

Schools Forum

10th December 2013

Schools Budget Position Update 2013/14

Introduction

1. This paper provides members of the Forum with the current projected outturn position on the Schools Budget based on information to the end of November 2013.

Background / Discussion

2. **Appendix 1** shows the planned spend against the projected outturn for 2013/14 on the Schools Budget as at 30th November 2013, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. Overall, there is currently a £894k underspend forecast at the end of this financial year. The reasons for variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. Line 1.2.3 Top-up Funding – Independent Providers – Top-up costs for providers are expected to be c£638k underspent. This needs to be viewed in the context of a realistic budget being set prior to the announcement of a successful business case submission and additional budget being added given the uncertainties that existed around this whole area, particularly that relating to post 16.
 - b. Line 1.2.5 SEN Support Services. - £67k underspend. Staffing vacancies not being filled.
 - c. Line 1.4.1 Contribution to Combined Budgets - £50k underspend. Contribution to Mental Health and Parenting project not required as covered by existing staff.
 - d. Line 1.7.2 Dedicated Schools Grant b/fwd - £151k underspend. Balance required to fund 2012-13 overspend was lower than anticipated.
3. The level of contingency was discussed at the last meeting. As indicated in line 1.2.1 relating to top up funding, all of the £500k contingency is expected to be committed. It should also be noted that work is on-going to determine the financial impact of the extended

entitlement for disadvantaged two years olds which became a statutory responsibility from the beginning of this term.

4. 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 position will continue to be monitored and will need to be considered as part of the 2014/15 budget.

Recommendation

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

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