

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

7th March 2017

ITEM NO 4

BUDGET UPDATE 2016/17

Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum regarding the 2016/17 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) position.

Background

2. School Forum was presented with an expenditure budget of £24,016,392 at their January 2017 meeting. The budget remains at the same level.

Updates

3. Appendix 1 shows the current projected year end position regarding the 2016/17 budget. The following paragraphs highlight the main changes from the position reported in January.
4. As Forum members will be aware a number of budgets are demand led based on the number of children in placements. Therefore assumptions have been made with regard to the number of children expected to be in places during the spring term. As a result, the final outturn position will vary dependent on the actual number of children funded during the spring term.
5. Individual Learning Support is projected to be overspent by £59,000, an increase of £22,000 on the previous projection. This increased projected overspend is based on expenditure to date and an estimate of payments due during the final term of the financial year. The increase results from additional assessments being made over and above the estimated number during the autumn term.
6. Special School Placements, Marchbank is projected to be underspent by £41,000 a decrease (in underspend) of £12,000 on the January projection. This decrease in underspend results from additional children being placed in the school during the autumn/summer term than was previously estimated.
7. Resource Base, Mt Pleasant Primary is projected to be underspent by £28,000 an increase (in underspend) of £19,000 on the projection reported in January. This increase in underspend results from places becoming vacant as children have progressed.
8. Post 16 Placements, this budget is projected to be £13,000 underspent based on current funded learners. This projection has been updated to reflect the pupil numbers requiring support in the 2016/17 academic year.
9. SEN Out of area placements, the projected overspend has decreased by approximately £90,000 on that previously reported, resulting from changes in placements during the autumn term, projected to the financial year end.

10. 3 & 4 year old nursery placements in schools and the PVI sector are projected to be underspent by £75,000 based on payments to date. This decrease in underspend results from additional children being funded during the autumn and spring terms. As with the other demand led budgets the final year end position will be change dependent on the actual children funded following the spring census.
11. As with 3 & 4 year old funding the 2 year old nursery budget is currently projected to be underspent by £252,000, an increased underspend of approximately £100,000. Again this change is projection results from the actual funded children during the autumn term, projected through the spring. The final position will is subject to change dependent on the actual children funded following the spring census.
12. PFI, this budget is expected to be underspent by a further £13,000. This increased underspend results from changes in charges within the unitary charge and one off rebates.
13. The overall budget position for 2016/17 is an expected year end underspend position of approximately £368,000. Forum is reminded that there are a number of projections and assumptions in the figures and hence the year end position is subject to change dependent on the usage of places during the remainder of the financial year.
14. Forum will be presented with the final position at their next meeting.

Recommendations

15. That Forum notes the current budget position.

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