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**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Meeting: EAP Education, Skills and Employment

Date: Wednesday 23rd March, 2022

Time: 5.00 pm


Venue: Remote meeting, via Zoom

The meeting will be available for the public to view live at the Democratic Services North Northants YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcH_JAaHaMtqHDeMQEVXi2g

To members of the EAP Education, Skills and Employment

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair), Councillor Wendy Brackenbury, Councillor Leanne Buckingham, Councillor Philip Irwin, Councillor Ian Jelley, Councillor Dorothy Maxwell and Councillor Lee Wilkes

Members of the Panel are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed on the agenda.

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<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 16 March 2022</p>			

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Committee Administrator: Ben Smith

☎01832 742113

✉ben.smith@northnorthants.gov.uk

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Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Education, Skills and Employment

At 5.00 pm on Wednesday 2nd March, 2022 in the
Held as Remote meeting, via Zoom

Present:-

Members

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair)

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor Leanne Buckingham
Councillor Philip Irwin

Councillor Ian Jelley
Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
Councillor Lee Wilkes

Officers

Tony Challinor (Children's Services)
Neil Goddard (Children's Services)
Nichola Jones (Children's Services)
Tania Sowerby (Children's Services)

Ben Smith (Democratic Services)
Jenny Daniels (Democratic Services)

61 Apologies for absence

There were none.

62 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chair.

63 Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No interests were declared.

64 Holiday Activity Fund

At the Chair's invitation the Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships (West and North Northamptonshire Councils) provided the following update with regards to the Holiday Activity Fund:

- i) It had been administered by Public Health in the North and West Councils with the aim of to provide food for breakfast and lunch periods.
- ii) It engaged families wherever possible in preparation of the food.
- iii) There were 46 providers in 103 locations;

- iv) Those on free school meals were eligible. They also catered for approximately 15% of non-free school meals children;
- v) There were 5,134 people signed up in the current year and Central Government had announced a further 3 years funding which equated to £1,000,066 per year;
- vi) The programme was initially set up quite quickly and a contract awarded to N-Sport. This was due to end but they had agreed a year's extension after which there would be a commissioning process to award a new contract;
- vii) Advertising through schools would continue and further avenues of advertising would be explored.

In answer to queries on the update the following was confirmed:

- viii) Communication to schools was an area that would be improved as officers explored other avenues for advertising the Fund. Public Health would be responsible for advertising for Easter;
- ix) It was suggested that the activity places provided by the Fund could be extended to those who could afford to pay for it if there was sufficient space, enabling friends across entitlements to be able to attend events together. In such circumstances the principle aim would always be to ensure availability for those who were eligible first and foremost but enabling friendship groups to participate was acknowledged as also being important;
- x) It was available for 4 days a week, 4 hours per day that covered the breakfast and lunchtime periods;
- xi) There were standards that set the provision offered. Some locations could also provide play areas and they would work with local groups to source the best location that could be offered;
- xii) It would not be optimal to pay rent for somewhere as that would diminish the money available for the activities.
- xiii) Children should not feel they could not take part in something because they didn't have the right equipment. It was hoped this sort of thing would be addressed by the steering group;

It was also noted that Councillor Philip Irwin was happy to be part of the steering group that needed to be set up to progress the Fund going forward. Officers would contact Councillor Irwin in due course.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Executive Advisory Panel notes the update with regards to the Holiday Activity Fund;
- b) That additional background details, including weblinks, of the Holiday Activity Fund be emailed to members after the meeting.

