

# CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

14 January 2019

## High Needs Block of the Dedicated School Grant

---

**Responsible Director(s):** Sue Harrison. Sue.Harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

### Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the spend in regard to the High Needs Block (HNB) to date and to highlight potential spend pressures for remainder of 2018/19
2. To note the indicative High Needs Block DSG Allocation for 2019/20 and forecast spend including request for disapplication
3. Update on the 0.5% investment 2018/19 into the HNB for this financial year.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

School Forum is asked to:

1. **To note the continuing pressures against 2018/29 High Needs Block Allocation.**
2. **To note the indicative allocation for 2019/2020 along with proposed spend**
3. **To note the request for disapplication of 2019/20.**
4. **To update on the Early Intervention Projects funded through the 2018/19 transfer of 0.5% into the Schools Block.**

### Background

4. As reported at previous Schools Forums there have been a number of factors that have contributed to pressures on the High Needs Block (HNB).
5. This paper seeks to build upon the previous papers presented to the Schools Forum and in particular to provide an update on the projects developed to mitigate the projected overspend within the HNB.

### National context

6. Nationally there are a significant number of Local Authorities requesting their Schools Forum to agree a 0.5% transfer from the school block into the High Needs Block. The response from Schools Forum has been variable, as has the decision to request a transfer from the Secretary of State. A member of the F40 organisation (of which Central Bedfordshire is also a member) has researched across the membership to

gain an overview of the current situation. Table 1 below indicates the situation as at 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

7. Additional funding was granted by the Secretary of State in an announcement made on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This will impact on the information included in Table 1, and an updated table will be provided at the meeting.
8. Local authorities have been asked to confirm if they wished to go ahead with the request to transfer funds given the new allocations. The Department of Education (DfE) will indicate what the window is for this confirmation.

**1: TABLE 1. F40 Membership Response**

Local Authority Name	High Needs Projected Outturn  (surplus) / deficit  £'000	School Budget Share  £'000	Amount requested to transfer  £'000	Percentage transfer  %	Schools Forum Decision  Agree / Disagree	Reference to DfE for approval
Buckinghamshire	3,331	315,674	500	0.2	Agree	SF meets 11 Dec
Cambridgeshire				-		
Central Bedfordshire	1,454	167,133	835	0.5	Disagree	Yes
Cheshire East				-		
Cheshire West and Chester				-		SF meets 6 Dec
Cornwall Council				-		SF meets 13 Dec
Derbyshire	1,842	428,500	-	-		
Devon	5,900	395,953	1,980	0.5	Disagree	Decision awaited
Dorset	13,100	194,000	2,870	1.5	Disagree	Applying

East Riding of Yorkshire				-		
East Sussex County Council				-		
Gloucestershire	3,788	351362	878	0.3	Disagree	Submitted request
Hampshire	12,094	743,990	3,720	0.5		SF meets 12 Dec
Herefordshire	0	100,400	200	0.2		SF meets in Jan
Kent	10,800	880000	8,800	1.0	Agree	No
Leicestershire	3,623	387,362	-	-		
Lincolnshire	0	421,762	-	-		N/A
North Lincolnshire				-		
North Yorkshire	2018/19 - £5,700 gross, £4,000 (after taking into account £1.66m 0.5% transfer from Schools Block to High Needs)	336,360	3,364	1.0	Disagree	Disapplication submitted to DfE for 1% transfer. Schools Forum have agreed 0.5% transfer in the event of the 1% transfer request being refused.
Northamptonshire	?	460.56	2,303	0.5		SF meets 4 Dec -

Northumberland	2,000	178,964	1,789	1.0	Agree	No
Oxfordshire	8,000	365,797	1,829	0.5	Disagree	Yes
Plymouth				-		
Shropshire				-		
Solihull	3,300	153,724		-		
Somerset	5,500	289,590	1,448	0.5	Disagree	Yes
South Gloucestershire	12,500 cumulative/3,500 in-year	147,138	3,000	2.0		SF meets 29 Nov
Staffordshire				-		
Stockport	2,200	169,274	846	0.5	Agree	No
Sonya Harban	400,214	-	-			
Swindon				-		
Torbay	3,300	75,665	1,359	1.8	Agree	No
Trafford	1,348	159,203	796	0.5	Agree	No
Wakefield	1,176	213,399	1,067	0.5	Agree	No
Warrington	3,900	131,393	488	0.4		SF meets 2 Dec

