

Schools Forum

23rd January 2018

Schools Budget Monitoring 2017/18

Introduction

1. This paper provides members of the Forum with the current projected 2017/18 outturn position on the Schools Budget based on information to the **end of December 2017**. It is estimated that there will be a **deficit of £1.190m** by the end of the financial year. This compares to the estimated deficit of £1.130m reported to the Forum on the 31st October 2017.

School Budget

2. **Appendix 1** shows the revised budget against the projected outturn for 2017/18 on the Schools Budget as at 31st December, in the prescribed DfE Section 251 reporting format. The reasons for variances between planned and projected spend are: -
 - a. Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers – Estimated overspend of £402k. 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 (£102k)
 - b. Line 1.2.2 Top up funding academies and Out of Area – The projected overspend of £873k (Sept £590k) relates to the continuing increased numbers of places and top-ups required for academies including out of area and the estimated cost of the High Needs Enhanced Mainstream Provision.
 - c. Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers - The projected overspend of £738k (Sept £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 £250k underspend based on admissions data and current requests for funding.

- f. 1.4.11 PRU Transport - Overspend of £51k 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 utilised to offset high needs and early years spend the current financial year.
3. Based on current census point numbers it is estimated that there will be surplus funding in relation to early years and the two year old offer totalling £250k. This is due to the actual pupil numbers on which payments have been made being lower than at the census dates on which funding is allocated.
 4. It is worth noting that taking High Needs in isolation there is an **estimated deficit of £2.170m** in this block.
 5. Any surplus or deficit on the Schools Budget supported by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is carried forward to the following financial year.

Recommendation

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

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