

Private Document Pack

Meeting	Schools Forum
Date and Time	Thursday 4 December 2025 at 2.00 pm
Place	Ashburton Hall, Elizabeth II Court, The Castle, Winchester
Contact:	Anita Blackwell, Tel: schoolsforum@hants.gov.uk

AGENDA

	1	Welcome and Apologies	Chris Anders
	2	Declarations of interest	All
	3	Minutes of last meeting - 7 October 2025 (Pages 3 - 6)	Chris Anders
	4	Actions arising	Chris Anders
	5	School Place Planning (Pages 7 - 14)	Richard Vaughan
	6	Schools Budget 2026/27 (Pages 15 - 26)	Andrew Minall
	7	Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan Update (Pages 27 - 46)	Natalie Smith
	8	AOB	

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Hampshire Schools Forum

Date 7 October 2025
Time 2pm
Location VIRTUAL

Present

Primary	Claire Hope, Ian Waine, John Littlewood, Peter Bassett Tina Nowell Sefton Lucas
Secondary	Chris Anders Chris Sermon, Keith Atton, Paul German,
Special	Justin Innes
Education Centre	Vicky Essex
Academy	Keith Norman, Kathryn Marshall Pete Main
TLP	Jo Ayres Susan Kent
Post 16/Diocese	David Woolley

Also Present Natalie Smith, Andrew Minall, Annabel Hodder, Alison Riley,
 Anita Blackwell (Clerk) Alistair Goddard (Observer)

Apologies/ Absent

Nursery	Joan Kerr
Primary	June Kershaw, Kishor Patel, Stacey Parsons, Jason Anderson, <i>Fiona Wyeth</i> , Richard Austin
Special	<i>Marijke Miles</i> , Roy Cleaver
Other Members	<i>Diane Wycherley</i>
Academy	Hilary Manton, <i>Mark Maranda</i> , Susan Hamilton
Other Members	Sara Russell

1	Welcome and apologies.	
	Apologies received (in italics) and recorded as above	
2	Election of Vice Chair & Review of Constitution	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All in agreement with constitution once formatting/ typo in line one amended. <p>Election of vice chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Littlewood recommended and all in agreement for John to take position of vice chair. 	
3	Declarations of Interest	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change since previous meeting 	
4	Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 July 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All in agreement that the minutes of the last meeting are a true and accurate record of the meeting. 	

5	Actions Arising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of TSEND vs Benefits/impact – Requested that a simple communication to schools leaders be issued via schools comm – also to include reference to timeliness and quality - <i>COMPLETED</i>. • Comms requested to all headteachers about what is needed in areas as opposed to what is desirable. LH completing for Sept. – <i>COMPLETED</i> - Resourced Provision • How many more are likely to be built over the next five years? Only two being built but there will continue to be expansions. To consider at a future meeting areas of greater pressure. 	Agenda Item Dec 25
6	County Supplies Forthcoming Framework Agreements Affecting Schools – Andrew Minall	
	<p>Presentation circulated with agenda</p> <p>All in agreement with the recommendation in the report that Schools Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the schedule of tendering activity and collaborative framework agreements to be undertaken by County Supplies. • Determines whether the Committee requires additional information on any of the frameworks due to be let as shown in Appendix 1. • Receives a further update on forthcoming framework agreements of relevance to schools in twelve months' time. 	Agenda Item – Oct 26
7	Procurement Framework Arrangements Affecting Schools – Alison Riley	
	<p>Presentation circulated with agenda</p> <p>All in agreement with the recommendation in the report that Schools Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the framework/contracts available and the supporting information provided. <p>Link to website for further information - Contracting Direct Business and economy Hampshire County Council</p>	
8	Schools Budget Update – Andrew Minall	
	<p>Paper shared with agenda</p> <p>Questions/points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation requested regarding suspended staff numbers increasing - HR are looking at the instances that are occurring and checking that appropriate use of fund and compliance with due process and policy. There have been some unusual instances and reviewing training (and provider) regarding physical intervention with children. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a QA Process in place around the exceptional circumstances / disapplication request relating to schools? Evidence is provided in the form of invoices and rental agreement for the small number of schools this applies to. • Regarding transport costs – what proportion of the pupils re outside of catchment/county with high costs? Costs are reduced wherever possible but can be high as it is the law that we provide transport to those with EHCP. <p>All voted and are in agreement with the recommendations in the report that Schools Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the update on the 2025/26 budget. • Notes the update on the 2026/27 funding for schools. • Supports the proposal to disapply the regulations in relation to exceptional premises costs for a small number of schools as outlined in 4.4. • Supports the proposal to apply for second year of lump sum protection for one school as outlined in 4.5. 	
	f40 Update – Andrew Minall	
	Presentation circulated with agenda	
	School Audit Findings – Andrew Minall	
	<p>Verbal update as school communications will be issued and HR colleagues will be briefing HT groups over the coming week.</p> <p>Main areas of note to note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurring payments/ upper pay range. • Online concerns in terms of fraud. – recruitment fraud (candidates misrepresenting themselves) and procurement fraud. 	
9	AOB	
	<p>Next meeting date 4 December 2025</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ashburton Hall</p>	

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School Place Planning

Richard Vaughan – Head of Strategic Development

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Agenda Item 5

Strategic Development Team

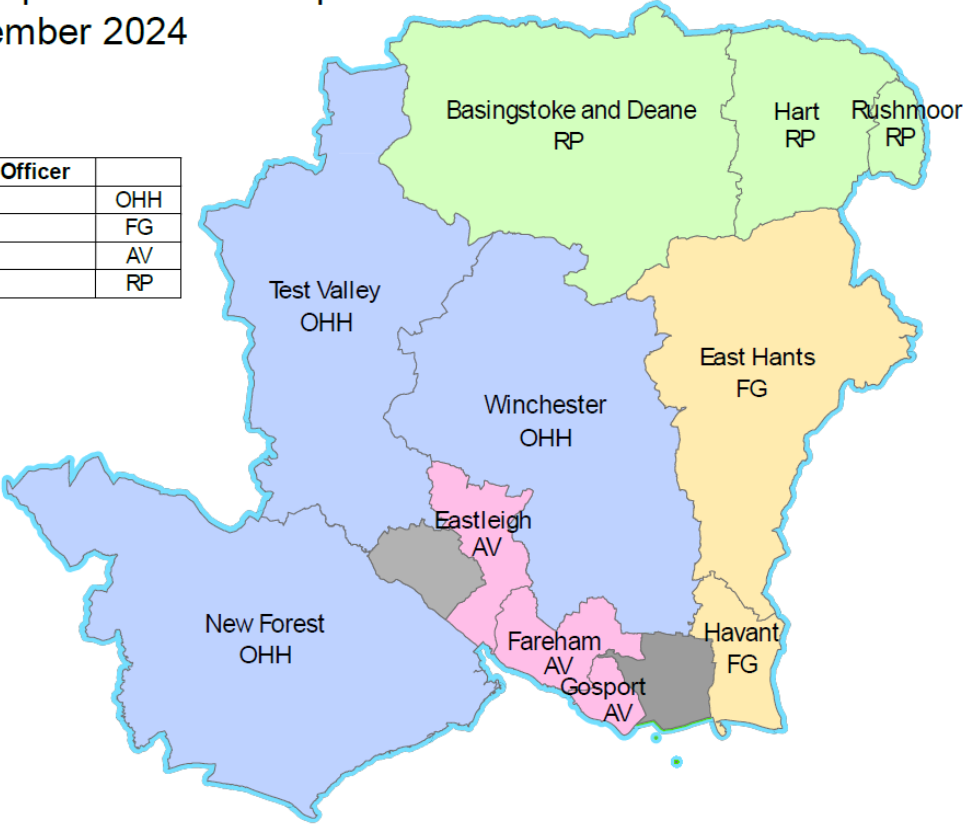
The county is managed by a 4 SDO's
Each SDO is responsible for the schools in their allocated districts

Focus is on sufficiency

SEN sufficiency is led from within the SEN Service

Strategic Development Officer Map
September 2024

Strategic Development Officer	
Owain Hale-Heighway	OHH
Francesca Godden	FG
Amanda Vaughan	AV
Rebecca Prowting	RP



Strategic Development Team

Overview

The Strategic Development team is responsible for prioritising and managing capital investment across Children's Services.

Statutory Strategic Development

- Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for Hampshire children.

The Strategic Development Team plans, commissions and organises school places (additional and removal of). This work promotes the raising of standards and helps to improve the outcomes for all Hampshire children.

- Capital Investment is confirmed via the three-year CSD Cap Prog; approved annually by elected members and forms part of the wider County Council Capital Programme. The team also delivers investment projects for Children & Families and Education.

