

## **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FORECAST OUTTURN 2018/19**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To report the forecast outturn position of the High Needs Block for 2018/19.

### **Information and Advice**

2. Due to the current and projected pressures on the High Needs Block it was agreed at the January 2018 Schools Forum meeting that regular budget monitoring reports would be presented to keep members informed of the financial position.

### **Summary Financial Position**

3. Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) High Needs Block Allocation for 2018/19 is £62.537 million. Due to the projected budget pressure reported to Schools Forum in October 2017 it was agreed to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block to the High Needs Block giving a total High Needs allocation of £64.889 million.
4. The High Needs Block is forecast to overspend by £0.487m, as summarised in Table 1 below.

<b>Service</b>	<b>2018/19 Proposed Budget £000</b>	<b>2018/19 Forecast Expenditure £000</b>	<b>2018/19 Forecast Variance £000</b>
Special Schools Funding	22,409	22,499	90
Place Funding for AP, CC and FE Providers	1,102	1,102	0
Inclusion Services	2,615	2,615	0
Devolved Partnership funding	3,241	3,241	0
Partnership Team	650	650	0
SEN Home to School transport	1,764	1,764	0
Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies)	5,552	5,552	0
Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative Provision (EHC Plan)	11,378	12,212	834
Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative provision (Non EHC Plan)	1,567	1,567	0
Targeted HLN	4,542	4,542	0
Additional Family Needs	7,568	7,568	0
Health Related Education and Physical Disability Unit	1,223	1,223	0
Anti Bullying and MAPA	22	22	0
SEND Divisional Costs	819	819	0
Non ISB reserve deficit B/Fwd	437	0	-437
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64,889</b>	<b>65,376</b>	<b>487</b>

## **Forecast Variances**

Forecast variances are detailed below.

Net expenditure on the use of OLA special schools is expected to be £0.761 million in 2018/19. This represents an overspend of £0.090 million on the budget allocation of £0.681 and an increase of £0.134 million from 2017/18. The increased use of OLA special schools reflects Nottinghamshire's special schools being at capacity.

The overspend on Independent Non Maintained (INM) special school placements for children with EHCP of £0.834 is due to continued growth in the number of children with EHCPs requiring a placement in INM. In April and May NCC have received 45 requests for placements.

In February it was forecast that the High Needs Block overspend in 2017/18 would cause the DSG reserve to enter a deficit. It was therefore agreed that the £0.437 million deficit would be recovered from the 2018/19 High Needs Block.

As the High Needs Block overspend was less than forecast, the DSG reserve finished the year in a surplus position, therefore there is not a requirement to recover the deficit.

This budget is currently being used to partially offset the overspends on EHCP and OLA Special school places.

Due to actions taken to mitigate overspends in the High Needs Block, no other services are currently forecasting an overspend.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Schools Forum:**

- 1) Note the contents of this report.

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