

**Agenda Item 6**

**Schools Forum**

**18 January 2021**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2020/21**  
**DECEMBER 2020 MONITORING REPORT**

**This report is for Information**

**1. Recommendations:**

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report in relation to the 2020/21 HNB Grant budget monitoring for the period 1 April – 31 December 2020.
- 1.2 Note the data provided on the commissioned places and occupancy for special provisions as at 31 December 2020.

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 To provide Schools Forum with the HNB monitoring position as at 31 December 2020 projected to 31 March 2021 and special provision occupancy as at 31 December 2020.

**3. HNB Budget 2020/21**

- 3.1 The HNB current grant for 2020/21 is £48.583m.
- 3.2 Table 1 shows the budget for 2020/21, the anticipated outturn as at 31 March 2021 and the variance from budget.
- 3.3 The anticipated in year surplus as at 31 October 2020 projected to 31 March 2021 was £0.137m. This has now changed to an anticipated in year deficit of £0.193m.
- 3.4 The balance bought forward as at 1 April 2020 is £0.561m Deficit.

3.5 The increases in staffing and provision agreed by Schools Forum in December 2019 have been built into the budget figures.

**Table 1 - HNB 2020/21 Budget Allocations**

<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget 2020/21 £000</b>	<b>Anticipated Outturn 31/3/21 £000</b>	<b>Variance from Budget £000</b>
1) Out of Borough Placements	4,929	6,137	1,208
2) Pupil Top Up and Place Funding	29,433	30,202	769
3) Post 16 Colleges	2,323	2,660	337
4) Hospital PRU	1,073	1,173	100
5) SEN Support Services	1,412	1,275	(137)
6) Support for Inclusion	4,574	3,910	(664)
7) Alternative Provision	1,911	1,287	(624)
8) SEN Developments	1,099	516	(583)
8) Other SEN Funding	1,677	1,534	(143)
10) Exclusions & Reintegration	152	82	(70)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,583</b>	<b>48,776</b>	<b>193</b>

3.6 The main variances are as follows:

- Out of Borough Placements – £1,208k overspend. This heading incorporates pupils placed in other local authority maintained and academy, mainstream and special school, and independent special schools. There has been a small movement on this budget head since the last report and is attributed to additional pupils being placed in other local authority schools following phased transfer. There are no further changes to report on placements in Independent special schools.

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- Pupil Place and Top up - £769k overspend is predominantly due to an increase in assessments for EHCPs. The data shows that there has been a net increase of approximately 150 plus pupils who have been assessed and received EHCPs since January 2020.
- Post 16 Further Education Colleges and Specialist Providers - £337k overspend. The contracts have been finalised with all colleges, except for three, which are still being compiled. This was previously reported as outturn to budget as the placements and contracts were not in place. There has been a significant increase in the number of post 16 students accessing colleges and specialist provisions.
- Hospital PRU - £100k it was agreed by Schools Forum as part of the budget consultation that places would increase in Albright from 40 to 50. This was originally budgeted for under the SEN Developments heading.
- SEN Support Services - £137k underspend is due to staff vacancies
- Support for inclusion – 664K underspend is staff vacancies and updated running costs and the Preventing Secondary Exclusions Team which is still under discussion which was budgeted at £199k
- Alternative provision – £624k underspend is due to a reduction in the number of pupils placed in AP settings following the introduction of the AP panel in Sept 2019. There were 201 pupils accessing alternative provision during the Summer Term 2020 which included 134 that were in year 11. Currently the LA is funding 71 pupils through the HNB. The AP Panel have placed 12 pupils into alternative provision since September 2019. The panel still sat during the lockdown period in Summer 2020, however referrals were low. Currently the panel only uses AP with independent school status so that pupils are on a school roll and are entitled to full time provision.
- SEN Developments £583K underspend – This budget head currently covers independent appeals and reports, and any funding agreed that does not clearly fit onto any other budget head. The additional 10 places allocated to Albright was

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originally budgeted for here. It also holds an initial balancing figure of £521k, which is difference between the calculated budgets as at 1 April 2020 and the HNB Grant initial settlement 2020/21.

- Other SEN Funding - £143k underspend is made up of slippage in appointing staff equating to £94k, adjustments to payments for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy over a two year period which have now been resolved resulting in an overall underspend of £69k and a potential overspend of £20k against hospital education recoupment.
- Exclusions & Reintegration - £70k underspend is all related to staffing.

#### 4. Other SEN Funding

4.1 Table 2 shows the breakdown of the other SEN funding of £1.677m

**Table 2 Other SEN Funding**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Budget 2020/21 £000</b>	<b>Anticipated Outturn 31/3/21 £000</b>
Central Recharges	508	508
SLAs with Health	87	18
Equal Pay Claim Special Schools	50	50
Transfer to CWD	96	96
Hospital Tuition	30	50
Mediation	30	30
Medical Malpractice Insurance	15	15
Non-Statutory SEN Support	770	675
ITT Staff contribution	23	23
Joint Commissioning	49	49

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SENDIASS	19	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>1,533</b>

**5. Focus Provision and Special School Place Funding**

5.1 The Focus Provisions average under occupancy as at 31 December 2020 is 16%. The table below shows the current commissioned places, current occupancy, vacancies and consultations in the pipeline. A meeting took place at the beginning of January 2021 to discuss place planning going forward across Focus Provisions and Special Schools.

5.2 There are 9 consultations out with schools that will reduce the vacancies to 23 once agreed.

School	Current Available Places	Current Occupancy	Vacancies
Christchurch	8	8	0
Crocketts	12	9	-3
Devonshire Infants	5	2	-3
Devonshire Junior	5	9	4
Ferndale	10	10	0
Galton Valley	10	10	0
Grace Mary	20	18	-2
Gt Bridge Primary	12	12	0
Hargate HI	17	12	-5
Hargate SEMH	10	7	-3
Ocker Hill Academy	10	6	-4
St Martin's SEMH	5	5	0
Uplands	3	3	0

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Bristnall Hall	25	20	-5
St Michael's	20	14	-6
Wodensborough HI	5	2	-3
Wodensborough ASD	24	22	-2
<b>TOTAL current vacancies</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>-32</b>

5.3 Special Schools - The commissioned places are the places that the LA purchase at the beginning of the financial year and are not the actual numbers that the schools can accommodate (PAN). However, the commissioned places at the Meadows and the Orchard are, the physical capacity of the schools at the moment. The data as at 31 December 2020 for special schools is as follows.

	Commissioned Places	Occupancy 31 December 2020
The Orchard	145	145
The Meadows	185	184
The Westminster	210	219
Shenstone/Brades	95	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>642</b>

5.4 The data for PRUs has been run on SYNERGY as at 31 December 2020 and the table below shows the commissioned places against occupancy.

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	Commissioned Places	Occupancy 31 December 2020	Vacancies
Sandwell Community school	180	134	-46
Primrose	25	19	-6
Albright	50	40	-10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>-62</b>

**6. Recommendations**

6.1 That Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

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