

Schools Forum

8th July 2014

**Schools Budget / Dedicated Schools Grant
Outturn 2013/14**

Introduction

1. This paper informs the Forum of the School Budget outturn position for the 2013/14 Financial Year.
2. Appendix 1 shows the planned spend against the actual outturn for 2013/14 on the Schools Budget. Please note that these figures are all prior to any Academy recoupment. Overall, there is a £1.439 million underspend, compared with a £894k underspend previously reported for the period to the end of November 2013 and presented to the Schools Forum 10th December 2013. The reasons for significant variances between planned and actual spending are:-
3.
 - a. Line 1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget - £594k underspend. This is caused by a lower than anticipated take-up of the Two Year old funding. This underspend comprises both statutory and trajectory funding.
 - b. Line 1.1.1 Contingencies - £78k underspend. These were set aside for errors in the budget share calculation but were not fully required.
 - c. Line 1.1.2 Behaviour Support Services - £26k underspend. This is due to vacant posts not filled.
 - d. Line 1.2.1 Top up Funding - Maintained Providers – £127k underspend. This is as a result of fewer top ups been given to schools than had been anticipated.
 - e. Line 1.2.2 Top up Funding – Academies and Free Schools - £22k underspend. This was arising from fewer top up payments to Academies and Out of Area Schools.
 - f. Line 1.2.3 Top up Funding – Independent Providers - £596k underspend. This is a combination of fewer independent Agency placements utilised and fewer post 16 placements requiring a top-up payment.
 - g. Line 1.2.5 SEN Support Services - £57k underspend. This is as a consequence of a reduced charge from MBC for the Visually Impaired service and lower than anticipated spend on the Early Support Nursery.

- h. Line 1.2.6 Support for Inclusion - £99k underspend. This is due to vacant posts not filled.
 - i. Line 1.4.1 Contribution To Combined Budgets – £50k underspend. The Contribution to Mental Health and Parenting project not required as they were covered by existing staff.
 - j. Line 1.4.5 Carbon Commitment Reduction Allowances - £25k overspend. The actual charge for the Carbon Reduction Scheme was not known when the budget was set and was higher than anticipated.
4. The final Dedicated Schools Grant agreed for 2013/14 was £179k lower than budgeted. This was due to a reduction in the Early Years block of £189k relating to 54 less places. This was offset slightly by the receipt of £10k for Home Educated pupils.
5. In relation to the £1.439m carry forward, £910k has been earmarked for expenditure in 2014-15. This comprises £410k for Early Years funding and £500k in the High Needs block. It is proposed that the remaining £529k is not committed until there is a clearer view of potential pressures, particularly around High Needs, in the current year.

Recommendation

6. The Schools Forum is asked to note the position for 2013-14.

David New
Senior Finance Manager – Service Strategy