

Agenda

Herefordshire schools forum

Date: **Friday 13 March 2020**

Time: **9.30 am**

Place: **The Council Chamber - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX**

Notes: Please note the time, date and venue of the meeting.

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Agenda for the Meeting of the Herefordshire schools forum

Membership

Chairman	Julie Cohn	Academy Special School Representative
Vice-Chairman	Kathy Weston	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
	Christine Bryan	Academies
	Pat Burbidge	Archdiocese of Cardiff
	Nicki Emmett	Academies
	Andy Evans	Academies
	Steven Fisher	Academies
	Edward Gwillim	16-19 Providers
	Kimberly Harley	PRU management committee
	Joe Hedges	Primary Governors
	Martin Henton	LA Maintained Secondary Schools
	Ali Jackson	Early Years Representative
	Sue Jenkins	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
	Steve Kendrick	Local Authority Maintained Primary School (with Nursery)
	Tim Knapp	Academies
	Tracey Kneale	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
	Chris Lewandowski	Trade Unions
	Sian Lines	Diocese of Hereford
	Rose Lloyd	Early Years
	Norman Moon	Local Authority Maintained Primary Schools
	Paul Deneen	Trade Unions
	Rachel Rice	Secondary Governors

Agenda

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Forum.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4. MINUTES To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2020.	5 - 10
5. HIGH NEEDS BUDGET 2020/21 To review the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) high needs budget for 2020/21 and recommend to the cabinet member children and families for approval.	11 - 30



Minutes of the meeting of Herefordshire schools forum held at The Council Chamber - The Shire Hall, St. Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on Friday 17 January 2020 at 9.30 am

Present: Mrs J Cohn (Academy Special School Representative) (Chairperson)
Mrs K Weston (Local Authority Maintained Primary School) (Vice-chairperson)

Ms C Bryan	Academies
Mr P Burbidge	Archdiocese of Cardiff
Ms N Emmett	Academies
Mr S Fisher	Academies
Mr J Hedges	Primary Governors
Mr M Henton	LA Maintained Secondary Schools
Mrs S Jenkins	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
Mr S Kendrick	Local Authority Maintained Primary School (with Nursery)
Ms T Kneale	Local Authority Maintained Primary School
Mr C Lewandowski	Trade Unions
Mrs R Lloyd	Early Years
Mr P Deneen	Trade Unions

In attendance: Mr P Jennings, Chair of Budget Working Group

Officers: Strategic Finance Manager, Head of Additional Needs, Childrens Wellbeing and Assistant Director Education Development and Skills

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Andy Evans, Ed Gwillim, Kimberley Harley, Tim Knapp, Sian Lines, Norman Moon, Rachel Rice and Chris Baird.

50. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

There were no named substitutes.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In respect of item 5 on the agenda, the headteacher of Kingstone High School declared an interest as it was proposed that his school receive growth funding.

52. MINUTES

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

53. SCHOOLS BUDGET 2020/21

The Schools Finance Manager (SFM) introduced the report and highlighted that for some items the forum would make the decision and in others it would make

recommendation to the cabinet member children and families to determine on behalf of the council. The main points of each recommendation were noted as follows.

Recommendation A

- Allocated per pupil values as set out in the National Funding Formula in full;
- Reflected the contents of the schools consultation paper;
- Included the new mobility factor with threshold of 6%, a number of Herefordshire schools would benefit from this;
- A number of schools, particularly larger schools, would benefit from the minimum total funding per pupil of £3750 for primary and £5000 for secondary.

Recommendation B

- Allocated the anticipated growth fund allocation which had been consulted on in the autumn paper;
- Followed the principles set out in the draft policy to be approved under recommendation E;
- Following confirmation of basic need pressure in the area by the Interim Education and Capital Manager it was recommended that a growth allocation be made to Kingstone High School to support an increase in places from September 2020;
- The allocation would need to continue in future years, as long as demand continued, until the increased PAN applied to all year groups;
- The transfer to the high needs block would ensure that the SEN protection fund could continue for primary schools and be extended to include secondary schools, as set out in the consultation paper.

