

**Schools Forum****11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020****Update on 2-year-old expenditure****1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To update School Forum on the spend and impact of the 2 year old capital and trajectory fund that enables the LA to carry out its duty to provide early learning places for eligible two year olds. The LA also has a duty to ensure the quality of the provision and to promote the take up of places. The report also shares plans for future spend including converting remaining trajectory fund to capital where necessary. This report is based end of autumn term 2019 data.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1** Take up of two-year-old places remains a priority in order to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children in Walsall. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation evidences that this is the single best strategy for improving outcomes by the age of five. Walsall's strategy for two year old take up is to ensure that there are sufficient places in each ward within 'pram pushing' distance. Walsall also aims to have a mix of provider types in each ward, as some parents would not want their child to go to day care because they do want other adults caring for their young child but might be happy to send their child to school. Other parents may think their child is too young for school but may be happy for them to go to day-care or with a childminder.
- 2.2** Attainment of pupils who take up their two-year-old place is not measured by the LA (or nationally) until the child completes their Early Years Foundation Stage. The children who have been eligible for two-year-old places are not recorded as a separate data set but many of them would be included in the Free School Meal group. You will see from the table below that, in 2019, there is still a gap of 14% between FSM and Non FSM children in Walsall by the age of five. Although this shows that there is a way to go in closing the attainment gap in Walsall, it must be noted that the national gap is 3% higher at 17%. Walsall's outcomes for eligible FSM children is exactly in line with National Average of 57% GLD, evidencing how well schools and settings in Walsall support the attainment of this group of children. 2-year-old Early Learning is contributing to this success as reported by most headteachers delivering the 2-year-old provision. It must also be noted that there is feedback from headteachers stating that the 30-hour children are making greater progress, which in turn widens the attainment gap further. See Appendix 1 for the most disadvantaged wards in Walsall where more 2-year-old places are needed.

**Table 1: Percentage of 5 years olds reaching age related expectations (Good Level of Development)**

Group	Walsall 2017	National 2017	Gap 2017	Walsall 2018	National 2018	Gap 2018	Walsall 2019	National 2019	Gap 2019
All	66%	71%	5%	68%	72%	4%	68%	72%	4%
Eligible FSM	56	56	No gap	57	57	No gap	57	57	No gap
Non FSM	69	73	4	71	74	3	71	74	3
Walsall gap between FSM and Non FSM	13	17		14	17		14	17	

### 3.0 Current Position – Supply, Demand and Take up

3.1 Currently 7 nursery schools and 18 maintained primary schools offer places to two year olds (see Tables 2a, b and c below) In addition there are 45 private nurseries/playgroups and 84 childminders.

**Tables 2 a, b and c – Schools offering two year old places – Autumn Term 2019**

Table 2a -Schools taking 2 year olds	Places at any one time	Total no. of places
Abbey Primary School	4	8
Beacon Primary School	24	48
Brownhills West Primary School	8	16
Castlefort JMI School	24	24
Chuckery Primary	8	16
County Bridge Primary School	24	24
Delves primary	12	24
Goldsmith Primary Academy	16	32
King Charles	24	48
Kings Hill Primary School	24	24
Leighswood	24	48
Leamore Primary	12	24
Lodge Farm	12	24
Lower Farm Primary School	24	48
Moorcroft Wood Primary	24	24
Pool Hayes Primary School	12	24
Reedswood	24	48
Ryders Hayes	24	48

Table 2b - Nursery Schools taking 2 year olds		
	Places at any one time	Total no. of places overall
Alumwell Nursery School	32	64
Fullbrook Nursery School	52	104
Millfields Nursery School	24	48
Ogley Hay Nursery School	24	48
Rowley View Nursery School	32	64
Sandbank Nursery School	34	68
Valley Nursery School	50	100

2c - Schools to take 2 year olds	Places at any one time	Total no. of places overall
Croft Academy	12	24
Woodlands	24	48

