

Finance Report - Schools Forum 23rd November 2023

Forecast Outturn Position 2023/2024

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded activities are currently forecast to **overspend by £1.038m**.

The following table details the main areas of both over and under spend. Many of these budgets are demand led and will be monitored during 23/24 and revisions reported accordingly.

Budget Heading	Budget	Actuals to date	Projected Outturn	Over / (Under) Spend
Early Years 2, 3 & 4 yr old payments – PVI's & Academies	£6.229m	£3.574m	£6.229m	£0k
Early Years – ALFEY	£295k	£190k	£285k	(£10k)
Early Years – Pupil Premium & Disability Access Fund	£158k	£61k	£118k	(£40k)
Early Years – 5% retained element	£383k	£184k	£320k	(£63k)
Joint Funded Placements	£400k	£159k	£300k	(£100k)
Recovery of funding from schools for Excluded Pupils, Medical Tuition Service and Elective Home Education	(£175k)	(£52k)	(£110k)	£65k
Contribution from Health towards EHCP's	(£100k)	(£0k)	(£0k)	£100k
Independent Special School Fees including South Devon College	£3.330m	£1.738m	£3.650m	£320k
Other packages for EHCP pupils and SEND personal budgets	£1.588m	£1.076m	£1.788m	£200k
Payments to / recoupment from other authorities for mainstream and Special School places	(£128k)	(£52k)	(£428k)	(£300k)
Medical Tuition Service	£1.070m	£804k	£920k	(£150k)
Virtual School / Hospital Tuition / Vulnerable Students Team	£519k	£261k	£480k	(£39k)
Refund from Medical Tuition Service from underspend during 22/23		(£200k)	(£200k)	(£200k)
School contingencies (Planned pupil growth, NQT induction etc)	£70k	£59k	£69k	(£1k)
EHCP in-year adjustments (see separate paper for details)	£539k	£569k	£635k	£96k
Special Schools / High Needs in-year adjustments (see separate paper for details)	£400k	£318k	£400k	£0k
School Intervention / Commissioning	£48k	£17k	£38k	(£10k)
Business Support / Business Intelligence	£240k	£129k	£245k	£5k
Senior Management, Central Recharges, Admissions, EAL / Travellers, SACRE,	£612k	£412k	£545k	(£67k)
Visually impaired / Hearing impaired / Advisory Teachers	£166k	£74k	£135k	(£31k)
Deficit DSG budget set for 23/24	(£1.263m)			£1.263m
Total – Forecast Outturn Position 23/24				£1.038m

This represents an increased position of **£109k** from October 2023. The position continues to be dependent upon the referrals and demands within the system which are being carefully managed through appropriate governance. .

Education, Health & Care Plan Funding for 22/23 & 23/24			
	22/23	23/24	Increase / (Decrease)
Number of pupils with EHCP	512	556	44.00
Number of FTE's with EHCP	463	490	27.00
	£	£	£
Funding below £6k allocated through school formula elements	2,774,332	2,939,171	164,839
Funding above £6k allocated as a top-up per eligible pupil	2,967,540	3,290,903	323,363
EHCP Contingency	550,000	538,500	(11,500)
In-Year adjustments			
April	133,189	106,783	(26,406)
May	97,442	(783)	(98,225)
June	65,574	80,221	14,647
July	116,471	58,835	(57,636)
August	221,556	273,431	51,875
September	35,796	(8,661)	(44,457)
October	(33,353)	58,954	92,307
November	44,883	44,883	0
December	10,002	10,002	0
January	(1,109)	(1,109)	0
February	14,470	14,470	0
March	(2,068)	(2,068)	0
Total - In-Year adjustments	702,853	634,958	
Projected (underspend) / overspend	152,853	96,458	
Notes			
Based on April - October 23 in-year adjustments, and assuming the same as 22/23 for the remaining months.		96,458	

The two areas of significant change that are within the report are

- The number of children and young people in Independent Specialist Placement. Since the previous Forum three more children have required this level of provision within our local area. On average each of these providers cost £55k per placement.
- The number of young people being placed within Post 16 education. As our improvement work to engage and support young people progresses, more young people that were NEET are returning to College. This is a positive outcome for the young person that has the potential to bring about life long outcomes. This is the correct decision and is the collective ambition of the local area, however the costs of providing the provision has resulted in an additional spend of £150k.

In line with our safety valve work we continue to review provision against need and will reduce spend for children and young people through appropriate ceasing and adjustments to funding provided to plans.

The work conducted to drive down spend is described in the Safety Valve Progress Report. The overall DSG position is an improving picture however there are many indicators within the safety valve report that detail areas where progress is harder to achieve. The predicted position is aligned to our Safety Valve DSG Management Plan however it is very early in the academic/financial year and the continued scrutiny and partnership response is required to bring the budget in line.

Overall Position

The 23/24 forecast year end overspend projection for DSG is **£1.038m**.

The cumulative deficit on the DSG is £12.660m before ESFA funding, £5.950m after ESFA Safety Valve Funding.

Recommendation and Decision

The School Forum note the financial position of the Local Area DSG budget.

Review the Safety Valve update report and make recommendations to ensure future progress enables the budget position to be held and improved during the financial year.

Rachael Williams
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