Recommendation C

- This allocated the balance of funding from the higher than expected growth fund allocation and savings resulting from higher attainment in primary schools and consequent lower spend on low prior attainment;
- It was proposed that £100k be allocated to support additional SEN activities around nurture provision, this had been targeted as the area of highest growth for specialist places;
- The remaining excess was proposed to be distributed to all schools at a per pupil rate of £20;
- The proposals were discussed in detail by the Budget Working Group (BWG);
- The chair of the BWG stated that the principle of supporting additional nurture provision had been agreed but there was considerable debate at the working group meeting on the best method of delivery;
- The Head of Additional Needs (HAN) was to bring more detailed proposals to a future meeting of the BWG for further discussion;
- The BWG had considered whether to recommend a larger sum be allocated to the nurture provision project but had noted that this would have required a reduction in the per pupil distribution to all schools, the BWG recommended that the allocation remain as set out in the main report and that the level of funding be reviewed for 2021/22;
- The HAN explained that a working group would be convened to discuss models of nurture provision, that one model would not necessarily fit the whole county and that anyone interested would be welcome to participate, it was proposed that the new provision be in place from September 2020;
- It was recognised that the success of the project would need to be measured, while intervention work would not always be successful in every case there were a number of measures in use across the country which could be applied.

Recommendation D

- A technical Granted authority to the SFM to make minor adjustments to the nearest £5k to comply with DfE submission requirements.

Recommendation E

- The growth fund policy was as set out in the consultation;
- The policy would be reviewed at intervals to ensure it remained fit for purpose.

Recommendation F

- The central services block allocations were much the same as the previous year with a modest reduction in school admission costs and a small increase in the costs for national licences.

Recommendation G

- Applied to local authority maintained schools only;
- As set out in the consultation document;
- Local Authority maintained secondary schools had been consulted on the option to de-delegate trade union facilities but the feedback was that they preferred to retain the current Service Level Agreement arrangements.

Recommendation H

- Proposed passing on the increase received to early years providers;
- A consultation letter had been sent to all providers before Christmas and only four comments had been received;
- The early years representative on the forum stated that additional funding would be welcomed and recognised that the council was passing on the full increase received.

In general discussion of the recommendations and content of the report, forum members noted the low response rate to the consultation, which was similar to previous years. The chair noted that the low response rate was disappointing but assumed that this reflected schools were broadly in favour of the proposals. It was suggested that the format of the consultation document be reviewed for the autumn 2020 consultation to see if changes could be applied which might increase the response rate.

It was agreed that

(a) That: The local implementation of the National Funding Formula (NFF) for 2020/21 as set out in the consultation document and recommendation (a) – (h) as below, be approved for recommendation to the Cabinet member for children and families as follows; (a) The final school funding values be agreed, subject to a minimum total funding per pupil of £3,750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools, including the Minimum Funding Guarantee at 1.84% and the adoption of the mobility factor, as follows:

1.	Basic entitlement per pupil	Primary	£2,857
2.	Basic entitlement per secondary pupil	Key stage 3	£4,018
3.	Basic entitlement per secondary pupil	Key stage 4	£4,561
4.	Deprivation per free school meal	Primary	£450
5.	Deprivation per free school meal	Secondary	£450
6.	Deprivation per ever-6 free school meal	Primary	£560
7.	Deprivation per ever-6 free school meal	Secondary	£815
8.	Socio-economic deprivation Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)		
9.	Band A (3% of pupils)	Primary	£600
10		Secondary	£840
11	Band B (8% of pupils)	Primary	£435
12		Secondary	£625

13	Band C (7% of pupils)	Primary	£405
14		Secondary	£580
15	Band D (8% of pupils)	Primary	£375
16		Secondary	£535
17	Band E (9% of pupils)	Primary	£250
18		Secondary	£405
19	Band F (10% of pupils)	Primary	£210
20		Secondary	£300
21	Band G (55% of pupils)	Primary	£0
22		Secondary	£0
23	Low prior attainment per pupil	Primary	£1,065
24		Secondary	£1,610
25	Lump sum	Primary	£114,400
26		Secondary	£114,400
27	Looked after Children, primary and secondary	All	£0
28	Primary sparsity, on NFF taper basis , over 2 miles and less than an average year group size of 21.4 pupils	Primary	£26,000
29	Secondary sparsity, on NFF taper basis, over 3 miles and less than an average year group size of 120 pupils	Secondary	£67,600
30	English as additional language per primary pupil	Primary	£535
31	English as additional language per secondary	Secondary	£1,440
32	Mobility	primary	£875
33	Mobility	Secondary	£1,250
32	PFI contract	Secondary	£295,515
33	Business rates	All	£1,285,851
34	Exceptional premises factor – Eastnor rent	Primary	£8,923

