0	£21,486	<b>£890,140</b>	£875,899	£14,241	£0	£14,241	<b>£890,140</b>	£880,658	£9,482	£0	£9,482	<b>£890,140</b>	£26,197
Penketh	£905,727	£0	£0	£0	<b>£905,727</b>	£913,076	£0	£0	£0	<b>£913,076</b>	£917,730	£0	£0	£0	<b>£917,730</b>	£29,618
Penketh South	£858,118	£7,086	£10,545	£17,631	<b>£875,749</b>	£865,154	£50	£10,545	£10,595	<b>£875,749</b>	£870,122	£0	£5,202	£5,202	<b>£875,324</b>	£25,308
Ravenbank	£1,640,219	£167,470	£0	£167,470	<b>£1,807,689</b>	£1,654,743	£152,946	£0	£152,946	<b>£1,807,689</b>	£1,652,223	£155,466	£0	£155,466	<b>£1,807,689</b>	£70,697
St Helen's	£583,173	£0	£12,929	£12,929	<b>£596,102</b>	£587,457	£0	£8,645	£8,645	<b>£596,102</b>	£595,177	£0	£1,433	£1,433	<b>£596,609</b>	£45,517
Statham	£887,538	£0	£0	£0	<b>£887,538</b>	£894,469	£0	£0	£0	<b>£894,469</b>	£899,542	£0	£0	£0	<b>£899,542</b>	£31,480
Thelwall Infant	£574,891	£0	£20,161	£20,161	<b>£595,053</b>	£579,036	£0	£16,017	£16,017	<b>£595,053</b>	£586,895	£0	£8,020	£8,020	<b>£594,915</b>	£26,026
Woolston CP	£1,025,772	£0	£2,528	£2,528	<b>£1,028,300</b>	£1,033,887	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,033,887</b>	£1,037,776	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1,037,776</b>	£17,459
Cardinal Newman Catholic High	£4,816,402	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,816,402</b>	£4,844,479	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,844,479</b>	£4,828,406	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,828,406</b>	£145,986
Culcheth High	£6,662,711	£145,123	£0	£145,123	<b>£6,807,834</b>	£6,703,990	£103,845	£0	£103,845	<b>£6,807,834</b>	£6,674,715	£133,119	£0	£133,119	<b>£6,807,834</b>	£197,020
St Gregory's Catholic High	£6,486,396	£0	£0	£0	<b>£6,486,396</b>	£6,526,699	£0	£0	£0	<b>£6,526,699</b>	£6,498,400	£0	£0	£0	<b>£6,498,400</b>	£195,558
Beamont Collegiate Academy	£5,698,180	£0	£0	£0	<b>£5,698,180</b>	£5,729,356	£0	£0	£0	<b>£5,729,356</b>	£5,710,184	£0	£0	£0	<b>£5,710,184</b>	£180,279
Birchwood Community High School	£4,825,154	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,825,154</b>	£4,852,987	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,852,987</b>	£4,837,158	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,837,158</b>	£148,412
Bridgewater High School	£8,601,099	£290,130	£2,031	£292,161	<b>£8,893,260</b>	£8,655,092	£236,137	£2,031	£238,168	<b>£8,893,260</b>	£8,613,103	£278,126	£1,711	£279,838	<b>£8,892,940</b>	£249,687
Great Sankey High School	£9,708,573	£452,546	£0	£452,546	<b>£10,161,119</b>	£9,772,319	£388,800	£0	£388,800	<b>£10,161,119</b>	£9,720,576	£440,543	£0	£440,543	<b>£10,161,119</b>	£290,220
King's Leadership Academy	£3,991,638	£65,433	£0	£65,433	<b>£4,057,071</b>	£4,016,997	£40,074	£0	£40,074	<b>£4,057,071</b>	£4,003,642	£53,429	£0	£53,429	<b>£4,057,071</b>	£121,198
Lymm High School	£8,176,705	£398,581	£0	£398,581	<b>£8,575,286</b>	£8,230,488	£344,798	£0	£344,798	<b>£8,575,286</b>	£8,188,708	£386,578	£0	£386,578	<b>£8,575,286</b>	£245,980
Padgate Academy	£3,452,462	£0	£0	£0	<b>£3,452,462</b>	£3,470,610	£0	£0	£0	<b>£3,470,610</b>	£3,464,465	£0	£0	£0	<b>£3,464,465</b>	£110,169
Penketh High School	£4,953,533	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,953,533</b>	£4,982,724	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,982,724</b>	£4,965,537	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,965,537</b>	£154,296
Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School	£4,301,338	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,301,338</b>	£4,324,990	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,324,990</b>	£4,313,342	£0	£0	£0	<b>£4,313,342</b>	£133,586
UTC Warrington	£997,012	£0	£57,350	£57,350	<b>£1,054,362</b>	£1,001,750	£0	£52,612	£52,612	<b>£1,054,362</b>	£1,009,015	£0	£41,932	£41,932	<b>£1,050,947</b>	£31,197
	<b>£151,040,706</b>	<b>£3,298,629</b>	<b>£944,390</b>	<b>£4,243,020</b>	<b>£155,283,726</b>	<b>£152,095,721</b>	<b>£2,808,998</b>	<b>£796,893</b>	<b>£3,605,891</b>	<b>£155,701,613</b>	<b>£152,025,011</b>	<b>£2,983,406</b>	<b>£693,195</b>	<b>£3,676,601</b>	<b>£155,701,612</b>	<b>£4,528,098</b>
TRANSFER TO HIGH NEEDS BLOCK					<b>£417,887</b>					<b>£0</b>					<b>£1</b>	

# REPORT



<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum	<b>Item:</b>	8
<b>Date:</b>	11/01/2022	<b>For:</b>	Information and discussion
<b>Title:</b>	Proposals from the review of Special Educational Needs provision		
<b>Author:</b>	Louise Atkin	<b>Presenter:</b>	Louise Atkin

## 1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Warrington's Integrated SEND Strategy sets out the vision and priorities for partners to work towards ensuring that children and young people with SEND have access to the right services at the right time. Priorities are rooted in the Code of Practice launched in 2014.
- 1.2 Like other Local Authorities since the introduction of the Code of Practice in 2014, Warrington has experienced a significant impact on DSG budgets and has reported a deficit since 2016.
- 1.3 The budget position has been the focus of a number of discussions tabled at Schools Forum where proposals have been approved with the aim of reducing the deficit and shortfall in the High Needs Block over the past five years. Following Governmental direction, the DSG budget is required to be balanced at the end of the financial year 2023/24. Further actions will need to be taken, and spend more heavily scrutinised, in order to make this achievable.
- 1.4 As well as managing the budget position, SEND has continued to be a priority area for the Local Authority and in response to demand for more specialist places and higher complexity of need for some pupils, further budget has been allocated to special schools and Designated Provisions. Higher top-up funding has also been requested for pupils with an EHCP in mainstream schools.
- 1.5 Financial data indicates that as well as reducing the deficit budget, spending on SEND (as extracted from the High Needs Block and DSG) has increased from £17,731,852 in 2015/16 to an estimated £22,372,141 in 2021/22; a difference of £4,640,289. The most significant individual spend is on Special School budgets which has increased from

£7,011,561 in 2015/16 to £8,201,461 in 2020/21 (£1,189,900 difference).

