



SCHOOLS' FORUM MEETING

29th June 2017

Schools Budget 2016/17 Outturn

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 draft outturn for the Schools Budget for 2016/17.

2. Attachments

The following items form the appendices to this paper.

- Appendix 1 – Draft 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 and a reduction of £54k for 2016/17 based on the January 2016 census data. 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). This gives an overall deficit on the funding received in 2016/17 of £90k

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 DSG as a whole is overspent for 2016/17 by £187.5k with an agreement to recharge £39.5k to schools (for High Needs) leaving an unfunded deficit of £148k. This overspend is a combination of the clawback (be the DfE) of funding for 2015/16 and an overspend in 2016/17 on Early Years as a result of the funding being based on the January census data and actual spend being on actual numbers attending over the course of the year.

3.4 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.

3.5 The High Needs Block:

As can be seen from the attached appendix, the High Needs budget is showing an overspend of £39.5k for the financial year. The Schools' Forum have already agreed that this overspend will be recharged to schools during 2017/18.

3.6 The Early Years Block:

The Early Years Block is overspent by £63.3k 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 in 2017/18. However, if the increase is not reflected in the census data, then this will lead to a further shortfall in overall DSG funding.

It should be noted that for 2015/16, the DfE clawed back the underspend of £36k on the 3&4 year old funding but did not increase the 2 year old funding which was overspent by £54k.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the draft outturn for 2016/17 Dedicated Schools Grant and the overall fund deficit of £187.5k.

4.2 Schools Forum to discuss Early Years overspending and review whether a working group is required to assess how best to resolve the issues being experienced

Dawn Greaves
Finance Manager – Accounting
19th June 2017