

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITOR 2019-20 END OF SUMMER TERM 2019

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum of the position for the Schools Budget for 2019-20 at the end of the Summer term 2019.

2 Background

- 2.1 Government funding for schools by way of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) means that any variances in the Schools Budget are "ring fenced" and cannot be used elsewhere. This paper gives details of the forecast variances in the revenue outturn against the Schools Budget.
- 2.2 The Schools Budget for 2019-20 was as follows:

Description	Amount £m
Net Schools Budget including use of carry forward	607.414
Academies Recoupment	372.085
Gross Schools Budget including Academies Recoupment	979.499

3 Schools Budget Variances

The forecast underspend on the Schools Budget for 2019-20 is £1.702m.

The table below shows the variance by block. Variances in grant attributed to relevant blocks are included in the table below. Annex A provides a more detailed breakdown of the variances, with the variances and explanations set out in a table.

	Latest Approved Budget £'000	Forecast outturn £'000	Projected Over/ (Under)spend £'000
Schools	405,329	405,248	(81)
Early Years	86,297	82,436	(3,861)
High Needs	108,932	111,061	2,129
Central Schools Services	6,856	6,968	112
Total	607,414	605,712	(1,702)

The figures above are based on a comprehensive review of expenditure at the end of July. However, as of now we are expecting a further increase in the forecast overspending of c£1m in the High Level Needs Block. There is a risk therefore that the overall DSG budget for 2020/21 moves into an overspending position. At present however, we do expect a small surplus, with underspending in the Early Years block set against overspending elsewhere.

Whilst the overall level of overspending in HLN is reported as £2m (and likely to rise to £3m), it is important to be clear that this is after a £6.2m underspending on the SEN Strategy Development Fund. If that is set on one side, the level of overspending compared with what we expected is over £8m. This was unexpected and will have a major impact on plans for 2020/21, as set out in more detail in the budget strategy report elsewhere on this agenda.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Forum is asked to note and comment on the end of Summer term monitor position.