- 1.6 Spend has also increased in the independent and non-maintained sector and in other local authority provision out of the borough where pupils' with EHC Plans needs cannot be met locally; spend has increased year on year since 2016/17 from £2,855,249 for 52 pupils' compared to £3,911,145 in 2021/21 for 79 pupils'.
- 1.7 Given the current trends, it is expected that spend on placements from the independent and out of borough market will continue to rise despite efforts to reduce the numbers accessing these types of placements – over the past two years the number has reduced from 82 to 79 pupils' but spend has remained the same as a result of increased charges mainly from the independent sector.
- 1.8 One of the key issues for Warrington as a small unitary authority is how to address the broad range of education, health and care needs of children and young people with SEND locally. It is clear from the data that a different strategy needs to be employed to build capacity to meet the needs of SEND pupils in Warrington and reduce the need for more costly provision out of borough.

## **2. SEND Review**

- 2.1 A review of provision for children and young people with SEND was initiated in 2021 to understand the needs in Warrington and to identify the drivers behind the increase in demand. A number of pieces of work have been undertaken as part of this review:
  - A comprehensive Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
  - Financial benchmarking with other local authorities
  - Review of the quality of provision for SEND
  - Consideration of accommodation
  - Coproduction with leaders of Designated Provisions and Special Schools.
- 2.2 The review report and consultation document contain a number of proposals to support additional capacity in Warrington for pupils with SEND. It has highlighted:
  - The overall number of pupils identified with SEND in Warrington schools appears to have reduced since the implementation of the SEND reforms in 2014. This is mostly a result of the smaller number of pupils receiving SEN Support.
  - This said, there has been a significant rise in the number of EHC Plans maintained by the Council across all age ranges but more notably for pre-school children and young people aged 16 to 25 years. This suggests that pupils may be escalated too

quickly through Warrington's Graduated Approach or that children are presenting with more complex needs. Whilst Warrington is above the national average for children with EHC Plans, the gap has closed year on year due to an increase in the number of all pupils in all England schools with an EHC Plan.

- Warrington has a higher proportion of pupils placed in Designated Provisions (combined number of pupils in Resourced Provision and SEN Units) in comparison to the North West and England averages. This may be due to fewer places being available in special schools compared to other local authorities.
- There are fewer places in Special Schools in Warrington compared to the England and North West averages and two of Warrington's three Special Schools are full. This is leading to a high number of specialist school places being commissioned in the independent sector and in out of borough provision, to meet the needs of pupils with SEMH difficulties and SLCN.
- There are an increasing number of pupils with SEND who require Speech and Language Therapy, Physio Therapy, Occupational Therapy Service and mental health support in school.
- Children and young people are presenting with more complex needs, particularly in Warrington's Designated Provisions and Special Schools, which require additional nursing input to manage intimate care (including catheterisation), tracheostomy care and suctioning, stoma care and feeding through naso-gastric and gastrostomy tubes.

2.3 For further detail on the data see Appendix 2.

2.4 A set of recommendations have been made by the SEND review to support additional capacity in Warrington for pupils with SEND. These build on approved initiatives such as the 56 place ASD Free School and include:

- Reducing the notional budget (Element 2 funding) from £7,500 to £6,000
- Relocating specialist post 16 provision from Woolston Learning Village Site
- Increasing commissioned specialist placements for post 16 learners from 40 to 60
- Increasing commissioned placements for post 19 learners from 10 to 20
- Standardising top-up funding for SEMH Designated Provision places in Primary in 2022/23 with a view to embedding in the review of the funding formula

- Establishing a new 8 place KS1 ASD provision
- Establishing a new 8 place KS3 SEMH provision
- Establishing a new 8 place KS4 SEMH provision
- Considering the funding formula for Designated Provisions in Primary

2.5 The Special Education Needs Report recommends further actions to invest in processes and policy which do not have financial implications and will be presented at the SEND Partnership Board for their consultation and for the Board to agree the Action Plan.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

3.1 The proposed recommendations from the SEND review are estimated to cost £3,351,442.76 when fully implemented (see financial breakdown in **Appendix 1**). Due to budget restraints outlined in section 1, the timeline for all proposals to be realised will be 2024.

3.2 Confirmation of the DSG settlement indicates there is a small surplus - £417,887 after implementing the National Funding Formula. The Council is proposing that the surplus is transferred to High Needs Block, and either allocated against outlined proposals enabling earlier implementation or to eliminate the historic deficit (projected to be £492,108 2021 at the end of this financial year). Either option would support more allocation of resource to SEND and benefit the school sector.

3.2 The SEND Partnership Board will consult on the proposals to consider where resources should be focused to those most in need of help and support.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 A cost benefit analysis will be required to support the establishment of any new provision and Schools Forum will be cited on this as and when it is developed.

4.2 At this time it is estimated the proposals will cost £3,351,442.76 when realised in total. These totals are shown in **Appendix 1**.

### **5. RISKS**

5.1 The risks of not investing in the SEND system and not implementing proposals are as follows:

Political	<p>Reputational risk if leaders to not have appropriate plans in place to improve the effectiveness of our arrangements and access to sufficient and suitable provision for children and young people with SEND.</p> <p>There could be increased parental dissatisfaction with the Council if pupil progress is impacted upon and needs not met which could be damaging to our reputation.</p>
Economic	<p>Historical funding models to support children’s needs and insufficient funding in the high needs block of the DSG is placing significant pressures on the school leaders and the council to contain spend within the funding allocated by the government.</p> <p>Schools may feel they can no longer meet the needs of the more complex children who have the highest levels of support to maintain mainstream placements which could result in greater demand for our specialist provisions.</p> <p>Greater demand on transport costs if local schools cannot meet need and pupils are moved to our specialist provisions which could be further from home.</p>
Social	<p>Increased social media traffic / complaints / legal challenge from parents/carers about the Warrington offer for pupils with Special Educational Needs.</p>
Legal	<p>Non-compliance to the statutory guidance and the consult on changes to provision will undermine the review and may result in legal challenge.</p>

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Note the proposal outlined in paragraph 3.
- b. Support the proposal for any surplus in the DSG Schools Block funding to be committed to SEND priorities identified.
- c. Have consideration of the impact changes may have on the High Needs Block. There may be a temporary negative impact as funding is reinvested locally. The

impact of this should lessen as funding starts to transfer back into the High Needs block as placements in the independent sector are reduced.

- d. Note that the council will work with all stakeholders; SENDIAS, WarrPAC, parents / carers and with WAPH, WASCL, school leaders and governors to share proposals once they have been approved by the SEND Partnership Board.

## APPENDIX 1: Financial implications

PRIORITY	ITEM	TIMELINE	STATUS	Y1 2022/23	Y2 2023/24	Y3 2024/25	PRIORITY	Comments re: implementation
1.	Establish a 56 place ASD Free School	Sep-2023	AGREED		£560,000	£1,232,000	High	Implemented through DfE bid to open Free School process
2	Increase C&L DP place funding in KS3 & KS4 by 4 places	Sep-2022	AGREED	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	High	Implemented through national place change process
3	Additional funding for SALT Input into Schools contract	Apr-2022	AGREED	£19,000.00	£19,000.00	£19,000.00	High	Exact costs to be determined via competitive tender process
4	Establish 1 FTE Occupational Therapist post	Apr-2022	AGREED	£55,800.00	£55,800.00	£55,800.00	High	To be implemented as part of the Council's approach to managing requests for private Occupational Therapy input now detailed in children's EHC Plans
5	Reduce notional budget (Element 2) contribution from £7,500 to £6,000	Sep-2023	PROPOSAL		£258,125.00	£442,500.00	High	To be implemented on a phased approach from September 2023
6	Relocate further education offer from Woolston Learning Village	Sep-2022	PROPOSAL					Initial relocation costs to be met through Capital investment

PRIORITY	ITEM	TIMELINE	STATUS	Y1 2022/23	Y2 2023/24	Y3 2024/25	PRIORITY	Comments re: implementation
7	Increase commissioned specialist post 16 education placements from 40 to 60	Sep-2023	PROPOSAL		£699,480.00	£699,480.00	Medium	Allows for forecasted growth in population
8	Standardise top-up funding for SEMH DP places in Primary in 2022/23 with a view to embedding in the review of the funding formula	Sep-2022	PROPOSAL	£13,920.00			Medium	Subsumed into new funding formula for Primary Designated Provisions if implemented
9	Establish a new 8 place KS1 ASD provision	Sep-2022	PROPOSAL	£63,322.68	£108,552.00	£108,552.00	Low	To support approach to meeting pupils with ASD needs and prevent placements being made in the independent sector
10	Establish a new 8 place KS3 SEMH provision	Sep-2022	PROPOSAL	£63,322.68	£109,755.38	£109,755.38	Low	Allows for forecasted growth in population
11	Establish a new 8 place KS4 SEMH provision	Sep-2023	PROPOSAL		£63,322.68	£109,755.38	Low	Allows for forecasted growth in population

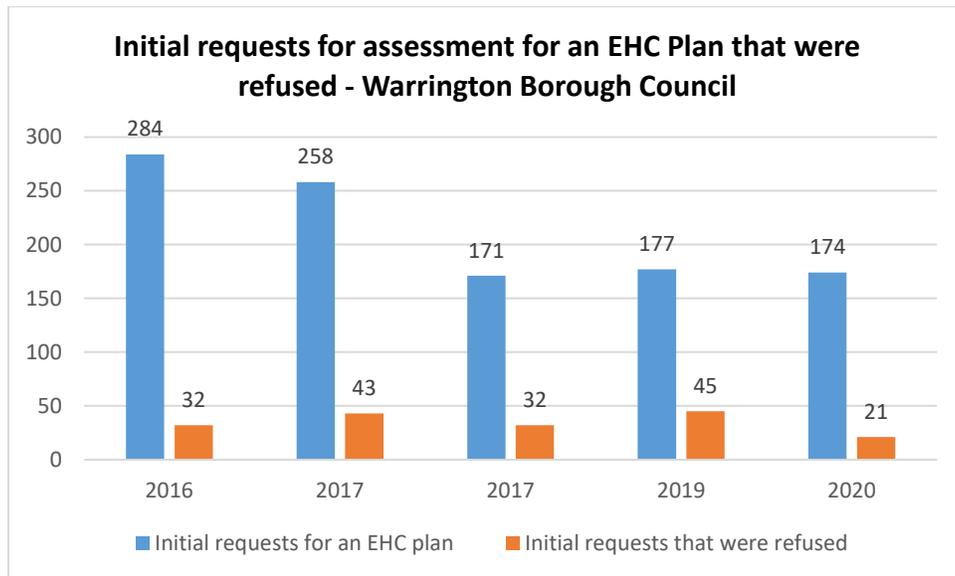
PRIORITY	ITEM	TIMELINE	STATUS	Y1 2022/23	Y2 2023/24	Y3 2024/25	PRIORITY	Comments re: implementation
12	Increase commissioned specialist post-19 education placements from 10 to 20	Sep-2022	PROPOSAL	£150,600.00	£150,600.00	£150,600.00	Low	Allows for forecasted growth in population
13	Consider the funding formula for DPs in Primary	Sep-2023	PROPOSAL		£400,000.00	£400,000.00	low	Supports sustainability of provisions going forward
<b>Total</b>				<b>£389,965.36</b>	<b>£2,448,635.06</b>	<b>£3,351,442.76</b>		

