

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS SCHOOLS FORUM

6th November 2024, Microsoft Teams Meeting, 9.30am

AGENDA

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item	Item name	Papers	Responsible Member
1.	Membership Update - Consideration of Forum Member vacancies	Attached	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proposed new member for 16-19: Kelvin Nash, Kendal College. 		
2.	Apologies for Absence Kelvin Nash	Verbal	Clerk
3.	Exclusion of Press and Public To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.	Verbal	All
4.	Declarations of Interest	Verbal	All
5.	Minutes of Previous Meeting (9th October 2024) and Matters Arising (Action Log)	Attached	Chair/Clerk
6.	Outcome of the School Funding 2025/26 Consultation	Attached	Susan Milburn
7.	Consideration of further Working Groups	Verbal	All
8.	Dates of Future Meetings and Forward Plan	Verbal	Chair/Clerk

Item	Item name	Papers	Responsible Member
i.	The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on Wednesday 15 th January 2025. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams.		
ii.	The next meeting of the HNB Working Group will be held on Wednesday 20 th November 2024. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams.		

PART 2: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS SCHOOLS FORUM

9th October 2024, Microsoft Teams Meeting, 10.30am

MINUTES

<p>Attendees: David Nattrass Stephen Gilby (Chair) Andy Brewerton Matthew Hardwick Ian Nicol Nicola Carruthers Michelle Hughes</p>	<p>Peter Graveson Lisa Balderstone Jon Hayes Simon Laheney Huw Davies Emma Aubrey Dan Hinton</p>	<p>Officers in attendance: Isobel Booler Amanda Chew Susan Milburn Marie Barnes Katherine Dalglish (Clerk)</p> <p>Observers: None</p>
<p>Apologies: Cllr Janet Battye Laura Watson Nicola Cove</p>		

PART 1: ITEMS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. Membership Update - Consideration of Forum Member vacancies

Nicola Carruthers was approved as a representative for Academy Secondary Schools.

Mark Harris was approved as a representative Academy Secondary Schools.

ACTION – Raise membership vacancies with unions (Andy Brewerton).

Isobel Booler will discuss vacancies at JCG meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

As above.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed that the press and public should not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting (12th June 2024) and Matters Arising (Action Log)

It was noted that David Nattrass joined the meeting before quoracy was discussed.

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes were approved.

All actions on the log were addressed.

6. Provisional DSG 2023/2024 Outturn

Susan Milburn presented the report on the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) earmarked reserves position for financial year 2023/24. The overall DSG earmarked reserves stand at a net deficit of £13.983m of which there is a net surplus of (£4.440m) relating to the Early Years and Central Services Blocks offset by a net deficit of £18.423m relating to the High Needs (HN) Block. The overall net deficit has increased by £5.242m during 2023/24.

The outturn position is provisional as work is ongoing to finalise the Statement of Accounts for Westmorland & Furness for 2023/24. Any change to the outturn will be reported to Schools Forum at a future meeting.

It was noted that disparities, eg. Barrow, and increasing assessments in under-5s needs, need to be better understood. Updates will be shared with the Schools Forum.

7. High Needs Budget Monitoring Q1 2024/25

Susan Milburn presented the HNB Monitoring Report for Q1 showing the High Needs (HN) Block deficit position as at 30 June 2024 which is forecast to be £25.913m as at 31 March 2025, an increase of £7.490m compared to the provisional closing deficit at the end of financial year 2023/24 of £18.424m.

8. 2025/26 School Funding Formula

Apologies were offered for the late circulation of the covering report for this item.

Susan Milburn presented the associated report, noting that In July of each year the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) usually announce details of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding for the next financial year. However, following the general election the indicative allocations for 2025/26 had not yet been published at the time of writing the report. The core school funding grant of £3.304M for two terms was announced last week. The Schools Block Operational Guide which is usually published alongside the indicative allocations has also not yet been published meaning policy changes around DSG are not yet known.

In previous years, the Westmorland and Furness school funding formula has mirrored the NFF in full but if there was a shortfall in Schools Block funding after allocating funding on this basis, and after taking into account the Growth Fund budget, a shortfall was managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor in the formula.