65 SEND Progress and Next Steps

At the Chair's invitation the Head of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) introduced a presentation on SEND progress:

- i) There had been a move to get help at an earlier stage for young people. This was being done by working with schools;
- ii) There were 3 key priorities: to support schools to develop provision, building on what had already been achieved, and how they allocated resources and ensured that children, young people and their families were part of that process;
- iii) The department was considering how best to form teams and how best to integrate to ensure they worked together optimally. They were working closely with Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCo's) and were developing professional development to ensure it retained the inclusive ethos;
- iv) There was a 3 tiered approach, the first being where schools provided support within their setting. Tier 2 was working in local clusters where specialists went in to a school to provide support. The third tier was where specialist provision such as a school with a unit or a special school was used;
- v) Funding was offered for each child but there was a need to fund professional development as well;
- vi) Peer support whereby schools supported each other was encouraged. There were also outreach teams and Education and Early Help and Advisory Teams;
- vii) Networks of SENCos were being established and a review of existing centres of excellence was also being undertaken. The department was also reviewing how specialist services such as sensory cognition and learning, Social Emotion and Mental Health (SEMH) teams, Occupational Therapists and Educational Psychologist Services were being used;
- viii) A sufficiency report was currently being undertaken on the current specialist provision that was offered and decisions on what provision was offered were made as locally as possible;
- ix) Governance was also being reviewed as there was a need to be efficient on how specialist services were allocated. A performance process was also being developed;
- x) There were insufficient specialist services to meet the demand . The aim was to develop a co-production with families;
- xi) The largest piece of work was assessments. There was a backlog of 58 that was currently being worked on. There was a 20-week process for each assessment but the majority of those in the system were quite close to being resolved.

The Assistant Director for Education stated that this was a complex area and they were making progress. Capacity had increased and there were also expectations of how the schools managed special needs. There was a route for addressing efficiency and meeting the needs of the children in the best way possible.

In answer to queries on the presentation the following was confirmed:

- xii) In North Northamptonshire there were children with varying needs and these were met in various ways. There were 8 schools that offered specialist provision. Some children had their needs met through outreach work undertaken in mainstream schools;
- xiii) The Special Schools Grant provided a finite sum and there was the need to spend this funding more effectively. Providing a child's needs in mainstream school was the most cost effective way to help but for some this was not possible and it was better for them to be in a special school;
- xiv) The department wished to be transparent with schools to be able to say how much was spent in their area and how much specialist provision they could access. Schools did not always fully understand the costs. The department was working with Headteachers so that could understand better whether a person needed an assessment or just some top-up funding to provide more support in the school;
- xv) Families were involved through the co-production route. They were at the heart of what the Department wished to achieve. They were reviewing drop-ins and training for families. Regular meetings were held with the parent/carer forum and this provided families to help shape what was undertaken in the future. They were also a place where specialists could come and speak with families;
- xvi) The department worked with practitioners on the ground so that they could learn where the best place was for a child;
- xvii) The county's special schools had very good Ofsted Ratings. There was a wish to build on teachers and practitioners to go out and review good practice and for practitioners to go out and support people in schools;
- xviii) A number of the outstanding assessments had plans written so it was hoped the majority of them could be completed within the next two months. A report was being written on them to go to the Director of Education and this could be made available for the Advisory Panel as well.
- xix) There were just over 120 children in receipt of specialist education. Some of these were placed out of county because that was where the school that provided the support they required was;
- xx) The aim was to provide as much assistance as possible locally so they would look to be able to develop the offer they could make. Many out of county providers gave really good care and they needed to be able to ensure that any new county providers were just as good;
- xxi) The site at Tennyson Road School was built to provide for 80 pupils. It had 130. They provided outstanding provision so they would like to keep it. The future of the site was not yet decided;

- xxii) All special schools were approaching, or at, capacity;
- xxiii) There were some children who were currently going through the assessment process to ascertain what they required, who could provide it and whether they had current provision.

RESOLVED that:

The progress and next steps in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disability provision be noted.

66 Admissions Update

At the Chairman's invitation the Assistant Director for Education provided an update on the offer day for secondary school places, as at 1 March 2022. The number of applications received at that time was 4,186. Of those 81.7% had been offered their first placed. 13.5% had received their second or third preference. 95% had received 1 of their 3 choices. These figures compared well with the previous year.

