

## **HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FORECAST OUTTURN 2019/20**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To report the forecast outturn position of the High Needs Block for 2019/20 as at period 1 (April 2019).

### **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.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) High Needs Block Allocation for 2019/20 is £66.527 million. This includes the £1.737 million of additional funding announced by the Education Secretary, Damian Hinds in December 2018.
4. The allocation represents an increase of £2.55 million from the 2018/19 allocation of £63.977 million. Due to the projected budget pressure reported to Schools Forum in October 2018 it was agreed to transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block (£2.410m) and £0.243m of unallocated Central Schools Services Block to the High Needs Block.
5. These additions have increased the total High Needs allocation to £69.180 million.

### **Summary Financial Position**

6. The High Needs Block is forecast to overspend by £0.315 million, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Service	Budget Allocation 2019/20 £000	Forecast Expenditure 2019/20 £000	Variance 2019/20 £000
Special School Budgets (Including Academy place funding paid directly by ESFA)	23,735	23,735	-
Special School Equipment	323	323	-
Special School Hub	129	129	-
Place Funding for AP, CCP and FE providers	1,200	1,200	-
Mainstream Enhanced Provision	193	193	-
Inclusion Services	3,018	3,018	-
Devolved Partnership Funding	4,257	4,257	-
Partnership Team	657	657	-
SEN Home to School Transport	1,764	1,764	-
Post 16 High Needs (outside of special schools and academies)	4,469	4,452	- 17
Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative Provision (EHC Plan)	12,243	12,520	277
Independent Non Maintained Schools and Alternative Provision (Non EHC Plan)	1,183	1,183	- 0
Targetted HLN	5,549	5,549	-
Additional family needs	7,314	7,314	-
Family Network Funding	1,117	1,117	-
Health Related Education Team, Physical Disability unit and Residential	1,210	1,265	55
SEND Divisional Costs	819	819	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,180</b>	<b>69,495</b>	<b>315</b>

## Forecast Variances

7. Forecast variances are detailed below.

- The number of EHCP is continuing to increase. The forecast is based on a net 7 of new education packages in NMSS commencing each month throughout 2019/20.
- Net expenditure on communication aids panel is forecast to be £55k more than the budget allocated due to the withdrawal of contributions from other local authorities.

## Non ISB Reserve

8. Due to the overspend on the high needs block as detailed above and other commitments from the Non ISB reserve, it is now anticipated that the reserve will have a surplus closing balance of £5.432 million at the end 2019/20.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Schools Forum:**

- 1) Note the contents of this report.

**Steven Hawkins**  
**Finance Business Partner – Children & Families**  
**Chief Executive's Department**  
**T: 0115 977 3011**  
**E: steven.hawkins@nottsc.gov.uk**