

Section A: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P05	452.3m	468.7m	16.4m overspend
P02	£453.2m	£471.0m	£18.7m overspend

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
18.7	18.7	18.7	16.4						
▼↓			▲↑						

Summary of 2023/24 DSG forecast position as at P05

Table 1 - Bristol Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/24	2022/23 b/f balance	Gross DSG funding / Budget 2023/24*	P05 Gross DSG forecast outturn	In-year variance as at P05	Cummulative c/f forecast position as at P05
£'000					
Schools Block	(787)	323,851	323,851	(0)	(787)
De-delegation	(527)	0	(1)	(1)	(528)
Central School services Block	8	2,717	2,709	(8)	(0)
Early Years	(605)	37,432	38,333	902	296
High Needs Block	42,520	86,675	103,221	16,546	59,067
High Needs Transformation	(928)	1,627	2,677	1,049	121
Funding	0	(452,302)	(452,302)	0	0
Total (Unmitigated position)	39,680	(0)	18,488	18,488	58,170
Mitigations (budget v.s. forecast in 2023-24)		(3,180)	(2,112)	(1,068)	(2,112)
Total - Mitigated position	39,680		16,376	(1,068)	56,058

* Bristol gross DSG Allocations, including recoupment and deductions for NNDR, and for direct funding of high needs places directly passported to schools by ESFA totalling £255.752m as at 20th July 2023.

Key Messages:

2023-24 gross allocation for DSG is £452.3m as announced by ESFA on 20th July 2023 (or net amount £196.6m after deduction for academies recoupment, NNDR and direct funding of high needs places by ESFA). The DSG is forecasting to overspend by £16.4m in 2023/24. This is the mitigated forecast position reflecting the benefits of transformation work currently underway.

The main drivers for in year deficit forecast position are increasing in EHCP and complexity of Children with SEN, overspend was forecasted in top up funding of £5m, special placement (pre- and post-16) £7.4m, ISP £2m and Teachers pay & pension £1.2m.

Early Years is forecasting an in-year overspend of just over £1.0m, of which £0.2m was planned overspend on EY improvement programme and £0.7m was due to increase demand in EY top up funding on SEN.

High Needs Transformation programme is forecasting an in-year overspend of £1.0m which will be covered by carry-forward funding from previous years.

Two workstreams funded through a Department for Education Delivering Better Value (DBV) Grant are starting to move from the development to the delivery phase. A tender process for workstream 2 was completed in July to secure a delivery partner to review High Needs Block funding which is subject to public consultation. In workstream 1 a steering group was formulated to scope the project and identify schools to take part in a test and learn pilot for the new academic year. However, £1.0m potential mitigations are currently highlighted as at risk due to further due diligence work is still required and delay in securing a delivery partner to delivery workstream 2 mitigation proposals. This means the mitigated in-year deficit position for 2023-24 could be reduced to £16.4m if mitigation proposals benefits materialise. It is vital that these mitigation proposals are monitored and delivered on a timely basis in order to restore and secure financial health of DSG funding in the longer term.