Similarly, if a balance remained within the Schools Block after applying the NFF in full and after taking into account the Growth Fund budget, up to a maximum of 0.5% was transferred to the High Needs (HN) block to support the ongoing budget pressures. Thereafter, if there was any residual balance remaining it was allocated to schools through the school funding formula by increasing the basic per pupil funding factor.

As the NFF is still a soft formula, LAs are required to consult schools on whether to adopt the NFF in full. The actions proposed on how to deal with a shortfall or surplus in the NFF are also consulted on annually. The outcome of the consultation is presented to Schools Forum who then make a recommendation to Cabinet who are the statutory decision maker on the Schools Funding Formula.

Cabinet approval is required before submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to DfE which calculates the budget share for each maintained and academy school.

Due to the lead-in timescale for Cabinet and the time needed to consult schools and report to Schools Forum the proposal to undertake a consultation on the principles of applying the NFF in full and the treatment of a shortfall or surplus in the formula, but that no modelling of potential budget shares is included as the data is unavailable, was approved.

A report will be presented at the next Schools Forum meeting on 6 November to share the outcomes from the consultation; the Cabinet meeting on 17 December will make the final decision on the school funding formula for 2025/26.

Emma Aubrey left the meeting.

9. Update from HNB Working Group

Daniel Hinton, Chair of the Working Group, updated Schools Forum members on the work of the group. There is currently work ongoing under the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme, and this working group is aligned to the work of the SEND Taskforce. LA Finance team will conduct financial modelling of proposals from that Taskforce and this Working Group. These will be summarised and brought back to the full Forum.

It was noted that there is a resource implication for conducting this modelling work, but it would be helpful to understand the detail of the cost impacts of various options.

ACTION – produce a flowchart showing the relationships and roles of different groups looking at this issue (Isobel Booter).

ACTION – circulate explanatory slides from the last meeting which detailed the factors behind the Westmorland and Furness position (Katherine Dalglish)

ACTION – recirculate request to Working Group members to submit ideas or proposals for actions (Katherine Dalglish).

Huw Davies joined the meeting.

10. Findings from Internal Audit of Schools

Amanda Chew summarised the report which highlighted similar issues to those reported during previous audits eg. Not signing register of interests and not having a whistleblowing policy in place.

The summary will be shared with schools via the Schools Portal. The recommendations will also be taken forward with governors and raised in newsletters and CASH/PHA meetings.

Resource capacity was discussed in relation to both school Headteachers and Business Managers, and the LA Audit Team.

11. Consideration of further Working Groups

No other working groups were considered necessary at this time.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

- i. The next meeting of the Schools Forum will be held on Wednesday 6th November 2024. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams.
- ii. The next meeting of the HNB Working Group will be held on Wednesday 20th November 2024. The meeting will begin at 9.30am and will be via Microsoft Teams. There was discussion about moving this meeting ahead of the next full Schools Forum to allow an update to be presented but due to timings this was not possible.

Schools Forum – Action Log 2024/25

Meeting date	Agenda item	Ongoing Actions	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting
9/10/24	9	Produce a flowchart showing the relationships and roles of different groups looking at HNB Funding.	Isobel Booler		
9/10/24	9	Circulate explanatory slides which detail the factors behind the Westmorland and Furness HNB funding position	Clerk/ Susan Milburn		
9/10/24	9	Recirculate request to Working Group members to submit ideas or proposals for actions on HNB Funding	Clerk		
01/11/23	2	Vacancy for members: Clerk to discuss potential candidates with officers, and pass details to Stephen Gilby to contact them.	Clerk / Stephen Gilby	6/11/24	In progress
01/11/23	2	Vacancy for Non-Teaching Associations: Andy Brewerton to approach unions for potential members	Andy Brewerton	6/11/24	In progress

(See GREY for completed items)

Meeting date	Agenda item	Completed Action	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting
12/6/24	6	Establish HNB Working Group	Clerk	18/9/24	First meeting 18/9/24