In answer to queries the following was confirmed:

- i) Every child had been offered a place at a school, even it was not one of their three preferred choices. A list was maintained of children who didn't have a place which was married up with a list of school places available. The child was then offered a place at their nearest school with an available space;
- ii) Those who did not get their preferred school could appeal if they felt their circumstances had not been adequately considered. An Appeals Panel then heard all of the appeals;
- iii) The Appeals Panel would be required to take account of the school's capacity. If the Admissions Policy wasn't applied properly the Panel could then say they had to take the child. Schools would take individual views on how they responded to an appeal;
- iv) The Appeals Panel was final. The Local Authority had a responsibility to offer places, not specific spaces where parents wished their children to go.

RESOLVED that:

The Executive Advisory Panel notes the admissions update.

67 Free School Meals Update

At the Chairman's invitation the Assistant Director for Education introduced this item (a copy of the recent report to the Executive having been previously circulated) stating this was a continuation of the scheme whereby those eligible for free school meals were offered vouchers to buy food during the school holidays. It joined up with the holiday activity fund. It was coming to the end of the scheme which was offered through a company named Huggg. Funding was given a rate of £15 per child per week. It was agreed that this would be provided in the Easter and Summer holidays.

RESOLVED that:

The Executive decision of 22 February 2022 be noted, as follows:-

- a) Approval of the funding of school holiday food vouchers for the 2022 Easter school holiday period at a cost of £306,000, from the 'Household Support Grant' received from central government for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable families during the pandemic. and
- b) Approval of the provision and funding of school holiday food vouchers for the 2022 May half-term period, at a cost of £153,000 from the 'Household Support Grant' received from central government for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable families during the pandemic.

68 Forward Plan of Executive Items

RESOLVED that:

The Forward Plan of Executive Items be noted.

69 Forward List of Items for Education, Skills and Employment EAP

At the Chairman's invitation the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager introduced this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating that there were 3 items for the next meeting (23 March 2022). There were also 3 items that had been scheduled on the report and there was a need to add a further update on SEND progress on a quarterly basis, as agreed earlier in the meeting.

Meetings for the following municipal year were currently being collated.

RESOLVED that:-

The following be added to the forward list of items for presentation at future meetings by officers:

- a) Update on SEND progress (every four months).

70 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chair thanked members and officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 18.26



Education Advisory Panel
Maintained Nursery Supplement 2022/23
Briefing Paper
23rd March 2022

1. Introduction

The Maintained Nursery Supplement (MNS) grant is provided by the Department for Education (DfE) as part of the Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) to support the ongoing provision of the universal offer of 15 hours free nursery education in Maintained Nursey Schools. The guidance in relation to the provision and intended use of the grant can be found here [Early years entitlements: local authority funding of providers operational guide 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-entitlements-local-authority-funding-of-providers-operational-guide-2022-to-2023).

The Indicative 2022/23 Early Years Maintained Nursery School Supplement in the Early Years Block DSG published in December 2021 is derived by taking the 2021/22 supplementary funding rate as the starting point and then uplifting it by 3.47% and rounding to two decimal places. This supplementary funding rate is then multiplied by the 15 hour universal participation hours in the January 2021 census. Adjustments are made later in the financial year when actual participation hours based on January 2022 census are known, with the final allocation determined in July 2023 based on 5 months of the January 2022 census and 7 months of the January 2023 census.

The grant originated in 2017/18 following a change in the funding of early years provision that could have negatively impacted on Maintained Nursery Schools due to the additional costs they have to meet compared to Private, Voluntary and Independent providers, as a result of differing regulatory frameworks for example. At that time the allocation for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) was adjusted by DfE to reflect additional resources that were provided to the Council through other routes to support the extended offer that was provided in a number the Nursery Schools in the area, including Pen Green, now in North Northamptonshire.