## Appendix 2 – Key Data

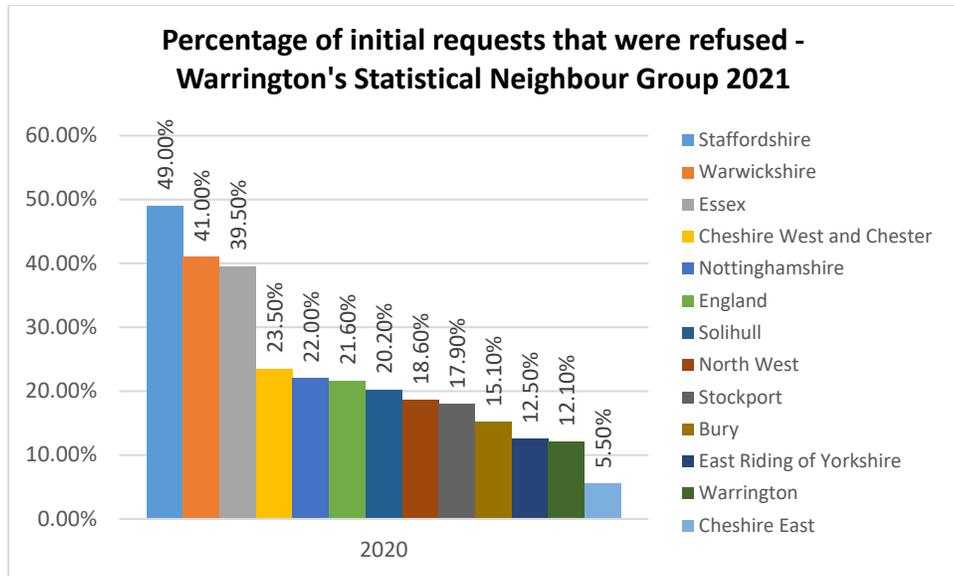
<b>Statistical release</b>	<b>Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans – SEN2</b>
<b>Reporting year</b>	2021 (released 13 May 2021)
<b>Source</b>	Department for Education

### A. Initial requests for statutory assessment

Nationally, initial requests for EHC Assessments reduced for the first time during 2020, down from 82,300 in 2019 to 76,000 in 2020. Warrington Borough Council received 174 initial requests in 2020 – three less than in 2019 and overall requests seem to have stabilised over the last three years.

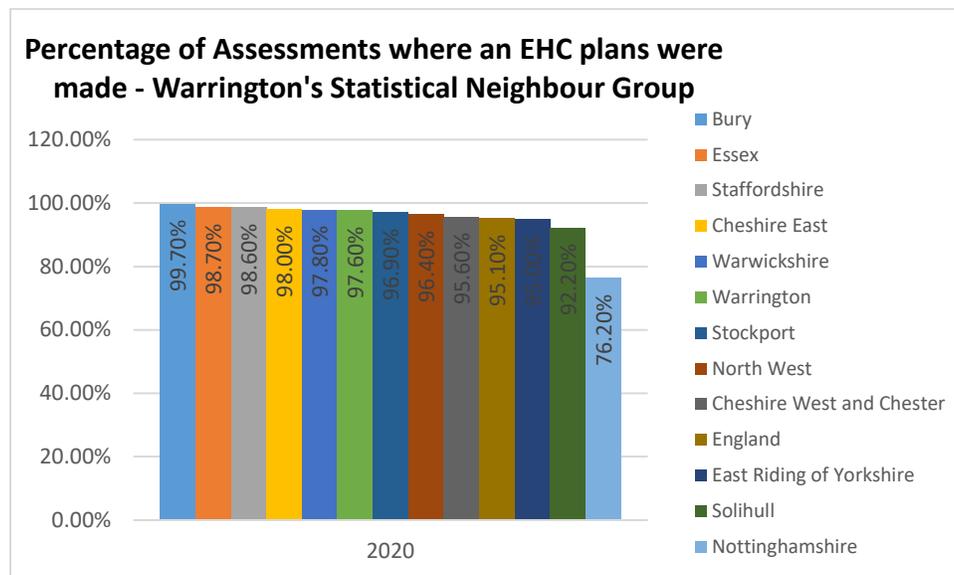


Of those requests received in Warrington, 21 were refused, the lowest rate of refusals since data was first collected. This is well below both the North West (18.6%) and England (21.6%) averages and ranks Warrington as 10<sup>th</sup> (out of 11 local authorities) in its statistical neighbour group.



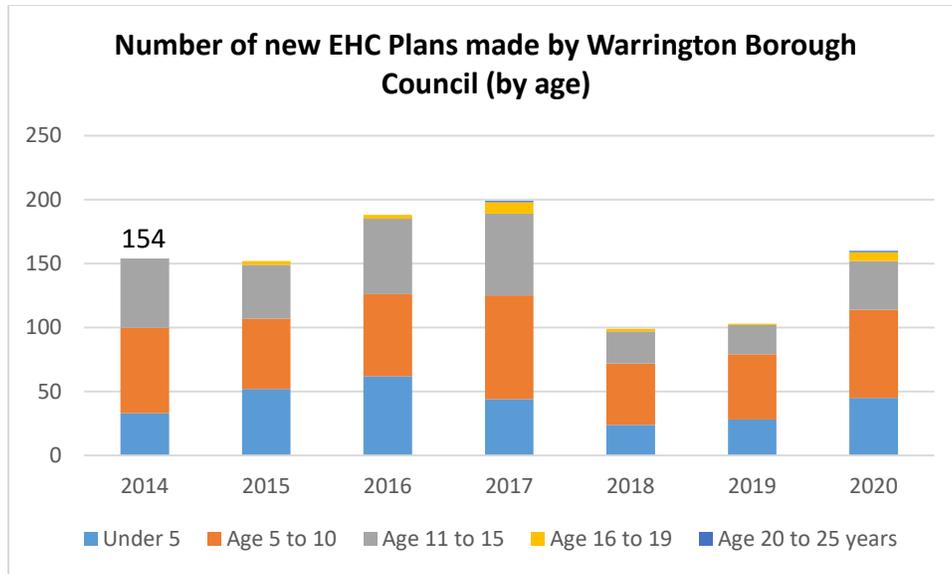
### B. Statutory assessments

The number statutory assessments undertaken by Warrington Borough Council increased 56% from 105 in 2019 to 164 in 2020. Of these assessments, 97.6% resulted in an EHC Plan being issued. This is above both the England (95.1%) and North West (96.4%) averages.



### C. New EHC Plans

There were 160 new EHC plans made during 2020 – a 55% increase compared to 2019. This is in line with the national trend as the number of new EHC Plans has increased each year since their introduction in 2014.



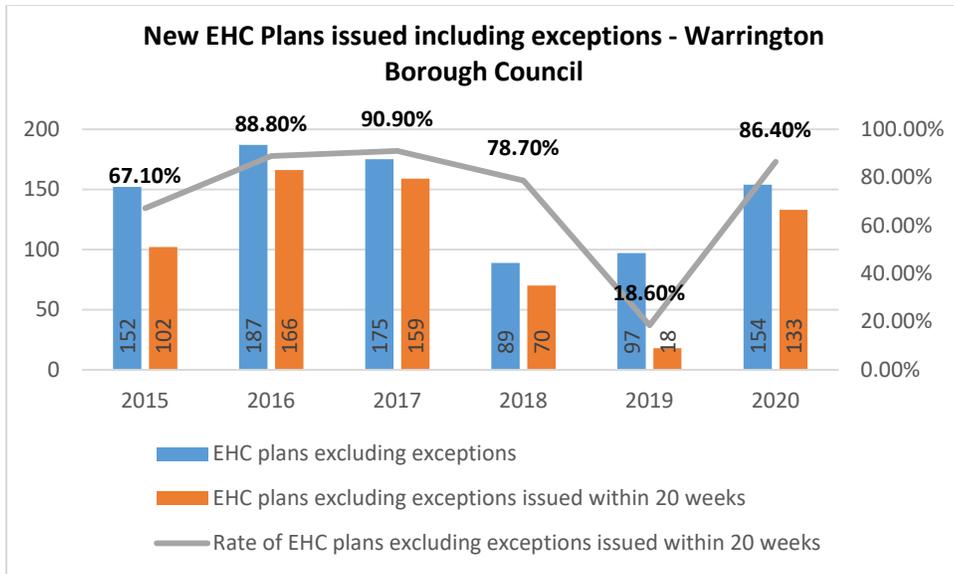
Higher numbers of new EHC Plans were made for children and young people across all age groups in 2020 and in comparison to 2019:

- 17 more EHC Plans were issued to children under 5 years
- 18 more EHC Plans were issued to children aged 5 to 10 years
- 15 more EHC Plans were issued to young people aged 11 to 15 years
- Seven more EHC Plans were issued to young people aged 16 to 19 years
- One more EHC Plan was issued to a young person aged 20 to 25 years.

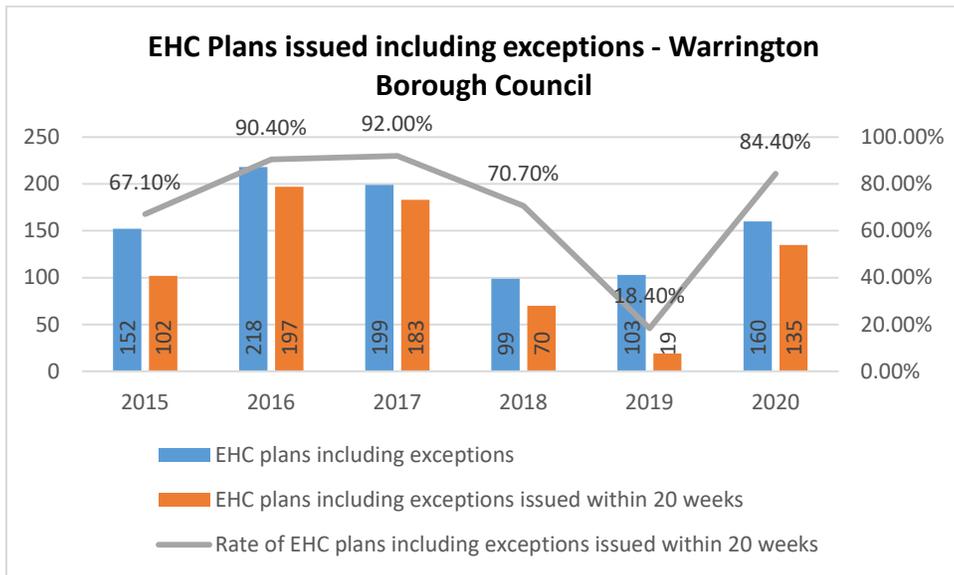
Under the SEND Code of Practice local authorities are required to issue EHC within 20 weeks. However, if it is impractical to do so local authorities may apply an exception to this rule where:

- The child or their parent are not living in the area for a continuous period of four weeks or more
- The personal circumstances of the child, young person, or their family may affect the process
- The child's school is closed for at least four weeks, which may delay the submission of information from the school
- Appointments with partner agencies from whom the local authority has requested information are missed by the child or young person.

In 2020 86.4% of new EHC Plans were issued within 20 weeks (including exceptions) in Warrington – a significant improvement on the previous reporting period.

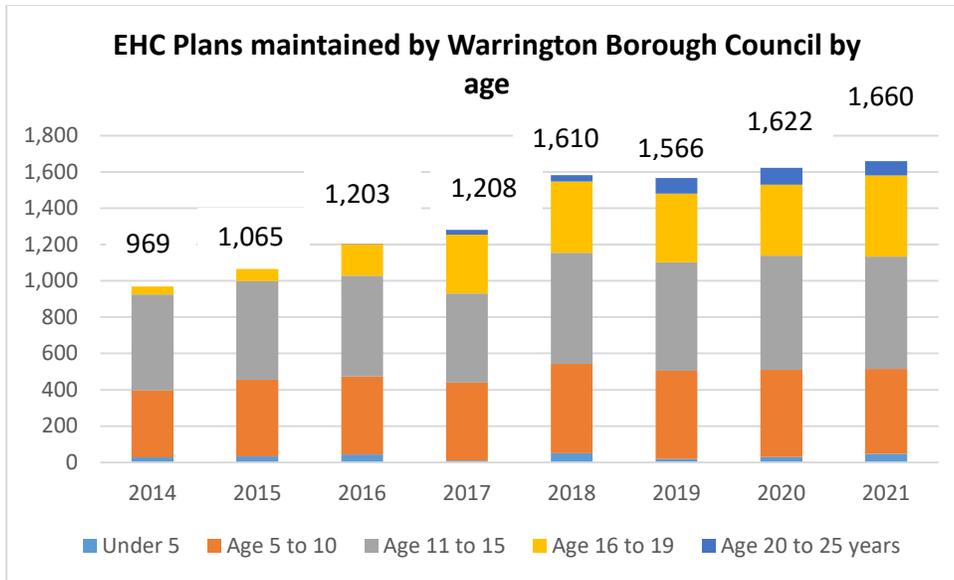


Including exceptions, 84.4% of new EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks which again is much higher than in 2019. This is also above the England average of 55.6% and North West average of 60.3%.