Warwickshire	3,888	319,971	-	-	Agree	No
West Sussex County Council	7,600	455,553	2,300	0.5	Disagree	Yes
Wigan				-		
Wiltshire	4,100	£265,000	1,300	0.5		SF meets 6 Dec
Worcestershire	7,200	318,252	1,600	0.5	Disagree	No
York	1,239	94,134	-	-		

## **Local Context**

9. At the Schools Forum meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 the Forum did not support a request from the Local Authority to transfer 0.5% of the anticipated Schools Block funding into the High Needs Block.
10. Following this meeting a request was submitted to the Secretary of State on 29<sup>th</sup> November for a transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block into the High Needs Block – totalling £835K for the year 2019/20.
11. On 16<sup>th</sup> December, Damian Hinds announced that councils will receive an additional £250 million over the next two years on top of the £6 billion already provided for the high needs budget this year. Central Bedfordshire received notification on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December that the additional allocation for us will be £658,153 in 2018/2019 and £658,153 in 2019/2020. The letter and report can be found in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-support-children-with-special-educational-needs>

## **High Needs Block Spend for 2018/19 as of December 2018 and Indicative Budget and Spend for 2019/20**

12. Taking on board the notification of the Secretary of State and the increase in funds the 18/19 forecast has been adjusted. As shown in Table 2 this is now indicating an overspend against budget of £898,203.
13. Table 2 also lists the indicative budget for 2019/20 including the areas marked \* which are nearly always subject to adjustment, as well as the inclusion of the additional £658K. It also lists the forecast spend for 19/20 based on a reasonable assessment of need, bearing in mind the Early Intervention Projects, and other actions being taken as reported to the September Schools Forum.
14. The overall budget plan shows a continued shortfall of spend against budget of £719,697 in financial year 2019/20. It is therefore proposed to adjust the requested transfer of funds by the Secretary of State to £740,000 which is 0.429% of the 19/20 Schools Block.

**15. TABLE 2. High Needs Block Budget and Forecast Spend**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Indicative Budget for 18/19</b>	<b>Forecast Total Spend 18/19 (as at end Dec - full year forecast)</b>	<b>Indicative Budget for 19/20 Items marked * may change as DSG is still indicative</b>	<b>Forecast spend for 19/20 with anticipated mitigations</b>
Therapies	£40,000.00	£65,000.00	£40,000.00	£59,000.00
Special School Outreach and High Cost Pupils	£388,166	£385,799.00	£388,166.00	£388,166.00
Other LA School Payments	£1,055,376	£1,388,138.00	£1,055,376.00	£1,320,303.00
Post 16	£1,484,921	£2,587,918.00	£2,092,938	£2,400,000
Out of County Residential Placements (up to age 16)	£887,750	£758,953.00	£887,750.00	£750,000.00
EHCP Pupils & Provisions (Academy)	£31,140,110	£3,140,110.00	£3,140,110.00	£3,140,110.00
EHCP Pupils & Provisions (Mainstream)	£2,331,434	£2,331,434.00	£2,331,434.00	£2,331,434.00
DSG Contribution to Central Overheads	£719,280	£719,280.00	£719,280.00	£719,280.00
EHCP Pupils (finalised in year)	£500,000	£656,000.00	£500,000.00	£600,000.00
Additional Pupil Support	£200,000	£200,000.00	£200,000.00	£200,000.00
<i>Commissioned Services:</i>				
Hearing Impaired	£195,000	£195,000.00	£195,000.00	£195,000.00
Visual Impairment	£252,576	£252,576.00	£252,576.00	£252,576.00
Medical Needs	£643,890	£643,890.00	£643,890.00	£643,890.00
Academy of Central Bedfordshire	£1,200,000	£1,200,000.00	£1,200,000.00	£1,200,000.00
Jigsaw	£450,000	£471,761.00	£450,000.00	£471,761.00
EY CWD	£270,548	£270,548.00	£270,548.00	£270,548.00
Additional special school / provision places funded through contingency	£400,000.00	£110,888	£400,000.00	£400,000.00
Recoupment*	£5,168,012	£5,168,012.00	£4,658,642.00	£5,168,012.00
Import / Export*	£165,000	£165,000.00	£165,000.00*	£165,000.00



