

Schools Forum

31st October 2017

Schools Budget Monitoring 2017/18

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 September 2017.

School Budget

2. **Appendix 1** shows the revised budget against the projected outturn for 2017/18 on the Schools Budget as at 30th September, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. Overall, there is currently a £1.130m overspend forecast at the end of this financial year. The reasons for variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers – Estimated overspend of £464k. Estimated cost for the period Sept 2017 to March 2018 for the High Needs Enhanced Mainstream Provision relating to maintained schools (£300k). Plus additional cost of placements at Other LA Maintained Special Schools (£164k)
 - b. Line 1.2.2 Top up funding academies and free schools – The projected overspend of £590k relates to additional places/top-ups for academies including out of area and also includes the estimated cost of the High Needs Enhanced Mainstream Provision.
 - c. Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers - The projected overspend of £572k relates to additional Agency placements plus increased costs of some existing placements and unbudgeted costs of independent assessments and therapy sessions.
 - d. 1.2.5 SEN Support Services - £105k estimated overspend due to the increased costs for the Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired support arrangement with Middlesbrough Council.
 - e. 1.4.10 Pupil growth / Infant class sizes - Estimated £200k underspend based on initial admissions data relating to September 2017.

- f. 1.4.11 SEN Transport - Overspend resulting from the increase in pupils requiring transport services to the PRU.
 - g. Line 1.7.2 Dedicated Schools Grant brought forward from 2016-17. Actual savings of £479k brought forward from 2016/17. However, this included savings on Early Years funding which will be adjusted by the EFSA during the current financial year.
3. 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 in the lead up to setting the 2018-19 budget.

Recommendation

4. That the Schools Forum note the current financial position on the schools budget.

Andy Bryson
Finance Manager