



SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

13TH FEBRUARY 2020

SCHOOLS FUNDING 2019/20

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper updates the Forum on the provisional outturn for the Schools Budget for 2019/20.

2 2019/20 FORECAST OUTTURN

2.1 The table below summarises the 2019/20 DSG Outturn against each of the four blocks.

	Schools £000	High Needs £000	Early Years £000	Central Schools £000	Total £000
Surplus/(Deficit) Carry Forwards from 2018/19	0	(157)	24	21	(112)
DSG Allocations	23,453	3,867	1,863	163	29,346
Transfer between blocks	(117)	117	0	0	0
Academy Recoupment	(21,669)	(176)	0	0	(21,845)
Expenditure in Year	(1,667)	(4,080)	(1,866)	(147)	(7,760)
Recovery Plan Investment	0	(110)	0	0	(110)
Additional High Needs Costs not yet placed	0	(10)	0	0	(10)
Under/(Over) spends in 2019/20	0	(392)	(3)	16	(379)
Surplus/(Deficit) Carried Forward to 2019/20	0	(549)	21	37	(491)
Percentage of Total DSG	-	(1.87%)	0.07%	0.13%	(1.67%)

2.2 The key point to note is:

- The High Needs Block is overspending in year. The DfE have changed the conditions of grant and the formal submission of recovery plan is no longer required, the DfE do still have the following requirements for when the DSG is carrying a deficit
 - a) Any local authority that has an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2019 to 2020 financial year, or whose DSG surplus has substantially reduced during the year, must co-operate with the Department for Education (DfE) in handling that situation. In particular, the local authority must:

- Provide information as and when requested by the department about its plans for managing its DSG account in the 2020 to 2021 financial year and subsequently.
- Provide information as and when requested by the department about pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget.
- Meet with officials of the department as and when they request to discuss the local authority's plans and financial situation.
- Keep the schools forum regularly updated about the local authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings

2.3 The High Needs Block

2.3.1 As can be seen from the table above, the High Needs budget is showing a potential over spend of £549k. This has decreased from £711k shown in October for three main reasons:

- Adjustment to allocation £42k – this reflects the additional placements we have within the system
- We have seen a some cases transfer out of county - £80k
- Reduction in spend on recovery plan measures of £80k. This is due to implementing the measures in a phased approach

2.3.2 An additional £10k has been included for service users (5) that are going through the EHCP process.

2.3.3 This position can still fluctuate between now and the end of the financial year due to transfers in / out of county and any EHCP's that are either reviewed or come in different to that estimated.

2.3.4 As referenced in the paper covering the Spending Review, the first call on any additional funding for 20/21 will be to cover the deficit that has built up.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast position for 2019/20 Dedicated Schools Grant and the update on additional grant funding.