

Schools Forum

October 11th 2013

Update and Forecasted Out-turn Position of the Dedicated Schools Grant 2013-14

This report relates to both maintained and academy schools

For information only

Recommendations

- That the schools Forum notes the updated Dedicated Schools Grant funding and its allocation in 2013-14.
- That the schools Forum notes the forecasted out-turn position for centrally controlled DSG allocations.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Schools Forum in March, a report was brought detailing the estimated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the services that would be funded from the grant. This report updates the members of the group on the updated DSG. As part of the DfE governance regime the LA is required to report this updated position to the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 LA budget holders of centrally controlled DSG allocations have also reported their forecasted out-turn position.

2.0 The Updated DSG

- 2.1 When the DSG allocation was agreed in March it was acknowledged that this was an estimated position as there were still some factors of pupil numbers that needed to be validated and that a final total DSG figure would be released, as in previous years, by the DfE. There would also be changes between the 3 elements of the DSG – LA maintained schools, Academy Schools and the centrally controlled allocation as more schools converted to Academy status. The table overleaf highlights the changes in the overall Warwickshire DSG position since March.

	DSG Communication March 2013 £000	Section 251 April 2013 £000	Current Position Sept 2013 £000
Warwickshire Academies	96,267	88,222	97,615
WCC maintained	200,277	208,240	198,488
Central Allocations	57,980	58,331	58,912
Total Warwickshire DSG Grant	354,524	354,792	355,015

2.2 The DSG funding to the Local Authority is subject to the validation of pupil numbers and notification from the DfE notes the latest total DSG allocated to Warwickshire as £355m.

3.0 Forecasted Out-turn Position of Centrally Allocated DSG Budgets.

3.1 The updated DSG central allocation to LA managers is £58.912m. Managers have forecasted the anticipated spend against these budgets. This forecast is anticipating an overall central DSG over-spend of £2.929m. Summary details and explanations of the major variances are included in the table and text below.

Summary Allocations of Centrally Controlled DSG	Reported Budget	Reported Forecast	Variance
Education Safeguarding	193,702	136,572	-57,130
Special Educational Needs - Commissioning	1,059,794	905,794	-154,000
SEN - Mainstream Schools & Academies	5,071,526	5,139,155	67,629
SEN - WCC Special Schools & Academies	8,564,358	8,564,358	0
SEN - Independent & OLA Special Schools	10,550,900	13,535,425	2,984,525
ECOS - Ill Health Team	623,000	622,591	-409
Post 16 Funding	2,607,041	3,407,041	800,000
EMTAS (Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service)	330,378	377,774	47,396
Area Behaviour Partnerships & Primary Support	3,162,000	3,184,669	22,669
Admissions & Free School Meals & IYFA	669,493	682,361	12,868
School Performance & Heads / SF Meetings	308,841	306,979	-1,862
IDS Teaching & Learning	3,646,581	3,638,302	-8,279
Early Years & Childcare / Family Support	740,000	562,422	-177,578
Nursery Education Funding 3&4 Yr Olds	11,860,322	11,860,322	0
Funded 2 Yr Olds	3,616,000	3,016,000	-600,000
Early Intervention Service & Family & Parenting Support	1,170,374	1,195,316	24,942
Union Cover, Medical & CRB checks	376,781	348,744	-28,037
Resources Central Overheads	1,932,175	1,932,175	0
Directorate Overheads	325,168	315,709	-9,459
Other SF Agreed School Budgets	2,103,658	2,109,833	6,175
Total	58,912,092	61,841,542	2,929,450

- 3.2 SEN Independent & OLA Special Schools is forecasting to over-spend by £2.984m. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of pupils referred for statutory assessment. Over the last three calendar years there has been an increase of 59.4%, although not all of these will go on to receiving a statement. The areas of greatest need are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD). Limited local specialist provision along with the growing referrals has meant placing an increasing number of pupils in independent specialist provision. As part of the High Needs Task and Finish Group a number of measures have been proposed to address these budgetary pressures. These are noted in reports elsewhere on the agenda.
- 3.3 The Post 16 over-spend relates to the new funding regime for the LA where the new funding arrangements offers £11,000 per post 16 student and top up funding based on the needs of each individual student. Previously this was administered by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and this budget provides the top up element. However, due to an increase in learner numbers (both continuing into a second year and new applications), the service is continuing to systematically negotiate with independent specialist providers a lower rate of funding based on the existing national matrix – indeed reduced estimates of £0.4m have been achieved. Discussions are being had with social care and health services as to the contributions that they could make towards these costs.
- 3.4 The funded 2 year old under-spend predominantly relates to a decision not to commit to any further expenditure than necessary on 2 year old trajectory / capacity within the DSG. The expected £0.6m under-spend will be used to help balance the overall DSG central allocation.
- 3.5 Work is being progressed to address these areas of over-spend including work reported elsewhere in the agenda, including a review of all areas of central DSG spend. Further information as to the success of this work will be reported later in the year.

Background papers

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schools/revenuefunding/a00218077/funding-settlement-2013-14>

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