**Table 3 shows the numbers of eligible children in each ward and the number of places**

<b>Ward (and deprivation measure with 1 being the most deprived ward, 20 the least deprived)</b>	<b>Total Number of Part Time 2 year old Places available (Childcare)</b>	<b>Total Number of Part Time 2 year old Places available (Schools)</b>	<b>Total Number of Part Time 2 year old Places available</b>	<b>Total 2 year olds requiring a place</b>	<b>Number of spare places available</b>	<b>% of spare places available</b>
Aldridge Central & South (17)	116	48	164	74	90	55%
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood (15)	118	24	142	54	88	62%
Bentley & Darlaston North (6)	208	72	280	192	88	31%
Birchills Leamore (2)	210	0	210	249	-39	-19%
Blakenall (1)	64	156	220	275	-55	-25%
Bloxwich East (4)	0	96	96	145	-49	-51%
Bloxwich West (10)	40	76	116	128	-12	-10%
Brownhills (11)	16	64	80	92	-12	-15%
Darlaston South (5)	54	112	166	229	-63	-38%
Paddock (18)	78	16	94	66	28	30%
Palfrey (9)	82	128	210	238	-28	-13%
Pelsall (16)	30	48	78	51	27	35%
Pheasey Park Farm (19)	142	0	142	38	104	73%
Pleck (3)	28	112	140	245	-105	-75%
Rushall-Shelfield (14)	64	0	64	71	-7	-11%
Short Heath (12)	4	48	52	61	-9	-17%
St Matthew's (8)	158	0	158	204	-46	-29%
Streetly (20)	88	0	88	11	77	88%
Willenhall North (13)	44	48	92	98	-6	-7%
Willenhall South (7)	120	0	120	172	-52	-43%
Out of Borough	-	-				
	<b>1664</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>2712</b>	<b>2693</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1%</b>

3.4 Table 3 shows the number of places available in each ward compared to the number of children from the ward that the DWP have said require a place in Autumn 2019. It calculates spare places available but does not consider how many children take up a place or which ward they take up their place in. It also does not show the numbers of children that come into wards from other LA's. Neither does it show children from Walsall wards that take up a place in another LA. The wards highlighted in orange are those that would have lack of sufficiency if all of the children took up a place in their own ward.

3.5 Over the last 12 months take up of places has increased dramatically from 70% in January 2019 to 83% in January 2020. Although this a great success for Walsall, it now highlights an insufficiency of places for the remaining 17% of current eligible children. This increase is a result of the appointment of an officer dedicated to increasing take up.

3.6 The officer has direct contact with parents and works in partnership with all providers and services for 0-2 year old children.

3.7 Table 4 also demonstrates that there are 1353 children on the current forward planning DWP list that are eligible for a place this term or next term. This also includes the 17% that have not taken their place this term. Additionally the DWP have let Walsall know that there may be more children because the list has not included those children whose families claim universal credit. As some of these children become eligible, other children will cease their two-year-old place and become a funded 3 year old.

**Table 4 - Take up data and future demand**

Ward	Children on August 2019 DWP List	Children in a Setting	% Take Up	Number of children not accessing a place from current forward planning DWP List	Spare places available (from Current sufficiency data)
Aldridge Central & South	38	36	95%	38	90
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	35	34	97%	20	88
Bentley & Darlaston North	106	90	85%	102	88
Birchills Leamore	152	130	86%	119	-39
Blakenall	161	132	82%	143	-55
Bloxwich East	110	81	74%	64	-49
Bloxwich West	87	65	75%	63	-12
Brownhills	50	58	116%	34	-12
Darlaston South	142	118	83%	111	-63
Paddock	41	36	88%	30	28
Palfrey	150	112	75%	126	-28
Pelsall	36	28	78%	23	27
Pheasey Park Farm	26	19	73%	19	104
Pleck	148	119	80%	126	-105
Rushall-Shelfield	43	33	77%	38	-7
Short Heath	44	21	48%	40	-9
St Matthew's	126	96	76%	108	-46
Streetly	7	6	86%	5	77
Willenhall North	64	42	66%	56	-6
Willenhall South	96	84	88%	88	-52
Out of Borough	-	43	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>1353</b>	

3.8 Sufficiency has increased since the last report in:

- Bloxwich West - Sandbank Nursery increased by 16 using trajectory fund.
- Short Heat - Lodge Farm now deliver 24 places. Plans to develop 48 places at Woodlands Primary are agreed.
- St Mathews - Toddler Town created places.
- Palfrey – YMCA created places. Delves Infant School created and deliver 24 places.
- Birchills Leamore - Croft Academy will deliver 24 places but waiting for approval from the Secretary of State.
- Blakenall - Leamore School are now delivering 24 places.

## 4.0 **Planned actions**

4.1 There are 8 wards that need additional 2-year-old places in order to provide 100% sufficiency. These are highlighted in Table 4.

4.2 In order to improve sufficiency a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be commissioned to share with local and large national day-care providers in order to attract more private provision into Walsall.

