

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

12th January 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 £25,923,392 at their October 2016 meeting. The current budget is £24,016,392.

Updates

3. The budget has decreased by £1,907,000 since the October meeting, the changes are noted as follows,
 - a. The conversion of three maintained schools to academies. Resulting in the Education Funding Agency (EFA) recouping budget from the Local Authority for the period of time in the 2016/17 financial year that the schools are academies.
 - b. One of the converting schools being a resource base. Resulting in the EFA recouping “place” funding relevant to the resource base from the local authority for the period of time in the 2016/17 financial year that the schools are academies.
4. Appendix 1 shows the current projected year end position regarding the 2016/17 budget. The following paragraphs highlight the changes from the position reported in October. Forum members should be aware at their October meeting that many of the budgets were shown to be on target as only one terms payment had been made at that point, making accurate projections more difficult.
5. Individual Learning Support is projected to be overspent by £38,000. This projection is based on expenditure to date and reflects payments made for children assessed as requiring additional support during the summer and autumn terms. The final outturn position will vary dependent on the number of assessments during the spring term.
6. School Transport is projected to be underspent £67,000. As reported at October Forum this budget has underspent in previous years and is again projected to be underspent in 2016/17. The projection is based on actual payments made in the summer term and estimates for the autumn and spring terms and therefore is subject to further variance at the year end.
7. The Pupil Referral Unit place plus budget is projected to be overspent by £84,000. Again this projection is based on the summer actual payment and the estimated number of pupils in the autumn term. This overspend reflects the additional placements made during the summer term, where the unit had on average over ten additional placements on a

weekly basis. Like all place plus budgets, the final year end position will vary dependent on children actually within the unit during the autumn and spring terms.

8. Special School Placements, BHA is projected to be overspent by £330,000. This overspend results from an increase in the number of pupils being placed at the school. The budget for 2016/17 was based on 248 places, however commissioned places has increased up to 266 places resulting in additional place and top up payments. Again this budget position is subject to change dependent on the actual number of children in the school during the autumn and spring terms.
9. Special School Placements, Marchbank is projected to be underspent by £53,000. This underspend results from lower numbers of children being placed in the school than was set within the budget. The final budget position will vary dependent on the number of children taking up places in the spring term.
10. SEN Out of area placements are projected to be overspent by £294,000. This results from additional children being placed out of Darlington.
11. 3 & 4 year old nursery placements in schools and the PVI sector are projected to be underspent by £129,000 based on payments to date. As with other budget areas the projections are subject to change dependent on the actual number of children in placements in the autumn and spring terms.
12. As with 3 & 4 year old funding the 2 year old nursery budget is currently projected to be underspent by £153,000. Again this is subject to change dependent on children in placements throughout the rest of the financial year.
13. PFI is expected to be underspent by £103,000. This results from the inflation factor for the contract being less than estimated at the start of the year
14. LAPP budgets are projected to be underspent by £45,000 based on spend to date.
15. The high needs contingency will not be spent, however this funding is all to be used to offset the overspends within some of the other high needs pressures.
16. The overall budget position for 2016/17 is an expected year end underspend position of approximately £253,000. 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.

Recommendations

17. That Forum notes the current budget position.

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