



# Northumberland County Council

## Agenda Item 7

## Schools Forum

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### National Funding Formula & Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) update

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

To provide further additional information in respect of the continuing implementation of the National Funding Formula, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and associated 2020/21 Schools Funding information.

#### 2. Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a. Agree the transfer of up to 0.5% of the final value of the Schools Block to the High Needs block as a direct contribution to the costs of SEND Support Services, once the final DSG values are released in December.
- b. Agree that the funding values for 2020/21 be set in line with the principles outlined in the report;
- c. Note the delegation of final decisions on the values to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Childrens Services, once final funding becomes known in December 2019, in order to enable the required Cabinet report to be prepared and submitted to the 14 January 2020 meeting, and the submission of the necessary return to the ESFA by 21 January 2020.
- d. Receive a further report to the 15 January 2020 meeting on the final funding values to be used for 2020/21.

#### 3. Background

At the 02 October 2019 meeting Schools Forum received an NFF and DSG update outlining the information received at that stage in relation to 2020/21 School Funding. At that stage information was only available in relation to the potential overall level of increases in funding with no detail available at an individual school level – various illustrative examples were shown protecting increases in per pupil funding of between 3.27% and 3.53%.

We have subsequently received further information, including:

- a modelling tool which allows us to reflect the specific impacts on individual schools, and
- provisional 2020/21 DSG figures for Schools, High Needs and Central Blocks

However, it must be remembered that this is using October 2018 data. When final figures are issued in December, these will be based on October 2019 census data.

#### 4. Latest Information

The following provisional dedicated schools grant funding figures have been received:

2019-20 to 20-21 Provisional DSG Comparison								
	Final	Transfer to	2019/20	2020/21	Transfer to	2020/21 Totals	Change Year on Year	
2019/20 DSG	2019/20 DSG	High Needs (1%)	Totals	Provisional	High Needs(0.5%)	Provisional	(£)	(%)
Schools Block	179,723,690	- 1,796,097	177,927,593	185,261,261	- 926,306	184,334,955	6,407,362	3.6%
High Needs Block	33,202,367	1,796,097	34,998,464	35,616,166	926,306	36,542,472	1,544,008	4.4%
Early Years Block	16,468,404		16,468,404 #	16,468,404		16,468,404	0	0.0%
Central Schools Services Block	3,127,611		3,127,611	2,729,346		2,729,346	-398,265	-12.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232,522,072</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>232,522,072</b>	<b>240,075,177</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>240,075,177</b>	<b>7,553,105</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
# - No EY figures are yet available - figures included at 2019/20 levels								
- National announcements in relation to additional £66 Million EY funding which may suggest up to 1.8% increase								

The key aspects below were initially highlighted in the October Schools Forum report:

- Subject to a current consultation exercise, minimum per pupil funding levels will be determined centrally, the figures will be:
  - £3,750 in primary for 2020/21, rising to £4,000 in 2021/22;
  - £5,000 for secondary in 2020/21
- Schools attracting their core NFF allocations will benefit from an increase of 4% in the formula's core factors, while key information is still outstanding the potential implications of this are examined later in this report.
- In 2020/21 Local authorities continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which protects schools, on a per pupil basis from significant year to year changes in pupil characteristics (e.g. fall in FSM numbers). For 2019/20 Northumberland set a figure of 0%, within the permitted range of -1.5% and +0.5% per pupil. For 2020/21 The Government has set the range from +0.5% to +1.84%, which is intended to mirror the protection in the real terms protection in the NFF.
- With the approval of Schools Forum, local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block; to transfer more than this, a request must be made to the Department for Education. Forum will be aware that for 2018/19 and 2019/20, a 1% transfer has been agreed. While the Council's position will be dependent on final figures available, the potential implications of this are considered later in the report.

However the MFG is unlikely to be a significant factor in the distribution of funding for 2020/21 Initial projections suggest that only £86,000 will be distributed – despite a proposed increase in the MFG level from 0.0% to +0.5%. This compares to £898,066 in 2019/20. The reason for this is due to the overall higher level of resources going into the system overall., means that a school is therefore less likely to have a drop in the “per pupil” funding, though it must again be stated that schools with a falling roll may also have a fall in the overall level of funding available. An increase of 0.25% in the level of MFG (e.g. from 0.5% to 0.75%) results in an approximate increase of between £15,000-£20,000 distributed by MFG, depending on other factors and is therefore not considered to be a significant factor in exploring alternative models for 2020/21. Schools Forum may still wish to consider the use of MFG in order to increase funding for those in receipt of the lowest levels of increase, as part of the management of the transition to the NFF.

