## Schools' Funding Forum (SFF) Draft Summary Minutes 18th January 2024

ltem No	Item	Action owners
1	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed members and thanked Kate Le Page for chairing the previous Forum meeting.	
2	Minutes and matters arising Action - Minutes to be updated to reflect clarification of EHCP national average figures. Subject to this change, the minutes were agreed as a true record	RG
3	<ul> <li>Notional SEN and response to consultation – link to presentation and Appendix A Karen Stone presented the paper.</li> <li>A question was raised about the impact on the 40% High Needs Funding threshold and who receives the top up.</li> <li>Action – Impact modelling to be undertaken on changes to notional SEN budgets. Impact assessment to be circulated prior to next Funding Forum meeting.</li> <li>The factors calculating the notional budget were discussed members questioned whether EAL was a good indicator. High mobility can be a challenge for some schools.</li> <li>Decision to be taken at the next Forum meeting.</li> </ul>	KS
4	<ul> <li>High Needs Inflationary uplift and budget update – link to report Karen Stone presented the paper.</li> <li>Action – High Needs subgroup to review spend on independent by district.</li> <li>The Forum discussed the increases in support staff salaries and the impact on high needs funding linked budgets. The national living wage increase also has an impact.</li> <li>The possible percentage uplift was discussed in detail and the impact of that across other budgets. This is also affected by the Safety Valve programme and the need to adhere to targets agreed with the DfE.</li> <li>It was noted that Independent schools do not receive this uplift, but agree their costs on a case by case basis. The cost of Independent schools from the High Needs budgets is approximately £80m.</li> <li>Action – The impact assessment agreed in point 3 to include impact of the different percentage uplifts. Decision deferred to next meeting.</li> </ul>	KS
5	Early Years Deprivation Supplement consultation feedback – link toreport and Appendix AJody Catterall-James presented the deprivation supplementconsultation feedback paper.The Forum agreed that they felt IDACI would provide stability forproviders. It was felt that providers needed to be clear that, for anyconsultations run by KCC, the final decision is not pre-determined andKCC would like to receive all feedback to assist with decision making.The Forum agreed with adopting IDACI as the method of calculating thedeprivation supplement and voted in favour of adopting scenario one for	

	the supplement values.	
6	Policies - Growth and Falling Rolls – <u>link to paper</u> , <u>Appendix A</u> and <u>Appendix B</u> Jody Catterall-James presented the paper. Jody highlighted that the Growth Policy had been updated to include a section on monitoring and reporting, whereby the Forum will receive a report twice a year on spend of the fund. The Falling Rolls Policy has previously been discussed by the Forum who agreed that it would be based on DfE allocation without an additional allocation from school budgets. The Forum agreed the Growth Policy and Falling Rolls Policy.	
7	Policies - Gifts and Hospitality (maintained schools) This agenda item was deferred to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> February meeting.	
8	Procurement rules changes – <u>link to presentation</u> Chris Wimhurst and Katie Smith were in attendance for this item. Chris Wimhurst presented the paper. The Forum asked questions about how this would be rolled out to schools and online advice updated. Chris confirmed that an update would be provided to the Finance Information Groups in March as well as Kelsi documents being updated. The Scheme for Financing Schools will need to be consulted on, then updated and approved by the Forum before this can be rolled out to schools.	
9	<ul> <li>BCM criteria 2023-24</li> <li>Jody Catterall-James (Schools, High Needs and Early Years Manager) reminded the Forum that the BCM process for 2023-24 will be returning to the usual criteria.</li> <li>Action – DFFG meeting to be held before year end to consider the principles where schools are over their BCM in cases where a future year deficit is forecast.</li> </ul>	KS / JCJ
10	<ul> <li>AOB</li> <li>SFF attendance (Chair's Action) Action – Chair will write to all members about attendance.</li> <li>Special School Review update Karen Stone (Finance Business Partner) gave a brief update to the Forum on the Special School Paview.</li> </ul>	JD
	<ul> <li>Forum on the Special School Review</li> <li>Maintenance Threshold Consultation update following previous meeting (Karen Stone (Finance Business Partner))</li> <li>Action – Maintenance Threshold consultation email to be shared with School Finance staff.</li> </ul>	JCJ