Enabling Strategic Development

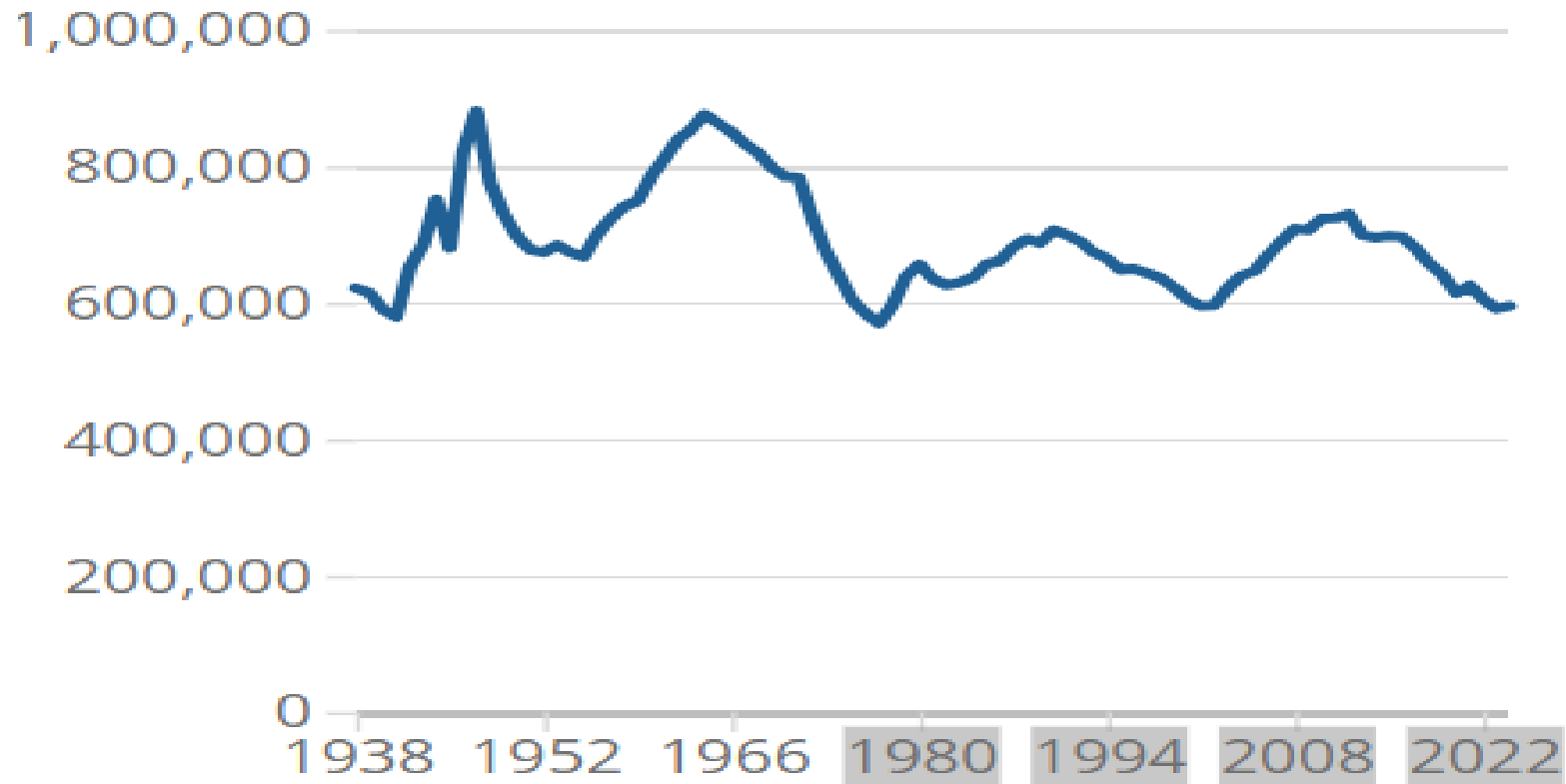
- Within Hampshire 2050 the Strategic Development team forms part of the Directorate's Strategic functions; supporting the strategic management of the County Council's land and buildings in accordance with the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2023 to 2028, approved by Cabinet in December 2022.

Key facts

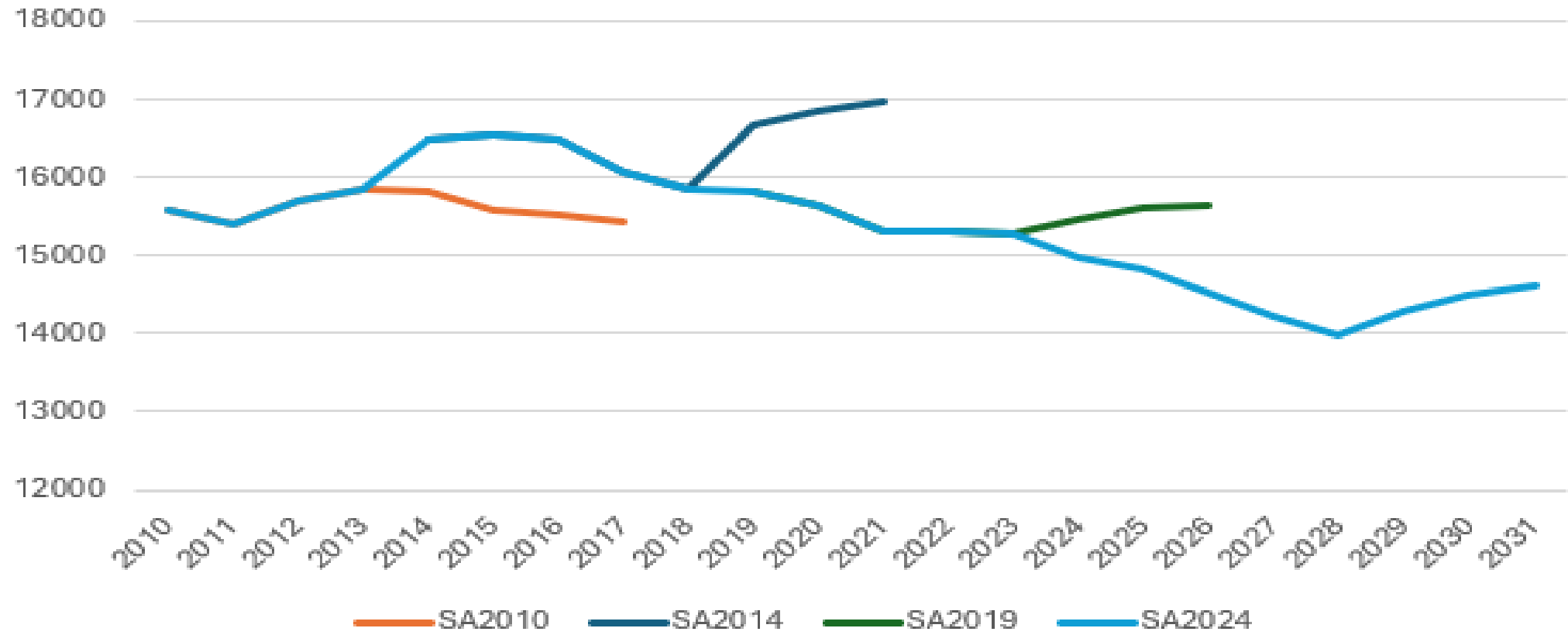
- **Section 14 of the Education Act 1996** sets out the County Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient schools and places to provide primary and secondary education in their area. Education Act 1996.
- The three-year Children's Services Capital Programme, approved in Jan 2025 has total funding of **£502m**.
- The programme will create an additional **3,175 new school places**, resulting in a **total of 19,260 new places for the period 2014 to 2028**.
- The Strategic Development Team has secured developer contributions totalling **£204m** over the last 10 years.

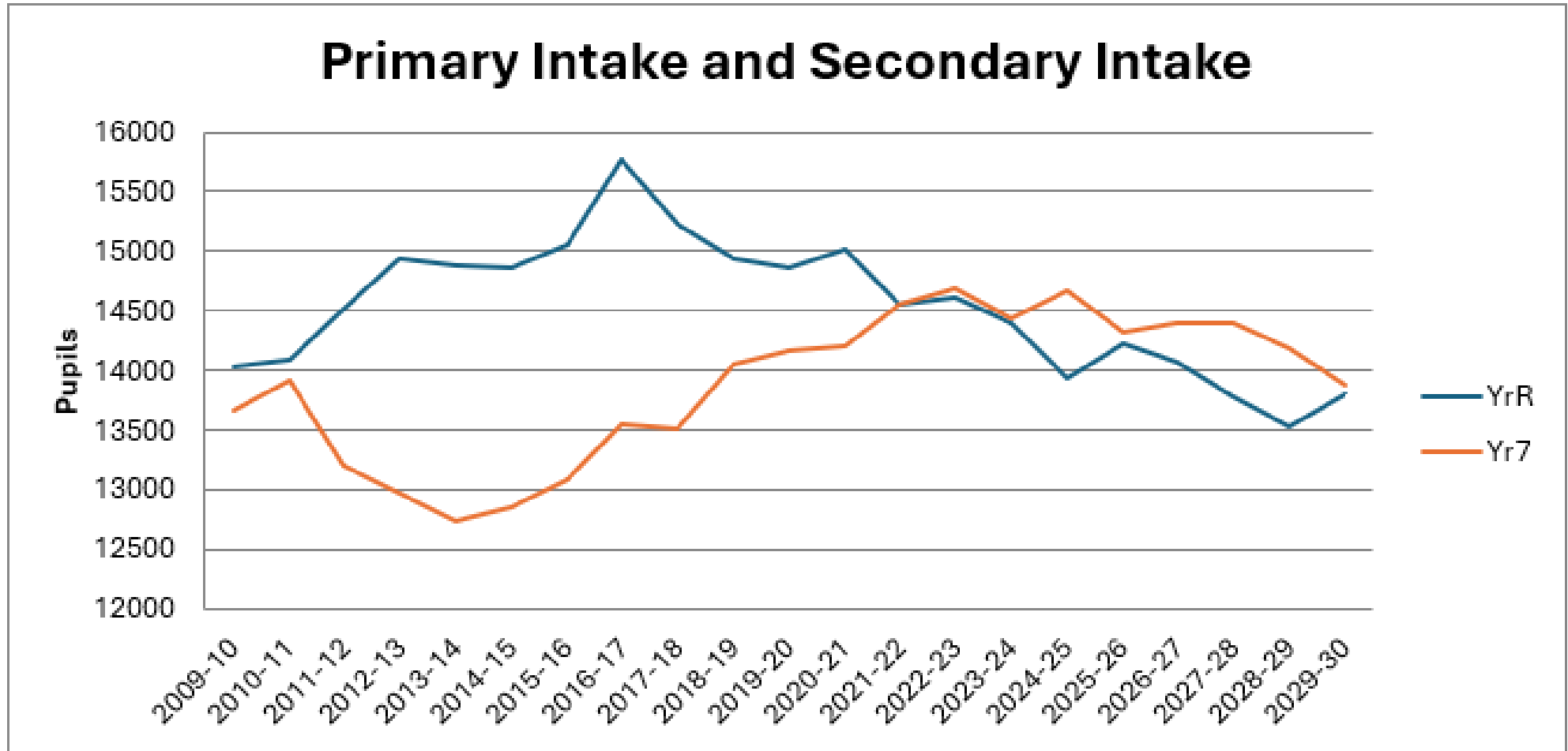
Current national birth data to end of 2024