**5. Minimum Per Pupil Funding**

What is now evident is the introduction of the new minimum per pupil funding levels is the single most influential change and is accounting for the distribution of £1,402,000 funding, a figure £848,000 higher than last year and represents a quarter of the overall Schools Block uplift. 21 schools benefit from this increase, if implemented in line with NFF.

**6. Sparsity**

Elsewhere on the agenda, Schools Forum will also be aware of the disapplication request made in relation to sparsity, which represents a significant challenge for Northumberland. Sparsity is allocated on the basis of two key criteria – average year group sizes and average distance for a pupil to travel to their next nearest school. The DfE’s minimum phase specific eligibility criteria are shown below:

School phase	Maximum average number of pupils per year group	Minimum average distance to second nearest compatible school
Primary	21.4	2 miles
Secondary	120	3 miles
Middle	69.2	2 miles
All-through	62.5	2 miles

The above distances, and the data used by the DfE is measured “as the crow flies”. However local authorities are able to make exceptional applications for schools not meeting the minimum average distance criteria where they would have significantly higher mileage if road distances had been used.

An exercise was carried out identifying those schools qualifying on the basis of pupil numbers but who were under the minimum average distance figure and therefore not currently receiving sparsity. Using road distances rather than “as the crow flies” measures resulted in a further six schools meeting the pupil distance criteria:

DfE Number	Names of School	Distance (as crow flies - DfE website)	Average Pupil distance miles
9292002	Acomb First School	1.39	2.33
9292035	Cambois Primary School	1.46	2.31
9292105	Linton Primary School	1.2	2.54
9292227	Beaufront First School	1.44	2.25
9293454	Humshaugh Church of England First School	1.47	3.64
9293550	Warkworth Church of England Primary School	1.31	2.02

A disapplication request was submitted to the DfE and this was agreed, i.e. we are allowed to distribute sparsity funding on this basis. Further information was sought as to whether this would subsequently attract additional funding, but the DfE was non-committal around this, a response was received on Wednesday 13 November 2019:

*“We can’t confirm this, and we have yet to confirm the method for calculating future schools block allocations.”*

Nevertheless, it could potentially be in our longer term interests to include these schools within the distribution of funding by reference to sparsity as it highlights its importance to Northumberland.

Furthermore, the adoption of the NFF approach with regard to Sparsity rather than the tapered approach currently adopted by Northumberland means that the funding distributed by this indicator increases from £709,000 to £1,233,000. As a further step towards NFF it is recommended that the NFF approach is adopted at this stage.

#### **7. Transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block**

It is the local authority's intention to request a transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2020/21. While a 1% transfer was agreed for 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively, given the reduction in the level of the High Needs deficit, and increased levels of funding for High Needs as well as the Schools Block, a transfer of up to 0.5% is requested for 2020/21. Based on the provisional 2020/21 Schools Block figure of £185,261,261 this would be for a maximum of £926,306. As well as a 0.5% reduction in the requested transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block, it is intended that this should also provide better access to services, as illustrated in the following section.

#### **8. Northumberland Inclusive Education Services (SEND Support) : Proposal for New Way of Working September 2020**

*Including:*

*Educational Psychology; Autism Support Service; Communication Support Service  
Behaviour Support Service (to be renamed Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Support tbc)  
Literacy Support; English as an Additional Language (EAL); Sensory Support Service; Portage*

Since September 2016, a number of Northumberland’s SEN Support Services have been provided to schools via a traded model. Consultation with stakeholders over the past 18 months, including schools, parents, and Service staff have indicated that whilst the system has some benefits, a significant cause for concern is the inequity of access to specialist teachers for schools. This was noted in the Local Area SEND Inspection (Oct 18). Services have been funded from High Needs Block, supplemented by SLA income. In financial year 2017-18 SLA income covered approximately 19% of overall costs.

In a recent SENCo Audit, the central role of SEND Support Services in developing the confidence of schools to identify and meet needs, and to improve outcomes is very clear. The services are listed as the second most useful source of advice and guidance terms of fulfilling

school duties to SEND learners. To improve consistency across Northumberland, there is a need to extend the current reach of the teams.

