

a: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P07	£0.0m	£8.6m Overspend	£8.6 Overspend
<i>P07</i>	<i>£0.0m</i>	<i>£8.0m overspend</i>	<i>£8.0m overspend</i>

May	June	Jul/Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2.4	3.3	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.6			
	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼			

Revenue Position

Summary DSG position 2020/21 Period 8 (all figures in £000s)

	b/f	DSG funding/budget 2020/21	Outturn Period 8 2020/21	In-year variance at P8	Cumulative c/f	In-year variance at P7	Movement P7 to P8
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	37,480	360	381	365	(5)
High Needs Block	3,509	62,511	70,707	8,196	11,705	7,648	548
Funding		(374,508)	(374,508)	0	0	0	0
Total	2,892	0	8,556	8,556	11,447	8,013	543

Key Messages

The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG has increased by £0.5m to £8.6m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit to carry forward at the end of the year of £11.4m. The main area for concern continues to be the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend in-year of £8.2m. The Early Years overspend is also primarily caused by High Needs expenditure in this area.

Within the High Needs Block, top-up funding is still experiencing the biggest pressure, with a significant increase from 2019/20, the current forecast is £7.353m over budget. There is currently another round of top-up applications in progress, analysis of the applications has indicated another increase in costs for this financial year and a £0.325m increase has been included in the forecast as an estimate of the impact of this.

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.