

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

10th March 2015

ITEM NO 3

BUDGET UPDATE 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To update Forum regarding the 2014/15 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) position.

Background

2. School Forum was presented with an updated budget position of £28,252,317 at their January meeting. There has been no change to the budget since that meeting.

Updates

3. Appendix 1 shows the current projected year end position regarding the 2014/15 budget. As we are now nearly at the end of the financial year, the vast majority of the projected year-end figures will be the final figures, however there will still be fluctuations with regard to demand led services as final census and invoicing information is still outstanding at the time of writing. The following paragraphs highlight the main changes since the January Forum report and items for Forum's attention.
4. School Nurseries, as reported in January this budget is projected to be underspent at the year end. The projected underspend is approximately £140,000, however as the final spring census data is still outstanding this projection is subject to fluctuation, although this is expected to be small in value.
5. Individual Learning Support (ILS), as previously reported this budget is projected to be underspent at the year end. The projected underspend is approximately £54,000 which is based on the number of payments made to date. Again this projection will vary dependent on the number of children requiring support payments once the final terms census data is available.
6. All top up payments have been made for the final term of the financial year for resource bases, special schools and post 16 placements. The projected year end positions for these budget lines are therefore expected to be fairly final. There will however potentially be some minor adjustments to the figures for places that have either become vacant or filled during the term. In line with the place plus payment system these adjustments will be made at the end of term, once final occupancy is known.
7. SEN out of Borough Placements, as previously reported this budget is projected to be overspent at the year end. The latest projection is a overspend of approximately £315,000 which is based on the current placements. There is still some estimation within the

figures as a number of the children placed have as yet not been invoiced by the relevant school, therefore until final invoices are received actual costs cannot be confirmed.

8. LAPP budgets, the three area budgets are projected to be underspent by approximately £53,000 at the end of the year. This projection is based on the expenditure made to date.
9. The budgets for 3&4 year old nursery carry forward (£153,339) and school carry forward (£963,359) are shown as fully spent within the projected outturn position, although there will actually be no spend against these budgets at the year end. These budgets are shown as fully spent as Forum has already agreed to use these underspends within the funding formula for schools and early years in 2015/16.
10. In addition the budget for 2 year old nursery funding is also shown as fully spent, although there will be a significant underspend at the end of the financial year. This budget is shown as fully spent as Forum have already agreed to roll this underspend forward to enable the 2 year old funding rate to remain at £4.98 in 2015/16 and also to cover any shortfall in two year old funding once the funding received from the DFE is made on census data from April 15.
11. The overall budget position shows a projected underspend of £206,635. This is a decrease of approximately £29,000 on the position reported to Forum in January. Forum have already agreed to use £200,000 of this underspend within the budget build for 2015/16. Any additional underspend at the end of the year will be rolled forward into 2015/16 and allocated in line with Forums agreement.
12. Forum will be presented with the final 2014/15 budget position at their May meeting.

Recommendations

13. That Forum notes the content of this report.

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