4.3 In addition, further discussions with schools/ settings in 8 wards may identify possible opportunities to increase/ create places, see Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Possible solutions to increase sufficiency in the 8 lowest wards, including 5 most deprived

Ward	Deprivation 1 most/ 20 least	Possible solutions (utilising remaining funds)
Birchills Leamore	2	The childcare delivered at Birchills Childrens centre is currently under consultation. They offer 48 places for two year olds. Hatherton Pre-School and Birchills School possible expansion.
Blakenall	1	Christchurch are interested in delivering places but require capital fund. Possibility of new places at Sunshine or North Walsall.
Bloxwich East	4	Possibility of new places at Rivers and St Peters.
Darlaston South	5	Possibility of new places at Woodsbank
Palfrey	9	YMCA expanding. Maple Tree would expand with capital. Possibility of Palfrey Infants utilising Palfrey CA building. Possibility of new places at Whitehall Infants.
Pleck	3	Possibility of expanding places at Reedswood.
St Matthew's	8	Possible new places at Caldmore.
Willenhall South	7	Possible new places at Fibbersley or Barcroft.

## 5.0 **Financial Processes**

5.1 The Capital and Asset Programme Board now makes all decisions on capital spend. It also makes decisions on school expansions for older age children and having an Early Years Team Representative in the group ensures that consideration is given to expansion of nursery and two-year-old places, where necessary, whilst at the feasibility stage.

## 6.0 **Financial update**

6.1 All capital funds have now been allocated. See Table 6. There is still funding available in the Trajectory budget, which we are requesting, can be used for either trajectory or capital. See Table 7.

**Table 6 – Capital Fund**

Capital to Create 2 year Old Places - DSG reserve		
Allocation of £2,383,116	£	Use of fund
Expenditure - 2015/16	1,102,359	Phase 1 and 2 capital projects creating 404 plus 726 places
Expenditure - 2016/17	61,881	Phase 1 and 2 capital projects creating 404 plus 726 places
Expenditure - 2017/18	665,106	Phase 3 (Children's Centre configuration) creating at least 64 places at Edgar Stammers, Bloxwich and Rosehill
Expenditure – 2018/19	116,686	Completion of works at Reedswood academy, Pool Hayes,
Expenditure – 2019/20 to date	55,210	Works at Delves Infants
<b>Total Spend to date</b>	<b>2,001,242</b>	
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>381,874</b>	<b>Committed to create places at Woodlands, YMCA and Lodge Farm</b>

**Table 7 – Trajectory Fund**

2 Year Old Trajectory - DSG reserve		
Allocation of £1.2m	£	Main use of fund
Expenditure - 2015/16	462,526	Resource provision, market the offer to families, transitional fund
Expenditure - 2016/17	40,508	Transitional Fund, market offer to families, Quality Audits
Expenditure - 2017/18	50,600	Improving provision through Achievement for All, market offer to families
Expenditure - 2018/19	131,000	Resourcing Reedswood 2 year old provision, temporary 2-Year-Old Sufficiency Post, marketing material, training 2-year-old practitioners.
Expenditure - 2019/20 to date	3,558	Sandbank Nursery increase in places
<b>Total Spend to date</b>	<b>688,192</b>	
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>511,808</b>	<b>Committed: Integrated Facilities management fees (School projects) £15, 149, YMCA £8,400, Leamore £10,000, Delves £5,600, Lodge Farm £4,182, Portal - £5,000, Outdoor Learning £13,000 and Early Language Books £3,250</b>  <b>Total committed £64,581</b>  <b>Remaining - £447, 227 (for capital/ trajectory projects)</b>

6.2 The remaining trajectory fund will be used to:

- purchase the parent online portal. It will give parents a quick way of accessing their code on line. This will cut down the need for them to contact Families Information Services. (£4,000 set up and for the first year, £1,000 for year two). This will then be evaluated to determine if the LA will pick up the ongoing costs for this. (Total £5,000)
- improve the quality of provision by funding 2 year old outdoor learning project. Schools and settings can match fund up to £200 each. 20 schools and 45 settings. Total maximum spend £13,000.
- improve early language skills, schools and settings can match fund up to £50 to purchase books from Peters Books. Total maximum - £3,250
- pay Integrated Facilities Management costs for school projects of £15,149.
- pay for completion of agreed place expansion projects £28,182.