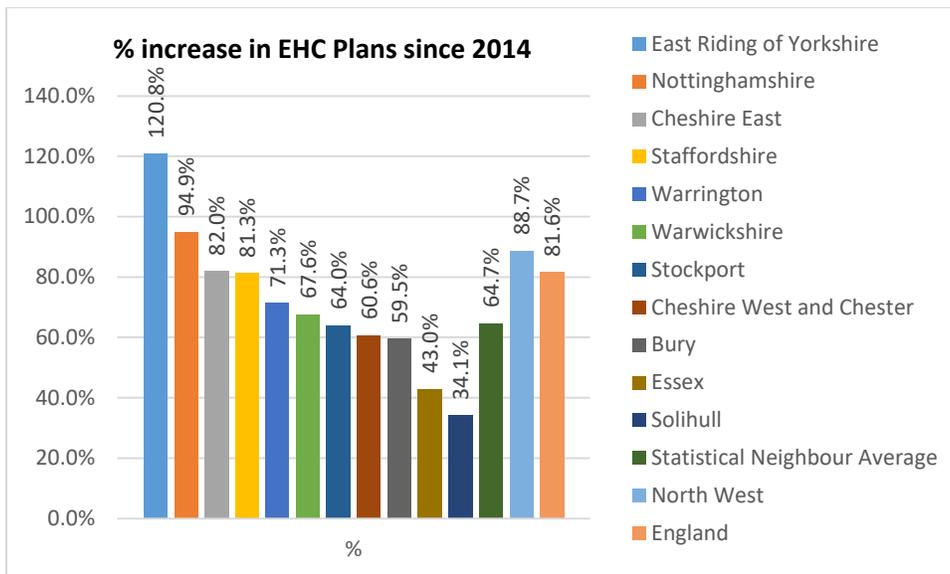


#### D. EHC Plans maintained by Warrington Borough Council

As of January 2021, Warrington Borough Council maintained 1,660 EHC Plans for children and young people with SEND. This is the second year in a row since 2019 that EHC Plan numbers have increased and is mainly a result of the increase in EHC Plans for children under 5 years (an increase of 28 more Plans) and for young people 16 to 19 years (69 more Plans).

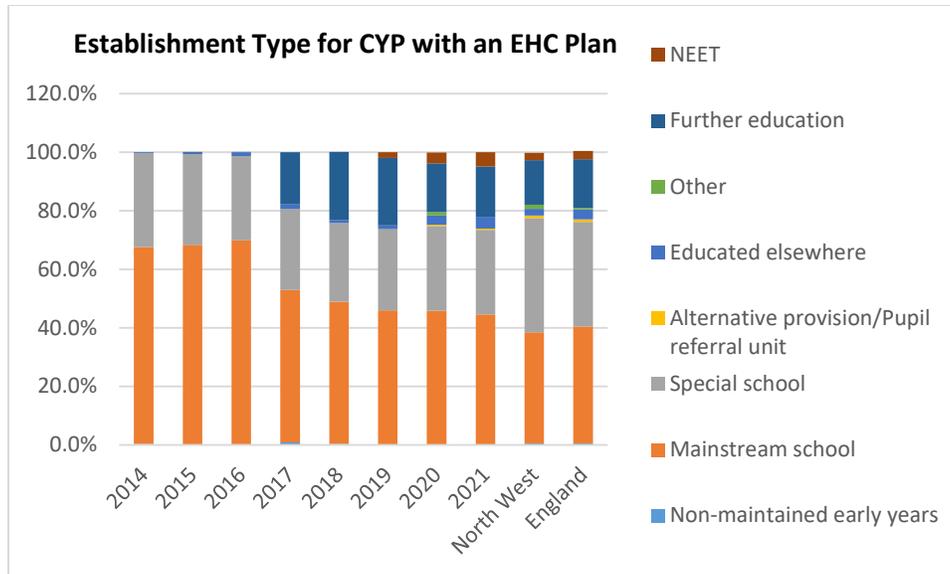


This is a reflection of the national picture – overall the number of children and young people with EHC Plans in England has increased by 81.6% since the introduction of the SEND reforms in 2014. Warrington’s increase in EHC Plans of 71.3% is much lower over the same time period and ranks Warrington as fifth in its statistical neighbour group.



### E. Education type

As of January 2021 there were 739 children and young people in a mainstream school - 44.5% of all those with an EHC Plan. This is above both the North West average of 37.9% and England average of 39.9%, but overall it equates to a small reduction compared to the same period in 2019 (45.9% / 745 children and young people).



Further analysis shows that the actual number in mainstream school has reduced slightly from 568 in 2020 to 550 in 2021, whereas the number in resourced provision / SEN unit over the same period has increased from 171 to 182 significantly above the proportion of pupils placed across England and in the North West.

Establishment group	Warrington					England	North West
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2021
<b>Mainstream provision</b>							
LA maintained	318	342	281	239	238	74,331	13,360
Academy	167	242	270	329	312	69,667	6,267
Free school	8	17	18	0	0	3,006	288
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>147,004</b>	<b>19,915</b>
	<b>38.20%</b>	<b>36.00%</b>	<b>34.80%</b>	<b>34.10%</b>	<b>32.50%</b>	<b>34.13%</b>	<b>34.07%</b>
LA maintained - Resourced provision	0	14	13	13	15	6,566	791
Academy - Resourced provision	0	56	57	26	69	5,873	509
Free school - Resourced provision	0	0	0	0	0	93	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>12,532</b>	<b>1,300</b>
	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>4.20%</b>	<b>4.30%</b>	<b>2.30%</b>	<b>5.00%</b>	<b>2.91%</b>	<b>2.22%</b>
LA maintained - SEN unit	124	103	77	44	41	3,674	378
Academy - SEN unit	42	0	0	88	57	4,219	222
Free school - SEN unit	0	0	0	0	0	39	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>7,932</b>	<b>600</b>
	<b>12.90%</b>	<b>6.20%</b>	<b>4.70%</b>	<b>7.90%</b>	<b>5.80%</b>	<b>1.84%</b>	<b>1.03%</b>
Independent	6	4	5	6	7	4,555	365
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,555</b>	<b>365</b>
	<b>0.50%</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	<b>1.06%</b>	<b>0.62%</b>

Establishment group	Warrington					England	North West
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021	2021
<b>Mainstream provision</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>172,023</b>	<b>22,180</b>
<b>Headcount</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>430,697</b>	<b>58,455</b>