- (b) The options as supported in the schools' consultation paper be agreed at a cost of £317k, as follows;
- (i) Growth funding be finalised for basic need expansion at Kingstone High School, £117k for an estimated additional 50 pupils in September 2020
 - (ii) Transfer to high needs block for primary SEN protection, £100k
 - (iii) Transfer to high needs block for secondary SEN protection, £100k
- (c) the balance of funding, £303k is allocated as follows
- (i) Additional transfer of £100k to the high needs block to fund additional SEN activities in order to potentially reduce future demand on the high needs budget
 - (ii) Additional £20 per pupil for primary and secondary schools at a cost of £203,000
- (d) That any minor adjustments to the schools budget up to £5k, in order to comply with DfE submission requirements, be made to the funding allocated to the growth fund as set out in (b)(i) above;
- (e) The growth fund policy and criteria for allocating to schools as set out in the schools consultation paper be agreed;
- (f) That the central services block be allocated as follows
- (i) Statutory retained duties £360k
 - (ii) Schools Forum administration costs £12k
 - (iii) School admission costs £122k
 - (iv) National licences for schools £138.5k

- (v) **Transfer to the high needs block £60.5k**
- (g) **That local authority maintained school members, approve the de-delegation of funding in 2020/2, and advise the Cabinet member for children’s and families for information, as follows**
 - (i) **trade union facilities for primary schools only be approved at £2.75 per pupil**
 - (ii) **school budgeting software licence at £400 per school**
 - (iii) **ethnic minority support at £1.12 per pupil plus £6.60 per Ever-6 Free school meals and £107 per English as an Additional Language first year pupil**
 - (iv) **that the statutory education services for non-academy schools be charged at £12.50 per pupil**
- (h) **The early years funding formula for Herefordshire providers from April 2020 be as follows;**
 - (i) **Two year olds: £5.28 per hour**
 - (ii) **Three and four year olds: £3.97 per hour + £0.33 per Early Years Pupil Premium eligible children + a rurality supplement per provider of £51 per week (pro-rata for providers that deliver less than 100 hours per week) paid for 38 weeks per year**
 - (iii) **Early years central expenditure be increased in line with the DfE’s inflation allowance of 1.8% to £341k for early consultants and NEF payment costs for 2020/21.**

(NB restrictions were applied to voting as follows:

Only representatives of LA maintained schools, academies and early years providers were eligible to vote on recommendations (a) to (f) and (h). All were supported unanimously.

Only representatives of LA maintained schools were eligible to vote on recommendation (g). The recommendation was supported unanimously.)

54. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chair of the children and young people’s scrutiny committee explained that there were vacancies for a primary and secondary parent governor to be co-opted as members of the scrutiny committee. Members of the forum were requested to highlight the vacancies to any parent governors who might be interested in serving on the committee. It was suggested that information could also be circulated through the regular newsletter to schools.

The meeting ended at 10.02 am

Chairperson



Meeting:	Schools Forum
Meeting date:	Friday, 13 March 2020
Title of report:	High Needs Budget 2020/21
Report by:	Strategic Finance Manager

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in Connection with Key Decisions) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To review the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) high needs budget for 2020/21 and recommend to the cabinet member children and families for approval.

Recommendation(s)

That: having regard to the views of the Budget Working Group, the high needs budget for 2020/21 be approved for recommendation to the cabinet member for children and families as follows;

- (a) Complex needs funding £2,285,745;**
- (b) Independent special schools £1,100,000;**
- (c) Special school top-up funding £3,484,650;**
- (d) Special school commissioned places £1,593,000;**

- (e) High needs contingency £105,963;**
- (f) Mainstream school top-up funding £2,087,525;**
- (g) Nurture provision, from September 2020 £116,667;**
- (h) Pupil Referral Service to retain income from charges £90,000;**
- (i) SEN protection scheme for primary and secondary schools £385,000;**
- (j) H3 Home, Hospital and Hub £382,500;**
- (k) Autism and Language units top-up funding £286,925;**
- (l) Pupil Referral Unit support fund £75,000;**
- (m) Early years top-up funding £175,000;**
- (n) Autism and Language Units commissioned places £282,000;**
- (o) Pupil Referral Service top-up funding £376,875**
- (p) Pupil Referral Service commissioned places at 65 summer term and 50 autumn and spring £562,000;**
- (q) SEN support services**
 - (i) Additional Needs SEN advisor £203,750;**
 - (ii) Complex Learning Communications £122,550;**
 - (iii) Equalities team –inclusion £232,450;**
 - (iv) Behaviour Outreach – final year £9,000;**
 - (v) Physical & Sensory team £407,500;**
 - (vi) Managed moves £5,000;**
 - (vii) Business support £73,000;**
 - (viii) DSG Services £125,900;**
- (r) Charges and income**
 - (i) Excluded pupils (AWPU)/ Hospital -£315,000;**
 - (ii) Local authority recoupment -£200,000;**
 - (iii) Transfer from schools block -£300,000;**
 - (iv) Transfer from Central services block -£60,500.**

Alternative options

1. Schools Forum could recommend amendments to the proposed high needs budget. Any amendments would need to have regard to available funding, relevant regulations and the local authority's statutory duties in supporting children and young people with high needs. It should be noted that the Budget Working Group has considered and supported the proposals set out in this report. Schools Forum and headteachers will be able to monitor the high needs budget and propose alternative options for the future as necessary as the Budget Working Group meets and reports to the Schools Forum throughout the year.

2. Improvements in service provision are proposed by the introduction of nurture provision in September 2020. Discussions with headteachers are in hand to design the nurture provision and a number of options will be considered as discussions progress. No reductions in service provision are proposed.

Key considerations

3. The report sets out the forecast overspend of £1.2m on high needs in 2019/20 and the resulting reduction in DSG reserves from £1.7m to £0.5m. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated £15.193m which is a £2.177m increase in the high needs block compared with the final 2019/20 high needs allocation, which was reduced in year to take account of place adjustments for Herefordshire & Ludlow FE College. The high needs budget for 2020/21 ensures that grant income and expenditure are matched. Maintaining a surplus in the high needs budget will depend very much on containing expenditure at or near budget for the complex needs funding and out county independent special schools expenditure streams. The Budget Working Group will monitor the financial position closely throughout the year.
4. This report proposes a high needs budget for 2020/21 to ensure that the high needs funding allocation is spent as effectively as possible whilst recognising the absolute duty to ensure that pupils needs are met as required by Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014. The views of Schools Forum are sought on the proposed budget plan prior to seeking cabinet member approval. The high needs budget for 2020/21 will be set at £15.193m after the transfer of £0.3m from the schools block and deductions passported directly to academies and post-16 providers by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. This allows for limited flexibility to meet additional unexpected costs without Dedicated Schools Grant slipping into deficit.
5. The Budget Working Group (BWG) received a presentation on the 28th February 2020 summarising the current budget position and the proposed high needs budget for 2020/21. Key points highlighted included:
 - An expected overspend for 2019/20 of approximately £1.2m, mainly due to overspends of £0.8m on the complex needs budget and £0.35m on out county independent special school places;
 - A consequent reduction in uncommitted balances from £1.7m to £0.5m which would leave very little in reserve;
 - Budget proposals were as consulted on in the Autumn, updated for decisions taken by the schools forum in relation to funding transfers from the schools block;
 - The proposed budget was balanced, but vulnerable to unexpected additional costs.
6. In discussion of the presentation and proposed budget, the BWG noted that:
 - The current system of central adjustments for FE places seemed to result in a net deduction for Herefordshire, explanation from the DfE was unclear but the import/export adjustments had only applied to Herefordshire since the creation of the Herefordshire and Ludlow FE College i.e. two years and it was possible that longer term it would balance out;
 - There was no published data on hospital pupils but anecdotal evidence was that Herefordshire was not unique in seeing an increase in numbers, work was taking place with CAMHS to deliver assessments of when pupils were fit to go back to school;