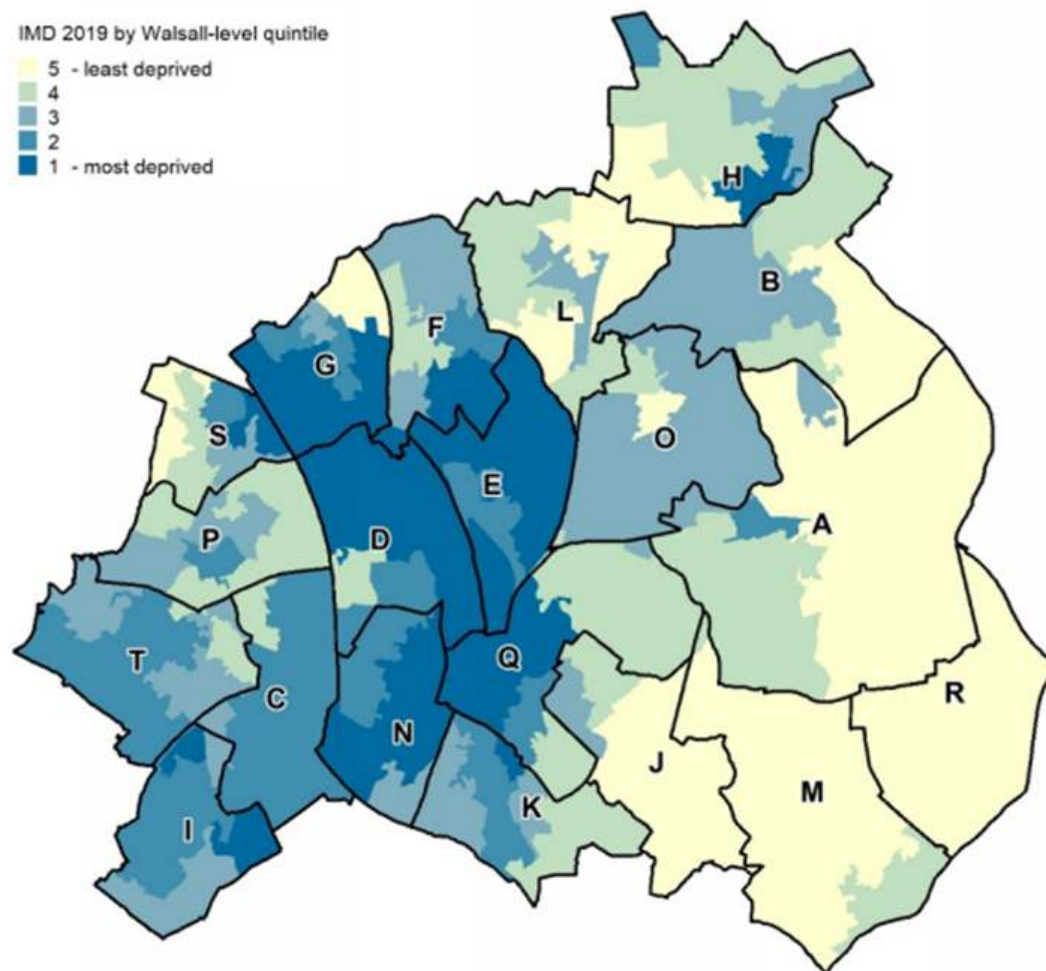
**7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Schools Forum will continue to make the remaining trajectory fund available in order to further improve sufficiency, quality and take up.

7.2 The remaining trajectory fund will be used for capital or revenue projects

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## Appendix 1



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## Ward-level deprivation

*Table 6: Ward-level summary measures for Walsall*

Ward	2019 Rank	Av. IMD Score	Eng. Decile	2015 Rank	2010 Rank	Map Key
Blakenall	1	53.6	1	1	1	E
Birchills Leamore	2	48.9	1	2	2	D
Pleck	3	45.3	1	3	3	N
Bloxwich East	4	42.1	1	4	4	F
Darlaston South	5	40.8	1	5	5	I
Bentley & Darlaston North	6	39.2	1	7	7	C
Willenhall South	7	38.3	1	9	9	T
St Matthew's	8	38.2	1	6	8	Q
Palfrey	9	36.9	1	8	6	K
Bloxwich West	10	36.8	1	10	10	G
Brownhills	11	28.0	3	11	11	H
Short Heath	12	26.2	3	12	13	P
Willenhall North	13	26.0	3	13	14	S
Rushall-Shelfield	14	25.7	3	14	12	O
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	15	19.4	4	15	15	B
Pelsall	16	18.8	5	16	16	L
Aldridge Central & South	17	15.0	6	17	17	A
Paddock	18	14.6	6	18	18	J
Pheasey Park Farm	19	12.8	7	19	19	M
Streety	20	6.2	10	20	20	R