

Appendix 2

DSG 2024-25
Budget Working Group
11 March 2024

Update on Schools Budget 2024-25

- DfE approval received on 21 Feb and LA maintained schools advised budgets on 28 Feb as per statutory deadlines

High Needs Forecast 2023-24

- **Overspend of around £3.7m**
- Post-16 top-ups £0.5m
- Mainstream top-ups £0.3m
- SEN Protection scheme £0.4m
- Out-county schools £2.25m
- Special school top-ups £0.7m
- School top-ups £0.8m
- EY SEND grants £0.25m
- Less special places -£0.2m
- Less nurture top-ups -£0.2m as incl above
- Less autism units -£0.4m not full from Oct

High Needs Demand 2024-25

- High Needs pressure increasing everywhere
- New special places re 6th Form (tbc) +12
- 102 new unit places proposed from Sept 24
- Mainstream pupils with top-up funding

March 2022 524 FTE

Feb 2023 599 FTE +14%

Jan 2024 709 FTE +18%

**Out-county places and Post-16 all increasing.
18% increase in pupils with top-up funding –
just doesn't stack up with a 4.5% funding rise
from DfE.**

High Needs Budget 2024-25

(Net)High needs block 24-25 £23,254k

(Net) High needs block 23-24 £22,262k

Budget increase £992k = 4.5%

Add Schools Block transfer £650k

Add CSSB transfer increase £78k

Total initial Budget 24-25 £23,983k

Mainstream schools received 1.9% increase per pupil so planned special schools top-ups at 3/8% and mainstream top-ups at 1.9% and adding growth/overspends

Budget Proposals 2024-25 page 1

These budget proposals are £6.4m overspent in 2024-25 and there is no realistic way of setting a balanced budget. This budget must be viewed as an interim to be reviewed again in September/October when we know the new provision that has opened in September 2024.

All items in italics are intended and not definitive costs.

1. Special school places	£1890k
Blackmarston 98	£980k
Westfield 74 +3 H&S	£770k
<i>Additional 12 6th Form places Sept 24</i>	<i>£70k</i>
<i>Additional top-ups to match Sept 24</i>	<i>£70k</i>

Budget Proposals 2024-25 page 2

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 2. Widemarsh Explorers | £208k |
| full year effect 12 places, AWPUP + top-ups | £208k |
| +£80k funded vis NFF split site factor | |
| 3. Autism resource bases | £429k |
| 4 schools x 8 places +1 extra @£6k fye | 198k |
| 33 top-ups at £7k | 231k |
| 4. Hampton Dene/Bishops | £728k |
| 48 HD+8 Bishops places @£6k | £336k |
| 56 top-ups at £7k | £392k |
| 5. Early Years SENIF grants | £270k |
| 2023-24 budget £150k + £120k overspend | |
| 6. Nurture Groups | £227k |
| 5 schools x 7 places x £5k +£42k EMC +£10k Mangt | |

2024-25 Proposals - page 3

7. Independent special schools **£6,800k**

2023-23 budget £3,550k

Overspend £2,250k

Growth £ 1,000k

8. Post-16 places **£2,700k**

Increase in demand for places

22-23 Budget £2,100k

overspend £500k

inflation/growth £100k

9. Complex Needs Funding **£2,680k**

budget set same as council funding

as per S75 agreement with social care & NHS

2024-25 proposals Page 4

10. PRU, H3

66 PRU places/27 H3 places at £11k **£1,023k**
incl TPG and MFG

11. PRU protection

TLR to Aug 24 £15k **£53k**
Split sites £38k

12. PRU top-ups

66x D2 @ £10,218 - £200k income +3.8% **£500k**

13. SEN support services

23-24 Budget £1,282k **£1,406k**
4.2% pay inflation increase £1,282k
growth £60k VI team + £10k guide dogs **£54k**
£70k

New proposals Page 5

14. Mainstream school top-ups

£4,515k

23-24 budget £3,631k

overspend £688k

growth at 15% £112k

inflation at 1.9% £84k

15. Special school top-ups

£4,384k

23-24 budget £3,903k

overspend £320k

3.8% inflation £161k

16 Managed Moves – keep same

£5k

17 Teachers Pension Grant and MFG

£ 409k

409 places at £1,000

New proposals Page 6

18. Recoupment 23-24 Forecast spend **£345k**

19. New Autism resource bases Sept 2024 **£625k**

50 places Base 1 tbc

24 places Base 2 tbc 24 places Base 3 tbc

8 places St Weonards KS2 tbc

Assume half full

53 places x £6k x 73/12 **£185k**

53 top-ups at £10k x 7/12 **£309k**

*12 AWPUs at £5k & 41 @£4k as not on
census x 7/12* **£131k**

20. Less Transfers in **-£728k**

£650k schools block, £78k CSSB

SEN Protection Scheme - Budget page 7

- Review by HMI confirmed value of scheme and it's priority for funding
- Schools Forum agreed transfer of £650k to fund in 24-25
- Three options

21.1. pay out above cap at £175x NOR

cost is £1.15m

large primary receives 65K same as 23-24

21.2. pay out above cap at £195x NOR

Cost is £0.9m

large primary receives £58k i.e. £7k or 11% less

21.3. set cap at £220xNOR to spend £650k

large primary receives £50k i.e. £15k or 23% less

Do we choose option 1 or 2 or 3?

Our views re SEN Protection scheme

- Herefordshire has slightly higher inclusion than nationally and we want to continue supporting Herefordshire schools – this does delay requests for ECHPs
- If we reduce financial support (by raising the cap on school contributions from the current £175x NOR) it will lead to more funding requests elsewhere in the high needs system and so maybe counter productive
- We are struggling with sufficiency and a lack of local places and although the SEN Protection scheme doesn't affect this directly it does reduce the pressure on the high needs system

Recommendation to Schools Forum

- BWG needs to make a recommendation on the schools budget to Schools Forum