

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2011/12 as at 31st October 2011.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st October 2011. At this point in the year an underspend of £1.626 million is projected against the overall schools budget. Key variances are as follows:
 - a. *Independent Special School Placements* – this budget is currently projected to underspend by £0.955 million. The forecast is based on all current placements and includes young people for whom a placement has been agreed by the Joint Complex Needs Panel but which may not yet be in place. The underspend arises from reduced numbers of placements and reflects the increased number of pupils who can be provided for within Wiltshire schools. A further underspend of £0.373 million is projected against placements made in other local authority schools, again this is based on agreed expenditure and income schedules to date and will be continually updated. A regional meeting is to be held in December to finally agree the approach to charging for special and mainstream placements and this may impact on this forecast position.
 - b. *Other Targeted Services* – underspends within the EMAS and Traveller Education Service have arisen due to vacancies and due to the maximisation of the standards funds within the EMAS Team.
 - c. *Early Years Free Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds* – an underspend of £0.175 million is projected against the Early Years Single Funding Formula. This projection is updated termly based on the uptake of the free entitlement across settings.
 - d. *Premature Retirement Costs* – as previously reported the PRC budget is expected to overspend by £0.122 million based on redundancy cases up to 31st August. Costs up to the end of August would normally represent the bulk of the spend against this budget however indications from HR are that there will be further costs incurred through the year and thus this overspend is expected to increase.
 - e. *Personal Education Plans (Looked After Children)* – it is projected that the budget for PEPs will overspend by £0.053 million.
3. No variance is currently projected against the budget for the Young People's Support Service (YPSS). Due to the number of vacancies within the service it is expected that the budget will be underspent however this underspend will need to be earmarked to contribute towards any redundancy costs that may arise from the proposed closure of the service in September 2012. Cabinet has agreed that redundancy costs will need to be provided for between the underspend within the service and the corporate redundancy budget.

4. Any underspend against the Dedicated Schools Grant will be rolled forward in to the next financial year.

Proposals

5. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2011.

CAROLYN GODFREY
DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & EDUCATION

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

Tel: 01225 713675

e-mail: elizabetha.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk