

Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 24 March 2014
Subject: Dedicated School Grant Contingency Budget
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: To provide an update on the use of the School Contingency Budgets for 2013/14.

Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Priory House, Shefford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) Contingency spend to 28th February 2014.

Background

1. From 2013/14 the Dedicated School Grant is split into three notional blocks; Schools, High Needs and Early Years with each block holding its own contingency budget.

School Block

2. The Schools Specific Contingency Budget falls under Schedule 2 (Part 5) of The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013; 'Classes or descriptions of planned expenditure prescribed for the purposes of the Schools budget of a Local Authority which may be deducted from it to determine the Individual Schools Budget (ISB)'. Part 5 relates to items that may be removed from Maintained Schools' Budget Shares by way of de-delegation. De-delegation is not an option for Academies, special schools, nurseries or PRUs.
3. Expenditure on the Schools Specific Contingency is central expenditure deducted for the purpose of ensuring that monies are available to enable an increase in a school's budget share after it has been allocated and where it subsequently becomes apparent that a governing body have incurred expenditure which it would be unreasonable to expect them to meet from the school's budget share which may include expenditure in relation to:
 - Schools in financial difficulty
 - The writing off of deficits of schools which are discontinued, excluding any associated costs and overheads
 - New, amalgamating or closing schools, or
 - Other expenditure where the circumstances were unforeseen when initially

determining the school's budget share

High Needs Block

- Contingencies are held centrally to fund Outreach work and the writing off of deficits of special schools which are discontinued. It was agreed at the School Forum meeting of the 20th January 2013 that for 2014/15 this budget would be renamed 'Outreach Service' and included within the update on the use of centrally retained DSG within the High Needs Block.

Early Years Block

- Early Years provision is funded based on predicted total number of hours attendance of registered pupils. The LA must review the budget share when further information on actual hours of attendance is available, in accordance with Part 3 of The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013. The Early Years Contingency budget has been set aside to fund the headcount adjustment that is allowable within the regulations.

School Contingency

- It was agreed at the School Forum meeting of the 22nd October 2012 that £100k would be de-delegated back to the LA for the purpose of School Contingencies for 2013/14.
- The following table sets out the expenditure to 28th February 2013:

	BUDGET	SPEND	BALANCE
	£	£	£
Carry Forward from 2012/13	778,963		
Budget Allocation 2013/14	100,000		
Adjustment Academy Recoupment 12/13		24,163	
Adjustment Academy Recoupment 13/14		(75,911)	
Age Range Funding		(261,236)	
Rent Adjustment		(29,050)	
DSG Adjustment		17,282	
Total School Contingency	878,963	(324,752)	554,211

- It was agreed at the School Forum meeting of the 20th March 2013 that £500k of the 2013/14 balance would be added to the Individual School Budgets (ISB) for 2014/15 and redistributed to all schools via the pupil's basic entitlement (AWPU).

High Needs Contingency

- It was agreed at the School Forum meeting of the 21st January 2013 that SEN Contingency will continue to fund the extended role of a school such as commissioned work for Outreach and other services. Chiltern, Ivel Valley and Oak Bank are currently commissioned to carry out an Outreach role.

10 The following table sets out the expenditure to 28th February 2014.

	BUDGE T £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Carry Forward from 2012/13	72,858		
Budget Allocation 2013/14	275,670		
Closing School		(53)	
Outreach		(193,243)	
Total SEN Contingency	348,528	(193,296)	155,232

Early Years Contingency

11. The following table sets out the expenditure to 28th February 2014:

	BUDGE T £	SPEND £	BALANCE £
Budget Allocation 2013/14	352,450		
January 2013 census adjustment		44,200	
May 2013 census adjustment		(182,549)	
October 2013 census adjustment		82,950	
Total Early Years Contingency	352,450	(55,399)	297,051

Appendices:

None