

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Date: March 2020
Report for: Information
Report of: Amy Nield (Finance Manager)

Report Title

Impact of the National funding formula on Trafford schools

Summary

Currently, there are too many discrepancies in the way funding is distributed, with some schools receiving substantially more per pupil than others. It is acknowledged that additional funds should be paid for deprivation and realistic area costs, but the base funding for every school should be the same.

There are still concerns that the new funding formula locks in some of the historic unfairness of the past. Although the Government has started to look at levelling up funding between schools, at the current rate it will take many years before there is true fairness across the country.

There needs to be urgent changes made to the National Funding Formula to make it fairer, more easily understood and transparent. Historic inequalities and funding protections in the system need to be removed to ensure funding of schools is fair, regardless of where children live.

The table below shows Trafford's primary and secondary schools unit of funding we receive per pupil in comparison to the National and North West averages.

	Primary schools unit of funding (£)	Secondary schools unit of funding (£)
Trafford	3,951	5,358
National average	4,279	5,496
North West average	4,281	5,459

This shows that the Trafford's primary unit of funding is much lower than the average and 5th lowest in the country (ranked 145/150), whereas Trafford's secondary unit of funding is 85/150.

Key elements of the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) in 2020 to 2021 are :

- The minimum per-pupil levels are set at £3,750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools. The primary level will rise to £4,000 in 2021 to 2022.
- The funding floor is set at 1.84%, in line with the forecast GDP deflator, to protect pupil-led per-pupil funding in real terms. This minimum increase in 2020 to 2021 allocations is based on the individual school's NFF allocation in 2019 to 2020.
- Schools that are attracting their core NFF allocations are benefitting from an increase of 4% to the formula's core factors. Exceptions to this are the free

school meals factor, which has increased at inflation as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs, and premises funding which continues to be allocated at local authority level on the basis of actual spend in the 2019 to 2020 APT.

- There is no gains cap in the NFF, so all schools attract their full allocations under the formula.

Appendix 1 has detailed breakdown of school budget information and national comparisons.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the information.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Amy Nield

Extension: