

DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

13th January 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 October 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 a number of the budgets are dependent on the number of children accessing a service/place, the projections are subject to change throughout the remainder of the year. Budgets that have a significant change in the projected variance are detailed in the following paragraphs.
4. School Nurseries, as reported in October this budget is projected to be underspent by approximately £115,000. This projection is based on one terms payment, as at the time of writing final census data has not been available for the autumn term, hence this projection is subject to change dependent on the number of actual children in 3&4 year old nursery places in schools in the final two terms of the financial year.
5. The budget for Individual Learning Support (ILS) is projected to have an underspend of approximately £28,000, based on the number of payments made to date. Again this projection will vary dependent on the number of children requiring support for the final four months of the financial year.
6. School Transport. Forum agreed to roll forward any underspend on the transport budget at the end of 2013/14 to top up the 14/15 allocation. The underspend projected in 14/15 is the balance of this unused roll forward.
7. Pupil Growth Fund. In line with the agreed criteria for 2014/15 payments have been made to schools with a growth in numbers. The budget outturn position of £3,228 underspend is therefore expected to be the final year end position.
8. Low Incidence Need, this budget is showing an overspend of £25,000 in line with discussion at the October 14 Forum. This additional funding was provided to the service to increase the capacity available.

9. The projected year end variances for Beaumont Hill & Marchbank have increased by approximately £24,000 and decreased by £32,000 respectively. These projections are based on the number of children accessing places at these schools at the start of the autumn term. As with other placement led provision these figures are subject to change dependent on the actual number of places occupied during the remainder of the financial year.
10. The budget for post 16 top up payments is estimated to be underspent by approximately £193,000 at the year end. This has resulted from having less placements than was estimated in budget setting and by reduced costs of the placements made.
11. SEN out of Borough Placements, this budget is projected to be overspent by approximately £234,000 based on the current placements made. A number of high cost placements have been made in year in line with the individual children's needs. Again the projected year position on this budget is subject to change dependent on any movement in placements over the remainder of the year.
12. LAPP budgets, the three area budgets are projected to be underspent by approximately £45,000 at the end of the year. This projection is based on the expenditure made to date.
13. The budgets for 3&4 year old nursery carry forward (13/14) and school carry forward will all be underspent at the end of the financial year. These budgets are shown as fully spent as Forum has already agreed to allocate underspend in these areas within 2015/16.
14. The overall budget position shows a projected underspend of £235,974. The majority of this underspend (£200,000) has been allocated in the budget setting for 2015/16 in order to minimise reductions upon the school budgets (see agenda items 4 & 5). Any additional underspend at the end of the year will be rolled forward into 2015/16 and allocated in line with Forums agreement.
15. Forum will be presented with updates on the budget position at all their meetings.

Recommendations

16. That Forum notes the content of this report.

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