

Schools Forum

4 July 2022

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2021/22 OUTTURN

This report is for Information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report in relation to the 2021/22 High Needs Block Grant final outturn

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide schools forum with the High Needs Block (HNB) 2021/22 outturn position.

3. HNB Budget 2021/22 Analysis

- 3.1 The Final HNB Grant settlement for 2021/22 was £53.555m after deductions for academies recoupment and direct funding of high needs places by Education Skills and Funding Agency.
- 3.2 The carry forward balance on the HNB as at 31 March 2021 was £0.597m surplus.
- 3.3 Table 1 provides a breakdown of the HNB budget of £53.555m; the gross expenditure as at 31 March 2022 was £52.075m; with HNB grant and other income of £55.409m giving an in-year underspend of £3.333m.

Table 1 - HNB 2021/22 Outturn

Budget Heading	Budget 2021/22 £000	Gross Expend iture £000	Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
1) Out of Borough Placements	6,821	7,047	(7,300)	(253)
2) Pupil Top Up and Place Funding	32,430	33,680	(33,678)	2
3) Post 16 Colleges	3,079	2,550	(3,095)	(545)
4) Hospital PRU	1,298	1,300	(1,298)	2
5) SEN Support Services	1,380	1,315	(1,380)	(65)
6) Support for Inclusion	4,642	4,112	(4,674)	(561)
7) Alternative Provision	843	413	(922)	(509)
8) SEN Developments	1,139	220	(1,139)	(919)
9) Other SEN Funding	1,771	1,363	(1,771)	(407)
10) Exclusions & Reintegration	153	75	(153)	(78)
TOTAL	53,555	52,075	(55,409)	(3,333)

3.4 The main variances are as follows:

- Out of Borough Placements – An underspend of £0.253m is due to a delay in pupils being placed in independent educational establishments and pupils leaving during the spring term.
- Post 16 Colleges – When the budget is prepared an allowance is made for new students and in year admissions. The underspend

of £0.545m relates to a reduction in the amount of Element 3 top up claimed by some mainstream colleges and a reduction in the request for funding to attend college.

- Support for Inclusion – the underspend of £0.561m is due to staff vacancies and part-year vacancies due to staff turnover as well as maternity leave. Also includes monies for Secondary Preventing Exclusions team which will transfer from 1st April 2022 to Fair Access + Exclusions and Secondary Reintegration Team.
- Alternative Provision – the underspend of £0.509m is due to the close monitoring and decisions made at the LA Alternative Provision Panel which has been instrumental in reducing expenditure during the year and controlling the number of pupils placed in alternative provision settings.
- SEN Developments – Is showing an underspend of the underspend of £0.919m This budget head currently covers independent appeals and reports, and any funding agreed that does not clearly fit onto any other budget head. The variance is predominantly the HNB balancing figure of £440k, which is the difference between the calculated budgets as at 1 April 2021 and the HNB Grant initial settlement 2021/22 and a favourable amendment to the Grant of £315k
- Other SEN Funding – The underspend of £0.407m due to resolution not to fund CWD and underspend in non-statutory services.

3.5 The cumulative carry forward balances for 2021/22 is £3.930m surplus after accounting for the £0.597m surplus from 2020/21.

Recommendations

3.6 That Schools Forum note the contents of the report in relation to the HNB Grant Outturn for 2021/22.

Date: 19/06/2022

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