Meeting date	Agenda item	Completed Action	Owner	Due date	Update for next meeting

WESTMORLAND & FURNESS COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM
Report Title: School Funding Formula 2025/26 – Consultation Outcome
Meeting date: 06 November 2024
Report of: Isobel Booter, Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This paper presents the outcome of the Schools Forum consultation with all Westmorland & Furness schools and academies on the school funding formula for 2025/26.
- 1.2 In July of each year the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) usually announce details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for the next financial year. However, following the general election no indicative allocations have been published with the actual allocation due to be published in December 2024. As the National Funding Formula (NFF) is still a soft formula, local authorities are obliged to consult all maintained schools and academies each year.
- 1.3 At it's meeting on 9 October Schools Forum agreed to consult on whether to adopt the NFF, and also to consult on the principle of how to deal with either a shortfall or a surplus in the NFF.
- 1.4 Westmorland & Furness Schools Forum is asked to review the results of the consultation and make a recommendation to Cabinet on the formula that should be used in 2025/26 to allocate funding to schools and academies and the principles to apply if there is a shortfall or a balance remaining in the Schools Block after calculating the school budget shares.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that schools are appropriately funded is supportive of the Council Plan priorities that "People in Westmorland and Furness are healthy, happy, active and able to lead fulfilling independent lives, thriving in their communities" and the commitment to reduce inequality and "ensure that young people have enough opportunities to access the best education".

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 Based on the consultation responses the Schools Forum is recommended to support Option 1 that:

- The NFF is implemented in Westmorland & Furness in full in 2025/26, impacting maintained schools from April 2025 and academies from September 2025 and;
- After taking into account the growth fund budget, any residual balance up to a maximum of 0.5% to be transferred from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block and;
- Any balance remaining in the Schools block after transfer of a maximum of 0.5% to be allocated to schools through the school funding formula and;
- If the NFF is not affordable, the basic per pupil factor values in the formula will be reduced.

4.0 Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendation

Background

- 4.1 A national funding formula was introduced for schools from 2018/19 and since then local authorities have been able to decide in consultation with their schools and Schools Forum whether to use the NFF to allocate funding to schools or to apply a locally determined schools funding formula, within some restrictive parameters set by the ESFA. In 2023/24 the DfE began the first year of transition towards a direct NFF whereby all schools (including academies) will be funded using one single NFF and placed further restrictions on local flexibility.
- 4.2 In 2024/25 Cabinet decided that the NFF would be used to allocate funding to schools and academies in Westmorland & Furness, as in previous years since the introduction of the NFF in 2018/19. When the final DSG Schools Block allocation for Westmorland & Furness was published by the ESFA in December 2023 and after applying the NFF in full and taking into account the Growth Fund budget of £0.161m there was a surplus of £0.033m which was transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures in 2024/25.
- 4.3 As the NFF is still a soft formula, local authorities are required to consult annually on whether to adopt the NFF.
- 4.4 ESFA usually publish the indicative DSG allocations in July each year for the following financial year which allows modelling of the potential impact on school budget shares if there is either a shortfall or a surplus in the NFF. As the indicative allocations have not been published Schools Forum agreed at its meeting on 9 October 2024 to consult all Westmorland and Furness mainstream schools and academies on adopting the NFF in 2025/26 and to

seek views on the principles to be applied if there is a shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block after allocating the funding on this basis, namely:

- if there a shortfall reduce the basic per pupil factor values;
- if there is a balance remaining transfer up to 0.5% to the High Needs Block and allocate any leftover balance thereafter, to schools by increasing basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula.

4.5 The consultation opened on 14 October for a period of 2 weeks. A copy of the consultation document is at Appendix 1 and a summary of the responses is at Appendix 2.

Consultation Outcomes

4.6 In total 15 schools responded to the consultation with all 15 (100%) agreeing with the Schools Forum recommendation that the NFF should be used to allocate funding to schools in 2025/26. A total of 10 (67%) agreed that if there was a shortfall in the Schools Block the basic per pupil factor values in the formula should be reduced. A total of 11 (73%) respondents agreed that a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block should be actioned if there is a balance remaining in the Schools Block.

