

a: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance	Cumulative Deficit
P02	£0.0m	£10.5m overspend	£10.5m overspend	£20.5m overspend

May	June	Jul/Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb

Revenue Position

Summary DSG position 2021/22 Period 2 (all figures in £000s)

	b/f	Net DSG funding/budget 2021/22	P2 2021/22 Forecast Outturn	In-year variance at P2	Cumulative c/f
Schools Block	(619)	87,256	86,874	(382)	(1,001)
De-delegation	(553)	0	13	13	(540)
Schools Central Block	0	2,627	2,653	26	26
Early Years	(621)	37,185	37,493	308	(313)
High Needs Block	12,609	54,266	64,772	10,506	23,115
HNB Transformation	(812)	1,400	1,400	0	(812)
Funding		(182,734)	(182,734)	0	0
Total	10,004	0	10,471	10,471	20,475

Key Messages

The in-year forecast deficit on the DSG is significant at £10.5m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total deficit to carry forward at the end of the year of £20.5m. The main area for concern continues to be the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend, in-year, of £10.5m. The Early Years overspend is also primarily caused by SEN pressure.

Within the High Needs Block, top-up funding is still experiencing the biggest pressure, with significant increase from 2020/21, the current forecast is £10.506m over budget. There will be further rounds of top-up applications, due to take place later in the year, the impact of which are as yet unknown.

In Early Years the forecast overspend is due to an increase in SEN top-up costs. There is an emerging issue in relation to the January 2021 census due to the guidance issued by DfE regarding the impact of Covid. This means that settings can include pupils who are being kept away from settings for Covid reasons but not counted if the setting cannot take them (either due to closure or because of reduced places to enable social

distancing and maintaining places for vulnerable and children of key workers). This could reduce the numbers counted in the census and effect both funding into the block (as the January 2021 census generates 7/12ths of the funding), as well as the amount paid to settings. This is expected to be quantified by November 2021

Following agreement of Schools Forum, the amount transferred from the Schools Block in 2021/22 is being used to contribute towards the Education Transformation Programme. We are currently forecasting that all this funding will be spent in 2021/22. The Education Transformation Programme commenced in 2020/21 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.