

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2013-14

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2013-14 as at 31st August 2013.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st August 2013. At this point in the year an underspend of £2.882 million is projected against the overall schools budget. Key variances are as follows:
 - a. *Early Years Free Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds* – an overspend of £0.197 million is projected against the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) for 3 and 4 year olds. The January 2013 early years census indicates reduced take up of places for 3 year olds but this does not seem to be reflected in the current data on take up.
 - b. *Early Years Free Entitlement for 2 year olds* – an underspend of £0.826 million is projected against the EYSFF for 2 year olds. This is a planned underspend and will be rolled forward to 2014-15 to continue to support the agreed hourly rate for 2 year old places.
 - c. *Independent Special School (ISS) placements* – the ISS budget is projected to underspend by £1.391 million. This is based on known placements to date. Part of the underspend is due to a one off adjustment and it is thought that it also reflects the movement of budget and costs for post-16 learners in to the post-16 budget. Costs for post-16 students have been higher than budget in previous years.
 - d. *Top Up Budgets for Wiltshire schools and academies* – top up budgets for special schools, resource bases and enhanced learning provision (ELP) are projected to underspend by £1.196 million. In setting top up rates for 2013-14 it had been difficult to estimate the appropriate top up for each type of centre whilst estimating how much rates could be increased by to reflect savings on unfilled places. The underspend arises from savings on empty places. Proposals will be considered elsewhere on this agenda to revise top up rates for resource bases and ELP in 2014-15 and this is expected to reduce this underspend in future years. A proposal will also be considered elsewhere on this agenda to increase top up values for special schools in the current year in order to mitigate the impact of the implementation of the new funding methodology. This will be affordable within the current budgets.
 - e. *Named Pupil Allowances (NPAs)* – the NPA budget is projected to overspend by £0.131 million. This is based on all known pupils to date but is likely to increase before the year end.

Final Dedicated Schools Grant Settlement 2013-14

3. The final DSG settlement for 2013-14 has been issued by DfE. the final allocation for Wiltshire is £303.133 million prior to deductions for academies recoupment and direct funding of academy high needs places by EFA. This is an increase of £0.929 million compared with the provisional settlement. The changes to the settlement can be summarised as follows:

	Provisional Settlement	Final Settlement	Movement
	£m	£m	£m
Schools Block	249.269	249.269	0.000
High Needs Block	34.980	36.033	1.053
Early Years Block	17.935	17.811	0.124
	302.184	303.113	0.929

4. The changes to the Early Years block are to reflect the January 2013 census which would appear to indicate reduced take up of the free entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds, this is not supported by the projected spend to date and may be adjusted for again following the January 14 census.
5. The changes to the High Needs block reflect the final number of places agreed for specialist provision including post-16 provision in FE colleges and Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) and a small adjustment to reflect former standards funds that are still paid separately to non-maintained special schools.
6. Following confirmation of the final DSG settlement the Chief Finance Officer is required to confirm to the DfE that the Local Authority's allocated 2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant published by the Education Funding Agency in July 2013, and modified by any positive or negative DSG balance brought forward from 2012-13, will be fully allocated in support of the Schools Budget in 2013-14. The CFO is also required to confirm that this has been agreed at a meeting of the Schools Forum.

Proposals

7. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of August 2013.
8. Schools Forum is asked to confirm to the DfE that the Local Authority's allocated 2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant published by the Education Funding Agency in July 2013, and modified by any positive or negative DSG balance brought forward from 2012-13, will be fully allocated in support of the Schools Budget in 2013-14.

CAROLYN GODFREY
DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & EDUCATION

Report Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance (DCE)

Tel: 01225 713675 e-mail: elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk