

# Schools Forum

## Local Authority Update – October 2023

Sue Harrison – Director Children and Families

Helen Ellis – Director for SEND and Inclusion

Fiona Chamberlain – Strategic Lead for School Improvement Delivery



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# Agenda

- General Updates
  - The Council's financial position
  - The Commissioner team and their areas of focus
- The Balanced System
- Delivering Better Value

# GENERAL UPDATES



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# The Council's financial position

- On 5 September 2023, Fiona Greenway (our Interim Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer) issued a s.114 notice under the Local Finance Act
- A second s.114 notice was issued on 21 September
- On 5 October the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a five-year intervention and appointed Commissioners
- We are committed to supporting schools and settings and ensuring the children and families of Birmingham receive the very best services possible
- We will continue to keep schools updated.

# The Commissioner team and their areas of focus



**Max Caller**  
CBE

Lead  
Commissioner



**John  
Coughlan**  
CBE

Governance &  
overall  
improvement,  
also SEND  
Commissioner



**Chris  
Tambini**

Financial  
recovery,  
Equal Pay,  
financial  
governance



**Pam Parkes**  
FCIPD

Human  
Resources,  
organisational  
design and  
Equal Pay



**Jackie  
Belton**

Housing



**Myron  
Hrycyk**

Oracle  
recovery,  
IT and  
commercial

- The Commissioners will be supported by two political advisers, Lord John Hutton and John Biggs
- Links to further information: [Official Announcement](#) and [Commissioners](#)

# The Commissioners have extensive powers over all the key functions of the council

- **Strategic** – all functions associated with the governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making
- **Financial** – all functions associated with financial governance, scrutiny, administration and management
- **Operational** – all functions relating to our operating model and redesign of services
- **Personnel** – including appointments, dismissals, arrangements for performance management, and senior structure (senior = Directors & ADs)

# How the powers will work

- The government's intention is that decisions should continue to be made by the Council
- Commissioners will uphold proper standards and due process and will comment and make recommendations on decisions
- However, if they are not content, the Commissioners can exercise their powers to make or change decisions
- Commissioners can each exercise all the powers ('joint and several')
- They can suspend committees and make decisions directly

# THE BALANCED SYSTEM



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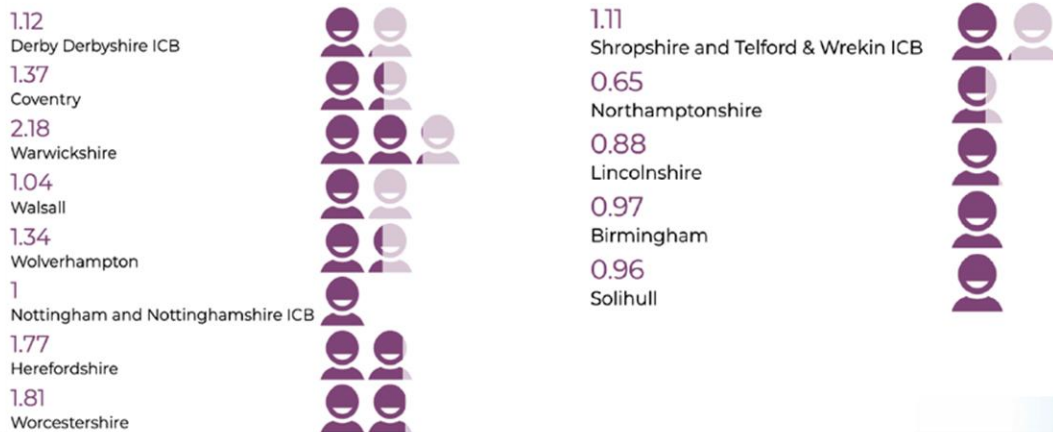




# Speech, language and communication needs in Birmingham



WORKFORCE (WTE) PER PREDICTED 1,000 SLCN NEED (AGED 0-18)



Midlands Action learning set – Marie Gascoigne

Innovate to Save project  
OT and SALT  
across 6 localities  
1.4 million

# Partnership working

“My son is using more words, which feels amazing. He has started to use words without me prompting him.”

- Upskill wider workforce
- Early advice and guidance
- Correct identification
- Reducing the need for referrals and impact on waiting times
- Targeted interventions
- Strategies and modelling of interventions

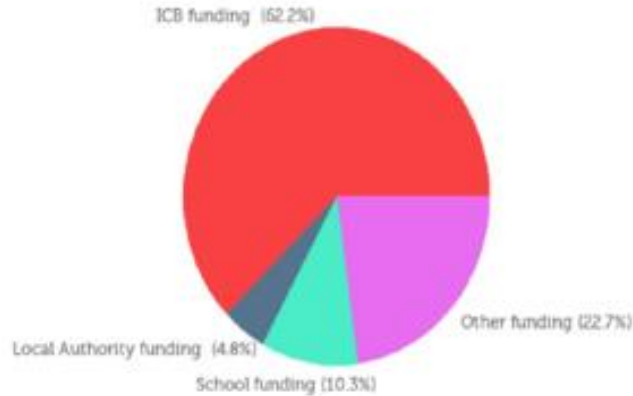
- SENCO drop in
- Multiagency planning meetings
- Communication friendly schools
- Champions

“  
Much more confident to speak to other children and adults. Plays with children now rather than alongside. Using 4-word sentences and more. Reading words/captions.”




# Commissioning of the Balanced System model

Birmingham funding sources for SLT



Copyright The Balanced System

# Long term sustainable solution : Balanced System model



Endorsed by  
Commissioner  
of DfE and  
SEND  
Improvement  
Board



Joint  
commissioning



Co-  
produced  
with Parents

# DELIVERING BETTER VALUE

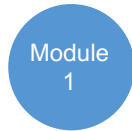


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# Delivering Better Value in SEND

- Birmingham City Council is participating in the Delivering Better Value Programme – Tranche 3.
- Delivering Better Value (DBV) is a programme working to identify and implement local and national opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND and place the system on a more sustainable financial footing, commissioned by the DfE.
- The evidence base developed will contribute to a grant application to the DfE for up to £1million.
- There are 3 stages to Phase 1 of the programme:



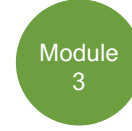
Module 1 aims to:

- Clarify current position
- Forecast future position
- Identify high impact areas



Module 2 aims to:

- Understand evidence for change in prioritised areas
- Have a quantified future view of potential impact



Module 3 aims to:

- Have clarity on solutions and plans to implement
- Gather feedback and engage with system partners

# Emerging findings



## Special Provision

Insights so far have shown that Maintained Specialist Provision is a focus area for Birmingham, particularly at ages 4-5 and 11-12, key transition points



## Early Years to Mainstream

Module 1 has also identified a high number of new EHCPs in reception which is being further understood



## ASC pathway

Finally, the ASC pathway in Birmingham is another area of focus given the prevalence of this primary need in the area.





## Module 2 looks closer and develops a broad evidence base

The objective of Module 2 is to really understand the root causes of key priority areas. In addition to further reviews of the data, we will also supplement this with both qualitative and quantitative evidence that covers individual journeys to system wide perspectives



Listening forums and focus groups with our system partners and young people



Visits to schools & settings to understand the reality of the day to day



Multidisciplinary case reviews to understand what could be improved for pupils



Surveys of partners to understand a breadth of views

THANK YOU!



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