

## School Funding Working Group and SEN working Group

7 March 2018

### Minutes

**Present:** Liz Williams, Grant Davis, Susan Tanner, Lisa Percy, Neil Baker, Catriona Williamson, Sam Churchill, John Hawkins, Phil Cook, Tracy Cornelius

**Apologies:** Jonathon Curtis

1	<p><b><i>Minutes from previous meeting</i></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. There were no matters arising that had not already been considered by Schools Forum at the January 2018 meeting.</p>	
2	<p><b><i>High Needs Places – recoupment and funding for additional places</i></b></p> <p>GD presented a paper outlining the options for the funding of additional places in resourced provision (Resource Bases and Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP)) and for the “recoupment” of funding for empty places through the top up mechanism.</p> <p>Funding for resourced provision would change in 2018-19 with places being funded at £6,000 per place through the high needs block and pupils attracting AWPUs for pupils through the national funding formula (NFF).</p> <p>GD proposed that funding for additional places and the recoupment of empty places be set at £6,000.</p> <p>There was a further discussion as to whether a proportion of the AWPUs funding should transfer to the resourced provision with the pupil. The group was of the view that this would be difficult to enforce and administer and therefore supported the proposal that the transfer of funds for additional places or unfilled places should be £6,000.</p>	
3	<p><b><i>Budget Monitoring – Period 10</i></b></p> <p>EW circulated a budget monitoring report giving the projected outturn as at period 10 (31 January 2018). The report showed an increase in the projected overspend for high needs budgets, and therefore for the DSG as a whole. This increase was in part due to increased activity and in part due to data quality issues that had highlighted an error in previous reports for post 16 top up payments. The impact would be that the overspend would exceed the level of the DSG reserve resulting in a deficit to be rolled forward in to 2018-19.</p> <p>An increase in activity and cost of education personal budgets was also highlighted.</p> <p>EW confirmed that early years budgets were currently reported as break even until the impact of the January 2018 census could be quantified.</p>	

	<p>The group considered potential recovery options. It was noted that recovery options can only be looked at within the high needs blocks as budgets for other blocks had been finalised. Further work is required to minimise the overspend for the current year and to reduce costs in 2018-19. It was noted that the highest spend in the high needs block is on top ups to mainstream schools and that reductions could not be ruled out.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It was agreed that the pressures on the high needs block need to be escalated through the F40 Group</li> <li>2. EW/GD to summarise key issues for NB meeting with Michelle Donnellan MP</li> </ol>	EW/GD
4	<p><b>Growth fund – Impact of Army Rebasing Programme</b></p> <p>GD circulated a confidential paper outlining the issues associated with revenue funding for schools affected by the army rebasing programme. Lagged funding for schools based on the pupil census from the previous year would result in schools not receiving sufficient funding for pupils in the first year of the programme without additional funding for pupil growth. Pupils are expected to arrive in schools across the south of the county from September 2019 whilst funding for the 2019-20 financial year would be based on the October 2018 census</p> <p>It was noted that the issue has been raised with the DfE as a matter of urgency and a response was awaited. LP requested that if no details of funding were received then further work would be required with WASSH and PHF.</p>	
5	<p><b>Schools Costs 2018-19</b></p> <p>EW referred to a DfE Paper on cost pressures for schools.</p> <p>It was agreed that GD would summarise those cost pressures, such as increases in the employers superannuation rate, that the DfE had not included in the paper.</p>	GD
6	<p><b>Update on School Budgets 2018-19</b></p> <p>GD circulated a table detailing the final allocations for each formula factor</p>	
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>CW requested further analysis of the budget and outturn for the Behaviour Support Service to be provided to the next meeting.</p>	EW
8	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next meeting to be held on Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> 2018, 8:30am in the Dyson Room at County Hall, Trowbridge</p>	