

Schools Forum

18 March 2024

Special Educational Needs High Needs Block 2024/25
Budget

This report is for Information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report in relation to the 2024/25 HNB Grant Budget.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide schools forum with the HNB 2024/25 Budget Information.

3. HNB Budget 2024/25

- 3.1 The HNB Grant for 2024/25 notified by the DFE in December 2023 is £75.436M. After deductions of £4.49M the grant available for distribution equates to £70,946M
- 3.2 Table 1 shows the deductions of £4.49M which are made at source to the HNB and paid directly to the various educational establishments.
- 3.3 The deductions are revised during the year and notified to the LA if applicable. A further deduction is anticipated for the £216K for the Black Country Training Group for which Sandwell is the lead authority for commissioning places. This was not included in the place change notification and a provision has been made in the 2024/25 grant pending a response from the DFE.
- 3.4 Teachers Pay and Teachers Pensions Grant and the Special Schools Grant are included in the budgets.
- 3.5 In previous years the total budget calculated for the year was less than the HNB Grant which meant that there was a small favourable surplus very early on in the financial year. However, for 2024/25 the budgeted costs equate to the grant so it is a breakeven point

and any overspends will impact quickly and it will be necessary to utilise the HNB balances accumulated over the previous 2 years should a deficit be reported during the year.

Table 1 – 2024/25 Deductions

	£000
Pre 16 Focus Provision Academy place deductions	440
Special school Academy and Free school Place deductions	2,640
Post 16 SEN mainstream maintained and academy deductions	90
Post 16 Further Education College Deductions	1,320
Total Deductions 2023/24	4,490

4. HNB 2024/25 Budget Allocations

4.1 Table 2 shows the analysis of the 2024/25 HNB Allocation

Table 2 - HNB 2024/25 Budget Allocations

Budget Heading	Budget 2024/25 £000	%
1) Independent Schools	12,288	17.32%
2) Other LA Maintained and Academy Mainstream and Special Schools pupil support	1,823	2.57%
3) Support for pupils awaiting Placement (NTAS, KRUNCH, Targeted Support Etc)	360	0.51%

ILO - UNCLASSIFIED

4) Top up and Place funding delegated to Maintained & Academy Special & Mainstream Schools, Free School and PRUS	48,377	68.19%
5) Support Services for Inclusion and SEN	6,597	9.3%
6) SEN Developments	684	0.96%
7) Other SEN & IS Costs	817	1.15%
Total HNB Grant 2023/24	70,946	100.00%

4.2 A more detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 1

4.3 Appendix 2 shows a more detailed breakdown of item 6 & 7 in Table 2 above.

5. Budgeted Specialist places

5.1 The HNB has budgeted for 1394 WTE Specialist Places in Sandwell Provisions across Special Schools, Mainstream Focus Provisions and PRUs.

5.2 Table 3 Shows the places commissioned for the financial year 2024/25. These are whole time equivalents (WTE) where places are commissioned from 1 September 2024.

Table 3 Commissioned Specialist Places & PRU Places

SPECIAL SCHOOLS	WTE Places
The Orchard	147
The Meadows	215
The Westminster School	252
Shenstone Lodge and Brades	120
High Point	90

ILO - UNCLASSIFIED

Elm Tree (WTE 1/4/24-31/3/25) Actual Commissioned places as at 1/9/24 is 90)		76
Westminster SPI		20
Additional places budgeted for in year across all Special Schools for potential over occupancy from 1/9/24 WTE		12
TOTAL		932

FOCUS PROVISIONS & SPECIAL UNIT		
Primary Schools	ASD	63
	PD	12
	MLD	10
	HI	12
	SEMH	21
	SLCN	1
	SLD	20
Primary Total		139

Secondary Schools	ASD	45
	PD	20
	HI	5
Secondary Total		70

TOTAL FOCUS PROVISION & SPECIAL UNIT PLACES		209
--	--	------------

PRUs		
Primrose PRU (Primary)		25
Sandwell Community School (Secondary)		180
Albright (40 places plus an additional 20 1/4/24-31/8/25)		48
TOTAL PRU PLACES		253

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Schools Forum note the contents of the report in relation to the HNB Grant Budget 2024/25.

Julie Gill , Business Lead Inclusive Learning Services

Date: 06/03/2024

Contact Officer: Julie Gill

Email: julie_gill@sandwell.gov.uk