

**DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2017-18**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2017-18 as at 31 October 2017.

**Main Considerations**

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31 October 2017.
3. An underspend of £0.120 million is currently projected against the overall schools budget. This is an adverse movement of £0.103m since the previous report to Schools Forum.

***Early Years Budgets***

4. Budgets for the free entitlement for 15 hours childcare for 3 & 4 year olds are currently assumed to be on target to break even. Data on take up of the free entitlement received to date indicates that this budget will be underspent however we do not yet have any data to indicate the take up of the additional entitlement to 30 hours free childcare for children of working parents. After the autumn data collection from settings it will be possible to make a more accurate forecast against this budget and this will be brought to the January 2018 meeting.
5. An underspend of £0.316m is currently projected against the budget for the free entitlement for 2 year olds. This is based on take up to date. The DSG allocation for early years will be updated for the January 2018 census and so it is possible that the allocation will be reduced if take up is not as estimated in the initial settlement.

***High Needs Budgets***

6. High Needs budgets are projected to overspend by £1.153m, an increase of £1m since the previous report to Schools Forum. The biggest areas of growth are Independent Special School packages, top ups in mainstream schools (Named Pupil Allowances), and top ups in Resource Bases and Special Schools. The post-16 budget continues to show an underspend which is partially offsetting to overspend in other areas.

**Proposals**

7. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2017 and the continued pressure on high needs budgets.

*Report Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance*

*Tel: 01225 713675*

*e-mail: [elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk)*

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