4.7 A summary of the results and comments made by respondents are at Appendix 2. Although the number of schools responding to the consultation is low there is clear support for the proposals. Therefore, the Schools Forum is asked to consider the outcome of the consultation and recommend to Cabinet one of the below options.

4.8 The final decision on the school funding formula for 2025/26 will be made by Cabinet at its meeting on 17 December 2024.

5.0 Options

5.1 Schools Forum can:

Option 1

- Recommend that the NFF is implemented in Westmorland & Furness in full in 2025/26, impacting maintained schools from April 2025 and academies from September 2025 and;
 - After taking into account the growth fund budget, any residual balance up to a maximum of 0.5% to be transferred from the Schools Block into the High Needs Block and;
 - Any balance remaining in the Schools block after transfer of a maximum of 0.5% to be allocated to schools through the school funding formula and;

- If the NFF is not affordable, the basic per pupil factor values in the formula will be reduced.

Or:

Option 2

- Recommend that the NFF is implemented in Westmorland & Furness in full in 2025/26, impacting maintained schools from April 2025 and academies from September 2025 and;
 - Any balance remaining in the Schools block after taking into account the growth fund to be allocated through the school funding formula and;
 - If the NFF is not affordable, the basic per pupil factor values in the formula will be reduced.

5.2 It should be noted if Schools Forum recommend Option 2 there is a risk that, due to the requirement that local authorities to move their local formula closer to the NFF, 'topping up' the NFF factor values by allocating additional funding through the formula will create greater turbulence for some schools in future years. It may also make applying the NFF in full unaffordable in future years as the additional funding would be built into the schools budget share baselines, but the funding for this is not reflected in the notional school budgets used by the ESFA to calculate local authority level core NFF funding.

6.0 Financial and Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Resource and value for money implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

30 October 2024

Appendices:

1. Westmorland and Furness School Funding Formula 2025/26 - Consultation Document
2. Westmorland and Furness Schools Funding Formula 2025/26 – Consultation Responses

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Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and
Westmorland & Furness Council



School Funding Formula for 2025/26

Consultation

**Consultation between Westmorland & Furness Schools Forum and
Maintained Schools & Academies within Westmorland & Furness**

Consultation Commences: Monday 14 October 2024

**Deadline for responding to the [consultation](#)
: Friday 25 October 2024**

Introduction

National Funding Formula

1. A national funding formula (NFF) was introduced for schools from 2018/19 and as in previous years, in 2025/26 local authorities will continue to decide, following consultation with their schools and Schools Forum, whether this formula is applied or a locally determined formula is used.
2. This document comprises a consultation with all Westmorland & Furness mainstream schools/academies and Schools Forum to seek views on the proposed changes to the schools funding formula in 2025/26. The consultation also considers some of the continuing challenges around high needs budget.
3. All schools are encouraged to respond to this consultation using the online survey [here](#). The deadline for responding to the consultation is 25 October 2024. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Schools Forum at their next meeting on 6 November who will, after taking into consideration the consultation results, make a recommendation to Cabinet members who will decide on the final shape of the school funding formula for 2025/26 in December 2024.
4. In July of each year the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) usually announce details of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) funding for the next financial year. However, following the general election the indicative allocations for 2025/26 have not yet been published with, at the time of writing, no indication of when these may be published. This means that any changes to the funding formula are unknown. However, the timeline for consultation of schools, feedback to Schools Forum, a decision by Cabinet on the formula, and publication of school budget shares for 2025/26 by the LA means that a consultation in principle is required to ensure the deadlines can be met.

Westmorland & Furness Schools Funding Formula in 2024/25

5. Following consultation with schools and Cumbria Schools Forum the school budget shares were calculated using the NFF in 2024/25 and it was recommended by Schools Forum and agreed by Cabinet members that if there was a leftover balance remaining after allocating the school budgets on this basis that up to 0.5% would transfer to the High Needs Block. When the DfE confirmed the final Schools Block funding for 2024/25 in December 2023, the school funding formula was calculated on the basis agreed and there was a surplus of £0.033m. As recommended by Schools Forum and agreed by Cabinet, this was transferred to the High Needs Block to support budget pressures.