Over time, and as a result of the move to the distribution methodology set out above, the ability to identify the amount of grant received for protection of the universal offer, and the amount for the extended offer has been lost. The DfE are clear that it is now for each Council to decide how best to use the grant to support the ongoing provision of services in their area. Also over this time the DfE have reduced overall amount of grant that of distributed through this route.

As a result of uncertainty around grant allocations, and a commitment to provide stability during the Local Government Review (LGR) process, the 2021/22 allocation for NNC nurseries was based on NCC's 2020/21 grant distribution levels, this resulted in a deficit as the overall quantum for funding reduced by £311k from the estimate of £1.204m to £893k. This deficit is estimated to be reduced by around £200k as part of an adjustment to funding levels that is still to be competed following LGR – the final outturn will not be known until July 2022 and any adjustments will be reflected 2023/24.

The initial split of the former NCC grant was undertaken on the basis of participation levels in line with the DfE grant calculation methodology. As part of the LGR process, it was recognised that this did not reflect actual historic spend patterns and so an adjustment would be required. For 2021/22 there was an agreement for such an adjustment to be actioned. The Council is continuing to work to ensure that historic spend patterns are appropriately reflected in the ongoing split of the grant.

Following the closure of Northamptonshire County Council's 2020-21 accounts, it has been identified that there are carried forward balances available which could be used to support the available MNS grant. The availability and use of these one off resources remain subject to verification by external audit and would have to be the subject of a formal NNC decision making process to offset any future deficit positions.

The NCC distribution methodology used previously to allocate resources to each of the individual Nursery Schools has been broadly based on historic allocations and adjusted to reflect changing grant levels.

The impact of this on the proportional split of grant, as set against levels of participation, the basis on which the grant is allocated to NNC, is as follows:

Distribution of participation hours – vs – distribution of funding

Maintained Nursery School	Participation hours	% hours	Funding award 21/22	% Funding award 21/22
Croyland	4117.33	16	£52,079	4
Highfield	5972.00	23	£64,200	6
Pen Green	9652.00	36	£1,027,620	85
Ronald Tree	6514.33	25	£60,112	5
Total	26255.66	100	£1,204,011	100

The grant has been distributed in 2021-22 as presented and agreed at Northamptonshire County Council's March 2021 Schools Forum as follows:

Nursery School	2017-18 DSG		2020-21 DSG		2020-21 DSG EYMNSS Devolved Locally	Transfer between Nursery Schools	2020-21 DSG	
	EYMNSS Devolved Locally	%	EYMNSS received from ESFA	%			EYMNSS Devolved Locally	%
Camrose	£487,455	22%	£213,016	10%	£379,226		£379,226	21%
Gloucester	£77,680	4%	£213,016	10%	£49,694		£49,694	3%
Parklands	£66,608	3%	£106,508	5%	£46,930		£46,930	3%
Whitehills	£69,305	3%	£124,260	6%	£48,615		£48,615	3%
Wallace Road	£68,969	3%	£142,011	7%	£46,659		£46,659	3%
WNC Total	£770,017	35%	£798,811	37%	£571,124	£0	£571,124	32%
Pen Green	£1,167,523	54%	£337,276	16%	£1,042,620	(£15,000)	£1,027,620	58%
Croyland	£78,476	4%	£177,514	8%	£52,079		£52,079	3%
Ronald Tree	£76,075	3%	£266,270	12%	£45,112	£15,000	£60,112	3%
Highfield	£82,528	4%	£195,265	9%	£64,200		£64,200	4%
NNC Total	£1,404,602	65%	£976,325	45%	£1,204,011	£0	£1,204,011	68%
Total	£2,174,619	100%	£1,775,136	82%	£1,775,135	£0	£1,775,135	100%

This budget allocation is as a result of the additional resources historically allocated to the grant for the extended offer. The actual allocation to each Nursey school does not adequately reflect the purpose of the EYMNSS which is to protect the universal 15 hour provision. As a result of this, three of the Nursery Schools are projecting increasing deficits year on year as a consequence of this approach.

