

PRIMARY SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE PARTNERHIPS UNDERSPEND 2016/17

Purpose of the Report

1. To request the carry forward of the 2016/17 Primary Partnerships underspend into 2017/18.

Information and Advice

2. The primary school behaviour and attendance partnerships are groups of infant, junior and primary schools working collaboratively in groups to develop effective inclusion strategies that enable them to educate children with social, emotional and mental health needs and reduce permanent exclusions.
3. The partnership areas are Ashfield North; Bassetlaw; Browtove South; Gedling; Mansfield, Dukeries and Sherwood; Newark Town; SHENK and Rushcliffe. They offer a range of staff training, guidance, small group work, 1:1 support and access to a range of local interventions.
4. In 2016/17 the primary partnerships were allocated £0.617 from the High Needs Block. This was added to by carry forwards of £0.477 million which were made up of underspends and income generated by partnerships. Cumulatively the primary partnerships spent £0.909 million leaving £0.185 million unspent. Annex A sets out the allocations, and expenditure by partnership in 2016/17.
5. In June 2017 NCC presented the Dedicated School Grant Final accounts for 2016/17 to Schools Forum. This showed the DSG reserve brought forward into 2017/18 at £5.923 million. This figure was after £0.801 of underspends from 2016/17 were approved to be carried forward into 2017/18.
6. The £0.801 million which was carried forward did not include the £0.185 million of underspends from the primary partnerships. Had this been approved the DSG reserve brought forward into 2017/18 would have been reduced to £5.738 million.
7. Unlike the secondary partnership funds which are transferred to a banker school for distribution to schools and academies, primary partnerships funds are generally held centrally by NCC and passed on to schools and academies when requested. This is not the case for two of the primary partnerships which have set up company accounts.

8. As the funds are held centrally any underspends at the end of a financial year are transferred into the DSG reserve unless a carry forward is requested and approved by Schools Forum. Due to a change in procedures for managing the partnerships in 2016/17, the underspend was not identified as requiring a carry forward in June 2017.
9. At primary Level the school behaviour and attendance partnerships involve far greater numbers of schools than at secondary level. The strategic leadership and operational processes have taken time to develop, with some areas evolving faster than others. Partnerships have been developing a range of support packages, provision and/ or staffing to help meet the needs of pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs and those at risk of permanent exclusion. Head Teachers have taken considerable time and effort to co-ordinate provision across localities and the set up phase is now complete in all areas. Spending during the set up phase of any partnership does not follow the same pattern as that of an established partnership and for a range of reasons these carry forwards have been necessary. The Primary School Partnerships are now fully established and there is an expectation that all funding will be used within the financial year that it is allocated. Any unused monies allocated for the financial year 2017-2018 will not be carried forward into the budgets for 2018-2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Schools Forum:

- 1) Approves the carry forward of the £0.185 million Primary Partnerships underspend from 2016/17 into 2017/18.

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Annex A

Partnership	2016/17 Allocation	B/Fwd from 2015/16	Expenditure	Underspend 2016/17
Ashfield	£ 58,079.00	£ 77,233.00	-£ 103,931.00	£ 31,381.00
SHNK	£ 61,779.00	£ 108,469.00	-£ 114,368.00	£ 55,880.00
Bassetlaw	£ 92,500.00	£ 110,050.00	-£ 202,550.00	£ -
Newark Town & Minster	£ 53,200.00	£ 60,252.00	-£ 113,452.00	£ -
Rushcliffe	£ 82,300.00	£ 32,498.00	-£ 90,562.00	£ 24,236.00
Gedling	£ 86,200.00	£ 49,412.00	-£ 102,618.00	£ 32,994.00
Broxtowe	£ 49,300.00	£ 38,918.00	-£ 48,220.00	£ 39,998.00
Mansfield	£ 133,500.00	£ -	-£ 133,500.00	£ -
Total	£ 616,858.00	£ 476,832.00	-£ 909,201.00	£ 184,489.00