The NCC vision is for a new model to be introduced by September 2020, which will meet the area needs by:

1. Providing a core offer of service to schools, free at the point of delivery, to reduce the risk of learners being in schools where financial constraints restrict access to specialists
2. Extending the offer of specialist services to learners who are additionally vulnerable i.e. excluded from mainstream schools in alternative provisions, PRU, and those in Early Years
3. Positioning our specialist teaching service back into the heart of supporting schools to meet need via a graduated approach, enabling schools to intervene earlier and more effectively at SEN Support stage. Specialist staff will work with schools to create effective support packages based on need, enabling learners to thrive at SEN Support and be referred for COSA when necessary
4. Providing a single point of referral to the high incidence teams (ASD, EWB, SLCN, Literacy) and to EP and EAL for ease of access
5. Providing an additional traded offer, further information to be provided in due course

The detail will be provided to schools in Spring 2020, with earlier briefings if necessary to inform budget setting. It is intended that transitional pilot exercises will be carried out over the Summer term in order to inform the approach to be taken

Access to and funding arrangements for the low incidence teams of Portage and Sensory Support will remain as they are.

## 9. Central Services Block

It should be noted that there has been a significant fall in 2020/21 Central Services Block funding. The DfE have previously indicated an intention to reduce elements included within the Historic element of the Central Services Block, but there had been no previous indication as to how this was to be implemented. The provisional figures show a 20% fall in this element, as shown in the figures below:

COMPARISON OF 2019/20 FINAL and 2020/21 PROVISIONAL CENTRAL SERVICES BLOCK ALLOCATIONS				
	2019/20 CSSB	2020/21 CSSB	Change	
			£	%
Ongoing Responsibilities	£1,298,611	<b>£1,266,146</b>	-£32,465	-2.5%
Historic Commitments	£1,829,000	<b>£1,463,200</b>	-£365,800	-20.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,127,611</b>	<b>£2,729,346</b>	<b>-£398,265</b>	<b>-12.7%</b>

## 10. Early Years Block

As indicated in the table in section 4, no information for Northumberland is available yet in relation to Early Years. There have been references to an extra £66 million EY funding nationally which is equivalent to a 1.8% increase but while this will hopefully result an increase in rates there is no specific information for Northumberland.

## 11. De-delegation

De-delegation is the process by which the relevant maintained school members of Schools Forum can agree to have funding deducted at source from maintained schools for certain services as specified by the DfE. For academies to access these services, they will need to agree to buy in, either on an individual or a multi academy trust level.

In 2019/20 de-delegation was agreed in respect of the following services:

- Contingency for costs arising from reorganisation or restructuring;;
- Free School Meal eligibility checking;
- Trade union facility time;
- Behaviour Support; and
- Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners;

No significant changes are anticipated for the de-delegation proposals for 2020/21.

## 12. Potential Implications for Northumberland

It must be emphasised at this point that the examples given are illustrative only in order to demonstrate the potential impact of changes to the funding values and other elements within the Funding Formula. The final proposal will need to be affordable within the context of the final Schools Block DSG figure, which we will receive in late December.

Following discussions with Formula Funding Committee on 05 November 2019, 3 options have been developed for your consideration with regard to the setting of formula values and the distribution of School Funding for 2020/21.

The full list of potential formula values are shown at Appendix A. A brief description of the differences between the options is provided below, and illustrative examples for each school based on the 3 options are provided at Appendix B, but these are presented to demonstrate the impact of change in the respect formula values highlighted not as final predicted figures. **In each of the three examples, an estimated DSG figure of £183.8 million is distributed, Schools Forum is reminded that this is illustrative at this stage, and the final figure will be based on the Schools Block DSG notified in December less the proposed reduced transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.**

### Option 1:

#### **Increase of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) to maintain differential over NFF Values**

Historically the view of the Forum and of Northumberland Schools has been for a gradual move towards NFF values. In practice this has meant protecting AWPU funding formula values, at Primary and KS4 where figures were higher than those used within the NFF.

If this approach was to be continued in for 2020/21 it would involve the increase of AWPU values by approximately 4% resulting in the following figures:

Factor	NFF Values 2019/20	NCC Values 2019/20	NFF Values 2020/21	Option 1 Potential NCC Values 2020/21
AWPU Primary	2,747	2,807	2,857	2,919.00
KS3	3,863	3,863	4,018	4,018.00
KS4	4,386	4,580	4,561	4,763.00

This results in increases ranging from 0.25% to 10.2% with increases distributed as follows  
0.5% to 3% - 56  
3% to 6% - 75 schools  
Over 6% - 12 schools

12 schools were excluded from the above analysis as 2018 data changes meant a “like for like” comparison was not possible, this will be addressed when the final data is available.