The reduced level of participation in 2021/22 due to Covid has led to a reduction in EYMNSS funding received from ESFA contributing to the EYMNSS estimated overspend of around £111k after allowing for the agreed adjustment following LGR.. The overall level of grant now received does not reflect the historic commitments that were made to support the extended offer, and to provide the protection for the 15 hour universal offer which is the purpose of the grant. Further engagement is required with DfE to clarify the impact this will have on services and make the case for additional resources to be allocated to support services to children, young people and their families.

A paper was presented to the School’s Forum at its meeting on 10th February 2022 setting out possible ways forward, and proposed a consultation to be undertaken with the Nursery Schools based on three options that could address these issues. The intended outcome of this process was to enable the council to take an informed decision on how it can meet its statutory duty to protect the universal 15 hour provision at its Maintained Nursery Schools as well as reflect the funding for the extended offer which has become absorbed in the “enhanced” supplementary funding rate, whilst ensuring a robust and transparent distribution methodology that is fit for purpose is in place.

At that meeting it was stated in the report that to move away from participation as a methodology for distribution of the grant would require an approved disapplication of regulations by the Secretary of State. Since then, the DfE have confirmed that a disapplication request is not required and the decision around the methodology of the distribution of EYMNSS is at the discretion of the Council The DfE has confirmed that this does not affect the validity of the consultation that has been undertaken.

As a result of the above, the three options that were set out to Forum, and presented as the basis of the consultation, assumed that there may be a need to move towards participation as the sole distribution methodology over a period of time. As this is now not the case it is possible to review the consultation responses and consider a wider range of options to address the issues set out above.

3. Consultation

The consultation paper presented at the School’s Forum on 10th February sought views on three options for the future distribution methodology for MNS grant. These all related to either maintaining the status quo or moving, immediately or over time, towards a distribution based on participation.

The total available to be distributed of £622k was based on the indicative DfE allocation to NNC for 2022/23, £933k less the projected overspend for 2021/22 of £311k.

The options were presented as follows:

Option 1 - Based on participation hours from the Annual Early Years School Census

Nursery	Based on pupil hours Jan 2022	% based on pupil hours Jan 2022	Pupil hours Jan 2022
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery	£97,617	16%	4,117

School			
Highfield Nursery School	£141,590	23%	5,972
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£228,838	37%	9,652
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£154,448	25%	6,514
Total	£622,493	100%	26,256

Option 2 - Half way House

Nursery	Half Way House	Half Way House
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£74,699	12%
Highfield Nursery School	£102,711	17%
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£336,146	54%
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£108,936	18%
Total	£622,493	100%

Option 3 - Based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools

Nursery	0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools	% based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	8%
Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	10%
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£446,102	72%
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	10%
Total	£622,493	100%

The consultation paper consisted of 4 questions specific to the options above:

- a) Please identify your preferred option for the Maintained Nursery Supplement.
- b) Please outline the reasons for your preference.
- c) Please identify any additional factors that you would wish to be taken into consideration in determining the maintained nursery supplement distribution.
- d) If you wish to suggest an alternative model of funding please include detail that would assist the LA/Schools Forum in understanding the proposal and ensuring compliance with the DfE guidance.

Eight responses were received to the consultation process, these are attached as follows:

Appendix A - Croyland and Highfield Responses

Appendix B – Ronald Tree Response

Appendix C – Overall responses including incomplete questions.

Of the three nurseries that responded, all selected option 2 as their favoured approach of those set out in the paper. Of the other respondents, only one answered this specific question and they selected option 1.

From the text responses received, it is clear that there is broad agreement with the principle of moving towards a transparent and equitable methodology, but also an understanding that in reallocating limited resources this could have a significant impact on individual providers.

A number of specific questions were raised through the consultation process and these have been considered in developing this paper.

