

a: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P07	£0.0m	£8.0m Overspend	£8.0 Overspend
<i>P06</i>	<i>£0.0m</i>	<i>£8.1m overspend</i>	<i>£8.1m overspend</i>

May	June	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2.4	3.3	8.3	8.1	8.0				
	▼	▼	▲	▲				

Revenue Position

Summary DSG position 2020/21 Period 7 (all figures in £000s)

	b/f	DSG funding/ budget 2020/21	Outturn Period 7 2020/21	In-year variance at P7	Cumulative c/f	In-year variance at P6	Movement P6 to P7
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	37,484	365	385	388	(23)
High Needs Block	3,509	62,511	70,160	7,648	11,157	7,737	(89)
Funding		(374,508)	(374,508)	0	0	0	0
Total	2,892	0	8,013	8,013	10,904	8,125	(112)

Key Messages

The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG has reduced by £0.1m to £8.0m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit to carry forward at the end of the year of £10.9m. The main area for concern continues to be the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend in-year of £7.7m. The Early Years overspend is also primarily caused by High Needs expenditure in this area.

Within the High Needs Block, top-up funding is experiencing the biggest pressure, with a significant increase from 2019/20, the current forecast is £7.034m over budget. As this is the area experiencing the most pressure further analysis of the numbers and spend has been carried out and this is presented in the following table.

HNB - Topup analysis

School Type	April 2019		April 2020		October 2020		Increase Apr 2019-Apr 2020		
	Number	Monthly cost £'000	Number	Monthly cost £'000	Number	Monthly cost £'000	Number	Monthly Cost £'000	Annual Cost £'000
Special Schools	863	1,330	928	1,463	981	1,613	65	133	3,394
Bristol Pupils in OLA	146	135	151	143	151	145	5	8	117
Resources bases	162	124	173	142	166	137	11	18	157
Mainstream	871	323	1112	520	1266	625	241	197	3,617
PRUs	134	110	162	134	97	103	28	24	(76)
Overall total	2176	2,022	2526	2,402	2661	2,623	350	380	7,209

The table shows the numbers of top-ups at the start of last year, the beginning of this financial year and also the latest period by setting. Monthly costs are shown as well as a full year cost of the increase in top-ups from April 2019 to present. The two areas with the significant increases are Special Schools and Mainstream Schools; Special Schools have seen an increase of 133 pupils with top up payments, which would have an annual cost of £3.4m, whilst the 197 pupil increase in Mainstream Schools represents a £3.6m full year increase. Analysis of the detailed data behind the table is also showing an increase in the average levels of top up awards per pupil.

GFE (General Further Education) settings have also seen a significant rise in both student numbers and cost, the following table shows the forecast for 2020/21 alongside the previous 2 financial years. The number of students has increased by over 100 in this financial year as well as average top-up rates increasing. The cost is increasing at the rate of £1m per year

GFE (General Further Education) top-up and cost

	18/19 Financial year £'000	18/19 Financial Year pupil No.s number	18/19 Average topup £	19/20 Financial Year £'000	19/20 Financial year Pupil No.s number	19/20 Average topup £	20/21 Financial Year £'000	20/21 Financial year Pupil No.s number	20/21 Average topup £
GFE total	1,831	443	4,137	2,674	480	5,572	3,784	586	6,454

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.