Special School Academy	£1,230,626	£1,230,626.00	£1,139,182.00	£1,139,182.00
Maintained Special Schools	£6,849,839	£6,849,839.00	£7,973,794.00	£7,973,794.00
Access & Inclusion	£100,000	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100,000.00
Virtual School	£283,210	£283,210.00	£283,210.00	£283,210.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£27,955,738</b>	<b>£29,173,982</b>	<b>£28,921,896</b>	<b>£29,661,896</b>
Budget Allocation (includes additional Government funding of £658,153)		<b>£28,275,779</b>	<b>£28,921,896.00*</b>	<b>£28,921,896*</b>
Total Balance		<b>-£898,203</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-£740,000</b>

16. There has been an increase in costs for 'other LA EHC Plans' since the last School Forum meeting. This budget pays for pupils that are LAC to Central Bedfordshire living in other LA's and attending their local mainstream or special school. If these children were not living outside of Central Bedfordshire their costs would be paid from the 'EHC' or 'Special school'. There have also been a number of pupils moving into CBC where parents have requested that they remain in their current school. This has been agreed as it is mainly of no additional cost to them transferring into a CBC school. This budget is very unpredictable as there will continually be families moving into CBC.
17. SEND Service have reviewed the independent placements with regards to joint funding arrangements and have received agreement with social care with regards to securing a contribution to four cases. This has shown a difference in reduction to the Education contributions.
18. In Post 16 costs have been reducing, this is largely due to the understanding of the belonging regulations for pupils turning 18 and living and being educated out of county, two pupils have now been identified as being the financial responsibility of the LA they reside in. There is an additional pupil that is being handed over to another LA and this will have an effect on the forecast for the remainder of the year.
19. There have been two tribunals this term which were resolved before hearing, in both cases parents wanted independent special school placement. With the hard work of the SEND Service and the local provision working with the families it was agreed that the young people would remain in county therefore a saving was made.
20. The SEND Team are actively attending Annual Reviews out of area to consider bringing pupils back into Central Bedfordshire at phased transfer stage. This will not affect the current financial year however, there should be a difference in costs from August 2019.

21. A programme of work is in place to mitigate these pressures currently and with the work that is being done there are predicted savings going forward in the region of £765K over the 2 years following their introduction in September 2019.
22. Alongside the mitigation measures identified to manage the demand on the system, the SEND team, alongside colleagues from across the council, continue to work on projects and initiatives to continue to manage demand and to innovate.

### **HNBF Project Update**

23. Restorative Practice being implemented in twelve middle schools and one upper school.
24. An extension to Special School Outreach focusing on children with communication difficulties, but not necessarily having a diagnosis.
25. SALTs to develop a toolkit to support schools in how to meet the needs of children and young people with underlying speech, language and communication needs.
26. Six schools working with a local charity (Mind Map) to improve emotional resilience
27. Extension of support through the Jigsaw Team into Years 7 and 8 with social, emotional or mental health issues.
28. Targeted Early Years support for reception aged children supporting transition into school.
29. Up to 23 schools operating Theraplay-style support
30. Already the project is having an impact, as evidenced in sample of feedback below;

*This was an excellent, thought provoking course.*

*More of the same please.*

*Great course. Has given us lots of ideas to put into practice.*

*The Mind Map project is helping us to successfully embed a whole school emotional literacy programme across our large school which will be preventative in the future.*

All educational settings will have the opportunity to be involved as training opportunities are being offered countywide via Central Essentials:

\*SEND special school outreach

\*Speech, language and communication needs

\*SEND in Reception

\*SEMH inclusion support

There is training now advertised for the Specialist Teachers this has been shared with Schools via Central Essential, and through CBC staff.

A HNBF workshop has been booked in for March to update and receive initial feedback this will be advertised in the new year.

### **31. Council Priorities**

- Improving education and skills
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Legal Implications**

32. In the event the Secretary of State does not support the application for funding, this could place service delivery at risk, which in turn could increase the risk of legal challenge to the adequacy of statutory service provision. Both Schools Forum and the local authority should be looking at ways to mitigate such legal risks.

#### **Financial and Risk Implications**

33. A financial risk is that the Secretary of State does not support the disapplication request. This will then require additional savings to be made within the forecast.

#### **Equalities Implications**

34. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

#### **Conclusion and next Steps**

35. Mitigation work will be continued, and a further update will be brought to the March 2019 meeting when the outcome of the request for disapplication will be known.

#### **Appendices**

None