1. NNC response to consultation

The options presented through the consultation process assumed that the quantum available for distribution was £622,493, being the NNC allocation for 2022/23 £933,309 less the anticipated deficit carried forward from 2021/22 £310,816. As set out above, a review of the historic NCC distribution of MNS grant showed that the allocation methodology used to allocate budget at LGR did not reflect actual spend.

As such, a reallocation is required that increases the resources available to NNC. This, along with NCC reserves that will be disaggregated to the North could be used to support MNS grant expenditure, means that modelling the distribution based on the total available grant for 2022/23 of £933,309, would be more appropriate.

Throughout this process, the options presented have sought to distribute the full amount of grant forecast to be provided by DfE, adjusted for historic deficits. This approach will continue to be implemented as work is completed to quantify the actual funding that will be available for the 2022/23 financial year.

This remains an indicative modelling of the allocations, as work is ongoing to finalise the impact of these actions, and the use of resources in this way would be subject to formal Council decision making processes.

Based on this approach, options 1, 2 and 3 can be represented as follows:

Option 1 - Based on Participation hours which is the same the basis NNC is funded by ESFA for EYMNSS

Option 1 - Based on Participation hours = the basis NNC is funded by ESFA for EYMNSS

Pupil hours Jan 2022	Nursery	2021-22 Budget Allocation	2022-23 Budget Based on pupil hours Jan 2022	% based on pupil hours Jan 2022	Change from 2021-22 Budget	2020-21 Uncommitted School Reserve Balance
£4,117	Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	£146,359	16%	£94,280	£(4,888)
£5,972	Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	£212,286	23%	£148,086	£(58,004)
£9,652	Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£1,027,620	£343,099	37%	£(684,521)	£314,362
£6,514	Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	£231,565	25%	£171,453	£0
£26,256	Total	£1,204,011	£933,309	100%	£(270,702)	£251,470

Option 2 – Based on half way house between participation hours and 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools

Option 2 - Half way House between Participation hours and 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools

Nursery	2021-22 Budget Allocation	2022-23 Budget Based on Half Way House	Half Way House	Change from 2021-22 Budget	2020-21 Uncommitted School Reserve Balance
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	£111,997	12%	£59,918	£(4,888)
Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	£153,996	17%	£89,796	£(58,004)
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£1,027,620	£503,987	54%	£(523,633)	£314,362
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	£163,329	18%	£103,217	£0
Total	£1,204,011	£933,309	100%	£(270,702)	£251,470

Option 3 - Based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools

Option 3 - Based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools

Nursery	2021-22 Budget Allocation	2022-23 Budget Based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools	% based on 0% MFG for the other 3 nursery schools	Change from 2021-22 Budget	2020-21 Uncommitted School Reserve Balance
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	£52,079	6%	£0	£(4,888)
Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	£64,200	7%	£0	£(58,004)
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£1,027,620	£756,918	81%	£(270,702)	£314,362
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	£60,112	6%	£0	£0
Total	£1,204,011	£933,309	100%	£(270,702)	£251,470

Based on the outcome of the consultation, and further to discussions with DFE about their expectations, requirements and the history of the grant, a review of these options presented has been undertaken.

Two further options have been developed that does not seek to establish a move towards the grant being distributed on the basis of participation, but looks to ensure that the purpose of the grant is fulfilled, i.e. all nurseries are protected to be able to provide the 15 hour universal provision, and then any available resources are used to support the extended offer delivered by Pen Green.

These further options are based on an estimate of the level of funding required to provide protection for the 15 hour universal offer, being the purpose of the grant, and then allocate further resources to Pen Green to reflect the extended offer. Option 4 gives the 3 maintained other nursery schools a 25% uplift in funding based on 2021/22 allocations. Option 5 provides for a 20% uplift in funding on the same basis. These estimates for the level of uplift reference the ongoing deficits these nurseries are experiencing and the impact of budget pressures on their operating costs.