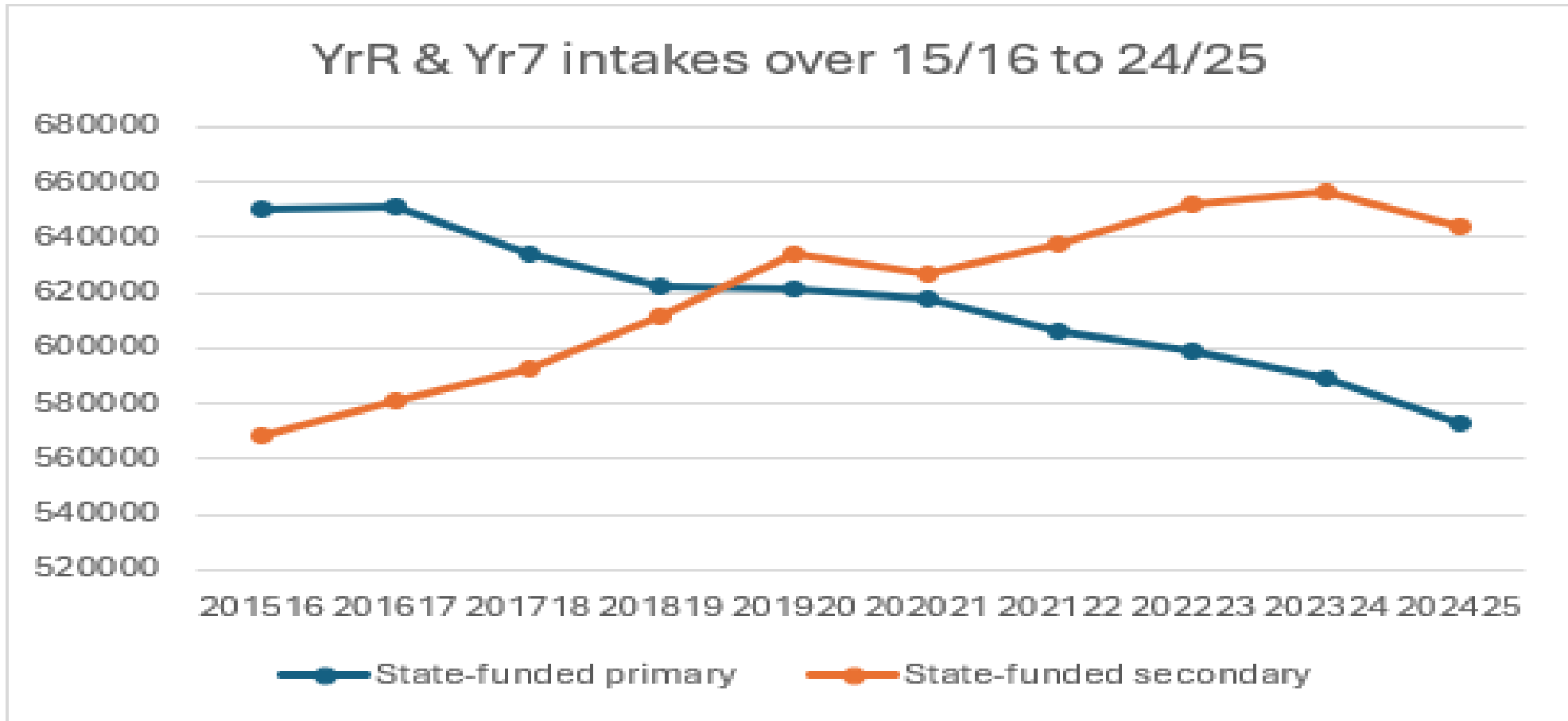
Number of Live Births



Hampshire - 4 year olds







SEN

Specialist Provision – T

Action	July 2024 Baseline	Oct 2025 Impact
Create in-county specialist placements where they are most needed.	3,879 - total specialist provision, special schools and RPs - Hampshire maintained and academies	Action Plan target is for 1000 additional specialist places 2025-2030
Create Resource Provisions that promote inclusion in mainstream classrooms.		New places created / phased openings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 24: 154 Sept 25: 211 Sept 26: 299 (subject to approvals/works) Sept 27: 471 in discussion / subject to approvals / works)

Community Special School	£21,188
Resourced Provision (RP)	£17,954
Independent and non-maintained Special School place (INMSS)	£79,971

2025 – 2026 Planned Actions

- Continue discussions with mainstream schools and academies in regards establishing new Resourced Provisions, with focus on particular locations / pathways / designations.
- Continue working with mainstream schools to utilise surplus accommodation to create SEN support and inclusion spaces.
- Strategic work with Special Schools and SEN to review designations to ensure consistency and sufficiency across County.
- Work closely with colleagues in H2050 to identify surplus accommodation that could have potential for SEN provision.
- Work closely with Property Services to deliver high quality specialist provisions across our estate.
- Continue to report to DfE in regards SEN Sufficiency and requirement for High Needs Capital funding to support provision of additional specialist places

The total revenue cost of £1.22m for the additional places compares to an estimated £4.00m for the same number of places in independent and non-maintained Special Schools. This equates to approximately £2.78m of cost avoidance for the High Needs Block.

Hampshire County Council

Schools Forum

4 December 2025

Schools Budget 2026/27

Report of the Director of Corporate Operations and Director of Children's Services

Contact: Andrew Minall, andrew.minall@hants.gov.uk

1. Summary

1.1. This report sets out information for the school's budget in 2026/27.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Department for Education (DfE) published provisional dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for the schools block and central school services block (CSSB) with accompanying policy document, technical notes and operational guidance on 19 November 2025. High needs and early years allocations will be published at a later date.
- 2.2. The policy document confirms that the DfE are not proposing any changes to the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) to include funding for the expansion of free school meals (FSM) from September 2026. The funding needed will be provided through a separate grant.
- 2.3. The elements of the school budget support grant (SBSG) and the national insurance contributions (NIC's) grant that were allocated for mainstream schools with special units or resourced provision (SURP's) will be rolled into local authorities' high needs allocations.
- 2.4. There has been no decision announced for how the core schools budget grant (CSBG) for special schools and alternative provisions will be continued into the 2026/27 financial year.
- 2.5. The DfE have announced that provisional funding for mainstream schools through the schools NFF for 2026/27 will total £50.9 billion, an increase of 2.47 billion from 2025/26 (excluding growth and falling rolls factor).

Links to the ministerial statement and policy document:

[Written statements - written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

[National funding formula for schools 2026/27](#)

- 2.6. The DSG allocations for 2026/27 will be confirmed in December, based on updated data sets.

3. Provisional DSG allocations 2026/27

3.1. The provisional DSG allocations and increases (a significant element of which relates to the mainstream schools' elements of the SBSG and NIC's grant) for Hampshire County Council (HCC) are summarised in the table below.

	Current DSG allocations 2025/26 £000	Provisional DSG allocations 2026/27 £000	Change £000	Change %
Schools block*	1,063,530	1,119,171	55,641	5.2
Central school services block	8,946	10,515	1,569	17.5
Sub total	1,072,476	1,129,686	57,210	5.3
Early years block	218,481	Allocation not yet provided		
High needs block	224,155	Allocation not yet provided		
Total	1,515,112			

* Excludes 2025/26 growth allocation (£4,148,381) as information not yet provided for 2026/27.

4. School funding - overview

4.1. The DfE continue to require local authorities to move their local formula factor values at least 10% closer to the NFF factor value compared to the previous year, except where local formulae are already 'mirroring' the NFF. HCC are already compliant with the requirement to be within 2.5% of NFF values. The government has not introduced any further restrictions on the local funding formula for 2026/27, so local authorities continue to have discretion over their local schools funding formulae this year and in consultation with schools, they will ultimately determine allocations for their areas.

4.2. The NFF has been updated for 2026/27 with new factor values and some technical adjustments. The key changes are:

- Rolling the mainstream schools element of the SBSG (including an uplift to reflect the full year effect) and the NICs grant into the NFF by:
 - adding amounts representing what schools receive through the grants into their baselines
 - adding the value of the lump sums, basic per pupil rates and free school meals Ever6 (FSM6) parts of the grants onto the respective factors in the NFF.
- Further to the above, almost all factor values in the schools NFF have increased from 2025/26, with the amount of the increase varying between factors. The tables in appendix 1 show the changes in the NFF unit values for both primary and secondary phases, including and excluding the incorporation of the two mainstream grants.

- 4.3. Excluding the rolling in of the SBSG and NIC's grant, core NFF factor values are increasing nationally by 2.1%, with the minimum per pupil level funding (MPPL) having no inflationary increase applied. These increases should reduce the number of schools receiving funding through MPPL and minimum funding guarantee (MFG).
- 4.4. The DfE have again set the MFG allowable at between minus 0.5% and 0.0%. Up to 0.5% of the schools block can still be transferred to another block with approval from Schools Forum.
- 4.5. The 2026/27 NFF funding floor is set at 0%. This is to ensure that no school sees a cash reduction in the pupil-led per pupil funding they attract, compared to the 2025/26 baseline.

