



## SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

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21st September 2017

### Schools Budget 2017/18 Latest Forecast

#### 1. Introduction

The purpose of schools forums is to advise local authorities on the operation of the local Schools Budget and its distribution among schools and other bodies. This paper and its appendix updates the Forum on the latest forecast for the Schools Budget for 2017/18.

#### 2. Attachments

The following items form the appendices to this paper.

- Appendix 1 – Latest forecast for 2017/18

#### 3. Points to Note in the Budget Forecast

3.1 The Grant income has been adjusted to reflect the following:

- The reduction in funding as a result of schools converting to academy of £136k. This is reflected in a corresponding reduction in spend within the schools block.
- An increase in funding received for Early Years as a result of the January census data of £109.7k
- Receipt of an additional £39k of income for the adjustment to funding for Early Years for 2016/17.

3.2 The DSG as a whole is forecast to be under spent by £95.2k in 2017/18. This forecast includes the agreed recharge of £39.5k to schools for the overspend on High Needs last year. When taking into account the overspend on Early Years for last year of £148k, then the DSG will be in deficit by £52.8k at the end of the year.

#### 3.3 The Schools Block:

The schools block is showing an underspend of £137.7k due mainly to the forecast adjustment on school allocations as a result of schools converting to academies during the financial year. This underspend is offset by a corresponding reduction in funding.

#### 3.4 The High Needs Block:

As can be seen from the attached appendix, the High Needs budget is showing a forecast underspend of £15.7k for the financial year. Within this forecast, there is projected spend of £50k to £100k for post 16 pupils where placements have not yet been confirmed.

#### 3.5 The Early Years Block:

The Early Years Block is forecast to be underspent by £38.8k for the financial year. This is due to increased funding for 3 & 4 year olds being received. However, this underspend could be reclaimed by the ESFA if the January 2018 census figures show a reduction in

pupil numbers compared to the January 2017 figures. The overall position will not be known until July 2018 when the final allocations will be announced for Early Years.

With regards to the additional 15 free hours for working parents, the Council has provisionally been funded for 178.4 PTE (Part Time Equivalent). The current figures are that 181 have been approved. The final funding allocation will be based on data from the January 2018 census on the number of 3&4 year olds with working parents.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast position for 2017/18 Dedicated Schools Grant and the overall fund surplus of £95.2k for the year.

Dawn Greaves  
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13<sup>th</sup> September 2017