

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 30th November 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 £1.423 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 £0.296 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, and so the Early Years block has been reduced in the final DSG settlement, but this does not seem to be reflected in the current data on take up. It is expected that the DSG will be adjusted for the January 2014 census so if that census shows an increase in line with current projections additional DSG may be received at the year end to mitigate this overspend.
 - b. *Early Years Free Entitlement for 2 year olds* – an underspend of £0.169 million is projected against the EYSFF for 2 year olds. This is a planned underspend and is broadly in line with initial projections used to support the calculation of the hourly rate.
 - c. *Independent Special School (ISS) placements* – the ISS budget is projected to underspend by £1.735 million. This is based on known placements to date.
 - 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 break even for this financial year. This projection takes in to account the impact of the increases to special school top ups agreed at the October meeting.
 - e. *Top Up Budgets (Post-16)* – the funding allocation for post-16 placements has increased in the final DSG settlement and so the budget is projected to underspend by £0.116 million. Work is being undertaken now to identify the numbers of post-16 pupils within school 6th forms and this will result in additional payments for places being made from this budget and so expenditure will increase before the year end. This budget will continue to be under pressure in 2014-15 as numbers of placements this year exceed the numbers initially planned, particularly with local FE providers.
 - f. *Named Pupil Allowances (NPAs)* – the NPA budget is projected to overspend by £0.451 million. This is an increase in expenditure since the last report.

Proposals

3. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of November 2013.

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