5. Budget setting 2026/27

- 5.1. A number of important decisions on the budget setting for 2026/27 need to be agreed now, as the DfE don't usually confirm the DSG allocations until the middle of December and 2026/27 budgets will need to be approved by Schools Forum and the Executive Lead Member of Children's Services in preparation for the budget submission to the DfE in January 2026. Decisions made at this meeting will be incorporated into the budgets that will be approved in January.

Schools block

- 5.2. The schools block consists of individual schools budgets (ISB) and the growth fund which are calculated using the NFF.
- 5.3. The 2026/27 budget for this block will be set when the DfE confirms allocations and provides the school budget share tool with the updated pupil characteristics. We have consulted on the principles in advance, as there is only a small window between receiving the information from the DfE and the schools funding formula and budgets for 2026/27 being approved.

Consultation on the local school funding formula

- 5.4. A school communication was published consulting on the principles for setting the mainstream schools funding formula for 2026/27. The consultation closed on 14 November 2025, with no feedback provided.
- 5.5. The local formula will be based on the NFF as far as possible. However, full replication may not be possible because the funding allocation is based on pupil characteristics recorded in the October 2024 census, while the formula for schools allocates funding using data from the October 2025 census. If there is an increase in the level of additional needs, this will not be reflected in the funding received for 2026/27 and will negatively impact the affordability gap.
- 5.6. The proposed approach for the 2026/27 mainstream school funding formula is based on the principles shared through the consultation and is consistent with the approach used since 2021/22. This is to:

- use the growth fund either to meet the additional cost or to increase the budget for any surplus if the variance is not material.
- adjust the local funding formula by adjusting all unit values on a proportional basis, except the minimum per pupil funding level and minimum funding guarantee, where the variance is more material and cannot be met by an adjustment to the growth fund.

5.7. Funding for the growth fund is calculated based on a national funding formula and funding varies each year, however based on the current year position, it is expected that there would be some limited funding available to meet the additional cost of school budgets. It is proposed that the budget for the growth fund will be set in line with the growth fund DSG allocation, unless there is an adjustment required as set out above.

Falling number on roll funding

5.8. For 2026/27 Schools Forum are recommended to agree transitional protection again for Falling Rolls funding for impacted maintained schools. The protection would be in line with 2025/26, at 50% of a schools funding in 2025/26 from the de-delegated contingency to allow for any necessary management action to be taken. Protection is only available to maintained primary and secondary schools as they contribute to the contingency from their individual budgets. A more detailed review of Falling Rolls and other Growth Fund policies will take place during 2026/27.

Disapplication requests

5.9. The consultation to disapply the regulations for the exceptional circumstances factor relating to school premises closed on 14 November 2025 with no responses received. This adjustment applies to 11 schools with a total value of £212,220. The disapplication continues previous years funding arrangements and was approved in principle by Schools Forum on 7 October 2025. The impact will result in a marginal reduction in allocations for other Hampshire schools.

5.10. The consultation to disapply the regulations for a second year of lump sum protection closed on 14 November 2025 with no responses received. This applies to one school with an estimated cost of £58,000 based on the 2025/26 unit values. The disapplication was approved in principle by Schools Forum on 7 October 2025. The change will result in a marginal reduction in allocation for all other Hampshire schools.

School financial planning

5.11. Teachers pay - the Secretary of State's recommendation is that a 6.5% pay award over 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 would be appropriate, with the level of awards weighted towards the latter part of the remit.

5.12. Support staff pay - Unions are preparing a pay claim for the 2026/27 pay award, with discussions already underway. The GMB union, among others, is demanding a significant pay rise for 2026/27. There is a forecast reduction in costs of as a result of an actuarially assessed reduction in the employer's pension contribution rate for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The rate has reduced from 17.8%

to 15.1% and will remain at this level until the next triennial valuation which will come into effect from 2026/27.

5.13. Future inflationary pressures on pay and other expenditure will be influenced by the national economic state and the level of public sector debt.

5.14. Budget planning assumptions will therefore need to be made based on the best information available at the time with the recognition that these will need to be updated as and when further information becomes available.

High needs block

5.15. The additional high needs block funding will be used to:

- provide place funding for new provisions and those that have grown
- adjust the funding values for top-up values for special schools, resourced provisions, education centres, mainstream schools top up and post 16 in line with an affordable increase in placement funding
- support increased staff costs across teams working for the high needs block
- funding for complex children's support fund
- support further investment in cost avoidance activity identified by the Transforming SEND (TSEND) Hampshire work

5.16. The additional requirements will be partially offset by the following budget reductions:

- post-16 SEND employability project in relation to supported internships has been discontinued and replaced by other post 16 work
- cost savings within Hospital education has enabled a budget reduction
- future you has factored in additional sold work to generate savings within the secure and specialist provision budget
- reduction of discretionary budgets in relation to printing, photocopying, travel and other general non pay expenses across centralised services

5.17. Budgets will continue to be set at a realistic level rather than in line with the available allocation to provide more meaningful in year reporting. To bring the budget and allocation back in line a projected deficit budget will be set. As part of our statutory reporting this budget will be apportioned between top up budgets as these have historically been the expected areas of pressure.

5.18. The DSG Deficit Management Plan shows that despite an increase in funding, an in-year pressure of £170m is expected in 2026/27, this figure is likely to materially change in relation to ongoing work relating to provision costs and agreed specialist placement numbers.

Central school services block

5.19. The CSSB provides funding for local authorities to contribute to the costs of delivering a range of statutory functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising of two distinct elements:

- funding for on-going responsibilities
- residual funding for historic commitments

5.20. Schools Forum approval is required each year for the budgets held centrally.

5.21. The DfE has published the provisional 2026/27 allocation, based on October 2024 pupil numbers. This allocation will be revised once October 2025 pupil data is confirmed. Separate grant funding for teachers and school support staff has been consolidated into the main allocation, and historic commitments funding has been reduced by a further 20%.

5.22. The grant consolidation process compares the standard per-pupil funding rate with an adjusted baseline that includes the rolled-in grants, applying per-pupil funding change caps accordingly. For 2026/27, our per-pupil funding is lower than the adjusted 2025/26 baseline; however, this reduction has been capped at 2.5%.

5.23. When the revised allocation is announced, it is proposed that the budget for the block will be set in line with the allocation provided. Any budget requirements for 2026/27 more than this contribution will be met from the LA general fund.

On-going responsibilities

5.24. This element funds local authorities for the statutory functions they are required to deliver for all pupils in maintained schools and academies.

5.25. The following table provides a breakdown of on-going responsibilities:

Service	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Proposed Budget £000
Admissions	1,605	1,559
Fees to independent schools for pupils without SEN	140	0
Central copyright licences	1,349	1,507
Servicing of Schools Forum	40	41
Asset management	476	378
Strategic Management	178	159
Other Functions	3,656	3,730
Centrally employed teachers' historic grants	844	2,509
Total	8,946	9,883

5.26. The budgets are reviewed annually and adjusted for inflationary pressures, increases in demand and any efficiency savings identified.

- 5.27. The budget relating to fees to independent schools for pupils without SEN has been removed from the CSSB as independent schools are only used where there are inclusion or SEN related needs therefore these costs are included within high needs block budgets.
- 5.28. The largest proposed increases relate to Central copyright licenses. License costs are negotiated by the Secretary of State on behalf of all mainstream schools and academies and confirmation of the 2026/27 charge should be provided in December. The provisional budget includes an estimated increase of £158,000, based on an average 12% increase over the last 3 years.
- 5.29. Pay Inflation, budgets have been increased, where applicable, to be in line with assumed 2026/27 pay inflation (c£135,000), services have reviewed their staffing requirements and identified efficiencies to manage this pressure where possible.
- 5.30. The adjustment relating to centrally employed teachers' grants reflects the rolling in of this part of the schools budget support and National Insurance contributions grants.

Historic commitments

- 5.31. The DfE continues to reduce funding year on year by 20% for commitments made prior to 2013/14 that some local authorities still have.
- 5.32. As a result of the reduction in funding, many of the activities previously funded through this element of the funding have been ceased or are now funded through a different means.
- 5.33. The following table provides a breakdown of historic commitments:

Service	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000
Termination of employment costs	658	632
Provisional 2026/27 Historic Commitment Allocation		632
Historic commitment funding protection being sought		-26
Estimated 2026/27 Historic Commitment Allocation including funding protection		658

- 5.34. It is not possible to reduce the budget for the termination of employment costs, because these pension commitments have yet not reduced. In recognition of this, the DfE will provide funding protection to local authorities where the allocation for historic commitment funding falls below the current value of the termination of employment costs. Our initial allocation reflects a 20% reduction; however, following the DfE's review of our ongoing historic commitments, the funding protection is expected to be applied in future allocation updates.

Services for maintained schools

Central Provision Funded by Maintained Schools

- 5.35. From September 2017, funding for statutory functions relating to maintained schools, previously received through the general services element of the Education Services Grant, ceased and have been funded from maintained schools budget shares.
- 5.36. The local authority has sought to identify only core statutory activities. To keep the cost to schools as low as possible, these activities have been extensively challenged to ensure efficiency and where interactions and dependencies have been identified with other services, these have been excluded from the top slice.
- 5.37. The table below sets out the 2024/25 budgets and proposed budgets for 2026/27:

Service	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000
Central management	200	200
Asset management	625	625
Statutory and regulatory	1,359	1,401
Premature retirement / redundancy	759	1,320
Monitoring of national curriculum assessments	76	77
School Improvement	3,724	3,847
Total	6,743	7,470

- 5.38. Where possible budgets will remain the same (other than for inflation and a few minor adjustments), with spend being managed within the current allocation and additional cost pressures not being passed on to schools.
- 5.39. Pay Inflation, budgets have been increased, where applicable, to be in line with assumed 2026/27 pay inflation (c£154,000).
- 5.40. The premature retirement and redundancy budget has been increased by £561,000 in response to significant growth in demand for this funding in recent years.
- 5.41. The 2025/26 overall charge was £51.76 per pupil / per place. The per pupil / per place charge for 2026/27 will be confirmed in January following receipt of updated pupil numbers.

De-delegation of services

- 5.42. There aren't any changes to the services that can be de-delegated or the processes and procedures for this.

5.43. The following table sets out the current 2025/26 de-delegation budgets and the basis for de-delegation.

Service	2025/26 Budget	Basis	2025/26 Per Pupil	
			Primary	Secondary
	£'000			
Contingency	296	Per Pupil	£2.34	£2.34
Licences & Subscriptions	186	Per Pupil	£1.53	£1.28
Staff Costs	669	Per Pupil	£4.18	£8.49
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)	1,457	Per Pupil	£3.24	£1.14
		EAL	£130.50	£205.50
Total	2,608			

5.44. The following table sets out the proposed 2026/27 de-delegation budgets including inflation and known changes and the basis for de-delegation, please note the 2026/27 rates are only indicative based upon current pupil numbers and will be subject to change.

Service	2026/27 Budget	Basis	Indicative 2026/27 Per Pupil	
			Primary	Secondary
	£'000			
Contingency	304	Per Pupil	£2.40	£2.40
Licences & Subscriptions	209	Per Pupil	£1.56	£1.90
Staff Costs	820	Per Pupil	£5.13	£10.41
Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS)	1,497	Per Pupil	£3.33	£1.17
		EAL	£134.41	£211.25
Total	2,822			

5.45. The staff costs budget increase reflects increased demand for this budget as seen in 2025/26 and if forecast to continue into 2026/27.

5.46. Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) have seen continued high level of demand in relation to Ukrainian pupils however following the discontinuation of the homes for Ukraine grant in 2025/26 (£110,000) it is expected that the service will seek efficiency savings to balance the resulting pressure the increase in funding relates to support for pay inflation funding for core budget staff net of efficiency savings (£40,000).

5.47. Licences & subscriptions budgets have been reviewed, and it is proposed that the secondary FFT subscription is expanded to provide access to secondary pupil tracking, with an additional associated cost.

5.48. The final budget and per pupil rates for services funded by maintained schools will be confirmed in January following confirmation of pupil numbers in December. As in previous years, an in-principle agreement is sought to ensure final budget proposals can be provided to Schools Forum in January.

Early years block

5.49. We are waiting for the DfE to publish the updated early years rates and allocation for 2026/27. For 3 and 4 year olds any impact on rates will initially be based on January 2025 census data and for the new entitlements this will be based on summer and autumn 2025 termly census data. Given the move to termly counts for all, the indicative allocations for these funding streams will be updated following the data collection each term meaning the final allocation will change.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposed approach to setting the mainstream school funding formula for 2026/27 as outlined in paragraph 5.6.
- 6.2. It is recommended that Schools Forum support the disapplication of the regulations in relation to exceptional premises costs for a small number of schools as outlined in paragraph 5.9.
- 6.3. It is recommended that Schools Forum support the disapplication of the regulations in relation to second year of lump sum protection for one school as outlined in paragraph 5.10.
- 6.4. It is recommended that Schools Forum support the proposed approach to allocating funding within the high needs block as outlined in the high needs block section of the report.
- 6.5. It is recommended that Schools Forum approve the central school services block in line with the DfE allocation.
- 6.6. It is recommended that Schools Forum approve 'in principle' the allocations of the central provision funded by maintained schools and de-delegation budgets.

Appendix 1

The following tables show the changes in the NFF unit values for both primary and secondary phases, including and excluding the incorporation of the two mainstream grants:

Primary Unit Values	2025/26	2026/27	Change		2026/27	Change		
	£	Exclude Grants £	£	%	Include Grants £	£	%	
Basic entitlement (basic per pupil funding)	£3,847	£3,931	£84	2.2	£4,064	£217	5.6	
Deprivation	FSM	£495	£505	£10	2.0	£505	£10	2.0
	FSM Ever6	£1,060	£1,086	£26	2.5	£1,210	£150	14.2
	IDACI F	£235	£240	£5	2.1	£240	£5	2.1
	IDACI E	£285	£290	£5	1.8	£290	£5	1.8
	IDACI D	£445	£455	£10	2.2	£455	£10	2.2
	IDACI C	£490	£500	£10	2.0	£500	£10	2.0
	IDACI B	£520	£530	£10	1.9	£530	£10	1.9
	IDACI A	£685	£700	£15	2.2	£700	£15	2.2
Low prior attainment	£1,175	£1,200	£25	2.1	£1,200	£25	2.1	
Pupil mobility	£965	£985	£20	2.1	£985	£20	2.1	
English as an additional language	£595	£610	£15	2.5	£610	£15	2.5	
Sparsity (maximum before taper applied)	£57,400	£58,600	£1,200	2.1	£58,600	£1,200	2.1	
Lump sum	£145,100	£148,214	£3,114	2.1	£152,700	£7,600	5.2	
Split sites (maximum through basic eligibility and distance)	£81,000	£82,700	£1,700	2.1	£82,700	£1,700	2.1	
Minimum per pupil level funding	£4,955	£4,955	£0	0.0	£5,115	£160	3.2	

Secondary Unit Values		2025/26 £	2026/27 Exclude Grants £	Change		2026/27 Include Grants £	Change	
				£	%		£	%
Basic entitlement (basic per pupil funding)	KS3	£5,422	£5,540	£118	2.2	£5,686	£264	4.9
	KS4	£6,113	£6,245	£132	2.2	£6,410	£297	4.9
Deprivation	FSM	£495	£505	£10	2.0	£505	£10	2.0
	FSM Ever6	£1,555	£1,593	£38	2.4	£1,725	£170	10.9
	IDACI F	£340	£345	£5	1.5	£345	£5	1.5
	IDACI E	£450	£460	£10	2.2	£460	£10	2.2
	IDACI D	£635	£650	£15	2.4	£650	£15	2.4
	IDACI C	£695	£710	£15	2.2	£710	£15	2.2
	IDACI B	£745	£760	£15	2.0	£760	£15	2.0
	IDACI A	£950	£970	£20	2.1	£970	£20	2.1
Low prior attainment		£1,785	£1,825	£40	2.2	£1,825	£40	2.2
Pupil mobility		£1,385	£1,415	£30	2.2	£1,415	£30	2.2
English as an additional language		£1,595	£1,630	£35	2.2	£1,630	£35	2.2
Sparsity (maximum before taper applied)		£83,400	£85,200	£1,800	2.2	£85,200	£1,800	2.2
Lump sum		£145,100	£148,214	£3,114	2.1	£152,700	£7,600	5.2
Split sites (maximum through basic eligibility and distance)		£81,000	£82,700	£1,700	2.1	£82,700	£1,700	2.1
Minimum per pupil level funding	KS3	£6,221	£6,221	£0	0.0	£6,388	£167	2.7
	KS4	£6,831	£6,831	£0	0.0	£7,018	£187	2.7

Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Management Plan Update

December 2025

Natalie Smith

Assistant Director, Education & Inclusion

Overview

£213.1m Deficit for Hampshire Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) at year end 2024/25.

Represents 15.6% of total DSG income for 2024/25 and 103.0% of the High Needs Block allocation.

The forecast cumulative DSG deficit at the end of 2025/26 has increased to £353.7m, 23.3% of total DSG funding for 2025/26 and 157.9% of the High Needs Block allocation.

Hampshire remains one of the lower funded local authorities through the High Needs National Funding Formula.

Between the reforms taking effect in 2015 and 2025 there has been a 256% increase in the number of EHC Plans being maintained (at January 2025).

In the 2024/25 academic year the service received over 4,000 requests for EHC needs assessments, a 4% increase on the previous academic year.

The number of EHCPs maintained by the local authority continues to grow. At the end of September 2025 Hampshire maintains 19,839 EHCPs, an increase of 16% on the same period last year.

Forecasting models indicate that there could be c27,000 EHCPs maintained by Hampshire by 2029/30 This is a c68% growth from 2024.

7% of cases (85) are out of time (exceed 20 weeks) as at end September 2025, compared to 20% (298) in September 2024

The Transforming SEND Hampshire programme launched internally in January 2022 and was formally launched with schools in November 2023. It delivered £29.0m savings in 2024/25 and is currently forecast to make circa £44.6m savings / cost avoidance in 2025/26.

