

Bristol Schools Forum
DSG Budget Monitor 2021/22 P06

Date of meeting:	30 November 2021
Time of meeting:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Virtual meeting

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides information of the forecast financial position for the DSG overall as at Period 6 (to end of September 2021).

2 Recommendation

2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:

- a) **note the in-year 2021/22 position for the overall DSG.**

3 Background

- 3.1 The report updates Schools Forum on the financial position at Period 6 (end of September) 2021/22.

4 Budget monitoring 2021/22

- 4.1 The DSG ended the 2020/21 financial year with an overall deficit of £10.004m.
- 4.2 This period 6 monitor is showing that the in-year forecast net deficit is £14.572m, which when added to the brought forward balance will give a total net deficit to carry forward at the end of the 2021/22 financial year of £24.567m. The variation is predominantly attributed to the High Needs block which is forecasting an overspend in-year of £14.947m.

The Period 6 position is set out in **Table 1** with more detail set out in **Appendix 2**.

Table 1: Forecast position on overall DSG for 2021/22 at Period 6 (as at September 2021)

<i>All figures £'000</i>	<i>b/f Deficit</i>	<i>DSG Funding 2021/22</i>	<i>Forecast Outturn Period 06 2021/22</i>	<i>In-year variance</i>	<i>Forecast Carry- forward Period 06 2021/22</i>
Schools Block	(619)	295,864	295,023	(840)	(1,459)
De-delegation	(553)	0	0	0	(553)
Schools Central Block		2,627	2,627	0	0
Early Years	(621)	37,185	37,651	466	(155)
High Needs Block	12,609	68,645	83,591	14,947	27,556
Education Transformation Funding	(812)	1,400	1,400	0	(812)
		(405,721)	(405,721)	0	0
Total	10,004	0	14,572	14,572	24,576

- 4.3 **Schools Block (-£0.840m underspend).** The formula funding for maintained mainstream schools and academies has been fully allocated. Scope for variation is in the growth fund, or if schools close during the year. Three schools (St Pius X, St George and St Michael on the Mount) are closing at the end of August 2021, and one new school (Willow Park) opening on 1st September. It is these movements which account for £0.407m forecast variance on Schools Block. Spend on the growth fund will depend on the pupil number information included on the October 2020 pupil census, any variation will be calculated and reported following receipt of this data, but at this stage known growth commitments are expected at £2.500m against funding of £2.861m, an underspend of £0.361m.
- 4.4 **De-delegated resources (Nil variance).** At this stage of the year it is anticipated that this will achieve a balanced position. Any variance should one materialise, will be carried forwards to future years.
- 4.5 **School Central Services Block (Nil Variance).** Current forecasting indicates that all of the services in this block will spend to budget.
- 4.6 **Early Years Block (£0.466m forecast overspend).** Early Years income and expenditure is based on participation throughout the academic year, and as such the reported position may be subject to change in subsequent reports as further details becomes available. Early Years is experiencing significant pressure in emerging SEN; the current overspend in this area is £0.571m.
- 4.7 **High Needs Block (£14.947m forecast overspend).** The High Needs block is currently forecasting an in-year overspend of £14,947m for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 4.8 Top-up funding remains the single greatest pressure, with a significant forecast overspend of £11.475m, followed by forecasted overspend in

pre/post 16 placements totalling £3.858m and ISP's overspend of £1.022m; offset slightly by underspends in Core Place funding -£0.820m, Sen Equipment -£0.110m and SEN Assessment & Therapy -£0.119m.

Detailed breakdown of HNB Top Up overspends is summarised in Appendix 1.

- 4.9 The Education Transformation Programme commenced in 2020-21 and is primarily concerned with consequently the High Needs Block, the programme aims to improve outcomes and achieve long term sustainability. Nationally High Needs funding continues to be challenging and in Bristol this has been exacerbated by work to clear the backlog of EHCP and complexity of need.
- 4.10 Following agreement of Forum, the amount transferred from the Schools Block in 2021/22 is being earmarked to the Education Transformation Programme and we are currently forecasting that this funding of £1.4m will be fully utilised in 2021/22.
- 4.11 **Funding (Nil Variance).** £405.721m is the latest DSG amount notified by the ESFA as at July 2021.

Appendix 1 - Top up funding breakdowns	Brought forward 1.4.21 £'000	Funding 2021/22 £'000	Outturn Period 06 2021/22 £'000	In-year movement £'000	Carry forward 31.3.22 £'000
HNB: Top Up - Special Schools		15,823	20,756	4,933	
HNB: OLA Top Up		1,648	2,231	583	
HNB: GFE Top Up		2,213	3,632	1,419	
HNB: Top Up - Resource Bases		1,885	2,129	244	
HNB: Top Up - Mainstream Schools		9,134	12,505	3,371	
HNB: Top Up - PRUs		1,334	2,260	926	
HNB: Top Up	0	32,037	43,512	11,475	0

Appendix 2 - Forecast position for Overall DSG 2021/22 as at Period 6 (Block financing position)

	Brought forward 1.4.21	Funding 2021/22	Outturn Period 06 2021/22	In-year movement	Carry forward 31.3.22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Maintained Schools		84,395	83,916	(479)	
Academy Recoupment		208,608	208,608	0	
Growth Fund		2,861	2,500	(361)	
Schools Block	(619)	295,864	295,023	(840)	(1,459)
De-delegation Services	(553)				(553)
Admissions		526	526		
Centrally Retained		2,101	2,101		
Schools Central Services	0	2,627	2,627	0	0
National Formula		29,269	29,269	1	
2 Year Old Funding		3,498	3,436	(62)	
Pupil Premium (EYPP)		538	538	0	
Additional Support Services		500	500	0	
SEN Top up		1,275	1,846	571	
Staffing		1,986	1,940	(46)	
Disability Access Fund		121	122	2	
Early Years Block	(621)	37,185	37,651	466	(155)
Commissioned Services		2,301	3,228	927	
Core Place Funding		9,639	8,819	(820)	
Staffing		1,160	1,652	492	
Top Up		32,037	43,512	11,475	
Placements		9,044	12,003	2,959	
Pupil Support		814	727	(87)	
HOPE Virtual School		236	235	(1)	
Academy Recoupment		13,415	13,415	0	
Education Transformation		1,400	1,400	0	
High Needs Block	11,797	70,046	84,992	14,946	26,743
Funding		(405,721)	(405,721)		
Total	10,004	0		14,572	24,576