



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

30th March 2017

Schools Budget 2016/17 Update

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 projected outturn for the Schools Budget for 2016/17.

2. Attachments

The following items form the appendices to this paper.

- Appendix 1 – Forecast outturn for 2016/17

3. Points to Note in the Budget Forecast

3.1 The Grant income has been adjusted to reflect the recoupment of £36k of early years funding received in 2015/16. This is due to the January 2016 census data showing fewer 3&4 year olds than previously anticipated resulting in a reduction in funding allocation as notified by the Department for Education (DfE).

3.2 The forecast does include the under spend carry forward from 2015/16 of £325k, as Schools Forum has already approved the use of this funding for School Improvement (£50k) and allocation to schools (£275k).

3.3 The Schools Block:

The schools block is showing a more or less breakeven position. There is a slight underspend on the Admissions Service as a result of vacancies within the team.

3.4 The High Needs Block:

As can be seen from the attached appendix, the High Needs budget is showing a forecast overspend of £41.4k for the financial year. This is a projected decrease in overspend to that reported at Q3 of £163.4k. The Schools' Forum have already agreed that any overspend at year end will be recouped from next years budget. The indicative budget figures for 2017/18 issued to schools recently showed an anticipated recoupment of £184.9k and therefore, the actual recoupment is likely to be lower than previously indicated.

3.5 The Early Years Block:

The Early Years Block is currently forecasting an overspend of £65.9k for the financial year. This is due to increased numbers of 2, 3 & 4 year olds. If these increases are reflected in the January 2017 census data, then the funding should be adjusted to reflect the increase.

4. **Recommendations**

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the forecast for 2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant.

Dawn Greaves
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22nd March 2017