

a: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P05	£0.0m	£8.3m	£8.3m Overspend
<i>P03</i>	<i>£0.0m</i>	<i>£3.3m overspend</i>	<i>£3.3m overspend</i>

May	June	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2.4	3.3	8.3						
	▼	▼						

Revenue Position

Summary DSG position 2020/21 Period 5 (all figures in £000s)

	b/f	DSG funding/ budget 2020/21	Outturn Period 5 2020/21	In-year variance at P5	Cumulative c/f	In-year variance at P3	Movement P3 to P5
Schools Block	(174)	272,492	272,492	0	(174)	0	(0)
De-delegation	(464)	0	0	0	(464)	0	0
Schools Central Block	0	2,386	2,385	(0)	(0)	(0)	0
Early Years	20	37,119	37,357	237	258	178	59
High Needs Block	3,509	62,511	70,581	8,070	11,578	3,161	4,909
Funding		(374,508)	(374,508)	0	0	0	0
Total	2,892	0	8,307	8,307	11,198	3,338	4,969

Key Messages

The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG has increased significantly to £8.3m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit to carry forward at the end of the year of £11.1m. The main area for concern continues to be the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend in-year of £8.0m, an increase of £4.9m since P3.

Following an Ofsted review last year, the Education service has invested significant resources in the EHC assessment and planning process to ensure that Pupils are assessed and receiving the relevant support in time. This has resulted in an increased number of high needs cases and had a significant impact on the DSG High Needs Block. Since the measures for improvement on the EHC process were introduced, additional Pupils have been assessed and brought into the service quicker, resulting in the increased cost forecast, there have been increases in the number of top-ups to both mainstream and special schools. In addition, the increase in demand would also have a knock on impact on higher cost placement needs (e.g. in out of area or independent non-maintained schools) where available capacity is not sufficient locally.

Following agreement of Schools Forum, the amount transferred from the Schools Block in 2020/21 is being used to contribute towards the Education Transformation Programme. We are currently forecasting that all this funding will be spent in 2020/21. The Education Transformation Programme commenced this year and is primarily concerned with SEN and consequently the High Needs Block, this will need to reduce future cost

pressures in the block and make it more sustainable. Nationally High Needs continues to be challenging and in Bristol this has been exacerbated by work to clear the backlog of EHCP. Further detailed activity review & analysis will need to be undertaken to ensure planning is robust and sufficient resources are available to meet needs, and we will continue to lobby government for a more sustainable funding settlement.

During the pandemic, most schools remained open to provide education to children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. Any additional costs incurred by schools during this time were able to be reclaimed from ESFA. The funding into the DSG was unaffected by Covid, and also the amounts paid to schools continued at pre-Covid levels following DfE guidance.