

Schools Funding Forum 23rd September 2021 ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

High Needs funding forecast and funding review

Report Author:

Nick Carter – Principal Finance Officer (Schools)

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This report provides a year end forecast of expenditure against the high needs budget for 2021-22 and outlines proposals for the establishment of a working party to review high needs funding for schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the year forecast of expenditure for financial year 2021-22
- (ii) agrees to the establishment of a working party to review primary and secondary schools' high needs funding

REPORT DETAIL

High Needs budget forecast 2021-22

The latest forecast of the high needs expenditure for year end 2021-22 is shown at Appendix A. This is based on actual expenditure to August and the current number of EHCPs and placements.

The High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is forecast to overspend in year by £3.0m. The deficit brought forward from 2020-21, following the transfer of underspends on the Schools and Central Services blocks, was £2.7m. This brings the forecast cumulative deficit at year end to £5.7m

The final deficit will be higher if the pre pandemic pattern of increases in number of EHCPs and external placements during the autumn term is repeated this year.

The number of pupils with High Needs and the complexity of those needs continues to grow. Factors contributing to the increased overspend are:

- an increase in the number of pupils with an EHCP
- an increase in the number of ARP places
- an increase in the number of pupils attending out of borough special schools

Review of High Needs Funding for Schools

At the meeting held on 17 June 2021 the LA informed the Schools Funding Forum of their intention to review aspects of High Needs funding during the autumn term. To facilitate this review the LA is seeking to set up a working party consisting of school representatives together with LA high needs and finance officers.

The proposed scope of the review is:

- funding rates for EHCP supported hours
- financial support for the EHCP assessment period
- high needs inclusion supplement (headroom)
- ARP funding

The proposal is for the working party to contain two primary and two secondary school representatives to be drawn from the membership of the Schools Forum or the SEN Executive Board.

Outcomes and proposals would be brought to the Schools Funding Forum at the October 2021 and December 2021 meetings.

High Needs Forecast 2021-22

Funding allocation before recoupment
Available funding after recoupment
Deficit fwd from previous year
Transfer from Schools Block
Total funding for the financial year

Havering Special Schools
Expenditure on therapies etc
Out of Borough Maintained Special Schools
Revised In-Borough Primary Top-up
Out of Borough Mainstream Primary
Expenditure on alternative tuition + therapies
In year EHC Plans
Total Primary High Needs funding
Revised In-Borough Secondary Top-up
Out of Borough Mainstream Secondary
Expenditure on alternative tuition + therapies
In year EHC Plans & uplifts
Total Secondary High Needs funding
Schools with high nos. of pupils with SEN
Additionally Resourced Provision
In-Borough Post-16 Top-up
In-Borough Post-16 Top-up
Out of Borough Post-16
Expenditure on Post-16 Tuition & therapies
Internships
Total Post-16
Non-Maintained & Independent Special Schools Pre-16
Non-Maintained & Independent Special Schools Post-16
Early Years EHCPs
Alternative Provision
Central support teams
Total

Total funding available
Forecast overspend
projected increase of deficit (year on year)

Summary
September 2021

£000
31,886
28,744
-2,667
0
26,077

Estimated Expenditure £000	No of Pupils/Places supported			
	Pre 16		Post 16	
	Apr-Aug	Sep-Mar	Apr-Aug	Sep-Mar
10,730	296	300	83	89
164				
805	37	35		
4,050	569	567		
158	19	12		
325				
290				
4,823	588	579	-	
2,584	333	368		
183	23	20		
460				
100				
3,327	356	388	-	
384				
1,370	106	112		
497			84	79
777			128	136
679			77	69
131				
68				
2,152			289	284
2,500	42	40		
1,334			11	17
50				
2,376				
1,715				
31,730	1,282	1,307	383	390

26,077
-5,653
-2,986