Shape of the National Funding Formula in 2025/26

6. It has been assumed that local authorities will continue to have flexibility to set a local school funding formula in 2025/26 and that the government will continue to be committed to moving towards a 'hard' NFF whereby individual school budgets

will be set directly by the DfE rather than independently through a locally agreed funding formula.

7. In 2024/25 local authorities whose factor values were within +/-2.5% of the respective NFF values in 2024/25 were deemed to be mirroring the NFF and could only be allowed to set their 2024/25 local factor values between +/-2.5% of the NFF. As the NFF indicative allocations and guidance has not yet been published it has been assumed that this restriction will continue to apply in 2025/26.
8. It has been assumed that as in previous years, local authorities will be allowed, with the agreement of their Schools Forum, to transfer up to 0.5% of the School Block funding to support the High Needs Block budget. The ability to transfer between blocks will be confirmed when the Schools Block Operation Guide 2025/26 is published.
9. The Westmorland & Furness Schools Forum recommends that the NFF is used as the basis for allocating funding to schools in 2025/26 and that if, after applying the formula on this basis and taking into account any budget required to support growth needs there is shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block funding then it is proposed that the following principles are applied:
 - if there is shortfall reduce the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula;
 - if there is a remaining balance transfer up to 0.5% to the HN Block and allocate any leftover balance after that, if available, to schools by increasing basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula.
10. This would continue be the most prudent method of allocating the school budget shares in 2025/26 given that it is assumed that the government still intend to transition to a 'hard' formula in future years and that the majority of local authorities have either adopted the NFF or moved their own local formulae closer towards the NFF in preparation for this change. It will also provide schools with the full funding due to them under the NFF, subject to affordability.
11. A shortfall or balance remaining in the Schools Block funding can arise after allocating the funding to schools using the NFF due to the way local authorities are funded. The actual primary and secondary units of funding at local authority level are based on October 2023 pupil data and changes in pupil characteristics such as eligibility for FSM or changes in attainment levels are not reflected in the primary and secondary units of funding used to allocate the core NFF funding to local authorities in 2025/26. It is anticipated that the number of children eligible for FSM will have increased between the October 2023 and 2024 census dates and therefore this could mean that applying the NFF in full may be unaffordable in 2025/26.
12. The alternative option would be not to transfer any leftover Schools Block funding to the HN Block but to allocate it, after applying the NFF, to schools through the school funding formula by 'topping up' the AWPU factor values. However, assuming the same restrictions as applied in 2024/25, any increases would be limited to +2.5%. However, it is not yet known how much funding will be available

(if any) after applying the NFF as the final Schools Block funding, which will be based on the October 2024 census data, will not be made available until December 2024.

13. As indicative DSG allocations have not yet been published, it is not possible to model the impact on individual school budgets of either of the above options.
14. If any leftover Schools Block funding were to be allocated to schools through the schools funding formula by increasing the AWPU factor values above the level of the NFF values, not all schools would see an increase in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection through the MPL and MFG factors and therefore, unless the increase in APWU takes them over these levels of protection then they will see no change to their budget shares.
15. There is also a risk that, due to the proposal requiring local authorities to move their local formula closer to the NFF, 'topping up' the NFF factor values by allocating additional funding through the formula would create turbulence for some schools, although they would receive protection against year-on-year reductions through the MFG.
16. The proposed school funding formula for 2025/26 will impact on maintained schools with effect from 1 April 2025 and for academies from 1 September 2025.
17. Final allocations for 2025/26 will be based on the December 2024 dataset which will use October 2024 census pupil data.

Consultation Question 1:

Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that the National Funding Formula continues to be used to allocate funding to schools in 2025/26?

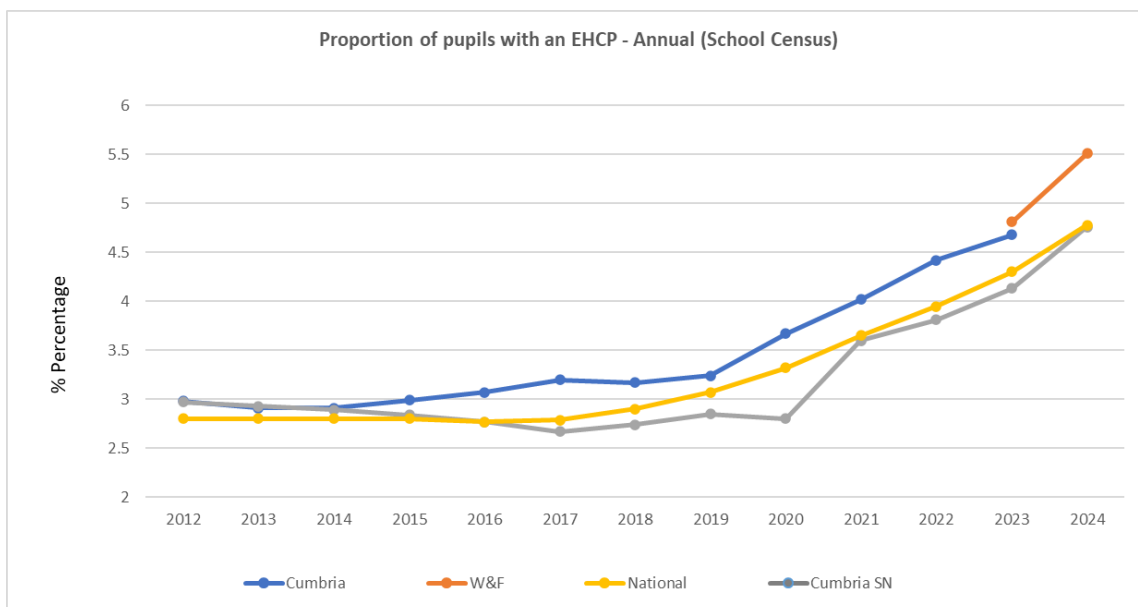
18. As recommended by your Schools Forum, if applying the national funding formula creates an affordability gap within the School Block it is proposed that the basic per pupil funding factor values are reduced down proportionately to a level that it is affordable. It should be noted that if this situation were to arise not all schools would see a reduction in their budget shares. This is because some schools receive protection funding through the MPL and MFG factors and are protected against losses through these factors.

Consultation Question 2:

Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that if there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding after applying the National Funding Formula that this is managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula?

High Needs Funding

19. As published in last year's school funding formula consultation, schools will be aware that, like many other local authorities, Westmorland & Furness is experiencing significant budget challenges in relation to funding high needs provision.
20. The DfE requires all local authorities with a cumulative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit to set out their plans to bring the reserves back to a balanced position. The forecast net deficit for 2024/25 as at Q1 on the DSG reserves is a net deficit of £20.466m. The main pressure on the DSG reserves is the deficit on the HN Block of £25.913m this was offset by a surplus on other DSG blocks of (£5.448m). This figure does not include school balances which are reported on separately.
21. The deficit on the High Needs budget continues to relate to specific pressures relating to the growth in demand for Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) for pupils with SEN which is directly linked to the SEND reforms of 2014, since which there has been a steep increase in the cumulative numbers of pupils with EHCPs over the last 7 years, which reflects the national picture with many other local authorities also experiencing significant pressure against the High Needs budget.
22. The benchmarking chart below shows that Westmorland & Furness' percentage of pupils with EHCPs is higher compared to the national and Cumbria statistical neighbours rates although the rate of increase for Cumbria overall is largely matched by the rate of increase both nationally and against the Cumbria statistical neighbours.



