

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 as at period 7 (October 2018).

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 £62.240 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 £64.595 million.
4. The High Needs Block is forecast to overspend by £2.453m, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Previously Reported Variance £000	Change in Variance £000	Service	2018/19 Proposed Budget £000	2018/19 Forecast Expenditure £000	2018/19 Forecast Variance £000
-65	27	Special Schools Funding	22,409	22,371	-38
0	0	Place Funding for AP, CC and FE Providers	1,102	1,102	0
0	8	Inclusion Services	2,615	2,623	8
0	0	Devolved Partnership funding	3,241	3,241	0
0	0	Partnership Team	650	650	0
0	0	SEN Home to School transport	1,764	1,764	0
0	200	Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies)	5,552	5,752	200
1,281	-265	Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative Provision (EHC Plan)	11,521	12,537	1,016
0	0	Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative Provision (Non EHC Plan)	1,567	1,567	0
1,211	-4	Targeted HLN	4,542	5,749	1,207
17	43	Additional Family Needs	7,568	7,628	60
0	0	Health Related Education and Physical Disability Unit	1,223	1,223	0
0	0	Anti Bullying and MAPA	22	22	0
0	0	SEND Divisional Costs	819	819	0
2,444	9	Grand Total	64,595	67,048	2,453

Forecast Variances

5. Forecast variances are detailed below.

- Special School Funding is underspending by £0.038 million as some proposed new special school places are still to be commissioned.
- Post 16 budget is forecast to overspend by £200k. Colleges are unable to provide information about students requiring HN support before October each year. Colleges have now submitted their requests for element 2 and 3 funding for 2018-19 and West Notts College, which has 144 element 2 funded places, has submitted a request for 174 places. This is above their agreed ESFA funded places, which means the Post 16 budget will need to fund the 30 place element 2 shortfall.
- Independent Non Maintained (INM) special school placements for children with EHCP previously reported overspend of £1.281, this has been adjusted to £1.016. This is due to a lower than anticipated number of referrals made and approved by the Education Specialist Provision Panel in autumn term. Since April 2018 there have been 183 requests for specialist provision with 117 (64%) of cases approved by the panel.
- HLN overspend of £1.207 million is due to continued growth. The number of HLN pupils supported has increased from 520 in 2016-17 to 602 in 2018-19.
- 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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