- It would be positive for schools to receive these pupils back as they remained responsible for their outcomes and there was concern that lack of resource might limit the education provided to this cohort, use of current and emerging technology to improve the education available was discussed;
 - There was a move to make the PRU responsible for invoicing for their own income, the admission paperwork for each pupil would set out the charges and an invoice would be raised for the full year, if the pupil did not stay for a full year then a credit note would be issued;
 - There had only been two primary pupils permanently excluded over the previous decade and this was typical of most councils;
 - More exclusions took place from secondary schools and levels varied between councils depending on the approaches used, some areas used managed moves in a 'no exclusions' approach but it was not clear if the overall outcomes for pupils were improved;
 - The complex needs funding currently supported just 18 young people but the costs involved were significant due to the type of provision required, work was underway to identify if more could be done to meet their needs within the county as even a small reduction in numbers would be significant;
 - Often the need for out of county residential care arose because of home breakdown rather than not being able to meet need in Herefordshire special schools, like many councils Herefordshire did not run its own specialist residential care but bought places from private providers, however there was a national conversation ongoing about incentivising councils to start creating their own provision;
 - Herefordshire now had a reasonable and growing respite care offer and the number of families getting this support had increased, however there was some difficulty in sourcing suitable overnight provision in the local area.
7. The work streams for the BWG for 2020/21 were set out as follows;
- Contain costs for complex needs funding and out county independent special school;
 - Implement nurture provision and review success and future impact;
 - Prepare plan to implement new high needs tariff for mainstream and special schools;
 - Review H3 hospital funding and funding mechanism;
 - DfE SEND review is expected to fundamentally change long term high needs arrangements when the review is available.
8. The outcome of the DfE review of SEND had been due for publication at Christmas but was now expected around Easter. It was expected that this would include details about how high needs deficits were to be treated. Where deficits had been incurred the local authority would not be responsible for funding these from general funds and it was possible that they might never be repaid. The group noted that it would be frustrating if deficits at other councils were effectively written off given the efforts made in Herefordshire to manage the high needs budget.
9. The BWG considered the proposed high needs budget and were content for the budget proposals to be considered at the next meeting of the schools forum on 13 March.

Community impact

10. The recommendations will provide a high needs budget for 2020/21 that continues to meet the needs of pupils within the DSG funding allocated to the council. The proposals for nurture provision will improve the service for those schools and vulnerable pupils that participate in the initial scheme. Subject to review and impact, it is intended that nurture provision will be expanded in future years as funding permits in order to improve the services offered to vulnerable pupils.
11. These services contribute to delivery of the following ambitions in the adopted County Plan for 2020-2024:

Community

- Ensure all children are healthy, safe and inspired to achieve;
 - Protect and improve the lives of vulnerable people.
12. These services also support the pledges set out in the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2019-2024 in:
 - Keeping children and young people safe;
 - Improving children and young people's health and wellbeing;
 - Helping ALL children and young people succeed.

Equality duty

13. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
14. The Equality Act 2010 established a positive obligation on local authorities to promote equality and to reduce discrimination in relations to any of the nine "protected characteristics" (age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation). In particular, the council must have 'due regard' to the public sector equality duty when taking any decisions on service changes, for example the provision of nurture provision to meet pupil needs.

Resource implications

15. The recommended high needs budget for 2020/21 has been constructed so that income and expenditure are balanced. The forecast overspend of £1.2m in 2019/20 will reduce DSG balances from an uncommitted £1.7m to £0.5m which allows for limited flexibility to meet additional unexpected costs without Dedicated Schools Grant slipping into a deficit.
16. High needs budgets for future years will depend on the DSG funding allocated by the DfE.

Legal implications

17. This is a key decision which can be taken by the Cabinet Member under the provisions set out in section 3.3.15 (i) of section 3 of the council's constitution. Schools Forum is consulted in an advisory capacity.
18. The council must consult the schools forum annually regarding a number of schools budget functions including the following:-
 - Amendments to the school funding formula
 - Arrangements for the education of pupils with SEN, in particular the places to be commissioned by the council and schools and the arrangements for top-up funding
 - Arrangements for the use of PRUs and places to be commissioned by the council and schools and arrangements for paying the top-up funding
 - Administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the council.

It is also good practice for the council to inform schools forum of proposals for central spend on the high needs block provision.

19. The council has statutory duties to deliver provision for children and young people with high needs which includes special educational needs and disabilities from early years to age 25.
20. The DSG is a ring fenced grant from the DfE, the majority of which is used to fund individual school budgets in maintained schools, academies and free schools. This includes the provision for pupils with high needs in both special and maintained schools
21. Changes to the high needs funding provision could leave the council open to legal challenge, through ombudsman complaint or appeal to the Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal if children, young people or their families feel that specialist provision is not being met. Section 42 Children and Families Act 2014 provides that where a council maintains an EHC plan for a child or young person, the council must secure the specified education provision. Therefore the council must comply with this statutory duty.

Risk management

22. The BWG reviews all proposals in detail prior to making recommendations to the Schools Forum. This two stage process helps ensure greater scrutiny of budget proposals and mitigate against any risks that may be identified. Any identified risks will be monitored and managed by the Childrens and Families directorate jointly with Schools Forum. Specifically financial risk will be managed throughout the year with the BWG.

23. The government has changed the conditions of grant for the Dedicated Schools Grant so that the council would be required to seek permission from the Secretary of State should it wish to fund a DSG deficit from the council's general funds. Effectively this change in regulations transfers responsibility for DSG deficits to the Department for Education (DfE) and absolves the council of any contribution. Further information on the new deficit recovery process is expected from the DfE in due course, possibly included as part of the forthcoming SEND review report. Although local authorities will continue to have to seek approval for DSG recovery plans from the DfE, it is not at all clear how a deficit might be recovered if it is not from increased high needs block grant from DfE.
24. The investment in nurture provision is a longer term preventative measure which attempts to mitigate demand for higher cost provision and keep the high needs costs within the available budget. The use of such preventative measures was supported by the BWG and also by schools as set out in Q2(g) in the responses below.

Consultees

25. All schools have been consulted on the proposals as part of the autumn schools budget consultation and the responses were reported to Schools Forum in January 2020. For convenience, the following table sets out the responses to the high needs questions. The Budget Working Group were consulted on 28th February 2020 and their comments are included in paragraphs 6-9 above.

Q2	Use of additional high needs funding of £2m as follows;	Yes	No
Q2(a)	Cover existing overspends in high needs at £1m	18	0
Q2(b)	Growth in complex needs places of £0.5m	18	0
Q2(c)	Growth in post-16 places of £0.05m	16	11
Q2(d)	Increase in tariffs A-C (+2%) and D-F(+5%)	16	2
Q2(e)	Additional costs from tariff review at £0.2m	15	3 - more info
Q2(f)	Extend the SEN protection scheme to secondary schools at £0.1m	15	2
Q2(g)	Preventative initiatives to reduce future spend at £0.1m	13	3 – more info
Q2(h)	Less a contribution from the growth fund schools block of £0.2m to balance the high needs budget	15	3 – some misunderstandings

Appendices

High Needs presentation and budget proposals 2020/21.

Background papers

None identified.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

BWG Budget Working Group (of Schools Forum)

CAMHS Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service

DSG Dedicated Schools Grant

DfE Department for Education

EHCP Education Health Care Plan

ESFA Education and Skills Funding Agency

PRU Pupil Referral Unit

H3 Home and Hospital Teaching Team (Hub, Home, Hospital)

SEN Special Education Needs

SEND Special Education Needs and Disability

High Needs Budget
2020-21
Budget Working Group
28th February 2020

High Needs Block 2019/20

Forecast overspend of around £1.2m which will carry forward into 2020/21 mainly due to

- Complex Needs £0.8m
- Out county places £0.35m

20

Overspend will reduce available DSG balances from £1.7m to £0.5m but HNB budget is balanced for 2020/21