23. Regular budget monitoring reports on the High Needs Block budget and progress against the deficit recovery plan are discussed at Schools Forum meetings. The minutes and reports are available to download from the [Schools Forum](#) page on the Westmorland & Furness website.
24. Westmorland & Furness is part of the DfE's Delivering Better Value for SEND programme. A DSG Management Plan has been developed alongside this which includes a number of actions with the aim of achieving a balanced in-year position. However, the impact will not be achieved in the first year of the programme.
25. In previous years funding regulations have allowed for a transfer of a maximum of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block with Schools Forum approval. It has been assumed this will continue to be the case in 2025/26 but this will be confirmed when the guidance is published. Your Schools Forum recommends that after applying the NFF to calculate school budget shares, if there is any balance leftover it is transferred to the High Needs Block to support the budget pressures, capped at 0.5%. Any residual balance after transferring up to 0.5% to the High Needs Block would be allocated through the funding formula by increasing the basic per pupil unit factor value, subject to a maximum of +2.5%.
26. It is not possible to confirm the actual value of the transfer to High Needs Block, if any, until the DfE publish the final data set to be used to calculate the school budget shares in December 2024 which takes into account the October 2024 census pupil data and characteristics.

Consultation Question 3:

Do you agree that, if there is any School Block funding remaining (up to a maximum of 0.5%) after allocating the school funding formula to schools using the NFF, it should be transferred to the High Needs Block?

Areas not impacted by this Consultation

27. It should be noted that the following funding streams are not impacted by this consultation:
- Early Years Funding
 - Special School and Pupil Referral Units
 - Post 16 Education
 - Other government grants including Pupil Premium, Universal Infant Free School Meals, Primary Sport & PE grant.

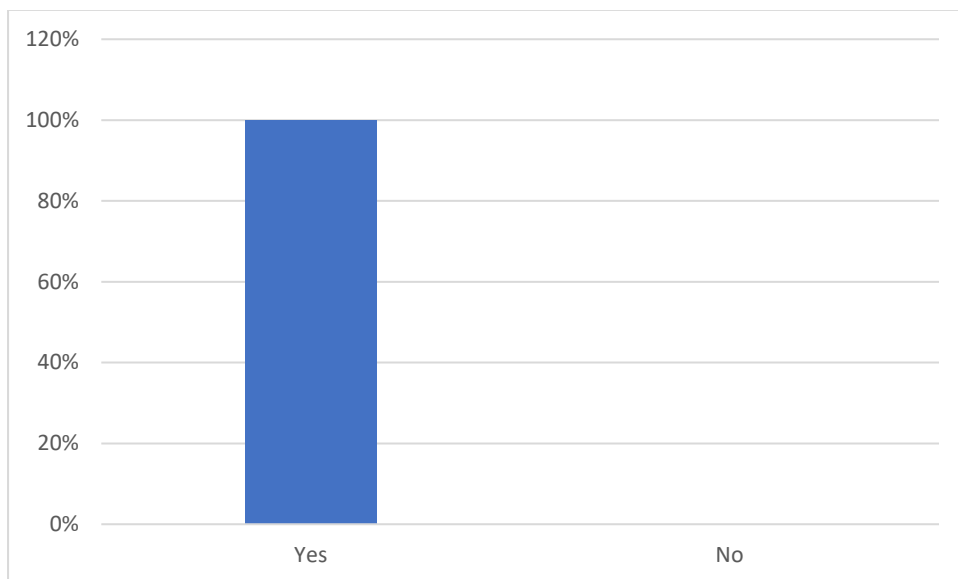
Responding to the Consultation

28. Schools are invited to respond to the 3 questions in this consultation using the online survey at: [TBC](#) by **Friday 25 October 2024**. Returns submitted after this date will not be included.
29. We encourage every school to respond. We kindly ask that there is only one response per school.

School Funding Formula 2025/26 Consultation Responses

Q1 Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that the National Funding Formula continues to be used to allocate funding to school in 2025/26?