These two options are modelled as follows:

Option 4 - Based on 25% increase for the other 3 nursery schools to realign budgets towards participation assuming Reserves agreed for use

Option 4 (a) - Based on 25% increase for the other 3 nursery schools to realign budgets towards participation

Nursery	2021-22 Budget Allocation	2022-23 Budget Based on 25% increase to the other 3 Nursery Schools to realign budgets towards participation	% based on 25% increase to the other 3 Nursery Schools to realign budgets towards participation	Change from 2021-22 Budget	2020-21 Uncommitted School Reserve Balance
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	£65,099	7%	£13,020	£(4,888)
Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	£80,250	9%	£16,050	£(58,004)
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£1,027,620	£712,820	76%	£(314,800)	£314,362
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	£75,140	8%	£15,028	£0
Total	£1,204,011	£933,309	100%	£(270,702)	£251,470

Option 5 - Based on 20% increase for the other 3 nursery schools to realign budgets towards participation assuming Reserves agreed for use

Option 5 (a) - Based on 20% increase for the other 3 nursery schools to realign budgets towards participation assuming Reserves agreed for use

Nursery	2021-22 Budget Allocation	2022-23 Budget Based on 20% increase to the other 3 Nursery Schools to realign budgets towards participation	% based on 20% increase to the other 3 Nursery Schools to realign budgets towards participation	Change from 2021-22 Budget	2020-21 Uncommitted School Reserve Balance
Croyland Children's Centre and Nursery School	£52,079	£62,495	7%	£10,416	£(4,888)
Highfield Nursery School	£64,200	£77,040	8%	£12,840	£(58,004)
Pen Green Centre for Children and their Families *	£1,027,620	£721,640	77%	£(305,980)	£314,362
Ronald Tree Nursery School & Children's Centre	£60,112	£72,134	8%	£12,022	£0
Total	£1,204,011	£933,309	0%	£(270,702)	£251,470

2. Next Steps

At the meeting held on 17th March, School's Forum will be asked to consider the consultation responses and the NNC proposals, set out above and in the attached appendices, and express a preference as to how NNC should proceed. This may be by identifying any of the options set out above as a preference or by asking that further consideration be given to specific identified issues.

This view will be fed in to the NNC decision making process, including this meeting of the Education Advisory Panel, which will be finalised at a special meeting of the Executive on the 29th March 2022.

3. Finance Issues

The financial issues are as set out in the report.

4. Legal Issues

The legal issues are as set out in the report.

Report Author:

Your name: Neil Goddard
 Your title: Assistant Director, Education (Interim)
 Email address: neil.goddard@northnorthants.gov.uk


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EAP Education, Skills and Employment


Chair: Councillor Scott Edwards

Committee Officer: Ben Smith

(Items that have been newly added/amended during the month of March are highlighted in red below)

Decision/Item	Summary of Report	Report Author	Department	 Exempt Item	04 May 2022
Standing Items					
Forward Plan of Executive Items	External Forward Plan	Ben Smith	Legal and Governance		✓
Forward List of Items for Education, Skills and Employment EAP	Internal EAP Forward Plan of Items and Briefings	Ben Smith	Legal and Governance		✓
Update on SEND progress	To provide a four monthly progress update	Helen Redding	Children's Services		
Individual Items					

Items to be scheduled arising from member requests at the meeting held on 26 January 2022

Decision/Item	Summary of Report	Report Author	Department	 Exempt Item	04 May 2022
Youth Justice Plan Update	To include more statistics surrounding children who were involved with the police and	?	Children's Services		?
PROSPECT – Presentation on Young Adults NEET	That a presentation be provided by PROSPECT detailing the work being undertaken by, and in conjunction with, the Council to support young adults not in education, employment or training.	?	Children's Services		?
Special Schools – Future Arrangements	Briefing Paper	Neil Goddard	Children's Services		?