

**High Needs Budget Monitor Report – July 2019**

|   | Latest Approved Budget<br>£'000 | Forecast outturn<br>£'000 | Projected over/(under) spend<br>£'000 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| High Needs Budget (net of deduction for places in academies and colleges) | 108,932                         | 111,095                   | 2,163                                 |
| Adjustment to High Needs DSG – July 2019                                  |                                 |                           | 270                                   |
| Refund of DSG Deductions for Barnfield College                            |                                 |                           | (304)                                 |
| <b>Net High Needs</b>   |                                 |                           | <b>2,129</b>                          |

|   | Latest Approved Budget<br>£'000 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Gross High Needs budget                   | 114,677                         |
| Deduction for academy places              | (5,619)                         |
| Deduction for college high needs places   | (2,988)                         |
| High Needs DSG c/fwd. from 2018-19        | 2,862                           |
| <b>Total High Needs budget (as above)</b> | <b>108,932</b>                  |

**Summary**

The High Needs forecast overspend is mainly due to the following:

- Special School Top up funding - £600k overspend due to increased capacity at special schools to meet increase demand
- Education Independent placements - £3,359k overspend due to
  - £1,859k attributed to an increase in both the number of placements and average cost. The average cost has increased from £52,008 in budget to £52,661 in July. The number of pupils has also increased from a budget of 166 places to 184 current active placements, with an additional 7 due to start in September at a cost of £249k. In addition, there are 29 pupils pending a panel hearing with a projected cost of £536k.
  - £1.5m contribution to social care education costs.
- SEN Strategy Development Fund - £6,186k underspend. This fund was established to support new initiatives, including key priorities within the SEND strategy. The additional 18/19 HN DSG funding of £2.86m is included in this fund.

- Exceptional Needs - £1,841k overspend due to higher ongoing commitments of pupils with exceptional needs compared to budget with a projected cost of £843k and a £1m provision for the two remaining panels in the year.
- Out of County Top Ups - £1,893k overspend due to an increase in number of placements in schools in other local authorities caused by the shortage of spaces in Hertfordshire schools, particularly in our specialist provision. This has been increasing steadily since 2016 and is forecast to increase further in 2019. The projected cost is based on average costs in 18/19.
- Additional Welfare & Tuition - £441k overspend due to an increased number of pupils with ECHPs, the lack of places available in special schools and increase in exclusions. There has been an increase in the number of children with home tuition packages and funding for teaching assistant support in schools outside of Hertfordshire. In addition, there has been an increasing number of Tribunal decisions requiring additional resourcing in mainstream schools and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programmes resulting in higher costs.
- High Needs Capital - £500k overspend which represents approved disapplication to utilise DSG funding as a contribution to a capital scheme.