

DISTRIBUTION OF PUPIL GROWTH FUNDING FOR 2024/25

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Forum on the distribution to schools of the 'Growth Funding' element of the Schools Block for 2024/25.

Information and Advice

2. For 2024/25 the ESFA has allocated Nottinghamshire £3.616 million (£4.581 million 2023/24) through their growth formula as part of the Schools Block of the DSG.
3. The ESFA's 'Schools operational guide: 2024 to 2025' states that the growth fund can only be used to:
 - support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
 - support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
 - meet the costs of new schools
4. The amount of growth funding that NCC had committed through variations of pupil numbers for 2024/25 through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) is £1.311 million. Following the pupil number variations, a balance of £2.305 million of the 2024/25 growth funding allocation remained uncommitted.

2024/25 Primary Growth Fund Allocations

5. NCC have historically used the growth funding to ensure that infant class sizes are not breached, and primary schools do not experience financial detriment as a result of Basic Need expansion.
6. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 25 for the autumn and Spring terms throughout the lifetime of the growth, i.e., from NCY R to 6.
7. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 15 (1/2 Form of entry) in NCY R, 2, 3 and 5 for the autumn and Spring terms.
8. Schools Forum has previously agreed to revenue fund schools where exceptional or over PAN allocations have taken place, resulting in unavoidable breaches of infant class sizes. The level of funding to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

9. Local Authorities are required to fund the pre-opening costs of new presumption free schools, and as such, NCC allocates up to £200,000 to new free schools to contribute towards revenue costs incurred prior to opening.
10. The number of primary commitments for 2024/25 is nil. This is reflective of the recent decline in the number of year R pupils entering schools and an overall fall in the primary school population.
11. Schools eligible for PGF due to breaches in infant class size will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2024, although the number of schools is expected to be low.

2024/25 Secondary Growth Fund Allocations

12. In June 2023 Schools Forum agreed that secondary schools and academies who agree to admit additional pupils over PAN, at the request of the Local Authority should be funded for the additional pupils at the minimum per pupil rate for the year. For 2024/25 this amount is £5,995 per pupil.
13. For primary to secondary transfers for September 2024, NCC has continued to have a temporary shortage of year 7 places available in many areas. The shortage of places is primarily due to a 'bulge' in pupil numbers reaching secondary school year-groups, along with delays to the delivery of projects to create additional secondary school places.
14. **Appendix B** shows the number of additional places that secondary schools and academies have agreed to admit through 'bulge' year groups for 2024/25 and the funding that has been allocated.
15. As per DfE Guidance, the ESFA will reimburse Local Authorities for any growth payments made to academies for the period April 2025 to August 2025. Therefore, the cost to the growth fund of secondary 'bulge' year groups for 2024/25 is **£1.647 million**
16. The total cost of commitments identified in this report for financial year 2024/25 is **£1.847 million**
17. The unallocated balance of growth funding for 2024/25 is £0.458 million. This has been retained and effectively ring fenced for future growth in the Non-LSB reserve. The cumulative ring-fenced reserve for future growth now stands at **£8.384 million**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report.
2. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2024-25.

Karen Hughman

Group Manager Education Access, Standards and Safeguarding, Education, Learning and Inclusion

T 0115 977 2572

E karen.hughman@nottsc.gov.uk

Appendix A

A Primary Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2024	<u>0</u>
B Presumption Free School – Pre opening Grant	
Rosecliffe Spencer Academy – deferred from 2022/23	200,000
	<u>200,000</u>
C Infant Class Size Breach – <u>2 terms support – Autumn 2024 & Spring 2025</u>	
	<u>0</u>
<u>Total Initial Forecast Expenditure 2024/25</u>	<u>200,000</u>

NB Further ICS breach will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2024.

Secondary Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2024

Appendix B

District	School	PAN	Places offered	Additional places	Allocation Sept 24 to March 25	Allocation April 25 to August 25	Total allocation to school
Broxtowe	Alderman White	145	159	14	48,959	34,971	83,930
Broxtowe	Chilwell School	180	210	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Mansfield	Garibaldi School	190	210	20	69,942	49,958	119,900
Broxtowe	George Spencer Academy	250	290	40	139,883	99,917	239,800
Ashfield	Holgate Academy	240	270	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Mansfield	Joseph Whitaker School	235	244	9	31,474	22,481	53,955
Mansfield	Meden School	170	180	10	34,971	24,979	59,950
Newark	Minster School	230	245	15	52,456	37,469	89,925
Newark	Newark Academy	210	240	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Bassetlaw	Outwood Portland Academy	300	330	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Mansfield	Queen Elizabeth's Academy	180	210	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Rushcliffe	Rushcliffe School	270	330	60	209,825	149,875	359,700
Ashfield	Selston High School	180	185	5	17,485	12,490	29,975
Rushcliffe	South Nottinghamshire Academy	150	180	30	104,912	74,938	179,850
Rushcliffe	South Wolds Academy	170	210	40	139,883	99,917	239,800
Newark	Suthers School	135	150	15	52,456	37,469	89,925
Ashfield	Sutton Community Academy	170	180	10	34,971	24,979	59,950
Rushcliffe	West Bridgford School	222	270	48	167,860	119,900	287,760
Gedling	The Carlton Academy	230	235	5	17,485	12,490	29,975
Total				471	1,647,122	1,176,523	2,823,645