A small proportion of pupils are also placed in special schools in Warrington 28.9% compared to 39% in the North West and 35.8% in England:

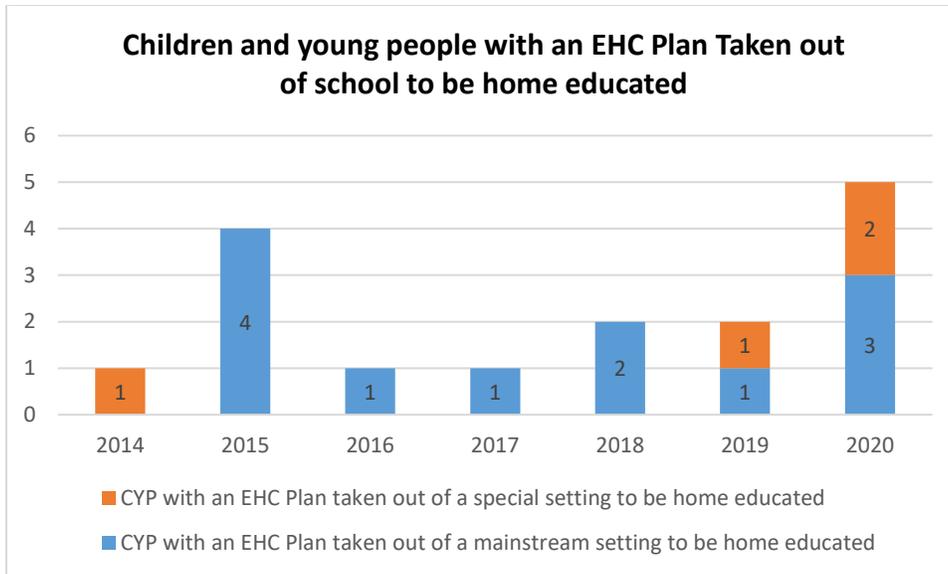
Local authority	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nottinghamshire	69.5%	69.3%	63.0%	53.4%	51.4%	47.0%	46.0%	47.4%
Staffordshire	61.7%	63.2%	62.6%	57.5%	53.6%	51.0%	50.9%	47.3%
Solihull	45.2%	44.8%	46.1%	45.5%	47.3%	47.8%	45.9%	44.5%
Cheshire West and Chester	46.7%	51.1%	49.9%	49.3%	50.3%	47.7%	44.9%	42.8%
Warwickshire	50.0%	51.1%	50.9%	45.9%	47.7%	44.4%	40.7%	39.5%
<b>North West</b>	<b>47.9%</b>	<b>48.8%</b>	<b>47.5%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>40.8%</b>	<b>39.0%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>45.6%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>35.8%</b>
Essex	32.9%	34.2%	34.0%	37.6%	38.1%	36.8%	37.5%	35.4%
Stockport	34.0%	32.9%	33.5%	31.2%	32.8%	33.6%	34.1%	35.4%
Cheshire East	36.5%	37.4%	37.4%	40.0%	40.7%	38.0%	32.2%	29.9%
Bury	30.8%	31.7%	32.8%	30.6%	30.4%	29.7%	30.3%	29.2%
<b>Warrington</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>27.7%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>
East Riding of Yorkshire	34.5%	13.6%	28.2%	39.6%	29.4%	25.1%	23.0%	22.6%

## F. NEET

As of January 2021 there were 82 children and young people with an EHC Plan not in education, training or employment – this is an increase of 22 compared to 2019 and is the third consecutive year that NEET figures have risen. The rate of NEET in Warrington, 4.9%, is also much higher than the North West (2.5%) and England (2.8%) averages.

## G. EHE

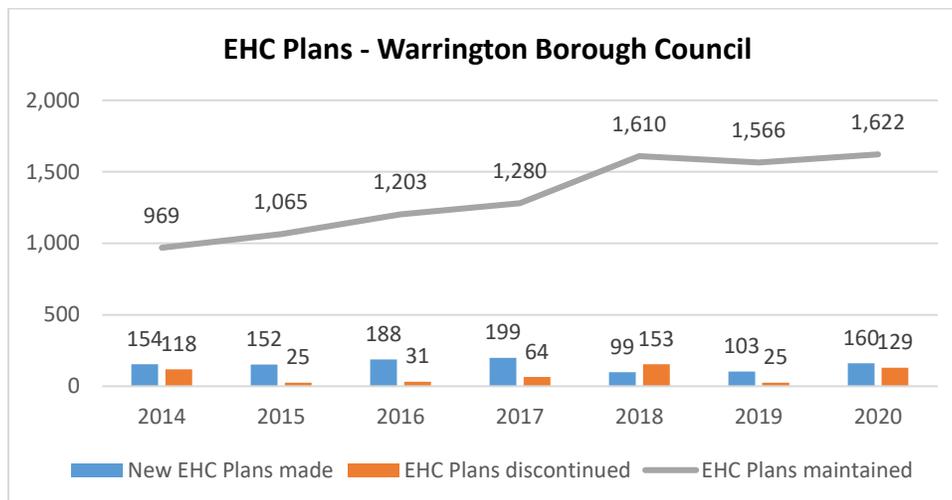
As of January 2021, 12 children and young people were educated at home compared to 10 in 2020. In the calendar year of 2020 just five were taken out of school by their parents to be home educated. This is a small increase compared 2019.



## H. Discontinued EHC Plans

In 2020 a total of 129 EHC Plans were discontinued as follows:

- 1- special needs being met without an EHC plan
- 14 - transferred to another LA
- 113 - pupils have left school at the end of compulsory schooling or after
- 1 – other reasons.

