

HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

Annex C

The budget proposals for the high needs block have been incorporated in the main report of this School Budget Update for 2018-19 which sets out the pressures and savings.

Annex C describes the following in more detail

1. The proposed use of the strategy development fund including the proposal to transfer revenue funding to support primary behaviour capital projects and approve the disapplication request for funding capital from revenue.
2. The allocation of funding for secondary behaviour.

1. Strategy Development Fund (SDF)

The purpose of the SDF is to provide for new initiatives and priorities arising from the SEND Strategy. It also provides a reserve for the School Budget as a whole. Set out below are 4 initial recommendations for the use of the SDF in 2018-19. Currently this leaves a balance of £1,279m to be allocated. Consideration will be given during the year as outcomes of the workstreams are finalised and any high needs pressures are identified. Indications at present are that calls on the balance may include areas such as ENF, Early Years and Speech, Language and Communication.

Proposals for use of 2018-19 SDF	£'000
Special School Top Ups (Complexity)	1,000
Contribution to capital for Primary Behaviour	750
Provision for further increase in independent placements	700
Cost Pressures at 2.05% (£1,256 if fund at 80% of total pressures)	1.483
To be allocated	1,279
HN Strategy Development Fund	5,212

Special School Top ups – Complexity

At the February 2017 meeting of the Forum it was agreed to set aside £750k towards the cost of increases in top up rates as a result of the review of the special school bandings for increases in complexity. It is now proposed that this funding is increased by £250k to £1m to reflect the continuing increase in complexity in the higher banding profiles. The details of the revised banding profiles will be taken to the Special School Task Group in January and any recommendations referred to the February Forum for approval. It is proposed any changes will be introduced from April 2018.

Contribution to Capital for Primary Behaviour

At the December 2016 meeting of the Forum it agreed to support a new funding model for commissioning primary behaviour across the DSPL areas. The DSPL Areas have been reviewing their local services and moving away from the Primary Support Base (PSB) model in mainstream schools as this does not fit with what is required to meet needs. Also a number of governing bodies in schools where there are PSBs have indicated that they no longer wish to host a PSB.

In line with the tiered model of service delivery in the Behaviour Strategy DSPL areas have been developing new ways for services to be provided. This includes the

need for a short stay provision at Tier 4 for pupils with the highest needs. In a number of areas that have developed their plans the preferred model is for this to be sited and managed by the ESC. This will require capital development for new accommodation suitable for a small number of primary pupils.

It is proposed that a revenue contribution to fund three of these capital projects is made in 2018-19 at a cost of £250k each. This includes new accommodation on the site of the Links Alternative Provision Academy and Dacorum ESC, and one further project to be confirmed. It will be necessary to get approval from the DfE to use revenue for capital expenditure and therefore the Forum is asked to endorse this proposal and to support the recommendation in the main report regarding the disapplication request to the DfE to use £750k of high needs funding for capital in 2018-19.

Independent placements

The number of independent placements has risen significantly in 2017-18 and as a consequence the budget for 2018-19 has been increased to reflect this and an increase in the contribution towards the cost of social care for children with EHCPs where their needs can be met from in-county provision.

It is projected that if placements continue to rise at the same level in 2018-19 an additional £1.4m would be needed to fund this level of placements. It is proposed therefore to set aside 50% (£700k) of this cost in the SDF towards this pressure.

Cost pressures

Targeted cost pressures of £1.483m have been identified for 2018-19 and set aside in the SDF. The level of funding and the targeted areas will be discussed by the High Needs Sub group in January and brought to the Forum for endorsement at the February Forum.

2. Secondary Behaviour

The December 2017 Forum agreed an increase in funding of £1.2m for secondary behaviour to develop a new commissioning framework that could be applied across all DSPL areas. The new funding model incorporates the figures given below based on DSPL model indicators

Secondary Behaviour Allocations

DSPL	MI	MI Allocation	Place Nos	Place funding	MI allocation	Total Allocation	2017-18 Budget	Variance	Combined Areas	
1	9.9%	1,037,261	33	330,000	707,604	1,037,604	1,058,961	21,357	298,960	1&2
2	10.7%	1,122,328	36	360,000	765,636	1,125,636	805,320	320,316		
3	11.5%	1,207,027	38	380,000	823,416	1,203,416	1,881,271	-	263,322	3&4
4	8.9%	939,886	30	300,000	641,176	941,176		677,854		
5	9.7%	1,023,215	32	320,000	698,023	1,018,023	1,469,825	-	173,288	5&6
6	5.9%	623,130	20	200,000	425,090	625,090		451,802		
7	12.1%	1,266,859	40	400,000	864,233	1,264,233	1,262,265	1,968	1,968	7
8	13.1%	1,379,808	44	440,000	941,285	1,381,285	1,365,078	16,207	16,207	8
9	18.2%	1,909,758	61	610,000	1,302,809	1,912,809	1,466,553	446,256	446,256	9
	100.0%	10,509,272	334	3,340,000	7,169,272	10,509,272	9,309,272	1,200,000	1,200,000	

The figures include an overall increase of approximately 12.5% to ensure that no area is disadvantaged as a result of the reallocation. The Forum is asked to endorse this proposal.