Maintained EHCPs

SEN Statement / EHC Plan Growth

January Snapshots - EHCPs introduced from 2014; first snapshot in 2015

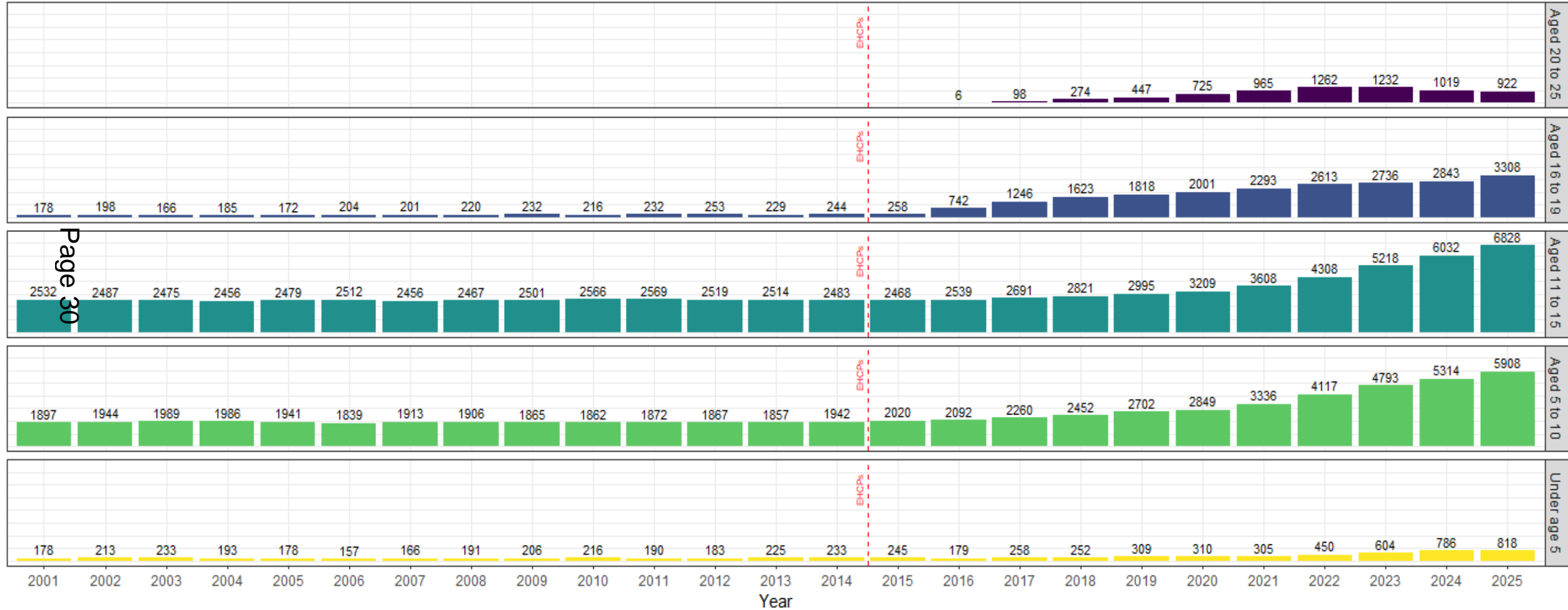
Metric	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SEN Statements / EHC Plans	4,785	4,842	4,863	4,820	4,770	4,712	4,736	4,784	4,804	4,860	4,863	4,822	4,825	4,902	4,991	5,558	6,553	7,422	8,271	9,094	10,507	12,750	14,583	15,994	17,784
Percentage Change	-	1.2%	0.4%	-0.9%	-1.0%	-1.2%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%	1.2%	0.1%	-0.8%	0.1%	1.6%	1.8%	11.4%	17.9%	13.3%	11.4%	10.0%	15.5%	21.3%	14.4%	9.7%	11.2%

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- Prior to 2015, the number of SEN Statements remained broadly stable.
- Following the introduction of Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans, there has been a sustained and significant increase in demand. Between 2015 and January 2025, the number of maintained EHCPs has risen by **256%**, resulting in **over 12,500 additional plans**.
- Since 2021, the volume of maintained EHC Plans has grown by **over 7,000**, representing a **69% increase** in just four years. This rate of growth significantly outpaces the **national trend of 48%** over the same period.
- The rise in demand since 2021 has been evident across all age groups. While some age groups have experienced higher growth than others, the increase is not confined to a single cohort.
- The growth has continued this year, at the end of September 2025 Hampshire maintained 19,839 EHCPs, a 16% increase compared to September 2024.

Maintained EHCP Cohort Breakdown

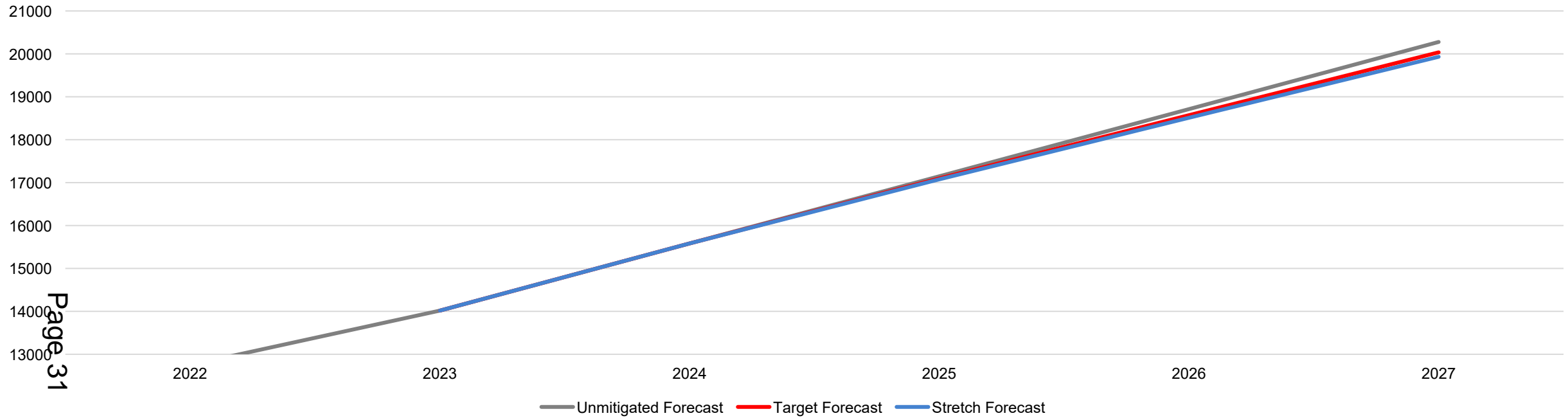
SEN Statement / EHCP Growth by Age Group



Age Group ■ Aged 20 to 25 ■ Aged 16 to 19 ■ Aged 11 to 15 ■ Aged 5 to 10 ■ Under age 5

Original EHCP Projections

EHCP Projections



Provision	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027
Mainstream (Target) (Stretch)	4374	4815	5475	6136 (6122) (6126)	6796 (6754) (6764)	7457 (7380) (7394)
Resourced Units	527	569	611	653	695	737
LA Maintained Special Schools (Target) (Stretch)	3349	3581	3813	4045 (4045) (4045)	4277 (4397) (4397)	4509 (4749) (4749)
(INMSS (Target) (Stretch))	720	792	901	1010 (974) (949)	1119 (901) (830)	1228 (824) (706)
Post 16 – General FE	2557	2864	3196	3529	3861	4193
Post 16 SPI	105	117	138	160	181	202
Hospital/AP	567	668	773	878	983	1088
Early Years	501	558	608	658	708	758
Other	50	55	67	80	92	105
Total	12750	14018	15583	17148 (17098) (17076)	18713 (18572) (18511)	20278 (20036) (19932)

Forecast EHC Plans

Demand for EHCPs has exceeded all previous forecasts resulting in a revision of the data set and assumptions behind them. The new forecast model does not use population as a factor for forecasting, given that historically there is limited correlation. The new model is as per the chart below. Forecasting models indicate that there could be c27,000 EHCPs maintained by Hampshire by 2029/30, a c68% growth from 2024.

Previously the unmitigated DBV forecasts saw 17,148 EHCPs in January 2025, whereas the actuals were 18,280. The unmitigated position for January 2025 would've been significantly higher.

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As at January	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Under 5	465	632	771	873	981	1113	1250	1402	1514	1651	1765	1908
Age 5 to 10	4160	4831	5312	6091	6664	7266	7878	8468	9092	9716	10321	10911
Age 11 to 15	4311	5205	6023	7010	7835	8698	9527	10418	11267	12136	12971	13810
Age 16 to 19	2570	2686	2872	3371	3577	3803	4060	4303	4544	4796	5075	5334
Age 20 to 25	1152	1167	1071	935	859	758	685	619	552	439	361	295
Total	12,658	14,521	16,049	18,280	19,916	21,638	23,400	25,210	26,969	28,738	30,493	32,258

Requests for EHCPs

EHCP requests continue to increase for the 5th academic year in a row, though the rate of growth slowed in 24/25.

Overall, requests from education settings remained broadly in line with the previous academic year. The reduction in Early Years requests was offset by an increase in Key Stage 2 submissions.

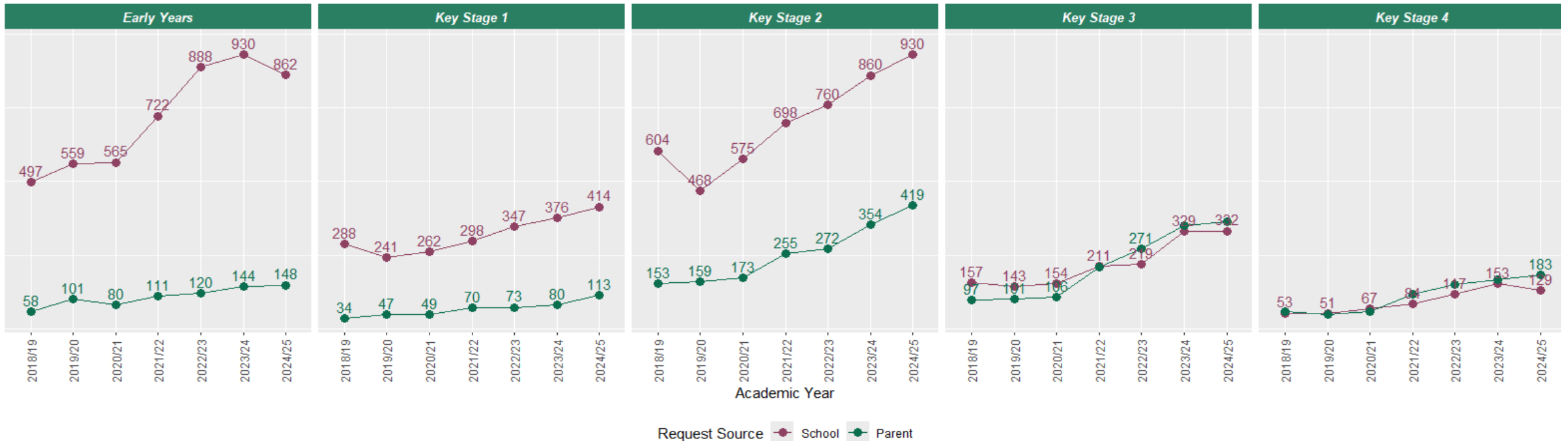
Parental requests continue to rise across all key stages, with notable increases in Key Stage 1 (+41%), Key Stage 2 (+18%), and Key Stage 4 (+10%)

This trend highlights growing parental engagement and demand for support.

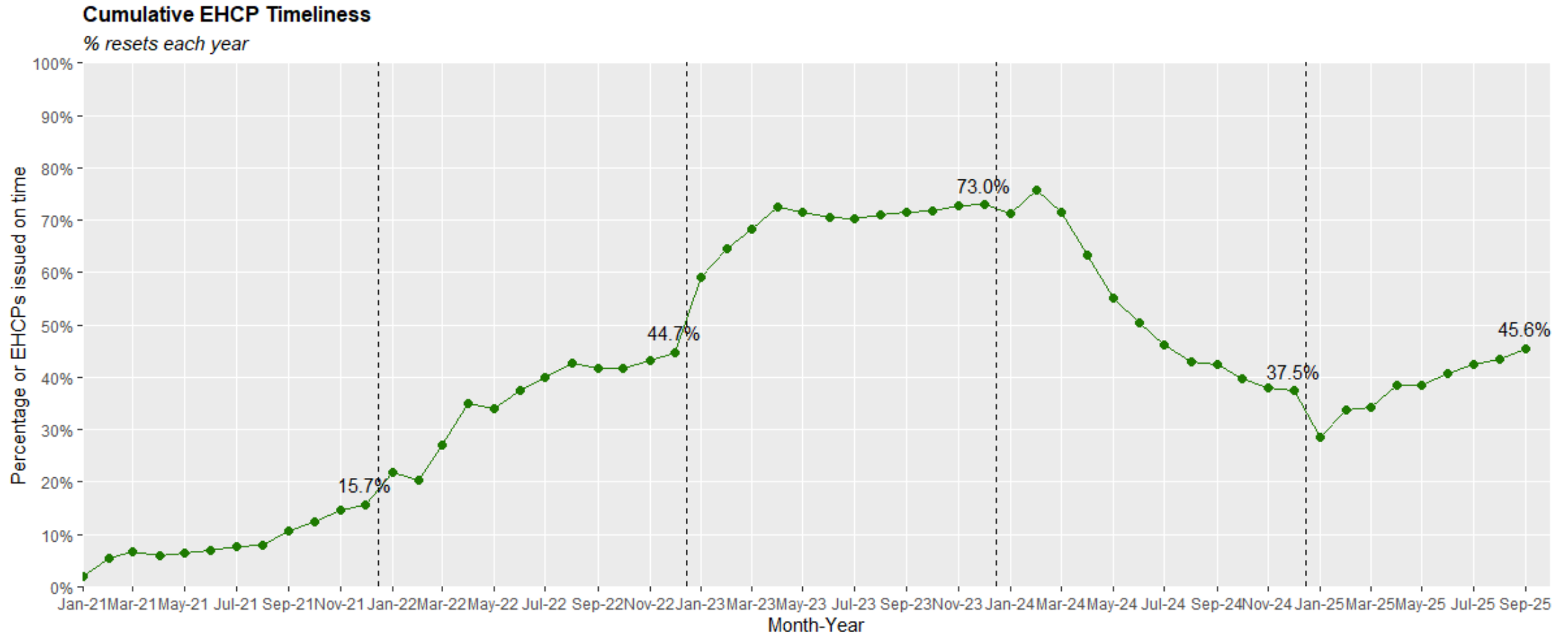
EHCP requests by source per academic year

Academic Year	School Requests	Percentage Increase	Parental Requests	Percentage Increase	Other Requests	Percentage Increase	Total Requests	Percentage Increase
2018/19	1,624	-	440	-	24	-	2,088	-
2019/20	1,480	-8.9%	473	+7.5%	18	-25.0%	1,971	-5.6%
2020/21	1,627	+9.9%	492	+4.0%	33	+83.3%	2,152	+9.2%
2021/22	2,027	+24.6%	799	+62.4%	31	-6.1%	2,857	+32.8%
2022/23	2,343	+15.6%	924	+15.6%	37	+19.4%	3,304	+15.6%
2023/24	2,657	+13.4%	1,141	+23.5%	36	-2.7%	3,834	+16.0%
2024/25	2,682	+0.9%	1,287	+12.8%	35	-2.8%	4,004	+4.4%

EHCP Requests by source and key stage



EHC Plan Timeliness



EHCP Timeliness is improving in 2025 and now sits marginally below the 2024 national average of 46.4%

EHC Plan Timeliness Recovery

The recovery plan has been successfully launched and is delivering against milestones, supported by closer inter-service collaboration and clear governance structures.

Impact

Enhanced collaborations: SEN and Education Psychology (EP) services are working in close partnership, ensuring co-ordinated delivery and robust governance / accountability. This has been an excellent example of joint problem solving across the process

Resource Alignment: Staffing levels have been increased to meet output targets and deliver against recovery objectives. Further funding considerations are underway to address sustained demand and maintain service quality.

Performance: Delivery remains on track, balancing the reduction of overdue cases with the management of continued high demand for EHCP assessments.

Risks

High demand: requests for EHCPs remain at increasing levels, placing continued pressure on services and funding models.

Policy Uncertainty: Delays to the anticipated White Paper create uncertainty resulting in possible further request for EHCPs

Staff Risks: Continued risk regarding EP and SEN retention and recruitment which is a challenge nationally.

Hampshire's Local Area Partnership Strategy

Our vision



Our action plan



Our success criteria

We will know we have succeeded when...

1. The views of children, young people and their families informs all our work.
2. Children, young people and their families can access the information and services they need when they need it.
3. Data is routinely shared, and we all work towards the same goals.
4. Children and young people with SEND are happy and have positive social relationships.
5. Young people with SEND increasingly live independently and gain meaningful employment.
6. There is a culture of support to families and carers.
7. Children and young people with SEND and their families can access services and support that meet their needs at the earliest point, without barriers.
8. The mental and physical health of children and young people with SEND compares positively with their peers.
9. Children and young people with SEND are engaged in their education within an inclusive environment.
10. Everyone in the system, works together to improve educational engagement.
11. A robust, resilient and skilled education workforce can meet SEND needs.
12. Children and young people with SEND and their parents are appropriately prepared for adult life from a young age.
13. There is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all Children and young people with SEND in Hampshire.

Our approach

We will achieve our vision through strong multi agency and parental partnerships, having a shared understanding of challenges and working together on solutions.

We will measure progress by...

1. Bringing together Health, Education and Social Care dashboards.
2. Tracking and reducing the gap between outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their peers.
3. Annually canvassing parents about their confidence in the system.
4. Annually canvassing professionals about system improvements.
5. Listening to children and young people about what matters to them and acting on their views.

We will work together well by...

1. Collectively owning the issues.
2. Securing cross-partnership agreement to progress all actions.
3. Spreading the word, creating a system-wide understanding of our ambition.
4. Routinely seeking the voice of all children and young people with SEND.
5. Holding ourselves and each other to account on delivery of our action plan.
6. Monitoring our progress through our Local Area Partnership board.
7. Supporting and be honest with each other.
8. Asking for help to solve systemic problems.
9. Being critical friends for each other.
10. Reducing inequalities.

School reps on LAPB

Hampshire's Local Area Partnership Strategy

Our vision

- Our learning environments are inclusive
- We have seamless access to services
- We fulfil our potential
- We have the same opportunities and choices as our peers
- We are safe and happy
- We are heard
- We lead productive and independent lives

Our action plan

- Improving educational engagement, support and positive social relationships
- Providing mental health diagnosis and services
- Improving the lives and wellbeing of children, young people and parents
- Empowering children, young people and their families

Our approach

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- Data is routinely shared, and we all work towards the same goals.
- Children and young people with SEND are happy and have positive social relationships.
- Young people with SEND increasingly live independently and gain meaningful employment.
- There is a culture of support to families and carers.
- Children and young people with SEND and their families can access services and support that meet their needs at the earliest point, without barriers.
- The mental and physical health of children and young people with SEND compares positively with their peers.
- Children and young people with SEND are engaged in their education within an inclusive environment.
- Everyone in the system works together to improve educational engagement.
- A robust, resilient and skilled education workforce can meet SEND needs.
- Children and young people with SEND and their parents are appropriately prepared for adult life from a young age.
- There is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all Children and young people with SEND in Hampshire.

Hampshire County Council | NHS | Public Health England | Hampshire SENDIASS

Representing	School / establishment	Named individual
Primary	Talavera Jnr Hart Plain Jnr	Amanda Webb Charlotte Faithfull
Secondary	Crookhorn College	Sarah Bennett
Special Schools	Osborne Maple Ridge	Sonia White Victoria Clovis
Education Centre	The Key	Leanne Forde-Nassey
Post 16	St Vincent's Brockenhurst College	Andy Grant Helen Odhams

Transforming SEND Hampshire Scope 2025/6*

*Scope from September 2025

	Our Approach to Inclusion	Right Support Right Time	Improve Outcomes and Control costs	Quality, Timeliness and Confidence	Evidencing Success
Overarching aims	The Hampshire system engages all children in education, keeps children safe, develops positive relationships, identifies and builds on strengths, and grows and strengthens support networks.	The right support is provided at the right time and meets need effectively.	Strengths based, person-centred approaches are maximised to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP and control high-needs costs.	Local Authority performance against SEND statutory obligations, timeliness, and quality is continuously improving. Participation and co-production is central to what we do, and parental confidence is growing.	Our work delivers against our strategic objectives and improves the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families.
Scope	Overarching	Early identification and intervention (pre-EHCP).	When an EHCP is in place	Performance and improvement activity	Overarching
Key achievements last year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 229 schools and settings registered with the Attachment Research Community. • 91 schools have started their ARC audit, with 14 on the Bronze pathway and one on the Silver pathway. • Relational practice promoted through presentations and communications, including Hampshire DSL conference with over 500 delegates. • 15 schools completed Team around School pilot resulting in reduction in suspension rates (one school reported reduction in suspension rate from 29.3% to 20.5%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to school (Early Years) supported 235 pupils across 71 schools. 97% of children had, and continue to have, their needs met at SEN support, without the need for escalation to an EHCP. • 22 training sessions delivered across 7 schools on SLCN topics by therapists. • Access to therapy pilot impact includes 18% EHCP applications avoided due to early intervention. • Estimated 8% reduction or delay in EHCNA requests in pilot schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 223 new specialist provision places created through establishing new Resourced Provisions (phased), expanding existing Resourced Provisions and the expansion of existing Special School places (some of which are phased) from September 2025. • Specialist Places Action Plan agreed, setting out delivery of 1,000 additional places by 2030. • Growth in Independence hubs • Ongoing small grants programme has strengthened mainstream post-16 facilities, creating greater opportunities for learners with SEND to access and thrive. • AP quality assurance commenced • AP guidance signed off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeliness is improving. Hampshire-wide average waiting time for Portage is 85 days. • SEND participation network established • FISH undergoing migration to connect to support hants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCP training launched in Spring with 100 SENCOs, 30 induction places, and 20 for college staff. • 49 PCP coaching sessions delivered. • Very low re-application and appeal rates following PCPs reflect positive early outcomes. • Year on year increase in SENCO helpline access. • INSET sessions on OAP. • New AP framework.

High Needs Block Funding

- The allocation for 2026/27 has not yet been formally disclosed however using the previously advised 3% increase to variable elements we have modelled our assumed funding allocation.
- Our modelled position continues to show a significant funding shortfall between the allocation and forecast expenditure
- We are awaiting updates from the DfE in relation to the methodology for the allocation and distribution and will keep schools forum updated further to details being confirmed.

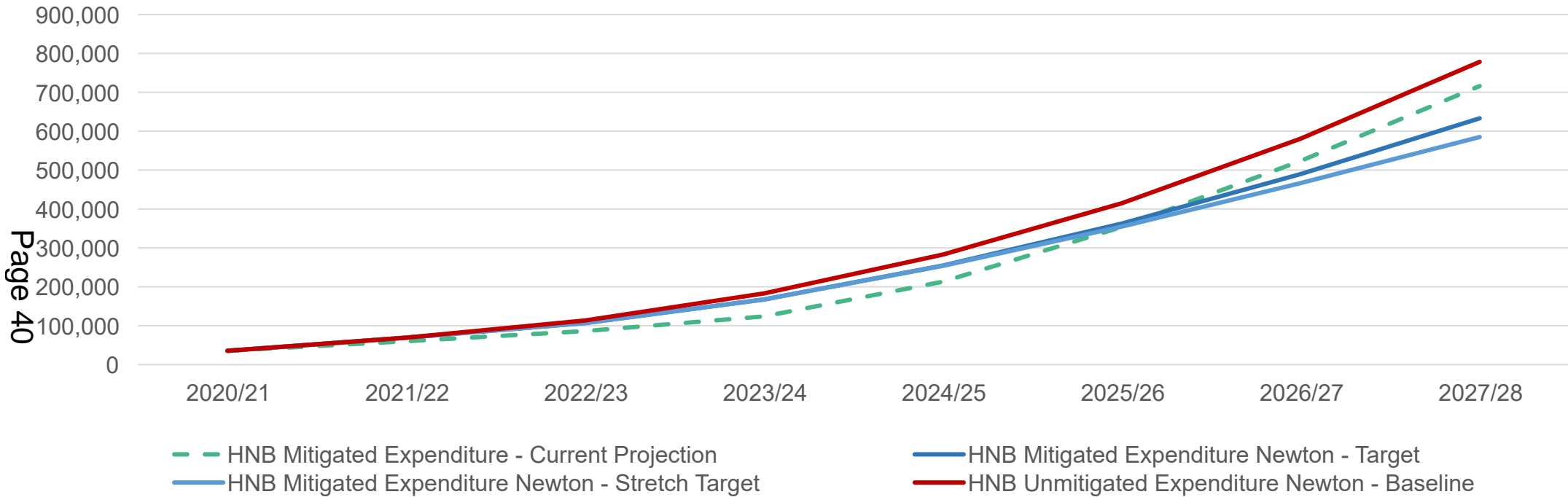
Year	High Needs Allocation	Increase in Funding	In-year High Needs Pressure
2020/21	£135.1m	£19.4m	£15.8m
2021/22	£152.9m	£17.8m*	£27.7m
2022/23	£176.2m	£23.3m**	£30.4m
2023/24	£196.9m	£20.7m***	£41.4m
2024/25	£207.1m	£10.2m	£94.0m
2025/26	£224.1m	£17.0m	£139.3m
2026/27	£229.8m	£5.7m	£169.9m

* Includes £2.5m for baselining of Teachers Pay and Pension Grants included in DSG allocations going forward.

** Includes Supplementary Grant £2m included in DSG allocations going forwards.

*** Includes High Needs Additional Grant £8m included in DSG allocations going forwards.

DSG Medium Term Forecast – Cumulative



	Cumulative DSG Deficit (£'000)							
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
HNB Mitigated Expenditure - Current Projection	35,445	60,022	86,149	123,920	213,149	353,741	523,681	716,137
HNB Unmitigated Expenditure Newton - Baseline	35,445	69,209	113,433	183,010	282,904	414,898	580,937	778,334
HNB Mitigated Expenditure Newton - Target	35,445	69,209	106,834	167,450	254,716	362,614	489,916	633,179
HNB Mitigated Expenditure Newton - Stretch Target	35,445	69,209	106,834	167,450	253,885	354,889	466,703	585,051

Return on cost avoidance investment

£1,448k of High Needs funding was allocated to Transforming SEND cost avoidance activity in 2025/6.

Transforming SEND delivered c£29m cost avoidance in 2024/5 and is forecast to deliver c.£44.5m cost avoidance against the high needs budget.

Workstreams delivering cost avoidance

- SENCO helpline
- Independence hubs (P16)
- Specialist provision
- INMSS and AP commissioning
- Mainstream training to supporting complex learners
- Team around the school
- Transition to school (early years)
- Access to therapy

High Needs Workstreams

Programme	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000
Right Support, Right Time	0	-128	-683	-802	-1244	-1556	-1244	-558
Improve Outcomes, Control Costs	-21,845	-25,685	-27,599	-41,732	-69,952	-117,938	-191,103	-285,766
Inclusion & Educational Engagement	0	0	-547	-2017	-4683	-5996	-6916	-7379
Pre TSEND Embedded Workstreams	-768	-809	-809	-809	-809	-809	-809	-809
Total Saving	-22,613	-26,493	-28,954	-44,557	-75,444	-124,742	-198,828	-293,955

Priorities for 2025/6 and 2026/7

2025/6

- Workstreams and priorities aligned to Local Area Partnership Strategy and action plan.
- LAP strategy has been agreed and published - TSEND is the delivery arm of the educational elements of the strategy, delivering on the action plan.
- Extended Team around the school and transition to school (early years) projects following positive results.
- New Engage, Thrive & Achieve partnership board (see slides 13-14).
- Ongoing programme to develop new and expanded Resourced Provisions and Special School places.
- Identification of surplus assets appropriate for utilisation as future SEN provision.
- Successful team around the school and early years transition to school pilots.

2026/7

- Transition to school (Early Years) will now include a year 1 focus.
- Extending preventative work through our approach to inclusion.
- Reaching more schools through Team around the School.
- Continued programme of developing new Specialist Provision throughout county.
- New focus on transition to secondary school.
- Review of DSG management plan in response to anticipated national reforms and reporting requirements

Specialist Provision – proposed changes

Resource Provisions:

- Continue programme of developing and expanding Resourced Provisions throughout County, ensuring transition pathways for primary to secondary
- Proposal to introduce new designation 'Learning with High Support Needs' (LHSN) to replace current MLD, SLD, SLCN and SpLD Resourced Provision designations in September 2027 – this will create a simpler and more consistent model across the county and ensure more appropriate places available to meet current demand.

SEN Unit:

- Proposal to introduce SEN Units – defined as a large specialist provisions of 40+ places within a mainstream school where children with SEN are taught mainly within separate classes. They cater for a specific type or types of SEN (e.g. autism) or increased levels of co-occurring need. Pupils spend majority of their time in the Unit depending on the needs of the individual child, joining mainstream peers for some aspects of school life e.g. assembly, social time, PE, where appropriate and beneficial for their individual needs. Pupils admitted to SEN Units will have more complex, likely co-occurring levels of need that cannot be addressed solely in the mainstream setting. Funding would be an enhanced Resourced Provision model akin to Special School funding.

Request for spend to save investment

Transforming SEND is an established programme, which is now formally reporting into the Local Area Partnership Board. There has been an annual request for spend to save investment for project work, rather than embedded ongoing work, which this year is an ask for £871k instead of £762k as per last year (increase of £109k). This funding is to cover inflationary increases and includes changes to projects such as:

- Continued access to therapies work preventing escalation of need
- Expanded transition to school in Early Years embedding early interventions
- Commencing work in transitioning to secondary school with ambition to prevent escalation of need at the transition between primary and secondary school age
- No longer funding supported internship work

Next steps

Update the DSG management plan to improve monitoring, forecasting and reporting. This will also support preparation for anticipated national reforms and reporting requirements. Key actions include:

- Greater alignment with DSG national template
- Re-baseline of forecasts
- Update cost avoidance projections
- Aim to report impact of the work at a higher level going forward

Proposal to have a revised plan in place for the new financial year.