Recap - HNB Consultation in Autumn 2019

• Existing overspends	£1.0m
• Possible growth in complex needs	£0.5m
• Increase in tariffs A-C(2%), D-F(5%)	£0.25m
• Additional costs tariff review	£0.2m
21 • SEN protection for high schools	£0.1m
• New Initiatives- nurture groups	£0.2m
• Post-16 growth	£0.05m
• Contribution from schools block	-£0.3m
• Total Spend	£2.0m
• Increase in High Needs Block grant	£2.2m

High Needs Block available DSG 2020/21

• High Needs DSG grant 20/21	£17.849m
• Less deducted at source by DfE	
• 154 pre-16 special school places	-£1.540m
• 45 post-16 special school places	-£0.450m
• FE places and Independents	-£0.660m
• 1 Post-16 place	-£0.006m
• Total Deductions	-£2.656m
• High Needs Block Grant (net)	£15.193m

22

High Needs Budget 2020/21

- 17 more places in special schools i.e. 358
- Growth in CNF, out-county places and post-16
- Nurture group proposals to be finalised for Sept
- Increase in tariffs A-C +2%, D-F +5%
- 23 • Phased introduction of medical points in tariffs, £75k in special tariffs and £25k in mainstream
- Growth in funding for hospital pupils at ave 50.8 compared with 33 in 2017-18 i.e. +50% in 3 years
- Extension of protection scheme to high schools

High Needs Budget 2020/21

- PRU places reduce to 65 Summer/50 Autumn & Spring for P/Ex pupils
- NO inflation for SEN support services
- £10k for equalities for 0.2 increase for inclusion officer
- ²⁴• High needs contingency includes £60k for increase in commissioned places by Shropshire that may not be realised – that potentially costs Herefordshire !!
- PRU support fund reduced from planned £120k to £75k as currently not being spent. PRU charges allocated to PRU & expect support fund to decline.

High Needs Budget 2020/21

increase

• Complex Needs	£2,285,745	+788k
• Independent schools	£1,100,000	+400k
• Special school top-ups	£3,484,650	+313k
• HNB contingency	£105,963	+270k
²⁵ • Special school places	£1,593,000	+170k
• school top-ups	£2,087,525	+154k
• Nurture groups	£116,667	+116k
• PRU to retain charges	£90,000	+90k

High Needs Budget 2020/21

increase

• Protection scheme all schools	£385,000	+85k
• Hospital & home teaching	£382,500	+70k
• Unit top-ups	£286,925	+48k
• PRU support fund	£75,000	+25k
²⁶ • Early years top-ups	£175,000	+25k
• Unit places	£282,000	+0
• PRU top-ups	£376,875	-39k
• PRU places	£562,000	-150k

SEN Support Services Budget 2020/21

• Additional Needs/SEN Advisor	£203,750	+0k
• Complex/Learning Comms	£122,550	+0k
• Equalities team - inclusion	£232,450	+10k
• Behaviour Outreach (last yr)	£9,000	+0k
• Physical & Sensory team	£407,500	+0k
• Managed Moves	£5,000	+0k
• Business Support	£73,000	-5k
• DSG Services (savings)	£125,900	-42k

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Charges and Income 2020/21

• Excluded pupils/Hospital	£315,000	+205k
• Other LA recoupment	£200,000	+230k
• Transfer from Schools Block	£300,000	+86k
• Transfer from Central Block	£60,500	+4k

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Caveats -

- Recoupment income is always uncertain as depends on individual pupil movements between counties.
- Hospital/ PRU charges are fundamental to high needs budget

Important work streams 2020/21

- Contain costs for Complex Needs Funding and out county independent special schools
- Implement nurture provision and review success and future impact
- Prepare plan to implement new high needs tariff for mainstream and special schools
- DfE SEND review is expected to fundamentally change long term high needs arrangements – consider implications when review available
- Review H3 hospital funding and funding mechanism

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Next Steps

- 13th March – Schools Forum
- 31st March – Cabinet Member approval
- Easter – DfE SEND review expected
 - – fundamental change to the current high needs arrangements is expected

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