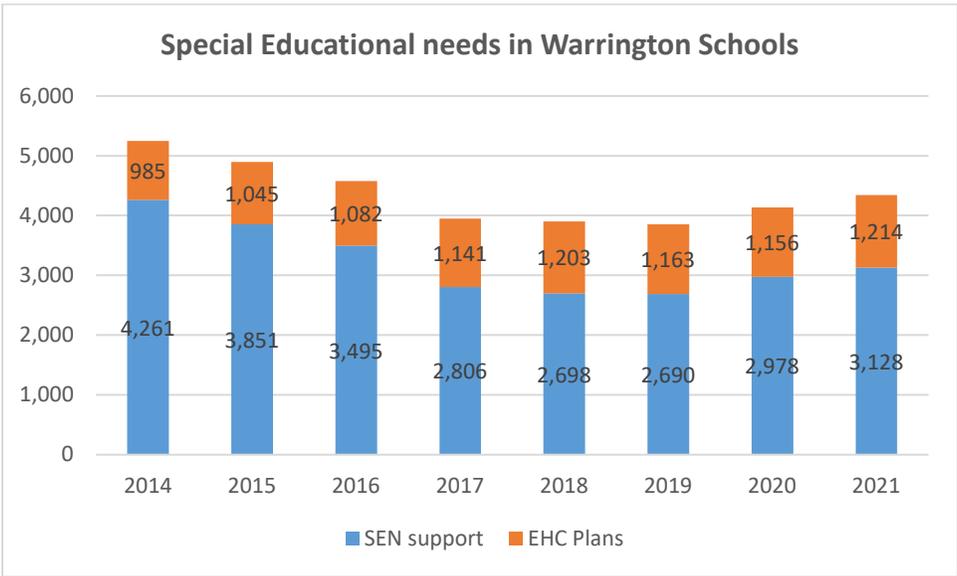


<b>Statistical release</b>	Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities – School Census
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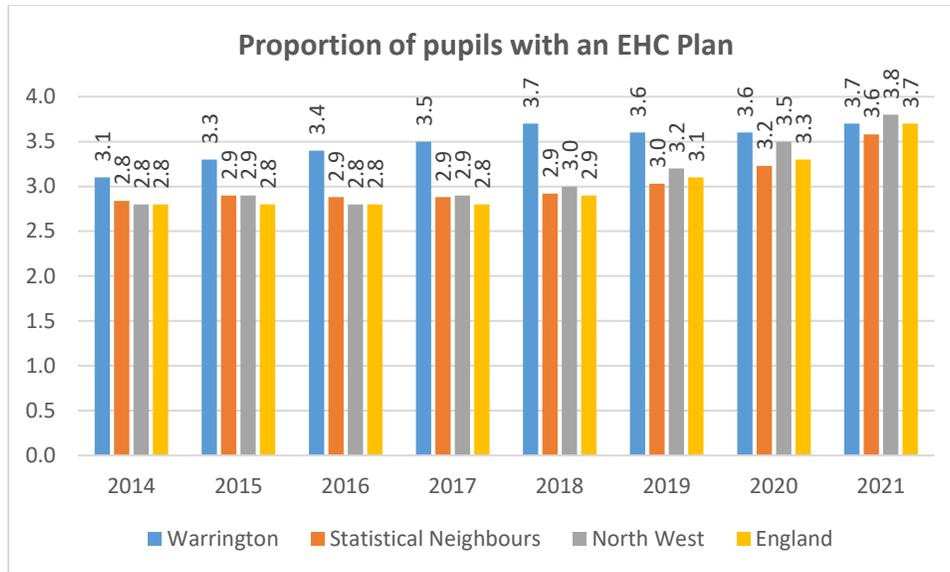
<b>Reporting year</b>	2021 (released 24 June 2021)
<b>Source</b>	Department for Education

**A. SEND in Warrington schools**

Across all schools, the number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) has risen from an all-time low of 3,853 in 2019 to 4,342 in 2021. This is in line with the national trend and follows a period of year on year decreases from January 2012 (5,009) to 2019. Over this period, the overall decrease was driven by decrease in the proportion of pupils requiring SEN Support (16.0% to 8.3%), while the percentage of pupils with an EHC Plan (or Statement under the previous system) increased to 3.7%.



Whilst Warrington is above the national average for children with EHC Plans, the gap has closed year on year due to an increase in the number of all pupils in all England schools with an EHC Plan.



## B. Education type

In primary schools, 1.8% of pupils in Warrington have an EHC Plan compared to 2.1% nationally and 10% require SEN Support compared to 12.6%.

In secondary, 3.0% of pupils have an EHC Plan compared to 2.0% nationally and 9.4% require SEN Support compared to 11.5%.

School Type	SEN Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
State-funded nursery	SEN Support	25	16	18	20	16	21
	EHC Plans	1	5	4	0	2	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>103</b>
State-funded primary	SEN Support	2,040	1,683	1,668	1,671	1,782	1,841
	EHC Plans	349	380	416	373	346	348
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,822</b>	<b>19,050</b>	<b>19,036</b>	<b>18,940</b>	<b>18,814</b>	<b>18,496</b>
State-funded secondary	SEN Support	1,422	1,102	1,006	997	1,172	1,260
	EHC Plans	372	359	366	368	385	398
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,788</b>	<b>12,802</b>	<b>12,820</b>	<b>12,899</b>	<b>13,197</b>	<b>13,335</b>
State-funded special school	SEN Support	5	2	0	0	1	1
	EHC Plans	299	329	343	344	340	373
	<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>374</b>
Pupil referral unit	SEN Support	2	3	5	2	7	3
	EHC Plans	0	0	1	4	3	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>
Independent school	SEN Support	0	0	0	0	0	0
	EHC Plans	25	33	40	44	42	58

School Type	SEN Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>
Non-maintained special school	SEN Support	1	0	1	0	0	2
	EHC Plans	36	35	33	30	38	33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>
Total	SEN Support	3,495	2,806	2,698	2,690	2,978	3,128
	EHC Plans	1,082	1,141	1,203	1,163	1,156	1,214
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32,091</b>	<b>32,359</b>	<b>32,387</b>	<b>32,385</b>	<b>32,542</b>	<b>32,407</b>
<b>Proportion of pupils with an EHC Plan in mainstream</b>		<b>66.64%</b>	<b>64.77%</b>	<b>65.00%</b>	<b>63.71%</b>	<b>63.24%</b>	<b>61.45%</b>
<b>Proportion of pupils with an EHC Plan in special schools</b>		<b>27.63%</b>	<b>28.83%</b>	<b>28.51%</b>	<b>29.58%</b>	<b>29.41%</b>	<b>30.72%</b>
<b>Proportion of pupils with an EHC Plan in independent</b>		<b>5.64%</b>	<b>5.96%</b>	<b>6.07%</b>	<b>6.36%</b>	<b>6.92%</b>	<b>7.50%</b>

61.45% of pupils with an EHC plan are educated in mainstream schools (state-funded primary and secondary) and this well above the national average of 50.4%. This has dropped year on year since 2019 from 63.71% to 61.45% and is a result of more pupils being placed in special and independent / non-maintained provision. A point of interest is that nationally the percentage of pupils with an EHC Plan in state-funded special schools has dropped from 42.6% to 40.6% and continues patterns seen since 2018.

**-End document-**