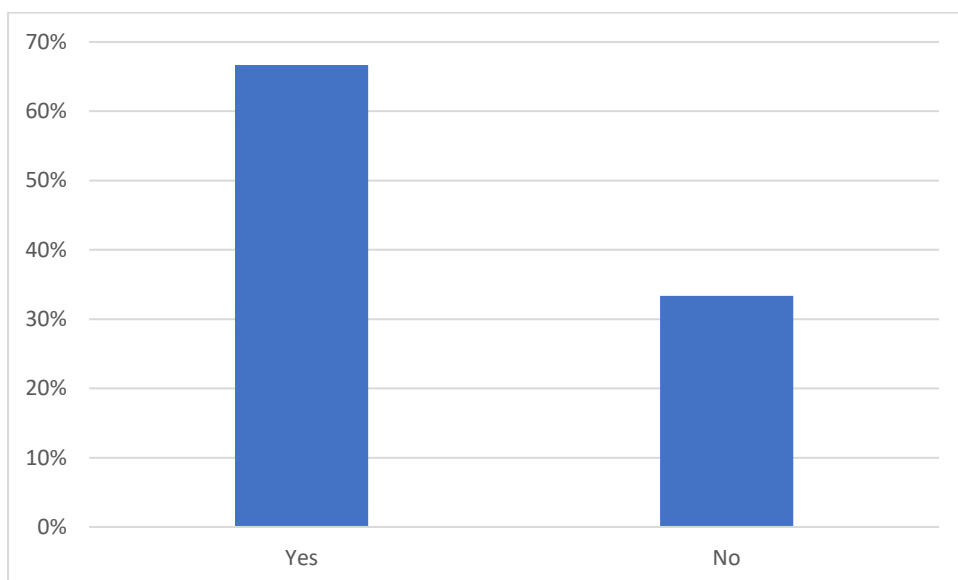
Answered: 15



Comments: 0

Q2 Do you agree with your Schools Forum recommendation that if there is a shortfall in Schools Block funding after applying the National Funding Formula that this is managed by reducing the basic per pupil funding factor values in the formula?

Answered: 15



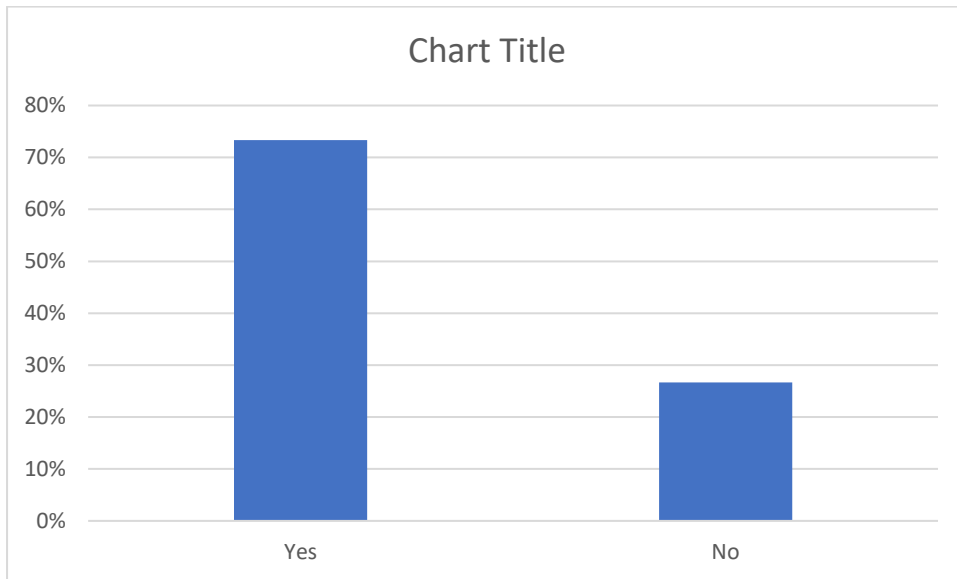
Comments: 2

Comment 1 – (redacted) School always suffers when this occurs because we are a small rural school.

Comment 2 - If the shortfall just gets covered by reducing the PPV then nothing will change in the long run. There needs not to be an affordability gap.

Q3 Do you agree that, if there is any School Block funding remaining (up to a maximum of 0.5%) after allocating the school funding formula to schools using the NFF, it should be transferred to the High Needs Block?

Answered: 15



Comments: 1

Comment 1 - The remaining funding should be transferred to schools with the stipulation that it is used to support the SEND high needs cohort within the school. Given that schools will increasingly be required to retain more high needs students, the funding needs to come directly to schools to facilitate staff training and additional resources.