

Schools Forum

11th December 2012

Schools Budget Position Update 2012/13

Introduction

1. This paper provides members of the Forum with the projected outturn position on the Schools Budget based on information to the end of October 2012.

Background / Discussion

2. **Appendix 1** shows the planned spend against the projected outturn for 2012/13 on the Schools Budget as at 31st October 2012, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. Overall, there is a £243k overspend forecast at the end of this financial year. The reasons for significant variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. Line 1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget -£49k overspend –due to an increase in numbers of children accessing the flexible free early years entitlement.
 - b. Line 1.2.1 Provision for Pupils with SEN (Including Individually Assigned Resources) - £461K overspend - due to demand led pressures on the Individual Pupils Budget.
 - c. Line 1.2.2 Provision for Pupils with SEN, not in Line 1.2.1 - £438K underspend. Staff Savings at Early Support Nursery, lower than budgeted contracts for HI/VI support, and termination of Speech and Language Therapy contract.
 - d. Line 1.2.4 Fees for Pupils at Independent Special Schools and Abroad - £401K overspend. Additional placements agreed since the Budget was set.

- e. Line 1.2.7 Inter-Authority Recoupment - £69k underspend – due to lower than planned expenditure on placements in other LA schools for children with complex needs.
 - f. Line 1.3.1 Pupil Referral Units- £72K underspend. Vacant posts for part of year.
 - g. Line 1.3.3 Education Out of School - £81K underspend. Mainly due to savings on staff vacancies at the Redhill Education Service.
3. The special education needs services such as those mentioned in b, c, d and e, above are considered high risk budget areas which are monitored closely on a monthly basis given that they are volatile and significant in expenditure terms.
 4. The £243k overspend is being incurred on the centrally managed areas of the Schools Budget.
 5. Any surplus or deficit on the Schools Budget supported by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is carried forward to the following financial year. As such, this overspend will continue to be monitored and will need to be considered as part of the 2013/14 budget.

Recommendation

6. That the Schools Forum note the current financial position on the Schools Budget.

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