In practice this approach benefits those schools for whom AWPU makes up a higher proportion of overall funding and which have relatively low levels of deprivation.

#### Option 2: Reduced AWPU increase compared to NFF Values

If Schools Forum wished to move AWPU rates closer to NFF rates this could be progressed within the funding values for 2020/21 by reducing the differential paid between NFF and NCC AWPU. If, where NCC rates were higher than NFF rates, the respective difference was reduced by 50% it would result in the following AWPU figures:

Factor	NFF Values 2019/20	NCC Values 2019/20	NFF Values 2020/21	Option 2 Reduce AWPU over NFF 2020/21
AWPU Primary	2,747	2,807	2,857	2,893
KS3	3,863	3,863	4,018	4,018
KS4	4,386	4,580	4,561	4,662

Compared to Option 1, any additional funding is distributed by increasing the primary low prior attainment value, and maintaining some of the current differences with deprivation funding.

This results in increases ranging from 0.25% to 10.02% with increases distributed as follows  
0.5% to 3% - 54 schools  
3% to 6% - 56 schools  
Over 6% 33 schools

In practice this approach benefits those schools that have relatively higher levels of deprivation, compared to the average, due to the higher deprivation figures used for FSM and IDACI Band 2.

### **Option 3 – Seek to fund higher AWPU, deprivation and Primary Low Prior attainment levels through the use of capping and scaling,**

The use of capping and scaling serves to limit some overall levels of % increase to ensure the overall affordability of the criteria set. For example in option 3, a cap has been set at 4% and a scaling factor of 50%, which in practice means that any gains over the “cap” of 4% are reduced or “scaled back” by 50%. In practice this should reduce the variation between the different levels of increases that individual schools receive, however it should be noted that the use of capping and scaling does not impact upon those schools attracting funding via the increased minimum per pupil funding levels.

While Northumberland did not use capping and scaling for the 2019/20 figures, 10 of the 12 NE local authorities did. The use of capping and scaling is a potential method of moving some of the remaining formula values closer to NFF, while still maintaining some of the historical differences.

If this approach was to be adopted, this results in increases ranging from 0.25% to 10.02% with increases distributed as follows:

0.5% to 3% - 61 schools

3% to 6% 70 schools

Over 6% - 11 schools

While at first sight the overall result may appear similar to option 1, with the majority of schools getting increases of between 3 and 6%, the impact of the capping and scaling is that there are fewer schools at lowest levels within the 0-3% band. Under Option 1 it is estimated that 28 Schools would receive less than a 2% increase, this figure is reduced to 16 schools in option 3. The application of capping and scaling averages out the impact of options 1 & 2, and this is funded by a partial reduction of increases over the capping level. This approach, and more broadly the potential use of capping and scaling could be seen as in line with the previously expressed view of a gradual move towards the NFF values. It is felt therefore that Schools Forum should agree to the potential use of capping and scaling with regard to the setting of 2020/21 school budget shares.

The application of capping and scaling does not impact on schools receiving additional funding due to the impact of the increases in the Minimum Per Pupil funding levels.

### **13. Next Steps:**

Following any comments received today, the intention is also to consult with schools ahead of the final budget setting report to Cabinet. A copy of the draft consultation paper is attached for your consideration in Appendix D. The results of the consultation and final recommendations to Cabinet will be reported back to the January 2021 Schools Forum meeting.

Because of the short timescales between receiving the final 2020/21 DSG settlement in December, the preparation of a report to the Cabinet meeting on 14 January 2020 and the



submission of the final figures to the ESFA by 21 January, delegated powers are sought for the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Childrens Services to set the final figures, in line with the principles and illustrative figures outlined in this report.

As reflected in the recommendations the Cabinet report will seek delegated powers to agree the final values, there will be reported to the Schools Forum meeting on 15 January prior to submission to the ESFA by 21 January 2020.

**14. Summary and Conclusions :**

The views of Schools Forum in relation to 20/21 School Funding are requested in line with the recommendations in section 2 of this report.

**Bruce Parvin**

**Education and Skills Funding Manager**

**19 November 2019**



# Northumberland County Council

## Appendix A

Factor	NFF Values 2019/20	NCC Values 2019/20	NFF Values 2020/21	Option 1 4% increase to 19/20 NCC AWPU Values 2020/21	Option 2 Reduce AWPU differential with increased deprivation and Primary LPA 2020/21	Option 3 Full AWPU with Capping and Scaling NCC Values 2020/21
AWPU Primary	2,747	2,807	2,857	2,919.00	2,893.00	2,919.00
KS3	3,863	3,863	4,018	4,018.00	4,018.00	4,018.00
KS4	4,386	4,580	4,561	4,763.00	4,662.00	4,763.00
Lump Sum Primary	110,000	110,000	114,400	114,400	114,400	114,400
Middle	110,000	110,000	114,400	114,400	114,400	114,400
High/Secondary	110,000	110,000	114,400	114,400	114,400	114,400
Deprivation - Free School Meals Primary	440	676	450	500	563	563
Secondary	440	676	450	500	563	563
Deprivation – FSM6 Primary	540	540	560	549	560	560
Secondary	785	785	815	798	815	815
Deprivation – IDACI:						
Primary Band F	200	200	210	210	210	210
Band E	240	240	250	250	250	250
Band D	360	360	375	375	375	375
Band C	390	390	405	405	405	405
Band B	420	532	435	435	470	435
Band A	575	575	600	598	598	598
Secondary Band F	290	290	300	300	300	300
Band E	390	390	405	405	405	405
Band D	515	515	535	535	535	535
Band C	560	560	580	580	580	580
Band B	600	725	625	625	650	625
Band A	810	810	840	840	840	840
Low Attainment Primary #						
Primary	1,022	518.44	1,065	560	630	555
Secondary	1,550	1,550	1,610	1,612	1,612	1,612
EAL Primary	515	515	535	535	535	535
Secondary	1,385	1,385	1,440	1,440	1,440	1,440
Sparsity (max): Primary	25,000	25,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Middle	n/a	52,000	n/a	46,800	46,800	46,800
Secondary/All Through	65,000	60,000	67,600	67,600	67,600	67,600

Totals Adjusted by Capping and Scaling rates:

Capping

n/a

n/a

4%

Scaling

n/a

n/a

50%

183,889,302

183,887,233

183,880,304

**Appendix B**

**Illustrative School Level totals – see separate schedule**

**Appendix C**

**Illustrative School Level Examples – see separate schedule**

**National Funding Formula : Update and 2020/21 Consultation**

Previously Northumberland County Council consulted on its approach to the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) in Northumberland, following discussions at Schools Forum. The results of the have consistently been to move in a phased or gradual approach to NFF values, reflecting the fact that historically Northumberland has maintained some values that were different to the NFF values.

The latest information from the Department for Education is that:

- Subject to a current consultation exercise, minimum per pupil funding levels will be determined centrally, the figures will be:
  - £3,750 in primary for 2020/21, rising to £4,000 in 2021/22;
  - £5,000 for secondary in 2020/21
- In 2020/21 Local authorities continue to set a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), which protects schools, on a per pupil basis from significant year to year changes in pupil characteristics (e.g. fall in FSM numbers). For 2019/20 Northumberland set a figure of 0%, within the permitted range of -1.5% and +0.5% per pupil. For 2020/21 The Government has set the range from +0.5% to +1.84%, which is intended to mirror the protection in the real terms protection in the NFF.
- With the approval of Schools Forum, local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block; to transfer more than this, a request must be made to the Department for Education.

Latest guidance from the DfE has reiterated their intention to introduce the “hard” NFF but there is no specific timescale currently for this. It has been confirmed that for 2020/21 local authorities will continue to have discretion over their schools funding formula, and in consultation, will determine values and allocations in their area.

**QUESTION 1 How should Northumberland continue its journey towards NFF values:**

**A: Immediately adopted the National Funding Formula values, subject to any adjustments due to affordability arising from MFG or similar issues with effect from 2020/21.**

**B: Continue to move towards NFF values in a phased approach in 2020/21 over 2018/19 & 2019/20 prior to the full adoption of NFF in the future.**

*If your response is “B”, “continue with a phased approach”, please go on to answer Questions 1.1, otherwise please answer Q2:*

In maintaining a phased move towards the adoption of NFF, Northumberland still has a number of options as how to implement this. Fundamental to previous approaches has been the maintenance of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) values at levels higher than NFF. If this gap is maintained at its current size, consequently it means that other areas such as Free School Meals will need to be scaled back towards NFF Rates in order to ensure affordability. If we choose to reduce the amount that primary and KS4 AWPU rates are over NFF AWPU, then consequently further funding is available to maintain higher FSM rates and reduce the current gap between NFF primary low attainment rates, the one area where Northumberland values are currently significantly below NFF.

**QUESTION 1.1 How should Northumberland continue phased approach towards NFF values:**

Should we:

Maintain the differential between Northumberland and NFF primary and KS4 AWPU rates, thereby limiting opportunities to maintain higher values in other areas such as Free School Meals and move closer to NFF Rates for low prior attainment; OR

Reduce the AWPU difference between Northumberland’s and NFF rates thereby increasing opportunities for funding in other areas such as Free School Meals and to move closer to NFF Rates for low prior attainment for primary;

**QUESTION 2: Potential use of capping and scaling**

The use of capping and scaling is a mechanism by which different increases under new formula values are averaged out in order to limit some gains and provide more funding for general distribution to schools via the formula values. Without the use of capping and scaling, formula funding values would need to be set at lower values.

Do you support the potential use of capping and scaling as part of the 2020/21 School Budget setting process?

YES

NO

### **QUESTION 3: Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

The MFG is the means by which the DfE can protect individual schools from excessive year to year changes or falls in their formula funding (e.g. as a result of reducing levels of deprivation within a school). In 2019/20 Northumberland set its MFG at 0%, on a range of -0.5% to 1.5% set by the DfE. For 2020/21 the DfE has dictated MFG levels must be set between +0.5% and +1.84%. Initial projections provided to Schools Forum used the minimum 0.5% MFG factor, as this was the closest reflection of the Formula values. The impact of using a higher MFG factor would be to increase the funding for those schools receiving the lowest level of per pupil funding increase. However this also means there is less funding available to support the Formula values.

**Should Northumberland consider using a higher level of MFG than the minimum 0.5%?**

YES (If Yes please see question 3.1)

NO

#### **QUESTION 3.1:**

**At what level should Northumberland's MFG be set for 2020/21?**

0.5% to 1.0%;

1.01% to 1.4%; or

1.41% to 1.84%

## **SEN Update**

There continues to be significant pressures on its Special Education Needs (SEN) expenditure, arising from key areas funded via the High Needs Block. Among these key pressures as reported to Schools forum are:

- The increasing number of Education Health and Care Plans (up 8.3% on 2018);
- Independent Sector and Out of County placements, and consequently the need to invest in new capacity in our special schools to reverse the increasing number of out of county placements.

Northumberland has previously agreed and consulted with both Schools Forum and individual schools in relation to a 1% transfer from the School Block to the High Needs Block in both 2018/19 and 2019/20. However, due to increases in High Needs Block funding, a different approach is being proposed for 2020/21. Rather than a general transfer of 1% in previous years, a transfer of 0.5% is being requested by the local authority. It is intended that this will be used to fund an initial core SEND Support offer to all schools. This would also provide a single point of to the high incidence teams (ASD, EWB, SLCN, Literacy) and to EP and EAL for ease of access. It is anticipated at this stage that an additional traded offer would be provided, further information to be provided in due course.

### **QUESTION 4**

**Do you agree to the Council's proposal to transfer 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs block for the financial year 2020/21?**

- Yes  
 No

Please use the box below for any other comments that you have in relation to the implementation of the NFF or this consultation exercise:

Further supporting information, and a copy of this consultation document, is available on the Council website at:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Consultations.aspx#schoolconsultations>

This includes:

- November 2019 Schools Forum report on the National Funding Formula
- October 2019 Schools Forum report on Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Schools Forum agendas, minutes and reports is also available on the Council website at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Professionals/Forum.aspx>

Please return all completed questionnaires to:

Bruce Parvin  
Education and Skills Manager  
Education and Skills Service  
Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
NE61 2EF

Email: [bruce.parvin@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:bruce.parvin@northumberland.gov.uk)

(OPTIONAL) Name and Email  
address of person completing  
consultation:

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

All responses to be returned no later than **12.00 noon on Friday 13 December 2019**. Due to reporting deadlines in line with Department for Education requirements for the submission of information, consultations received after this closing date will not be considered.